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Southern Industrial Educational Association

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Southern Industrial Educational Association (Inc.)

(NON-SECTARIAN)

Organized to Promote Industrial Education of the
Children of the Southern Mountains

HEADQUARTERS AND EXCHANGE FOR MOUNTAIN CRAFTS
1228 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C.

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Southern Mountain Workers' Conference.

Work for the young people of the mountains was the feature of the thirteenth annual program of the Conference of Southern Mountain workers held in Knoxville, Tenn., on March 17, 18 and 19. All sessions were open to the public. About two hundred delegates, representing most of the schools in Appalachian America, attended the conference.

The program was planned and executed by Mrs. John C. Campbell, of West Medford, Mass., the executive secretary of the conference. Mrs. Campbell is intimately acquainted with the mountains and with the characteristics of the "hill folk," for she has worked among them, helped them, and given her whole faculties to understanding them. With her husband, the late John C. Campbell, author of "The Southern Highlander and His Homeland," and one of the foremost authorities on the Southern Appalachian region, she has traveled extensively throughout the nine states embraced by the Southern Mountain Workers' Conference. As was her husband, Mrs. Campbell is connected with the Russell Sage Foundation.

Outstanding Accomplishments.

In summarizing the accomplishments of the thirteenth conference, Mrs. Campbell said that one of the most outstanding was the development of a freer type of education, breaking away from the more standardized forms and adapted to the needs of individual communities. "We feel," Mrs. Campbell said, "that one of the greatest goods that has accrued from the conference is the greater understanding among the various boards and workers in the field. This has been quite helpful in a practical way. At the time the conference was organized thirteen years ago the different workers in the mountains hardly knew that other workers existed. Each man and woman saw his or her problem as something entirely individual and peculiar. They had no idea of the existence of the different agencies which were hard at work in the different sections.

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"Now we realize that each locality has certain peculiarities. We are dealing, in our way, with the rural problems that are confronting the whole United States. We recognize the fact that we have a distinct problem of rural economics, of county church work, of rural hygiene, and of recreation, and we are gradually finding out how to make use of the knowledge gathered in all parts of the country that applies in any way to our own situation."

Mrs. Campbell told of the use of the adaptation of Danish folk schools to the Southern mountains. "Through this we hope to make a real contribution to other sections," she added.

An Exchange Bureau.

"One of the most important things the conference has done," she added, "is to show that the different boards of the churches and denominational groups can work together in a program of this nature. The conference, as such, pledges itself to no set statements of doctrine. It is simply an exchange bureau for new ideas and new methods."

In the various speeches and round-table discussions, the delegates were unanimous in agreeing that the problem of the Southern mountains was one for concerted action on the part of all its schools. As it stands today it is a reproach to church and state. "But," as one speaker so aptly put it, "in the light of Jesus it becomes not a problem at all, but a group of men and women in dire need of opportunities. In this way we should receive the co-operation of the state, the church, the county, and the nation."

The Mountain Herald, April, 1925.

If we could grapple with the whole child problem situation for one generation, our public health, our economic efficiency, the moral character, sanity and stability of our people would advance three generations in one.

—HERBERT HOOVER.

Where Doctors Are Few.*

"Red" Davis took the course in First Aid in the Foundation school of Berea College. That means that he took it in the grades; he had not yet had any high school or normal work. But he was able to get a teacher's certificate in his home county and he was old enough to meet the age requirement of the law. So he secured the job of teaching a district school.

"Red" didn't know much about methods of teaching. But he did know how to bind up cuts and burns so they healed quickly; he could splint a broken limb, reduce a dislocation or treat successfully any ordinary ailment, from a snake-bite to a sprained ankle. He did so much of this that the neighbors began calling him "Doctor" Davis. Doctors were scarce in that country and the young school teacher was called many a time to treat injuries that otherwise would have no attention at all—or worse.

One day a mother living half a mile away came rushing over to the schoolhouse and begged him to come and save her child. She had been doing her week's washing in the back yard, leaving her four-year-old boy in the house against his will. A terrible cry led to the discovery that he had drunk the contents of the carbolic acid bottle. Without a moment's hesitation she ran for "Doctor" Davis.

