STATE CONVENTION TURNS REACTIONARY
Fraternal Delegates Refused Seats By Arkansas Federation
A SALUTATORY example of Fascist police brutality in freedom was given at the recent annual convention of the Arkansas Federation of Labor in Paris, when a reactionary machine reversed completely the progressive stand of the Federation one year ago.

Commonwealth Local 104 of the American Federation of Teachers was represented by Horace Bryan, delegate, and Lucien Koch, alternate. Machine-controlled speakers, who called for "harmony" and aggressively raised the red scare, had a virtual monopoly of the platform throughout the convention. Rank-and-file members who attempted to speak were unceremoniously ruled out of order. The specially organized cheering section, led by the newly-elected president, who has continued its free-thinking policies, spoke Joe Jones to the group gathered in the commons, Saturday evening, August 31, to celebrate the completion of the mural and the visits of Jones and Mother Bloor to Commonwealth.

With Lucien Koch as master of ceremonies, the speakers of the evening were Mother Bloor, her husband Andrew Omholt, her granddaughter Herta Ware, and Joe Jones. The latter gave a complete explanation of his technique and his interpretation of the huge painting, which he was able to finish during his short stay of three weeks.

The lighter side of the entertainment was in the form of a saga of the departing guests, about whom limericks were composed and sung by every person on the campus. Games and dancing concluded.

The gala day, one week before the end of the summer session, marked the high point of one of the most successful quarters in Commonwealth's history. The more than one hundred people who attended the regular classes also heard and associated with the following visiting lecturers, specialists in their respective fields: Mother Bloor, Joe Jones, Eleanor Risley, Bill Reich, Carl Haessler, Ralph Compere, David Englestein, Jack Conroy, Ward Rodgers and John Gould Fletcher.

Mother Bloor and Jones left the following day to make a joint speaking tour of Arkansas before leaving the state. They are bound for Jones' hometown St. Louis, from where Mother Bloor continues her speaking trip.

MURAL DEDICATED TO WORKING CLASS
Joe Jones, Mother Bloor, Andrew Omholt, Assist In Delightful Ceremonies
"THIS MURAL is made possible only through my affiliation with and my attitude towards my class, and by the subject matter drawn from that class; whatever is here is good that comes from my class, the working class. In dedicating this mural I give it back to them, and particularly to the working class of the entire south." Thus spoke Joe Jones to the group gathered in the commons, Saturday evening, August 31, to celebrate the completion of the mural and the visits of Jones and Mother Bloor to Commonwealth.

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MYRA PAGE COMES TO COMMONWEALTH
Peter Frye Joins New College Staff In Capacity Of Dramatics Director
TWO NEW MEMBERS for the growing teaching staff, making its total faculty membership thirteen, bring Commonwealth College face-to-face with the September 30 fall quarter armed with the finest equipment for workers' education that it has ever had.

Commonwealth's three new strengths are (1) its new director Richard Whitten, who will lead the school in broadening its service to southern labor, (2) its finest and largest faculty, and (3) physical improvements: an enlarged and reorganized labor library, a new larger classroom, and completion of the housing program of repairing and refurbishing the dormitories and other school buildings.

Myra Page, novelist, and Peter Frye, dramatics director, are the latest teachers to join the group.

The wife of John Barnett, new Marx-page four
"I'LL STAY A MONTH NEXT TIME"- MOTHER BLOOR
Two special lectures at the college for neighbors and residents of Meno, and a series of five lectures on Russia, featured the sixteen talks given by Mother Ellia Reeve Bloor, nationally-known farm and labor organizer. Her originally scheduled stay of one week had been extended to two weeks.

Her talks on Russia, considered by the students her finest and most inspiring, were mainly eye-witness accounts of socialist construction there since 1921. She gave an excellent picture of the achievements in the development of the youth and in the field of education.

In announcing her intention to return to Commonwealth next summer, "unless I'm in jail," Mother Bloor said: "This is the first time I have been at a place like this, where I feel that in talking to you all and in being here I have learned just as much as you have."
Leninist philosophy has often emphasized the fact that art is a very specific instrument for the perception and reflection of reality. And by reflecting the reality of today art performs a very important function in the labor movement. That function is two-fold. Art's utility is obvious as it presents argument, guidance and leadership for working-class organization through posters, cartoons and illustrations. It is in the form of such mediums as murals, paintings, sculpture and theatrical scenery that this instrument is wielded as a more subtle and yet more powerful force, portraying reality to evoke the feeling for, as well as intellectual realization of, the movement and direction of social change.

