Project Believed Unique Friday Assemblies to Be Open to Public

With the arrival here on Monday of 151 students and ten faculty members of Brooklyn College, what is believed to be the only educational experiment of its kind being conducted in the U.S. opened a three-month summer session on the Institute campus.

The students, carefully selected after personal interviews, comprise 129 girls and twenty-two boys, most of them freshmen and sophomores who have never been farther from their native Brooklyn than Ebbets Field, the Dodger's baseball park.

Although the students will sit in on a number of classes given by members of the MATI staff designed to teach them some of the fundamentals of agricultural economics and will also work at least two days of each week on nearby farms helping with chores and in harvesting operations, as part of the Farm Cadet Victory Corps, they will continue to take regular college credit work under their own staff.

Directing the summer school is Dr. Ralph C. Benedict, professor of Biology, who sees in the experiment the germ of a postwar educational development. Working on the theory that it is not only sound educational practice to give city youths an opportunity to study the rural area at first hand, correlating the curriculum with practical experience, he believes also that the reverse is true. In his opinion rural youths will someday be privileged to enjoy the same "campus transferance" in the heart of the metropolitan centers.

An important feature of the educational project here will be Friday evening assemblies, open to the public, which will be addressed by prominent clergymen, state officials and educators. Designed along the lines of a lecture course in "The Roots of American Democracy," Dr. Benedict has already made tentative arrangements to secure Dr. A. K. Getman of the State Agriculture Department; Frank C. Moore, State Comptroller and Dr. Richard Bradfield of Cornell as speakers.

First of the series of meetings to be held will open at 8 o'clock tonight (Friday) in Madison Hall when T. N. Hurd, State Farm Manpower director will speak.

A mimeographed sheet entitled "Brooklyn Marches Onward" describes "student participation and the contribution of local people and organizations" as an important part of these assemblies. The sheet also includes three verses and a refrain of a song whose words were especially written for this project by Dr. Alfred G. Walton, pastor of the Flatbush-Tompkins Congregational Church, largest of its denomination in the U.S. The refrain follows:

Gather in the harvest,
Sons of liberty,
Food for freedom's fighters,
Food for victory!

The faculty staff which has accompanied Dr. Benedict comprises Miss Mary Edna Barnes, administrative assistant who will teach a course in farm sociology; Dr. Ruth Mohl, English; J. Ellsworth Missall, political science; Verne Booth, geology; Miss Beulah MacMillan, English; Edward Fleisher, mathematics; Prof. Anna Wellnitz, geology; Prof. Laura Kolk, biology, and Arnold Eagle, professional photographer who will only remain long enough to make a pictorial record and complete arrangements for motion pictures to be made here.

Prizes totalling $150, made possible through the gift of Edward Horton, motion picture comedian, will be awarded throughout the term for various achievements. Dr. Benedict said that he expected Mr. Horton to be present some time during the season to speak at an assembly.