

Penn State/Wilkes-Barre history full of firsts

The history of Penn State Wilkes-Barre is a history full of firsts:

1916 — A community group, working through the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club, asks Penn State to come to this area. Classes are held in what is now Coughlin High School on Washington Street. 150 students enroll in courses on surveying, reinforced concrete, mechanics and advanced mathematics.

1922 — Three-year courses are added in mechanical, electrical, civil and mining engineering, creating the only Engineering Extension School in the region.

1947 — Day classes are added to the schedule. The name is modified to the Wyoming Valley Day Technical Institute, the first of its type to be opened by the Pennsylvania State College.

1950 — Classes move to the Guthrie Building in Wilkes-Barre (now the headquarters for Inter-Metro Industries.)

1953 — Penn State's first two-year program designed to lead to an Associate Degree in Engineering is offered at the Wilkes-Barre center.

1957 — The first woman student, Immaculata Comitz of Sugar Notch, enrolls for engineering courses; Surveying Technology is added to the list of Associate Degree programs.

1964 — Hayfield House, the former residence of Mr. and Mrs. John N. Conyngham II, is given to the University by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Robinson to be developed into a permanent campus.

1967 — More than 100 community leaders are on hand for the groundbreaking for a new classroom building on the Hayfield property May 24.

1968 — First classes are held in Hayfield House of the newly named Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus.

1973 — Groundbreaking was held October 16 for a science center to include an auditorium, laboratories and much needed classroom space.

1975 — The first of its kind Biomedical Equipment Technology program is added to the curriculum.

1977 — Campus celebrates its 60th birthday with a two-day festival including a six-tiered cake created by the culinary arts department at



Anniversary billboard

Penn State Wilkes-Barre is celebrating its 70th anniversary in a big way with a series of special "Celebration 70" billboards located around the Wyoming Valley. Shown in front of the new Penn State Wilkes-Barre billboard on North River Street in Wilkes-Barre are, from left, Helen Patella, Anniversary Events Chairwoman; Madeline Motzki, Celebration 70 co-chairwoman; Dr. James H. Ryan, Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus Executive Officer; and Sylvia Hudacek, Celebration 70 co-chairwoman.

Luzerne County Community College and the production of "Magee," an original play produced by English professor Walter Royall; WPSI, the first campus radio station, signed on the air at 89.1 on the FM dial. The student-run station was used for training Mass Communications-Broadcasting majors.

1979 — Members of the Soviet National Wrestling Team visit the campus as part of tour of the United States; an exhibit of Leonardo Da Vinci's inventions is on display in Hayfield House, including a 15th Century printing press patterned after the original Gutenberg press.

1980 — An associate degree in Telecommunications Technology is offered for the first time in the state of Pennsylvania. Harold Groff is named to head the program which has served as the prototype for programs nationwide; George Bierly retired as director of the campus and is honored in a ceremony to rename the Science Center Auditorium in his honor.

1981 — Dr. James H. Ryan, the former Dean of Continuing Education at Indiana State University,

South Bend, is named campus executive officer; a campus alumni constituent society is formed; a new campus-wide academic advising center is opened.

1982 — Continued expansion of course offerings brings the additional of a two-year associate degree program in Business Administration; the need for more space prompts the addition of the first of four modular classroom buildings, located adjacent to the Science Center.

1983 — Dr. Bryce Jordan succeeds Dr. John Oswald as president of Penn State University.

1984 — A classroom building is converted into a permanent library; an annex is added on to the Carriage House building to provide a food service area, lounges and a bookstore.

1985 — Funds for a gym-multi-purpose building are released by the state and planning begins.

1986 — Enrollment tops 1000; architect designs are made for the gym; and a campaign begins to raise funds for a new Center of Technology.

Happy anniversary

Penn State/
Wilkes-Barre



First courses

Surveying courses were among the first offered at the original Penn State Extension center as early as 1916. This 1948 class is shown during field work in the Kingston area.



Advisory board

Shown are member of the 1968 Penn State Wilkes-Barre Advisory Board during construction of the first classroom building on campus in November, 1968.

State Capitol roundup

By REP. FRANK COSLETT
Special to The Dallas Post

Here is a summary of important events that occurred on Capitol Hill last week from Rep. Frank Coslett, 120th Legislative District.

DRIVING OFFENSES - By a 15-0 vote, the House Transportation Committee this week passed legislation which would increase penalties for "hit and run" driving offenses in the Commonwealth. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Dennis M. O'Brien

(R-Phila.) and would establish four sets of penalties for hit and run offenders. The penalties are based on the extent of the victim's injuries. Currently, hit and run penalties are third degree misdemeanor violations punishable by up to one year in prison and up to \$2,500 in fines. O'Brien's measure would create more severe penalties for the crime, ending in a possible 90-day jail term and a fine of up to \$10,000 if a driver fails to stop and that action results in the victim not receiving immediately medical

attention.
DRIVER'S EDUCATION - In order to receive a junior driver's license in Pennsylvania, a 16 or 17 year old resident would be required to pass a driver's education course under legislation approved by the House Transportation Committee this week. Sponsored by Rep. Lynn B. Herman (R-Center), the measure now moves to the full House for consideration. Herman told the committee that the leading cause of death among teenagers is automobile accidents and that teens with-

out driver's education averaged 13 percent more accident claims than youths with the training. He said the training could be completed in high school or at a private driver training school. "If this bill is enacted into law, it could result in the saving of hundreds of lives on our roads each year," Herman said.

(Rep. Frank Coslett serves the 120th Legislative District which encompasses parts of the Back Mountain area. His column appears weekly in The Dallas Post.)

Dallas schools evacuate

The Dallas School District was forced to evacuate all of its students early Friday afternoon after a bomb threat was phoned into the schools administration building.

At approximately 12:30 p.m., Susan Farr, administrative secretary, received a call from a young female of Jr. High age, stating, "There is a bomb in your school," and then hung up. A few minutes later the caller phoned again saying, "Boom" and hung up once more.

A search of all the district's schools was made and students were allowed to return to classes.

"When we receive a bomb threat and the caller doesn't identify what building it is in, we evacuate all the schools as a precautionary measure," said school superintendent Gerald Wycallis.

Police have no suspects in the case.

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