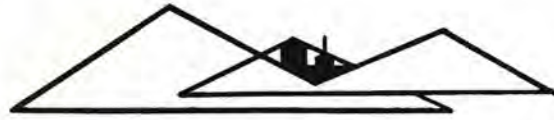


NEWS

LETTER



APPALACHIAN CENTER
BEREA COLLEGE

Loyal Jones • Thomas Parrish, Co-Editors

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Pine Mountain Opens Environmental Center

QUESTION: "What is your environment?"

ANSWER: "My environment is made of water, buildings, mountains and some good people."

That exchange took place between an elementary-school child and a question list given him to answer after a two-day visit to Pine Mountain (Ky.) Settlement School for a course called Environmental Education.

Among the other questions: "What did you not like about your visit?" Answer from another child: "How do you spell nothing?"

Responses like these make Director Burton Rogers and his Pine Mountain associates feel that their new Environmental Educational Center is off to a good start.

More than two years ago it became evident that Pine Mountain's program of co-operation with the local school system would no longer be needed, because a new school was to be built nearby. What ought to become of Pine Mountain, with its plain but ample facilities and its idyllic location? Last year the trustees voted to turn to a new emphasis. After all, Rogers points out, "we live in an area where on all sides strip mining and bad forestry practices are fast reducing beautiful green mountains to desert and thoroughly, enabled by increased technological skill, we are destroying America more quickly than any of the great empires of the past were able to destroy their forested watersheds—the source of the health and wealth of their lands."

Therefore, he says, "realizing that very little is being done in this field of education in Kentucky, we decided we would like to put what we had into environmental education."

The plan went into operation this past spring (the first group arrived for a two-day visit on March 29), and already about three hundred children, teachers and adult assistants have participated. They have come from schools in four different mountain counties, with Pine Mountain meeting all costs except transportation "under a sort of free introductory offer."

Groups can choose their own activities from a list including half-day or whole-day lessons in man and water; cave exploration; introduction to soil; weather; natural history of the valley; astronomy; stream and pond ecology; "sensory" hikes, and natural succession. Crafts, music, recreation and other pursuits are included in the program.

Priority is given to surrounding counties in Kentucky, but there is room for an occasional group from outside the mountains. Full information can be obtained from Pine Mountain Settlement School, Pine Mountain, Ky. 40864.

Weatherford Award Presented to Looff

The second annual W.D. Weatherford Award for outstanding writing about Appalachia was presented April 25 to David H. Looff, M.D., associate professor of child psychiatry at the University of Kentucky Medical Center. As announced in the Spring 1972 NEWSLETTER, Dr. Looff was chosen for his book *Appalachia's Children* (published by the University Press of Kentucky) which was drawn from his clinical experiences with the particular problems and strengths that characterize mountain children. The ceremony was held in Berea.

The Weatherford Award, a cash prize of \$500, is made possible by A.H. Perrin of Berea and is sponsored



Dr. David H. Looff (left) is winner of the 1971 W.D. Weatherford Award. With the winner are Thomas Parrish, chairman of the selection committee, and A.H. Perrin, donor of the award.

jointly by the Appalachian Center and the Hutchins Library at Berea College. The award honors the achievements of the late W.D. Weatherford, Sr., a long-time pioneer in Appalachian development, youth work and race relations. He served as a trustee of Berea College for 50 years. He died in 1970 at the age of 94.

The award was presented to Dr. Looff at a luncheon at which the speakers were playwright Paul Green, author of *Wilderness Road* — the outdoor drama sponsored by Berea College — and James S. Brown, professor of rural sociology and of sociology at the University of Kentucky and member of the award committee.

Works considered for the Weatherford Award include
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CONFERENCE AT CUMBERLAND GAP: *On June 17, some 500 strip-mining opponents (and a visiting delegation of coal men) came together at the National Conference on Strip Mining, called by Oklahoma Sen. Fred Harris. Conferees adopted a proposed plank for the Democratic and Republican platforms. It calls for the*

banning of "strip mining of all minerals nationwide and the absolute and complete restoration of land already stripped." Among those on hand were West Virginia Rep. Ken Hechler (top r.), Harris (l., seated with Hechler) and an unidentified onlooker (lower r.). Harris is the organizer of a "new populist" movement.

