

1944

PIONEERING IN THE CUMBERLANDS



THE STORY OF

Pleasant Hill Academy

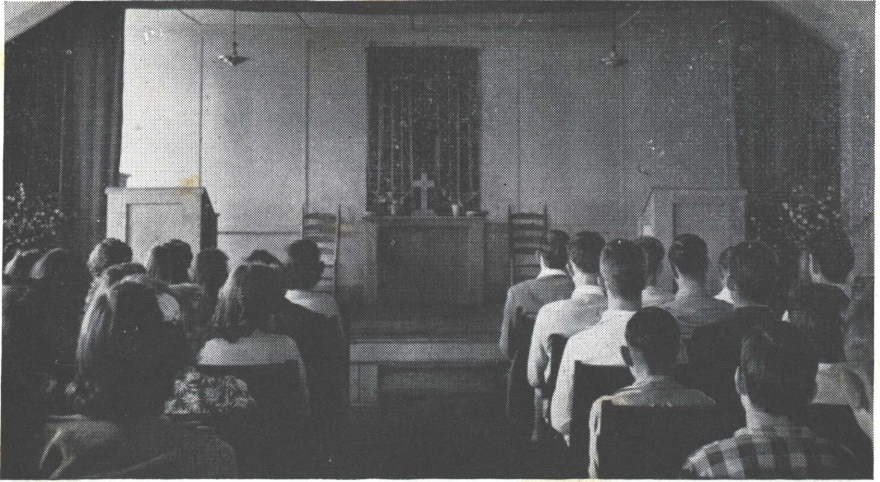
ON ITS

60th Anniversary

For 60 years Pleasant Hill Academy has been meeting the changing needs of the people in this part of the mountains. This school was founded at a time when there were few other schools on this seemingly unpromising mountain. With the discovery that the land on this "Sand Mountain" could be cultivated, agriculture has increased and communities have come into existence. Though unable to maintain schools from the available tax income, the state has underwritten rural schools and also those in small town communities. Despite this fact, there are large numbers of young people in this mountain section who do not have access to secondary schools. For them, to a considerable extent, this school is maintained. All the other schools supported by various denominations have either closed or changed their basis, becoming public schools.

But the "formal" school program, informal though it may be, does not alone justify the continuance of such an enterprise. A genuine community school serves all of the community. It is the policy of this school to aid and encourage all manner of activities which will improve the life of a community. This booklet will tell something of these activities.

It is our purpose to reveal in every phase of the life of this school its fundamental religious basis. Though conducted by the Congregational and Christian Churches, there is no desire to proselyte. With but few exceptions, the children who come to this school come from other denominations. It is our desire that our students take responsible and intelligent part in the life of the churches with which they are affiliated.



CHAPEL SCENE

The "Pioneer Church"—Student-Faculty Church developed this service furniture in collaboration with the Art Department. Pioneer Church provides students with opportunity for governing their own formal religious activities.

Below is a scene from the first wedding performed at the Academy during the school year. The entire school participated in the arrangements for the marriage of these recent graduates. In a region where most marriages are performed by civil authorities, it is noteworthy that our students are coming to recognize the religious significance of the marriage ceremony and that the school chapel is a fitting place for such a service.





THANKSGIVING DINNER

A school dining room offers excellent educational opportunities, experience in the fine art of social intercourse, as well as appreciation of a balanced diet. Special occasions such as the one pictured above increase the value of the total experience.

The preparation of all the food, the buying, planning and serving are a part of the Home Economics program.



PRACTICAL HOME ECONOMICS



GRADUATION DRESSES IN THE MAKING

The word "practical" can be used in describing most phases of the life at Pleasant Hill. Another description would be "making the most out of resources at hand."

