Every Farmer, Every Worker a Union Member is Slogan
Keynoting Commonwealth College May Day Celebration

Wanted: Tear Gas Bomb
As Trophy for Museum

President Roosevelt got an impressive mandate from the American people last November for the labor and social legislation they demand to protect workers, farmers and small businessmen. The C.I.O. presses forward daily by virtue of this mandate, too, organizing one big industry after another to provide the union instruments necessary for causing the President or his successor in 1940 to fulfill this mandate. Sit-down strikes still sweep the country, as the first spectacular skirmish of the mighty forces behind this mandate in its challenge to entrenched reaction, its threat to economic royalty.

All of this history-making struggle has left documentary and graphic evidence in its wake. More evidence piles up every day. More still will accumulate in the immediate future.

The Museum of Social Change on the Commonwealth campus, sole of its kind in America, is anxious to receive such evidence—the vivid record of our hectic day—for permanent display here.

A tear-gas bomb (be sure it's empty!) would be an ideal donation to the museum showcases for a starter. There's a place for it.

Mimeo Handbooks Going

Anyone who dallies longer in ordering his two-bit copy of several dollars' worth of indispensable practical hints given in Bill Stenell's "Handbook of Mimeograph Technique" may have to wait until a second edition is run off. Merely a handful of the first issue remain. Orders pile up weekly from widely scattered labor groups and active individuals who want to improve their educational material. Send your quarter for a postage-paid, durably bound handbook to Secretary-Treasurer Charlotte Moscowitz at Commonwealth.

Neighbors Join in Sport, Stunt
And Supper Program

Inspired by the C.I.O.'s daily growing might and 1937's historic sweep of the unorganized into progressive unions, Commonwealth College and its neighbors from miles around today focused the campus May Day celebration upon this banner of the hour:

"Every Farmer, Every Worker a Union Member!"

From the tiniest tots-in-arms of nearby villages and mountain cabins to 70-year-old union veteran "Tip" Laughlin, this gathering of Commoners and hill farmers reflected itself as a novel sort of "Labor's Fourth of July." In place of firecrackers and political harangues, however, the program was marked by a prolonged afternoon men's ball session in the campus barnyard and a round of sports events for all ages.

Sole speaker and a brief one at that, Evring Ingebrigtsen spoke on "The Fix We Farmers Are In" by analyzing small farmers' and agricultural workers' immediate problems and outlining the present scene on the farm organizational front. Ingebrigtsen is a leading student here, coming as a young dairyman from Minnesota where he has for long been in the forefront of Farmer-Labor Party work.

With an "all welcome" free supper for the whole gathering to close the afternoon, the evening featured a student-produced anti-Nazi radio skit, "Mr. and Mrs. Had­wick Go Ahead."

May Day at Commonwealth compensates its lack of numbers by bringing nearly all of the numerous but scattered friends of the college together for an unique annual fest. There is no parade, such as distinguishes the impressive celebration in all major centers of the country; instead, an alternating serious and carefree crowd of Commoners and Polk County farmers vie with each other in athletic feats, story-telling jousts, and packing away the supper.

Commoners 'Sit-down'
April 22 Against War

S ton by side with Commonwealth's all-union faculty, the student body and maintenance crew dropped all books and tools on the forenoon of April 22 to proclaim their complete solidarity with nearly a million American students who struck their classes all over the country at that moment to raise a mighty hand against war.

While contemplating the administrative and strong-arm suppression that marred some of the widespread anti-war strike actions, Commoners staged their "strike" by holding a sit-down on the sunny, grassy quadrangle here. Student leaders and instructors cited in their tree-stump speeches the 1937 significance of April 22 and recounted experiences at other colleges in earlier days of this now well-established annual blow at the war menace.

Anti-War Leader Cites
Widespread Student Activity

Howard Lee, southwest regional secretary of the Emergency Peace Campaign's youth section, told Commoners during his recent visit here of the "peace strike" movement's spread onto the American campus—its effective penetration among countless high school and college youths, who are potential factors in keeping the United States from war and barring war from the world.

Anti-war groups in the schools of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas are Lee's focal points, in which he strives to unite their strength with national forces for peace.

