SCHOOL ASKS FOR SMALL GIFTS

NEIGHBORS CELEBRATE
MAY DAY AT COLLEGE

Commonwealth is making a special appeal to those who are able to make donations of five, ten, or twenty-five dollars each.

Eleven hundred and twenty-five dollars of the $3000 needed by Commonwealth, if it is to open next fall, have been donated. There must be hundreds of small donations during the next few weeks if the campaign is to succeed.

The largest gifts are from A. E. O. Mansell, $821.62, and James L. Brewer, $100.

Other recent gifts are: Percival Chubb, Rebecca Smaltz...$20
Irving Weissman ...........$15
Edwin Bessler, Alice L. Dodge, Gordon H. Ward, Arthur Weinreb, George W. Atkinson .........$10
Marian Newman .............$8
Hella Bernays, Helen Evarts Graham, Central Cooperative Wholesale, Dr. and Mrs. Leo Leeb, Doris Fine, W. A. Jackson, Alfred Schorsch, Freda Kirchwey, Samuel Meyers, Thursday Study Club ..........$5
Glennford W. Lawrence .........$4
J. E. Moneil, Teresa Wolfsion, Anonymous, Joseph A. Senturio .........$3
J. S. Burgess, J. E. Foubister, Mary E. McDowell, E. H. Wuerbel, Ralph C. Abele, Henry Duci, Oscar Easton ..$2
Edward M. Brecard ............$1.50
M. Elkins, I. M. Robertson, Julius Creidenberg, Alice Stone Blackwell, Myron E. Elmerthal, Workmen's Circle, Alfred Cronbach, Dorothy Schaffer, Charles Rehmer, Jr. ....$1

It is evident that Commonwealth must depend on the people of the whole world for the last push of the enrollment campaign and for masses of support. We are asking for your support in the form of a donation of five, ten, or twenty-five dollars a week to send in at least half of a weekly pay check.

If the enrollment for the summer quarter is large, the campaign will be successful. If it is not, additional funds will be needed.

If you know someone, young or old, who will be free for a time during the summer, who is mentally alert and interested in the labor movement, in the menace of war, and fascism, hand him the summer session folder included as a supplement in this issue of the Fortnightly.

SUMMER SESSION ANNOUNCED

An announcement of the Commonwealth summer session for the coming summer has been issued as a supplement to this issue of the Fortnightly. Any further information may be obtained from the executive secretary, Cha lotte Moskowitz.

The rates for children were omitted by mistake. They are:
Children under six, $20 for 10 weeks, $10 per month, 40 cents per day.
Children under 12, $20 for 10 weeks, $15 per month, 60 cents per day.

These rates are for children accompanied by their parents. Children do not work.

PRINTER WANTED
Commonwealth is in need of a printer with experience in a small shop. The work will include letter-setting, running a job press, etc. Work will be available, and additional work may be obtained through the printers' unions.
WITH THE WORKERS IN SPAIN

By MILDRED PRICE
Commonwealth Teacher

Madrid, April 10

Will Durant can make a whirlwind trip through Russia, and thereupon evaluate and generalize with great facility. We have been in Spain a fortnight, and Spain is smaller than Russia. But so is our genius smaller than Mr. Durant's. Hence we shall limit ourselves to a few superficial observations and postpone an inventory of the Spanish scene until a later issue.

Spain continues to be rocked by strikes. And the strike in Spain is characterized by a variety of forms surprising to an American, accustomed to few other issues than wages, hours, conditions and recognition. The Spanish worker is acquainted not only with the garden variety of strike, as we know it, but with such forms as the immediate strike, "the strike of folded arms," and a reverse sort of lockout which consists of locking out the boss. Deeply emotional in his loyalties, he has recourse to the sympathetic strike, not only to lend support to his comrades in other crafts, shops or industries, but for social ends, such as in support of amnesty for political prisoners or in opposition to reactionary tendencies in the government. Jailed he has recourse to hunger strikes; and his fellow prisoners, by scores and even by hundreds, join with him.

