



# ALUMNUS



WILKES COLLEGE

WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

SUMMER 1951

# ALUMNUS

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## Cover

There's no need to explain away the seeming incongruity between the summer green and the harvest pumpkin on our cover, for nothing could be more characteristically "Wilkes"—and non-autumnal—than this particular pumpkin. It is, of course, one of the traditional props of the Cinderella Ball, caught just as vivacious Louise Brennan, 1951 Cinderella, pops out of it to receive the honors due her. Shown with her back—such a nice back, too—to the camera is Miss Marianna Tommassetti, last year's Cinderella. As for the seemingly slumbering trumpeter—well, it was midnight, you know. But most of those who danced to Elliot Lawrence's music at the spring stir-off did not share his ennui.

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## EDITORIAL

### A Ringer Reports

Sitting gingerly in the chair just vacated by Tom Moran (who took his cushion with him, hang it), your new editor would like, just this once, to inflict something of himself upon you, to drop the editorial "we".

I find myself in a rather rum position—trying to handle alumni affairs for a college of which I am not an alumnus.

But things are not quite so bad as they seem. My college, like Wilkes, is a small one. Its alumni are devoted to it, feeling that the grass on its greensward is somehow greener than any other grass, that the waters of nearby Sugar Creek are—appearances to the contrary—clearer than any other waters.

To be sure, the college I speak of is considerably older than Wilkes. The spirit of the place, to which the feeling of the alumni for it contributes, has had many years in which to grow. But, as Josiah Royce has pointed out in his *Philosophy of Loyalty*, loyalty, which is of supreme value to the individual, is the whole-hearted devotion of a person to a cause, something greater than himself—not necessarily as that cause is, but as it can become.

That, I think, is something we should do well to remember. I would add that what our cause, Wilkes College, becomes depends entirely upon us. If I may ring in still another college, I should like to share with you a bit of a talk I once heard given by Ernest Martin Hopkins, president emeritus of Dartmouth: "Dartmouth is not loved because she is great; she is great because she is loved by countless loyal alumni."

So it can be with Wilkes.

### Tribute To Teachers

One of the pleasantest events on the Wilkes campus this spring was the testimonial dinner given for Dr. Frank J. J. Davies of the English department.

Dr. Davies himself was the first to point out that his being selected for the honor really did not signify. What was significant—and altogether gratifying to the entire faculty, we suspect—was the fact that Wilkes students recognized quality instruction when they encountered it, that they were properly grateful to a teacher who was doing a conscientious job of work.

There is a further reason for our pride in the students who planned the dinner—a reason Dr. Davies did not comment on. As many of the alumni know, Dr. Davies is not and never has been an easy mark—or marker, for the matter of that. The testimonial dinner went a long way towards proving that a teacher can exact a high degree of scholarship and still be not only respected but liked. Loved, even.

### Our Scrapbooks - And You

Perhaps we should be justified in calling this column "Our Jane Says." Anyway, Miss Salwoski has a request to make of you.

Our scrapbooks, which Jane keeps up to date, constitute no mean record of how Wilkes is faring in the public eye. Jane spends a good part of her time pasting up Wilkes articles culled from local and out-of-town papers. Though the one clipping service that sends us Wilkes cuttings from the latter papers does a decent job enough, it is by no means infallible. We are not getting quite all the news.

Thereby hangs the tale of how you, the alumni, can help us. If each of you would be so good as to cut out and send us articles on the College that appear in your home-town paper—provided that home town is not Wilkes-Barre—we should be considerably beholden to you. And we should have rather more evidence than we now have that we are earning our salt. Much thanks.

..W..

### Towards Correcting An Oversight

The response to our November letter on dues has been something less than overwhelming.

As we told you last fall, annual dues come to only three dollars—surely not a prohibitive amount for even the youngest alumnus. One half of the money helps defray the expense of the business and social events sponsored throughout the year by the Alumni Association; the other half pays—in part—for the printing of the *Alumnus*, official publication of the Association.

