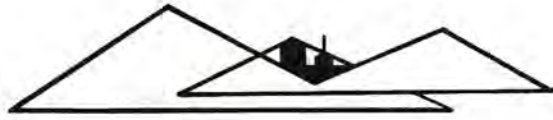


NEWS

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LETTER

APPALACHIAN CENTER
BEREA COLLEGE

Loyal Jones • Thomas Parrish, Co-Editors

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Lawyers For The Land, Petitioners For The Poor

Increasingly, judges and reclamation officials in West Virginia and Kentucky are reading petitions filed by lawyers from APPALRED -- the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund, Inc., headquartered in Charleston. Much of the organization's effort is devoted to litigation in connection with strip-mining and other environmental abuses.

But activities are not limited to ecological and related problems. APPALRED, which receives both governmental and private funding, functions as a broad-gauge public defender and legal agent for the poor. Clients include sick persons denied admission to hospitals because they could not pay various deposits, consumers who are the victims of discriminatory utility rates, retail customers swindled in defiance of the Federal Truth-in-Lending Act.

APPALRED's chief current challenge, however, is probably Kentucky's famous broad-form deed, which has survived legal assaults throughout the century. The broad-form deed, which denies the surface owner any say in the mining conducted on his land, is held by conservationists to be responsible for much of the environmental damage connected with strip mining.

APPALRED's principal Federal funding comes from the Office of Economic Opportunity Legal Services Program. The Field Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and others give private support. The agency also welcomes individual contributions.

As a public-interest law firm, APPALRED was chartered by West Virginia in December 1969. Offices are maintained in Charleston and in Prestonburg, Ky., and Lexington, Ky. The director is Paul J. Kaufman, and the executive-office address is 1116-B Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, W. Va. 25301.

"Wilderness Road" Returns

On June 29, Berea College's outdoor drama first staged in 1955 (it ran through 1958) will reopen at the college's Indian Fort Theater.

A play about the Civil War in divided Kentucky, *Wilderness Road* was first produced for the centennial

"APPALACHIA'S CHILDREN" WINS WEATHERFORD AWARD

Appalachia's Children, a book by David H. Loeff, M. D., based on his clinical experiences in Eastern Kentucky, has been announced as the winner of Berea College's second annual W. D. Weatherford Award. Dr. Loeff is associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Kentucky Medical Center, and is a teaching consultant at the Rollman Institute in Cincinnati. The book is published by the University Press of Kentucky.

The award, given jointly by Berea College's Appalachian Center and the Hutchins Library, was established to honor the work published each year that "best illustrates the problems, personalities and unique qualities of the Appalachian South." In addition to having literary merit and intellectual depth, the winning work must impress the judges as having a clear and strong impact on readers. The award for 1970 went to Ben A. Franklin of the New York *Times* for his coverage of mining problems in Appalachia.

Appalachia's Children is this year's winner out of a distinguished and varied field of some thirty nominated works.

celebration of Berea College and was acclaimed as author Paul Green's finest outdoor drama.

For this revival, the author has made extensive revisions in the script, to take into account new awarenesses on the part of audiences of the 1970s. The production is under the supervision of George Mallonee, and the director is Jay Huguely. The play will run through September 4.

Appalachian Culture At Illinois

Students at the University of Illinois (Urbana) are being introduced to Appalachian culture and problems through a course inaugurated this spring semester. Besides giving the standard overview of the region, says Dr. David E. Whisnant, the course director, the class takes a developmental approach and "raises the problem of finding alternative, nonexploitative development strategies."

Outreach Programs: BERA STUDENTS HAVE CHOICE OF FOUR

An elderly man writes a brief note to tell his wife that he's going out for a while and will be back soon. Nothing unusual or significant -- except that it's the first note, of any kind, that he's ever written in his life.

The phone rings in the office of a Berea College program that has nothing to do, at least officially, with medicine and health. The woman on the line says, "What do you do for female trouble?"

A young man in a state mental hospital looks forward to the afternoon because today is the day that friends come in to talk and play cards with him.