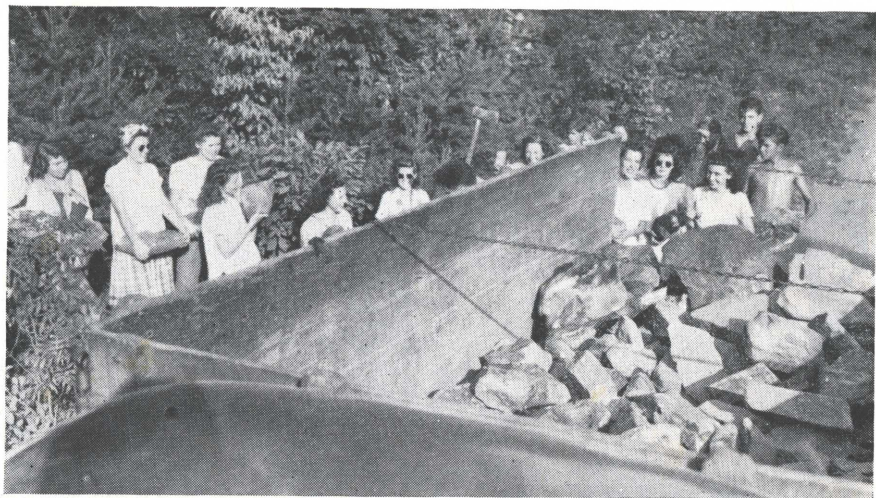
Below is a presentation of clothing made in Home Economics classes. Training in selection of materials, colors, styles goes along with improved skills.





SAVING THE BEAN CROP—CO-EDUCATIONALLY

As in a family each works for the welfare of the whole group, so, in such a school as this, the labor of each student benefits the lives of all. There are times when everyone must pitch in to meet an emergency or to provide for a common need.



STONE (Free for the Gathering) FOR A NEW BRIDGE



On Monday ("Work Day") twenty girls, two boys, whirling pulleys, motors, belts, washing machine, escaping steam are proof that doing the washing for a whole school is a big job. Each afternoon of the rest of the week is almost the same.





STUDENT OWNED COOPERATIVE STORE

"There's more in this than meets the eye." While adults are benefiting from the cooperative ownership of farm machinery and buying stock feed together their children learn the values of buying and selling cooperatively. School supplies, snack materials, fruit, candy and soft drinks, constitute the stock. A sharp eye upon the patronage dividends keeps the manager alert. Much of the freshman mathematics is built around the store operation.

A TYPICAL SCENE IN THE MUCH-USED "SHOP"



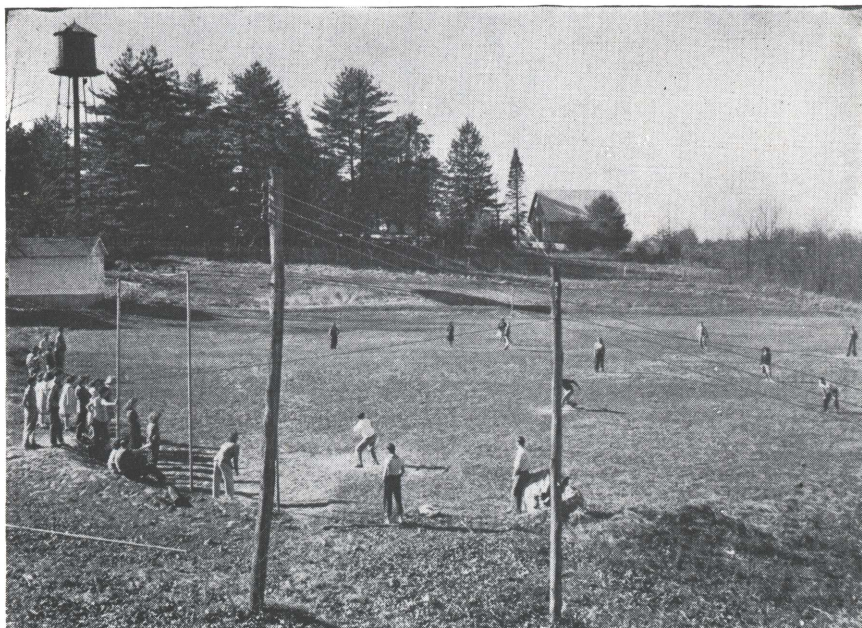


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Years of effort finally levelled this gully and provided an easily accessible athletic field. Organized group play is a new experience for many youth in this area. Capable recreation and physical education leaders have made invaluable contributions.

