CAMPUS ATOP CLIFF
ALIVE WITH ACTIVITY

Camp Open During September:
Group Works, Plays
and Studies

Outside-the-classroom activities at
Commonwealth are not, as in many
another college, a matter of hanging
around the drug store or following the
team. Rather Commoners, in their
spare time, form discussion groups,
attend lectures not connected with
regular classes, swim, play tennis,
doze, pore over books in the library or
read with other members of a study
group. Although the summer quarter
program is well under way, the combined
recreational and educational features
are proving attractive to many camp-
ers, who are still dropping in to spend
their vacations at Commonwealth.
Campers are always welcome and may
arrange their stay on the campus for
any length of time, from an overnight
visit to a vacation lasting the rest of
the summer. Campers lending a hand
for 15 hours a week with the commu-
nity tasks pay twenty-five dollars a
month for room, board, laundry serv-
vice and all camp privileges, while
non-working guests pay twice as much.
Campers have the use of the library
and may audit college classes by per-
mission. Many of these vacationing at
Commonwealth are also participating
in extra-curricular activities.

Study Groups

This summer extra-curricular activi-
ties have been more varied and more
participated in by students because of
the increase in the size of the group
and the new ideas brought to the cam-
pus by visiting instructors. Out of a
group meeting with "How to Study:
its problems," grew the idea of small
study groups, to supplement the class
room work and give a more thorough
understanding of a subject in the ten-
weeks' course. Sponsored originally
by Oliver Carlson, economics instruc-
tor, the idea took hold, and now small
groups of five or six students are meet-
ing to read and discuss class assign-
ments and optional reading relative to
the subject studied.

A special lecturer, Dr. Walter Sieg-
Continued Page Three

Class-Consciousness
Is Born in America

The bankers left Washington with
the billions they asked for. The heroes
who fought 11 years ago "to make the
world safe for democracy," were driven
out with torch, bayonet and tear
gas bomb. President Hoover ordered
the bloody rout, and those he had do-
the job were a younger generation of
soldiers, the erstwhile small boys who
cheered the Yanks off to France in
1918.

Thus are realized the war-time pre-
scriptions of "a land fit for heroes" and
"nothing will be too good for the boys
when they come back." By cruel irony,
nothing is considered too good today
for jobless and homeless veterans.
They won another's war. They speeded
the enrichment of a clique of profiteers
and the impoverishment of their own
kind. Now those for whom they
fought cease even to veil their scorn
with pretty words, but find it less
bothersome to say it with bullets.

Yet it is fortunate that what hap-
nened in Washington did happen.
Nothing else could have dramatized
quite so clearly to the unthinking mil-
lions that America is in the hands of a
favoured few and that the common peo-
ple, by he even yesterday's heroes,
have become a dispossessed nation.
There are classes in America. This
truth has come home for the first
time to a public which hears little of
Kentucky coal fields and hunger-
stricken Chicago, but cannot remain
blind to a class war in Washington.

Thursday, July 28, 1932, may well
mark the birth of class-consciousness
in America. Not that sensational hap-
penings are immediately at hand (al-
though the wave of hostility against
Hoover for his incredible blunder is
sure to gather high momentum). But
rather that for the first time some-
ing has happened in America which
will give vast numbers of people at last
an inkling of the lesson they must
sooner or later learn extremely well.
This lesson may be presented in six
easy installments something as follows:

1. Prosperity is not just around the
corner.

2. Colonial modernizes
its plant a little

Continued Page Two

Commonwealth will be a more com-
fortable and efficient place to live,
work and study in when the full effect
of a dozen improvements currently be-
ing installed is felt.

Already Commoners are able to read
by electric lights in the library, admire
ice cubes floating in the water pitcher,
seek the embrace of machine-washed
linen and drink deep well-water, fil-
tered and conveyed by a pressure sys-
tem. Next Winter they will dine on
tomatoes, green beans, and apple but-
ter put up in the college cannery, fatten
on potatoes kept whole and dry by a
concrete floor and scrub themselves
nonchalantly under a new hot shower
while winter winds cavort outside.