STRIKE FOR AMNESTY

Zaragoza, Valencia and Barcelona are the centers of strike activity at this writing. Zaragoza is experiencing its third general strike in a week, and hardly a wheel is turning or a light burning in the city. The first strike was called to protest against the treatment which arrested comrades received at the hands of the police. The general strike broke out anew when, at the end of the stipulated 48-hour period, certain workers were refused remittance to their places of employment. Now the banner of a general amnesty for political prisoners (or as the anarchists prefer to call them, "social prisoners") has been raised. The proposed project of amnesty applies to monarchists who took up arms against the Republic, but does not include those arrested under the December in the uprisings called forth by the governmental shift to the right.

The Zaragoza strike is interesting also in that it is supported by a united front of the Confederación General del Trabajo, in which Anarcho-Syndicalists are the majority, and the Union General de Trabajadores, led by the Socialists. It is seldom that these two organizations agree on anything, but the seriousness of the situation seems to have forced joint action in this instance. This morning the newspaper, El Socialista, publishes an appeal of the rival C.N.T., stating that it is performing this service in view of the suppression of the syndicalist press. It is as if the New Leader were to publish an appeal of the Communist Party!

NO MUSSOLINI IN SPAIN

The state of alarm, in effect for many weeks, has just been lifted, and public meetings are again being held. We attended a gigantic mass meeting organized and called by the C.N.T. in a large theatre in Centro Caninos, the workers' district, on less than 24 hours notice. More than 10,000 workers crowded in at 10 o'clock Sunday morning, long before the bourgeoisie had ceased snoring in the better neighborhoods of Madrid. They occupied every seat, and the "standing" crowd filled every aisle downstairs and in the two galleries. Large throngs outside waited in vain for entrance. The distribution of tickets of admission to the membership had been accomplished within a few hours by an organization just emerging from an underground existence.

Our card in the American Federation of Teachers gets us in. With the characteristic geniality of the Spanish proletarian, the workers about us explained the preceding meetings, commented on the C.N.T. and practice of their organization. "We would like to bring Mussolini in Spain. The military of the Spanish workers want to really revolt for that. Nor would the arrest of a dozen men, the decree of a government break up their organization. They are anarchists and had no leaders; no matter how many were arrested, there wouldn't be others to take their place; not all the jails in Spain could hold them all.

RAGGED BUT NOT ASHAMED

Unlike the French workers, the Spanish proletariat does not put on its Sunday best to go to meeting. Maybe it has none. Sweaters, berets, scarfs (in lieu of neckties), working clothes predominated. Two working women in the ragged garb of vegetable peddlers or charwomen, sat on the speakers' platform without sign of self-consciousness. A sackless lad in fryed trousers, who might have stepped out of a picture by Manet, sat perched on a spare table with some of his companions. A legless man in blue denim propelled himself about the platform, conferring with the chairman and ex-changing banter with members of the crowd.

The speakers spoke with the passionate earnestness for which Spaniards are renowned. But they were not courting applause. In the interminable speech, the chairman, sternly repelled any tendency to applause: "We have important things to do. comrades, there is no time for applause." Am-nesty and the death penalty—these were the themes. Amnesty for the 14,000 to 16,000 imprisoned workers who sought to defend the gains under the Republic, and not just for the monarchists who sought to overthrow it. Against the restoration of the death penalty, for which capitalists and landlords are clamoring so that "law and order" may be preserved, so that "anarchy may be held in check." At the close of the meeting, a series of resolutions incorporating the sense of the meeting were presented to the audience, and into the reverberating "Si" of assert went the roar of 10,000 proletarian voices, surcharged with feeling.

"MADRID IS QUIET!"

But the speakers had made it plain that the workers would not depend on resolutions alone to gain their ends. We remarked to someone at the meeting on the spirit of militancy.

