THE FIRST

BLUE MOU

FOREWORD

This 1956 BLUE MOUNTAIN ECHOES comes to you with two objectives.

First, there is the usual burden of every academy annual to record and picture for the teachers and students the pleasant memories of the many and varied associations and activities of this school year. As a memory book this annual will become more precious with the passing years.

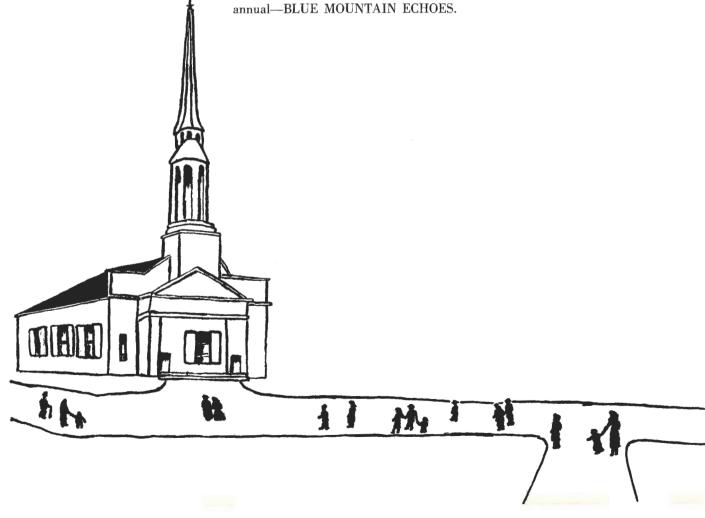
Second—and in this respect this book is unique—it must present for the FIRST time the beginnings of East Pennsylvania's FIRST academy, portraying not only the activities of the FIRST student body but also the early history of this modern School of the Prophets.

NTAIN ECHOES



DEDICATION . . .

They dreamed, they hoped, they prayed, they sacrificed-that the children and youth, nurtured within the borders of their churches, might be sheltered and trained within the protecting walls of a secondary school dedicated to the perpetuation of the loftiest ideals and the highest principles of Christian Education. Thus Blue Mountain Academy came into being. And those whose faith performed the Miracle of Blue Mountain included not alone the parents of children, but all the members of the churches-old and young. Seldom has there been witnessed such unity of action on the part of church and conference leadership. The response of all believers to the challenge "to arise and build" has been unparalleled. In recognition of such a marvelous spirit of devotion and sacrifice, a grateful school family pledges its consecration and affectionately dedicates to the members of the churches of the East Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, this our first school



IN THE BEGINNING . . .

Great institutions have as their foundations momentous decisions. So we trace the beginnings of Blue Mountain Academy back to that warm afternoon of a never-to-be-forgotten Independence Day—July 4, 1948. The place—conference campground, Wescosville. The occasion—the Sunday afternoon meeting of the Fifteenth Biennial Session of the East Pennsylvania Conference. The question before the delegates—"Will the constituency of the East Pennsylvania Conference authorize and support an aggressively planned effort to establish and maintain a boarding academy for the youth of the conference?"

The conference president, Elder T. E. Unruh, voiced the long felt need for a secondary school in the conference to train the ever increasing number of youth eager to serve the cause. The vastness of the undertaking, the heavy costs involved, the proper location of such an institution, the principles upon which it should be built, and the type of training it must offer—all these aspects were studied in an atmosphere of intense earnestness. The entire audience—delegates and all—participated in the discussion and in the balloting. Then came the vote on the main question. Result? The approval was unanimous—there was not a dissenting vote. The great decision had been made.

The main question having been decided, the delegates proceeded to implement their action. The Educational Expansion Committee was created and given power to act for the constituency in the matter of establishing the boarding school. This committee was composed of the members of the Conference Committee, the educational superintendent of the local conference, the Union Conference Educational Secretary, and one lay representative from each of the conference districts. That committee had its first meeting on July 25, 1948, and passed a number of far reaching actions including the appointment of locating, finance and publicity committees, the adoption of a set of standards to govern the selection of a location and the launching of a drive to raise an initial building fund of \$400,000.00-half of which was to be contributed by the church members. The Educational Expansion Committee, at this first meeting, adopted the slogan—"Build in Time for '49" little realizing the time and effort that would be required to get the project underway.

