Twenty-Seven Lectures To Be Given
First Two Weeks Of Summer Session

Carl Haessler to be Principal Speaker
for Opening Fortnight
of Term

Twenty-seven lectures of general interest will be given at Commonwealth during the first two weeks of the summer session, July 3 to 16.

This number does not include introductory and enrollment talks, nor lectures given in the classes for regularly enrolled students.

Carl Haessler, the special lecturer for this period, will give fifteen of the talks. Most of the others will be part of the labor orientation course.

The program of special lectures and labor orientation course lectures for the first two weeks of the summer session is as follows:

July 3
The Return of Prosperity .... Carl Haessler

July 4
What Is Proletarian Culture? .... William Cunningham

July 5
Prison Experiences of War Objectors .... Haessler

July 6
American Labor and its Factions .... Nathan Fine

July 7
Purpose and Scope of Orientation Course .... Lucien Koch

July 8
The Prophecy of Marx Come True .... Haessler

July 9
Current Fallacies in Education .... Koch

July 10
Russian Recognition .... Haessler

July 11
Soviet Influences on the Depression .... Haessler

July 12
America's New Frontier .... Haessler

July 13
Prosperity of Slavery and Private Property .... Carlson

July 14
The Paradox of Coal .... Haessler

July 15
Social Work and Self Respect .... Haessler

July 16
Early Mediterranean Civilizations .... Carlson

SCHOOL FINANCES ARE
STILL IN BAD SHAPE

Commonwealth is barely "getting by" financially, according to David Englestein, treasurer.

"The response to our May appeal for cash contributions," he said, "has enabled us to carry through to date without serious changes in our already minimum budget. Contributions, however, are only 80 per cent of what they were for the first five months of 1932. The present deficit is $300, and the summer session is still three weeks away.

"Fortnightly subscriptions, and small donations sent in immediately can keep us from going deeper into the red, and assure us that the school year 1933-34 will not have insurmountable debts to block its progress."

Commonwealth must have money if it is to go on with its work, unhampered by poverty. Send in your contribution.

TENTH TERM CLOSES
AT COMMONWEALTH

Three Hundred and Fifty-eight Students Have Attended During
Decade

Commonwealth will end its tenth year as a labor school, and its second as a left-wing institution, Saturday June 24.

Three hundred and fifty-eight students have studied at Commonwealth during its ten years of existence. Many of them are now active in the labor movement. Until recent years, however, middle-class jobs claimed numbers of them. It was not until the school changed its policy and became a militant labor institution that the majority of students who left Commonwealth went on with a determination to serve the labor movement at all costs.

Until two years ago the school might have been described as a liberal labor school. It called itself a "non-sectarian, non-propaganda institution." It sponsored no particular religious, political or economic dogma, and held that "scientific experimentation carries the only hope of adjustment or solution of personal and social problems."

In the fall of 1931 the school changed its policy somewhat. Since that time it has called itself "non-factional" rather than "non-propaganda." It now holds that "courageous action, based on scientific experimentation, carries the best hope of adjustment or solution of social problems."

THIRTY-FOUR CENTS

Commonwealth was established in 1923 at New Iberia Colony, near Leesville, Louisiana. But the school and the colony had a number of disagreements, and the school, about one and a half years later, moved to Mena. In 1926 it was established on its present site, twelve miles west of Mena.

At one time its treasury contained only thirty-four cents. Students...
COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE FORTNIGHTLY

Page Two

June 15, 1933

EARLY YEARS AT JOHNS HOPKINS
BY ELISABETH GILMAN

Editor's Note: In the following article the daughter of the first president of Johns Hopkins University makes interesting comparisons between that institution during its early years and Commonwealth.

Fabia Franklin and Christine Ladd. These students had intimate work with the distinguished professors, J. J. Sylvester, an eminent English mathematician; Henry A. Rowland whose "Grating" brought him world renown; Dr. Henry Newell Martin, the disciple of Huxley were members of the first faculty. To use my father's own words, "The first president succeeded in associating with him a small number of eminent specialists whose high standards and enthusiasm carried the new institution successfully through its experimental period, and earned for it primacy in that field." In 1876 the University allowed its undergraduates to choose which group of studies they would pursue—thus giving a rounded education along various lines, scientific, literary, pre-medical, etc. in counter-distinction to the absolutely free elective system of certain other colleges, where students could wander about the various fields of knowledge, choosing "snap" courses as they might wish.

The publication of various scientific journals was also a decided departure in the academic life of the United States and brought an added renown to the Johns Hopkins University. The founder had left a considerable portion of his bequest in stock of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad but in the railroad's bad times about 1888 the University lost much of its income. Fortunately many citizens of Baltimore aided the University in its time of financial need and the standard of scholarship were maintained. In 1893 the Medical School was opened, through the generosity of Miss Mary E. Garrett and other women, on the condition that women should have the same privileges the men enjoyed.

