

The Moonlighter

Volume I.

FRANKFORT, SEPT. 2, 1918.

Number 8

ON A LITTLE MULE.

This week has truly been a week of new experiences for me. I began my trip to the country in an auto, but before long was traveling alone through the country driving a mule. Later, I rode horseback on a side saddle and last of all walked several miles. Because of the bad roads and my means of travel, I made slow progress at times. Four moonlight schools will begin Monday evening. Everyone seemed enthusiastic and many said the buildings were more crowded at my meetings than they were for any patriotic meeting previously held. I certainly felt gratified that at my last meeting the two local school boards of the community spoke and endorsed what I said. The superintendent said afterwards that these men were opposed to each other and to anything of which the other approved. At this place seventeen enrolled to attend moonlight school.

In two schools citizens volunteered to teach. One place, because the teacher was not succeeding in the day school, and they felt in this case adults would not come at night. In the other case the teacher lived in another district and went home every night. She later will teach in her home district at night.

The people received me, for the most part, with open arms. One old man told me I reminded him of Jesus, because we both rode on a little mule and we were both doing others good. One day I am feasting in luxury; the next I am fasting in poverty. I am enjoying my work and believe in it. Both are necessary for success.

Margaret Woll,
Hancock County.

AMEN!

Another week of strenuous days is over, and still there is no end to the new things that are happening. Thirteen schools have been organized to begin teaching the night organized; nine meetings were held, the other four organizing alone, till I can visit them later, and fourteen teachers pledged to teach besides those who organized this week.

I have been very busy delivering what supplies are sent and also instructing the negroes in their institute how to teach their moonlight pupils. Our hats off to our negro teachers—every teacher pledged herself to teach and they are going to begin right away. They are patriotic to the core, and don't want the white teachers to do anything in war work they are not doing.

Some more soldiers leave this week. We hope none of them have failed to be reached by our schools, and if they have we shall teach them before leaving. I know that several have become well equipped to face the world till he can get in camp schools. One boy came in yesterday, had to register as he was just twenty-one—wanted to know if I couldn't teach him to write his name. Said he couldn't bear for the board to know he couldn't write. He learned to write it plainly in forty minutes—the proudest boy I ever saw. He went away determined to enter his moonlight school Monday for the full term.

I have visited quite a number of moonlight schools and find without an exception the greatest enthusiasm on the part of teachers and real genuine interest and hard work on the part of students. I never have seen such atmosphere on all sides at the rapid rate in which the students

learn—people just can't believe it till they visit a school and really see what we brag about so much.

All the pupils are interested in the race and want you 'Commissioners' to kindly remember that Logan is on the war path—and climbing to the front trenches and when the race closes will be 'over the top'—whether the west wins or not.

Jenny Etter,
Logan County.

THEY DON'T SHOOT AT MOONLIGHT SCHOOLS.

We had forty at school tonight at Sweet Lick. I took two lamps, a can of coal oil and books. This was the school that no one would teach at night because boys would shoot and break out windows. All went well. Elsie and Carolyn helped me with the singing. I am going to Sweet Lick four nights myself in hopes of getting a six weeks' permanent school. Next week will be Institute week here. I shall get some of the teachers to visit my schools. Shall call the Illiteracy Commission together to discuss plans. Shall then go before the County Board again and seek further help.

Mrs. Thos. Jefferson Smith,
Estill County.

The course of study is a masterpiece. Everyone who sees it is surprised and pleased. It has been the agent to cause several to teach moonlight schools.

The aggregate minimum number of illiterates for whom schools will be provided is three hundred and fifty. I am expecting to reach the four hundred mark through the schools that are started in September.

Miriam Bell,
Wayne County.

The Moonlighter

Published weekly by the Kentucky Illiteracy Commission.
Application made for admission to the mails as second-class matter.

SCHOOL OF FIFTY.

Last week was the most profitable week I have spent in Pulaski county. I visited four flourishing moonlight schools. The school at Acorn, Ky., has fifty in attendance, twenty are illiterates and the others are there to improve their reading and writing. I've never seen such interest displayed anywhere. When nine o'clock comes they are not ready to go home, but beg to stay longer. I asked the teacher, Miss Lula Brady, to not keep them longer than the hour for dismissal so as to make them eager to come the next evening to finish their work. Such schools and such responses make all the hard work, all the sacrifice seem so little. I love the hill country; I love the people, so hospitable, so kind, so ready to take you in, so eager to know more that will be helpful to them. The work has been so well advertised through the papers that it seems I am known wherever I go and most people call me "Miss Moonlight" or "The Moonlight Lady."

Ida Bell Hammond.
Pulaski County.

Moonlight Schools.