Whether he pays his dues or not, every alumnus receives all Association publications. But we are hard put to believe that any Wilkes alumnus would deliberately take advantage of that fact.

We hope you will consider this a reminder that we are also hard put to make ends meet without your help. The success of the Association—and of the College—depends in large measure upon each of you.

Throughout the coming months we shall make every effort to keep up our end by passing on to you all alumni and College news we receive. May we not count on you for a line now and then—and for three dollars NOW?

### APPEAL TO MARRIED ALUMNAE

Jane Salwoski, secretary in the Alumni Office, reports that her files are pretty much at sixes and sevens. She would be grateful if all married alumnae who have been receiving incorrectly addressed mail from the College would drop her a card indicating both their maiden and married names.





## Alumni Office Bard Wins Recognition

Dale Warmouth, of the Public Relations and Alumni Office staff, was recently advised by the board of judges of the National Poetry Association that his poem, "Ringneck Pheasant," is to be included in a new anthology that the Association is publishing.

Bearing the title, Voice of Young America, the bound volume will contain selected poems previously printed in the annual anthologies of the Association.

Dale's poem has already appeared in America Sings, an anthology of American College poetry, and in our own Manuscript. Some of his other work has been published by The Writer, Review of Contemporary Poetry, Trails, Epos, New Athenaeum, and the American Courier. In 1950, our bard received the Ann Hamilton Poetry Book Award, given annually by The Writer magazine to the young poet who shows the greatest improvement in poetic expression during the year.

In a congratulatory letter to the PRO post, David Hartman, secretary of the National Poetry Association, said in part: "During the past fourteen years, we have published over two hundred annual anthologies of poetry. Among the works contained in these, there are many that are excellent efforts, worthy of being reprinted in a bound volume. Your manuscript, 'Ring-neck Pheasant,' published in one of the annual anthologies, is one of those we wish to reprint."

So do we—but permission is wanting as we go to press. Perhaps we shall be able to reprint it in some future number of the Alumnus.

## Summer Theater Plans Laid by Cue 'n' Curtain Group

Chase Theater is doing double duty this summer, serving as a lounge for summer students and as a straw-hat theater.

Beri Stein, Cue 'n' Curtain president, has invited all Wyoming Valley college students who are home for the summer to participate in summer theater at Wilkes.

"We would also like to see anybody who plans to begin college in September, and anyone who is interested in theater, whether a college student or not," Bert said recently.

Tentative summer plans call for presentation of a series of one-act plays, such as were produced during the past two college terms. The enthusiastic players also hope to give one three-act play before September.

Cue 'n' Curtain members assure all Wyoming Valley alumni who long to tread the boards that it is not so late as they think.

## Wilkes Activities Come Home

Although there may be many alumni who have yet to see their new gymnasium, it is unlikely, we think, that the captions for the photographs on the opposite page are really necessary. To those of you who have hoped and worked and contributed, they must, in themselves, tell quite a story—one with the happiest of endings.

Completion and dedication of the structure this year proved to the satisfaction of almost everyone about the College that Wilkes is indeed the community college it professes to be. The gymnasium is cogent evidence that the community, appreciating the fact that the College exists for Wyoming Valley, supports it to the full.

We of the College community are most grateful. As we enjoy the first-rate facilities of the gymnasium for dances, assemblies, concerts, plays, and conferences, we must be sensible of a very considerable debt to those alumni, townspeople, faculty, and students whose devotion to the College converted our dreams into bricks and mortar.

## Wilkes, Bucknell Set Up Graduate Education Center

Beginning in September of this year, the College will offer graduate courses in education, thereby enabling teachers and other graduate students to earn eighteen credit hours in education towards the Master of Science degree on the Wilkes campus.

The College, in conjunction with Bucknell University, has now completed plans for the establishment of a Graduate Center of Education here in Wilkes-Barre. Students who enroll at the Center and successfully complete the courses offered will need only twelve more hours of work to satisfy the Pennsylvania requirements for the M. S. degree in education. They may take that work on the Lewisburg campus during a regular summer session.

