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# Quarterly Magazine

OF THE

## 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: Southern Building, Room 331, Washington, D. C.

MRS. MARTHA S. GIELOW, Founder

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## Side-Tracked Americans.\*

In the Cumberland Mountains there are no roads. The only viaducts are aqueducts, the creek-beds, which have known no shaping by the hands of man. When the bottom of the creek-bed becomes impassable, the trail climbs over the shoulder of the bank. Sometimes it crosses from one creek valley over a summit into another valley, and so works its way back sinuously into the hills; a narrow trough, it has no culverts, no bridges, no drainage. When you bog down, you get a rail and hoist out your wagon.

Here live people of arrested development who have always remained Americans. Since the days of Daniel Boone they have been thus unchanged—not laborers, operatives, or salaried folks, but soil-owners and home-makers. These are by no means the "poor whites" of the South, by no means the shiftless Cracker sort, but a keen, bold breed of men, who remain of the Revolutionary type even to-day. These Americans belong to us, and we owe much to them. There are half a million of them waiting to be discovered as American citizens.

We heard of the mountaineers in the Civil War, when a hundred and twenty thousand of them fought for one flag. Then we forgot them. For many decades we have had no news regarding them, save garbled news about their feuds and moonshining. Moonshiners? Yes, but Prohibitionists. Illiterate? Yes, yet wise in the loyalty which has held them to the flag and to the Government, a loyalty which by some strange intuition they have retained through a century of isolation. Slave-owners? Never, but workers themselves. Feudists? Yes, but carrying on feuds as a religion. In short, a half million splendid Spartans living in a rough land two hundred by six hundred miles in extent, and held

\*Burns of the Mountains, by Emerson Hough. The American Magazine, December, 1912.

in the worst of bondage for more than a century; while meantime our civilization, first simple and strong, now mad and sordid, has roared on across the land.

You can go back into the Cumberland country and find the trail where Boone crossed, following the waters, and see that region pretty much as he found it and as he left it, a country with a history arrested, unwritten, waiting. The log cabin is the universal form of the home. You can find to-day the loom, the spinning-wheel, the lard-kettle, the candlemold, the squirrel rifle, unchanged in a hundred years. The women there still wear sunbonnets, and they still ride behind, horseback, with their lords and masters; still stand waiting at table while their lords and masters eat.

Strange old Elizabethan phrases of speech still linger. Hot bread still prevails, three meals a day, and pork when they can get it. The men do not go west to pick up prairie-lands, but toil laboriously with the ax on steep mountain-sides to open the land, plow it precariously with single-shovel plows, or till it laboriously with hoes—men, women, and children, with hoes. Farm machinery is unknown.

You can not believe, and surely can not understand, these things without seeing them—can not believe that this backward country is in America as you know it. But, having seen them, you understand why these side-tracked Highlanders, lost for more than a century, do not send their children to school. There are no schools, because there are no roads; no roads, because there are no taxes; no taxes, because there is no money; and, coming round again in a circle, no possible interchange of commodities, because there are no roads. There lies the wilderness of the old crossing-place of the Alleghanies as Boone saw it and left it.

Really, these people are not so far along as they were fifty or a hundred years ago. So stern have been the conditions of living, that intellectually they have retrograded. You will find in families where not one member can read or write, old copies of the classics, the Latin and Greek

dramas, books which Grandfather brought in from Virginia one hundred years ago. Grandfather was better educated than his children, perhaps, because there had not yet enclosed and enfolded him, throughout his whole life, the untracked solitude of these hills. It was hard to make a living there, and it took all the time of all the family to make it. There was no way out and no way in.

And that is the story of the white bondage of the Cumberland mountaineers. I call it a white bondage for lack of a better term. It is simply arrested civilization. Have a look at the population we meantime have imported from the rest of the world in place of these!

Do those people need us? Yes, but not nearly so much as we need them. When their State, their country, has paved some sort of way, made some sort of road, by rail or by water, over which there may come into this country of ours, the best of all immigration—one fit to be called American—who most will benefit, the men of these mountains or we ourselves? Side-tracked for a century, maybe they have been around some sort of Ark of the Covenant after all, shielding it for us; maybe they have retained some ideals and principles which we have lost in our swarming commercialism. Lincoln came out of that sort of environment. Leaders grow among that kind of people. As they understand the right they do it. When they see what they think is wrong—what their forefathers called wrong—they smite it, and spare not and cease not. They hew to the line. Their answer is Yea, yea, and Nay, nay.

