Nationally Known Labor Leaders Will Conduct Classes Here This Summer

WHAT'S lined up for the summer session?
Commonwealth is already getting well set for the next quarter—a big one, by every early sign. It's the prospective students and vacationists who should begin planning now about coming here June 28.

Prominent leaders for nearly all ten week-long discussion groups have been secured, while the teaching staff for the five basic courses is still undergoing careful reorganization. The complete line-up of unique faculty talent, that only this labor school can offer, will very soon be announced in the FORTNIGHTLY.

Group Leaders Named
So far, subject to minor change, the short but intense seminars are to stand as follows:

Carl Haessler, Chicago publicity man for Labor's Non-Partisan League and the C.I.O., as well as central bureau manager of Federated Press, will conduct discussion on the International Scene. Haessler is one of those rarities of the labor movement who keeps his fingertips on every development of national and world significance. This he has proven in his lectures during past summer sessions here.

Robert Wood, veteran in labor defense and today a southern organizer, is to cover special problems of the South today.

Farm Leaders Due
Either or both Clyde Johnson and J.R. Butler will lead study of the sharecroppers, rural workers and farmers movements. Johnson is Louisiana organizer of the Farmers Union, also an editor of the Southern Farm Leader. Butler was this year re-elected president of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. A prominent northwest farm figure may participate too, probably also Reverend Claude Williams, workers' education leader in Arkansas.

William Cunningham, and perhaps also Joe Jones, will handle trends in the cultural movement. Authorship of "Pretty Boy" and "The Green Corn Rebellion" should sufficiently introduce Cunningham, who is now Oklahoma director of the Federal Writers Project and a former Commonwealth instructor. Jones is best known for

Southern Farm Chiefs Rally Campus Nabors

What greater security and better living has been gained by organization of some 30,000 southern farmers—and what similar gains remain to be made in Polk County—is to be shown on the campus tonight at a Farmers Union rally called especially for the college's many neighbors and their families.

Following another rally of the union's new chapter at Mena this afternoon, two of the most prominent farm leaders of the South are due at Commonwealth this evening, where they will discuss in detail with farm folk of the immediate vicinity their own problems, mainly the big question of getting enough livelihood from tilling the stony soil of western Arkansas.

Irby, Dickinson Speak
W.C. Irby, national board member and Alabama president of the Farmers Union, with Dr. M.F. Dickinson, Arkansas president, are the speakers who come with lengthy practical experience in the progressive organization of agriculturists in

New Improvements Make Coming Summer Session Far Better Than Past

SUMMER session students this year will find several improvements over past quarters and thus be able to devote themselves more fully to the lectures and discussions on the new advances of the world labor movement.

During the summer of 1936, as in previous years, students strained their eyes in the light of oil lamps. This year the campus is completely electrified.

In the drouth period of last year the water supply was severely limited, due to the meager capacity of the water tank. With the erection of a new 1000 gallon tank, there will be a constant and bountiful supply of water through the entire summer.

Food, which has been a serious subject for the many amateur student-dieticians here in the past, is now the best that Commonwealh have ever known.

These improvements make life at Commonwealth more comfortable than ever before. Now the students can centralize their interest and energy around the struggle for democracy in Spain, the tremendous unionizing drive of the C.I.O., and the firm strides of unity among the workers in support of progressive legislation.

Koch Represents Teachers
Ray Koch, trade unionism instructor and recently re-elected as industrial manager, will perform a third duty May 17 when he represents Commonwealth Local 194 of the American Federation of Teachers at Hot Springs, where a convention of the Arkansas State Federation of Labor is to be held.

Polk County schools are already closed for the season, but labor education is by no means shelved for an eager quartet of Commonwealth neighbors—not by a long shot.

Trade Union Methods, Public Speaking and Typing are sufficient attractions for them to come each day—a lengthy hike until the end of the spring quarter and the entire summer session. All the girls are set to enter high school in the fall, and are meanwhile earning their way at Commonwealth by doing an hour's industrial work apiece on the campus every day.

Lois and Pauline Redding are sisters (also a locally favorite guitar team) from nearby Mountain Fork. A cousin of theirs, Opal Redding, trudges up from Rocky and Louise Harrison comes from Center Point.

