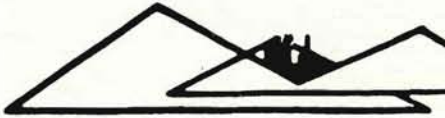


NEWS



LETTER

APPALACHIAN CENTER
BEREA COLLEGE

Loyal Jones • Thomas Parrish, Co-Editors

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Looking Forward

The Popular Culture Association and its younger brother, the American Culture Association, will hold their annual joint convention April 14-18; the meeting place is the Galt House hotel, Louisville. The number of papers to be presented is staggering, as is the variety, from Wednesday afternoon's "Illuminating the Virtuous Women: The Importance of Minor Characters in Barbara Cartland's Romances" or "Viewer Responses to *Star Wars* vs. *Empire*" to Sunday morning's "Slaughterhouse-Five as a Consolation of Irony" or "Women's Attitudes Toward Penis Size." The program, in fact, includes more than 50 pages of events listings. Some of the sessions are devoted to Appalachian subjects. We imagine you can get further information from J. Fred McDonald, Northeastern Illinois U. (for the Popular CA) and David Wright, Michigan State U. (for the American CA).

During April 13-15, Chattanooga's Hunter Museum of Art will be the scene of the ninth Southern Quilt Symposium; the sponsors say it will be packed with so much information that they're calling it "A Quilting Storehouse." Details are available from Mrs. Bets Ramsey, Box 4146, Chattanooga, Tenn. 37405.

Beginning June 14 the Berea College Appalachian Center, in cooperation with the University of Kentucky College of Education, will offer a three-week course in Appalachian literature and music. It will be taught by Wilma Dykeman and Jean Ritchie and will be worth three hours of graduate or undergraduate credit. Write Loyal Jones at the newsletter address.

Further on (June 20-26, in fact) is Morehead State University's Appalachian Celebration—a seven-day "combination of workshops, courses, exhibits, concerts, dances, lectures, and discussions that pay homage to the total Appalachian Experience." Information from James M. Gifford, Coordinator of Appalachian Studies, Appalachian Development Center, Morehead State University, Morehead, Ky. 40351.

June 28-July 9: The 1982 Appalachian Regional School for Church Leaders, West Virginia University, sponsored jointly by the Commission on Religion in Appalachia and WVU's Center for Extension and Continuing Education. For program and housing information,

write WVU Conference Office, Room 67 Towers, Morgantown, W.Va. 26506.

Ford Foundation: Rural \$

The Ford Foundation has chosen "Rural Poverty and Resources" as one of its six themes for the 1980s, says program officer Bernard McDonald. And putting its money (or some of it) where its program officer is, the foundation has allocated \$3 million over the next two years to programs designed to combat rural poverty.

The foundation will consider grant applications for projects concerned with

- enhancing nonfarm employment, particularly among women, racial and ethnic minorities and landless farmers;
- strengthening policy development for rural areas;
- increasing farm productivity, with emphasis on local conservation and management of land and water resources.

You can contact McDonald at the Ford Foundation, 320 East 43rd St., New York, N.Y. 10017.

Much Ado About "Moguls"

In December 1980 Harry Caudill, the eminent lawyer-author-conservationist-history professor, delivered a manuscript to the University Press of Kentucky. The book had, or soon acquired, the working title *Eastern Kentucky in the Age of the Moguls*. As is customary, the manuscript was sent out for reading by two anonymous experts, and some time later it was returned to the author with suggestions for changes.

So far, a routine, not very exciting story. Then, on February 1, 1982, Caudill was told, by letter, what specific alterations the Press would require in the manuscript in order for it to become worthy of publication by a scholarly consortium. One of these changes was, in concept, simple: the deletion of Chapter 9. Again, nothing procedurally unusual here, nor would the leisurely time schedule surprise anyone with a firsthand knowledge of publishing.

But on Friday, February 12, a telephone caller—as anonymous as the two expert readers of the manuscript are—rang up the Louisville *Courier-Journal's* man in Lexington and read him lengthy excerpts from *Moguls*. Chapter 9, it seemed, was studded with ringing quotes

about William B. Sturgill, a leading coal operator and chairman of the University of Kentucky board of trustees, and former Governor Bert T. Combs, now a Louisville lawyer who frequently represents coal companies. These men typify the new mountain power-brokers, said Chapter 9; they are part of a "modern combine" that "transmits its desires to governors, bureaucrats, legislators and even presidents." Combs's office, in fact, was called the "unofficial headquarters" of the combine, and the chapter further sharpens the point: "In Kentucky, in knowledgeable circles, there is an oft-heard expression: 'If Bill can't do it, call Bert.'" There was, of course, lots more.

When questioned by the CENTER NEWSLETTER about the identity of the mysterious caller, a University Press spokesman disclaimed any knowledge of the person—though he admitted to some curiosity. But no, no investigation was being made by the Press into its employees or anybody else; at least, we gathered, not officially.