Strip-Mining Primer

What do we mean by "strip mining"? To many, the term conjures up a mental picture in which a few inches, or at most a few feet, of topsoil and rock (called "overburden") are taken off of a coal seam, and coal then removed. Although this is sometimes the case, very frequently it is not. In some current strip-mining operations, the overburden removed is nearly 200 feet deep, and new mining technology may soon make it possible to scoop off as much as 2,000 feet. This kind of "progress" makes the environmental damage more serious and harder to solve.

Another confusion in the public mind is between "strip mining" and "surface mining." Many people believe that the two terms are synonymous, and that which of the two you choose depends on whether you approve of this method of extracting coal (in which case you call it "surface mining").

But this is not the case; the two terms are not synonymous. Surface mining is the broader term, and strip mining is only one type of surface mining, just as roasting is only one method of cooking meat. Technically speaking, surface mining is any kind of mining in which topsoil, rock and other strata are removed in order to get at underlying mineral or fuel deposits; the

distinguishing characteristic of strip mining is that this removal is done a narrow band at a time.

Contour strip mining is most commonly practiced where deposits occur in rolling or mountainous country. Basically, this method consists of removing the overburden above the bed by starting at the outcrop and proceeding along the hillside. After the deposit is exposed and removed by this first cut, additional cuts are made until the ratio of overburden to product brings the operation to a halt. This type of mining creates a shelf, or "bench," on the hillside. On the inside it is bordered by the highwall, which may range from a few to perhaps more than 100 feet in height, and on the opposite, or outer, side by a rim below which there is frequently a precipitous downslope that has been covered by spoil material cast down the hillside. Unless controlled or stabilized, this spoil material can cause severe erosion and landslides. Contour mining is practiced widely in the coal fields of Appalachia and western phosphate mining regions because of the generally rugged topography. "Rimcutting" and "benching" are terms that are sometimes used locally to identify workbenches, or ledges, prepared for contour or auger mining operations.

Auger mining is usually associated with contour strip mining. In coal fields, it is most commonly practiced to



THE PRESENTATION: Dr. Looff receives the Weatherford Award from James S. Brown. Others, from left: donor A.H. Perrin; Wilma Dykeman, novelist and biographer; Louis Iglehart, director of the University of Tennessee Press; President Willis Weatherford, Jr., of Berea College; Parrish. The latter four are members of the selection committee. Absent judges were Terry Sanford, president of Duke University, and Robert F. Munn, director of libraries at West Virginia University.

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newspaper and magazine articles and series, stories and poetry, as well as complete books, both fiction and nonfiction. The rules state that the winning work shall be the one 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. A series of articles on mining problems in Appalachia won the 1970 award for Ben A. Franklin of the *New York Times*.

Entries in the 1971 competition included seven other nonfiction books in addition to *Appalachia's Children*; three novels; one children's book; five poems and collections of verse; seven articles or series of articles; one play; one book of songs, and two short stories.

Entries are now being received for the 1972 competition, which is open to works published during the calendar year 1972. The winner will be announced in the spring of 1973. Reprints and unpublished manuscripts are not eligible for the award, the latter because impact on readers is one of the criteria used by the judges.

recover additional tonnages after the coal-overburden ratio has become such as to render further contour mining uneconomical. Augers are also used to extract coal near the outcrop that could not be recovered safely by earlier underground mining efforts. As the name implies, augering is a method of producing coal by boring horizontally into the seam, much as the carpenter bores a hole in wood. The coal is extracted in the same manner that shavings are produced by the carpenter's bit. ***

Source: *Appalachia*, A Journal of the Appalachian Regional Commission, February - March 1972

Manpower: Oak Ridge

Officials of the Training and Technology Program of the Oak Ridge (Tenn.) Associated Universities are putting together a final report -- with data on the graduates -- on their two-year manpower training program. The program, which operated 1969 - 71, recruited and trained more than 150 disadvantaged Appalachian residents of 35 counties in Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia.

Funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission, the program was designed to find out 1) what manpower services would be necessary to prepare poor rural Appalachian people for skilled and technical jobs (largely for industry within the region) and 2) whether industrial and educational resources in the region could be combined into a practical vocational-training approach. Making the program work required the development and maintenance of a complex web of relationships among agencies of all kinds -- Federal, regional, state, educational, community action, labor and others.

