COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE
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SIGNIFICANT MURAL TO ADORN COMMONS
Will Depict Conditions Of Arkansas Miners And Sharecroppers

IT WILL take 500 to buy painting supplies can be raised, Commonwealth will be able to exhibit on the walls of the Commons one of the most significant murals in the country.

Joe Jones, whose beloved by critics and outside the labor movement is one of the most important young artists in America today, is visiting Commonwealth as a special lecturer, and is eager to do the work. The mural, which would portray the lives of the Arkansas sharecroppers and miners, and would cover the entire wall of the southern section in the Commons. Commonwealth has never before had such an opportunity to enrich the emotional experience and understanding of its teachers, students, neighbors, and people all over the middle west. It is impossible to think of giving it up for lack of funds to buy paint. Students and teachers at the school are already contributing as much money as they can spare, hoping that friends of the school will donate the rest.

Your contributions to the Joe Jones mural will help to create for Commonwealth and the farmers and workers of Arkansas the best of American art—something which they have never had. And art which they cannot fail to understand because it is drawn out of the most familiar elements of their lives. Such works are must be financed by the working people. Will you send in your $1 or $2 or $5 immediately?

Conroy and Pals Fired Upon Near Birmingham

THE COMMISSION of writers headed by Jack Conroy which went to Birmingham, Alabama, to test the Downs Literature ordinance was fired on July 31 on the road near Birmingham. The five members of the delegation were riding in a roadster when shots were fired by one of two men passing them in a car. No one was injured.

A demand from the American Civil Liberties Union to the Governor of Alabama that the delegation be given adequate protection was denied. The next day three of the group were arrested, fingerprinted and ordered from the city. Protests from all over the nation are coming into Alabama insisting that the commission be allowed to continue its investigation of gag laws in Alabama and Georgia.

Carl Haessler Gives College Thirteen Talks In Ten Days

Carl Haessler, manager and founder of Federated Press, finished his ten-day series of lectures August 9, retaining his reputation as one of Commonwealth's most thought-stimulating and popular visitors.

Comparing his teaching experience this time with his visit two years ago, Haessler said: "Perhaps I should be disappointed, but in fact I am very well satisfied to find that my special lectures this summer at Commonwealth required
Students' Experiences

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is one of a series which the Fortnightly is publishing to give its readers some conception of Commonwealth students' backgrounds and experience.

Nat Eisman graduated this spring from the University of New Hampshire where he made the Commencement Day address.

A Student Strike

by NAT EISMAN

The importance of the University of New Hampshire at this against war and fascism on last April 12 does not lie entirely in its numerical strength, or in its influence upon political thought. Rather its significance lies in the lessons that its leaders learned through their activity during the strike and its preparation.

The strike was the first that had ever been staged on our campus, and it was accomplished by playing upon the pseudo-liberalism which is found on all college campuses. Psychology of fear was used to defeat and counter-balance the blind distrust of the conservatives, the open fight of the reactionaries, and the disapproval of the pacifists. The technique of diplomacy was used in dealing with these groups, and hence, no, or few, bad effects were left after.

Dealing with the hostile and reactionary attitude of the administration was one of our most difficult tasks. We fought to use the term strike instead of demonstration despite their disapproval. When we found that the heads of departments were instructing their subordinates to be entirely free of any connection with the strike, we sent personal invitations to each faculty member, with the result that some twenty-five instructors were present at the strike meeting.

Our main object was to awaken the dormant student mind on our campus. We had seldom had any vital student activity. We were willing to grant concessions in order to introduce the idea of student political expression. For this reason, we carried on no propaganda against the R. O. C. Now that the student body has grasped the technique of mass expression, now that they have a precedent, they can go further in the future accomplishing more at each step.

Through the recognition of the political awareness in their fellow students, many have begun to realize that there are problems to be solved, and they have leaned the strike as an effective method of expression.

The strike was also planned to act as a prelude to the organization of a vital student political club, which may become, as its strength grows, affiliated with the N.S.I. or a similar organization.

About a week before the demonstration, the press began to play up the radical angle in a ridiculous manner. But it had its bad effects on some groups of students, for rumors began to spread, and even included some members of the faculty: Moscow financing, Communist plots, etc. It was an insight into the caliber of some of our collegiate stock. The press, seemingly dissatisfied with its attempts to defeat our efforts before the strike, resorted to direct falsification in its reports of the affair afterwards. The figure of the attendance was reduced from 950 to 350. The resolutions were ridiculed on the front page of the distinguished local newspaper in the "editorializing the news" manner. Lack of courtesy on the part of a few students was granted space, but no mention was made of the majority of the student body. At the same time that they devote space to Americanism and free speech, etc., they garble the reports of an attempt on the part of our future Americans to express themselves.