The moonlight schools in Pulaski are moving along in fine style under the able direction of Miss Ida Bell Hammond, County Illiteracy Agent. She is an untiring worker—always on the job; possessed with an almost superhuman energy and a most cheerful disposition, she is peculiarly fitted for the task of putting the illiterates of this good old county on the road to education. She is getting splendid co-operation wherever she goes in the county. —Semi-Weekly News, Somerset, Ky.

OHIO COUNTY WORK.

I felt very happy over the results obtained at the Ohio county Institute, securing the names of 68 teachers for moonlight schools and a number of others pledging to teach one or to teach the drafted boys, and many citizens pledging their support. Mrs. Jones made a fine talk and impressed most of the teachers that it was their duty to their State and country to thus help wipe out illiteracy. So did Dean Kinnaman, of Bowling Green, and also the county superintendent spoke in favor of it. The county attorney, Mr. A. D. Kirk, made a splendid address one afternoon at the Institute, emphasizing the fact that we Kentuckians must wake up and rid our State of the great blot of illiteracy. He also pointed out to the teacher the duty of reporting conscientiously the names of the absent children each week to the trustee, so he, in turn, might do his part. And he assured her that he, as county attorney, would do his full duty in seeing that the law was carried out.

The teachers are in earnest about their work and most of them took their supplies. They are very much pleased with the Course of Study. The rural mail carriers have offered to assist in any way they can, securing names of illiterates, etc. One father is going to help his daughter teach. One daughter is going to teach her father. A man and his wife are going to combine their moonlight schools into one. The spirit of co-operation is beautiful. I believe we are going to do fine work in the mining section.

Mrs. W. L. Mills.
Ohio County.

CANVASSING GETS RESULTS

I have just closed a very interesting week. I visited Mr. Ellis Ward's school at Cook's Branch and found that he had attempted to get his illiterates out but failed. We dismissed the day school a little early and drove till dark. Man places the moun-

tains were so steep that we had to hitch our horse and walk; but we were doubly paid for all of our hardships. About ten who could not read and write were present at the moonlight school. All were interested and pledged to attend regularly. Mr. Ward and I went home very much encouraged.

I find that many of the white teachers are unable to begin their moonlight schools at present, but will begin as soon as possible. I have spent much of my time this week working with the colored teachers at their Institute. I was given the loyal support of the Instructor, Prof. Wood, from Paris, and Prof. G. W. Adams, Principal of Mt. Sterling colored school. They are both live wires and assured me that nothing would be left undone on their part. Every colored teacher pledged to teach a moonlight school. Old Montgomery is coming, also, but sure.

H. R. Riley.

Montgomery County.

DOES THE AGENT GOOD.

Last week was wonderful, my very best. I was busy every single minute and really feel that I accomplished a great deal. I visited many day schools and moonlight schools each evening.

The teachers appreciate the letters you wrote them, and do send more. I shall write them when I return to Mason county. I should love to stay at least another month. My work is more interesting than ever and I would not leave except to fill my place at home. I know I have done something for Nelson county and for Kentucky, but my experiences have done much for me. I go back to Maysville a better teacher, with a broader view of school work and of life.

Mr. McClain and the Commission will keep the work going and they will be assisted by many interested citizens. Write Mr. McClain of anything you want done and I am sure he will carry out your wishes.

Mary Robert Loyd.
Nelson County.

NEWS OF THE WAR

To be Used in Moonlight Schools.

The German Empress (the Kaiserine) is in the hospital suffering from nervous depression. No wonder! The gains of the allies during the last few weeks are enough to make the old lady blue.

The Germans are still retreating and are fighting on the defensive. The allies have retaken much territory, including many towns, and are pressing the Germans steadily back toward the line which they occupied last winter. The French and Americans and their allies have taken over 112,000 prisoners and 1,300 guns.

150,000 young men who have reached the age of 21 since June 5th are in the selective draft. Many of these will be called by the middle of September.

You hear some say: "The war will end before Christmas." It is a mistake to raise false hopes. The war may last for several years. We had better plan and prepare for a long fight. The Americans are just beginning to fight for the U. S. The war has just begun.

COMPULSORY LAW FOR ILLITERATES.

In one district where the day school teacher could not teach I went to secure a volunteer. I visited four people and failed. In less than five minutes I visited and talked to illiterates from three families who pledged to come to the moonlight school, and heard of others who had expressed a desire to come. It made me wish for power to draft someone for that school or desert my post and take it myself.

One teacher Saturday reported one faithful one who was learning to write beautifully and who had mastered three pages of his book in one night. I would we had a compulsory law for our un-

The Germans will begin soon to cry peace and to make us flattering offers. Uncle Sam is shrewd. He knows the Kaiser cannot be trusted. Russia talked peace with the Kaiser and Germany now has her by the throat. We'll talk peace only when Kaiser Bill is captured and the American flag floats over Berlin.

The Kaiser has taken 50,000 men out of the Krupp gun factory to fight. This shows which way the wind blows. They are short of men when they take them out of their gun works.

