Vacation Rates

For those who are able to take advantage of only a part of Commonwealth's unique summer course while on vacation, special rates of two dollars a day without industrial work, are being charged. This includes room, board, and laundry, with all the privileges of a regular student.

The summer session is so arranged, that each week will be devoted to the discussion of a different subject, complete in itself and led by a person prominent in that field. For full particulars, write to Charlotte Moskowitz, Executive Secretary, Commonwealth College, Mena, Arkansas.

CROPPERS LEAVE FOR EASTERN ARKANSAS

On Saturday, June 20th, ended the Sharecroppers Course at Commonwealth, undoubtedly the most distinctive and important single feature of the spring quarter.

The next day most of the sharecroppers students returned to their homes in northeastern Arkansas, where several of their union brothers have mysteriously disappeared during the cotton choppers' strike of the past few weeks, where insult and violence have been added to the misery of those who struggle to gain a mere subsistence living.

All of the students agreed that the knowledge and training they had received at Commonwealth had broadened their outlook on life and equipped them for more effective work among the rural workers in the South. And no group of students was ever more diligent and eager to learn than these five women and three men. Up until the last day of classes they were seeking to learn as much as they could, asking their teachers embarrassing questions and expressing by hard work their appreciation for this opportunity, the only opportunity most of them have had, to study the social significance of their own lives and of the working class of the world.

They were down in the canyon, stringing beans and cleaning berries one of the last mornings before they left, discussing what they had learned at Commonwealth.

Anti-War Summer School Planned for Southerners

The Southern Workers' Anti-War Summer School will be held at Commonwealth from August 1st through September 19th. This special course for members of trade union and agricultural workers' organizations in the South is sponsored by the Labor Division of the Emergency Peace Campaign.

A similar institute will also be conducted at Brookwood Labor College from July 18th to August 1st under a different organization, of which Tucker Smith, president of Brookwood, is chairman of the executive committee, Nelson Cruikshank, director, and Verlow Bother, national organizer.

About thirty-five students will be selected through the southern trade unions and rural workers' organizations to attend Commonwealth on a scholarship basis to study the causes of war and methods of combating it. The course will include a history and analysis of war in the modern world, the development of nationalism, imperialism and fascism and the growth of workers' movements against war. The purpose of the school is to give the students a realistic understanding of what can be done to organize southern workers against war.

Richard B. Whitten, director of Commonwealth, will be in charge of the school and will be assisted by Carl Brannin of Dallas and Louise Stevens Jessen of New Orleans. Carl Brannin has had years of experience in the labor movement as an organizer on the Pacific Coast and in the Southwest. Louise Jessen has taken an active part for a number of years in the anti-war movement, especially in the Women's League for Peace and Freedom.
American Writers Union Local No. 2 Reorganized

Local No. 2 of the American Writers Union was recently reorganized at Commonwealth, with a view to making it a permanent feature of the College. Each quarter brings a few established writers and a number of future writers to the campus. It was felt that a local union would be valuable in accelerating the need for organization among writers and the fine work that the American Writers Union is accomplishing in this field.

The Union took important and immediate action in delegating two of its members, Matt Smith and Helen Norfor, to attend the Mid-West Writers Conference in Chicago, June 13th and 14th. Enthusiastic reports have been received here of the work of the Conference in bringing socially minded writers of the Mid-West together for a frank and thorough discussion of the problems facing them today. A number of well known authors participated, including Meridel Le Sueur, Jack Conroy and Nelson Algren.

The Commonwealth Local of the American Writers Union was established in 1934 by Rose and Bob Brown. Among the charter members were several published writers: Clay Folks, Bill Cunningham, Bill Andrews, Abbott S. Cohen, Irene Merrill and others.

The organization disintegrated in 1935 when most of the charter members left the campus. Since that time, the American Writers Union has been reorganized on a national scale and has made a splendid record for itself in winning project work for unemployed writers. With the growth and increasing prominence of the national organization, the old pioneering Local No. 2 has once again come into the picture.

Books Needed By Library

In connection with the Anti-War Institute to be held at Commonwealth August 21 to September 19th the library particularly needs the following books:
- The Soviet Union in World Affairs, by S. N. Harper
- M. Day. The First Day of War, by R. M. Stein
- The Secret War, by F. C. Hanighen
- Germany Prepares for War, by L. Ranso
- War Material, Population Pressure and War, by Norman Angell
- World Panorama, 1915-1934, by George Schles
- Inside Europe, by John Gunther
- Europe Under the Terror, by John L. Spireak
- International Politics, by F. L. Schuman
- The Price of Peace, by Frank H. Simonds
- Lords of Creation, by E. L. Allen
- Economic Foundations of Fascism, by P. Einzig

Not A Dog's Chance

BY MYRTLE MOSKOP

The Farmer Labor, 15c. a copy, 10c a copy for bundles of five or more.

