GROUP TO BUILD NEW 'DORM' THIS SUMMER

Student-Teacher Project Will Solve Campus Housing Problem

A major building project is in the offing at Commonwealth. The skeleton of a new dormitory will soon emerge among the pine and oak trees on the crest of Mill Creek bluff. Students are already talking about the "dorm" and are asking for room reservations in it.

At present Commonwealth's dormitories and cottages will, with crowding, house sixty students and teachers. It is expected that every inch of coming space will be utilized this summer by an exceptionally large group of campers and students. The college office anticipates a still larger enrollment for the fall quarter. A new dormitory is the group's answer to an impending housing shortage. Students and teachers have taken hammer and saw in hand.

By increasing the enrollment Commonwealth decreases the overhead cost of each student. The garden, laundry, kitchen, library, faculty and campus can serve sixty students as well as thirty. Returning from his publicity trip North, Lucien Koch, di-rector, told the Commonwealth Association that "friends and ex-Commonwealthers on the outside are interesting young workers to come down here. Now it is up to us to furnish accommodations where they can stay."

The estimated cost of the new building is $800. This low figure is made possible by the fall in the price of building materials, and because Commonwealth students and teachers will do all of the actual construction work.

The proposed dormitory will be a long, low building, 60 x 38 feet. In outside appearance, it will be modified Colonial, with recessed porch roofs supported by columns. The long horizontal roof line will be broken by one dormer, and there will be three field stone chimneys, one at either end and one at the peak. The building will be painted white and will be placed in a grove of evergreen trees, providing a very effective contrast.

SEXES DIFFER IN LANGUAGE STUDIES

Differences in the ability of the sexes to learn foreign languages are generally accepted. However, a recent study at the University of Iowa by Dr. Harry G. Allen, a professor of psychology, indicates that the differences are not as great as was once believed.

In the study, a group of 1,200 college students were divided into two groups, one of males and one of females. The students were tested on their ability to learn Chinese, Japanese, and Spanish. The results showed that there was no significant difference in the ability of the sexes to learn these languages.

Dr. Allen's study is significant because it challenges the long-held belief that males have a natural advantage in learning foreign languages. The study suggests that with proper instruction and motivation, females are just as capable as males in learning foreign languages.

SUMMER CAMP OPENS WITH SPORTS, TALKS

With the opening of the summer session and the arrival of new teachers, students and campers, the tennis courts are unusually busy and the waters of Mill Creek are constantly agitated by sports and bathing.

Five visitors have already taken advantage of Commonwealth's summer camp. They are Bob Lyle, Mississippi writer and confounder of fundamentalists; his sister, Kate Lyle of New Orleans; Mollie Freedman, a stenographer from Syracuse, N. Y.; and Agnes and Madge Cunningham, West Virginia, Okla., sisters of Bill Cunningham, journalism instructor. The largest number of campers is expected soon after the 4th of July.

Discussion circles open to campers and students have been organized and will soon get under way. Oliver Carlson, Chicago, will conduct the group viewing "Blind Leaders of the Blind", a critical survey of contemporary political and social figures such as McDonald, Hitler, Ghandi, Mussolini and Churchill.

FORTNIGHTLY CAMPAIGN

The subscription campaign, started in the June 1 issue of the Fortnightly, has netted between 75 and 100 responses to date. One friend of the college sent a personal check for ten dollars and then went out to sell the subscriptions. Another group of friends, impressed by the Fortnightly drive, raised a hundred dollars as their stake in Commonwealth's future.

The campaign results have been encouraging, but we are yet a long way from our goal. It still takes 8,000 paid subscriptions to make Commonwealth self-supporting! You do your part—subscribe to the Fortnightly, and we'll do ours—by trying to make the paper an interesting reflection of Commonwealth and workers' education. Fill out the subscription blank on page 3 and mail it in!
ARE COMMONWEALTH TEACHERS "GOOD" TEACHERS?

By a Commonwealth Instructor

It is with deep chagrin that Commonwealth teachers learn the specifications of the Good Teacher as set forth in the extensive Teacher Training Study conducted by Professors Charters and Waples of the University of Chicago. This study deals largely with an analysis of the traits considered desirable in a teacher by school experts and school officials. What those who do the hiring consider a good teacher has now been determined by a survey thorough enough to take three years and involve an expenditure of $22,000. We scan it and with great reluctance and mortification confess our shortcomings.

