

# THE BEACON

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## Dr. Frederick Burkhardt to be New Bennington President

### Will Take Office Next Term

At a special community meeting May 12, President Jones announced that Dr. Frederick Burkhardt would be the new President of Bennington College. Mr. Jones reminded the students that in his speech at the beginning of this term he warned against gossip about possible presidential candidates; that as soon as a choice was made the student body would be the first to hear of it. He kept this promise. The college had the news before it was released to the press.

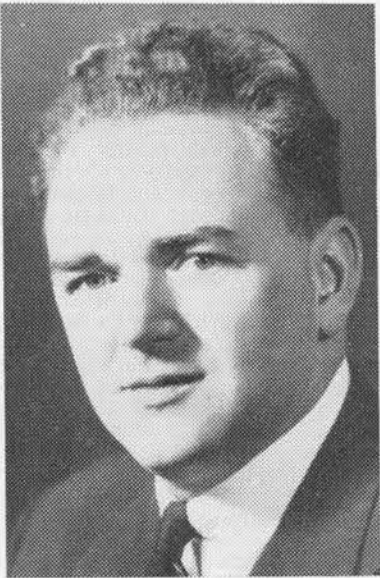
### Background of Dr. Burkhardt

Mr. Jones sketched the background of the President-elect. He was born in Brooklyn in 1912 and received his Bachelor of Arts Degree with honors in philosophy, at Columbia University in New York City. Dr. Burkhardt was a scholar at Oxford, where he received his B. Litt. degree. He obtained his Ph.D. at Columbia, and has been with the philosophy department at the University of Wisconsin for the past ten years, except during the war years when he served with the Navy. He was awarded the Bronze Star for work he accomplished in the Office of Strategic Services. Dr. Burkhardt's wife also studied at Oxford and Columbia. The Burkhardt's have three children.

### Search for President

President Jones said that the new President was chosen after an "active national search". Mr. Burkhardt was the unanimous choice of the board of trustees and the faculty. He was the sole candidate who was heartily approved by each board member. Several faculty members comprised an advisory board and worked with the trustees. They were Mr. Brockway, Mrs. Leslie, and Mr. Boepple.

Mr. Jones continued by saying that the extensive search "was kept as quiet as possible", but that it was exceptionally thorough and a great many people were "traced down and eliminated". In an interview after the meeting, President Jones said that the process of elimination was simple. The search was careful but rapid because of Bennington's far-flung connections which could provide reliable information. For this



DR. FREDERICK BURKHARDT

reason, it was easy to say "no" in a comparatively short time after a name was suggested.

It is hoped that Dr. Burkhardt will be able to visit Bennington again before the end of the term—perhaps around July 12. Mr. Jones closed the meeting by saying "I want to urge you all, faculty and students, to join in welcoming the new President."

## Williams Octet To Give Concert May 31

In the Adams Memorial Theatre on May 31, the Williams Alumni Octet will present a program of songs, "designed to charm both old and young." The kind of singing which this octet represents is a comparatively new development at Williams. Until 1940 a quartet was the only vocal group in existence, other than the Glee Club, and the establishment of an octet was received with much enthusiasm by students and friends of Williams. In 1941 the group sang in Bermuda, at Ardsley-on-the-Hudson, New York, and at the Veterans' Hospital outside of Northampton, Mass. It gave joint concerts with the Bennington octet and the Sarah Lawrence Chorus in 1941-42 and sang at such social affairs as the Charity Ball at Smith College. In addition, the octet was the first student aggregation of any kind to make use of the then brand new Adams Memorial Theatre. At that time, it opened the program with an original offering entitled, **The Adams Memorial Theatre**. This same song will start off the concert on May 31.

### Postwar Reunion

The advent of war caused the slow dissolution of the group, and although a wartime substitute made up of civilian students and members of the V-5 and V-12 units was formed, it was not successful. In 1945 the octet was completely defunct, but Memorial Day, 1946, witnessed a rebirth in the form of a postwar reunion. Since that time the group has continued to meet almost weekly, and sings at private parties as well as at college functions. Members of the present company have been drawn from octets which have existed from 1940 until the present, and although five men are no longer at Williams and two are about to graduate (one of them attends Yale!) the group has lost none of its original fervor. Their names are undoubtedly familiar

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## Coming Up; Faculty Houses To be Ready in Fall

Students on their way to Jennings Hall have noticed strange activity on either side of the road, big holes dug in the mud, and boards sticking up in jagged rows. These are the basements and foundations of sorely-needed new faculty houses.

### Costs

Even though building costs are about double those of the faculty houses built before the war, the trustees felt it necessary to go ahead with the plans. At present it is impossible to house new faculty and many of the present faculty are inadequately housed or must vacate rented houses. The Federal Housing Authority is financing the project and Bennington will have a 2% advantage in its favor in the amortization.

### Design Similar to Boepple House

Six houses will be built, five in the orchard and one on the other side of the road. Of the old faculty houses which were designed by Bennington students for specific families, the Boepple house has proved most adaptable to families of different sizes. The design of the new houses is based on the Boepple house with certain rearrangements and improvements. The plans were drawn up by the office of Wallace Harrison, a trustee, who was one of the Rockefeller Center architects and is on the United Nations Planning Commission. Because of an improved plan and because the materials can be ordered in carload lots and sent to the North Bennington siding, the cost of the houses will be less than the cost of the Boepple house at present price levels. Mr. Tschorn is running the job, sending out specifications to sub-contractors and accepting bids for the work.

All six houses have the same basic plan but three houses will have an extra room. The houses are two feet wider than the Boepple house and will be two full stories instead of one and a half. Each house has a full basement with an oil burner. The living room is 14½' by 23'. It has a fireplace and opens out on a flagstone terrace in the back of the house. The library, which could be used as a dining room or a bedroom depending on the needs of the family, is 11' by 13'. The kitchen including a dinette space is 10' by 17'. The studio on the three larger houses

(Continued on page 5)

## AAUW Meets at Bennington

The college was exceptionally active during Long Weekend. Bennington played host to the Vermont State Division of the American Association of University Women. The participants started arriving on Thursday and remained through Saturday. They did not live on Campus, but had their meals here.