Outline of the Political Economy Course, 20c.

Eight Labor Plays, 10c.

Anyone interested in purchasing any of these items should write to Charlotte Moskowitz, Executive Secretary, Commonwealth College, Meno, Arkansas.

Campus Notes

Bernie Stevens, Commonwealth maintenance worker, spent a week at Llano Colony at Leesville, Louisiana, on business in connection with the generator which the College is securing for its new lighting system. He didn't bring the generator back with him, of course, but he did return on June 14th with his sister-in-law, Erma Hayes, who will remain here for a two-weeks' visit. Erma, who is Leona Stevens' sister, lives at Leesville.

Smith Sanford struck the road on June 10th for New York City where she will join her husband, Marvin Sanford, Commonwealth teacher, who has been on a leave of absence this past quarter. Smithy visited the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee, en route. She and Marvin will return to Commonwealth within a month.

John Barnett, who has taught the Political Economy courses at Commonwealth for the past three quarters, left the campus June 5th for a trip where he will meet his wife, Myra Page, also a former teacher at Commonwealth.

Art Skreberg, teacher and industrial manager, spent a week at the co-operative hospital at Elkh City, Oklahoma, where he received eye treatment.

Charles and Cecilia Matlosz have been visiting 'Charlies' parents at their home in Kansas for two weeks before the opening of the summer session.

Henry Black prides himself on the efficiency with which he runs the college library. He's Davis and Leonie Moskop, two thirteen-year-old kids on the campus this quarter, upset his routine considerably a few days ago when they appropriated his ink pad and rather stamps. After tattooing themselves with the warning, "Please Do Not Remove From The Library," they proceeded to apply the stamp to all the magazines and books within sight. The kids were sent down to clean themselves up, but Henry spent the remainder of the afternoon erasing ink from numerous publications and the walls of the library building.

Printed at Commonwealth

By Student and Teacher Labor

Published twice a month at Mena, Arkansas, by Commonwealth College. Subscription one dollar a year. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1925, at the post office at Mena, Arkansas, under the act of August 24, 1912.
Japanese Teacher Speaks On Situation in Far East

Japan's attack upon the Soviet Union will be the prelude to the inevitable clash between the socialist world and the capitalist world," said Kenneth Kurihara, native of Japan and Commonwealth teacher, at a Sunday forum held recently.

In opening the discussion, Kurihara read a paper, "Modern Movements in Japan," which traced the major developments since 1931. The immediate cause of the recent coup d'état, Kurihara claimed, grew out of the February general election, which clearly revealed that the masses were not in sympathy with the extreme measures of the militarists. Conflict over the policy to be adopted toward the Soviet Union and the antagonism between the extremists and vacillators paved the way for this fascist coup d'état.

The greatest factor, it was pointed out, which is driving Japan toward fascism is that Japanese capitalism as a link in the chain of imperialist world economy is compelled by its inner contradictions to adopt extreme and desperate measures to prolong its dying life. The militarists see war as a way out of an extremely long and acute crisis; unfortunately, the suffering masses have fallen for this propaganda of the Japanese ruling class, thus lending mass support to an invasion of China.

"Politically speaking," said Kurihara, "Japanese aggression in China has three main objectives: (1) to monopolize Chinese markets and sources of capital investment, (2) to smash the growing power of the Chinese Soviets and the anti-imperialist movement of the Chinese masses and (3) to make Manchuria a stepping stone for war against the Soviet Union. The ruling class in Japan believes that a war against the Soviet will be supported by other capitalist countries. Already, an economic and military alliance appears to have been made between fascist Germany and militaristic Japan. Japan's rulers feel the necessity of smashing the spearhead of communism, the Soviet Union, as the influence of communist ideology is penetrating into broader and broader strata of the Japanese masses.

He said the reasons Japan is delaying its attack upon the Soviet Union are as follows: (1) the consistent peace policy of the Soviet Union, (2) the anti-war sentiment of a large section of the Japanese masses, (3) the growing strength of the Soviet navy and army and (4) the anti-imperialist movement in China and the existence of three hundred fifty thousand powerful red army soldiers in Soviet China.

Kurihara outlined the basis for Japan's aggression and expansion policy, as it was laid down by the late General Tanaka, representative of finance capital in the militaristic military.