They fight for one flag. They understand the value of human sympathy and human aid. They are as kind as they are fearless, and as just as they are strong. A hundred and twenty thousand of them fought in the war to abolish slavery. We could use twice as many to aid us in the war against the slavery of to-day. We call it a white bondage, this of an age-long illiteracy, an age-long isolation. But whose white bondage has been the worse, theirs or ours?

Which are the better and truer Americans, they or we? And when, in good common sense, whether by this or that means, through this or that agency, good roads shall have meant good government, good morals, and good education for the men of that country, which will be the beneficiaries when the immigration sets our way? Who wins when Americans start out of that old America into its new successor? Is it they or we that have the greater need of interchange?

#### Children Eager for a Chance.\*

One day two mules from the Bullskin Valley forded the Kentucky, and came into the street of Oneida settlement. The two mules carried old man Combs and his three daughters—as many daughters as he could get on so many mules. They came from fifty miles back in the hills, and they wanted to go to school, those daughters. They could not read nor write. Their father brought them in so that they might learn more than he knew. But there was no place for them in the school, no money to make a place.

Tears stood in the eyes of the mountaineer teacher when he said to them: "I can't take you. I've got nothing to feed you, and there's no place where you can sleep." Tears flowed down the faces of these girls also. The face of the old man was very sad. They turned back again toward the hills, muleback. "I watched them ford the river again," said Burns, "and turn back up the Bullskin Valley. My heart bled for them. I knew what they were going back to."

"One boy came to me," said Burns, "limping and tired. He had tuberculosis of the hip. He had no coat, hardly any shoes, almost no trousers, and he carried a carpet-bag tied together with a piece of twine. His hair stuck out

\*From Burns of the Mountains.

through his hat. He had walked twenty or thirty miles. He said he wanted an education."

"One day I heard some of my scholars whispering together out in the hall. It was against rules, and I went out to disperse them. There seemed to be some sort of conspiracy, and I found out what it was. These poor boys, who had earned a few cents by working on our farm were taking up a collection, five cents, ten cents each, to get the 'new boy' a better pair of pants. I did not dismiss that meeting."

Will not each reader of this QUARTERLY secure one new subscriber for 1913, or make a membership gift to some one who can not afford the subscription of one dollar a year, but who is interested in the uplift of the mountain people?

#### Survivors of Colonial Days.\*

Fully three-fourths of our mountaineers still live in the eighteenth century and in their far-flung wilderness, away from large rivers and railways, the habits, customs, morals of the people have changed but little from those of our old Colonial frontier; in essentials they are closely analogous to what we read of lower-class English and Scottish life in Covenanter and Jacobite times. \* \* \*

To-day they constitute a distinct people, an aggregate of close on four million souls. Not only are they all closely akin in blood, in speech, in ideas, in manners, in ways of living, but their needs, their problems are identical throughout the vast domain of the Southern Appalachians. There is no other ethnic group in America so unmixed as these mountaineers, and so segregated from all others.

And the strange thing is that they do not know it. Their

\*The Southern Highlander, by Horace Kephart.

isolation is so complete that they have no race consciousness at all. In this respect I can think of no other people on the face of the earth to which they may be likened.

As compensation for the peculiar weakness of their social structure, the highlanders display an undying devotion to family and kindred. Mountaineers everywhere are passionately attached to their homes. Tear away from his native rock your Switzer, your Tyrolean, your Basque, your Montenegrin, and all alike are stricken with homesickness beyond speech or cure. At the first chance they will return, and thenceforth will cling to their patrimonies, however poor these may be.

So, too, your man of the Appalachians. "I went down into the valley, wunst, and I declar I nigh sultered! 'Pears like there ain't breath enough to go round, with all them people. And the water don't do a body no good: an' you can't eat hearty, nor sleep good o'nights. Course they pay big money down thar; but I'd a heap-sight ruther ketch me a big old 'coon fer his hide. Boys, I did hone fer my dog Fiddler, an' the times we'd have a-huntin', and the trout-fishin', an' the smell o' the woods, and nobody bossin' and jowerin' at all. I'm a hill-billy, all right, and they needn't to glory their old flat lands to me!"

The new school which Miss Pettit has started in the remote Pine Mountain section is to give industrial, moral and intellectual education, Christian but non-sectarian, to the children of our "contemporary ancestors" in the mountains. Also to serve as a social center in a country neighborhood where isolation and loneliness have bred melancholy, violence and disregard of law.

