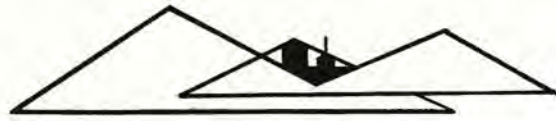


NEWS

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LETTER

APPALACHIAN CENTER
BEREA COLLEGE

Loyal Jones • Thomas Parrish, Co-Editors

Vol. 1 No. 1 • Winter 1972

BEREA'S APPALACHIAN CENTER

In the fall of 1970, Berea College established the Appalachian Center.

Appalachian emphasis is not new at Berea. Berea was established in 1855 for the dual purpose of furthering the abolitionist cause and educating mountain people, these purposes being related in that mountaineers, in the main, were antislavery. Eighty percent of the college's students currently come from the region and about half return to it after graduation. Berea has always been interested in the problems of Appalachia, and the college has conducted many projects to improve aspects of Appalachian life or to study some of its facets. Mostly, though, Berea, like other colleges in the region, has attempted to educate Appalachian young people so that they can take their places in the mainstream of American life.

The Appalachian Center and the Appalachian Studies program at Berea represent a different approach from the past. This new approach takes account of Berea as a regional college whose students come from a distinctive culture that differs from the main culture of the country. The approach is built on the belief that everyone needs to have a sense of his own identity and to be at ease with this knowledge -- that when Appalachian students are familiar with their culture and its values in both positive and negative aspects, they are better equipped to make the right choices for their future.

The primary activities of the Center are:

Stimulation and coordination of departmental courses relating to Appalachia. Some courses were already being taught, most notably Professor Richard Drake's History of Appalachia America and the community-development courses in the Sociology Department. Other important courses have been added during the past year: Introduction to Appalachian Studies, Appalachian Writers, Health Problems in Appalachia, Traditional Music, and Appalachian Problems and Institutions. One of the main freshman courses, Issues and Values, has a unit on Appalachian problems. Several courses are offered in the January Short Term dealing with aspects of Appalachia.

Encouraging faculty research and student independent study. The Center director has consulted with Berea faculty members and other scholars doing research on Appalachia and has critically read many manuscripts. He also works with students who are doing independent study projects or independent majors in Appalachian Studies. He assists students in Short Term off-campus assignments. For example, two students are scheduled to spend January as interns in the Appalachian Regional

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Berea College is pleased to inaugurate this Appalachian Center Newsletter as a service to the Appalachian region and to those interested in its culture and development. By periodic reports on events and developments in the region, the Newsletter will, we hope, stimulate interest and concern and provide accurate information.

For over a century the College has educated young men and women of Appalachia, and many of them have returned to the mountain area for lives of service. Sixty-one percent of our alumni live in the eight states of the region, and eighty percent of our prospective students are selected from 230 counties of the eight-state area.

Berea's life has always been intertwined with the people of the mountains in many ways. The College sent out agricultural advisers and traveling libraries before these services were recognized as a legitimate function of the government. Our academic program places an emphasis on Appalachian culture and history, the Appalachian library collection is one of the strongest in the nation, and the Appalachian Museum is an educational resource for the public on mountain culture. The Student Craft Industries encourage certain mountain skills, and our Country Dancers enliven many evenings while invigorating the folk dance tradition. A considerable number of students volunteer regularly for social service projects in parts of the region as their work assignment in the labor program.

The Appalachian Center under the direction of Loyal Jones was started one year ago to encourage and coordinate many of the College's special Appalachian programs. Through this first issue of the Newsletter the College is glad to add one more service to the region. We are grateful to Mr. Alfred H. Perrin for his generous support of this venture, and we hope readers will find the Newsletter useful and informative.

Willis D. Weatherford, President

Commission and two will serve as counselors to Appalachian migrant children in a Cincinnati school.

Developing Student Outreach Programs. All students at Berea work at least ten hours a week to partially pay for the costs of their education. It is logical, therefore, that there be opportunities for students to use their skills in surrounding communities and to do so through practical programs in which they can apply classroom learning. The Appalachian Center helps to develop plans and funds for these off-campus programs and coordinates

them. Currently Berea has about a hundred students engaged in such tasks as teaching adults to read and write, teaching retarded children, tutoring children of all ages, developing recreation programs and working in basic community development.

