

A. M. A.

Schools, Colleges, Stations

SCHOOLS

AVERY INSTITUTE	<i>Charleston, S. C.</i>	JOHN F. POTTS, <i>Director</i>
COTTON VALLEY SCHOOL	<i>Tuskegee, Ala.</i>	ALICE B. DONALDSON, <i>Director</i>
FESSENDEN ACADEMY	<i>Martin, Fla.</i>	JOHN A. BUGGS, <i>Director</i>
LINCOLN ACADEMY	<i>Kings Mountain, N. C.</i>	EDGAR D. WILSON, <i>Director</i>
LINCOLN SCHOOL	<i>Marion, Ala.</i>	RALPH H. MARTIN, <i>Director</i>
PLEASANT HILL ACADEMY	<i>Pleasant Hill, Tenn.</i>	WALTER A. MUELLER, <i>Director</i>
TRINITY SCHOOL	<i>Athens, Ala.</i>	W. JUDSON KING, <i>Director</i>

COLLEGES

DILLARD UNIVERSITY	<i>New Orleans 19, La.</i>	ALBERT W. DENT, <i>President</i>
LEMOYNE COLLEGE	<i>Memphis 6, Tenn.</i>	HOLLIS F. PRICE, <i>President</i>
TALLADEGA COLLEGE	<i>Talladega, Ala.</i>	A. D. BEITTEL, <i>President</i>
TILLOTSON COLLEGE	<i>Austin 22, Texas</i>	WILLIAM H. JONES, <i>President</i>
TOUGALOO COLLEGE	<i>Tougaloo, Miss.</i>	JUDSON L. CROSS, <i>President</i>
FISK UNIVERSITY <i>Department of Social Science</i>	<i>Nashville, Tenn.</i>	CHARLES S. JOHNSON, <i>Director</i>

OTHER STATIONS

BRICK RURAL LIFE SCHOOL	<i>Bricks, N. C.</i>	NEILL A. MCLEAN, <i>Director</i>
DORCHESTER COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY	<i>McIntosh, Ga.</i>	CLAUDIUS A. TURNER, <i>Director</i>
FLINT-GOODRIDGE HOSPITAL	<i>New Orleans, La.</i>	

During its century of service the A.M.A. has founded nearly 500 schools and colleges which were later turned over to state and local boards of education as rapidly as public authorities would accept their responsibility for the education of Negro young people.



EDUCATION

in the highlands

WALTER A. MUELLER

MANY fine things have been written about the charms of rural life.

The truth remains, however, that much rural life on small, poor farms in isolated sections of the United States is still tough, lonely and unlovely. Rural regions have their slums, their delinquent children, their poverty-ridden homes as surely as do the cities. The "neglected one-third" of our nation lives in the mountains of the southern highlands as well as on the east side of New York.

To help make life in the southern mountains more attractive, Pleasant Hill Academy was founded by the American Missionary Association in 1884. Dr. Benjamin Dodge, known as "Father Dodge," launched the young institution on a basis of strict discipline and high academic standards. Students "worked their way" then, as they do now. Throughout the years emphasis has been on a practical type of education with particular attention to the meaning of good citizenship. Students are trained for better living, not primarily for college, although college preparatory work is



Earl Clark
Eckert Montardos

provided for those planning such training.

The school day is planned for work, study, worship and play. Sessions run from eight o'clock in the morning until four-thirty in the afternoon. During this time each student devotes two hours to work which helps maintain the necessities of our common life. The girls prepare and serve the meals under the direction of a trained dietician; they work in the laundry, serve as housekeepers in the school buildings, get training in the operation of the school store and work as nurses' aides at nearby Uplands Hospital. The boys work on the school farm, in the dairy, in the print shop and help with the maintenance of the grounds and buildings. School and farm are a laboratory for learning.

