

Seven Small Colleges: Will State Duplicate Free? Fear Sub-campus Like Lehman

by Leighton Scott

This weekend, the administrations of seven regional private or "non-tax-supported" colleges presented a televised news conference to show their alarm at what they felt to be unnecessary expansion, or rather reported plans for expansion, of Penn State University into the full college baccalaureate field.

This weekend, out at Hayfield Farm, Lehman, coincidentally, Penn State was directing a parents' tour of its newly-acquired future campus. Present plant is on N. Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre.

The Dallas Post was the only Luzerne County newspaper in evidence at either occasion.

Briefly, the situation is this: The University of Scranton, College Misericordia, Kings, Wilkes, Lackawanna Junior, Keystone Junior, and Marywood, say they fear duplication of their existing course offerings by Penn State could drive them out of business and would also be an unnecessary tax expense.

At the Avoca TV conference this issue substantially overshadowed any others which may have been attendant to it in the original seven-college report, such as the area's deficient "student enrollment."

The report, a digest of which was presented to the state in Harrisburg last week by Father Edward J. Sponga, S. J., president of Scranton University, included this citation: "... It is hard to market a product at a fair price when down the street someone is giving it away." (For clarification, the extension school tuition is \$525 a year; private from \$800-\$1000.)

There is always a danger of over-simplifying, but the

broad statement of the Northeast Penna. college group is that the locally-oriented small community college plays an indispensable role,—that there are two kinds, state and private in liberal arts,—and that "no Community College projection should a priori enjoin coverage of all possible programs lest wasteful duplication of extant curricula ensue."

If that's too much wordage for you, it means "each to his own, and stay in your own territory." (Quotes mine). The NEPIC colleges feel they are doing their job adequately. If the state wants to spend money, it was made clear at Avoca, let them continue their program of providing state scholarship money to students who want to go to privately owned colleges.

A DEFICIENCY

An outside source mentioned to the Dallas Post the fact that the opportunities for graduate study in northeast Pennsylvania were woeful, and that this lack discouraged industry from locating here.

This is a concern acknowledged at the Avoca conference. The regional colleges, however, do not plan any doctoral programs in the immediate future, but rather want to strengthen their undergraduate programs first in hopes of raising the total educational level of the region. With this, the report makes it clear, the colleges would also like to see betterment of high school and secondary schools in general. The Wilkes College spokesman added that doctoral programs were never within the capability of extension schools, either. That meant they were not within the capability of Penn State extension at Hayfield.

Of course, no direct conflict exists as yet, because no

direct challenge has been issued to Penn State itself, nor is one ever likely on the local level, or even, in the near future, on the state level.

The issues are in purely prospective form, as defined by Father Sponga to the State Council of Higher Education in Harrisburg last week. Other facts in the report included the youth population boom, relative to schools, and this region's below-average educational level.

OUT AT HAYFIELD

Out at Hayfield Farm on Sunday, we were able to touch only briefly on this matter of Penn State expansion with George Bierly, regional campus director, as he had his hands full with what must have been a thousand parents and friends who were issuing in and out of the cavernous oaken halls of the mansion. Mr. Bierly's knowledge of the independent colleges' complaint was necessarily restricted, on this short notice, by reports of Father Sponga's Harrisburg address.

The director did feel, however, that fears of the Lehman extension of Penn State expanding into the field of liberal arts, with duplication of facilities and courses, were unfounded, and that the intention of the university branch at present was solely to get its school plant moved from Wilkes-Barre, where it is being evicted, to Lehman by 1966.

In his presentation of slides and data to Penn State parents, Bierly said that the Lehman campus development would lead to addition of the following courses to the present curriculum: Instrumentation, Computer Science, and probably Forestry (The Conyngham arboretum is more complete than the one at State College).

These are technical courses, and they comprise the "im-

mediate" outlook for expansion of the university extension at Lehman. They are not liberal arts courses, although there is always the chance that the powers-that-be in Harrisburg might add liberal arts courses in the future, it might be added.

Father Sponga said at Avoca on Friday that the small community colleges do not find Penn State's local development in the "technical vocational" field objectionable, but only possible competition in the "liberal arts" field.

Penn State's present offering at the Wilkes-Barre extension is restricted to a two-year course with an Associate in Engineering degree.

