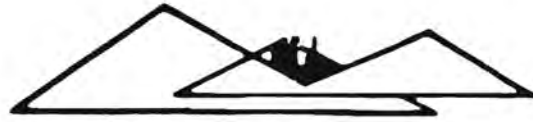


NEWS

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LETTER

APPALACHIAN CENTER
BEREA COLLEGE

Loyal Jones, Thomas Parrish, Co-Editors

Vol. 12 No. 3

Summer 1983

Looking Forward

October 1-2: Tenth annual fall festival—"Echoes of Mountain Felicity"—John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, N.C. 28902. Artists and craftsmen, entertainment, food.

October 8-9: Ninth annual New Salem Mountain Festival, on Lookout Mountain. Artists, craftsmen, musicians, the works. Information from Monroe McKaig, Box 158, Route 2, Rising Fawn, Ga. 404/657-4089.

October 14-16: Annual fall fair, Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen, Indian Fort Theater, Berea, Ky. 40403. More artists, more craftsmen, more entertainment.

October 19-21: Symposium on rural development—"Sharing Successes Along the Appalachian Way"—Morehead State University, Morehead, Ky. 40351. An opportunity for successful projects to set up displays showing their achievements and to exchange information about approaches that are working and why they are. Details from Appalachian Development Center, MSU.

October 20-22: Annual fall fair, Southern Highland Handicraft Guild, Asheville Civic Center, Asheville, N.C. (ZIP for the guild is 28815).

November 17-19: Scotch-Irish Festival, II, Winthrop College, Rock Hill, S.C. 29733.

Celebration No. 10

Coming up October 27-30 is the tenth annual installment of one of Appalachia's top musical events—the Celebration of Traditional Music presented by the Berea College Appalachian Center.

The festivities get under way on Thursday, October 27, with a 3:00 p.m. performance by the Foddrell Brothers and Lynn Foddrell; in the evening there's a street dance. On Friday and Saturday evenings the big old-time music sessions will be held, beginning at 7:30. The daylight hours on Saturday will be devoted to workshops and informal entertainment and to a symposium, "Folk Culture and Regional Change in the 1980s," led by folklorist and labor historian Archie Green.

Those who don't dance too late into Saturday night will join Betty Smith in traditional religious music on Sunday morning.

The Celebration will present its usual galaxy of

talent, including established favorites and those invited to appear on the local stage for the first time. Superluminary veterans Grandpa Jones and Bradley Kincaid head the list, which includes Edna Ritchie Baker; Etta Baker; Sheila Rice Barnhill; Lotus Dickey and Dillon Bustin; Rich Kirby and Tom Bledsoe; Wade, Julia and Randall Mainer; Lily May Ledford; Ronnie Matthews and Tim Sisco; Dellie Norton; the Rocky Topper Band; and the Luke Smathers Band. The Foddrells and Betty Smith will also perform.



Hannah McConnell: laughter in song....see p. 3

\$2 Million for Training

Although, as everybody knows, the Appalachian Regional Commission is supposed to be winding down now, it is also, in some areas, winding up.

Last April ARC held a conference, "Jobs and Skills for the Future," which focused on the problems
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presented and the opportunities created by the impact on the job market of foreign competition and technological advances. The special point here was that Appalachia as a whole is particularly sensitive to this impact because of the region's disproportionate dependence on traditional mining and manufacturing.

As a result of the conference, ARC has now set aside \$1 million to help the Appalachian states improve their jobs training and education programs; the fund will be matched by \$1 million from the states' ARC allocations.

The findings that the new fund is designed to help implement were that "high-technology industries will provide a small but significant part of new job opportunities in Appalachia, while most future jobs will continue to be found in traditional industries." Workers need to be prepared for "changing skill requirements," and, not surprisingly, public and private resources must be better coordinated. Also, in view of the prevailing sentiment in Washington, the states must take the lead in improving training programs.

Three Calls

Those with itchy typewriters have three tempting prospects ahead of them.

1) In preparation for the September 1984 meeting of the Oral History Association, the program committee is seeking proposals for individual papers, media presentations, workshop sessions and panel discussions. Send your proposal (by November 1) to Terry Birdwhistell, University of Kentucky Libraries, Lexington, Ky. 40506.

2) The people who run the annual New River Symposium (see CENTER NEWSLETTER, Spring 1983) are also in the market for papers, and they can be about any aspect of the river, physical or human, past or present, scientific or humanistic or social scientific. Proposals, which are due by December 1, should be addressed to Gene Cox, National Park Service, New River Gorge National River, P.O. Drawer V, Oak Hill, W.Va. 25901.