Some distance from the school the stream which begins near Pleasant Hill widens to provide this enticing "Swimming Hole."

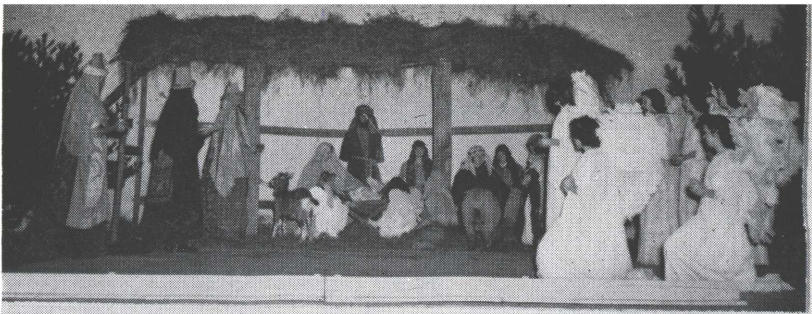




Beautifying the campus of the school benefits those who live and visit here, but it also encourages students and neighbors to improve surroundings. The Horticulture Crew is recognized for its results and its industry.

Cane corn from the school farm becomes useful and tasty syrup for use during the rest of the year.





CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADUATION PLAY



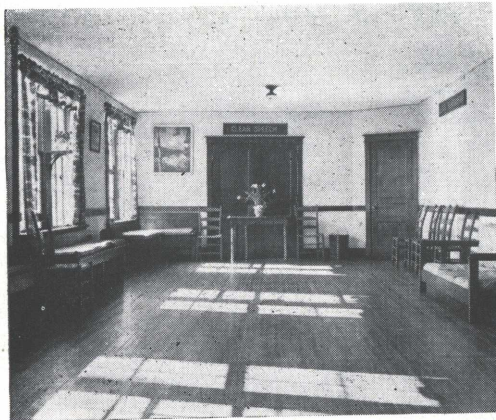
THE PATCHWORK QUILT"-DRAMA CLUB PLAY





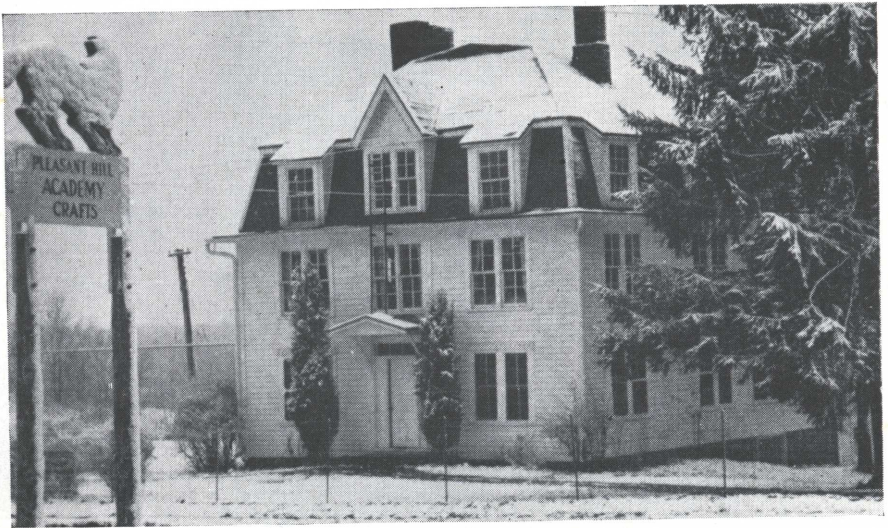
The Crafts Program of Pleasant Hill Academy has sought to stimulate interest in the native skills of mountain people. These skills and their products are a rich part of American life. Adults of the region are encouraged to develop the products in which they are interested. Students have the opportunity to become as proficient as talent permits. The Crafts work is one of the ways in which students may help to earn their school expenses.

Below is the parlor of the Boys' Dormitory—reconditioned by the students of the art class.