The NEPIC report they have heard the Wilkes-Barre campus, like the Hazleton campus, will add baccalaureate type courses. "Penn State Center at Hazleton presently offers both technical-terminal and baccalaureate parallel courses. The Centers at Wilkes-Barre and Scranton currently engaged in technical institute and technical associate level courses are reported to be planning college parallel offerings."

Apparently to avert this possibility before it happened, the regional colleges aforementioned, four Catholic administered four-year institutions, two non-denominational junior colleges, and one non-denominational four-year, began conferring about a year ago and sent Father Sponga to Harrisburg with his message last week.

The problem is of particular interest to people of the Back Mountain, because the recent bequest of Hayfield House in Lehman to Penn State is thought by some sources to have been a catalyst to this opposition move. And, of course, College Misericordia is in Dallas.

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Hayfield House Opens Doors To Doves Of Folks

Fabulous Homestead Will Be New Campus For State By 1966

Massive Hayfield House, the palatial home of the Conyngham family until the death of Mrs. John Conyngham in New York, and deeded to Penn State University extension for its new home, opened its doors to nearly a thousand people on Sunday.

Visitors to the 48 acre portion of estate in Lehman, site of the future campus, were parents and friends of students now attending school at the Guthrie Building, North Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre. They were guided through the more than 100 rooms, over a dozen bathrooms, and closets which meet present FHA requirements for a "room."

At the end of their tour, they were served refreshments, and shown slides by campus director George W. Bierly, who extended them welcome and told something of the estate and Penn State plans for it.

Cars were parked by Penn State boys on the grounds between Barn No. 6 and the mansion, parents were driven up the long driveway in a special car, past the rambling walks, rhododendron, and hand-hewn stone walls, the arboretum said to be more complete than the one at State College, and other fine appointments which help make Hayfield House and surrounding acres worth the "conservatively estimated" one million dollars.

Some of the beauty of the house can be seen in the accompanying Dallas Post staff pictures, which were taken with available light.

In the main room downstairs, Mr. Bierly explained the following about the house:

It is solid steel frame from the ground up, and measures 173 feet, six and a half inches across the front, and 125 feet down the servant's wing (sixteen servants' rooms, each with wash basin). There is a nineteen-car garage which will be converted into two electric laboratories and a physics lab.

"Project Hayfield", he explained, will convert the upstairs into six classrooms, and the downstairs will house a library, cafeteria, and office. Eight more classrooms will be needed. Every effort will be made during the conversion to preserve the home as it is. Fire towers at each end of the building will pose some problem in this respect.

