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Sherman High School

Seth, West Virginia

January 10, 1969

Senator Robert C. Byrd
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Byrd:

We wish to call to your attention the enclosed article which appeared in the Charleston Gazette today. As you are probably aware, the activities of Don West have been under question for some time.

In the February 1, 1958, issue of the "Firing Line" published by the American Legion, Donald West is reported to have appeared before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, October 8, 1957, and invoked the Fifth Amendment fifteen times when questioned about membership and activities in the Communist party.

In 1949, West was identified before the House UnAmerican Committee as being the director of the Communist party of North Carolina and district organizer of party apparatus in Kentucky. Prior to this time (in 1932) West and Myles Horton founded the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee. In 1957, this school was identified as a "communist training school" by the Georgia Commission of Education. It is further reported that West has supported many other Communist front organizations.

We are concerned that the same Don West is now speaking at the BCAN meeting, inasmuch as BCAN (offshoot of Vista) has been involved in the controversial school lunch program in Boone County. This organization has been responsible for creating agitation and animosity in various ways, as you know.

In regard to the aforementioned BCAN-sponsored lunch program, our lunch program supervisor reports an overpayment of \$464.70 for lunches for needy children in Sherman. This program is now in its third month of operation. An explanation of this situation is too involved to include in this letter, but we will be happy to provide, upon request, an extensive report which will discredit the present existing program. As the BCAN representatives were allowed to appear before a subcommittee, and their proposed project apparently accepted without question, we feel it would be only fair that school officials should have the opportunity to present the actual facts.

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Am

Senator Robert C. Byrd

Page 2

January 10, 1969

We feel that the anti-poverty programs in our area have revealed the same type of mismanagement as has recently been reported by investigations of other programs by the GAO and the FBI. As these programs are federally funded, surely tax payers can expect and demand programs that are properly conducted, and whose philosophies are not in conflict with the principles of the American way of life.

Respectfully

(Mrs.)

Ashford, West Virginia 25009

(Mrs.)

Peytona, West Virginia 25154

(Miss)

Peytona, West Virginia 25154

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b7C

**B-CAN to Hear
Don West Speak**

ORGAS — Don West will speak at tonight's meeting of the Boone County Association for the Needy (B-CAN) at the Orgas Community Center.

West is founder of the Appalachian South Folklife Center at Pipestem, Summers County.

Also on the agenda at the 7 p. m. meeting is the installation of Mrs. Leona Adkins as president of B-CAN.

ROBERT C. BYRD, U.S.S.
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JAN 15 1969

7 January 1969

Honorable Robert C. Byrd
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

ROBERT C. BYRD, U.S.S.
RECEIVED
JAN 8 1969

Dear Senator Byrd:

Recently in the paper there was an article concerning activist groups organizing in Pipestem, W.Va. Such an organization could very well create riots simultaneously throughout West Virginia.

Activist groups are working in our colleges to stir up the young people to revolt. Such a thing is a disgrace to our nation -- and of all things, this organization is requesting tax payers funds to be used to support it.

help us.

I do so hope you will do all you can to

Respectfully,

(Mrs [redacted])

[redacted]
Huntington, W.Va. 25701

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Senator Byrd,

One of our teachers had this information, and I made a copy of it for you to see. I may be able to get the other copy mentioned. At least you will have a little more information whether it's true or false.

Mfcc

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

F I R I N G L I N E ***

DEC 20 1968

VOL. NO. VII, NO. 3

February 1, 1958

COMMUNIST INFILTRATION IN THE MID-SOUTH, PART II

In continuing the January 1, 1958 Firing Line exposure of subversive activities in the South, the following supplements our report on the Communist edited periodicals, Southern Newsletter. During his appearance before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on October 28, 1957, DONALD L. WEST of RFD 4, Douglasville, Georgia, invoked the Fifth Amendment over 15 times when questioned concerning membership and activities in the Communist Party, U.S.A. WEST stated he was not a member of the Communist Party at the time of his testimony; however, claimed the Fifth Amendment when asked if he were a member of the conspiracy several hours prior to his scheduled appearance. (See Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, Communism in the Mid-South, 1957, pages 25-31.)

WEST was born near the town of Ellijay, Gilmer County, Georgia, in 1909. Public records reflect he has been professionally active in many diversified vocations including the fields of agriculture, education, journalism, poetry and religion. He "worked his way through" Lincoln Memorial University of Harrogate, Tennessee and subsequently received a bachelor of divinity degree from Vanderbilt University in Nashville. WEST testified he supplemented his education by "advanced study" at various other institutions in the United States and currently manages a farm on the Chattahoochee River approximately 15 miles west of Atlanta, near Douglasville, Georgia. He was formerly a professor at Oglethorpe University and has published a book of poetry.

In summarizing WEST'S affiliation with the Communist Party, ROBERT MORRIS, Chief Counsel of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, stated WEST "has been one of the more prominent Communist organizers in the South over a period of years." The testimony of a witness before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1949 reflected WEST has been a District Director of the Communist Party of North Carolina and District Organizer of the Party apparatus in Kentucky. While appearing before the Senate Subcommittee last October, WEST refused to state if he ever had been "in charge of the Communist Party in Atlanta, Georgia." (See Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, Communism in the Mid-South, 1957, pages 25-27.)

In 1932, WEST and MYLES HORTON founded the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee, which was identified last year as a "Communist training school" by the State of Georgia Commission on Education. According to the Commission's report, WEST has supported other Communist-front enterprises including: American Peace Mobilization, National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions, People's Institute of Applied Religion and the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

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In the spring of 1955, WEST was hired as a lay minister by the Church of God of the Union Assembly in Dalton, Georgia. During March of that year, WEST and the Church's national moderator, REV. CHARLIE T. PRATT, commenced publication of a monthly newspaper called The Southerner at Chatsworth Road in Dalton. The new publication was hailed in the May 2, 1955 edition of the subversive National Guardian which stated "the Guardian is delighted to welcome with warmest good wishes a new 'voice of the people'...The Southerner." WEST invoked the Fifth Amendment before the aforementioned Senate Subcommittee when asked about his affiliation with The Southerner. (See Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, Communism in the Mid-South, 1957, page 26; "National Guardian", 10-17-55, page 6.)

WEST was listed as editor of The Southerner and his staff included the following contributing editors according to that paper's January 1956 edition: HOWARD BOWLING, JOHN R. BUNCH, PERRY CARTWRIGHT, WALTER E. DILLARD, JACK GILES, MORRIS A. LEMMONS, BUFORD W. POSEY, BYRON H. REECE, HAROLD D. SOWDER, ALVA W. TAYLOR, AUBREY WILLIAMS AND REV. JAMES H. WILSON. After WEST invoked the Fifth Amendment before a Whitfield County (Georgia) grand jury investigating Communist activities in October 1955, the Church voted unanimously for his expulsion. According to a newspaper report, WEST suddenly left the Dalton area in the middle of January 1956 and apparently advised no one of his destination.

Three months later, WEST appeared in Alabama editing and publishing an 8-page tabloid newspaper entitled, The New Southerner. According to its April 1956 edition, the paper used Post Office Box 6043, Carolyn Station, Montgomery, Alabama, as a mailing address. The following were The New Southerner's contributing editors, all of whom were formerly staff members of CHARLIE T. PRATT's The Southerner: PERRY CARTWRIGHT, WALTER E. DILLARD, MORRIS LEMMONS, BUFORD POSEY, BYRON H. REECE, AUBREY WILLIAMS AND ALVA W. TAYLOR.

Recent issues of identified Communist EUGENE FELDMAN's Southern Newsletter of Post Office Box 1307, Louisville, 1, Kentucky, reveal both DONALD L. WEST and PERRY CARTWRIGHT are currently affiliated with this publication. WEST is a sponsor and editorial contributor of Southern Newsletter and CARTWRIGHT manages its circulation department. An entire page of Southern Newsletter's November 1957 edition was devoted to a message from WEST urging support of the newsletter. He stated in part as follows: "Intelligent articulation is a crying need today...EUGENE FELDMAN in his Southern Newsletter is striving to keep alive and give a medium for such expression. For a long time I've known Mr. FELDMAN's work - and admired it. His efforts to keep alive this organ for positive expression deserve our best support. Since circumstances and events made it seem advisable and necessary to suspend publication of The New Southerner for the time being, I urge all those who supported or subscribed to it to lend whatever aid you can to Mr. FELDMAN's efforts in this Newsletter..."