The main portion of each day was concerned with lectures on education. There were several distinguished speakers, among them Dr. Esther Cauk Brunauer, senior adviser to the U. S. delegation at the conference of UNESCO, who spoke on "The Work of the UNESCO". Mrs. Carmelita Hinton, Principal of the Putney School, discussed "Educational Patterns are Abandoned". A speech on "The Present Status of Education in Germany" was delivered by Dr. Helen C. White, National President of the AAUW.

Those attending the conference also had separate reunions of their college Alumnae groups and were taken on tours of the campus.

## Bennington Dancers Collaborate with Sarah Lawrence for Y. M. H. A. Performance

The Bennington College Dance Group, in collaboration with Sarah Lawrence, presented a new program of dances at the Y.M.H.A. in New York last night. The Bennington dancers, under the direction of William Bales and Martha Hill, gave two group dances. They were Beth Olsen's senior project, **Hey Ho**, and Letitia Evans' **Front Parlor, 1910**. In addition, Ann Hart and Linda Lyons contributed two solos each.

### Senior Project

**Hey Ho** ("Conceits, Capers, Performances, and Trifles for Easie Light-Minded People"), represented a group of traveling minstrels "on the road." It was divided into four different sections: Come, Strike Up; Ballad, The Unquiet Grave; Interlude, Joust; and Tale of David and Goliath.

The music by Rathgeber was arranged by Hazel Johnson and complemented by Sally Baker's voice and Linda Lyons' playing of the drum. The Dancers were: Beth Olsen, Letitia Evans, Marilyn Lord, Amelie Landry, Ann Hart, Barbara Corey, Patsi Birsh, Joan Hunt and Janet Reibel. The on-stage atmosphere was gay and light, characteristic of traveling players.

### "Front Parlor, 1910"

The quarter, **Front Parlor, 1910**, composed and directed by Letitia Evans, was built on a more dramatic line. The theme is the attempt of a mother to keep her daughters tied down to the conventions of the small town where the action takes place. One of the young girls (Letitia Evans) tries to get away to the glamorous big city, but falls back under the domineering influence of the mother and the small town. Beth Olsen's dancing was most indicative of matriarchal constriction. The three daughters were Letitia Evans, Patsi Birsh and Barbara Corey.

### Comic, Sophisticated and Dramatic Themes

Ann Hart repeated her last term's performance of **The Pleasures of Merely Circulating**. The character she represents is that of a person intrigued by the mysteries of life. After she flits from clouds and angels to skulls and woods and hooded men beating on

(Continued on page 3)

## "Circus" is Spring Dance Theme May 24

The circus is coming to the Carriage Barn on Saturday night, May twenty-fourth; therefore the members of the Recreation Council are coping with all the problems of Ringling Brothers in carrying out the theme for the Spring Dance.

Dance weekend officially begins with the movie, "Laura", on Friday night. There will be two performances, one at 7:00 and one at 9:30, in order that everyone will be able to attend.

On Saturday there will be cocktail parties sponsored by individual houses, to be followed by dinner in the Dining Rooms. After-dinner music will be provided by the Vassar, Smith, Yale, Williams, Amherst, and Bennington octets.

The dance will begin at 10:30 and will last until 3:00. Dancing "under the Big Top" will be to the music of Bernie Collins' orchestra. Tickets are \$5.00. The Merry-Go-Round will stay open after 3:00 for those who wish to go out after the dance.

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## Hints from Mr. Kaiser

"If there is a problem of faculty-student relations at Bennington, it seems to me we ought to talk about it." When Mr. Kaiser made this statement at the beginning of his speech at the Community Meeting, the audience believed that at last there was to be a frank airing of a situation often hinted at but seldom discussed. Unfortunately, if that was Mr. Kaiser's intention, it was not successfully carried out.

He stated that his subject matter was extremely delicate, but his evasive treatment was so "tactful" that the speech was at best ambiguous and served to obscure, rather than to enlighten. Perhaps the only helpful function it performed was to stir up interest in the issue.

One of the few conclusions which the members of the audience were able to draw from Mr. Kaiser's comments was that some of the faculty members feel themselves over-burdened with community problems; a few teachers fill a great many positions. It is true that because many of the faculty must commute and others are not interested in committee work, there is an uneven division of appointments. Perhaps one of the main troubles is that there is actually an insufficient number of instructors available for teaching, let alone for extra-curricular activities. Therefore many who would and should refuse added work and responsibility are made to feel that they cannot do so. If the acceptance of one position did not entail the near certainty of being drafted into two or three others, the general willingness to participate might increase.

Although this point is undoubtedly important, it deals with only one aspect of a rather complex problem. Mr. Kaiser stated that he was not representing the faculty, and student opinion has not been thoroughly formulated. A clear and forthright expression of the opinion from the members of the Community is not only desirable but necessary.



## "Open" Council Meetings

Starting Tuesday, May 27, Community Council meetings will be open. They will be held in the Student Lounge and will begin at seven o'clock.

## RE: MARX

by Miriam Marx

## WINTER PERIOD REPORT—1947

Perhaps it's a little late in the term to start discussing my Winter Period experience, but since I value it so highly, I want to make sure that everyone realizes just how successful I really was. From the first minute I walked into Harper and Brothers Publishing House to apply for a job, to the day three months later when I left, I was a success. How could I help but be? As soon as I told the personnel manager that I could make an awfully good ashtray in Ceramics, he had no alternative but to hire me. What did it matter if I didn't know the touch system and couldn't take shorthand? Anyone who can make an ashtray in Ceramics is indispensable to a publishing house, and, fortunately for Harpers, the personnel manager was bright enough to realize that.

I was assigned immediately to the Medical Books Department, and there aren't enough superlatives in the dictionary to describe how much I value the experience gained there. I typed index cards eight hours a day, five days a week, and, besides learning such important things as how to insert the card in the typewriter, how to remove it, and how to keep from getting arthritis, I also learned the even more important trick of how to refrain from taking the whole pile of cards and throwing them into my employer's benevolent face.