During the early years, Johns Hopkins University was not so very much better equipped with buildings than is Commonwealth College today. My father opened the work in two brick dwelling houses in the center of Baltimore—a library and biological and chemical laboratories being built shortly afterwards. His belief was that the value of a University depended on the high attainment of its faculty and the devotion to knowledge and to research of its students. The long list of distinguished graduates in many fields of learning has justified this belief, and many other institutions of having kept up the high standard of excellence, which began in reality as an experiment. I like Glenn Frank's words describing my father as "the spiritual architect of the Johns Hopkins University," and I like to record also that he was the first director of the Johns Hopkins Hospital.
Editor's Note: The following are extracts from letters received recently from former students of Commonwealth College.

LE宁NINGRAD
U. S. R.

Looking back over the two years which we spent there I must admit that the education and training we received at Commonwealth and Brookwood enabled us to do active and leading work among the foreign workers in our colony and in the factory. You like to hear about the Soviet Union. What can we tell you? General information about the progress of the five-year plan is just as easily available for you as for us. Instead of all the theoretical knowledge from far away, we have had two years of experience in the struggle for Socialism right at its source, in the factory. Optimism among the foreign workers here is like the waters in the mountain creek near Commonwealth: at one time it is dried out so that you can hardly take a decent dive into it, and another time it is overflowing its bed as if it were a sea and not a creek. Nobody came here with a group of thirty-two men, but he brought with him $15,000 worth of machinery for a woodworking shop. A new factory was laid out for our machine and our machinery from old factories. There is a serious shortage of lumber so that many of our machines are standing idle and the factory administration had to reduce the two-shift system to one shift a day. It is hoped that in May when the river opens we will get lumber by way of the water route.

HOW DISAGREEMENTS ARE HANDLED

Our group had during the first year many disagreements with the leadership of the factory on technical points. Finally the situation grew tense and an atmosphere of hostility arose between the administration and the foreign workers, so that production was not proceeding normally. After the leadership of the factory was changed by the Workers and Peasants Inspection, on the grounds of our complaints, we achieved better results. At the present time the foreign workers in our factory are working hand in hand with the administration. Of course the whole story of our struggle cannot be told in two paragraphs. When we get back to the States again we will try to write down our experiences and impressions. Material we have enough, after being right in the middle of Socialist construction, working shoulder to shoulder with the Russian peasants from the farms, as I did, or as secretary in the club for foreign engineers of Leningrad, as Otfelie did. The question is only whether we will be able to bring the material into a form which is readable.

SOVIET WORKERS GET VACATIONS

Sometime during the summer we will be back in the States again. At the present time we are preparing to go for a month vacation to the Crimea. After we come back, which will be in the middle of May, we will immediately get ready for the big trip.

We have made our plans to return by way of the Orient. The fare from Leningrad to New York I will get paid by the trust for which I am working, according to contract. Now I have made an application to give me, instead of two Atlantic ocean tickets, two tickets over the Pacific ocean. If this is granted, then this part of the voyage is clear. From San Francisco to New York we will go the good old way, hitch-hiking, or any other possible cheap way. Maybe we will come along your road and stop ill at Commonwealth for a while.

From August and Otfelie Danielsson.

NEW YORK

... I'm all immersed in trade union work. The trade unions are the most fundamental and therefore the most necessary organs of the labor movement. This field needs most developing. Naturally my political work is suffering somewhat, but it seems this can't be helped. To get into trade union work is like stepping into quicksands—there is no bottom or limit. Already, much to my surprise, I'm second vice president of the Joint Board of the Dressmakers' Union. It isn't because of any special abilities or experience I may have that I'm in such a post. It's simply because I'm active, and anyone who can still summon up enough energy to keep finding himself away up front. I'm kind of sorry that I'm in the forefront so early in the game. I'd rather have more experience. But I'm willing to learn—and I'm getting all the opportunity I want now. It's like going through a "real" college ... Of yes, I'm still working. Made $7.61 last week for 40 hours work. Do you wonder that I stick to the trade union field?

From Bella Engels.

THANKS FRIENDS

BOOKS

MAGAZINES
Mrs. Louis D. Brandels, Elizabeth Moos, Ralph B. Spence, Healdon Hills School.