3) FOCUS (that may actually *not* be an acronym), the quarterly journal of the Southeastern Ohio Council of Teachers of English (SOCTE—come to think of it, that actually isn't an acronym either) is planning an issue to be devoted to the use of Appalachian studies in the teaching of English. If you have something on tap, or almost so, they'd like to hear from you; the deadline is December 1. The editors are James E. Davis and Hazel K. Davis, Department of English Language and Literature, Ellis Hall 385, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701.

Help for High Schools

High schools and their problems and deficiencies have been much in the news of late, and two of Appalachia's leading institutions of higher education, Berea and the University of Tennessee, have decided to do something about it—with the financial help of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Berea is launching its High School-College

Cooperative Learning Program, planned initially for a four-year period, which will bring high school teachers to the Berea campus for summer workshops, will supply consultation on curriculum, and will conduct weekend workshops on campus for high school teachers and students. The program will involve schools in counties near Berea.

A similar effort was already under way at Knoxville under the aegis of the James R. Stokely Institute for Liberal Arts Education. The Tennessee program places specific emphasis on liberal education as a "style of learning which traditionally seeks to liberate an individual from ignorance, parochialism and purposelessness." High school teachers and students are being brought to campus for seminars in "liberal learning, classroom application of critical thinking skills and an intensive treatment of possible approaches to the presentation of the sciences, the social sciences or the humanities and fine arts."

EYE on Publications

More Than Moonshine, by Sidney Saylor Farr (University of Pittsburgh Press). If you go up to Indianapolis or Dayton or Flint or anywhere else in the Appalachian diaspora and ask anybody what he misses most about the mountains, he'll very likely start rhapsodizing about country ham and red-eye gravy, soup beans and those homemade biscuits...or maybe about molasses cookies, dried-apple stackcake and huckleberry cobbler. And it is these delicacies and many others that are the "more than moonshine" in this book of "Appalachian recipes and recollections." A reformed migrant herself, Sidney Farr mixes reminiscence and instruction, and both are presented straightforwardly. Apropos of cereal, for instance, she recalls that when she and her husband Leon moved to Indianapolis some years ago, she "decided we would live like city people. The first morning I served a bowl of dry cereal and toast for breakfast, Leon demanded how I thought a man could live on a breakfast like that. I fixed him a couple of eggs but insisted there was no time to bake biscuits because I had to be at work by eight o'clock. Gradually we learned to adjust, but never completely." And in connection with a recipe for moonshine with oranges (yes, moonshine does make an appearance here), she remarks that "Mother grieved that Father made whiskey, drank it, and sold it to other people who got drunk. She felt he was breaking the laws of the land and the laws of God. But Father could make more money selling moonshine whiskey than any other way, and he needed cash. He could sell a bushel of corn for \$2 or \$3; he could take a fourth of that, turn it into mash and make a run of moonshine which would bring in around a hundred dollars." Her aim, says the author, is "to show the mountain people as they really are...to help preserve some of our heritage for generations to come." Actually, what we'd like to do right now is sample that venison pot roast and the cheese-grits casserole. The burnt-sugar cake didn't sound too bad either.

Knoxville, Tennessee, by Michael J. McDonald and William Bruce Wheeler (University of Tennessee Press). Subtitled "Continuity and Change in an Appalachian

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Codirector Billy Edd Wheeler



Byron Crawford



Jerry Jones



Gordon Ross

Lingering Laughter

The jokers, tale tellers, yarn spinners and humorous singers have come and gone now, but it's rumored that echoes of the laughter they inspired still linger in the hallowed reaches of Berea's Phelps Stokes chapel. In other words, the first-of-its-kind Festival of Appalachian Humor has been held, and it was a great success. For two evenings (July 15-16) persons devoted to making life lighter for their fellows performed before appreciative houses. And members of the audience got into the act too, entering the competition for hard-cash prizes in five categories.

Loyal Jones and Billy Edd Wheeler presided over the festivities. The invited guests included a variety of frolicsome folk: Eslie Asbury, M.D.; Joe Bly; Byron Crawford; Barbara Freeman; David Holt; Ernest ("Doc") McConnell; Bob Terrell; and Connie Regan. The proceedings even had the benefit of scholarship, of a notably light-hearted kind, with presentations by Robert J. Higgs, professor of English at East Tennessee State, and W. Gordon Ross, professor emeritus of philosophy and religion at Berea.

In each of the audience-participation categories, the first prize was worth \$100, the second \$50 and the third \$25. Lewis Lamb of Lancaster, Ky., placed first in the "jokes or anecdotes" division; Mace Crandall and Lee Morris, both of Berea, split the second prize; Glenn Baker, Fairmont, W.Va., placed third.