War Names Pronounced.

Picardy (pronounced Pick-ard-y, accent first syllable. The portion of France where fighting is in progress.)

Soissons (pronounced Swaw-sohing, accent last syllable, o as go), city in France.

Rheims (pronounced Ranse, a as in barn).

Fismes (pronounced Feem).

Montdidier (pronounced Mohng-diddy-a, long a).

fortunates, then we would have our moonlight schools as full as our day schools now are.

June Barnes.
Powell county.

I did not see a "blue day" last week. I believe every day was profitably spent. I visited eleven schools in the day time. Organized two moonlight schools and visited two already organized. I certainly did get an inspiration from the two organized. On Wednesday night I visited Dexter moonlight school and found a room full of interested illiterates and literates. There were 15 illiterates present. They were proud of their efforts and each one was anxious to show me some of his writing. I took several

copies with me. I have no fears for this school. I am sure it must succeed. On Thursday night I visited Gunters Flat moonlight school. I found a great community interest here. Almost every patron in this district attend regularly and quite a few from an adjoining district, where no moonlight school is being taught, two of which are illiterate. They have enrolled four out of eight belonging in their district. These adults are planning a program for the last night. The funds will go for an organ they are now using in the moonlight school. I shall certainly attend.

Mrs. Lois Waterfield.
Calloway County.

OVER THE TOP.

The moonlight schools that have started are getting along nicely. All the pupils have learned to write their names and have mastered several of the reading lessons. I feel that most of our schools are going to be a success, though several have not yet started on account of protracted meetings being held in the school houses, etc.

So many of our teachers have been called to the war that I fear we are not going to have so many schools as we thought; but nevertheless we are doing everything we can to make this a success. Whitley county has gone "over the top" in everything else and I am sure we cannot afford to go down in this, one of the greatest things we have ever been asked to do.

Addie Marie Lawson.
Whitley County.

BESSIE TEACHES FOUR.

As I was out delivering books today Miss Bessie Snider, a little girl teaching her first school, told me that in one week she had taught four men to write their names and to read some in the readers. They will write you a letter as soon as they are able to do so.

Grace Johnson.
Spencer County.

INTEREST BECOMES INTENSE

The figures presented this week will interest everybody because they show reports from all the counties. We must admit that the reports do not do justice to the work that is being done because the reports are very incomplete. Agents must remember that no schools are counted in the contest unless reported on the special blank, which states that they have been running for at least four evenings. We know of hundreds of such schools in session which are not counted here because not regularly reported. If you do not have the blanks, write for them. Perhaps the ones we sent miscarried. The columns below show points made, not actual numbers. Each teacher pledged counts five points; each citizen, one point; each school in session for four nights, ten points; each letter from a beginner who learned to write since July 1, five points. Agents, see that everything is reported so that we can make actual comparisons. Reports of moonlight schools and beginners taught sent in by county superintendents and teachers from counties where we have no agents will be counted. Let's be running.

How They Stand

THE WEST.

Points	Teachers Counted	Citizens Pledged	Schools Running	Letters Rec'd
Allen				
Barren	230	14		
Bullitt	100		10	
Butler	310	18		
Caldwell	255	38	110	
Calloway	330		140	5
Carlisle	95	9		
Cumberland	220	65		
Edmonson	210	5	40	
Green	305	26	70	
Hancock	55	35		
Hardin	245	22	20	
Hart	210	37		
Logan	415	24		
Lyon	215			
Marshall	370	50	20	
McCracken		25	20	15
Muhlenberg	195			
Nelson	335	73		
Ohio	5			
Russell				
Spencer	120	87	140	
Trigg	225			
Warren	80			
Webster	280	57		

Total Points 4805 585 570 20
Total points for the west, 5890.

THE EAST.

Points	Teachers Counted	Citizens Pledged	Schools Running	Letters Rec'd
Bath				
Bell	320			
Boyd	250	43		
Boyle	230	11	160	
Breathitt	220	2		
Carter	340	210		
Clark	115			
Estill	275	14	30	40
Fleming	15	28		
Floyd	370	7		
Franklin	90	4	10	
Grant	270	43	130	
Harlan	245		110	
Henry	80	44		
Jackson	255	79	270	
Johnson	430			
Knott	920	10	110	
Knox	455	4	220	
Lawrence	345	10		
Laurel	350	88		
Lee	130			
Leslie	270		210	
Lewis	155	82		
Magoffin	430	47	310	
McCreary	120			
Montgomery	240	3	10	5
Perry	400	153		
Pike	715	15	100	
Powell	120	53	30	
Pulaski	225	4		
Rockcastle	270	10	220	
Scott	225	43		
Wayne	265	11		
Whitley	275	30	100	
Wolfe	145		90	

Total points 8930 1048 2110 45
Total points for the east, 12,133.
1-4 off for contest 9,100.