July 2019

Letter requesting monetary donations to help build boys' dormitory

Laurence Clifton Jones (1884-1975)
To Those Who Have Helped Us Develop Many Good Useful Citizens For Our Country

Our Dear Piney Woods' Friends

"At long last", we have started to build a dormitory for our boys.

In the early days, before we could teach the students how to use stoves and kerosene lamps, we lost several buildings that meant much to us.

Both boys and girls, accustomed to putting long sticks of wood on fire places, would leave wood sticking out the stove door. The stove door would be left open so they could see and feel the fire. We had to teach each new group of students that a fire place warmed the person but a stove was to warm the room. Lamps were not to be burned without glass chimneys.

However, we suffered fires until we were aware of the necessity of watching and teaching boys and girls coming from a large adobe fireplace into a higher civilization of the stove age.

Two winters, the boys and girls lived in tents and barracks. For awhile, it seemed to us that the students, in order to get warm, were following the example of Lamb's "Dissertation on Roast Pig".

For a long time now, our boys have been living in the oldest building on the campus. It has been kept clean; but the wood floors are wearing thin and, just like any building past forty years old, it's wearing out.

This new building will have cement floors and ceilings and partitions of concrete blocks. Here are our boys making concrete brick.

As we obtain funds for material, we can continue construction; and we hope to have the building ready for use when regular school opens in the fall. To do this I must raise ($65,000) Sixty-five Thousand dollars.

Perhaps you have already given this year or it may not be convenient for you to help at this time your Piney Woods School. But let me assure you that five or ten dollars, even one dollar gifts, if we get enough of them, will enable us to purchase the necessary material to keep the work going on this dormitory we need so badly.

In the joy of spraying a human orchard,

Piney Woods School
Piney Woods, Miss.

Laurence C. Jones