

# NEWSLETTER

## BENNINGTON COLLEGE

### BENNINGTON, VERMONT

November 1962

#### ADMISSIONS AND SCHOOL VISITORS

One hundred and seventeen new students came to Bennington this year. Because there were fewer spaces, this was a smaller class than a year ago. Of the 117, 16 were transfers. The statistics -- test scores, rank in class, and course preparation -- didn't vary much from those of last year's class. (Anyone who would like to see the figures, please write the Admissions Office for the class "profile." The pamphlet is sent automatically only to guidance officers and heads of schools.) Because Scholastic Aptitude Test scores are as familiar these days as phone numbers the mean scores might be of interest: for our entering freshmen; V 625, M 552.

For two days late in September the College, with the Admissions Office as host, had 12 school heads and guidance counselors as visitors. They were invited by Mr. Handy to see the College in action. They were shown student folders in order to understand not simply how we keep records, but how much we are concerned and how much we know. They visited classes, talked with students formally and informally, had meetings and social gatherings with members of the faculty and administration. School visitors are always welcome here. We like to have them because the excitement and purpose of the place should be felt, not just reported, which is what happens when the visiting is in reverse direction. A visitor to Bennington ordinarily goes away knowing that most of those at the College, whether student, faculty or staff member, are indeed involved.

#### THE WINTER AWAY

This fall well over 400 letters have gone out to employers announcing the 1963 Non-Resident Term. Most of the letters were directed to those who have hired students in the past and who have shown continuing interest in the program. Other letters, accompanied by the new Non-Resident Term booklet, introduced potential employers to the nine-week work term; where replies indicated interest the Director followed up the letter with a personal visit to the prospective employer. Some job-holding alumnae, or alumnae husbands, have also heard from the NRT Office, suggesting ways in which they could help in the employment of Bennington students. Any of our readers who may be in a position to offer paid employment to a student for the Non-Resident Term (January 2 through March 5, 1963) are urged to write to the Director. Students can give helpful assistance in research laboratories, publications offices, hospital wards, schools, department stores, libraries, design studios, museums and galleries, social agencies,



government offices, performing arts. Students are, of course, job-hunting on their own, particularly in instances where they will be living at home and where their knowledge of job opportunities in that area is greater than ours. Some students, however, with skills and talents and academic background in fields like architecture, anthropology, music, drama, design, labor relations, frequently need the special help of the NRT Office and its friends in locating suitable job possibilities. The more ideas and suggestions we have the better.

A series of class meetings has been held this fall by Miss Karb, the Director of Non-Resident Term, to clarify for new students and to review with upperclassmen, procedures of job-hunting and interviewing, the demands of job-holding, evaluation of work performance.

The Non-Resident Term Office is continuing its career information program which last year, throughout the fall and spring terms, brought to the campus three outstanding women representing different career fields: Martha Waldstein, psychiatric social worker of the Simmons College School of Social Work; Anne Wood, public relations director of Northeast Airlines; and Jean Dalrymple, Director of the New York City Center of Music and Drama. Included in the invitation list this year are women in advertising, publishing, and academic administration. Miss Helen Klintrup, vice-president of J. Walter Thompson, was here for two days in October. For most of the visitors, these one or two days on campus serve as introduction to Bennington, and their informal talks with students, class "hopping," meeting with faculty and staff, result in a first-hand knowledge of the College and its educational goals. Our guests have been generous with their time and interest in telling the students about the opportunities and decisions which have influenced and enriched their professional lives.

In answer to a questionnaire relating to their 1962 summer activity, over 65% (141) of the students responding (210) indicated that they had held jobs, 36 of these positions being affiliated either with past NRT assignments or with future NRT plans.

#### A MEMORIAL FOR ANNE HAMBLETON

Mr. and Mrs. T. Edward Hambleton (Merrell Hopkins, '43) have established a fund at Bennington in memory of their daughter Anne, who lost her life in March 1962. Anne majored in drama, graduating from the College in 1960. Her service to the College both as a student and an alumna was outstanding. While an undergraduate, in addition to her many other responsibilities, she was a very active member of the Non-Resident Term Committee, and carried that interest with her into important alumnae work.

