

...ism Luce Upon a Time: ... Past at MHC

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EIGHTY (1935-36) and still in tender youth, Mars Hill heard Miss Francis Perkins, then Secretary of Labor of the United States, address a chapel meeting in late fall on the commanding topic ". . . moral and ethical principles underlying social security legislation" . . . and liked it. The matter concluded, the Secretary filled an abundant number of requests for her autograph, went to a Madison rug shop, and then returned to an Asheville conference of the IAIABS she was at the time attending.

From Other Campuses...

College freshmen and prospective freshmen take heart! A special faculty committee at Yale has recommended a revamping of the curriculum and the handling of first-year students. The committee's report finds that the traditional Freshman Year on the New Haven campus is becoming obsolete. It recommends that the freshmen be split up and housed with upperclassmen and not treated as a separate campus.

Student Government is having its hard knocks at Pfeiffer College in Misenheimer, N. C. Seeking a clearer definition of its rights and responsibilities, the Student Government inactivated itself. The Administration called for new elections to the student group and its reactivation.

Two Howard Payne College students in Brownwood, Texas, who bill themselves as "Paul and Paula," have led the national parade of hit songs for four weeks with a recording called "Hey, Paula."

By late March Ray Hildebrand and Jill Jackson were seeing their record approach the two million mark in sales and their album "Songs for Young Lovers" is in the top twenty across the nation.

Travel Makes History Come Alive Dr. Underwood Says Of Experience

by Marietta Atkins

A history teacher worth her salt, Dr. Evelyn Underwood not only talks about history — she has been where much of the world's important history has occurred.

As most of the pupils of this "new history teacher" know, her insights into enlightening reluctant students can be most disconcerting; she literally cuts through the bluff! Nor is the "new teacher" — who first taught at Mars Hill in 1944 and returned this year from a four-year leave of absence to earn the Ph.D. degree at the University of North Carolina — a person to quail at mere ignorance. When Gen. MacArthur lands in the middle of the War of 1812 or, through some student's protesting his own world, Vietnam bangs into agrarian reform, Dr. Underwood clarifies the matters as best she can — even if it involves a few moments of class dissention instead of a simple student-teacher debate — before she returns to her lecture.

As almost every student who has interrupted her class with such side viewpoints has found, Dr. Underwood can relate incidents of past to current history (and vice versa) appreciably.

How does a history teacher learn to relate the past and the present or clarify the present through the past? How does she learn to clarify the present when a dissimilar subject, such as the Vietnam-agrarian reform example, intrudes?

The good doctor is rightly more than just "bookish" in her approach to the problem. She has traveled and studied in Europe—her special field—a total of three full summers since 1949. Here are some of the things she has to say about the value of travels and why, if a student can afford them, they make studies more

meaningful:

"It makes history come alive to walk the roads of people one has read about in a book. It puts blood in their veins. I had always struggled through the Holy Roman Empire and the Thirty Years War. It is one of the most difficult periods of European history to study or teach.

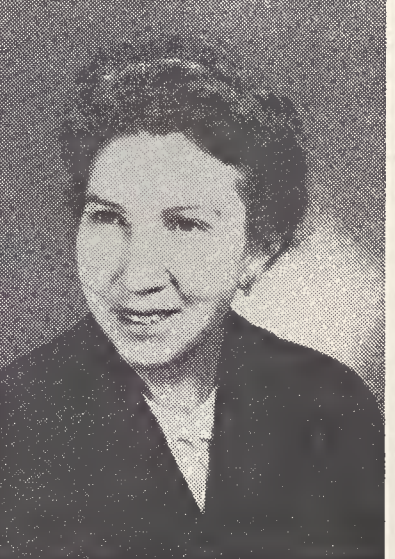
"On the Rhine, when you pass one castle after another and begin to realize these were the homes of those lords you read about, the patterns become clearer in your mind. The pages of that section of the history book begin to be something more than just dry pages.

"Very frankly, I went to England most prejudiced against the English. Snobbish? They are not. London is like a great big, little town in so many ways that the matter seems to come down to personalities, not a cold nationality at all.

"You can stop on the street to look at the flowers in a lady's yard all you wish — it was one of the things I enjoyed most. The English love flowers. Everyone has flowers and everyone works on them. Such work and their love for it impressed me as indicative of a basic virtue in their values of appreciation."

Edinburgh, London, Paris, Milan . . . wherever Dr. Underwood went, she found that people were basically the same. Much, in fact, like Americans . . . except for a certain slight difference:

"The people are more leisurely than we are. Our material advantages are more, but philosophically . . . well, they are just not as much interested in these things as we are. A lot of them still think in terms of the past, especially where the country has been poor in recent years.



DR. UNDERWOOD

"As in Italy. They still evaluate much in terms of the more glorious days of Rome and the proud Renaissance.

"How does one go? Well, I had felt it was important to visit Europe and I had always wanted to go. Then one day Mrs. Watson and I were talking and she said, 'Let's go to Europe next year.'

"All right," I said. "It surprised her.

"Do you really mean it?" she asked.

"So I wrote that night to the travel agencies for information on the cheapest way to go best for the money, and we went. (Mrs. Watson studied at Oxford while Dr. Underwood studied at the University of Edinburgh.) Two summers later my sister went with me; then, later I went back a third time. That's the only way to go — just decide and then do it!

"And," she said with a certain note of triumph in her voice, "the water in Paris may be bad, but . . . I drank some."

Remember Joy, Simple Sermon

Sermons — some banal and some rather refreshing — are commonplace at Mars Hill, but Reader's Digest reports one of the shortest and brightest that anyone could want:

At an impromptu testimonial service at her church an elderly Negro woman was asked the secret of her happiness as evidenced by her always-smiling face. After a moment's thought she replied, "Joy; just that one word — J-O-Y!"

When quizzed about her answer, she explained, "Folks don't smile enough. If they think of Joy, maybe they would go around looking less glum. "J" stands for Jesus, "O" is for others and "Y" is for yourself. Jesus, Others, Yourself; then you got JOY."

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