

NEWS

LETTER



APPALACHIAN CENTER
BEREA COLLEGE

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Looking Forward

Appalachian State University has issued a call for papers for the fourth symposium on the Ulster-American heritage, "The Scotch-Irish in Ulster and North America," sponsored by ASU and the New University of Ulster in conjunction with Western Carolina University and the University of North Carolina at Asheville. Proposals and ideas are invited. The symposium itself is not till next summer, but the deadline for proposals is January 15, 1982. Full information is available from the Chairman, Department of History, Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C. 28608.

Appalachia: Alternative Futures—Past and Present is the theme of the next Appalachian Studies Conference, March 26-28, 1982. Virginia Tech will be host for the meeting at its Donaldson Brown Conference Center.

During the week of June 20-26, 1982, Morehead State University will be the site of the Appalachian Celebration. You can find out more from the Appalachian Development Center, MSU, Morehead, Ky. 40351.

An important date at Berea is June 25, 1982, when the Appalachian Fund and the Berea College Appalachian Center are joint hosts to the third annual Conference on Private Efforts in Appalachia. Write to the address on the outside of the NEWSLETTER.

ARC, Goodnight

During the past year we've been paying attention in these pages to the adventures of the Appalachian Regional Commission, as it strove to avoid a hasty death at the hands of the budget ax-wielders. The commission is still alive (though it has drawn up its own slow-death program), but in recent action the executive director was openly fired and the federal cochairman, Al Smith of Kentucky, dutifully submitted his resignation. Smith may officially keep the job until President Reagan has named a successor and the Senate has approved him.

The executive director, Henry Krevor, did not go gentle into that bureaucratic good night, saying bluntly that he believed the decision to be wrong and that the commission had made a "serious mistake," but, he

added, he would not say anything that violated his "love of ARC and the region or the chance of ARC to survive." Francis Moravitz, the deputy director, was appointed ARC's acting executive director.

At the same meeting the ARC member states approved the basic plan for the finish-up program drawn up in response to Congressional orders. If you're looking for a growth opportunity in today's Washington, ARC wouldn't seem to be it.

"The Mining Life"

An unprecedented exhibition that could well have been called "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Coal Mining and Didn't Know Whom to Ask" is just concluding a three-month run in Charleston, W.Va. But that's only the beginning. It reopens on January 24 at the Huntington Galleries, where it will stay till the end of May. During the summer you can see it at the Oglebay Institute Mansion Museum near Wheeling.

Called in fact "The Mining Life: Coal in our History and Culture," the 5,000-square-foot exhibition is considered the most comprehensive museum presentation ever put together on the history and procedures of coal mining in West Virginia.

You start with a walk-through coal mine from the hand-loading era and proceed to a representative depiction of early coal operators. A large section on life in the coal company town features a scale model of the town of Gary, in McDowell County. A final section reviews coal issues, from the early labor organizing attempts (here you'll see a machine gun ringed by sandbags) through black-lung campaigns and union-reform efforts, taking note along the way of mine disasters.

For information about the show, contact Carolann Griffith, Director of Information Services, Department of Culture and History, The Cultural Center, Capital Complex, Charleston, W.Va. 25303.

Solid Stuff

The Appalachian Regional Commission has compacted some solid information into a handbook that's available
to page 2

SOLID STUFF from page 1

to state and local governments. The *Solid Waste Management, Programs and Policies Manual* tells agencies how to develop an idea of what a good solid-waste program ought to be and it shows them how to make a grant request that has a chance of getting somewhere. Full information is available from John Demchak, Energy and Natural Resources Division, ARC, 1666 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20235.

Win One, Lose One

It's been a while since we reported on Appalachian Studies programs at regional colleges (see CENTER NEWSLETTER Summer 1979, Fall 1979 and Winter 1980 issues). Now two items have come to our attention. First: This fall Radford University became Virginia's first state-supported institution offering an AS program. Not surprisingly, the expressed aim is to promote understanding of the "heritage, environment and culture" of the region. Courses are available in literature, history and cultures; there are also field research courses and an interdisciplinary seminar. The

program is rounded out by a variety of extracurricular activities.

