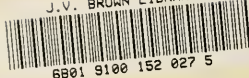


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A PICTURE OF LYCOMING COUNTY VOL. 2

A RESEARCH PROJECT

of
The Greater Williamsport Community Arts Council

in conjunction with
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Mark Peter Harer and Ruth Rosenberg-Naparsteck, Researchers

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West Branch Valley from Montgomery Pike



Overlooking Jersey Shore from Beltway



Lycoming County Courthouse



Herman T. Schneebeli Federal Office Building
and U. S. Courthouse

INTRODUCTION

This publication is a sequel to Volume I of A Picture of Lycoming County, produced under the Works Projects Administration during the Great Depression of the 1930's. The current volume is the product of a similar program--The Comprehensive Employment Training Act, aimed at helping to alleviate unemployment caused by the economic recession of the mid-1970's.

Volume II of A Picture of Lycoming County traces developments in the county since about 1940. Though the period since 1940 is relatively short compared with the entire course of the county's history, the changes in almost every aspect of life have been significant. From education to government and politics, new attitudes and practices have replaced old, which were solidly established in the county for many decades. Far-reaching changes in highways and transportation, technology and industry, and population and commerce, among others, have also helped change the physical appearance of the county.

Besides examining the history of the county's institutions--whether schools, churches, factories or emergency services--this volume also includes chapters on the impact of World War II, major floods, highways and transportation, the arts, and other issues affecting the quality and character of life in Lycoming County since 1940.

Two items which received little or no treatment in Volume I are the history of black people in the county and the long period of prehistoric Indian habitation. Sections on these two groups have been included in the appendix of the present volume in view of their place in the overall history of the county.

Lycoming County has faced problems and aspirations similar to those of many other rural and semi-industrialized counties of the state and nation. Unemployment, industrial diversification, storms and floods, political controversy, a decline in farming, new schools, larger hospitals, shopping centers, Interstate 80, World War II, rural development and historical preservation have all contributed to the current picture of Lycoming County.

It is interesting to speculate as to how different this picture of Lycoming County might be had the United Nations accepted the invitation of the County Commissioners to locate the U. N. headquarters here. In June, 1946, County Commissioners Clyde H. Tallman, J. Howard Ritter and Jacob F. Matthews wrote a letter to the chairman of the United Nations Headquarters Commission, Sir Angus Fletcher, inviting the U. N. to establish its international headquarters

in Lycoming County. The outcome of the Commissioners' solicitation is a matter of history, though one's imagination can still only wonder about the results had the Commissioners succeeded.

With or without the United Nations, the history of Lycoming County is the history of its people. They have made its history and are its history, and it is for them that A Picture of Lycoming County, Volume II has been written.

Chapter 1

WORLD WAR II IN LYCOMING COUNTY

During the 1930's and early 1940's the great dark cloud that moved across Europe eventually engulfed the whole world, including America. Facism and its offspring, World War II, were on the march, and the United States' policy of non-involvement changed to all-out efforts of support during the year 1941. Though events in Europe were worrisome to America while England struggled bravely alone to ward off the Nazi assault, it was events in Asia and the Pacific which finally forced the United States into the hostilities. The clouds of war surrounded America on both sides making military action a foregone conclusion. The only recourse was to take up arms and fight for our defense and that of our friends, knowing full-well the cost in human life and suffering.

America's decision to enter the war came on Sunday, December 7, 1941, when Japanese bombers delivered a devastating surprise attack against the huge American naval base on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. There, Williamsport enlisted man, Joseph L. Lockard, first spotted the approaching Japanese planes and warned his superior officer. The attack was so unexpected that Lockard's superiors disregarded his warning as a false alarm. With Pearl Harbor, America's long involvement in World War II began. Had Lockard's advanced warning been heeded, the 2,430 American lives might have been saved and the loss of ships and planes kept to a minimum. Besides Lockard, who received the Distinguished Service Medal for his action, nearly 30 other county residents were present at Pearl Harbor, about ten of whom were killed. Thus, Lycoming County played a role in the events which affected the rest of the world. When Congress declared war on Japan the day after Pearl Harbor, Lycoming County and the entire nation, geared up for one single purpose and goal--victory.

Just several days after war was declared on Japan, Congress swiftly passed a declaration of war against Germany, but Europe's war had already been waging for several years. This was reflected in the county during those years by an increase in applications for U. S. citizenship by people of European and Eastern European descent. With America's declaration of war, mobilization got underway. For a period of four years life was not the same. War was foremost in everyone's mind, and victory the aim and goal of almost every person's actions. America's military and moral strength were meeting yet another test, for only 25 years before, she had been engulfed in the flames of World War I.

CIVILIAN DEFENSE

The primary concerns of the civilian authorities of the county during World War II were public safety, conservation of scarce materials, and industrial production. The County Office of Civilian Defense was organized following instructions from the state and national offices. Local civilian defense groups were set up in each of the county's boroughs to oversee such things as blackouts and victory gardens (backyard vegetable gardens which were encouraged to conserve badly needed foodstuffs). By March, 1942, a total of 3,033 persons were certified as civilian defense volunteers and air-raid wardens. An auxiliary police force had been organized to be activated in periods of air attack or other serious emergencies.

Another group vital to civilian defense were the 1,200 airplane spotters who volunteered for service throughout the county. They operated plane spotter stations set up in locations where enemy planes would be most visible day or night. The stations were attended around the clock and were equipped with telephones for immediate communication. Many of the stations were of wooden frame construction, and all had large windows on all sides making them difficult to heat. It was not uncommon for plane spotter volunteers to work all day at their jobs and then put in a shift of plane spotting after work. The plane spotter's responsibility was to report every plane located to a central reporting station, along with information on the plane's direction, its type and its number of engines. All these efforts were devised to protect the civilian population in the event of an enemy attack upon the mainland. Fortunately, however, no such attack was ever realized, and actual civilian defense procedures never needed to be placed into operation.

BLACKOUTS

One feature which began as an ominous reminder of the war for local residents came to be a normal occurrence by the war's end. This was the "blackout." The first blackout in Lycoming County came in March, 1942. It lasted fifteen minutes and served as a practice run to familiarize citizens with the techniques of covering windows to keep light from escaping. In case of an attack at night, the blackout meant the enemy could not see its targets as all lights from streets, cars, homes and factories were turned off or screened from the outside. One method people used during blackouts was to keep all lights in the house off except for one room, the windows of which were screened with blackout material. A newspaper of the county during the period reported that the kitchen was a favorite place to stay in a blackout, as the "ice box" and stove were readily

accessible there.

During the blackouts, civilian defense volunteers such as air-raid wardens and auxiliary police patrolled the county searching out light leaking from houses and buildings and warned those in violation to block the straying light. These civilian defense volunteers wore official armbands as identification and were required to undergo specified training before the armbands were issued. Civilian defense workers were also empowered to enforce travel restrictions during blackouts. No vehicles were allowed on the roads except emergency and police vehicles, vehicles carrying workers to their factories, and buses and trucks carrying goods. It was required, however, that any vehicles on highways during blackouts have their headlights covered with a blackout material and a slit placed in the middle to provide enough light for safe travel. Other restrictions were placed on pedestrians. No one was permitted to walk on streets, sidewalks or highways except in cases of need.

After the first blackout, the majority of them lasted longer periods and were usually unannounced, apart from the surprise blast of the air-raid sirens. Both blackouts and daytime air-raid practices were carried out, the majority of them state-wide. A total of 24 state-wide blackouts and air-raid drills were staged during the war. Initially the State Council of Defense was responsible for the blackouts and air-raid practices, but for a time the Army organized them. The air-raids and blackouts were, thus, a major element of life during World War II. The inconvenience they caused local residents were worth any possible savings of life or property that an actual enemy attack on the county might have incurred. When at the war's end no enemy attack had occurred, no one complained. Because every possible measure had been taken to prevent such an attack, the civilian defense measures were fortunately never needed.

CONSERVATION EFFORTS

In this throw-away age it is generally acceptable practice to toss a soft drink bottle into the garbage rather than to haul it back to the store for the deposit, but no such attitude prevailed during World War II. Nearly everything salvageable or reusable was saved and turned over to industry for recycling. The newspapers, radio and movies admonished people to conserve wherever they could. Imagine saving the fat left over from frying a hamburger. Other items collected included coat hangers, rubber tires, shoes, clothes, silk and nylon stockings, license plates, and practically any other object made from metal. Collection boxes were placed throughout the county where

residents could deposit items of reusable material. To do so was considered a patriotic gesture. Occasionally, organizations sponsored collections of paper or rubber in much the same way as scouting or youth groups do today. In World War II, however, these collections were not isolated money-making projects; they were regular occurrences aimed at relieving the strain on hard-pressed material resources. Every pound of metal or rubber collected put the U. S. one step closer to victory.

Not only adults but school children, too, contributed to the war effort. For ten cents a week, school children bought a war stamp which was pasted onto a folder; once full, the folder was redeemed for a ten-dollar savings bond. As with war bonds that adults bought, the money was used by the government to finance war spending. Children were encouraged to take tin cans and other used metal items to school where it was collected and added to the county's scrap piles. Many teachers made up charts for each child and recorded the amount of used material each one brought in. The charts were then posted on the classroom bulletin board as a way of sparking competition. Some schools had children collect milkweed pods. Due to the shortage of kapok used as a filler to keep life jackets afloat, the milkweed fibers proved to be an adequate substitute for that purpose.

World War II was a time of patriotic fervor in America. Along with the collection drives and war stamp sales, patriotic projects were a regular part of school programs. The Webster Elementary School in Williamsport, for example, put up framed photographs in its corridors of each of the servicemen in the war who had gone to that school. Other schools used different methods of teaching children why their country was at war and what they could do to help bring victory. Thus, for children as well as for adults, the war was not a far-away event that one heard about over the radio; rather, the war was something that involved every citizen and touched every member of the family.

RATIONING OF GOODS

Apart from the blackouts and conservation programs, the greatest sacrifice that the civilian population was called upon to make during the war was the rationing of basic goods. Virtually everything we take for granted today as available in unlimited quantities, was rationed or portioned out according to strict regulations. For example, anyone wishing to buy a new car was required to submit an application to the Federal Office of Price Administration. Those were a lucky few whose applications were approved. New cars were scarce, and those persons fortunate enough to buy one during the war were even more scarce. For the



Mayor Williamson Purchases War Bond



People waiting at Washington School
to register for sugar rations



Children reluctantly place rubber items on scrap pile



Will transport Armistice Day Parade
August 14, 1945

three months of March, April and May, 1942, only 106 new cars were available for sale in the whole of Lycoming County. This was because auto factories, as well as most others, were converted to the production of military machines and supplies.

But if cars were scarce, a man could take little comfort in buying a new pair of trousers. The government made cuffs on trousers illegal effective May 30, 1942. The material normally used for cuffs was broken down and rewoven into material for other purposes. Women, too, were faced with wartime inconveniences. It was not uncommon for women to wait in lines several blocks long just to buy one pair of rationed stockings. Thus, even clothing styles were affected by the war. It was not whim nor fancy which set the styles; rather, it was simple wartime expediency. Not the smallest piece of material was wasted on frivolous uses if it could be put to some more important use.

The rationing program covered a broad range of goods and was stringently enforced. Among other things, rationing affected consumption of gasoline, butter, sugar, bicycles, tires, shoes, coffee, canned goods, meat, and stoves. It was the responsibility of local rationing boards to distribute coupon books to every family. Many schools were used as registration points for rationing coupons. There were five rationing boards in the county, each composed of three members from the respective communities where boards were located. The rationing boards determined the amount of rationed products each family was to receive. Sometimes board members had to turn down requests by their own friends for commodities in scarce supply. Instead, boards had to keep in mind the interests of the entire community at all times.

Nearly every product subject to rationing was also subject to price controls to prevent unprincipled merchants or distributors from making exorbitant profits from products in short supply. Here again, the government acted to protect the average citizen, in this instance from unnecessarily high prices. The war was an extraordinary time and extraordinary measures were necessary for both the physical and economic welfare of the country. The people of Lycoming County played their part in the war effort and made the sacrifices necessary to insure victory at the fronts.

WAR A WAY OF LIFE

The rationing of goods, efforts in conservation, air-raid drills and blackouts served to make war more or less a way of life in the county. School children in Williamsport were issued I.D. tags to wear, women were encouraged to enroll in free training courses in engineering, science and

management. The large number of men away at war meant that women had to assume greater responsibility in the running of industry and commerce. It was common to see women leave their homemaking chores to operate machines in factories or manage stores and businesses. Women also served as plane spotters. Sportsmen and hunters agreed to help farmers harvest crops. The shortage of farm workers necessitated the use of such volunteer help to bring in important farm products.

Most factories in Lycoming County converted their normal operations into the production of military and wartime goods. Products manufactured in the county for war included shoes, army cots, glue and plane engines. The Lycoming Division of Aviation Corporation, now Avco, made up to 600 engines a month and was the largest wartime employer in the region. Other products were anti-tank mines, torpedo nets, ammunition shells, radio and radar tubes, paper products, cloth--silk, rayon, nylon and glass fiber--step ladders, field hospital tables, life boats, cabinets and office files, and lumber. This list is just a sampling of the many products made in Lycoming County during the war emergency.

THE ORDNANCE WORKS

Due to the county's proximity to the major parts of the Northeast and its location in a more remote and less populated region of the state, the U. S. Government established an ordnance works near Allenwood in the White Deer Valley. The function of the ordnance works was the manufacture and storage of TNT for the war. The huge complex covered about 8,000 acres and included parts of both Lycoming and Union counties. Nearly 165 families and their farms, as well as several churches, were displaced. The construction of the establishment brought several thousand new people into the county, for which the housing units at Penn Vale were built to provide accommodation. In all, it was a very large operation and a significant part of Lycoming County's contribution to the war. Once victory was achieved and munitions were no longer needed in large quantities, the ordnance works stopped operations but was used for a short time thereafter as storage for unused explosives. Today the ordnance works is the site of the Allenwood Federal Prison Camp.

GOLD STARS

Another reminder of Lycoming County's contribution to the war were the flags and stars which families of servicemen placed in their windows. A blue star was sewn on the flag to represent each son or daughter in the military from that family. One Williamsport family had a total of nine

stars representing their six sons and three sons-in-law in the war. Whenever a family member was killed in the war, his or her star was replaced by a gold star. In this way other residents could tell by looking at the flags in house windows whether that family had any sons or daughters in the war and whether any of them had lost their lives.

THE WAR COMES TO AN END

The war in Europe came to an end on May 7, 1945, when the Germans surrendered and the Allied Forces brought down the Nazis armies. In the Pacific, the Japanese held out several months more and would surrender only after the annihilating atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Finally, on August 14, 1945, the Japanese, too, recognized the futility of their effort and submitted to the American forces. The long and costly war was finally over, and life returned quickly to its normal pace and usual concerns. While no one could have preferred war to peace and killing to negotiation, the war which swept America into its greatest national mobilization brought a sense of unity, single-mindedness and sacrifice rarely if ever seen in a nation so large and diverse. Lycoming County contributed its share and more to the war with its 252 war dead, the greatest and most costly contribution of all.

When times are peaceful and the abundance of material goods and political freedom are taken for granted, it is useful to recall other times when the cost of the free and abundant life was paid for in human pain and sacrifice. World War II was such a time for Lycoming County and the rest of the world. The war's end--even apart from the elation of victory--brought a deep sigh of relief to all the fortunate survivors of one of our nation's most traumatic periods. No doubt that relief was felt in Lycoming County with as much gratification as anywhere else in America. The county played its part well and helped bring about a happy victory out of a sad war.

QUESTIONS CHAPTER 1

1. What was the impact of the Pearl Harbor attack on Lycoming County?
2. List civilian defense and conservation activities.
3. What consumer products were affected by the war effort?
4. Why were price controls used?
5. The war caused what changes in the lives of women?
6. Why was there opposition to the establishment of the Allenwood Ordnance Works?

Chapter 2

INDUSTRY AND THE WILLIAMSPORT PLAN

INDUSTRY DURING WORLD WAR II

By the late 1930's, the county was pulling out of the depression and unemployment was declining as industrial production increased. One of the primary reasons for the increase in production was the awarding of defense contracts to local industries. England, France, and the Soviet Union were fully engaged in war with Germany by the late 1930's, and many vital defense products were manufactured in Lycoming County and shipped to them. Even the United States, which was not yet involved in war was building up defenses in anticipation. Productive industries increased from 199 in 1941 to 261 in 1951. Employment was up 14 percent. Values of products leaped dramatically by 163 percent, brought on in part by the scarcity of materials.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Lycoming Manufacturers' Association (now the West Branch Manufacturers' Association) pulled its forces together in what they called the "West Branch Front." Manufacturers were asked to produce at maximum levels for the war effort. Many manufacturers were cited by the Army and Navy for their efforts. Some companies came into existence just for the duration of the war. Numerous industries needed to purchase different productional equipment in order to fill a single defense contract.

Thousands of men were drafted into the Army leaving vacancies in industry which were often filled by their own wives. World War II was, by no means, a war fought "over there." At times citizens of the county actually feared losing the war to the Axis; and rationing and scarcity of luxuries and some foods, as well as total involvement of industry in the manufacture of war materials, served as a constant reminder that America was at war.

The succeeding accounts of county manufacturers demonstrate the all-out effort of industry to supply the Allied Armies during World War II. They have been organized according to type of industry in order to emphasize the contribution of the industry.

METAL INDUSTRIES

Metal industries led production during the war period. Some of the major manufactureres were Bethlehem Steel Company, Avco Manufacturing Corporation, Sylvania Electric Products, Inc., E. Keeler Company, Darling Valve and Manufacturing Company, Sprout Waldron and Company, and Sweet's steel Company.

The Lycoming Division of Aviation Corporation (Avco) manufactured a special engine for the Navy's top secret bomber 0435, as well as parts for the B-29 bombers and Packard Rolls-Royce P-51 engines. Avco also manufactured engines for the Stinson Flying Jeep, the Spartan, Curtis, Cessna, and Beachcraft. Six hundred engines a month were produced, as well as engine assembly parts, propeller hubs, crank shafts, etc. Avco was the largest private employer with nearly 4,000 workers.

Many of the 1,500 men and women employed by Piper Aircraft in Clinton County were Lycoming County residents. Over the war period, 7,000 Piper Cub planes were manufactured. Piper Cubs performed an important wartime service as artillery observation planes, ambulances, and mail and supply carriers.

Bethlehem Steel Company had begun accepting defense contracts before the attack on Pearl Harbor. The industry manufactured special wire rope torpedo nets which were used to snag enemy submarines that endangered the U. S. merchant ships carrying supplies to the U. S. and Allied Armies. Wire rope also was manufactured for cranes, steam shovels, and bull dozers.

Carey-McFall of Montoursville was another industry that shifted to production of war materials. In peacetime it was the nation's largest manufacturer of venetian blinds. They developed an all-metal camouflage which simulated grass and helped to hide U. S. machinery and artillery from the enemy. As steel became scarce, textile strips were mounted on chicken wire and camouflage-colored. During the war period, 8,000 rolls of camouflage were produced.

Darling Valve and Manufacturing Company became one of two producers of 105 m/m high explosive shells in the Philadelphia Ordnance District. The Army Ordnance Depot ordered a quality-test 75 m/m shell in 1939. Satisfied with the quality, orders were placed for 5,000 105 m/m high-explosive shells, 750,000 105 m/m projectile ends, 65,000 five-inch rocket war heads (produced after the Normandy invasion), 5,000 three-inch proof shot, 20,000 six-inch base plugs, 7,000 fourteen-inch base plugs for Navy shells, 900,000 cartridge containers and 552 radar parts. Darling Valve produced all the 24-inch "Big Inch Pipe" line valves for the War Engineering Pipe Line Company. The valves weighed $7\frac{1}{2}$ tons a piece and stood 14 feet high.

High pressure boilers for steam-generating equipment were manufactured by E. Keeler Company. Boilers ranged from 35 h.p. and from 100 to 500 pounds. Eight hundred units were made for domestic use, the U. S. Army and Navy and

the Soviet Union. These plants could be set up and operating in 36 hours. One of these power plants was diverted to Saipan when the Americans took the island, thus enabling American forces to work day and night preparing runways and fields for the bombing of Japan. U. S. Treasury officials said this advanced the bombing of Japan by at least three weeks.

Rheem Manufacturing Company put out 700 8-inch, high-explosive shells daily, producing as many as 75,000 shells during the war. These shells had terrific demolition power. One shell could have destroyed the entire plant and a good part of the surrounding area. Radiant Steel Products manufactured boxes for spare parts for Navy bombers, anti-tank mines and their containers for Army Ordnance, cabinets and mortar shell containers.

A total of 250 tons of war materials were manufactured daily by Sweet's Steel Company. Over the war period, 250,000 tons of light steel rolls and accessories, concrete reinforcement bars, light angles and plain round bars, steel barbed wire entanglements, camouflage work and steel mine ties were turned out. Jersey Shore Steel Company manufactured 10,000 gross tons of round, square, and flat steel, as well as mine ties and angles for hospital beds and Army cots.

The Spencer Heater Division of Aviation Corporation operated a grey iron foundry, one aluminum foundry, and a boiler plant. The grey iron foundry manufactured castings for trucks, cargo and armored transports, aircraft and deisel engines, valve castings for machine tools and miscellaneous parts. The aluminum foundry produced precision castings for aircraft engines. Some top secret products were manufactured for the U.S. Navy in the boiler plant. It also produced feedwater heaters, open mounts, condensers, landing barge ramps, deck houses, and bulk heads. A total of 1,000 employees melted 100 tons of grey iron and one-half ton of aluminum each day.

ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS

The Montoursville plant of the Sylvania Electric Products Company, Inc. was the sole manufacturer of some of the most sophisticated radar equipment produced during the war. These were fire control and gun-pointing mechanisms which defended B-29's against Japanese fighter planes. The plant was one of the producers of tank and ship transmitting equipment and the radar proximity fuse, which enabled U. S. troops to determine the nearness of enemy radio transmissions. The Williamsport Tube Plant, part of the Sylvania Electric Products Company, Inc., manufactured small transmitting tubes and related electronic devices. Seven million tubes were manufactured over the war period.

SPECIAL PRODUCTS

Sprout-Waldron Company in Muncy manufactured special machinery and equipment used in other war industries such as equipment for grinding hard rubber dust used in the manufacture of submarine batteries and refining apparatus for producing fibers used in radar equipment. After the war, the company was informed that it had been instrumental in the A-bomb project. It had also developed a process to recycle rubber and cellulose from discarded tires. Equipment was manufactured for producers of plastics used in high altitude super-charges, bombers, and turrets.

The Williamsport Die and Machine Company, one of the most versatile of industries, manufactured products as large as Army tractors, light tanks, illuminating shells, and aircraft starting cartridges and as small as tools, dies, shells, rockets, bombs, land mines, and fixtures for Army and Navy footwear.

PAPER AND TEXTILES

It was sometimes necessary in the paper industry to acquire new equipment to meet special orders. C. A. Reed Company was among those that acquired new equipment. Since the company usually manufactured paper napkins, 56 special machines were required to manufacture 300,000 lanterns for observation balloons, 1½ million shipping bags, and fragmentation bomb parachutes made of rayon cloth. The slow-dropping parachutes enabled low-flying bombers to get away before the bombs detonated. The Eureka Paper Box Company employed 65 people to produce 90 million folding cartons for radio tubes during the war.

The loss of silk from Japan created a critical shortage in the U. S. The textile industry substituted synthetic nylon and rayon. Holmes' Silk Mill manufactured 6,000 yards of silk and rayon flare cloth and silk and nylon parachute cloth daily. Three million yards of material were produced by this mill during the war. Nylon parachute cloth, latex and glass fabrics (fiber glass) were manufactured by Warshow and Sons in Montoursville. Because they were non-flammable, they were used to insulate the gas tanks of airplanes and the wiring of submarines.

The Weldon Manufacturing Company turned from production of civilian sleepwear to production of military pajamas. The 350 employees produced 3,032,000 sets of pajamas during the war. The Williamsport Textile Corporation manufactured a total of 1,280,000 yards of flare parachute fabrics, poncho cloth, signal panels for ship to shore signaling, tow targets, Navy neckerchiefs, and nurses' uniform material.

WOOD PRODUCTS

Lumber made a strong comeback during World War II. One of the largest sawmills, Krimm Lumber Company, employed 1,400 persons. Much of the lumber was used locally, but lumber was also shipped to England, France and the Soviet Union. The majority of lumber-related industries, however, were peacetime furniture manufacturers. Many of these industries also found it necessary to install equipment just to fill war contracts. Keystone Housing Company was one such company, opening in 1944 and closing at the end of the war. It employed 29 people to make custom wood shipping containers for gun mounts which could carry unusually heavy parts under all conditions. Some 18,000 containers were produced during the war at a rate of 125 a day.

The Handle and Excelsior Company of Picture Rocks manufactured over a million handles for commando knives, scrapers, shovels, motor starters, and files. The Lycoming Ladder Company, also of Picture Rocks, worked three years to produce 2,000 ladders for the war effort.

The largest wartime employer in the lumber-related industries was the Watsonstown Cabinet Company. Although it is located in Northumberland County, many of its 1,200 employees commuted from this county. The company erected facilities for the production of ordnance shells and the manufacture of cabinets and files. The company also manufactured chests for intricate radar equipment, automatic gun sites, airplane parts, and assemblies for Naval aircraft.

The West Branch Novelty Company in Milton established a molded plywood division which manufactured 165-gallon droppable gasoline tanks which allowed supplies of gasoline to be dropped from the air to ground troops. Parts for radar controlled, pilotless torpedoes and bombing planes were made, as well as leading edge skins for the largest plywood glider, the YCG-13. Plywood for supporting floor and wings of the troop-carrying glider, the CG-4A, book racks, cabinets, chests, and wheelbarrow handles were also manufactured.

The Williamsport Furniture Company manufactured life rafts and boats, bunk beds, cots, and an assortment of shipping crates. In Muncy, the Modecraft Company, Inc., manufactured 106,000 field hospital tables at a rate of 3,000 a day. A total of 30,000 life boats were produced out of canvas and rubber-covered balsa wood during the war by its 175 employees. The Vallamont Planing Mill manufactured frames, doors, sashes, office paneling, lockers, and crating for various military and defense companies. The Mellen Manufacturing Company in Muncy manufactured government filing cabinets.

LEATHER, GLUE, AND FOOD

Leather is one of the most important basic materials in war. Over 500 items using leather as a chief component were used by the U. S. Army. Most of the leather manufacturers turned to production of these vital materials. Armour Leather Company increased production from 12 to 20 percent to produce 75,000 pairs of insoles and outsoles a day. J. C. Decker, Inc. manufactured grips and strap assemblies for trench motors, handles, wagon pack strips, muzzle covers, and ammunition bags. Fifty-five thousand cots and 43,000 cot covers were produced during the war. J. H. Mosser Company also manufactured strap leather, holsters, sheaths, and scabbards.

Glue was necessary in the manufacture of almost every item of war material. Keystone Tanning and Glue Company was called upon for glue by almost every Navy yard and supply depot, Army-Air Force installation, arsenal, or ordnance plant in the nation.

The Boy-ar-Dee plant in Milton produced 165 cans of C-rations, employing 1,700 people. Many companies, such as O. A. Norland Company, Inc., were small but made contributions to the war effort. Twenty employees of the company manufactured the important foot safety devices such as ice creepers which allowed U. S. and Allied Forces to move faster and easier in Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. Lumber yards in Lycoming County also purchased them.

PRODUCTION OF EXPLOSIVES

One of the most dangerous of war industries was the Pennsylvania Ordnance Works (later named the Susquehanna Ordnance Depot) located in White Deer Valley. The security-tight industry manufactured TNT (Tri-nitro-toluene) for use in bombs and shells. Some 200 buildings, including an on-site emergency hospital and shelters for military personnel and machinery were constructed in 1942. A railroad spur was built into the Ordnance Works to facilitate safe movement of heavy equipment and explosive materials. At peak production, manpower was 4,000 strong. This military operation was administered by the U. S. Rubber Company.

Although one of the safest and most stable of explosives, TNT was, nevertheless, explosive, and precautions were necessary in its handling. Further, injury and even death could result by exposure to the fumes and dust from materials used in the manufacture of TNT. Safety required that powder suits, powder caps, and safety shoes be worn in the Wash and Nail houses. Employees of other departments were required to wear woolen shirts and trousers and broad-brimmed felt hats. All departments required rubber

or leather gloves to protect workers from acid leaks and splashes. Safety goggles were worn, and shoes were required to be free of iron nails. One spark from a nail could cause a devastating explosion.

Great safety precautions were taken, and penalties for non-compliance of rules were serious. An employee found at the Ordnance Works entrance with matches, lighter, or other such incendiary was laid off one day without pay for a first offense, a week for a second offense, and discharged after a third offense. Within the Ordnance Works, violations were much more serious. A first offender was laid off two weeks without pay and discharged after a second offense. Shake-down houses were located at the Ordnance Works entrances where guards frisked anyone entering the Works. Photographs of plants producing munitions could have been of value to the enemy. Employees who attempted to bring a camera to the Ordnance Plant were discharged and liable to federal prosecution and a fine of \$5,000 and one year imprisonment if convicted.

The health hazards facing employees involved in the manufacturing of TNT were not taken lightly. Employees were instructed in the wearing of protective gear and care was taken by supervisors to see that the employees showered thoroughly after each shift and left their clothes at the plant for laundering. Vitamins were dispensed by the plant to employees who were also required to pass a physical examination at the Ordnance Works Hospital every three weeks. Signs of TNT poisoning were nausea, yellowing of the whites of the eyes, rash or burning and itching skin. Moderate exposure to fumes from acids used in the manufacture of TNT could cause inflammation of lungs and respiratory passages. The effects were not immediately apparent to the victim who had to be extremely careful or risk lethal exposure. To avoid the danger of explosion and exposure to dust, employees handled cartons of TNT with care in order to raise as little dust as possible and to keep floors and work areas free of dust. Though there was the risk of fire, lanterns were used during periods of blackout when all electricity was shut off. It was vital to the U. S. defense that production of ordnance did not cease.

Despite rationing, scarcity of products, and difficulty of transporting conditions, maximum production levels were maintained among baking industries, meat packers, ice manufacturers, job printers, dairy producers, and building supply contractors. Following the war, industry continued to work closely with the Williamsport Technical Institute to train returning veterans and sharpen the skills of workers as industry shifted its emphasis to peace-time products.



Williamsport Industrial Park



Remains of igloo at
former Pennsylvania Ordnance Works

RECOVERY FROM WAR

Across the country, competition to attract new industry was fierce. Thousands of men and women were returning from Europe, Africa, and the Pacific, seeking employment in factories which were slowing production. Many veterans took the opportunity offered through the GI Bill to attend college or technical school to get employment.

In order to create new jobs in the county, the Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce organized the Industrial Properties Corporation whose sole responsibility was to create new jobs. The strategy was to make Lycoming County attractive to new industry and to help existing industry expand. At the turn of the century, the economy of the county had come dangerously close to collapse after the lumber industry exhausted its resources. In order to protect the economy from collapse by avoiding dependence on any one industry, the Industrial Properties Corporation proposed to diversify industries. Over the next two decades, three capital fund drives raised \$1,600,000 in gifts. The capital is used by the Industrial Properties Corporation to buy and develop land for industrial use and to finance industrial building construction. The Lycoming County Industrial Development Authority financed numerous industrial and commercial developments through loans to new and expanding industries.

In 1955, under the direction of its first commissioner, Roland H. Dunn, the Industrial Properties Corporation purchased 118 acres of land on Reach Road to develop as an industrial park. Building shells were erected, roads were built, and all utilities were connected. The location provided transportation and shipping by three commercial airlines, ten interstate trucking companies, and four railroads. Within two years, four industries had located in the park: Steelex Corporation, Ille Manufacturing Company, Vidmar, Inc., and Tetley Tea Company; Steelex Corporation and Vidmar, Inc. have since closed. Ille Manufacturing Company is now Market Forge, Ille Division; and Tetley Tea Company is still operating. By 1978, the Williamsport Industrial Park had grown to 300 acres and 25 industries employing 2,500 people. The three largest employers in the park are Pullman-Kellogg Company which employs 400, Cobblers Inc. which employs 240, and Alcan Cable which employs 150.

In 1970 the Industrial Properties Corporation opened a second industrial park at Muncy. The 100-acre site is occupied by its two original occupants: Boise-Cascade Corporation which employs 150 people and Data Papers, Inc. which employs 58 people. This park also has access to Interstate 80, the airport, and ConRail.

The Jersey Shore Industrial Development Corporation recently purchased 18.2 acres of land to develop as an industrial park. Woolrich Woolen Mills, which employs 250 people, has located there and Norcen Industries, which employs 70 people, has broken ground in the park for its building.

The four largest industrial employers in the county are Avco, Lycoming Division in Williamsport which employs 1,700; GTE Sylvania in Montoursville which employs 1,500; Koppers Company, Inc. in Muncy which employs 1,000; and GTE Sylvania, Inc. in Muncy which employs 777.

The four largest industrial employers in Williamsport are Avco, Lycoming Division which employs 1,700; Bethlehem Steel Corporation which employs 800; Stroehmann Bros. Company which employs 425; and Weldon Manufacturing Company which employs 400. Williamsport is the largest employer in the county. Muncy, Montoursville, and Montgomery follow respectively. In Muncy the largest employers are Koppers Company, Inc. which employs 1,000, and GTE Sylvania, Inc. which employs 777. GTE Sylvania in Montoursville employs 1,500 people. Schnadig Corporation follows with 375 employees. In Montgomery, West Company-Plastic Division employs 350 people and Grumman Allied Industries, Inc., its second largest employer, has 200 employees.

The industrial development campaign, headed by the Williamsport Chamber of Commerce, has been successful in further diversifying the county's industries. Nineteen major industrial classifications are now represented in the county. The largest classifications are in primary metals, fabricated metal products, non-electrical machinery, transportation equipment, lumber and wood products, furniture, food products, apparel and related products, paper products, and electrical and electronic machinery, equipment, and supplies. In the last ten years, eighteen new industries have located in the county and 48 existing industries have expanded. Despite the loss in the county of six industries, the Industrial Properties Corporation has created 1,200 new jobs in the county in that same period.

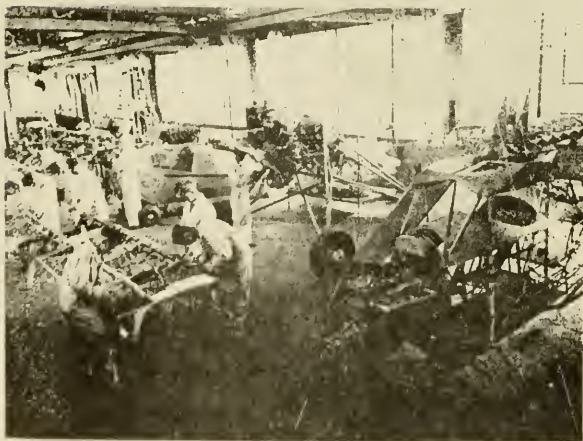
Several of the industries were persuaded to locate in Lycoming County because of the availability of skilled labor. John McAnery, general manager of M. W. Kellogg Company (now Pullman-Kellogg Company), reported in 1961 that it had chosen Williamsport as a site for its headquarters and manufacturing facilities because "we have found in Williamsport a reservoir of skilled workmen who have met the extremely high standards required for this type of work (manufacture of intricate piping systems). Many of these men have improved their natural skills by taking courses at the Williamsport Technical Institute (predecessor to Williamsport



Glyco Chemical Company



Forge at Williamsport Training School



Aviation shop at Williamsport Training School

Area Community College) which has a history of turning out graduates skilled in all the arts and crafts required by all types of Central Pennsylvania industry."

Other industries find the county attractive because of space available for expansion, less congested shipping facilities, and proximity to sources of raw materials. Williamsport has much to offer industry. It is centrally located to the largest retail market in the United States. Twenty percent of the U. S. population, or over 40 million people, live within a 200-mile radius of Williamsport, reaching to Philadelphia, New York City, Albany, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, Erie, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, and Washington, D. C. The Industrial Park in Williamsport offers easy access to Interstate 80 and the Susquehanna Beltway, and the level land, railroads, and airports make shipping of large quantities of goods possible.

THE WILLIAMSPORT PLAN

Like other cities in 1930, Williamsport found itself in the midst of the Depression and facing rising unemployment. To add to its difficulties, the U. S. Rubber Company closed its plant in Williamsport in 1932, putting an additional 2,500 people out of work, swelling the already overburdened relief rolls and leaving most of the workers without marketable skills. Faced with rising relief bills, businessmen worked through the Chamber of Commerce to collect data to determine what type of worker was unemployed. The results showed that 75 percent of the unemployed were unskilled, 85 percent of whom had adequate backgrounds to become skilled or semi-skilled workers. A shop-to-shop survey made the surprising disclosure that while unemployment was rising, many shops reported an increasing shortage of workers with particular skills. Dr. George H. Parkes, director of the vocational department of the Williamsport High School, was appointed to design a program that would equip the unemployed with needed skills.

A plan, which became known as the Williamsport Plan, was designed to screen, train, and place the unemployed through the coordinated efforts of the Williamsport Retraining School--also directed by Dr. Parkes--the state employment office, the YWCA, the YMCA, and numerous other agencies. The Williamsport Retraining School was to serve also as a training center for the WPA, PWA, NYA and CCC.

In the Williamsport High School at the corner of Third and Susquehanna Streets, the staff of the Williamsport Retraining School set up an electrical shop in a coal bin, reclaimed a locker room for the automotive department, and set up a machine shop under the new school bleachers. With only a \$1000 grant from the Williamsport School District, the Williamsport Retraining School could afford little in the

way of manpower. About \$10,000 in equipment was salvaged from area junk yards and reconditioned. Another \$10,000 worth of equipment was borrowed from area industries. By 1933 Parkes decided a separate building for the Williamsport Retraining School was needed. The Williamsport School District could offer no funds and did not agree that a separate building was necessary. So the staff of the Williamsport Retraining School chose a site on school property, designed a blueprint of the building, and tapped the County Relief Board for a work force. Every day a different crew of twenty workers was sent to the school with materials bought on credit and borrowed tools, the crew dug out a foundation and constructed a one-story, saw-tooth building with walls of glass to admit a maximum of natural light. By 1934 the three-unit building at the corner of West Third and Park Streets was ready for use.

When surveys projected a need for truck drivers, the staff of the school borrowed trucks, dug a regulation-sized mechanics pit in the yard of the school and started one of the first trucking schools in the country. When there was a shortage of men skilled in the use of the acetylene torch, the staff rounded up several second-hand and discarded torches and borrowed a skilled worker as an instructor.

The single objective of the Williamsport Plan was to place the unemployed in jobs for which they were trained. Toward that end, eight industry-experienced coordinators were employed by the Williamsport Retraining School to determine what skills local industries would be needing in the near future and what student was best suited for training in that area. Follow-up training was offered until the employee was settled in his job.

Most employers were unable to predict their future needs, but interviews with shop foremen and supervisors uncovered specifically needed skills. Applicants to the program were interviewed to determine their aptitude as well as their interest. Unless an applicant showed no aptitude for a skill needed by industry, he received this skill with the near certainty of placement. The strength of the program rested in the ability of Parkes and his staff to determine the applicant's ability and to equip him with a marketable skill. Coordinators kept close contact with area employers to be certain applicants would be trained in skills that would be needed.

Between 1930 and 1940, about 4,000 unemployed workers were placed, each at a cost of only \$100. More than half of them had been on Williamsport relief rolls. The program was so successful that in 1940, 3,100 people were enrolled, 600 of whom were placed in that year. Lycoming County had been

the first county in the state to initiate a program to pay relief recipients as they trained for employment. The staff of the Williamsport Retraining School was far superior to any in the country in its job placement record and its ability to predict the job market. Educators, state and federal groups, and businessmen visited the Williamsport Retraining School, a predecessor to the Williamsport Technical Institute and the Williamsport Area Community College, to study its organization. The Williamsport Plan was applauded by the federal government, by numerous newspapers, and in 1940 by Nation's Business, Woman's Day, and The Saturday Evening Post.

QUESTIONS CHAPTER 2

1. Name the companies (and their products) whose Lycoming County workers participated in the World War II effort.
2. What advantages are offered by the Williamsport area for the location of industry?
3. What was the main objective of the Williamsport Plan?
4. What eventually happened to the Retraining School?