"BIRDS OF A FEATHER ?"

On page 14 of the October 1957 edition of Southern Newsletter, an editorial appealed to readers to join the newsletter in a "crusade to help the South go forward." The article stated: "We dare not slide backward to the hideous Nazi racist society which the Klan plans for us. What can you do? In the larger towns, there are many local groups working for better race relations, more democratic voting procedures, school integration and similar projects. Join one of these if you can. If a local group is not available to you then write for information to one of the South-wide organizations."

John B. Kebblish, president, of

(Two, Column One)

Bateman said.

Director Says He's Not A Communist

Folklife Center Defended At Concord

By PAT ROSS

Rev. Donald West, founder of the Appalachian South Folklife Center at Pipestem, said Tuesday night at Concord College he "absolutely is not a Communist."

West added, "I will tell this to any individual, but not to investigators, because it is none of their business. I am willing to let my life be my defense. I am not trying to do evil, but good."

Speaking before a group of approximately 40 members and guests of the American Association of University Women, the former University of Maryland professor continued, "I am an ordained minister and I believe very devoutly and deeply in the policies of Christianity."

The former newspaper man said he and his wife invested their life savings in the combined orphan's home and training center located at Pipestem. At the annual folk festival last summer, children representing all races and creeds were present at the 300-acre farm to take part in the learning program on southern mountain life.

Last Friday West was a guest of the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington, D. C., where he spoke to a group of representatives on the aims and purpose of his farm. He added that during the summer he had taken 93 children to visit the capital.

"All of these children were dropouts from school, and due to this one significant visit, over half have returned to some type of schooling program."

West said he has included a recreation center for children on his farm with facilities for baseball, basketball and numerous other games.

Care of mountain orphans has long been a favorite project of his, Rev. West said, and the farm now accommodates 36 children. Any orphaned child can receive care and training at the center, and anyone is welcome "if they come in the interest and name of Christianity," West said.

Speaking on criticism he has received locally, Rev. West said, "I do not condemn anyone be-

cause they disagree with me. I have a right to my own peace just as they."

He said any reports that he is a Communist, running a hippie camp or a Communist camp is completely false, and that anyone is free to visit the farm at any time.

West has studied mountain life and origin intently. He said he is eager for the people of the mountain area to become acquainted with their heritage, he told the group.

"The southern mountaineer is stereotyped as the Little Abner of Dogpatch. These conceptions are untrue, and along with helping the underprivileged of the mountain area, I would like to disprove these misconceptions."

West was attacked recently by a Princeton weekly newspaper on grounds that he took the Fifth Amendment before a congressional committee in the 1950s. He said later he refused to testify as a matter of principle, not because he had anything to hide. *o-yeah!*

swing on a lunar orb. spacecraft would circle times in 24 hours.

A target date for the landing was set for Dec. 21. With days required to cover the quarter million miles to the moon, that would mean that Apollo 8 commanded by Air Force Col. Frank Borman, will be looping around the moon on Christmas day.

Apollo 8

The Apollo 8 spacecraft already is in place atop a mighty Saturn 5 rocket on a Cape Kennedy launching pad. It originally had been scheduled for an earth orbit flight, but the early excellent performance of Apollo 7 has prompted officials to consider the moon test, which would be a vital step toward a manned lunar landing next year.

One drawback is that the crew of Borman, Navy Capt. James A. Lovell and Air Force Maj. William A. Anders has had only limited training for a lunar flyaround.

The plan could be wiped out altogether if something serious should go wrong in the final half of the Apollo 7 mission.

But as the halfway point neared, everything was perking along fine except for the pesky colds plaguing the astronauts in their lofty sick bay.

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ROBERT C. BYRD, U.S.S.

RECEIVED
OCT 16 1968
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Spanishburg, West Virginia
October 14, 1968 25-922

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
United States Senate
Washington,
D.C.

Dear Senator Byrd:

I have been elected! Elected to send you these enclosed clippings from The Princeton Times; and Bluefield Telegraph about the project, "Appalachian South Folk Center", which is of much talk and concern in this area. You, as well, probably have heard about it.

The Committee on "Social Concerns" of the United Methodist Church (Spanishburg) is primarily at whose suggestion I am writing. This organization is aware of the fact that another in Washington, who represents West Virginian's has shown interest in this (as clippings show). However, the organization having utmost confidence and faith in you, individually and public-servant-wise voted--100 percent that this concern be put before you.

In my doing this at their request, I realize there are limitations in all things, so use your own good judgement.

Thank you sincerely for your time.

With kindest regards,

(Mrs. [redacted])

ec./lb

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b7C

Letter To The Editor

PRINCETONIAN WANTS QUESTIONS ANSWERED ON

PRINCETON TIMES

Dear Mr. Pedneau,

I am beginning to wonder whether or not your game of throwing poison darts at Don West will not boomerang. You are giving him prime publicity space and increasing stature by associating him with some of the people most respected by West Virginians. Shall we place the "yellow arm band" on such people as Paul Kaufman, Mrs. Wilbur Cohen, William Blizard, Jay Rockefeller, Mayor Lindsey, The Benedum Foundation, etc. because you dislike their politics, or "something"?

What terrible thing have these people done? Don West is developing a Folk Life Center designed to house and train children who cannot fit in elsewhere. This is the best description I can glean from the Times. There evidently are public figures interested in his project and contributing to it. You say the Legislature of Tennessee found fit to dismantle a similar school in their great state. You do not say what their legal grounds were for doing so. The legislature of Tennessee has found fit to disbar many acti-

vities in their state which other states have found quite normal. One cannot teach the Darwin theory of Evolution in their schools. Their laws governing the sale and service of liquor are confusing to most of their neighbors.

What does Don West teach at his school that is so galling and apparently dangerous? What do you know of his curricula? How do young people qualify for his institution? What comparable institution can our alienated young people turn to besides the Folk Life Center? What does Mercer County offer its young people that they may safely spurn Don West? He swore under congressional oath that he was not a communist...according to the Princeton Times.

As long as you are determined to make our community aware of Don West and Pipestem, please include some facts and pertinent information about his Folk Life Center.

Very sincerely yours,
Margaret Harrison
Route 4, Box 40

Mrs. Harrison:

First let me say that I have not accused Mr. West of being a member of the Communist party. The purpose of these articles are to demonstrate that there is historical justification for an investigation.

Before answering your questions, perhaps it would be well to give a brief description of Communism as far as theory goes.

Karl Marx was of course the first man to set forth a full theory of Communism. Other men had played with the notion but Marx was the first to make a serious attempt to organize the doctrine into a political system.

Marx's idea of Communism was entirely economic. He said that someday the industrial workers would unite to overthrow the capitalists. They would do this because the capitalist was paying them less than they deserved. The capitalist was taking a great deal off of the top and calling it profit. By eliminating the capitalists, the workers could run the plant and keep the profits.

He went on to say that a great revolution would take place and the end result would be a society with no government or laws. Until this occurred though, a dictatorship of the workers would exist. According to Communist dogma, the Soviet Union and Red China are in the midst of this revolution and dictatorship.

However, Marx had one basic flaw in his theory. He assumed that man was perfect. Actually, Marx's theory will never get past the stage of the dictatorship. For once a small group of men get absolute control, they will not release. "Power corrupts: Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely."

Hence, we have suppression of the individual's rights. We have a tyrannical dictatorship bent on getting all of the power which it can.

Any person who professes to believe in Communism must (1) disavow the existence of any God - the State is the only Supreme Being, (2) he must believe in the overthrow of all forms of government which are not Communist - including the United States, (3) he can only be satisfied when Communism has con-

PIPESTEM FOLK CENTER

quered the world.

