

# Whitesbog Preservation Trust

## NEWSLETTER

3rd Quarter

www.whitesbog.org

2013

Birthplace of the Highbush Blueberry - Historic Center for Cranberry Innovation

## A Time to Teach and a Time to Learn

The Council of Women for Home Missions and the Whitesbog Cranberry Harvest of 1929

by Albertine Senske



*Although the presence of the Home Missions at Whitesbog has been a known fact, most details of the experience have not been. The information in this article was discovered in the course of a New Jersey Historical Commission research grant on the life of Elizabeth White. The Archives of the Presbyterian Historical Society located in Philadelphia is the official repository of the records of the Council of Women for Home Missions. What was listed on their website as "some field records" turned out to be a box completely filled with both hand-written and typed accounts of the Whitesbog encounter. - A. S. -*

In the early 1900s there were many organizations speaking out against child labor. The National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) was one such organization which in 1910 turned its gaze on the cranberry farmers of southern New Jersey. Its focus was on the children of migrant pickers and on Lewis Hine's photographic collection of what was labeled as gross exploitation of youth (a collection that was, and is still, being discussed and written about). At her father's behest, Elizabeth White became active and vocal in responding on behalf of the growers. At the same time, Miss White recognized that some of the charges held varying degrees of truth. Over the years she recommended steps that could be taken to improve the lot of the migrants, particularly the Italian families who came in large numbers from South Philadelphia.

The Italian mothers often had a difficult time juggling their several duties and obligations. They needed to pick cranberries to make the journey worthwhile monetarily, but in many cases they also needed to care for small children at

the same time, making both tasks very stressful. In 1928, Elizabeth White took action to alleviate this latter aspect of what was already a demanding occupation. She invited the Council of Women for Home Missions to establish a daycare facility at Whitesbog. It is unknown who initiated negotiations to bring the missionaries to Whitesbog. It may have been Elizabeth or it may have been the Council who were already located in migrant camps among truck farms and fisheries in New Jersey. All was ready for their coming until one family who had been exposed to diphtheria, arrived for the cranberry harvest. For safety's sake, plans were cancelled until 1929. The group went to Theodore Budd's farm instead, undoubtedly on Elizabeth White's recommendation.

Who were the Women of Home Missions and what did they see as their role in the cranberry industry? The Council of Women for Home Missions was formed in 1908 "to unify the efforts of the national women's home mission boards of the United States ... by consultation and cooperation in action...". Among the migrant labor force, they wanted to create "essential programs to provide worship, religious education, spiritual and moral guidance, recreation and certain health and welfare sources. However, since the individual is indivisible, all problems that affect him must be our concern."

Well, 1929 came and it was Whitesbog's turn. What follows has been taken from a detailed hand-written diary kept by the three women who came that first year. September 8, 1929 was a Sunday. Lois, Helen and Pauline drove into Whitesbog and were directed to Florence, the housing

*(continued on page 2)*



settlement for the Italian pickers. One of the three women would have been an experienced missionary; at least one of the other two was preparing to be a teacher. The children were jubilant: the nurses had arrived; tomorrow they would go to the Casa. By “the Casa” they meant a gathering building, sometimes referred to as Friendship Hall, that had been erected sometime prior. Sunday was a busy day for the

three women as they settled in and then inspected what would be their workplace for the next month and a half. There were three rooms, a nursery, a kitchen and a large recreation room, which suited their needs to accommodate three groupings of children: infants, pre-school and kindergarten. With the help of a few older girls, they got the nursery in shape. Tables, chairs, shelves and cabinets were wiped down. Men put up window screening. Youngsters milled about watching every step of the procedure. Some would come to the center while others would be cared for by their own families.

Monday, September 9, 1929. The adventure began, as did many accompanying challenges. Thirty-six children arrived. There were seven infants – but there were only four baskets that could be used as cribs. There were ten more little ones who were under three years of age and would require as much care as the infants. The remainder ranged in age from three to nine. Following the NCLC investigation, farm rules prohibited children under ten from being in the bogs. One of the first things the “nurses” did was to order twelve quarts of milk.