Chapter

3

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND LUMBERING

AGRICULTURE

During World War II agriculture was a vital industry and strict conservation methods were practiced. County farm agents assisted farmers in obtaining needed supplies made scarce by war and issued daily bulletins in newspapers telling them how to conserve. Farmers were urged to reuse barbed wire and burlap bags and to substitute wood for steel fence posts and grain storage bins. Shortages of nitrogen needed in fertilizer developed as production of explosives ate away supplies. Cotton thread was substituted for the stronger silk thread in sewing burlap bags when silk was needed for sewing parachutes and powder bags. It was necessary for farmers to sign acquisition forms to obtain binder twine after sisal and manila hemp imports from the East Indies and East Africa were cut off by the war. Farmers pooled their orders for wheat and feed in order to obtain bulk prices. As fuel oil and coal became scarce for heating, farmers were resigned to carefully manage their timber supplies and to cut out only dead and mature growths. Many farmers could not buy tractors, while those who had tractors often found the gasoline to run them scarce. Teams of horses and mules were often seen plowing fields and harvesting crops. There were long waiting lists for replacement parts for farm machinery, and in 1943 there was not a single pound of rubber allocated for civilian use.

Unused to the discipline of rationing, people complained and turned to the inventor to come up with a synthetic rubber. The rubber coordinator for the War Production Board impatiently chided, "Combat tanks with steel tracks are 20 percent less efficient. If you want your sons to fight in a tank only 80 percent efficient so you can joy ride, the rubber shortage can be solved." Although not a major problem locally, the loss of manpower to the war effort developed a farm labor shortage. The Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Club, 660,000 strong, pledged their help in the 1942 harvest.

Since 1940, better weed control and more modern fertilization practices greatly reduced the number of acres needed to produce the same yield. For example, although the total county acreage devoted to corn decreased from 27,251 in 1944 to 14,480 in 1969, the yield increased from 40.4 bushels per acre to 95.6 bushels in the same period. Production levels of every product have followed the same trend. Milk production per cow has more than doubled; wheat farmers have increased their yield by 40 percent per acre. Increases in production levels have increased the self-sufficiency of the Greater Williamsport area to 70 percent of the food distributed. In the future, environmental laws controlling



Williamsport Growers' Market



Little Pine Creek Dam

soil erosion, pesticides, animal waste, and air pollution will dictate farming methods.

Although the number of farms has decreased from 1,218 in 1940 to 1,086 in 1969, the average size of farms has increased from 86.3 acres to 149.7 acres in the same period. The trend toward larger farms began as skyrocketing prices made farming as a livelihood forbidding to all but the commercial farmer. Productive farmers bought up potentially good farmland from part-time and retired farmers. Many part-time farmers found it too costly to maintain their land as a small farm and were forced to make a living elsewhere.

Although there is no shortage of rich farm soil in Lycoming County much of the richest soil has been occupied by expanding communities and businesses. Since the 1800's Jersey Shore, Williamsport, Montoursville, Muncy, and Montgomery have grown up along the Susquehanna River and now occupy much of the richest farmland in the Commonwealth. As communities expanded, the airport, industrial park, gravel quarries, and commercial building also were constructed on this land. At the time of this construction, concern over flooding made farming prohibitive. Soil maps have since ranked this land as prime farming soil. Since the Agnes flood of 1972, flood-plain zoning programs have restricted building along the river and lowlands.

Agriculture in Lycoming County has become a major industry producing nearly \$13.1 million worth of products annually. The dairy industry has always been the top income producer with field crops and meat-animal products ranking second and third. Agriculture-related industries are also important to the economy of the county as an employer. Twenty-one industries are engaged in the production of food and kindred products. Approximately 1,150 persons are employed in these industries, and they collect more than \$7.9 million in annual payrolls.

CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Lycoming County is rich in natural resources. The most economically important resources are limestone and sand and gravel. Bituminous coal, bluestone, slate, and tri-poli--a limestone-slate used as paint filler and abrasive--are also of some economic value. Stripped of its lumber resources by the turn of the century, the land was clear for farming and outdoor recreation. Today about 70 percent of the county has returned to forest. Conservation is practiced with an eye toward agriculture and outdoor recreation.

Hunting is one of the major recreational activities in the county and has created a large market in sales of hunting

equipment and services such as food and lodging. Strong emphasis has been placed on conservation of wildlife. Deer and bear hunting are popular among county sportsmen. The only other large game animal in the county is the Pennsylvania elk which has come dangerously close to extinction. Since 1932, the elk has been protected from hunters, and grazing lands have been set aside to encourage the growth of the elk herd.

Small game animals in the county include rabbits, snowshoe hares, squirrels, raccoons, woodchucks, ringneck pheasants, bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse, turkey, woodcocks, shorebirds, doves, Hungarian partridges, and waterfowl. Earlier in the century the wild turkey was hunted nearly to extinction. In 1945, a turkey farm was established at Barbours to raise wild turkeys for hunting. Ringneck pheasants, which live on the new growth not found in abundance in the county's mature woods, are raised on a game farm established at Loyalsockville in 1934. The heavily hunted pheasants have relieved some pressure from the disappearing quail and grouse.

Many non-hunted birds are disappearing as their habitats are destroyed. The whooping crane, trumpeter swan, waxy-billed woodpecker, California condor and bald eagle are all endangered. The osprey and peregrin falcon, both waterfowl, suffered heavily from post World War II spraying of DDT which contaminated the water. The insecticide caused the eggs to be thin-shelled so that few eggs survived to hatch. Now these birds and the bald eagle, once nesters in this county, are seen only during migration. The bobwhite quail, ringneck pheasant, and ruffed grouse have moved to more southern counties in search of new growth.

The list of extinct animals that had lived in the county as recently as 1917 is long despite the efforts of conservationists. Some of the vanished animals are the California parouquet, the great auk, the Labrador duck, the heath hen, the Eskimo curlew, and the passenger pigeon. The latter was so populous in the mid-1800's that a single net could snare hundreds of them from the blackened sky.

Many plants and trees which are not protected have also become endangered by disease and destruction of their fragile habitat. Many wildflowers such as lady's slipper, trailing arbutis, and trillium require a particular habitat and should be protected for their future value as a food source or potential cure for disease. Foxglove, from which digitalis is derived, is an example of a wildflower's value as medicine.

Though efforts to combat the chestnut blight have been futile, the hardy tree has managed to attain a six-inch

diameter before succumbing to the fungus. This blight was imported on a Japanese chestnut tree in 1904 and nearly eradicated the American chestnut from Pennsylvania and New England. The Dutch elm disease, another imported blight, now threatens the elms of the county. The historic Tiadaghton Elm, over 500 years old, was killed by the fungus in 1974.

CONSERVATION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS

Once a sewer for communities and mines along the river, the West Branch of the Susquehanna River provided a poor habitat for fish. Despite the Clean Streams Act of 1937, raw sewage from Williamsport and surrounding communities was regularly discharged into the Susquehanna River until 1953 when the primary treatment of Williamsport's sewage began. Mine acid pollution ended when the mines in Clearfield, Cambria, and other counties were sealed. Escaping mine acids were neutralized by sewage treatment.

In 1973 the Department of Environmental Resources required the more thorough secondary treatment of sewage. The 1970 amendment to the Clean Streams Act of 1937 brought the control of water quality under the Department of Environmental Resources' Environmental Quality Board, whose duty it is to issue or deny permits to discharge waste into the waters of the county. From 1952 to 1970, the control of water quality had been the responsibility of the Sanitary Water Board and the quality of the waters of the county steadily improved. At least fifteen species of fish are caught in the Lycoming County waters today including muskie, walleye, pickerel, large mouth bass, and panfish. There are numerous fishing areas in the county: the 396-acre Rose Valley Lake, the 90-acre Little Pine Dam, Upper Pine Bottom, the Susquehanna River, and numerous feeder streams. Most of the waterways have been improved to permit boating, water skiing, and swimming.

LUMBERING

Lumbering made a strong comeback in the late 1930's as defense contracts were filled for England, France, and the Soviet Union who were now fully engaged in war with Germany. Even though the United States was not yet involved in war, U. S. defense contracts were placed with many county lumber mills in anticipation of war.

The number of mills grew until in 1954, there were an estimated 50 sawmills operating in the Tiadaghton district and several more in the Pine Creek area. The boom created through defense contracts raised hopes that lumbering would again become a thriving industry. There was reason for hope. Reforestation programs of 40 to 50 years before were now showing profits. Slow-growing hardwoods were maturing,

replacing the soft yellow pine and fir. Most mills of the early 1950's cut oak in large quantities as well as hemlock, pine, poplar, and basswood.

Although the volume of lumber was down from the last century, the quality was so high that area building suppliers dealt almost exclusively in local lumber. Only wood such as West Coast soft woods, Douglas fir, Ponderosa pine, and West Virginia oak--none of which were grown in this region--were imported. Some areas of Michigan, the South, and Northwest United States imported lumber from Lycoming County as their own supply became depleted.

But hope of rebuilding the lumber industry died as the orders slowed in the late 1950's. Defense contracts had stopped. Coal mining, one of the larger consumers, had declined, and lumber wholesalers suffered a severe financial loss. Railroads continued to buy ties from local mills, but the volume was not high enough to sustain the industry. The Williamsport Planing Mill, the last sawmill in the city, closed in 1952.

The reduced demand for lumber was partly due to changes in building materials and lumber substitutes. Since the 1930's buildings were being constructed of steel, brick, and cement. Steel office furniture became more popular than wood. About 4,000 new uses for wood were developed. Among them, wood was used in the production of rayon, cellophane, wall boards, insulating materials, and artificial stone.

Today there are few reminders that Williamsport was once the lumbering capital of the world. Millionaire's Row on Fourth Street stands somewhat neglected and only came under the protection of the city's Historic District Ordinance in 1975. A few mills still run throughout the county. Skeletal remains of lumbering cribs, built by James Perkins in 1846, still lie beneath the Susquehanna River. The now broken cribs had extended from the 14-acre island at Locust Street to seven miles upriver. The crib had broken in April of 1972 when the river was dredged. Some of the cribs had survived the Agnes flood of that year.

More than 80 years separates this generation from the lumber era, which makes the period seem complex. To close the gap between generations, a lumber gallery has been set up at the Lycoming County Historical Society and Museum in Williamsport. In the gallery, a large diorama of the Susquehanna Boom on the Susquehanna River displays the lumber canal next to the boom, the boom cribs, and sorting bins where the Susquehanna Boom Company sorted the lumber according to the owner's mark hammered into the log. Unmarked logs were sold by the Susquehanna Boom Company which netted them \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually. The sorted logs

were sent by lumber raft to the log pond outside of the owner's mill.

Five other dioramas in the lumber gallery display a lumber mill, shingle making, bark stripping, a log railroad, and a log slide. Another diorama, built by Christ Haist, the last superintendent of the Susquehanna Boom Company, shows the positions of the company's workmen at the mill. Numerous photographs and lumbering tools are on permanent display at the Lycoming County Historical Society and Museum.

An entire life-size lumber camp has been authentically recreated at the Pennsylvania State Lumber Museum in Potter County near Cherry Springs State Park. A walk down the dirt streets takes you past a work house, a mess hall, a laundry, a country store, a smithy, and a carpenter shop. The working camp includes water wheels, shingle mills, and early up and down saw mills. A Shay locomotive (a heavy duty uphill hauler) and a Barnhart steam log loader display the heavy powerful movers of lumber a century ago.

QUESTIONS CHAPTER 3

1. List the three leading types of agriculture in the county.
2. Describe trends in farm size and productivity. Explain reasons for these changes.
3. What threats to agriculture have emerged in Lycoming County?
4. List some of the county's mineral resources.
5. What were some of the major activities in conservation?
6. What measures have been taken to improve streams and fishing?
7. Give reasons why the lumber industry failed to be revived on a large scale.
8. What kinds of trees were most common?
9. How has the Lycoming County Historical Society commemorated the lumber era?

Chapter

4

TRANSITIONS IN POPULATION AND RETAIL TRADE

POPULATION

Although the population of the county has continued to grow since 1930, the population of Williamsport has decreased from its peak of 45,729 in 1930, to 37,918 in 1970. Lycoming County's population was 93,421 in 1930 and has grown to 113,296. Nearly half of the county's population lived in Williamsport in 1930. Today, Williamsport comprises only one-third of the county's population. When the depression of the 1930's forced the closing of many of the city's industries, unemployed workers were compelled to move elsewhere to find work. The closing of the U. S. Rubber Company in 1932, left 2,500 workers unemployed. Though the county population increased by 0.2 percent between 1930 and 1940, Williamsport's dropped by 3.0 percent. The growth of defense industries during World War II helped to increase the population of the county but only slightly increased Williamsport's population. Since the 1950's, Williamsport along with cities across the nation, faced a dramatic loss of population.

While the population of the city has declined, the growth of the county has continued. Williamsport has lost its population to its perimeter. The Greater Williamsport area comprises almost two-thirds of the county's 113,296 inhabitants. The population density of Williamsport is more than 4,100 persons per square mile. Duboistown, South Williamsport, Montoursville, Montgomery, Muncy, Hughesville, and Jersey Shore stand at 1,000 to 4,100 per square mile. There are 300 to 1,000 persons per square mile in Picture Rocks, Salladasburg, Old Lycoming, and Loyalsock townships. There are at least 60 inhabitants per square mile in the townships of Porter, Piatt, Susquehanna, Woodward, Lycoming, Hepburn, Eldred, Upper Fairfield, Clinton, Muncy Creek, and Wolf. Fewer than 60 persons per square mile are registered in other townships.

RETAIL TRADE

The trend toward suburbanization has also affected the retail industry. Center-city Williamsport met with strong competition from malls at the Golden Strip in Loyalsock and the Lycoming Mall at Hall's Station. Once the largest shopping center in the county, Williamsport needed to change in order to compete with suburban shopping complexes.

In 1975, a group of downtown businessmen organized the Downtown Design Review Committee which was to plan a downtown Williamsport mall. Laurence A. Alexander & Company was engaged to do a study of the downtown and to make proposals for improvements which would make the downtown more

competitive with the shopping malls. A proposal was accepted to close Pine Street to traffic from Fourth Street to Church Street and to construct an outdoor mall in this area. The Williamsport Redevelopment Authority acted as the city's agent in the project. On June 18, 1976, construction of the mall began. The sidewalks and street were replaced by bricks and trees were planted. An outdoor cafe, children's play area, and benches were placed in the mall.

Improvements were not limited to the mall area. Over the entire downtown area, 315 trees were planted, potted plants were set along the sidewalk, and bicycle racks were installed. The Center-City Mall was officially dedicated on November 15, 1976. Critics of the mall had complained that the loss of parking spaces on Pine Street would further restrict parking. Though there were 260 parking spaces lost when the mall was constructed, there were still about 2,000 parking spaces in the downtown area. However, the walking distance from some of the parking areas to the downtown continued to be a problem.

The cost of the improvements to the downtown was \$1,690,000 and was shared by downtown property owners, the Williamsport Redevelopment Authority, the Williamsport Foundation, and Lycoming County. The entire cost of improvements to the mall were paid by the downtown property owners. No capital was raised through city taxes.

A year earlier on September 1, 1975, Mayor John Coder began planting pine trees along Pine Street for a controversial 90-day trial mall he named the Pine Park Mall. He stated that his proposed mall was much less expensive and would not remove the valuable on-street parking on Pine Street. He stressed the urgency of opening a mall downtown before the Lycoming Mall opened. Williamsport City Council held an emergency meeting the afternoon of September 1, and won a temporary injunction to halt the work on the mall. Mayor Coder was later ordered by Williamsport City Council to remove the trees and to restore the street and sidewalk.

Over the last four decades, downtown Williamsport has shifted westward. Market Square, once a thriving shopping center, lost its strength to the Pine Street area. One of the largest Market Square businesses was the Growers' Market which closed in 1974 after four decades at the same site. When the lease to the building was lost, vendors were scattered about the county and many closed their businesses. In the mid-1950's as many as 200 farmers sold their produce at the Growers' Market. The large building was filled with smells of locally produced fruits and vegetables as well as farm-fresh eggs and meats.

In the last ten years, the mall area has changed as some older stores closed and others came to fill the vacancies.



Center City Mall, Williamsport



"Golden Strip"



Lycoming Mall, Halls, Pa.

Prior and Sallada Company, Inc., located on West Fourth Street, closed in 1977. It was established in 1896 by W. R. Prior and Wilbur Sallada. Sears, Roebuck, and Company, which opened in downtown Williamsport in 1928, moved to the Lycoming Mall in 1978 after fifty years in downtown Williamsport. In 1974, Carroll House, closed leaving a large vacant building on the corner of Pine and Third streets. The large department store, which had opened in 1929, operated under the name of Lycoming Dry Goods Company until 1947. The building was bought by Fidelity Bank and Trust Company in 1974.

In 1971, W. T. Grant Company moved from its West Fourth Street location to Loyal Plaza after forty-one years downtown. The entire chain went bankrupt in 1975.

Several established stores have continued to operate in downtown Williamsport. L. L. Stearns and Sons was established by Laten Legg Stearns in 1850 in Jersey Shore. In 1865 he shipped his merchandise downriver by raft to Williamsport where railroad connections made Williamsport a more important trading center. L. L. Stearns and Sons was located at Market Square until 1888 when it moved to the corner of Third and Pine streets, eventually expanding to an adjoining building over four floors. L. L. Stearns and Sons is the oldest family owned, family operated department store in the United States.

D. S. Andrus and Company was founded in 1860 by D. S. Andrus, whose partner in the late 1860's was William R. Vanderbilt. Andrus was a prominent Williamsport citizen following the Civil War.

A. B. Neyhart and Emmanuel E. Andrews, Sr. established Neyhart's, Inc. in 1870. Soon after it opened, the store expanded to an adjoining building where it has remained since its opening.

The Otto Book Store was established in Market Square in 1877 by Alexander M. Dean. The store was named for H. Y. Otto, a partner. It later moved to West Fourth Street.

Harder Sporting Goods Company was established in 1883 by George H. Harder, a maker of custom-made guns. Soon after opening, the store began to sell fishing equipment and other sporting goods. In 1903, the store moved from West Fourth Street to Pine Street.

Attracted by the established businesses, at least a dozen stores opened or relocated in the mall area the year before it opened. Many establishments renovated their buildings and made improvements. L. L. Stearns and Sons and Fidelity National Bank of Pennsylvania, which had moved into

the Carroll House building, made renovations and refaced the buildings they occupied. Many other center-city buildings had been cleaned or painted to give the downtown a fresher, newer appearance.

QUESTIONS CHAPTER 4

1. What is the population of the county? What fraction live in the city? In "greater Williamsport"?
2. What are the population trends for the county and city?
3. Name some of the older merchandising firms in Williamsport.
4. What measures have been taken to promote retail trade in Williamsport?
5. What other important shopping centers exist in the county?

Chapter 5

MAJOR FLOODS AND THE DIKES

Lycoming County is no stranger to the capricious ways of the weather, particularly as it relates to rain and floods. The predominance of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River and its five major tributaries has made the destruction of flooding a common threat to county residents during times of heavy rain and high water. Yet the record of major devastating floods is limited to a relative few.

Prior to our period of concentration, the flood of March, 1936 was the most destructive on record. With a flood stage of 15 feet at the Market Street Bridge in Williamsport, the 1936 level reached 33.6 feet. Major sections of the county were inundated, including downtown Williamsport. Indeed, this was the flood which spurred action toward the construction of flood dikes in Williamsport and South Williamsport, providing inestimable protection from future floods--and future floods there were.

THE 1946 FLOOD

Just ten years after the record breaker of 1936, the county was again victim to another severe flood on May 29 and 30, 1946. This was the third worst flood to strike Williamsport to that date. Cloudbursts had occurred over the upper portions of Pine and Lycoming creeks emptying large amounts of water into the Susquehanna River, already swollen from previous heavy rains during May. The results were predictable. The regions along Lycoming Creek experienced their worst flooding ever. Property damages reached several hundred thousand dollars in the area from High Street in Williamsport to Roaring Branch. Also, along the Susquehanna River from Jersey Shore to Muncy extensive flooding routed residents for the second time in ten years. The Red Cross came through with aid to victims of the flood providing some relief and comfort to those most in need.

The final river reading in Williamsport for the 1946 flood was 29.6 feet, about four feet under the 1936 record. Nevertheless, downtown Williamsport endured the ravages of flooding again. There were no Memorial Day celebrations in 1946 as businessmen and residents were busy moving merchandise and belongings to higher ground. At first the Flood Forecasting Service predicted there would be no flooding in Williamsport but when reports of the heavy rains in northern parts of the county became known, the first emergency forecast was issued. Downtown Williamsport stores, offices and churches all were swept by the flood waters of May, 1946, which while not a record-breaking flood, was to be distinguished as the last flood to invade downtown Williamsport. Thirty percent of the city was hit.

THE "AGNES" FLOOD

After 1946, floods of minor and varied severity afflicted unprotected towns along the river and creeks, usually in the spring when ice jams, melting snow and falling rain provide ideal flooding conditions. Yet the worst flood ever to strike Lycoming County was not attributed to ice jams and melting snow but to a ferocious hurricane known as "Agnes" which had strayed inland over Pennsylvania. It seemed that widespread destructive floods had become a thing of the past, and it was common for young people to hear their parents and grandparents refer to the "36 flood" as a kind of historical benchmark--that is until the advent of hurricane Agnes in June, 1972.

The Agnes flood equals no other in sheer volume of water or destructive force. With the exception of Williamsport and South Williamsport where the dikes saved both communities from overwhelming disaster, most towns and rural areas in the county experienced unparalleled damage to roads and bridges, homes, stores, fields and barns. In some places, houses, bridges and other normally secure objects were swept away by raging water like so many pebbles in a stream. Roads were washed away and closed for days, some for months. The Agnes flood is without peer and provided Lycoming County with its worst natural disaster in history.

RECORD RAINFALL

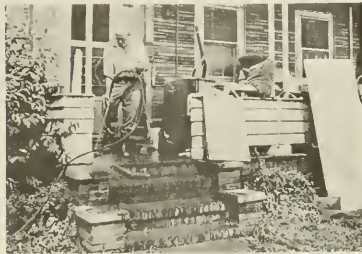
This record-breaking flood was the consequence of the record rainfall Agnes emptied on the region. She emptied a total of 13.52 inches of rain on Lycoming County--more than any other storm in history. The storm also set a record for the greatest 24-hour rainfall with 8.66 inches on June 22. And the highest total rainfall recorded for any month was set in June, 1972 with 16.8 inches. For a period of four solid days rain cascaded on Lycoming County and most of Pennsylvania without subsiding or slackening.

WILLIAMSPORT SPARED

No event before or since hurricane Agnes has caused more hardship and destruction to more people in Lycoming County. Had there been no dikes in Williamsport, or had they not held, the damage and devastation would have been difficult if not impossible to calculate. Instead, Williamsport served as the major distribution point for the county and communities in several other counties for many basic necessities, such as food, electrical equipment, clothing and home furnishings. All over the county, people along streams, creeks and the Susquehanna River were forced to take refuge in evacuation centers in schools and church halls. Many others more fortunate were forced to contend



Agnes flood
photographs
courtesy of
Grit Publishing
Company



The Agnes Flood

June, 1972





Fourth and Market Streets during 1946 flood



West Branch Valley from Montgomery Pike
during Agnes flood

with water in cellars without electricity to operate pumps.

The drama of hurricane Agnes intensified on Thursday, June 22 when 9.5 inches of rain fell in little over 24 hours, bringing the river depth to 14 feet and rising at the Market Street Bridge, after a two-foot reading on Tuesday, June 20. In Williamsport, Mayor John R. Coder declared a state of emergency and set up evacuation centers at the Salvation Army headquarters and the Roosevelt and Stevens Junior High Schools. In South Williamsport a number of residents on Hastings and Main streets were instructed to evacuate their homes, and the rear portion of the First Ward Fire Company building fell into the teaming Hagerman's Run.

THE COUNTY PARALYZED

By late Thursday night and early Friday morning, June 23, flood conditions had reached their peak, and the county was effectively paralyzed with major sections isolated. By Friday morning Montoursville was virtually cut off due to the flooding along Loyalsock Creek which blocked travel on Routes 87 and 220. Large areas of Jersey Shore were submerged in water, which reached as far up Allegheny Street as Wylie Street, and to Pfouts Run on Locust Street.

The other two boroughs along the flood plain of the river which had extensive flooding were Muncy and Montgomery. Virtually the entire eastern half of Muncy was inundated, with the heart of the flooding centered along Water Street. The flood waters on Main Street nearly reached the Commonwealth Bank; on Washington Street the water went several yards beyond the intersection with Bruner Street. Flooding in Montgomery was similarly extensive with most of the borough south of Montgomery Street under water. Portions of Montgomery between North Main Street and Kinsey Street were also affected.

DESTRUCTION ALONG RIVER TRIBUTARIES

Some of the greatest damage attributed to Agnes occurred along the river's tributaries, especially Pine and Loyalsock creeks. Describing the devastation along Pine Creek, the Williamsport Sun-Gazette reported: "Only those structures on high ground or those with good foundations remain. It looks like a large battering ram went through the valley taking everything out in its path."

Indeed, the destruction along Pine Creek was astounding. Of the 24 houses at the little village of Ramsey south of Waterville, only five remained. All the rest were swept off their foundations or disappeared completely. House trailers were wrapped around trees. Parts of houses,

cottages, cars and other debris were scattered throughout the valley turning it into a virtual rubbish heap.

Even wildlife was disrupted by the extraordinary weather and flooding, as some residents along Pine Creek saw young bear cubs come out of the woods seeking food dumped onto porches from water-soaked refrigerators and cupboards.

The flooding at Waterville and south, according to an observer, seemed to occur in minutes after water finally went over the spillway at Little Pine Dam. One very sad casualty of flooding along Pine Creek was the suspension foot-bridge at Camp Kline, one of Pennsylvania's most interesting bridges and a source of fun and fear to many a Boy Scout.

Similar tales to those of Pine Creek can be told, in turn, of Larry's Creek, Lycoming, Loyalsock and the Muncy creeks. The heavy rains had turned these usually mild-mannered fishing streams into raging torrents, destroying everything in their path. State roads were especially vulnerable. There was nothing left of Route 87 below Shore Acres after the Loyalsock had washed out a 3,000-foot section down to creek-bed level. Numerous bridges, too, were washed out or rendered unsafe.

UTILITIES DISRUPTED

The Agnes flood was highly disruptive of utilities in the county. Montoursville residents were required to boil their drinking water or add prescribed amounts of iodine or chlorine bleach for nearly three days to kill any germs which may have contaminated the water. This was a result of the landslide from Skyline Drive lookout into the borough reservoir in Gibsons Hollow.

Many regions lost electricity for as long as 18 to 24 hours, and thousands of phone customers lost service for extended periods, hampering communications.

DAMAGE IN THE MILLIONS

By Saturday, June 24, the rain had stopped and the worst of the flooding was over. The crest at Williamsport came at 10:30 P.M. Friday, June 23. After some controversy and disagreement between county and National Weather Service officials, the official crest at Williamsport was set at 34.75 feet, just two and one-quarter feet below the top of the dikes. Williamsport narrowly escaped a major disaster owing to the flood control dams along the West Branch watershed which lower the river level by three feet. Had the dams not existed, water would have gone over the dikes with three-quarters of a foot to spare.



"Golden Strip" during Agnes flood



Evacuation center at Williamsport's
Stevens Junior High School during
Agnes flood



Memorial Avenue Bridge, Williamsport,
during Agnes flood



Groundbreaking ceremony for dikes
November 26, 1940

L to R: John C. Youngman, Sr., John Murray
H. T. Allison, E. S. Frymire, J. F. Collier,
C. E. Noyes and S. R. Hipple

As soon as water receded to manageable levels, the total extent of the damage in the county became visible and clean-up operations got underway. In some places looting of flooded stores led to the imposition of curfews, as in Loyalsock Township at the Loyal Plaza Shopping Center. The total damage estimate to commercial, industrial and agricultural plants and goods in Lycoming County was set at \$10 million by the Williamsport Chamber of Commerce. This, however, did not include losses to personal property which raised the total much higher.

RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS

One of the first organizations to set up relief operations was the American Red Cross. Opening their disaster relief headquarters at the Army Reserve Center on Four Mile Drive on Tuesday, June 27, the Red Cross served persons in need of many essential articles, including money for rent, minor house repairs or down payments on appliances. When President Nixon declared Pennsylvania a disaster area on June 30, federal aid for housing and other services became available. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development purchased apartments and mobile homes to house persons whose homes were destroyed.

The 1970 Federal Disaster Relief Act made available Small Business Administration low interest loans for repairing homes and businesses. Also, loans of up to \$10,000 were available for replacing household goods. Unemployment benefits were available for persons put out of work by the flood, in the amount of Pennsylvania's own compensation program of \$81 a week for up to 30 weeks. Area farmers were eligible for loans from the Farmers Home Administration in an effort to recover from damages to crops, livestock and equipment. Some of the smaller loans were forgiven, depending upon the individual's financial situation.

MONTHS OF CLEANUP

While assistance from both the federal and state governments helped many people recover more quickly from the flood than would otherwise have been possible, it still took many weeks and months before complete recuperation was achieved. Some businesses and communities, in fact, never fully recovered.

State contractors worked many weeks rebuilding roads and securing bridges. Homes had to be rebuilt, and many hours of hosing mud from stores, homes, garages and barns were required. Even though the cleanup operations and major repairs have long since been accomplished, Agnes remains a name which commands fear and awe from Lycoming County residents. In the annals of our county's history, Agnes became the greatest history maker of all.

A CAMPAIGN FOR DIKES

Though Williamsport residents can hardly imagine living without flood protection, for years the building of dikes was a controversial and disquieting issue for the community. The history of the dikes is something of a story in itself. Williamsport and South Williamsport suffered periodic flooding all through their histories, but it took nearly 75 years to arouse sufficient public support and concern to bring the dikes into being.

As far back as the late 1800's, Williamsport merchants agitated to do something about the recurrent flooding which imperiled the city; however, building effective and secure dikes was no easy or inexpensive proposition. The obstacles to dike construction in Williamsport prevented serious movement towards them for many years.

Then, after the devastating 1936 flood which took the lives of three county residents, the tide was turned in favor of the dikes. It became obvious to civic, commercial and government leaders that flood control for Williamsport was vital to the city's economic health. Most leaders of the community recognized that the economic benefits of dikes would far outweigh the cost of building and maintaining them. The organization most responsible for promoting this message was the Community Trade Association, the forerunner to the Williamsport Chamber of Commerce. Due to its untiring efforts, the dikes finally became a reality.

MONEY A STUMBLINGBLOCK

By 1940 the pro-dike element in Williamsport had in its favor a commitment by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to meet all design and construction costs of the dike project from federal government flood control appropriations. This left only land damage, easement and right-of-way costs to be met by the local municipalities. Williamsport's expenses were estimated at between \$300,000 and \$350,000. Immediately, local opponents of the project objected to the price. As always, money became the stumblingblock.

Then in January, 1940, the issue of dikes came to a head when President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced that no new federal projects would be started after July 1st of that year. Williamsport and South Williamsport thus had only a few short months to decide whether they wanted the flood control project to start in 1940, or not at all. Indirectly, then, it was the President of the United States who forced the hand of local leaders on the issue of the flood control project by threatening to withdraw construction funds.

STRONG SUPPORT FOR DIKES

As soon as local officials were informed of the President's proposed austerity measures, the Community Trade Association and other commercial and civic groups intensified their campaign in support of the dikes construction. Williamsport attorney John C. Youngman Sr. was named chairman of the Community Trade Association's Flood Control Committee back in March, 1935, prior to the 1936 flood. Mr. Youngman's efforts proved essential to the success of the flood control campaign.

Various other groups, such as labor and fraternal organizations, also ran newspaper advertisements urging action. Even church congregations--which stood to benefit from dikes--went on record in support of dike construction. The Community Trade Association sponsored a flood control slogan contest in March, 1940. Prizes of \$25, \$15 and \$10 were offered. Town meetings and flood control forums were held to inform residents of the benefits and importance of dikes. For a period of several months, the flood control project dominated Williamsport's front pages, official meetings, and informal discussions.

DIKES REFERENDA APPROVED

In the end, however, just as it was taxpayers who objected most strongly to the flood control expenditures, it was the taxpayers who approved the bond issues to build the dikes. In special referenda held in April, 1940, the voters in both Williamsport and South Williamsport voted overwhelmingly in favor of the dikes.

No doubt the extensive public relations effort had a major effect on the outcome of the referenda. Other contributing factors were the state's agreement to pay half the cost of land damages and rights-of-way, while the county agreed to pay \$100,000. This lowered the city's share to \$175,000, which seemed worth the expenditure. South Williamsport voters approved the \$35,000 bond issue for that borough.

Despite the long publicity campaign, the most persuasive factor in favor of the dikes proved to be the work of Providence. Just one day before the Williamsport referendum, a flood warning very nearly caused its postponement. After several days of rain and excessive snow melt, the river at Market Street reached a depth of 22.74 feet. Had the river crested any higher, downtown Williamsport would have been swimming in water. There was little question in the minds of many community leaders at the time that the threat of another flood so close to the referendum spoke louder in favor of flood control than all the words uttered during the campaign. This incident was followed by another

ironic fact: Williamsport did not finally need to issue bonds, as the city found enough money from other sources to meet its obligations for the dikes.

Bids were advertised in October, 1940, for construction of the first unit of dikes, which included the area from the High Street Bridge along the eastern bank of Lycoming Creek, and then eastward along the river bank to Maynard Street. Ground breaking ceremonies were held on November 26, 1940, which despite the cold weather, several hundred people attended to watch Mayor Leo C. Williamson turn the first shovel of dirt. The ceremony took place between Fourth Street and the ball park along Lycoming Creek, the location of the first section to be built.

WORLD WAR II HINDERS DIKES CONSTRUCTION

Even with the groundbreaking, however, the delays in the dike construction were far from over. Before construction ever got off the ground, World War II intervened. The Army Engineers diverted money and men to projects directly connected to defense work. The dikes were placed on the back burner for the duration of the war. But by the middle of 1946 the war was over and dike construction finally got underway in earnest.

THE DIKES COMPLETED

Final completion of the dikes was to take nine years. In August, 1955, the work was finished and Williamsport, South Williamsport and Newberry had flood protection for the first time. The final cost of the project was put at \$15,250,000. The dikes consist of approximately 13½ miles of dike walls and levees, along with ten pumping stations.

The entire system got its greatest test during Hurricane Agnes in 1972 and passed with flying colors. The city sighed with great relief when the dikes held firm, despite rumors to the contrary. Williamsporters were truly thankful that nothing more than some flooded basements and a few impassable streets had occurred. The alternative was too awful to imagine. Not even Agnes was strong enough to penetrate the flood fortifications which surround Williamsport like a mother's arms, serving as a tribute to those who sought their erection.

QUESTIONS CHAPTER 5

1. Construct a time line showing the history of floods in Lycoming County beginning in 1936. Indicate the severity of each major flood.
2. Describe how each of the following locations was affected by the "Agnes" flood of 1972:
 - A. Williamsport
 - B. South Williamsport
 - C. Montoursville
 - D. Jersey Shore
 - E. Muncy
 - F. Montgomery
 - G. Pine Creek
3. How was Williamsport spared from a major disaster in 1972?
4. Why was the building of dikes at Williamsport a controversial subject for Lycoming County?

Chapter

7

EDUCATION: FROM ONE ROOM TO MANY

Only since about 1940 has education in Lycoming County entered the modern age. Even in that year there were still close to 100 one-room schoolhouses within the county. These were where rural and village children had their first encounter with reading, writing and arithmetic. It was not until 1967 that the last two one-room schools closed for good in Lycoming County. By today's standards, the one-room schools were anything but modern. The introduction of electric lights was about the only amenity most of these schools ever acquired; only rarely did they possess running water or indoor toilets. Usually these schools were heated by large pot-bellied stoves fired by coal, or in recent years, a coal oil fired stove conveniently located at the side of the room. The desks resembled church pews with a board for writing attached to the seat in front. One seat was often long enough to hold three pupils, and the seat itself was on hinges so that it could be folded up, making it easier to sweep the floors.

Pupils spent most of the school day doing arithmetic problems, practicing writing or memorizing spelling words. The older students sometimes had to memorize the names of the presidents or the states and their capitals. Quite often there were up to eight grades in a single one-room school, which limited the amount of time the teacher could devote to each grade per day, even if some grades had only two or three students. The older pupils, too, helped with teaching the younger children. Recess was a time for playing "hide-and-peek" in nearby woods or touch tag in the school yard. When recess was over the teacher sent a pupil out with a handbell to announce time-up. Lunches were carried in a bag or lunch box, and a thermos of milk was needed, as none was provided. The meal was eaten at the desk where the pupils sat all day, and the teacher kept a watchful eye to make sure that no one left an untidy desk.

TOWN SCHOOLS

Schools in the boroughs of the county and in Williamsport were much advanced over the little country schools. The town schools themselves were, perhaps, not as comfortable as today's, but the classes were smaller than in the country schools, and children were placed in classes of a single grade. This meant fewer distractions and more time for individual instruction between teacher and pupil. Also, the borough and city schools provided kindergarten to introduce small children to the life and program of school--though even kindergarten was only an innovation of the early 1950's in the town schools. The rural schools, on the other hand, could not offer kindergarten.

At the secondary level, most of the high schools in the 1940's operated on the same basis as today. Students moved from class to class, receiving instruction from teachers who specialized in a single subject. Students joined clubs, played on the football team or sang in the school chorus. Unlike today, however, students were offered a set curriculum with only a few electives or course choices available, with some exceptions (the Williamsport High School, for example, offered a course in journalism as far back as 1924). Today, on the other hand, the curricula offered are broader in scope. Such courses as creative writing, astronomy, photography, and economics are commonly offered in high schools. Furthermore, many high schools formerly did not have libraries, and such facilities as planetariums, dark rooms, and swimming pools were unheard of in Lycoming County schools.

TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

The organization of the schools in Lycoming County has changed beyond recognition since 1940. At that time the county school system was fragmented into separate school boards in each of the boroughs and townships. These independent boards provided education for the children of their own municipalities. They saw that school buildings were maintained, books were bought and teachers were hired. Usually the township school boards operated within sharply limited budgets and could do little to abandon the one-room school concept which was a left-over from the 19th century.

Fortunately, the township school boards were not left to wander aimlessly on their own. As early as 1854 the Pennsylvania legislature created the office of county school superintendent, despite a great deal of opposition at the time. The superintendent's job was to provide professional supervision over the many scattered school districts in the county. The superintendent also saw to it that regulations mandated by the state were carried out by the local school boards. In 1854 these regulations included a minimum school term of four months and instruction in orthography, reading, writing, grammar, geography and arithmetic. Just since 1940 developments have swept away this picture of education in the county. The office of county superintendent of schools has been abolished and all the borough and township school boards have been consolidated into a total of eight within the county.

FORMATION OF JOINTURES

Most of the changes in the educational system were mandated by the Pennsylvania legislature. For example, in 1947, the legislature passed a law requiring all county school boards



Newman School near Hughesville

in the state to draw up plans for the consolidation of the small borough and township schools into jointures. This meant, for example, that the Jersey Shore borough schools and those of surrounding townships were required to form a combined administrative unit. The same was true for the other larger boroughs of the county and their surrounding townships. Predictably, the 1947 Act was not a popular one. Many communities believed it violated the principle of local control of schools, denying them their democratic right to educate their children as they saw fit.

Yet the reasons for forming jointures were sound. Most townships and small villages already sent their high school students to the nearest borough high school. Thus, Fairfield Township sent its students to Montoursville High School, and Brady Township sent its students to Montgomery. The same pattern was true for the rest of the county, each township paying tuition to the borough where its students were sent. Prior to jointures, whenever a borough was forced to expand its high school or to build a new one due to overcrowding or delapidation, it was financially hard pressed to carry out construction without the assistance of the neighboring townships, who likewise benefited from a new school. Another reason for creating jointures was the intolerable condition of many of the one-room schools. The formation of jointures meant that not only high schools, but elementary schools, as well, would come under the administration of the larger school jointures. The jointures, therefore, improved the standards and condition of the county's schools and made building new schools economically feasible. Thus, many one-room schools were phased out and larger, better schools were built.

The seven school jointures created in the county after the 1947 ruling were: (1) East Lycoming Area, (2) Muncy Area, (3) Montgomery Area, (4) Montoursville Area, (5) South Williamsport Area, (6) Williamsport Area (including Loyalsock Township), and (7) Jersey Shore Area. The Williamsport schools had always been independent of the county school board, and this remained so under the jointure setup.