In establishing the Fund, her parents have combined two of Anne's interests, the arts and the Non-Resident Term. The Fund will be expended over a period of approximately ten years to assist students in need of financial support to carry out plans for the Non-Resident Term which they would otherwise be unable to consider. Preference will be given to plans in the theatre, dance, music and visual arts, although scholarship and research in literature and the natural and social sciences can also be considered.

#### THE MUSIC FACULTY

This Newsletter spots the Music Faculty. To concentrate such copy seems to us to have an advantage. You should, we think, have a better sense of the professional activity of the faculty as a whole if we fix on one division at a time.



Secondly, our own energies being more carefully aimed, should bring you more detail. Here is the music faculty then -- at least here is a notable amount about their doings, "out of school."

The Lyric Theatre, Inc., founded fifteen years ago by Frank Baker, became a summer company when he joined Bennington's staff in 1955. Last summer in an eight-week season the company performed operas, chamber music and dance. The students numbered twenty, the faculty seven. Of the Theatre, Mr. Baker says, "Our life is informal and we try to avoid elaborate scheduling or other compulsive measurements of our time. There is ample time for study and performance but we are not primarily engaged in schooling, and still less in selling entertainment. It is the opportunity to experience a work of art for its own sake and the revealing process involved in such an approach that compels our primary attention."

Paul Boepple is one of eleven choral conductors in the country to be awarded a \$10,000 grant by the Ford Foundation. Mr. Boepple has received the grant "to enable him to perform a number of contemporary choral works with the Dessooff Choirs (New York City) in the next few seasons."

The Dessooff Choirs, under Paul Boepple's direction will perform Bach's "The Passion According to St. John" on February 7, 1963 at Carnegie Hall. (The Community Chorus in Bennington performs the same piece in December).

On January 8, 1963, Clarion Concerts will have its first guest-conductor -- Bennington's Paul Boepple. Music from 1300 to 1600 to the present will be heard, including a contemporary concert-piece for six kettledrums and orchestra by Bennington's Lionel Nowak, with Bennington's Louis Calabro as soloist. Tickets may be ordered from Clarion Concerts, 123 West 43rd Street, New York 36. The concert is at Town Hall, 8:30 p.m.

Henry Brant's "Millennium 2," in a performance conducted by the composer, who also furnishes explanatory spoken comment, has recently been released in an LP stereo disk by Lehigh University. This work was performed at concerts of the Lehigh Instrumental Ensembles at Bennington College and at Williams College, in 1960. The same disk includes "Angels" by veteran Vermont composer Carl Ruggles.

In June 1962, Mr. Brant received a joint award from the Alice M. Ditson Fund and the American Symphony Orchestra League. This involves the performance, during the 1962-63 season, of Mr. Brant's current work-in-progress "Millennium 3," written in "total antiphony" with individual parts for each of the 90 players. The premiere will be presented by the New Haven Symphony Orchestra.

Another current Brant project, a choral-instrumental work requiring 450 participants, will be performed in New York on December 15. Commissioned by Hunter College, the work is based on an original text by Patricia Brant.

Mr. Brant's composing plans for 1963 include a "spatial theatre piece," with text by Patricia Brant, commissioned by Lehigh University for performance in 1964, an antiphonal work of chamber music commissioned by the New York Brass Ensemble for performance in Europe in 1963, and a choral work, with text by Patricia Brant, with flute solo and harp, commissioned by Blanche and Louis Moyse for the Brattleboro Music Center.

Louis Calabro's Symphony No. 2 for Strings was performed last May at Carnegie Hall--Paul Boepple conductor--on a program with the Dessooff Choirs. His Processional, written for the Bennington College Commencement ceremony was performed by the Symphonic Band of Sacramento State College in March of 1962. The piece is now being published by Elkan-Vogel, Philadelphia, under the title of Ceremonial March.



Julian DeGray is in New York every second week, where he carries on a vigorous teaching schedule. His students are all advanced, many of them professional performers. Those who have not seen Mr. DeGray in recent years should know that the cello is now a second instrument. He plays with string quartets two or three times a week, both in New York and Bennington.

Lionel Nowak directed the Summer Institute for High School Music Teachers held at Bennington last summer. This was the second such Institute, the first occurring two years ago. With the support of the American Council of Learned Societies, the Institute offered a six-week course for selected music instructors and directors who are employed full-time in public high schools. The purpose of the Institute was to engage the participants in projects and discussions of recent developments in music, to advance competence, and to encourage them to take back to their schools and communities new designs for making music a more creative and satisfying activity.