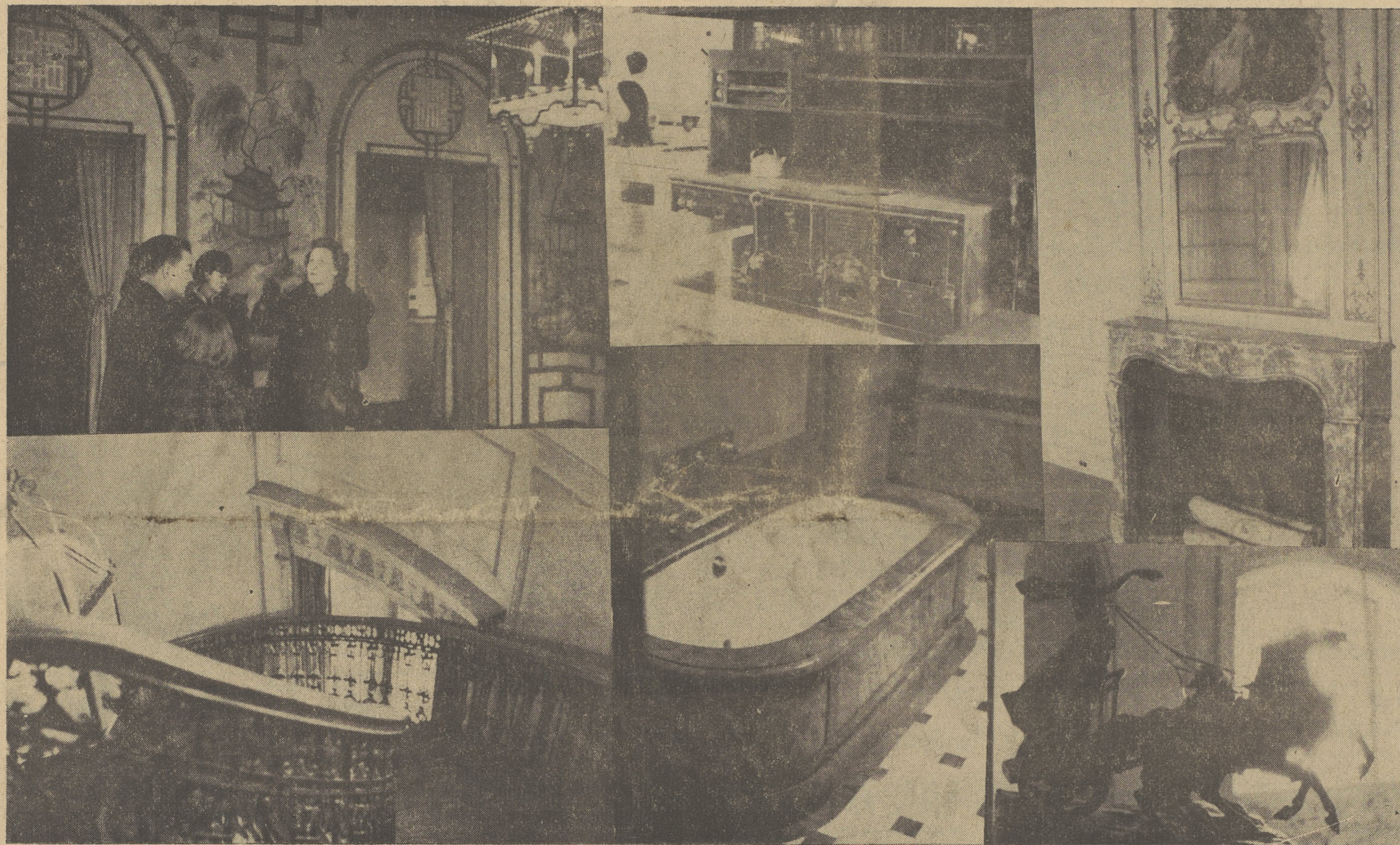
There is no fund or endowment available for the half million dollar conversion which will be needed. As in other communities, the director explained, it is hoped that local people will help with the development.

Slides showed the exterior of the stone home; the geranium beds which cost \$5000 a year to maintain ("There will be no more geranium beds"); the Persian rug for the main room which brought about \$40,000 at auction in New York recently; the wall for the main room which was brought from a European castle, as were the craftsmen who installed it; the imported 17th century Dutch fireplace and its replica at the other end of the room.

Mr. Bierly told of the family portraits, including one of Mr. Conyngham destroyed by his niece, Mrs. Richard I. Robinson, donor of the estate to the college. She did not like that particular picture.

Bierly also spoke of such appointments as 800 complete dining room dinner sets, a specially cased set of blueprints of the house which showed the size and placement of every slate shingle in the roof, and the bank vault door in the basement which led to three storage rooms, one each for furs, silver, and wine. In the basement also is

The Grandeur Of Hayfield House Shown To Students' Parents



These pictures were taken inside Hayfield House by the Dallas Post camera during a parents' tour of the new Lehman campus of Penn State extension. (No flash was used.)

The fine steel-structured mansion contained many items of interest and value, most of which were sold at fabulous prices in New York after Mrs. Conyngham's death.

Still remaining: A 16th century

fireplace imported from France, top right; the enormous old stone in the kitchen whose size can be compared to the modern range to the left of it; the fine wrought staircase to the main hall, bottom left; the

marble cased bathtub in "gold bath-room"; that of the mistress of the house; visitors marvel at the brilliant oriental decor of one of the porch parlor rooms; and at bottom right, a chariot statue at the head of the main staircase, backlighted with sunshine.

These are the first published pictures of the interior.

—Dallas Post Staff Photo

Postmaster Endorses Area School Savings

Postmaster Ed Buckley said today he had just been instructed by Postmaster General John A. Gronouski to extend all cooperation possible to students, educators, bankers, and other volunteers in promoting and servicing the Treasury's School Savings program in Dallas.

"I am pleased to carry out Mr. Gronouski's instructions", he said, "because any program which stimulates young Americans to save these days, is for the good of the country and for themselves."

The School Savings Program during World War II, he noted, provided one of our most effective instruments for teaching thrift and good citizenship.