Of course, the work was fairly repetitious, since it consisted solely of typing the words "Cantor's Ambulatory Proctology" on each card. However, in the long run, I even benefited from that. I was such a bright and willing student that by the time I had been there two weeks, I'd discovered that the author in question was not Eddie Cantor at all, but an entirely different person. It was somewhat of a relief, too, since up to then I had maintained visions of Eddie Cantor riding around in an ambulance singing a song about proctology.

There is a statement in the Non-Resident Term Bulletin which reads, "... students are put for the first time in a position where they are needed and relied on for their part in the work." This was particularly true in my case. The work I was doing was so important and necessary to the department that I almost feel sorry for them now, having to struggle along without me. Why, take for example the week I was ill. My absence left such a void that when my roommate phoned to tell them I wouldn't be in, the woman who took the message almost knew who I was. However, it turned out later that she'd made a mistake. She was actually thinking of a girl from Antioch who'd worked there a couple of years before. Yes sir, I really made an impression on those people!

It's hard to decide, but I think the thing I am really most thankful for, was that my job enabled me to meet new and interesting people. The girl who sat at the desk next to mine was particularly stimulating. Every evening after work she went to see "The Jolson Story", and the next morning she'd always come in and tell me the plot. Sometimes, if she was in an especially good mood, she'd even sing me the songs (in blackface, of course.) She kept a burnt cork in her desk drawer for just such occasions.

In the event that some other Bennington student might choose to work for Harpers in the future, I'm sure she will have no trouble obtaining a position, if she will remember to do two things: (1) Don't fail to take a course in Ceramics before applying, and (2) Be sure to tell them you know me, since, after all, I was such a great success.

The price of a year's subscription to The Beacon is \$1.75 for members of the college community and \$2.00 for outside subscribers. By the term, the rate is \$1.00 for all subscribers. We apologize for errors concerning the rates in past issues.

c/o R. S. V. P.

Letter Box

RSVP

Dear Editor:

In answer to the comments in this column last week about the waste of faculty time in community government positions, I'd like first to agree that a more efficient set-up is needed, but second to disagree with any proposal that members of the faculty be excused from participation in community activities.

There are two important points to take up: the time spent over so-called petty details, and the preservation by members of the faculty of their own private identity, both as practitioners in an art or science and as members of a family. With regard to the second point I simply want to say that the essential things for a student to learn are not respect for the special private time of faculty members (a special class of people), but respect for the private time of any human being, herself included; and not that faculty members are special in needing time to work in their fields in order to get nourishment and inspiration, but that each field of human endeavor demands time, devotion and discipline from every person engaged in working in it, the rewards being there for all who will undertake the discipline. Who of us would wish to say: "I put myself on a pedestal because I have read more than you have or because I have undergone a training that has been longer and stricter than yours?"

With regard to the first point I want to say that I think there is a certain analogy between learning to make or see a painting, for example, and learning to live in a group of people. That is, both involve knowing about the function of the small detail in the whole picture. This college takes responsibility for both these learning processes as well as for the process of the students' learning how to master a body of knowledge. The role of the member of the faculty in all three should be that of mastercraftsman, and in community government as in academic work the participating faculty members, as well as the students, should keep that in mind.

The yacht club and the milk bottles were purposely belittling examples when they were chosen at the last Community Meeting. The point is not that it is a waste of faculty time to be asked to vote about milk bottles; the point is that time NOT SPENT to take that opportunity and go one step further and recognize the revealing significance of the small detail in the whole picture is really and truly time WASTED. I am convinced that it is valuable to learn how to master the small detail instead of being at the mercy of its nagging insistence. Any work in any art shows this. (Certainly the art of living can be included.)

Time stolen from other people is unreturnable. Likewise, of course, is time given.

Catherine Osgood Foster

Dear Editors:

I enclose my subscription to The Beacon for a year. I want to congratulate you all on the success of your vigorous undertaking. I have read the first two issues with lots of enthusiasm and interest.

In your first issue you invited criticism. I can't let that invitation stand unanswered after reading the editorial in volume 1, number 2, RELIGION IN THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY.

... In the first place the title was a misnomer. It should have been RELIGION OUT OF THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY. In the second place, this reader questioned immediately what the writer knew about religion. Was it as much as she knows about, say, vitamins?

The editor rates religion as a power, greater than many of its strongest advocates would, in her first statement in which she says that just building a chapel would affect the community as a whole. But she must be afraid of this power as she concludes, in the very next sentence, that the effect would not be beneficial.

As for the next paragraph, does the provision of ash trays by the college prevent the students from forming and maintaining their own convictions on smoking? Does the college wait until each student analyzes her own nutritional needs before engaging a dietician? Perhaps it was a mistake for the college founders to set up a medical and nursing staff and an infirmary. There are doctors in town, and a hospital, and I am sure that "adequate transportation facilities" to them could be provided.

When you get right down to it, what is valid provision for Bennington individuals? It must

## Community Chest

The Community Chest drive, lasting from April 23rd to May 2nd, placed its goal at one thousand dollars. The amount collected from the student houses was seven hundred and eighty dollars. Stokes-Sanford led the houses in contributions during this drive. Byrd Symington, chairman of the Community Chest, plans to have another drive around the end of June. In the past there have been three Community Chest drives a term. This year each house will contribute individually to CARE instead of having a third drive. Each house will also have two clothing drives.

seem great presumption to some of them that

dormitories, with windows and central heating and floors and beds and chairs and bathrooms came before students at Bennington. What happens to the mature pioneering spirits among you who would elect tents and trenches?

Seriously, isn't it time that a college which has facilitated the comforts of smoking and drinking and excellent food, and great freedom in social and intellectual pursuits, also facilitate the comforts and discomforts that religion entails?

Very sincerely

Nina Howell Starr '42  
 Mrs. Nathan C. Starr

To The Beacon:

Dear Editor:

In regard to the caption under "Octet Singers" this writer is very surprised to learn that her name is Jean McAllaster. We both will admit that we have done our best to mix you up; but—as yet, the "double-double" relationship, which is planned for the future, has not come to pass.