With this in mind in 1934 Commonwealth decided to broaden the curriculum to include an art class. The class in Drawing, Composition, and Poster Design is necessary broad and is arranged to meet the needs of individual students, taking beginners as well as those more advanced. Separate guidance and criticism is given several times a week on work done in class so that the student interested in different phases of art such as fine arts, poster or cartoons can receive the help they most need. At Commonwealth and in the nearby neighborhood is an abundance of material for quick sketching. Quick sketching is stressed as valuable training because only by the facility for rapid work can the artist take advantage of active material. The majority of the class periods are spent in learning how to make clear and interesting in lettered posters to be used in organization may spend their full time at this work.

This class is not taught from an academic point of view which so often kills originality and leads to stereotyped production. So the student is encouraged to work for character and action rather than photographic technique. Pupils are expected to do compositions outside of class. These compositions may take any form the student wishes. One day each week is devoted to collective class criticism of this work. This method of criticism builds initiative and stimulates the student to criticize his own work competently.

Assuming that the potential Burck's, Jones and Rivers are ideologically prepared, the course aims to add to their equipment a grasp of technique, so that these students may most effectively experience and recreate the reality about them.

The class of the fall quarter is in need of the gift or loan of the reading material listed here. Three books by Walter Pach, Ananias, An Hour of Art; Makers of Modern Art; by Solomon R. Guggenheim, Appollo, by Elie Faure, History of Art (4 volumes); a subscription to the New York publication Art Front.

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS BOOST COMMONWEALTH College Represented in Northwest And Large Eastern Cities

To enlist students and arouse interest in the aims of Commonwealth College, a group of students organized and presented programs in large cities on their way home from the Summer Session. In St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit, New York, the four boys, Leon Strauss, Max Shuler, Paul Sigel, Allan Fletcher, acted, sang and talked at meetings arranged by former Commonwealth students. Staff members Carl Parker and Stella Mathews will also represent the school, in the Minnesota and Dakota farm areas respectively, while on their between-terms vacation trips. Former Commonweathers and others who know persons or groups interested are asked to contact the college.

FOR VISITORS TO MURAL

Visitors to Commonwealth and the Jones mural who wish to be at the college for more than a few hours during the day can be accommodated on the campus, as the nearest hotel facilities are twelve miles distant. Board and lodging will be furnished at $2 per day. Those working four hours are charged $1. It might be advisable to notify the college in advance.

Society Notes

Young, cheerful, forceful, alert, lovable Mother Bloor had the whole campus high on its toes during the last two weeks of August. From the moment she came it seemed that energetic 73-year-old never stopped talking and every member of the group never stopped looking at the aquanacious pair. Matt Mackie and Mother Bloor's own husband Andy Ombolt, the big Swede. Andy hung around the shop of Mackie, the Finn, a penter, most of the time he was here. The two enjoyed some wonderful silences together as they worked at producing benches for more listeners to sit on during the fall and subsequent quarters. Whenever Mother spoke, the two who hung upon every word were her granddaughter Herta (a charming young lady) and Andy, who has listened to her talks all over the country. To be specific, what is this strange power? Marve Sanford, tycoon of laboratory and journalism, was tickled breathless when Mother spoke to the neighboring townspeople and farmers. As she mentioned the Soviet Republic—"they have states there just like ours"—she jugglec the imaginary little states in her little cupped hands as though they were that many little children's building blocks. And listen to Charlotte Moskowitz, postmistress and ex-officio executive secretary: "If we had only a hundred like her!"

The Fortnightly retracts. In its previous issue it allowed itself to be flippant about painter Joe Jones in a manner that savored suspiciously of "urbanity". This was in regard to Joe's alleged inquiry about how many months previous to his departure for Commonwealth (The circumstance of this departure is itself moot and to be taken up later). Because after Jones finished the mural he left to another inquiry that should be examined beside his first (alleged) remark, and examined closely. Many witnesses heard him speak after he had for three weeks massaged with a size quadruple A paint brush (in contradiction to size triple) in a square feet of wall "covered with something special." What Jones said was: "May I please go out and hoe some peanuts?" But Jones himself has left and cannot be interviewed.

Last Sunday's trip to rob a bee tree, led by gardener Charley Brown, woodsman par excellence, proved to be an affair for the society page and then some. It was educational, even. You can't get away from it. Anyway, the modest "five" miles to the house of the upland farmer who had spotted the bees, parked the lunch, and girted their
Septem protection, Charley took charge of the italistic system. The bees do all the work of the branches, someone remarked, "just like the capitallistic system. The bees do all the work and—" "But they don't have to come and get it; we workers bring it to them." "Besides, we haven't got any stingers." "Oh yeah?" And a longer silence followed. So, loaded with saw and ax and smoker, and cans and pail of honey, the expedition marched back to the farm and ate like big game hunters. Casualties: two stings.

