

# Two Barriers Confront College in Expansion To Four-Year Program

A half-million dollars to expand physical properties, and the approval of the University Senate of the Methodist Church are the two hurdles yet to be cleared before Williamsport Dickinson Junior College can become a four-year institution. Dr. John W. Long, school president, made this announcement at the Greater Dickinson banquet Friday night.

The junior college head was one of five speakers representing school interest groups who discussed briefly future plans for the institution. The others were Judge D. M. Larrabee, member of the board of directors; Dr. Helen B. Weidman, of the faculty; Mrs. Curtis R. Schumacher, president of the alumni council; Paul John, president of the Student Government Association and Dr. Paul E. Witmeyer, city superintendent of schools, who represented city educational interests.

They were introduced by the Rev. Rowland R. Lehman, D.D., superintendent of the Harrisburg District of the Methodist Church, who served as toastmaster. Dr. Lehman is a native of Williamsport and was graduated from Dickinson Seminary in 1918. He is a former president of the Alumni Association.

## 800 Present

Approximately 800 alumni, faculty and students attended the annual banquet held in the Elks ballroom at 6.30 p.m. The decorations were carried out in gold and white, the school colors, and bouquets of white tulips, jonquils, iris

and snapdragons were used on the tables.

The speakers' table was set against a background bearing three significant dates — 1848, founding of the school; 1929, its expansion as a junior college, and 1948, the year in which the school executives hope to inaugurate a full four-year course.

Seated at the speakers' table were Dr. Long and Mrs. Long, the Rev. Mr. Lehman, the Rev. Lester E. Lewis and Mrs. Lewis; Judge Larrabee; Dean J. Milton Skeath and Mrs. Skeath; Mr. and Mrs. Walter F. Weidman; Dr. Witmeyer and Mrs. Witmeyer; Mr. and Mrs. Paul John; Mr. and Mrs. Walter G. McIver, and Mr. and Mrs. Curtis R. Schumacher.

## Sees Great Opportunity

"The establishment of a four-year college in Williamsport would be another facet in the city's industrial and commercial history," Dr. Witmeyer told the banquet guests. "We will miss the opportunity to develop future civic and industrial leaders by denying a higher education to youths who cannot afford to attend school outside their own community," he pointed out.

Dr. Witmeyer is a former deputy superintendent of public instruction in Pennsylvania.

Preceding the dinner, Walter G. McIver, supervisor of vocal music at the college, led group singing. The Rev. Mr. Lewis asked the invocation and the Brahms Trio played during dinner.

A dance in the ballroom concluded the program.

# FOUR-YEAR DECISION EXPECTED MARCH 15

Continued from Page 1, This Section

supervising principal of South Williamsport Junior-Senior High School.

## Dr. Witmeyer Speaks

Dr. Paul E. Witmeyer, superintendent of city schools, told the 800 students, alumni, and friends at the banquet that colleges have two great responsibilities. This double duty involves transforming of things already learned to the future and fitting students to assume leadership after graduation.

The Rev. Rowland R. Lehman, D.D., superintendent of the Harris-

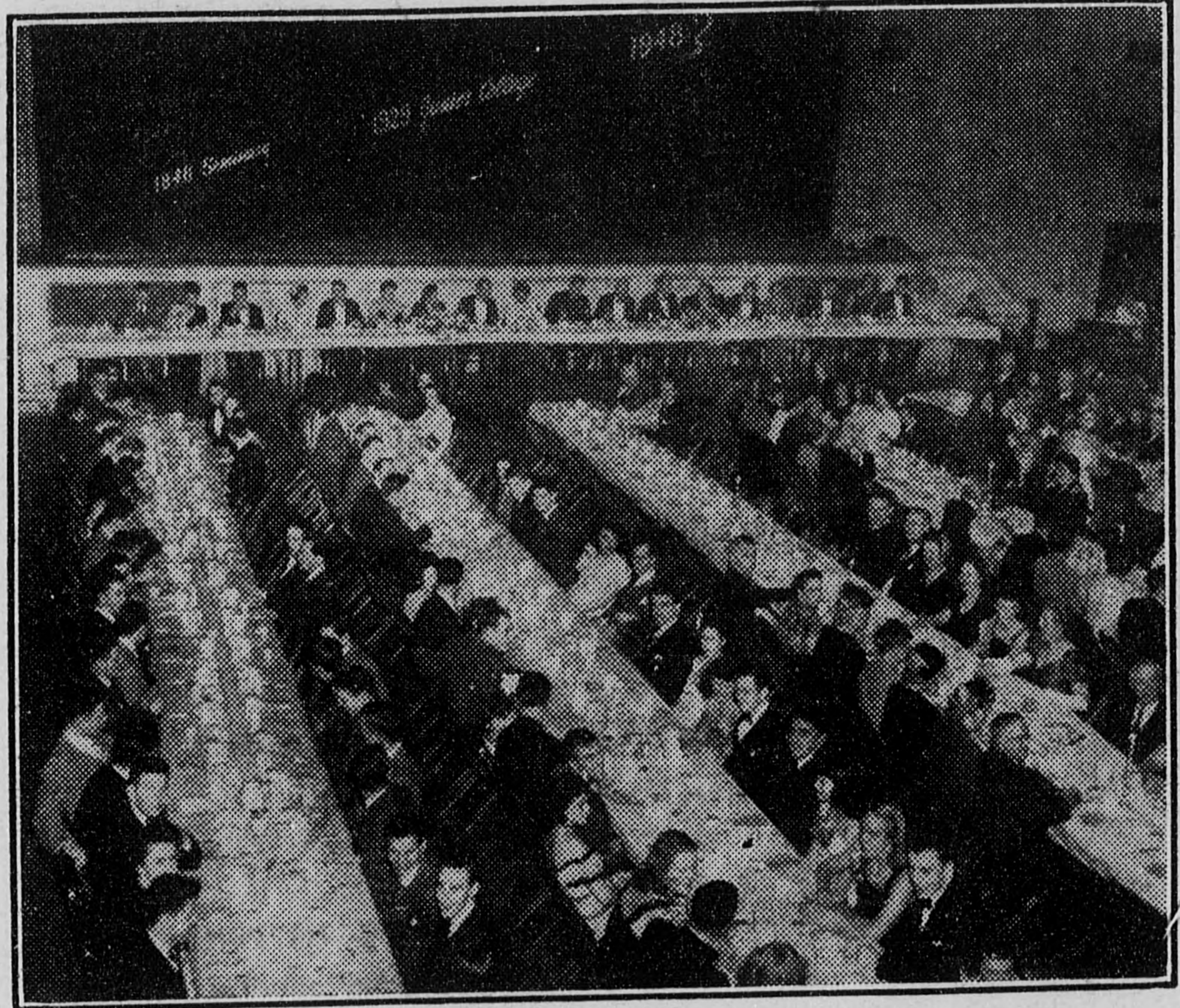
education of the Central Pennsylvania Conference.