In the "traditional tale" category, Glenn Massey, Manchester, Tenn., took first place; Ben Finane, Oak Ridge, Tenn., was second; and John Ramsay, Berea, and Rev. Charles Dick, Monticello, Ky., took third honors.

William Epling, M.D., Berea, came in with the first-place "original story or routine;" Gifford Walters, Monticello, Ky., was second, and Moir Pilson, Long Beach, Calif., third.

Hannah McConnell, Rogersville, Tenn., had "humorous traditional song" honors all to herself. In the "humorous original song" division, Colleen Anderson, Charleston, W.Va., took first place; Dave Slinger, Manchester, Tenn., second, and Joe Wise, Louisville, Ky., third.

Barbara Freeman, Connie Regan



Codirector Loyal Jones



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City," this study traces Knoxville's development from the end of the Civil War to the 1982 World's Fair, from the fast-growth days of the 19th century to the era, beginning in the 1960s, "when a bloc of businessmen and developers took charge of the city's future." Stated thus baldly, it sounds like a tragic outcome to a historical process; Jake Butcher might well agree that it was. But there may be lessons here for other towns (Lexington, Ky., is a notable example) fighting to keep their civic virtue (what remains of it) against the snatch-and-grab of their own take-charge businessmen/developers.

Aunt Arie: A Foxfire Portrait, edited by Linda Garland Page and Eliot Wigginton (Dutton). The *Foxfire* phenomenon continues to glow in the north Georgia hills, as witness this portrait, mostly in her own words, of the already legendary Aunt Arie Carpenter. Says Wigginton in the Introduction: "Of all the people my high school students, my staff members, and I have documented and shared with the outside world since 1966, none has been more warmly embraced than Arie Carpenter. Though she has been dead for years [since 1978], wherever I go with my students on speaking engagements...someone will surely come up to one of us and inquire about her health. She is the only person we ever wrote about whose personality was so strong and whose face was so compelling that she literally walked off the pages of *The Foxfire Book* and into the lives of the millions who read it." As we all know, material like this is valuable as documentation of a vanished way of life. But Aunt Arie's views of that life supply an extra dimension. Dismissing snake handlers, for example, as hopelessly misguided, she says she wouldn't look at the process if a demonstration were to be staged on her doorstep: "What I don't believe in, I don't practice." She does, however, acknowledge a debt to Jehovah's Witnesses missionaries: they furnished her with "lotsa papers t'start my fires in th'wood cookstove."

Mother Jones Speaks, edited by Philip S. Foner (Monad Press; distributed by Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014). "Her appearance is a signal for those who grow rich by grinding the faces of the poor to 'go slow,' and if they disregard the warning

so much the worse for them and the better for organized labor," commented the New York *World* in 1900. "There is only one Mother Jones." This thick book (more than 700 pages) presents the thought and rhetoric of the fabled labor speaker and organizer as it appeared in speeches, Congressional testimony, articles, interviews and letters, from 1897 to the final interview in December 1930, when Mother Jones was perhaps 100, perhaps 90 (the book's chronology begins by admitting defeat on the question of her birth date). There's plenty in the chronology, however, that's quite precise; to follow Mother Jones's travels is to follow the story of labor strife in the United States from 1877 (Pittsburgh, where Mary Harris Jones made her activist debut) into the 1920s, her last public act being her successful dealings with West Virginia Governor Morgan concerning the release of miners arrested in the famous march on Logan County.

A Catalogue of Pre-Revival Appalachian Dulcimers, by L. Allen Smith (University of Missouri Press). An attempt—a highly successful one—to document the use of the dulcimer before the great revival of recent years. The author, says Jean Ritchie in the foreword, has "taken many little pools of knowledge from around the country and assembled them into one concise and easily available source. In the process, he has exploded several myths and at the same time greatly expanded the number of factual truths about the instrument." Along with these valuable facts the author has produced a matrix for reference and future research. Many photographs.

Who Owns Appalachia?, by the Appalachian Land Ownership Task Force (University Press of Kentucky). The ad hoc group that produced this study undertook an enormous task: some 55,000 parcels of land were researched in 80 county courthouses across the Appalachian South, all to answer the question posed in the title of the book. The results of these efforts originally appeared in looseleaf form (see CENTER NEWSLETTER, Spring 1981). Now much of the overview volume, with generalized region-wide findings and recommendations for action, has appeared in hard covers. One of the recommendations is simply a national census of land ownership, which has been mooted about in planning circles since the 1930s.

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