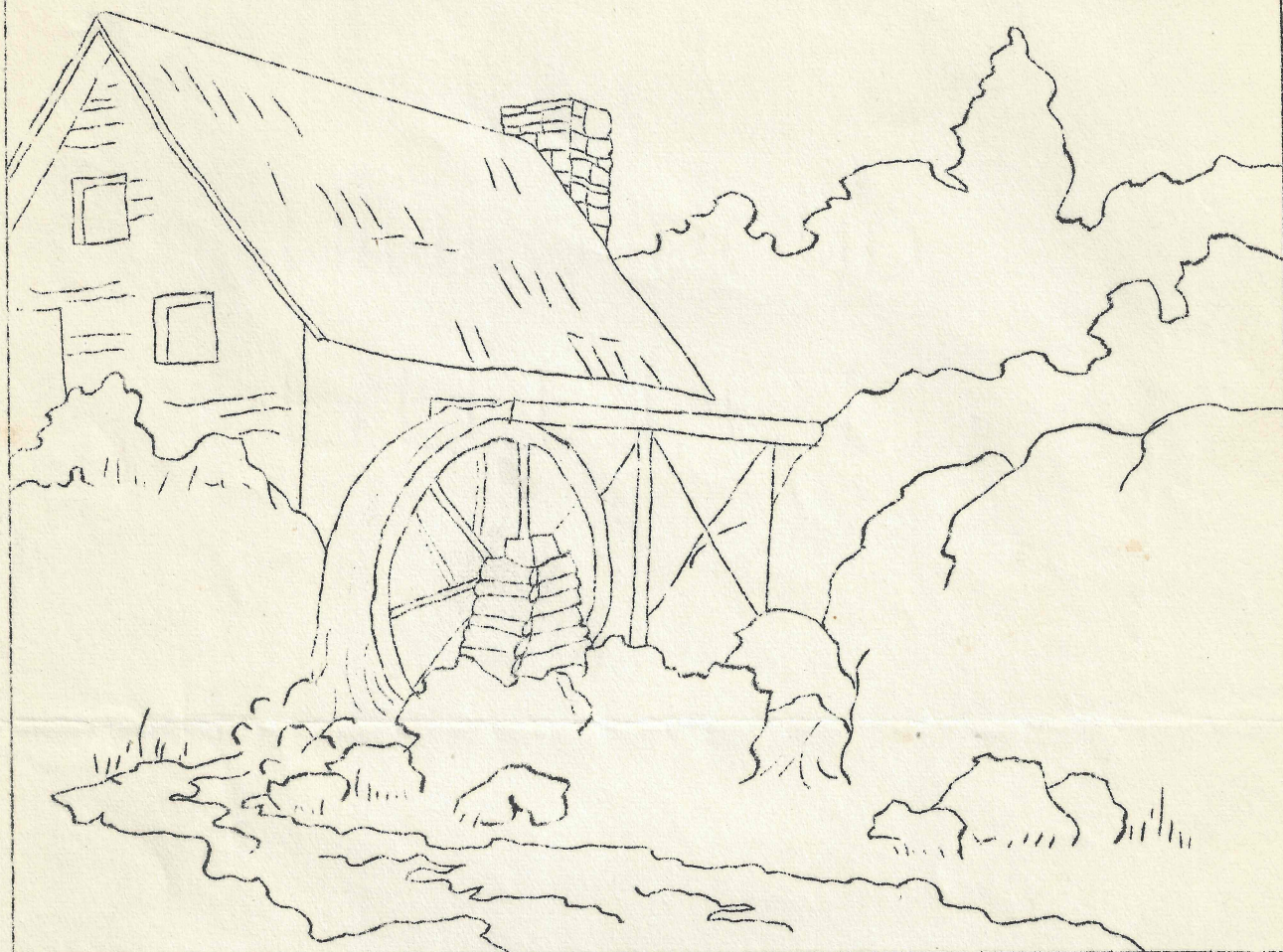


First Senior H. S. graduation number.

FLETCHER NEWS LETTER



ASHEVILLE AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL
and
MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM

Vol. II, No. 5

June 1935

- SENIOR CLASS NUMBER -

As this number of the News Letter goes out, another school year has just closed. The graduating exercises brought parents and dear friends, some from long distances, to share with us this happy occasion. It was pleasant to be together for a few days after laying down the strenuous program of the school year. But then came the loading of trunks and many farewells. It is not easy to say good-bye to young people who have been with us over a period of years. They have found their places in our hearts, where we shall continue to hold them, even though their places in the school will soon belong to others, already arriving.

