CLAY FULKS TEACHES LAW AND LITERATURE

Noted Arkansawyer Will Continue Fight for Enlightenment With Pen.

Clay Fulks has been a soldier in the liberation war of humanity twenty-seven years. For more than a quarter of a century he has battled the forces of ignorance and reaction as principal of one Arkansas school after another.

Clay Fulks is now at Commonwealth. He has not given up the battle. He has merely retired from the front to fight with a mightier weapon than the sword, the pen. Here at Commonwealth he will devote himself to writing in the cause of an enlightened Arkansas.

Twenty-seven years’ association would give any observing man an insight into the workings of a school system. But twenty-seven years’ association has given Clay Fulks more than an insight into the workings of school systems.

It has given him an insight into the workings of the minds behind those school systems. “I have learned,” he stopped picking the rocks that were scattered over the footpath, “to know the ideas of the people and, sorry to say, their woeful lack of ideas.”

Clay Fulks chose to come to Commonwealth for still another reason. He has wanted to give of himself, since he had nothing else that he could give, to the advancing of Commonwealth, from the day two years ago he first heard that such a school existed.

“I ran across a copy of the Fortnightly accidently, and I was astounded. I was astounded to think that I, a native of Arkansas and active in radical movements, should not have heard of this school.”

Clay Fulks lost no time in telling us of his friendship. Without solicitation he wrote several articles about the school. That Commonwealth should win the active approval of a contributor to The American Mercury and numerous other publications was another feather in its cap.

Upon his arrival at Commonwealth September 29, Clay Fulks joined its [Continued on Page Two.]

AN OPEN LETTER.

Friends:

I am happy to announce that after five years of experimentation and hard work, Commonwealth is at last emerging into that kind of co-operative educational community the founders dreamed of when they inaugurated the venture.

Today we have the most competent staff of instructors and the finest group of adult worker-students that we have ever had. Last month we admitted seven new members into the Commonwealth College Association, which controls and operates this institution. Five of these seven new members are students who averaged three years of residence at Commonwealth. To admit them into the Association is to admit matured sons and daughters into the family polity.

The Commoners today are more anxious than ever to carry ahead the development of the educational community. The modest drive for a maintenance fund began last spring and it has lacked slightly more than a dozen subscribers to bring it to a successful conclusion. We hope that our friends will so respond in the next two weeks that we may announce the closing of that drive. There awaits us a greater effort, one into which we cannot go until the maintenance fund has been fully subscribed.

ZEUCH.

Well Known Engineer Joins Teaching Staff

F. A. Post, Author, Esperantist, Designer and Builder to Become Commoner.

F. A. Post, prominent in engineering and aeronautic circles as Fedor Alexis Postnikov, in now en route to Commonwealth College from Berkeley, Calif., where he has lived. He will start work immediately on the dam and power-plant which will lay the basis for Commonwealth’s economic independence.

Post joins our group as a probationary member of the Commonwealth College Association and as a member of its teaching staff. He will instruct in Esperanto, mathematics, mechanical drawing and structural work.

Two years ago he first heard of this institution through his friend, F. M. Goodhue, who is now on a year’s leave of absence. His interest aroused, he wrote to the office for detailed information, and has continued to write from time to time.

“Today I met Mrs. Kate O’Hare,” his most recent letter reads, “and had quite a long conversation with her about your college. A few weeks ago, I gave a ride to a young man by the name of Brown [Continued on Page Four.]
Term Gets Under Way
With Little Friction

"Best Student Body We've Ever Had," Says Zuech.

"School got under way with less friction this year than ever before," says Lucien Koch, fifth year student. "This group is more mature and more responsible, in my opinion, than others we have had. Of course, better equipment and the added experience of the older students and teachers will account for part of the improvement. In the days when we lived in tents we had to make more radical adjustments than are necessary this year."

Forty students, representing sixteen states and two foreign countries, comprise the most carefully selected student body that Commonwealth has ever had. Several of the applicants were personally interviewed by Bill and Clarice Cunningham during their hitch-hike half around the United States.