To those in positions of responsibility it was evident from the beginning that if the 4000 members of the East Pennsylvania Conference would succeed in establishing a million dollar institution the project would have to be undertaken as AN ADVENTURE IN FAITH. To make doubly sure that all church members clearly understood the involvement, the actions of the constituency as well as the actions of the Educational Expansion

Committee were submitted to the churches for study and approval on August 14 or 21, 1948. The result? Ninety-six and one-half percent of the members approved the plans and pledged their support.

The search for a suitable location began immediately. To those charged with this responsibility the experience was a frustrating one. Many properties were discovered, inspected and rejected because they did not meet the standards adopted. So passed the years 1949, 1950 and 1951. "The waiting time is the hardest time of all," someone has aptly observed. It is also a great strain on faith. This was evident from the building fund receipts. In 1949 the churches contributed nearly \$5000.00 to the fund, in 1950—less than \$1500.00, 1951—\$800.00.

Then Providence intervened. On August 7, 1952, Mr. J. Lee Bausher, owner of the Blue Mountain Springs Dairy, near Hamburg, consented to let conference representatives inspect his holdings even though the property was not listed for sale. From the first contact the impression deepened that this was the place. General and Union Conference representatives were called in for counsel and they reacted enthusiastically. The owner consented to consider an offer. The Educational Expansion Committee inspected the property and recommended its purchase. The Union and General Conference Committees approved the purchase plan. On January 28, 1953, the sales agreement was signed. Final settlement was made on April 1. The members of East Pennsylvania Constituency became the owners of an excellent location-667 acres of land, 169 head of cattle and a full line of farm equipment. The "Blue Mountain Academy To Be" had found a home.

Ownership stimulated faith and increased faith led to unprecedented response. In this first year of ownership there came into the academy building fund the staggering sum of nearly \$220,000.00. The "Big Push" had started.

May 3 and 10, 1953, will be long-remembered days. They were the first official visiting days to the new school property. The members of the churches had been invited to "come and see." And come they did!! More than 800 people came from 44 churches of the conference. The regularly conducted tours ended on the campus site where dedication prayers were offered. The people were amazed. Many asked, "Is this Canaan's land?" while others responded—"This is beyond all I expected to find." As the people traveled to their homes they found in their hearts the echo of a promise—"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for." The ADVENTURE IN FAITH was in the process of becoming a reality.



On Sunday, May 11, 1952, the Constituency meeting delegation of the East Pennsylvania Conference confirmed an action of 1948 to launch a boarding academy project. The picture above shows the delegate group.





On Tuesday, September 16, 1952, the Great Decision to purchase the land was made by the Conference Educational Expansion Committee, shown at left. The group includes a delegate from each district, the Conference Committee, and representatives of the Columbia Union Conference and the General Conference.

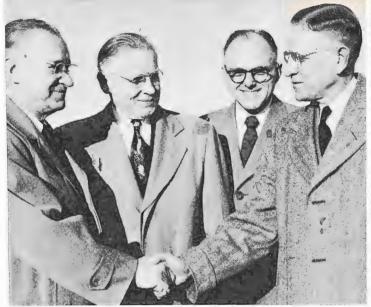
J. Lee Bausher, former owner of the Blue Mountain Academy farms, hands over the deed to T. Edgar Unruh, president of the conference, as R. E. Spangle, former secretary-treasurer, hands over the check to pay for the property. Looking on are the attorneys for both parties. Possession was given on April 1, 1953.





Students and teachers of Philadelphia Academy meet on the campus site of Blue Mountain Academy during a visiting day in May, 1953. More than 500 people toured the grounds, pausing on this spot to offer a prayer of thanksgiving and to dedicate their resources to the accomplishment of the task.