Just a week ago a study of the local college program and plans for expansion was completed by a two-man committee that will report to the University Senate before the final decision is announced March 15.

## Enrolment Increases

The first two years of the college work were introduced at Williamsport Dickinson Seminary in 1929. Thus, the institution grew into junior college class. Normal enrolment approximated 300 students, but the post-war boom in G. I. education has produced a student body of almost 1,000 for the present semester.

Williamsport Dickinson Seminary



General View of Greater Dickinson Banquet Friday Night

# Four-Year College, Memorial Auditorium Proposed to C.T.A.

A million and a half dollar program of opportunities for advancement which would give Williamsport Dickinson Junior College four year college status, provide a veterans' memorial civic auditorium and promote industrial and housing expansions was placed before Community Trade Association membership by C. E. Noyes, manager, at the organization's 10th annual banquet Tuesday night.

The college program received first emphasis from Mr. Noyes as being the most pressing of the goals deserving of C.T.A. support.

A record 516 persons, crowded The Lycoming ballroom and adjacent spaces to capacity for the banquet, at which John P. Stewart took over the C.T.A. presidency from Lewis W. Bluemle.

Climax of the dinner program was a rapid-fire roundup of scientific topics by Dr. Gerald Wendt, editorial director of Science Illustrated.

## College Expansion Urged

Expansion at Dickinson, now being studied by church, college and community leaders, would be the equivalent to the community's trade picture of introduction here of an industry with an annual payroll in excess of a million dollars, Mr. Noyes predicted. He reported that a minimum average enrollment of 600 can be expected if the four-year curriculum is realized.

Mr. Noyes outlined four steps to be taken towards establishment of the four-year college here:

1. Adoption of a suitable name for the expanded institution.
2. Addition of a junior class this Fall and of a senior class next Fall, when also the preparatory courses now being given would be dropped.
3. Start of property and building expansion now.
4. Campaign of the community for upwards of \$350,000.

burg District of the Methodist Church, acted as toastmaster and introduced Dr. Long as "prospective president of the four-year college."

Other speakers included Judge Don M. Larrabee, representing the board of directors; Dr. Helen B. Weidman, representing the faculty; Mrs. C. R. Schumacher, representing the alumni, and Paul John, of the student government association.

Walter G. McIver led the group in community singing, and the Rev. E. Lester Lewis asked the invocation. The Brahms Trio furnished dinner music, and Francis Carducci's orchestra played for dancing.

## Optimism Prevails

Although no final decision on the four-year expansion was announced formally at the Greater Dickinson banquet, there was a prevailing optimism that predicated plans for the future on a full-term college program.

Before the proposal was sent to the University Senate of the Methodist Church, the expansion program was supported by the institutional committee of the board of

was chartered in March 26, 1860, to confer degrees and diplomas for bachelor of arts and master of arts work. That authority was granted by act of state legislature.

Present endowments of the junior college are listed at approximately \$400,000. The land and buildings of the campus are valued at more than \$853,000. Total assets of the school are placed at more than \$1,300,000.

Planning for the four-year program has been predicated on offering the third year of college work this autumn and the fourth year in 1948.

## State Policeman Dismissed

The dismissal of Lt. John A. Carr, state police veteran of 23 years service on the force, who faced a trial board at the Wyoming barracks, has been announced by Col. C. M. Wilhelm, state police commissioner. Col. Wilhelm said in a brief statement that Carr was being dismissed "on charges of conduct to the prejudice of good order and police discipline."

# Junior College Easter Vacation Starts April 3

A five-day Easter vacation for students at Williamsport Dickinson Junior College will begin after classes April 3, it was announced yesterday.

Boarding students must be on campus by the afternoon of April 3, and classes will be resumed Wednesday morning, April 9, at 8 a.m.

Dickinson Junior School will plunge into spring football training as soon as the Easter vacation is over. But there will be no baseball team at Sem this spring. There will, however, be a twilight softball league, and there will be intramural programs covering the sports of tennis, volleyball, table tennis, and badminton. An interclass track meet is billed for May.

G+B  
3-28-47