When jointures were formed, each township and borough school board chose one member to serve on the jointure board. The county school board and superintendent continued to exercise their various functions. These included approving annual financial reports from each of the jointures; giving help and direction in the procedures for erecting new buildings; visiting every one-room school in the county each year; holding "teachers' institutes" to present and to discuss the newest teaching ideas and methods; holding monthly "round-table" meetings for principals and supervising principals to voice issues of mutual concern; helping to estimate subsidy amounts from the State

Education Department to the jointures; approving bus transportation contracts of the jointures; and finally, the rating of new teachers in their first and second years.

SCHOOL DISTRICT REORGANIZATION

Yet, the creation of jointures was just a first step in the unification process. Final and complete consolidation, as we know it today, followed from the 1961 School District Reorganization Act. The Act held that school jointures should unify into single school districts under one board and district superintendent. It gave school districts authority to levy taxes and construct their own buildings. As a result of this reorganization, still more new schools were built and smaller one-room and two-room schools were abolished.

The two one-room schools to share the distinction of being the last closed in the county were the Rose Valley and Beech Valley schools of the Montoursville Area School District. Both these schools ceased to exist in 1967; with their passing an era in Lycoming County education passed, too. Except for some neighborhood schools in Williamsport and the boroughs, most children today in Lycoming County are bused to school; few children live close enough to walk, and some must ride distances of up to forty miles on the school bus. Many people may lament the passing of the former era in education, others may resent the centralized control of schools which the new era has brought, but like other institutions, the schools have had to move with the times to meet the needs of a modern world.

The 1961 School District Reorganization Act resulted in the present eight school districts in Lycoming County. They are roughly equivalent to the earlier jointures as listed above, except that the Loyalsock Township School District was formed out of the Williamsport Area School District. The Jersey Shore District--largest in geographical area in the county--also encompasses two townships from Clinton County. Five Lycoming County townships are part of school districts in other counties: Pine Township in the Wellsboro School District, Cogan House and Jackson Townships in the Southern Tioga School District, and McIntyre and McNett Townships in the Canton Area School District.

Another consequence of the 1961 School District Reorganization Act was the disbanding of the Lycoming County Board of Education in July, 1971. The school districts were large enough by then to perform most of the functions of the county board. The county school board and the county superintendent's office were replaced by a new school advisory unit for Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan and Tioga counties, known by the acronym BLAST. The unit is officially

called Intermediate Unit 17, and is under the state Department of Education. It comprises 19 school districts and 3,950 square miles of territory.

Intermediate Unit 17 has no regulatory control over school districts. Rather, its assigned function is to provide services and advice in special education and vocational training. The Williamsport School District provides its own facilities in the area of vocational training and does not require the assistance of BLAST. BLAST also offers services in several broad areas. For example, it offers films and filmstrips from its audio-visual library; it has available the latest resources in teaching materials, and will assist school districts in curriculum development. School districts can receive management advice from BLAST, and also liaison between them and state and federal agencies which may have available special funds unknown to the school districts. Thus, the basic function of BLAST is to provide expertise in helping school districts make learning a happy and successful experience for children.

SOCIAL CHANGE AND THE SCHOOLS

Despite the radical effects of the consolidation of school districts in the size and sophistication of school buildings, other more subtle changes have occurred as a result of social rather than legislative developments. The schools have assumed a greater degree of responsibility for teaching subjects formerly confined to the home and family--like cooking, sewing, physical hygiene, and sex education. Prior to school district reorganization, many smaller districts had neither the resources nor the staff to offer such courses; these were matters taught in the home, or not at all. But the increasing mobility of American life--the fact that less time is spent as families--and the growing phenomenon of both parents working has placed the teaching of social, moral and physical matters into the hands of the schools. The schools have assumed this responsibility partially because of government mandates and also as a response to the growing need.

Another consequence of school consolidation and altered social conditions is the nature of the triangular parent/student/teacher relationship. With less parent/child interaction, and larger schools, parents are no longer as willing to defer to teachers in disciplinary matters. Discipline has, thus, become another area in which education has changed. One illustration of this is the liberalization of dress codes in the local schools. Up until about 1970, girls were required to wear skirts to school; for boys there were restrictions on the length of hair and sideburns. All this changed with the 1970's, and exemplifies the attitudes of modern society regarding student appearance

and behavior.

NEW TEACHING METHODS AND CURRICULA

As national trends in education began to change in the 1960's, the schools in Lycoming County sought to keep pace with the new teaching methods and curricula. A major watermark in this process was the year 1957 when the Soviet Union successfully launched a satellite named Sputnik into outer space. This event demonstrated to America that our educational program in the sciences had to be stepped up if we wanted to keep ahead of the Soviets in technology. Schools throughout the country expanded science curricula. Larger more sophisticated labs were built, and mathematics became a core subject for all students aspiring to college admission. Today, the importance of science in the schools is exemplified not only by laboratories, but by planetariums, such as the one in the new Williamsport Area High School. The limit of science education in the public schools has, thus, literally become the stars.

Besides expanded curricula in the sciences and other subjects, the public schools have experimented with a new method of teaching known as the "open school" method. Originally begun in England and now widespread there, the open school method substitutes an informal, non-structured teaching method for the more traditional structured one. Even the classroom arrangement in an open school is informal, with students seated at large tables or in cell-groups rather than at individual desks arranged in rows and aisles. This method has nearly always been used in kindergarten classes, which began in the Williamsport School District about 1952, but the open school plan was an innovation when first used in the higher grades during the late 1960's.

Most school districts in the county experimented with open education during its early years. In the Williamsport Area School District the Lycoming Valley Junior High School was built to an open school plan, and the new high school was designed to accommodate such innovations as large group instruction and independent study. Yet, despite a strong move in the open school direction during the early and mid-1970's, its impact has waned and the traditional structured method remains very much alive throughout the county.

The "team teaching" idea is another instructional method which gained credence in the 1960's. This technique, unlike the open school technique, was utilized primarily in the secondary schools. The idea is for two or three teachers to combine their classes so that each one can concentrate on a specific portion of a subject rather than to have to teach the entire subject. Team teaching works

Modern Schools in
Lycoming County

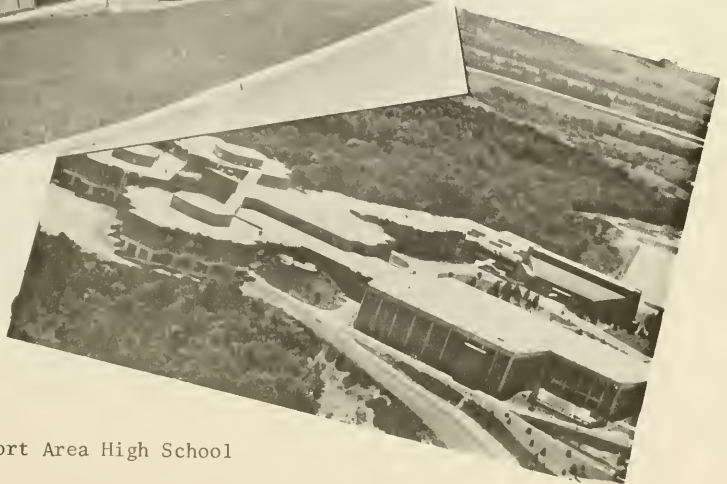
Bishop Neumann
High School



Lycoming Valley
Junior High
WASD



Locust Street Elementary
Jersey Shore



Williamsport Area High School



Klump Academic Center
Williamsport Area Community College



Lycoming College Academic Center

particularly well in the humanities, such as history and government, and is quite conducive to the use of audio-visual aids.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS

Though school districts receive their funding through local property taxes and subsidies from the state Department of Education, since the late 1950's and early 1960's federally funded programs have enabled school districts to finance innovative projects by submitting competitive applications in such areas as open education, the arts, and citizenship. The Williamsport Area School District, for example, funded the creation of a teachers' "Skills Shop" in 1972 through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title III. Other federal programs provide non-competitive funds for basic adult education for adults without a high school diploma, funds for vocational education, and Impact Aid to school districts with children in low rent housing, in lieu of property taxes. All of these federal programs--both competitive and non-competitive--allow school districts to expand educational opportunities in innovative directions beyond the capacity of their normal budgets. Grants by the federal government to school districts is another change in education which has further affected the picture of public education in Lycoming County.

HIGHLY SKILLED TEACHERS

The days are gone when the school board of a country township sat down to interview a teacher for their children or grandchildren. Gone, too, are the days when teachers were not required to have a college degree. In the late 1930's the state teacher's colleges changed their course of study from two to four years. At about the same time, the Teacher Tenure Law made a four-year college degree mandatory for all Pennsylvania teachers. But another impetus to the increase in the academic qualifications of teachers was the introduction in the 1950's of teachers' salary schedules which prescribed higher salaries for teachers with a master's degree or other advanced degrees. This encouraged teachers to seek higher levels of education in order to reach higher levels of pay. The consequence of all these factors was to raise the teaching vocation to that of a highly skilled profession requiring many years of academic and practical training.

In the face of so many new and far reaching developments in Lycoming County's schools, many things have not changed and seem perennially the same. Getting homework done on time, being accepted by a college, asking someone to the school dance, preparing for a band concert or football game, or choosing the right career--these things have not changed

even if many others have. The public schools have been for a long time the backbone of education in Lycoming County. Much has been done here since the 1940's by all eight school districts to insure the best and fullest education possible for all children in the county in the years to come.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

While the education provided by the public schools is free and available to all children, some parents prefer to send their children to parochial or private schools. The oldest non-public schools in the county are the Roman Catholic schools at the Immaculate Conception Church in Bastress and at St. Boniface and Annunciation churches in Williamsport. All of these schools were founded in the 19th century. A fourth Catholic elementary school opened at St. Ann's Church in Loyalsock beginning with the 1968 school year. Up to the mid-1960's, Williamsport also had two Roman Catholic high schools--St. Mary's on Penn Street, belonging to St. Boniface Church, and St. Joseph's at Annunciation Church on Fourth Street. These high schools were closed and replaced by Bishop Neumann High School, which opened in 1969. Built on the same site as St. Mary's School (formerly the site of the public school, William Penn), Bishop Neumann was originally intended to be the new St. Boniface elementary school. The Bishop of Scranton, however, wanted it for Bishop Neumann, the regional Catholic high school, and thus, bought the building from St. Boniface Church. St. Boniface then built a new elementary school on Franklin Street, which opened in 1970.

The Roman Catholic Church is no longer the only religious group in the county to run its own schools. In 1955 the Seventh Day Adventist Church in South Williamsport opened a parochial school which provides education through the eighth grade. And still a more recent occurrence in the county has been the establishment of so-called "Christian schools." These schools operate on the same rationale as the much older Roman Catholic and Seventh Day Adventist schools--to provide an education consistent with the religious beliefs and moral teachings of the sponsoring church or religious group.

The first Christian school in the county opened in 1971 at Emmanuel Baptist Church on Four Mile Drive in Loyalsock. Today the school offers the full-range of grades from pre-school to twelfth grade. Three more Christian schools have opened since then: The Faith Tabernacle Christian Academy (also pre-school through twelfth grade), and in 1976, the Walnut Street Baptist School in Jersey Shore, with kindergarten through eleventh grade, and the Wesleyan Academy in Muncy with grades kindergarten through twelve.

The impetus toward the founding of Christian schools stems back to the 1962 U. S. Supreme Court ruling banning Bible reading and prayer from the public schools. This action, along with things like sex education in the public schools, caused some parents to organize church-run schools where the curriculum is based strictly on the Bible. Like the Roman Catholic schools, the Christian schools derive much of their operating funds from tuition charges; the remainder is obtained through contributions from sympathetic individuals and organizations.

AN "ALTERNATIVE" SCHOOL

The only non-religious private school in Lycoming County is the West Branch School located on Moore Avenue in Williamsport. It was established in 1971 by a group of local parents who wished to educate their children in the context of an alternative or "open school." The teaching methods are much the same as the open class method used in the public schools except that the West Branch School is completely non-structured. There are no grade levels. Instead, children from the equivalents of first to sixth grades interact and learn from each other in "learning centers" devoted to particular subjects. This format is intended to encourage children to investigate subjects on their own. The West Branch School has averaged about 50 students per year since its inception.

THE SCHOOL OF HOPE

In 1954 a unique educational institution, known as the School of Hope, got its start in Williamsport. The School of Hope was conceived and founded by the Lycoming County Society for Retarded Children for the purpose of providing day-school facilities for school age children who are "either not manageable enough for public school classes or are too handicapped physically to get into public school buildings." The School of Hope also provided sheltered workshop facilities for occupational training to develop the intellectual and coordinative abilities of retarded persons past school age, a kindergarten program for mentally handicapped pre-school children, and a custodial care program and other consultative and recreational programs for retarded children and their parents.

In 1974 the Lycoming County Society for Retarded Children merged with Enterprises for the Handicapped, another local service organization, to form Hope Enterprises. The School of Hope then became one of a larger number of rehabilitation and educational services for retarded and handicapped persons in Lycoming County. Today, besides the School of Hope on Catherine Street, Williamsport, Hope Enterprises operates a rehabilitation workshop in Williamsport's Industrial Park

for persons with vocational disabilities; the workshop trains such persons how to function in the competitive job market. If a trainee is not deemed prepared for an outside job after completing the program, a sheltered employment position is provided in the Hope Enterprises production workshop in the Industrial Park. Many local industries contract with the production workshop for light industry jobs, from packaging to soldering. In this way, both handicapped persons and local businesses benefit from the program.

Residential Services is another of Hope Enterprises programs and is aimed at teaching handicapped individuals how to live independently. Participants in residential services live in one of three situations: a foster home, a group home, or an apartment alone. In each case, the teaching of skills for successful social life is the goal. Thus, Hope Enterprises satisfies a valuable educational service for people with special needs which the public schools are not equipped to provide. For this reason many of Hope Enterprises' programs are utilized by social service arms of state and local government.

LYCOMING COLLEGE

For a county of its size, Lycoming County is well blessed with institutions of higher learning. Both Lycoming College and the Williamsport Area Community College contribute handsomely to the academic, cultural and economic attributes of the county. Together, the two colleges provide Williamsport and Lycoming County with well-rounded options for either the academically minded or vocationally minded student. Lycoming College is a four-year liberal arts college offering majors in most subjects from the arts and sciences. It is a private school associated with the United Methodist Church (formerly Methodist) since 1848. Prior to 1947 Lycoming College was a two-year preparatory college operating under the name of Dickinson Junior College. The president of the college then was Dr. John W. Long, who held office more than a quarter century, from 1921 to 1955. Had it not been for his drive and foresight, Lycoming College might never have become a reality.

Before Dickinson Junior College was to advance to a four-year status, it had a role to play in World War II. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Junior College established an army education unit. In 1942 there were 110 young men enrolled in the Civil Pilot Training Cadet course at the college. By 1943 all available dormitory space at the college was occupied by 349 army aviation cadets and officers. By 1944 the college had trained a detachment of 910 air crew students and 59 students in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps. The nursing program was offered in conjunction with the Williamsport Hospital Nursing School.

With the end of World War II, Dickinson Junior College applied for status as a four-year college; it received approval from the Pennsylvania State Council of Education in May, 1947. In anticipation of this event, the college initiated a fund raising campaign in January, 1947, which a year later had raised \$435,633 from the local community. The name of the new college was a source of some debate by the board of directors, but in October, 1947, the board finally settled on "Lycoming College" after rejecting such names as The University of Williamsport and Northern Methodist University.

By 1950 Lycoming College had achieved accreditation status from the University Senate of the Methodist Church and from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; accreditation was given in view of the college's plans to construct a new library and to hire more faculty members with doctorates.

Upon achieving four-year status, the college embarked upon a building and expansion program which was to last nearly twenty years. In November of 1948 a new women's dormitory was dedicated, followed by the new library in 1951. Then between 1955 and 1968 seven new dormitories were built, crowned by the Academic Center, completed in 1966. This impressive complex includes a well-equipped library, classrooms, faculty offices, the Arena Theater, a planetarium, psychology labs, a computer center, several student lounges, and an auditorium.

After about 1955 Lycoming College drew more of its students from outside the county than from inside it. Geographically, Lycoming College benefits from a location accessible to all sections of the Northeastern United States. The college has long played a major role in educating ministers for the United Methodist Church, and in 1952, was certified to train teachers in secondary education; soon thereafter, training in elementary education was added. Today, with a student body numbering 1200, Lycoming College offers a wide variety of courses, many of them in preparation for professional schools. The location, physical plant, and academic offerings of the college make it an attractive choice for many college-bound students.

THE WILLIAMSPORT AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Lycoming County's other college is the Williamsport Area Community College, a two-year institution offering associate degrees and certificates primarily in vocational technical fields. The history of the Community College, or WACC as it is known, is really the history of several schools, beginning as far back as 1914 when the Williamsport High School opened a small industrial arts shop. After World War I a full-time adult day school was opened

by WHS to provide retraining for veterans--many of them disabled--in industrial skills. The program also included an evening industrial school for non-veterans. Other adult education programs carried on in the 1920's by the high school were a program to train foremen for local industry and a work-study program in industrial subjects for students over sixteen.

THE "WILLIAMSPORT PLAN"

During the Great Depression, the high school, local industries and commercial groups sponsored a program called "The Williamsport Plan" (see chapter 2). The purpose of the Williamsport Plan was to retrain workers left jobless by the economic crisis. At the time, Lycoming County experienced an unemployment rate of twenty-five percent. The Williamsport Plan was so successful at retraining workers for the skilled positions opening up in area plants, that it won national recognition. It was praised as a creative and responsible way for a community to deal with the problems of unemployment on its own initiative. The high school adult training program provided the necessary instruction from 6 PM to 10 PM so that trainees could pursue whatever employment they could find during the day.

The Williamsport Plan eventually made training available to other persons at the technical school through federal government programs, such as the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Youth Administration. The NYA brought high school age boys to Williamsport from throughout Pennsylvania for technical training at the high school shops on Susquehanna Street. Each boy stayed in the program for a year, which consisted of eighty hours of training alternating with eighty hours of work. While at work the boys repaired and reconditioned machines for the government and military. The Center was able to train 100 boys at a time and helped many get a start in life when they needed it most.

In 1940, with America's involvement in World War II just around the corner, the Williamsport School Board established a special Emergency Training Commission to undertake the training of men and women for defense work. The Williamsport vocational operation at the high school became one of the first in the country to begin a defense training program. The school operated on a twenty-four hour a day schedule.

THE WILLIAMSPORT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

By 1941 the technical wing of the high school had become so large and diverse that the School District voted to turn it into a technical institute separate from the high school.

The Williamsport Technical Institute, or "Tech," remained under the control of the city school board but had its own director and educational program. The Tech continued to provide vocational training to both adults and secondary students. The first director of WTI was Dr. George Parkes, who became superintendent of Williamsport Schools in 1952. At the close of World War II, the Tech trained returning veterans under the G. I. Bill. One Tech program of which many G. I.'s took advantage was the new agricultural program set up on the Brock Farm near Muncy.

In 1945 the so-called "Watsonstown Plan" was implemented which, for the first time, brought high school students to Tech from a school district other than Williamsport. The Watsonstown Plan served, in effect, as the forerunner to other technical schools which have spread throughout Pennsylvania. In 1950 the state legislature enacted a law providing transportation for high school students to vocational training centers. The WTI served as the training center for Lycoming County and vicinity. The Williamsport Area Community College continues to serve this function for area schools. In just a little over ten years the Technical Institute had achieved such prestige that official approval was granted the institute to train foreign students, and a group of educators from Panama came to the Tech for instruction in how to develop similar schools in their own country.

WACC FOUNDED

The passage in the state legislature of the 1963 Community College Act spelled bigger and better things for the Tech. After a feasibility study concluded that a community college in Williamsport was both desirable and possible, five area school districts cooperated to create WACC out of the Technical Institute. On February 11, 1965, the Pennsylvania Board of Education approved formation of the college; its doors opened for classes September 7, 1965, under the same roof as the former Tech. WACC now has a total of twenty sponsoring school districts from nine counties. Students in college courses from these twenty districts receive a two-thirds tuition subsidy--one-third from their own school district and one-third from the state.

Besides offering full-time college-level courses in both vocational technical fields and the liberal arts, WACC offers continuing education courses for adults in areas from carpentry to cake decorating. The adult evening courses are a very popular aspect of WACC's offerings as attested by the current enrollment of 4,000 persons. In its full-time college section WACC has a total of 3,250 students. While ninety-five percent of WACC's college students are enrolled in vocational technical fields, it is not uncommon for a WACC graduate to continue on to a four-year college to

finish a bachelor's degree. Eighty-six percent of WACC's students who do not go on for higher degrees are placed in jobs upon graduation.

WACC's service to the community extends beyond its doors. Recently, programs have been introduced in such areas as dental technology, food services management, computer programming, and general studies for inmates at the Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary. The college also has engaged in re-training members of the government's Manpower Training and Comprehensive Employment Training Act programs; has provided apprenticeship training for a number of local labor unions; and has made available in-plant training in such industries as Hammermill, Piper Aircraft, Tetley Tea, Sprout-Waldron/Koppers, and GTE Sylvania. Industries often reciprocate by providing WACC with grants and equipment.

The control of WACC passed at its founding from the Williamsport Area School Board to a fifteen-member board of trustees. The board is responsible for electing the college president, the first of whom was Dr. Kenneth Carl, who was also the last director of WTI. The board of trustees is elected by an executive council which consists of one member chosen by each of the school boards of the sponsoring districts. The sponsoring districts must, in turn, support the college financially, the amount of which is determined by a formula based upon the total value of real estate in each school district. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania also provides one-half of the capital costs for running WACC.

Besides providing low-cost education, WACC enhances the industrial and economic capacity of Lycoming County by making available a skilled body of trained workers for industries located here. Thus, what Lycoming College is to the liberal arts, the Williamsport Area Community College is to the vocational arts. Lycoming County covets both colleges as major contributors to its cultural and economic well-being.

QUESTIONS CHAPTER 6

1. What new courses and facilities have been included in the secondary schools since 1940?
2. How has the administration of the schools changed?
3. What were the advantages of the 1947 Act? Why were there many objections?
4. What changes did the 1961 reorganization make in Lycoming County?
5. Explain the work of Intermediate Unit 17 (BLaST).
6. What alternatives to public education have developed in Lycoming County?
7. What changes have taken place in Lycoming County regarding education beyond high school since the 1930's?
8. Describe the "Williamsport Plan"?

Chapter

7

THE NEWS MEDIA

NEWSPAPERS, RADIO, AND TELEVISION

Lycoming County is currently informed by one daily newspaper, the Williamsport Sun-Gazette, and three weeklies-- Grit, Citizen Press, and the Muncy Luminary. The Williamsport Sun-Gazette became the fifth oldest newspaper in the state as a result of a 1955 consolidation of the Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin and the fifth oldest paper, the Williamsport Sun. By 1977 the Sun-Gazette's daily circulation had reached 35,100 copies.

Grit, America's oldest independent family newspaper, is a Sunday weekly which circulated 39,837 copies locally and over one million copies nationally in 1977. In that same year, the Muncy Luminary circulated over 2,400 copies weekly, and the four-year-old Citizen Press had reached 9,000 weekly copies. Citizen Press is the first newspaper started in Williamsport since 1955 when the now-folded Williamsport Examiner began publication. The Examiner lasted only one year.

In 1961 the weekly Montoursville Monitor ceased publication after six years. The Hughesville Mail Weekly ceased publication in 1945. In 1960, the Jersey Shore Herald became the Evening News and was bought by the Lock Haven Express in 1961. The Greater Williamsport Shopper's Guide, though supported totally by advertisements, was a widely read newspaper which often printed in-depth news reports untouched by other area newspapers. The paper was published from 1922 to 1956, changing its name to the Lycoming Shopper's Guide in 1953 when it changed ownership.

Five radio stations broadcast in Lycoming County. WRAC, an NBC affiliate, began broadcasting in 1934. It was followed by WWPA (CBS) in 1949, WLYC-AM in 1950 and WMPT AM-FM (ABC) in 1958. WILQ (UPI audio) co-owned with WLYC, began broadcasting in 1973. Only one television station has originated from Williamsport. Since 1963, WDW-TV has telecast local programs periodically to subscribers of the Citizen's Cable Company, its owner.

IMPROVED METHODS OF PRINTING

In the last decade, printing methods have changed dramatically from manual production to the use of electronic equipment. The Sun-Gazette switched its printing method from hot type to cold type in 1968 when the method was revolutionary. Grit followed in 1975. Under the hot type method, a reporter typed a story on paper and sent it to an editor who made corrections in pencil and wrote type-setting instructions on the paper. It was then sent to the composing room



Williamsport Sun-Gazette Building



Grit Building

where it was again typed, set by linotype, and printed by a hot-lead letter press on flat-bed sheets weighing 53 pounds.

Under the modern cold type method, a reporter types on a special paper called optical scanner paper, which when fed into the optical character reader, enables the reporter to edit, rewrite, and set instructions electronically as he views the copy on a screen. The copy is stored in a computer until the editor "calls it up" on a video display terminal (VDT) which also displays the story on a screen. The editor makes corrections and gives type-set instructions by typing on the VDT and then sends the finished story electronically to typesetters in the composing room where it is set at a rate of 1,000 lines per minute. Ready for the presses, the story never needs to be typed a second time. Many steps are eliminated under the cold type system, thus freeing manpower to do more in-depth coverage of the news.

Having done away with the 53-pound letter press used in the hot type system, the cold type method employs the camera to photograph pages which are reproduced onto aluminum sheets weighing only twelve ounces. The pliable aluminum sheets are wound around a rotary press which enables twice as many sheets to be laid out simultaneously and run off at twice the speed. The cold type method has enabled the presses to double the number of sheets run off to as many as 60,000 per hour.

Under the hot type method the camera was used only to copy photographs. The cold type method employs the camera to photograph not only pictures but also sheets of print. The more sophisticated camera also permits improved quality of spot and color reproduction.

The Sun-Gazette printing plant adjoining the offices is on West Fourth Street. Grit's newspaper press facilities are on Maynard Street. Grit also has a complete commercial printing facility at the West Third Street plant.

QUESTIONS CHAPTER 7

1. List newspapers and radio stations that have served the county.

Chapter 8

TRANSPORTATION: EXIT RAILROADS--ENTER HIGHWAYS AND AIRPLANES

RAILROADS

Alternative transportation has taken a tremendous toll on the railroads in the county, forcing a cutback of manpower and services. At one time the railroad roundhouse at Walnut Street along Erie Avenue was the site of a large turntable on which engines were pivoted to reverse their direction. Engines stopped there to be stoked and the whining and whistles of the trains was constant. The only reminder of the roundhouse today is the name still attached to the site and the dogleg that it created in Erie Avenue as it made its way around the yard. Trinity Place, the once bustling passenger station, now stands idle along the tracks.

At Newberry Junction, passengers once rushed to board trains and men on loading docks loaded merchandise to be shipped. Newberry Junction was once the most active railroad center in the county. In the 1940's the name of Newberry Junction was more familiar to railroaders than Williamsport. It was the site of engine houses which monthly repaired 1,800 engines and up to 3,000 freight cars. There were pens with cowboys, a refrigeration station, an ice house, passenger stations and freight transfers. As many as 200,000 freight cars interchanged on more than 40 miles of track at Newberry Junction. Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of merchandise were handled daily, much of it in raw materials or finished products bound for Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, Louisville, or the West.

Four railroads operated out of Williamsport in 1940: the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Reading Company, the New York Central Railroad, and the Susquehanna and New York. Erie Railroad also had a connection here. Passengers could board the Pennsylvania Railroad trains at Trinity and Nichols Places, and at Pine Street. Reading trains could be boarded at Front Street where the Susquehanna and New York Railroad also maintained a station. By 1970, only the Penn Central Station at Trinity and Nichols Places boarded passengers and Newberry Junction handled only half its volume of 600 cars a day.

THE RAILROADS DECLINE

In 1940, railroad officials predicted that railroad traffic was not likely to diminish as long as manufacturers and businesses shipped by rail; however, improved highway networks as well as bus and truck competition reduced passenger and freight traffic by 1945. In that year two passenger trains were ordered discontinued in order to accommodate troops returning to the eastern seaboard. Two more trains were discontinued in 1950, ending passenger service from

Shamokin to Williamsport. Battles were waged in the 50's and 60's between communities and railroads concerning passenger service. Railroads claimed a gradual decline in the use of passenger services since the 1930's.

Battles raged during the 50's after the Pennsylvania Railroad petitioned the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to allow it to discontinue the three Susquehannocks which provided seven-day-a-week connections between Williamsport, Philadelphia, and New York. The trains were expensive, equipped with sleeping cars, air conditioned reclining seat coaches, and parlor-dinner-lounge cars. In 1960, the trains were discontinued after lengthy battles between railroads and communities and numerous hearings between the railroads, the PUC and the ICC (Interstate Commerce Commission).

In 1967, the southbound Baltimore Day Express and the northbound Buffalo Day Express were dropped by the Pennsylvania Railroad. In 1969, in order to increase use, the ICC allowed the now merged Penn Central (Pennsylvania Railroad and New York Central) to change night runs to daytime runs and to alternate services northbound one day and southbound the next. Passenger use out of Williamsport averaged only 2.2 persons.

The railroads argued that prior to 1958, freight service revenues had helped to support passenger services; however, after the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Robert Moses Hydroelectric Plant, revenues lost to the seaway in coal and grain shipping cut deeply into profits. Further losses of revenues resulted when Eastern steel mills shifted their source of iron from the Great Lakes and did not need to ship by rail through Williamsport. The combined losses in freight revenues no longer supported declining passenger services.

END OF RAIL PASSENGER SERVICE

In 1971, the controversy that spanned decades ended when Penn Central joined RailPax (National Railroad Passenger Corporation--now Amtrak), the national, quasi-governmental agency established by Congress. Railpax sought to combine passenger services into a nationwide network connecting all major points. Since Williamsport was not on the Railpax schedule, passenger service here was dropped. On April 30, 1971, the last passenger train left Williamsport amid hundreds of sorrowful romanticists. Today only freight is shipped in the county by Conrail (Consolidated Rail Corporation).

HIGHWAYS

When it comes to travel, the car is king, as anyone who



Switching tracks at Newberry Yard



Engine at Newberry Yard



Construction on Montgomery Pike, 1940



Susquehanna Beltway at U. S. Route 15

observes one of Lycoming County's major roads can attest. The increase in gasoline prices and the reality of the energy crisis has not greatly affected the popularity of the car. The automobile probably ranks with television and the telephone as the most significant influence upon American culture in the last 50 years. One need only to study the development of highways and car use in Lycoming County to determine how the rest of the country has been affected by them.

Lycoming County is criss-crossed by roads and expressways which were not even thought of in 1940. In those days travel between places within the county could take several hours. There were no four-lane highways. Most of the major routes passed through towns like Jersey Shore, Montoursville or Muncy, which today are by-passed altogether. Until the 1960's Route 220 was two lanes of often slow-moving traffic. Today it is freeway much of its length. The same is true for Route 15. These changes, in themselves, are witness to the important growth of the gasoline engine as the primary means of transportation today. One very important highway which had its beginning in Lycoming County and contributes to the economic well being of the region does not even pass through the county. It is Interstate 80, known as the Keystone Shortway in its earlier days.

INFLUENCE OF CARS AND TRUCKS

The influence of the car and truck upon our county has proved both good and bad. They have made our population more mobile than ever before. People travel distances by car today they would not have attempted in the 1940's or 1950's as a casual drive. The improved highways have made our county more accessible to other areas of the state and country. This is an attraction to industries wishing to situate in an area centrally located to most major urban areas in the northeastern United States. Further, the new roads have greatly improved local travel. A trip from Jersey Shore to downtown Williamsport is reduced from 45 minutes to 20 minutes. And seemingly endless lines of traffic by-pass many towns in the county. Soon, Williamsport will be spared roaring trucks and congested traffic with the completion of the Susquehanna Beltway project.

But, the effect of the new roads has not been one-sided. Places such as Jersey Shore, Hughesville, and Muncy were, in former times, rather active centers of shopping and trade. The new roads have given rise to large discount department stores and shopping plazas where parking is both free and easy. The result has been a decline in commerce and trade in most of the county's boroughs, and to a degree, downtown Williamsport. The so called "Golden Strip" has grown up along Route 220 in Loyalsock Township and owes its

existence to the car and improved highways.

For a period of nearly a year between 1977 and 1978, downtown Williamsport was without a movie theater, the three of them having been replaced by a movie theater complex on the Golden Strip. The Rialto Theater on Pine Street reopened in the Spring of 1978, while the State Theater on Third Street was demolished that summer. The Capitol Theater on Fourth Street was purchased by a local person for use as a performance hall for touring entertainers. Ultimately, the car is to be either blamed or thanked, depending upon how one views this modern mode of transportation.

Williamsport can no longer be regarded as the only important shopping area of the county. The Loyal Plaza on the Golden Strip and the opening in 1978 of the Lycoming Mall at Halls have helped to expand the commercial center of the county eastward. Another casualty of car and truck travel was passenger rail service to Lycoming County which ended in 1971. Now the available means of public transportation from the county is by bus or airline. Growth of these two methods of travel, however, has been held back as well by the popularity of the car, even despite recent efforts to conserve energy.

GROWTH OF RURAL AREAS

Finally, another result or cause of increased car travel has been the movement of people from the towns and city to rural and suburban areas. This trend is normally associated with large urban areas like New York City or Philadelphia, but it is also evident in Lycoming County as well. Between 1950 and 1960, Williamsport lost over 3,000 residents, but the county in the same period gained 8,000. Between 1960 and 1970 the populations decreased in Williamsport, Montgomery, Jersey Shore, Picture Rocks and Salladasburg, while large increases were recorded in most of the townships and in Montoursville--particularly in Susquehanna, Fairfield, Wolf, Eldred, Piatt, Cummings, and McHenry Townships. No doubt the creation of mobile home parks has contributed to much of this growth, but even they symbolize the impact of American mobility since 1940's. The building of new roads has been necessary to carry these rural and suburban residents to work. Also, as families grow up, more cars per family are needed to provide adequate transportation. Thus a cause and effect situation is set up when cars and highways encourage mobility, and mobility generates the need for more cars and highways.

The car is king. From its throne it has decreed major changes in our way of life. Shopping centers and fast-food restaurants have replaced the weekly Saturday night shopping trips to Williamsport or lunch at the Home Dairy Cafeteria on Pine Street--the nearest thing to a fast-food restaurant

the 1940's had to offer. The car seems unlikely to yield its preeminent role in travel for a long time to come, if ever.

THE KEYSTONE SHORTWAY

Of all the highways built through or near our region, the story of Interstate 80, or the Keystone Shortway, had its origin with a Lycoming County resident, Charles E. Noyes. Mr. Noyes came to Williamsport from Michigan in 1938 to serve as manager of the Williamsport Community Trade Association, now known as the Greater Williamsport Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Noyes, seizing upon the opportunity of the 1939 New York World's Fair, devised a short route from Cleveland through Williamsport to New York City and the World's Fair. This Noyes' route was 75 miles shorter than any other route across Pennsylvania and proved to be very popular with travelers. A committee had been organized to publicize the Short Route and the results were heartening with a large amount of new traffic and business passing through Williamsport. After the World's Fair, plans were laid to continue promoting the Short Route, but World War II intervened, rendering the project impractical.

In 1952 an outgrowth of the Short Route idea was taken up by the Williamsport Chamber of Commerce, still headed by Mr. Noyes. The Chamber set up the North Pennsylvania Turnpike Committee, with the building of a toll road through northern Pennsylvania as its goal. The committee believed that such a toll road would benefit northern Pennsylvania the same way the southern part of the state had benefited from the Pennsylvania Turnpike. The committee, however, struggled unsuccessfully for several years to gain a foothold for the toll road idea. Then in 1954 a Williamsport businessman, Z. H. Confair, later to become Pennsylvania State Senator from Williamsport, was appointed chairman of the toll road committee.

In October, 1954, the toll road organization was expanded to involve a larger geographical portion of the state. Mr. Confair remained as chairman. It was in the same month that the editor of the Grit, Kenneth D. Rhone, coined the name "Shortway" which was linked to the word "keystone." Finally, in December, 1954, the Keystone Shortway Association was officially formed. Mr. Confair served as president of the Association, with Mr. Noyes named executive director. It was both coincidence and good fortune that at the same time the Williamsport based group was at work, a similar group in Mercer County was trying to get the Pennsylvania Turnpike extended into that region. These two groups were later to join forces creating what was to become the success story of the Keystone Shortway.

THE SHORTWAY BECOMES INTERSTATE 80

The cause of the Shortway began to gather steam in 1954, thanks to the election that year. Both political parties went on record favoring the highway. George M. Leader, elected governor that year, pledged his support. By June 10, 1955, the State Assembly had passed and Governor Leader signed into law Senate Bill 288 which authorized construction of the Shortway from Sharon in the west to Stroudsburg in the east. After preliminary study of the proposed route, it was determined by state authorities that the Shortway would serve more people and provide a shorter distance across the state than a federally-sponsored Interstate route planned along Route 6. Governor Leader thus recommended to the federal government that the Shortway be designated part of the Interstate System and that the planned highway along Route 6 be abandoned. Thus, the Shortway was changed from a toll road to an Interstate highway. Ninety percent of the cost of the Shortway was then borne by the federal government.

The Shortway could not be approved as an Interstate highway until hearings were held by the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads (now the U. S. Department of Transportation). After hearings in Washington and Williamsport, the Federal Highway Administrator, Bertram D. Tallamy, approved the Shortway as part of Interstate 80. Today Interstate 80 is a major transcontinental highway.

THE KEYSTONE SHORTWAY ASSOCIATION

To keep up momentum on the project, the Shortway Association, headquartered in Williamsport, reorganized as a state-wide non-profit corporation in 1958. The Association assisted supporters of the Shortway at public hearings before each segment of the highway could be built. The first hearing was held on May 21, 1958, at Tannersville. On Memorial Day the same month, Governor Leader turned the first shovel of dirt for the Shortway in East Stroudsburg. The last major roadblock to the highway came in 1959 when state money ran out. A two-cent per gallon gasoline tax was proposed but was not approved in the legislature until Senator Confair broke with his party to vote in favor of the tax in early 1960. Confair was joined by his colleague, Senator Harold Flack. The new tax helped pave the way for completion of the Shortway which was to take ten more years.

Finally, in 1970, the last mile of concrete was laid and the final Interstate 80 sign post in Pennsylvania was put in place. The 313-mile Keystone Shortway became an important link in the 3,000 mile non-stop highway stretching from the George Washington Bridge in New York, to the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. Lycoming County played a central role in bringing the Shortway into being, even without a

single mile of the road passing within its borders.

Still, due to the Shortway, access to and from Lycoming County is easy. New York City and Philadelphia are only four hours away. Interstate 80 has become a major artery for commercial traffic. Large trucks and tractors take full advantage of its direct route across the state. What began as the Short Route to the 1939 New York World's Fair is today a source of economic strength to much of northeastern Pennsylvania, and it all began in the fertile mind of a Lycoming County resident interested in the well-being of his community.

THE SUSQUEHANNA BELTWAY

Though the Shortway does not pass through Lycoming County, the Susquehanna Beltway project, begun in the early 1970's, will eventually link the West Branch Valley to Route 80 at Lock Haven in the west and Milton in the east, crossing through Lycoming County at Jersey Shore and Muncy. The Beltway will put much of Lycoming County only minutes away from the Shortway in either direction. This will lessen further the time required to travel to New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Ohio. The Susquehanna Beltway will also connect with the new four-lane section of U. S. Route 15 north of Williamsport. As late as 1970, residents of Lycoming County were unaccustomed to such convenient highway facilities. Not only do the new roads make travel more pleasurable and quicker, but they also lessen gasoline consumption, aiding the effort to conserve energy.

A NATIONAL INSTITUTION

Of course, along with highway improvements and the increase in car use have come higher costs and other disadvantages. In 1940, the average cost of a new Ford or Chevrolet was about \$800; a gallon of gasoline sold for about 19 cents. In an age of 70-cents per gallon gasoline and average car prices of over \$5,000, the advance in highways is not all that strikes one as dramatic. The growth of vehicular travel and its effects have changed not only the appearance of our county but its way of life.