Capital Improvements

The improvements are made possi-
ble through capital equipment funds
made available last year by the Mrs.
Leonard Elmhirst Committee and this
year by the Carnegie Corporation.
The struggle for sixty-by-day mainte-
nance costs, amounting to $2,500 per
year beyond tuition revenue, is in no wise
relaxed, this fund still being several
hundred dollars short for 1932.

The naive delight of the college in
such simple equipment as is taken for
granted by most city dwellers, must be
considered in the light of a nine-year
background of primitive living condi-
tions. During this time teacher and
student labor was often merely a sub-
stitute for horsepower—arduous toil
being the only alternative to the ex-
penditure of a few non-existent dollars
for tools and equipment. Even today
enough work is being carried on in a
manner reminiscent of the times of
Moses, Charlemagne or Daniel Boone
to justify the retention of the term
"semi-pioneer" conditions in the stu-
dent application blank.

The Dozen Tabulated

The dozen improvements made, be-
ing made or shortly to be made are:

1. Delco electric plant, 1,500 watts,
   for lighting library, commons, guest
Continued Page Two

COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE
FORTNIGHTLY

VOL. VIII, No. 11  MENA, ARKANSAS. AUGUST 1, 1932
$1.00 A YEAR
First Impressions of Commonwealth

By H. Lee Jones

Mr. Jones is teaching psychology and public speaking at the summer session and camp and here sets down his first impressions on arriving on the campus from Cincinnati. The "we" is not an editorial pronoun: it refers to himself and his son, Everett, who is enrolled as a Commonwealth student.

May 24, 1932.

We turned off the main pike into a narrow side road, through tall pines lifting their spires high into the sky. Through the pines the sunset splashed the sky with red and gold. The air was filled with the forest o'ersounding heavy in the silence, a silence stilled by clear bird calls.

Through the trees we see a little cottage very white in the growing dusk. Other cottages are scattered through the woods. In the open space several groups of young people chat. Their laughter rings out clear and unrestrained. I am suddenly filled with a sense of security, a consciousness of rich life in an atmosphere of peace. This is Commonwealth.

That first night I sat alone on the cliff just a few feet beyond the library.

Far below, the stream whispered. The mountains stood high above a valley of fog softly bellowed against their dark sides. I asked myself, "Can it be that in this world of peace and quiet little children are crying in the agony of hunger? Is this the world in which millions are starving?"

Suddenly the beauty of the pines against the sky was gone. The mountains disappeared and the peace of the moonlit night gave way to the growing noises of streetcars' clang and automobiles' honk. Faces hurry past, anxious and haggard. Able-bodied men selling pencils or begging the price of a cup of coffee. Young women offering themselves for sale. Little children begging for pennies. Poverty, hunger, fear, noise, wealth, starvation, plenty... I turn back toward the campus. The distant call of the great hound owl comes from the mountain, soft through the still night air. Through windows I see students studying. From the Commons comes the care-free voice of youth singing, a voice gaining strength in the atmosphere of peace that shall move the world toward a universal peace and security.

PRINTED AT COMMONWEALTH
BY STUDENT AND TEACHER LABOR

VOL. VIII. No. 11 August 1, 1932

Published twice a month at Mena, Arkansas, by Commonwealth. Subscription and single copies are 25 cents each. Published as second class matter, January 20, 1930, at the post office at Mena, Arkansas. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in act of August 24, 1912. Stamped and delivered on individual subscription.

WHAT IS COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE?

Commonwealth is organized in 1931 to provide education for workers on a self-supporting basis.

Commonwealth seeks to develop in young men and women the capacity and desire to serve the interests of labor and the common people.

Commonwealth is located in the heart of the Ozarks, the southernmost range of the Ozarks, where it operates agricultural and industrial industries by means of the part-time work of students and teachers.

Commonwealth is the only institution for higher education where both teachers and students earn their maintenance by part-time labor while engaged in academic work.

Commonwealth is a non-denominational, non-denominational institution. It sponsors no political, religious, or economic dogma. It holds the fundamental truth that scientific experiment, carries the best hope of adjustment or solution of social problems.