It looked serious, but "Red" administered a generous dose of Epsom Salts as an antidote and followed that with cream—as much of it as the child would swallow—and stimulants. Then he told the woman she must take the child at once to the small hospital in the near-by town.

The mother started with the child in the family buckboard. On the way she met the doctor who was head of the hospital and told him what had happened. He looked at the child carefully and told her to turn around and go back home. "The hospital is full," he said, "and besides, your child will die. We can't save it."

Broken hearted the mother turned back. But hope was not entirely gone. She still had Doctor Davis. Over to the schoolhouse she went and begged him again to save her

child. "Red" was so ignorant that he didn't know any better than to try such a hopeless case as that seemed to be. So he prescribed more cream. The child didn't die at once—not that day nor the next. Indeed, under "Red's" treatment it ultimately recovered and gave the laugh to the doctor at the hospital. Perhaps it was just a fluke.

Two years later "Red" Davis was in the Normal School. One day in chapel I told the story and said I didn't know but Dr. Davis might be in my audience; I didn't know him personally.

After chapel, as I walked down the campus, a fine young fellow hailed me and said he was the man I had been talking about.

"Are you 'Doctor' Davis?" I asked.

"I am the fellow," he said, and added, "I taught there again last year and that boy went to school to me. He's as healthy and fat now as a pig."

Just then some boys called across the campus through the trees, "Hey, Doctor Davis!"

"Red" looked up at me and grinned.

"Professor, you've ruint me," he said.

*A Berea Leaflet.

BETWEEN TWO HUNDRED AND TWO HUNDRED
AND FIFTY FIRST AID CERTIFICATES ARE
GRANTED AT BEREA COLLEGE BY THE AMER-
ICAN RED CROSS EVERY YEAR.

During the summer the Washington office and exchange will be closed, but the work will be continued through the many tea houses and gift shops, which have gradually learned that the articles of mountain workmanship constitute very desirable additions to their stock. By these means knowledge of the mountain people, their needs, their native talents, and the importance of assistance through settlement schools is brought to travelers from all parts of the country.

Accomplishments of Sunshine Cottage at the Berry Schools.

The Martha Berry School for girls was founded ten years after that of the one for boys. Miss Berry's idea was to give the girls in the rural districts a chance to become well-developed women. She wanted to train those girls who were poor and needed an opportunity. It was her desire for them to learn to love, appreciate, and use the things near them. She wanted them to hold on to the old coverlets and other designs that were so artistically made by their grandmothers, so Sunshine work began when the Girls' School was founded.

We can hardly believe that the work started in a little one-room log cabin, which was also used as a place of meeting for Sunday School; but it did, with only one loom which had two treddles. But Miss Berry was determined to have more looms so that more girls might learn the work. She had the boys in the work shop to make them other looms. Then she worked hard to get a few of those old-fashioned designs, and Miss Nicholoy to come and teach us how to reproduce those wonderful designs that our grandmothers wove years ago.

We value our work in Sunshine more than almost any of our industrial training. At one time people did not know how to appreciate the work, but they are beginning to see the beauty of it, and to love it more. We are taught all of the things that will later be useful to us in our own homes. We take the Angora wool that the boys bring to us from the goats up at the Foundation School, cleanse it, card it into rolls, then spin it into thread, any color we wish, and weave it into beautiful designs.

Miss Berry has striven so hard to get more looms. We now have a larger building, two large rooms down stairs where the girls are trained. We have four two-tredden looms, five four-tredden looms, and one eight-tredden. We reproduce coverlets, weave scarfs, bags, table runners, rugs and sport skirts. We also learn to make fans, pine needle baskets, trays, willow baskets and even honeysuckle bas-

kets. These are things that we can easily make after we return to our homes. We grow our own flax here at school and make it into thread. We also grow our broom straw, and the girls go to the woods and get canes, wrap them with honeysuckle vines and make handles for the brooms. Then they are beautifully decorated.