ARC's investment of less than a half-million dollars over two years, say project officials, led to the creation of more than \$1 million annually in personal and family income for persons who previously were unemployed or had unskilled subsistence jobs. The forthcoming report should tell just how well the graduates are doing now. More information about the program can be obtained from Wendell H. Russell, Director, Manpower Experimentation Program, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, Inc. P.O. Box 177, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830.

Appalachia Over the Rhine

Entertainment combined with serious discussion to make Cincinnati's 1972 Appalachian Week an all-around look at the culture that mountain migrants bring to the Queen City.

Heart of the week (April 16-22) was the Appalachian Festival, featuring the work of 50 craft groups from Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland and Georgia. Cincinnati residents of Appalachian origin also sponsored a "Down Home Day," a picnic with gospel singing, sack races and other assorted fun. Another highlight of the week was a bluegrass concert by Lester Flatt and the Nashville Grass.

On the explicitly sociological side, events included a conference on Appalachians in an Urban Environment (with guest participants Loyal Jones, director of Berea's Appalachian Center, and David Loeff, winner of the 1971 W.D. Weatherford Award), and a talk by Herbert G. Birch on the book *Disadvantaged Children* (of which he is co-author), a study of the relationship of nutrition and performance in school.

Publications from Pikeville

Leonard Roberts, director of the Appalachian Studies Center at Pikeville College (Ky.), announces the publication of *Selected Poetry and Prose of John T. Napier*, edited by David Rubin. Napier, a poet who taught in Kentucky some years ago, died in 1965. He wrote serious criticism as well as lyrics and verse drama.

Fans of Roberts' own books of folktales will be glad to hear that new printings are available of *I Bought Me a Dog* and *South from Hell-fer-Sartin*. Publications may be ordered from Appalachian Studies Center, Pikeville College, Pikeville, Ky. 41501.

Family Planning

The Mountain Maternal Health League (Berea, Ky.) announces the publication of a 32-page illustrated book *Birth Control: How to Plan Your Family*. Anyone wanting an examination copy may obtain one by writing Mountain Maternal Health League, Municipal Building, Berea, Ky. 40403.

Dollars for Beauty

Want to restore a local landmark, organize a town festival, develop a community conservation center? If so, you might be eligible for some help from the "America the Beautiful Fund." Available to club, school

and civic organizations are seed grants of up to \$1,000 to preserve or develop "Americana," any community project that beautifies the environment or restores cultural or historical traditions. The program is known as "Rediscover America" and it is seeking project proposals from community groups or institutions.

For further information, write to: America the Beautiful Fund, 219 Shoreham Building, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Crafts Catalogue

Community Development Foundation announces that Appalachian Fireside Crafts, Box 276, Booneville, Ky. 41314 have a catalogue of their crafts available for 50 cents. It features a full page of craft products, which are made by 130 families. Community Development Foundation supplies organization and marketing help.

Community Consultants

Describing itself as a "consulting group whose purpose is to provide free help to poor and working people's organizations in the southern mountains," Cut Cane Associates of Mineral Bluff, Ga., announces its readiness to work with community-development groups.

Cut Cane's outlook is most readily summed up as "struggle oriented." The kind of help they offer includes: "1) developing strategies and tactics for power struggles; 2) researching local power structures; 3) fund-raising from foundations and churches; 4) public relations and communications; 5) conducting training workshops for organizers; 6) demonstrating music as a tool in organizing."

In order to make it financially possible to provide this free help, says Cut Cane Associates, the group does consulting for government agencies, universities and other organizations.

Cut Cane Associates may be contacted through P.O. Box 98, Mineral Bluff, Ga. 30559. The telephone number is 404/374-6611.

Center Invites Sponsors

In February, Dr. Boyd Carter, professor of romance languages at the University of Missouri (and a native of Dickenson County, Virginia) sent us a check with these words: "I enjoyed your newsletter. The \$25.00 is a gift to it and your program. Why don't you set up a list of sponsors and supporters . . . ?" Well, why not? Our funds are limited and we have many more ideas than we put to work. So, if you would like to become a sponsor or a supporter of the Appalachian Center we welcome you. Your contribution may be in any amount you can afford.

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