He returned to the farm and loaded his machine gun into firing position. Then I looked for a good place for my gun. It was easy—I had had plenty of experience—more than our officer. He hadn't been at the front very much. I went behind a little hill, so that he couldn't see us (proletarian military strategy).

After another few hours our officer arrived to inspect our work. We had not yet arranged the position of our gun. He looked around. "A very good position here. Yes, very good." It was two o'clock in the morning. The English artillery had stopped shooting.

At eleven o'clock I went up to our officer, "A new situation," he said. "Extremely alarming. The English troops will attack tonight." He gave me cigarettes, magazines and about two gallons of whiskey.

I returned to the men. Whiskey? The offensive spirit! I smashed the bottles on rocks. I informed my comrades of the news.

A half hour later firing began. I went to our gun with one comrade. I watched the position of our officer. I could see him with my glasses. What would he do? Shells were exploding all around us. At any second he might come into our shell hole.

I hale with the war! We wanted to live. We didn't want to give our lives for a country that denied us the right of existence.

It was impossible to stay there. Could we go back? I ordered my comrades to renew. With a howl we came and watched. We saw our officer and the other soldiers run back without their machine guns. I put three hand grenades under the gun. "Schous," I called, "see, see the hand grenades here!" "Let me do this job," he begged. "O.K. come on. Hurry. Follow me. I'll take care of the other gun," I destroyed the other gun, and ran back through a hell of exploding shells.

I was out of the firing zone shortly, and the troip. I reported to our officer, "My machine gun destroyed by a shell!"

"Go back to the company, with your soldiers." We had no more reserve guns. We were saved from the attack.

In the night the second troop came back. The officer told me that his machine gun was destroyed by a shell. We had been at the front. We had no guns. The English had made an attack. Not one English worker had been killed by our guns. It was not a conscious sabotage. It was a reaction from the whole misery.

WHAT IS COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE?

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

Its courses, which include economics, history, labor problems, proletarian culture, creative writing, public speaking, journalism, philosophy, 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, cannery, 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 quarter term (three months) and receive their board and room in exchange for 36 hours work per week during fall, winter and spring terms, and 18 hours per week during the summer term, on the college farm, in the garden, office, library, etc.

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

Students' Experiences

NOTE: This experience was written by a summer session student for the wall paper The Campus Bluff, the extra-curricular organ of the journalism class.

The Front
by JOSEPH HAUSMANN

It was two o'clock. We were ready for the front. I reported to our officer: "Eleven men, two machine guns, 10,000 munition, one shovel, a water box, reserve parts and tool box." "O.K.," answered the officer. "Bad situation. Let's go.

Eleven soldiers, eleven workers, marching without song, without humor, toward the front. We all felt what was going on. Twenty-two eyes staring at the earth. Eleven minds concentrated on one point. Who would be killed next? The devil! Take the whole pack that sent us here!

In a half hour we were in the firing zone. Our bodies changed under the influence of all the war misery. This was not my body any more, it was a complicated machine, concerned with thousands of cannon, thousands of shells which flew steadily through the air, thousands of shells exploding round about us. I felt that I had a body without inner organs. Millions of nerve threads passed through my skin and stretched out like rubber bands to the whole war machinery fifteen miles around us.

After a couple of hours we stopped. We were sitting in a deep shell hole. My officer explained the situation to me. "The English troops will make an attack tonight or tomorrow morning. Bring your gun into firing position." "O.K."

I went to my comrades, all hidden in different shell holes. I watched the officer. He was near the other gun. He ordered the soldiers to bring his gun into firing position. Then I looked for a good place for my gun. It was easy—I had had plenty of experience—more than our officer. He hadn't been at the front very much. I went behind a little hill, so that he couldn't see us (proletarian military strategy).

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Published twice a month at Mena, Arkansas by Commonwealth College. Subscription at $2.00 per year to second class matter, January 30, 1926, at the post office at Mena, Arkansas, under the act of August 24, 1912.
WILLIAM GREEN BALKED BY TEACHERS' CONVENTION

Rank and Filers Go Left
In New York City's Struggle
To Hold A.F. of L.

The recent Cleveland convention of the American Federation of Teachers can be recorded as a historic one. Until now labeled least militant union of the A.F. of L., the delegates overruled president William Green's command to expel the New York local, in the face of his threat to kick out the whole Federation of 10,000 members. Green charged, not that Local 5 harbored members of political parties, but that some of these were members of radical political parties.

David Engelstein represented Commonwealth Local 194 at Cleveland.

Myra Page—from page one

Up congressman, Myra Page is well-known as a proletarian writer. Among her works are *Gathering Storm*, a novel of southern textile workers, and, published this year, the much-discussed *Moscow Yankee*. She will conduct the course in proletarian literature.