"Ships that pass in the night, and speak each other in passing,
Only a signal shown, and a distant voice in the darkness;
So on the ocean of life, we pass and speak one another,
Only a look and a voice, then darkness again and a silence."

- SCHOOL CLOSES -

The occasion of closing school this year marked a milestone in our history in the graduation of our first twelfth-grade class. The school, which was operated as an elementary school in 1910, has since then taken on one academic grade at a time until the present year, when for the first time twelve grades were offered. The graduates numbered eleven with the class roll as follows:

Earle Case	Gladys Lowder	Kenneth Case
Jennie Kirkwood	Ada Bain	Ruth Ray
Arvel McAlexander	Grace Bliss	Virginia Miller
Florence Hudson	Dorothy Case	

At the class night program in an unusual prophecy we heard their aims and ambitions to take their places in the world's great work. Looking ahead ten years we saw these young people as a doctor, nurses, teachers, dietitian, and business men. A spirit of earnestness pervaded the program as the young people told of definite plans for the future.

It was the privilege of the class to have Elder J. L. Shuler, president of the Carolina Conference, with them for the consecration service on Friday evening. The baccalaureate sermon was preached by our pastor, Elder E. L. Sheldon, on Sabbath morning.

Sunday afternoon at White Oak Park, the School family and guests, numbering about three hundred, enjoyed a picnic dinner and games.

On Sunday evening we gathered, a large company of parents, students, teachers, neighbors, and friends, in the beautifully decorated chapel where Professor Arthur W. Spalding, one of the founders of the school, delivered an address to the class, and diplomas were presented.

The next few days saw the members of the class on their way to new fields of endeavor. Some will enter college; some will take up nurses' training; all have definite plans for further training in some line.

And so have they gone, leaving for our inspiration the ringing words of their president, "We leave this dear school of our youth, strong in faith to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

- COMMENCEMENT GUESTS -

Among the guests who were at Fletcher for commencement week, we find the following names: Professor and Mrs. A. W. Spalding of Washington, D. C.; Dr. and Mrs. R. W. Spalding of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Dr. and Mrs. C. P. DeLay of Nashville, Tenn.; Mrs. Lida F. Scott, Miss Florence Fellemente, Miss Florence Hartsock, Mr. Sharpe, Miss Yvonne Rumley, and Misses Shirley and Ellen French of Madison, Tenn.; Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Case, son Gordon, and Miss Mildred Knowles of Hinsdale, Ill.; Mrs. J. P. Caldwell and Miss Valoua Caldwell of Worthington, O.; Mr. and Mrs. Sherman P. Wagar of Toledo, O.; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Miller and children and Elder and Mrs. P. E. Scoggins of Johnson City, Tenn.; Mr. H. E. Beck and Mr. E. C. Smith of Bristol, Tenn.; Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Ray of Hillsboro, N. C.; Mr. Edward Bain and Miss Lois Bain of Ky.; Elder W. L. Adkins of Glen Alpine, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Grubbs of Byington, Tenn.; Mrs. I. P. Hudson and Mrs. McCarter of Greenville, S. C.; Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Case and Mrs. H. C. Walen of Fountain Head, Tenn.

- LOOKING BACKWARD -

"It would be impossible to tell just how much the school has meant to me. Three years I have watched it grow, and three years I have grown with it. Fields of vision have been broadened, sparks of ambition have been fanned into flame, and life holds much more in store for me because I have been here.

Another milestone along life's journey. The troubles and perplexities seem to fade into nothingness. What happy hours of good fellowship have been spent here. How many valuable lessons. What lasting friendships I have made. And what a store of knowledge for present and future use has been accumulated during three years.

I am saying good-bye to a home, not just a school."

--Earle D. Case, President of Senior Class.

- FROM "THE VISION OF YOUTH" -

Commencement Address by A. W. Spalding

"What God before hath shewed. ... He hath so fulfilled."

When, a quarter of a century ago, first of all our people, I laid eyes upon this place, there came to me a vision of all that our eyes behold here today, and more which shall yet be attained.