Our best regards to The Beacon and its staff.

Sally Baker (almost McAllaster)  
 Jean McAllaster (almost Baker)

(Our apologies and best of luck to the "double-doubles", whose engagements to each others' brothers threw us off.—Ed.)

We encourage every BEACON reader to write to us, c/o RSVP. Remember that this is your newspaper, and we welcome interesting articles on any subject. Letters should be placed in Box 104.

## Europe's Families Are Still Our Responsibility

At the close of World War II conditions in Europe were disclosed to the American public. The situation was so appalling that no literate person in this country could escape the realization that Europe was in desperate need of help. We all saw in the newsreels and read in the papers how hundreds of thousands of Europeans were dying of exposure or starvation. America reacted as was expected; the proper organizations were formed and publicized. For a while we conscientiously avoided wasting food, donated clothes and gave money.

## Europe Out of the Limelight

In a short time, however, these conditions of war-worn Europe were no longer "news" to the American public. Headlines switched to international politics, strikes, inflation, and other national and local news. Europe was forgotten by the press and radio. What we must realize is that conditions in Europe are now as bad as ever; the amount of food and clothing we are sending fills a fragment of the total need. Because this winter was unusually severe, most Europeans who escaped dying from exposure or starvation are left sick, weak and hungry. Unfortunately, the American public is not aware that unless these people are helped to recovery immediately, they will be physically unable to cope with the work of adequate planting and harvesting. In short, if we don't increase our material aid now, thousands more will die next winter.

## What Bennington Community Can Do

There are nearly 400 people in this community, each of whom is financially capable of direct donations. Every house on campus could adopt a European family and send them food and clothing. The name of a non-fascist family can easily be obtained from:

The International Solidarity Committee: Room 516, 303 4th Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

Once a family is adopted, they can be supplied most easily through:

C.A.R.E., 50 Broad St., New York 4, N. Y.

This organization ships both food and clothing directly to the addresses from stock piles in Europe. In this way, help can be given with a minimum of

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## Review of Art Exhibit

The present exhibition in the dining room represents work done by students of Graphic Arts, Painting, Sculpture and Architecture. The work is from both Senior and Junior Divisions and shows a variety of individual approaches to these four mediums. The exhibition presents an exciting element of originality in that each work retains an expression that is highly personal to each of the artists.

In this exhibit it is interesting to note the four different ways shown of treating Lithography:

Barbara Goldberg maintains interest through variation in the size and shape of her strokes. Her print is arranged in patterns of changing texture. She uses light in a very literal way—as an outside force coming into the picture.

Marilyn Lord has used the medium more as a painting technique than as drawing. Her use of light is not literal, she uses it almost as a color. Her darks are arranged in the same way. There is a feeling of light from within the picture rather than from an outside source.

Realism is expressed in Vasso Boloyannis' work through the naturalistic rendering of light and dark similar to chiaroscuro effect of the Italian Renaissance. The treatment allows for solidity of form which is simple and direct.

Ruth Livingston's lithographs have a great deal of facility and freedom in exploring all the possibilities of the technique. She uses softness and hardness of line and texture as well as variation in tone.

### Paintings

From the painting studio, there are four pictures on exhibition.

In her picture, Christina Marquand has painted a warm autumn afternoon. She has intensified the autumn warmth by contrasting it with cool colors. The picture is worked into a stylized pattern of trees, hills, and barns. There is an inconsistency in organization for the distant mountain is not well enough defined for the decisive pattern of the rest of the picture.

Mary Lou Chapman has conceived her composition with technical precision. She achieves depth through contrasting blocks of color and has maintained a clarity of form. However, there is a discrepancy between the foreground and the background due to the tenuous treatment of the foreground as opposed to the turbulent treatment of the trees and the sky.

Huldah Curl expresses a quality of large space in a simple conception of two dominant horizontal planes of sky and land that are counterposed by a minimum of strong vertical planes. Though she has achieved a three-dimensional quality, the two-dimensional surface quality is lacking; the hot ground colors are not held in place by sufficient excitement in the sky.

Through a direct and quick application of color and shape, Sally Winston has spontaneously created a vivid landscape. Its intensity is achieved through its bright pure color. The picture is unified through the movement of color and form and therefore the unifying element of the black frame seems rather superfluous.

### Constructions

Jeanne Johnson and Nancy Hauck in their abstract construction of rooms have added a new and pleasing touch to the exhibit. In their constructions of the Night Club and the Indoor and Outdoor Living Room, they have utilized the medium with great originality and success.

### Sculpture

The pieces of sculpture by Grace Russell and Jane Langhans are successful in that they manage to communicate a mood and a feeling. However, the impression of the form as a whole as well as the form of the specific parts seems to be lacking in Grace's figure. The movement which she has managed to bring into the composition gives it a very pleasing air, a rather ethereal feeling. But the essential quality necessary to make it convincing is lacking. The core of the figure as a form seems neglected and subordinated to the more superficial aspects. Jane Langhans has worked with the form in a more direct approach. Her shapes are flowing and simple, but with a definite feeling of solidity about them. She has aimed at simplicity to the extent that a doubt is raised as to whether or not she has intentionally verged on the abstract. The surface texture seems rather unusual for plaster, but very appropriate.

