

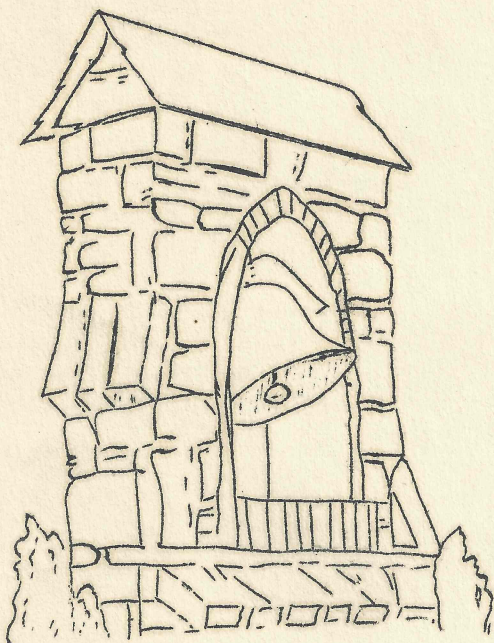
# FLETCHER NEWS LETTER

ASHEVILLE AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL AND MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM  
Fletcher, North Carolina

Volume VII, No. 7

September 1940

## SCHOOL AGAIN



"When can I see about my classes for next year?" "What time will the tenth grade classes meet?" "Who's going to teach English III." "When is Mr. Evers coming home?" Questions like these were heard more and more frequently on our campus as snappy mornings ushered in September.

The School of Nursing faculty was already on the ground with additions to their staff in Miss Dorothy Hudson and Mrs. Olive Montgomery. The high school and grade teachers came home. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Evers came down from Michigan, where Mr. Evers had studied at Ann Arbor, with new devices in his mind whereby he might cause the Southern youngsters to learn more French. Mrs. Evers had visited her parents and was ready to take up her new work of teaching the commercial subjects. Mrs. Ruth Soloman doffed her cap and gown and hurried over

from commencement at Madison. Mrs. Boggs came down from Washington with new songs in her heart and settled down for work in the music studio, which she has made most attractive. Mrs. Jasperson came from Peabody College at Nashville, her head full of guidance programs and bibliographies of Southern life and literature. Ileta Vance, one of our own graduates, came from Birmingham to teach the first four grades.

Most of the students had been on the campus during the summer months, working up their "credit" for the school year; but others who had been away on vacation or new students entering for the first time came from their homes. We were glad to see them all.

Above all the coming and going was the sound of the sanding machine until late at night re-finishing the floors of the school building. Carpenters made repairs, and finally the teachers turned in and helped clean up.

On the morning of September fifth the school bell rang out, and we were off to another year of school!



## NURSES' GRADUATION

On August thirty and thirty-one graduation exercises were held for nurses who completed the standard three year course of nursing in our school. Two young women graduated at this time,--Misses Winifred Smith and Mary Medford. Both of these nurses recently returned from the University of Virginia, where they had successfully terminated their affiliation in pediatric nursing, acute medical and surgical nursing.

Consecration services were held in the school chapel on Friday, August thirty, with Professor Nestell giving the consecration message. The Junior class fittingly participated in this exercise. Elder R. E. Griffin of Asheville gave the baccalaureate sermon. Commencement exercises were held Saturday night, August thirty-first, with Doctor Ambrose Suhrie giving the address. Doctor Suhrie, head of the Department of Education, New York University, has repeatedly been a guest at the sanitarium. Vocal numbers for these exercises were given by Mr. J. C. Coston of Hendersonville, Mr. Archer Livengood of Asheville, Mrs. Frank R. Boggs, and a nurses' trio composed of Misses McElmurry, Dunaway, and Ross. There was a violin number by Barbara Brownsberger.

## OUR HIGH SCHOOL MOVES TOWARD PROGRESS

Many changes have taken place in our philosophy of education and our understanding of its scope and its aims during the past two decades. No change reflects our thinking more than the passing of the high school that is primarily a college preparatory school. Emphasis has shifted from preparation for college to preparation for life. In the life and resources of the community the modern educator recognizes large possibilities for fine and useful development. They constitute a laboratory for vocational guidance and training.

During our life as a school, the industrial plant of the institution has grown. New departments have been added; older ones have been expanded.