Noise seemed to be the general characteristic of that first day. According to Lois’ account, fifteen of their charges cried all day, stopping only long enough to eat. Understandably, the little ones would have been upset, having been thrust into unfamiliar surroundings and into the care of strangers who spoke in strange language. Finger plays (perhaps it’sy-bitsy spider?) were accompanied by howls instead of music. Having begun somewhere about eight in the morning, the appearance of parents around 5:30 p.m. to collect their children was a welcome sight to the women.

By day three Lois, Helen and Pauline were ready to begin a regular program schedule. The first item of the day from then on was the cleanliness routine, comprised of the toothbrush drill, washing of face and hands and combing of

hair. For many of the children, this seemed to be a new experience, especially brushing their teeth. They had never seen a toothbrush and promptly ate the toothpaste.

The standard program guidelines the women followed had been set up by the Council as a proven methodology in migrant camps. The children’s day ran something like this:

- The Cleanliness Routine.
- Salute the Flags — both Country and Christian.
- Circle Talk followed with all the children. This was basically a religious time. Songs, prayers (repeated or initiated by the children), a Bible story, or a story to illustrate good character.
- Division into age groupings where there were stories, sharing of home life or other experiences, handwork such as coloring, drawing or making puppets.
- Lunch - a three-part activity. Children helped to prepare by clearing the tables where they had been working and learning how to set them for eating. No one had to teach them how to enjoy their meal, although there were lessons in good manners. Finally, there was cleaning up after lunch which in most cases was definitely a learning process.
- Quiet time was the next order of the day so that a nap could be had.
- Outdoor games and stories filled the remainder of the children’s time together. The abundance of sand made for a good time if a child was lucky enough to gain possessions of a bucket and shovel.

While the above description sounds like a well-organized regimen, you may be wondering where the materials came from. Some were brought by the women, but it would have been difficult to know what and how much to bring since they did not know in advance the number or the age brackets of the children who would be in their care. Lois remarks that Miss Helen’s mother came to visit and left promising to send supplies. One can only imagine the phone lines (or shoe leather) burning up as friends and relatives were tapped to contribute to a good cause and then the delighted cries of the three teachers as they opened the packages from home.

In the early days of NCLC scrutiny allegations were made that the children were malnourished when they returned from the bogs. That could never have been said of the children under the care of the Home Mission ladies. They cooked as well as taught and served nutritious meals of vegetable soup, bean soup, spaghetti, milk and always lots and lots of bread and butter. When the Italian pickers first began coming, Whitesbog had its own bakery. Bread was one of the best selling items in the General Store. That was around 1908. No written record tells us if the bakery survived until 1929, but by all accounts bread was still a popular item in the store. Cost for the food was covered in part by the workers who were asked to pay ten cents a day if their children attended the center and by the monies allocated to the project by the Council.

When the mission women first drove into the village, the children had said the nurses had arrived. True enough; for as well as being teachers and cooks five and a half days a week, the women had an additional calling - nurse on demand. Minor, and sometimes not so minor ailments, were presented for care. They treated cuts, burns, infected wounds and poison ivy. Sometimes more serious conditions like impetigo and head lice had to be dealt with. When a case proved beyond their expertise, the women saw to it that the person got the proper medical care. Because they lived among the workers, nursing hours went beyond eight to five.

Finally, the cranberry picking season was over. As Lois, Helen and Pauline packed up equipment and materials, they had to look back with satisfaction at what they had accomplished. In spite of the challenges of language barriers, occasionally demanding mothers, and lack of equipment, the childrens' bodies, minds and souls had been cared for. The ladies had been true to their missionary role. It was October 17, 1929.

Elizabeth White served as President of the American Cranberry Growers Association from August 1929 to August 1930. She concluded her Presidential Address which completed her term with a recap of Whitesbog's first experience with the Council of Women for Home Missions.

*Many of you know that last summer the Council of Women for Home Missions operated at Whitesbog a day nursery and a kindergarten for the care and teaching of the babies and little children. A similar center was also conducted on Theodore Budd's bog. That was a help to everybody. The children were better off, the mothers and big boys and girls could do better work when free of the responsibility for the tots, and those who were doing the managing found it much easier without the children under foot.*

*I think this is the germ from which such education as I visualize would have to grow. Last summer, the girls conducting the center were leaders in games and recreation for the older children when they were not working. It kept them interested and out of mischief and with further development might easily be more educational.*

*Contributions to the Women's Council for Home Missions are deductible from income for Income Tax purposes. I made a personal contribution last season and expect to contribute more heavily this year. I trust many of you may do likewise and thus assist in putting the work for the education of these children on a permanently high plane.*