Helping Berea College plan its total involvement in the Appalachian Region. The Center director has consulted with administrative and faculty committees in planning courses, programs and events with an Appalachian emphasis. He has lectured in classes, met with visiting groups and has represented the college at meetings in the region and has made speeches on Appalachian topics to a wide variety of groups. The Center has created a Speaker and Resource Bureau to bring college talent and skills to communities in Appalachia. It has created a lecture and concert series and a visiting-teacher program to bring Appalachian specialists and artists to the campus. The Center and the Hutchins Library sponsor the annual W.D. Weatherford Award for the best and most effective writing published on Appalachia.

Adding to Berea's Reservoir of Information on Appalachia. The Weatherford-Hammond Mountain Collections in the Hutchins Library is one of the country's best collections of books and other materials on the region. The Appalachian Museum contains the famous Sims collection from Gatlinburg, as well as other materials that have been donated. The Center will help to add to these two collections. Books are acquired daily by the Mountain Collection, and papers and manuscripts are being sought. The Center has formed a Traditional Music Committee (Jean Ritchie, John Lair, Bradley Kincaid, Asa Martin, Buell Kazee, Dean William Jones, Ethel Capps, Raymond McLain, Dr. Rolf Hovey and Loyal Jones) to advise on music collections, records, video tapes and sound tapes for the library and musical instruments and other materials for the museum. The Center will publish other material in addition to this NEWSLETTER. The first publication will be a book by Dr. Cratis Williams on Appalachian speech.

Perhaps the greatest source of information, however, is the people we know, all over the region. The main purpose of this NEWSLETTER is to keep in touch with all of you who know and care about Appalachia and her people.

JAMES STILL AT BERA

During the January Short Term, the Berea College Appalachian Center is sponsoring noted Appalachian writer James Still as a resident fellow.

TENNESSEE PRESS -- Two Reissues

The University of Tennessee Press's recently launched series called Tennesseeana Editions includes reissues of two books of specific Appalachian interest. In the Tennessee Mountains is a reprint of this 1884 collection of stories by Mary N. Murfree, the local colorist, who wrote as Charles Egbert Craddock.

The other book is E. Merton Coulter's William G. Brownlow, Fighting Parson of the Southern Highlands, originally published in 1937. It's a study of "Southern Methodism, Tennessee politics, Civil War hysteria and Reconstruction abuses."

These titles can be obtained from the University of Tennessee Press, 293 Communications Building, Knoxville, Tennessee 37916.

FIFTH SEMESTER AT UNION

On January 31, Union College (Barbourville, Ky.) will open its fifth Appalachian Semester. Since the beginning of this unique program in the spring of 1970, students from some 20 colleges and universities have participated.

Basically, the Appalachian Semester is a program in which students from different colleges devote their full time for one semester to studying the Appalachian region - its strengths, its problems, the challenges it offers. Students may earn 15 to 17 semester hours of credit in sociology or social work. The Semester is designed to combine interdisciplinary classroom experiences with field work.

In the 1971 spring semester, students came from California, Iowa, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware and Kentucky. One of them, Nancy L. Feyl, whose home college is Dickinson College (Carlisle, Pa.), later wrote: "Most of us were totally unfamiliar with the area and its history. 'Appalachia' was a term we had heard often, but had thought very little about. . . ."

"Field placements were the highlight of the semester, as they were our first real chance to be with the people and see life from their perspectives. Students chose areas of their interest, some in social-work agencies such as public assistance, child welfare and an orphanage. Others did independent projects, working with politicians, health problems, emergency food, coal mining laws, fundamentalism, the county Office of Economic Opportunity, legal aid and community organization. . . ."

"Our small group of 12 students became very close and learned a great deal from our own varied backgrounds. We traveled all across the region on many small trips to coal mines, stripping operations, lumber camps, and on several major field trips where we traced the paths of Appalachians who migrated to the city. . . . The semester was definitely a very intense and in-depth struggle for the 12 of us to learn not only about the Appalachian culture, but about its sociological and cultural implications for America and for ourselves."

Information about the Appalachian Semester may be obtained from Julian D. Mosley, the director, at Union College, Barbourville, Ky. 40906.