These events are typical happenings in the lives of four Berea College outreach programs involving students. Because all students at Berea work at least ten hours a week under the basic student-aid program, students and the college are constantly interested in developing programs through which students may contribute to individuals and communities in the Berea area. The programs also attract students who wish to give time as volunteers in addition to their regular labor assignments. Each of the programs allows students to share their talents with persons in need and at the same time to apply classroom learning in an immediate and practical way.

Mental-Health Program

Students involved in the Mental Health Program work with children and adults from neighboring Rockcastle and Jackson counties (Ky.). The work consists of helping the people, primarily children, enrolled in the Mental Health Program overcome learning disabilities and physical handicaps. Training and supervision for the work are provided by the Mental Health Center in Corbin, Ky.

People Who Care

This is entirely a volunteer program. It was established in 1971 to give students interested in mental health the chance to assist in mental-health programs. Originally established as an affiliate of Kentucky Mental Health Teens Who Care, a high school program, Berea's program has been broadened to utilize the skills of college students.

The Berea programs have more than one hundred members. This year's two chief activities are weekly visits of volunteers to the School of Hope in Berea to work with the retarded children enrolled there and visits to Eastern State Hospital, Lexington, where the volunteers participate in recreational and other activities for disturbed patients.

STABLE (Student-Taught Basic Literacy Efforts)

STABLE starts with the idea that college students from low-income, rural homes can and do form effective teaching relationships with adults from a similar background. Now involved in four counties surrounding Berea, STABLE also demonstrates that special teaching materials can be developed for the particular kind of adults who are participating in the

program and also that these materials are more effective than already existing methods of teaching literacy. Thirty-three college students work for STABLE, teaching basic literacy skills to more than one hundred seventy-five adults. STABLE teachers aim at moving their advanced pupils into established adult basic-education programs in their counties, and they give assistance to the regular A. B. E. teachers. STABLE is supported by grants from the U. S. Office of Education as well as by Berea College funds.

Students for Appalachia (SFA)

This program, involving 30 students, was described recently by one of these students, Judi Unthank; "Students for Appalachia is not only a program, it is an experience. Dealing with the human needs of the

Opinion

BUFFALO CREEK DISASTER

from the Charleston Gazette

Too frequently and too long West Virginia has served as a proving ground for catastrophe.

When the Silver Bridge fell, unsafe spans across the nation were inspected and closed.

When gases blew up the Farmington mine, Congress rushed to adopt a comprehensive, tough mine safety law.

When the Marshall University football team was wiped out, the Federal Aviation Administration changed regulations governing charter airline flights.

Doubtless there will be much talk and a flurry of action to avert another Buffalo Creek.

For a change, why can't prevention precede a West Virginia calamity?

Unless West Virginians are to continue to die, to hurt, or to watch the devastation of their property, they must rid themselves of the passive "There's nothing we can do about it" attitude.

There's plenty we can do about it, and it's high time we were doing it.

□□□□

. . . in New York, a high official of the Pittston Co., owner of the dam -- used to trap coal wastes from a nearby company mine -- called the disaster an "act of God." He said the impoundment was "incapable of holding the water which God poured into it."

□□□□

"God will not destroy people" - Alvis Davis, disabled miner who lost his home, his wife and two children in the flood.

"God didn't do this. He wouldn't do that" - Wallace Adkins, who lost his home, his wife and two children.

Berea's Appalachian Museum Gets Ready For Its Second Summer

Family entertainment.

Research.

Nostalgia

Honest curiosity.

Whatever brings you to Berea College's Appalachian Museum, you won't go away disappointed. To make yesterday's Appalachia live today, the museum draws on a collection of more than 3,500 items.

"They're arranged," says Director Harry Segedy, "in meaningful order. It's an interpretive museum -- not just open storage." In other words, the exhibits tell a story. To plan this story, Segedy -- who came to Berea in 1969 -- spent almost two years cataloging, researching and designing before the museum opened in February 1971.