"There is a distinct improvement from an academic point of view," says Director Zuech, "in our present student body. The students have better backgrounds, both of experience and schooling than students of former years."

"There is more journalistic and literary ability, potential and actual, right here than I have found in student bodies numbering five thousand," says Bill Cunningham. "There are more stories, poems, novels being attempted here than at the average state university, and the quality of the work would not suffer by comparison with that of schools one hundred times as large as Commonwealth."

The curriculum as finally arranged by teachers in conference with students includes the following courses: Introductory economics, social origins, history of civilization, introductory psychology, educational psychology, social psychology, legal origins, modern poetry, versification, grammar review, effective writing, introductory journalism, short story writing, German, French, stenography, and typing.

SOCIETY NOTES

They come—Albert von Hoffman, St. Louis capitalist and good genius of liberal and labor projects, and E. J. Manion, President of the Telegraphers National Bank of St. Louis, one of the great labor banks of this country, visited Commonwealth a few hours, driving over from Hot Springs.

And Stay. "Whoa, Jack! Whoa, that, Tack!" A slight little woman, shiny eyed and wrinkle faced, backed up a Lilliputian covered wagon harnessed to two proportionately sized burros against a tall pine tree on the campus. Alighting from her perch she smiled "howdy" to a group of Commoners that gathered about her, and told them that she has been driving her midget wagon two months from Pawhuska, Okla., a distance of three hundred miles, in order to "study" her "friends of the woods" about whom she had read a newspaper story three years ago. The voyager, Mrs. Pauline Winters, 73, will remain for several months to do research work in the Commonwealth library.

Honk! Honk! The five student-freighted flivvers that rattled into our community during the last fortnight testified rather to the popularity of Henry Ford's steinach Lizzie than to the prosperity of Commoners. Were it not for the fact that the slick new Ford intrigued automobile owners to trade in their old models, and were it not for the fact that these old models were to be had "dirt cheap," Commoners would have continued to wend their way collegeward on foot.

Blowout. Lucien and Raymond Koch, students from Cincinnati, Ohio, drove the thousand miles to Commonwealth in their Ford coupe, 1925 model, with a single tire blowing out. No Professor Pangloss had to tell them that this is knowledge that they motored back to Mena to drink ice cream sodas to the continuation of the status quo. But on their return trip the gods deserted them; two tires punctured.

Astray. The difficulty new students experience in getting the "lay of the land" keeps the community in continual fear for their safety. Often it takes newcomers a week to learn the way from the Commons to their dormitory, and a month before they can find their way about in the dark. As the campus site is a bluff jutted one hundred feet above Mill Creek, we stand in fear that some newcomer will walk over the cliff on a moonless night.

Goodhue Is Elected to Membership on Board

New Trustee Has Been With School Since Its Founding.

F. M. Goodhue, instructor in science and mathematics, was elected member of the Board of Trustees at a special meeting of the Commonwealth College Association October 2. Goodhue, who has been with the school since its founding, is now on a year's leave of absence. He will return at the beginning of the second quarter.

The Board of Trustees consists of three members elected by the association, and functions as an executive board to carry out the program of the association. The other members of the present board are Kate Richards O'Hare and William Edward Zuech.

WILL YOU ENROLL YOURSELF AS ONE OF THE HUNDRED WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS WILL MAKE THE CONTINUATION OF COMMONWEALTH POSSIBLE?

If so fill out and mail this blank.

I hereby enclose $_____________ for the year 1928 and pledge $_____________ annually for 1929 and 1930.

NAME _______________________

ADDRESS ____________________

PLEDGES FOR THE FORTNIGHT.

Stanley Pietraszewski, Detroit, Mich.
BOOK REVIEW

O'NEILL COMES FORTH

Lazarus Laughed, a Play for an Imaginative Theater, by Eugene O'Neill. Foni & Liveright.

The plays of Eugene O'Neill seem to be simply projections of the struggles that fitfully raged in the soul of their author. Their themes are too recurrent not to be relatable to personal experience, and their ideas too much of a piece. An O'Neill play is the doctrine of frustration expressed in terms of the theater.