Ol' Swimmin' Hole

DOWN THE path, the Commoners make their way through the woods.

"What's this? A gate? Leave it down. Everyone does." We turn to the right, pass through some briars, walk over rocks.

"Damn! They're sharp. Ought not to have taken off my shoes."

"Never mind," says Henry, "you'll grow hoofs after a while."

Huge trees lean over the creek. Thick bushes crowd the banks where the bull frogs bellow melodiously. A large smooth rock, gently descending to the water, serves as a landing place.

One Sunday afternoon a few weeks ago, a volunteer group built a dam to prevent the water from becoming too shallow during summer months. Stakhanev was put to shame. In four hours a solid wall of rocks, lumber, and sandbags raised the water nearly two feet. That night, Tex, the chief engineer, was heard chuckling happily in his sleep. He was dreaming about that silly Boulder Dam.

Back to the rock. Helen demonstrates a graceful belly flop. Someone uses Ray's back as a diving board. Adventurous heroes leapfrog into the water. Charlie makes "a little man," the secret of which he'll never reveal. Unorganized races are under way in every known and unknown style. Crawl and breast, side and back, under water, without arms and without legs. Splashing non-swimmers are drenched; coughing greenhorns pad-die wildly and swallow water.

Swimming is undoubtedly the most popular sport on the campus. Most people manage to sneak away for a dip a half hour before working time ends. And with the first supper bell, they can be seen rushing back, hair uncombed, and with shoes and shirts in hand.

New Generator Supplying Standard Light and Power to be Installed Here

The time-honored kerosene lamp will soon be a thing of the past at Commonwealth. A generator has been resurrected by Bernie Stevens, college mechanic, from a junk heap in Meno and is now being repaired and rebuilt by friends of the school at Liano Colony, Leesville, Louisiana.

The generator will be installed on the campus within a month, according to Bernie, increasing the present electric power by six times. Within a few more months all the main buildings, including the dormitories and cottages, will be completely wired and electrified.

The installation of this new lighting and power system will not only increase the efficiency of work at Commonwealth but add considerably to the comfort of living. Among the first improvements will be an automatic water pump. The new generator will also make possible the use of all standard electrical appliances.

Any such appliances which friends of Commonwealth are able to donate will be very much welcomed. The kitchen, generally serving a community of over sixty, is in great need of such equipment as eggbeaters, mixers and food choppers. The laundry will also be able to use some electric iron to great advantage. And fans, particularly during the warm weather, will be especially appreciated. Former and present students will testify, providing anyone is in doubt, as to what a boon floor and desk lamps would be in comparison with the old practice of poring over their studies by the light of oil lamps.

The frequent offers of radios which have been made in the past will no longer be refused because of inadequate power. The contributions which a few good radios would make to the recreational and social life of the school is almost inestimable.

Commonwealth, after years of inconveniences, for the sake of our common struggle, is at last achieving what Lenin prescribed as one of the requisites for the success of the Soviet Union: complete electrification!
FIFTY NEW STUDENTS ENROLL FOR SUMMER

More than fifty students are expected for the summer session, according to Charlotte Moskowitz, executive secretary of the College.

At least one-third of the student body will be composed of women. Forty percent of the students are from New York City and Brooklyn. Three students are expected from New Jersey, four from Massachusetts and one from Pennsylvania.

Chicago will be represented by four Common- wealtherians, with five others from the midwestern states of Kansas, Minnesota, and Missouri. According to the applications that have been received thus far, there will be two students from Michigan, two from Florida, and one from Texas.

The office workers have the largest representation with more than ten of that occupation enrolled for the summer course. Five teachers, including a piano teacher, are expected. The occupational work of other incoming students includes two carpenters, an electrician, a pressman, a dairyman and a plumber.

[NOT A DOG'S CHANCE from p. 2]

and my houseboat was the best of them all. I had just given $54 for it.

We then decided we would try to get them to let us put our houseboat in another river. We went to the manager and asked him if we could move our house. He said that we could not, that they wanted the house for themselves.

So we hired a lawyer, Mr. C. T. Carpenter, who has since been run out of Arkansas for defending working people, to try to save us from being thrown out on the road without a shelter to protect us from the weather.

Our trial is to come up in the next session of court. I guess we will be defeated, for the plantation company owners control the court.

[FAR EAST from page 3]

tary clique. This includes (1) occupation of Manchuria, (2) invasion of North China, (3) aggression in Mongolia (4) attack on the Soviet Union and (5) eventual war against the United States.

