The Theta Delta Rho sorority of Wilkes College presented a formal evening in January 8 to make plans for two socials to be held in the near future. Invitations were extended to the general chairman of the sorority, Lois Shaw, who was to be held on January 20, the last day of final examinations. Admission will be free.

Invitations were also extended to the general chairman of the Valentine society, Myra Kornszweig, who will be held on February 15 in the college gym. The admission will be $2.50 per couple.

The committee heads are as follows: Lois Shaw, orchestra; Helen Brown, tickets; Isabelle Ecker and Connie Smith, decorations; Joanne Davis, gifts; Helen Lewis and Nancy Fox, publicity; Ann Joyce and Myra Kornszweig, members; Carol Reynar, program; Ruth Dilley, invitations.

Noted Author Carl Carner Speaks At Assembly, After-Class Session

By GORDON YOUNG

"A wonder of days," is how Carl Carner described himself at assembly last Thursday. Mr. Carner, who will publish the famous Rivers of America series next fall, shared his experiences on writing a book on Wyoming Valley's picturesque and sometimes wild river.

Carner came to Wilkes-Barre to do research on the Susquehanna River for his book. He studied the river's history in Wyoming Historical and Geological Society libraries, as well as in several books, including State Folk on Allegheny, Listen For A Lone-Bowed Drum, and a novel, A Novel in Fever.

Carner has a large repertoire of colorful and sometimes tangy anecdotes, the well-known author delighting the students with a matter-of-fact style of speaking. Carner, who has lived in rural areas than in cities because he felt that these areas were more colorful and more representative of the true nature of the district, said: "Said Carner, "It is often claimed that America has not had time to develop an identity to itself. In the last 20 or 30 years it has been discovered otherwise. In the first place, it is impossible to adopt or import foreign folklore. After World War II, adapting it conditions found in the new country, Wherever America's influence has been felt, there the culture has sprung up. In North Carolina the Scotch-Irish still sing old ballads of the men past, in Louisiana the Cajuns and Creoles sing and tell tall tales of long ago; in the north central states the Scandinavian have their importance along the Mississippi River the people still tell old German tales; and perhaps most important of all, the inhabitants of the Kentucky hills continue to warble their old ballads.

"Most of these old folk songs and ballads have been affected by their journey to America. For instance, "Benjamin the Millhand," as the hero makes mistakes, but has the brains to get out of tough spots, while "my brand new hero is infallible, making himself a laughing stock.

Following his morning talk, Carner held a workshop meeting at 3:30 in the basement of the New Building, conducted by history and English courses, with a view to collecting research matter for the Wyoming Valley section of the State folk club. Concluding some of his methods of research, he asked the students to be on the lookout for ballads, and to find the answers to the texts.
Forget-me-not is a flower. With flour you make bread, with bread you make butter, and with butter you make mayonnaise to buy some pickled onions.

"Oh, you haven't changed a bit. What do you do these days, anyway?"

"Not very much. Just hunt and drink."

"Drink what?"

"Well, if you're a hunter you must have a gun."

"Yes, I'm a hunter, but I've never been one to try and "hunt" anyone."

"I'm glad."

"I'm glad, too."

"Now, just a minute. Seriously. Nothing new and really sport-minded?

"Oh, no. Just doing the job."

"And you're not really interested in anything else?"

"No, I'm not interested in anything except hunting and fishing."
Tails from the Woods:

It was bear season and Bomber season, and the Bomber was Bill Johns, that incomparable master of wit and a clown who has been a fixture in the world of color and variety ever since. He had finally got one — although it wasn't exactly an orthodox matter. It occurred one day when he was in the woods of wilderness where he met a bear which seemed to take an affection for him. Not wanting to shake hands with the beast's teeth, our star performer decided to go out and put in a few hours on the side. In the end, he was able to hold his ground and make his way back to civilization. He even managed to cut a few pieces of wood for the winter season, and it looked like he might be able to turn a profit.