POPULATION STUDY -- A SPECIAL OFFER

An analysis of the 1970 Census figures on Appalachia has been produced by James S. Brown, professor of rural sociology, Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Kentucky. Titled "Southern Appalachian Population Change, 1960 to 1970: A First Look at the 1970 Census," this study (23 pages plus tables) has thus far been distributed to a limited audience by the Experiment Station. Now the Appalachian Center has received permission to reprint it and make it available, at cost, to readers of the CENTER NEWSLETTER. If you would like a copy, send 50 cents to Population Study, Appalachian Center, Berea College, C.P.O. Box 2336, Berea, Kentucky 40403.

THE
FACES
OF
APPALACHIA

Courtesy of the Ulmann Foundation



Forty years ago, a delicate, dedicated lady from Park Avenue wandered through the Appalachian South in search of faces. To record these faces she carried an old-fashioned view camera, which used glass plates. She "worked with great deliberation and care," recalls John Jacob Niles, her companion on these trips. "Every picture was composed. . . In the course of a full working day she would take a maximum of 20 exposures."

The thousands of glass plates produced by Doris Ulmann constitute an incomparable artistic archive, containing the faces -- and perhaps the soul -- of bygone Appalachia. From prints in the possession of Berea College, Jonathan Williams and his colleagues in the Jargon Society have chosen 63 for this book **THE APPALACHIAN PHOTOGRAPHS OF DORIS ULMANN.**

These are great pictures, as you can see from the two that are reproduced here. In these pictures you'll meet (for instance) Mrs. Bird Patten, Cheever Meaders, Ella Webster, Aunt Cord Ritchie and the haunting Virginia Howard (shown above right). In addition, you'll meet Doris Ulmann herself. It's a meeting, most lookers will agree, that has been too long deferred, but this book makes it a handsome and memorable one. It will make you want to delve further in the archive, too.

THE APPALACHIAN PHOTOGRAPHS OF DORIS ULMANN. Remembrance by John Jacob Niles, Preface by Jonathan Williams. (The Jargon Society, Penland, N. C., 1971. \$10. -- Order from Small Publishers' Co., 276 Park Avenue South, New York, N. Y. 10010.)

WESTERN CAROLINA JOINS CONSORTIUM

The Appalachian Consortium -- a Tennessee-North Carolina venture originally composed of Appalachian State University (N.C.), East Tennessee State University, Lees-McRae College (N.C.), Mars Hill College (N.C.), the Blue Ridge Parkway, the U.S. Forest Service, the First Tennessee-Virginia Development District and the Mountain Scenic Economic Development District--has recently added Western Carolina University as its newest member.

The Consortium was launched in the fall of 1970, the aim being to salvage and preserve Appalachia's unique and important cultural heritage. Change is having so great an impact in the region, say the Consortium's founders, that the heritage will be lost by the year 2000 "unless meaningful steps are taken at once to salvage [the region's] folk traditions, music, tales, history and cultural patterns."

Chairman of the Consortium is Ambrose N. Manning of East Tennessee State. The co-executive directors are W. H. Plemmons, president emeritus of Appalachian State University, and Arthur H. DeRosier, Jr., dean of the School of Graduate Studies at East Tennessee State.

One of the main aims of the Consortium, of course, is

to bring about greater co-operation among the member institutions. An example of this is the development of a list of the Appalachian courses that will be offered by each college and university in the Consortium during the summer of 1972. The list will be published as a joint catalog.

STRIP FOES FOCUS ON FRANKFORT

Kentucky's new governor, Democrat Wendell Ford, and the 1972 legislature will receive continuous attention from strip mining foes throughout the two-month legislative session, say officials of Save Our Kentucky (SOK), a citizens' anti-stripping organization.

The primary aim of the activities is to rally support behind the Kafoglis bill (named for its sponsor, State Senator Nicholas Kafoglis), which bluntly calls for an absolute ban on strip mining in Kentucky, Appalachian and non-Appalachian areas alike.

SOK officials say that they can demonstrate that much of the land currently considered suitable for reclamation actually cannot be reclaimed, and that the governor has the authority to prohibit mining on such land. Thus, even if the Kafoglis bill dies in the legislature,

the governor will continue to be the object of activist attention.