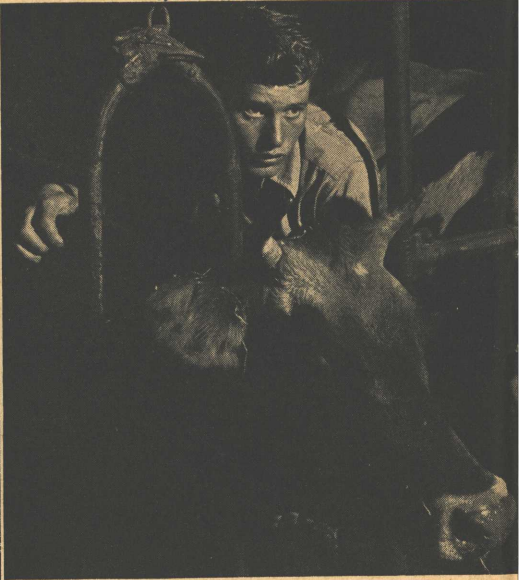
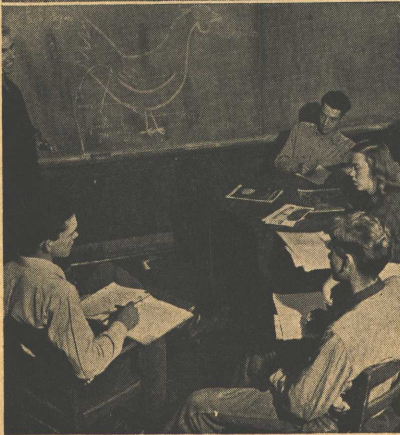
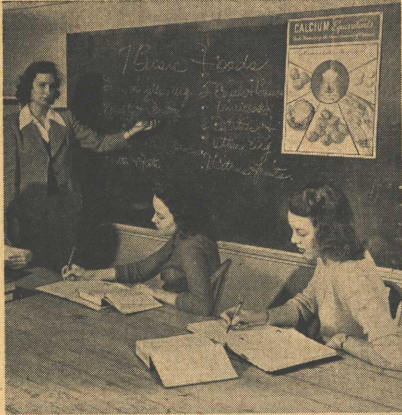
Among the great gifts of mountain people to America are the arts and crafts which have been handed down from past generations. The Academy's art department helps make youth aware of this gift and creates a cultural pride in the soul of the artist. It gives new beauty and meaning to life itself through the preservation of this beauty. Art students carry into their own homes the beauty which the school has helped them to find. Since art is basically cleanliness and form, line and color, homes are much more attractive. They let in more light and fresh air in order that the carving, the woven fabric or the handmade furniture may have a home to match its beauty. In many cases, this calls for the remodeling of a house or even an altogether new house. Help in making plans and in actual construction may be obtained from the manual training department.

Life is also play. There are excellent facilities for athletics and social activities in the Ohio Building, with its basketball and volley ball courts, and with its stage for dramatic and musical programs. The traditional folk dances and ballads of the mountain people have become an integral part of school life. New forms are added as some old-timer remembers a song or dance of his youth.

From four-thirty until eight-thirty every evening, students are free to engage in creative hobbies and activities of their own choosing. Interest groups under faculty guidance include model airplane building, woodworking, dramatics, journalism, first aid, choir and free reading in the school library. Every possible



Herbert Heltz



encouragement is given to the development of recreational interests of permanent value, for there can be no satisfying rural life without constructive leisure time activities.

One of the school's problems is to bridge the gap between the family life nature of the students living in the dormitory, the day students who come and go and who so often feel left out of things, and the community as a whole. Some headway is being made toward a solution of this problem. With the lengthening of the school day and the development of more kinds of experiences and work periods better adapted to the psychological ages of the students, community young people are now enabled to participate in the work program as part of their schooling. Thus they receive the same discipline and training in steadying habits. The creative hobby hours, open to everyone, bring many young people back to the school when the home chores are done. There are fewer

idle hands at Pleasant Hill now.

The basic struggle of the adults is for bread and butter. It takes more than "forty acres and a mule" to provide a satisfying rural life. Considerable time is therefore given by the Pleasant Hill staff to the encouragement of farmers' coöperatives and credit unions and to the development of improved methods of farming. The average farm in Cumberland County, Tennessee, is only seventy acres. No farm so small can maintain a tractor, a harvester combine, a potato digger or a sprayer.

The answer has been found in the Pleasant Hill Farmers' Coöperative which now owns and operates every one of the farm machines mentioned above. Twenty-three farmers of the surrounding communities are members of the coöperative. An extension of its activities is contemplated in the purchase of seeds and fertilizer and in the marketing of farm products such as beans, potatoes, cattle and hogs.

What is the place of religion in this program? There has been no scarcity of preachers in the mountains. But they have traditionally interpreted religion in narrow, other-worldly and sectarian terms. The effect of world-shaking events is now drawing the people of the mountains into the main stream of the world's life. Whether the young people will see in their world merely "an oyster to be pried open by the strongest hands," or "a place for service in the kingdom of God," will depend in large measure upon the vitality of their religious life. At Pleasant Hill we include religious worship and Bible study as a part of the curriculum, but we also stress wholesome daily living as the clue to genuine Christianity.

Mr. Mueller was for seven years the minister of Stanley Congregational Church in Chatham, New Jersey and is now Principal of Pleasant Hill Academy.