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## First Editions at Second-Hand Book Store

An Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Mills

by Mary-Elizabeth Sherwin

A year ago last February, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mills opened a second-hand bookstore in Bennington. When we called on them, they told us that during their first three months in business they had but five customers. We thought perhaps the lack of business was due to their location (on Depot St.) and we asked Mrs. Mills why they moved to Bennington. As we walked into the house she explained why Bennington seemed to be a wise choice. "You see there is only one other large second-hand bookstore in this state, and that is up in Rutland, Vt. Then, too, Bennington is fairly close to New York and Boston. Sammy (their 1931 Ford) eliminated the problem of transportation". Mrs. Mills' expression became wistful as she explained that Sammy, unfortunately, had gone the way of most good, but old, cars so once

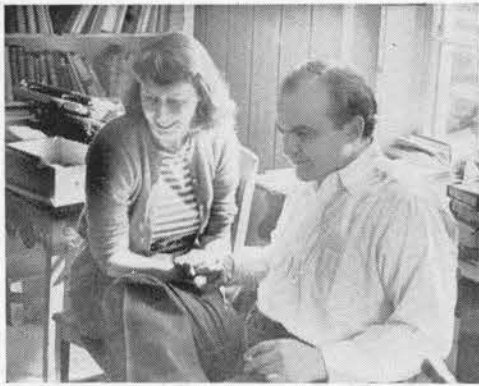


Photo by Peter Stevenson

DOROTHY and RICHARD MILLS

again the Mills are forced to cope with the problems of transportation.

Mrs. Mills began wrapping books while we talked. Her dog Katey complicated the chore by tugging on the string, and instead of reprimanding her, Mrs. Mills merely put the books aside and led us to the back room to show us their private collection. Collectors and those interested in printing would enjoy seeing their Kelmscott editions and their hand-printed volumes. They also have a first edition of "Ulysses". When Mrs. Mills showed it to us, I asked why they hadn't had it bound and she said that the value of a "first" increased when it was unbound and uncut.

### History as Booksellers

We learned that Mr. Mills specializes in incunabula; that is specimens of printing that appeared before or soon after 1500 A. D. He first became interested in book-selling while at Harvard. There he bought and sold for individual customers.

Do you want your friends to receive THE BEACON? Put their names and addresses (along with yours) in Box 104, care of the Circulation Manager, or give them to Eleanor Cohen.

When the Mills first went into business in Bennington, their stock consisted of their combined private collections. In college Mr. Mills majored in Celtic studies while Mrs. Mills majored in English literature; therefore their stock consisted mostly of books on the history of theology, philosophy and literary criticism.

We wondered if they found it hard to part with many of their books and Mrs. Mills said that if your mind remains active, your taste changes and you outgrow the books you once treasured—with the exception of those kept for purely sentimental reasons.

After looking at the rare books, we followed Mrs. Mills out to the kitchen and she began to bake a cake. Having sold cookbooks in Chicago during our non-resident term, we were interested to see what book she used. She uses Fanny Farmer's book, a long-time favorite among housewives. We asked Mrs. Mills why Fanny F's had revolutionized the cooking world, and she said that this woman was the first to use standard measuring units in her recipes. Prior to that time, the Good Cooks recipes said "... take a hunk of butter the size of an orange, enough vanilla to fill your thimble, ..." etc.

### Dealer Also Teacher

Soon after the cake was mixed, Mr. Mills came home from his job as English and Latin teacher in the North Bennington high school. "Teaching is a losing battle", he moaned. "It is the battle of one hundred and twenty minds against one". Mr. Mills looked precisely as though he had lost a battle. He justified the loss by explaining that his pupils could get along on merely eight hours of sleep, while he could not! We asked him what he was teaching his English classes, and he said that they were studying "Henry the Fifth" in preparation for the movie that is coming to town. With Mr. and Mrs. Mills we discussed problems of education in college as well as secondary schools. Both Mr. and Mrs. are appalled at the lack of background and the lack of knowledge of the classics that most Bennington College students exhibit. Mrs. Mills said she has often thought that a study of the history of the Church would be of great value to college students, for she said such a study would help to correlate many of our courses.

Unfortunately, we had to leave before the cake was done and therefore cannot vouch for Mrs. Mills' cooking, but we can say that they have an unusually fine stock of books and a keen knowledge of their contents.

The Silo deadline is fixed for May 25th. All short stories, poems, humorous articles, drawings, and articles of a critical nature are welcome and will be given careful consideration. Please put contributions in Box 126.

## Nancy Lindau Tells About Winter Period in Norway

On January 18th, a morning when most of us were rising early and condemning unaccustomed working hours, Nancy Lindau was stepping aboard the liner Stavangerfjord for a trip to Norway. It was a ten-day crossing, the last two days spent within sight of the Norwegian coast line. They docked at last in Oslo where Nancy and her sister Judy were to live with friends during their ten-week stay. "We were very lucky", said Nancy. "Mr. Stange had recently sent his children to America to study, and it was possible for us to have their place in the house. You know, the government allots all unoccupied rooms, so if it had not been for these friends I don't know where we should have lived." She went on to say that the people were very warm and gracious.

When asked what the Norwegians thought of Americans, Nancy laughed. "They liked the friendliness of the American soldiers very much. Still they think we are money-mad, and that we don't know how to live." She went on, "They lead a much more leisurely life with lots of vacations and holidays. Even the theatres are closed on a holiday. The men come home from work by three-thirty in the afternoon; so the fathers are with their families more than in this country. The family is a close unit. Then, too, they are an athletic people who enjoy spending time out of doors together. Everyone skis all year round." Nancy, it seems, let the skiing pass her by, and found two other people in the city of Oslo who felt the same disinterest.

One of our questions was about her difficulties with the language. She told us it was not as hard as she had expected since so many of the people in Oslo spoke English. Six years of our language is required in the schools there. "I learned to speak Norwegian, though", Nancy hastened to assure us. "My professor in the art school was one of those who spoke no English at all; so another student had to translate until I learned enough to speak for myself."

We talked for awhile about the educational system in Norway whereby every student has two years of college before entering the university. We talked of

(Continued on page 6)



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### Interesting Alumnae

by  
Jo McCleary

Bennington, during its fourteen short years of existence, has produced a large number of alumnae who have gone on since their college days to success in almost every field. Among the most outstanding are Lucy Greenbaum, a feature writer for the New York Times, and Helen Watkins, now doing free lance advertising in N. Y. Helen Watkins recently astounded the advertising world by having the first moving window display on Fifth Avenue, and using live models. Anne Poor is also in N. Y. now. She is doing art work and has exhibits at the American British Art Center. She is reputed to be a very promising young artist.