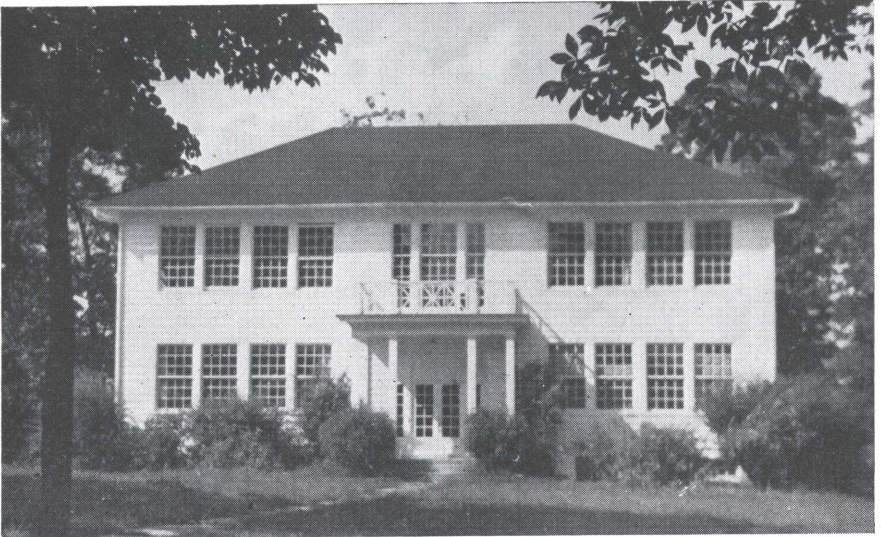
Libraries are rare in the mountains. Eight cents per person is the average library expenditure in the Appalachian area as against the one dollar per person recommended by the American Library Association. School libraries will be the means of increasing reading desires in the mountains . . . The small but well directed library of Pleasant Hill Academy is performing an invaluable service both to this school and ultimately to a much wider area. Students receive excellent training in library procedures under skilled direction.



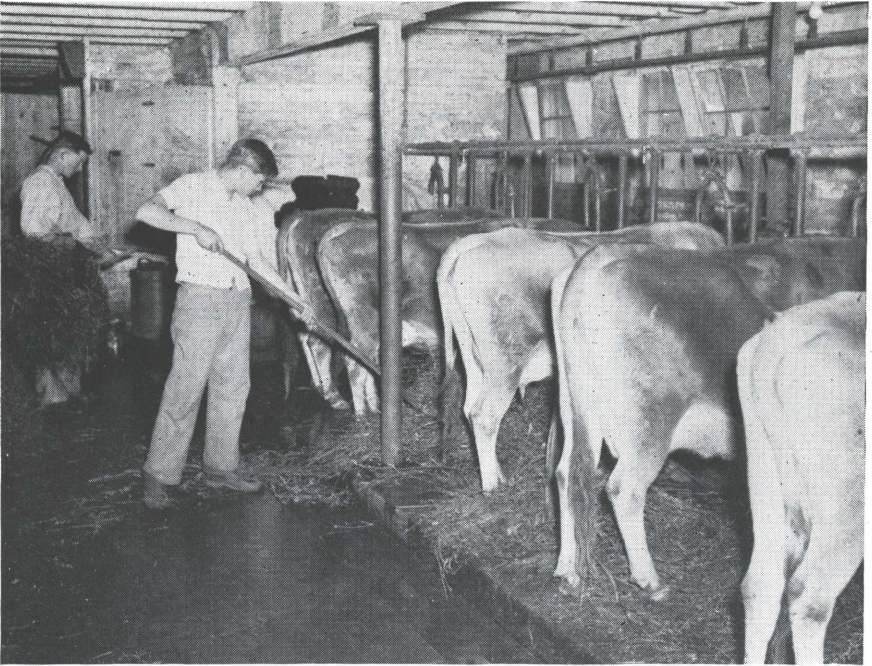
**"PIONEER"—HOME ECONOMICS AND CRAFTS CLASSES MEET
HERE—SCHOOL OFFICE AND "TEMPORARY" SALESROOM**



Though much of the education in such a school inevitably takes place outside the classroom, regular classes are held in all subjects required by certifying agencies. Only through classroom experience can some of the much needed aspects of a person's education take place.