One of the objectives of our school is to make it possible for our students to earn a major portion of their expenses in the school. This is one of the basic principles upon which we have operated. Each year the available space has been occupied by young people who found it necessary to work. This is as we have wanted it, and students have earned many thousands of dollars in the school. It would be hard to estimate the value to our students in the experiences of real life and character building afforded them in this work.

The feeling has grown in the minds of our faculty that our well-equipped plant should be used for a more definite contribution to the student's educative experiences and tied more closely to the school program.

Here in the South where so many original ideas in education have had their birth, we have noted with interest a plan now being used in more than three hundred communities. The students attend school a part of the day and work several hours in the industries of the community where they are placed by a school official, known as a coordinator, whose function it is to maintain a close relationship between the employer and the school. A plan of related studies in the high school is supervised, and credit for the work is given toward graduation. Our own school plant furnishes an ideal set-up for this program, and this year we are taking the first steps toward that end. Our industrial departments are headed by men and women well trained in their fields and able to give students excellent training. Their enthusiasm and cooperation in the new program is one of the most



encouraging features. Students are fitting into departments where their interest lies and in which they would like to become proficient. Grades will be given as in other classes, and the students will receive vocational credit.

We consider this one of the most progressive steps that our school has yet taken.

#### FACULTY RECEPTION

We came; (to the chapel), we saw; (everyone) and we were formally introduced to one another. This was on the occasion of the annual "handshaking," as some students term it.

Professor Nestell in wing-collar and other fitting accoutrements presided as master of ceremony over the program which ensued. Starting with a song by Miss Rebecca Rutledge, one of our new student nurses, we progressed rapidly to an active and instructive lesson in geography. The home state of everyone had been previously determined and groups formed composed of members from the same locale. These groups then depicted something typical of their state. Each part was well done but some memories linger a little longer, perhaps. For instance, the thoroughbred "horse" and lovely rider from Kentucky, the Colonial lady from Virginia, the little "Topsy" from Mississippi, the very active shadow cow violently milked by the Wisconsin-ites from "America's dairyland, the twenty-five musical Tar Heels, and the lone cow-boy with the lonelier little calf. Of course the Alabama students, who form one of our largest groups, would "Come from Alabama with a banjo on my knee". The "coons" from Georgia apparently enjoy watermelon, but they were, we thought, a little careless with lampblack. The Tennesseans took us back to pioneer days, and Florida dipped into the Fountain of Youth.

Yes, we have certainly met one another, formally and informally.

#### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Georgia</u>	<u>Mississippi</u>	<u>North Carolina, Cont'd</u>
Fricks, Betty Ann	McGhee, Earl	Butler, J. D.	Horton, Pauline
Graves, Otis	Pichler, Floyd	Ryan, Gladys	Hutchinson, Anne
Graves, Sanford	Pichler, William		Hutchinson, Mary Alice
Linderman, Beryl	Schneider, Grace Marie	<u>Missouri</u>	Jasperson, David
Noble, Ada		Brown, Anna May	Lowder, Genella
Peterson, Evelyn	<u>Illinois</u>	Brown, Dora	Marquis, Robert
Pilcher, Billie	Case, Gordon		Maxwell, Grace
Self, Helen	Guppy, Robert	<u>Nebraska</u>	Nelson, Don
Sykes, Robert	Stevenson, David	Jenson, Mable	Padgett, Ruth
	Stevenson, Joseph		Pike, Howard
<u>Florida</u>		<u>North Carolina</u>	Reed, Lucille
Dalton, Louise	<u>Maryland</u>	Acker, Katherine	Robertson, Winona
Dalton, Luella	Jenkins, John	Anderson, Gail	Watkins, Louise
Nunn, George	Wickline, Edward	Black, John	Wixson, Elnora
Shepard, James		Bliss, Marthine	Wynn, Elouise
Shrock, Cedric	<u>Massachusetts</u>	Brownsberger, Barbara	
Vermillion, Betty	Morrow, Hazel	Clapp, Bernice	<u>Ohio</u>
Wheeler, Gladys		Dunaway, Kenneth	Caldwell, Joy
Wheeler, Lois	<u>Michigan</u>	Eubanks, Marie	Mattingly, Charles
Wheeler, Ruth	Nestell, Glenn	Griffin, Kent	Sterling, Bill
Wilder, Eugene	Nestell, Jean	Hancock, William	



