

NEWSLETTER

BENNINGTON COLLEGE
BENNINGTON, VERMONT

February 1961

ROBERT DEVORE LEIGH

The unexpected death of Bennington's first president, Robert Devore Leigh, on January 31st has saddened everyone who knew him. The flag at half-mast in front of the Barn was in strange contrast to the brilliant sun on the winter snow that week. One could not help but think of the many times Mr. Leigh stood on that same spot, looking at bare fields for four years before his College took physical shape. But it was its philosophic shape he dreamt of and played so dominant a role in molding. A member of the first faculty once called him a "propounder of the faith." It was a faith not only in a particular educational philosophy, but in people. And it was a faith so propounded that it will never cease to be a part of Bennington.

A memorial service for Mr. Leigh will take place at the Old First Church in Old Bennington on Sunday afternoon, April 30th at 2 o'clock. His friends and anyone associated with Bennington College are invited to attend. His family has generously requested that instead of flowers, memorial gifts be made to the Scholarship Fund.

NRT

This is NRT time -- i.e., the Non-Resident Term. There are differences. For the students, it's a different learning, it's an eye-opener. For the faculty, it's a change of pace, it's a professional time. For the administration, it's quieter, only quieter. For the maintenance staff, a chance really to get inside those student houses and give them the once over.

Bennington students are working from San Francisco to Haifa. Required returns from the students indicate that about 108 of them are equally divided among hospitals, colleges and universities, and schools. Another 93 are in business and industry, merchandising, publishing and insurance firms, hotels, and health agencies. Galleries and museums, research and labor organizations, social agencies and banks have provided jobs for 38. Twenty-four students are working in various capacities for the U.S. Government, international and civic organizations. The rest are apprenticing with architects and engineers, designers, libraries and advertisers, and in the performing arts. Nineteen are at work on senior projects or independent study assignments.

Miss Priscilla Karb, the new NRT Director, has caught her breath. (The prospect of placing 340 students in temporary jobs in the middle of winter, and about a quarter of them unskilled labor at that, is enough to make anybody lose it!) But the task is done and what she has to say about it is this: "I'm impressed with the generally high calibre of the jobs held by students. They are assistants in Congressmen's offices, social science research organizations and schools and clinics. They are working as therapists and psychiatric assistants. They are holding positions of responsibility in museums of art, archeology and science. They are performing a variety of important tasks across the board." An average wage for this show? - \$51.00 per week.

The students are due back on Wednesday, March 8th. Then comes the evaluation of each performance by the employer, student, counselor and the NRT Office. And in the course of the spring term one question the Educational Counseling Committee will be sure to ask is, "How was her NRT?"

THE EVER CHANGING EDUCATIONAL PICTURE

Classes and other student and faculty educational commitments have proceeded as usual this fall, but with more talk about education on the side than for several years past, the reason being that the Faculty-Trustee Committee on the Future of the College presented its discussion draft to the faculty last fall. It then met separately with the Faculty and Student E.P.C.'s, with the faculty of each division, and with administrative officers. A final draft of the report will be made this spring, on the basis of these discussions. Then? Anything might happen. Alumnae and ex-faculty will have a chance to hear what it's all about when Charles Dollard, a member of the Committee and vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees, talks about the Committee's work at the Alumnae Weekend, April 27-30. Everyone will have a chance to read about it in future Bennington publications.

Aside from regularly scheduled classes, there were plenty of other events to keep students and faculty occupied last term. A brief resume of the College calendar shows three major art exhibitions, nine concerts, ten movies; twenty-four social science, drama, art, literature, dance, and music "workshops," other small meetings on subjects too numerous to mention (Outing Club, graduate-study, etc.), and twelve so-called "General Meetings" running the gamut from physics to haut cuisine. Being an election year, politics had the biggest play, and a series of lectures by various speakers on that subject culminated in an Election Jamboree on November 8th complete with a production of "Of Thee I Sing" in a Carriage Barn jammed to overflowing.

PERIPATETIC ADMINISTRATORS

Mr. Harry Cordes, employee of the College for 23 years, has, among his many duties, the responsibility of seeing to it that official travelers get to the Albany airport or railroad station on time. He also collects and gently transports the weary travelers home again. He meets trains and planes at every hour, day and night. He did a lot of driving last fall.

