The 1943 Farm Labor Project was built on the experience provided by the 1942 program. In that year the College had undertaken merely to recruit student volunteers but had found itself eventually involved in the management of three camps in the Hudson River region. A request from President Harry D. Gideonse in September of 1942 for information about the experiences of the summer led to the preparation of a report on behalf of the College Employment Committee which had sponsored the enlistment. This report was the seed from which, through more than eight months of expanding development, grew the 1943 Project at Morrisville, N.Y. This section is an attempt to present in brief compass the growth process which ramified until it drew, not only from every department of College activity, but reached out to enlist the interest and aid of individuals and agencies entirely outside the College circle.

Out of the 1942 experience in the Red Hook region, certain conclusions had emerged.

1. City students, patriotically motivated, can furnish valuable supplementary farm labor during the present emergency.

2. Large numbers can find a chance for useful service in the harvesting of fruits and vegetables, if proper working and living conditions are provided.

3. Colleges should take the lead in recruiting and training students for this emergency food production work.

4. Colleges should also lead in accepting responsibility for ensuring that the working and living experiences be educationally interesting and valuable to as high a degree as possible.

5. To this end, educational programs should be established, first as auxiliary to the food production work; second, for their intrinsic values. The presentation of regular college courses, selected for correlation with the rural and agricultural experiences, is proposed.

6. Federal, state, county, and local authorities should take responsibility for providing adequate housing, food, working conditions, and pay.

7. Such a war project can furnish the pattern for a valuable postwar program of special, summer, work-study units, a program which would do much to bridge the wide gap which exists between the experience of urban food consumers and rural food producers.

The 1943 project at Morrisville, N.Y. was an experimental try-out of the above principles. In the light of last summer's experience, the principles still stand as
sound and practicable. Morrisville as a village, and the State Institute as head-
quarters, could scarcely be improved upon. We took with us a working staff of eight
Brooklyn faculty members. We found we had a second staff from the Institute faculty
which contributed valuably in every phase of our activity, recreational educational,
living, and work. Brooklyn College is greatly indebted to the Director of the In-
stitute, Dr. R. B. Galbreath, and to his associates.

Building the 1943 Project required over eight months of planning at Brooklyn
College. It involved also extensive consultation through correspondence and con-
ferences with individuals and agents out of the College and in addition to the
Morrisville staff. As one of the Victory Corps units, our Project owed much to
Mr. W. J. Weaver, in general charge of these units for the Agricultural Education
Division of the State Education Department. To Dr. T. M. Hurd, of Cornell, now
serving as Farm Manpower Director, we also owe a great deal. From them, and from
representatives of the Extension Service and of the U. S. Employment Service, many
essential contributions in the building of the 1943 project were received. The
building process comprised the following stages:

1. General sketching of the proposed program: the enlistment of interest and
   help from College associates; liaison with State and other agencies concerned
   in farm labor service.

2. Drafting blueprints of the program:

   a. Curriculum construction: consultation with the Deans, Department
      Chairman, and others; planning, by a special Project curriculum committee,
      of a correlation program of courses.

   b. Clearing the proposed program through administrative and academic
      channels: President, Deans, Personnel Committee, Curriculum Committee, War
      Service Committee, Health Committee.

3. Approval of the Board of Higher Education for the general plan.

4. Gaining public recognition and sponsorship: correspondence, newspaper items,
   radio broadcasts, talks at farmer's meetings. These steps were taken in consul-
   tation with the public agencies above mentioned. A special Project "information
   committee" was enlisted.

