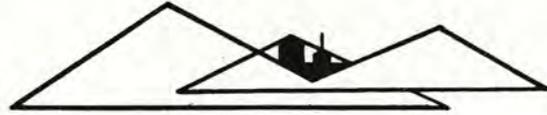


NEWS

LETTER



APPALACHIAN CENTER
BEREA COLLEGE

Loyal Jones · Thomas Parrish, Co-Editors

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Beethoven and Bluegrass

In Cincinnati the May Festival, featuring the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, has long been a notable part of the city's cultural tradition. But this year the classicists will be sharing the month with a second group of celebrants—those involved with or attending "Discover Appalachia: A Celebration of Folklife," to be held at the Cincinnati Gardens Pavilion May 2-5.

This actually is the third year for Cincinnati's Appalachian festival, which last year was held in April as part of Appalachian Week and drew attendance of 18,000. The purpose of the festival, which is sponsored by the Junior League of Cincinnati, is "to bring together Appalachian craftsmen, wholesale buyers and the general public; to stimulate awareness and appreciation of mountain products; to encourage local Appalachian migrant participation and to nourish pride in their heritage and identity; to inspire organizations in other cities to offer similar events."

Live mountain music, continuing demonstrations and films will be presented during the days, with special entertainment each evening.

If you're interested in any aspect of the festival, you can obtain information from either of the cochairmen—Mrs. Edward P. Williams, 4565 Drake Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45243, or Mrs. Thomas W. Mooney, 2495 West Rookwood Court, Cincinnati, Ohio 45208.

Preserving Folkways

Several new activities designed to document and preserve mountain folkways have been announced by the Appalachian Consortium, a group of colleges and other agencies concerned with the cultural heritage of the Appalachian South. The programs include:

a) an Appalachian art exposition (Appalachian Expo), which the sponsors hope will receive entries from everyone from preschoolers to retired persons and which will award cash prizes for selected works;

b) an exhibition of mountain artifacts drawn from the 5,000-item collection recently acquired by the Blue Ridge Parkway;

c) a feature column, "Folkways and Folk Speech," which is scheduled to be available immediately to news media in the region and which will draw on contributions from readers (ballads, games, proverbs, dialect, ancient words, remedies, folklore, customs).

Members of the consortium are Appalachian State University, East Tennessee State University, Mars Hill College and Western Carolina University. Cooperating



Mummers' Play at Country Dance School . . . see page 3

agencies include the Blue Ridge Parkway, the U.S. Forest Service, the First Tennessee-Virginia Development District and the Mountain Scenic Economic Development District. Further information is available from any of the members.

Highlander Marks 40th Year

The history of Tennessee's Highlander Research and Education Center has been one of turbulence, but in spite of all the ups and downs the center recently celebrated its 40th year of activity concerned with social change.

Highlight of the year was the move to a new homesite on a farm in rural East Tennessee, where a number of buildings were constructed, including a residential center that accommodates 40 students.

"Because of its historical involvement with the labor movement and then the civil-rights movement," say the people at Highlander, the center "serves today as a living bridge between participants of these two movements and

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PUBLISHING BOOM

Which of the following is a new magazine about Appalachia?

- a) Journal,
b) Heritage, c) Notes, d) all three

If your answer was *d*), you can stay in the region. 'Tis indeed the season for Appalachian magazines. Either by remarkable coincidence or by the working of some historical necessity, three new publications—all with academic backing—are making an almost simultaneous appearance. Yet, though each has strong connections with a college or a university (or more than one), there are some important differences in aims and emphasis and in what might be called the degree of desired scholarlyness.

First off the press is the *Appalachian Journal*, scheduled to be published in the spring and fall of each year at Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C. The purview, say the editors, is total: "The *Appalachian Journal* will publish materials dealing with the whole of the Appalachian region." This range includes articles (anthropology, folklore, history, geography, economics, education, politics, sociology, ecology), poetry, short fiction, graphic art, even photo essays. The aim is "to present a three-dimensional study of this mountainous land in a two-dimensional medium." And the editors say that "although the *Journal* seeks scholarly contributions dealing with the Appalachian region, articles from amateur and nonscholarly sources will be considered if the material is fresh and informative."

The first issue includes several articles (Cratis Williams, Robert Coles and Jesse Stuart are among the contributors), a short story and a portion of an unpublished manuscript by William Gilmore Simms.

Subscription to the *Journal* for four issues (two years) is \$8.00. Manuscripts submitted should be typed (double- or triple-spaced). For both subscribers and contributors, the address is *Appalachian Journal*, Box 536, Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C. 28607.