"Oh, Madrid is quiet," our interlocutor replied. "In Zaragoza, in Barcelona, there are twice the crowds, twice the enthusiasm.

By the time this reaches the Fortnightly, perhaps the issue will have been joined between the proletariat and the forces of Fascist reaction, now rallying for a show of strength under the banner of Acción Popular. Some of the capitalist papers are predicting grave occurrences on May Day. Who knows? Not we. We have been here only two weeks.

Commonwealth College Fortnightly

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BY STUDENT AND TEACHER LABOR

VOL. X. No. 9

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Published twice a month at Mena, Arkansas, by Commonwealth College. Subscription one dollar a year. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1912, at the post office at Mena, Arkansas, under the act of August 21, 1912.

Signed articles express only individual opinions.

Editors, particularly of labor and former papers, are welcome to make this material appear in these columns. Aline credit the Commonwealth College Fortnightly will be appreciated.
Newcomers nowadays tell us that they expected much more primitive accommodations than they found. Commonwealth cottages are modern in appearance—they are not log cabins. You will find a shower bath, electric lights in the main buildings, good tennis and volleyball courts, a large dancing floor and even a ping-pong table.

Most visitors are surprised at the excellence of the Commonwealth library, which now has nearly 8,000 volumes and hundreds of periodicals.

What to Bring and How to Come

Commonwealth students and visitors supply their own bed clothing, ordinarily, although guests who can remain only two or three days may be accommodated in the guest house. It is a good plan to bring two blankets, for summer nights in this section are cool. It is well to have a pair of heavy, comfortable shoes for hiking over mountain paths. However, many Commoners during the summer months wear sandals or tennis shoes. You need not bring your "Sunday-go-to-meet-in" clothes. Overalls are always correct, even at the dances. Hiking garb or out-of-door garments of any sort are suitable.

Mena is on the Kansas City Southern railroad. Several bus lines run through the town from Hot Springs, Fort Smith and Texarkana. Many Commonwealth students hitch-hike. If you are hitch-hiking down, better plan to take a bus the last hundred miles, although the roads are not bad. Traffic in these depression times is not heavy and you may have difficulty getting a ride.

A reliable travel service bureau may take you to Mena in a passenger automobile at a small cost.

If you know a month ahead exactly when you intend to come write the executive secretary and it may be possible for us to arrange for you to get a ride with someone else living in your vicinity who is coming this way, or if you are driving through we may put you in touch with someone willing to share expenses.

Upon arrival at Mena inquire at the City Drug Store for the Commonwealth truck. If the truck is not in town a taxi may be hired at a reasonable cost. The campus is twelve miles west of Mena.

RATES

For Full Term of Ten Weeks

Working Students $40
Non-working Students $60

Those wishing to stay less than ten weeks pay the monthly or daily rates

Working Students $25 per month, $1 per day
Non-working Students $30 per month, $2 per day

Working students do communal tasks, gardening, cooking, etc., fifteen hours per week.

COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE SUMMER SESSION

JULY 2 - 1934 - SEPTEMBER 8

The American Farm Revolt
MOTHER BLOOR

The Fight Against War and Fascism
WINNIFRED L. CHAPPELL

The Crack-up of Capitalism
JOHN ISE

The Proposed Fourth International
JAMES P. CANNON

Marxism and the Twentieth Century
PAUL MATTICK

The Greatest Questions Confronting America Today to Be Discussed by Specialists

Also regular Commonwealth courses in labor problems, working-class history, Marxian economics, public speaking, creative writing, imperialism, etc., by teachers who are free to teach.

A vacation in the southernmost Ozarks—swimming, tennis, hiking, square dancing, dramatic work, group singing—at a price you can afford.

Total cost, forty dollars for ten weeks.