Commonwealth is a non-religious, non-denominational institution. It sponsors no political, religious, or economic dogma. It holds the fundamental truth that scientific experiment, carries the best hope of adjustment or solution of social problems.

COLLEGE MODERNIZES PLANT

Continued from page One

house and print shop and operating motors. Kerosene lamps continue in dormitories and cottages.

2. Electric refrigerator, capacity 16 cubic feet, specially constructed at low cost by Mr. Louis and friends. Indispensable for summer session and camp.

2. Twin tub Dexter washing machine, with electrically-driven turbulators and wringers. The old equipment was so far past reparable as to make the laundry crew envy their sisters who work on the banks of the Ganges.

4. Cannery, with two large pressure cookers, scalar and 1,000 shiny gallon cans now being busily filled with corn, tomatoes, peas, green beans, wild blackberries, pickles, apples, grapes and other Arkansas dainties. Use of glass containers already on hand will bring total supply for winter up to 6,000 + 7,000 quarts.

3. Deep well, with gasoline-driven pump, coversage and filter tanks. Water is conveyed by pressure to kitchen and laundry, but students and teachers continue to transport their own drinking and washing water.

6. Print shop motor, 1-1/2 h. p. electric. Fortnightly is now printed almost noiselessly. Chief print shop next continues to be a linotype machine which would save literally days of time on each issue.

7. Storage bin for potatoes, built under the Castle, a boys' dormitory. At Commonwealth one is never surprised if he comes home and finds a few hundred cabbages or a wagonload of spuds under his house.

8. Kitchen improvements, including zinc covering for tables and sanitary composition flooring, under able supervision of Mrs. Be nice Allen, summer visitor from Memphis.

9. New dormitory, accommodating sixteen students, to be built by student and teacher labor during August and September at a cost of only $500. Will effect real economy, as it will permit larger attendance and spread overhead costs thinner.

10. Concrete floor, for vegetable and canning good cellar. Will cut down losses from spoilage and rust.


12. New library, last but most important of all. Books and magazines and pamphlet cases most urgently needed are now being purchased. Work will probably start next winter on first unit of native stone fire-proof building.

CLASS-CONSCIOUSNESS IS BORN IN AMERICA

Continue from page One

2. All men are not equal. There are two main classes in this country, the prefe-red and the common. A lot of people who think they belong in between don't. Or won't long.

3. Wages, salaries and prices for agricultural products will not go up just because this or that individual capitalist thinks it would be nice to have more purchasing power around. They will not even stop going down.

4. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. The price of our apathy for the last ten years is the literal hell we are going through now. Nothing comes to him who only sits and waits except:

(a) Policeman with order to move on; and
(b) Soldier with bayonet to cast deciding vote.

5. If 120,000,000 people are imposed on and some of them starved while a handful become fabulously wealthy, the sensible thing for the 120,000,000 to do is to pool their strength and organize for a new deal.

6. If this be radicalism, make the most of it.

H. C.
COMMONER'S COMMENT

And now a tabloid wall-newspaper at Commonwealth. So far we have escaped them. But Broadway's tab, the Graphic, expires and Commonwealth's Idiot's Index starts. A small, four-column typewritten sheet, it rests on the mantle piece of the great stone open fire place in the Commons. It can be sold in the land while being read, or be thrown at its editors. Editors are one Everett Jones, tan-haired breakfast cook, and one Charles Sanford, Ford-driving St. Louisian.

Shuffling around the campus, these things impress us: The daily rush at ten-thirty to get the mail. Sometimes a small white letter from Back There is pretty important to some young males on the campus. New books still coming into the library in reply to a letter three months ago in the Nation. Visitors park a shiny sedan under the catalpa tree at twilight. A breeze came through the casement windows, the electric motor that drives the press was humming, and up and down, up and down, went the platen of the press. Suddenly, a sharp clang as a bolt fell to the floor, and a campus mechanic squinted at press charts, rushed to town, wired for part No. 60 from a Massachusetts factory. Other parts were left in Mena to be welded. A few days later, the press was running once more. Workers in the college college examined incoming envelopes for additional Fortnightly subscription to pay this unexpected expense. Student punsters rejoiced in the chance to pull the old one about our way up the block, there is a list of red-tipped books, not so at Commonwealth. Here is a building called "the issue," southernmost range of the Ozarks" must have struck home with a goodly number of people.