After a series of Washington conferences Joan Hinton has left this country for China where she is to be married. Since taking her M.A. in physics at the University of Wisconsin Joan has been working with the nuclear physicists in Los Alamos, New Mexico, on the atomic bomb tests. It was with the Federation of American Physicists that she came to Washington early this year to try to establish a satisfactory plan for civilian control of atomic energy. Peggy Dunn, meanwhile, is planning to leave China July 1, having finished her job as translator for the U. S. State Department in southern Manchuria. This job has really been a trip home for Peggy who spent most of her life in Shanghai before coming to college.

Having decided newspaper work is more interesting than her labor activities, Ruth Dewing Ewing is helping her husband on the Bangor Daily Commercial, a paper which he recently purchased. Mrs. Ewing has been active in labor arbitration since leaving Bennington. Most recently she was with the labor division of the War Production Board.

These are only a few of the Bennington Alumnae who have done, and are doing, splendid jobs. Both the school and its graduates are young, but they are already setting a standard of excellence for Bennington students.

### Bennington Dancers

(Continued from page 1)

drums, she gets scared by her own inquisitiveness and seeks reassurance and security in the commonplace and traditional. She turns to Mrs. Anderson's Swedish baby, and the comforting thought that "Things go round and again go round, has rather a classical sound." The poem, of the same title, by Wallace Stevens, was read by Muriel Seeley. The music was a Shostakovich selection.

**Out The Fire** is a comical piece. The action takes place in the West Indies. The music is that of the Duke of Iron and his Calypso Troubadours. The dance represents a fire on an island and a woman's frenzied attempts to put it out. She is finally overcome by the heat and excitement and gives it up as something which is too big for her to fight. Small details such as putting out a spark with her little toe added a great deal to the comical effect of the dance.

Linda Lyons' **Backyard** was set to a sophisticated blues by Samuel Barber. The theme of the dance is a woman's feeling of loneliness and segregation in her own backyard. She is shut in by an invisible fence and cannot get out to the friendly world beyond.

**Here No Pitying Monument** portrays a peasant woman who has suffered a loss. The dance is divided into three sections: the first is a quiet lament; the second, a determination to act, and the third, a triumphant call to action. The dancer makes a most effective use of a scarf throughout the dance, draping it on her head, and twisting it round her arms in the first two sections, and using it as a banner of victory in the last.

With the exception of Ann Hart's **The Pleasures of Merely Circulating**, all were initial performances. They will be shown in the Open Dance Workshop at Bennington on June 5, 6, and 7.

The Bennington Dance Group worked under great pressure of a New York presentation and is to be praised for its finished production. Sarah Lawrence also presented a laudable recital.

### Faculty Concert

The faculty concert on Wednesday (May 7th) was excellent. Mr. Matthen, accompanied by Mr. Levy, sang a very lovely Couperin "Air Serieux" and three "Spiritual" songs by Schutz. He sang clearly and with feeling, especially in the three contrasting moods of the Schutz songs. Mr. Matthen's singing, as always, was pleasant to hear.

Mr. Levy then played the Beethoven "Hammerklavier" sonata. It is difficult to discuss Mr. Levy's performance of this tremendous sonata. His execution of the work was a rare musical experience. The music itself is dissonant, strange and powerful. It was apparent that Mr. Levy understood the entire work. Every passage was played with complete musical integrity. The slow movement was particularly moving.

Unfortunately only a very small group came to the concert. Those who are interested in music and do not attend the faculty concerts run the risk of missing excellent performances.

### Reminder from the World Student Service Fund

The following reports from World Student Service and Fund field workers in China and Greece provide an all too poignant contrast to our comfortable and well-provisioned student life at Bennington. Students here, who complain about walking up to Fairview or bemoan the lack of Hershey bars in the store, would do well to read and try to comprehend these descriptions of conditions other students are undergoing in their search for an education.

The following is an excerpt from a letter sent by a field worker of the Student Relief Committee in China to the national office of the World Student Service Fund:

"What the students have for meals is only corn bread (something like the crudest brown bread) with the same little bowl of vegetable and beans, three meals a day and seven days a week. Occasionally, they have white bread—that is something unusual—for festivals only. No one can stand such poor diet more than three days (we have tried ourselves), yet the students of Yenching, Tsing Hua and Peking University are all under such nutrition the whole year long.

"Can the students afford to buy textbooks? That is too beautiful a dream. The poor diet already costs them \$35,000 per month and the price goes up 30-50 percent every month. For the students with full scholarship, i. e., \$51,000 monthly, they have to cover all their expenses with this amount; and truly, how they long to have some meat once in a while. And many have to subsidize their even poorer families out of this trifling amount. Poorer than these are the many students with only half scholarships. They can't even pay for the food. The Universities can help no more as they are in the same financial difficulties. The students have no way to borrow, and nothing to spare for sale."

The next excerpt is from a report to World Student Service Fund from a field worker in Greece:

"This morning, February 27, 1947, we have just received word from the Ministry of Supply saying that the government cannot subsidize the student canteens any more because the government has no food. There is no food to be given to the hospitals. Since UNRRA left, no food for free or cheap distribution has been shipped or is being shipped into Greece. For 20,000 drachmas per month or the equivalent of \$2.95 on the open market and \$4 on the official market, students eat a paltry dish of macaroni or beans, and dark bread each day at the student canteens. Experts say this dish has food value of 1200 calories. 1200 calories is not enough. Many students complain of fainting at night because they are hungry. These student canteens will be forced to stop operating within the next two months.

"What does this mean? It means that over 6000 students will have no food to eat. They will climb up the 152 stairs to the canteen hoping to fill their tin cans with the meager 1200 caloric meal and they will come away with their tin cans empty. Soon they will not come. Gradually they will give up hope."

### Corrections

In the Silo Review (The Beacon, May 8) there was a typographical error: "The Harbour"—Barbara Moore, from Melville's 'Moby Dick'. The words "from Melville's 'Moby Dick'" should have been in the first sentence of the paragraph, thus making it:

"The Harbour"—Barbara Moore

"These few words from Melville's 'Moby Dick' contain the theme of the poem, 'When lies . . .'"