No. 2 in the field, scheduled for January publication, is *Appalachian Heritage*, a quarterly published at Alice Lloyd College in Kentucky with the support of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. "The people of Appalachia have been analyzed and abstracted to death," say the editors of *Heritage*. Their aim, perhaps in reaction to this state of affairs, is quite different: "to present them—or let them present themselves—as individual and human." This will be achieved by "drawing from the wealth of oral and written literature (both old and new); by accounts of Appalachian doings; by profiles, interviews, sketches, pictures; by commentary and focusing essays. The magazine has no intention of being revolutionary or polemic in any unusual sense." Instead, the emphasis is indeed humanistic: "Most treatments of problems and issues will appear as they are inherent in, and relevant to, the material of story, sketch, poem."

The first issue has a short story by David Madden, a number of poems, a verse play, some sketches and interviews (including a visit with James Still), and other features. Since, by agreement with NEH, the magazine is supposed to become essentially self-supporting within three years, the publishers welcome donors as well as subscribers. Subscription rate is \$5 a year (a single copy is \$1.50). All correspondence should be addressed to Albert Stewart, Editor, *Appalachian Heritage*, Alice

Lloyd College, Box 132, Pippa Passes, Ky. 41844.

The third new Appalachian publication is *Appalachian Notes*, to be edited by faculty members at Berea College and the University of Kentucky and published by the Erasmus Press of Lexington, Ky. Described as "a new scholarly journal on all aspects of the culture of Appalachia," *Notes* is being readied for expected spring publication.

The editors suggest that *Appalachian Notes* will provide an outlet for short articles on the culture of Appalachia that might provide basic sources for longer studies. And, since "there is no journal that has a review section dedicated to critical analyses of current scholarly monographs on the region, and no journal that provides a selective, annotated list of the most significant current monographs," *Appalachian Notes* will perform these services.

The journal will appear quarterly, with 16 pages an issue. Richard Drake of Berea College is the editor. Thomas Ford of the University of Kentucky will serve as editor for the behavioral sciences, and Lawrence S. Thompson, also of UK, will serve as editor for literary history and criticism, folklore and book reviews. Notes or articles (up to 3,000 words) in any of these fields will be considered by the editors; all manuscripts should be typed doubled-spaced. Editorial correspondence should be sent to Professor Richard Drake, Berea College, Berea, Ky. 40403. Persons wishing to subscribe (the rate for the U.S. and Canada is \$5.00 a year) should write to Erasmus Press, 225 Culpepper, Lexington, Ky. 40502.

New Newsletter, Too

The Appalachian publishing renaissance isn't confined to weighty magazines like those mentioned in the preceding story. Also joining the lineup is a new newsletter from the University of Tennessee's Appalachian Resources Project.

Among the items of interest in the first newsletter is the report that Granada International Television, a British company, has produced a program called "Stripping of Appalachia," dealing with the mining operations of the American Association, a London-based firm with large land holdings in East Tennessee. The Appalachian Resources Project hopes to acquire the tape for showing at UT. If you want to know how they've gone about it (or would like to receive the newsletter), write the ARP at 351 South Stadium, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn. 37916.

Berea: Endowed Professorships

Thanks to the gift of an Appalachian native, Berea College has established four new endowed professorships. The donor is Foster G. McGaw, founder of the American Hospital Supply Corporation, and the chairs reflect the personal interests of the McGaw family. They are the Foster G. McGaw Professorship in Nursing; the Carter G. Woodson Professorship in Negro History, named for the distinguished Berea alumnus who was a pioneer in the field; the Francis Alexander McGaw Professorship in Religion, named for McGaw's father, who established Sunday schools throughout Appalachia and became a missionary to Africa at the age of 82, and the Mary W. McGaw Professorship in Music.

The presentation was made by Berea College Trustee Karl D. Bays, president of the American Hospital Supply Corporation and a native of Harlan County, Ky.



Floyd and Edna Ritchie Baker play on their "sweetheart" dulcimer (above). Evening party is in full swing.



Brunner Studio photos

Dance School Is Winter Festival

One of the holiday traditions at Berea College is the Christmas Country Dance School, held each year during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. This season's installment (the 34th) was a booming success, with 220 persons registered from 32 states. The school, which is jointly sponsored by Berea and the Country Dance and Song Society of America, is directed by Miss Ethel Capps of the Berea faculty and is designed primarily for teachers and recreation leaders.