This is Communism, and it clearly indicates why we in the United States should be so "picky" about allowing such a system to thrive. And it will thrive, because it promises people pie-in-the-sky dreams which can never be realized.

Communism today is nothing as Marx conceived it. It is absolute, violent, and tyrannical. The individual can say nothing against the State. The plight of the Czech people demonstrates this fact.

I do not believe that there is a "Communist Conspiracy" of any size in this nation, but this isn't to say that it is an impossibility. After all, the Communists managed to overthrow the Russian Czar in 1917.

We cannot allow our young people to be bombarded with Communist doctrine. It can be made quite enhancing. It promises equality of wealth, and food for all, yet it only delivers tyranny and suppression.

No country is immune to Communism. This is a fact we must face, and the best way to see that Communist dogma does not get a foot hold is through public explanation of the system and its faults.

Don West has done nothing at his Camp in Pipestem which violates any laws, so far as we know, but testimony by one Paul Crouch before the House Un-American Activities Committee raises questions. Crouch testified, "I knew him very well, for many years, as Don West and as Jim Weaver. He was district director of the Communist Party of North Carolina while I was district organizer...."

West stated in testimony before the same committee that he was not a member of the Communist Party at the time he was being questioned. He took the Fifth Amendment when he was asked if he was a member prior to his testimony.

West maintains that he took the Fifth only on principal. It seems that he would take the Fifth on every question then, and not answer some while answering others.

This is justification for an investigation into West's present activities. He is not in the McCarthy Era now, and he has no

need to take the Fifth Amendment on principle.

As to the names of West Virginians associated with the Camp, whether famous or infamous, it is merely a service to the people. Presumably, these people know something about the Camp, or think they do, and could answer questions concerning it. Others mentioned, while not elected officials, do offer a variety of sources for information concerning the Camp. We assume that these people would have thoroughly investigated the Camp before signing a letter supporting solicitation of contributions to it.

What is wrong with Mr. West organizing a place for children who have no other place to go? First of all, these are not really children. Their ages run, according to Mr. West, from 15 and up. If these are orphans, I would hate to see a young adult. If these children have no other place to go, it is only because they have no desire to go any other place.

We are the first to admit that we don't know what's going on at the Camp. The attempt to give everyone a "run-around" on the activities at the Camp only enhance our suspicion. We don't know what they are being taught. We surely wouldn't "bug" the place. As to the comparable institutions to which these young people can turn, I would suggest the Church, the schools, work; their choices are many.

The Tennessee legislature dismantled the Highlander Folk School for subversive activities, just as Arkansas did its predecessor, Commonwealth College. As to what constitutes subversive activities, I would assume it means the advocating of the violent overthrow of the United States government. Is this reason enough?

It is not a matter of what Mercer County offers these young people in place of Don West. We need offer them nothing. We don't give teenagers Coca-Cola so they will stay off "Pot" or "Acid." You seem to be implying that we must bribe our children away from Don West. Rather, we must teach our children right and wrong, as well as practical and impractical. This is the answer, not bribery or blackmail.

Dave Pedneau

Randolph Visits Pipestem Center

Sen. Jennings Randolph, D-W.Va., made a "fact - finding tour" of the Appalachian South Folklife Center at Pipestem in Summers County Saturday but was unavailable for comment afterward.

Randolph said one of his purposes was to check reports that the center, run by Rev. Don L. West, a 60-year-old Universal Christian Church minister, exercises "so - called leftwing, Communist or neo-Communist influences."

The center at Pipestem is a 350-acre farm run by West and his wife for the benefit of orphans, poor youngsters and high school dropouts. West said earlier the camp is financed by his savings and grants from two foundations.

Randolph sent a telegram to the Bluefield Daily Telegraph earlier Saturday stating that he had been invited to speak at the camp Saturday night and would take the opportunity to inspect it for subversive influences.

"If there is reason why that institution should not exist in

West Virginia or elsewhere in the United States," Randolph said, "I would hope to ascertain those reasons."

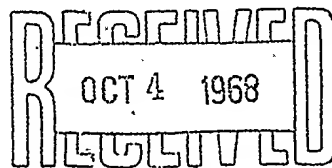
Randolph also said he would deliver an address on Americanism to the young people at the center, and "encourage the youth to learn and labor and grow into community leaders and builders of a better society through understanding and faith and justice."

Efforts to locate Randolph for comment on his findings during the inspection tour of the center were unavailing Saturday night. The Senator failed to respond to several telephone messages left at the center.

A Princeton weekly newspaper recently described the camp for young people as "danger to the security and freedom of this nation." It said West claimed Fifth Amendment protection in 1957 when asked whether he was a Communist party member.

Robert Bird.
Washington DC
Dear Senator Bird;

Attchus Left 30
ROBERT C. BYRD, U.S.S.



The enclosed article

certainly has caused a great deal
of worry in this section. We have
felt that there was a great

deal of intrigue & suspicion for
some time. I do sincerely hope

the proper authorities will investigate

this. I also think but do not know
there are a few "kooks" in the

pantry of Concord, who I have
been informed are in " cahoots" with

this whole thing. Wish you would
use your influence to see what

it really is - I for one, live alone how am I
Do Hays passed away in December. It

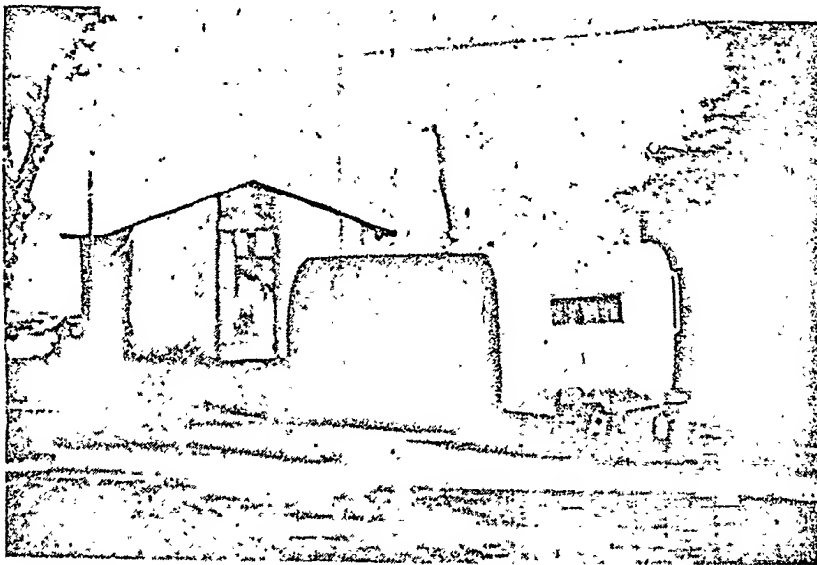
is an appalling fact that people
can't go to bed any more with out really

being quite nervous over the
present condition of lawlessness.
Is this not true.

I do appreciate your wonderful
work and interest and read with great
interest what you have to say.
My personal feeling are that
you are one of our most valuable
citizens of W, Va.

Sincerely

P.S. I would like my
name not to be
used for the
above reasons. Thanks.



DON WEST LIVES IN A TRAILER SITUATED ON CAMP GROUNDS.

PIPESTEM CAMP RAISES

In an editorial a few weeks ago, we pointed out the need for a thorough investigation into Donald West and his so-called "Appalachian South Folk Center" at Pipestem. Now that request becomes a demand. Increasing amounts of evidence indicate that the Camp can only be a most devastating influence to Southern West Virginia and the entire nation.

Actually, this "Folk Life Center" is not the questionable West's first such endeavor. According to reports of the House Committee on Unamerican Activities West was involved with another similar school in Monteagle, Tenn.