The view from the rocks on the edge of the bluff above Mill Creek gets more enticing every day. Some day we're going to walk over to that mountain. Come to think of it, there's an overhanging tree hanging out at the end of each talk. In consternation, cooks and janitors mechanical at press under the catalpa tree at twilight. Interest in the subject ran high and many a student attended.

"Bug Club" is the latest innovation. This group meets every Monday night and is an open forum where anyone who has anything to say on a subject may come and say it and be assured of an audience. All the "bugs" gather around, squattting or lying in a semi-circle on the grass, and listen to talks on such subjects as "Melrose Park," "In Defense of Conservatism," "Baseball and the Campus," and "The Bankruptcy of Liberalism." There's more to it than talking, for auditors subject their speakers to a cross-fire of questions at the end of each talk.

WHO'S WHENCE AT COMMONWEALTH

ARRIVALS FROM

Wallace Clemens New Orleans John Rust
Jack Fies and Jim Phillips Nashville Irving Meyers Chicago
Mark Starr Brookwood, In. Helen Norton
Joe Dauber, Edmund Stevens N. Y.

DEPARTURES TO

Willi and Vinita Seegers Ft. Smith Jack Fies and Jim Phillips Nashville
Willie Sue Bledgen Marion, N. C. Walter Siegmeister Leesville, La.
Wallace Clemens Oklahoma City John Rust
Mark Starr, Helen Norton W. Virginia

Society Notes ❖❖❖

Free Press.—All was well one sunny afternoon in the small white-painted frame building that is Commonwealth's print shop. A breeze came through the casement windows, the electric motor that drives the press was humming, and up and down, up and down, went the platen of the press. Suddenly, a sharp clang as a bolt fell to the floor, and a grinding of metal on metal. In consternation, cooks and janitors mechanical at press under the catalpa tree at twilight. Interest in the subject ran high and many a student attended.

Lab.—In most colleges a "lab" is a place where inpatient chemists and "pre-med" students jack-knife over test tubes and scratch data in well-thumbed notebooks. Not so at Commonwealth. Here is a building called the Lab, but the only scientific apparatus in it is a boney relict, the skeleton Anarinheta, which sometimes goes as a loan collection to one of the men's dorms for scarce purposes. Commonwealth's Lab contains the class-room, where students and teachers study together at long tables. In the same building is the journalism room, where the morning papers are edited, later being taken to the Commons for public appraisal. The back part of the Lab is a lumber store room and a carpenter shop. Here a.e. made Commonwealth's easy chairs, library furniture, and benches and many a piece of furniture useful to Commoners. Here too are stored the tools of the garden and wood crews. If "Lab" refers to a building where things get done, Commonwealth rates high.

Books Wanted

The students and teacher in the course in psychology are in need of books to aid in reserve reading and reference work. Below is a list of titles especially wanted. If any Fortnightly reader wishes to send used copies or to purchase new ones from this list, instructors and their classes in psychology will appreciate it very much.

Psychology, its Theory and Practical Application... Brill
Body Changes in Pain, Hunger, Fear and Rage... Cannon
Re-Creating the Individual... Hinkle
Keeping Mentally Fit... Jastrow
The Growth of the Mind... Kolka
Brains of Mice and Men... Lashey
Conditioned Refectes... Why We Misbehave
Sex in Civilization... Schmidthausen
Psychological Care of Infant and Child... Watson

CAMPUS ATOP CLIFF ALIVE WITH ACTIVITY

Continued from page One

meister of Columbia, delivered a series of talks on "Recent Advances in the Biological Sciences" during the month of July. Attendance was voluntary and the lectures were held on the campus under the catalpa tree at twilight. Interest in the subject ran high and many a student attended.