Richard Straw, a member of Radford's AS committee, has a request for NEWSLETTER readers. He's involved in a project having to do with "traditional foodways" in Appalachia, and he'd like to hear from anybody having similar interests or information about food research in the mountains. You can reach him at P.O. Box 5764, Radford University, Radford, Va. 24142. Straw came to Radford this fall from Davis and Elkins College, which has abolished the Appalachian Studies program of which he had been chairman.

Thus the box score shows West Virginia losing one AS program, Virginia gaining one. Any news from other places?

At Your Service

Librarians: If your files of *Mountain Life & Work* are incomplete, the Berea College Hutchins Library may be able to help. It has on hand extra copies of some issues between 1925 and 1970 which it will be glad to share
to page 3

People Boom

Final 1980 census figures show that the postwar Appalachian South population trend was not only halted but decisively reversed, as the accompanying table dramatically demonstrates. The population of the region rose by 17.9 percent, compared with an overall national growth of 11.4 percent. This sharp increase

resulted principally from the fact that many more people came into the region than left it; all the stories during the 1970s about the decline of outmigration and the return of many previous migrants are thus confirmed, since the Appalachian birth rate saw a decline during the decade.

**Final 1980 Census Figures
The Appalachian South and the United States**

	Population April 1, 1980	Population April 1, 1970	Percent Increase 1970-1980
United States	226,504,825	203,302,031	11.4
Congressional/ARC Appalachia	20,234,335	18,216,957	11.1
Appalachian South	11,410,702	9,681,384	17.9
Appalachian portions of states			
Alabama	2,427,024	2,137,404	13.6
Georgia	1,103,941	813,844	35.6
Kentucky	1,077,095	876,501	22.9
Maryland	220,132	209,349	5.2
North Carolina	1,217,723	1,038,956	17.2
South Carolina	791,587	656,325	20.6
Tennessee	2,073,647	1,734,503	19.6
Virginia	549,909	470,265	16.9
West Virginia (entire state)	1,949,644	1,744,237	11.8

Three Who Have Served



Winners of the 1981 Berea College service awards meet with President Willis Weatherford (left). From left: Myles Horton, founder of the Highlander Folk School, Tennessee; Sister Virginia Farrell, who directs the Hazard-Perry County, Ky., Hospice Program for the terminally ill; Dr. Charles Conn, president of Lee College, Cleveland, Tenn. The awards go to persons whose lives and work exemplify the commitments of Berea College.

AT YOUR SERVICE *from page 2*

with other collections for the cost of packaging and postage.

Researchers: Once again, we remind you of the Mellon Fellowships in Appalachian Studies, which are administered by Berea College to help you with out-of-pocket expenses—travel, lodging, supplies and the like. For a brochure and an application form, contact Loyal Jones at the Appalachian Center.

EYE on Publications

Appalachian Women: An Annotated Bibliography, by Sidney Saylor Farr (University Press of Kentucky). A round-up of more than 1,200 books, stories, articles and tapes, compiled not as a dry academic exercise but from the author's personal perspective "as a mountain woman born and raised in Eastern Kentucky." The works presented here, says Ms. Farr, show that mountain women "do seem to have some special powers and special hardships." However, she didn't play censor. Whether she agreed with the result or not, "if a work made an attempt to portray the characteristics of mountain women, it was included." The material is arranged under 13 subject headings and is topped off by an author-title-subject index. A useful book in a neat, compact package.

Dixie's Forgotten People: The South's Poor Whites, by J. Wayne Flynt (Indiana University Press). A volume in the publisher's Minorities in Modern America series. "Off and on," say the editors of the series, "outsiders have become aware of southern poor whites as a distinctive class, sometimes viewing them with disdain and derision and sometimes with sympathy and reforming zeal. This book tells us something of Dixie's forgotten

poor, of how they have seen themselves and how others have understood them, of what has been done for them and to them by the larger society." This is said to be the first extended study to focus on the group's economic plight and cultural resilience.

Fighting Mountaineers, by Edwin D. Hoffman (Houghton Mifflin). Research for this book, says the author, has "revealed a dimension of Appalachian history at some variance with the commonly accepted view. The people of Appalachia have not always been averse to working cooperatively for the common good, nor have they always been passive and despairing. In every generation some mountaineers have fought shoulder to shoulder for justice...because there was a limit to how much oppression they would tolerate." The author, who teaches history at West Virginia State College, chronicles a number of these fights, involving everybody from Cherokees in 1838 to women garment workers in North Georgia in 1967.