On January 8, 1963, Clarion Concerts with Paul Boepple as guest conductor, will perform Mr. Nowak's "Concert Piece for Six Kettledrums and Orchestra." (See above.)

On March 3, 1963, at Little Carnegie Hall a program of Lionel Nowak's music will be performed. Orrea Pernel, George Finckel, Gunnar Schonbeck, all of the Bennington faculty, will perform, as well as Mr. Nowak himself. This winter Mr. Nowak will, as he has done before, tour under the auspices of the arts program of the Association of American Colleges. He will also play special concerts for several Alumnae Association Regional Groups.

The Estival Quartet, which with Edwin Sherrard, Orrea Pernel organized eight years ago, gave ten performances this past summer. This group gave a series of six concerts at the Baker Library, Dartmouth; two in Manchester, for the Southern Vermont Art Center; one at Goddard College and one at Bennington for the Summer Institute of High School Music Teachers. Miss Pernel and Mr. George Finckel will perform at the dedication of the Hopkins Art Center, Dartmouth, in November. They will play as members of the Estival String Quartet, and as orchestra section leaders in a new commissioned work by Darius Milhaud.

On December 3rd, Miss Pernel will have a joint concert with Gregory Tucker at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Every Saturday morning from 9 to 1, some 60 to 70 area youngsters, their families and other adults, make music under Gunnar Schonbeck's direction, in his workshop in North Bennington. Flutes and clarinets, brasses, percussion and strings, and recorders meet for hour sessions each. This program has been in existence for two years and the demand is tremendous. The participants are learning to play and to love music. They are being taught to read, to know time and to hear. For all of them it is fun. For some of them the program will start a life-long skill. On Tuesday evenings Mr. Schonbeck conducts a group of adult brasses. Any high school student who plays a brass may join in. The advantages for the student, and the pleasure in the project for the professionals and semi-professionals, is obvious. On Thursday evenings two high school string quartets meet with Mr. Schonbeck. Following their hour rehearsal, adult string performers join the group, and all play together, the young learning from the more skilled. Every Sunday afternoon in the North Bennington Library, Mr. Schonbeck conducts a concert. Any of the individuals connected with the above musical activities here has a chance to perform before an audience.



## HARPSICHORD CONCERTS

The range of music studied and performed at Bennington includes everything from its very beginnings to recent developments in electronic music. There is, for instance, an embryonic electronic laboratory in Jennings. But there is no harpsichord, and this lack is a sorry insufficiency. Lionel Nowak, for the Division, expressed the need this way. "We wish to acquire a full size harpsichord, for we believe the community will welcome the opportunity of hearing pre-classic music in its authentic manner, that the students of the keyboard will benefit from acquaintance with this forerunner of the piano, and that the composers will find values useful to present day expression." To gather funds (\$6,000), three benefit concerts were arranged. The visiting artists donated their services -- Richard Dyer-Bennet, tenor and guitarist; a joint concert of Sylvia Marlowe, harpsichordist, and Bernard Greenhouse, cellist; and Claude Frank, pianist, a former member of Bennington's music faculty. A local committee has been hard at work, and is mainly responsible for the raising, to date, of over half of the required funds. Alumnae who majored in music have been invited to help, and many have done so. Trustees have been generous.

## BORROWING READERS

From the Thirtieth Annual Report of the Librarian of Bennington College, comes the statement that 24,291 books were loaned to students for use outside the Library in 1961-62. This is an increase of 1,906 over the previous year. Total volumes in the Library as of June 30, 1962, were 41,922. Added to the collection in the course of the year were 2,433 volumes. Eliminated were 348. Bennington and Williams students may now borrow books directly from each other's libraries. This arrangement was set up experimentally and seems to be working well. Miss Hopkins reports that "among the many thoughtful gifts we received was that of the Class of 1962 -- a sum for the purchase of files of journals."

## THE TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees now numbers twenty three members. It meets four times yearly. While the January meeting is traditionally held in New York, all other full Board meetings are on the campus. This implies that Trustee committees meet in between and elsewhere, and that is true. The first full Board meeting was on October 11, 12 and 13. The Trustees return to the campus in April, and again in June.