Supplement to Commonwealth College Fortnightly, May 15, 1934
A VACATION WITH A PURPOSE

The 1934 Commonwealth College summer session offers its students more than an opportunity to take some interesting courses on a picturesque campus. It offers them a chance to be alert and active on more challenging frontiers than are provided by the standard educational projects, or the shutting back and forth of city life, or the monotony of a job.

Commonwealth affords a vacation that is invigorating and an intellectual group that vitalizes the study of social forces at work in the contemporary American scene. There is no clock-watching in the classrooms at Commonwealth. There is no rush from one to five each afternoon except Saturday afternoons. Sundays and other regular classes are held in the mornings, six days a week, and industrial work is done from one to five each afternoon except Saturday and Sunday. Week-end evenings are given over to study, conversation, special meetings, play practice, etc.

Every Saturday night a dance or entertainment is held. Occasionally the neighbors are invited in for an old-fashioned square dance. Forums on topics of current importance are held every Sunday night.

Community health is excellent: there is no malaria in this part of the state. Nights are always cool and you will feel the heat much less than you do in Chicago, New York, New Orleans or Oklahoma City. You will need a raincoat probably one week during the ten, but you will need a bathing suit every day.

A Class Under the Trees

A Class Under the Trees
WITH MALICE
AFORETHOUGHT
BY Clay Fulks

In my first article under this caption I was driven by an obtrusive pro-
vocation into railing rather bitterly against the State of Oklahoma for what struck me as a grotesque exhibition of official vindictiveness or an abuse of power, intimating that some sadistic imbecile was taking a hand in the administration of justice in that jurisdiction. A few months after I happened to know a decent chap who had given a sentence of fifty years in the penitentiary for the relatively trivial offense of raiding a bank, notwithstanding that, if really guilty, he had done it in a manner far more courageous, decent, and sportsmanlike than the manner in which bankers themselves pull off that common, routine job. Stripped of its foolish legal fictions and technicalities, the offense of raiding a bank—this deplorable Age of Decaying Capitalism—raiding it, I mean, from the outside and in broad daylight is, at the worst, essentially a case of "unfair" business competition. And that's all there is to it.

RAISING, HARD AND SOFT

But even to make out that strong a case one must grant the conventional capitalistic assumption that it is unfair to raid a bank from the outside; that is to say, in a manner diametrically opposite to that practiced by bankers themselves, who, in the south, are more willing than that. The logic seems to me, lies on the other side of the argument. Indeed, it strikes me as perfectly obvious that the fairest way to raid a bank is to do it from the outside and in the light of day. In this manner a ringleader not only exposes his body to gunfire from the keeping guards of capitalism but he also serves notice on the owner of the money that the raid is being made. This at least inflicts some courage, some sportsmanship, even a willingness to take prepared charges. For the manner of raiding one can have some respect, even though on certain other grounds, he must dissociate the whole raiding business. But the banker, when he makes a raid always does it by stealth and in comparatively safety. Never, he exposes his personnel to penetration of whizzing bullets nor have his treks uncovered to the last scent of the bloodhounds. True to the fine traditions of capitalistic, the banker raids in a quite polite and unobtrusive in his operation; and usually the only notice he dare give is that somewhat elusive form to be obtained by inference, as when he bobs up in some foreign country with a bagful of money—and, maybe, his neighbor's wife.

I must insist, therefore, with some emphasis on my point that it is the banker's themselves who, in the raiding of banks, are guilty of unfair business competition; not the picture-que fellows who, with bowling pieces in hand, boldly enter the sacred precincts of the charred banks and demand cash.

PENSIONS

By the way, I am about to forget to explain that it was the prompt pardoning of my friend, convicted of unfair business competition, which occasioned the comments; it is, not as the critical reader might suspect, that I am reduced to the necessity of threshing over old straw to get material for this column. It is an incident of the general paralysis of publicity that the State of Oklahoma lost so little time in accepting my realistic analysis of the case and rectified so promptly the foolish blunder committed by one of her criminal courts.