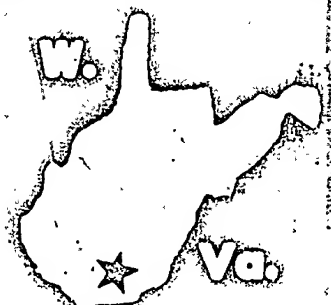
The Highlander Folk School, as it was known, was abolished by an act of the Tennessee Legislature which charged the school with being a subversive organization. As a matter of fact, the House On Unamerican activities has concluded that the Highlander Folk

School was heir apparent to another subversive organization known as the Commonwealth College.

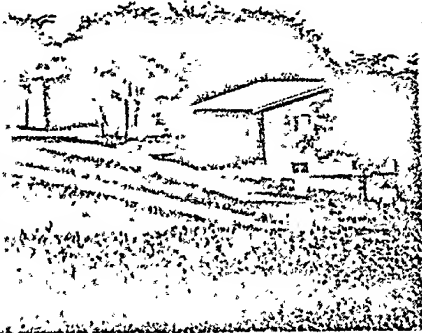
Commonwealth College, started by James A. Dombrowski and Myles Horton in 1932, was convicted under the laws of Arkansas of displaying the hammer and sickle and openly teaching Communism. This school was controlled by the People's Institute of Applied Religion, which had been organized by the Communist Party. Employing a quite logical idea, its advocates believed that religion was such a strong force in the South that only by comparing texts of the New Testament and Karl Marx could it ever be successful.

In 1959, Senator Alford of Arkansas made the following remarks on the floor of the United States Senate. "The legislature of the great State of Tennessee, only a few days ago, authorized an

Princeton



Your Newspaper A Member of 95 Per Cent of



HALL AT CAMP PIPESTEM.



HEADQUARTERS FOR ACTIVITIES AT THE FOLK LIFE CENTER.

TIONS OF INTERNAL SECURITY

PEDNEAU

investigation of Communist influences in Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tenn. This school was founded in 1932 by Myles Horton and Don West. It is a southern meeting place for persons who have been leaders in race agitation for many years. Many who have gone in and out of Highlander Folk School have records of affiliations with Communist and Communist Front organizations."

For those who would like to confirm Alford's statement, we refer you to pages 2544-2549, Vol. 105-Part 2 of the Congressional Record for Feb. 2 - Feb. 24, 1959.

However, far more than West's name has been heard in the halls of Congress. He has been before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. He appeared before this committee on October 28, 1957, giving his address as RFD 4, Douglasville, Ga. West invoked the Fifth Amendment over 15 times when questioned concerning

membership and activities in the Communist Party, U.S.A. He stated that he was not a member of the Communist Party at the time of his testimony. However, he retired to the safety of the Fifth Amendment when asked if he was a member prior to his scheduled appearance before the Committee. This can be confirmed in a report entitled "Communism in the South" by the Committee and completed in 1957.

Does this lead one to wonder about our Folk Life Center at Pipestem?

There is more evidence to be revealed at a later date, but the above surely represents enough to justify some type of investigation. Bill Blake, editor and publisher of the Kanawha Valley Leader, had this to say last week in an editorial in his publication.

"The people of Pipestem are beginning to whiff that dirt farmer Don West may be involved in more 'Dirt' than farming". We tend to agree.

West himself presents a striking picture. He claims to hold a number of degrees including a divinity degree from Vanderbilt University. However, he jaunts around the hills of Pipestem with bib overalls and a hillbilly hat on his head. He purports to be extremely interested in the folk culture of our area, yet his history indicates that his interest in our culture may only be a disguise.

The camp itself is situated on a hill far off the main road with only one road leading into the camp. It is quite isolated and visitors to the camp can be seen well before they reach its pre-fab buildings.

There is little doubt that Communism, as an active force, does represent an ever-present danger to our society. Consequently, any such organization as West's demands investigation. If nothing else, it will at least assure residents of the safety of their society.

The editorial in the Kanawha Valley Leader concluded by saying that, "although William Blizard in his State magazine story described the Pipestem Project as 'Don West's dream' those more knowledgeable or more willing to accept the ever-present Communist Conspiracy as a fact of American life are more apt to believe that the Appalachian South Folk Life Center may become Pipestem's nightmare."

Here we must disagree only slightly with Blake. It may become West Virginia's nightmare. Don West and his supporters sent out letters to area residents asking for contributions. Therefore, area residents are justified in visiting the camp. At least drive by West to know that you know he is there.

Times

Princeton Homes

PRICE 10 CENTS

14 PAGES, ONE SECTION

and County...
Baber.

Monroe Briefs

SINKS GROVE (RNS) — The following members of the Sinks Grove Promenaders Square Dance Club attended the Clintonburg Hoedown in Gatlinburg, Tenn., over the weekend: Mrs. Francis Pence, Mrs. Dennis White, Mr. Arthur Baker, Mr. Richard Ferguson, Dale Beckett, Mr. Eld Windon and

where Mr. and Mrs. and Mr. and Mrs. are

THE VC

YOU MUST BE DESTROYED

Inc., in Covington, Va.

Pvt. Eskins' wife, Carol, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles N. Hogsett of Alderson. Following completion of basic combat training, Pvt. Eskins was promoted to pay grade E-2 under an Army policy providing incentive to outstanding trainees. He will take advanced individual training at Fort Ord, Calif.

Greenville News

GREENVILLE (RNS) — Mrs. R. I. Ballard has received word that two of her brothers have been hospitalized within the past week. Lee Mann is a

YOU ARE A DISTURBANCE

WHERE ARE YOU?

will go to Pipestem from the Elkins Mountain State Forest Festival, first to the state park for conferences and a guided tour. Then I will meet my commitment to address the youth. I assure both the friends and the detractors of the youth center at Pipestem that I will stress Americanism. At the same time, I will be on a fact-finding mission as I check on the activities of the youth center, as well as the development at the state park."

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY

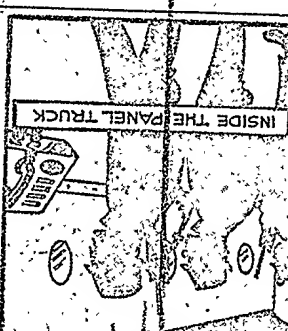
NOW PAYING

FROM ALL COVERED. YOU'RE DON'T MOVE

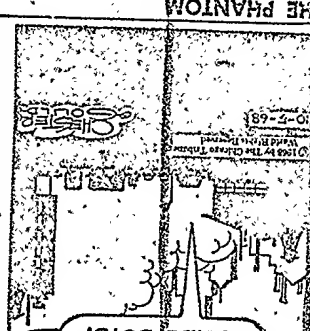
THE PHANTOM



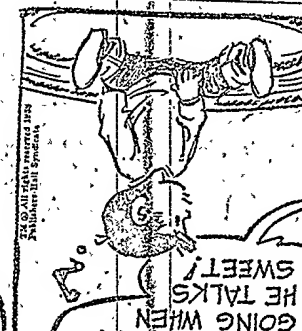
BUT AT "CUTE SKIN" BUSINESS IS ABOUT TO PICK UP



HOWEVER, LET'S NOT BE HASTY, YOU NEVER KNOW



DICK TRACY



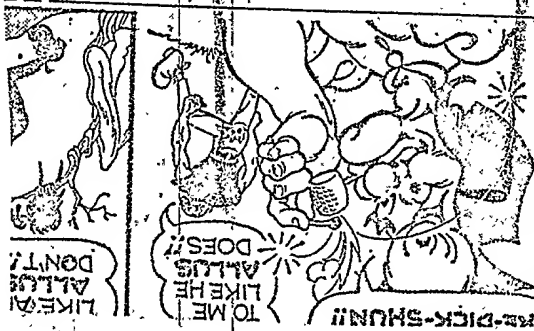
CAI



THE RYATIS



THE RYATIS



LIKE HE ALL DON'T!



BUSES TO CANADA--

* Greenbrier Valley Area

Park Activities To Be Examined Today By Sen. Jennings Randolph

ELKINS — The following statement has been issued by Sen. Jennings Randolph (D-W. Va.) concerning his scheduled appearance at the Appalachian C. South Folklore Center in Pipestem at 8 p.m. today:

"There is a camp for young people at Pipestem in Summers County. It is directed by Rev. Donald L. West on his 350-acre farm as the Appalachian South Folklife Center.