Labor Study 'Bug'
Nips Neighbor Girls, 4 Join Classes Here

COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE
FORTNIGHTLY

VOL. XIII, NO. 10 MENA, ARKANSAS: MAY 15, 1937 $1.00 A YEAR
Polk County Farm Folk, Commoners Hail May 1st

F OR THE NOSE of Polk County farm folk and Commonweal th people defied incessant rain and upheld the meaning of May Day on the campus calendar, united for the evening (and for keeps) under the slogan, "Every Farmer, Every Worker a Unionist!"

While suddenly marshy roads kept perhaps as many more celebrants away, all who came from miles around with their children enjoyed a free buffet supper, abbreviated speeches, an anti-Nazi radio drama and hours of Arkansas square dancing.

Farmer-Laborite Keynoter

Keynoter of the ceremonies mastered by Charlotte Moskowitz was Ewing Ingebrightsen, whose talk on "The Fix We Farmers Are In" pos ed several burning questions of the 1937 farm situation in his listeners' cupped ears. His answers, in terms of the projected Arkansas Farmer-Labor Party, drew forth some quite tangible enthusiasm for speeding the creation of such a people's instrument in this county. Ingebrightsen is already active toward that end.

Textile Worker-Student Talks

A "special" that followed was the sketch of workers' life in a company town, made by Aline Bryant, herself a textile striker who came from mill-dominated Cleveland, Tennessee, to learn better union methods. Neighborhood families present felt impressed "close to home" by her account of the textile operators' exploitation of just such mill farmers' children as their own.

Faculty Chairman Haven Perkins cited how May Day this year links intimately with the C.L.O. upsurge across the country and specifically with the current drive to unionize oil and textile workers of the south and southwest.

Present Anti-Nazi Radio Skit

Donald Ogden Stewart's microphone skit, "Mr. and Mrs. Haddock Go Abroad," received last minute professional touches in its successful production by Kurt Brueckner, a student fresh from progressive theater work in the north. He also ad libbed with several German workers' songs on his guitar.

Commoners choused a number of American labor tunes, in turn for which a trio of neighboring farm youth provided their own brand of string music for the square dancers.

Industrial Horrors

A Review

by Raymond Koch

W ORKERS of America are rightfully shocked and horrified by the news accounts of the ruthless fascist bombing of Spanish cities. The fascist bombers leave in their wake thousands of dead and mutilated, an army of widows and orphans, innocent victims of the fascist bid for power.

A City of Horrors?

But how many American workers are conscious of a City of Horrors in this country with a population equal to Baltimore and Washington wherein reside only widows, orphans and the maimed?

Not that there is such a city, but there would be, according to an authoritative writer, if the victims of industrial accidents in the United States for the last ten years were assembled together. The economic loss to our country from accidents leaving out the huge debt of human misery amounts to $2,500,000,000 annually, it is estimated.

These startling facts, and many others, are revealed in a valuable study by Adolph B. Gerch in OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS AND THE PAINTER. The booklet is published by New York Painters District Council No. 9.

Painting Most Dangerous

And yet the least startling is it to learn that the painting industry under present conditions, ranks among the most dangerous, bringing disease and death early. Those whose task it is to lend beauty and color to our dwellings and surroundings handle materials of death in their work. The dread page three.

Scottsboro Next?

"LET US congratulate ourselves for the freeing of Angelo Herndon, for such a blow against Jim Crow and a big step toward a civilized South."

This exaltation of progressives throughout America was shared by Commoners upon hearing of the Supreme Court's close decision to strike the Georgia slave insurrection law, under which Herndon faced 20 hard prison years for his militant unemployed activity.

While a few days previously the campus was shocked over the uniquely savage blowtorch lynchings in nearby Mississippi, today the speculation here is: How soon do the Scottsboro boys go free too?

General opinion at the college hailed the Herndon victory as a new inspiration for defense of civil rights, and especially as a real spur to the speedier organization of southern worker and farmers.