A look at President Fels' schedule of the past half year is a reminder, if any is needed, that every college is part of a larger educational scheme, and its chief administrative officer must do his share of the volunteer work like anyone else. To this end, Mr. Fels aside from his regular duties on campus, has served on the committees of several national, regional and state organizations. In September he spoke at Crawford Notch (N.H.) at the New England Conference on Educational Opinion. In October, he attended the Chicago meetings of the American Council on Education. As a member of the executive committee of the New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools he has been to Boston several times. November found him in Palo Alto for a meeting of the College Entrance Examination Board in his role as trustee of that organization, and again in Chicago to speak at a meeting of the Woman's College Board and visit and talk at four schools. He also met with the Institute of International Education. Less far afield during the fall and winter, he spoke to a meeting of the New England Guidance Officers Association in Manchester, Vt., met with the Vermont Foundation of Independent Colleges (a money-raising organization), and worked with the Vermont Council on Higher Education as chairman of a committee to draw up a model scholarship program for the state of Vermont. And of course there have been many trips to New York City and vicinity for off-campus, Bennington College business (trustee meetings, fund-raising, alumnae meetings and speaking engagements).

Mr. Fels' regular on-campus schedule of E.P.C. meetings, faculty and student meetings, and of course the daily administrative detail, will be augmented next term by class twice a week -- he will be teaching a section of "From Hobbes to Marx."

The Admissions Office gets out and about too, in the persons of Stickney-Holt-Feeley. Alumnae are involved with this triumvirate in a big way. Without the alumnae we could not begin to get done what we do. Because

alumnae plan and drive (literally and figuratively) the official school visitors, each usually gets to four schools per day. So if a team descends on an area for five work days, we can visit a total of forty schools. That pace is rough. But alumnae and the subject matter sustain us.

In October Mrs. Holt was in Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo on school visits, Pittsburgh for the Association of College Admissions Counselors, Westchester County, New Haven and Hartford. In the same month Miss Stickney visited schools and attended teas in Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati, and in the Boston area where she also attended alumnae luncheons on four consecutive days. In November, Miss Stickney and Mrs. Feeley combined forces to visit schools and attend alumnae meetings in Chicago and Detroit. Mrs. Holt, at the same time, in four days went to 17 schools in New Jersey. The school tally for two months was 127. More will be visited in the next two months.

ADMISSIONS - THE CURRENT NATIONAL GUESSING GAME

There will be between 600-650 applications to make decisions about for next fall's entering freshman class. Here is how we go about it.

It takes 20 minutes (minimum) to register a preliminary application: a master card is made, the registration fee sent to the Business Office, the school card filled in (or started), the application acknowledged by letter with additional forms enclosed, a folder labeled and filed. As the forms are returned, they are accounted for on the master card and checked over quickly for any buried bits of information calling for additional directions. Letters acknowledging their safe arrival, advice about tests and plans for interviews go forward. Finally, the folder is completed and given to the Director of Admissions for reading. A rating sheet is filled in and the folder is then sent to one of the three faculty Admissions Committee "teams" for two other opinions. Two more rating sheets are recorded. The folder is returned to the Director. If there is agreement of opinion, no meeting is required. If there is disagreement, the case is discussed, sometimes at a "team" meeting only, sometimes at a full Committee meeting. All this takes wizardry to control and keep track of (and our wizards get it done). It also takes many extra hours of devoted attention by the six faculty members of the Admissions Committee.

For applicants requesting financial help there is all this and more too. The Financial Aid Committee must decide whether or not the request is justified and if so, how much the need is. This takes computing. The Admissions Committee re-reads all these applications (the full Committee this time), meets for three consecutive evenings, and decides who will be offered financial assistance. There are always more requests than we have funds to grant so those meetings are particularly hard, and by their very nature, sad.

And it all has to come out right. There are so many beds to be filled, not more, not less. When one girl applies, on the average, to three colleges and is not required to reveal her first choice (as is indeed proper) it takes effective second-guessing to come out even.

WHO'S GOT THE TEA-GIRL?

We have a tea-girl working for the Admissions Office again this winter. To describe a tea-girl is to say she is an upperclassman, poised, articulate, fast-thinking on her feet and able to talk publicly to mixed groups about Bennington. In a word, she must be able to handle tactfully and accurately questions from high schoolers (sophomores up), their parents and maybe their guidance counselors.

This is the third year we have used a student for this program, and for her Non-Resident Term job junior Jane Vance (daughter of Jane Kelley Vance '37) is in our employ. The alumnae have organized the teas and Jane is on the road now. She has been, or is going, to Boston, Fairfield County, Westchester County, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland. In all there will have been 22 teas.

THE ONCE OVER

Continuing the maintenance program, plumbers, carpenters and painters have been at work all over the campus. Cricket Hill, parts of the Commons, some faculty houses and all the student houses are visible testimony to their work. The student houses are also gussied up with new upholstery, lamps, and so on, where most needed. Fire alarm systems have been installed in six of the twelve student houses and by next fall the others will be so equipped. A large gas kiln has been installed in a new wing especially constructed for it off the Ceramics Studio. At the opposite end of the temperature scale, a major re-insulating job was required for both freeze rooms in Commons.