The Charleston Gazette has-

described Rev. West as a 69-year-old "retired University of Maryland professor," a Universal Christian Church minister — and a best-selling poet (who) says his camp is designed to help orphans, poor youngsters and high school dropouts get a better chance in life."

Innumerable nationally prominent persons interested in work for improvement and enrichment of America's youth and I do not mean the hippie

and yippie movements — have spoken to me about the reputed helpful program at the center. Some of them asked that I speak there to the young folk. I accepted. There also is at Pipestem one of our major state park projects for which I have been working in federal assistance for several years.

I contacted the Department of Natural Resources and arranged for a late Saturday afternoon tour of the Pipestem State Park Development to precede my evening session with the teenagers and adults whom I have been told would form the audience.

I have since learned that Rev. West has come under attack by persons who allege that he is a man of "leftwing tendencies." Allegations are made that Rev. West is or has been a Communist. I have received communications from three West Virginians urging that I not speak at the center.

If there is reason why that institution should not exist in West Virginia or elsewhere in the United States at the expense of Rev. West's savings and with assistance from privately endowed foundations, I would hope to ascertain those reasons. If there is valid reason for the camp to continue on the basis of Meritorious performance, I would wish to see and hear the evidence if the youth at the center are coming under so-called leftwing, Communist or Neo-Communist influences and need to receive solid indoctrination in Americanism.

I will talk with them of Americanism. I was not asked to speak on any particular subject, but I have determined to make my address on "The Shield of Freedom." Those present will hear me tell the inspiring story of those patriots who signed our Declaration of Independence. I'll encourage the youth to learn and labor and grow into community leaders and builders of a better society through understanding and faith and justice. I will speak in advocacy of Americanism, of respect for American traditions and of obedience to the laws and the good order of our nation. Certainly, I would not further in any degree either Communism or anti-American efforts. I am again those forces.

Alderson Soldier Earns Army Medal In Georgia

FT. BENNING, Ga. — Pvt. James M. Eskins, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. James

H. Eskins of Alderson, has been presented the American Spirit Honor Medal upon completion of basic combat training at the Army Training Center.

According to the citation, Pvt. Eskins, Company A, 10th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, displayed all the qualities required to earn this significant award. Throughout his eight weeks of basic combat training, he demonstrated the honor, loyalty and patriotism which not only earned him the privilege of receiving the award, but also the respect and admiration of his superiors and fellow soldiers.

Pvt. Eskins distinguished himself as a true American patriot and his spirit, devotion to duty and attention to detail will serve as an excellent example for other trainees to follow.

The training center was established at Fort Benning September 15, 1965, and since December 1965 has graduated more than 145,000 soldiers from basic combat training.

Fort Benning has other functions and hosts other units. Yet, its basic mission, making better combat infantrymen, still dominates.

Pvt. Eskins was graduated from Alderson High School in 1965 and attended West Virginia Wesleyan College at Ruckhannon, where he was a member of Sigma Theta Epsilon fraternity. Before entering the Army, he was employed by Hercules,

Bellepoint Group Names Officers

HINTON (RNS) — The Miller Memorial Methodist Church was the scene Tuesday for a Bellepoint 4-H Worker Club meeting.

New officers elected for the coming year were: Keith Bartgis, president; Joe Ball, vice president; Janet Osborne, secretary; Becky Goins, treasurer; Sherry Ferguson, game leader; Louann Bartgis, song leader; and Ann Meador, reporter.

Sherry Ferguson was named chairman of a committee to arrange for a 4-H display in store windows.

Attending were Janet Osborne, Becky Goins, Ann Meador, Sherry Ferguson, David Chubbell, Joe Ball, Greg Ball, Rhett Ritter, Keith Bartgis, Sully Garion, Nancy Ratliff, Martha Myers, Betty Hannah, Jan Newton, Rickey Hardin, Robin Reed, Kathy Juffman, Tammie Juffman.

Kathy Willey, Kathy Deeds, Louann Willey, Louann Bartgis, Terry Shanks, Teresa Butts, Granville Dilley, Richard Hannah, Dorothy Richmond, Mary Joe Sergeant, Cindy Ferguson, Robin Ritter, Charles Sergeant, Mrs. J. R. Ferguson, leader.

number of influential and prominent people to his cause. A number of people at the college are enthusiastic about him.

I have heard that people with subversive intentions draw prominent people to their causes in order to gain respectability and escape from investigation. (Col. Lundberg and his association with the German-American Bund is an example.)

Perhaps that is the intention here so that if an investigation is made, character witnesses are available.

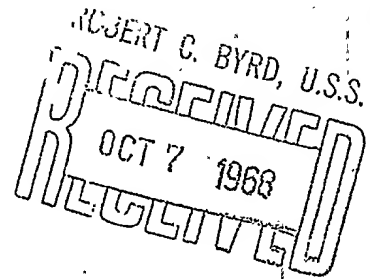
I'm sure I speak for most loyal Americans in southern West Virginia when I ask that steps be taken to determine the intent of the Alon West venture.

Sincerely,

Athens, W. Va. 24712

October 4, 1968

Senator Robert Byrd
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.



Dear Senator Byrd:

Many people in this area are upset by the presence of Don West and his camp. I am enclosing articles about it that have appeared in the Puncheon Times.

I have been told on good authority that Mr. West has said that his lawyer has suggested he see the newspapers but that Mr. West says he won't - that he doesn't want to harm anyone even though they want to harm him.

Mr. West has attracted a

PROMINENT PEOPLE SUPPORT

BY DA

The "Folk Life Center" at Pipestem, West Virginia, is continuing to arouse concerned interest in this area. A similar institution situated in Mont-eagle, Tennessee was outlawed by the Tennessee Legislature.

Recently, the "Folk Life Center" mailed out letters to area residents asking for contributions. The communications was signed by a number of people, some of whom merit mentioning.

The final statement in the letter read: "Won't you join us in helping make this program work by sending a contribution and making a regular pledge."

State Senator Paul Kaufman

of West Virginia was one of the letter's signatories. Kaufman was defeated earlier this year in an attempt to capture the Democratic nomination for Governor.

William C. Blizzard of the Charleston Gazette was another supposed signatory to the letter. Mr. Blizzard prepared a feature article on the Camp for the State Magazine, a Sunday publication of the Gazette.

A Concord Professor was another name which appeared on the list. This was Sydney Bell, Associate Professor of History at Concord. According to an earlier interview with West, Bell was to teach a class in World

Affairs during a summer session at the Camp.

Among the other names of local people which are present on the list were: Russell Lilly, City editor of the Hinton Daily News, Denzil Lyon, president of the Pipestem Community Action Association, and James V. Overdorff, former Director of the Mercer County Community Action Program.

Other names of prominence have also been associated with this questionable undertaking. Jay Rockefeller, present Democratic candidate for Secretary of State, has made at least one visit to the Camp.

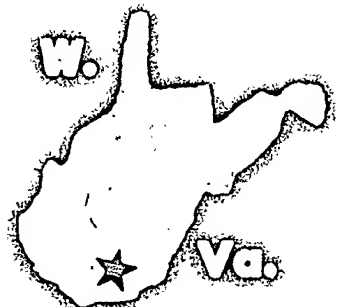
Mayor John Lindsey of New York heads some kind of agency

which is concerned, directly or indirectly, with funds which have gone to the Camp.

Mrs. Wilbur Cohen, wife of the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, has made visits to the Camp and presented West with two anonymous donations of \$5,000 for the Camp. The Benedum Foundation of West Virginia has perhaps blindly contributed \$1,000 to the Camp.

Speaking of notable persons, there is one group of outstanding West Virginians who are overlooking the Camp. These are the members of the West Virginia State Legislature. It would seem that there is sufficient evidence to warrant an

Princeton



Your Newspaper... A Member of 95 Per Cent of P.