Cars and trucks have become a national institution, along with fast-food restaurants and shopping malls. These fast-food chains and large shopping complexes are a highway phenomenon. When the highways come, the motels, truck stops and fast-food restaurants spring up like marigolds along a sidewalk. Highways are equivalent to a blood stream carrying nourishment to the body, keeping it alive. Lycoming County lives because of its highways. Cars and trucks are both a blessing and a curse. Lycoming County has not escaped them. For better or worse, they are here to stay.

CITY AND INTER-CITY BUSES

Another highway phenomenon is commercial bus travel. By 1940 commercial bus transportation between Williamsport and other cities was well established, thanks to the Edward's Motor Transit Company. Founded in 1918 by J. Wesley Edwards, the company operated commercial bus routes between Cleveland and New York City, Buffalo and Pittsburgh, and Elmira and Washington, D. C. Williamsport served as the headquarters of the company which operated under the name of Edward's Lakes-to-Sea System. The first bus route to New York City from Williamsport was inaugurated by Edwards in 1930. By 1955 the company operated fifty-three buses and employed a total of sixty-eight drivers.

The Edward's Lakes-to-Sea System remained locally owned until 1967 when the Dallas, Texas based company, Continental Trailways, purchased the bus company from the Edwards family. Since then, owing to the Interstate highway system, Continental Trailways has introduced express bus service between New York City and Los Angeles and San Francisco, California, using Williamsport as the initial westbound stop. The entire cross-country trip can now be accomplished in about thirty-six hours.

Since the 1930's the Lakes-to-Sea System terminal was located at East Third and Mulberry streets. The old terminal burned down in January, 1975. Continental Trailways replaced the burned-out structure with a modern bus terminal in 1977.

CITY BUS SERVICE

The Williamsport city bus service has seen many turns since its beginning. For many years horse drawn and electric trolley cars were the only means of public transportation within the city of Williamsport. Then in 1933, the trolley company, known as the Williamsport Passenger Railways Company, went bankrupt. On June 10th of that year, the Williamsport Transportation Company began to operate buses within the city to replace the trolleys. During the mid-1930's federally sponsored public works programs were used to remove the fifteen miles of abandoned trolley tracks from the city's streets.

The Williamsport Transportation Company, owned jointly by Congressman Alvin R. Bush and John G. Snowdon, sold out in 1955 to a newly formed company called the Williamsport Bus Company, owned by the same Edwards family that owned the Edward's Lakes-to-Sea System. In 1960, the Williamsport Bus Company expanded its service to Montoursville when it acquired the assets and routes of the Lycoming Auto Transit Company, which operated a bus service in the

Montoursville area.

By 1968, the Williamsport Bus Company was experiencing such deep financial losses that any restoration of profitability to the bus service appeared unlikely. The company threatened to end all bus service in the city but responded to an appeal by Mayor Richard Carey to maintain service until the city was in a position to assume control of it. In 1969, the City of Williamsport acquired the Williamsport Bus Company and kept the city buses running with the help of subsidies from the city and state governments. Also, the city is reimbursed for bus service to nearby communities, including South Williamsport, Duboistown, Old Lycoming Township, Loyalsock Township and Montoursville.

Since the city acquired the bus service, now operated by the Williamsport Bureau of Transportation, a new bus garage was built in Elm Park on West Third Street. In 1973, the senior citizens of the area were offered free travel on city buses as a result of funds made available through the state lottery. This free service has quite naturally proved popular with residents over sixty-five. Many new buses have been added so as to improve the quality of service to city bus travelers.

THE WILLIAMSPORT/LYCOMING COUNTY AIRPORT

At the same time that automobiles were winning their place as the major form of transportation in America, air travel was coming into its own as the single most important method of high-speed travel. The growth of air travel in and out of Williamsport has depended partially on the growth of the airport which came into being before 1940; however, only since 1945 has air travel to our county made any significant impact. Compared with the achievements of the aerospace industry, such as manned flights to the moon, supersonic commercial flights between New York and London, and the thousands of daily airline flights in the U. S. alone, developments over the years at the Williamsport/Lycoming County Airport seem relatively modest. Yet, on its own scale the airport at Montoursville has steadily improved and expanded its facilities so that today it is a first-rate airport for its size.

The Williamsport/Lycoming County Airport offers 24-hour flight service, which includes night lighting, control-tower assistance, a weather station, and instrument landing equipment, all for the use of both commercial and private aircraft. Commercial airline service to the airport includes many daily flights on Allegheny Airlines to Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, and several commuter flights to Newark, N. J., on an Allegheny subsidiary, Pocono Airlines. The airport also serves several airplane charter companies.

THE WILLIAMSPORT AIRPORT COMPANY

The origins of the Williamsport/Lycoming County Airport reach back to a time when air travel had only just established itself as a viable means of high speed commercial travel. It was in July of the same year that Charles Lindberg made his celebrated solo flight across the Atlantic that the Williamsport Chamber of Commerce (which merged with the Williamsport Community Trade Association in 1937) announced the appointment of a committee to study the feasibility of an airport for Williamsport. The year was 1927. In November of that year the airport committee recommended that an airport be built on the site where it now stands. As a result, the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce and the airport committee organized the "Williamsport Airport Company." The Airport Company purchased a 161½ acre tract of land in Montoursville. The original purchase was farm land formerly known as the "Tomb Farm." Over the years additional purchases and extensions have brought the airport to its current size of 735 acres. The first president of the Airport Company was John H. McCormick, a local manufacturer. In 1928, the Lycoming Aviation Corporation (now Avco) built the first airplane hangar at the airport. Avco used the site for testing aircraft engines. The airport was formally dedicated July 20, 1929, in a ceremony which involved 79 aircraft. Among the 35,000 people who attended the event was the famous woman pilot Amelia Earhart.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP

A new chapter began for the airport in the 1930's when it was sold to the city of Williamsport and Lycoming County by the Airport Company for only 40 percent of the original investment. The sale was negotiated because the state and federal governments were making available construction aid through the Works Projects Administration. In order for it to benefit from WPA funds, however, the airport had to be publicly owned. The WPA built the original Municipal Hangar in 1937. The hangar, located at the west end of the Field, housed offices, the Weather Bureau and the Federal Aviation Agency.

It was also in 1937, that Williamsport's Postmaster, Fred Plankenhorn, placed the first sack of airmail on an airplane for delivery outside the county. Then in 1938, another hangar was erected on the north edge of the airfield by the Williamsport School District which pioneered public school training in aviation technology. This hangar was the first public school airport building anywhere in the country. Today the program is offered by the Williamsport Area Community College.



Dedication of Williamsport/Lycoming County
Airport
July 20, 1929



Trinity Place Station

FIRST COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS

The first commercial passenger flights from the airport were initiated in 1938 by Penn Central Airlines, later Capital Airlines, which became United Airlines. The first flights were round trip between Buffalo and Washington, and made stops in Williamsport, Harrisburg and Baltimore. The plane used was a Boeing 247-D, which carried ten passengers. Passenger service to Williamsport lasted only two years because Penn Central switched to DC-3 aircraft which were too large to land on Williamsport's runways. It was not until 1945 that this service was restored after the runways were lengthened through governmental aided programs. At that time United Airlines came back into Williamsport accompanied by TWA, which started flights to Pittsburgh and west, and north to Albany and Boston.

It was still not until 1949 that the first passenger service to New York City began. All American Airlines, now known as Allegheny, operated the first service to New York and has continued to do so ever since. Aboard the first flight in June, 1949, to Newark Airport, were Williamsport's Mayor Leo C. Williamson, Airport Authority chairman William Waldeisen and other local leaders. The return trip took the group an unprecedented two and one-half hours to travel from 42nd Street in New York City to the airport in Montoursville.

In those days driving to New York by car took eight to ten hours. The new air service was a welcome arrival, putting Williamsport many hours closer to the nation's largest city. The first night flights to operate from the airport had begun some months earlier in 1948 when TWA initiated them. As an indication of just how much closer the growth of air service brought Williamsport to the rest of the world, TWA delivered several thousand shamrocks directly from Ireland for Williamsport's Irish residents in March, 1949.

FORMATION OF THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY

The year 1947 was an eventful year in so far as administration of the airport was concerned. In that year the Williamsport Municipal Airport Authority was formed by the city and county governments. The new Authority, which came into being January 21, 1947, was vested with the responsibility of operating and developing the airport. The City of Williamsport deeded the airport to the Authority for just \$1.00. Three members of the Authority were appointed by the city and three by the county, and the Authority itself appointed a seventh. The first Authority meeting was headed by Dr. George Parkes, then director of the Williamsport Technical Institute. At that meeting Mr. William Waldeisen was elected chairman of the Authority--a post he held until

1964. The airport Authority was shared by city and county members until March, 1973, when the city relinquished its role. The name of the airport has remained the same since 1955: The Williamsport/Lycoming County Airport.

AIRPORT EXPANSION

The first major project undertaken by the airport Authority was the planning and construction of a badly needed airport terminal building. Bids for the new building were let in October, 1947; in November the contract was awarded to a Harrisburg construction firm for \$300,000. Fortunately the state and federal governments provided most of the funds so that local governments had to assume only a small portion of the cost. The new terminal was opened in January, 1949. In 1957, improvements were made to the runways, and in 1959, an airport tower was erected. The tower greatly enhanced the flight control procedures, making overall operation much safer and more efficient. In 1957, other improvements to the runway were made which made possible the landing of jet aircraft of commercial size. Allegheny Airlines introduced jet flights in August, 1974, but discontinued them in March, 1976, due to economic considerations.

Eventually, most of the airlines serving Williamsport discontinued their services. Recent air traffic here has not warranted the operation of more than one or two airlines. Yet air traffic from the Williamsport/Lycoming County Airport is unlikely to decrease from its current levels. The extent of traffic growth, on the other hand, will determine airport growth. Lycoming County has good reason to be proud of its excellent airport. The airport is equipped with the resources for expanded air service whenever they are needed.

QUESTIONS CHAPTER 8

Railroads:

1. Where were the locations of passenger stations and roundhouse?
2. What was the importance of Newberry in railroad activity?
3. List the names of railroad lines of Lycoming County in the early 1940's.
4. Show the relationship between freight and passenger revenues and their effect on service to Lycoming County.

Highways:

5. Identify the main roads in the county by locations and destinations.
6. How did the idea of a Keystone Shortway originate? What part did Lycoming County play in the promotion of the highway?
7. How have modern highways affected the county?

Buses:

8. What companies have taken the lead in interstate bus transportation for Lycoming County?
9. How was local bus service maintained in the Williamsport area in the face of financial losses?

Air:

10. What organizations and firms led in the establishment of an airport?
11. Why was the airport taken over by the city and county?
12. How was the Williamsport School District involved with the airport?
13. What airlines have provided service at the airport? Describe the present situation.

Chapter 9 PUBLIC SERVICE INSTITUTIONS

At the close of World War II, changes in living gathered momentum. New and far reaching advances in transportation, communications, and technology began to affect the American way of life. Lycoming County, of course, shared in these developments. Better highways and more cars, cable television and dial telephones, automatic washing machines and other electrical appliances--all affected the style and character of daily life in Lycoming County. The impact of these changes is still being felt, even as new changes occur month by month. But along with the improvements in those things which daily touch personal lives have come significant advances in the institutions and organizations which serve the wider community--the hospitals, emergency services such as the fire companies, the libraries, and water companies.

THE HOSPITALS

In 1940, the Williamsport Hospital, with 192 beds, was the only hospital in the city of Williamsport. The two other hospitals in Lycoming County, at Jersey Shore and Muncy, both occupied old mansions hardly suited to the needs of busy community hospitals. The three hospitals together provided only 250 beds for the entire county. Contributing to the shortage of hospital beds in those days was the longer average stay per patient.

Today's medical attitudes and procedures make it possible to discharge patients much sooner than was believed advisable in the past. Furthermore, the hospitals in this county were not capable of many forms of diagnosis and treatment. Instead, patients with serious conditions were often transferred to larger hospitals in other counties. Yet, Lycoming County's hospitals rated no better nor worse than their equivalents in other parts of the state. They provided medical care considered routine for the time. The changes and achievements in our county's hospitals since then have been phenomenal. No amount of guess work or speculation could have foreseen the medical advances which were to occur in the 1960's and 1970's in Lycoming County. But, the medical advances in our county were only an offshoot of the wider medical revolution taking place throughout the entire nation.

The Williamsport Hospital was the medical heart of the county in 1940. The year 1978 marks the one-hundredth year since the hospital opened for business. Today the services of the Williamsport Hospital extend beyond its own walls, and beyond even Lycoming County to the community owned regional health centers in Blossburg, Elkland, Mansfield and Picture Rocks. The hospital continues to provide guidance and

expertise to these centers. The centers offer routine medical care to rural areas once deficient in doctors, often requiring many miles of travel for rural residents needing medical attention.

The Jersey Shore and Muncy Valley Hospitals, in the 1940's, were only faint shadows of the modern facilities they are today. There is virtually no comparison of these two modern hospitals to their former selves, but, the one county hospital which defies any comparison to the past is Williamsport's Divine Providence Hospital. It has sprung, almost as it were, out of the earth itself. As the youngest hospital in Lycoming County, it is nonetheless a primary contributor to the medical care of Lycoming County and many neighboring counties. Today, the Williamsport and Divine Providence hospitals share in providing most of the major medical and rehabilitation programs available in any of the important hospitals in the state.

Along with the developments in short-term hospital care, the county has made significant progress in the long-term care of elderly patients. Among the new geriatric and nursing care facilities which have opened are the new Williamsport Home, Sycamore Manor, the Leader Nursing homes in Williamsport and Jersey Shore, and the new geriatric unit at the Muncy Valley Hospital. These facilities have helped to lessen the chronic shortage of nursing care beds in the county. Still more beds for geriatric patients are required, however, if future needs are to be met.

THE WILLIAMSPORT HOSPITAL

An important impetus to the growth of hospital facilities across the country was the introduction of pre-paid health insurance in the early 1940's. As a result, most hospitals experienced an increase in patient loads. The facilities at the Williamsport Hospital were stretched to capacity. In 1952, a new V-shaped addition was made to the main hospital building, which had been constructed in 1926. The new addition provided extra space for a number of key services and departments. Since then, numerous other expansion projects have enabled the hospital to keep pace with the most recent developments in medical treatment and technology.

The hospital has also constructed a new building to house the School of Nursing. In 1969, a three-story Rehabilitation Center was dedicated. This has made possible a highly effective program in all facets of physical therapy. Then, in 1972, the hospital opened a Medical Center nearby. This building houses numerous doctors' offices and hospital departments, including the Family Practice Group, part of the hospital's Family Practice Residency Program, through which graduate doctors carry a patient case load, providing the community with much-needed family care and young doctors

with clinical contact. Currently, twenty-one physicians participate in the three-year Residency Program. Finally, in 1974 the Core Services Building was dedicated, housing new operating rooms, an X-ray department, emergency rooms, and extensive laboratory facilities.

Deserving of much credit for the growth and expansion of the Williamsport Hospital are Daniel W. Hartman, Harry R. Gibson and Clive R. Waxman. As administrator of the hospital from 1943 to 1959, and building fund coordinator from 1959 to 1974, Mr. Hartman participated in many of the hospital's expansion programs. Mr. Hartman was succeeded as administrator by Mr. Waxman in 1964. During Mr. Waxman's tenure most of the expansion at the hospital has occurred, including construction of the Rehabilitation Center, the Medical Center and the Core Services Building. Local attorney Harry R. Gibson became a member of the hospital's board in 1951, and served as its chairman from 1958 to 1976. He is still a member of the board and has contributed greatly to the hospital's development.

In 1971 the title of hospital administrator was changed to president; reorganization of the hospital's corporate structure followed in 1973. Both the Board of Managers (consisting of medical and lay representatives) and the administration of the hospital have provided the vision and energy necessary to make it a quality medical facility for Lycoming County.

By 1977, the Williamsport Hospital had achieved a total capacity of 370 beds and 30 bassinets--120 more beds than the entire county had in 1940. Apart from the Rehabilitation Center, the hospital has installed a Cardiopulmonary Center for the treatment of patients suffering from heart and lung ailments. A heart catheterization laboratory makes possible the latest techniques in the detection and treatment of heart disease. The Williamsport Hospital is the recognized neurological and neuro-surgical referral center for north-central Pennsylvania.

The hospital owns a Computerized Axial Tomography Unit worth nearly one-half million dollars. This machine has revolutionized the procedure for diagnosing most forms of brain disease and diseases of body organs. The hospital also operates a Sonography Unit which can analyze anatomical structures of the body without the use of harmful radiation. The hospital plans to acquire still more equipment for use in the field of neurology and the treatment of brain and nervous system disorders.

EMERGENCY ROOM AND CLINICS

Around the clock emergency room service was initiated at the

Williamsport Hospital in 1970. Medical staff for the Emergency Room is provided by the Emergency Care Physicians Association which was organized specifically for this purpose. Another service of the hospital is made available through the Family Planning Clinic, opened in 1971. The clinic offers information to couples who want help in planning the size of their families, and in spacing the arrival of children. Other clinics at the hospital provide services in gynecology, surgery, pre-natal, post-partum, stroke, cardiac, dermatology, seizure, dental, amputee, muscular dystrophy, crippled children, scoliosis and orthopedics.

Educational programs at the hospital include the oldest functioning nursing school in Pennsylvania. Along with this are programs in medical technology and medical transcription. The Nursing School and Lycoming College have had a reciprocal arrangement since the 1940's enabling the nursing students to take courses in the basic sciences at the college, as well as English, the social sciences and the humanities. The hospital has clinical affiliations with colleges and universities throughout the East and South; students come to the hospital to participate in clinical work in numerous medical disciplines, including physical and occupational therapy.

DIVINE PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL

The Divine Providence Hospital also has had an impressive history so that the stories of both hospitals merge into a medical boon for Lycoming County. At the end of World War II Divine Providence Hospital was still only a dream in the mind of a Roman Catholic sister who grew up in Williamsport. Mary Hills, who became Mother Theresilla of the Sisters of Christian Charity, had wanted to open a nursing home for the elderly in Williamsport, but circumstances never permitted. Then in 1944, with the aid and advice of Father Leo J. Post, pastor of St. Boniface Roman Catholic Church, the Sisters of Christian Charity purchased a tract of land along Grampian Boulevard from the Faxon Land Company for the sum of \$17,500. In 1945, a massive fund raising campaign was undertaken with a goal of \$700,000. In just five months the drive surpassed its target when a total of \$732,000 had been collected, mainly from sources within Lycoming County.

A charter was granted for the hospital on February 24, 1947, and construction was begun in June, 1948. But soon inflation had bloated construction costs to the point where yet another \$600,000 was necessary to put the new hospital under roof. A second fund drive was launched, and in just one month the essential money was in hand. Construction work was allowed to continue unhindered. Divine Providence Hospital was on its way to becoming a reality. The plans

called for a 185-bed, fully equipped hospital for medical, surgical and obstetrical cases. Mother Theresilla's dream had come true and Lycoming County became the home of a fourth hospital when Divine Providence opened its doors June 1, 1951. Little perhaps did Mother Theresilla realize the future expansion of Divine Providence Hospital into such an important medical complex.

DIVINE PROVIDENCE EXPANDS

The mortar had barely dried before extensions were necessary to Divine Providence Hospital. Between 1951 and 1967, a chapel, auditorium, convent, and a school of X-ray technology were added. In 1959, a new west wing was dedicated. In the late 1960's new expansion became essential when the Lycoming-Clinton County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Office designated Divine Providence as the location for the Community Mental Health Center. In order to make room for the mental health service, the hospital built a health services building in 1972. The new building also houses the basic services program which offers routine medical care to persons without a personal physician.

Finally, in 1975, Divine Providence added an east wing to its main building. The East Wing contains the inpatient unit of the Mental Health Center, a new 24-hour emergency room service, the kidney Hemodialysis Center, the Cancer Treatment Center and the Intensive Care/Cardiac Care Unit. Also housed in the new wing are the latest in X-ray and nuclear medicine devices for the detection of internal bodily disorders. Today, the Divine Providence Hospital has a total of 250 beds, bringing the combined capacity of it and the Williamsport Hospital to 620 beds.

The medical field has come a great distance since 1940, and Williamsport's two hospitals have progressed with it. In that year the diagnosis of cancer in a patient was a dreaded and distressing occurrence. But though no certain cure for cancer has yet been discovered, with early diagnosis nearly half of all cancer can be eliminated through a combination of treatments, including drugs and radiation therapy. The Divine Providence Hospital possesses a linear accelerator for the treatment of cancer. This machine, which cost nearly \$400,000, applies high concentrations of radiation to affected body tissue by means of a laser gun. The laser beams often are successful at destroying cancer cells.

HEMODIALYSIS

Divine Providence Hospital is also the hemodialysis or kidney machine center for nine counties. Here kidney patients undergo two or three times weekly the six-hour "blood-washing" process to remove accumulations of poisons

from the blood. Finally, the hospital, originating the "Meals-on-Wheels" in Lycoming County in 1970, has operated the program continuously since that date under the auspices of the Lycoming-Clinton Bi County Office for the Aging. This program provides one or two nutritious or therapeutic meals a day to many elderly citizens of the county who otherwise could not cook for themselves. Besides delivering meals to many individual homes, meals-on-wheels serves community meals several times a week at six locations in Lycoming County and two in Clinton County. The meals are prepared for distribution at Divine Providence Hospital and Ascension Roman Catholic Church in Williamsport.

In opposite directions from Williamsport are the Jersey Shore and Muncy Valley hospitals. Both were founded by groups of physicians early in this century. Large mansions were used in each case as hospital buildings. Eventually larger, modern buildings became necessary. The poor roads of the time and lack of adequate transportation made it difficult for persons in these areas to get to Williamsport for hospital care. Further, a shortage of graduate nurses meant that families and neighbors themselves had to tend to the seriously ill in their homes. The quality of this care was understandably limited and often unsatisfactory. Hence, there was the need for hospitals in the smaller communities. By 1951, both Jersey Shore and Muncy had new hospital buildings to help overcome the deficiencies of the older "mansion hospitals," that had fulfilled a need in their day.

JERSEY SHORE HOSPITAL

In 1937, the three proprietor doctors and the family of the fourth gave the Jersey Shore Hospital to the borough. Founded in 1911, the hospital was located in the former L. D. Herritt house on Thompson Street. Its 21 beds and eight bassinets seem insignificant by today's standards. By 1958, another wing had been added, providing 63 beds. The largest single expansion project at the hospital occurred in 1969. The old Herritt house was razed and a new three-story building erected in its place. New physical therapy rooms, delivery rooms, a nursery and other facilities were part of the project.

Finally, a five-bed Coronary Care Unit was added in 1970. This raised the total bed capacity of the hospital to its current 91. Recent new services provided by the hospital include a Nuclear Medicine Department opened in 1976. This enables the hospital to undertake scans for diagnostic purposes. Also an out-patient department was instituted in 1977. The very latest expansion project was the four suite Medical Office Building opened in 1978. The hospital anticipates the expansion of its X-ray Department in the future.



Williamsport Hospital



Divine Providence Hospital



Widmann and Teah Fire, 1945
Third and Pine Streets



Loyalsock Volunteer Fire Company

MUNCY VALLEY HOSPITAL

In like manner to the Jersey Shore Hospital, Muncy Valley Hospital was founded in 1922, by a group of concerned doctors. The hospital first opened in the Noble family house on East Water Street in Muncy. Originally, the hospital was controlled by doctors, but in 1940, lay members were admitted to the board. In 1951, the hospital moved into a new building on East Water Street; the old Noble house was renovated for use as a geriatric unit. Geriatric care has remained a major part of the hospital's program ever since. In 1957, a new east wing was attached to the hospital; eleven years later a second-story was added.

In that same year, 1968, a new and improved geriatric ward was opened, but the crowning 60 bed geriatric ward was opened in 1972. Money for this unit was funded partially by the county commissioners who use 30 of the 60 beds to ease the load at Lysock View, the county home. Projects remaining to be concluded at the Muncy Valley Hospital are the opening of a new emergency and operating room complex. The hospital currently has a capacity for 68 patients and 60 long term geriatric patients. As at the Jersey Shore Hospital, progress has steadily moved the Muncy Valley Hospital forward.

FIRE COMPANIES

The fire companies of Lycoming County provide another important service to county residents, a service which has grown considerably since 1940. Williamsport has the only full-time professional fire department in the county. Over 60 professional firemen are employed at four fire stations around the city. The Williamsport Bureau of Fire celebrated its 100th year of service in 1974. Fire protection in the remainder of Lycoming County is provided by volunteer fire companies, many of which have organized since 1940. Until the 1950's and early 1960's, vast regions of the county were dependent upon a few scattered volunteer companies. The situation today is much improved though the Trout Run and Pine Creek Volunteer Fire companies still must serve very large territories.

VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES FORMED

The formation of volunteer fire companies was spurred by the steady increase in property values and growing population of rural areas. Both factors helped demonstrate the glaring need for improved fire protection in many regions of the county. Consequently, numerous community-minded individuals banded together to provide volunteer fire protection. This makes the volunteer fire company a truly grass roots phenomenon. Men and women devote many hours to raising money and

maintaining fire company equipment without pay or personal gain. The volunteers receive a different sort of compensation. The fellowship and cooperation among the volunteers helps to create a sense of community pride and concern. Usually their work together is more like pleasure than a tolerable burden, but their greatest compensation is the satisfaction of knowing that through their efforts, property and possibly lives are more secure.

Among the 32 volunteer fire companies in Lycoming County, there are 1,000 active fire fighting volunteers. Another 1,300 volunteers provide back-up support of various kinds. Besides fighting fires, the volunteer companies render assistance in rescue and disaster operations. In floods, at accidents or other disasters, the fire companies are available to help with rescue and/or medical procedures. A total of 14 fire companies throughout the county operate ambulance services. In 1976, there were 23 ambulances on call, including three operated by the American Legion Post 617. These ambulance facilities contribute greatly to the well-being and peace of mind of all county residents.

Among the oldest volunteer fire companies in the county is the Independent Hose Company of Jersey Shore, formed in the 1890's. The newest one is the Allenwood Prison Fire Company. While all the companies are worthy of recognition, the Loyalsock Township Volunteer Fire Company gained considerable notoriety through an article about its operations in the March 11, 1950 Saturday Evening Post. The magazine portrayed the Loyalsock company as a fine example of an efficient, well-run volunteer fire company.

THE WEST BRANCH FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

In 1932, a new chapter in the history of the county's volunteer fire companies was written when the West Branch Firemen's Association, Inc. was formed. The original members of the Association were the Hughesville, Montgomery, Montoursville and Muncy Volunteer Fire Companies. Today all 33 of the fire companies in the county belong. The function of the Association is "to protect life and property and to minimize fire damage caused by enemy attack or natural disaster."

The Association provides a means of coordinating the efforts of all 33 fire companies in the event of such a disaster. Another important function of the Association is its annual fire-training school in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction. Two days each year county firemen are offered instruction in the latest fire-fighting and rescue techniques.

The West Branch Firemen's Association was instrumental in

establishing the Lycoming County Emergency Communications Network. In 1974, the Association petitioned the county commissioners to organize a central communications network for the county. No immediate action was taken, but the seed was planted. Then in March, 1975, the county departments of communications, emergency medical services and Civil Defense were combined into one, under the supervision of a newly appointed County Civil Defense Director.

By March, 1976, a county communications system was installed in the Civil Defense office in the Courthouse basement. A used communications console was purchased for \$9,500. Eleven fire companies and four ambulance services participated initially in the program. It is anticipated that by the end of 1978, all emergency services in the county will belong to the communications network.

The county communications system will eventually provide a central receiving and dispatching center for all emergency calls in the county. Once an emergency call is received by the dispatcher, the appropriate fire company, ambulance service or police agency is notified immediately by radio. The dispatcher can also activate the fire sirens at each fire station. In the event of a fire, all volunteer firemen will receive the report simultaneously, assuming they have their radio receivers turned on. This is an enormous advance over the days when firemen had to spread word of a fire by means of a telephone roster.

Another advantage of the communication system is its usefulness in coordinating emergency operations in case of a countywide crisis or disaster. Through this system the County Civil Defense Director is able to have immediate and total contact with all areas of the county in supervising relief efforts. A new, more versatile communications console was installed at the center in 1978. This will greatly enhance the reliability of the system and serve its needs for sometime to come. Lycoming County's emergency communications have entered the 20th century, thanks in part to the efforts of the West Branch Firemen's Association.

FIREMEN'S CARNIVALS

There remains an aspect of the volunteer fire company which harks back to a by-gone age, and that is the source of income. The firemen's carnival continues to provide the major source of funding for many volunteer fire companies in the county, all of which are financially self-supporting. Cotton candy, french fries, Ferris wheels and merry-go-rounds transcend the passing of time. Smaller fire companies also capitalize on the entertainment business. The firemen's festivals and chicken barbeques provide occasions not only for the fire fighters and their families to raise

operating funds, but also for communities to join in some fun and to spend some money in a good cause.

Saturday night bingo is still another fund raising technique which doubles as a social event. It is not so much the prizes that attract the avid bingo player as it is the chance of the game and the opportunity for social activity. All these methods, along with direct public solicitation, have made it possible for the volunteer fire companies to organize, to build new fire houses and to purchase new equipment. They also show that the volunteer fire companies depend as much upon the general public for their success as upon the charter members.

THE LIBRARIES

An important service to any community is the public library where citizens can go to relax and to read any number of magazines and newspapers or sign out books and records to be enjoyed at home. Larger libraries offer other services such as film rental and story hours for children, art exhibits and "talking books" for the blind and the seeing impaired. These and other services are available to citizens of Lycoming County from its library, the James V. Brown Library in Williamsport. Residents of outlying regions can go to the nearest borough library where services from the Brown Library are available to them. Hughesville, Montgomery, Muncy, Montoursville and Jersey Shore all have libraries which are associated with the Brown Library in Williamsport.

The oldest of the borough libraries is the Montgomery Public Library, opened in 1906, one year before the Brown Library itself. The newest and largest of the borough libraries is the Jersey Shore Library, opened in 1950, which shares its facilities with the Jersey Shore Area High School. This is not Jersey Shore's first public library, for as far back as the 1890's one was in existence there. The Dr. W. B. Konkle Memorial Library in Montoursville was founded in 1943, through a bequest given by Dr. Konkle. The James V. Brown Library branch at the Montoursville High School closed in 1957 when it was obvious the Konkle Library was adequately serving the needs of that community.

The libraries in Muncy and Hughesville opened in 1937 and 1941 respectively. All the public libraries in the county are supported by state, county and local funds, though in recent years moves to establish groups of Library Friends have increased the prospect of private contributions.

THE FIRST COUNTY LIBRARY

Until 1946, the James V. Brown Library served only Williamsport and environs. It was not until 1939, that the Lycoming

County commissioners authorized money for a free county library. The first county library was not a building with shelves of books and librarians working behind counters. Instead, it was the original bookmobile to be used in Lycoming County. The person most responsible for its inception was Clarence H. McConnel, then Assistant County Superintendent of schools, later to become Superintendent in 1947.

Mr. McConnel was acutely aware of the deficiency of reading materials in rural schools. He believed a mobile library was the key to the solution. After several unsuccessful attempts at persuading the county commissioners to fund the project, he finally got them to agree to include it in the 1939 county budget. The county appropriated \$3,000 and the state contributed \$1,500, along with the loan of 2,000 books from the state library.

The bookmobile, or county library as it was called, was placed under the supervision of the James V. Brown Library Board, headed by Dr. O. R. Howard Thomson. The board purchased the bookmobile and hired a staff to operate it. The directors of the school districts in the county served by the library also contributed annually toward the operation of the library. There were 47 distribution stations throughout the county the first year that the bookmobile was in operation. All these stations were necessarily in remote areas of the county due to the limited funds available. For the first time, places such as English Center, Bodines and Elimsport, had a library service on a regular basis.

The name of the bookmobile, "Aladdin's Lamp," was submitted during a countywide contest by two pupils in the Eight-square School in Moreland Township. Ever since that first year, the bookmobile has served the needs of students and adults in the county's remoter regions.

It was in 1946 that the mobile county library and the James V. Brown Library merged into one. From then on the Brown Library has been the center of the county library system. A new Bookmobile was purchased at the time of the merger to accommodate a larger, more diverse number of books to help satisfy an ever increasing demand.

In 1962, the first bookmobile provided by the state was put into service. Over the years the state government has contributed an increasing amount of support to the county library, so that today nearly 43 percent of the library budget comes from state funds. A total of 48 percent is still provided by appropriations from the county and the city of Williamsport.



James V. Brown Library



Bookmobile at Rose Valley School

THE JAMES V. BROWN LIBRARY

Ever since its founding, the James V. Brown Library has expanded its range of services to benefit more and more people. While most of the money comes from the government, the Friends of the Library also help in promoting the library and raising funds. The Friends were largely instrumental in raising \$300,000 in 1972, the first fund drive ever held for the library. With the money raised, renovations were made and badly needed expansion was undertaken.

In 1961, the state legislature created the Pennsylvania Library Code which established library districts throughout the state, effective in 1969. This meant that smaller libraries could now draw upon the resources of larger ones. The James V. Brown Library was designated the headquarters of the eleven-county northcentral Pennsylvania district. All other libraries in the district now look to Brown for technical and material assistance. Brown, in turn, looks to the state library in Harrisburg for assistance. Thus, what may seem like a relatively simple and straightforward operation is really quite complex with much diverse work going on behind the scenes.

The James V. Brown Library is more than just a place to take out books. It also has a well-stocked reference room with a full-time staff to answer questions and to offer assistance in matters of research. Recently the tracing of genealogical roots has become a popular hobby for many people. The Brown Library has built a collection of many resources, census records and other materials essential to genealogical study.

Many other services mentioned earlier are a routine part of Brown's program, all for the convenience and free use of the public. Like the hospitals and volunteer fire companies, the libraries of Lycoming County have grown from limited, sometimes non-existent entities since 1940. The general public has desired such facilities and the government has responded in the case of the libraries. In turn, the libraries have helped create a more enlightened and informed public, which is the primary function of any library.

When the wealthy lumberman James V. Brown left his generous bequest for the founding of a library back in 1907, he could not have imagined the future extent and influence of that library within the county and beyond to eleven neighboring counties. Indeed, if he were to see the results of his gift today, his surprise would be mixed with much pride.

WATER COMPANIES

Another important service to county residents is provided by

the water companies, which since the late 1800's, have provided a convenient, safe and constant supply of water to many regions of the county. The major development among them since 1940 has been the move toward public ownership. Today the Jersey Shore Water Company is the only one in the county which is still privately owned. Its owners, however, did make overtures in 1978 to the Jersey Shore borough council, offering the water company for sale. Studies by the borough on the matter are currently underway. The Jersey Shore Water Company serves Jersey Shore, parts of several neighboring townships, and Salladasburg.

All other water systems in the county are municipally owned. The Montoursville water system, in operation since the late 1800's, is the only one in the county to have been publicly owned from its beginning.

The Williamsport water system, founded in 1856, was the first privately owned system in the county to be purchased by a municipality. It supplies water to more people than any other system in Lycoming County, serving customers in Williamsport, South Williamsport, Duboistown, Loyalsock Township and Old Lycoming Township.

THE WILLIAMSPORT WATER COMPANY

The purchase of the Williamsport Water Company by the city resulted from a suggestion made in the early 1940's by a Williamsport businessman, Thomas Rider, that the Community Trade Association (Chamber of Commerce) appoint a committee to study the idea. This was done, and on December 20, 1944, the CTA committee recommended that the city purchase the water company. The committee suggested that city ownership of the company would save water patrons thousands of dollars in water bills because municipal facilities are not subject to income tax.

In 1946 the water company was purchased by the city for over \$5,500,000 from its owner, John H. Ware, Jr. Bonds to purchase the company were issued carrying interest rates from 1 5/8 percent to two percent for a forty year period. At the same time, the Williamsport Municipal Water Authority was created to operate the water company.

Water services to western areas of Williamsport and Old Lycoming Township were installed in 1967 when approximately five miles of sixteen and twelve inch pipe were laid to these regions. Among the largest of Williamsport's reservoirs are the Mosquito Creek Reservoir, built between 1950 and 1951, and the Frank E. Heller Impoundment, constructed between 1972 and 1975. Each are 530,000,000 gallon impoundments of earth embankment construction, and are located in valleys on a wholly controlled 10,000 acre water shed situated

between North White Deer Ridge and Bald Eagle Mountain in Lycoming County.

OTHER WATER COMPANIES

The other privately owned water companies to be purchased by municipalities were those in Muncy in 1966, and Hughesville and Montgomery in 1968. All of these facilities have been in existence since the late 1800's and early 1900's. A portion of Picture Rocks had been served by a private co-operatively owned water system up to 1977 but it was so badly damaged that year by the harsh winter that repairs to it proved too expensive and it was abandoned.

QUESTIONS CHAPTER 9

1. List hospitals located in Lycoming County.
2. Contrast the county's hospital facilities in 1940 with the present.
3. How has the need for rural fire protection been met?
4. Describe the accomplishments of the West Branch Firemen's Association.
5. Locate the oldest public library in the county.
6. List other public libraries in the county.
7. How does the James V. Brown Library serve areas outside Williamsport?
8. What major development has affected most of the water companies of the county since the 1940's?
9. The Williamsport Water System serves what communities?

Chapter GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

10

Wherever there is government, there is politics. One does not exist without the other. The difference between them is that government ideally operates on law, cooperation and justice, whereas politics operates on competition, opinion and persuasion. Both government and politics have played an important part in Lycoming County's history, and many individuals have distinguished themselves through them.

In Lycoming County there are two levels of government: county and municipal. The three types of municipal government are city, borough and township. Williamsport is the only city in the county. There are nine boroughs and 42 townships. The county government is primarily concerned with the administration of the courts, the assessment of property for local taxes, the registration of voters and conduct of elections, the operation of the county home, and the administration of numerous welfare and service agencies.

The municipal governments are primarily concerned with providing necessary local services and the maintenance of order and safety in each community. Thus, depending on their size, municipal governments may provide street lighting, police protection (and in Williamsport, fire protection) and maintenance of municipal streets and roads. And while the non-elected government employees see to the day-to-day operation of government, it is the elected office holders who as representatives of the people, set the policies and establish the directions of government. In some instances, as with most county offices, the elected positions are paid full-time jobs. In other instances, as with most township offices, elected positions are usually part-time and at commensurate pay. But regardless of whether they are full or part-time positions, it is through these elected offices, and hence through politics, that citizens and taxpayers can and do regularly influence the policies and operations of government.

POLITICS ARE NOT STATIC

Because the problems facing county and municipal governments are ever changing, the political issues of local communities change also. This means that at various times taxes, streets and roads, sewage treatment, crime, housing and other issues may enter the political sphere. This also means that the work of government is never finished and that the political pressures upon elected officials are constant. Yet it is due to such political pressures that changes in government are initiated and government is kept responsive to the needs of the people. This is a vital factor in our democratic system at all levels of government.

Political pressures and changes have been as real and necessary in Lycoming County as anywhere else, and there have been many since 1940. The role of county government has expanded greatly since then. Responsibilities have been added in many new areas. Even though some offices, such as that of county school superintendent, have been abolished, many others have come into being. In municipal government during this period, Williamsport voters approved a change in the city's form of government, and in party politics, the sentiment and affiliation of Lycoming County voters have taken on some new and interesting trends.

REPUBLICAN STRONGHOLD

Traditionally, Lycoming County has been a Republican stronghold. Republican registrations have consistently outnumbered Democratic registrations by the thousands. In 1940, there were 5,500 more Republicans than Democrats in the county. By 1952 this gap had widened to 12,000. The political complexion of the county, however, has taken a new turn since then. The Republican registrations have steadily diminished to a lead over the Democrats of under 2,000 in 1977. And in Williamsport the Democrats actually captured the lead from the Republicans in 1977 by 300 registrations. Whether this trend is the result of a nation-wide movement toward the Democratic party or just a temporary readjustment, political affiliation in the county has certainly become more balanced.

Nevertheless, Republican strength over the years is undeniable as seen in the results of presidential elections. Only twice since 1936 has Lycoming County given a majority to the Democratic presidential candidate. Franklin D. Roosevelt beat out Alfred M. Landon in 1936 and Lyndon B. Johnson defeated Barry M. Goldwater in 1964. But of the six other times since 1936 that Democrats have won presidential elections nationally, Lycoming County voters favored the Republican candidate each time.

The same Republican strength has been exhibited in local elections. Republican candidates have stood a better chance at being elected than their Democratic opponents just by virtue of Republican strength. On the other hand, Lycoming County voters do not just tow the party line. They can and do exhibit a great deal of independence in choosing their elected officials. Even in a strongly Republican county such as this one, many Democrats have won elections to political office.