Highlights of the museum include a replica of the

Student guides (here, Libby McCord) conduct visitors through exhibits





Old photos are museum highlight. This one, from Sims Collection, is of Aunt Sophia Campbell, Gatlinburg, Tenn. Below: A few examples of craftsmanship from the 3,500 items in the museum's collection

interior of a mountain cabin, complete with handmade furniture, utensils and accessories, a fireplace, and a 150-year-old rope-strung bed. Also on display is a handmade loom that is 102 years old, along with hand-forged tools used in blacksmithing, open-fire cooking, candle-making and vegetable dyeing. Visitors are invited to stitch a few patches of a quilt.

Nucleus of the museum is the Edna Lynn Simms Collection, which was formerly located at Gatlinburg, Tenn., where it was known as the Mountaineer Museum. The collection was donated to Berea in 1962, on condition that the college build a museum to house it.

Besides the Simms Collection, the museum draws on the Silas Cheevers Mason Collection. Mason, a Berea professor at the turn of the century, accumulated his specimens on field trips through Eastern Kentucky.

A third distinctive group of items consists of photographs from the Doris Ulmann Foundation Collection in the Berea College Art Department. Miss Ulmann's Appalachian photographs, famed among students of the art, were made on journeys through the mountains about 40 years ago.



Visitors see old processes in action and get to try their own hands at quilting



Dear .

Mrs Walker Jan 10/20/71
Pleased for the teachers
to come. I have learned but since they
first come for instance I couldn't say my
a B C's when they first come I hope the
teachers keep coming I can learn for
example.
I will do an arithmetic problem for you

$$\begin{array}{r} 459 \\ -125 \\ \hline 334 \end{array}$$

**Above: Literacy student proudly shows progress
Right: SFA Member Kathy Henderson and friends**

people living in eight surrounding communities, we work on things like school-bus shelters, guard rails, recreation, welfare rights, legal aid, art classes, swimming programs, tutoring programs, pot-luck suppers, musical programs, crafts and housing improvement or relocations, in some cases. We find outlets for their handicrafts whether they be cedar chests, quilts or paintings. We serve as counselors to people more than twice our age in matters that are personal.

"Our nursing staff instructs in birth control, household management, dental hygiene and cleanliness. We tutor mentally retarded children. We utilize the Council of the Southern Mountains for vitamins for our people. We work with Job Corps and Upward Bound to help young people find a road to success through education. We work with local and state governments in road improvement. We conduct used-clothing sales, working on the principle that people would rather buy clothing, cheap, than to accept handouts. Our projects are not always successful; but our jobs are based on the fact that if communities need improvements, whether it be getting rid of a bad school-bus driver or petitioning for guard rails, then the ideas for that improvement should come from those people involved. We suggest, we prod and we push a whole lot, but the people carry things through usually.

"What we receive in return cannot be measured by the size of our labor checks, and we receive that which cannot be expressed without emotion. They give us the experience of acceptance; they challenge us to use every phase of our abilities; they allow us to test ourselves; and, they become personal friends."

People Who Care is organized under the Campus Christian Center. The Rev. Henry Parker, Berea campus minister, is the adviser. SFA, STABLE and the Mental Health Program are coordinated by the Appalachian Center. Ernest Walker is the director of STABLE. Dan Armstrong, Assistant Professor of Sociology, is director of SFA and the Mental Health Project. Dr.



Fred deRosset

John Yatros of the Corbin Mental Health-Mental Retardation Center is the field supervisor of the Mental Health Program.

Outreach: ALCOR Builds Bridges

During the 1960s, student outreach programs became standard features of Appalachian colleges, as much a part of the campus scene as the library and the cafeteria. But the programs have varied widely, in theory, in aim, in the people who participate in them.

In 1969, Alice Lloyd College (Pippa Passes, Ky.) launched its own endeavor, ALCOR -- for Appalachian Leaders and Community Outreach. It's a program with some distinctive features, and it has grown into a consortium including all six institutions of higher learning in the 15 southeasternmost counties of Kentucky.