An Encyclopedia of East Tennessee, edited by Jim Stokely and Jeff D. Johnson (Children's Museum of Oak Ridge). In 1978 the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant in return for which it had promised to do several things, among them the production of an anthology of Appalachian materials. As time went on, the anthology idea was replaced by that of an encyclopedia, and the result is this large and attractive volume written by some 150 contributors and illustrated with scores of interesting old-time photos. Although such a work cannot claim to be definitive, says Stokely in the Introduction, "I do believe that the *Encyclopedia* is representative, demonstrative, and suggestive." One of its aims is to stimulate further work on all the kinds of topics it covers; this would appear to be a likely result.

Bloody Ground, by John F. Day (University Press of
to page 4

EYE from page 3

Kentucky). Originally published in 1941, on the eve of World War II, this account of life in Eastern Kentucky aroused great admiration and some indignation, but was soon almost forgotten as the country devoted its attention to the war. It presents a vivid picture of the immediate post-Depression coalfield country and is, as Thomas D. Clark says in a foreword, "an eloquent preface to what subsequently became a broader state and national concern about Appalachia....*Bloody Ground's* message is stark and grim." The author, then a young Lexington reporter, went on to become a vice president of CBS News and a foreign representative for Time-Life broadcasting, and is now editor and publisher of a weekly newspaper in Devonshire, England.

Like a Weaving: References and Resources on Black Appalachia, by Edward J. Cabbell (Appalachian Consortium Press). Just now coming off the press, this reference work is billed by the publishers as the "most complete bibliography to date of this 'invisible' Appalachian minority," with across-the-board information—on politics, sports, novels, labor, women, music, history, festivals. You can order it for \$4.81 (including postage and handling) from the publishers at 202 Appalachian Street, Boone, N.C. 28607.

Modernizing the Mountaineer, by David E. Whisnant (Appalachian Consortium Press). This book, originally published (or semipublished) a year or so ago in confusing circumstances by a New York house, has now been taken over by the Consortium Press. It presents the author's "analysis of missionary, planning, and development efforts" in the Appalachian region during the present century. Until now, he says, "there has been no single source one could turn to for an analytical overview of what the church missionaries, the secular 'uplift' workers, and the technocratic planners and developers have done in the region." You don't have to read much past the contents page before you see that the missionary, the planner and the developer—Whisnant's three types of "outside" intervenor—in his view may have done much for themselves but have done little for the region. Of middle-class Appalachian industrial origins himself, the author is a self-avowed disciple of Frantz Fanon

(*The Wretched of the Earth*), and he seeks to follow the Fanonian model of the middle-class intellectual putting himself at the service of the people; "the only objectivity to which I pretend," he says winningly, is "limited, conditional, and even paradoxical....I encourage readers to make whatever interpretative allowances they feel are necessary." These warnings precede an account that leaves no institutional toe unstepped-on, from the Council of the Southern Mountains to TVA to OEO—each of them falling into one or more of the three categories. Only the younger, exclusively resource-colony-model-oriented groups fare at all well, and they don't escape unscathed. How you view this book may therefore depend partly on how close any toes of yours are to the descending boot. It may also depend on the degree to which you believe that any entity can be adequately analyzed in straight Marxoid terms (one philosopher calls Marx a thinker whose time has gone). But in any case the author quotes, appropriately, the economist Robert J. Lampman: "Men are chiefly persuaded, not by the logical force of arguments, but by the disposition with which they view them."

(NOTE: The Appalachian Center does not sell books. However, if you encounter any difficulty in obtaining a title, you may order it from the Council of the Southern Mountains Bookstore, 104 Center St., Berea, Ky. 40403.)

Subscribers, Friends

In past years we've published notes suggesting that some readers of the CENTER NEWSLETTER might wish to become volunteer subscribers, and each time the note has appeared it has been followed by a heartening response, for which we're truly grateful. A look at our financial picture tells us that it's time to make the suggestion again. The contribution we suggest is \$2.00. We can certainly use it—but regardless of the response to this appeal, we'll do our best to continue to make the NEWSLETTER available to all who wish to receive it, just as we have since we first appeared ten short years ago.

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