The Women of the Home Missions returned to Whitesbog each year for both the blueberry and cranberry harvests until the early 1940s. Programs expanded for all the children of migrant families. Use of the former barrel factory provided recreational opportunities to the older crowd in the form of movies and shuffle board games. Elizabeth's hopes for

environmental education were somewhat realized through the nature walks that replaced some of the afternoon games. Despite many bumps along the way, what began as an experiment ended as a success. ■

#### References

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## 1920's Cranberry Harvest and Living History Tour

**Sunday, October 20, 2013  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

*Experience a dry cranberry harvest of the 1920s.*

*Meet and tour Historic Whitesbog Village with the 'Cranberry King', Joseph J. White, his daughter, Elizabeth C. White, Charles Beckwith, and others, All played by historical interpreters.*

**\$15 donation/person - Reservations are required.**

*Space is limited, Call (609) 893-4646 for reservations.*

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\*\*Memberships awarded in appreciation for 50 to 500 hours of service to the Trust

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# WHITESBOG EVENT SCHEDULE

For more information call (609) 893-4646,  
e-mail us at [WhitesbogPreservationTrust@comcast.net](mailto:WhitesbogPreservationTrust@comcast.net)  
or visit us on the web at [www.whitesbog.org](http://www.whitesbog.org).

## September

### 22 Suningive's Gardens 10 a.m.

Join Whitesbog's Botanist, Mark Szutarski, to learn about Elizabeth White's unique plant collection and efforts to preserve her gardens, pond and the surrounding pinelands landscape. \$5 donation / person, reservations requested.

### 21 Moonlight Walk 7 p.m.

Harvest Moon. Listen to the night sounds of the Pines, learn about Whitesbog and experience the seasonal changes of the Pinelands. Walks are 3 to 5 miles long, and led by experienced leaders. \$5 donation per person, reservations requested.

## October

### 5 Celebrate Elizabeth White's Life & Legacy on her Birthday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Join us to recognize Elizabeth Coleman White's pioneering contributions to agriculture, learn about the history of the Blueberry, and enter the Whitesbog blueberry bake-off contest. Enjoy crafters and artist exhibits, historical presentations, lectures and tours, a piece of Birthday cake. \$5 donation/per carload

### Cranberry Harvest Tours \$28 /person

Presentation and Bus Tour - View a modern wet-harvest and learn about the history and cultivation of cranberries in New Jersey. **Advance Reservations Required.** Space is very limited. Call for dates and times & tickets - (609) 893-2332.

### 19 Moonlight Walk 7 p.m.

Buck Moon. \$5 donation/person, reservations requested. (See September 21 listing for details).

### 20 Living History Tours 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Experience a 1920's cranberry harvest and tour Whitesbog Village with the 'Cranberry King', Joseph J. White, his daughter, Elizabeth, and Charles Beckwith, played by historical interpreters. \$15 donation/person - **Reservations are required.**

## November

### 2 WPT Volunteer Workday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Have fun with friends, working in the gardens, repairing trails, restocking the General Store and working around the Village. Lunch provided.

### 2 Whitesbog Village Tour 1 p.m.

Stroll the Historic Village, learn about Whitesbog's history, and visit Suningive, Elizabeth White's historic home, the worker's cottages and other buildings of Whitesbog's heritage. \$5 donation/person, reservations requested.

### 10 Quarterly Lecture Series 1 p.m.

Whitesbog's Quarterly Lecture Series offers visitors a unique glimpse into the history and rich heritage of Whitesbog with presenter: Ted Gordon. \$5 members, \$7 non-members, by reservation.

### 16 Moonlight Walk 7 p.m.

Beaver Moon. \$5 donation/person, reservations requested. (See September 21 listing for details).

## December

### 7 WPT Volunteer Workday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

A special Volunteer Workday to decorate the Village for the holidays- lunch & good cheer provided.

### 7 Whitesbog Village Tour 1 p.m.

\$5 donation/person. (See November 2).

### 7 General Store Open House 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### 8 Whitesbog's Winter Celebration 1 p.m.

\$5 members, \$7 non-members, by reservation. For Children - Nature walk and candy-cane find with Santa's helper, holiday arts & crafts and a special photograph with Santa.