- Adaptable: Likes to be wherever he is.

Most of the Commonwealth College teachers are here because we are not "adaptable" in the above sense. We did not like to be where we were, whether in factory, office or schoolroom, and we strive to improve conditions that we don't like.

- Ambition: Tries to work himself up to a high position in the school system.

Commonwealth teachers are not climbers or seekers of power. Those who are, go-getters, and do not attempt to inspire their students with the ideals of snobbery.

- Neatness: Keeps buttons sewed on and shoes shined.

We try to keep our buttons sewed on but shined shoes are quite scarce on the campus. In fact, any kind of a shoe is a rarity during the summer months as most of us go barefoot.

- Optimistic: (a) Looks optimistic.

(b) Presents the bright side of any question under discussion.

We don't try to "look optimistic" while discussing, in these times of depression, the future of capitalism, and we find difficulty in presenting its bright side.

- Punctuality: Always finds something nice to say to everybody.

Here again we fail; most of us have that obnoxious habit of being frank and saying what we think.

- Reserve: Does not wrestle with pupils.

Commonwealth teachers not only wrestle with pupils but swim, box, play tennis and hoe potatoes with them. What a blow to our quality of reserve!

- Spontaneity: Smiles unhesitatingly.

- Cheerfulness: Laughs a lot.

- Tact: Laughs to save a painful situation.

Few Commonwealth teachers belong to the glad-handing cult of Pollyanna; everyone knows everyone else too well to be anything but himself.

Thrift: (a) Saves his money. (b) In stills ideals of saving through banking.

Receiving no monetary remuneration, we have no money to save, and we know too much about bankers to "install ideals of saving through banking."

Lacking or failing in the foregoing traits we must confess that we are not the type for which there is a lively market. In fact, there seems to be only a paucity five of the desirable characteristics to which we can pretend to lay claim:

- Cleanliness: Wash faces when they need washing.

- Wit: The creek insures that.

- Fluency: Carries on dinner conversation of value.

Also classroom conversation, if possible.

- Good Taste: Does not apply rouge and powder before pupils.

Or elsewhere.

- Interest in Profession: Does not work for money only.

Or at all.

- Virtuous: Gives a pleasant exchange of banter.

Banter as is banter, too!

But we must not grow complacent over five lone and straggling virtues with the rest of the tally so strongly against us. For clearly, by the standards derived from the study, we rank in the lowest quartile. All we can claim, as a minority, is the right to set a bad example, bringing others to our point of view if possible, and by so doing, make a better showing the next time Professors Charters and Waples conduct a survey.

STOCK JUMPS ECONOMIC ERA

At Commonwealth not only does one find a cross-section of the working and farming youth from all parts of America, but even the stages of economic evolution are represented. Our four cows, our three calves recall the pastoral stage and our green stuff the agricultural, while modern industry is suggested by the little printing shop in which the Fortnightly is set by hand. Commonwealth sometimes achieves curious juxtapositions. The other day four cows, lounging about the print-shop door, were indifferent to the fact that they had skipped from the pastoral to the machine age before passing thru the agricultural stage.
COMMONER’S COMMENT

Well, well, another new dormitory! Wonder what they’ll call this one? “The Arkoshoo’s Ship,” “The Castle” and “Lorelei’s Rock” aren’t so bad, but we think the new dorm ought to be named after a prominent labor leader. But to get back to the building itself. We’ve seen the colored walls but they look good. White columns along the front, casement windows and that sort of thing. And all for $500. We bet there isn’t another college in the world that can house 16 students for that sum.

As we write this we can look out the window and see three layers of depth of Ozark ranges on the horizon. Now and then fuzzy storm clouds get down in the valleys and break themselves in two on the backbones of the hills. Looks like we’re in for a nice cool, summer shower.

New faces on the campus as students and summer campers arrive. People are unloading luggage and getting settled in their rooms. Mrs. Allen, new domestic manager, seeing that everybody has water buckets, coal oil lamps and enough of everything.

Laying on the ground are lengths of black pipe for the new water system. Lumber is being carried into the carpenter shop store room. Concrete is being mixed for a new potato storage bin, half underground so the spuds will keep all winter without a murmur. This is the busy season at Commonwealth. Studden Fleeton has made the community a lively place. Soon it will hit its stride for the summer session and the weeks will roll along smoothly as ever. Just the other day a big box of books came from Grinnell (Iowa) College. That’s what we call the solidarity of collegians in the best sense. Other new books are arriving from interested friends, former students and leaders in the labor movement.