5. Negotiating headquarters for the College unit with Mr. Weaver as interme-
   diary: arrangements were concluded in March for the use of the E. Y. State
   Agricultural and Technical Institute at Morrisville. A special faculty committee
   made a visit of inspection and made preliminary arrangements for the following
   at the same time.
6. Negotiating farm employment: The College committee attended a farmer's meeting during the March Morrisville visit. Subsequently, with Mr. Lynn Rockout, Madison County Extension Agent as representative, an agreement was signed by Dr. Grove W. Hinman, of Madison, N.Y., to employ the Brooklyn College unit. The agreement, used for such units throughout the State, provided for pay at prevailing piece-work rates. Student workers were to be assured at least two days work per week at a minimum, presumed to be enough to provide, with reasonable effort, for earning board and room at the Institute rates, approximately $7.00 per week.

7. Recruiting student workers: As plans advanced toward completion, progressive, more explicit announcements were made. The college paper, the Vanguard, was very helpful. Other announcements were made at rallies, on bulletin boards, in mimeographed and printed circulars.

8. Enrollment and selection: Applications were received at the College Placement Office. A special "selective service" committee interviewed each applicant, and made its selections after reference to the Hygiene Departments for health records, and to the Personnel Department for other aspects of suitability.

9. Enlistment of staff: Carried on concurrently with the preceding. Its completion had to wait until student registration and course selection had settled the actual subjects to be offered. The remaining steps in the building process were carried out largely by the new Morrisville staff.

10. Registration and payment of fees: Special instruction sheets provided for the formal completion of enrollment for Morrisville. Representatives of the Registrar's and the Bursar's offices completed the process. The collection of fees due the Morrisville Institute, and for the State-sponsored accident insurance policy were facilitated.

11. Mobilization: Ten days' delay, caused by crop and weather conditions, led to the start of classes in Brooklyn. Advantage was taken for additional orientation and preparation for work and living conditions and for various biological factors. Logistics constituted a special problem, due to the wartime stringency in transportation facilities. The selection, assembling, and packing of needed supplies, equipment, and library entailed the help of many College departments, and of the Curator's office and of the maintenance division.

A graph of the eight months of planning would look much like the hospital chart of a case of intermittent fever, with many ups and downs. More than once it appeared the whole plan might fail. By June first, however, the results of the months of building could be summed up in a special printed circular which owed its production and appearance largely to the help of Miss Mary Edna Barnes, '42.

Serge Chermayeff, and Mr. Rob't; J. Lee. In concentrated form, the whole program was there outlined under seven headings: The Goals; the Plans; The Curriculum; Application and Registration; Costs; Earnings; Sponsorships.

Administrative Set-up and Acknowledgments

It is most appropriate to group together acknowledgments of the vast amount of freely given service which went into the construction and operation of the 1943
Farm Labor Project and a record of the financial backing finally accorded to it.

Up to April 1st, all the planning was based on the assumption that the only budgetary support available would be from the State War Council in the form of transportation expenses for students and staff to and from the working center, and an allotment of $100.00 per month for supervisory expenses for each fifty students in service. From this it was figured that staff members would be able to cover most of their living expenses. On April 1st, the authorization of City budgetary allowance for the regular summer session made possible an apportionment for a Morrisville unit with a register estimated at two hundred students. Subsequently the State increased its supervisory allotment to $150.00 per month for each fifty workers, and allowed expenses for the operation of one private automobile in the public service. Our total State allowance for supervisory expenses amounted to $1,100.00. Of this the Brooklyn staff at Morrisville appropriated $500.00 for living expenses of eight members for ten weeks, figured at the same rate as for students. The remainder was used for such Project expenses as additional automobile service, telephone, student activities with some reserve remaining.

Our allotment from the Summer Session budget for instruction amounted to $2,000.00, which carried teaching and administrative hours to a total of 602. Waivers were signed by two staff members whose regular salary would have entitled them to higher hourly remuneration than was available. Professor Anna Wellnitz gave more than her ten weeks service, receiving nothing more than expenses for board. The total of 602 hours is divided among the eight regular staff members, giving an average of 75 apiece as a quota. It is an understatement to say that each served at least ten times that average in teaching and administration. Supplies and equipment were provided largely through the Departments represented in the curriculum, and from the Curator’s office. In addition, special equipment and supplies were generously made available by the Library, by the Biology Department in the form of photographic equipment and binoculars for bird study, by the Education Department in the form of a record player, by the Music Department in a fine selection of classical records, and by the Hygiene Department in athletic equipment. Parenthetically, it may be
added that of all this equipment, one broken record was the only casualty or loss.