### 14 Whitesbog's Holiday Party 4:30 p.m.

Members only, reservations requested. Celebrate the season and tour the Village homes.

### 22 General Store Closes 4 p.m.

The perfect opportunity to shop for that last minute gift, before our store closes for the season.



# Executive Director's Report to the Membership



As Executive Director, it is my privilege and pleasure to report on the achievements and activities of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust during the past 18 months. 2012 was a very exciting and productive year, which carried over to the spring of 2013 without pause. A very special thank you to the Trust's devoted membership, our generous donors, and the unbelievable energy and dedication of our volunteers and Board of Trustees.

## Volunteers, Members and Donors

In FY 2013 (July '12 to June '13), two hundred twenty-eight (228) volunteers donated over 12,180 hours of their time, talents and expertise to ensure that Whitesbog's programs, projects and visitor services all ran smoothly. (An increase in volunteer participation over previous years and an estimated \$315,687 in value added services on behalf of Historic Whitesbog Village to the New Jersey State Park System and the Brendan T. Byrne State Forest.)

The Trust's membership held steady at 240, with an additional boost in participation from many of the Trust's original members who returned to Whitesbog to celebrate the Trust's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Founders' Day on May 18, 2013. Without these founders' vision, determination and drive, all of Whitesbog may have fallen to the unfortunate fate of the Village's Sorting and Packing Warehouse.

A special thank-you to Nora Hayes for her very generous donation of \$250,000 to further the restoration work at Whitesbog - this gift will serve to guarantee that the Village will be preserved and safeguarded for generations to come.

Thank you to all the members who increased their membership levels and the many who added an extra donation to assist the Trust this past year. This added financial support, along with a gift from Robert A. Aaronson III enabled us to tackle the management of the Village's entire landscape - a daunting task on the heels of Hurricane Sandy.

## Board Leadership

In 2013, at the suggestion of the New Jersey Historical Commission, the Trust enrolled in the American Association for State and Local History's *STEPS Program* (Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations) which offers smaller history organizations like ours the opportunity to benchmark their work against nationally recognized standards to improve their services to the public and build stronger, more vibrant history organizations. Watch for future updates, as we begin this accreditation process in earnest this fall.

The Whitesbog Preservation Trust Board of Trustees experienced a change leadership last spring, and welcomed two new members at the Annual Membership Meeting, held on April 28, 2013. The new Officers were elected from the standing Board of Trustees, for two-year terms, as follows: Stephanie Schrader, President; Mark Ehlenfeldt, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Joseph Darlington, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Paul Detrick, Treasurer and Richard Prickett, Secretary. The two new Trustees, Perdita Buchan Connolly, a writer from Ocean Grove, NJ and Janet S. Felt, a program analyst working at Burlington County College and living in the County Lakes section of Browns Mills, bring much needed skills and expertise to the Trust's Board and staff.

## Historic Restoration & Repair

During 2012, the Trust invested nearly \$29,500 in repairs and restoration to the village structures, reserving a portion of the annual budget to match anticipated grants from the New Jersey Historic Trust (to further the restoration of Workers' Cottages #10 and #11, restore the doors on the Vehicle Shed, and install handicapped ramps on the Barrel Factory and Agricultural Museum) and the New Jersey Historical Commission (to make improvements to the Agricultural Museum and install the exhibition walls donated by the New Jersey Museum of Agriculture). To our dismay, both proposals were declined - one to the urgent need of others in the wake of Hurricane Sandy and the other for the lack of a professionally prepared interpretive plan and qualified 'exhibition' consultant.

This disappointment dampened our spirits but not our resolve. With volunteer power, and some help from Joseph J. White we have several exhibit walls up and ready for preliminary interpretation in the Agricultural Museum, two new handicapped ramps installed with funds from the 2013 Building Repair & Restoration budget and a new proposal ready for the NJ Historical Commission to retain a first rate consultant to help us to design a world class exhibit for the Ag Museum.

2013 also marked the end of interior renovations to the Boarding House, with a new family of five taking up residence in 24B Whitesbog Road. The improvements included a whole new kitchen & bath, and upgrades to the electrical service along with plaster repairs and paint throughout.