Any who wish to put their magazines and periodicals to good use after they have finished with them can hardly do better than to mail them each month to Miss Katherine Pettit, Harlan Co., Kentucky.

### The Problem of the Mountain People.

There are many valleys and cañons in the Southern Appalachians which are not accessible to the railroad but which are inhabited to the full extent of their present ability to support population. Lack of transportation facilities and the small area of desirable farm land make the region poorly adapted to most of the ordinary agricultural and industrial enterprises of the country. Any attempt to depopulate the mountains and move the people to more accessible regions is out of the question. We must therefore accept the fact that these mountains will always support what population can find a living there.

While it is a good thing for those individuals of the mountain population who are so fortunate as to get education and inspiration that lead them to the outside world where opportunities are greater, this in no way tends to solve the problem of the mountain people. What is needed is a means of developing the agricultural and industrial enterprises that are adapted to that region. This will give opportunities to the mountain people themselves and will enable them to raise their standard of living. The problem has moral, intellectual, and economic phases. Not much can be done with the moral and intellectual side of the problem until some progress has been made along economic lines. "An empty sack can not stand upright." Before we can have churches and schools we must have a living for the people. The Southern Industrial Educational Society is trying especially to meet the economic phases of this problem by endeavoring to ascertain the industries adapted to the region and to teach especially the young people of the mountains how to carry on these industries to best advantage. We believe that the only permanent remedy for the present situation is to teach the mountain people how to live well in the mountains. If the education we can give them also fits them for wider spheres of usefulness, all the better. With the development of industries

that will raise the standard of living of the mountain people it will then be possible for them to assume a good deal of the burden of maintaining local schools and churches, and it will be possible for them to receive medical attention, which is now wholly inadequate.

So far as natural inheritance is concerned, these mountain people are the equal of any other branch of our race. The hard conditions under which many of them live obscure their natural traits and give the traveller a wrong impression concerning them. But they are of the same blood that has built the magnificent civilization seen on the Piedmont Plateau east of the mountains, the bluegrass region of Kentucky, and the central valley of Tennessee.

There are certain kinds of farming well adapted to the mountain valleys and even to the mountain sides. There are crafts in which these people quickly become expert. The development of these will give them incomes that permit normal living. Our association is striving for such development.

W. J. SPILLMAN.

Miss Clara Wilson, a trustee of the Association, has gone to Pine Mountain for the summer to help Miss Pettit work out some of the many problems arising in connection with the establishment of the new school. Miss Wilson took with her an excellent sewing machine and a barrel of bedding, table linen, cutlery and many other useful and necessary articles, all of which were contributed through the generosity of friends who believe in the work.

The sales of articles of mountain manufacture at the room of the Association during the past year have been most satisfactory, as several hundreds of dollars have been sent back to the mountain workers who have been enabled through the Association to find a market for their baskets, fans, and varied weavings of unique patterns and dyes.

The White House is to have a room furnished in the handiwork of the Southern mountaineers. Mrs. Wilson, who is deeply interested in the work being done for the uplift of these people, has ordered duplicates of many of the beautiful weavings on exhibition in the headquarters of the Southern Educational Association for the White House room.

The pattern of the hangings and chair coverings will be that known as the "Chariot Wheel," one of the oldest and doubtless brought from the old country by the first settlers.

Both Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Thomas R. Marshall attended a recent meeting at the Southern building of the honorary board of the association, organized at the home of Mrs. Claude A. Swanson by Mrs. Martha S. Gielow.

After a brief address of welcome to the honorary president, Mrs. Wilson, and the honorary vice-president, Mrs. Marshall, followed by an explanation of the purpose of the new board by Mrs. Gielow, Mrs. Swanson, chairman, took up plans for furthering the work of the Association, Mrs. Wilson taking an active part.

The following ladies comprise the board: Honorary chairman, Mrs. T. R. Marshall; honorary vice-chairman, Mrs. Josephus Daniels; active chairman, Mrs. Claude A. Swanson; active vice-chairman, Mrs. W. F. Dennis; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Wickliffe Rose; members, Mrs. Chatard, Mrs. Duncan Fletcher, Mrs. P. P. Claxton, Mrs. Louis Bennett, Mrs. Walsh, Mrs. L. L. Lomax, Mrs. R. P. Hobson, Mrs. J. C. Linthicum, Mrs. Charles Douglas, Mrs. J. M. Brown, Mrs. G. M. Hitchcock, Miss Gertrude Gordon, Mrs. Samuel Spencer, Mrs. Champ Clark, Mrs. Lee Overman, Mrs. F. P. Harmon, Mrs. R. W. Austin, Mrs. J. K. Shields, and others.

