



FLETCHER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER




O suns and skies and clouds of June,
And flowers of June together,
Ye can not rival for one hour
October's bright blue weather.




When loud the bumblebee makes haste,
Belated, thriftless vagrant,
And goldenrod is dying fast,
And lanes with grapes are fragrant;

When on the ground red apples lie
In piles like jewels shining,
And redder still on old stone walls
Are leaves of woodbine twining;

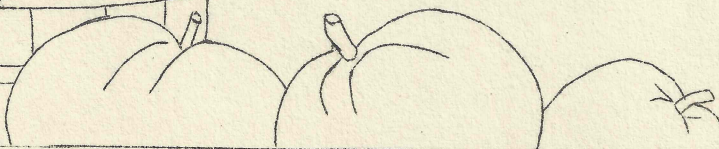
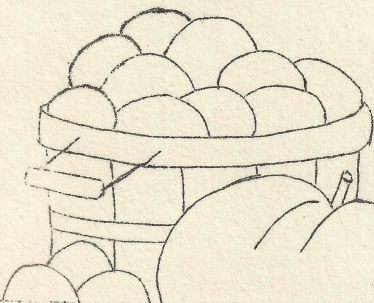


When springs run low, and in the brooks,
Idle golden freighting,
Bright leaves sink noiseless in the hush
Of woods, for winter waiting;



O suns and skies and flowers of June,
Count all your boasts together,
Love loveth best of all the year
October's bright blue weather.

---Helen Hunt Jackson



ASHEVILLE AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL AND MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM

Vol. XV, No. 4

Fletcher, North Carolina

October, 1947

NURSES' GRADUATION

There was a rush and a bustle in the direction of the operating room. Hurrying back to ascertain the occasion, I noted tears in the eyes of several nurses who were to graduate the evening of the next day. Before there was time to ask questions the stretcher carriage was ushered into the hospital hall, bearing a senior nurse. This was the reason for the hurry, for the tears. Miss Elsie Fildes must undergo an emergency operation. Eight class mates grieved, besides a sister, a twin sister. Miss Elvie, who said she just couldn't graduate without Elsie. Anyway, it was Friday afternoon. Consecration service was to be at 8:00 P. M., and the surgery must be done.

Nine nurses marched into the chapel that evening, and the following program bore a solemn message to all present:

Hymn -- "All Hail The Power of Jesus's Name"	Congregation
Invocation	Dr. Lew Wallace
Vocal Selection	Harriet Holman
Consecration Message	Elder A. J. Clark

The class response was given, as a group, in the song, "Not I, But Christ". Lights were off except the spot light on the nurses as they stood. Mrs. Boggs directed the song from the balcony. This was very impressive, and all present felt a renewed sense of consecration. Consecration prayer was offered by Elder Clark; "My Creed" was sung by Miss Ruth Faust, member of the class, and the benediction was pronounced by Mr. Glenn Marquis. Meanwhile, Miss Elsie Fildes was passing her first post-operative night. All were concerned about her.

The baccalaureate sermon was given next day by Elder W. J. Keith, pastor of the Atlanta Church.

All this was excellent, yet there was Elsie Fildes in Room 52 at the hospital, and graduation was at 8:30 P. M. At this appointed time, the chapel was filled to its capacity. A wheel chair was rolled into the chapel. Perchance some kind patient was coming to see the girls graduate. A patient, yes, but the member of the class who was operated upon the afternoon before. Pale, but brave, she walked to the platform and stood while the class photographs were taken. Then she sat in the wheel chair throughout the exercises of the evening.

Prof. W. E. Straw of Berrien Springs, Michigan, gave the commencement address. Music was furnished for the baccalaureate service and commencement evening by Mrs. S. B. Goodge; her daughter, Miss Sarah Ann Goodge; her son, Dr. Bayard Goodge; and son-in-law, Mr. Leland Straw, all of Little Creek School near Knoxville.

Miss Gertrude Philpott, president of the class, presented the gift, a well-equipped surgical carriage.

Mrs. Marguerite Wallace, director of nurses, introduced the class:

Gertrude Philpott, President, California
Elsie Fildes, Vice President, Kentucky
Mildred Bendall, Secretary-Treasurer, Virginia
Elvie Fildes, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Kentucky
Ruth Faust, Washington, D. C.
Katherine Kerpits, New Jersey
Carrie Reel, North Carolina
Dean Taylor, Oklahoma

The diplomas were presented by Dr. Lew Wallace, medical director of the Mountain Sanitarium and Hospital. Miss Ostine Whisnant, educational director of nurses, presented the class pins. Dr. Ulloth offered the closing prayer, and the class went forth to put into practice their class motto: "Not I, but Christ", and their class aim: "Service".