"Bug Club" is the latest innovation. This group meets every Monday night and is an open forum where anyone who has anything to say on a subject may come and say it and be assured of an audience. All the "bugs" gather around, squatting or lying in a semi-circle on the grass, and listen to talks on such subjects as "Melrose Park," "In Defense of Conservatism," "Baseball and the Campus," and "The Bankruptcy of Liberalism." There's more to it than talking, for auditors subject their speakers to a cross-fire of questions at the end of each talk.

THANKS FRIENDS

CASE

Edmund R. Baffee... $5.00
O. D. Watten... $7.00
Margaret Horcher... $5.00
J. W. Gribble... $5.00
Jack Fies... $5.00

BOOKS

Hugo R. Pack Justice Brandeis
W. E. McLain W. C. Holman
Rice A. Pierce, Jr. Mrs. Ada Sanford

window screens, dining room tables and benches and many a piece of furniture useful to Commoners. Here too are stored the tools of the garden and wood crews. If "Lab" refers to a building where things get done, Commonwealth rates high.
COMMONWEALTH'S TENTH YEAR
OPPORTUNITY FOR LARGER NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN 1932-3

Do you know one or more young men or women who ought to be at Commonwealth? If so, will you send us their names and addresses?

WHEN Commonwealth was started in 1923 with the idea of providing education for workers on a virtually self-supporting basis, many people said that the idea was fantastic and that the school couldn't last a year. Commonwealth's tenth year opens October 3, 1932. Enrollment for the summer term, now in session, is at high-water mark. To accommodate from 60 to 75 students, beginning next fall — a group larger than any hitherto, but not too large — work is starting on a new dormitory.

In 1923 when Commonwealth was born, America was beginning the ascent of an illusory peak of "prosperity." It was hard to convince people of the need for a labor movement, for would not wages rise by common consent of all classes so that purchasing power might abound and all grow rich together?

In 1932 disillusionment is beginning to sink in. With indexes of prosperity tobogganing almost monthly to new lows, with wage scales collapsing, millions without jobs, mortgages being foreclosed and farm prices often below the cost of production, the people are coming to realize that God helps them only when and if they help themselves. They are coming to realize that even a hunger dole is not to be had without a show of strength. They are beginning to suspect, slowly of course, that the 1920's are gone forever and that there is nothing around the corner except a chance to organize for a decent standard of living and a better social order.

This places enormous responsibility on a people steeped in rugged individualism and slowly being driven to cooperation only because if the devil takes the hindmost he will take nearly the whole crowd. It creates a situation crying out desperately for a program of workers' education. It calls for training young men and women who can break with the individualistic office-boy-to-millionaire tradition and help build up the hang-together-or-hang-separately tradition for labor and the common people.

That is why there is more interest in Commonwealth today than ever before. And that is why Commonwealth feels impelled to take up the challenge and try to do its job well.

Commonwealth has received more applications to date for the fall quarter, opening October 3, than ever before at this time of year. But Commonwealth still has room for the right type of student and wishes to get the names and addresses of desirable prospects.

Commonwealth is interested in two types of students: (1) the young person whose ideas of what he wants to do are fairly well formulated through study and experience, but who desires additional training and background, and (2) the one who is still groping for his way and who hopes to find it through study and discussion at Commonwealth. There is a place for both students, provided they are serious in their purpose, eager to learn and capable of learning. Formal education and store of information are not so important, for the student with these other qualities usually fits in well and we are glad to go out of our way to help him. All Commonwealth students earn room, meals and laundry by 20 hours work a week and pay $40 per 12-week quarter for tuition.

Will you list below and send to Commonwealth College names and addresses of persons in your acquaintance who might make desirable student prospects, as well as those who might be interested in the school for other reasons? We shall be glad to send them information concerning Commonwealth.

COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE, Mena, Arkansas.
The following persons might be desirable student prospects for Commonwealth. You may use my name unless otherwise indicated.

Name  
Address  
Remarks

The following persons might be interested in information about Commonwealth for the reasons given.

Name  
Address  
Remarks