## Quarterly Magazine

OF THE

SOUTHERN INDUSTRIAL EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

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JUNE, 1913.

All communications relating to the QUARTERLY MAGAZINE should be addressed to the Editor, Mrs. C. David White, Room 331, Southern Building, Washington, D. C.

### An Appeal from the President of the Association.

Applying for aid in its work, the Southern Industrial Educational Association of Washington, D. C., makes this statement of its aims, work, and plans for increased usefulness.

The Association, which has been in existence for seven years, has for its object the promotion of the industrial training of the children of the Southern mountains. These people are of pure American stock and capable of the highest development. Living far removed from the influences of advanced civilization their development has been arrested. Public schools are not available to all and these, conducted for brief periods and largely by indifferent instructors, teach the simplest rudiments with little permanent effect. The greatest need of the mountain children is industrial training that will fit them to improve their material conditions, and afford the means of comfortable, healthful life. Instruction in the modern arts of agriculture and farm mechanics will open a field of labor and profit at home that will enable the leading spirits to resist the call of the outside world, through furnishing ample scope for their energies in the development of their native communities. The less favored will be enabled to resist the inducements of the factories. Girls can be taught the domestic arts and enabled to become competent home makers and trainers of children.

Many schools have been established, here and there, by individuals and churches, having industrial departments of more or less efficiency. Substantial aid has, from time to time, been given to those which have been approved by the Association. Equipment and material have been supplied, and competent industrial teachers furnished; thus rendering their work more efficient, and extending its benefits.

Our work has developed the need of a man of training and experience in this work to act as an executive agent or secretary.

The following are the most important of the duties to be performed: 1. To visit and carefully inspect the schools already in operation, reporting upon their resources, management and the character and extent of their industrial work. He would aid in the development of their work by his advice, and keep the association informed of the most efficient means of co-operation and assistance. 2. Most of the communities are willing to furnish school sites for small schools, and materials and labor in the building of school houses, if organized for the purpose, with assurance of assistance in procuring competent teachers. 3. Co-operation should be arranged with the public schools authorities by which the terms of schools might be extended, industrial teaching provided, and the teaching force improved. The people would be taught to help themselves. 4. Schools that have been established by private individuals and maintained by contributions, sometimes fail, and their work generally closes with the death of the founder. Those communities should be organized, and the titles to school property lodged in trustees so as to preserve them to public use, and means provided for the continuation of the schools. 5. There may be incompetent persons founding such schools, and some designing persons making a pretense of doing so, for their private gain. These should be examined and their methods or pretenses exposed.

The reports of the agent would enable the Association, at all times, to furnish the necessary information to those who desire to aid in this work, and, wisely, demand evidence that their money is not being wasted.

It will require about \$5,000 per annum to pay the salary and travelling expenses of the agent; and this should be provided for a series of years.

The Association has no administrative fund to meet these needs. Will you not contribute to the object?

During the summer months the Washington office will be closed, but Mrs. A. S. Stone, who has managed so efficiently the exchange for the articles representing the mountain handicrafts, will take a large exhibit north with her and it is hoped that many orders will be given for the fall. People who are in search of the old blue and white weavings, coverlids, portieres, rugs, etc., will find many pieces of beautiful workmanship.

Mrs. Gielow, accompanied by Miss Etta Tallifero of Baltimore, will spend the month of July in the Kentucky mountains, visiting the W. C. T. U. School at Hindman, and perhaps the new school at Pine Mountain.

Through the generosity of Mrs. Samuel Spencer, a trustee of the Association, a new loomhouse will be built this summer at Christ School, Arden, N. C., in which girls will be taught weaving and dyeing by a mountain woman who will pass on to them knowledge that otherwise would be lost. She holds certain secrets of her craft that are worth perpetuating, one of which is a beautiful pattern in weaving that has become practically lost among the other mountain weavers.

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.

\$600.00 will pay the salary of an industrial teacher or nurse.

Official receipt and the QUARTERLY MAGAZINE will be sent to all subscribers.

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