PIKEVILLE: FOUR COMPONENTS

The Appalachian Studies Center (ASC) of Pikeville College (Ky.) is "trying to move in all four of its components," reports Director Leonard Roberts. "Some of these are well under way while others are delayed until we receive a promised building or a suite of rooms." The four and their activities are these:

a) The Appalachian Studies Center Press.

The press was established by an act of the Board in May 1971.

The prize-winning literary magazine Twigs, already in its eighth volume, has been enlarged and is to appear twice yearly at five dollars for a year's subscription. With a gift of ten dollars or more the donor will receive all publications for the year.

Three volumes are under way for this year to July 1, to be listed at about three dollars (publication mark-down to two fifty):

1. Selected Poetry and Prose, John T. Napier, late of the University of Virginia.

2. Southern Season (selected poetry) by Alice Moser Claudel, editor, poet, scholar, graduate of Tulane, and now at Salisbury State College, Maryland.

3. Selected poetry and prose poems (title undecided) by Virginia Casey Turner, Berea graduate, teacher, mountain poet (lately deceased). One or two volumes are to follow.

ASC also has a recording of the singing of Floyd and Edna Ritchie Baker, to be edited into an LP album of mountain songs and ballads.

b) The Pikeville College Library has been selecting mountain and Kentucky books for many years; but the increased purchases are now labeled Kentucky and Appalachia Collections. A recent gift of some 200 volumes of Civil War material came to them from the late Ben L. Greer of Pike County.

c) The Archive is barely under steam, but it will never be completed in its goal of microfilms of all Appalachian papers available on mountain history, folklore, court records, magazines, journals, privately printed books, ledgers, ballet books, genealogies, clippings, tapes, videotapes, photographs, maps, place names.

d) The Museum will be limited to the space that can be made available, but in any case it will be a usable selective collection of artifacts of mountain life and work in handcrafted pieces, evolution of lumbering, framing, mining, school, church, folkways and traditions.

Along with all these activities and resources, the Pikeville Appalachian Studies Center has begun a year-round series of courses, conferences and workshops in the areas of Appalachian history and folkways, creative writings, music, art and crafts.

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EYE ON PUBLICATIONS

The CENTER NEWSLETTER intends to keep on the lookout for books and articles of Appalachian significance and to call attention to them here. There are many such, far more than a casual reader of book lists might realize, and we will appreciate the help of readers. We are not attempting to be exhaustive, of course-but if you like a book and think it important, please share it with us.

Two books have caught our eye as we assemble this issue:

Appalachian Families in Transition, by Harry Schwartzweller, James S. Brown and J. J. Mangalam (Pennsylvania State University Press). This notable study of migration focuses on the adjustment to urban life of people from "Beech Creek."

My Land Is Dying, by Harry M. Caudill (Dutton). In 1963, Caudill reported that night had come to the Cumberlands. It's still here, he says with eloquence, and it's deeper than ever.

Also notable:

The November 1971 issue of National Geographic carries a lead piece by Louisville's John Fetterman. Titled "The People of Cumberland Gap," it's a word portrait of "all that remain now of the true mountaineers." Along with the words are superb photos by Bruce Dale.

For a comprehensive listing and annotation of Appalachian publications one can subscribe to Appalachian Outlook, published monthly by the West Virginia University Library, Morgantown, West Virginia (\$3.00 a year).

FROM YOU TO US

As you would expect, this first issue of the Appalachian Center Newsletter is designed to bring you news and comment about developments in the Appalachian South. But it has another function, too: it is designed to stimulate you into sending this same kind of news and comment to us. Our readers, we hope, will be responders as well. In fact, if we're going to be useful, you'll have to be.

We aren't trying to cover all kinds of news, of course. No quarterly publication has any business trying to compete with Walter Cronkite and the daily paper. But we can look at things from an Appalachian angle, and without a daily or weekly deadline forcing us into print. Our emphasis in this issue is academic; it may remain so in the future, it may change. This will partly be up to you. We have no prejudices about kinds of news and we'll appreciate your helping us decide how we can best be of service.

And - please - put us on your mailing list for news of events and activities. We'll spread the word. If you have suggestions for our mailing list, write to us at the address below.

The Editors

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