Commonwealth College
Fortnightly

PRINTED AT COMMONWEALTH
BY STUDENT AND TEACHER LABOR

VOL. VIII, No. 9

July 1, 1932

Published twice a month at Mena, Arkansas, by Commonwealth College. Subscription one dollar a year. Entered as second class matter, January 30, 1929, at the post office at Mena, Arkansas, under the act of August 24, 1912. Signed articles express only individual opinion. Every letter, particularly of labor and farmer papers, are welcome to make free use of this column. A fine crediting the Commonwealth College Fortnightly will be appreciated.

COURSES OUTLINED
(Continued from Page 1)

The course, “The Arkansas Farmer and his Problems,” will consist of three divisions. First, a series of lectures going into the details of the most important aspects of the general subject; second, selected readings from recognized authorities, supplemented by statistical studies; third, first hand observation of the local situation by means of personal contact and public meetings. Clay Fulks, native Arkansan, who has taught more than a dozen counties of the state and who ran for governor of Arkansas on the Socialist ticket in 1918, has organized this course.

Harold Coy is offering the course in labor journalism. He has worked on several newspapers and is well acquainted with the labor press in America. This course will deal primarily with a study of news writing, feature writing and a survey of some of the more important labor journals. For practical work journalism students are required to write for the weekly campus “paper” publications. A course in effective writing will be organized for those who desire it.

H. Lee Jones of the People’s School, Cincinnati, is giving a course in individual psychology. As an introduction he will deal with the background of psychology as manifested in magic, religion, philosophy and science, and will discuss briefly the various modern schools of psychology. From this he will go to a study of individual behavior, instinct, emotion and intelligence, concluding with the social group or class as a psychological unit.

Social psychology is being taught by Richard Hall, who has done graduate work at the University of Chicago and Meadville Theological School. This course will treat society as the enlargement of the emotions, the beliefs, the prejudices and the actions of the individual. It will analyze individual attitudes and behavior as the basic pattern of crowd attitudes and behavior. The latter part of the course will attempt to show the application of the foregoing to labor problems.

Vaughn S. Albertson, instructor in English at the University of Texas, has made a study of the new stage drama and the movement for labor and national unity in Germany and Russia, and has devoted considerable time to the little theatre movement in Texas. In addition to lectures on the labor drama, Albertson will direct plays which will be presented to the group and the neighbors.

Director Lucien Koch, Dr. Walter Siegmeister at Columbia University and others will conduct classes for a part of the summer on subjects of interest to workers. Dr. Siegmeister will deliver a series of lectures on the biological sciences.

SUMMER CAMP
(Continued from Page 1)

others. Carlson will also be in charge of a Friday night current events discussion, “Looking Behind the News.”

Fusion circles are “The Labor Movement Today,” led by Frank Manning, University of Chicago alumnus, and “Changing Thought In A Machine Age,” directed by H. Lee Jones of the People’s School, Cincinnati.

Workers’ plays have been collected for production during the camp season. Vaughn Albertson of the University of Texas will direct labor drama and work with Commonwealth’s actors and stage hands.

As for recreation, the tennis and volley ball courses are being put in repair with student and teacher labor. A white canoe is afloat on the waters of Mill Creek. Pyjamaed co-eds, newly arrived, add to the campus color scheme. All is in readiness for the summer session and camp.

Campers may earn part of their keep by lending a hand with the community tasks. The Lyles, first campers, chose the privilege of working fifteen hours a week during their stay. Miss Lyle, an excellent seamstress, patched the trousers of Commonwealth’s actors and Bert, her brother, Bob, applied hammer and saw to faulty furniture. Molly Freedman, a camper now who will change to student status for the summer quarter, came to Commonwealth a month early to bathe leisurely in the Arkansas sun. “Sis”—that is, Agnes—Cunningham is a high school music teacher and occasionally plays the piano for Commonwealth dances. Madge Cunningham, a farmerette, is preparing for normal school.

Only the Bookkeeper

Several score subscriptions to the Fortnightly have been received in the last month. Only if you were the college bookkeeper could you realize quite what this income means in the struggle for the few hundred additional dollars Commonwealth must get to balance its 1932 budget. If you are not already a paid subscriber, we need your dollar too. We are trying to plan a Fortnightly that will justify the investment.

