GALA MAY DAY
PROGRAM PLANNED
Neighbors to Participate
In Outdoor and Indoor
Celebration

A joint celebration of May Day
will be participated in by the
entire Commonwealth group and
the school’s neighbors and friends.
In this way the school not only ob-
serves one of the most significant
working-class holidays, but is also
able to bring the May Day spirit to
western Arkansas.

Leaflets are being distributed
throughout the surrounding coun­
ty inviting the neighborhood
farmers and their families to
the Commonwealth celebration.

The May Day Committee is over­
coming the difficulty of getting
the farmers out for an all-day
celebration during planting sea­
son by starting a major part of
the program late in the afternoon.

Activities will get under way at
2 o’clock. The director of the joint
celebration will open the day with
an address on “Why Commonwealth
Celebrates May Day.” Group
singing will follow.

Later everybody will take part in
games, races and volley ball
Tournamen. The principal afternoon talk
will be given by Orval Faulus on “The
Story of May Day.” At six o’clock sup­
per will be served to the entire assem­
bly on the campus.

The evening’s entertainment will be
continued in the Commons. A farm
play written by Frances Cole, Com­
mwealth student, will be presented, and

Harriet Seymour will play several
piano solos. Charles Rehmer, student,
will speak on the significance of May
Day. The night’s program will close
with a mass recitation under the direc­
tion of Ben Low.

WINDSOR QUARTERLY
CONTENTS ANNOUNCED
Summer Issue Will Feature
Excerpt From Godin Novel;
Out June 15

The June issue of The Windsor Quar­
terly will carry a long excerpt, “Descent
to the Living,” from Alexander Godin’s
novel, The Barracks. Alexander Godin
was born in 1909 in Zhitomir, Volinskaya
Gubernia, Ukraine. His parents
were poverty-stricken artisans working
at home under feudal conditions. His
mother kept the family together
through the war, two revolutions, civil
war, three pogroms, and the famine.
Mr. Godin writes from a strong bitter
experience.

SPECIAL LECTURES
FOR SUMMER TERM
Dozen Leaders Secured
For Addition to Regular
Courses

Charlotte Moskowitz, executive
secretary, announces that
fourteen special lecturers have ac­
cepted invitations to spend one or
more weeks at Commonwealth dur­
ing the summer session. The list to
date is as follows: Mother Bloor,
Ward Rodgers, Jack Conroy, David
Englestein, Carl Haessler, James
T. Farrell, Bill Reich, Ben Botkin,
Marshall Lakey, Charles J. Finger,
Winifred L. Chappell and Eleanor
Rieley.

Mother Bloor, seventy-year-old
militant farm organizer, will lec­
ture on “Historical Strikes in Amer­
ica” and on the American labor
movement in general. Mother
Bloor is probably the best known
woman labor leader in this country.
She has spent the last fifty years
fighting for the rights of the farm­
ers and workers.

Ward Rodgers, a member of the
Arkansas State Executive Committee
of the Socialist Party and the Southern
Tenant Farmers Union, organizer whose
arrest on “anarchy” charges brought the

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class matter January 30, 1926, at the post of­
lice at Mena, Arkansas, under the act of
August 24, 1912.

page four
UNITED FRONT IN STUDENT ELECTIONS

Arkansas School Teacher President, Arthur Leche Secretary, as Non-Frational Ticket Wins

The united front at Commonwealth was carried to the student body elections for the first time when all factions agreed on candidates for student body offices.

Orval Faubus, young farmer schoolteacher from Combs, Arkansas, and Arthur Leche, of Cincinnati, were each elected to two offices. Faubus is both schoolbody President and member of the Disciplinary Committee. Leche was made Secretary and elected to the Entertainment Committee.

Gabriel Kent of New York and Clarence Rauswell, Progressive Miner of Kineaic, Illinois, are the members of the Disciplinary Committee.

The Forum Committee is made up of Bob Merrell of Oregon; Stella Matthews, of St. Paul, and Frank Drasier, young miner from the Anthracite district of Pennsylvania.

Willi Rosle, a Nature Friend from Syracuse, and Joseph Gonzalez from Massachusetts are the other students elected to the Entertainment Committee.

WRITERS TO CONGRESS

Rose and Bob Brown, members of the Commonwealth faculty, are now in New York attending the Writers Congress.

Bob is a well-known American writer. His new book on cooperatives will be out in the fall. Rose Brown, who collaborates with Bob, was one of the group which established the old Masses.

The Browns are planning to lead a tour of writers and artists to the Soviet Union this summer.