## The Whitesbog Archives

The Trust was fortunate to receive a NJ Historical Commission Mini-grant, this past year, to further the research into Elizabeth White's life and legacy and accepted several new collections and many donations from members and friends. These collections included: The Eugene Vivian Collection with documents and original photographs taken by Elizabeth White, The Daryl Goodrich Collection of cranberry labels and artifacts from the Rider cranberry farm, and other donations, photographs, documents, and artifacts relating to Whitesbog and past village residents.

## Events, Programs & Organizational Activities

In FY 2013, the Whitesbog Preservation Trust produced two large fund-raising events and 32 public programs, coordinated 127 Whitesbog workdays, facilitated 48 meetings for members and volunteers, hosted 79 programs for our Village partners and other organizations, and participated in eight outreach events off-site.

The Education and Events committees welcomed 21,935 visitors to Whitesbog during this period, with more than 10,360 attending the 2012 Blueberry Festival and hundreds more flocking to Whitesbog to participate in the PINES programs, our Moonlight Walks, garden/nature walks, monthly Village tours, Quarterly Lectures, and a cadre of Special Programs that included Founders Day, the Pinelands Short Course at Whitesbog, a Cranberry Harvest bus tour in partnership with J.J. White, Blueberry Tasting and all our Holiday happenings. Needless to say, our list of ‘thank you’s to everyone that planned, managed and coordinated these activities could easily fill this entire page. Thank you to everyone for your dedication to Whitesbog and all your energy, really hard work and inspiration!

Attendance at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Blueberry Festival set another record this year, with all our available parking areas filled to capacity by 11:00 a.m. While we were very gratified by the tremendous public response, our on-site parking facilities proved to be woefully inadequate, resulting in a temporary park closure and hundreds of unhappy attendees turned away at the gate by State Park Police.

On a more positive note, this festival’s closure has finally moved the powers-that-be to consider long-deferred maintenance to Whitesbog’s parking facilities, impacted by an encroaching forest that has gobbled up our parking spaces, year after year. We look forward to expanded parking, an improved traffic pattern and a fantastic festival in 2014.

The Pinelands Institute for Natural & Environmental Studies, an outreach program of Burlington County College and our Village partner, welcomed another 4,460 children & adult program participants to Whitesbog during the 2012-13 season, served an additional 1,200 participants off-site, and launched an ambitious Agricultural Leadership Program last spring, in partnership with the Burlington Co. Department of Agri-culture and the Joseph J. White Company, Inc.

A special thank you to the General Store shopkeepers for a job well done - greeting visitors, interpreting the village’s history and maintaining that special “welcome to Whitesbog touch” that keeps our patrons and visitors coming back.

## Landscape Restoration

Whitesbog’s Landscape Committee has been hard at work blazing new trails, adding new plantings to the landscape and removing trees downed by Hurricane Sandy. A new 2014 Trail Grant, submitted last spring, will support this work, build several small connecting bridges and open a

new interpretive trail that will link Suningive to the Triangle Blueberry Field. We expect to have this new ‘Blueberry trail’ and the restored Triangle Field opened and producing a crop in time for the Blueberry’s Centennial Celebration. A special thank you is also due to the Pinelands Antique Engine Association volunteers who worked through the steamy spring and summer to help shepherd our blueberry bushes back to what we hope will be full production.

I want to take this opportunity to truly thank the Darlingsons and the crew from Joseph J. White for all their assistance throughout the year. From the restoration of the Triangle Field, to the repair of Suningive’s driveway (a repair which stopped the flood waters from filling the garage and swamping the circular garden), and all the road grading, snow plowing and really heavy lifting in between, thank you so much for your caring and commitment to Whitesbog! ■