South Carolina

Goddard, Dan  
Karolyi, Alva  
Miller, Ruth  
Munroe, Meredith  
Mullinax, Doyle  
Sheriff, Wallace

Tennessee

Carter, Bernard  
Durocher, Albert  
Gallman, Edythe  
Gray, Vergie  
Keele, Evelyn  
Morgan, Hazel  
McAlexander, Arlene  
Pusey, Paul  
Underwood, Everett  
Woolsey, Lloyd

Virginia

Brown, Hilda  
Crumley, Edwin  
Henderson, Helen  
Triplett, Edna

West Virginia

Hughes, Robert

FRESHMEN NURSES

On September tenth the new school year opened with eleven young women in the freshman class, and four young men who will take a special two year course. The class comes to us from twelve states and one foreign country. We welcome this new group to our mountain school. The class roll follows:

Loretta Deeb, District of Columbia	Mary Sue Mullinax, South Carolina
Gladys Rupard, Virginia	Frances Hildebrandt, Alabama
Edna Marshbanks, Kentucky	Norma Russ, Florida
Rebecca Rutledge, Florida	Mary Zapotichny, Canada
Ethel Morrow, Massachusetts	Charles Garner, Wisconsin
Delores Shrock, Florida	Richard Hirst, Illinois
Ruth Peterson, Alabama	Wayne Maples, North Carolina
Riley McNeill, North Carolina	

A LANDMARK PASSES

For the first time in our institutional history, the fire siren shrieked out into the summer night. We hurried out from every part of the campus to find the old school building burning. The boys of the Fire Department responded as good firemen should, with their fire hose, extinguishers, ladders, and buckets, every available bit of fire fighting equipment. There was not much that could be done. The building was old and built of a single wall.

Our seamstress, Mrs. Dunaway, her daughter and son, Clarice, and Kenneth, lived in the building. It also housed our sewing department and a store room, where was stored a considerable quantity of personal furniture and other goods belonging to our workers. In the sewing room were many bolts of material for sanitarium and hospital supplies, and clothing to be made, or being made, or already made, or mended, for nearly every person on the place. The loss of the contents of the building was therefore considerable.

As soon as the ashes were cold, Mr. Nestell and his summer crew of boys removed the wreckage, cut down trees and shrubbery damaged by the fire, raked away the ashes, and the old school building had passed into history.

Then people began to remember, and we were to learn that a school building is more than just a building, be it a grand edifice or a poor little shell like ours. A school is more an ideal than a building.

Dr. Brownsberger remembered helping to build it in 1916 before he went to medical school. A neighbor describes him as "biddable" in those days. Maybe he was.



From an early record Mrs. Brownsberger gathered some interesting items. Bernice and Elizabeth Gilliland were enrolled the first day in the old school building. They are sisters of our Evelyn who is now in our School of Nursing. Ted Davis of Greenville, South Carolina, who is often a summer guest at the sanitarium, was once a student. There were the names of Monte, Bunyan, and Seaborn Byers of Naples and the older children of the Watkins family, now with large families of their own, Roy Smith, John Anderson and his sister Eula, now our good neighbor Mrs. Featherstone. There were John Spann and Faris and Lucille Lancaster. Faris is now a successful physician of Waynesville. Lucille is Mrs. Hardin of the same city. We find the name of Sidney Brownsberger, an eye specialist of Los Angeles. Also there are listed Herman and Gotha Sheneman. We recall that Gotha is the wife of Mr. Gohde, superintendent of the Pisgah Sanitarium and Hospital. Carl Barham attended one day!

A number of our older young people now on the campus had gone to school in the old building: Vernon Lewis, Inez Beck, our dean of high school girls, Cordie Lee Smith, a nurse. They reminisced of their school days, telling many things, merely hinting at others. Evelyn Gilliland recalled the day when she and "Bob", both aged seven had begun their school life there with Mrs. Witt.

Tall, strapping Paul Hutchinson, years ago a man, stopped the writer of this sketch in the road one morning and abashed her somewhat by the inquiry, "Remember the time you whupped me in that school house?"

"I'm sorry, Paul. Did it do you any good?"

"Yes Ma'am, I reckon it did."

I sincerely hoped so, but I had my doubts. At any rate, despite any errors either of commission or omission on the teacher's part, Paul has made a good man.

Ella Pendarvis wrote from college at Berrien Springs, "It held so many memories."