Indeed, I feel so heartened by this official act of Oklahoma's—this tacit admission that the book is doing the thing that was meant to do: that, in the present stage of capitalism, raiding a bank from the outside is entitled to as much leniency as if it were raided from the inside—that I am tempted to offer this further suggestion: that, in the final balance of social accounts in the State of Oklahoma and all other capitalistic stats, instead of inflicting savage punishments upon these earnest but hard-pressed fellows stupidly dubbed "bank robbers" by their bourgeois contemporaries, the question of pensioning those of them who were disabled in action cannot be justly disregarded.

SUITABLE BENEFICIARIES

And, furthermore and finally, I will venture so far as to suggest that also those of them who are in-gentle supererogations should receive solicitude attention. Only after this is done should the question of raising suitable beneficiaries to the memory of those brave fellows who have been killed in action be brought up for consideration.

When, if ever, this is done, the mountainous portion of the Arkansa-Oklahoma line will be dotted with many modest little shining monuments.

TOWARDS REVOLUTION
IN ART

A change in form without a change in content and fundamental theory is a reformation. Only when a change in content and fundamental theory takes place can we witness a revolution. Change may follow changes in the fundamentals.

Proletarian art, if it is to be, must be revolutionary, for it must reflect the will of the masses and inspire the masses towards a better world. If it is to be revolutionary, it must change the content and fundamental theory of existing art.

Huston's recent work, Karl Marx's "Capital" in Lithographs (Ray Long & Richard Smith, New York), is a step towards a revolution in art. This Amero-Hungarian artist of extraordinary talent considers that "Das Kapital is our guide. Like the X-ray, it discloses the depths below the surfaces." The book was compiled on the basis of this conviction.

The book is not a graphical interpretation of Das Kapital. Nor is it an illustrated Kapital. The author's motive in compiling this book is much more complicated than that. He calls the book "the translation into graphic form of the revolutionary concepts of Das Kapital."

Like a good translation, its appeals are direct and the awkwardness of book illustrations is nonexistent on its pictorial pages. One senses in the book graphic expressions of a poet devoted to the revolutionary doctrines of Marxism, instead of pictorial representation of Das Kapital. On the one page one sees Marx's precise and penetrating analysis, thoroughly cool and scientific; on the other one feels the burning ardor for revolution expressed in his delicate and delightful technique. The book is a Sutra, a Veda, which teaches and inspires the masses to a new world of freedom.

In 'Capital' in Lithographs Gellert points the direction the proletarian must follow. He teaches his fellow artists that only by changing the fundamental concepts of the theory of art, of life, and of the universe can they destroy the art of the decaying bourgeoisie and create a new art, that of the rising proletariat. He teaches that the road to life of an artist is the road to the new sun, the new center of the world, the world of the proletarian dictatorship. "Out of the East rises a new Pomegranate. And all the Gods in the World cannot claim the light which shines in the mighty hands that builds the future of mankind and bright lights flare up in mankind's wake." Karl Marx's 'Capital' in Lithographs is one of the most remarkable and important books of the last months. It is inspiring in its content and magnificent in its form. It is a work of historic significance.

—SACHIO OKA
"Dramatics" at Commonwealth is not just dramatics. It includes everything from tap-dancing to playing tunes on water glasses, with play production as the most important feature, of course. Not that we think tap-dancing properly belongs in the category of labor dramatics, but anyone joining the dramatics group is likely to be found upon for most anything whether or not it has a class tag. That is because we have a particular group.

Commonwealth is surrounded by farmers who, like most farmers in the country over, are virtually without recreational opportunity. The depression has hit hard and the price of a movie in town once a month is hard to face up. So the Commonwealth dramatics group has taken upon itself the task of providing free neighborhood entertainments about twice each quarter. These programs include various labor plays and mass receptions dealing with problems of interest to farmer groups, as well as labor skills of a light nature. Miniature rodeo sheets are sometimes passed out and the farmers are asked to sing labor songs with us. Our problem is to spice the programs with enough purely entertaining features to make them a little palatable, hence anyone who can juggle or turn fire springs is doubly welcome into the dramatics group.