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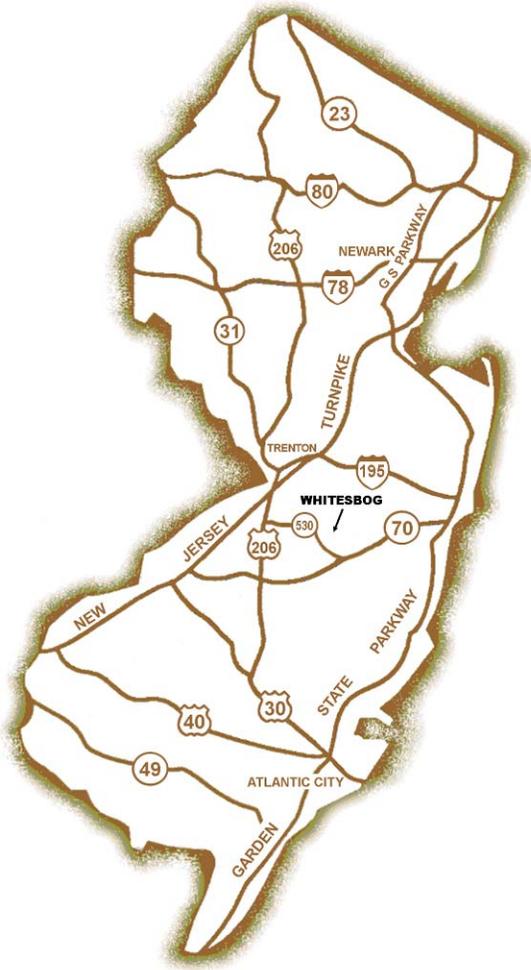
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Funding for the 2013 Whitesbog Blueberry Festival, a Local Arts Project, is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts from a grant to the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Department of Resource Conservation, Division of Parks.

The Whitesbog Preservation Trust has received a General Operating Support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC), a division of the Department of State, for fiscal year 2014.



**Driving Directions:**

**From NJ Turnpike**

Take Exit 7 to Rt. 206 South to intersection of Rt. 206, Rt. 38 and Rt. 530. (Landmarks - Vincentown Diner and White Dotte)  
 Turn East onto Rt. 530 and follow to mile marker 13. (Landmarks – You will go through the towns of Pemberton & Browns Mills, passing Burlington County College on the right.)  
 Turn left onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot on the left.

**From PA Turnpike**

Travel to NJ Turnpike North and follow above instructions.

**From 206 South**

Travel North to circle intersection with Rt. 70.  
 Travel East on Rt. 70 to Rt. 530. (Rt. 530 is between mile markers 33 & 34.)  
 Travel West on Rt. 530 for one mile to mile marker 13.  
 Turn right onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot is on the left.

**From 206 North**

Travel South to intersection of Rt. 206, Rt. 38 and Rt. 530.  
 Turn East onto Rt. 530 and follow to mile marker 13.  
 Turn left onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot is on the left.

**From Philadelphia**

From Ben Franklin Bridge, take Rt. 38 East, crossing over Rt. 206 and onto Rt. 530 East.  
 Travel East onto Rt. 530 and follow to mile marker 13.  
 Turn left onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot is on the left.

The Trust Office and Welcome Center is across from the parking lot in the first workers cottage.

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## Elizabeth White's Presidential Address to the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Cranberry Growers Association 1930

### PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Elizabeth C. White

The question of education for migratory children in the United States is at present agitating many people. I have just returned from a conference in Baltimore called by the League of Women Voters of Maryland. Invitations were sent out to representatives of all classes of people interested in five states—Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. Four states were represented to a greater or less extent. No one responded from Virginia.

Various associations such as the National Child Labor Committee, the Consumers' League, etc., were well represented by executive secretaries, whose expenses and salaries were cared for by their associations. The Maryland State Departments of Labor, Health, Education, etc., were fully, ably represented; such departments of other states were sparingly represented. Farmers' organizations had been invited to send representatives, but, so far as I know, Mr. Kirby, representing the new Agricultural Progress Association, was the only one present. A number of women interested in both children and agriculture, like myself, had gone on their own account.

A comparatively small, but very vocal group, consisting mostly of paid secretaries, favored drastic measures. The responsible people, such as the representatives of the state departments, were much milder and more reasonable, recognizing the need of the community which was met by migrant labor. Mr. Cassbury, connected with the Maryland Department of Health, reported an investigation in the strawberry camps of Maryland last June after picking had begun. I was very much impressed with the mild and persuasive attitude he had toward the farmer, though he reported very bad conditions in many of the camps in connection with inadequate housing, polluted water supply, and an accumulation of filth. He anticipated excellent co-operation from the farmers in bettering these conditions next year.

At the close of the conference it was decided to appoint one committee to draft legislation tending towards solution of migratory child problems in the four states represented. The committee was to consist of four members from each of the four states—one from each state representing, respectively, labor, education, employers of migrant labor, and the public as represented by the women's groups. The committee was to be appointed by Miss Engle, executive secretary of the League of Women Voters of Maryland; she, of course, to confer with the representative people of the states involved.