The finest expression of all came from Mrs. Myrtle Hutchinson-Fletcher, who lives not far from us. Myrtle, in verse of too great length to publish in the News Letter, recalled her first day of school in the old building, learning to read, and finally going through the grades to high school. Myrtle remembers the teachers, the children, the chapel and church services, even the old time "family meeting," the Christmas trees, and programs when they spoke their "Pieces." (Hers on one occasion contained seventy-two stanzas.) Once, I take it, she was "sorry" that she "spelt the word."

The old building saw a lot of our institutional history made. It was first used for the children. When the new brick grade school building was erected on the hill, we continued to use the old one for high school classes. We also used it for our faculty meetings. When Friday came it was thoroughly cleaned and used for church services on the Sabbath.

Our first Junior High School graduation was held there. It took many ferns and flowers and much work to make the place beautiful for that event that was so important to us. Five little girls made up that first class. How proud we were and are of them.



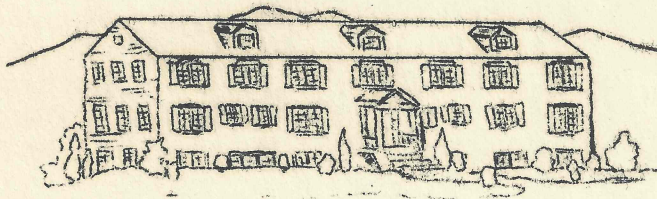
The last class to hold their commencement there after disposing of other things, mostly intangible, in their will, came finally to the building itself. "Since the classes that follow us will no longer need this building, we lay it on the altar of memory." In 1934 we moved to our beautiful new building where church services are held in the chapel and class work in the new rooms.

Many times we have considered tearing the old building down, but our growing institution has never had sufficient room. Always, we felt that we needed it a little longer. It seems that way now.

--M.M.J.

#### A NEW NURSES' HOME

The accompanying sketch is the architect's drawing of the new nurses' home being erected on the campus. The building is framed and roofed with green metal shingles. It is three stories high, and when completed will house no less than forty-two nurses. The plumbers and electricians are at work; and the sound of the hammers of the dozen or more carpenters is pleasant to our ears.



Our good neighbor, Mr. Walter S. Burgo, is foreman, and Mr. Mundy, head of our woodworking shop with his corps of students is contributing largely to the building by keeping the carpenters well supplied with lumber as needed. The building is far enough along now so we can visualize how it will look inside and out. Frequently nurses are seen wandering about from room to room, locating where they will eventually place furniture and equipment. Student nurses select the rooms they hope to occupy. It will be satisfying indeed to have this new home, that will contribute much to the efficiency, happiness, and comfort of the school of nursing.

#### --NEWS NOTES--

If the good things with which our school year is starting are a promise of what we may expect, it is to be good indeed. It was the privilege of our students at the chapel hour Wednesday night to hear a brilliant lecture given by a charming speaker. Mrs. Elizabeth van Hesse of New York City, now a guest at our sanitarium, is a widely known speech teacher. She is also considerable of a philosopher and personality director, and among the speech calisthenics she gave us were tucked some valuable lessons of life that we shall not forget. "We are judged by what people see, what they hear, and what they feel." Posture and voice were stressed. "Nervous, worry, and fear" are three words that we should leave out of our speech. "You are as young as your courage, as old as your fear, as strong as your faith, as weak as your doubt." "You are the masterpiece of creation; you make your own limitations." With Mrs. van Hesse we repeated the following quotation from Epictetus until we believed it: "No fitter person could be found than I to do this work today." Mrs. van Hesse has made a great success of her own life and has contributed to the success of many others. Perhaps the most distinguished name on her alumni is the of Eleanor Roosevelt.

Pleasant entertainment was provided us recently by Mr. Gray McClintock, a naturalist who gives nature studies on the far North over WNNC. Films were shown that portrayed the interesting experience with beavers related by Grey Owl, a famous Indian conservationist, in his book "Tales of an Empty Cabin."



In the sanitarium register we find the names of a very interesting couple, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schlatermund. General Manager for the Near East of Universal Pictures Corporation, Mr. Schlatermund had his headquarters in Egypt until the war was carried into that country. They have been at the sanitarium two months and plan an indefinite stay. Mrs. Schlatermund is a graduate of the Royal School of Music in London, but the music is hushed these days by the sorrow in her heart. We admire the calm courage of this couple, who kept from their home by the vicissitudes of war, are adjusting themselves to life in a new land.