At the very peak of Republican strength during the early 1950's, the Democrats swept the county in the election of 1954. The Democratic candidate for Governor, George M. Leader, won in Lycoming County. Also, the Democrat and former Jersey Shore Burgess, Miles R. Derk, unseated his

Republican opponent for the State Senate, John G. Snowden, who had served four terms and was seeking his fifth. Also, both seats from the county in the State Assembly were won by Democrats--former prothonotary, Perry M. Paulhamus, and the former principal of the Sheridan School, Lawrence Swartz. This Democratic landslide though was short lived. Four years later, in 1958, the Republicans recaptured all these posts except for the Williamsport seat in the State Assembly held by Mr. Swartz. Dr. Derk was defeated for his reelection to the State Senate by Williamsport businessman, Z. H. Confair.

POLITICAL FIGURES

Lycoming County has known a host of other important political figures. Though not a resident of the county, Robert F. Rich of Woolrich served eight terms in Congress from this district and had a significant impact on Republican politics in the county. After Mr. Rich, all U. S. Congressmen for this district have been from Lycoming County. Rich's immediate successor was Alvin R. Bush of Muncy who died in office, having served four terms. Then Herman T. Schneebeli of Williamsport served eight terms. In 1976, the first Democrat to win this congressional seat since 1940 was former District Attorney Allen Ertel. Other important political figures in the county during this period included Charles S. Williams, a Republican, who became Judge in 1943 after serving as District Attorney. Judge Williams was reelected in 1953, but lost a third term in 1963 to Democrat Thomas Wood of Muncy. The current President Judge, Charles Greevey, also a Democrat, is now in his third ten-year term, having succeeded Judge Donald Larrabee in 1952.

CHANGES IN THE REELECTION OF JUDGES

The method for reelecting county judges was greatly altered under the revised Pennsylvania Constitution of 1968. Prior to that, Common Pleas judges stood for reelection against an opponent every ten years. The revised constitution altered this by establishing a voting procedure for retention or revocation of the judge seeking reelection. Thus, the judge does not run against an opposing candidate. This procedure was designed to keep as much politics as possible out of the choosing of judges. On the other hand, if a judge does not choose to seek reelection, the regular procedure for elections is followed.

In 1973, Judge Thomas Wood lost his retention vote under the new procedure. Judge Wood was supported by the County Law Association and Bar Association, but was victim to a great deal of strong opposition from such local citizens' groups as Victims of Crime and Citizens for Democracy. Both groups represented strong views on issues such as the

treatment of juvenile offenders, pornographic book stores and fluoridation of drinking water. As a result of Judge Wood's defeat, Governor Milton Shapp appointed Democrat Thomas Raup to Judge Wood's chair in 1974. Judge Raup was then elected to a full term in 1975.

WILLIAMSPORT MAYORS

A significant development in Williamsport politics was the reelection in 1947 of Mayor Leo C. Williamson, a Republican and local restaurant owner, to an unprecedented third term. The popular Mr. Williamson served from 1940 to 1952, longer than any other mayor in Williamsport's history. Mayor Williamson was succeeded by Republican Clifford L. Harman in 1952. Since then, Williamsport has alternated between Democratic and Republican mayors. The only mayor to win two terms after Mayor Williamson was Thomas H. Levering, the first Democrat ever to succeed himself in that office. Mayor Levering served from 1956 to 1964. After Mayor Levering, Williamsport has had a succession of one term mayors. They were Republican Raymond Knaur from 1964 to 1968; Democrat Richard Carey, 1968 to 1972; and Republican John R. Coder, 1972 to 1976. The current mayor is Democrat Daniel P. Kirby.

STRONG-MAYOR PLAN

All third class cities in Pennsylvania were restricted by state law to the Commission form of government from 1913 to 1957. As a third class city, Williamsport adopted the Commission form in 1914. Then in July, 1957, the Pennsylvania legislature enacted the "Optional Third Class City Charter Law." This law gave all third-class cities the right to adopt the Council-Manager Plan, the Mayor-Council Plan or to retain the Commission Plan of government.

At the 1963 November election, Williamsport's voters approved the creation of a charter commission to study the advisability of the city adopting a new governmental structure. Known as the Williamsport Charter Commission, the group consisted of nine elected members from the city. At its first meeting Williamsport attorney John C. Youngman, Sr. was chosen as chairman of the commission. After a year of study, the commission recommended the Council-Manager Plan to the voters. The voters, however, turned down the proposal in a referendum on November 3, 1964.

Six years later in May, 1970, city voters approved the recommendation of a new study commission to adopt the Strong-Mayor form. The change became effective January 1, 1972, and for the first time in many years, the mayor acquired significant new powers. Under the Commission form, the city council and mayor share administrative and law-making

responsibilities. The mayor is, in effect, the head councilman, as it is his function to preside at council meetings. Under the new Strong-Mayor form, however, the mayor acts as chief administrative officer and supervises the work of all department heads; he cannot vote at meetings of city council.

The mayor is responsible for preparing the annual city budget and approving all ordinances and resolutions passed by council. The seven-member city council, on the other hand, must approve the mayor's annual budget and can override the mayor's veto of ordinances and resolutions. Thus, unlike the Commission form, the Strong-Mayor form separates the executive and legislative functions of city government in much the same way as in the state and federal governments.

Prior to implementation of the Strong-Mayor form, a transition committee recommended an organizational structure for the new government. The heart of the committee's recommendation, later adopted by council, was the organization of the city government into the three departments of Administration, Public Services and Public Safety, each one headed by a director appointed by the mayor. The Administration Department includes the services of personnel and budget preparation; the Public Services Department includes the operation and maintenance of city facilities such as sewers, streets, dikes, parks and the landfill; the Public Safety Department includes the police and fire bureaus.

W. CLYDE HARER

One of the most active individuals in both Williamsport and Lycoming County politics was W. Clyde Harer, who served in as many elective offices as perhaps any other man in the county's history. Mr. Harer served as a Williamsport school director not long after his graduation from high school in 1905. Later he served as a member of the Williamsport City Council. During the 1930's Mr. Harer went to Harrisburg as the State Assemblyman from Williamsport, serving there several terms. Eventually Mr. Harer was to be elected to three different county offices. These included the offices of Register and Recorder, Treasurer, and County Commissioner. In 1968, at the age of 82, Mr. Harer retired from political life and county service after a career that spanned from the presidencies of Theodore Roosevelt to Lyndon B. Johnson. It seems ironic that at virtually the same time as Mr. Harer's retirement from county government, the old Lycoming County Courthouse was razed to make way for the new courthouse. Both events symbolized the passing of an era in the history of Lycoming County, its government and politics.

POLITICAL SCANDALS

Although both state and federal office holders have been

victims of scandal and impropriety in recent years, Lycoming County has suffered relatively little from such difficulties. Yet the slate in the county has not been completely clean. Two cases of minor proportions came to light involving Sheriff Charles E. Green in 1964 and Mayor John R. Coder of Williamsport in 1974. During his second term Sheriff Green was forced to resign his office and was replaced by L. Eugene Pauling who has remained in that capacity to the present.

The case involving Mayor Coder came under the scrutiny of then District Attorney Allen Ertel in 1973 after allegations were made by individuals on the City Council that phone conversations from City Hall were tapped and that the Mayor and Public Safety Director John Samony were responsible. A battle ensued which resulted in complicated and lengthy legal proceedings. The District Attorney's investigation revealed that wiretapping equipment had been installed in City Hall. The mayor's argument was that threats were made on his life and the tap was a necessary precaution. The mayor had notified the FBI of information recovered from the tap. As a result of the investigations, Mayor Coder was indicted for wiretapping, false swearing, obstruction of justice, misconduct in office and criminal conspiracy. The Director of Public Safety, John M. Samony, was believed to have collaborated with the mayor and was indicted on the same charges, except misconduct in office.

In view of the considerable publicity Mayor Coder's case received and the mayor's belief that the atmosphere in the county was prejudicial to him, his request for a change of venue for the trial was granted by visiting Judge Robert M. Kemp of Tioga County. The State Supreme Court then relocated the Coder trial to the town of Mercer in Western Pennsylvania. The jury there convicted Coder of three charges: wiretapping, conspiracy, and false swearing. The judge threw out the false swearing conviction, ruling that it had not been established beyond reasonable doubt. Public Safety Director Samony had previously pleaded guilty to the wiretapping charges and was sentenced to a fine.

On February 7, 1975, almost two years after the initial charges were brought against Coder, the Mercer County judge sentenced him for the two remaining convictions--interception of telephone communications and conspiracy. The mayor received a fine and a suspended prison sentence. He was not, however, required to resign his office and served his full four-year term. He was defeated for reelection in 1975 by Daniel Kirby, the Democratic candidate.

CHANGES IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Apart from the adoption of the Strong-Mayor form of



Main courtroom of former Lycoming County
Courthouse, 1934



Lysock View upon completion



Williamsport City Council in 1940's
L to R: Samuel Wendle, Raymond Rall,
S. J. Webster, Assessor
Mayor Leo C. Williamson, A. L. Reimer,
Assistant Assessor, Eugene Shaffer
and Frank Henninger



Lycoming County Commissioners, 1978
L to R: Paul K. Bloom, Robert W. Beiter
and Henry F. Frey

government in Williamsport, the major governmental changes in the county occurred at the county level, particularly in the size of county government and in the reorganization of the local judicial system. A very minor change in borough government was the adoption of the title "mayor" for the chief borough official instead of the traditional title "burgess." This change was promulgated by state law in 1961.

The developments in modern county government first began to evolve as a result of the Institution District Act of 1937. This state law abolished the local township and borough poor districts and replaced them with county poor districts, making the county commissioners responsible for providing care to indigent persons and needy children. Prior to this law, boroughs, townships and cities provided their own care to such needy individuals, often in a haphazard and unsatisfactory fashion.

The Institution District Act empowered commissioners to levy taxes for expenses incurred by the county in aid of the needy and to issue bonds for funding the building of new facilities. The law made county commissioners custodians of those children and adults who, for whatever financial or family reason, were unable to care for themselves. Thus, along with the prior constitutional responsibilities of the county government, this new responsibility has over the years come to consume a significant amount of the county's resources and jurisdiction. In recent years the state has added further responsibilities to county government, including care services to the aged, such as home-help; mental health/mental retardation programs; and job training and employment programs.

The structure of the Lycoming County government is nearly as it was in 1940, except for the substitution in 1947 of a county controller for auditors. Along with the expansion of county government has come the creation of several county authorities or boards which oversee the construction and operation of county facilities. These include the Airport Authority and the Recreation Authority. The Recreation Authority operates the White Deer Golf Course and is a joint Authority of the county and City of Williamsport.

With the passage of the 1937 Institution District Act, the county built its own poor home in Loyalsock Township, aided by WPA workers. The home opened in March, 1937, and was located on a farm where some of the home's food was produced. The home was named "Lysock View" and is today, as a result of expansion, the residence of several hundred patients, mostly elderly and physically disabled. The emphasis at Lysock View has changed from a work center to medical and nursing care for the needy.

Whereas in 1937, Lysock View was the largest part of the county's welfare program, today it is a relatively small part of all the social and health services provided by county government. Most of these programs are funded or initiated by state or federal legislation for which the county serves as the dispensing agent. There are very few individuals or families that do not today benefit in one way or another from these county programs.

DISTRICT MAGISTRATES

The judicial and criminal investigative functions of county government are still among its most important. Along with changing the method of retaining incumbent common pleas judges, however, the revised Pennsylvania Constitution also significantly reorganized the local judicial system. The justices of the peace were eliminated and in their place were established larger magisterial districts according to population. Each district elects a single justice of the peace or district magistrate who serves as the judicial officer of the state with jurisdiction over all civil and criminal cases of a minor nature originating within his district. The magistrates are elected for a six-year term and must undergo a specified course of training in legal and judicial matters. There are five magisterial districts in Lycoming County--two in Williamsport and three in remaining areas of the county.

The first of the new district magistrates were elected in November, 1969, and took office January 1, 1970. Another judicial reform was the abolition of the grand jury in Lycoming County. As of January 1, 1976, a prosecutor can take a case to trial after the judge at the preliminary hearing has granted permission. The advantage of this reform is the time and money it saves, in that a grand jury is not needed to bring an indictment. Instead, the judge or magistrate at the preliminary hearing merely decides whether the evidence against the accused is sufficient to warrant a trial.

MAJOR POLITICAL CONTROVERSIES

Williamsport and Lycoming County have not been without their major political controversies. Two of the more heated ones occurred within the City of Williamsport and arose over voter displeasure with the activities of various arms of government. A major battle ensued in 1967 when the Williamsport Area School Board unveiled plans for a new high school estimated to cost \$10 million. At about the same time the School Board was forced to propose an increase in the personal tax to finance a deficit in the school district budget of over \$200,000. Not long thereafter, the cost estimate for the new high school was

increased to \$14 million, setting off a wave of citizen protest in the Williamsport area and within the Williamsport City Council.

Meanwhile groundbreaking for the new high school took place on July 14, 1967. On July 20, 1967, the Williamsport City Council voted unanimously for a resolution asking the state legislature to pass a bill limiting school district spending on capital projects not authorized by public vote. Following this action, a citizens' group was formed calling itself "Citizens Responsibility Committee." The committee circulated a petition collecting 5,682 names opposed to the cost of the high school; the group filed suit in the County Court to enjoin the School Board from proceeding with its plan.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL

The citizens' group complaint to the court stated that the School Board was preparing to issue bonds worth \$29 million, not including interest. This amount was to go toward construction of the high school, the purchase of 60 school buses, salaries for bus drivers, and the purchase of large amounts of land for the high school (148.09 acres altogether). The group also complained that the bond issue would be the largest for any school district in the state and that as a result, taxes would rise beyond the ability of many people to pay them.

In its reply the school board and authority stated that the citizens' group had not accurately stated the case. The real cost of the high school, including interest, was set at \$16.3 million, not \$29 million. The School Board also said that it planned to buy 22 new buses, not 60. In so far as the land purchases were concerned, the School Board replied that only enough land was condemned to provide adequately for the high school facilities, including parking facilities and athletic areas. Objections to the land acquisitions were complicated by the fact that the property of one of the leaders of the citizens' group had been condemned for access to Fourth Street from the high school drive.

Finally, in December, 1967, Judge Thomas Wood ruled in favor of the school district on both parts of the taxpayers' suit. In the Judge's opinion, the citizens' group had not demonstrated that the School Board and Authority had abused their discretion in either the cost of the proposed high school or in the acquisition of land. Despite the Judge's ruling, however, the construction of the high school was delayed still longer due to appeals by the citizens' group to the State Supreme Court and an attempt at appeal before the U. S. Supreme Court. Both attempts failed.

Due to the long delays in getting construction underway, the cost of the high school building increased from \$14 million to \$15 million. It was not until January 3, 1972, that the new high school was finally occupied by teachers and students. Williamsport High School alumnus John Huffman designed this unique building, which consists of separate self-contained "little school" units for each of the three grades. These are connected to a central hub which then leads to separate facilities for physical and health education, the library, science laboratories, homemaking, special education, business education, the industrial and fine arts, and a 1,600-seat auditorium.

Finally, after many obstacles and road blocks, including the taxpayers' lawsuits and a strike by construction workers, the new Williamsport High School was dedicated in May, 1972, replacing a badly crowded and obsolete building, which was then sold to the Williamsport Area Community College for refurbishing as an academic center.

THE FLUORIDATION CONTROVERSY

At about the same time as the high school dispute, another controversy preoccupied Williamsport--the fluoridation of the municipal water supply. Fluoridation was initiated in 1966, by order of the Williamsport City Council and the Williamsport Municipal Water Authority because of its proven benefits to children's teeth. This action sparked considerable resistance in the wider community and on the City Council, itself. Many citizens objected to fluoridation on the grounds that it violated freedom of choice.

By 1970, the anti-fluoridation group on the Water Authority had gained the upper hand and during a sudden vote on the matter, the Authority rescinded fluoridation by a majority of one vote. Many pro-fluoridation residents of Williamsport and other municipalities served by the city's water system were greatly upset by the Authority's action. Because the action violated the procedures of the Pennsylvania Department of Health which should have granted permission for the termination of fluoridation, it, too, objected.

In consequence, both the State Health Department and a group of seven local citizens sought a court injunction to prevent the Authority from ending fluoridation. Judge Thomas Wood ruled in favor of the Department of Health stating that it and not the Water Authority had ultimate jurisdiction over matters of community health, and that the Authority, thereby, had no legal right to end fluoridation unilaterally. The Judge thus permanently enjoined the Water Authority from removing fluoride from the drinking water, and the fluoridation of Williamsport's water supply continues to this day.

The controversies over the high school and fluoridation, while eventually settled in the courts, were issues for voters long after the court had ruled on them. The failure of Judge Thomas Wood to gain retention is attributed partially to his decisions in these two cases--decisions which many voters disliked and cast their ballots against in 1973. This is one example of how politics affects government. While the courts are believed to be above politics, the rulings of judges very often have highly political consequences without ever intending to do so. Thus, government and politics are part of the same democratic process whether it takes place at the national, state or local level. The history of Lycoming County has in recent years offered ample illustrations of this democratic process at work.

QUESTIONS CHAPTER 10

1. Describe membership trends in the major political parties of Lycoming County.
2. List state and national lawmakers that have represented Lycoming County since the early 1950's.
3. Name judges that have served the county since the early 1950's.
4. What changes were brought about in Williamsport city government by adoption of the Strong-mayor form of government?
5. What new responsibilities were added to county government by the Institution District Act of 1937?
6. In what other ways has county government been expanded?
7. List some of the county's political controversies and scandals.

Chapter

11

TRENDS IN RELIGION

As in most areas of the country, religion in Lycoming County is a diverse phenomenon reflecting various cultural, ethnic and social backgrounds. The religious mark of the original Anglo-Saxon and Western European settlers of the county is still reflected in the Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptist, Episcopalian and Roman Catholic denominations. These were the first religious bodies established in Lycoming County, some dating well back into the 18th century. Another religious group stemming from European roots and established early in the county is the Salvation Army, long highly regarded for its work among the destitute.

Today, these same denominations remain at the heart of religious belief and practice in Lycoming County, despite the growth of newer peculiarly American religious groups, such as the Assemblies of God, the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the Christian Scientists, the Church of the Nazarene, the Disciples of Christ, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and others (including a number of independent fundamentalist congregations).

Lycoming County also has several Eastern Orthodox congregations. The Greek Orthodox have long held services at Christ Church in Williamsport. Recently the Orthodox Church in America began holding weekly services in the city. Though the county's Orthodox population is small, a number of local converts have helped to increase their numbers. The Jewish faith is represented in Lycoming County by two synagogues in Williamsport: the Congregation Ohev Sholom--part of the Conservative branch of Judaism--and the Temple Beth Ha Sholom--a member of Judaism's Reformed branch.

EVENTFUL YEARS FOR THE CHURCHES

The years since 1940 have been eventful ones for the churches of Lycoming County. Along with several denominational mergers, a few churches have closed, a few congregations have merged, and a number of completely new congregations have come to life.

Among those churches which merged were the Mulberry Street and Market Street Methodist churches in 1963; the formation of the Wesley Methodist Church resulted. The old Mulberry Street building was sold to Faith Tabernacle which occupied it until it burned in 1973. The new Methodist congregation worshiped in the old Market Street building until a new church building was erected several years later. Another merger brought into being the Church of The Savior on Grier Street in Williamsport. This congregation is composed of the former Salem and St. John's Evangelical Lutheran

churches. The St. John's church building was retained for the new congregation; the Salem building is now occupied by the Salem Assembly of God Church. Then in 1976, Williamsport saw the merger of the churches of St. John's United Church of Christ and the Immanuel United Church of Christ. The new congregation is named New Covenant United Church of Christ and is located in the former Immanuel church building on East Third Street. The former St. John's building was sold to the American Rescue Workers as the location of their Williamsport headquarters.

The largest churches in the county to close since 1940 were the St. John's Episcopal Church in South Williamsport in 1952, and Bethany Presbyterian Church on Green Street, Williamsport, in about 1960. Both of these congregations had experienced a steady decrease in membership up to the dates of their closing.

DENOMINATIONS MERGE

The one denominational merger with the greatest impact in Lycoming County was that of the former Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church in 1968. The new denomination was named the United Methodist Church, and is the largest Protestant denomination in Lycoming County. In some instances where former Methodist and E.U.B. churches existed within a few yards of each other (as for example in Salladasburg), the two congregations merged. In other instances yoked parishes were formed under a single pastor, as in Jersey Shore with the former Epworth Methodist and Trinity E.U.B. churches. Because the E.U.B. and Methodist churches were nearly identical in doctrine, polity and worship, the merger was a relatively smooth one, despite the realignment of many rural charges within the county.

NEW CONGREGATIONS

Perhaps the greatest development in religion in Lycoming County since 1940 has been the formation of entirely new congregations. The Methodist and Presbyterian churches each opened a new church in the Faxon/Loyalsock Township region. The Faxon-Kenmar United Methodist Church on Sheridan Street and Clayton Avenue was organized in the mid-1940's and broke ground for its new church building in 1948.

The Northway United Presbyterian Church on Northway Road was organized in 1959 and broke ground soon afterwards. Both churches today are flourishing congregations. The other major denomination to start new congregations in the county is the Roman Catholic Church. Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Montoursville was originally a mission of the Church of The Resurrection in Muncy. The first service of Our Lady of Lourdes was held in 1941 in a house on



CONTEMPORARY CHURCHES
(clockwise)

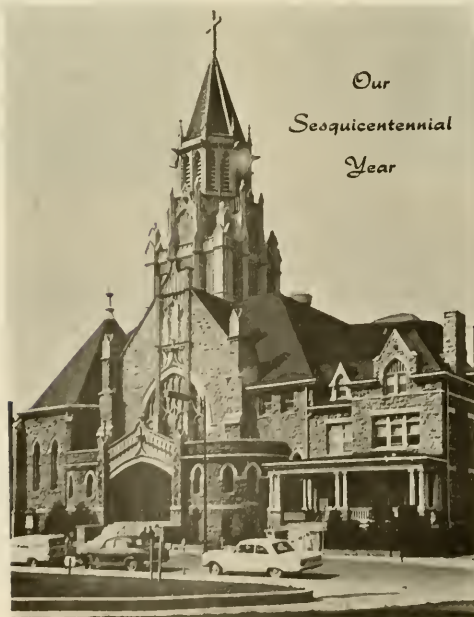
St. Luke Lutheran, Williamsport;
 Our Lady of Lourdes R.C., Montoursville;
 Northway U. Presbyterian, Loyalsock;
 St. Mark's Lutheran, Williamsport;
 Trinity Gospel , Williamsport
 St. Boniface R.C., Williamsport.





*St. Boniface Church
(1874-1972)*

Former Saint Boniface Church



*Our
Seasquicentennial
Year*

Former Pine Street Church

Fairview Drive. The new church building on Walnut Street was dedicated in 1966, and is an interesting example of modern church architecture. Begun as a mission of Our Lady of Lourdes Church was St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church in Faxon on Northway Road, organized in 1942. Its new building was dedicated ten years later in 1952.

Apart from these few examples, many of the new congregations established in the county belong to denominations not existing here prior to 1940. For example, the first Assembly of God Church in the county was originally a Pentecostal Church on Moore Avenue, Williamsport. It joined that denomination in 1947. Today there are three Assembly of God churches in the county. The first Church of the Nazarene to open in the county did so in 1950 in Williamsport; a second opened about 1956 in Jersey Shore. In 1955 the first Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, or Mormons, established a permanent congregation in the county; today there are two--one in Williamsport, another in Hepburnville.

-Another phenomenon has been the growth of independent congregations not affiliated with any of the major Christian denominations. The Emmanuel Baptist Church on Four Mile Drive, Tabernacle Baptist Church on West Third Street, Trinity Gospel Church on Elmira Street, the Church of Salvation on West Fourth Street, and Maranatha Bible Church near Linden are examples. Faith Tabernacle in Williamsport was founded before 1940 but has grown considerably since then; it purchased the former Elks Club building on West Fourth Street in 1971 to house its expanding ministry. The ministry of all these new churches is intensely evangelistic, with a great stress placed upon Sunday School, as attested by the buses many of them use for transporting children.

DIVERSIFICATION IN RELIGION

The single most predominant characteristic of religion in Lycoming County since 1940 has been its diversification. There are more varieties and types of religious groups existing here today than there were then, and this despite the moves by major denominations toward unity and common action. The historical roots of this trend toward diversification lay in the American character but are not for analysis here. Rather, Lycoming County, like all other regions of the country, has been touched by the growing pluralism of religious groups and the enthusiastic proselytizing which marks so many of them. Accompanying this quality has been the individualism and suspicion of hierarchical structures notable especially among the independent churches.

RURAL CHURCHES

Since Lycoming County is primarily rural in character, rural churches continue to play an important part in its religious life. Many of the rural churches established in pioneer days still survive as witnesses to the religious faith of the early settlers. These include churches of most all of the major denominations. Innumerable wooden frame and brick houses of worship dot the countryside, standing valiantly against all the perils and dangers threatening their existence. Though many of them have fallen victim to declining membership and financial stress, others continue to survive, usually as part of a larger "charge" or "circuit" which the minister visits each Sunday, holding services in two or three churches successively. This, too, is a reminder of the days when the pioneer circuit riding preachers traveled many miles each Sunday to proclaim God's message. Thus, while today most worshipers go to the preacher, there remain outposts of the church where the preacher still goes to the worshipers.

"ECUMENISM"

Despite the religious diversity of Lycoming County, some efforts are being made to de-emphasize differences between denominations and to foster cooperation and understanding between them. "Ecumenism" is the word which describes such efforts. For many years Protestant pastors of various denominations have organized into cooperative groups or "ministeriums." Such organizations exist in many boroughs of the county, as for example, Hughesville and Jersey Shore. These associations give ministers the opportunity to work together on matters of common interest. In some towns, Roman Catholic priests have joined the ministerium, providing an even broader ecumenical outlook.

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

In January, 1946, the Williamsport Council of Churches was formed. Originally involving only Protestant churches in Williamsport, the organization grew in membership over succeeding years and the name was changed to the United Churches of Lycoming County. Currently, the United Churches has a membership of forty-five congregations throughout the county, including one Roman Catholic parish.

The United Churches was not formed as a mechanism for creating one large church, but rather "to promote the cooperation of the churches, foster Christian movements and community betterment, and to advance the Kingdom of God throughout the world."

Functions of the United Churches of Lycoming County have

included providing worship services and counseling for local nursing homes and the county prison; a radio ministry over two local radio stations; a ministry to migrant workers in the county; money raising projects for Church World Service which funds famine and disaster relief in stricken parts of the world. The United Churches also sponsors "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF" at Halloween. Thus, the United Churches of Lycoming County makes it possible for churches cooperatively to provide services and programs they would be unable to provide alone.

The work of the United Churches of Lycoming County is extended through its auxiliary group known as Church Women United in Lycoming County. This group is composed of a committee of women, each of whom represents one of the major Christian denominations in the county. The primary function of Church Women United is charitable rather than social. Three times a year--in March, May and November--Church Women United holds special county-wide events when women from many churches participate in such projects as filling Christmas stockings for residents of the institutions and nursing homes in the county or in raising money for local and world-wide human relief efforts. Another charitable religious group is B'nai B'rith, a Jewish organization which has a local chapter. This group is devoted to raising money for charitable causes of a local and world-wide concern.

OTHER ECUMENICAL GROUPS

Other ecumenical groups in the county include the local chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, an organization which seeks to foster understanding between these two major religious bodies in our country. Then there is the local Christian Women's Club, founded in 1968 and affiliated with a larger national organization. The club meets for a luncheon in Williamsport once a month to hear a religious speaker, and for entertainment. The group is open to all women interested in Christian fellowship. The primary mission project of the national organization, which the local group supports, is to provide funds to keep village churches open in remote regions of the country.

One of the oldest ecumenical groups of lay people in the county is the Friday Night Club which has met at the Young Men's Christian Association in Williamsport since 1926. In that year the Billy Sunday revival in Williamsport resulted in many conversions to the Christian faith. The Friday Night Club was founded at the YMCA after the revival to provide a time for Christian men to study the previous week's Sunday School lesson. After about a year, the club added a dinner and guest speaker following the Sunday School lesson. During the Depression the meal was so cheap and well prepared that the regular attendance climbed to over

200. The club continues to meet two Friday nights a month from October through April, using the same traditional program.

Perhaps the most unusual ecumenical organization in Lycoming County today is the Yokefellows, an affiliate of Yokefellows International. The Yokefellow Center for Pennsylvania was opened at the First Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ) on Almond Street in Williamsport in 1972. The Rev. John Mostoller is its director. The Yokefellows is a loosely organized group of Christians of many denominations who personally commit themselves to some form of Christian discipline, witness, ministry and fellowship. The Yokefellows have no regular meetings or membership rolls, though the Yokefellow Center does provide retreats, counseling, a book store and other social and spiritual resources oriented towards personal growth for use by individuals and organizations.

One increasingly important aspect of the Yokefellows work has been the establishment of Yokefellow Spiritual Growth Groups in prisons and correctional institutions, with emphasis on the personal renewal and spiritual development of prison inmates through a "redemptive fellowship." Such Yokefellow groups have been established in Lycoming County at the Muncy State Correctional Institution and the Allenwood Federal Prison Camp. Local Yokefellow participants have volunteered their time to work with these prison groups.

The Yokefellow prison ministry is concerned not only with prisoners while they are inmates but also with their successful return to society upon completion of incarceration. Halfway houses for such individuals are being set up throughout the country to aid prisoners in their transition back into society. The Yokefellows have also become involved in penal system reform and the improvement of correctional methods.

CHURCHES FACE DISASTER

The churches of Lycoming County have faced their share of tragedy and disaster. At various times floods have ravaged church buildings, inflicting heavy losses on hard pressed congregations. The 1946 and 1972 floods were especially cruel to many churches in the county. Even more destructive than the floods have been the church fires. Two devastating fires ruined major and beloved Williamsport churches in 1972 and 1977.

Early on the morning of December 5, 1972, St. Boniface Roman Catholic Church on Washington Boulevard, a large red brick structure, was gutted by fire. All that remained was

a charred, hollow shell. The fire, attributed to internal causes, was discovered in the early morning hours by several Lycoming College students, but too late for the building to be saved. Immediately after the fire, activity got underway for construction of a new church on the same site. In 1975, just 100 years after the destroyed building was dedicated, the new St. Boniface Church was given its blessing. The architecture of the new church, with its modern design and sweeping lines, was a radical departure from the traditional cruciform style of the former building.

A second major church fire struck Williamsport early Sunday morning, February 13, 1977, when the Pine Street United Methodist Church across from the old City Hall on Pine Street, burned to the ground. Hundreds of people attempted a close look at the fire and had to be kept back by police to protect them from flying debris when the enormous church steeple and cross collapsed into a formless pile of rubble.

The same morning another fire was discovered and contained in a chapel at Trinity Episcopal Church on West Fourth Street; damage there was minor. Both church fires were attributed to arson. The famous grey, stone pseudo-gothic Pine Street Church was utterly destroyed and the adjoining parsonage was damaged beyond repair. Despite this extraordinary loss, the congregation of the Pine Street Church voted in September, 1977, to continue its ministry and to build a new church on the same site.

CHURCHES SUBJECT TO EVENTS

Like all other institutions, the church is subject to the vicissitudes of events. During World War II, for example, attendance in Sunday Schools in the county declined noticeably as hundreds of young men left the county for wartime activities. More subtle social changes also affect religious institutions. From 1926 to 1949--a period of depression and war--church membership in the United States increased 51.5 percent, while the nation's population rose only 30 percent, according to statistics of the National Council of Churches. By the late 1950's and early 1960's, this trend reversed and church membership in the major denominations declined.

The prosperity of the 1950's and 1960's gave rise to leisure activities which diverted people from the churches. Also, a loosening of social habits and attitudes, especially among the young, has created a disaffection in many people for organized religion. On the other hand, the same social trends have caused other people to seek refuge in the security of fundamentalist churches whose theological and moral positions reject modern attitudes.

The economic downturn of the 1970's has been felt by the churches. Inflation has eaten heavily into church budgets, while giving has not managed to keep pace. Thus, the church and religious bodies of whatever persuasion face many challenges today, and those in Lycoming County are not exempt from these trends. Even though these changes in the social, moral and economic conditions of our modern world affect the status and strength of the church, its position as a continuing part of life in Lycoming County is in little doubt.

QUESTIONS CHAPTER 11

1. Describe religious trends that have taken place in Lycoming County since the 1930's.
2. What evidence of "Ecumenism" exists in Lycoming County?
3. Tell how disaster has struck some churches.

Chapter 12

SPORTS AND LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

BASEBALL

Williamsport played minor league baseball in the Eastern League from 1940 to 1976 with the exception of 1943, 1957, and 1969 through 1975. Being the smallest city in AA Baseball, it was a distinction to be a member of the Eastern League, the top of the minor leagues. From 1938 to 1970 the headquarters of the Eastern League was in Williamsport, making it the hub of the league. From 1968 to 1972, Williamsport dropped to a lower classification league, the New York Penn League.

Williamsport was a farm team for the former Philadelphia Athletics, the former Washington Senators, the Detroit Tigers, the Pittsburgh Pirates, the Philadelphia Phillies, the New York Mets, and the Cleveland Indians. From 1968 to 1972, the New York Penn League sponsored the farm teams of the Houston Astros and the Boston Red Sox. The teams were brought to Williamsport through the Baseball Corporation of Major League Baseball. Bowman Field makes Williamsport one of the few cities in the United States with a baseball park designed exclusively for baseball.

BASKETBALL

The only professional basketball team to play in Williamsport was the Williamsport Billies that played Eastern League professional basketball in Williamsport for 18 seasons (two years constitutes a season) from 1947-48 to 1963-64. Games were played at Curtin and Roosevelt Junior High Schools and the Williamsport Area Community College's Bardo Gym. Professional basketball was brought to Williamsport by Paul Green who owned the team until 1955 when it was sold to William Pickelner. After the 1964 season the team was disbanded due to dwindling interest in the games. William Pickelner still owns the franchise for the team.

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

In midsummer of 1938, Carl E. Stotz was playing baseball with his two nephews James and Harold (Major) Gehron in the yard of his half-double house on Isabella Street in Williamsport. As Stotz attempted to field a ball, he tripped on a newly-cut lilac bush, hurting his ankle. Resting on the steps of the half-double house, Stotz asked his nephews if they would like to play with real bats and balls and uniforms. The boys were enthusiastic and the idea for Little League Baseball was formed. Several evenings later Stotz and a group of neighborhood boys went to Memorial Park which is now known as the birthplace of Little League Baseball--and began to scale-down the dimensions of a baseball diamond to

a boy's size.

Stotz walked the streets of Williamsport, approaching 56 local businessmen before Floyd Mutchler of the Lycoming Dairy finally contributed \$30 to sponsor a team. Lundy Lumber Company and Jumbo Pretzel Company then also contributed. Stotz bought playsuits at Kresge's for \$1.29 each and a dozen balls for \$2.00. Over the first year Little League had exceeded its income of \$131 by eleven dollars. Stotz made up the difference. The first official game was played between Lycoming Dairy and Lundy Lumber Company on June 6, 1939.

On March 7, 1940, the first constitution of Little League Baseball was signed by Carl Stotz and three other managers and co-founders: Bert Bebble, George Bebble, and John Lindemuth. The wives--Grayce Stotz, Eloise Bebble, Anna Belle Bebble, and Margaret Lindemuth--also signed.

By 1946, there were 28 teams in seven leagues in Pennsylvania. The following year Stotz organized a tournament among teams from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The Little League was growing too fast for Stotz and volunteers to manage so he approached the U. S. Rubber Company to sponsor the teams. In 1948, the U. S. Rubber Company contributed more than \$5000 and backed a larger tournament. Nationwide publicity through newsreel and national magazines shot the number of teams to more than 500 in 22 states. By 1953, there were 11,496 teams in 46 states. Hundreds of magazine articles appeared quoting experts about the merits and demerits of Little League Baseball.

The organization was growing fast. In 1950, Stotz was made the first paid commissioner of Little League Baseball. He traveled over the entire nation organizing Little League teams. In that year, Little League Baseball became a corporation. Around this time, very deep philosophical differences developed between Carl Stotz and Little League, Inc. Differences festered until in 1955, Stotz filed a writ of foreign attachment against Little League Baseball, Inc. to prevent the New York-based business from leaving the state. Stotz also filed a \$300,000 law suit against the business charging breach of contract. In the face of a countersuit, Stotz dropped his suit against Little League, Inc. and ended his affiliation with the organization.

In 1959, the 10,000 seat Lamade Field in South Williamsport was opened. During Little League World Series, another 15,000 to 20,000 people sit on the banks surrounding the stadium.

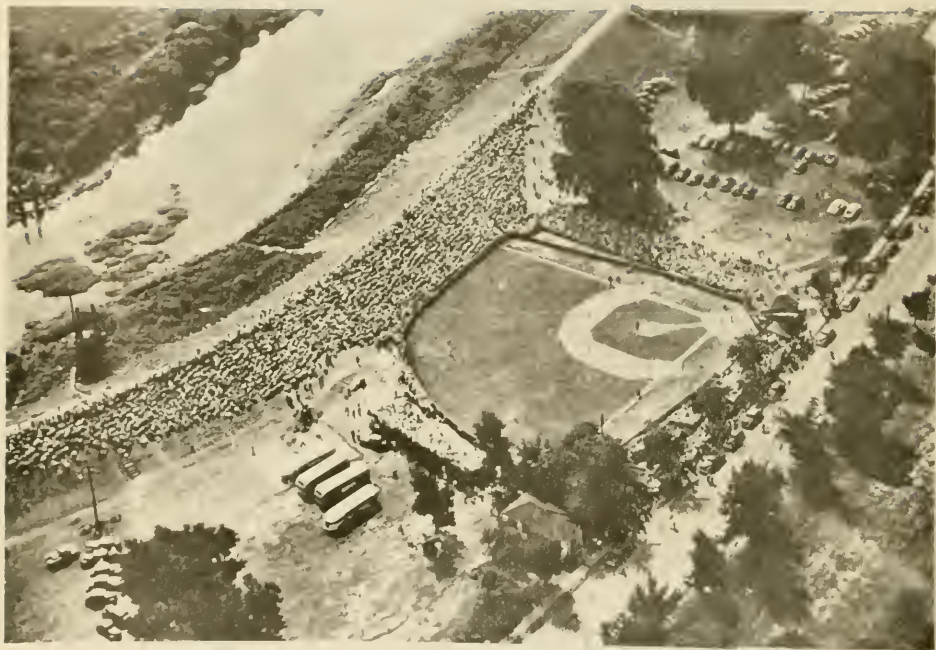
In 1974, girls across the country petitioned in courts to be admitted to Little League teams. Little League, Inc.



First Little League Baseball
Board of Directors, 1950
Seated L to R: Charles Durban, Paul Kerr,
Carl Stotz, Ford Frick, Tommy Richardson;
Standing L to R: John Lindemuth, Bernie
O'Rourke, Howard Lamade, Ted Husing, and
Emerson Yorke.



Lamade Field



Final game -- 1949 Little League World Series

refused to admit girls saying it was in violation of the federal charter which allowed boys to play. After much petitioning and court action, the girls were finally admitted to the League under an amended charter in 1974. The same year softball teams were organized which siphoned off the girls from hard ball teams. The softball leagues were 99 percent female in 1977 while the hardball teams were one percent female.

Stotz's earlier fear that the World Series would become political began to materialize in 1964 when Little League Baseball, Inc. was granted a federal charter giving tax-exempt status. In return, the organization was to act as a goodwill ambassador from America promoting good relations among nations. At the 1974 World Series violence erupted between American and Nationalist Taiwanese from China. Little League Baseball, Inc. banned Taiwan from playing in the World Series in 1974 in an effort to calm internationalism but a public outcry followed, charging that the ban was aimed at ending Taiwan's four-year winning streak. The ban was rescinded in 1975.

Little League Baseball now has 11,000 leagues in 31 countries, another 5,000 leagues for older boys, and a growing number of softball teams, totaling 1,500 in 1977.

In May of 1974, the Little League diamond at Memorial Park was renamed the Carl E. Stotz Field. The following year Stotz was inducted into the West Branch Chapter of the Sports Hall of Fame and the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame for founding Little League Baseball.

