

1933

# Fletcher Newsletter





## FLETCHER NEWS LETTER

May 1933

### - AND SO WE BUILT AN HOUSE -

The building of our new chapel has been an interesting project for the Fletcher group of community workers. It represents the most courageous advance move we have ever made. The term "courageous" is here used advisedly. The economic depression prevented Willing friends from assisting us as they would otherwise have done, and other complications have hindered our building. Then our routine program of activities already absorbed all our time, so that the work of planning a building which has been done to a large extent with the help of our teachers and students, has meant just that much extra work. It was again a case of "planning for more than we could do and then doing it", or as we put it at Fletcher, "bitting off more than we can chew and then chewing it." This does not mean that we started a job without due preparation. For two years we shaped our plans to this end. First we arranged to have nearly a hundred thousand square feet of lumber sawed at our saw mill from timber that grew on our mountain sides; then we had our shop machinery put in condition to prepare this lumber for use. In the meantime the boys were excavation for the foundation, and at the same time brick and other materials were being hauled. When we began to build, we were ready to make some definite progress.

A number of very compelling reasons forced us to the decision to build at this time. With our strong industrial and medical departments we were able to offer young people in the high school grades opportunity to buy their education with the labor of their hands. The number of young people whom we can thus serve is limited only by our facilities. Besides this we are offering a standard training course for nurses. To care for these needs, we have been forced to improvise class rooms in different buildings about the place. Then we had no suitable place to meet for religious or educational services. We were like the family who had a home but had no house to keep it in.

The chapel auditorium will seat over two hundred without crowding, and can on special occasions accomodate considerable more than this. Back of this auditorium we have four large class rooms, besides an office for the school principal, and a large airy library and reading room. The library room we regard with special satisfaction and justifiable pride. It will be a fitting place to communicate with the great and good who have left their writings to inspire us.

The story of how we builded is a chapter in itself. Here only a few things can be mentioned. As the sketch indicates, the building is of old English design. We decided on this type as it gave us opportunity to use our native material. The roof is covered with split "boards" or "shakes" our friends in the North would call them. One of our mountain neighbors split these out by hand from large oaks that grow on the place. His children have been attending our community school for years. When we came to settle up his account with him, he said even though he had worked for very small wages, he wished to have a personal share in the building, and deducted ten dollars from his bill. He stated that he had tried to do good work on the shingles, and that they ought not to curl up as he had cut them "in the dark of the moon."

The building is brick veneered, the brick being furnished by a local brick yard. They, for their part, donated the equivalent of half the brick for the building. There were none of our own workers who were skilled in laying brick, and here again fortune favored us. Some local brick layers who were out of employment and whose families needed medical attention in our hospital asked to lay the brick in payment of their bill. We readily consented to this arrangement.



So, we could go on and tell how a little has come from a friend here and a gift from a friend there. To Elder J. L. Shuler should go the credit of giving the first fifty dollars in cash, which gift we will always remember, for it was a token that other help would come. The layman Foundation, which has aided many needy enterprises in the South, gave fifteen hundred dollars. An equal amount was received from the Southeastern Union Conference. Many others have helped us, whose names we would like to mention, and whose gifts will not be forgotten.

Much remains to be done, but the building has materialized to the extent that we can see its finish. We are in hopes that we will have the entire building available in time for the new school year.

--A. A. Jasperson

### OUR NEW PIANO

In the spring of 1932, the Fletcher students decided that our new chapel, which was under construction, would need a good piano.

To obtain sufficient funds, the school was divided into two groups, the "Hill Billies" and the "Crackers", each group to see which could raise the largest sum toward the piano by soliciting our generous friends. The contest waged for a whole year with spurts of enthusiasm and activity, followed by periods of forgetfulness as busy hours filled the days. But our friends were generous, and at last we had sufficient funds to buy the piano. The "Crackers" were about fifteen dollars in the lead, but how could we have bought the piano if the "Hill Billies" had not done a worthy part? In our pleasure in our new piano, a beautiful Francis Bacon parlor grand, the spirit of rivalry vanished. In fact we cannot remember who was a "Hill Billy" or who was a "Cracker".