Our Cagey Cagers:

Since the last issue of the BEACON, our basketball squad has been amassing all kind of fans. They started out by making 24 out of 34 on foul shots, establishing a new collegiate record on the field. They also hit 50 percent of their shots from 50 feet away, which is something to be proud of. The Cagers are now looking forward to their next game against a tough opponent, and they're determined to come out on top.

Groin and Groan:

Not all is holly and jolly on the basketball court today. The injury bug has come to visit once again, and it's affecting some of our key players. Coach Layman has been keeping a close eye on their condition, and he's hoping they'll be back in action soon. Meanwhile, the team is working hard to maintain their morale and keep up the momentum.

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Assistant Professor of English Joseph G. Donnelly describes himself as “a home-grown product,” a native Wilkes-Barre man who has been associated with Wilkes College in one way or another since he first walked through the doors of the old Bucknell Junior College building on West Northampton Street, as a freshman.

He completed the two years of work that were offered by the college, then transferred to Bucknell University at Lewisburg, where he received his A.B. and A.M. degrees. After a year’s experience in high school teaching, he returned to what is now Wilkes College as a member of the English Department. By the end of the first semester Uncle Sam exercised his priority over Wilkes, and the English professor became an Ordnance Department private.

“Someone told me never to volunteer for anything in the Army,” offered Mr. Donnelly. Following that advice, he explained, resulted in his seeing “the higher brass” at Aberdeen Proving Ground during his first weeks there at a basic training. “They were curious as to why I didn’t volunteer for N.O.O. school. After a pleasant chat (on their part) I applied for admission, a ‘G.I. volunteer.’”

There followed a two-year tour of duty at Aberdeen, where he received the officer’s commission from Ordnance O.C.S. As an Ordnance man who “fired every small arms weapon then in use, qualified to drive all vehicles including tanks (except motorcycles, they’re too dangerous),” his principal duty was teaching and supervising in various special training units. The units, he explained, had various functions, from teaching literates and non-English speaking soldiers to read and write English, to teaching majors in basic training, to rehabilitating men physically or mentally affected by the war.

The last two years of Mr. Donnelly’s Army service were spent as an Information and Education officer in the Pacific, where he conducted and inspected Army Information Hours and the off-duty educational program.

“It sounds like a classified Cook’s tour to say that one has flown back and forth across the Pacific, touching most of the spots where the war raged, like Pearl Harbor, Tarawa, New Guinea, the Philipines, Guam, and so forth, but actually, aside from the exhilaration of flying—the fact of it and the knowledge that one was relatively free to move whereas most troops were stationed for long periods in a particular place above this, my job was routine and concerned itself mostly with backwash of the war.”

In February of 1946 he was back at Wilkes and the “battle of the books.” In September of 1948 he had a year’s leave of absence to study at the University of Pennsylvania, where he is working toward a Ph.D. in modern British literature. With the exception of a recent summer spent touring Europe with Mr. Alfred Grob, Mr. Donnelly has continued summer study in Philadelphia.

He was awarded a graduate scholarship at Bucknell University, where he participated in the literary, dramatic, German, and education societies. He is a member of Phi Kappa Psi, Delta Phi Alpha, Kappa Phi Kappa, Theta Alpha Phi, and the Graduate English Club of the University of Pennsylvania.

“I feel obliged to protest that I am not a mere ‘G.I. volunteer,’ ” he declared. “The experience of learning by working with others, giving and taking, is what counts. People who join groups solely to get their names in print ultimately fool no one but themselves.”

Having come around to the subject of school activities and their relation to a college curriculum, he continued, “I’ve been faculty adviser to the BEAON, the yearbook, and now I’m adviser to the Literary Society. I think that extra-curricular activities are a necessary part of college life, for the faculty as well as for the students. There, in the activities, we can all meet on common ground. We all have something to learn beyond subject matter. How many activities we engage in depends upon the diversity of our interests and our sense of proportion. Wilkes offers us all ample opportunity for education. It is up to each of us to take advantage of it.”

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