I promise to these young men and young women that if they will continue to seek the vision of God and to follow it, as they have begun to do, theirs shall be the greatest satisfaction and joy that can come to human lives.

In the conduct of human affairs there must be men who have visions. They are the eyes of the race; they see, that light may be given to the race to direct its steps. "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Man was created to live, not for a day, but for eternity: there is needed the far vision. The plodding steps of the multitude, unguided by the seer, are forever stumbling over petty obstacles, forever falling into the ditch of ignorance. There must be seers, men who dream dreams that shall be made reality, men who see visions that shall give a meaning and a goal to life.

There have been seers before you. Upon the basis whereon they built their lives must you build yours. From the fountain whence came their wisdom must your wisdom come. In the faith from which issued their vision and sprang their courage must you continue.

Members of the Graduating Class!

You pass today another milestone in your earthly career. By your efforts during these years of study and labor you have fitted yourselves so much the more for worthy service to your fellow men and for fulfilling the mission God has given to you. If you will, you may march with Christ, you may have His banner waving over you, you may bear His arms of service and shout His battle-cry of love, you may with Him go not to slaughter but to the binding up of broken hearts and the restoration of purity and joy to human lives. This is the hope and expectation of your Christian parents and teachers and friends, and it is the destiny determined for you by your Saviour and Father, the Everlasting, Almighty God.

Choose you this day who shall be your Master, and what shall be your service. Choose thoughtfully, choose well. Look not on low things, but on things that are high. Seek not for your own aggrandizement, but for the good of others and the glory of your Lord. Give to Christ the strength and enthusiasm of your youthful lives. Lift up your eyes to His beauty, lift up your hearts to His purity, lift up your hands to join His mighty hands in service; and, with Him, yours shall be the power and the honor and the glory, forever, Amen!

- THE VALEDICTORY -

The valedictorian of the graduating class, Mrs. Gladys Wagar-Lowder, was our first academic student. As a grade was added, Mrs. Lowder continued her high school work. During these years she has also completed a nurses' course, and has been a supervisor in the sanitarium. In the valedictory she speaks from the fulness of her heart:

"'Tis said that everything comes to those who wait. I have waited a long time for this occasion, and at last, it has come.

This school has grown to the age of maturity, and so have I. In fact, we have almost grown up together. Many students have come and gone, but I have stayed on as a part of the school. My class mates have been here only four years, some of them not that long, but I have been here not only four years, but almost four times four, thus you can see the school must mean more to me than it possibly could to them.

This school like all schools has had its joys and sorrows; griefs and losses. I have shared in each one. Just as it takes a heap o' livin' in a house to make it home, it takes a heap o' livin' in a school to make it real, you have to love your teachers and your school mates too; you have to bear with them, and they with you.

I have watched with tenderness and interest the growth of each shrub and tree that has been planted, and the foundation for each new building has been a real joy. When I think of the contrast of this school as it was when I came and as it is now, I wonder with amazement, and must exclaim, "What hath God wrought!"

My mind goes back eight or nine years ago when I lived on this very spot of ground, where our chapel now stands, never dreaming that a building like this should be erected here; never dreaming that I should stand before you tonight as a member of our first graduating class, I want to pause at this moment to pay tribute to the founders of this school--First to Professor and Mrs. Spalding, for they were the first ones who had the courage to start a school of this type in our Carolina Hills. We are glad for the work they started, and appreciate the privilege of carrying it on. Then to Dr. Brownsberger, who in his youth, while following the plow on this very farm, visualized a school and sanitarium--a school that would prepare young people for a place in the Master's vineyard--a place of refuge for those who are weary, worn and sad. Tonight his vision is realized. Then to Mr. and Mrs. Jasperson; It was she who taught me in my childhood, in her first school, when she too was young.

There are many others whom I could mention as having had a part in the establishment of this school. Some of them have gone; some are here now, but to each one I feel indebted and like Tennyson's Ulyses, I am a part of them all. I appreciate the privilege of standing before you tonight as a product and representative of this school--a school that has high standards; a school that endeavors to develop the physical, mental, and spiritual powers; a school that offers opportunities, a school that expects much from its graduates. Fletcher--our school--your school--my school.