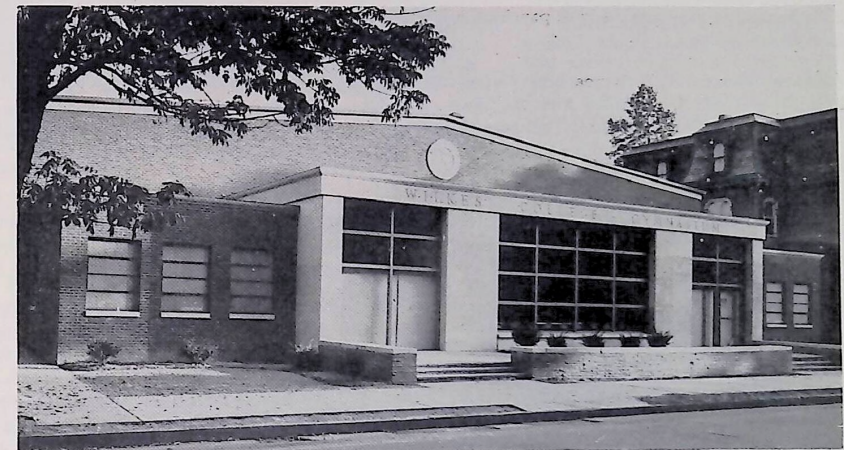
Now that we have the Bucknell-Wilkes Graduate Center, together with an expanded undergraduate education program in which regular students of the College may qualify for teacher certification on both secondary and elementary levels, our gaining a reputation as one of the outstanding teacher-training centers of North-eastern Pennsylvania ought not to be a matter for surprise. We are particularly fortunate in our association with Bucknell, which has long been recognized as an institution permitted to train school administrators at all levels—superintendents, supervising principals, and elementary and high school principals.

Seeing that most students in the Graduate Center will be employed during the day, all classes at the Center will be held in the evening. The courses to be offered in the fall semester are Guidance, Occupations and Occupational Research, Visual Education, Public School Administration, and Elementary School Supervision. Labor and Personnel Problems, Intelligence and Its Measurement, Extra-Curricular Activities, Secondary School Supervision, and Elementary School Administration will be given in the spring semester beginning in February of next year.

From This . . . .



to this . . . .



for this - and a great deal more



Top: March, 1950. Dr. Farley and Gilbert S. McClintock, chairman of the board of trustees, participate in ground-breaking ceremonies on gymnasium site.

Center: September, 1950. The South Franklin Street structure almost as it appears today. We now have proper doors, however—very handsome ones, too.

Left: April, 1951. Wilkes students pay homage to Terpsichore at the April Showers Ball, one of the many social affairs now held in the gymnasium.

## New Dean of Women



MRS. GERTRUDE MARVIN WILLIAMS

A former newspaper-woman who once interviewed such figures as Jawaharal Nehru, Madame Chiang Kai Shek, and the late Mahatma Gandhi has turned to interviewing the women of Wilkes.

Mrs. Gertrude Marvin Williams, remembered by many alumni for her sprightly courses in journalism and composition,

has been named by Dr. Farley to serve as Dean of Women during the 15-month absence of Miss Betty L. Harker, who is beginning graduate study in psychiatric social work at Smith College.

Mrs. Williams holds an A. B. degree from Wellesley College and an A. M. in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania. She is assistant professor of English at Wilkes, where she will continue to teach as well as discharge the duties of the deanship.

The new dean's experiences have by no means been confined to the Groves of Academe. She has lived in India and London and worked on newspapers in Boston and New York. During the last war, she served for four years as a member of the Luzerne County Council of Defense, directing all activities of the women's unit she organized.

In the course of a busy life, Mrs. Williams has somehow found time to publish a number of books. She is the author of "India's Silent Revolution," "Understanding India," "The Passionate Pilgrim," and "Priestess of the Occult," a biography of Madame Blavatsky.

There is a story—perhaps apocryphal—about a student who went to Mrs. Williams after a semester in one of her courses and said, "I like your course so much that I'm going to flunk the final so I can take it again."