We are taught everything about home decoration. We have two guest rooms upstairs in Sunshine, as beautiful as any rooms I have ever seen, and the girls did it all. They made the curtains, lamp shades, and wove the rugs. They even decorated the furniture, the vases and everything in the rooms. The vases are made of olive bottles, prettily decorated. The boys also helped to beautify the rooms. They took a keg of paint and a brush and made the walls attractive. They took a four-poster bed, more than fifty years old, sandpapered it, varnished it and made it look new. This was a good lesson to us; we can take the old things in our homes, make them look new again and preserve them.

It is the privilege of every Senior to reproduce one of the old-fashioned coverlets, and serve at a tea party. Our tea room adjoins the weaving room and is a very attractive room. The boys made the rustic tables and chairs. The girls serve using their own pine needle trays and decorated tea set. Now a Berry girl knows how to manage her own tea room with her weaving or gift shop in connection with it. She can serve tourists, or anyone who might come in for she has learned at the school to make her own jellies, preserves, bread, butter, dainty tea cakes and to serve it in an attractive way. Some of the graduates have already taken advantage of this opportunity, and they write back to Miss Berry telling her that they owe their training all to her and the school.

I have not told all about Sunshine work. I have not even mentioned the flower garden, but this is just an idea of what we learn there, not mentioning the sewing room, laundry, dining room, kitchen, campus, garden, and cleaning work.

It is our desire to please Miss Berry by trying to teach others the things that we have learned here, and help to make it possible for other boys and girls to come here to school.

ONE OF THE GIRLS.

Permanent Health Clinic for Knott.

A permanent health clinic for Knott County will be started at Hindman, the county seat, on Saturday, November 15, by Dr. M. F. Kelly, Hindman physician, and Mrs. Annie M. Lane, public health nurse of the Hindman Settlement school. This clinic will be under the auspices of the State board of health, the Red Cross and the Hindman school. It will be held regularly every Saturday and developed along the lines especially of examination and care of babies, proper feeding of babies and children, advice to expectant mothers, talks to mothers about sanitation and hygiene in the homes, and talks to the children of the Knott County schools.

The Hindman school has been for many years foremost in health work in the Kentucky mountains. It is about 15 years since the first trachoma clinic was held in this school by Dr. J. A. Stucky of Lexington, these clinics for several years being the means of awakening the government to the great prevalence of trachoma in the mountains, and of causing it to establish a number of trachoma hospitals throughout the region, so that now the dread disease is practically wiped out. Various other clinics have been held annually or semi-annually at the Hindman school by prominent physicians of Louisville and Cincinnati for the treatment of hookworm, tuberculosis, internal diseases, and eye, ear, nose and throat troubles. For a number of years also the district nurse of this school has nursed through the county and taught in the county school districts, but this year marks the launching of a permanent county clinic.

The Hazard Leader, Nov. 1, 1924.

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MARCH and JUNE, 1925

All communications relating to the QUARTERLY MAGAZINE should be addressed to the Editor, Mrs. C. David White, 1228 Connecticut Ave., Washington, D. C.

High Honors for Martha Berry.*

In the presence of a distinguished gathering in the east room of the White House, President Coolidge presented Roosevelt medals to Gifford Pinchot, Governor of Pennsylvania; George Bird Grinnell, publicist, of New York, and Miss Martha Berry of Georgia, selected by the Roosevelt Memorial Association for distinguished service.

Gov. Pinchot was selected for distinguished service in the promotion of conservation; Mr. Grinnell, for the promotion of outdoor life, and Miss Berry, founder of the Berry schools in the South Appalachian Mountains, for her service in behalf of the welfare of women and children.

Pride in Miss Berry.

In presenting the medal President Coolidge said:

"Miss Berry, I know that the gentlemen who have been awarded the other two medals will not misunderstand me when I say that, greatly as Theodore Roosevelt would be gratified if he could see a distinction bearing his name bestowed upon these old friends, he would yet be most stirred to see this Roosevelt medal bestowed upon you. He believed in you and your work, and it was characteristic of him that, believing in you, he should have upheld your hands and done what he could to win you friends. In building out of nothing a great educational institution for the

children of the mountains you have contributed to your time one of its most creative achievements. Because of you thousands have been released from the bondage of ignorance and countless other thousands in the generations to come will walk, not in darkness, but in light. You have built your school by faith—faith in your vision, faith in God, who alone can make visions substantial. Few are privileged to receive so clear an answer to their petitions as you have received. Your achievement brings the mystery and beauty of divine guidance closer to us all. This medal will be a testimony to you that your fellow Americans are proud of you and wish you well in your labors."