An adequate supply of Savings Stamps and books and promotional material, he said, will be on hand to meet the needs of the students and the community in carrying out the Stamp Consignment plan.

The Stamp Consignment plan, has in the past, greatly eased the burden borne by our school systems. The plan eliminates the financing problems of the school savings program which our schools have had to handle.

Many of the upstairs rooms have their own bathrooms, and there are separate dressing rooms and fireplaces in most, several of which are antiques. Many walls are fine hardwood, placed with wooden pegs rather than nails, and a good deal of the downstairs will be part of the library.

Mr. Bierly said afterward that the number of parents and friends exceeded the plans considerably, and that there were some 800 registered signatures and probably many who did not sign.

School Dispels Rumor Of Knife

A rumor circulating to the effect that one or more members of the Lake-Lehman High School faculty was threatened by a student with a knife last Thursday is definitely untrue, although a scuffle did take place, according to principal Anthony Marchakitus.

The 16-year-old student from Idetown was constrained physically by the principal, aided by teacher John Zaleskas, after a question of rule infraction in the hallways, but there was no knife incident.

The boy's parents came in on the matter, the principal said, and the problem was worked out with the administration.

Mr. Marchakitus said he had received a phone call from a member of the board of education asking much the same question as posed by the Dallas Post. The official was relieved to hear that the "knife" rumor was unfounded.

Incident started when the boy, whose name is known to the Post, made overtures to a girl in the hall in a manner which the principal thought was contrary to regulations.

Find Dynamite Caps

A group of explorer scouts on a 25-mile hike Saturday found a cache of about 30 dynamite caps in the vicinity of Huntsville Dam.

Several of the scouts, explorers Ronny and Tony Groblewski, sons of Dr. E. A. Groblewski, Overbrook Avenue, and brothers Mark and Jimmy, first sought police help at the Borough building, but finding no one there at the time, went to the home of William Wright, Orchardview Terrace, a friend, to seek his advice.

Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Wright was home at the time, so the state police were called, and they took the live caps away.

Back Mountain Area Ambulance Logbook

Dallas Community
Dallas ambulance took Elizabeth Farr, White Birch Trailer Camp, to Nesbitt Hospital, Thursday, Len Harvey, Bob Besecker, and Gilbert Morris attending.

Keith Sutton, 36 Franklin Street, was taken from accident on highway, Sunday a.m., to Nesbitt Hospital, Les Tinsley, Besecker, and Bob Stephenson as crew.

Mrs. Mary Thompson, Overbrook Avenue, was taken to and brought home from Wyoming Valley Hospital on Monday, Al Williams and Hayden Richards attending.

Lake Township
Lake ambulance took Samuel Humphrey, Harveys Lake, to General Hospital on Friday, John Stenger, Jim McCaffrey, and Lee Zimmerman attending.

On Sunday, Rita Wilkes, Queen of Peace road, was taken to General Hospital, Stenger and Zimmerman as crew.

Marie Gallagher was taken from Harveys Lake to General Hospital on Monday, Stenger, Zimmerman, and McCaffrey attending.

Franklin-Northmoreland
Franklin - Northmoreland ambulance took David Perry, Carverton, to Nesbitt Hospital Tuesday night, Walter Meckel and Malcolm Baird attending.

Kingston Township
On Friday Kingston Township Ambulance took George Williams, Lehigh Street, to Wilkes-Barre Veterans Hospital. Crew was Andrew Roan, Joseph Youngblood and William Frederick.

Morris Lloyd, Spring Street, was taken to Nesbitt Hospital on Sunday evening with Marvin Yeust, Roan and Youngblood attending.

On Monday morning Emily Berger, Pioneer Avenue, was taken to General Hospital for X-rays and returned home, Harry Smith and Walter

Malkemes Hurt Near Mt. Kenya

Fred Malkemes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Malkemes, Shavertown, and a teacher in Kenya, East Africa, was injured in an automobile accident in that country on January 20.

The young man was taking a trip with visiting friends and a fellow teacher to Mt. Kenya when the car went out of control and turned over three times.

With four fingers of his left hand badly mangled, Mr. Malkemes was rushed to a small hospital at Nanuki by a motorist traveling the same route. There he was given first aid by the nurse in charge and a doctor summoned. After a two and a half hour operation, the surgeon said he would be unable to give any further assistance.