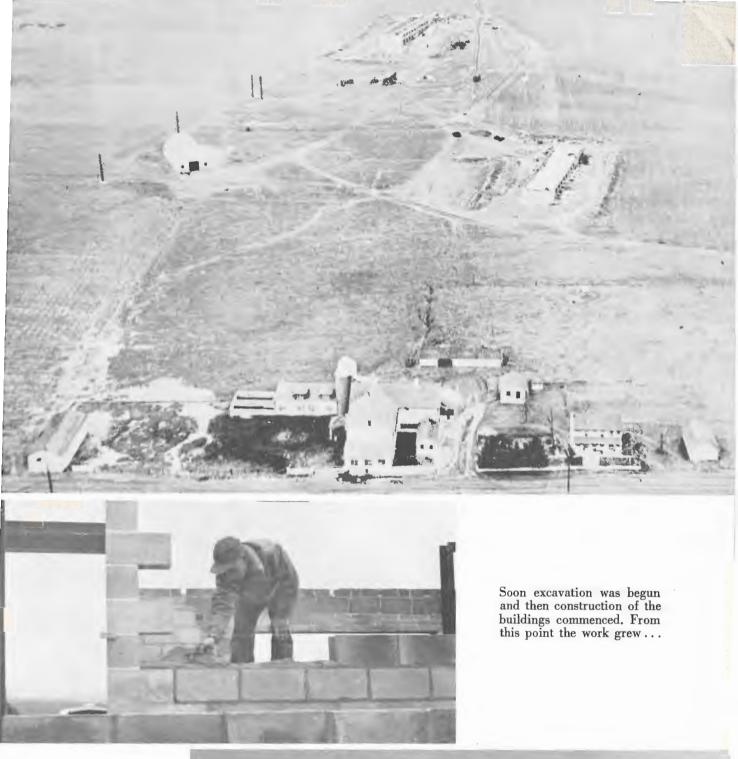
W. B. Ochs, D. A. Ochs, V. A. Fenn, T. E. Unruh.

GROUND - BREAKING CEREMONIES

April 4, 1954

Wielding the shovels are, left to right: W. B. Ochs, Charlene Snyder, D. A. Ochs, E. A. Robertson, David Martin, Harold S. Campbell, and T. E. Unruh.













On September 19, 1954, the climax of the Week of Sacrifice, the churches of the East Pennsylvania Conference gave the staggering figure of 22,000 dollars for the new school.







ACADEMY
DAY
April 17, 1955

Part of First Faculty Group



Conference Presidents







Girls' Dorm, March 1, 1955

Boys' Dorm, March 1, 1955



Rear of the Dining Hall, Showing the Kitchen

NEARING COMPLETION

Front of the Dining Hall

Both Wings of the Boys' Dorm









SCHOOL



HAS



BEGUN!



Elder and Mrs. T. E. Unruh

IN TRIBUTE ...

Little do we realize the far-reaching effects of the Call that comes to a man to establish a citadel for God—a refuge for youth. All of the sacrifice and hours of toil only make us more conscious that the goal of life is measured not in silver and gold, but in consecrated devotion to the saving of souls for Eternity.

Each youth who leaves these halls of learning must ever look to you as a leading influence in his opportunity for a Christian education.

A grateful faculty and student body can little express their deep gratitude to you—the inspiring force behind this modern "Miracle of Blue Mountain."



Elder and Mrs. T. H. Jemison and Barbara

IN TRIBUTE...

Only Eternity can measure the debt we owe-

For your guiding principles
For your devotion to an ideal
For your counsel in time of need
For loving service in face of difficulty

A grateful faculty and student body can little express their deep gratitude to you—the first PRINCIPAL OF BLUE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY.



Elder R. R. Adams

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Remember, dear friends, that each day, each hour, each moment, you are weaving the web of your own destiny. Each time the shuttle is thrown, there is drawn into the web a thread which either mars or beautifies the pattern. If you are careless and indolent, you spoil the life which God designed should be bright and beautiful. If you choose to follow your own inclinations, unchristlike habits will bind you with bands of steel. And as you walk away from Christ, your example will be followed by many who, because of your wrong course, will never enjoy the glories of heaven. But if you make brave efforts to overcome selfishness, allowing no opportunity to pass for helping those around you, the light of your example will guide others to the cross.—M.Y.P., p. 212.

faculty





GEORGE MORGAN, Bible, History



W. H. WALKER, Science, Math LOIS WALKER, Church School



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LLOYD KIDDER, Farm Manager BETTY L. KIDDER, Registrar, Commercial

Although we were unable to obtain her photo, we wish to give recognition to Mrs. Beltz as the first dean of girls of Blue Mountain Academy.

DOROTHY F. BELTZ, Dean of Girls





LEE EUSEY, Herdsman, Agriculture GLADYS EUSEY, Spanish, Commercial



MARIE ELLIS, Dean of Girls





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Ambition: Doctor



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Ambition: Secretary



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Ambition: Business



FRANK STARR

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Ambition: Business



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Ambition: Nurse



DOROTHY COWDRICK

Hometown: Waynesboro, Pa.

Ambition: Nurse



ARCHIE PRUTZMAN

Hometown: Washington, Pa.