Some of the more radical people present desired to include in the recommendations to the committee one to the effect that in states to which children came from other states the school code be amended to provide that migrant children in the state shall be entitled to privileges of public schools and subject to provisions of the school attendance law. This failed to pass largely because the school people present recognized the embarrassment it might entail in many small rural school districts.

As to the possible value of these resolutions I am not at all clear. I am sure, however, that I gained a much wider view of the problem of the migratory child in the United States, and I feel sure that the opinion of many others was also modified by the discussions. In this respect such a conference is sure to be of value.

We learned that there were 40,000 child migrants in the state of California alone, and that the number has increased many fold within six or eight years. As I consider this fact in connection with the gen-

eral trend of economic forces in the United States it seems to me inevitable that the numbers in migrant agricultural labor will continue to increase.

Every machine which is invented to simplify agricultural production tends to concentrate further the population in industrial centers. There is an enormous increase in the use of fresh vegetables and fruits which increasing facility of transportation makes available to everyone at all seasons of the year. Agricultural machinery makes it possible for fewer people on the farm to do the planting and cultivating of the crops, but with the harvest of spinach, celery, asparagus, grapes, tomatoes, peaches, apples and innumerable other fruits and vegetables very little machinery can be used.

There were those at the conference who felt that men only should do this seasonable work, but many felt that if anything were done to prevent women and children from taking part in it the result on family life would be bad indeed. The problem of educating the migratory children, however, is a puzzling one. There is a record of one child in California who had been in ten different schools within the year.

The problem of the migrant children here in New Jersey seems exceedingly simple as compared with that in California. The majority of our migrant children come out from Philadelphia where they have the benefit of good schools for the greater part of the school year. It is probable, too, that the cranberry growers' interest in this problem is diminishing in proportion as the use of scoops and mechanical pickers grows. Many of us, however, will be interested for a considerable number of years to come in having a supply of hand pickers for certain bogs on which the vines are not in condition for the advantageous use of scoops or machines.

This situation, it seems to me, offers a unique opportunity to use as educational material the work in which the families are engaged. The children of such families working with oysters could be taught the life history of the oyster; the effect on the oysters and on the people who ate them, of the pollution of the waters in which they grow; the methods of shipping and the states and cities to which they are sent. Those working in strawberries could be told of the special needs of the strawberry plants and how they were cared for by different processes of culture. Through these subjects of immediate interest, the standard subjects of reading, writing and arithmetic could be taught.

When I think of education of this kind it is, of course, most natural for me to think of it in terms of cranberries, and especially in terms of our group of pickers at Whitesbog. What would be the practical steps by which we might there approach this ideal?

Many of you know that last summer the Council of Women for Home Missions operated at Whitesbog a day nursery and kindergarten for the care and teaching of the babies and little children. A similar center was also conducted on Theodore Budd's bog. That was a help to everybody. The children were better off, the mothers and big boys and girls could do better work when free of responsibility for the tots and those who were doing the managing found it much easier without the children under foot.

I think this is the germ from which such education as I visualize would have to grow. Last summer the girls conducting this center were leaders in games and recreation for the older children when they were not working. It kept them interested and out of mischief and with further development might easily be more educational.

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Such leaders could teach the children and through them the parents methods of keeping the camps clean. They could make a game of it, and develop competition between different families and different sections of the camp in keeping the camp attractive. There should be some reward for the most successful family or group in this effort, even if it were only frequent public commendation, or perhaps a gaily printed certificate of merit for them to hang on the wall.

For future years we could prepare stories for the children, explaining why we use water for flooding; the life history of the fire worm, the girdle worm, the cranberry leaf hopper. These stories could be as interesting as fairy tales. I have tried telling them to some of the Italian children who stay over for the less hectic seasons. They are always intensely interested.

When I look back at the development of the organization of our Italian pickers at Whitesbog under Gus Donato, who was with us for some twenty years, I am inclined to think that his most valuable asset was his understanding of the people's desire for games and stories and entertainment; though, of course, this was only one manifestation of his understanding of the real needs of the people as compared with what they often said they wanted. Gus always took particular pains to have a number of musicians in the crowd, while one man he brought with him for many years was a story-teller of note.