DENISE
Eugene Moore ... ... ... 1
Stephen Marsh ... ... ... 1
Fred Wettes ... ... ... 1
Richard Mayer ... ... ... 1
Dr. J. Koerner ... ... ... 1
M. S. Anderson ... ... ... 1
Max Eastman ... ... ... 1
E. C. Griffith ... ... ... 1
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Davis ... ... ... 1
R. J. Hatley ... ... ... 1
Edwin N. Darlind ... ... ... 1
Jean Kennedy ... ... ... 1
J. Franklin Gilbert ... ... ... 1
M. S. Chatterjee ... ... ... 1
Mr. and Mrs. Leon Despres ... ... ... 1
Arthur G. Soprow ... ... ... 1
Alice L. Hansen ... ... ... 1
Henry F. Ward ... ... ... 1
B. J. Horde ... ... ... 1
John M. Brewer ... ... ... 1
R. W. Church ... ... ... 1
Roger Baldwin ... ... ... 1
Rose C. Brown ... ... ... 1
David H. Jenkins ... ... ... 1
William Thum ... ... ... 1
Ernest W. Burgess ... ... ... 1
Thuriday Study Club, Kansas City ... ... ... 1
Mrs. L. D. Brandels ... ... ... 1
William Cunningham ... ... ... 1
Will A. Jackson ... ... ... 1

THREE LABOR SKITS
FREE FOR THE ASKING

THE FORGOTTEN MAN
By Bill Reich

Risen From The Ranks
By Harold Coy

UNTIL THE MORTGAGE IS DUE
By William Cunningham

These three plays, by Commonwealth teachers, will all together make an evening's entertainment. Send a stamp with your request.
and teachers were living in tents. The American Fund for Public Service donated a little less than $30,000, and with this money land was purchased and buildings erected.

There have been a few events in the history of the school which attracted widespread attention. At the 1926 convention of the Arkansas American Legion, a former state commander of that body charged that Commonwealth had received endowments of $100,000 from the I. W. W. and $50,000 from Soviet Russia. The irate commander declared that he had received his information from a report of the United States Department of Justice. "Bolshevism, Sovietism, Communism," and "free love" were shouted at the delegates. A resolution was proposed demanding legislation barring Commonwealth from the state. The resolution failed passage, but the Legion executive committee was given full power to investigate and act. Rumors went about that infiltrated Legionnaires were organized to descend en masse on the school and close its doors by force.

The furor subsided, however, when the Department of Justice declared that it had issued no statement of any character concerning the school. No member of the Legion appeared to examine the college books, and no person to this day has discovered any "red gold" about the place.

In the spring of 1932 a Commonwealth delegation of five members, two teachers and three students, went to Harlan county, Kentucky, to investigate the conditions of the striking miners there. A mob of gunmen and "prominent" citizens seized them and, taking them to a school in the mountains, flogged them severely. One of the teachers was Lucien Koch, director of the school. A damage suit against some of the men responsible for the outrage is still pending.

In the fall of 1932 thirty students went on strike, protesting the expulsion of two of their number, and for a week-end confusion reigned. The "strikers" sent out exaggerated accounts to the "capitalists" press, and protested loudly when the "capitalist" law, a local constable, was called by the management of the school. The trouble ended when the "strike" leaders were lectured by a magistrate. The "strikers" left in a body and school went on as before, except, of course, with a smaller group.

But there events, important as they seemed, had little real significance at the present time.

The Commonwealth plant includes 320 acres of land, about half of which is in cultivation, four dormitories, some of the men responsible for the school. A 

Cannonball Bill? Shore I knowed old Cannonball Bill. I used to set right here with him every evening waiting for four o'clock and for the men to come out. I was cleaning this tramway twixed here and the tipple down there then me and old Cannonball both started work at four.

We'd be setting here, me and Cannonball, when the men would start coming out.

"Shoot 'em hard, Cannonball," they'd say.

"Goddam right, me shoot 'em hard," Cannonball'd answer.

Some of the men got to calling old Cannonball, old "Shoot'em Hard." Yeah. Cannonball had two names; one old Cannonball Bill and the other one, old "Shoot'em Hard" said he shore lived up to them both when he died.

Funny-things like that! You know, "Shoot'em Hard" didn't mean nothing, not until he got killed, it didn't. It was just a way of saying "howdy" and "I'm all right, how are you?" Because one shot firer, he can't shoot them shots any harder than any other shotfirer. The men have done got the powder in the hole and old Cannonball did was to go along and light the fuses and maybe tamp them up if they were wet. That "Shoot'em Hard" was just a way of saying "howdy."

Cannonball, it don't mean nothing either. Not until he got killed, it didn't. Cannonball got a leg shot off in Cuba and the men just called him old Cannonball cause a cannonball shot off his leg. It didn't mean nothing. Yeah, it's funny things like that. Cannonball had two names and he shore lived up to both of them when he died.

That evening me and Cannonball was setting right here on these props as usual, waiting for four o'clock, when the men started coming out. Every time some would come they would holler:


Well, anyway I was down there on that tram-way track not funer than you could throw a sledge, shoveling away like a fool, when it happened.

"Shoot'em Hard." Neithel' one didn't mean nothing, not until he got killed. Yeah, it's funny things like that! Things ike that! Cannonball had two names, one old Cannonball Bill and the other old "Shoot'em Hard." Neither one didn't mean nothing, not until he got killed, it didn't. But he shore lived up to both of them when he died.


Well, anyway I was down there on that tram-way track not funer than you could throw a sledge, shoveling away like a fool, when it happened. Yeah. Cannonball had two names and he shore lived up to both of them when he died.