James R. Garfield, former Secretary of Interior and president of the Roosevelt Memorial Association, in presenting the three distinguished Americans to President Coolidge described Miss Berry's public service in the following manner:

"For the medal for distinguished service in behalf of the welfare of women and children, Mr. President, I have the honor to present the name of one who, seeing a great need, turned from the pleasant places in which her lines were cast, to bring light and opportunity to children who but for her would have walked all their lives in the shadow; a seer, whose visions were born in human sympathy and given substance by the magical touch of faith; a builder, who builds on rock; an educator, who trains equally the head and the hand, the spirit and the heart; a lover of mankind and servant of God, unwavering in faith, indomitable in resolution, creating beauty where she goes, scarce knowing that she creates it, so natural an expression it is of the abundance within—Martha Berry."

*The *Evening Star*, Washington, D. C., May 16, 1925.

The Tragedy of Moonshining.

I spent last week at our settlement on Line Fork. There is only one man in the Bear Branch neighborhood who does not make moonshine. The revenue officers had just been in and arrested most of the men and boys and took them to jail, where they were to stay for six months. In many of the homes that I visited, the wives showed me the letters that had just come from their husbands, regretting that the corn had not been gathered, the coal dug, the wood hauled in, the fencing done, and wondering how they could live and manage the spring crop. The women had many young children, and it seemed as if a baby was coming in every home. One man under 25 wrote that he could stand the discomfort of the crowded jail, lack of air, etc., if he just had not left his wife in such "a sorry fix" that when he got to thinking of it, it seemed as if he would lose his mind. Her baby came that night. One father left his family without a penny, a potato or an ear of corn. She came to the settlement and asked them to save her their potato peelings. The other lone women were trying to help her. When I learned that the ten-year-old boy was in the fifth grade, and had never owned a school book until November, when his teacher gave him one, I brought him back with me. So now I am looking for some clothes and money for his scholarship.

On the whole the women seemed relieved that this had happened, as their husbands had written that they never aimed to make or drink any more moonshine. Some of them were really glad. One woman had told the officers where the stills were and said she would every time, because there was more peace and satisfaction when her husband was in jail.

Work of the Practice Home at Hindman.

For the past month or six weeks we have been busy house-cleaning and making our Easter dresses. Each of my girls,

with a little assistance from me, has made a very pretty, simple dress. This week we have had to plan and are to serve, Saturday night, the Senior dinner. In our little kitchen and on our little stove, this will be quite an undertaking. But we just do the very best we can and try not to worry too much about the results.

Besides the Practice Home and my school work, I have been busy trying to help some of the town women, who like our draperies and light shades, to learn how to make them for their own homes. It pleases us greatly for any one to like the things we do and make here at our Practice Home, and we are always happy to show them how it is done. How eager they are to learn and how grateful for any assistance.

One never knows what the day will bring forth here. One of our old students asked me to help plan and assist at her wedding. She was married Easter morning and a wonderful wedding it was for Hindman. Being the daughter of the leading physician in the county, there were many friends to see her married. She is a beautiful young woman, and all were much impressed at the sweet picture she made in her simple white dress and pretty veil, the veil being the first ever seen here. The charivari began before the ceremony was half over and continued all through the wedding breakfast. Only when the groom went out and gave the crowd ten dollars for a treat did the racket cease. Some of us were rather weary when the day was over.

We wish you could see our pretty yard. The plum trees and daffodils are all in bloom and the grass is so pretty and green. Many say it is the prettiest yard in Hindman. If I could only paint the inside of Practice House as pretty and fresh as nature has painted our yard we would indeed be the envy of all our friends here.

ANNA F. VAN METER.

The Kentucky Highlanders.

To the Editor of the New York Times.

A great many people living at a distance from the Southern mountains have somehow acquired the belief that the young men of the region are fearless, reckless daredevils, who go about armed to the teeth ready to take a pint of moonshine at a drafting or bring down a man on the slightest provocation.