The preparation for the strike took two weeks, two weeks spent in intensive propagandizing and in conferences with campus leaders and the administration, and in meetings with student groups. It gave us an inkling of what it must mean to organize and lead a strike in industry where thousands of workers are involved, and in which there may be an armed force to contend with instead of merely a reactionary collegiate administration and a slumbering student body.

The affair led us to understand better the temper of the student body as a whole towards the strike. The general attitude was hostile, but we did not find it too difficult to convince most people that they ought to have a chance to express their opinions collectively. Where reason could find no appeal, we resorted to the psychology of "bushwhack" and found that these individuals would help us in most anything so long as we could show them that their prestige and standing on the campus would be enhanced. In that way we won over many of the campus "leaders" to our side, and then the work within their organizations was not so difficult.

All of our students did not come in full sincerity to the demonstration. Many were there expecting to have a lively time, to hear a scathing denunciation of the European war preparations, and the other menaces to peace in the world today. Instead they listened to Professor Steags, Morris, of Dartmouth college, chairman of the Hanover branch of the American League Against War and Fascism, deliver an address in which

Society Notes

WHENCE and wherefore! Whence come these lads and lassies who find an extra issue of the Fortnightly or some other kind of Commonwealth publicity, and then come to the South for labor education? Wherefore do they come here, and do such things as would be their undoing in a less tolerant environment; i.e., cause them to be sent to asylums for the mentally wicked in such places as Fomossa, Isle of Potemkin, or down in Kentucky?

Even though the nights here are almost always the reason for blankets, the day time temperature isn't something to write smug letters home about. We know it's summer.

But no more than a few days ago, a whole horde of the younger set put on their most elegant clothes and went down the town. There are several cool places in Meno where one can indulge in the finer refreshments of consuming ice cream. But these undergraduates of militant labor education bought them nothing less than two whole quarts of ice cream, returned with it to the campus, and made a library.

Before the great fireplace in the best labor library in the world they congregate, and proceed-d Indian fashion to make themselves a whooping grand old fire. With New York and Chicago nowhere to be found, these same stalwarts sat around the booming fire and began to tear into the watery remains of Southern special ice cream.

Not tears, but honest-to-goodness perspiration streamed down their faces in the process—and labor or studying wasn't the reason either.

With passionate coolness we ask: whence and wherefore?

Since, as we said above, it's summer, and we're still located in the South, Old Man Pliiuus seldom pays us a visit. But whenever he does, he does, and all the trimmings worthy of a good rain go along with it.

In our last rain the thunder that rolled over Rich mountain was no ordinary thunder by a long shot. It roared like the fourth invasion of the Kwantung on the Chinese Soviets—roar and nothing else to it.

But along with the roar were silvery blue flashes of lightning that tore across the southernmost ranges in search of targets. One flash made a three-base hit by striking the oak tree between the library and the guest house. There was a dreadful crash and then smoke, and everybody on the campus was surprised.

But the lad who got it worst was Willy Gottlebe, the athletic specimen.
from over Passaic, New Jersey, way. Willy was washing dishes in the Commons when it happened. The electric current crossed the campus and came up through the dishwasher, at which time Willy's hands were therein.

All it did at first was to keep him glued to the floor, Willy says, and then little electric pin point jitters passed through him. After which hoarse screams almost equal to the thunder were heard, and a short squat figure flashed out of the Commons on its way toward Union Square dorm.

Till this day Willy does not care for dishwasher. And how he gets up courage to perform his toilette on rainy mornings is still a mystery.

This summer has brought us more visiting notables from the labor and literary world than Commonwealth has ever seen or before. They made their way down Highway 71 in profusion to give this alert student body a little of what they know, and get some in exchange. Old faces and new ones.

Of the old ones, first, we had none other than David Englestein himself. When he talks about Commonwealth he still says "we". Besides clarifying the collective mind on historical materialism, dialectics and the third labor party, he helped solve some of the problems of his former labor college.

He didn't gripe about the food, made frequent trips to the old swimming hole, and in exchange he was made first god-father of the red-headed wonder child, Sandy Cunningham. Sandy is now called Sandy Clay Edesworth Cunningham, and the Chaim is for David.

Then Bill Reich, another old-time staff member, rode in in a beautiful new Ford v8, but the Ford was a friend's. Bill talked about the enormous job of organizing the unemployed so that they can

WHAT IS COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE?

Commonwealth College is a non-factional labor school which has as its function the training of young men and women for active service in some militant organization in the labor movement.

Its courses, which include economics, history, labor problems, proletariat culture, creative writing, public speaking, journalism, prophecy, etc., are taught from a point of view partisan to the working class.

Most of the food consumed at the college is grown on the college farm. The school has its own laundry, camera, print shop, etc. All work is done communally by members of the group. The school pays no salaries or wages. Teachers receive only their maintenance.