Three new trustees have taken up their posts. At the October meeting, joining the Board were Franklin L. Ford, Joseph M. Lord and Mrs. Morton A. Schiffer. Mr. Ford, recently appointed Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard, taught history at Bennington from 1949 to 1951. Mr. Lord is a vice-president of the Morgan Guaranty Trust and active friend of the College. Mrs. Schiffer (Sara Jane Troy, '43) has worked in the College's behalf for many years and among other services ran the New York Theatre Benefit for several years.

Returning to the Board, and again as its Chairman, is Oscar M. Ruebhausen. Also returning after several years absence are Mrs. Ralph Brown, Jr., (Betty Mills, '39), Mrs. John W. Nields (Lila Franklin, '37) and John G. McCullough.



## SOCIAL SCIENCE LECTURE SERIES

In 1959 Fairleigh S. Dickinson, Jr. established the Elizabeth Harrington Dickinson Lectures on "The Poetic Tradition in English." Mr. Dickinson is a Trustee of the College, and Mrs. Dickinson is a graduate. The Lectures have brought R. P. Blackmur, John Crowe Ransom and Louise Bogan to the College to date. The series is ongoing.

A second and recent gift from Mr. and Mrs. Dickinson will now make it possible for the Social Science Division to design a series of outstanding lectures over the next few years. When plans for these are known, they will be announced.

## THE ASSOCIATES OF BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Almost a year ago the Associates of Bennington College were given formal status by the Trustees of the College. A Board of Directors was appointed, and by-laws were voted. The Associates, which were established many years ago are persons actively interested in supporting the College, and in assisting the President and the Board of Trustees: by planning and organizing effective fund raising activities, by informing friends of the College of its progress and plans, and by finding means to express the gratitude of the College to its supporters.

An Associate can give varying amounts to the College in a year and often to different projects or funds. Elizabeth J. Franklin Associates give a total of \$1,000 or more, Sustaining Associates \$500-- , Supporting Associates \$250-- , Contributing Associates \$100-- . Although there is no firm pledge to repeat the gift yearly, the College hopes for that intention on the part of the donor and, happily, that has been the practice. Many alumnae are Associates, although their gifts are credited to the Alumnae Fund. A booklet listing the Associates membership will be published sometime this year.

Associates activities in New York are now well under way and the Board will help other cities get started. The group is very important to the College and its increasing membership is encouraging. The Directors, in expressing thanks to the organization's New York City and vicinity members, have already given a large dinner in New York.

## MATCHING GIFTS

Bennington's fiscal year differs little from its academic year and with the start of the latter we begin in earnest to seek contributions for our various Funds. Alumnae are well aware of this, because the 1962-63 Alumnae Fund drive was launched by Lais Corinthia and Helen Feeley six weeks ago. What we want to remind all of you about here is not just the fact of our annual treasure hunt, but of the extensive list of businesses and other organizations which match employee gifts to colleges. Most of them will match a gift given to a college by a non-alumna. In either case, through the matching program, a gift to a college is doubled, and occasionally tripled. If you are employed by one of the companies listed in the enclosed flyer, make your contribution known to the appropriate company office and let Bennington have the advantage of two for one.



## BOILERS, OR (LITERALLY) BUST

At their October meeting, the Trustees authorized the construction of a heating-maintenance building. Our experts tell us that our present heating facilities will only last through this winter, not another. The existing system has given us much over our money's worth (it was constructed to carry the College for only its first 20 years), but is about finished now. No one connected with the College wishes to invest in boilers rather than education, but for education to go on here, new boilers we must have. And it will not be an easy project to find support for. Ideas about that would be welcome -- as would sizeable contributions!

## WATCHBIRDS

A new committee, for lack of any other name called "The Art and Architecture Committee," has just been established. Within days of its being, it had two meetings, and more will follow quickly. Its purpose is to advise the President and the Trustees on building sites and landscaping. Its current business is to consider the two recommended sites for the new heating-maintenance plant and to recommend which is preferable from an aesthetic view. The Committee is made up of the following personnel: Paul Feeley, Chairman, George Holt, Orrea Pernel, Anne Schlabach, Rebecca Stickney and Fred Wohnus.