Allowances from the State for transportation, railroad and buses to and from Morrisville, and gasoline miles a totalled approximately $1,200.00. For field supervision, the employing farmer, Mr. Himman, paid a total of $50.00 which was allotted to Messrs. Booth and Missall who carried this heavy load, and to their student assistants.

The preceding paragraphs recount all the material support upon which the 1943 project was built and managed. They serve to place in sharp emphasis the fact that the program was made possible only by the freely given services of students and staff. With many missings, because of probable omissions, lists of the staff members who contributed help during the building and operating of our first Morrisville Summer Session are appended at the end of this section. Again, attention should be called to the very substantial contributions represented by the buildings, equipment, and generous staff services of the Morrisville Institute.

Special acknowledgement should be made to a number of individuals, not hitherto referred to, and entirely outside the official connection with public agencies.

Mr. Arnold Eagle, professional photographer, formerly Director of the N. Y. A. Photographic Center, took charge of making a notable photographic record, both motion and still pictures, with the assistance of Miss Kathryn Benedict. His services, begun in Brooklyn, were continued in three trips to Morrisville, and in many subsequent hours of darkroom work and in cutting and editing the film.

Mr. Edward Everett Horton of Hollywood, formerly of Brooklyn, contributed a fund of $150.00 to provide a series of awards for successful production. As noted later, these awards were of considerable value in promoting increased harvest.

Mr. Herman Robinton, of the Division of Archives and History, of the State Department of Education, served as an up-State program committee in the enlistment of an excellent series of speakers for our Friday evening Assemblies.

Dr. Alfred G. Walton, pastor of the Flatbush Congregational Church of Brooklyn, wrote a special verse for a Project song.

Miss Maude H. Purdy, Brooklyn Botanic Garden artist, contributed a special draw-
ing, in addition to the one use on the cover of the printed report of the Project.

To these, and to all others who contributed essential assistance both during the building and during the operation of the Project, grateful knowledge is made on behalf of the official planning and administering agencies, the Committee on Student Employment, and the Staff of the Farm Labor Project.

Brooklyn College Staff and Associates: 1943 Farm Labor Project.


Selective Service: Ford E. Barnard, Chairman, Ruth Mohl, Charlotte E. Morgan, Madeleine F. Robinton.

Staff, Farm Labor Project: Mary Edna Barnes, Administrative Assistant and Instructor in Rural Sociology; Ralph C. Benedict, Director; Buelah MacMillan and Ruth Mohl, Instructors in English, Supervisors of Helmer Dormitory, Librarians; Verne Booth, Geology, Supervisor of Production, Athletics; J. Ellisworth Missall, Political Science, Assistant in Production; Edward Fleisher, Mathematics, Supervisor of Men Students, Logistics, Statistics; Anna Wellnitz, Supervisor of Brooks Dormitory; Willoughby Waterman, Sociology (after Miss Barnes became ill). Mrs. Fleisher, Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Missall, and Miss Kathryn Benedict were important adjunct members of the staff.

Volunteer Visitors at Morrisville: Ford E. Barnard (3 trips), Euphemia Banta, Dorothy Friedland, Alex Friedlander, Harry E. Gideon, Helene Harvitt, Laura Kolk, Sally Kutz, Louie Miner, Charlotte Morgan, Anne Wad, Thomas E. Goultin, Wilbur Valentine, Charles N. Winslow (the last three on the March trip of inspection).


Publicity Committee: Serge Chermayeff, Jacob F. Foster, Sol. H. Furth, Francis P. Lillohn, Louis A. Mallory, James N. Park, Lindsay S. Perkins, Chairman, Carlton H. Reilly, Willoughby C. Waterman, Messrs. Mallory, Park, and Waterman went to Schenectady at their own expense, to broadcast over WGY.


