SURVEY STUDY HABITS AT COMMONWEALTH

In a recent survey of study habits at Commonwealth College made by John Barnett, chairman of the faculty, the majority of students estimated that we have a good or high spirit of study on the campus. A minority estimated that the morale is fair, while only one gave an estimate of fair to poor.

We published the amount of study per student we find however that a good spirit may not bring adequate results. Sixty percent fell below the norm of 18 hours per week which is expected of students taking three 3-hour classes. The average student spends 15 hours per week. However approximately forty percent studied over 18 hours per week — the highest spending 32.5 hours in addition to class work. None of these figures include the time which may be spent reading the daily paper.

A few students fell below 10 hours per week. These obviously are not making proper use of their opportunities here.

The regular work of a student at Commonwealth includes 9 hours in class, 18 hours of study, and in the afternoons 20 hours of industrial work. This totals 47 hours a week.

What Can Be Done

Suggestions for cutting down the amount of industrial time required are being considered. With a more efficient organization of work this may be possible.

The students made various suggestions for improvement. These recommendations included improvements in study habits and living rooms, better lighting and heating, more comfort and quiet in the library and the like.

Customs of study should be established so that students may work in their rooms without interruption. No apologies should be necessary during these special hours for showing

WOULD DEPORT ALFRED MILLER

Alfred Miller, former student and student-teacher of Commonwealth and an active leader in the Northwest, has been sentenced by immigration authorities to return to Germany, his place of birth. Miller will be a marked man if he is forced to go to Nazi Germany. Steps are being taken by farmer and labor organizations to prevent this taking place.

FRIENDS HELP COMMONWEALTH

"Friends of Commonwealth" groups in many parts of the country have been of great assistance to Commonwealth College, according to Charlotte Moskowitz, executive secretary. They are helping to build the school and are assisting us in the job of finding and training young workers for responsible posts in the labor movement," she said.

In Louisville, New York, Cincinnati, Chicago, Philadelphia and other cities, these supporting committees have helped to arrange meetings and appointments for Commonwealth's director, Richard Babb Whitten, now on a publicity tour for the school. Friends of Commonwealth have helped to find and select students. They have assisted in raising the money that the school needs to maintain its educational plant. They have raised scholarships for deserving young workers. They have "thrown parties" to build up support for the school. They have assisted in getting the school favorable press notice.

All Friends of Commonwealth groups are urged to keep up the good work which helps, not only Commonwealth, but the labor movement as a whole — and especially makes it possible for the school to grant scholarships to struggling workers in the South. The formation of additional supporting committees is welcomed. The Commonwealth office will send information and material, and maintain contact with persons and groups willing to devote some little time for the support of Commonwealth and workers' education in the South.

Millions of southern workers are ready to enter the struggle for trade unionism and democracy. They are clamoring for people to guide them along the road of organization. If Commonwealth is aided it can do a great deal to furnish the needed leadership.

MANY NEW STUDENTS COME FROM SOUTH

Basic Industries Are Well Represented

A preliminary survey of enrollment for the coming winter quarter, December 30, furnishes interesting information. Twelve students now taking classes are remaining for the next quarter. Approximately thirty-one new applications have been accepted to date, and more are arriving daily.

Of these newly-accepted students sixteen come from the South, three from New England States, three from the East, and three from the Middle West.

The proportion of students from the South is growing. This is the result of a conscious attempt on the part of Commonwealth to increase the number of students coming from the South.

The basic industries of the United States will be well represented after the arrival of newly accepted students. So far the Commonwealth office has accepted three farmers, four coal miners, two steel workers, two textile workers, one leather worker, one carpenter, five sharecroppers, one agricultural worker, two office workers, and others.

It is expected that the enrollment will reach anywhere from forty to forty-five students for the coming winter quarter. This represents an increase of thirty percent over the fall quarter. The attendance of approximately fourteen students has been made possible because friends of labor education and of Commonwealth College raised the necessary scholarships. Practically all of the scholarships raised have been given to young workers and farmers in the South.

Southern workers find it difficult to save money for education. Wage levels are low and living conditions precarious. Those who have been granted scholarships write the college enthusiastic letters appreci-
COLLEGE LIBRARY GIVEN RARE COLLECTION

Students of the American labor movement the nation over are expressing interest in the Marvin Sanford Loan Collection which has been added to Commonwealth's Library, and which may form the nucleus of a special archive library rivaling the famous La-Badie collection.