More Mimeo Handbooks

Organizers, teachers, publicists and any other active workers in the labor movement who missed getting a copy of the 'Handbook of Mimeograph Technique' should glance at the following and rush orders here for the second edition now ready. This came from a W.P.A. Workers' Educational staff man in Pennsylvania:

"I have found it is of immeasurable use in a class of steel workers which I have been teaching in the use of the mimeograph and cutting of stencils."

Requests for Handbooks should be accompanied by 25 cents for each copy, addressed to Charlotte Moskowitz, secretary-treasurer, Commonwealth College.

Springtime Scores Again!

Too bashful or something to wed at the campus May Day celebration, Earl Perkins and Aline Bryant, both students, waited till May 30 and slipped off to the Polk County Courthouse in almost complete secrecy. Commoners recognized the sudden change in the pair as soon as they returned from town, and promptly honored them with a big spread of coffee and cake.

Aline is a textile organizer from Cleveland, Tennessee. Earl came from union work among unemployed and oil workers around his native Haileyville, Oklahoma.

Books Needed By Library

INDUSTRIAL HORRORS

Silicosis, the deadly lung disease that attacks the stonecutter from pallecories of poisoning. The average age of a lead worker is 46 years, as compared to 62 years for all trades. The modern spray machine is as hazardous as a machine gun, and the deadly substance is "lead"—taken in small doses.

Gersh, in his condensed and revealing study, correctly places the responsibility for this situation upon the employers who notoriously disregard human life in their mad race for profits.

Unions Create Safety Departments

He shows where certain unions have taken up the problem of industrial hazards with good results, and the favorable benefits gained by the unions which, establishing special safety departments, must encourage their spread to other industries.

The booklet clearly points out the weakness of the present administration of workers' compensation laws and shows how the main purposes of these laws are negated by self-seeking insurance companies and conscienceless medical practitioners.

How to Manage Compensation

To be efficiently managed, Gerah shows, workers compensation must be taken over by the state, which would administer both medical treatment and the insurance funds.

The protection of the American wage earners' health and life is of great concern to wife, son and daughter. This is a challenge for the union movement. Much must be done in the fight for safety on the job. Unions must struggle for a social insurance plan by the federal government which will provide and administer medical treatment and funds in the case of employment disability. To accomplish these ends, the trade unions must continue to increase their economic and political influence locally and in their nation as a whole, pressing forward with the new vigor characteristic of today.

PROGRAM, 1937 SUMMER SESSION

Ten Weeks: June 28 — September 4

COURSES

Basic Economic and Social Forces in Modern America
Public Speaking
Labor Publicity
Imperialism and Fascism
Current Events

DISCUSSION GROUPS

[Conducted by prominent leaders in each field. One hour lecture, one hour discussion daily.]
The International Scene (First week.)
The International Scene (Second week.)
International Peace (Third week.)
The Youth and Student Movements (Fourth week.)
Trends in the American Trade Union Movement (Fifth week.)
Special Problems of the South Today (Sixth week.)
The Sharecroppers, Rural Workers and Farmers Movements (Seventh week.)
The Organization of the Unemployed (Eighth week.)
Trends in the Cultural Movement (Ninth week.)
Labor in Politics (Tenth week.)

Ten $50 Weeks

PLUS 15 HOURS WEEKLY WORK
[Meals, lodging, and laundry included]

Further features will be announced in the Commonwealth College FORTNIGHTLY.

Bring four sheets, (a pillow and pillow cases if you use a pillow), a couple of blankets (because the nights are always cool), towels, low-heeled shoes, bathing suit, etc.

Upon arrival at Mena, Arkansas, inquire at the P. & M. Filling Station and Cafe for the Commonwealth truck. If it isn't in town, a taxi will bring you out for two dollars. Commonwealth College is eleven miles (west) from Mena. Mena is on the Kansas City Southern Railway and on U.S. Highway 71. Mena is the nearest shipping point for mail, freight, express, and Western Union.

If you want to ship your things ahead prepaid, the college will pick them up in town and store them on the campus for your arrival.

Charlotte Moskowitz, Secretary-Treasurer, Commonwealth College, Mena, Arkansas.

[ ] Please send application for summer session.
[ ] Keep me posted on summer session plans.
[ ] I'm interested. Please send me your regular catalogue.
[ ] I enclose a dollar for a year's subscription to the FORTNIGHTLY.