On May 29th and 30th the Store is sponsoring an exhibit and sale of students' arts and crafts. Students are urged to bring in contributions. All types of arts and crafts are acceptable. Get in touch with Jeanne Johnson, Phil Sidenberg, Barbara Corey or Mr. DeGray.



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## Europe's Families

(Continued from page 2)

effort, red tape, and delay. C.A.R.E. packages cost only \$10 and are sent free of customs duties and rationing regulations. There is no limit to the number of packages you can send; one C.A.R.E. package provides subsistence for a family of three for a week. If every house planned to send two packages a month, it would cost each member only \$.75—less than the price of four packs of cigarettes.

## The Response is Gratifying

Some houses have already done this and received letters of thanks from their adopted families. The following letter came from Canfield's French family last week. It was written by Madame Lienard, mother of two girls, one 12 and one 18. Her husband was deported to Germany as a laborer and never returned.

"My dear friends,

Excuse me for not sending news of myself sooner; the unusually severe winter has made me very ill. This was the first time in over 30 years that for two months the thermometer didn't rise above 15 degrees, and also the snow was two feet deep. We used up all our reserve of potatoes and vegetables, and we can never thank you enough for the generous packages you sent.

We received your letter and it made us very happy, in our bad state, to know that in another part of the world there are people who worry about us. In your letter you said you were collecting clothes; I don't know how to thank you for this gesture because they came just at the coldest time. I got word today that there is another package for me in Paris from you. I am going to get it soon. Thank you again.

Sometimes we listen to the American programs in French on the radio because they speak a lot of our conditions. Last week my youngest daughter sang on the radio and the announcer asked her what "nom d'artiste" she had chosen. And I think it will make you happy to know that she took the name of Nancy Gregg in remembrance of all that you have done for us. The announcer then asked her why she took this name and she said it was because she had a friend in America by that name. I hope this is all right with you because she is so happy about it.

I'm sure you will be able to translate this letter easily because I know that there are many people there who know French. I call you all my daughters because I am a mother 40 years old and it makes me happy to have daughters in America. I close my letter by embracing all of you so far away, and if by chance any one of you ever comes to France, I hope I can thank you personally."

(Signed) Mme. Lienard

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## The Informer

The problem of public relations between the town of Bennington and the College can give us some insight into the larger, more general problem of Bennington's relationship to the rest of the country. This week, six students were asked the question: "Is there a misunderstanding between the town and the college, and if so, what is the cause of it?" Next week, six townspeople will be asked the same question.

**Amelie Landry**—Any misunderstanding between the town and the college would be caused by a lack of consideration on our part, and a lack of interest in our activities on the part of the town.

**Tory Harrington**—I think there is tension between the town and the college. We are all too inclined to forget our manners when we get to town and act as if we owned the place.

**Edith MacVeagh**—The way the girls look and act in town is apt to put the townspeople on the defensive and find irritating things about our behavior.

**Nancy Hauck**—The fact that Bennington is a progressive college, with a unique educational system may be some reason for misunderstanding on the part of the town. Also, I don't think either group makes any effort to really understand the other.

**Beanie Black**—We are too apt to consider the town as a tourist spot, existing merely for our purchases and amusement.

**Nan Alter**—Our interest in town activities is shown by our support of their charities and Community Chest. Of course, we are pretty far away from the town to participate freely in their interests.

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Weekend at the  
Hudson Shore Labor School

About once a term a few members of the community visit the Hudson Shore Labor School. On a recent Friday, Sue Bangs, Helen Norcross, and Ruth Livingston made the trip. The purpose of this meeting is to give industrial workers and college students the opportunity to learn about, and understand, each other's problems and ideas through informal discussions. The first discussion was for the benefit of the college students, as many of the workers were unable to leave their jobs early enough to attend the meeting. It centered around the actual workings of trade unions. The following day we discussed "Current Labor Legislation" and "Human Problems in Industry", both of which made it more evident that students and workers are confronted by many of the same problems. This helped to alleviate the prejudice that each group showed toward the other.

A great deal of valuable information can be gathered in talking to people who have had actual experience in shops and have been actually faced with such problems as one finds so neatly phrased in textbooks—technical advancements, collective bargaining, closed shops, and the like.

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Wellesley Summer Theatre  
and School

The following are excerpts from a news release which was received from Wellesley College.

Men and women who want professional training for the theatre are invited to apply for admission to the Wellesley Summer Theatre and School, to be held this summer on the Wellesley College campus.

The school, which will operate from July 7 to August 16, offers the opportunity for advanced training and guidance under a distinguished faculty, and at the same time acting with experienced professionals under regular theatre conditions.

## Equity Professionals

The professionals will be an Equity company of six, who will form the core of the acting group, and a different famous guest star each week.

The faculty of four, who will direct the activities of both the school and the theatre, consists of Executive Director Eldon Winkler, Director of the Theatre Workshop at Wellesley College and a radio network writer and director; Professor Frank McMullen, Head Director at the Yale University Department of Drama and Director at Stratford-upon-Avon last summer; Professor Edward C. Cole, Production Manager at the Yale Department of Drama and a director of the American Television Society; and Professor Charles Rogers, Designer for the Amherst College Theatre.

There will also be a staff of eight professional technicians to supervise the students.

The summer theatre will present a different play each week for five weeks on Tuesday through Saturday nights before audiences from Wellesley and surrounding communities. In addition, students will perform in two full-length laboratory plays under faculty direction.

From Monday through Friday, mornings will be devoted to classes in acting, directing, television, technical production and design.

## Need for Summer Theatre

According to Mr. Winkler, "the need for a high-class reputable summer theatre school has existed ever since the demise of the professional stock company. Wellesley's move in establishing the Summer Theatre and School will make it the only institution to face this educational problem squarely," he said.

Enrollment will be limited to 52 students. Mr. Winkler said, "We hope thus to ensure teaching efficiency and to allow the faculty sufficient time to give the student individual attention."