The collector has spent years building up this file, and it has been a hobby that many times sent the crank on long journeys for an elusive copy of some strange volume or periodical which could throw light on some obscure period or tendency in that multi-colored pageant of progress which goes to make up the American labor movement.

Marvin Sanford readily admits to the appellation of "crank" and smilingly offers many instances in proof. He loves to recount the pleasant hours spent in Los Angeles with another crank, Thor Mauritzon, who trusted him to rummage through an enormous trunk of old curios, and how he pleaded and re-pleaded with the friendly "amateur journalist" for the privilege of absconding with two or three copies of a faded little magazine called The Young Socialist, which had been printed by hand in a little cooperative colony in Washington during the gay nineties. The prized copies are now in Commonwealth's library, as are the three-year files of another brave attempt in the nineties to introduce a new society, via the colonization route, in the state of Washington.

Much valuable material has not yet been transferred, which includes bound volumes of newspapers covering the Meyer, Haywood and Pettibone case, the 1905 Russian revolution, the birth of the Socialist party of America, etc.

One bit of interesting material which symbolizes this type of matter is a copy of Woodhull & Chafin's Weekly, organ of Branch 12 of the American Section of the First International. This number contains lengthy accounts of the Hague Congress in 1872, is decidedly factional and critical of the Marx contingent. Marx himself is characterized as an unscrupulous bureaucrat and fault is found with the cut of his hair and his whiskers, as well as his choice of a boarding house, during the Congress! A decidedly interesting hour can be whiled away perusing this single copy with its intimate, personal bits of contemporary sidelights, its strange mixture of internationalism and spiritualism, Marxism and Owenism.

Another period of American history that shows up interestingly in this collection is that following the Haymarket riot, the 1886 election campaign with its various reform and labor parties; the period of the growing strain between the Knights of Labor and the new American Federation of Labor.

The whole world war period is reflected in this collection, the various currents within the socialist movement as they crystallized and became articulate are traced, and many issues reflect the amazing events of 1917, the year of America's entry into the world slaughter.

The Sanford Collection represents one of the best collections of material available on the events leading up to and following the 1919 split in the American and world socialist and labor movements, the organization of the first bolshevist parties. Copies of the left-wing and right-wing factional journals which preceded the actual split are available, as are important issues of the following years containing convention proceedings, international decisions, etc., also organs of various "splitter" groups and "unattractive" contingents.

In some cases the history of a particular city is suggested by a pamphlet box of miscellaneous publications reflecting factions and parties over a period of 20 or 30 years. Los Angeles is one so treated. Copies of industrial unionist, red, yellow and pin's socialist, ex-soldier, civil liberty, colonization, A For L, and free lance papers over a period of 25 years are packed into a single file. An hour or two with them and one can get a sort of panoramic view of the decade-long development of the workers' movement, through its various phases, in that community. Individual states, as Washington and Minnesota, are treated similarly.

The Pacific Coast is well represented and this is noteworthy as so many people do not realize that the West is in the United States, and replete with traditions of struggle and militancy, all unknown to so many of our complacent Easterners.

Cooperative colony and self-help periodicals abound, including some from the famous colonization period of the nineties, also many early copies of the Appeal to Reason, Coming Nation, Daily People, Industrial Worker, etc.

Sometimes a single individual copy of a paper has proven of repeated value in several classes. For instance a 1905 copy of the Daily People was used as reference material in the Labor History class, with its extensive accounts of conditions within the United Mine Workers, and the organization of the S T & L A. The same issue served the Orientation class for reference material on the 1905 Revolution, containing a two-column account of "Bloody Sunday" by an eye witness; furthermore, this same issue contained a much-reprinted and discussed editorial by Daniel DeLeon on "The Intellectual," which was studied in the Labor Journalism class.

Efforts will be made to further build up this collection and make it of more value to research workers, students and visitors.

Teacher Issues Are Discussed

Commonwealth Local, 194, of the American Federation of Teachers, held its regular meeting December 5. The meeting was devoted to a discussion of issues facing the teachers of Arkansas—the problem of organizing the teachers of the state; the question of tenure for teachers and salary increases; the need for a full length school term; problems of academic freedom and the Loyalty Oath; repeal of the sales taxes and poll tax; improvement of teaching conditions, the problem of inadequate equipment, overcrowding, and too great a teaching load.