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City __________ State __________

Please type or write plainly.
Nationally Known Labor Leaders
Conduct Classes Here This Summer
his several murals in the Midwest and South, including a panoramic series of his southern impressions which is a treasured feature of the Commons, our campus dining hall. This spring he is doing a camera survey of wholesale ruination in the Dust Bowl, a Guggenheim Fellowship task recently awarded him.

Farmer-Laborite Chief
Howard Y. Williams, national chairman of the Farmer-Labor Party, is to be the headliner on the Labor in Politics week. He’s been in the national headlines frequently but will be more so during the forthcoming months of hectic growth already enveloping the Farmer-Labor movement.

Plenty of information-laden folders about the summer session are available for mailing to your friends and fellow unionists or for your own direct use. Simply write to Secretary-Treasurer Charlotte Moskowitz here and tell her how many and where to send.

And watch the Fortnightly from now on for some summer specials that will be hard to spare yourself.

Planters’ Flying Squad
An honest-to-goodness flying squad of planters has been seen near the Commonwealth campus during several recent evenings!
It wasn’t any night-riding band of cotton field terrorists from eastern Arkansas, however. Instead, Farm Manager George Martin had merely mobilized a corps of students for some emergency twilight planting of tomato and cabbage sprouts on the college farm.

George wished he’d been more bossy, though, after he discovered some seedlings set out between furrows instead of on them.

A Commonwealth Dormitory
The buildings are simple frame affairs. There are separate housing facilities for men and women and cottages for couples. Students are housed in two or three room units, with two to four students assigned to each unit. Since the new generator has been installed there has been electricity in all buildings and standard appliances can be used.

SOUTHERN FARM CHIEFS RALLY CAMPUS NABORS
southern states. Both have become recognized leaders in the difficult but successful task of building a broad union movement in this field, today a union that produce markets and cotton mills have already been forced to reckon with and, in dozens of recent instances, have had to meet more than half way.

While the rally is held under Farmers Union auspices, it was located at the college and prepared for by Commoners upon direct request of Arkansas officials of the union, chiefly because Commonwealth is eager to utilize every opportunity for furthering the rapid and strong organization of small farmers and wage-earners everywhere.

Polk County Chapter of the union received its charter early this year, and is expected to swell its membership and increase activity considerably as a result of today’s rallies.

Why ‘n’ Wherefor?
Answers to the questions below will appear here next issue. Send your own queries to the Why ’n’ Wherefor Dept. of the Fortnightly

1. Why are craft and industrial unionism distinguished as “vertical” and “horizontal”?
2. What are the three major concentration points of the C.I.O. southern textile campaign? And of the oil drive?
3. Where is unionization most difficult in the South?
4. How are black and white workers organized into the same local in Jim Crow territory?
5. Why does the U.S. Department of State allow American medical aid to Spanish democracy while still barring Yankee fighters from the Loyalist army?
6. How would the Industrial Mobilization Plan, in case of the United States entering war, affect small farmers?
7. Would the Farmer-Labor bloc in Congress invariably oppose war credits?
8. Are “loyalty oaths” an advance promise to join the U.S. Army?
9. If a worker is fired for joining a union, what can the Wagner Labor Relations Act do about it?
10. What article of the Constitution provides the Supreme Court with power to declare acts of Congress unconstitutional?
11. How many times has the Supreme Court been enlarged and reduced?
12. Where is it “illegal” in the nation to read the Declaration of Independence aloud in public?

DEMOCRACY AWAKES
by Joe Hoffman

Death rains on the limb of Spanish Democracy
And the body of World Democracy
Aches and is tortured awake
At the sight of the shadow of winged death
Pouring lead, gas and fire
On the member of the whole.
At Madrid the defenders of liberty
have cried, “No Pasaran.”
Over the earth the cry goes up and becomes
a solid wall
And the spirit of democracy becomes
In every land a light shattering
And dispersing the shadow of fascism
The beat of death’s wings, whose fluttering
sound
Reaches the far corners of the earth,
Stirs men to action and to die
That their dreams of liberty may live,
To lose themselves that they and those they
love may live.