QUESTIONS CHAPTER 12

1. What professional sports teams have played for William-sport?
2. Who founded Little League Baseball and in what year?

Chapter THE ARTS

13

When one thinks of Lycoming County and its resources for leisure and pleasure, one most normally associates it with hunting, fishing and other outdoor sports and recreations. But the arts, including music, theater, the visual arts, and literature have contributed to the quality of life in the county virtually since its founding. Among its artistic heritage, the county claims credit for several well known musicians and artists who were either born here or who lived and worked here over the years.

The hymnals of our churches, for example, have been greatly enriched by the works of James M. Black, who wrote such favorites as "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" and "When the Saints Go Marching In." Mr. Black moved to Williamsport in 1881 from New York state and lived here until his death in 1938. Another hymn writer who lived in Williamsport was The Rev. Dr. John Henry Hopkins, rector of Christ Episcopal Church from 1876 to 1887. He wrote the world famous Epiphany hymn, "We Three Kings of Orient Are."

WILLIAM CLIFFORD HEILMAN

A more recent composer and native of Lycoming County was William Clifford Heilman, son of Abraham and Catherine Heilman who owned the Heilman Furniture Company in Montoursville, and for many years, a retail furniture store at West Third and Pine Streets in Williamsport. William Clifford Heilman was born in Williamsport in 1877 and died in 1946. He was well known as a professor of music composition at Harvard University from 1905 to 1930. Among his students were Walter Piston, Arthur Mendel, Randall Thompson and Virgil Thompson, all famous composers. Mr. Heilman composed music for piano, voice, chamber instruments and orchestra. As part of Williamsport's Bicentennial celebrations, a group of local artists performed a concert devoted entirely to Mr. Heilman's compositions. Works for chorus, piano, violin and violoncello were performed in several different combinations.

OTHER WILLIAMSPORT COMPOSERS

Williamsport has been the home of two modern composers of church music. Frederick Snell, a native of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, served for many years as director of music at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Mr. Snell published works for choir, organ, and piano, and wrote numerous articles on church music for a number of musical journals. A native of Williamsport, Dixie Wilhelm, has published many sacred choral pieces and has served numerous churches in Williamsport as organist and choral director.

Besides church and classical music, Williamsport has produced a composer of popular music and songs in Richard Wolf, a graduate of Williamsport High School and Lycoming College. Mr. Wolf has had a varied career as a song writer, producer of records, band leader, author and performer. Among Mr. Wolf's hit songs are "Go Buy the Ring" and "After School." Many of Mr. Wolf's songs have been recorded. He was a top song writer for Nat King Cole and worked with Arthur Godfrey, Mary Martin, the Kingston Trio, and Danny Kaye, among others. Today Mr. Wolf is a free-lance song writer, performer and author, and lives at Point Pleasant, Pennsylvania.

THE REPASZ-ELKS BAND

Much of the musical history of Lycoming County is centered in Williamsport which is the birthplace of the Repasz-Elks Band, the oldest continuously existing band in the United States. Founded in 1831, the band is referred to as the "Grand-daddy of American Bands." Originally named the "Williamsport Band," it was renamed the "Repasz Band" in 1859 as a tribute to its revered leader from Muncy, Daniel Repasz. The band was distinguished in its early history when it played for the Whig convention at Baltimore in 1841 at which Henry Clay was nominated for president. During the Civil War the band enlisted as a group in the Union Army. During much of the war, the Repasz Band was part of the Eleventh Regiment Infantry. The band was at Appomattox when Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Grant.

From 1903 to 1912, the band was the official band of the Pennsylvania National Guard. In this capacity it played at the presidential inaugurations of Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft. In 1917, the band went to France with the Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment. Among the significant directors of the band was the nationally known cornetist, John Hazel, who took over that post in 1910. He played for a time in John Philip Sousa's Band.

In 1936 the Repasz Band merged with the Williamsport Elks Band. Renamed the "Elks-Repasz Band," it performed for all Elks functions along with other community events. In about 1960 the Elks Club was forced to end financial support for the band, though the band continues to perform at Elks' functions. Upon termination of Elks Club support for the band, it was renamed the "Repasz-Elks Band" and has retained this name to the present.

The national fame of the band was due partially to the "Repasz Band March," composed in 1896 by one of its members, Charles C. Sweeley. Upon the 100th anniversary of the band in 1931, the "Repasz Band March" was performed over the radio by the United States Marine Corps Band. The Repasz-Elks Band remains active to this day and performs for many

public functions throughout the region.

The band currently has about 60 members under the direction of George Calapa and Albert J. Nacinovich. A few years ago the band voted to admit women players, which added considerably to its membership. One of the band's most recent projects was initiated in 1962 by its business manager, Earl Williams. Area high school band members were invited to attend a Repasz-Elks Band rehearsal for an evening of fun. From this developed an annual "Youth Concert" held in the Brandon Park bandshell on the second Tuesday of June. Band students from schools and colleges from throughout the region participated as players, and these concerts lasted until 1966.

THE IMPERIAL TETEQUES BAND

Another local band active over the last 20 years is the Williamsport Consistory Band, begun in 1957 under the direction of J. H. Campbell. In 1962 Donald C. Berninger became director. The band was formed to provide entertainment for Consistory members, though today, its 64 members include non-Masons. In 1963, the band took the name of the old "Imperial Teteques" Band of the late 1800's and early 1900's. The Williamsport Imperial Teteques were the original all-Masonic music organization in the U. S. and were known throughout the country. By World War II, the only function of the original Teteques was to escort each trainload of draftees to the Park Hotel Station. In 1944 it disbanded.

From its first public performance in the early 1960's, the new Masonic band performed to consistently large audiences in the Roosevelt Junior High School auditorium. In 1967 the new Scottish Rite Auditorium was completed, providing 1,200 seats. Since then, the Consistory band, along with numerous other local and outside groups, has used the Scottish Rite Auditorium to great advantage.

WILLIAMSPORT DANCE BANDS

In the 1920's, Williamsport spawned one of the top three dance bands of the period: The Dave Harman Orchestra, which ranked in importance with the Paul Whiteman and Fred Waring bands. Dave Harman's band originally got started in 1920 when it played at the Danso Dance Hall above the Keystone Theater (later the State Theater) on Third Street. In 1924, the group went to New York City where it played for two years at the Cinderella Ballroom. After that, it toured leading hotels around the country under the management of the Orchestra Corporation of America. The Dave Harman Orchestra was one of the first bands to broadcast--initially over station KDKA in Pittsburgh. The band also made

numerous recordings with Edison, Columbia, and Gennett (Victor subsidiary) recording companies. Symbolic of the band's stature were the gold instruments it purchased, the only band to do so except for Fred Waring's.

The Dave Harman band was a forerunner of several other dance bands that got their start in Williamsport. Joe Vannucci of the city played for Dave Harman from 1923 to 1926. Later he formed his own band which came to be a big favorite on college campuses around the state. Many of Joe Vannucci's pieces and arrangements were published and recorded. He died a premature death at the age of 34.

Other local dance bands of the period included the George Lewis Dance Orchestra, which played at the Sunset Park Pavilion many times during the mid-1930's. Sunset Park was an amusement park situated just north of the city along Lycoming Creek. Then there were the Capitolians which played regularly at the Capitol Theater and for local dances. During the 1940's several men, including Gerry Kehler, Bill Seitzer and Roy Griess formed a band which played at the Teen Canteen, later renamed Handy Haven, located in the former Blackstone Garage at the corner of Hepburn and Lycoming streets. Though this group played for many high school and college dances around the region, none of the band members made a living at it. In the 1950's the Johnny Nicolosi Band was popular throughout the area. This band had a trailer and traveled a two-hundred-mile radius in Pennsylvania and New York, playing at colleges, country clubs and private parties.

THE WILLIAMSPORT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

From time to time efforts were undertaken in Williamsport to establish a symphony orchestra for the performance of classical music. The first such orchestra was organized in 1915, and performed its first concert on May 20th of that year. The conductor of the orchestra was E. Hart Bugbee, who for many years owned a violin shop in Market Square and gave violin lessons. The symphony orchestra was active about ten years and gave regular concerts annually. Over the years, Mr. Bugbee also conducted the regional Works Projects Administration orchestra during the Depression, and revived the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra in the late 1930's, which then survived until 1945. Mr. Bugbee also directed the Elks Chorus for 16 years and later, the Elks Club Band. Finally, he directed the third Williamsport Symphony Orchestra for a short time after the death of its conductor, Osborne Housel.

After 1945, interest in a local symphony orchestra remained strong. In 1947 the music department of the Williamsport Area School District conducted a survey in the city and

discovered enough public support to launch a third orchestra. In response, the school district sponsored the project as an adult education program and provided all the equipment. The first rehearsal was held February 20, 1947, with Osborne Housel, the high school band leader, serving as conductor.

Later, Frank Ziegler and Mr. Housel sought to rally greater community support for the orchestra by forming the Williamsport Symphony Society to secure patrons for concerts and to provide other types of assistance. The orchestra's first concert was held November 30, 1948, when it performed Hayden's "Surprise Symphony," just as the first Williamsport Symphony Orchestra had done at its initial concert 33 years before.

During its ten years or so, the orchestra performed four or five regular concerts each season. It brought many well-known guest artists to Williamsport and provided a chance for local soloists to gain experience. As services to the community, the orchestra held regular Sunday afternoon young peoples' concerts, provided scholarships for orchestra members for further training, and offered free summer concerts in the Brandon Park Bandshell. Except for the brief period under the baton of E. Hart Bugbee, the short but auspicious life of the orchestra came to an end soon after the death of Mr. Housel in 1957.

OTHER INSTRUMENTAL GROUPS

Several smaller instrumental groups specializing in classical music have existed in Williamsport, the oldest one being the Brahms Trio, begun in the 1920's. Since then, the personnel has changed, along with the instruments used. The cause of instrumental music in Williamsport gained much from the Williamsport High School Orchestra and Band, in which many local musicians got their start.

In 1914 the supervisor of music in the Williamsport schools, Mrs. Lillian M. Reider, founded the Williamsport High School Orchestra. Then in 1925 Mrs. Reider organized the high school band, which continues in existence to the present. When these groups first started rehearsing, there were such complaints by high school teachers about the noise, that the band and orchestra were forced to rehearse in the Parish House at Trinity Episcopal Church. With the death of Osborne Housel in 1957, the high school orchestra disbanded

In 1977, the Williamsport Area School District under its music supervisor, Dr. Kenneth Raessler, launched a return of the student orchestra to the high school. An ensemble of fifteen string players was formed. As these students and others progress, it is hoped that a full orchestra will come

into existence.

The Lycoming College Band, having had numerous predecessors in the junior college days, was formed in 1948 by James W. Shaeffer who still teaches at the college. The band currently is directed by Dr. Glen E. Morgan and makes an annual tour outside the state.

Though Williamsport no longer has its own symphony orchestra, a regional orchestra, known as the Susquehanna Valley Orchestra, was formed in 1966 by several residents of the Lewisburg/Selinsgrove area. Membership in the orchestra is open to all residents of the Susquehanna Valley, regardless of age or occupation. Currently, fall and spring concerts are held in Williamsport and Lewisburg, along with regular Children's Concerts.

CHORAL GROUPS

Though instrumental music may have occupied a larger share of the spotlight in the county, choral music has always been popular in the area. Numerous public and institutional choruses have existed throughout the county over the years, from the Oratorio Society in the 1890's to the Civic Chorus of the present. This is in addition to the numerous church choirs which have contributed much to the high standard of choral music in the county.

The oldest choral group in the county today is the Harmonia Gaesang which was founded in 1892 by John Fischer, as an offshoot of the Turn Verein. Originally, the Turn Verein was an acrobatic group within the German community of Williamsport. It later changed to a male chorus and sang only German songs. In 1960, the Turn Verein finally came to an end.

Both the Turn Verein and Harmonia Gaesang started doing non-German pieces in the early 1900's when the younger members no longer spoke German. At its beginning, membership in the Harmonia Gaesang was restricted to members of St. Boniface Church. This regulation was eventually dropped. Today the Harmonia Gaesang has a large non-singing membership, along with its 30-member male chorus and a separate female chorus. Occasionally, the two choruses combine as a mixed chorus when participating in the annual state-wide Sangerfests. Their current director is Thomas H. Shellenberger, under whose leadership the groups have won many competitions.

Of considerable importance to choral music in Williamsport since 1944, has been the Civic Choir, whose name was changed in 1977 to the Civic Chorus. The Choir was founded by Walter G. McIver, who along with his wife Beulah, came to Williamsport in 1941 to hold a summer choir school at the

invitation of Dr. Frederick Christian, then pastor of Covenant-Central Presbyterian Church. In 1942, the McIvers returned to Covenant-Central as ministers of music. They continued the summer choral school which lasted for about ten years and was so popular that a year-round Civic Choir was formed.

Two of the most memorable concerts of the Civic Choir were when the choral group joined with the Lycoming College Choir and the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra to perform Handel's The Messiah at Christmastide in 1948 and 1949. The orchestra and 250 voices performed to an audience of nearly 3,000 in the Capitol Theater the first year and to a capacity audience in the Williamsport High School gymnasium the second year.

Musicals and operettas sparked programs of the Civic Choir in the 1950's and 1960's. Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Mikado" and "Iolantha" and the Broadway shows of "Finian's Rainbow" and "Brigadoon" were well-attended. Mr. McIver and his successors, Jay Stenger and Paul Ziegler, served as musical directors of these. Drama director was Mrs. Miriam Hunter. Playing to sold-out houses in December 1952 and 1953 was the Civic Choir's production of "Amahl and The Night Visitors" by Menotti that featured William McIver, boy soprano and son of Walter and Beulah McIver, in the title role, with his own mother playing the role of Amahl's mother. Today, under the direction of Thomas Gallup, the Civic Chorus continues to maintain a strong choral tradition in Williamsport.

As well as initiating the Civic Choir, Walter McIver, after joining the Lycoming College faculty in 1946, brought into being the Lycoming College Choir. Under Mr. McIver's tutelage, the college choir gained a reputation for excellence which was demonstrated in many parts of the country during the choir's annual tours, begun in 1947. The choir toured the British Isles as well in 1957 and 1974. Upon Mr. McIver's retirement in 1976, Dr. Fred Thayer became the director of the Lycoming College Choir.

THE "SINGING MAYOR"

In 1940 Williamsport elected a new mayor, Leo C. Williamson, who quickly gained a reputation as the "singing mayor." During his first year in office, Mayor Williamson initiated a community sing program in Brandon Park, which then became a popular annual tradition and lasted into the 1960's. Each summer, the mayor led thousands of people in singing old favorites. Many who participated derived a great deal of pleasure and looked forward to the annual event.

Mayor Williamson also initiated annual music citations which

he gave to three or four individuals each year who contributed to the enrichment of music in Williamsport. The citations were primarily the mayor's own doing. They were discontinued after Mayor Williamson left office in 1951, but were renewed for several years when Mayor Thomas Levering came to office in 1956. After leaving office in 1951, Mayor Williamson remained active in musical circles until his death in 1957. His fame spread, and in 1953, he led the singing for a birthday party in honor of President Dwight Eisenhower at the Hershey Arena.

MUSICAL PERSONALITIES

While the Williamsport High School most always had a choral program of one sort or another, its modern choral program began in the early 1920's under the hand of Miss Emma Kiess. Then from 1925 to 1956, Miss Kathryn Riggle was director of the high school's choral department. Upon her retirement, Miss Louise Stryker became choral director. Miss Stryker retired in 1978 after teaching music in the Williamsport schools for over 40 years.

Among some of Williamsport High School's better known musical products was Elaine Shaffer, perhaps the world's most highly regarded flautist until her death in 1973. Her last concert in Williamsport was given in 1971 at the Scottish Rite Auditorium. She was accompanied by pianist Hepzibah Menuhin, the sister of the famed violinist Yehudi Menuhin.

Another Williamsporter achieved notoriety at the early age of ten when he performed Amahl in the National Broadcasting Company's television production of "Amahl and The Night Visitors" by Menotti, sponsored by Hallmark. Boy soprano William McIver performed the title role in this Christmas production for four consecutive years, from 1951 to 1954. Today, William McIver is a professor of music at the University of North Carolina.

A graduate of Williamsport High School and Lycoming College, Marianna Ciraulo has gone on in the musical world to become a singer with the New York City Opera, among other accomplishments.

The cultural and artistic life of Lycoming County and Williamsport has benefited greatly over the last fifty years from the annual Community Concert Series, founded in 1928. Williamsport was one of the first cities in the country to adopt the community concert idea for bringing noted performers and musical ensembles into the city for concerts. A subscription drive is held annually in March when subscriptions for the coming season's programs are sold. Past Community Concert programs have included such performers as

Yehudi Menuhin, pianist Rudolph Serkin, the Trapp Family Singers, the Boston Pops Orchestra, and the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra.

The Williamsport Music Club is another organization which has advanced the cause of music in Williamsport since 1937. Its members offer performances and/or discussions each month of different musical pieces. Each Christmastide the Music Club sponsors a community candlelight service in a local church. This event that features the Juvenile and the Junior Music Clubs, as well as the Senior Ensemble and soloists, has become an annual tradition which is anticipated by the community.

THEATER IN LYCOMING COUNTY

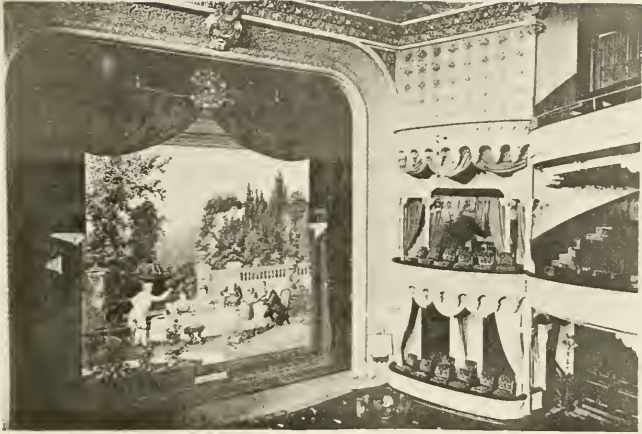
Besides music, another branch of the performing arts is theater, to which are closely linked ballet and opera. Theater in Lycoming County has a long history. In the late 1800's, not only Williamsport, but several of the county's boroughs had opera houses, including Muncy and Montgomery. Traveling opera companies performed in them, providing some of the only professional entertainment available in those days to small towns and rural areas.

Williamsport has had a series of opera houses and musical theaters since 1868 when the Ulman Opera House opened in Market Square. Traveling opera companies and musical groups performed there regularly, with the Irish tenor, Fritz Emmet, among the most popular performers. The Ulman Opera House closed in 1874 and was overshadowed for several years before that by the Academy of Music, which opened in 1870 in the Elliott block at the corner of Fourth and Pine streets. The Academy, too, was a center for traveling musical groups of varying reputations and ability.

Then in 1892 the Lycoming Opera House opened on Third Street east of Laurel Street. The performers there were also traveling professionals, though occasionally extra parts were available to members of the community. Both musical and dramatic groups performed there, offering a diversity of entertainment. In 1903 Fred M. Lamade purchased the Opera House and remodeled it to return it to its original standard.

John Philip Sousa's band performed frequently at the Lycoming Opera House until it burned in 1915. The Repasz Band used the Opera House to store its equipment and lost it all in the tragic fire. It was upon the same site that the Keystone Movie House (later the State Theater) was built. This was finally torn down in 1978 to make way for a parking lot.

In 1907 Mr. Lamade built another theater, The Family Theater,



Interior of Lycoming Opera House



Octoberfest, Williamsport Area High School

on Pine Street. In 1917 the name was changed to the Majestic Theater, then to the Karlton in 1937. The Majestic showed the first silent movies in the area. Occasionally, vaudeville productions were offered. Towards the end of the theater's life, the Community Concert Series held its subscription concerts there. In 1952 the Karlton was razed to make room for a parking lot--one of the first in Williamsport--because the theater had become a losing financial proposition.

Throughout the years, the junior and senior classes of area high schools have presented dramas and musicals that have provided not only a vehicle for young talent but also entertainment for the community. At the Williamsport High School Mrs. Edith Mann directed the plays of the 1930's and 40's with Miriam Leshner Hunter, Eugene McCramer, and Paul Jones directing in the late 1940's through the 70's. All except Mrs. Mann, who was a private elocution teacher of the community, were or are teachers of the English department of the school. Until the impact of television was felt in the 60's, full houses attended the plays.

John Ulmer, an alumnus of the high school, has been an actor, teacher, writer and director in many areas of the country. For six years he served as a director of Stage West in Springfield, Massachusetts. He also was a television actor and founded the Carnegie-Mellon Theater Company while teaching at Carnegie-Mellon University. Mr. Ulmer currently lives in New York City and directs plays in regional theaters throughout the country.

AMATEUR THEATER

The dramatic arts in Williamsport have more recently depended upon the talents of community amateurs. With the demise of the theaters which catered to the touring musical and dramatic groups, amateurs took to the stage. The exception today is the Capitol Theater which now offers its facilities for touring artists. In the early 1930's, probably the first amateur theater group in Williamsport, called the Williamsport Community Players, was formed. The group performed in the Memorial Park playhouse until the mid-1930's when it disbanded. After World War II, another amateur group, the Lycoming County Playhouse, presented plays in the old South Williamsport Junior-Senior High School on West Central Avenue. This group offered productions during the summers of 1946 and 1947.

In 1948 radio station WRAK initiated Williamsport's first locally produced dramatic radio broadcasts. The broadcasts, known as Studio Playhouse, were produced one or two times a month for two years. After the disbanding of this group, several of its members created another dramatic group known

as the Thespians. This group, too, lasted for only a short time.

Today, Williamsport is the home of three theatrical groups and a theatrical workshop. The current Williamsport Players was organized in 1958 and incorporated in 1959. Originally, the group had 22 members. It gave its first production in May, 1960, in Courtroom No. 1 of the old Lycoming County Courthouse. The first play was entitled "The Night of January 16," which called for a courtroom setting. The drama organization has performed three productions per season ever since, and added a summer production in 1978.

In 1962 Lycoming College became the home of the Summer Arena Theater, which drew its performers both from the college and from the community. It was also Williamsport's first theater-in-the-round. The name of the group was changed to "The Arena Theater" in 1965. By 1966 the new Academic Center at the college had been completed, including the new theater and stage which are designed for theater-in-the-round productions. Charles W. Raison, a dramatics instructor at the college, was instrumental in the development of the Arena Theater. In 1970 Dr. Robert Falk succeeded Mr. Raison.

Today the Arena Theater performs four major plays per season, along with several student productions and one-man shows. Three to five plays are performed in the summer season, including musicals, comedies and dramas. As in the past, the Arena Theater continues to draw upon talent from the larger community to enhance its productions and dramatic capabilities.

In 1969 James Symmons founded the Drama Workshop, which he still directs. Funded through the National Endowment for the Arts, the Drama Workshop is an educational theater program and offers training to high school students, college students and adults in all facets of theater production, from acting to lighting. This aspect of the program is held in the summer months, when up to five performances are given. These performances include dramas, comedies and musicals. A junior high program in theater was initiated in the summer of 1978, which also concludes with a performance. In the fall and winter the Drama Workshop takes its training program to the Muncy Correctional Institution and the Allenwood Federal Prison Camp.

The Community Theater League is the newest of Williamsport's theatrical groups. Organized in 1976, it aims to provide educational and performance experience through its theater workshops and four seasonal performances. The League performs in-the-round as a way of promoting audience participation. The most unusual performance its first year was

called "Christmas Madrigal" which recreated the setting of an actual Middle Ages dinner using the music, food and dance of the period. This was held at the Genetti-Lycoming Hotel in December, 1977.

An unusual theater program for children ages eight to fifteen was sponsored by the Junior League of Williamsport from the early 1960's through the mid-1970's. Mrs. Miriam Hunter, now speech and drama teacher at the Williamsport High School, served as director of the program. Each summer about fifty children participated in the program which had both an educational and recreational goal. After several weeks of classes at Pine Street United Methodist Church, the children put on a main performance for the community at Lycoming College. From the summer group of children, a cast was chosen to present productions during the school year to schools in Williamsport and neighboring districts. Many children and teenagers received a satisfying introduction to theater and the arts through this program.

A Williamsport native and former student of Mrs. Hunter, Rudy Caringi, has gone on to gain distinction in the world of theater as an actor, playwright, and director. Mr. Caringi has had his shows produced off Broadway and has won a Cannes Festival award for a short drama. Occasionally Mr. Caringi returns to Williamsport to help with local theatrical productions.

The art of ballet has come to Williamsport and Lycoming County with the establishment of the Williamsport Civic Ballet Company in 1962 by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Enterline. The intention of the company is to promote an understanding of ballet in the region and to provide the serious dancer with a professional atmosphere in which to study, work and perform. The Ballet Company offers two programs: a senior ballet for ages 14 and up and a junior ballet for elementary school children. The company performs 12 to 20 times a year, doing both classical works and many one-act original ballets. Students in both the senior and junior ballets are employed in the performances, at which outside guest dancers occasionally make appearances.

THE "SUMMER CULTURAL SERIES"

Apart from the organized performing arts groups in the county, numerous special arts and recreational programs are available to area residents during the summer months. The Williamsport Summer Cultural Series, sponsored by the Williamsport Recreation Commission--a joint venture of the city and the Williamsport School District--was an outgrowth of the Community Sings begun by Mayor Leo C. Williamson in the 1940's. In 1961 the Community Sing format was altered to a concert program, with performances in

Brandon Park by the Consistory Choir and the Elks-Repas Band, among others. In following years the program grew to include a series of summer-long activities based in Brandon Park. There were dramatic productions, displays of arts and crafts, organ recitals, and local talent shows. In 1968 the cultural series took on an ethnic flavor with the presentation of the first six-weeks ethnic festivals. Each Wednesday for six weeks a different ethnic group took the spotlight in Brandon Park. The food, dress and cultural heritage of each group was highlighted. The idea of the ethnic festivals came from Dr. Robert Byington, then a professor at Lycoming College. He coordinated the ethnic series for several years until leaving the region in 1971. The Williamsport Recreation Commission and the Williamsport Foundation each contributed half the cost of the series.

From 1971 to 1977, Miss Doris Heller served as coordinator of the Summer Cultural Series. A decision was made to depart from the ethnic program in view of the difficulty of securing presentations of ethnic groups not associated with Lycoming County. There was also a desire to generate more local involvement in the cultural series. To this end the "Our Town" series was launched, with stress on local participation and talent. Brandon Park was used, along with the downtown area of the city and Memorial Park. The first "Our Town" series in 1971 featured a local adaptation and presentation of Thornton Wilder's famous play of the same title, "Our Town."

Since then, each Summer Cultural Series has offered a variety of programs for the entire community. Home Talent Days were begun in 1973 and have proven popular ever since. Area residents are encouraged to perform, whatever their talent--whether singing, banjo playing, or even spoon playing. Ho-Made Day was initiated in 1974 so that residents can display and offer for sale all sorts of home made items, from cakes to cribs. There have been various arts shows and competitions from year to year. In 1977 an opera workshop was held with area residents participating in both training sessions and performances of excerpts from four different operas. The Summer Cultural Series remains a part of Williamsport's effort to provide cultural enrichment and recreation to its residents. Other boroughs of the county offer similar programs, including Loyalsock Township, South Williamsport, Jersey Shore, Muncy and Hughesville.

THE GREATER WILLIAMSPORT COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

The 1960's saw the creation of an important organization concerned with the development of the arts, and in turn, the quality of life and commerce in Williamsport and Lycoming County. It is the Greater Williamsport Community

Arts Council. The idea of an arts council was first conceived by the Williamsport Chamber of Commerce. Similar groups had gained acceptance in many parts of the country as a means to promoting industrial and commercial development through improving the image of the community.

The person most responsible for the successful creation of Williamsport's arts council was Barnard Taylor, at the time a local graphics designer. Mr. Taylor began in 1960 by seeking the support of prominent local businessmen, lawyers, bankers, teachers, doctors and others. These people formed into a committee to advance the arts in Williamsport. The committee approached the Junior League of Williamsport for \$3,000 to hold the first arts festival. Once this was achieved a sub-committee or "round-table," of various artists and arts groups was formed to begin planning for the festival. The first festival in 1960 was organized by Lee Taylor, Mr. Taylor's wife.

The 1960 Festival of the Arts was centered around an exhibit of works in the Lycoming College gym by both local and outside artists. Along with the exhibit, several well-known artists from large cities were brought in to give lectures on the arts and present exhibits of their own works. An orchestra was formed; workshops in the arts were held; dance, musical comedies, plays and concerts were performed by local groups. The *New York Times* even gave the festival coverage, and a popular film was made of the festival by several local individuals. The first Festival of the Arts proved a huge success in view of the long hours of work and effort that many groups and individuals put into it.

The arts festival became an annual event. Different formats have been used since, including the first month-long arts festival in 1971 in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts. In 1973 the first October Festival of the Arts was held on the grounds of the Williamsport Area High School. This event was co-sponsored by the Arts Council and the Art Department of the Williamsport Area School District, whose supervisor, Dr. June E. Baskin, has annually coordinated the event. The October Festival, or October Fest as it is called, has included the display of arts, crafts and photography, as well as performances of dance, music and drama, with added features for children.

Along with the various arts festivals, the Greater Williamsport Community Arts Council has sponsored or co-sponsored numerous concerts, recitals, exhibits and special lectures over the years, including the performance of mime by the masterful Marcelle Marceau; a performance by the Pennsylvania Ballet; and the last Williamsport appearance by Elaine Shaffer. Artists who have lectured here under the Arts

Council's auspices include Scottish ballerina Moria Shearer, and former Williamsport resident Yvonne Young Tarr, who is the author of, among other things, cookbooks, plays and songs.

Financial support for the Arts Council comes from various sources, including private contributions and grants from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. The council remains active in various cultural endeavors in the region, such as the October Festival and the current project of historical research.

OTHER ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Since about 1940, the artistic value and importance of hand-crafts has come to be widely recognized. This is apparent in the growing interest in such skills and in the increasing incidence of crafts shows. Another indication is the growing membership in arts and crafts organizations.

One of the first such groups in the county was the Sketch Club in Williamsport which organized about 1930 when several people got together to do sketches and paintings and criticize each other's work. In 1931 Mr. George Eddinger joined the group as an instructor. He taught the group at a variety of locations, ending up at his studio on Trinity Place. In 1967 Mr. Eddinger gave up classes to move to Florida. The Sketch Club then incorporated as the West Branch Art Guild, continuing to lease the Trinity Place studio from the Pennsylvania Railroad. Mr. Eddinger returned to the area after several years and resumed instructing the group in the basement of Trinity Church where they had moved in 1974.

Another local artists' guild, devoted primarily to hand-crafts such as weaving and pottery, was founded in 1949 through the efforts of Mrs. Marie Winton, a local weaver. This group is the Williamsport Chapter of the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen. The state-wide guild was founded in the early 1940's to advance the cause of the arts and crafts and to provide educational and economic opportunities for its members.

In 1946 the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen held the first State Craft Fair at Millersville State College. The Williamsport Chapter, which includes people from all over the northcentral region of Pennsylvania, has sponsored an annual Christmas Crafts Bazaar where its members can display and sell their goods; it also sponsors crafts shows at various places in the area, such as the Center City Mall. At the Guild's monthly meetings, presentations and demonstrations of various crafts, as well as workshops in crafts techniques, are part of the agenda.

One of the most recently organized and active arts associations in the county is the Bald Eagle Art League. In 1972 a group of individuals founded the League to promote "...the growth and enjoyment of the visual arts within the area, including but not limited to interests in painting, drawing, sculpture, graphics, and crafts." As its first president, the League elected Horace Hand, a local artist who gained notoriety from his illustrations of county churches which appeared on the cover of the Williamsport Sun-Gazette's Christmas Eve issue for 22 successive years. Mr. Hand died suddenly in 1977, just several days after his twenty-second church illustration appeared on the Sun-Gazette cover.

The Bald Eagle Art League after six years has a membership of about 200 persons from as far away as York, State College and Hazelton, Pennsylvania. Regular monthly meetings are held September through June when artists and craftsmen demonstrate their skills. Occasionally, color slides are used to illustrate major points. One goal of the League is to support existing arts programs in the area rather than set up competing ones. The League held its first Regional Art Exhibition in 1976. Public service projects of the League have included donating books to the art book collection of the James V. Brown Library and hanging the works of League members in patients' rooms at the Williamsport Hospital.

FAMOUS LYCOMING COUNTY ARTISTS AND WRITERS

Williamsport and Lycoming County have contributed their share of artists to the artistic world in the last one hundred years, beginning in the 19th century with Severin Roesen, one of the world's greatest still life painters, to the present renowned Unityville artist David Armstrong, who specializes in pictorial realism and rustic settings. Though neither of these men was born in Lycoming County, both chose to settle here.

Between Roesen and Armstrong, the most prominent artists of Lycoming County have been the realist painter John Wesley Little (1867-1923), who had his home and studio in Picture Rocks; Williamsport-born George Luks (1867-1933), also a realist, who won fame for his paintings of people, such as one entitled "The Miner," now in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C.; and the painter and illustrator of children's books, Frances Tipton Hunter (1896-1957), who also designed covers for many magazines, including Red Book, Cosmopolitan, and The Saturday Evening Post.

In 1959 the Williamsport Creative Writers Forum was organized, giving the county its only organized writers' group. Eight individuals responded to a Sun-Gazette advertisement

placed by Raymond C. Young, with the purpose of establishing such a group for aspiring writers. Today, the group consists of about 40 writers, who meet monthly to write and discuss one another's work. The group also holds an annual luncheon meeting at which guest speakers are invited to offer their views and advice on issues pertaining to writing.

One of the most widely known members of the Williamsport Creative Writers Forum was H. Beam Piper (1904-1964), writer of science fiction books and stories. His work was published in all the science fiction magazines in the U. S., as well as general interest periodicals, and in anthologies of science fiction in several countries. Born in Altoona, Pa., Mr. Piper settled in Williamsport in 1957. Several of his published stories were set in Lycoming County. Mr Piper was one in a succession of local writers of notoriety. As far back as the 19th century, Mahlon Fisher (1810-1874) wrote and published sonnets. His own publication "The Sonnet," was the only periodical in the country devoted to this type of poetry.

Williamsport and Lycoming County were also home to the famous writer of books on hunting and fishing, John Alden Knight (1891-1966). As one of the first persons inducted into the Hunting and Fishing Hall of Fame, Mr. Knight wrote more than 12 books and 500 magazine articles, as well as a syndicated weekly newspaper column for hunters and fishermen.

Mr. Knight's most important contribution to the sport of fishing was his development and publication of the Solunar Tables, which indicate at a glance the best hour to go fishing on any particular day of the year. The Tables are based on the effects of the movement and phases of heavenly bodies, especially the moon, upon fish.

After Mr. Knight's death, his son Richard published the tables up to the time of his own death. Richard Knight's wife Jacqueline, who lives near Montoursville, continues to publish the Solunar Tables, and is, in the Knight family tradition, the writer of a syndicated column of fishing, hunting and conservation. She is probably best known for her cookbooks, which include a "Cook's Fish Guide" and the "Hunter's Game Cookbook."

Political writer and humorist James C. Humes is a native of Williamsport; he served as its representative in the Pennsylvania General Assembly from 1962 to 1964. In 1969 he became a speech writer for President Richard M. Nixon, and later for President Gerald R. Ford. Mr Humes authored a history of Williamsport for its sesquicentennial in 1966, entitled "Sweet Dreams." His most recent book is "How to Get Invited to the White House (and over One Hundred

Impressive Gambits, Foxy Face-Savers and Clever Maneuvers)."

FILM-MAKING IN LYCOMING COUNTY

Lycoming County has never been the setting of a major motion picture. During World War II, however, Williamsport native Hugh MacMullen directed the filming of a Navy training film here. The film was entitled "Combat Fatigue: Irritability Syndrome," and dealt with the psychiatric problems of men in combat. Gene Kelley starred in the film, and in one scene, was thrown out of the Old Corner Hotel at Willow and Court streets for striking the bartender. Unaware that this was only a staged incident, some people spread the rumor that the actor had actually taken part in a barroom brawl.

After a career in teaching, film-making and directing in California, Mr. MacMullen returned to Williamsport and was the first chairman of the English department at the Williamsport Area Community College. Mr. MacMullen has made several documentary films in the Williamsport area, including one for the Lycoming County Crippled Children's Association, entitled "Report to the Charitable"; it won the Harkness Award for the best public service film in 1959. Mr. MacMullen also made a film about the first Williamsport Festival of the Arts.

The "arts" cover a wide spectrum of creative skills and activities, from violin playing to film-making to cooking. Lycoming County, despite its justified reputation as a sportsman's paradise, is also a place where in the past and present, the arts prosper, owing to the concern, dedication and talent of local natives and residents. Though several renowned artistic personalities have chosen Lycoming County as their place of residence, the flow of talent has not occurred on a one-way street.

Many county natives--products of its schools--have made significant contributions to the artistic life of the nation and world. And on a smaller scale, the amateur and semi-professional artists of Lycoming County are the mainstay of its continuing cultural vitality. For a region of some distance from large metropolitan areas, Lycoming County is blessed with many cultural advantages--much of it home-grown.

QUESTIONS CHAPTER 13

1. List composers from the county and the type of music for each.
2. List the various concert bands that have been important in the county. Name persons associated with some of these.
3. What dance bands have been outstanding?
4. List some of the classical performing groups.
5. Identify choral music groups of the county.
6. Who was the "Singing Mayor"?
7. What organizations have promoted music in the county?
8. What have been some of the landmarks in music history?
9. Name theatrical groups or persons producing dramatic arts.
10. Describe the work of the Williamsport Recreation Commission toward the arts.
11. What other organizations and persons have promoted the arts?
12. List the county's painters.
13. List writers.

Chapter 14

OUR COUNTY'S LANDMARKS--HISTORY IN WOOD AND STONE

Williamsport and Lycoming County are well endowed with splendid historical and architectural landmarks which serve to remind us of our cultural past--a past that is richer and more varied than many counties can boast and than many residents of the county realize.

The so called "Millionaires Row" on Fourth Street in Williamsport is a legacy of the days when lumber and its wealth brought forth an architectural oasis in the midst of the mountains of central Pennsylvania. Numerous churches stand as witnesses to the county's religious past--the Quaker Meeting House at Pennsdale, Christ and Trinity Episcopal Churches in Williamsport, and the First Presbyterian Church in Jersey Shore are among many examples. The municipal buildings of the past were designed not only to serve practical needs but also to provide a chance for architects and the community to create something of lasting artistic value and dignity. The Williamsport City Hall on Pine Street and the former Post Office, soon to become the City Hall, are examples of municipal buildings designed to symbolize the functions they served. But apart from the houses, churches and buildings which belong to the county's past, there are three covered bridges and even the site of an old tree to remind county residents of their heritage.

THE LYCOMING COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Since 1804, anyone who has spoken of the Lycoming County Courthouse has meant one of three different buildings which has occupied the same site over the years. The present glass and brick structure is the third in a series of county courthouses. Each of the courthouses has been significantly different from the previous ones in architectural style. The present Courthouse, with its modern functional design is in striking contrast to its predecessor, a towered Victorian edifice of great dignity and strength.

Though the "new Courthouse" (as it is still referred to by many local residents) was opened in 1971, stirrings for its construction were heard as far back as the 1930's. About 1940, the county commissioners appointed a five-member Lycoming County Authority to arrange financing for a new Courthouse. However, World War II brought a halt to the movement which never got off the ground again until the 1960's. Different sets of plans for a new Courthouse were drawn up in 1948 and at various times in the 1950's; none was accepted.

While the stalling and hesitating went on, the old Courthouse was inadequately maintained so that considerable deterioration resulted. The delapidated condition of the

building later added weight to the argument that renovation of the old Courthouse would prove too costly. Then by the 1960's the growth of county government had produced a critical shortage of office space; something had to be done. Possible actions included renovating the existing Courthouse and acquiring additional space in adjacent buildings; renovating and enlarging the Courthouse; or replacing the Courthouse with a completely new building.

In July, 1966, the county commissioners retained architectural consultants from New York City to study the above options. Eleven months later in June, 1967, the Lycoming County Authority endorsed the recommendation of the consulting firm to build a new courthouse. In August, 1967, the county commissioners also agreed to the recommendation, and the Williamsport architectural firm of Wagner and Hartman Associates was engaged to design the new building. A \$3,500,000 bond issue was floated by the county to finance the construction, and the old Courthouse was abandoned. The old building finally succumbed to the demolition team in May, 1969, over 30 years after the idea of a new Courthouse was first raised.