W. H. Bergherm, Home Missionary Secretary of the General Conference spoke at a recent chapel period and showed pictures of missionary work in South America.

We were glad to have as our guest recently Miss Clara M. J. Wangen, Superintendent of Nurses of the University of Virginia Hospital, Charlottesville, and her assistant Miss Doherty. This is the first visit any of the University Hospital staff has made to our school.

Miss Cordie Lee Smith, Class of 1939, who has been operating room and hospital supervisor during the past year, left Fletcher early in September for Washington Missionary College where she will continue her school work, majoring in nursing education. Her place was immediately filled by Miss Dorothy Hudson, Class of 1936, who has returned to her home school. Miss Hudson graduated from Washington Missionary College in 1939, receiving a B. S. degree in nursing education. We are glad to welcome her to our staff. She is most ably carrying the responsibility of supervisor in the hospital and the operating room.

The sanitarium and hospital have been filled to overflowing all summer. Every possible room was utilized, and then there has been a waiting list most of the time. We were glad to have many former guests return and are pleased to welcome the new. The average number of patients of the month of August was sixty-- the best month in the history of the institution. For a few hours, the patronage on one day rose to seventy-three.

Mr. Harold May has recently joined the medical staff at the sanitarium, assisting in the laboratory and x-ray departments. Mr. May is a graduate from Emmanuel Missionary College, and is rendering excellent service to the institution.

Another new member of the medical staff of the sanitarium and hospital is little Gary Martin Pearson, young son of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Pearson, who arrived on August thirteenth. Congratulations to the parents and welcome to the young man.

Mr. Kenneth Alexander, head of our men's physiotherapy department, recently completed the Red Cross Instructor's course as taught in Asheville by a representative from the American Red Cross in Washington, D. C. Mr. Alexander is now qualified to teach first aid courses in our own school.

Among recent guests were Mrs. Carrie Christiansen, Class of 1938, night supervisor at the Takoma Hospital, Greeneville, Tennessee, and Mrs. Louise Adkins-Lewis, Class of 1939, who came for nurses' commencement.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. James M. Brown of Savannah, Georgia, a daughter, Frances Elizabeth, on August fifteenth. Mrs. Brown will be remembered as Mary Dixon, a member of our first graduating class in 1933; to Mr. and Mrs. Alton Anderson a son, Alton Glenn, Mrs. Anderson was formerly Esther Fox, class of 1936; to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Premier, a daughter. Mrs. Premier was Marjory Mead, Class of 1935.



Doctors John R. and Linnie K. Black of Miami, old friends of the institution, have been guests on our campus the past week.

Vernon Lewis, who has spent the summer at home, has enrolled in Washington Missionary College for the coming year.

Our bride and groom, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Patterson, were honored with a shower Monday evening, September ninth on the lawn of the Wynn house. Mr. Patterson is in charge of our print shop. Mrs. Patterson was a graduate of the September class of Madison College. Their marriage took place at Madison the evening of September second. We warmly welcome this young couple to our school family.

Mr. and Mrs. John McQuade and their two little sons from Nashville, Tennessee, were recent callers. Mrs. McQuade, a former student, was known to us as Nettie McNeill.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Hodges, a bride and groom of the past week, spent a few hours on our campus. Mr. Hodges was a graduate of our high school in 1936. Our good wishes go to these young people.

We were glad to have as our recent guests for a few days Mr. and Mrs. Earl Case and Earl Junior, from Hinsdale, Illinois. Mr. Case, who was graduated with our first senior high school class, has recently completed his course in embalming, one of the twenty-five applicants to pass in the group of one-hundred-fifty who took the State Board examination in Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Alexander had as guests at their home recently Mrs. Alexander's parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Miller, their son, and two daughters from Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Mrs. Bernice La Rochelle, class of 1938, and her daughter, Patsy, visited our campus this week.

The Western North Carolina Fair Association opened its gates the past week for its first annual event, on its newly purchased grounds near Hendersonville. The agricultural and live stock exhibits indicated increasing interest and progress in these fields. The exhibits by the Future Farmers and 4 H clubs were specially good as were also the high school exhibits of vocational work. Our school attended the fair on students' day.

We are happy to announce that our Harvest Ingathering goal of \$800.00 has been reached.