We would add that a large measure of common sense is not the least of the qualities this popular teacher brings to the position so competently filled by Miss Harker since 1947.

Granted a leave of absence by the trustees of Wilkes, Miss Harker believes her work at Smith will be of considerable help to her when she resumes the task of counseling students. The good wishes of the college go with her.

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## Wilkes Engages Noted Educator



DR. VERNON G. SMITH

Dr. Vernon G. Smith, who developed the Scarsdale, N. Y. public school system into one of the soundest in the nation, is coming to Wilkes to head our expanded Department of Education.

Dr. Smith served the Scarsdale system as a high school principal and later as superintendent of schools. He will assume his duties here in September.

The announcement of Dr. Smith's appointment followed by less than a week the news that Wilkes had been approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction to offer courses in elementary education. The new courses to be given in the 1951-52 term, President Farley explained, will round out the offerings in education, enabling Wilkes students to qualify for teacher certification in both secondary and elementary fields.

A graduate of Colby College, Waterville, Me., Dr. Smith earned his Master's degree at Teachers College, Columbia University, and later returned to that institution to take his doctoral degree in education.

Also known as a prominent schoolman in Vermont, the new Education Department chairman has been headmaster of St. Johnsbury Academy there. He has been a lecturer at New York University, and is a member of the National Education Association, the Association of School Administrators, and Phi Delta Kappa.

Dr. Smith has made special studies of teacher salaries, in-service growth of school personnel, and school costs and salaries in villages and cities of the New York metropolitan area.

Appointment of Dr. Smith and state approval of the new elementary education program point up the fact that Wilkes is steadily growing in importance as a teacher-training institution. The past academic year, which began with approval by the Department of Public Instruction of the course in secondary education, has been a particularly successful one for the Wilkes Department of Education.

Becoming independent of Bucknell University last September, the Department, under Dr. John H. Semon, proved itself altogether worthy of that independence. There is every reason to believe that its work will go forward, on an even larger scale, under Dr. Smith.

We are persuaded that the alumni will join us in welcoming him and wishing him a good year.



Shown above are the new Student Council officers. They are, left to right, seated—Nancy Lee Hannay, secretary, and George J. Lewis, vice-president; standing—Henry Merolli, treasurer; Joseph Reynolds, president; and John Mertha, parliamentarian.

••W••

## Student Council Elected: Reynolds Named President

Voting in this year's Student Council elections, which were held early in May, was spirited and close, according to Bob Eltus, retiring president of the Council. All classes, Bob said, responded to appeals to vote.

The constitution of the College's governing body provides for the election of four members from each of the three upper classes and of three representatives of the incoming freshman class sometime in September.

Five of the old Council members were re-elected. They are: for the senior class, Joe Reynolds, George Lewis and Henry Merolli, all of whom are officers; for the junior class, Isabel Ecker, and for the sophomore class, Alex Cathro.

Reynolds was named president; Lewis, vice-president, and Merolli, treasurer.

The Council acts in an advisory capacity to all clubs, classes, and other organizations and serves as liaison between students and administration. It considers all requests for funds required for student activities and then makes recommendations to the Administrative Council.

In conjunction with various activity groups, the Student Council may also recommend to the Administrative Council modifications in the policies of those groups.

## Miss Brennan Chosen College Cinderella

Wilkes students, confronted with a slate of 11 comely candidates, selected Miss Louise Brennan, senior from Forty Fort, to reign over the fifth annual Cinderella Ball this spring. Results of the balloting were secret up to the time of her triumphal exit from the pumpkin.

An economics major at Wilkes, Miss Brennan is a member of Theta Delta Rho, and was a candidate for the title of Queen of Hearts at the sorority's Valentine dance last February.

All arrangements for the Cinderella Ball were completed by the Student Council, under the direction of Wade W. Hayhurst, general chairman.



Tom Robbins, Beacon editor, escorts the 1951 Cinderella, Miss Louise Brennan, to the bandstand in the gym.