The Commonwealth local voted that the secretary of the local, Charlotte Moskowitz, correspond with other locals of the state to stimulate discussion on the issues confronting the teachers of the state. 

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**Campus Notes**

BY LOUISE ADLER

**Students** have been discussing the results of a study and reading survey recently made at Commonwealth. They realize that the standards they have set will be closely scrutinized by the new student body, so they feel the necessity of maintaining the highest standard possible. In many cases students can profit by the results of the survey as applied to specific cases.

Attendance at the plays was good, both neighbors and friends from Mena filled the commons both Friday and Sunday nights.

Much to the surprise of all concerned, Art Leech blossomed out as a well trained electrician when he adjusted the lighting arrangements for the two plays. Art is apparently a chap of many talents.

Director Dick Whitten is expected shortly after New Year, and the whole campus is enthusiastic over the early return of our popular new chief.

Members of Marvin Sanford's journalism class have been discussing and writing on the subject, "Does Arkansas Need a Labor Party?" Much interest is being shown and a great deal of studying done on this topic.

**Herndon's Freedom Celebrated Here**

When Commoners heard of Angelo Herndon's release from Fulton Tower Prison, Georgia, they were overjoyed, and organized a meeting hailing the victory of the country-wide united protest which released Herndon. The necessity and correctness of the Commonwealth united front was reaffirmed by the speakers.

The Daily Worker proof sheets are a valuable historical record of the growing united front in defense of political prisoners.

**Student Experience**

**From Logging to Commonwealth**

BY FRANCIS KWALLEK

I was raised in a log hut up in the backwoods country of northern Wisconsin. Father, a blacksmith by trade, was usually at work away from home. This forced us children to shoulder the responsibility for operating the farm and taught us to shift for ourselves.

When I was seven years old, my father moved to another small farm some thirty miles away, and here I attended school. My first teachers were exceptionally gifted with kindness and patience, and they succeeded in instilling in me a strong desire to learn. After five years in the rural school, I was ready for high school, five miles away. I walked those ten miles a day for most of the five years.

When I finished high school, at sixteen, I thought I was "getting up in the world," as they used to say. Like all youngsters of this age, I felt a great sense of importance and the call to try my "unfeathered wings" a bit.

Late in the fall of '28 I packed my "war bag" and started for the logging camp in the North woods. All winter I worked in that camp, at fifty dollars a month and "chuck" (food). We started work before light in the morning and kept at it until after dark at night, often in snowstorms or when the mercury would sneak down to fifty-five and sixty below.

(Human beings, I noticed, seem to take on the game characterizations as their work. Doing the work of a lumberjack made me see how true this was: how the rough life calloused their feelings and made them rough.)

Spring came at last; camp broke. I came home with my winter's stake of money.

For the next three years I roamed throughout the Northwest; by season picking fruit over along the Pacific shore, harvesting ice in Vancouver, B.C., logging up in the Cour d' Alene region in northern Idaho, then swinging south for the Kansas wheat fields. In northern Wisconsin I joined the Socialist Party and got my first knowledge of the labor movement. Finally I wound up riding for a stockman in the Bad Lands of North Dakota, last summer.

During this time on the road I confronted all types, from the intellectuals down to the most ignorant. All had at least one thing in common—no work. I began to think seriously about the problems confronting the workers. That a change in our social setup was necessary I did not doubt. But how? "Contested Poverty" seemed to exist everywhere. I saw people with starvation in their eyes, who violently objected to any suggestion that a change in our system be made. Ignorance? Of course. But can such obstacles be overcome?

These and many other questions were forming in my consciousness: my problem was where to find their answer. I became pessimistic and even contemplated leaving for some remote outpost and adjusting myself to primitive frontier conditions, and so "become civilized". Two thoughts kept me from following this idea: a sense of guilt at retreating before disagreeable reality, and a strong urge to plow deeper into the field of knowledge, understand the cause of the forces controlling humanity.

Having heard about Commonwealth College from a friend, I finally decided to come down, in the hope of finding the answer to my questions.

I have attended this college for one quarter. During that time I have gained more real knowledge about the problems the workers face than I was able to acquire in any other school. Commonwealth has renewed my confidence by convincing me of the possibility of socializing the world within the time of the present generation. I hope to stay on at least another semester.