THEATER ACTIVISTS ARRIVE

Hildegarde Steinicke and Kurt Brueckner, both active figures in the New Theater Group of New York City, have just arrived for the rest of the quarter.
ACTING HEAD SEES SMOOTH OPERATION OF PLANT

Now that Commonwealth's springtime energy is flung full force into many-sided activity, how well do the campus, the plant, the farm and the college as a whole function? Highlights below from the latest general report of Acting Director Arthur R. Skeebery will tell you briefly:

The C.I.O. drive is the greatest single determinant in students' selection of courses. Never before has there been such a registration for the Trade Union and Labor History courses.

Initial lecture-discussion sessions by Faculty Chairman Haven Perkins set a pace that is something to live up to for the rest of the quarter.

While last month the "Handbook of Mimeograph Technique" was unquestionably the college's outstanding contribution to the labor movement, this month the editorial recognition given to our librarian, Henry Black, by the Special Libraries Association publication takes the lead in special merit. He has already been invited to two librarians' conventions, at one to advise on handling periodicals.

Under enthusiastic and methodical guidance of Fred Freer, the
meals are vastly improved... and cost a little less per person than when he took over the kitchen department.

Our campus-built 110-volt lighting plant is now definitely a success. Completion of the wiring job, except for the Castle and the Studio, and construction of the plant comprise one of the most valuable contributions to Commonwealth, for which credit is shared by Ralph Field and Bernie Stevens.

Extensive repairs and remodeling of the Castle are proceeding under Matt Mackie, who is seeking to correct basic structural faults in the building.

Office, store, and printshop work continue smoothly, despite a severe setback in the last... The FORTNIGHTLY is being run off under great difficulty until we raise funds for a new press to replace our hopelessly broken down antique.

Barring drought, the Commonwealth farm will be for the first time a real asset to the institution. George Martin's interest, plus his real sound understanding of our needs, plus a very correct analysis of spring weather conditions, has put all his crops in the best possible shape for the fastest possible growth.

Ancient Mariner Tarries, Tells Tall Tales

BY ARTHUR MC EWEN

"Commonwealth is an old dream of mine come true... I never knew till now there could be such a place to teach young working people."

It's a twentieth century Rip Van Winkle of the labor movement speaking before our spellbound campus population, circled closely around his massive, shaggy figure.

Now 70, his mind and body still spry as springtime, T. P. ("Tip" to us) Laughlin stumbled upon the college recently in his endless roaming through the South. He challenged our credulity by saying this was his only direct contact with Organized America since his days in the Non-Partisan campaign of 1929.

How so isolated meanwhile? Well, Tip explained that he got tired waiting for industrial unionism shortly after the war that he simply hied off to remote southern backwoods and stayed there. No, he didn't sleep under a rock during the twenties and the depression. He kept enough dimes in his overall pockets by making and peddling a gadget for the oil lamps still used by poor hill farmers. That's how he lives to this day, and naturally has little occasion to visit even small towns.

Once state organizer for the Socialist Party in Arkansas, Laughlin is a fountain of endless tales about his sometimes lonely wolf and sometimes hectic days in that organization since joining it in 1903. Long before that early era of modern labor politics, he was a union man and will remain one as long as he lives. And that will be indefinitely long, judging from the amazing vigor of this six-foot man-mountain.

One of Tip's earliest rubs in the hardy life of a militant unionist came back in the eighties when a windjammer skipper gave him walking papers for "conduct unbecoming an officer." He was a mate on the ship, but nevertheless he thought it would be an excellent idea to sign up an all-union crew. This he calmly did. The skipper, however, turned out to be too strong an open-shopper for Laughlin and the then young International Seamen's Union.

Another organizing fling was at railroad telegraphy, where Tip went through seven jobs within as many weeks for his dauntless and deliberate union activity. Gene Debs' epochal railroad strike came off while Tip was helping to build the Order of Railway Telegraphers, so Laughlin was swept into the crest of that first great wave of the rising tide of American labor struggles.

Perhaps it was then also, while freighting to Washington with Coxey's unemployed army, that he became habituated to running on strict schedule. At our Sunday night forum given over to him, Laughlin pulled out his typewriter between each paragraph and finished within his self-allotted half hour right to the minute.

Self-defence was an art that T. P. taught...
How the Farm Boss Shows ‘Em Around

[Manager George Martin is famed at Commonwealth for unforgettable receptions he tenders so warmly to city greenhorns visiting his farm domain.]