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 14

PRINCETON, W.VA. 24740

OCTOBER 3, 1968

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DON WEST' CAMP AT PIPESTEM

PEDNEAU

Investigation into the Camp and West's objectives.

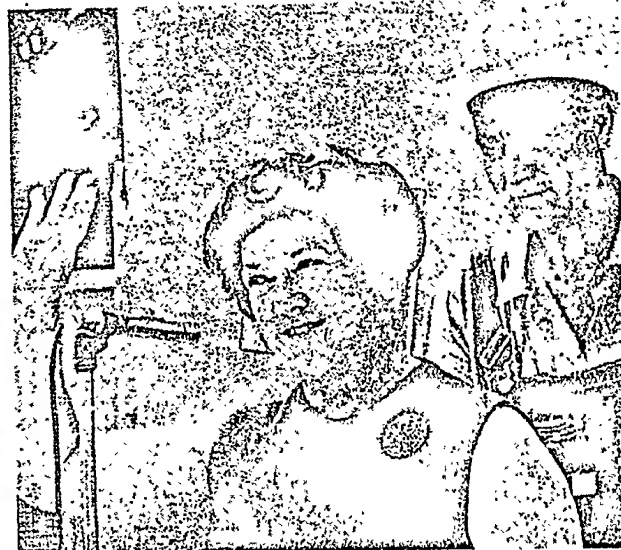
Certainly, until some investigation is made into the Camp and those associated with it, any contributions made to the project would be hazardous. Such monetary help may be financing a center for disruption and chaos.

The following quote was taken from the Congressional Record. It was contained in a speech made by Senator Alford. "The legislature of the great State of Tennessee, only a few days ago, authorized an investigation of Communist influences in Highlander Folk School at Mont-

eagle, Tennessee. This school was founded in 1932 by Myles

Horton and Don West. It is a southern meeting place for persons who have been leaders in race agitation for many years. Many who have gone in and out of Highlander Folk School meetings have records of affiliation with Communist and Communist front organizations...."

This speech was made in 1959; a few months later the legislature abolished the school. Our legislature should at least take a close look at the Camp at Pipestem.



MRS. WILBUR COHEN, WIFE OF THE SECRETARY OF HEW, IS SHOWN WITH DON WEST

Times

Don West

PRICE 10 CENTS

12 PAGES, ONE SECTION

Letter To The Editor

West Is Defended

1706 Darst St.
Charleston, W. Va. 25311

Dear Dave Pedneau:

I have never seen such a complete violation of the ethics of journalism and a free press as you committed in your article "Pipestem Camp Raises Questions of Internal Security" in your September 26 issue.

First you seek to incite your readers with a barrage of thoroughly discredited scare propaganda, then you clearly issue an invitation to violence against Don West and his Folklife Center, by issuing detailed directions, suggestions that the place is "isolated", and urging your readers to "drop by and allow West to know that you know he is there."

I haven't seen anything worse in a newspaper since the ravings in Hitler's personal organ, the "Volkische Beobachter."

Let me make this clear, Mr. Pedneau. Don West is a valued member of our union and a friend to thousands of working people in West Virginia and all over Appalachia. If anything happens to him or his camp, we will hold you and your followers personally responsible.

I would advise you to retract these scare articles and make a public apology to Mr. West and to your readers.

Sincerely,
Jim Williams, Chairman
Local 189, American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

(Editor's Note: Think Again, Brother!!)

ROBERT C. BYRD, U.S.S.

RECEIVED
AUG 15 1968
REGISTERED

Princeton, W. Va.

Aug. 13, 1968

Hon. Robert C. Byrd

Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator

We hear this and we hear that about this encampment at Pipestem, W. Va. What we really want to know - "Are they really using our tax money to promote this program?"

I am herewith attaching a clipping from the local paper.

Will appreciate any light you can give me on this.

Sincerely,

Your Friend,

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OUR OPINION

"With public opinion nothing can fail; without it nothing can succeed."

Folk Life Center At Pipestem Should Be Carefully Studied

A few months ago, talk began flying around the area concerning a supposed "Hippie" Camp located near Pipestem. Tales of bearded creatures and free love circulated quite in this area.

For the most part, these tales are gross exaggerations. Perhaps we should be a little sorry that they were not true. We can handle hippies a lot easier than idealistic liberal crusaders who promise cures for poverty and the like. Hippies would at least stay to themselves and above all would not send out letters asking for financial assistance in the continuation of their anti-American confusion.

The Camp situated at Pipestem is a direct product of the "War on Poverty." It is undeniably attached to the federal give-away programs which are so quickly sucking the life blood from this nation.

We do not believe that the transportation to West Virginia of high school drop outs, ex-Vista workers, and liberal college professors will result in "The enrichment of the mountain economy."

Furthermore, we oppose the sanctimonious use of religion as a robe to hide the unamerican philosophies to be propounded at such a school. A piece of correspondence from the school describes it as "A universal Christian Center in the Judeo-Christian tradition." The writers of such a line must be bowing their heads in shame, for outspoken atheists teach at this school. Never can we be convinced that an atheist can teach in the Judeo-Christian tradition.

As long as Don West and his Camp stayed in Pipestem bothering no one, we remained silent. Now, however, letters are being mailed from the Camp asking for financial support. We cannot be silent and thereby allow people to contribute to such a cause.

It is quite probable that the Camp will become a headquarters in this area for activism and leftist teachings. It may become the Center for civil disobedience and trouble. With such names as Sydney Bell and James V. Overdorf on the list of those who contributed, we can see little good coming from the project.

Such camps and programs as these have been fundamental in the exciting of trouble elsewhere. We have no need for them around here. Any contribution that is made to this Camp will be a contribution toward the ruination of America.

One thing is certain: An "Appalachian South Folk Life Center" cannot succeed in a place where it is not wanted. Perhaps we should let them know this fact.

Above all, don't allow sky-in-the-pie promises for development of this area numb your senses. It takes no sense at all to reach the conclusion that the "Camp" is a liberal and activist danger to the security and freedom of this nation.

Vote For Candidate Who Best Helps Our County

With an election year fast coming to a close, West Virginia voters and particularly Mercer County voters should look toward a governor's candidate who offers practical solutions to our most difficult problems.

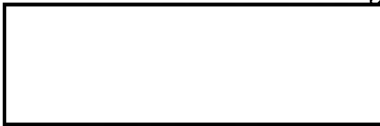
Highway work should be of prime interest. Voters should look for the candidate who offers the most satisfaction in this area.

The entire of Mercer County is in dire need of roads. Rock District MUST have roads. If a state administration does not soon do something to improve our highways, we can place the blame on them for our depressed income and buying power.

We cannot be convinced that we should wait to see benefit from our tax dollars. We have waited now. We find that some of our tax money has been stolen by corrupt officials.

In the name of West Virginia and particularly Mercer County, we must elect officials and a governor who will do something for us.

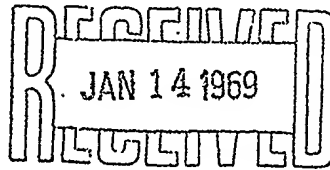
NEWS NOTES



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HINTON, WEST VIRGINIA

ROBERT C. BYRD, U.S.S.



January 11, 1969

My dear Senator Byrd:

I appreciate my getting to talk to you on your recent visit to Hinton. Yours was a very busy schedule and I do not know that my information or impressions of the local Community Action Program are of any value to you.

Enclosed are some newspaper clippings that may be informative and the inclusion of which I will explain later in this letter.

I deal with poverty and the results of poverty daily in my [redacted] It is very real to me. I have strong personal feelings that no child should have as constant companions, hunger and privation. To me the program of the Office of Economic Opportunity was another attempt at alleviating some of the poverty and want, without strong guidelines so that the attack could be more tailor made to local situations.

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b7C

After over two years of familiarity with the local Community Action Program, as an [redacted] of the Board of Directors, and the VISTA program locally, I have gathered the impression that this effort of the Office of Economic Opportunity, has in great part, been misdirected. I realize these impressions are personal and may be in error.