---Annie E. Witt

HONORABLE MENTION

One member of this class, we feel, rates honorable mention. In 1942 Miss Carrie Reel, of Marion, North Carolina, entered training. Having completed two years of her work in our school, Miss Reel went with her class to Charlottesville in 1944. Before finishing her affiliation she was stricken by illness and forced to give up and return home. During the next two years Miss Reel fought and won a battle against disease. The past year, entirely restored in health, she returned to complete her training and graduate. Our hats are off to the plucky young nurse.

September first we went about our usual campus activities, working in the many departments of the place, each performing our usual tasks, calling a greeting now and then to those whose trails we crossed. Down at the pharmacy Chauncey Smith worked all day as was his custom, then closed and locked the door and went to his home on the mountainside. Two hours later the Summons had come, and one of us had finished his work.

Mr. Smith, a well-trained pharmacist, had come to Fletcher nearly ten years ago with his wife, Mrs. Edith Wallace-Smith, a sister of Dr. Lew Wallace, from Loma Linda, where he had spent twenty years in the Department of Bacteriology in the College of Medical Evangelists. During their years at Fletcher, Mrs. Smith assisted her husband in his work.

The funeral was held in our chapel on the following Tuesday, Elder A. J. Clark conducting the service, assisted by Mr. F. G. Hibben and Mr. A. A. Jaspersen. Always a beautiful room, the chapel formed a lovely setting for the large number of floral pieces sent by relatives and friends, the soft organ music by Mrs. Boggs, and appropriate songs by the student nurses in uniform. Pall bearers were: Mr. C. G. Marquis, Mr. Edgar A. Hanson, Mr. J. E. Lewis, Mr. Lewis E. Nestell, Mr. T. C. Lowder, Mr. Fred Sego.

Interment was made at Oak Lawn Cemetery at Hendersonville. Mr. Smith is survived by his widow and a son, Dr. Chauncey Lew Smith, of Los Angeles, who came by plane for the funeral.

Mrs. Smith will leave us to join her son in the West. We share with her the loss that has come to her, and we shall miss her very much.

Alabama

Agee, Dorothy June
Ammons, Bob
Fricks, Mary Jane
Hammond, Carolyn
Henderson, Eva
Veazey, Eugene

Connecticut

Betty Dempsey

Florida

Hardy, Hope
Johnson, Charlotte
Parker, Wilma
Price, Jack
Straight, William
Taylor, Eloise
Twombly, Clarence
Westbrook, Patricia

Georgia

Allen, Barbara Ann
Harris, Betty
Kenyon, Gerald
Lloyd, Ann
Sacramo, Conchetta

Kentucky

Cruse, Roger
Wheeler, Gayle

Maryland

Bailey, William
Haviland, Wanda
Haviland, Wilmer

Minnesota

Kohoutek, Kenneth

Mississippi

Bishop, Charles
Chastain, Margaret
Everett, Edwin
Everett, Joan
Stevens, Virginia

New Jersey

Harvey, Carol
VanGinhoven, Daniel
VanGinhoven, Donald

Virginia

Aitchison, Samuel

North Carolina

Boggs, Lois
Bonnette, Aletha
Campbell, Clayton
Carey, Martha
Carter, Jack
Cecil, Charles
Conibear, Mary Lou
Cranford, Alyse
Danner, Charles
Frye, Jo Ann
Geisinger, Barbara
Goodner, Carol
Goodner, Travis
Hanson, Edwin
Hensley, Clyde
Herbert, Glen
Hudgins, Joyce
Johnston, Marshall
Jorgenson, Eugene
Lowder, Minnie
Maxwell, Albert
Mosteller, Phyllis
Oliver, John
Pennington, Mary Frances
Reese, Elizabeth
Smith, Charles
Teague, Ruby
Wallace, Carleton
Watkins, Jo Ellen
Wilson, Benita
Woodall, Peggy
Wynn, Raymond

Ohio

Draper, Joyce
Mathews, Phyllis

Oklahoma

King, Lynelle

Pennsylvania

Akers, Thelma

South Carolina

Abbott, Betty Jo

Tennessee

Carrier, Robert
Elrod, Chester
Elrod, Vester
Knight, Gloria

STEPPING UP

Hardly had our senior nurses finished their commencement program when the new senior class was on the way to Charlottesville for their nine months of affiliation in the University of Virginia Hospital. They number five: Hazel Hensley, Kathleen Moak, Marthine Bliss, Ida Crawford, Queenie Keefe. Guided by the experience of others who have gone before them, the girls do not find it too hard to slip into their places in the big hospital. They write that they are happy.

Last year's freshmen stepped up to the role of juniors and left their places to the new class that had begun their studies last July. They are: Dorothy Akers, Alice Collins, Ruth Huffaker, Hesper Hughes, Edna Justice, Joyce Linderman, Lois Lowder, Moya Odelia, Martha Pratt, Virginia Spooner, Earline Stougard, Marie Veltman.