One of our big difficulties is lack of stage facilities. Our stage is small with no back or side steps and when we want a nice little we either create one by hang a couple sheets or merely let people use their imaginations. Usually the latter. Most of the plays we present, however, do not call for elaborate staging. A table and a chair, or perhaps a wall and an axe if an exterior scene is desired, usually fill the bill as far as props are concerned. Two months ago we had no footlights. Now we have except one, each shade by a gallon fruit can with one side cut out. They are now put and we place them here and there for various effects. They are very handy for shadow plays since they can be placed at the back of the stage as ready as in the front. Once a group of children came in at the back of the curtain and danced every time a footlight was turned on in the audience.

Sea city of suitable material is not such a difficulty as it was in the past. Many more good labor plays are available now than before, however, there still exists a dearth of plays dealing specifically with farm problems. Play writers, it seems, are just now awakening to the fact that the farmer has a problem. When we need material become too urgent we resort to writing our own plays and indeed, many times the plays the programs have prove no success since they obtained from the outside; as the situation in this particular locality to a greater advantage. Students and teachers like have exchanged outlines to our own giving repertoire of homemade play.

Mass receptions and plays with mass parts are very effective and we try to find one for presentation at every program. We accepted a particular technique in presenting mass plays which has been wonderfully satisfying—far the mass parts are cut by a group situated in the audience while the main characters act on the stage. This cuts rehearsal time in half and the effectiveness of the production is harmed very little if any. Sometimes such an arrangement adds just the touch of unrepeatability and interest always comes very fast especially if the stage is small. With slight changes almost any mass play can be presented in such a manner.

Overall our group becomes a training ground. We have presented plays in town and at a community a hundred and a dinner in various clubs as well as various districts. More of this type of work could be done if funds were available. Not only because we would enjoy it but it enables us to touch many more people and give the students an opportunity to make valuable contacts with workers of this section.

A particular form of dramatics in which every one on the campus takes particular interest is the "skit" or "take-off." People who by nature do things out of the ordinary are the joy and delight of the skitster. The imitator with a real sense of humor occasionally takes off himself, and thus redeems himself in the eyes of his victim. This form of dramatic activity is very important because it brings out hidden talent. One of Commonwealth's best actors was so shy that he never had the courage to stand up on the stage until he became interested in imitating campus personalities.

Generally speaking, humor in some form or other is essential to every performance. If we attempted to entertain our neighbors with long, serious plays of a purely propagandist nature we would fail miserably. The problem now is to bring more educational material into the neighborhood programs without robbing them of their punch.

**STRAWBERRY SEASON ENDS WITH 200 QUARTS IN CAN'S**

The strawberry season, the busiest time of the spring month at Commonwealth is practically over with an estimated 200 quarts canned and that many more directed. The crop next year will be much larger.

An average of seven was low in coming this year, crop conditions so far are fairly good.

**Group To Make Contacts With Arkansas Farmers**

A group of Commonwealth students and teachers will go to Russellville, Ark., about June 1 to put on a series of the two programs for the farmers and residents of that section. This is one of the projects planned to give students firsthand contact with the workers of this section, and at the same time to acquaint the latter with Commonwealth.

The entertainments to be staged will include, in addition to serious talks, two Commonwealth-written plays, "Until the Mortgage Is Due," by Eliza Cunningham, and "I'm Predictive," by Agnes Cunningham. The theme of the first is the value of organization in stopping foreclosures, and of the second the value of organization in getting relief. Both plays make it desirable to elect a director to be director of a club. Early in June a small group will go to Paris, Ark., upon the invitation of Claude C. Williams, minister of the First Presbyterian church of Paris, to participate in the New Year's Fete to be held there. Topics to be discussed include labor, religion, education, agriculture, technology, industry, war and communism, socialism, and fascism.