- OUR THANKS -

Our thanks go to Mr. G. D. White, Instructor of Agriculture at Fletcher High School, for his kind help in our school this past year. During the winter, Mr. White spent one evening a week with us, lecturing to our agriculture class. Our neighbors appreciated coming in on these evenings also. Mr. White has not taken up the work of County Agent in Henderson County, in which work we assure him our cooperation.

- NATIONAL HOSPITAL DAY -

Sanitarium and School participated in National Hospital Day, May 12th. The afternoon's activities included demonstrations in the Physiotherapy departments, in the operating room, diet kitchen, laboratory, x-ray and School of Nursing. In the mid-afternoon, a message of greetings from the Mayor of Asheville was dropped from an aeroplane to the people gathered on the campus. At four o'clock a suitable program was given in the beautifully decorated school chapel to an overflowing house. Dr. H. S. Randolph of the Asheville Farm School gave the address. Another feature of the day was the showing of a talking motion picture, "The Trail of the Circuit Rider", which showed the development of hospitals in the Carolinas, and the part the Duke Endowment has had in this growth.

- N E W S N O T E S -

Our list of guests this spring and summer, aside from commencement guests, includes the following names: Elder and Mrs. Horace Shaw of Washington, D. C.; Elder and Mrs. O. R. Staines of Loma Linda, Cal.; Mrs. Florence Ames of Nevada, Iowa; Professors Albert Smith and W. E. Straw of Berrien Springs, Michigan; Thelma and Doris Hansen, Mike Wiley and Mrs. Kinzie of Madison, Tenn.; Professor and Mrs. M. E. Cady and Mrs. Gladys Walin of Washington, D. C.; Mr. and Mrs. S. H. McKean and Mrs. Deyo of Atlanta, Georgia.

Mrs. Flora L. Plummer, Secretary of the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference, Washington, D. C., called recently, with her daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Boggs.

It was our pleasure to have a short call from Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Kellogg of Battle Creek.

Miss Lily Mathesen, a national field secretary of the W. C. T. U., visited Mr. and Mrs. Jasperson in May. Miss Mathesen was accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Annie Mathesen, of Neenah, Wisconsin.

The Carolina Camp Meeting, which was held near Hendersonville, was well attended by our school family. Our doctors and nurses assisted in the medical work. The close proximity to the camp brought many guests to the institution. It was our pleasure on Thursday afternoon to have all the young people from the camp, with Professors John E. Weaver, H. J. Klooster, Miss Nannie May Smith, and Elder R. F. Woods, for a tour of the place. Besides the young people, there were more than a hundred guests from the camp visited the school during the week.

Dr. Brownsberger and Mr. Jasperson are attending a meeting of the American Medical Association at Atlantic City this week.

A most hearty welcome is extended to the student nurses who have just returned from the Grady Hospital at Atlanta, where they have just completed their affiliation. The nurses returning to the school include: Misses Marjorie Coe and Marjory Mead, of the senior class, and Misses Dorothy Hudson, Novella Orenduff, Estelle and Esther Fox of the Junior Class.

Among the closing events of the school year were two recitals by the music students of Miss Wava Rogers, one by the "Little Artists", the other by the high school students. Miss Rogers, who is now at her home in Orlando, Florida, will be with us for the next school year.

- HONOR ROLL -

Leroy Thompson has maintained an average of A this year. Louise Adkins and Maxine Wheeler have an average of B.

- OUR SCHOOL SONG -

Down in the Southern mountains,
Where the French Broad flows,
In the hills of North Carolina,
Where the laurel grows,
There's a school where lads and lassies
Come from far and near;
There's a school of closest friendships
That we all hold dear.

CHORUS:

School of the mountains,
School of standards high,
Ideals and courage,
Faith and loyalty;
School of the mountains,
School of standards high.
Fletcher! Our School.

Where Couch Mountain reaches upward
To the starry blue,
With its trails of wondrous beauty,
Winding through and through.
There we work and play and study,
Doing well our part.
There is warmth, and joy, and gladness
In each youthful heart.

At our White Oak Park in summer
There in games we drill;
And in winter we go coasting
Down Potato Hill;
In the hills of Carolina,
Full of youth's dear joys,
There you'll always find a school
Of happy girls and boys.

We appreciate the generous response of News Letter readers to our call for help on our Music Studio campaign. Our thanks for your kindness.

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