

FLETCHER NEWS LETTER



ASHEVILLE AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL
and
MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM

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- THANKSGIVING -

The Thanksgiving season finds our school family well, happy, and deeply thankful for the blessings of the year. The summer was so full that it slipped by almost before we knew it, and autumn with school days was here.

Now that "the frost is on the pumpkin, and the fodder's in the shock", we have time to count our blessings. We are a large family, engaged in many lines of activity, not lacking in danger. We are humbly grateful for God's protecting care during the year. We hope that you too, dear News Letter friends, have been abundantly blest. And may the spirit of Thanksgiving find a place in all our hearts.

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- A BUSY DEPARTMENT -

A growing institution always has the problem of providing suitable equipment with which to work. Among these, housing for departments of work and for workers is of paramount importance. When an institution is small, some very temporary makeshifts will do; but there comes a time when it must emerge from the pioneer stage, and provide itself with buildings and other facilities necessary to rightly represent a progressive institution. This past summer and fall we have had four major projects under way, as well as some smaller tasks, which include an addition to the boiler house to make room for a new boiler, a machine shed to house farm machinery previously kept in the shop, and remodelling the Big House to meet the needs of the boarding department, and enlarge the girls' bath rooms. It has seen a lot of remodelling, the old plantation house. Its stairway has faced most of the points of the compass in the past fifteen years.

The summer saw the completion of the Service Building, a two-story concrete structure, finished in white stucco. It is well constructed and very attractive. In it one finds our bakery, milk room, print shop, store, cannery, cold rooms, and storage rooms.

For the past year we have been planning and collecting material for a new hospital unit, as well as more room for patients, and service departments for the medical lines of our work. Crowded as we always are for time, we yet have more time than money, and so we have followed every line that would lead to bargains in building materials. The most ambitious project we have yet undertaken was to help wreck a fourteen story hotel, an unfinished relic of the boom days of the last decade. Throughout the fall months, which have fortunately been very pleasant, we have been busy with a crew of men, salvaging the wreckage of someone's dreams, and hauling it home. But we do have a quantity of very fine material, which we hope to convert into a useful building that will meet some pressing needs in our medical work.

There is also a new unit for the school department under way. The students and others have been raising money the past year to provide funds for a music studio. There are no level building sites on our hills. We must build on a hillside. This makes a two-story building very practical. The first floor will contain two class rooms; the second will have the studio and practice rooms.

We are working also on a gravity water system. We are fortunate in having on our property a mountain stream, which will give us a gravity flow of water. It will be necessary to have six thousand feet of four-inch water line, with a two hundred-foot head to give abundant pressure. The initial expense met, we shall have an endless flow of water without the cost of pumping, and we hope to have solved our water problem in a very permanent way.

--A. A. Jasperson

- SCHOOL DAYS AGAIN -

The two high spots of interest in the school year are the beginning and the end. And the beginning is so much more fun than the end. September found many of our students already here, having been employed on the place during the summer "working up credit", as they say, for the school year. During the first days of September others gathered in, making finally a fine large family of boys and girls. The high school department showed an enrollment of eighty-six, most of whom are boarding students. Our own state makes the largest showing, with Tennessee next, then South Carolina and Michigan, Florida, and Virginia tying with four from each state, Georgia and Alabama each contributing two. From the following list of states we find one each: Colorado, Massachusetts, Ohio, Louisiana, and Oklahoma.

- A GOOD BEGINNING -

The first six weeks period tests showed that three of our students had maintained an average of A in their studies. They are: Beatrice Leach, Eloise Wynn, and Edwin Ridders. The B list is somewhat larger, including the following: Walter Echols, Rose Elliott, Joan Fisk, Evelyn Gilliland, Bernice Grant, Clayton Hodges, Kathryn McKamey, Ruth Watson, William Philpott, Gladys Rupard, Winifred Smith, Archie Stanton, LeRoy Thompson, Gladys Trivett, Doris Wineland, Adrian Wright, Maude Earle Vance, and Ileta Vance.