THE NEW FORMAT

The new typographical dress for the Fortnightly was made up from suggestions by Vrest Orton of New York City. Mr. Orton, apart from being a typographer, was once a publisher of a little magazine and had his own publishing company in New England. He is a reformed advertising man and plans soon to go to Vermont and run a farm, print-shop and new kind of magazine. Mr. Orton suggests that the physical aspect of the Fortnightly will never be good enough until some kind soul gives Commonwealth a font of 10 pt type (good type like Caslon) that the mag may be set with more leading and a more legible typeface.

Associated Little Magazines

ABBOTT S. COHEN, SECRETARY

New members are coming in fast and furious. Add to the list: The Rocking Horse, published by The Arden Club, University of Wisconsin & And even a neophyte in our midst, Creuge, a review of Revolutionary Idealism in Art, edited by J. Jones, present address: Patent Room, The New York Public Library, 42nd Street, N.Y.C. Welcome brothers, pull up your chairs and make yourself at home. There are still plenty of chairs and the more the merrier.

Beginning in the next Blue Pencil, Duane Decker will run a little gossip column and most of it will be about little mags and little mag writers, 322 Madison Avenue, N.Y.C. is the abode.

More about the campaign to shake little mag editors out of their "criminal slothfulness" (which ain't my word for it) in passing upon submitted manuscripts. Fred R. Miller writes: "Don't you think a mag which pretends to culture, could print little notices to send out to contributors: 'We have and hold it'; 'We take it'; 'The hell with it'; 'Here's it'; etc?" Association members should watch this type of tardiness.

Obituary: Northwest Bookman & I wonder what's happened to Space????

Hope the Dust Storm didn't choke it and his comrades began celebrating it.

PLAYS AND SONGS

Commonwealth's two booklets of six labor plays and six labor songs written by Commonwealth students and teachers are still for sale at ten cents each.

MEMORIES OF MAY DAY

Commonwealth Teacher Transmits First Hand Account Of First May Day

[Editorial Note—Marvin Sanford, teacher of labor journalism, has been in constant touch with the labor movement for many years and consequently has had the opportunity to know many people who have been active workers in it. Below is an account of an interview with Theodore Frederick Cuno, who had first-hand knowledge of the first May Day celebrated in this country.]

TWO MAY DAYS ago I asked Theodore Frederick Cuno, probably the last surviving member of the intimate group which included Marx and Engels, founders of the First International, to write a message for labor's international holiday.

Although he was one of the world's most exiled men, eighty-eight, physically spent, he was still a militant believer in the international solidarity of workers.

Cuno told us that May Day had been celebrated ages ago as the harbinger of better times, but a half century ago, he and his comrades began celebrating it with songs of defiance, marching to the thundering strains of the rebellious "Marseillaise," in spite of threats and preparations for an international war against the international organizations of labor.

Cuno, representative of Marx's First International on American soil, delighted in telling us of our first May Day demonstration for the universal eight-hour day, when under the auspices of the New York Central Labor Union and the Knights of Labor, fifty thousand men and women fell into line.

In front of the little pavilion, from the parapet of which the speakers were to address the assembled multitude, the New York police under command of the notorious Captain Williams were drawn up in double line. And upon signal from the Captain, with drawn clubs they pounced upon the unsuspecting throng. Within a few seconds the place was covered with bleeding men and women. That was our first battlefield on a May Day. Others followed, particularly in Europe, where thousands of workers lost their lives simply because they made peaceful demonstrations for shorter hours and higher wages.

If the grand old warrior could speak to us today, I know "the United Front" would be his plea because he said, "let us bury the hatchet that has been
A RADICAL BOOK CLUB

A non-profit book club called the Book Union, which will select and distribute one book of left-wing fiction or non-fiction each month, has been established with offices at 381 Fourth Avenue, New York. The editors are Harry Block, Malcolm Cowley, Robert W. Dunn, Henry Hart, Granville Hicks, Corliss Lamont, Isidor Schneider, Bernard Smith, Alexander Trachtenberg and Mary Van Klief. With such an editorial board the Book Union is bound to be a success.

WHAT IS COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE?

Commonwealth College is a non-facultial 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, protection, creative writing, public speaking, journalism, 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, cannerly, print shop, etc. Three meals are given daily by members of the group. The school pays no salaries or wages. Teachers receive only their assistants' fees.

Students pay $40 tuition per quarter term (three months) and receive their board and room in exchange for 28 hours work per week during fall, winter and spring terms, and 18 hours during summer term, on the college farm, in the garden, office, library, etc.

Commonwealth is located near Mena, Arkansas in the Ozark hills, the southernmost range of the Ozarks.