ALUMNAE WEEKEND

The first flyer describing what's going on on campus April 27-30, should be in the mail about the same time as this Newsletter. If for any reason, you don't receive yours, write to the Alumnae Office. All alumnae, their husbands, and all ex-faculty are invited to this jamboree.

FUND VOCABULARY

Our Trustees have suggested that because all who read this Newsletter are interested in the College, they would be interested too in learning about the various funds that provide us with income - income, that is, - not received from student fees. We are currently just beyond the mid-point of our fiscal year so we will give you definitions of the funds at this time and in a later Newsletter, figures.

The Bennington General Fund

This is the fund into which all unspecified gifts go and it can be used for any special needs the College will have - from salary increases to paint. Unrestricted foundation and individual gifts make up this fund.

The Alumnae Fund

This is a fund restricted to financial aid for students. All alumnae are asked every year to share with the College its responsibility for educating the good student who can't go it alone.

The Associates of Bennington College

This group was started in 1948. Its purpose is to provide the yearly income the College would have from an endowment fund it hasn't got. (See below) Its members are present and past parents, other friends old and new, members of the staff and some alumnae. A member pledges that it is his intention to contribute on a yearly basis. Gifts to the A.B.C. are large and small and unrestricted.

The Elizabeth J. Franklin Student Aid Fund

This is a recently established fund, honoring Mrs. Franklin, one of the founders of the College, for many years Chairman of the Board and still an indefatigable worker in the College's behalf. Its members are a special group within the A.B.C. Donors pledge their intention to give \$1,000 or more annually. Trustees, alumnae, past and present parents, foundations and friends all belong. These funds are restricted to financial aid for students.

The Bennington Scholarship Fund

Foundations and individuals give to this fund. Like the Alumnae Fund and the Franklin Student Aid Fund, its resources are restricted to financial aid for students. Sometimes the restrictions dictate a geographical area or a particular talent.

The Class of '36 Gift

Started this year as a special gift on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of their graduation from College, this gift is to be used for "some specific and constructive purpose" to be decided on at a later date by the Board of Trustees. The first class has taken an important new step in support of the College and one the Alumnae Board expects will be continued by successive 25th Anniversary classes.

Restricted Current Funds

Memorial gifts and gifts for specific projects go to this fund. They have been given to purchase books in memory of an alumna, parent or friend; to build the library garden, to buy scientific equipment. They have been given to the art division for its slide collection, to Buildings and Grounds for tree spraying. Donors are parents, alumnae, foundations and other friends.

The Wilmoth Osborne Student Loan Fund

This fund was established by the friends of Dr. Wilmoth Osborne in 1940 to honor the memory of the College's first physician. Its existence means that the College can make small loans at no interest to students who find themselves in sudden and temporary need for personal or College expenses (other than fees). Loans are returned so the fund revolves. A recent gift will allow us to increase both amounts and numbers of these loans.

25th Anniversary Fund

This fund was begun in 1954, to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the College. At one time it amounted to over \$700,000. Pledges are still being paid by alumnae and friends. The income and some of the principal of the fund have been used to support increased faculty salaries.

Endowment

There is some, but it's very small. Bennington got under way in the early 30's, a time of depression. In those years many original pledges had to be withdrawn by our friends. Bennington's permanent Endowment Fund now amounts to \$466,000. We hope of course to build on that. Because of this small endowment, all the funds mentioned above must continue, with student fees, to meet the educational and other expenses of the College annually. When we have large funds, more possibilities will open to us.

TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

We suspect we are not taking full advantage of industry's fine, matching gift programs. The plan is this: many companies will send as many dollars to Bennington as their employee sends to Bennington. If you, and/or your husband, father, brother or uncle send us a gift, not only yours, but theirs too, may be matched by their company. In other words, one doesn't always have to be an alumna to secure a matching gift for Bennington.

If you work for one of the companies listed below, have made your annual gift to Bennington, and have not asked the company to match it, it is probably not too late to do so now. Ask your employer for the short form you will fill in so that he can send an equal amount to Bennington.

If you have not made your annual gift, when you do you will perhaps be able to double its value through the matching gift plan.