With a background of seven years of varied theatrical experience (four of them spent in teaching), Peter Frye comes to direct Commonwealth drama in "keenly interested in experimentation along the line of finding new American theatre-forms, in the light of the political need for more articulate dramatic expression." One of his first projects here will be the organization of dramatic troupes to travel the south representing labor education and building working-class forces against such tendencies as were manifested in the recent Arkansas Federation of Labor convention.

Other new teachers who will begin September 30 are: John Barnett, lecturer, experienced in workers' education for ten years; John Herrmann, Scribner's short novel contest winner, and member of the Farmers' National Committee for Action; Elmer Hamm, trade-union teacher, and active in silk-workers organization in Paterson, New Jersey; Stella Mathews, teacher of effective writing.

The final outline of the fall quarter curriculum will appear in the October 1 *Fortnightly*.

GLADIOLUS AND DAHLIA BULBS ARE DESIRED

The work on the landscaping and gardening on the campus, under the direction of Virginia Donaldson assisted by Charles Brown, would be appreciably helped by the donation to the school of gladiolus and dahlia bulbs, any amounts.

STUDENT APPLICANTS ATTENTION

Persons contemplating attending Commonwealth College during the fall quarter are urged to send applications as soon as possible to Charlotte Moskowitz, executive secretary. This will allow time to conclude necessary correspondence to insure the student's arrival before September 30.

Organizations and persons interested in furnishing scholarships for the many prospective students in the south who cannot pay tuition, are also urged to make payments at once for the reasons above.

State Convention—from page one
dial relations with the Ft. Smith chamber of commerce and its vigilante committees, kept up a bombardment of applause for the reactionaries.

The first real fight came over the seating of fraternal delegates. Vincent Miles, state commander of the American Legion, who helped crush the workers' relief strike in Ft. Smith, who fought hard for the passage of state se­dition bills, and who was recently re­warded by a Rooseveltian appointment to the Social Security Board, was seated by a large majority. But those fraternal dele­gates from Commonwealth College, the Workers' Alliance, and the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, were fought viciously by the machine and were not seated. With a few exceptions the forward-looking resolutions were also attacked and killed.

At many times during the convention a murmur of protest welled from the rank-and-file delegates. They came un­prepared to fight the bludgeoning tac­tics employed by the opposition. It was their first experience of such Hitler methods. They spoke of the convention as "their lesson" and vowed to come back next year with a program and or­ganization of their own.

FORMER DIRECTOR LEAVES FOR EAST

He left of absence obtained from the Commonwealth College Association, Lucien Koch left last week for the east, his place as director to be filled by Richard Whitten.

Irene Merrill, his wife, will join him after publication of the fall *Windsor Quarterly*, of which she is editor.

Associated Little Magazines

The People's Book Store, which will carry working-class literature in the English, Jewish, Italian, German and Russian languages, will be opened on September 30 at 140 Second Ave, New York.

The Green Corn Rebellion, the novel about America's early proletarian insurrec­tion, was published August 30 by the Vanguard Press, and is drawing favorable comment. William Cunningham wrote the book while he was Marxism teacher at Commonwealth.

You're telling us? V. Charles Kates, The Tower House, 19 & Spruce St, Phila, writes his troubles, and asks all for a printer and information about setting my mag in book shops in some of the larger cities, how one gets some circulation, subscription, etc. ? Don't crowd, comrades, let him hang himself! ? PATIENTLY AWAITING DEPT: International Publishers' An Anthology of American Proletarian Literature, editors Granville Hicks, Michael Gold, Ibsen Schneider, Paul Peters, Joseph North, Alan Calmer. Park Bench Number of *The Latin Quarter*, *Moods*, An All-Poetry Quarterly. 515 t loop, perhaps. After all, the solution of, say, economic ills may lie concealed—in moos! The review section of the fall (final) *Windsor Quarterly* will contain book reviews of the two Gutenberg Fellowships, Jack Conroy and Alfah C. Bessie; of the two Fascist writers from Italy, the latest works of Pound and Pirandello; of Bill Cunningham's *Green Corn Rebellion*. Publication of Cunningham's novel grew out of his "The Cloud Puncher" which appeared in the 1934 *Fall Quarterly*. *Kirtland Arts & Crafts Press*, Willoughby, Ohio, offers its services to AssLitMag. *ES* Press, *Abbott*, *Literature*, all inter­land plugs along. *Manuscript* ran a con­test—winning story in late July. Also that *Medallion* isn't mine anymore—old con­trib (try R. Merrell, 1350 West Oak, Eu­gene, Ore.) is a new one... O'Brien's new anthology—reviews very, very soon... May get someone interested (publisher) in printing little mag anthology, which would be all we need... 205 State St, Brooklyn, N.Y. Thanks, Cohen.