We are proud and happy to present this fine piano to our school, and here are our thanks to our friends who helped us get it.

--Mary Dixen

( The greatest cracker of them all)

### THE SCHOOL FARM

Not the least of our interesting activities is our farm and garden. The farm contains 524 acres, of which about fifty-five acres are under cultivation. The rest is in pasture and timber land. The farm work is under the direction of Mr. James E. Lewis, a capable farmer and business man. Under Mr. Lewis's leadership the farm looks better every year.

During the winter months we bent our backs to the task of clearing new ground. We now have six and one half acres cleared, plowed, harrowed, and planted. Only someone who has had the experience of grubbing new ground knows how glad we are to be through and how proud we are of our efforts.

Other improvements of the year are one hundred twenty rods of new fence. This is made of durable locust posts and three strands of barbed wire. In addition to the new fence, the fences surrounding the entire farm have been repaired.

Our farm machinery enables us to do good work. A new McCormick-Deering corn binder, greatly reduced in price after one season of use, was added this year. Other farm machinery is a mowing machine, a corn planter, hay rake, grain drill, riding cultivator, Fordsong tractor, tractor plow and disk, ensilage cutter, and numerous plows harrows, and cultivators.



The farm stock consists of two teams of mules and one odd horse. We are very proud of one fine team of Tennessee mules. We boys like to hear the neighbors make favorable comments on our stock and barn.

Among the early crops already planted are three and a half acres of potatoes and four acres of Japanese clover. We have thirty acres of corn ground ready, and there will be ten acres of soy beans.

Our large school and sanitarium family calls for a great deal of garden truck. Mr. E. C. Smith with his crew of boys is busy in the garden every day. We are now enjoying fresh spinach, lettuce, and green onions. Peas are in the pod. In the greenhouse there are thousands of cabbage, tomato, and pepper plants that will be ready to transplant as soon as the ground is warm enough.

At the present time we have planted in open ground 40 pounds of peas, 3½ pounds of carrots, one pound each of parsnips and Swiss chard, 10 pounds of beans, 2½ pounds of beets, 17 pounds of spinach, 2 bushes of onion sets, and 1 pound each of lettuce, radishes, and turnips.

We like to have visitors at Fletcher visit the farm and garden department.

--Earnest Smith

#### ----- THE DAIRY

Our dairy consists of fourteen Jersey milk cows, and six yearling heifers, two of which are registered. We have also a registered Jersey sire, a registered bull calf, and several small heifer calves. The bull calf is a very fine little animal, recently bought from the North Carolina State Test Farm. He comes from a good line of stock. The Test Farm has asked that we exhibit him at their next animal show on annual farm day.

Our cows supply the milk for the sanitarium and school. Some of them give more than five gallons of milk a day. All but one are high grade cows, and most of them have a good milk strain behind them.

We boys take care of the cows, milk, and feed them under the supervision of Mr. D. C. Trubey. We cool the milk, bottle it, and deliver it to the school and sanitarium kitchens. We like to work in the dairy department very much.

--Vernon Lewis

#### ----- - CLOSING SCHOOL -

May 18 marked the close of another school year. The class who finished the three years of academic work given in the school this year were Joseph Hoyt, Ada Bain, Harriet Brass, Marquerite Binning, Harland Lewis, and Ernest Smith. The class gave a program Thursday night to a good audience. Friday afternoon, after appropriate exercises, a flag, given the school by the class, was raised to a seventy-foot pole, erected for the purpose.

Our good wishes go with these young people as they leave us to continue their education in other schools.

#### NATIONAL HOSPITAL DAY

May 12, National Hospital Day, was celebrated this year by the Mountain Sanitarium by holding open house to visitors. A program was given on the lawn in the afternoon. A large number of neighbors and friends visited the sanitarium on that day. Mothers with their little ones who had been born in the hospital returned to have the babies checked over. At four o'clock guests gathered on the sanitarium lawn for a short musical program and listened to a masterful address by Mr. James C. Barrett, editor and publisher of the North Carolina Tribunes.