SUNDAY NIGHT FORUMS GIVE VITAL NEWS

Talks by Members of Group On Experiences Give Valuable Data

The first forum evening this quarter was given over to three students who related their experiences in the labor movement in different parts of the world. Betty Bogner, of New York City, told with simplicity and earnestness of the part she played in the Klein Cafeteria strike and lock-out. The cafeteria never reopened, though the organized workers were given their back pay. "It was a victory for us, because it showed the cafeteria workers in New York the strength of organization," she concluded.

Gabriel Kent, who is also from New York, told about his experiences in Palestine and the agricultural communes there. He discussed the national Jewish question at great length. He finished with the strong conviction that the Jewish problem can be solved only as the problems of all workers are solved. "Palestine," he said, "can never be a haven for the Jewish workers."

Clarence Bauswell came to Commonwealth from the coal mining districts of Illinois, and he spoke at the forum on the exciting struggles of the Progressive Miners—their fighting spirit and the terror used against them. "But the miners of Illinois will never give up their union," he ended, "terror or no terror."

Ben Low, the director of dramatics, devoted an evening to the discussion of workers' theaters in America. He discussed the bourgeois theater as a reflection of the bourgeois ideology, and stressed the importance of building strongworkers' theater groups in America to combat it. He praised highly the contribution the New Theater League of New York City is making toward this goal.

At other forums students described the backgrounds of their political beliefs and alignments. One said he was not yet ready to join any political party, because he felt he was not yet good enough or strong enough to be considered a part of any workers' organization. Another told of the terror used against labor organizations in Seattle—how he was jailed, severely beaten, and put into solitary confinement for weeks. Other students discussed united fronts in different parts of the country, pointing out their importance and commending strongly the united front at Commonwealth.

The student forums not only give the students practical training in public speaking: they are a definite educational force. They are a means of exchanging experiences and sharing the lessons learned from actual struggles.

Society Notes

Springtime is late coming to the Ozarks, and April showers are having their days. Nevertheless, wall scraping and redecoration of the dormitories continue with the same amount of zest—and students and teachers find diversified methods of entertainment.

Fishing has practically replaced arrow head and crystal hunting. And it took Charlie Brown and Orval Faubus to discover that Mill Creek is the home of many eels. It also took a great deal of persuasion before anyone on the campus would touch an eel. But Commonwealth is eel-conscious now, and even the women take their fishing seriously.

Fried potatoes once more find themselves the informal get-together delicacy at Commonwealth. Peanut butter sandwiches, all winter without a competitor, are fast losing ground. For fried potatoes can be cooked over a bonfire, and in a woody setting take on surpassing character. However, a feud as to the proper refreshment is raging between two of the twelve campus social leaders. Mildred Price is an exponent of peanut butter while Clarice Cunningham champions fried potatoes. So far the winners are those people who don't have to peel potatoes or make sandwiches but do the eating.

Sports, too, are a prominent feature of after-school life. Four good volleyball teams have entered the college Volley Ball League—the Harvesters, the Blue Gooses (mixed team), the Seed Planters, and the Red Cavalry. The Seed Planters had their triumph on Sunday when they won five straight sets. Each game was hard fought—but the Planters proved invincible.
NEW ART CLASS BUSY

The class in Drawing, Composition, and Poster design, which is being offered at Commonwealth College for the first time, is proving to be a practical and useful course. The class this quarter consists of six students, most of whom are beginners. The members spend much of their time doing quick sketches, using each other as models. Several times a week the Virginia Donaldson makes trips to the farm or woods to draw live stock, trees, etc.

Every week each student submits a composition for class criticism. This may take the form of a poster, cartoon, or just plain scenery.

The course is conducted by Virginia Donaldson, whose linoleum cuts appear in the last two issues of the Fortnightly. Her work will be used frequently in the Fortnightly and other college literature.

SUMMER TERM POSTER

Commonwealth has printed two hundred cardboard posters announcing its summer session. All readers of the Fortnightly who can put up one or two of these posters in club rooms, halls or store windows are urged to write us for them immediately.

The poster is made up of a large linoleum cut by Virginia Donaldson and a minimum of black lettering. It is very attractive.

VACATION FOR KOCHS

Lucien Koch, director, and his wife, Irene Merrill, editor of The Windsor Quarterly, left last week for a six-week hitch-hiking trip to the West Coast. This is Lucien's first opportunity for a vacation during the four years he has been director. They will return several weeks before the opening of the summer session, and will remain at Commonwealth all summer.

The trip will take them to Boulder Dam, Yellowstone Park, the Grand Canyon, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, and to Myrtle Point, Oregon, the home of Lucien's parents. The class in Marxism is being taught by Gabriel Kent, a student, who is an experienced teacher in Political Economy.

Mildred Price, chairman of the faculty, is acting as director during Lucien's absence.

MARRIED

Clarice Cunningham and Al Lehman, of the Commonwealth staff, were married to Poteau, Oklahoma, on April 24.