XERO COPY XERO COPY XERO COPY

The people that are in a position of administration, from the local level on into Washington, appear to be quite inadequate for the job. They have misused the resources at hand, both human and material. I would expect there would be an attempt to fill the voids or some of the voids in policies already in operation by agencies of the Federal, state, and local governments that have been working with poverty and the results of poverty for years. The OEO people should, when possible, try to co-operate with these agencies, seek advice, learn by other agencies' past experiences, and not duplicate present programs or reinstate past programs that have failed. Instead of co-operation, the OEO people in many cases appear to try and embarrass, supercede, and alienate a number of public agencies whose job is working with the poor and underprivileged.

As a sideline, or maybe a primary project, there appears to me an attempt, within the OEO, or as a result of the OEO, to create some sort of power structure that we may all end up saddled with. Enclosed are some newspaper clippings that I think are an indication of this effort locally. Not included here are two front-page stories appearing in the Princeton Times, a weekly, unfavorable to Mr. West. Nowhere in all this newspaper coverage have I found any details concerning adequate facilities, that is a physical plant or competent leadership personnel, for the proper establishment and maintenance

of a camp for under privileged youth. Our [redacted]

[redacted] of the Community Action Program, Mr. [redacted]

is mentioned in one of the clippings as [redacted]

[redacted] Mr. West, somewhat like the pussycat

protecting the lion. I do get the impression from the newspaper stories and Senator Randolph that Mr. West's ability in his undertaking and his objectives for his undertaking are not to be questioned. Who am I, as an individual or any of Mr. West's neighbors, to question such power and apparent respectability. Recently, I am told, Mr. West has taken part in the training of VISTA's at his farm.

I hope all of this may be of some value to you, and that I have not made a clown of myself by imposing on your limited time.

Cordially yours
[redacted signature]

Honorable Robert C. Byrd.

U. S. Senator

Senate Office Building

Washington, D. C.

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Vigilantes Should Confront 'Pipestem Peril' in Court

Since the appearance last Monday of an editorial noting the presence of "vigilantes" in Summers County, several readers have called or written to say it would be more nearly correct to say that most of the "vigilantes" who are harassing Don West at his Pipestem Folk Life Center live in adjoining Mercer County.

The Gazette didn't intend to condemn

the people of Summers County, and, indeed, took pains to note that the "vigilantes" aren't typical of Summers County people. Our critics are right, however, when they say Mr. West's school has some determined enemies in Mercer County.

Pipestem is near the Summers-Mercer border. Regardless of the side on which the greater number of Mr. West's enemies live, all of them doubtlessly are inspired to some extent by the fulminations which appear more or less regularly in a Mercer County newspaper, the Princeton Times.

The newspaper's attacks are based on Mr. West's past associations or alleged past associations and rely most heavily on his refusal to reply to testimony that he was a member of the Communist party. The testimony, as far as the Gazette can determine, was given to the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1949. This was nearly 20 years ago, or only slightly less remote in time than Sen. Robert C. Byrd's membership in the Ku Klux Klan.

The Times has never made it clear just what sort of dangers lurk at Pipestem, although it seems to be suggesting that whatever is going on there is certain to be unwholesome. It is possible that it is burdened by the Southern fear of race amalgamation. The Oct. 3 edition quoted from the Congressional Record a contention that Mr. West once was associated with the Highlander Folk School which was a meeting place for "leaders in race agitation." Most of us know that when a Southern congressman speaks of race agitation he means the effort to obtain equal rights for all American citizens, a dastardly undertaking indeed.

The same edition notes that the school at Pipestem appears to have the support of such notorious persons as State Sen. Paul Kaufman, the Charleston air pollution crusader; William C. Blizzard, a writer for the Sunday Gazette-Mail State Magazine; Russell Lilly, formerly city editor of the Hinton Daily News; Denzil Lyon, president of the Pipestem Community Action Program; Sydney Bell, a history professor at Concord College; and the Rev. James V. Overdorff, who attempted unsuccessfully to practice Christianity in Bluefield.

But investigations cannot settle the question of guilt. Courts can. The Princeton Times and the vigilantes it has aroused should confront Mr. West in court with the crimes they believe he has committed. This is the American way. Or it used to be the American way.

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 fumes of medicated mist speed
 directly to your lungs. In
 most instances, wheezing swiftly
 subsides; mucous-plugged air-
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EDITORIALS—

Vigilantes in Summers Are Beneath Contempt

There is a gang of unprincipled vigilantes in Summers County which could do vast harm to West Virginia, its people, and their reputation for fair dealing.

These men and women, taking their cue from the techniques of thought-controllers in the Soviet Union have launched a campaign of harassment against a man who has harmed them in no way — but, to the contrary, came among them in the course of an effort to raise the status of mankind.

Their victim is Don West, who has attempted to fulfill a lifelong dream by establishing a school at Pipestem to teach ethical behavior, mountain lore, crafts, and civic responsibility and to impart to students, many of them underprivileged, a sense of belonging in America.

We know little about West except:

That he has a consuming compassion for the disadvantaged; that he has devoted much of his life to the labor movement; that he is a gentle and sensitive poet; that he loves his fellow men; that he believes in the practical application of the teachings of Christ; and that he declined to answer a question regarding the Communist party when the question was put to him during a shameful period of American life when suspicion dominated good sense.

He has explained that he declined to answer the question, as many people did at the time, on the grounds that it was insulting. Many people were offended, in the 1950s, when their national loyalty was questioned. Hundreds of decent Americans also refused to answer the same question during the same period for the same principle.

The vigilantes, reacting to the nameless terrors of the 1950s, have taken up the same jackal cries that served as slogans for the Know Nothing groups which flourished 15 years ago. They want to drive Don West out of Summers County, we presume, although to date they have brought not one accusa-

tion beyond the blanket charge that they find him to be a suspicious character.

These vigilantes are beneath contempt. We advise them, for what it's worth, to confront Don West in the courts with specific charges of misconduct, or treason, or whatever crime they believe he has committed. This is the American way. Nothing is more foully un-American than the slanders that are now being whispered by the would-be thought-controllers and their despicable attempts to influence responsible citizens against a man who wants only to live in peace and do the work he believes he has been called to do.

Thank God the vigilantes aren't typical of West Virginia and Summers County, where the decent majority has never stooped to character assassination — not even during the incredible McCarthy years of hate and hysteria.

those serious Red-hunting organizations known only to Dr. Carl McIntire, Phoebe Courtney and Mae Luddy, is in the form of a dossier. It consists largely of listings of former associations since deemed subversive by the state of Tennessee and notations that West has invoked the Fifth Amendment when questioned concerning membership in the Communist party.

WEST HAS replied to most of this, explaining that he invoked the constitutional safeguard as a matter of principle, as many non-Communists

Actually, however, a atheistic. Commie pretending to be a college graduate and intent on teaching the principles of Marxism to shaggy mountain boys would affect neither overalls nor suit. He would wear a hunting cap and a matching tan pants and shirt outfit with an electric blue suit coat and pasteboard Italian-style shoes with pointed toes. From his lapels would dangle medallions denoting nine years of perfect Sunday School attendance. He would be moderately drunk on cheap booze and quick to weep at the mention of the word,

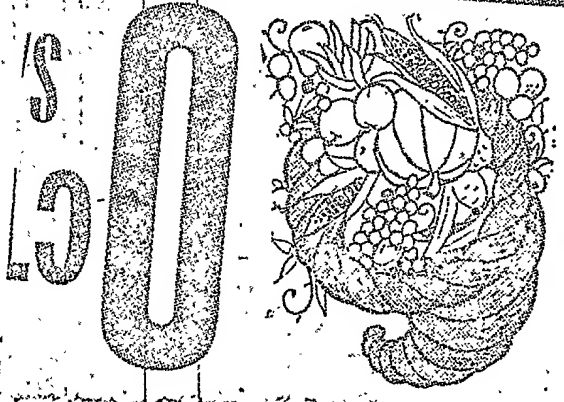
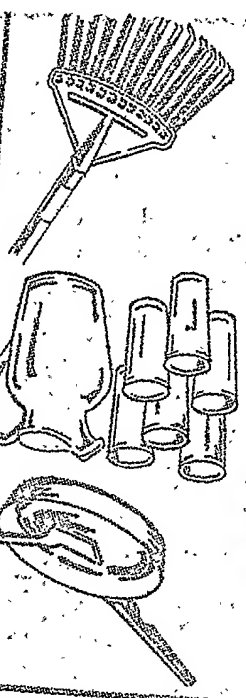
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Summers, Mercer Residents Join to Defend West, Camp

ATHENS — A number of Summers and Mercer county residents are trying to plan a way to prevent "beer joint crusaders" from harming the Rev. Donald West and a youth-folk camp he has started at Pipestem, Summers County.