On Thursday evening, May 11, at the request of the Buncombe county Hospital Association, Doctor Brownsberger, broadcast over radio station WWNC on the purpose of Hospital day, and invited citizens residing in this section to visit the hospital of their choice on that day.

-----  
- N E W S   N O T E S -

On April first, Prof. and Mrs. Waller and their son Louis of Pisgah Institute at Candler, North Carolina, spent the day with us. Prof. Waller spoke at the eleven o'clock service on the subject of Christian Education. Dr. and Mrs. Westcott, and Prof. and Mrs. Cowdrick also of Pisgah called the same day.

During the past month we welcomed Mrs. J. L. Shaw and Mrs. H. H. Votaw of Washington D. C. Mrs. Shaw is an old friend returned; Mrs. Votaw made her first visit. Mrs. Votaw addressed the workers and students at the Friday evening vesper hour, relating interesting experiences in her own work in India as well as in the home country. Both Mrs. Votaw and Mrs. Shaw have promised to return for a longer visit.

April 16-23 was observed at the school as a Week of Prayer. Elder V. G. Anderson spent the week with us. Brother Anderson has the faculty of getting close to young people and their problems. The Fletcher students hope he will return often.

The past month our school was visited by Prof. C. P. Crager and Prof. W. I. Smith and their wives of the General Conference Educational Department, at Washington D. C. Here they were joined by Prof. A. W. Peterson from the Union Educational Department, and together they inspected the school. We appreciate the counsel and encouragement these leaders in educational work gave us, and hope that they too will come again.

It is a pleasure to have old students return to visit us. During the past month Misses Grace Marquis and Yvonne Rumley of last year's class, who are now in school at Madison spent a few days with us.

Among other visitors from Washington this past month were Mr. John R. Swanson, of Washington Missionary College, who with Mr. Smith spent a night with us. Mr. Swanson is in charge of the industrial department of the college.

Elder and Mrs. J. G. Mitchell from Charlotte were visitors at Fletcher a short time ago. We appreciated having Elder and Mrs. Mitchell sing for us.

Recently a party from Dr. Harding's Rest Home at Columbus, Ohio, visited us. They were Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Caldwell, Miss Selma McAfee, and Elder W. L. Adkins, chaplain of the Rest Home.

Last week we enjoyed Martin Johnson's "Simba", an eight reel film, showing the interesting animal life of Africa, and the thrilling experiences of these two camera hunters. The film was also shown in the auditorium of the Fletcher High School.

Mrs. William Steinman and son Ralph of Washington, D. C., called recently.

Miss Clara Knowles, our dietitian, recently moved to her new and attractive little cottage near the entrance of the campus.



Mrs. Josephine Baker from Arkansas is spending a month with her niece, Marjorie Mead.

These are going and coming days. A number of students are leaving, and already new students are entering to work through the summer. Mary Medford, Clayton and Lena Hodges, and Gilbert Snyder of Banner Elk are here at work, and William and Aileen Nestell of Rhodes Michigan.

A number of friends from Madison have visited us in the past week. Messers Herbert White and Stanley Hall spent two days with us. During their stay Mr. White gave his beautiful stereoptican lecture on Highlights of Chinese civilization. Announcement in the Asheville Citizen brought a large audience. Dr. Floyd Brallier, Prof. Jacobson and his wife and family spent a few hours with us. Lastly, came Mrs. Bruce Biggs, Misses Thelma Jean Witt, Elizabeth Gilliland, Hazel Teague, and Dorothy Gray, and Mr. J. C. Trivvett.

The meeting of the Tri-State Hospital Association in Charleston, South Carolina in April, was attended by Dr. and Mrs. Brownsberger, Mrs. J. E. Lewis, and Mr. A. A. Jasperson. For several years the Hospital Associations of the three neighboring states--Virginia and the Carolinas have met together annually. This year Dr. Brownsberger was elected to the Vice-presidency of the North Carolina Hospital Association.

As this News Letter goes out, a company is on the way to the commencement exercises at Southern Junior College and the Youths' Congress which immediately follows.

\*\*\*\*\*