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AT NIGHT, WATCH FOR GREEN LIGHT



Nancy Lindau

(Continued from page 3)

the art school where Nancy studied. "It was quite different from Bennington", she said. "Here we work quickly on a model, sketching for line and composition. There we would spend a whole week doing one nude, and it was almost anatomical drawing. The discipline was good for me." Then we asked how interested the Scandinavians are in the arts, and were told that they love color. Some of their houses are painted red, blue, and green, while inside there are paintings everywhere. "They are equally interested in literature and the theatre. Many American authors have been translated into Norwegian. I was very surprised to find my school friends familiar with Faulkner, and doubly surprised when, one evening, we went to the theatre in Oslo to see a presentation of 'The Glass Menagerie'."

It was getting late and, almost as an afterthought, we asked about the effect of the war on that long-occupied country. Nancy thought a while before answering. "They all felt it, of course. They are terribly broadminded though. They do not call the Germans 'Nazis'; only the Norwegians who turned against their own country. Now that the war is over, they have the after-effects to face. There is a shortage of fuel, and no vegetables or candy to be had. We ate fish and boiled potatoes every day. Clothes are carefully rationed, and cigarettes sell at four cents each." In answer to our question concerning American relief, she said, "No, there is no American relief coming over now because they don't need it. There was relief coming over during the war but now, with careful rationing, they can take care of themselves."

Jo McCleary

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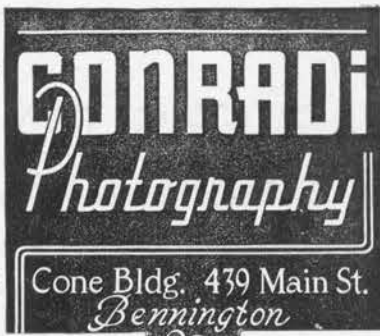
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Phoebe Pierce Attends  
Mt. Holyoke Contest

Phoebe Pierce was the Bennington contestant in the recent annual poetry contest held at Mt. Holyoke College. The contest is open each year to a different group of colleges, each of which sends its most promising poet. Six students attended this year from various eastern colleges.

The judges were Stanley Kunitz, of Bennington College, author of "Passport to the War", Louise Bogan, poet, and Mr. Wanning, from Harvard. Half of the \$100 first prize is contributed by the Mt. Holyoke News. The remainder is donated by the sponsors of the contest from a fund honoring a Mt. Holyoke girl who died shortly after graduation.

Influence of Eliot

The participants read from their work for approximately ten minutes each, according to Phoebe. "The poetry was all very different", she stated. "Eliot was the greatest single influence apparent." The judges marked the manuscripts on a numerical basis. Phoebe expects to hear the results within a few days, but as we go to press, the winner has not yet been announced.

Audience

Phoebe spoke of the audience of 300 as "marvelous, extremely attentive and interested". As the contest had to compete with the movie, "Spellbound", playing in town, only those greatly interested in poetry attended. At the party held following the reading, she noticed that many people there spoke of Bennington and expressed an enthusiastic interest in the college.

The following morning, Louise Bogan spoke on "Problems in Modern Poetry", an excellent talk aimed to help young poets.

Among the former contestants in this event who have achieved success are Robert Frost, who later returned to judge, and Muriel Rukeyser.

Lady in the Lake

Robert Montgomery's film version of Raymond Chandler's book has introduced a new technique in screen photography and direction. The man in the audience is the camera eye, except for a few brief tete-a-tetes at the beginning and the end of the movie when Montgomery briefs the audience—in short terse sentences—on the story behind the story.

The onlooker, exhausted from eye-strain, must wander through intricate plot maneuvers. Living vicariously, the audience (the hero), gets hit in the face and kisses a rather sultry female, among other sports. This leaves the spectators with the confused and unsatisfactory feeling of being a semi-on-stage character. After too many reels of tough, cliché dialogue, he wonders if it is worth all the effort—on the part of the producers and the audience.

The "Long Weekend" is over and done with.

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Coming Up; Faculty Houses

(Continued from page 1)

has north light and is 14' by 18'. The master bedroom is 16' by 11' and has a connecting bath with shower. The other two bedrooms are 14' by 11½' and 9' by 11½'. The second bath is at the head of the stairs. Closet space has been made wherever possible; there is more than would ordinarily be found in a small house. The small attic for storage has access through the closet in the master bedroom. The roof is insulated. The one-car garage is attached and is planned with extra space for the tricycles and lawnmower. The plan is very compact and efficient. One suggestion for painting the houses is barn red with white trim.

The houses have a view of the mountain. The site is sheltered and away from campus noise. Also it is near North Bennington for shopping and school.

The foundations for three of the houses are being poured now and it is hoped these houses will be ready for occupancy by September.

The Housing Committee, headed by Miss Jones, is studying the applications of faculty members and will allot the houses on a priority basis.

Richard Mills

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BENNINGTON, VT.

Williams Octet

(Continued from page 1)

to many Bennington students—Howie Adams, Malcolm MacGruer, Warren Hunke, George Lawrence, Doug Buck, Larry Smith, Ted Safford, and Ken MacDonald.

The forthcoming concert is the twelfth to be presented in the Adams Theatre by the octet, and promises varied and enjoyable entertainment. Miss Helen Clayton, Tulane University graduate, former WAVE, and at present a student at the Julliard School of Music in New York City, will share musical honors with the octet. She has been called an extremely promising soprano, and has sung in War Bond drives and on the radio over CBS and NBC networks. Larry Smith, Baritone, will sing several numbers, as yet unselected. A piano duo composed of Warren Hunke and George Lawrence will play such favorites as *You Do Something to Me*, *You've Got That Thing*, and *I Concentrate On You*. Highlight of the evening will be, of course, the octet itself which will sing, among several other tunes, *Sweet and Low*, *A Pretty Girl is Like a Melody*, *Call Me Up Some Rainy Afternoon*, *I Know That You Are Married*. The entire company will close the program with selections from the Broadway musical hit, *Brigadoon*. The concert will begin promptly at 8:30 P. M., and tickets will be on sale in the Bennington Cooperative Store starting Saturday, May 24.

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