BACK TO BOYHOOD

An interesting visitor on our campus a few weeks ago was Mr. J. F. Byers, who with his wife came up from St. Petersburg, Florida, for a visit with Hendersonville relatives. Mr. and Mrs. Byers had dinner with us in our Big House, which was Mr. Byer's home before his father sold it for a school. He remembered how proud they were of their new house when the family moved in just before Christmas in 1885. Specially were they proud of the French window a recently introduced architectural feature of the time. He was happy to see the big walnut tree and the mill stones.

Mrs. Smith took him to the basement to see the fruit cellar, which did not, he says, have a ghost in it. He inquired about the old well site and traced the old roads. Mr. Byers was pleased with the appearance of the place, and we were pleased to have Mr. and Mrs. Byers come to see us.

NURSES' ALUMNI MEETS

The meeting held by the graduates of our school of nursing at the time of commencement was the best attended of any gathering the organization has held. The Class of '46 was best represented: Gertrude Carlson, Katherine Acker-Marfield, Josephine Clayburn, Joyce Howell-Marquis and Helen Self, who was elected president. From the Class of '45 there were Edith Westbrook-Lauer, and Ora Lee Mashburn. From the Class of '43 there was Worthie Possenger-Lewis. Gwendolyn Peters-Jacperson represented the Class of '42. There were two members of the Class of '41, Catherine Scroggin-Fulweiler and Kate Hutchinson-Crowder. A dinner was held in the Big House parlor.

H O L I D A Y

The newspapers of our section are pridefully calling attention to the October number of HOLIDAY. The comment of the journals is all approving. Taking a cue from the pages of the mighty, the Fletcher Newsletter too would express our pride

and genuine pleasure in this number that features North Carolina so handsomely. The Curtis Company is offering us no commission, but Fletcher students who care to make a trip to the news-stand may get a bit of a thrill to walk the streets of Asheville again, boat ride on Lake Lure, or rest their eyes on Carolina mountain views. The affiliating nurses will probably start squealing when they see the swinging bridge over the South Toe River.

TEMPERANCE RALLY

Our chapel service Tuesday evening, September 23, was given over to the presentation of temperance problems, local and national. We had with us three guest speakers. Mrs. J. C. Sales, president of the Fletcher Chapter of the W.C.T.U. introduced Mrs. James R. Hare, Asheville district president, who spoke very effectively and earnestly on the subject. She in turn introduced Mrs. W. H. Causey, state secretary of promotion for the W.C.T.U. Speaking to a group of people who stand firmly on a temperance platform, the ladies directed their efforts to suggestions of ways we can help a cause in which we so thoroughly believe. We greatly appreciated the visit of these earnest Christian workers.

YOUTH'S CONGRESS

Miss Ann Morgan, junior nurse in our school of nursing, has just returned from the West Coast where she represented the young people of the Fletcher Seventh-day Adventist Church at a National Youth's Congress in San Francisco. Miss Morgan whose home is at Skyland, was one of 12,000 delegates from the United States and Canada. The Congress marked the 40th anniversary of the organization of the Young Peoples' Missionary Volunteer Department of the Church. Miss Morgan reports a very interesting trip across the continent and a most inspirational meeting.

NURSES' FIELD TRIP

At last the long awaited day arrived. Five senior nurses who had been up early to assemble our lunch were ready and waiting when Mrs. Jasperson and her son, Mr. Bob, came to pick us up for a tour of the mountains of Western North Carolina.

After the first little gust of chatter blew over, we were reminded that we were a sociology class out to view the "problems of the rural South" at first hand. Soil erosion, one of the most serious threats to American civilization, was evident on too many of our hills. This waste of economic resources is the basis of human waste. On the porch of too many cabin homes the men folks were "a-sittin" while the land behind the house was wasting away. We did notice, however, that nearly every house, prosperous or otherwise, had its beds of brightly colored flowers to add a touch of refining beauty.

Queenie exclaimed, "Oh, look at the swinging bridge!" There it was stretched high across the South Toe River, beckoning us to adventure. We took pictures of the crossing.

Our first objective was the Penland School of Handicrafts, a nationally known center of handicrafts, metal work, weaving, pottery making, that draws a large number of students interested in occupational therapy, vocational training, and crafts for personal pleasure. From a small beginning twenty years ago, the institution has developed into the largest of its kind in America. Its guiding genius is Miss Lucy Morgan, sometimes called, "Miss Penland", who received us graciously and showed us around. We noticed seven cars parked near the school, each bearing the license of a different state. In forty mountain homes in the community, women are weaving, delivering their finished product to the school, which markets for them. Thus does the school augment the cash income of the community.

