

Scattergood School In 1962

Scattergood continued to serve its constituents until the lean years of the depression forced it to close its doors. The buildings were used as a refugee hostel from 1939 to 1943, during which time Frank Luther Mott and the writer paid several visits to the community.

The present Scattergood School was opened in 1944 and is an accredited boarding high school operated under the direction of Iowa Friends. Miss Leanore Goodenow is the Director of the school. The physical setting of the institution is described as follows:

Scattergood School is located on one hundred acres of Iowa farm land two miles from West Branch and twelve miles from Iowa City. The present school, opening in 1944, made use of the buildings of the former Scattergood Seminary which was discontinued in 1931. The old main building (1890) was torn down in 1958 on the completion of Central Hall, a large fireproof building of modern design which houses the girls' dormitory, dining facilities for the school, library and classrooms, a social room, an auditorium, an art and ceramics studio, a loom room, and the director's apartment. There is a fireproof boys' dormitory, an instruction building, a gymnasium, and a shop and utility building. The home of the school nurse includes a dispensary and an infirmary. Other faculty members and their families are housed in a cottage, two faculty apart-

ments, and a two-unit dwelling. Facilities for the pig and poultry projects are being rebuilt nearer to the school since the construction of a limited-access highway has separated the project farm from the campus. The Hickory Grove Meeting House, dating from the time of the Civil War, is preserved on the campus and is used by the school.

Scattergood School seeks to train the mind and develop the student through the acquisition of knowledge, the development of intellectual discrimination and creative ability, and the resolute search for truth. The institution takes pride in the fact that within its small enrollment are students of every race, nationality and religion living as an "inter-racial group" which it is hoped will bring to them "an awareness of the brotherhood of man under one Father."

The school year opens on Labor Day and follows the same vacation pattern of most educational institutions. Commencement is in the first week of June. The enrollment is limited to sixty, equally divided between boys and girls. Classes are limited to about fifteen students. The Scattergood faculty numbers about fifteen. Each staff member shares fully in the work program and in school life. The brochure issued by its director, Miss Goodenow, declares:

The members of the Scattergood community live intimately with each other and work together in all areas. The close feeling of an integrated family is acquired by a sharing of physical work, by facing the problem of living within a budget, by a mutual give-and-take of talents and

resources, by daily meditation and worship. The direction and planning of group life is considered in a community meeting once each week. Here the spirit is one of seeking the right course for all under responsible leadership. The community is only as good as the combined strength of its members and reflects the effort and dependability of each person. Therefore, both students and faculty are given responsibility.

Life at Scattergood is both diversified and pleasant, with few of the frills that mark the average modern high school. Meditation is still an important part of school life — from early morn till eventide. And meditation, deep, soul-stirring meditation, is still possible today when the students assemble at Meeting in the old Hickory Grove Meeting House. Truly, the mind and spirit can find refreshment and growth in this idyllic haven conceived and nurtured by the gentle old Wilburite Quaker — Thomas Scattergood.

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