For many county residents the demise of the old Courthouse was a sad event, which even got coverage in a New York Times article by Ada Louise Huxtable, the Times architectural critic.

The demolition of the old Courthouse marked the severing of a visible link with the past. Such links are valuable sources of stability and serve more than mere sentimentality in an age fraught with change and upheaval. To others, the old Courthouse, while not an architectural masterpiece, nevertheless represented a classic specimen of mid-19th century American architecture. It possessed a quiet beauty which invited the eye to examine its hidden qualities more closely.

The Victorian design was the work of Philadelphian, Samuel Sloan, most celebrated of America's mid-19th century architects. The building was 100 years old in 1960. When plans for replacing the old Courthouse were in the works, citizens' groups, including the Williamsport Community Arts Council, petitioned the Lycoming County Authority to retain the old Courthouse as a landmark. All efforts to save the Courthouse eventually failed and the building's end was assured.

The conflict between progress and preservation is always difficult to resolve. Both concerns may appear equally valid to the disinterested bystander. Those espousing practical considerations in the Courthouse issue prevailed over those espousing aesthetic and historical considerations. The result was the construction of a not unpleasant edifice,



Former Lycoming County Courthouse



Former Williamsport City Hall



Former and present Market Street Bridges



Covered bridge at Buttonwood

but one designed primarily to satisfy functional needs. Indeed, the design of the new Courthouse makes fullest possible use of the space available on the site. The five-floor structure provides ample space for all the county offices along with extra rooms for some state governmental bureaus.

THE LYCOMING COUNTY JAIL

Williamsport and Lycoming County are privileged to possess several other fine public buildings whose very stones bespeak the region's past. The very austere, almost fearsome, appearance of the county jail is enough to encourage would-be offenders to respect the law. The rear portion of the jail at Third and William streets in Williamsport dates from 1799, the year of George Washington's death and just four years after Lycoming County was created. The front portion, resembling a European castle, was rebuilt by Edward Havilland of York after a fire in 1868.

The future of the jail is very much in doubt. Public officials are reluctant to employ public funds to renovate or maintain such an old building; private concerns usually are unwilling to risk large amounts of money in restoring such structures for use in commercial purposes--exceptions to this rule among others are the Squire Hayes Homestead on Lycoming Creek Road which is now a bank, and the large grey stone house designed by Eber Culver at 835 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, which houses a law firm. The county jail has had a long and even legendary history. What verdict it finally receives must await the return of the jury called fate.

THE WILLIAMSPORT CITY HALL

Also of uncertain future is the old Williamsport City Hall on Pine Street. Soon to be abandoned by the city government, this late Victorian structure is listed on the Federal Registry of Historic Buildings. The 1966 National Historic Preservation Act prohibits the use of federal funds to raze or destroy any building so listed. This, however, does not prohibit the use of private money for such purposes.

City Hall was the last of numerous architectural works by Eber Culver, the most prolific of Williamsport's 19th century architects. Culver's imprint is stamped throughout the city in buildings such as the former Park Hotel, now the Park Home; the Peter Herdic house at 407 W. Fourth Street; Trinity Episcopal Church tower and the Weightman Block at West Fourth and Campbell streets, to mention a few.

Culver's architectural style was eclectic, much in the manner

of other American Victorian architects. Several different styles of design are visible; for example, the old City Hall building on Pine Street includes neo-Gothic and Romanesque features. Eber Culver was brought to Williamsport by lumber magnate Peter Herdic to serve as his personal architect. In the long run, Culver's influence on Williamsport was nearly as great as his auspicious patron who died penniless.

Built in 1893, City Hall is located on a patch of land given the city in the early 1800's by its founder, Michael Ross. The plot was originally used as a cemetery, though most of the graves had been moved to the Wildwood Cemetery by 1850. In moving the graveyard, many of the bones were placed in a wheelbarrow and transferred to Wildwood where they were buried in a single grave. After the graveyard disappeared, the site was variously used as a park and then a rubbish dump, until the city chose it as the site for City Hall.

In February, 1975, two old headstones, along with two grave markers and unmarked slabs were found beneath the City Hall lawn. One of the headstones bore the inscription: "In memory of Amariah Rathmell, who Departed this life on July 14, AD 1838, aged 77 years, four months and 11 days." This would have placed his birth in 1761. It is known that Amariah Rathmell was a pioneer of Loyalsock Township. How his headstone got left under the lawn of City Hall is not altogether clear, but its discovery did remind local residents of a long forgotten period in the county's history.

OTHER IMPORTANT PUBLIC LANDMARKS

The list of important public landmarks must also include the former Williamsport Post Office Building. Like City Hall, the Post Office is listed on the Federal Registry. In 1970, when it was threatened with possible removal for construction of the new Federal Office Building, a campaign to save the Post Office was organized by the Lycoming County Historical Society. Over 6,000 signatures were collected on a petition, and the threat was routed. Today the Post Office is being converted into the Williamsport City Hall. The old Post Office, built in 1888, was designed by W. A. Farret. The building contains many fine interior features, including a grand staircase.

Yet another county landmark of similar importance is the James V. Brown Library building which was built in 1904 of local marble. This imposing white structure was the work of Philadelphia architect, Edgar V. Seeler. The French Renaissance style is Classical in character and adds an aura of learning and wisdom to the library's atmosphere.



Pennsdale Meeting House



Park Home

THREE COVERED BRIDGES

Though they may predominate, buildings are not the only structures of architectural or historical value in the county. The county still claims three covered bridges which point to the charms of a former though difficult era. Larry's Creek, Blockhouse Creek and Little Muncy Creek each are spanned by one of these picturesque flashbacks to rural 19th century Lycoming County.

The oldest of them is the Larry's Creek bridge near White Pine. Ninety-two feet long, it was built in 1877, after a petition was sent to the county commissioners requesting that such a bridge be provided. The farmers, lumberworkers and other inhabitants of the region believed that a bridge would greatly ease the transportation of goods across that busy section of Larry's Creek.

Similar circumstances played a part in bridges being built at Buttonwood and Lairdsville. The Buttonwood bridge is 69 feet long. According to one source it was erected in 1878 or 1879. The longest of the remaining covered bridges is near Lairdsville. It is 98 feet long and was erected in 1898. All three covered bridges are in useable condition and are under the care and protection of the county commissioners. Their rustic beauty is a definite historical asset to the county and well worth preserving.

THE MARKET STREET BRIDGE

Another bridge has figured significantly in the region's history--the Market Street bridge. Prior to 1849, the river crossing at Market Street consisted of flatboats. In 1849, the first bridge opened there and was a wooden covered bridge of spring arch construction. A toll was charged to help maintain the structure, which was owned by a private company.

The fate of several Market Street bridges was presaged when the first one was washed away in the St. Patrick's Day Flood of 1865. A wire suspension bridge was built as a replacement; it opened December 1, 1865. This bridge was dismantled in 1886 and replaced by a new iron bridge, later a victim of the 1889 flood. After the 1889 flood the iron bridge was replaced in 1890 by an iron bridge erected atop the piers of the unfortunate former bridge.

Until 1891 the Market Street bridge was operated by the Williamsport Bridge Company which charged a toll in order to turn a profit. Then in that year the county commissioners purchased the bridge and the toll was removed. In 1894, the third Market Street bridge to be claimed by flood waters was washed away. Once again the intrepid bridge builders

erected a replacement--this time a two-lane, five-span truss type bridge. Finally, a bridge of sufficient strength and durability had been constructed on that spot, as the new bridge stood the test of time for 57 years, eventually to die of natural causes in 1951.

Many county residents still fondly recall this interesting bridge with a slight crook in its middle. But though two lanes were the newest thing in 1894, by the 1940's the traffic congestion got to be too much for the old bridge to handle. The present four-lane deck plate girder bridge was built as a replacement in 1950. In 1951, the old Market Street bridge was disassembled and for the most part forgotten.

THE PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

In 1977, the Planning Commission of Lycoming County adopted a Comprehensive Plan for future development which includes a section on historic preservation. Nearly 350 buildings, sites and landmarks are listed in the Historic Preservation report. Any site so listed is deemed of sufficient historic value that utilities and public authorities are required to notify the Planning Commission before tampering with them. All the above mentioned structures--except the Market Street bridge--are listed on the report.

The only landmark listed on the report which does not even exist within the boundries of Lycoming County is the Tia-daghton Elm. Unfortunately, this long revered symbol of American independence expired after an onslaught of Dutch Elm disease in 1974.

Famous as the site where the Fair Play Men signed their own Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, the Jersey Shore Rotary Club has for many years sponsored a July Fourth ceremony there. The stately old elm, said to have been 500 years old at its death, was actually located in Clinton County at the mouth of Pine Creek. An old story, however, suggests that the roots of the tree stretched into Lycoming County. In 1976, a Bicentennial impression of the tree was placed on the stamp of the first-class envelope sold by the U. S. Postal Service. At the site of the tree, a stone monument was erected after the tree was removed in 1975.

THE "HOUSE OF MANY STAIRS" AND "LOCKABAR"

The Historic Preservation survey of the County Planning Commission compiled a list of 37 county sites recommended for the Federal Registry. Among these are two very old and significant houses: The House of Many Stairs and Lockabar.

Of late 18th century stone construction, The House of Many Stairs was built into a hill at Pennsdale. The name of the house is derived from the layout with each room on a different level. During the early 19th century the house was used as a tavern; later still it was recognized as a stop on the Underground Railroad of the Civil War period. The architectural value of the house is rated very high.

The house known as "Lockabar" in Limestone Township is the second oldest building in the county. It is a fortified stone dwelling and was built in 1769. Besides Lockabar, it is also known as Forester's Fort. The interior woodwork of the house is of chestnut and walnut. In the 19th century a Col. Sanderson discovered a secret room in the house which yielded a most remarkable find--the skeletal remains of a Hessian soldier who fought for the British during the Revolutionary War. The soldier was still dressed in his British-made uniform with his sword lying at his side. No doubt between them, Lockabar and The House of Many Stairs could tell some enthralling tales, if their stones could but speak.

HISTORICAL DISTRICTS

The efforts of the County Planning Commission and the Historical societies of the county have helped to inform county residents of the wealth of architectural and historical delights available here. Further efforts not only to preserve but, whenever possible, to restore and expose these delights are the goal of the historical district idea. The Planning Commission survey revealed seven areas in the county of concentrated historical sites worthy of incorporation into historical districts. These include the Brock-Barlow Estate near Muncy; Pennsdale; South Main Street, Muncy; sections of Picture Rocks; the old Williamsport Post Office to Fifth Avenue on Third and Fourth streets; South Main Street, Jersey Shore; and Cedar Run Village, Brown Township. To date only the Williamsport historical district has been enacted.

The rationale for historical districts rests in the control they establish over historic areas. Once instituted by township supervisors, or borough or city councils, an historic review board is set up to make recommendations to the governing body concerning the proposed use of or alterations to property within the district.

The Williamsport Historical District Ordinance passed in November, 1975. A nine-member review board screens all applications for exterior alterations and additions, as well as all erections and demolitions. The City Council then normally accepts the recommendations of the board. The board is appointed by City Council and must consist of

at least three residents of the district, a registered architect, a licensed real estate broker, the city building inspector, and a member of the Williamsport Planning Commission.

Prior to enactment of the Williamsport Historical District Ordinance, a number of property owners in the proposed district objected strongly to the plan, claiming it would infringe upon their constitutional rights. Despite these protests, however, other property owners predicted property values would increase. The Historic District Ordinance passed the City Council unanimously and was upheld despite a veto by Mayor John R. Coder. The Historic District plan has generally worked well since its inception.

THE U. S. COURTHOUSE AND FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING

As past generations have bequeathed the works of their hands to us, so we shall have our own contributions to pass on. Besides the new Lycoming County Courthouse, there is the recently opened U. S. Courthouse and Federal Office Building at 240 West Third Street. Dedicated on April 28, 1978, the new building is named in honor of former Congressman Herman T. Schneebeli.

Not without its trials and tribulations, the new building was plagued by cost overruns and construction delays. Work on the building began in 1975 and was not completed until 1977. At one point several steel beams in the new structure began to crumble and had to be replaced. Later it was discovered that the ceiling in the Federal Courtroom was too low and had to be raised. Eventually the snags were worked out, and the building was ready for use. It is an imposing addition to the Third Street row of public buildings.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The preservation of historical landmarks, artifacts, memorabilia and documents is one of the functions of the Lycoming County Historical Society, founded in 1907. The Society's museum is located on West Fourth Street in Williamsport. The museum is a repository for the many gifts and bequests of historical interest made to the Society. Many of these items are on permanent display in the museum; other special displays are periodically arranged relating to some aspect of life in the county's past. Mr. Andrew Grugan is the current director of the museum.

In December, 1960, the first county historical museum building on the same site as the present one was badly damaged by fire. The building was the old J. Roman Way mansion which the Historical Society purchased in 1939 and converted for museum use. The present museum was erected in 1967

after funds for construction were made available through state appropriations and private contributions.

Along with operating the museum, the County Historical Society has published spring and fall issues of its Journal since 1955. The Society also holds regular meetings in the museum at which presentations are made regarding topics of historical interest.

Lycoming County also has several local historical societies, of which the Muncy Historical Society is the oldest, having been founded in the 1930's. It operates a museum and publishes the well-known historical magazine "Now and Then" which was first published in 1868 by J. M. M. Gernerd. Published until about 1900, the magazine was revived by Dr. T. K. Wood of Muncy in the early 1900's and has been published ever since. The last editor of "Now and Then" was Eugene P. Bertin of Muncy, who served in that capacity from 1963 to 1977. Today, "Now and Then" has a circulation of 800 subscribers.

More recently, the Jersey Shore Historical Society was formed. It purchased the old federal style Samuel Moss house on South Main Street, Jersey Shore. Eventually the house will be used by the society as a museum. Other historical groups exist in Montgomery and Ralston.

In 1978, the Bloomingrove Historical Society was formed for the purpose of maintaining and operating as a museum the old Dunkard Meeting House near Balls Mills. The Meeting House was the place of worship of the old pietist Baptists from Germany, or Dunkards.

History is written not only in books but also in the buildings and landmarks of the past which gain in historical value with each succeeding generation. Fortunately for us, those landmarks that remain were both well-built and pleasing to look at. The condition in which they are preserved for future generations depends on the manner in which we treat them now. If we show the past little honor, future generations will have little reason to honor us. But if we strive to preserve the legacies of the past, they will, themselves, be one of our legacies to the future.

To treat the landmarks and architectural heritage of the past as mere relics, worthy of preservation so long as they do not interfere with future plans demonstrates a disturbing lack of values and imagination; it is an unfortunately common attitude in our country today and has contributed to the blighting of much of our nation's landscape. Fortunately, Lycoming County, at official levels, has recognized the desirability of preserving the treasures of the past so as to enhance the quality of life in the future. This goal

will take money as well as commitment, but it is a goal worthy of all the effort an enlightened and concerned citizenry can muster.

QUESTIONS CHAPTER 14

1. List some of the architectural landmarks of the county.
2. Name and locate outstanding historical sites in the county.
3. Explain the purpose of the Historical District Ordinance.
4. Name historical societies within the county.

Chapter THE U. S. BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN LYCOMING COUNTY

15

In 1976, bicentennial celebrations in the county exploded with fireworks displays, block parties, parades, and exhibits. Having been designated a bicentennial community in 1975 by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, Williamsport adopted the state theme, "So Your Children Can Tell Their Children." Robert E. Ruffaner served as general chairman. Committee chairpersons were Doris T. Heller, Festival USA; Mrs. Harold D. Hershberger, Jr., Heritage '76; John A. Felix, Horizon's '76; and John Powell, Parade '76.

The bicentennial celebration in Lycoming County was held at a cost of \$50,000. Thirty thousand dollars was raised between the city of Williamsport and the Williamsport Foundation. The Bicentennial Commission of Pennsylvania granted \$4,700 to the Williamsport Bicentennial Commission. With funds received through sales and donations, the actual cost of the celebration, shared by the three sponsors, was \$12,000.

Celebrations began in March when the Hemlock Girl Scout Council, in conjunction with National Girl Scout Week, held a fair at the Woodward Township Fire Hall. Hundreds of people attended the fair marking the beginning of celebrations of the nation's 200th anniversary. Twenty-five Girl Scout troops consisting of about five hundred girls manned booths displaying a general store, a country kitchen, a quilting bee, a pottery display, Indian crafts, a log cabin, corn husk dolls, the Boston Tea Party, and Betsy Ross making an American flag.

The musical comedy 1776 by Sherman Edwards was performed at the Williamsport Consistory on April 2nd and 3rd under the direction of Dr. Robert Falk.

On May 8th, children from schools, churches, and scout troops, paraded tissue paper floats that portrayed the nation's past in the Young Americans Parade. Betsy Ross, Molly Pitcher, Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, Martha Washington, and colonial children were represented in the floats. More than 1,000 children participated in marching bands, dancing groups, and colorful floats.

Colonial crafts were displayed by local craftsmen at the YWCA from May 2nd to May 25th. Many visitors saw for the first time such colonial crafts as candle and broom-making and the hand crafting of dulcimers. A puppet show entertained visitors with plays of local historical events.

In June, 50,000 people crowded the city streets to see the Greater Williamsport Bicentennial Parade. Children and adults sat on curbs in front of lawn chairs lined six rows

deep. Spectators watched from rooftops, balconies, and apartment and office windows. As the parade moved along West Third Street, prisoners in the Lycoming County Prison hugged the iron bars of their cell windows to get a look at the celebration. Twenty-seven units made up of 150 floats, several marching bands, military units, and costumed performers, formed the largest parade people could remember in recent history. Spectators were excited by volleys fired by the U. S. Coast Guard riflemen and from a cannon mounted on the 40 et 8 locomotive. Many people wore folded newspaper caps on their heads to protect themselves from the hot sun. Helium balloons exploded in children's hands in the 80-degree heat as flags stirred gently in what little breeze there was.

The Susquehanna Council, Boy Scouts of America reenacted the Great Runaway of 1778. Traveling by canoe, the scouts left Lock Haven on June 5th and traveled down the Susquehanna River to Williamsport arriving the next day. On June 7th the scouts arrived at Sunbury to find security from the Indians at Fort Augusta.

A bicentennial wagon train consisting of more than 20 covered wagons and 200 travelers excited residents as it made its way along old Route 220 en route to Valley Forge. The covered wagons rolled along the rain-soaked road, making camp at Jersey Shore on June 23rd. The next day the wagon train, one of two in America, rolled through Williamsport on its way to Nicely Field in Montoursville where it again made camp. On June 25th the wagon train camped at the Lycoming County Fair grounds in Hughesville. At every stop weary travelers were greeted by jubilant crowds and brass bands.

Pony Express riders and outriders contributed to the excitement and realism of the area's first wagon train in over one hundred years. Thousands of people were guests of the travelers at an old-fashioned wagon show at the Jersey Shore Area High School football stadium. The travelers sang folk songs and played guitars after which the crowd joined them in singing "This Land Is Your Land."

Five thousand people celebrated the nation's bicentennial anniversary at a block party on Pine Street on June 25th. People ate hot dogs, reviewed exhibits, and danced to music performed by the rock band, "Reunion." The chorus of the Pageant "Susquehanna" performed under the direction of Robert Sheffer. Prizes were awarded for period costumes. On July 4th, Williamsport displayed its largest fireworks display in its history. Several fireworks displays were held around the county.

The Freedom Train displayed many of the nation's important



Bicentennial parade



Bicentennial wagon train



Bicentennial Pageant



Freedom Train

documents while stopped in Williamsport on July 14th and 15th. Twelve of the 26 cars in the steam-driven Reading train displayed memorabilia. As the train chugged down the Penn Central tracks, people laid coins on the tracks to be flattened as souvenirs. Thousands of people waited in lines that stretched down Little League Boulevard from Walnut Street to Hepburn Street and back. Thirty-six thousand people toured the train. Williamsport was the only stop made by the train in North Central Pennsylvania. A golden spike was driven into the tracks to memorialize the occasion.

The height of the planned celebrations was marked by the pageant "Susquehanna!" which was performed before an estimated 9,000 people over July 20th and 22nd at Bowman Field. The three-act pageant, directed by Miriam Leshner Hunter, was locally researched, written, and staged. A cast of 87, supported in some scenes by up to 160 people, depicted the early history of the West Branch Valley. Hundreds of volunteers made costumes, designed sets, and made promotions. A chorus of 96 was featured, complemented by ten instrumentalists and six dancers. Live oxen and wagon horses were used. The pageant encompassed such events as the first meeting in this area between Indians and white men, the Fair Play Men, and the growth of Williamsport through Michael Ross. A special film of the pageant was made depicting the eleven scenes.

Many souvenirs were available. A bicentennial medal of antiqued bronze was designed by the late local artist Horace Hand from a painting by another local artist, George Eddinger. The coin depicts the county's history through a lumber man and a Revolutionary soldier. A bicentennial calendar displayed the selected works by local artists. A memorial recording of the Music of William Clifford Heilman (1877-1946) was also produced. The local composer's music was performed June 13th in concert at the Covenant-Central Presbyterian Church by Irene Veley, pianist; Donald Freed, violinist; Ellen Royer, cellist; and the Williamsport Junior Music Club Chorus, under the direction of Doris Heller.

The works of six local artists, whose paintings captured local scenes, were chosen to hang in the Courthouse and City Hall. The following were chosen: "Buttonwood Covered Bridge" by Robert Day; "Springtime at Ways Gardens" by Marr Heilhecker; "Williamsport City Hall" by Judy Reid; "Winter on Loyalsock Creek" by Richard Griess; "Pennsdale Friend's Meeting House" by Horace Hand; and "Old Stone Barn" by Timothy Hampton.

Youths from the Montoursville Area High School built a replica of the exterior of a frontier stockade. The

interior was used for displays, exhibits, and presentations. As a lasting memorial, a bicentennial garden was planted at Brandon Park and forty shade trees were planted in the Pine Street area of downtown Williamsport. The celebration of the nation's 200th birthday was memorialized by the time capsule placed in the Herman T. Schneebeli Federal Office Building. The capsule, containing memorabilia of the celebration, will be opened April 1, 2076. A film produced by local cinematographer, Steve Smith, captured all the major events and projects during the celebration in a 45-minute sound film.

QUESTIONS CHAPTER 15

1. List outstanding events that were part of the Bicentennial observance in Lycoming County.
2. What Bicentennial event was written, produced and performed by local citizens?
3. What famous people were portrayed in the pageant "Susquehanna!"?

APPENDIX INDIANS IN PREHISTORIC LYCOMING COUNTY

A

Volume I of A Picture of Lycoming County gives us some interesting information on the Indians, the earliest inhabitants of Lycoming County. But since publication of that first volume, scholars have come to recognize that the early history of the county is, indeed, much earlier than the writers of Volume I could have supposed. Quoting from Volume I, page 3, we read: "The first known inhabitants of Lycoming County were members of an Iroquoian tribe called Andastes, a name given by the French to the "Susquehannocks" who lived on the upper reaches of the Susquehanna River. The name Andastes distinguished the West Branch Valley Indians from those living on the river to the South."

NEW KNOWLEDGE OF THE INDIANS

From the vantage point of the writers of the first volume, this statement seems accurate enough, for they wrote without the advantage of much recent scholarly work and scientific investigation. Forty years later, however, we have a much better grasp of the actual facts. Primary among them is that, far from being the first inhabitants of Lycoming County, the people called "Andastes" in Volume I probably did not live in our county at all and were among the last Indians to inhabit Pennsylvania. Prior to the "Andastes," prehistoric Indians had lived in Pennsylvania for centuries.

In view of recent studies, we are aware of other inaccuracies in Volume I. For example, the "Andastes" were not members of an Iroquoian tribe, rather, they were an early offshoot of the Iroquois before the formation of the Iroquoian Confederacy. "Andastes" was the French name given the Indians who lived in the southern part of Pennsylvania in what is roughly now Lancaster County. These same Indians were called "Minquas" by the Dutch and "Susquehannocks" by the English settlers of the region. These names did not denote places or areas of residence.

THE SUSQUEHANNOCKS

The Susquehannocks (as they are commonly called today) were the predominant tribe of the lower Susquehanna River Valley during the early colonial period. Eventually they were to become major trading middlemen between the white settlers and the Indians who did trapping to the north and west.

There were few Susquehannock settlements in the West Branch Valley. From archaeological finds we know that the Susquehannocks had a village settlement near the present village of Pine in Clinton County, and a small encampment across Pine Creek from Jersey Shore. Nothing comparable, however,

has been uncovered in Lycoming County. On the other hand, early records left by Jesuit priests among the Huron in New York State and Canada indicate that the final Iroquois' defeat of the Susquehannocks in 1675 occurred at Jersey Shore. There is, however, no physical proof of this so far, and any such evidence must await discovery by archaeologists. So neither the Iroquois nor the Susquehannocks can as yet be claimed as actual residents of our county, even though both passed through on occasion and recognized the county's militarily strategic location.

HISTORY AND PREHISTORY

Recent developments in the academic science of archaeology have benefited greatly our understanding and knowledge of the prehistoric inhabitants of North America and Lycoming County. Prehistory is that time before the earliest written records from a particular group of human beings were written down. The historical period, then, embraces the time since written documents have been available concerning any given group or culture. In light of this, it is quite obvious that the prehistoric period of Indian life in Lycoming County was of a much greater time span than the very short period which is designated historical.

Because the Indians had no written language as far as we are aware, it was only with the white settlers' arrival in America that written information on the Indians became available. It was the Jesuit priests among the Huron that gave us some of the earliest accounts of aboriginal activity in the West Branch Valley.

ARCHAEOLOGY

When no written documents of a people have been left behind, the only way to study their history is to examine the physical remains of their settlements and villages. This study is called archaeology, which is the systematic digging of human artifacts from the ground in order to study their age, use, origin and significance.

Of great importance to archaeologists are the actual skeletal remains of prehistoric people which reveal the method of burial and give clues to religious belief and practices. Sometimes graves offer added benefit when burial goods are interred with the corpse.

Archaeology has yielded most of what we know about the prehistoric Indians of Lycoming County. The methods of archaeology are varied, but they are meticulous and precise. A careful record is kept of every flint or potsherd, their location on the site and the level from which taken. This allows for analysis and reconstruction of the site to take

place in the laboratory once the excavation is complete.

From the artifacts and remains found, such things as the period the people lived on the site, their food and how they subsisted, their dwellings, their means of travel, the crops they grew and the kinds of pots they used can all be determined. Today, archaeological activity is common in the county with many digs sponsored by colleges, universities, archaeological societies, and even private individuals. When attempting a dig, however, it is best that a professional archaeologist be involved so that nothing important is overlooked or misinterpreted.

What in general have the archaeologists determined regarding the prehistory of Indians in Lycoming County? Some of the oldest archaeological evidence of prehistoric Indians are spearpoints, by virtue of their strength and durability. Spearpoints and other stone tools are useful to archaeologists in dating sites because the styles of implements changed with time as well as from place to place.

Usually spearpoints are given the name of the first place where that type was systematically studied, and are referred to by that name thereafter. The Indians associated with that spearpoint are given the same name. This does not mean that the place where the spearpoints were first studied is the place where they were first made, as they could have been transported there.

PREHISTORIC ERAS

The oldest spearpoint found in Lycoming County is the Clovis Point, dating from about 9,000 B.C. Archaeologists call the people who made Clovis Points the "Paleo" Indians or Old Indians. The Paleo Era is the first of the prehistoric eras and covers roughly the years between 11,500 B.C. and 7,000 B.C. As the chronological chart shows, the second era runs from 7,000 B.C. to 2,000 B.C. and is known as the Archaic Era. The third prehistoric era is the Woodland and ranges from 1,000 B.C. to about 1,600 A.D., with the coming of white settlers and the beginning of the historic period. Between the Archaic and Woodland eras there was a short 1,000 year period or less which has been designated a transitional phase.

THE PALEO ERA

The Indians of the Paleo Era are believed to be descendants of the first people to cross the Bering Strait from Asia to Alaska beginning possibly around 30,000 B.C. Like their ancestors, the Paleo Indians were nomads who traveled in small bands, usually on the heels of the large game animals

which they hunted for food. These animals, long since extinct, included the mammoth, the mastodon and the caribou, all of which lived in the region of Lycoming County.

The climate was frigid even though post ice-age, and the soil was tundra-like with conifer trees the predominant form of vegetation. The Paleo Indians who tracked the large game into Lycoming County had no other means of survival besides hunting. They traveled on foot and probably lived very short periods in any one place. Their appearance and way of life was more akin to our usual picture of cavemen than Indians.

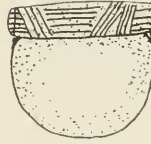
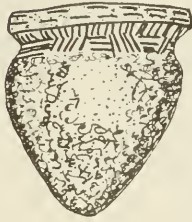
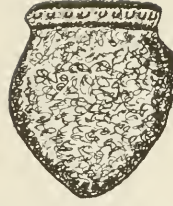
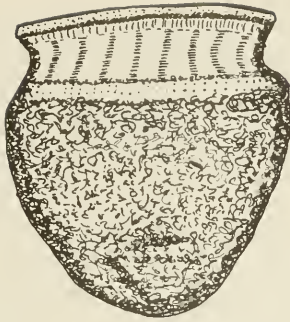
Skeletal remains of Paleo Indians suggest that they were an average height of 5 feet 5½ inches tall, with thin bones and a muscular physique. One scholar has described them as "wiry, stong, and extremely tough," and, no doubt, they had to be. They were susceptible to many dangers and diseases. Few of them lived past the age of 35 and many died of diseases affecting the teeth. Others died due to exposure, hunger or accidents. The tools they used were delicately chipped flints, never battered or ground stone tools as in later periods.

The Paleo Indians seem, then, to have been as far removed from the historic Indians in their way of life as the historic Indians are from us. The Paleo Indians did not lead an easy existence; it consisted of what to us are less than the bare essentials. But they survived, however precariously, and managed to propagate the Indian race up to the coming of the white man, probably the greatest threat of all to the Indians' existence.

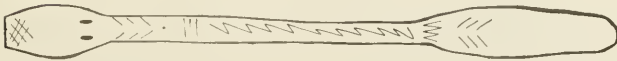
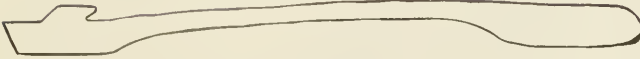
THE ARCHAIC ERA

By around 5,000 or 4,000 B.C. a strong warming trend occurred in the county and the climatic and other environmental conditions changed dramatically. The tundra and conifers gave way to hardwood forests comprised mostly of trees known today, such as oak, hickory, and chestnut. The large land-roving animals disappeared, and smaller herbivores took their place. Deer, bear, and elk became new hunting targets for the people of this second era, the Archaic Era.

The Archaic Indians began the practice of collecting nuts and berries for eating, items not available to their ancestors of a colder and wilder age. To aid them in hunting, the Archaic Indians invented a spear thrower called the atlatl, which was a wooden rod with a hook at one end. A notch at the end of the spear fitted into the hook, thereby affording the person throwing more thrust and greater maneuverability in landing game.



Prehistoric artifacts
(from Man, Land and Time, p. 225)



Atlatl or spear thrower

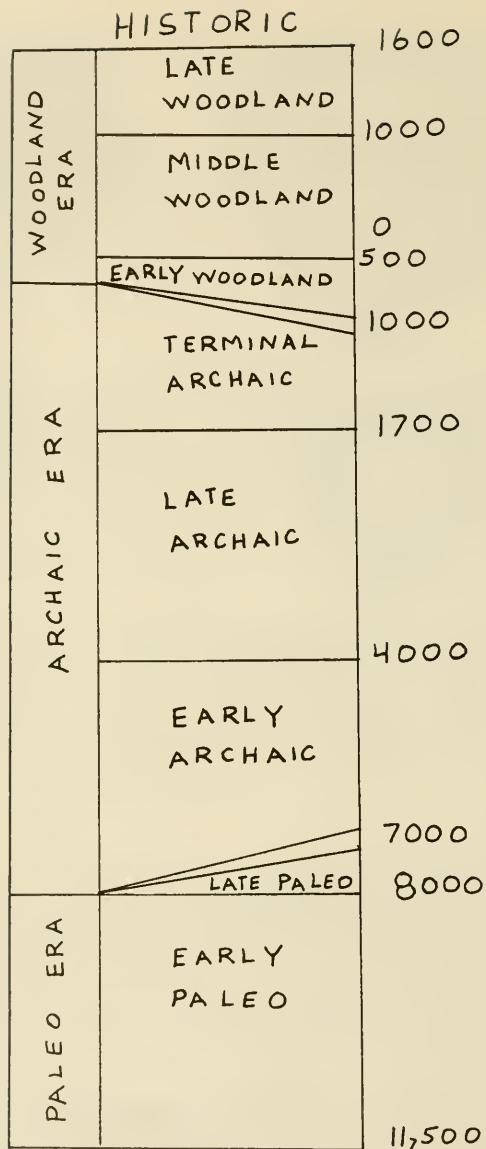


Chart of prehistoric epochs
 (from Man, Land and Time, p. 19)

Other tools invented by the Archaic Indians were notched and grooved axes, adzes for woodworking, bone awls or needles, flint drills, and a wide variety of delicately chipped stone spearpoints. And the very latest Archaic Indians developed the use of river resources for the first time by collecting shell fish and making nets for fishing from the fibers of Indian hemp plants.

It is interesting that from 75 to 80 percent of all stone tools found in Lycoming County are from the Late Archaic period (4,000-2,000 B.C.). This indicates significant use of the county by Archaic Indians for hunting, fishing and collecting. There are no finds of pots or cooking vessels from this era because Archaic Indians still roasted all their food over an open fire. The Archaic Era saw steady progress in the life and conditions of Indian existence in the county, though much of this was effected by dramatic change in climate and environment from the Paleo Era. As we shall see, greater changes were still to come in Indian culture.

THE "TRANSITIONAL PHASE"

The next important period of Indian prehistory is known as the "Transitional Phase." "Transitional" refers to the period from 2,000 B.C. to 1,000 B.C. Three major changes took place: 1) the use of the river as a highway for dugout canoes and hollowed logs; 2) the use of stone bowls; and 3) the beginning of farming along river flats. These three changes altered radically the living pattern and life-style of prehistoric Indians. They meant a more sedentary life which, in turn, meant larger communities of people living in one place.

The stone used in bowls was quarried in other places and transported by the Indians in dugout canoes. The dugout canoes were made with newly invented tools such as stone gouges. Other new tools included quarry picks for digging stone, and hoe blades for farming. Net sinkers were made by chipping notches into small river pebbles. These were attached to the bottoms of nets to hold them against the current while floats on top held the net upright. Modern gill nets serve a similar purpose.

The use of stone bowls was a revolutionary development. Prior to their invention, the Indians cooked either by roasting their food or by placing hot stones in bark vessels to boil up a kind of soup. The stone bowls were made by simply carving them out of a block of soapstone. Some of the very earliest clay pottery was made during the Transitional Phase, some finds of which have been made at Bull Run in Lycoming County. The first clay pottery was shaped in identical fashion to the stoneware. Though

highly primitive compared with later clay pottery, these initial clay vessels made by the Indians were a milestone in the advancement of Indian culture.

Another milestone was the utilization of farming. The very first crop of the Indians was the sunflower which was indigenous to North America. Sunflower seeds were ground into flour along with acorns, hickory nuts and walnuts, and from this they made their first bread. In view of the advent of farming, the Indians were required to stay in one place for greater periods. This encouraged the growth of populations, and made villages possible for the first time. We can see, then, how important water travel, the use of stone and clay bowls, agriculture, and village life were to the transition from the Archaic to the fourth and final prehistoric period, the Woodland Era.

THE WOODLAND ERA

The Woodland Era lasted roughly 2,000 years from about 1,000 B.C. to the coming of the white settlers in the 1600's A.D. The primary characteristics of the Woodland included farming, village life, and especially, clay pottery. By this time all Indians in Lycoming County made and used clay pottery. The Woodland Era is itself divided into three periods: the Early Woodland (1000-500 B.C.), the Middle Woodland (500 B.C. - 1000 A.D.) and the Late Woodland (1000-1600 A.D.).

It is significant that by Early Woodland times, there is evidence of the "cult of the dead." This shows that the Indians had developed a religious sense which pointed beyond themselves. At the Bull Run archaeological site in Lycoming County, six graves were found doused with red ochre. Apparently the Indians believed that the red substance would provide the deceased with blood for the next life.

The red pigment was made by grinding hematite into dust. It was also a practice of the Indians by Early Woodland times to place burial goods in graves with the dead. This, too, indicates a religious sentiment. As with the Egyptian mummies, the Indians provided burial goods for the use of the dead person in the after-life.

One contribution of Middle Woodland times which was to benefit the Indians of future periods was the bow and arrow. This weapon aided them in hunting game and made available more leisure to do other things, such as the making of ornaments and more decorative clothing.

The Middle Woodland period was a time when agriculture and village life became well established. A deterrant

to the development of large Indian settlements, however, was the lack of firewood. There were plenty of trees, but Indian technology had not yet advanced to the point that heavy axes could be made. Rather, the Indians had to depend on smaller tree limbs and branches which were quickly depleted. Thus, even in Woodland times, Indian settlements could not be permanent due to a very ancient form of energy crisis.

The Indians made fires by means of the "strike-a-light," a flint against which a piece of iron pyrite was struck to produce a spark. Another fire-building method employed the "fire-drill." This was a vertical stick of wood with a point at the bottom which fitted into a small hole in a wooden block. Fine bits of wood shavings or dried weeds were placed around the bottom of the shaft. Friction was created by looping a string and bow around the stick so that the stick could be turned quickly back and forth to induce heat, thereby igniting the tinder material at the bottom. Once lit, fires were kept going for long periods.

In the Middle Woodland period corn was grown for the first time in the Northeast, having been brought in from the southwestern United States. The corn and other crops were tended by the women, as were the children. The men continued to roam, hunting for animals to be brought back and added to the larder.

Other types of crops gradually introduced included beans and squash. The diet of the Indians became more varied as new and improved crops came along. Diet was also better served by the larger and improved pottery vessels which were being made, thus enhancing cooking methods. Soups and stews were popular, as was corn bread made from ground cornmeal.

The first clay pots were of thin construction and were wrapped with cords to support their sides. Eventually, larger and stronger vessels were made, and the Indian potters began to experiment with new shapes and sizes.

As village life expanded and less time was expended on the bare necessities of hunting, farming and cooking, many Indians spent their leisure time making ornaments, such as beads and pendants. The first use of tobacco is attributed to the Woodland Era. The Indians discovered that tobacco smoked well in a stone tube, and later realized the advantages of an elbow pipe. Many carved stone pipes have been found from the Woodland Era, some of them in the shape of animal heads.

While Lycoming County can boast few archaeological finds from the Woodland Era, one interesting Late Woodland

feature was the Brock Mound near Muncy. This was a large burial mound wherein were found thirty Indian burials in twenty-eight graves. This was the only such burial mound found in the West Branch Valley. Burial mounds were an ancient form of cemetery in which the graves were mounded up rather than placed flat as in a modern cemetery. Unfortunately, few artifacts were associated with the Brock Mound apart from several clay pipes, a chipped slate blade, a slab mortar, several netsinkers, and a few smaller items.

Many of the other archaeological sites in Lycoming County are associated with the Lycoming Creek region where there was a major Indian trail dating back to the very earliest Paleo times. This trail, known as the Sheshequin Trail, was a primary route from New York and the North and was used extensively up to the disappearance of the Indians from Pennsylvania. There may still be many unknown Indian sites in that region which have yet to be discovered and investigated by archaeologists, unlocking still more knowledge about our county's original citizens. So far, archaeologists have mapped over 200 Indian sites in the county.

THE "BULL RUN" EXCAVATION

The archaeological site in Lycoming County yielding the most important discoveries to date is the Bull Run site in Loyalsock Township. The Bull Run excavation--along with the current Canfield Island excavation nearby--was co-sponsored by the North Central Chapter, No. 8 of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, and the Lycoming County Historical Society. Local archaeologist James P. Bressler served as director of the dig.

It is believed that Indians inhabited the Bull Run site as far back as 7000 B.C. Some of the residents of this site were probably descendants of the Clemsons Island people, who were among the earliest Indians to live in Lycoming County. Other inhabitants of the Bull Run site were the so-called "Orient people" who made the earliest pottery known in Lycoming County dating back to 1220 B.C. It was also the Orient people who utilized red ochre in their cult of the dead.