Ambition: Bricklayer



STANLEY GRUBE

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Ambition: Business



CHIZUKO NAKAGAMI

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Ambition: Nurse



RONALD ROWE

Hometown: Waynesboro, Pa.

Ambition: Electrical Engineer



RACHEL KEISSLING

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Ambition: Business



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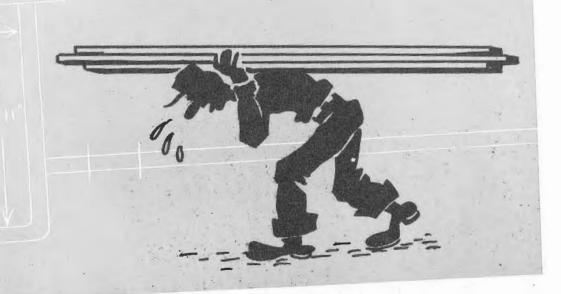


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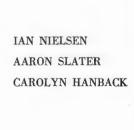


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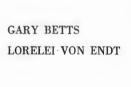


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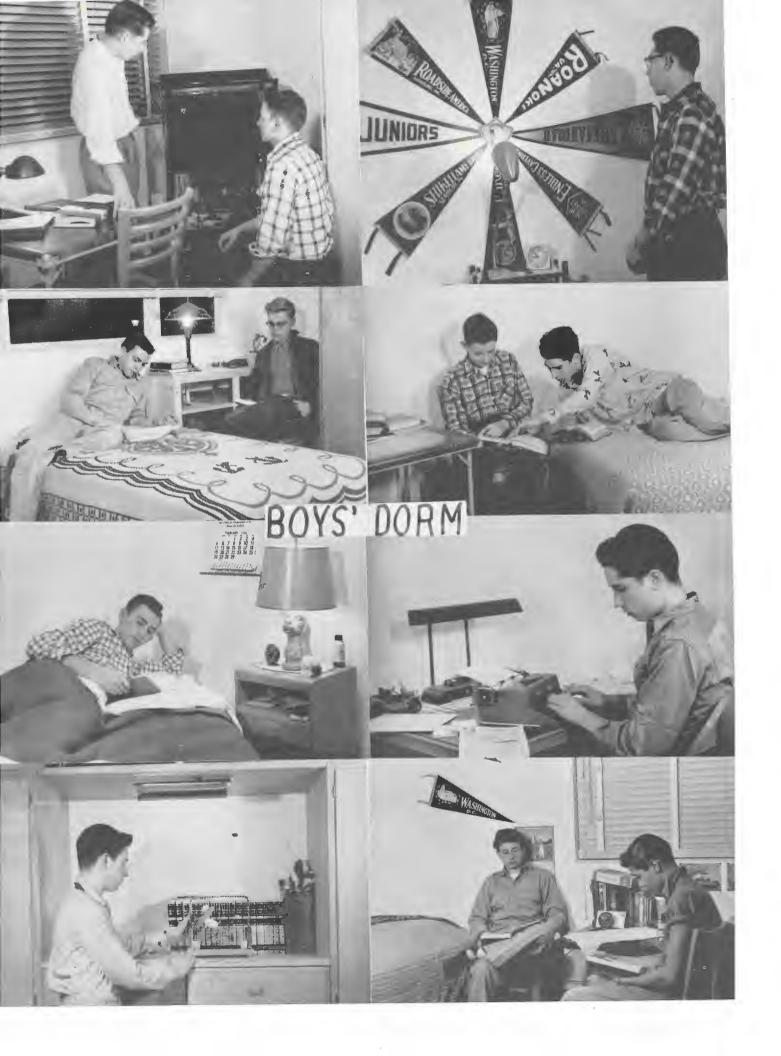