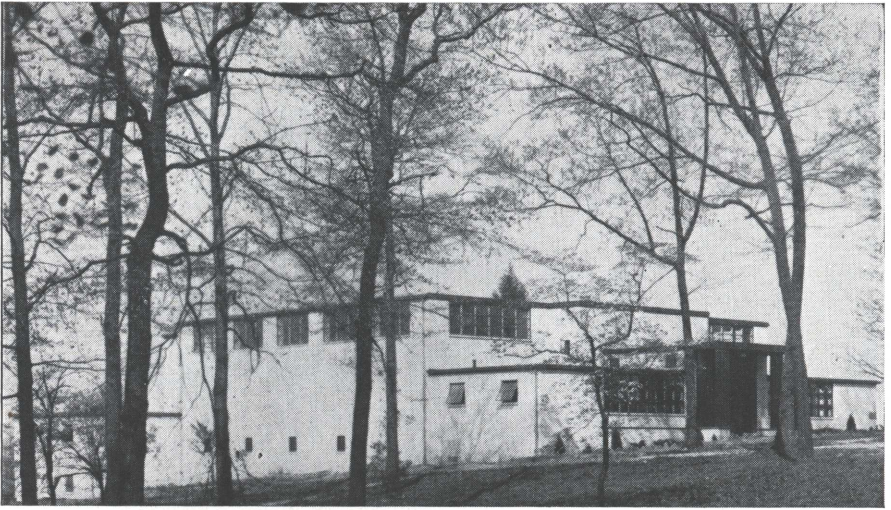
HOPKINS HALL—CLASSROOM BUILDING



This herd, which we are constantly seeking to improve, provides excellent dairying experience for students and an experimental herd for our area.

The presence of an Army captain veterinarian doing a post mortem on one of our cows made a golden opportunity for agriculture and biology classes.





OHIO BUILDING

This attractive and serviceable building, provided by the women of Ohio, has been a tremendous boon to the life of the school. Housing the gymnasium and two classrooms, it has come into almost constant use.

In the Ohio Building is the Print Shop shown below—rejuvenated by interested students and now in full production.





FOLK SONG PERIOD

This scene took place in the Ohio Building at the time of the service of dedication for the newly acquired piano. The preservation of the rich folk music of the mountains constitutes a responsibility which Pleasant Hill Academy shares with other mountain institutions. This music is an indigenous part of American life and along with the folk dances and singing games represents a part of American life at its best.

Below—one of the travelling Folk Teams.

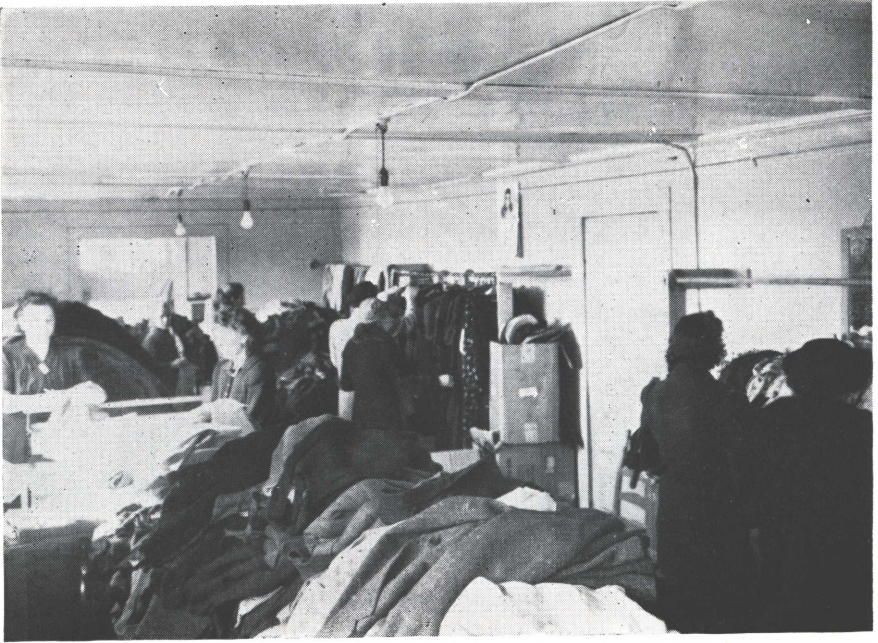


PREPARING WINTER FOOD FOR MAN AND BEAST



These vegetables mean food for the year ahead. From here they go to the cannery. By summer labor students gain invaluable experience as a part of their total education and also earn a considerable portion of the amount needed for the year's expense. These students and other canning crews put up about 9,000 quarts.