- OUR HORIZON WIDENS -

This year for the first time our high school has opened as a state accredited school. Inspections made by state officials last year gave us our rating in June. We find it a source of satisfaction that the educational department of a progressive state can put the seal of its approval upon our efforts. It is a goal realized, but it is not a stopping place.

Among the many large schools of our state we feel that we are "least of the tribes of Israel." It is not our purpose that our school should be large. It is our purpose to strengthen our work each year. This summer three of our teachers attended teachers' colleges in three different states: the University of Southern California, Michigan State Teachers' College, and George Peabody College for Teachers. Contacts with educators in these schools is of great value in keeping our school in step with modern educational progress.

Our new standing brings us in touch with the educators of our state in a wider way. We are finding our state department of education sympathetic and helpful, and contacts with the officials of the department stimulating and encouraging.

--M. M. J.

- WE HAD A WEDDING -

School life at Fletcher is real life. To many of our students it is more than a school; it is also a home. To Novella Orenduff the school had been home for five years, two of which were spent in high

school and three in the nurses' training school. It was fitting that she should be married in her school home, and it was our pleasure to put into it the spirit of a family wedding.

The day after graduation from the training school Miss Orenduff became the bride of Mr. Albert N. Hall, manager of the College Press of Southern Junior College, at Collegedale, Tennessee. In our school chapel beautifully decorated for the occasion, the ceremony was performed by President E. J. Klooster of Southern Junior College. Our love and good wishes went with this school daughter to her new home and new life.

- A NEW STUDENT -

This year I am a new student. The phrase sounds rather queer, for it seems as though I've been here a long time, instead of just a few months. But what a lot I have accomplished in that time. Picture a young girl, somewhat bewildered and wondering, at her first boarding school, and you have a description of me. But Fletcher soon came to mean home. Here I have worked all summer in preparation for school, and here I have had good times, too. Work has been made happy by the pleasant and jovial association of friends and young people. Even the canning was fun, for while we worked, the light and happy talk and the innocent laughter took our minds from the drudgery of work. Since being here I have learned more fully the value of time. Altogether, this summer has been a success for me, and an inspiration to do greater things. At present the task on hand is to reap the benefit of the summer's work. Now I'm looking forward to next year, and to my part as an "old student" in welcoming the new comers.

--Joan Fisk

- A SUMMER ON THE FARM -

The farm department during the summer of 1936 has been the scene of much activity, and many improvements have been made here at Fletcher. The farm crew consisted of five boys, with Mr. J. E. Lewis as manager. We had a lot of good times, and received much valuable instruction along the line of farming.

The farm department has in the past summer cultivated thirty acres of corn, about five acres of potatoes, eight acres of soy beans, besides several acres of alfalfa and lespedeza. One field of alfalfa was cut four times, yielding a good crop each time. The potato harvest was two hundred and eighty-five bushels, and the approximate estimate of corn was around eight hundred bushels.

In addition to the usual activity, the farm has made other improvements. There have been about two hundred fifty rods of fence built, adding a much needed acreage to the pasture. In August a new fifty-acre tract of land was added to the farm. It was too late in the season to make any use of it this summer, but plans are being made to cultivate most of it this coming year.

As the winter months come on, the farm boys change their plows and harrows for saws and axes, and go to the woods where we cut wood for the boiler, as well as block wood for the boys' homes and other places. We never run out of employment.

--Clayton Hodges

At our weekly faculty meetings reports are brought in from time to time from various departments. Listening in the past few weeks, we learn a few interesting facts: Mrs. Wright who heads our laundry department reported that during the month of August 21,400 pieces passed through the laundry, a daily average of 827 pieces. This is the largest number of articles washed in any month of our history. Mrs. Smith, the matron, told us that more than 11,000 quarts of fruit and vegetables were canned. Special mention was made of 750 quarts of huckleberries, which were gathered on our Southern hillsides this summer. Mr. Lowder reported more than one hundred bushels of grapes harvested this fall.