It may be, indeed, also a work of art. For the dramas that Eugene O'Neill gives us are not without passion and poetry, not without writing of a high order and innovations in dramatic illustration at once bold and brilliant. There is such a passionate flow of himself into his works that they bear the unmistakable stamp of his peculiar personality.

No play of his, therefore, is free from a definite bias. All of them are written expressly to prove the hollowness of romance, the impotence of aspiration, the falseness of sentiment, and the tendency of life to cheat those who believe in it. They are written thusly, not because O'Neill has burdened away his soul, but rather because O'Neill's soul is very much his own.

"Lazarus Laughed" introduces us to a note new to the O'Neill dramatic art. The Biblical story of the resurrection of Lazarus is treated with much license. Lazarus is already raised from the dead when the play opens; he is being awaited by the multitudes who are eager to know what he had seen and heard in the Beyond.

"There is no death," Lazarus tells them. "There is only God's eternal laughter." And although the motivation of the play is still the principle of frustration, this precept that death is a misconception is emphasized. Through Lazarus, O'Neill tells us to forget sorrow and laugh. Laugh, laugh, for death is dead and there is only laughter! Does this cutting edge of his traditional philosophic mooring portend the emergence of a new Eugene O'Neill in his next play?

Irving Weissman.

BENTON WITHDRAWS FROM MEMBERSHIP TO WRITE

W. C. Benton, active in the Commonwealth College Association five years in the various capacities of teacher, trustee and legal representative, withdrew from membership October 1. He will hereafter devote his time to writing and the practice of law.

Although he has severed his connection with the college, Benton nevertheless believes in the Commonwealth idea as strongly as ever. "I want to do some writing," he explained; "while I've got the itch for it, I couldn't do much last year."

Benton will retire to a cabin in the mountains several miles from the college campus. There he will complete his literary work, and then remove to Mena, where he will resume his law practice.

PEGASUS UNSHOD

As Ridden by Commonwealth Versifiers

TRIUMPH OF CULTURE

By William Cunningham

Mary Tubbs at twenty-seven
Was occupied with thoughts of heaven.
She entertained the Ladies' Aid,
And earned her husband's socks and prayed.

And held the home in high regard,
And planted flowers in the yard.

But Mary Tubbs at forty-eight
Heavily bosomed, quite sedate.
Psychoanalyzed and refined,
Is much concerned about the Mind;
Conversational, circumspect,
Planting flowers about her intellect.

CONTRASTS IN FUTILITY

By William Kenneth Moyer

Conscripts on a battlefield
Crying out in pain;
Cattle in a slaughter-pen
Bellowing in vain.

--From The Oracle, by permission

CAMPAIGN RESULTS

Pledges to Date.

(70 pledges have been acknowledged in this column in previous issues)

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WILSONS ARRIVE AND TAKE UP YEAR'S WORK

Dr. Edward Clinton Wilson, who has been head of the Department of Psychology and Education at Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va., his wife, Alice Owings Wilson, and their daughter, Emily Wilson, arrived at Commonwealth September 15.

Dr. and Mrs. Wilson take up residence here as members of the faculty. Dr. Wilson is offering courses in psychology and Mrs. Wilson in English. Their daughter, Emily, who has completed four years at Lynchburg College, enrolled as a student.

WELL KNOWN ENGINEER JOINS TEACHING STAFF

[Continued from page 1] and it happened that he was a student from Commonwealth.

"Thus from four different sources I have already received information about your college, and all of them made me believe that at the end of the end, the life and work at Mena would suit me the best, and I hope that I shall do more productive work there in the application of my training and practical experience than anywhere else."

Who's Who, devoting thirty-three lines to him, says that he was born in Kovno, Russia, February 29, 1872, and was educated at the First Imperial Military School and the Officers' Aeronautical School, both in Leningrad.

He is the designer and builder of numerous buildings, dams, harbors, etc., for the Russian and United States governments and private concerns. He is also the author of technical books in the English, Russian and Esperanto languages.