But we who labor day after day and year after year with these young highlanders see the real inside of their lives. We do not find reckless youths who defy authority and threaten their fellows, but we see young men of gracious manners and highly developed native courtesy ready to do a hero's task any day of the year.

An incident which occurred here at Berea College recently illustrates this quality in a remarkable degree. A teacher was desperately ill at the college hospital. He was a man greatly beloved by the students and looked upon by all as a friend. It seemed wise to the doctors to give him an infusion of new blood in the hope of saving his life. This decision was communicated to the President with the request that volunteers be called for among the young men. An hour later at the college assembly the President requested those who would be willing to share their blood with their friend to report at once to the head physician at the hospital.

Fifty stalwart young men hurried away in answer to the call. Two robust fellows ran much of the way in order to offer themselves ahead of the other fellows, and one was sorely grieved when told his blood would not do. Each one of the fifty was eager to give his blood to save a life. This is the real spirit of the youth of the mountains.

JOHN F. SMITH.

Berea, Ky., March 14, 1925.

Weaving at Pine Mountain.

MY DEAR MRS. STONE:

You really ought to make us a visit at Pine Mountain and bring all the trustees, too, to see our new weaving room. We are in it now, and it is such a nice place to work. We have a great big room with fifteen windows, several fine cupboards and a big loft to store our supplies in.

It was quite a job to move all our things. All the looms were too large to go through the doors and so they had to be taken to pieces and set up again. It took us over a week to get them all over and in working order again; so you see we haven't been able to do as much weaving as usual this month. We have completed one blanket and another one is almost finished. We have finished another coverlet and fringed it, and have woven six yards on our little loom. I have been making some new samples of the blankets that have been the most popular this year. On our rug loom we have woven about six yards. We are making some very nice rag rugs for Laurel House now from picked rags that Miss Gaines gave us. Mrs. Nolan has made another coverlet which is very handsome. This makes the seventh one that she has made since November. She told me the other day how she used to make them years ago and sell them for \$5.00.*

Aside from our weaving we have washed and dyed a large quantity of yarn. We have had two good blue pots and a successful madder one too. Yesterday we got a nice brown from some walnut shells and bark that have been soaking all winter.

Mr. Hall brought us a load of fifty-three stools last week. They are very nice. He and his brother have developed quite a business, and have some interesting ideas about their work. They have made some candlesticks with carved bases and are going to try some electric light bases too.

I have one or two outside children working for me, now that the district schools have closed. One is Edna Metcalf, who worked for Miss Nicholson last year. She is a very good worker, and wants a loom of her own.

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Mr. Zande is making us two new looms which are going to be fine. I have tried to pick out all the good points in the looms that we have and assemble them in one loom. We are certainly lucky to be able to have our looms built right here where we can watch the progress. The boys have been quite interested in building them and some of them have even expressed a desire to weave.

Last Saturday I had a tea in the new weaving room, a sort of house-warming. We put up all the blankets and coverlets and rugs that we had on hand and had quite a display. All the workers were invited and they were all delighted with our new quarters.

The following is a list of the articles which we have woven this year:

5 yards on the Martha Washington Counterpane.

3 Tennessee Trouble Coverlets, 2 fringed.

2½ yards on the Cross Coverlet.

About 60 yards of rug material.

17 Blankets.

6 Narrow Strips for Runners.

14 yards of Curtain Material.

1½ yards of Blanket Samples.

Mrs. Nolan has woven seven Coverlets for us, and Mrs. Kenneth Nolan six blankets.

Our old orders are all filled now and I am leaving orders for only two blankets which have been ordered this year.

This has been a most interesting year for me and I have enjoyed my work here at Pine Mountain very much. It has been a fine experience to learn just how the wools and flax are prepared from the beginning, and especially helpful to know about the dyeing.

ELEANOR C. STOCKIN,
Weaving Teacher.

These are now sold for \$25.00.

The far-reaching effects of the Exchange in the mountain homes and schools are evidenced by the improved standards of workmanship and the eagerness to keep up

with modern demands. The workers now no longer confine their efforts to the few industries of a quarter of a century ago, like basketry and coverlet weaving, but have added to these many new lines of work, as is shown by the very varied exhibit in the rooms of the Exchange.