Dancing is a prominent feature of the program, of course, but it isn't the only attraction. Besides instruction in English, Danish and Appalachian traditional dances and methods of teaching dancing, classes were offered in guitar, dulcimer and recorder; wood carving; mummies' play; folk singing; storytelling; puppetry, and techniques of collecting and organizing folk materials.



On hand was the McLain Family Band (above). Loyal Jones gives pointers on woodcarving (r.), and Rosemary McLain Stovall teaches guitar for folk singing.



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Appalachian people who are presently trying to build a new movement for social change."

Activities during the year included workshops on such Appalachian public issues as strip mining, welfare rights, black lung and land reform, and on such specialized topics as the use of music for social change and the poetry of social protest.

One of the strip-mining activities was a workshop that examined the Tennessee Valley Authority's mining policies (TVA is a mammoth user of strip-mined coal). The meeting had an unusual touch. "Highlander staff people," says a Highlander report, "contacted TVA officials and asked that they participate in the workshop. Although TVA chairman Aubrey Wagner refused to meet with the East Kentuckians, the TVA Director of Reclamation agreed to take part, with his staff, in a day-long session on TVA policies."

This session, the report observes, "provided a great deal of discussion and served as background material for two days of heated discussion." Heated? One can believe that's an understatement.

Address of the Highlander Center is Box 245A, R.F.D. 3, New Market, Tenn. 3780.

Materials from CORA

The commission on Religion in Appalachia makes available a variety of educational materials on Appalachian problems and development efforts, including a film, a filmstrip and several books and reprints of important articles. An order sheet is available. Write CORA, 864 Weisgarber Road, Knoxville, Tenn. 37919.

Coordination--the Fair Vision

The achievement of coordination among programs has, for some years now, been the shimmering dream of bureaucrats and poverty warriors, not least those concerned with Appalachia. But coordination, though enticing, has always turned out to be a tease, better in the planning stages than when it's time for performance. Perhaps this is not surprising.

Those who would pursue coordination, however, are seldom downcast for long, and if they give way to discouragement, others come forward to take their places. The latest entrants in the gallant pursuit come from Knoxville, Tenn., and Blacksburg, Va. From the University of Tennessee's Appalachian Resources Project, Dr. F. Schmidt-Bleek writes that "judging from our experiences . . . it is quite impossible to find up-to-date personnel inventories of current interests and activities related to Appalachian problems and opportunities. The Appalachian Resources Project . . . has recently issued

such a catalog of faculty at UTK in computerized form which proves to be highly successful, both for internal campus purposes and for our outside connections. We feel that it is feasible and that it may be desirable to extend this effort to a regional basis." Computerization--that certainly sounds like a promising technique to employ in the chase. Still . . .

The Appalachian Student Committee at V.P.I., Blacksburg, Va., has a more traditional approach. They are, they say, "compiling a directory of Appalachian organizations and resource people," because "there are many individuals and groups doing work in the mountains and in many cases they are not aware of what other people and groups are doing." The hope is that the directory "will help in getting people and organizations working together." That sounds a bit ambiguous, but certainly the aim is clear--and, in fact, the directory may already be assembled. In any case, you might want to find out more about it; the address is Box 622, Blacksburg.

One hopes, of course, that Dr. Schmidt-Bleek's computers have heard of this enterprise, and, further, that the good people of Blacksburg have included the Knoxville project in their directory. If neither of these is the case, let us be the first to coordinate. It's something you ought to do whenever you can.

EYE on Publications

The variety of books spotted by this winter's roving eye suggests that Appalachia, like life itself, is an infinite subject. For example:

Only a Miner, by Archie Green (University of Illinois Press). Subtitled "Studies in Recorded Coal-Mining Songs," the book is "intended as a statement on sound recordings as cultural documents and communicative devices." It's a notably thorough piece of work; those who know the field seem to regard it as definitive.

Elites and Change in the Kentucky Mountains, by H. Dudley Plunkett and Mary Jean Bowman (University Press of Kentucky). The authors investigate the ways in which small-town mountain people, particularly community leaders, respond to the encroachment of modern, organized America. Dudley Plunkett, who teaches at the University of Southampton (England), carried on researches in Appalachia while studying with Mary Jean Bowman at the University of Chicago.

A Continuous Harmony, by Wendell Berry (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich). These essays blend the author's "cultural" and "agricultural" concerns. One of our problems, he says, is that we fail to see that we "do not live *on* the earth, but with and within its life."

Divine Right's Trip, by Gurney Norman (Dial Press and Bantam Books). First published in the *Last Whole Earth Catalog*, this mod tale brings a young wanderer home to the mountains and thus to his true inner self.

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