It is my dream that through such recreation and entertainment out of working hours we may achieve more formal education for the children in our bogs. I have been trying to find out if certain influential individuals conceived practical means for the education of these children in a manner seriously at odds with my dream.

Mrs. Summers who, as you know, is at the head of the newly created Division for Women and Children in our State Department of Labor, was at the conference in Baltimore last Tuesday and Wednesday. On Wednesday I had a considerable conversation with her and asked her if she would mind telling me in a general way how she thought the problem could be worked out. It seems she has lived in Paterson all her life where a large proportion of the population consists of Italian laborers with whom she has had extensive dealings. She told me that in her opinion it would not be practical for either the grower or the local community to bear any considerable proportion of the expense of teaching these children. She told me that in her opinion the State of New Jersey should assume this expense; that portable houses should be used by the State which could, without great inconvenience, be moved as changes in the migrant population made it advisable. She expressed the opinion that teachers should secure leadership through emphasis on recreation. She thought that the co-operation of parents should be secured by permitting the children to work part time, the hours and ages to be determined by experience.

Last Thursday I called on another person much interested in the education of our Italian migrants from Philadelphia. That is Mr. Gideon, Director of Attendance of the Public Schools in Philadelphia. Mr. Gideon is very properly distressed by the embarrassment of the teachers caused by the late and irregular return of children to their classes in the fall. While the teachers are undoubtedly much handicapped, I was surprised to learn that in the three school districts (Nos. 2, 3 and 6) most affected by considerable numbers of children returning late, the drop in attendance amounted only to about two to four percent of the school population as compared with the attendance in the other districts.

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The attendance in most of the districts is slightly in excess of 90%. Four districts fall below 90% attendance as follows:

District No. 2 attendance of 87.8%  
District No. 3 attendance of 86 %  
District No. 6 attendance of 84.8%  
District No. 7 attendance of 89.7%

Mr. Gideon expressed himself as heartily in favor of the practice of families going out of town to help bolster up the family income by work on the farms and cranberry bogs of New Jersey. He was familiar with many of the difficulties of the farmer and cranberry grower in managing their group of migrants. He has spent his vacations for many years at Elizabethtown below Vineland and knows by personal observation how these people abuse and ruin good houses used for their temporary quarters.

Mr. Gideon had visions of regular schooling furnished by the State of New Jersey for children in the state during the school term. He felt that the weeks lost in the spring were not so serious, but those lost in the fall caused most of the embarrassment to the teachers. He asked me if I thought the fathers and mothers of the children would rebel if an attempt were made to have the children in school for regular school hours during the cranberry picking season. He felt that possible rebellion on their part was to be avoided by such compromise as we could work out.

Mr. Gideon said that it would greatly help him in solving his end of the problem if the farmers who employed the families would report to him when they returned to Philadelphia. I should think it would be in line with the purposes of the new Agricultural Progress Association to devise a method by which such reporting could be systematically done.

Let us hope that if special instruction is undertaken for our pickers' children we may co-operate with the teachers in such a way that the children are fitted for better citizenship not only in the future, but during the time that they are on our bogs, and that our burdens may thereby be lightened.

The day nursery and kindergarten at Whitesbog last summer was conducted by the Council of Women for Home Missions and their work is supported by the contributions for Missions in churches of many denominations. The spirit of their workers exemplifies Christianity on a high plane and represents society's interest in the welfare of these migrant children, who will be voting citizens to-morrow or the day after.

The Council starts these centers as a demonstration of what can be done and not with any thought of supporting them indefinitely. Their earliest work was on the Pacific coast and there many of their first welfare centers for the migrant children have been taken over by a large group of organizations working together.

The work that they did on Mr. Budd's bog and on ours last summer was accompanied by very small expense to Mr. Budd or to Joseph J. White, Inc., though I am sure that Mr. Budd, as we at Whitesbog, tried to help the girls out of difficulties whenever possible. Nobody could in justice permit them to do it another year. It is much better that such work be taken over by the State, but I sincerely hope that the Women's Council will continue in this work for a few years in order that we and the state officials may benefit by their experience and beautiful spirit.

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Contributions to the Women's Council for Home Missions are deductible from income for Income Tax purposes. The address is 105 East 22nd Street, New York City. I made a personal contribution last season and expect to contribute more heavily this year. I trust many of you may do likewise and thus assist in putting the work for the education of these children on a permanently high plane.