The conscientious nurse offered to drive the patient to Nairobi, capital of Kenya, where expert medical attention could be given, and wish her boy friend going along to assist in the driving, the injured man was transported 120 miles to the care of a specialist.

On reaching Princess Elizabeth Hospital, Nairobi, another two and a half hour operation was performed on the severely torn fingers and a cast applied.

His parents are anxiously awaiting the outcome, pending another letter from Fred.

NOXEN FIREMEN
Noxen firemen will meet Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the firehall to lay groundwork for the horses' tow.

Davis attendants.
Mrs. Sophie Eckert, Carverton Road, was taken to Wyoming Valley Hospital on Monday with H. Smith and W. Davis as crew.

Tuesday evening, Stanley Simon, Shagbark Drive, was taken to General Hospital, William Kretschmer and J. Youngblood attending.

Another Seminary Merit Finalist

Another senior Wyoming Seminary, in addition to the two girls mentioned last week, brings Back Mountain finalists in the Merit Scholarship competition in that institution, up to three.

Lawrence Joos joins Sharon Phillips and Debbie Rogers in that select group.
Lawrence lives on Sutton Road. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Joos, have a son Richard, who went straight into M. I. T. from Dallas-Franklin High School, and is now in Rome, studying architecture on a Fulbright Fellowship.

Reporter on the Opinator, active on the school yearbook, member of the Athenian Society, as well as playing basketball, taking part in track events and intramural sports, Richard has kept up a fabulous scholarship record. He has leanings toward mechanical engineering.

E. R. Kerlin Chosen Craftsmen President

E. R. Kerlin, of Kunkle, Dallas R. D. 1, was elected president of the Craftsmen of the Endless Mountains in the year 1965, at a meeting February 24.

Mr. Kerlin is a well-known weaver of rag rugs, and handbags and other items, at his home in Kunkle. Plans are underway to hold several events, displays, and sales in northeast Pennsylvania during the summer months and vacation time.

Craftsmen welcome anyone interested in crafts in any way to contact any of the officers or steering committee. There is a place for actual participating members and also associate members interested in success of the northeastern craftsmen.

TRUCKVILLE FIRE PRACTICE
Truckville Volunteer Fire Company will hold the weekly practice at the Fire Hall Tuesday evening at 7:30.

House Destroyed In Sweet Valley

Firebug Is Thought Responsible For It

Fire, thought to have been deliberately set, consumed the unoccupied but furnished home of Mrs. Jean Hunter, on the Nevel Hollow Road, just below the village of Sweet Valley at about 4 a.m. yesterday morning.

Home was uninjured.
Sweet Valley fire company responded, but were unable to stem the quickly advancing flames. Building was an old one and a half story farmhouse.

Many personal effects of Mrs. Hunter were lost in the fire. A widow of about four years, the woman resides in the winter with her daughter at 32 Sheridan Street, Wilkes-Barre.

Her brother-in-law, Luther Hunter, of Sweet Valley, said there was a lot of furniture and other furnishings, including a picture of her son who was killed in the war, "everything she had", as Mr. Hunter said.

Sweet Valley firemen said the blaze rendered the building a total loss, and was unmanageable even by the time they got there.

Mr. Hunter was of the opinion that the fire had been set, unquestionably. There has been some firebug activity in Sweet Valley in the past year or so. Light power had been cut off for the winter, and the phone put on extended service.

Heights Carfire

Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company, Dallas, responded to a call on Parrish Heights Sunday afternoon, when a car owned by Charles Elston, Parrish Street, caught fire. Flames had been extinguished immediately and the company was not needed.

Half A Light Pole After Wreck



Light pole snapped off in the middle by plummeting car is shown hanging on its own wires, which also pulled a phone pole across the road hard enough to split it at the base.

Driver Keith "Bud" Sutton, 20 Franklin Street, is improving at

Nesbitt Hospital, after cracking up the 1957 Ford convertible, which apparently had a blow-out, hit the pole about eight feet up, where Bill Berti is looking here, and then seems to have rolled an indeterminate number of times, around 2 a.m. Sunday, just below the Gulf Station

in Dallas.
Pole was 35 feet high. Car landed upright, and there were no passengers. Dallas Police investigated, helped by state police, and Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company men who swept the highway.

photo by Kozemchak