Students pay $50 tuition per quarterly term (three months) and receive their board and room for 20 hours work per week during fall, winter and spring terms, and for 12 hours during the summer term, on the college farm, in the garden, of fishing, etc.

Commonwealth is located near Mena, Arkansas, in the Ouachita Mountains, the southernmost range of the Ozarks.

Commonwealth Courses

Labor Journalism

MARVIN SANDFORD, INSTRUCTOR

TWO JOURNALISM COURSES are available to Commonwealth students: an elementary course in newswriting, consisting mostly of practice work; the other a more advanced course in the history and problems of labor journalism.

This semester both courses are being packed into one; in addition a wall paper is being issued as a class project, so there is "never a dull moment."

The object of the newswriting practice is not primarily to make journalists or even professional reporters, but to aid rank and file workers in becoming proficient correspondents for the Federated Press, press agents for their organizations, and to give impetus to the general movement for Workers' Correspondence, which is the lifeblood of many an advance guard labor paper nowadays.

With the aid of a blackboard, the structure of the news story is studied; the simple, featureless story, the story with a single feature, and the story with multiplicity of features. A good deal of attention is given to the "lead," its various grammatical forms, modeling the lead to the story, and "plotting the curve" of the story. The principles learned are given definite application in the writing of certain classes of stories, based on speeches, conferences, strikes, bulletins, court decisions, etc.

Worker correspondence as a special form of newswriting involves consideration of the classes of material available for the F.P. and similar outlets: news stories; special articles dealing with one event of importance to the labor movement; interpretive articles on nature and progress of workers' struggles.

Conditions of employment prove to be rich source material: shop and job news, introduction and effect of speed-up systems, methods of hiring, record systems, blacklists, wages, hours, and state of the labor market. News of workers' struggles would include strikes and lockouts, election campaigns, attitudes of city, county, and state authorities (court actions, injunctions, use of police, troops), forms of organization of the capitalists (activities of employers' associations, commercial clubs; use of gunmen, thugs, spies, union activities, proceedings of central councils, conferences, Vietnam, etc.); wage agreements, etc. Other source material includes attitudes and activities of churches and semi-religious groups; accidents, death and injury to workers, specifically under preventable circumstances; housing conditions, rents, evictions; activities of relief authorities, discrimination, racketeering, etc.

The structure and form of the explanatory and analytical article, and the editorial, is given some attention.

The wall board periodical stimulates the group more than merely writing for the class, and adds somewhat to campus life, this thing of having the placecover-run with reporters doing interviews and then having the "fruits of toil" posted where all the world may admire.

Another project or teaching method which has been employed, has been the "Commonwealth Press Service," a re-write service patterned after Federated, which class-angled the news and was sent out once a week to friendly papers willing to pay the postage. These stories were printed quite often, and were on students a chance to get their stuff in print, which was quite an impetus. The advantage of the service over the wall paper was that the best stories were printed in real papers and the students were dealing with real news. The chief disadvantage was that the news was gotten second hand, necessarily it was only a re-write service and the less adept students didn't often find themselves reprinted.

The present class, while too small to easily operate a wall paper, is hearing up under the burden. The tendency at the moment is for editorial opinion to predominate and the strictly news features to be submerged; this may be a condition requiring correcting, but at any rate it adds to the gayety of campus life.

The lectures on history and theory include studies of the organic (official and unofficial) of the First Internationals, the American social revolution of 1918-19, war time suppressions, the press of the Knights of Labor and the populists; DeLeon and the Socialist labor party press; estimates of outstanding publications, history, personalities, and influence, including the labor dailies, the International Socialist Review, the Appeal to Reason, the Rip-saw, the Masses, Social Democratic Herald, The Comrade; the colonization press; the pure and simple trade union press; role of the press in significant episodes in the history of American labor. The problem of establishing and maintaining a labor press is considered, with suggestions on methods of launching, financing, and guaranteeing revenue, sectional, local union, or unem-ployed publications.
Russia Is Thrilling To Bob
And Rose; Returning Soon

Bob and Rose Brown, members of the Commonwealth staff who are spending the summer in the Soviet Union, report both a fine trip over and tremendous enthusiasm for the U. S. R. Latest word from them was written just after they arrived in Moscow. The Browns are conducting a tour of twelve persons, and sailed on the S. S. British June 29.

From London Rose Brown wrote about the first part of their journey as follows: "We have had rain and fog all the way across, but the crowd is proof against weather. I have never seen such a grand and lively bunch who have squeezed every drop of joy out of every minute."

"Besides the Summer School bunch of about 200, we have a large contingent of Irish who think we are some sort of Sinefeiners and are very sympathetic, although they do nothing but sit in the bar all day and all night. While we hold seminars and Russian classes, midnight feasts and endless discussions, like a big Commonwealth afterparty.