"The first two plans have been carried out," Kurilawa stated. "Now the militarists are attempting to execute the third and fourth plans.

[SUMMER SESSION from page 1]

of the Industrial Sharecropper Division of the College. Skreberg has taught the course in Farm Problems for the past year at Commonwealth and will lead the class in current events which is to meet once a week during the summer session. He has been active for a number of years in various farmers' organizations in the Midwest and Northwest.

Between Quarters

The old quarter changeth, giving place to new, but not without a mighty struggle. In other words, the housing committee is dashing around like a squirrel in a cage, trying to prepare accommodations for the large student body which is expected to burge in over the week-end.

The committee's latest innovation is the double decker bed in some of the dormitory rooms. Dave Roebuck, who has been running the farm in the absence of the regular farm manager, had the pleasure and honor of sleeping in the upper story of the first bunk to be built. He also has the distinction of being the first person to fall out. Dave has a habit of hot nights of putting his feet out on the floor to cool.

He forgot the other night that the floor was five feet away in a semi-conscious attempt to place his feet on terra firma, he fell overboard.

Barbara Whitten made some startling discoveries while cleaning out the rooms for their new occupants. It seems that a few weeks ago a certain group went on an overnight hike. The peeks of potatoes which they had intended to take with them were left behind in one of the girls' rooms. When Barbara scavenged around to clean the place out, she discovered the potatoes were still there. And furthermore, they had begun to sprout.

Rose Ober is wondering whether the Champion of Youth is being published for young men or young mice. She found a few weeks ago a certain group went on an overnight hike. The peeks of potatoes which they had intended to take with them were left behind in one of the girls' rooms. When Barbara scavenged around to clean the place out, she discovered the potatoes were still there. And furthermore, they had begun to sprout.

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[SHARECROPPERS from page 1]

thing else I've learned at Commonwealth. I'd have probably died without knowing what the labor movement was, if I hadn't come here.

The others joined in, laughing about the things they had learned and the mistaken ideas they had had and might have had all their lives if they hadn't had this chance to study. "I knew unions were a good, union, continued Myrtle, "but I was just like all the other people over in Wynn, when they first started talking about union, I thought it was a new church.

Some of them had never heard of the Soviet Union, where the workers and farmers rule one-sixth of the world. "I'd heard of the place," said Rosie Moberly, "but I thought it was where they put the mark of the beast on the people because they was bad." Rosie and her two children, one of whom was born when there was snow on the bed, have regained their health at Commonwealth, too. "And what my husband, Roy, learned while he was there," said Rosie, "will give him a better idea of what's going on in the world. At the end of the first three weeks, he said that he wouldn't take a thousand dollars for what he had gotten out of it."

"There's one thing we all ought to have learned," said Walter Moskop, in a quiet, determined voice, "and that is that the capitalist system is responsible for what we have suffered. And the only way to get out of under it is to organize the workers."

"I've learned things all the way from rules of grammar to the works of Karl Marx that I wouldn't have known was in existence," added Ruth.

Dollie Bristow, who has made herself famous at Commonwealth with her ubiquitous pipe and sharp tongue, a lively sense of humor and an energy that is almost incredible for a woman of her fifty hard years, couldn't restrain herself any longer.

"I couldn't begin to tell all I've learned. I think this is the finest place in the world and I'll recommend it wherever I go. It's far beyond what I ever thought it was.

"I'm going to keep on studying and help teach others when I get back to northeast Arkansas. I'm going to do all I can to build up the Union, too."

Dollie is a fiery speaker who means what she says and will stand up to any man to prove it. "And I'm coming back to visit Commonwealth again," she said, "even if I have to walk."

Hattie Moskop, Walter's sister, is quiet and retiring. "I've learned, too," she said in a low, sincere tone, "more than I could ever tell.

Studying and working with these fine students for the past three months, J. Russell Butler, in charge of the Industrial Sharecropper Division, has done more than any to educate them as to the practical needs of the working class.

"I think it has been well worth it," he said. "Some have gained more than others, but all have progressed considerably. Most of them started from scratch and have advanced wonderfully."

Ed Pickering, kind and elderly but a stern fighter, has knocked around the world more than the other sharecropper students and has always been ready to give them the benefit of his experiences. Ed, who has taken some of the more advanced courses in the regular curriculum and is remaining at Commonwealth for a short time, will always be more than just "Uncle" to his fellow students and friends. He will always be in the front ranks with Myrtle, Dollie, Rosie, Roy, Walter, Ruth, and Hattie, in any struggle to help end the slavery of the sharecroppers in the South.