The latest and most significant inhabitants of the Bull Run site were the "Shenks Ferry people" who lived there over a period of several hundred years and were probably driven out by the Cayuga Indians at the opening of the colonial period. Though Lycoming County was probably their homeland, the Shenks Ferry people were named after Shenks Ferry, Lancaster County, where they were first studied around 1930.

The Shenks Ferry people were farmers who maintained a nearly permanent settlement at Bull Run. Their houses were of post-and-lintel construction and were covered with bark. Their settlement was surrounded by a fort dating from 1230 A.D. The fort was oval-shaped and measured roughly 250 feet in length and 150 feet in width. Recent studies of seeds found at Bull Run indicate that common weeds were used as part of the diet. Unfortunately, next to nothing is known of the Shenks Ferry people after their defeat by the Cayugas. Further, with the disappearance of the Shenks Ferry people, permanent Indian habitation of Lycoming County ceased forever. From then on, Indians lived in Lycoming County only intermittently and for relatively short periods.

THE COLONIAL PERIOD

We leave behind the prehistoric period at the appearance of the first white colonizers in Pennsylvania. By this time Indian society in North America had evolved into groupings known as tribes. Different tribes often spoke different languages and maintained different forms of social organization. Quite often intense rivalries developed between tribes, and wars were an all too common feature of life.

During the colonial period Lycoming County was used as a corridor for travel, and in very latest times, served as a buffer between the Iroquois tribes to the North and the white settlers to the South. The most prominent of Pennsylvania's tribes in this period were the Susquehannocks.

It is possible that the Susquehannocks had originally belonged to the Iroquois group and separated sometime around 1400 A.D., settling first along the North Branch of the Susquehanna River. They made a gradual migration southward coming to rest in southern Pennsylvania near what is now Lancaster.

The Susquehannocks apparently made excursions into the West Branch Valley, as some of their artifacts have been found here, mainly in Clinton County near Lock Haven and across Pine Creek from Jersey Shore. The Susquehannocks were an advanced people and lived in large fortified villages. Many of the hostilities between the Susquehannocks and the Iroquois were so violent that the Susquehannocks surrounded their villages with strong palisades as a means of defense.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE WHITE SETTLERS

The coming of white settlers to North America spelled doom for Indian life as it had been known. The first peril to the Indians which the white men brought were European diseases to which they had no immunity. Typhoid, diphtheria, influenza, measles, chicken pox, whooping cough, tuberculosis,

yellow and scarlet fevers, and smallpox swept through Indian communities, often mercilessly wiping them out completely. These epidemics contributed significantly to the demise of the Susquehannocks.

Another diminishing factor upon Indian life was the effect of the white men themselves. The earliest Swedish and Dutch settlers along the East coast deprived such tribes as the Algonquins, Delawares, and Shawnees of their lands, forcing them to move westward. Occasionally, the Indians benefited from the white man's presence in terms of economy and trade. The Susquehannocks, for example, assumed the role of major middlemen in the fur trade between the white men and Indians to the west and the north; but trading rivalry between the Susquehannocks and Iroquois developed and sparked bloody conflicts between them.

The Indians also suffered from adopting white ways and practices without fully adapting themselves to a white life style. Such items as metal axes and pots improved the Indians' daily existence, but rifles and liquor were not always treated with the caution and respect they deserved.

The stability of the Indian civilization was weakened internally by the warring between tribes and nations, and externally by the aggressive onslaught of the technologically and socially more complex white culture.

The Susquehannocks were the primary Indian tribe in Pennsylvania at the time of the white man's coming. They controlled the central Susquehanna region and probably dominated the West Branch Valley, even if they had no standing settlements here. By the early eighteenth century the Susquehannocks were gone from Pennsylvania, except for a small group near Conestoga in the Southeast.

The vacuum was filled by smaller tribes of Delaware Indians who were allowed to move into the Susquehanna region by the Iroquois, who claimed ownership of the area. Once the Iroquois had defeated the Susquehannocks in 1675, the West Branch Valley shifted to their control and served as a buffer zone between themselves and the white men.

LAST INDIAN SETTLEMENTS

The most important Indian settlement in our area at this time was known as Ostuagy, or Madame Montour's village, situated at the mouth of Loyalsock Creek. Its residents were mainly of mixed Delaware Indian and white blood. It apparently lasted eight or nine years and was a prominent stop-over for Moravian travelers who frequented the area.

Other sites of Indian habitation in this period were known

to exist at Muncy, at the mouth of Lycoming Creek, and on Big Island near Jersey Shore. Archaeological excavations at these sites have revealed a number of artifacts, both Indian and European in origin, suggesting a mixed culture.

The Indian presence in our county lasted well into the eighteenth century, though after 1755 no Indian settlement existed here. The Iroquois had sold the land out from under the Delaware to the white men in the Walking Purchase of 1737. The Delaware, joined by the Shawnee, then moved west to the Ohio region and returned here briefly during the French and Indian War (1755-62) as raiders for the French, and in retaliation for the earlier white encroachment. The French and Indian War marked the end to Indian presence in Lycoming County.

Some Indian intrusions into the county were recorded in the several massacres of white settlers which occurred, such as the "Plum Thicket Massacre" of June 10, 1778, at the present corner of West Fourth and Cemetery streets in Williamsport. Also, during the Revolutionary War the British led Seneca raids on the county. But apart from these few instances, the Indians had left Lycoming County forever. Still, the white man will have to reside another 11,000 years in Lycoming County before he can claim to have lived here longer than the Indians.

QUESTIONS INDIANS IN PREHISTORIC LYCOMING COUNTY

1. Describe the methods of an archaeologist.
2. Construct a time-line showing the various peoples to inhabit Lycoming County before the coming of white settlers.
3. Describe climatic changes in the prehistoric period of Lycoming County and explain the effect upon living things.
4. What do you think were some of the most important developments in the story of prehistoric inhabitants of Lycoming County?
5. Locate and describe the importance of some of the important archaeological sites in Lycoming County.
6. How did the coming of white settlers to Lycoming County affect the Indians?
7. With what Indian group(s) did the white man come into contact in Lycoming County?
8. Where were some of the localities where these Indians lived?

APPENDIX BLACK HISTORY IN LYCOMING COUNTY

B

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD AND THE CIVIL WAR

Slavery never became widespread in Lycoming County because, like the rest of the North, the need for skilled and semi-skilled workers made the slave work force impractical and uneconomical. As in the rest of the North, slaves in Lycoming County were used almost exclusively as domestic servants.

Because the economy of the North did not depend on slave labor as it did in the South, abolitionists were able to stand on widespread anti-slavery sentiments to push through legislation ending slavery in Pennsylvania as early as 1780. The Act of 1780, a seeming abolitionist victory, was a victory in principle only, for the last slave was not freed until 68 years later in 1848. The Act of 1780 provided that all slaves 28 years of age or older were to be freed on July 4, 1827, and the rest as they reached their 28th birthday. In 1820, there were only three slaves in Lycoming County so their freedom created hardly a ripple locally.

The effect of the law on the county, however, was more far-reaching than first realized. Slaves in the bordering states soon learned that if they reached the free soil of Pennsylvania they too would be free. Slave holders in these states, either cringing under the heat of abolitionist wrath or finding slavery uneconomical, set their slaves free in Pennsylvania.

As the immigration continued, people in the county became fearful that they would be outnumbered by blacks. In 1827, the Lycoming Gazette expressed that fear and verbally thrashed slaveholders who found Pennsylvania a "Liberia, where they could, with less expense than to Africa, colonize their redundant colored population...At no distant day the colored would not only vastly outnumber, but totally supplant the white population."

Hundreds of slaves passed through the county on their way to Canada but many made their home in the county, taking jobs as laborers, tanners, hackmen, laundresses, and seamstresses. Many fugitive blacks remained in Lycoming County until the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 required law men to return fugitives to their owners. Slave owners and slave catchers seeking rewards forced fugitives to move further North into Canada for freedom.

During the turbulent decades before the Civil War, abolitionists conspired to smuggle fugitive slaves from house to house over a network that came to be called the

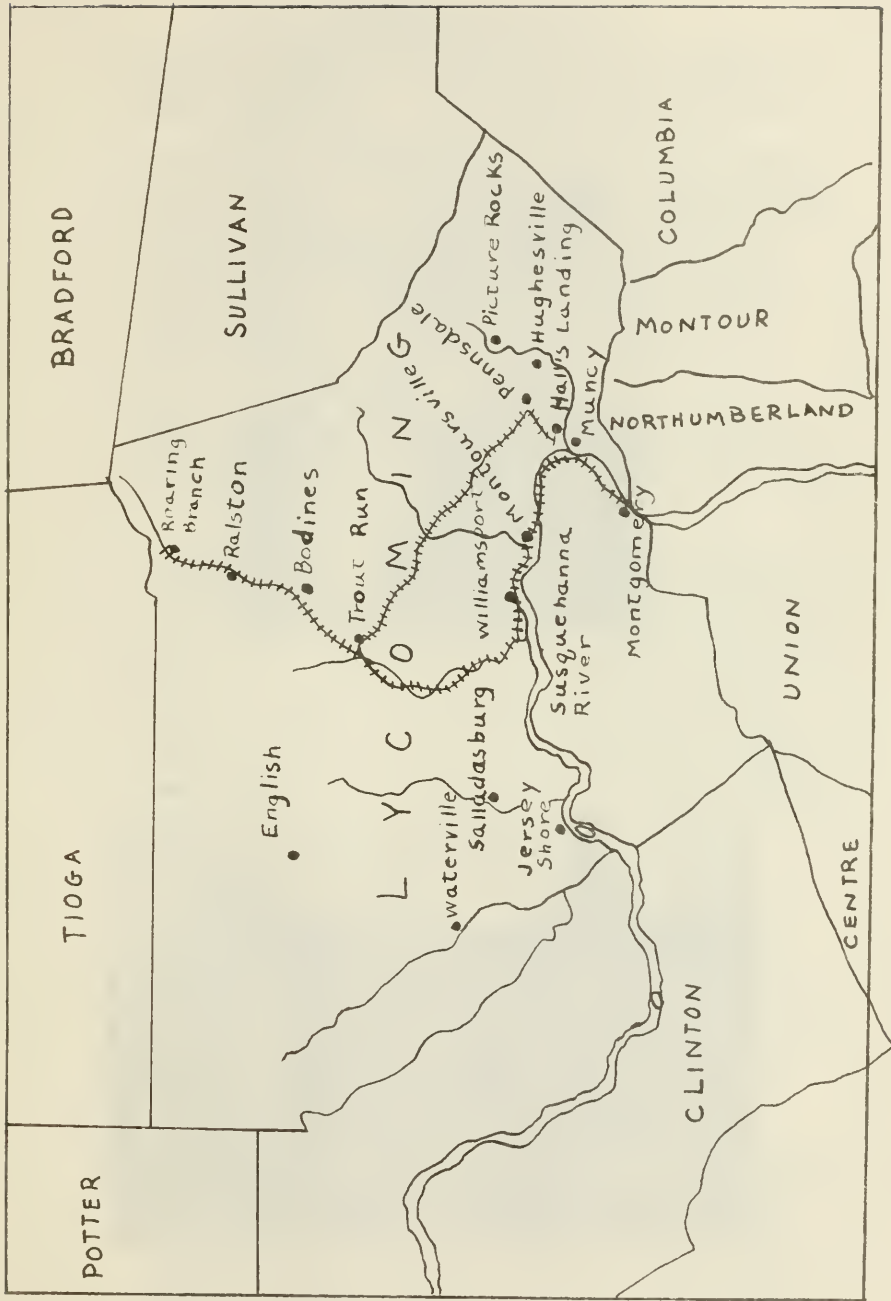
Underground Railroad. The network ran from the deep South through Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania and on to Canada where Queen Victoria had declared the slaves free. Hundreds of slaves risked their lives to escape along the Underground Railroad while others were executed in the South following aborted attempts to escape.

Over the half century prior to the Civil War, more than a thousand slaves passed through Lycoming County. Before the development of the Underground Railroad, slaves escaped along the Allegheny Mountains with nothing but the North Star to guide them. Free blacks living at Kaiser's Springs (Duboistown) regularly scanned the old Indian paths leading out of the mountains and hid the fugitive slaves in their homes. Under cover of night the fugitives were brought across the Susquehanna River to Nigger Hollow (Freedom Road since 1935), another settlement of free blacks a mile north of Market Square. This settlement was protected by 200-foot ravines and dense underbrush. The only access to the area was by old Indian trails and one narrow dirt road.

Rumors of slave catchers who disappeared at the hands of abolitionists hidden in the dense underbrush frightened slave catchers who seldom ventured to the area alone. Many slaves were hidden there in the homes of David and Philip Roderick. Daniel Hughes, whose home still stands near the Freedom Road Cemetery, hid many slaves in his home. When slave catchers made the home unsafe for fugitives, Hughes hid the runaways in one of the three iron ore mines, or superficial caves, that he had dug on his property. Sometimes Hughes picked up runaways on his lumber raft on the Susquehanna River as he returned from Sparrow's Point, Maryland.

At night one of the free blacks guided the runaways to Horseheads, N. Y., or Trout Run where they were hidden in the baggage compartment of the Williamsport-Elmira train by Robert Faries, president of the railroad, and Reason Butler, a fugitive slave. Sometimes the runaways were led along old Indian trails that led up Miller's Run and across hills to Lycoming Creek then to Trout Run. Many times it was necessary for them to walk midstream up Grafius Run to avoid making tracks. Many slaves arrived by canal boat from Columbia at the Exchange Hotel at the foot of Market Street in Williamsport. There they were met by abolitionists who hid them in the Updegraff barn in Black Horse Alley and then smuggled them north to Nigger Hollow.

Montoursville was so heavily populated by abolitionists that runaways felt safe to sleep in open fields. Numerous runaways arrived by canal boat at Hall's Landing (Hall's Station) and were hidden by abolitionist Quakers. Some slaves were hidden at the Friend's Meeting House at



Map of Underground Railroad in county
(courtesy of E. L. Pierce)



Daniel Hughes



Daniel Hughes house, Freedom Road, Williamsport

Pennsdale. Others were hidden at the Bull's Head Tavern, now the House of Many Stairs, and the Wolf Run House. The McCarty-Wertman house in Muncy also shielded many slaves.

In the decade preceding the Civil War, the slave issue became so intense, particularly in Nigger Hollow, that many free blacks and abolitionists were forced to abandon their properties and flee to Canada. The local routes of the Underground Railroad became such common knowledge that throughout the Civil War they remained tourist spots. Legends were told of hand hewn furniture in caves on the Daniel Hughes property and mysterious disappearances of slave catchers.

When Fort Sumter was fired upon on April 12, 1861, the people of the county were excited at the prospect of war. However, the war was clearly being fought to preserve the Union so that blacks viewed it as an interruption in their battle to end slavery.

Blacks were not permitted to enlist in the Union Army until President Lincoln reversed that decision after two years of petitioning by blacks and abolitionists who wished to strike a direct blow at slavery. The reversal came through the Emancipation Proclamation which freed slaves living in seceded states and permitted the enlistment of blacks into a segregated army. Approximately 180,000 blacks from across the country joined the Union forces, effectively siphoning the power of the Confederate Army and spreading confusion throughout the South. At least fifteen blacks from Lycoming County joined the 8th United States Colored Troops organized from a five-county area. A few more from the county joined forces in other states.

THE VOTE--A STEP TOWARD EQUALITY

When the Pennsylvania State Constitution was amended in 1837-38, disenfranchising the black male, blacks in Lycoming County were frustrated. Though they had not been eligible to vote, eligibility was determined by local authorities, and blacks in at least seven other counties had been exercising the vote. From 1838 to 1870, blacks in Pennsylvania labored to reclaim the right that they had exercised in some counties for 47 years.

There was fear in the county that if blacks won the right to vote, they could at some time hold the balance of power. In the midst of increasing migration of blacks from the South, the fear that blacks might gain political control became very real. After all, the case which had prompted the amendment to the constitution in 1838 was an election in Bucks County in which the black vote determined the outcome. Democrats, wishing to win the election over the

Whigs, petitioned the State Supreme Court to void the black vote. Before a decision was reached the amendment was passed.

Frederick Douglass, fighting tirelessly for black equality and suffrage, campaigned in Williamsport in 1867. On November 14, Douglass spoke at Doebler Hall on the corner of West Fourth and Pine streets. In his first speech he outlined his "simple plan for elevating the Negro." He asked that blacks be let alone to forge their own position in society, that they be given a fair chance. Douglass asked "If you see him going to school, let him alone. If you see him going into a mechanic shop to learn a trade, let him alone. If you see him going into a railroad car, let him alone. If you see him going to the ballot box, let him alone. Give him a chance and let him work out his own position."

To blacks Douglass said, "Steady persevering work is the only road to greatness... Nature does the most for them that use the best means." In a speech the following day, Douglass condemned the federal government for dragging its feet in suffrage legislation. He said "A man's rights rest in three boxes. The ballot box, the jury box, and the cartridge box. Let no man be kept from the ballot box because of his color. Let no woman be kept from the ballot box because of her sex."

After thirty-two years of protest and campaigning, blacks finally won the right to vote when on March 31, 1870, the Fifteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution was ratified. Blacks across the state organized celebrations to be held on April 26, the official day of celebration declared by the Pennsylvania State Equal Rights League. In Williamsport hundreds of people lined the city streets to watch a procession of forty-one carriages and buggies, people carrying banners, and costumed marchers. The procession was led by the Boyer's Coronet Band, hired from Baltimore after Milt B. Repasz refused to lead the Williamsport Repasz Band in the parade under any circumstances.

One carriage carried speakers--E. W. Capron, editor and publisher of the Daily and Weekly Bulletin and the West Branch Bulletin, and Abraham Updegraff, president of the First National Bank of Williamsport and former Underground Railroad conductor. J. B. G. Kinsloe, a fellow editor and publisher with Capron, and Cornelius Gilchrist, a mulatto laborer rode with them. A carriage followed carrying aging suffragists--Simon Gilchrist, an 82-year-old mulatto laborer; George Roach, a 72-year-old black man who ran a boarding house; William Butler, a 76-year-old black laborer; and Henry and George Snyder, founders of



Sawdust war in 1872



Blacks on sawmill crew



Bethune-Douglass Community Center
(former Emery School)



Suffrage parade in 1872

Snyder Brothers foundry.

In another wagon, little girls sitting around the Goddess of Liberty waved flags bearing the names of states that had ratified the Fifteenth Amendment. Pairs of men and women carried banners which read "Equal Rights!" "Free Suggrage!" and "Virtue, Liberty, and Independence!" When the procession ended, three and one half hours later, speeches were given by E. W. Capron and Abraham Updegraff.

Capron stated, "We are here to celebrate a day when the Negro, freed and enfranchised, can hold up his head and say 'I am no longer a slave. I am a man. I can take the ballot in my hand and march to the polls, and there count as much as the president, or as any man in the world'."

Updegraff followed: "Fellow citizens...remember my dear friends the price with which this boon has been purchased." Following the speeches, a ball was held in Holden's Hall in Williamsport.

In many areas of the country, the vote gave blacks the balance of power, making them pawns in a political game to win their vote. Republicans and Democrats reminded blacks of the civil rights which they had been instrumental in gaining and demanded their support in return. Blacks in Lycoming County were aware that the promises of civil rights were only token concessions offered to win the black vote. In reality, the strength of de facto segregation in the latter part of the century actually set back the civil rights of blacks.

Angered by political manipulation and feeling powerless to determine their direction nine black men from Williamsport banded together as publishers of the Informant, a weekly newspaper aimed at informing blacks about issues concerning them. In its first issue on November 9, 1889, the Informant vowed that blacks would never again be a mere "anatomized body to stuff ballot boxes....If a Negro desires to be looked upon as a citizen, not as a mere voter, he must begin to think and act for himself."

The publishers were enraged when Republican politicians in Williamsport blamed their defeat in the November 1889 election on "the 'd___ niggers' of the city who did not vote as they wished them to." They resented the liberal and patronizing use of the word "our" when referring to blacks. Though the number of issues published can not be determined, a single issue is evidence of the blacks' stand against political manipulation.

The publishers were: W. C. Henderson, Thomas Thornton, and William Thomas, all laborers; James Payne and Morton

Puller, teamsters; George Thornton, coachman; William East, an engineer at the Park Hotel; Jackson Tyler, a butler; and John Straughter, whose occupation could not be determined.

BLACKS AND FORMAL EDUCATION

In 1819, Henrietta Graham and Sarah Hepburn opened the Union Sunday School, an integrated, co-educational school sponsored by the Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Williamsport. Most of the fewer than two hundred blacks lived outside of Williamsport but walked several miles to attend the school in the old Academy at the corner of West and West Third streets. Many children walked through fields and along little-used dirt roads from as far away as Blooming Grove in order to attend the school.

When the enrollment grew too large for the two women to handle alone, some men were persuaded to open a separate boy's school, but after only six months the school failed because the male teachers had lost interest in the school. The boys were so often without teachers that the women teachers at the Union School were obliged to take them back under their care. Daniel Grafius, the school treasurer, was so furious when he arrived one morning and found no teachers, that he called the boys outside and hurled the treasure box over their heads sending them scrambling after the scattered coins.

Wilson Finley, a black student who attended the boys' school around 1824, was later elected senator in Liberia, an African colony to many of the black Americans emigrating during the "back to Africa" movement of the early 1800's.

After seven years, sectarian rivalry split the Union Sunday School in separate Methodist and Presbyterian schools, leaving the black students without a school. To continue their education, Sarah Hepburn, Lucy Putnam, and Martha Grier taught them in the homes of various black families.

In 1834, Pennsylvania passed the Free School Act which provided a tuition-free education to all students. Under the Free School Act of 1834, black students were to be accepted at any school at which they presented themselves; however, with mounting pressure from voters opposing the school tax, legislators hesitated to force integration lest they destroy the fragile school system. Rather than integrate the schools, black students were taught in rented rooms by teachers who sometimes knew little more than the students.

In 1850, blacks in Williamsport petitioned the school board to admit black students into the school system. The school board responded by hiring a teacher and granting

twenty-one dollars for the rental of a school room. The teacher was required to accept all black students and to contract for the room, fuel, stove, and everything except benches. Although male teachers were paid twenty-five dollars a term, C. S. Gilchrist, a mulatto male, was paid the lower eighteen-dollar salary provided for female teachers. In 1869, Anne M. Watson taught a class of black students on Mill Street.

With the voters' opposition to the school tax increasing, the survival of the school system was uncertain. In order to ease the tension, the Free School Act of 1854 was passed which provided for separate schools for blacks and whites whenever possible. When fewer than twenty black students were enrolled in the schools, they were to be admitted to white schools.

By 1873, there was a sufficient number of black students in Williamsport to justify the construction of a black school. In that year, the Hepburn Street School was built between Canal and West Third streets. It operated until 1881 when a law was passed eliminating segregation in the schools of Pennsylvania. Several petitions had been sent to the Pennsylvania Senate from Williamsport urging the passage of the Act of 1881 and asking for the abolition of "all distinctions of race or color in the common schools of the state."

Following the desegregation of Williamsport Schools, black students attended schools within their district. The black community fell primarily within the borders of the Curtin, Stevens, and Emery School Districts. In later years, the Emery School was unofficially called the "colored school."

Though the students within the district were integrated, black teachers were generally not permitted to teach white students. In 1909, Lila M. Fisher began teaching black students at Transeau School in grades one through four. A room was set aside in the Emery School building for the black students and their teacher. In 1938, when Emery School closed due to declining enrollment, Miss Fisher was transferred to Transeau School where she continued to teach segregated classes one through four until her retirement in 1948-49. Segregation in the schools of Lycoming County ended with her retirement.

HOUSING

Following the Civil War the hundreds of blacks who had emigrated to Lycoming County began to settle in Williamsport in search of employment, housing, and security. The percentage of Lycoming County blacks living in Williamsport

rose sharply in the last half of the nineteenth century. In 1850, only 61 of the 364 blacks in the county lived in Williamsport. By 1880, 762 of the 897 blacks in the county lived in Williamsport.

Forced by segregation and economics, blacks settled along the Susquehanna River in older houses amid the saw mills and railroad yards. The settlement was not ideal in its location, but it did permit easy access to employment in mills, shops, homes, and city services. Blacks lived primarily on Mill, Filbert, Gilmore, Wilson, and East Jefferson streets. A few pockets of black families lived at Kaiser's Springs in what is now Duboistown and on Freedom Road, a mile north of Market Square.

On June 5, 1889, the flood which brought an end to the great lumbering era, also destroyed the black settlement. More than 150 million feet of lumber, set loose from the boom at Lock Haven, crashed into homes at the lower end of the city turning them upside down, ripping them from their foundations, and crushing many of them to kindling. Many people were stranded on rooftops and in trees. One black man from Newberry rowed in a boat for two days rescuing stranded people in Williamsport. The devastation brought by the flood pushed the black settlement north of the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks at Erie Avenue.

Stymied by the strength of de facto segregation, the black community has remained solidly entrenched in the same area. A half century later, the increasing delapidation of the homes in the black community brought public concern. Homes on Cherry Street and Erie Avenue were particularly delapidated, many more than one hundred years old. Trains stopping to be stoked in the adjacent railroad yard spewed a thick blanket of smoke over the entire neighborhood. In 1951, houses on Cherry Street and Erie Avenue between Hepburn and Walnut streets were razed to make room for the Peter Herdic Housing Project, a thirty-six unit complex. Although it provided badly needed housing, its location on the same site rather than in a white neighborhood, perpetuated segregation of the black community.

In 1971, in order to end the perpetuation of segregated housing, blacks protested the location of the Roundhouse Housing Project on Erie Avenue and Walnut streets. Blacks filed a complaint through the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, which charged that the city of Williamsport, the Planning Commission, the Redevelopment Authority, and the Housing Authority had "committed and continue to commit unlawful discriminatory practices with respect to planning, designing, approval, and construction" of the Roundhouse Project and the West End Project (Kennedy-King Manor) on Foresman Street. It was charged that the



Mary Slaughter



Mary Slaughter Home for Aged Colored Women



Peter Herdic Housing Project



Site of Peter Herdic Housing Project

Housing Authority knew the location of the projects would result in segregated housing yet proceeded with the construction. Blacks protested that the Roundhouse in the black community would perpetuate segregation while the West End Project would be occupied by all whites. Questions were raised concerning the quality of materials and the density of population as compared with the West End Project. The Housing Authority was also charged with permitting the Peter Herdic Housing Project, located in the black community, to be occupied solely by blacks. The Authority argued that white tenants refused housing assignments to projects in or near the black community.

After numerous delays and public meetings, it was finally agreed that the number of units in the Roundhouse would be reduced and the racial balance between the Roundhouse and the West End Project would be maintained. Projects under the Lycoming County Housing Authority, including Peter Herdic, Michael Ross, and Penn Vale were also integrated by assigning a tenant to a project rather than allowing the tenant a choice.

THE BLACK COMMUNITY

In 1870, E. W. Capron, editor and publisher of the Daily and Weekly West Branch Bulletin and the Daily Evening Bulletin, captured the attitudes of whites towards blacks in a speech celebrating the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment which granted blacks the right to vote. He said, "Ten years ago the colored men were all practically slaves. If those in the North did not feel the galling chain, they felt the weight of the distant links. It was not the color which made the degradation of the colored race in the North, it was the contemptible spirit of caste which held the race in degradation, because a portion of them were slaves...."

In Lycoming County, this contemptible spirit of caste kept blacks locked into segregated neighborhoods along the Susquehanna River. Denied the services outside of the black community, black restaurants, barber shops, and even dentists and doctors offered services exclusively within the black community. Blacks had formed five churches by 1880 and numerous social clubs such as Masons, Knights of Pythias, and Elks. Until 1944, these social clubs were listed as "colored" in the Williamsport City Directory.

In the decades surrounding the turn of the century, blacks were hopeful of gaining new civil rights. The idealism of the Progressive Era soon became tainted by white backlash. Many whites were afraid that blacks would gain too many rights, become equal, or even gain political or social control in some communities. In Williamsport, blacks kept

a low profile and in several incidents, they were beaten. In 1872, a ten-year-old black boy was beaten by white youths in front of the Ulman's Opera House. His eye was cut by a blow from a lead-tipped cane. In another incident, blacks attacked a white couple at a festival. A slanted newspaper article in the Sun on October 31, 1872, reported that blacks "showed their agility with a razor." In 1906, Thomas Hughes, a black Williamsport policeman was attacked by a group of youths as he arrested one of their number for disorderly conduct outside of the Lycoming Opera House. As he made the arrest, the youths knocked him to the ground and kicked him. Before he could be rescued by fellow officers, he had sustained serious internal injuries which resulted in his death nine days later. The youths were charged with disorderly conduct and ordered to pay fines. There was no further prosecution following the death of Thomas Hughes.

Lynching of blacks at the turn of the century, according to one source, had almost become a white sport in Ohio, and in 1894, the Pennsylvania National Guard was mobilized to prevent lynchings in this state. At a time when blacks were expecting to gain rights in the tide of Progressivism, the backlash actually brought a more deeply entrenched segregation.

In many parts of Williamsport, blacks could not enter a restaurant to buy a sandwich. Many theaters isolated blacks to one side of the theater. At least one theater in Williamsport prominently displayed a sign that read: "This theater does not cater to black patrons." Blacks continued to be kept at the most menial jobs except in professions which were catering specifically to the black community.

The violent backlash against blacks was closely followed by sympathy for blacks and an attempt by some to integrate them into society. Observing the gradual integration in 1923, Mary Slaughter cautioned, blacks "must move carefully. There is a line of color between the races and this cannot be overstepped."

The YWCA extended its membership to blacks in 1918 through the Walnut Street Branch, located next to the Shiloh Baptist Church. Though the membership was offered at a branch, the offer to blacks of membership in a white institution was unprecedented at this time in Lycoming County. Nearly every black social club met either at the Walnut Street Branch YWCA, the remodeled livery stable next to it, or the Temple Association next door.

In 1930, in the midst of the Great Depression, the main YWCA cut the Walnut Street Branch from its budget causing

it to founder for several years. It reorganized into the Bethune-Douglass Community Center. The YWCA continued a struggle within its membership to admit blacks. In 1946, an interracial charter was adopted at the National YWCA convention. In 1973 the convention adopted an imperative for action "toward the elimination of racism." Bethune-Douglass continued as an interracial community center, and in 1978, it constructed a new center on Campbell Street with a \$715,000 federal public works grant.

THE SAWDUST WAR

In mid-July of 1872, unrest among lumber men spread throughout the Williamsport mills. Grievances over long working hours had been lodged against the saw mill operators who claimed the twelve-hour working days were necessary in the summer in order to cut all the logs before the river froze. A state law existed establishing the eight-hour working day, but it carried no penalty for noncompliance. In order to force a compromise, workers went on strike.

On the night of July 22, 1872, striking workers attacked mill workers and tried to force the closing of the mills. At 5 A.M. a mob of strikers marched en masse down the railroad tracks leading into the mills, harrassed the workers, and ordered them to leave the mills. By the time the mob reached Filbert and Otto Mill, guards had been dispatched to stop them. Seeing the mill in full operation, strikers rushed the armed guards, pelting them with rocks, clubs, and crowbars. The strikers overran the mill scattering the workers among the stacks of boards.

Having stopped work at the Filbert and Otto Mill, the mob moved down the tracks to Brown and Early Mill where the powerless guards hardly resisted their entrance up the elevated railroad tracks. The Reading, Fisher, and Company Mill offered no resistance either so the strikers broke up into smaller groups and scattered themselves among various smaller mills. Numerous injuries were inflicted on workers at Tinsman's Mill, Starkweather and Munson's Mill, and Dodge Mill.

Rioting was so widespread, local authorities requested that Governor Geary dispatch the militia. Ten companies of soldiers, including Williamsport's all-black Taylor Guard, were stationed at the mills around the city. Five carloads of soldiers had arrived in the city during the night giving the city the appearance of being occupied. Camps were set up on the Courthouse lawn and at Herdic Grove, the present site of the Williamsport Hospital. Not since the Civil War had the marching of soldiers and the beating of drums echoed through the city's streets.

In the morning there were sporadic outbreaks of violence across the city. A mob of rioters moved up Pine Street then west on Fourth Street, followed closely by the Taylor Guard. In front of the Singer Sewing Rooms on West Fourth Street, two strikers were beating a compromising "11½ hour man" who had drawn a revolver. One shot was fired into the air before a fourth man was able to seize him from behind. In the excitement, several of the Guards fired their rifles into the air. The show of force by the militia soon disbanded the rioters and ended the violence without a single death.

The uncoordinated mobilization of the independently commanded militias emphasized such ineptitude during the riot that Governor Geary moved to organize them all under a single command, thus organizing the Pennsylvania National Guard. In 1874, the Taylor Guard was designated Company D, Twelfth Regiment of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

MARY SLAUGHTER

Mary Slaughter was born a slave on February 27, 1835, in Martinsburg, W. Va. When she was freed in 1865 at the age of thirty, she settled in Williamsport with her husband William, a blacksmith. They worked together as caretakers of various churches until her husband died. Having already lost their three sons, Mary Slaughter poured her energies into caring for the children of sick mothers and working for temperance.

In 1897, she began to take elderly black women into her four-room home on Walnut Street. Two years later the Aged Colored Women's Home (unofficially called the Mary Slaughter Home) moved to larger quarters at 124 Brandon Place. The home was supported by donations until more room was needed, then the home was mortgaged. Needing steadier support, Mary Slaughter traveled to Harrisburg and pleaded before a Senate Legislative Committee for funds. The senate appropriated funds and paid the mortgage on the home which operated soundly until 1962 when state support to all non-profit homes ceased.

The home was closed in 1973, when it failed to meet state standards for nursing homes. In 1975, the home was demolished and a low-income housing project for the elderly was constructed on the same site and named in honor of Mary Slaughter, who died in 1934.

QUESTIONS BLACK HISTORY IN LYCOMING COUNTY

The Underground Railroad and the Civil War

1. Explain why slavery did not become widespread in Lycoming County.
2. How did Pennsylvania's Act of 1780 affect the county?
3. What sites in the county were part of the Underground Railroad route?
4. What part did blacks from the county play in the Civil War?

The Vote--A Step Toward Equality

5. Why did many county residents welcome the 1938 amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution?
6. What were some of the words of advice given by Frederick Douglass to Williamsporters in 1867?
7. Why was Williamsport's 1889 weekly, The Informant, important to blacks?

Blacks and Formal Education

8. Identify Wilson Finley, Sarah Hepburn, and Lila Fisher.

Housing

9. What complaints did blacks make to the Housing Authority? What were the results of these complaints?

The Black Community

10. How did the Bethune-Douglass Community Center originate?

The Sawdust War

11. What part did the Taylor Guard play in the Sawdust War?
12. How might this incident be considered as the beginning of the Pennsylvania National Guard?

Mary Slaughter

13. What contributions did Mary Slaughter make toward social welfare in Williamsport?

APPENDIX FLOOD FORECASTING NETWORK

C

The methods used in flood forecasting today are highly sophisticated and utilize computers and other technology to compile and analyze data collected from reporting stations along streams and rivers. But the forecasts provided from the River Forecast Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Harrisburg suffer from the disadvantage of remoteness. The many variables and ever changing factors involved in flood forecasting make it an onerous task.

Yet in recent years another system has been devised in Lycoming County for forecasting river and stream levels in the county which complements the government's own methods. This system is the backbone of the Lycoming County Flash Flood Network initiated in the summer of 1977. The first and current Coordinator of the Network is William Bird of Muncy who devised the forecasting methods involved.

The County Flash Flood Network is associated with the County Civil Defense Office in the Courthouse. The whole system can be activated by the Flash Flood Coordinator, the County Civil Defense Director, the head of the County Planning Commission, the Meteorologist at the U. S. Weather Service in Montoursville, or a rainfall or stream gauge observer.

Whenever heavy rains, severe snow melt or an ice jam occurs, conditions are such that a warning may be necessary and radio stations and the media notified.

The objective of the Flash Flood Network is "to provide maximum practical lead time warning of eminent flooding to all residents and businesses located in the flood plains of any or all six major streams effecting Lycoming County." Whenever such a warning is effected, the Flash Flood Coordinator is responsible for determining the degree of danger and anticipated stream levels. How is this done?

From the flood forecasting office in the Koppers Co. plant in Muncy, the coordinator collects data by phone on stream conditions, rainfall amounts, snow melt, soil saturation, and temperatures at the major reporting stations in the 5,400 square mile watershed above Williamsport. So as to make calculations concerning the Susquehanna River, the watershed has been divided into five parts. They are (1) the Clearfield/DuBois area with three reporting stations; (2) the Sinnemahoning/Germania area, also with three reporting stations; (3) the Cedar Run/Wellsboro region with three major stations; (4) the Williamsport area with the airport as the major station; and (5) the Eagles Mere to Muncy area with seven major stations. Areas 3, 4 and 5 have a total of sixty reporting stations including the

eleven major ones. The use of a larger number of reporting stations offers greater accuracy in flood forecasting.

During the years he has been engaged in flood forecasting, Mr. Bird has demonstrated the reliability of a forecasting formula first developed by his father. The formula is applicable to river depths from Williamsport to Muncy. It states that "one inch of rain falling in less than 24 hours in the watershed and on saturated, frozen or dried hard ground produces five feet of runoff..." (i.e. a rise in the river level of five feet from Williamsport to Muncy). Runoff is the crucial factor in this formula.

Within thirty minutes of receiving data from the watershed above Muncy, it is possible to predict the amount of runoff to expect. Thus one inch of rain in 24 hours over the entire watershed above Muncy will create five feet of runoff and a subsequent rise of five feet in the river at Williamsport and Muncy if the above soil conditions prevail.

This formula, however, is for conditions which rarely occur. Instead, lulls in rainfall, changes in temperature, alterations between rain and snow and other weather variations can occur. When calculating the data in each of the reporting areas, these varying conditions must be factored in.

A further modification to the above formula is necessary due to the four federal and two state dams in the West Branch watershed. The dams hold back about fifteen percent of the runoff from areas 1 and 2 where they are located. Hence fifteen percent is subtracted from the runoff figures for the first two areas of the watershed.

When the dams were full during the 1972 Agnes flood, it is estimated that the river stage at Williamsport was lowered by 5½ feet thus preventing the water from going over the dikes by two feet. Those two feet proved critical to the safety of Williamsport.

A considerably useful new aid to the efficiency of the Flash Flood Network is the "final index" for streams computed by the National Weather Service at Harrisburg. The final index is obtained from mechanical devices which assess the bearing of runoff on the various streams. This data is then fed into a computer to determine the amount of rainfall necessary to cause a stream to overflow.

The final index is utilized by the County Flash Flood Network to help the coordinator determine the probability and degree of flooding along any major stream after he has determined the average amount of rainfall for the watershed in question. A new final index is available daily for every stream. This greatly enhances the speed and reliability

of flood forecasts.

It is obvious, then, how scientific flood forecasting has become. In Lycoming County the Flood Forecasting Network is effective not only due to advances in computers and scientific forecasting methods, but also due to the many years of trial and error put into perfecting the methods by Mr. Bird.

The Lycoming County Flash Flood Network, first organized in the summer of 1977, is worthy of the emulation of other counties. Finally, forecasters have come to be especially sensitive to heavy rainfalls on Wednesdays and Thursdays, as over the years most major floods have come on Thursday nights. Though it may be pure coincidence, Thursday nights still stir trepidation in the hearts of flood forecasters.

QUESTIONS FLOOD FORECASTING NETWORK

1. What is the function of the Lycoming County Flash Flood Network?
2. List the five main areas of the West Branch watershed where reporting stations are located.
3. State the forecasting formula employed to determine flood levels on the river from Williamsport to Muncy.
4. How do the dams in the West Branch watershed affect runoff?
5. Why do Thursday nights frighten flood forecasters?

APPENDIX D

COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

Jesse W. Barrett	1854-1856
Elisha B. Parker	1856-1857
Hugh Castles	1857-1863
John Thomas Reed	1863-1872
T. F. Gahan	1872-1881
Charles S. Riddell	1881-1885
Charles Lose	1885-1891
J. George Becht	1893-1902
G. Bruce Milnor	1902-1922
Sylvester B. Dunlap	1922-1936
Frank H. Painter	1936-1947
Clarence H. McConnel	1947-1962
Ralph C. Smith	1962-1971

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF INTERMEDIATE UNIT 17 (BLAST)

Carl Driscoll	1971-1978
Dr. Robert M. Mitstifer	1978-

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