Joseph Hatfield of Rt. 3, Bluefield, executive director of the Mercer County Economic Opportunity Corp., is mailing to his acquaintances announcements that say:

"By now you probably know of the attacks on Don West by the Princeton Times and the Citizens for the Prevention of Anti-American Infiltration into Summers County.

"Because these deadly rumors are believed by many of the 'beer joint crusaders' and many well-known God-fearing people, we feel that Don's center is in danger of being destroyed.

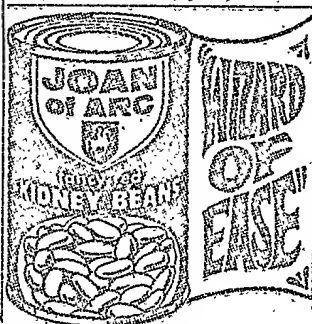
"Don believes that all of this will go away, but, knowing these people, I don't believe it will pass until they succeed in running him out or destroying him.

"Many of Don's friends have contacted me to start a movement to help him, and a meeting is planned for Thursday at the home of Sid Bell at 120 Caldwell St., Athens.

"If you could possibly make it to this meeting, a movement could begin to save Don's works

and maybe his life."

The opponents of Mr. West have quoted testimony that he was a Communist in the early 1930s, but he declared in Charleston Sunday that he isn't and never has been a member of the Communist party.



SENATOR ALSO WILL TOUR PIPESTEM PARK

Randolph explains purpose of visit to Don West farm

(Editor's Note: The following is the text of a telegram from Sen. Jennings Randolph concerning his visit today to Pipestem State Park and the Appalachian South Folklife Center at Pipestem.)

By Sen. Jennings Randolph
ELKINS—There is a camp for young people at Pipestem in Summers County. It is directed by Rev. Donald L. West on his 350-acre farm as the Appalachian South Folklife Center.

The Charleston Gazette has described Rev. West as a 69-year-old "retired University of Maryland professor, Universal Christian Church minister and a

best selling poet (who says his camp is designed to help orphans, poor youngsters and high school dropouts get a better chance in life.).

Many nationally prominent persons interested in work for improvement and enrichment of American youth—and I do not mean the hippie and yippie movement—have spoken to me about the reputed helpful program at the center. Some of them ask that I speak there to the young folk. I accepted. There is also at Pipestem one of our major state park projects for which I have been working in federal assistance for several years. I contacted

the Department of Natural Resources and arranged for a late Saturday afternoon tour of the Pipestem State Park development to precede my evening session with the teen-agers and adults whom I have been told would form the audience.

I have since learned that Rev. West has come under attack by persons who allege that he is a man of "leftwing tendencies." Allegations are made that Rev. West is or has been a Communist. I have received communications from three West Virginians urging that I not speak at the Center.

If there is any reason why that institution should not exist

in West Virginia or elsewhere in the United States at the expense of Rev. West's savings and with assistance from privately endowed foundations I would home to ascertain those reasons. If there is valid reason for the camp to continue on the basis of meritorious performance, I would wish to see and hear the evidence if the youth at the center are coming under so-called left-wing Communist or neo-Communist influence and need to receive valid indoctrination in Americanism. I will talk with them of Americanism. I was not asked to speak on any particular subject but I have determined

make my address on "The Shield of Freedom." Those present will hear me tell the inspiring story of those patriots who signed our declaration of independence. I'll encourage the youth to learn and labor and grow into community leaders and builders of a better society through understanding and faith and justice.

I will speak in advocacy of Americanism out of respect for American tradition and obedience to the laws and the good order of our nation. Certainly I would not further in any degree either Communism or anti-American effort. I am (Please turn to Page 8; Col. 2)

Randolph

(Continued from Page One)
against those forces.

I will go to Pipestem from the Elkins Mountain State Forest Festival, first to the State Park for conferences and a guided tour, then I will see my commitment to address the youth. I assure both the friends and the detractors of the Center at Pipestem that I will stress Americanism. At the same time I will be on fact-finding mission as I check on the activities of the Center as well as the development at the State Park.

(sd) Jennings Randolph

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'You-Call-Yourself-A...?

Every sentimental fellow such as I treasure a particular time with a loved one, or remembers fondly an expression produced by the passion of the moment.

I, for instance, can never forget the day when my wife, Jean, put the household money on a medium long shot because, she explained, he had beautiful long legs and an arrogant expression. Besides, the jockey's shirt was pumpkin and white, her favorite color combination.

Anyway, as they came around the last turn, her choice began to fade—from third, to fourth, to fifth. As the other horses thundered past him, she raised herself, shook her fist in the direction of the track and loosed this scornful cry:

"You — call yourself a — horse?"

WHEN I READ the paper last Wednesday I wanted to yell "You call yourself a college graduate?" at Don West, an amiable preacher who is trying to practice Christianity up in Summers County and therefore, naturally, is suspected of all sorts of dark and un-American activity.

One of his accusers is Nitro publisher Bill Blake, the former state adjutant-general who will be remembered as the public servant who took a gang of greasy political hacks and a Greenbrier County gambler on a National Guard training and whoopee flight to Las Vegas at the taxpayers' expense.

Another is a lesser known patriot named David Pedneau, editor of the Princeton Times and Concord College student. It was Pedneau who mounted the first assault upon the school for dropouts which West established at Pipestem. It is Pedneau who continues to expose West as a likely corrupter of Appalachian youth. Indeed, Pedneau is in command. Blake, an aging cold warrior, is Pedneau's Roy Cohn, hoping to be permitted to serve the hemlock to West.

The documentation, obviously, provided Pedneau by one of

did during the big Red Round-ups of the early 50s.

It is significant, however, that he failed to respond to one searching Pedneau observation. As far as I am concerned, he will be under a cloud of suspicion until he does.

"West himself presents a striking picture," the Pedneau Report said. "He claims to hold a number of degrees including a divinity degree from Vanderbilt University. However, he jaunts around the hills of Pipestem with bib overalls and hillbilly hat on his head..."

Here, it seems to me, is the heart of the case against West. He is either a college graduate who wears overalls, questionable activity on the face of it; or he is a man who wears overalls and pretends to be a college graduate.

Red blooded Americans, in their periodic inquisitions aimed at welfare recipients, invariably make the point that some poor people have television sets; in other words, that some poor people obstinately refuse to act like poor people. By the same token, patriots naturally are shocked when college graduates refuse to dress like college graduates. It is worth noting here, for those who cannot grasp the connection between proper dress and Americanism, that when Gov. W. W. Barron instituted his Statewide Patriotism Program he always wore a suit and tie when he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

THE CLEVEREST of our enemies sometimes slip up on trivial details, such as clothing. It would have been no trick, of course, for West to obtain from The Apparatus a suitable college graduate outfit. Since he also alleges that he was a college professor, he might have chosen a tweedy jacket with leather elbow patches, the material perfumed by tobacco smoke. Or, if he preferred the more dignified Rotary cover, a conservative gray worsted with Wallace button.

"Mother." He would identify himself as a State Road Commission employee, thus blending with the majority, and he would arrive in a '49 Chevy with a '56 Ford transmission and six squirrel tails on the antenna. If the occasion presented itself, he would reach into the trunk of his car, withdraw a pipe wrench, and hit somebody over the head with it. God knows how many spies, thus disguised, are in our midst.