"THE SALES ROOM"

"One of the most useful institutions on the Cumberland Plateau"—the Pleasant Hill Academy Salesroom. It provides needed clothing for neighbors and needed income for the school and its work.

Despite the disastrous fire with results shown below, business is again being conducted. Clothing of all sorts can be used.

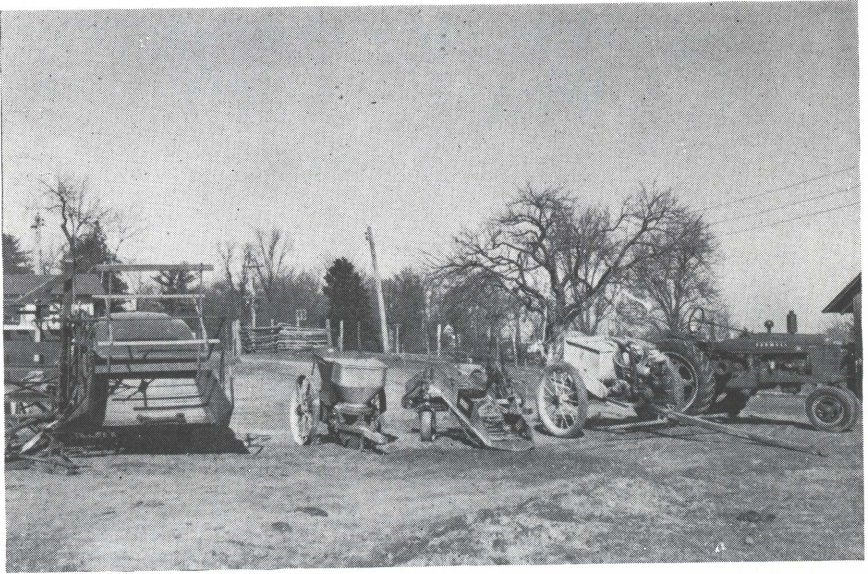


JANUARY 5, 1944



A real school works for the best interests of the whole community. The astonishing array of farm machinery below is owned cooperatively by the families represented in this picture. With great apprehension the first piece was acquired (a "combine"). A separate organization was formed for each implement. Now all are owned by a corporation composed of those having an interest in any of the machinery. The results have been encouraging. For example, potato acreage was quadrupled in one year. Much land, otherwise lying idle, has been cleared and put into cash crops. Families have enjoyed better incomes. But above all, neighbors have learned to work together with increased satisfaction.





CO-OPERATIVELY OWNED FARM MACHINERY



WEEKLY FEED GRINDING FOR COMMUNITY
A Neighborly Service Performed by the School



BOYS' DORMITORY

Pleasant Hill Academy has been unfortunate in its housing facilities. The Boys' Dormitory was built by a contractor who used inadequate materials. This nice-looking building soon disintegrated.

The Girls' Dormitory, built 60 years ago, has been patched endlessly. It was never intended for modern plumbing and electricity. Among the replacements of the American Missionary Association Schools this appears on the "must" list.



GIRLS' DORMITORY



The Singing Games and Folk Dances of the Mountains constitute a major form of recreation both in the school and in the community.



THE SENIOR CLASS OF 1944



HOT LUNCHES—ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



JUNIOR CLASS



SOPHOMORE CLASS



FRESHMAN CLASS



HOME MADE FENCE AROUND "PROMISED LAND"



Believing in the type of work Pleasant Hill Academy is doing for people of all ages on the Cumberland Plateau, I would like to make the following gift:

Name _____

Address _____

Further information is desired on the following: _____
