ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY

November 19

On November 19, 1928, Presbyterian mission worker Mary Behner arrived in Scotts Run, where she would serve until 1937.

CSO: SS.8.24, ELA.8.1

Investigate the Document: (Mary Behner Christopher Collection, Ms89-1)
1. What was the primary purpose of the “Scott’s Run Charm School?”

2. What was the final “Charm” from the school’s program?

3. What are the three points of “The Charm Triangle?”

Think Critically: Describe the societal roles expected from women during the 1930s. How did the Great Depression impact the number of women in the workforce? List three occupations that you think a woman may have had in the 1930s.
Students Follow Christ to a Stable

THE BEGINNINGS OF A CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND COAL MINERS

Ruth Veithofer persuaded Andrew Blackwood, left, and Paul McClanahan, Wooster undergraduates, to spend their Easter vacation at Scotts Run to study the effects of the depression on the coal industry.

Drinking water for this family is a quarter of a mile away. The three youngest children have never had shoes.

BANK OF HEALTHLAND ROBBED

HISTORY OF SCOTTS RUN CHARM SCHOOL

The Scots Run Charm School movement began in February, 1931, as a part of a social service program directed by Mary Elizabeth Bohnen, representing the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church. Its purpose was to teach adolescent girls of the rural fields how to become charming.

For a period of 3 months, Saturdays including February, March and April during the past 3 years, girls between the ages of 12-18 have been meeting at the Parsglove school house for Charm instruction.

The Charm School program was built around a very simple plan. Each Saturday program was divided into three divisions. In the first part the Charm School theme was presented. Each Saturday a new Charm theme was explained to the school. Beginning with the physical Charm such as Charm of Posture, Excerise, Sleep, Diet, Sanitation, Personal Cleanliness, etc. the program gradually worked up to the inner Charm such as Charm of Spirit. Charm of Manners, Speech, Intellect, Friends, and Sex. The final Charm was Charm of Sustellability, expressed in the form of a party.

METHODS PERIOD

After the presentation of the Charm Theme the "Methods Period," followed in which the particular Charm of the day was made more tangible through the method particularly adapted to the theme. For example in Charm of Sleep, the girls were obliged to pass a bed making test. Charm of Diet initiated a hot cereal contest for which cream of wheat samples were given. Charm of Spirit was illustrated with an individual plant given to each girl for tending. The Charm lessons were illustrated further by games, songs, stories, posters and note books.

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"The SHACK IDEA"
Born and Developed in a Mine Camp Stable
Since 1928
Scotts Run, W. Va.

A center which is inspired by, and holds the purposes of, the Christian Religion as applied to the problems of personal and communal life. A center where democracy may function with freedom of speech and action—regardless of race or creed.

1. A center for Community Education
   - Adult Education
   - Public Forums
   - Nursery Schools
   - Public Library
   - Miners' Study Groups
   - Workers' Education

2. A center for Religious Education
   - Sunday Schools
   - Vacation Bible Schools
   - Christian Endeavor
   - Seminars and Conferences

3. A center for Wholesome Recreation
   - Athletics
   - Dances and Parties
   - Dinners and Teas
   - Moving Pictures and Plays
   - Story Telling Hours
   - Reading Circle and Book Clubs
   - Boys and Girls Clubs

4. A center where the varied interests of the community may be expressed.
   - P. T. A. Meetings
   - Garden Clubs
   - Miners' Unions
   - Political Groups
   - Men's Brotherhoods
   - Labor Organizations
   - Nationality Organizations
   - Festivals and Holiday Programs

5. A center for Community Service
   - Child Feeding
   - Relief
   - Medical Service
   - Clinics
   - Credit Unions
   - Shower Baths

6. A Center of Creative Activity where individuals and groups may discover new skills, interests, and talents, and have an opportunity to develop them.
   - Dramatics
   - Music
   - Handicrafts
   - Domestic Science

7. A Center developed ideally and materially in cooperation with the people of the community
   - Shack Committee
   - Volunteer Labor and Contributions

8. A Center for Friendliness and Cooperation through which a Christian Community may be realized.
   - Community Council
   - Planning Associations

9. A Center where the advantages of the nearby State University in Morgantown may be extended.
   - W. Va. Student Service Project
   - Summer Industrial Inquiries
   - Volunteer Student Service
   - Assistance of University High School Practice teachers.
   - Cooperation with Sociology, Physiology, Economics and Education Dept., W. V. U.