Aaron, Irma G.
Banoff, Betty
Beidler, Ruth
Belfort, Eleanor
Berezow, Freda
Berman, Judith
Baileeck, Marion
Bigelowson, Sally
Billler, Martin I.
Binder, Esther
Brown, Lucille
Burnett, Sylvia
Casson, Judith
Cheiker, Sarah
Daniels, Miriam
Druin, Isabelle
Dvoretsky, Elaine
Edelson, Betty
Eisen, Marion
Ellenoff, Ruth
Epstein, Helene
Epstein, Miriam
Feldman, Sheila
Feldman, Zohava
Fintz, Bertha
Fisher, Lillian
Fortinsky, Ruth
Friedman, Florence
Friedman, Vera
Geller, Harriette
Gershon, Natalie
Giuliano, Mary
Glassman, Blanche
Goldberg, Florence
Goldberg, Frances
Goldberg, Helen
Goldstein, Kenneth
Gottlieb, David
Gottlob, Laurel
Granofsky, Estelle
Greco, Gertrude
Greenblatt, Beatrice
Hammer, Irene
Handman, Lillian
Haskowitz, Esther
Heller, Beverly
Horn, Claire
Horowitz, Bernice
Isakovitz, Ethel
Isaacson, Marion
Jacobovitch, Elsie
Jaffe, Doris
Jaffe, Vivian
Kaplan, Florence
Kaplan, Helen
Katz, Ethel
Kirschbaum, Abraham
Klauesner, Howard
Klibanoff, Gloria
Kornbluth, Miriam
Kotler, Myra
Leiman, Helen
Leshaw, Phyllis
Lesser, Adrienne
Levantoni, Natalie L.
Levin, Eugenia
Levine, Elliott
Levine, Ethel
Levine, Miriam
Levinson, Irving
Levy, Herbert
Lichtenberg, Sarah
Liebman, Renee
Lipton, Miriam
Manheim, Selma
Manolakos, James
Manuta, Marilyn
Margolis, Judith
Marks, Marjorie
Nazar, Estelle
Neirson, Lila
Neyers, Marjorie
Miller, Calvin
Mishler, Estelle
Nathanson, Abe
Newman, Annette
Oransky, Faith
Parnet, Laura
Passikoff, Judith
Paull, Alvera
Pines, Robert
Pritchard, Georgena
Roothkow, Frances
Ruchkoff, Merle
Rabinowitz, Mildred
Reissman, Evelyn
Ribakoff, Mildred
Riskin, Muriel
Robins, Alice
Romer, Rita
Rosen, Lester
Rosenberg, Milton
Rosenfeld, Dorothy
Rosenstock, Esther
Rosenstock, Sylvia
Rubin, Lila
Saks, Judith
Schaper, Dorothy
Schaeffer, Jerome
Schalit, Ruth
Schekman, Ruth
Schneider, Louise
Schwartz, Rosaline
Scott, Ruth
Segerman, Vivian
Shaff, Suzanne
Shapiro, Beverly
Shapiro, Phyllis
Sharfstein, Phoebe
Sharlot, Sally
Siegel, Gloria
Simon, Florence
Sirotta, Rena
Smith, Elaine
Smith, Hope
Solomon, Eva
Solomon, Selma
Sprung, Stanley
Steinberg, Ethel
Stein, Gladys
Thail, Marvin
Torres, Georgette
Volinsky, Albert
Walsensky, Leonard
Wallach, Doris
Warsaw, Paula
Wasserthail, Rose
Weinberg, Esther
Weinerman, Selma
Weinreb, Alice
Weinstein, Harriet
Weitz, Pearl
Wiseman, Max
Wolff, Bernice
Zarotsky, Phyllis
Zuselblatt, Bass