Name ____________________________

Address __________________________

3,000 Paid Subscriptions
Will Make Commonwealth Self-Supporting!
Personnel Changes
Named for Summer

SOME NEW COMMUNITY HEADS

The administrative personnel has been affected by summer plans of the faculty, and a few changes have been made. Harold Coy, teacher of current affairs, has assumed the position of acting director for the time that Lucien Koch is to be in Madison.

Bookkeeper, treasurer and store-keeper for the summer will be Sum Sandberg, a student, who will substitute in the absence of David Engelstein, treasurer. David is leaving for New York soon. O. Hittenrauch has already taken up his duties as acting librarian. Dr. G. Y. Rusk, librarian, has gone to Providence to do psychological work during the summer.

Regular members of the administration who will retain their positions through the summer are Chuck Moskowitz, Ray Koch and Mabel Fulks. Chuckie is executive secretary. Ray is industrial manager and will assign community tasks as usual and stack hay, pick beans and help put up a new dormitory along with the other workers. Mabel will manage the kitchen, seeing that the students and campers are fed and that the ice box doors are kept shut.

MRS. H. LEE JONES

Commonwealth College regrets the passing of Mrs. H. Lee Jones of Cincinnati. We had hoped to have her with us for the summer quarter and camp, and she would have been a valuable addition to the community. Mrs. Jones proved a very thoughtful and charming hostess to Lucien Koch and Harold Coy while they were on their way to Kentucky with the Commonwealth-Harlan student delegation last April. Commonwealth friends everywhere are saddened to learn of Mrs. Jones' early death and the end of her useful and active life.

Following is a list of books especially needed for courses in economics. If any Fortnightly reader wishes to send used copies or to purchase new ones from this list, the students and teachers at Commonwealth will be very grateful.

Max Beer: History of British Socialism
A. Bukharin: Short Course of Economic Science
Louis Boudin: Theoretical System of Karl Marx
N. Bukharin: Historical Materialism
Economic Theory of the Leisure Class
Henri de Man: Psychology of Socialism
Max Eastman: Marx-Lenin, the Science of Revolution
Frederick Engels: Landmarks of Scientific Socialism
Glid and Rist: History of Economic Doctrines
R. Hillebrand: Bohm-Bawerk's Criticism of Karl Marx
Karl Kautsky: Economic Doctrines of Karl Marx
C. C. Iselin: The Materialist Conception of History
The New Commonwealth
A. Labostro: Socialism and Philosophy
Eugene D. Brown: Historical Materialist Conception of History
Karl Marx: Capital, Vol. I
Karl Marx: Capital, Vol. II
Syracuse University Press
The Poverty of Philosophy
Carl Kapp: An Economic History of Karl Marx
O. Chabot: The Economic History of Karl Marx
Paul Pollak and Tippett: Your Job and Your Pay
Blum: Karl Marx
William Thorpe: Economic Institutions
Thatcher: Modern Economic Society
Veblen: Absentee Ownership

THANKS FRIENDS

CASH

H. E. Martin
Edith M. Baker
Charley Auer
Mrs. M. L. Keller
W. W. Burke
Elvira Antipa
Elihu Strauss
Alice S. Halsey
Rebecca C. Smalley
Rev. Mr. George Mains
Alfred D. Schott
O. H. Silver
National Friends
A. H. Silver
J. H. Vechten
Paul Raassenhuisch and Elizabeth Brandis
Friends

NEW DORMITORY

Continued from page 1

Eight rooms, each 12 by 15 feet, will accommodate 16 students. Every room will have two single beds, two study desks, book shelves and a built-in clothes closet, dresser and wash-stand, and a wood stove. Ventilation will be provided by two "dog-trots" (Southern for open corridors) and light will come from casement windows.

The personnel for Commonwealth's new building project is: O. Hitter­rauch, student, architect; Ray Koch, teacher, foreman; Willi Schaub, student, head carpenter; Lucien Koch, director; O. Hitterrauch; Abe Horen, student, carpenter; David Engelstein, teacher, purchasing agent; Sam Sandberg, truckman; and other student helpers.

There are no moral or immoral books. Books are well written or badly written. That is all.

—Wilde.