Bob's card from Moscow said: "Tell gang Russia is unbelievably advancing. It's thrilling!"

The Browns will return to Commonwealth in September in order to be at the school when the fall term opens.

Joe Jones is a St. Louisan, twenty-six years old, and self-taught. Eight years ago he made his living as a house painter. Recently he exhibited his work in his first one-man show at the A. C. A. gallery in New York. Every art critic in New York wrote at least half a column on him, in unanimous agreement that he is one of the country's most promising young painters.

Edward Alden Jewell, art critic of the New York Times, praises Jones for "the deftness, the refreshing originality of his brush-work; the publication, as well, of a personal point of view."

In the Herald-Tribune, Carlyle Burrows speaks of "the marked sensibility, the skill and the painterly decision of this artist, who has distinction in style, and the means whereby to make his message, however unpalatable in itself, count to some esthetic purpose."

Jacob Kainen says in the Daily Worker: "An exhibition of paintings so sharply true, so indicative of clean, hard thinking and positive working class feeling, so devoid of mufiness and studied artifice has not appeared in a New York gallery in a long while."

[EXPERIENCES FROM PAGE 2]

he rationalized, upon the basis of his education and his personal world war experience, his anti-war attitude. Many students felt emotionally satisfied that they had taken part in an anti-war affair, and some were dissatisfied with the whole business, or perhaps glad that they were not in their class at that hour. It was only the advanced section of the students who editorialized the thought content of the address. The lessons that we learn from these vital experiences will serve as a part of our equipment in the fight for a better society. The immediate effect of the strike may have been small. But it is a demonstration like this plus many more that form from the ignorant calm the ripples which build the waves which crash the shore.

[SOCIETY NOTES FROM PAGE 3]

have better food, clothing and shelter. His labor contribution was sweating hours in the kitchen, for Bill is the best cook Commonwealth ever had. It's his hobby -- making meals that bring him closer to the hearts of all Commonwealth inhabitants.

Carl Haessler is back once again too. He enjoys spirited intellectual sword-crossing, and says missions Nathan Fine, one of the best antagonists he ever had, had, who was at Commonwealth with him two summers ago. Carl got up in the Commons and challenged the populace in general to a game of chess. But with David Englestein gone, we have to hang our heads in shame. None of our chess players think they are good enough to play Haessler.

John Gould Fletcher, one of America's best known poets, was a semi-old-timer also, having visited us once before. He spent several days telling us about the school of Imagists, of which he is one, and other interesting aspects of literature, both historical and current. It was a tough struggle for him part of the time, because some of the students couldn't agree with him. But they had to admit that he knows his literature. He's the only speaker who drew a substantial audience from Mema.

[CARL HAESSLER FROM PAGE 1]

more intensive preparation and more careful presentation than a similar series two years ago.

"This is due to the presence of a stronger regular teaching staff and a more advanced student body. The college is well organized and the courses are intelligently coordinated." I attended the regular classes and other special lectures with distinct benefit to myself. The fall quarter gives promise of carrying on the educational progress marked by the summer term."

Bob Reed Goes To Little Rock

Bob Reed, former student and member of the Commonwealth College Association, has been elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Little Rock Workers' Alliance, the newly formed unemployed organization recently established there. Bob Reed was one of the two students sent to eastern Arkansas by Commonwealth last winter to assist the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union. They were accompanied by Lucien Koch, director.

Associated Little Magazines Seeking Higher Attainment

A non-dues-paying association of all little magazines willing to co-operate in the exchange of news and data vital to the business end of little mag publishing is the present stage of the evolution of Associated Little Magazines. All magazines are invited to contribute gossip, information, addresses, etc., that may be of general interest, for publication in the C. C. Fortnightly.

Soon two lists of subscribers and four bookstore lists will be circulated respectively among those magazines that have submitted them: Manuscript, The Commonweal th, Kosmos and, has furnished a nice little list of bad outlets which will be sent to those interested.

Printers interested in producing little magazines are invited to send their addresses in for publication.

Richard Perry of The Magazine (suspended until the end of the year) suggests that each Association member act as agent for other members, in their own communities. The New Talent will hereafter be in printed form of 64 pages.

other lectures with distinct benefit to myself. The fall quarter gives promise of carrying on the educational progress marked by the summer term."

He dealt with the various remedies suggested for recovery, N. R. A. and A. A. A. relief, the New Deal and the War on poverty, and the coming cash of U. S. and Japanese imperialism.

He also gave three talks to the journalism class on the structure, operations and policy of Federated Press, three to Orientation class on Utopian Socialism and dialectical materialism, and one at the Sunday night table on "The Prison Experiences of a War Objector."