Spruce Pine, where we stopped for a short time is in the heart of the mining district of Western North Carolina. There the mining and processing of mica is chiefly centered. Feldspar is very bountiful and also kaolin. The presence of these minerals has brought to the section large processing plants. This field of industry was greatly developed during the war and brought prosperity to Yancey County.

Out by the roadside we picked out a grassy plot under the over-hanging branches of a large poplar and spread our lunch which tasted so good, and when we got our drinking cups slightly mixed we debated the germ theory. Which would overcome-- Marthine's "puny germs" or Mrs. Jasperson's "educated germs"?

Our next stop was at Crossmore School where we found many buildings, some old, some new, some not yet completed. They were all empty, the paths lonely, the school bell silent, waiting for the two hundred children who would arrive the next week to put life into the scene. We are sure there will be no dull moment for the matron who presides over that kitchen where all the work will be done this year by boys. Many people will forever be grateful to Dr. Mary Martin Sloop for her largeness of heart and self-sacrificing endeavors for children.

"Why", someone asked, "is there a need for such a school in a state with a good school system?" Really no school work is done; the children attend the fine consolidated twelve grade State school at the foot of the hill. It is, therefore, a home where children can be cared for whose homes are inadequate because of death of a parent or economic insufficiency from one cause or another. It is a mountain community, a high mountain community 3400 feet above sea level, where the school bus program frequently cannot function in winter for weeks at a time because of bad roads. The \$5.00 a week paid by the children for food, shelter, laundry, is paid by the barter system, or not - we happen to know - paid at all by some families who just can't do it.

Over at the edge of the school campus, over-looking the rugged mountains and valleys, we found a thirty-bed hospital, Duke endowed, to which come the poor and sick of the mountain community. There, too, many a lusty young Tar Heel has first seen the light of day. There are two doctors, a dentist, a nurse, and several nurse aides to render a fine service to a community that so greatly needs them.

Near "the end of a perfect day" we stopped briefly at the Hilton Pottery. We were sorry to find that Mr. Hilton's ill health had practically stopped production of the beautiful brown pottery with white dogwood design, but we enjoyed Mrs. Hilton's exquisite hand-made china dolls, so quaintly dressed.

As the sun dropped behind the western mountains we headed toward home, singing songs, and thinking seriously of all we had seen that day. There is so much to be done. "Whom shall we send, and who will go for us?" It may be we who should answer, "Here am I".

N E W S

Mrs. Rittie J. Smith went to Washington on September fifth to be present at the marriage of her daughter, Cordie Lee, to Mr. Robert M. Montgomery. Cordie Lee came to school at Fletcher while still in the grade school. She was graduated from the high school in 1936 and from our school of nursing in 1939. Since her graduation she has held supervisory positions at the Washington Sanitarium and the Doctors' Hospital at Washington, D. C. Our sincere good wishes go to Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery for every happiness.

Miss Irma Louise O'Kain, a graduate of last year's academy class, was married to Mr. Raymond E. Brooks at the Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church at Nashville, Tennessee, Sunday evening, October 19. Our congratulations!

Very interesting letters have come from Miss Martha Hanson, whose departure for mission work in South Africa was noted in the last Newsletter. Miss Hanson crossed the Atlantic by plane. She finds everything about her new field of labor very interesting. For those who may wish to write Miss Hanson - and the tone of her letters invites correspondence - we give her address: Nokuphilla Hospital, Western Native Township, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Hodges with their two children, Karen and Michael, spent their vacation with Mrs. Hodges's parents at Toronto, Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Graves announce the birth of their daughter, Barbara Sue, at Birmingham, Alabama, on September 11. One more alumni baby!

The marriage of Miss Ruth Peterson to Mr. Evan William Richards took place at Floral Crest Church at Long Island, Alabama, September 14. Ruth was graduated from our high school in 1939 and from our school of nursing in 1943. Mr. and Mrs. Richards are living on the campus of Southern Missionary College where both are enrolled in the college. Our school and sanitarium send congratulations!

Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Lowder, who have just returned from a vacation trip that took them to Worthington, Toledo, Berrien Springs, and Chicago, have brought news of a number of our old students that some readers will want to hear. Of course, they visited their daughter, Mrs. Carlton Hunt, at Berrien Springs, who works in a doctor's office at Niles, Michigan, and keeps house for her G. I. husband in their trailer on the college campus. Enrolled in the college they found Alfred Jorgenson, one of our campus sons, majoring in science, of course. William Johnson, majoring in agriculture, two others of our boys majoring in theology, Jack Carey, and Charles Arnold, Class of '43. Jack has only six hours of work to finish his course. He and his wife and little Jack are living on the campus. It was good to hear from him again. Charles Arnold, whom Fletcher students called "Con", has still two years in college. He also has acquired a wife and a little girl. Both of these young men say they will be ready for work in the