BY ERVIN INGEBERGSKN

George—‘g’mornin’ son, stayin’ on byar this quarter?
Clarence—Yes, I believe I will.
G—Book-larnin’s alright m’boy ef’n ya don’t let hit go to yore haid.
C—I’m worrying about that, George. Say what kind of plant is that?
G—O, them is our macaroni shoots. They will soon be ready fur empty’in'.
C—Is that so?
G—Yeah. ‘Nuther month ‘n’ we’ll all be a-pullin’ ‘em ‘n’ takin’ the pith out’n ‘em an’ hangin’ ‘em on the fence to dry. Boy, they make the best spaghetti ya ever et. We perdue the best macaroni an’ spaghetti in these here parts. Ya oughtta see our egg plants too; they beat our hens.
C—Gee whiz!
G—Yep, we only keep hens to have sumthin’ to cross the road.
C—There goes the bell.
G—Whar? Ah can’t see hit.
C—I mean the supper bell. Coming to eat?

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.)

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.
"Log-chain your sweetie an' stay-chain your money.
Double up, boys an' get th' worth of your money."

With this call to the dance floor and bar rail, a distinctive "Southern Night" party led by Coon Huntin' Tom Davin and His Houn' Dawg is set in behalf of Commonwealth and Highlander Folk School for Friday, May 7, 8:45 p.m., at Co-operative School Auditorium, 69 Bank Street, New York City.

Southern gypsy melodies by Mara Alexander, Margot Mayo's folk dances and ballads of her native Kentucky hills and sophisticated New Orleans pastimes feature the bill of fare besides "hill-billy beverages that will drive you into a Virginia reel" and "planters' punch so southern it'll make you flog your wife." Dancing also, of course.

"To raise enough silver dollars to keep the two southern labor colleges in enough cawn poke and molasses for a spell." Subscription 25 cents.

"Hold t'ye' hosses till we give you warnin'.
Stay an' go home with th' gals in th' mornin'!"

Got a Racket?

We have the athletes. Hairy farm youths, brazen young industrial workers. And we also have many students who well need physical development. Sport fields abound at Commonwealth, too. But equipment is nil, save for a set of horseshoes on our barnyard golf course.

Whatever you, your friends or your organization can donate to the college on the following list will be no small contribution to a real part of workers' education.

Tennis rackets and balls, a volley ball, a basketball and a soft baseball, as well as a soft ball bat, nets, gloves, etc.

from page two

Ancient Mariner Tarries, Tells Tall Tales

himself ages ago. Time and again he entwined alecchi vigilantes who vainly tried to curb his freedom of speech, but there were also occasions when he got a few days' free keep in various jails, instead of receiving such legal protection as constitution-conscious Americans like himself rightfully expect. In union action along the South American seaboard he felt, too, the merciless crack across his back of the bastinado, an iron-knobbed steel lash used by port police against him and his fellow-striker shipmates.

News of the C.L.O., especially of the mighty southern drive, was poured into his delightfully surprised ears during almost every other minute of his brief visit here. Almost too odd to believe, it was claimed by Tip that he knew virtually nothing of this great upsurge until he trudged upon the campus.

"Industrial unionism? Why, brothers, I've been after that most of my life!" he beamed, rolling slightly to and fro on his tree-trunk legs as if he'd just stepped off a ship to solid earth again.

"If that's what you folks are here for, this is a real school and no pipe dream!"

from page one

College May Day Celebration

for which Commonwealth is fast becoming famous.

Turnover among the guests is continuous. Many cannot spare even half a day from their work in the fields, for cultivation is just now at peak. But they do stop their plows and hoes for a couple of hours at least, or else truck the whole family up to the campus for the evening that they themselves make pay.

May Day here belongs to everyone who comes. No one is overbearing with windy speeches. All throw in their "two cents" to shape the day quite according to whim of the moment. Yet, an impressive consciousness of the day's universal meaning is the strong undercurrent that makes this a genuine Fourth of July for all who till and till around our campus, whose geographic name is significantly "Freedom Township."

from page one

Wanted: Tear Gas Bomb

As Trophy for Museum

for it right beside the billy-stick sent by "a Chicago policeman who refuses to shoot or club the unemployed." How about contributing a copy of a hysteric anti-labor injunction, such as Judge Gadola's masterpiece issued against the heroic General Motors strikers? Or some photos? Or hired thugs' bullets from strikers' bodies? Or a 24-cent weekly pay envelope from a textile factory?

This is your chance to help provide for the graphic education of our children and grandchildren—don't deny them a glimpse of 1937's realities!