X---doesn't have to be an alumna
underlined---must be an alumna

Acme Shear Company
 X Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corporation
 X American Brake Shoe Company
 X American & Foreign Power Company, Inc.
 X American Home Products Corporation
 Atlas Powder Company
Atlas Rigging and Supply Company
 Bank of New York
Whitney Blake Company (The Cook
 Foundation)
 X Bonwit Teller
 Buchan Loose Leaf Records Co.
 X Burlington Industries, including:
 Ely and Walker, Inc.
 Adler Company

Godfrey L. Cabot, Inc.
 Campbell Soup Company
 Canadian General Electric
 Company, Ltd.
 X Carter Products, Inc.
 X Cerro de Pasco Corp.
 X Chase Manhattan Bank
 X Chemical Bank New York
 Trust Company
 X Cleveland Electric Illuminat-
 ing Company
 X Columbian Carbon Company
 X Connecticut General Life
 Insurance Company

- X Connecticut Light and Power Company
- Continental Oil Company
- X Corning Glass Works Company
- X Deering, Milliken & Company, Inc.
- X Diamond Alkali Company
- X Dow Chemical Company
- X Dow Corning Corporation
- Draper Corporation
- X Wilbur B. Driver Company
- Eastern Car and Construction
- Ebasco Services, Inc.
- X Electric Bond and Share Company
- Fafnir Bearing Company
- X Ford Motor Company
- E. & J. Gallo Winery
- X General Atronics Corporation
- General Electric Company
- X General Foods Corporation
- X General Public Utilities Corporation
- X Gibbs & Hill, Inc.
- X Ginn and Company
- X Glidden Company
- X B.F. Goodrich Company
- X W.T. Grant Company
- X Gulf Oil Corporation
- X Harris-Intertype Corporation
- X Hercules Powder Company
- Hewlett-Packard Company
- X Hill Acme Company
- X Hooker Chemical Corporation
- X J.M. Huber Corporation
- X Hughes Aircraft Company
- X International Business Machines Corporation
- X Jefferson Mills, Incorporated
- S.C. Johnson & Son, Incorporated
- Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation
- X Kaiser Steel Corporation
- Kern County Land Company
- Walter Kidde & Company
- Walter Kidde Constructors
- Kidder, Peabody & Co.
- Koiled Kords, Inc. (The Cook Foundation)
- X Lehigh Portland Cement Company
- Mallinckrodt Chemical Works
- Manufacturers Trust Company
- Marine Midland Trust Company of New York
- X Maytag Company
- McCormick & Co., Inc.
- McGraw-Hill Publishing Company
- X Medusa Portland Cement Co.
- X Merck & Company, Inc.
- X Metal & Thermit Corporation
- Middlesex Mutual Assurance Co.
- X Morgan Engineering Company
- X National Distillers & Chemical Corporation
- X National Lead Foundation Co.
- X National Supply Company
- X New York Trap Rock Corporation
- X Northrop Corporation
- X Norton Company
- John-Nuveen & Company
- Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp.
- X Pennsalt Chemicals Corporation
- X Petro-Tex Chemical Corporation
- Phelps Dodge Corporation
- X Pitney-Bowes, Inc.
- Pittsburgh Plate Glass
- X Ralston Purina Company
- Reliable Electric Company (The Cook Foundation)
- Riegel Textile Corporation
- Rockwell Manufacturing Company
- X Schering Corporation
- X Scott Paper Company
- Selby, Battersby & Co.
- X Seton Leather Company
- X Sharon Steel Corporation
- X Simmons Company
- X Simonds Saw and Steel Co.
- X Singer Sewing Machine Company
- X Smith Kline & French Laboratories
- X Sperry & Hutchinson Company
- X Stevens Candy Kitchens, Inc.
- W. H. Sweney & Co.
- X Tektronix, Inc.
- X Tennessee Gas Transmission Company
- X Towers, Perrin, Forster & Crosby, Inc.
- X United Clay Mines Corp.
- Wallingford Steel Company
- X Warner Brothers Company
- X John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- Williams & Company
- X Worcester Pressed Steel Co.
- X Young & Rubicam, Inc.

This information is not complete, as one can see from some omissions of an X or underline. An inquiry to the company would be in order. The American Alumni Council also suggests that "if the company you work for is not listed ..., possibly it would consider establishing a matching gift program. If this is the case you can help all colleges and universities by bringing this ... to your employer's attention. Not infrequently a company wants to help support higher education but has not yet decided how best to do it. The matching gift principle may be the answer."

NEW DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS NAMED

John L. Handy, Jr. has been appointed the new Director of Admissions. News of his acceptance arrived just in time for inclusion in this Newsletter - although the placement of the announcement on this back page reflects only the printer's last-minute limitations.

Mr. Handy received his B.A. from Harvard in 1948, an M.A. from Columbia in 1951. He has been Director of Admissions at Middlebury for four years. He is married to Jane Martin Handy, Bennington '46. There are four young daughters.