- SCHOOL OF NURSING -

The week end of August 20 - 23 was one of much activity on the part of the nurses in our institution. This was graduation week, and marked the close of three years training of four young women who had successfully completed the prescribed course of instruction and practice as offered by the Mountain Sanitarium and Hospital School of Nursing.

The opening event of the week was a dinner given in Rumbough Hall by the school of Nursing Faculty in honor of the graduating class and the alumni, who made the occasion a "home-coming". A pleasant and happy time was enjoyed by all. This was followed by the Consecration services conducted by our pastor, Elder E. L. Sheldon. The Baccalaureate sermon Sabbath morning was given by Elder H. F. Taylor of Greenville, South Carolina. On Saturday evening, the class presented an interesting program in tableau form, showing some scenes from the history of nursing. They were assisted in this program by a number of musically talented friends. Sunday night, August 23, President H. J. Klooster, of Southern Junior College, gave a masterful commencement address. The school pins were presented by Miss Lelia V. Patterson, our superintendent, and diplomas were given the young women by our medical director, Dr. J. F. Brownsberger. The class roll was:

Esther Fox, North Carolina
Estelle Ruth Fox, North Carolina
Dorothy Emma Hudson, South Carolina
Novella Orenduff-Hall, Tennessee

The exercises brought together a number of relatives and friends of the graduates. We were especially glad for a visit at this time from Miss Mildred Hanon of Chattanooga, Tennessee, of our first graduating class, and Miss Marjory Mead, of Washington, D. C., Class of 1935.

The activities of the week end were climaxed by the marriage of the class president, which event is reported elsewhere in this issue.

Early in November these graduates, together with Miss Marjory Mead of Washington, D. C., went to Durham where they all sat for the North Carolina State Board examinations.

On the first of September, Miss Ruby Clark and Miss Elvera Youmans left the Mountain Sanitarium for their affiliate term at the Grady

Hospital, Atlanta Ga. Reports from them indicate that they are having a most profitable and interesting experience.

The opening of the fall term, September seventh, brought to us an enthusiastic group of preliminary students for our first year class in nursing. The class roll is as follows:

- Audrey Anderson, Iowa
- Louise Adkins, South Carolina
- Mildred Barber, North Carolina
- Sarah Elliott, North Carolina
- Louise Derflinger, Wash., D. C.
- Mildred Fisk, Michigan
- Cordie Lee Smith, N. Carolina

One of this group, Miss Cordie Lee Smith, came to Fletcher six years ago, entering our grammar school for seventh grade work. Here she completed her grade work, took a full high school course, and is now entering upon a three year course in nursing. Miss Louise Adkins is also a former member of our high school group.

--E. B.

-- N-E-W-S I-T-E-M-S --

Miss Lelia V. Patterson, our superintendent of nurses, spent a few weeks visiting her home in Missouri in October, following the convention of self-supporting workers at Madison.

Miss Carolyn Horning, who has been with us for a number of years, left recently for a few months leave of absence.

We are glad to welcome Mrs. Florence Ames, recently of Loma Linda Sanitarium, to our nursing staff at the Sanitarium. She has taken up the duties formerly carried by Miss Horning, and is assisting in our teaching program.

Miss Mary Dixon, of our first class, visited us in October. We were happy to see her again. Miss Dixon is nursing at the Central of Georgia Hospital located in her home town, Savannah, Georgia.

Miss Estelle Fox, Class of 1936, is remaining with the sanitarium as night supervisor. Miss Esther Fox, of the same class, is also assisting in the work at the sanitarium.

Dr. F. E. Bliss is attending the annual meeting of the Southern Medical Association at Baltimore, Maryland, at the present writing.

Elder and Mrs. J. K. Jones of Decatur, Georgia, were guests of the institution in October. This was Elder Jones's first visit since coming to the South as president of the Southern Union.

The third number in our lyceum course was Mountain Folk-Songs and Ballads, given by Mr. Bascom Lunsford of Asheville, Saturday night, November seventh.