The essence of the program, say officials, is the way in which it delivers essential services to people in need (the people who are the objects of all such outreach programs). In ALCOR, a student works in the particular hollow of which he or she is a native. Students are thus immune to the charge of being "outsiders" and, with relative ease, are able to serve as bridges (a key ALCOR word) between hollow dwellers and persons who have services to offer.

The idea, the officials say, is not that the students

themselves provide the essential services but that they smooth the way for the agencies that previously had made no impact on the hollows. ALCOR staff members stress the point that their program does not duplicate the efforts of existing agencies and is not in competition with them.

The ALCOR operation in a hollow begins with the children -- an arts and crafts demonstration or a recreational program. Then, as things begin to move, books appear, a casual reading workshop gets going, and the ALCOR activity -- often conducted in a one-room school -- grows into a day-care center. As a volunteer expresses it, "You get to the parents through the kids."

ALCOR students themselves find that their experiences constitute valuable field work and also provide them with income to apply to the costs of their own education. Information about the program is available from ALCOR, Inc., Pippa Passes, Ky. 41844.

Special Offer

From Addington To Zugsmith

How many novels and books of stories by Appalachian writers or with Appalachian backgrounds have been written since the 1830s? Thousands, no doubt -- many of which have disappeared without a trace.

But many remain, and Berea College's Weatherford-Hammond Mountain Collection includes a record number of them -- 924 fiction titles, the authors ranging alphabetically from Addington (L. F.) to Zugsmith (Leane). One hundred sixty-four of these books have been added to the fiction collection since 1970, when other libraries were already calling it a unique contribution to regional literature.

If you haven't received a copy of the new 1972 list (which gives complete bibliographical information) and would like one or more, send 25 cents for each to Fiction List, Appalachian Center, Berea College, C.P.O. Box 2336, Berea, Kentucky 40403.

(The fiction collection, it should be pointed out, is only one portion of the Weatherford-Hammond Mountain Collection, which includes more than 6,000 volumes and special archives of all kinds.)

EYE On Publications

As we explained in our first issue (Winter 1972), the CENTER NEWSLETTER intends to keep as perceptive an eye as possible on books and articles of Appa-

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lachian significance and to call attention to some of the most striking or interesting ones here. And we remind you that if you like a book and think it of importance, please tell us about it. Our own roving eye just might have missed it.

What it does single out as we assemble this issue are three books:

Appalachia in the Sixties, edited by David S. Walls and John B. Stephenson (University Press of Kentucky). The latest rediscovery of Appalachia, the coming of the War on Poverty, the growth of citizen action -- all these phenomena and many more are delineated in this anthology of "mostly frontline" reports and observations from magazines and newspapers.

Coaltown Revisited: An Appalachian Notebook, by Bill Peterson (Regnery). A Louisville *Courier-Journal* reporter reminds us of the failure of people and programs in the coal belt. A familiar theme, but vividly presented.

The Foxfire Book, edited by Eliot Wigginton (Doubleday). What can we say about *Foxfire* except that if you're interested in Appalachian culture, folkways and the like and don't know this truly unique magazine (produced at Rabun Gap - Nacoochee School in Georgia), you oughtn't to lose any time getting hold of this book of selections from it? You have a choice of hard- and soft-cover versions. You oughtn't to lose any time subscribing to *Foxfire*, either.

Something else you might want to do, as we mentioned in our previous issue, is subscribe to *Appalachian Outlook*, published monthly by the West Virginia University Library, Morgantown (\$3.00 a year). It's a comprehensive listing of publications having to do with Appalachia.

Once More: From You To Us

The APPALACHIAN CENTER NEWSLETTER is designed to bring you news and comment about the Appalachian South. In our first issue we pointed out that we need to receive news and comment *from* you in order to have news and comment to present *to* you.

Well, your reaction was most gratifying. You're responsible for much of the news in this issue. So now we say: Keep the news coming in. You're bound to have an activity, a program or an event that you'd like to tell NEWSLETTER readers about. And if you haven't yet put us on your mailing list, please do.

The Editors

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