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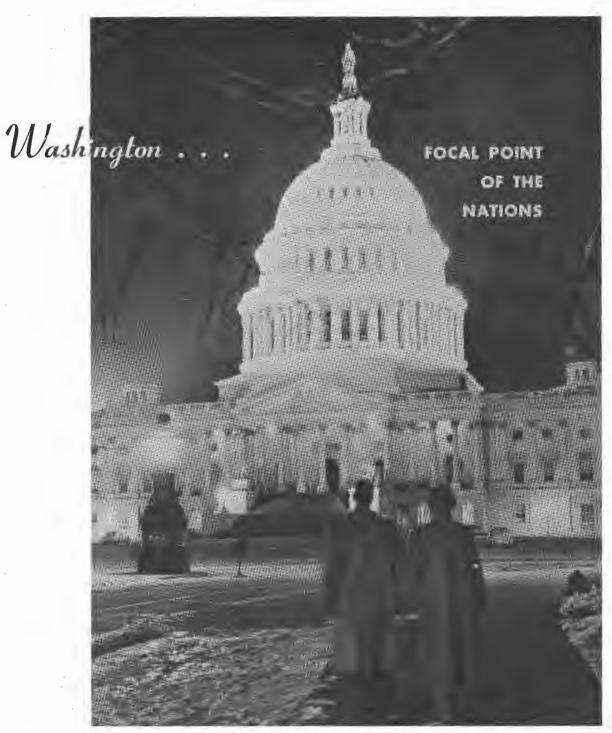






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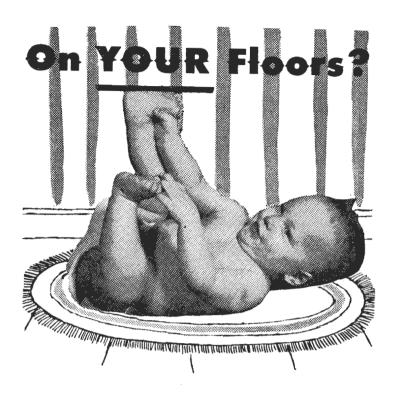


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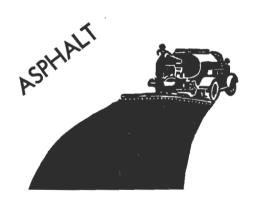
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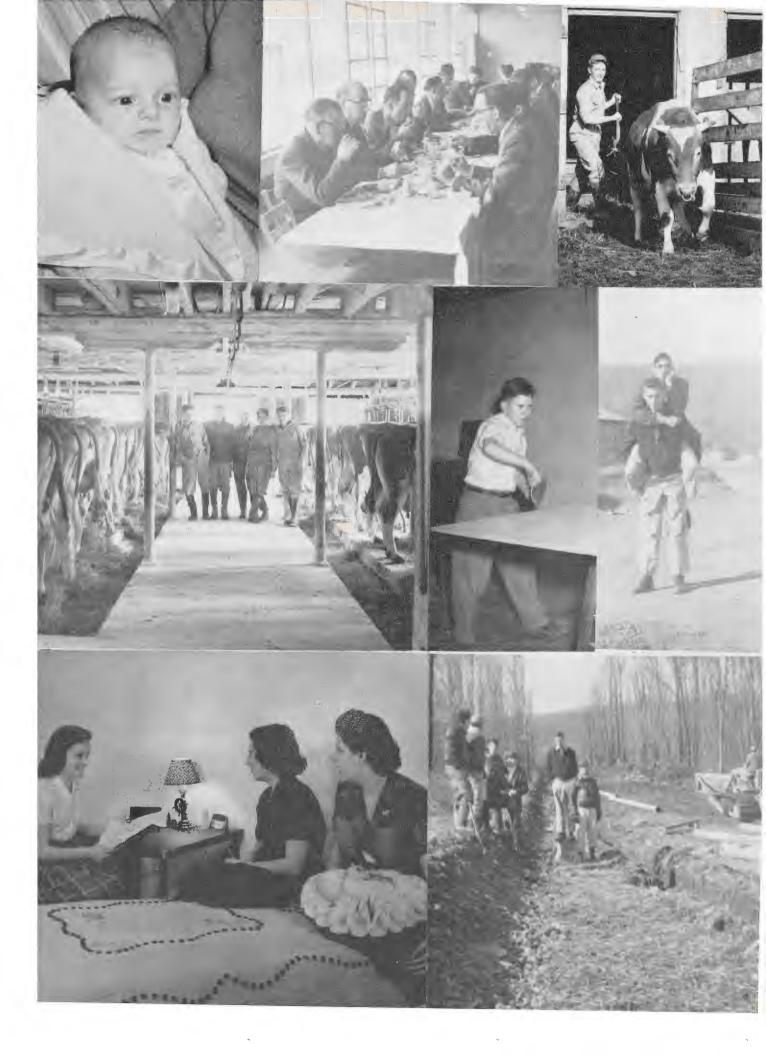
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H. S. Campbell	A. W. Ortner
Ira Mills	H. V. Reed
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