Anyone eager to learn cannot fail to gain a deeper understanding and broad perspective here. And I know I shall leave this school better equipped to play a really useful role in the labor movement and struggle to right the world.
L A B O R  D R A M A T I C S  A T  C O M M O N W E A L T H

BY CLAY FULKS

all appreciated this to the full and
acted their several roles accordingly:
Raymond Koch as Secretary Fatt; Art
Leche as Joe Mitchell; May Garleck as
Edna Mitchell; Art Skeberg as Irv;
Louise White as Florrie; Rex Pitkin as Sid
Stein; George Fried as Clayton; Peter
Frye as Clancy; Ralph Field as Dr.
Barnes; Stanley White as Dr. Benjamin;
Jefferson Ral as Messenger; Tim Fin-
eran and Fred Rehmer as Gunmen; and
Eugene Feldman and Jimmy Fults as
Vengeful Voices.

Waiting for Lefty certainly deserves
its fame; a statement which, unfortu-
nately, cannot be honestly made of all
Leftist literature, much of which, as yet,
is too obviously the work of over-ambi-
tious adolescents and other awkward
apprentices. All the four hundred-odd
workers theaters in this country which
have not presented this fine play should
look into it immediately. Not nearly so
much need be said, however, for Daughter.

This play, to speak frankly, is far in-
favor of Waiting for Lefty though the
manner in which it was presented
leaves little ground for unfavorable
criticism. Indeed, some of the charac-
ters—noably Tim Finieran as Jim Car-
liste; Art Skeberg as Sheriff; Art Leche
as Colonel Maxwell; and Peter Frye as
Hospers—played with the easy skill
of professionals, Francis Kwalek as Harry
Nelson handled the crow-bar at the jail
door with the resolution of a bold and
intrepid proletarian. The other charac-
ters—Dorothy Halvorsen as Mrs. Win-
ter; Helen Mayer as Mrs. Bondy; Jackie
Leche as Mrs. Hatfield—playing minor
roles, necessarily had less opportunity
for demonstrating their histrionic tal-
ents. Special mention should be made
of Charles Rehmer who played the part
of Mr. Marvin. Rehmer, I feel safe in
saying, is a born actor—given the right
roles.

Daughter is based upon a short story
by Erskine Caldwell bearing the same
title. The story itself is not only short
in length but, in my judgment, is short in
all its dimensions. It has the very seri-
ous defect of making the chief charac-
ter—the "hero"—a simp almost too
weak to win any respectful sympathy.
The play, though stronger than the
story, shares this defect.

This adverse judgement seems to re-
quire, however, the further statement
that the terrible condition of the South-
ern sharecroppers is veiled with tragic,
and therefore dramatic, circumstances;
but it is not necessary to make the share-
cropper out a stark simp to any ef-
fort to win sympathy for him. In the
first place the typical Southern share-
cropper is not a simp and, in the
second place, readers and audiences,
taken by and large, don't waste good
sympathy on congenital simp's—there
are too many deserving Democrats. It
is the actual condition of millions of
sharecroppers of something like normal
human intelligence and of at least a
modicum of strength of character—a
condition apparently hopeless under
capitalism, that calls for the highest
efforts of the literary workers; not the
rare weakling among them who runs
amuck.

But surely this wide-spread and can-
cerous condition in the South cannot
long remain unexplored in any of its
unnecessary miseries. It is cer-
tainly reasonable to assume that, before
much longer, novelists and dramatists
and actors with power sufficient to stir
the deepest emotions of men and to
drive them to appropriate action will
come to the rescue of these suffering
millions.

Many New Students Come From South
from page one
ating the opportunity for seri us study
and organizational training.

Courses Are Grouped
The Commonwealth faculty has
grouped its courses into four main di-
visions. This was done to enable the
student to select that group of courses
which will best train him for a particu-
lar field of work in the labor movement.
The courses have been grouped as fol-
low:
Courses on theory of the labor
movement; trade union courses; farm
problems and organization courses; cre-
ative writing and art courses. In addi-
tion there are practical courses in writ-
ing, speaking, typing, office methods.

Preliminary conferences will be held
with every student to determine what
are the educational needs of each. Any
special problems the student may have
will be thoroughly discussed before classes
start.

Regular classes, which will start on
the fourth day of school, will be pre-
ceded by three days of popular lectures
which will include the following topics of
general interest: The labor move-
ment in Arkansas; how to study; his-
tory of Commonwealth College; and
talks on the South by Covington Hall,
a former Commoner who is visiting the
college.