Among the newest and most attractive articles on sale in the Exchange are the all-wool, hand-woven baby blankets made in white, pink and blue; the hooked rugs with their quaint original designs, the porch lunch sets made in lovely shades of green, yellow and blue, consisting of a centerpiece and individual mats; the wonderful tufted and crocheted bedspreads copied from some of the oldest found in the mountains; the linen runners with their pretty colored borders, and not the least, the gaily painted hand-carved toys and animals which are the delight of children. Orders have been given to the people who make these things and a large and varied assortment will be displayed in the autumn when the Exchange opens.

Worthy Scholarship Recipients.

We are most grateful for the Seth Shepard Memorial Scholarships and will be glad to tell you something of the two boys, Beckham Miller and Gordon Stone.

Beckham is now in the eighth grade and will, at the close of school in May, be promoted into High School. He has endeavored to take advantage of every opportunity for advancement and has applied himself conscientiously to his studies. He is industrious, interested and dependable, his grades have been good, and his teachers speak in highest terms of his this year's work.

For two years past he has been the school mail-boy; this is not an easy task, and it carries with it a very definite responsibility, yet Beckham has done better carrying the mail than anyone we have had for years. Part of his work is to collect the mail from the different settlement houses at 5.30 A.M., and get it to the post-office in time to leave on the outgoing 6.00 o'clock mail back. Usually he is

obliged to return later for later mail and packages; in the afternoon the incoming mail must be collected and delivered, and there are always packages from the Fireside Industries Department to be sent away. In living up to the responsibilities of his job we feel that Beckham has done well and is worthy of special commendation.

Gordon's father was killed several years ago and his mother, a very fine woman, is trying to keep her four children in school. He is a child of latent possibilities and has developed noticeably this year. This year is his second year at school; he is interested and does well in his studies. His housemother speaks very highly of him and her predecessor would have liked to adopt him, had he been for adoption.

Thank the Association again for helping us to carry on our great work of giving educational advantages and opportunities to the boys and girls of the Kentucky mountains.

ELIZABETH WATTS.

How Weaving Opens a New Door.

Our weaving department has been greatly encouraged by the success of our exhibit and sale of woven goods in Washington during the D. A. R. Congress. We have tried to increase the number of looms as rapidly as possible so as to enable more mothers and girls to have work, but that means increased production and an additional effort must be made to market this. It is hard to refuse work to a deserving mother, when we see what the money would mean to her. One mother with nine children wanted to learn to weave, but she just could not get away from home and come so far for the lessons. So she persuaded the oldest daughter to overcome her timidity and come, and then the lame son was persuaded to try, and became one of our best weavers. Then the two children carried a loom home, across a steep, high ridge, carrying a piece at a time till they got it all, and then they taught the mother to weave. Every night she would tell them what had gone wrong and they would get

it straight for her, till she was able to produce steadily, and now she has money for home comforts that she never dreamed of before. And she is so much happier, because of this outside interest, and the inspiration she gets from the teachers.

Another young mother, who waked up to the fact that her husband was most unworthy, and could not regret it when he deserted her, leaving her three near-babies for her to care for, came to ask if there was any chance for her to weave. We moved her into a vacant room near the weaving room, paid a girl to care for the children while the mother took her lessons, and now she has a loom in her home and is making a good living for her young family. She has a frail little body and would not have stood the struggle if she had been obliged to go into the woods or fields to work, but now she is growing stronger all the time and is such a careful, ambitious mother. There are so many such lives that need this chance, and we can help them if we can find a market for our woven goods. Every article bought from us helps to open the door of opportunity to one, or to keep it open for another.

MARY M. SLOOP.

Crossnore School, Crossnore, N. C.

Subscriptions are:

\$1.00 a year for a Member.

\$5.00 for a Sustaining Member.

\$25.00 for a Patron.

\$100.00 will place a child for eight months in one of the better-equipped, remote settlement schools.

\$50.00 will place a child for eight months in one of the smaller schools where industrial training is given.

\$10.00 will give industrial training for eight months to a day pupil who does not live in the school.

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