Speaking of this same telephone call, Caudill terms it a "shocking breach of trust." Maybe; but the thought somehow occurs to us that the mysterious caller was concerned not with torpedoing the book but with saving Chapter 9—a sort of self-appointed ombudsman, perhaps.

Anyway, what's the embattled author going to do? Does he think Mogul Sturgill had a hand in the Press's request to delete Chapter 9? No, no, he says, the Press is just "afraid of incurring the wrath of powerful people and getting its budget cut." As for the future of *Moguls*, anything he publishes will be "my work" and reflect "my thinking"; he'll make "no deletions" just to appease somebody else. The Press had also requested extensive footnoting, which Caudill says he had mostly completed when the flap arose.

At any rate, Caudill's latest manuscript is famous, whether or not it ever becomes a book. But you have to wonder who (or what publisher) would expect, or even want, Harry Caudill to produce a cold, closely reasoned, elaborately documented factual work of historical analysis. That's just not what a sermon is.

SIA on Microfilm

Berea College is now administering a project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, to assemble and microfilm the original records of the Settlement Institutions of Appalachia—Annville Institute, Buckhorn Children's Center, John C. Campbell Folk School, Hazel Green Academy, Henderson Settlement School, Hindman Settlement School, Oneida Baptist Institute, Pine Mountain Settlement School, Red Bird Mission and Sunset Gap Community Center.

These microfilmed records will be added to Berea's collections, where they will be available for research; the originals will be returned to the individual institutions. The project is directed by Mary Zimmeth, an archival specialist from Wayne State University, Detroit.

Reuben Powell, 1910-1982

Reuben R. Powell, a well-known authority on Appalachian music and a member of the Berea College

Traditional Music Committee, died on February 7 in Springfield, Ohio. Founder of the Renfro Valley Tape Club, he had through the years built up an important collection of old-time country music, which will be preserved by Berea College. Powell was a native of McCreary County, Ky., but had lived in Springfield for 35 years.

Letters

To the Editor:

Enclosed is \$2.00 for the NEWSLETTER.

I'm very disappointed in the way the Whisnant book was treated in the most recent issue (Fall 1981)...In my seven or eight years of reading the NEWSLETTER I've never seen a book treated with that kind of tone and with such disrespect.... It is in no stretch of the imagination a Marxist work. Many Marxists would be among the book's most serious critics. If such labels are going to be used, let's at least use them accurately.

STEVE FISHER

Emory and Henry College

(We're grateful for the contributions from this reader and from the one whose letter appears below. As for our book note on Modernizing the Mountaineer, we were not conscious of viewing with "disrespect," whatever that might be in such a context; we were responding, albeit very briefly, to the author's invitation to readers to "make whatever interpretative allowances they feel are necessary," an invitation of which we expressed approval. Our aim was to be descriptive, particularly for the benefit of readers who would not have heard of the book but would have been involved with one or another of the activities discussed therein. As for the point about Marxism, it seems to us that reader Fisher must have a very purist view to say that the book is "in no stretch of the imagination a Marxist work"; in its emphasis on material factors and discounting of others, and its stress on exploiter class vs. the exploited, to mention only two points, Modernizing the Mountaineer seemed to us at least to be sharing the water with many a Marxist analysis. We see nothing either startling or insulting in saying so; what we actually said was "Marxoid"—i.e., resembling Marxian—which by an editorial garble came out "straight Marxoid," which of course is a nonsensical phrase; we regret that error. As for the point made by another reader (whom we think we won't name) that describing something as Marxoid is tantamount to calling the author a "commie," we'll merely point out that this is 1982, not 1952. Maybe this latter correspondent was joking; we hope so.—Eds.)

To the Editor:

Here are two bucks to keep the NEWSLETTER coming. It has become an essential tool for anybody who is trying to keep up with what's happening in Appalachia. Well written, succinct. Thanks. The review of the Whisnant book in the current issue is especially rewarding.

JAMES STILL
Mallie, Ky.



Spring on the Way



We're aware that these pictures require no words. We merely wish to make it clear that we know it's the Winter issue of the **CENTER NEWSLETTER**; we write these words, in fact, on a gray day that makes belief in spring almost an act of faith.

But in days or weeks, it will all be different... maybe there'll be some evidence by the time this issue turns up in your mailbox.

Papers

Papers that "criticize or demonstrate the usefulness of class analysis for understanding the political economy of Appalachia" are being sought for a special issue of the *Appalachian Journal* that will be edited by a group called the Southern Mountain Research Collective. The editors "urge prospective contributors to write as clearly as possible and to avoid language likely to be familiar only to specialists." You can get more information from SMRC, Box 62, Emory, Va. 24327.

EYE on Publications

Westward into Kentucky, edited by Chester Raymond Young (University Press of Kentucky). In 1785 a

young Revolutionary War veteran named Daniel Trabue moved his family from Virginia to Kentucky, where he had spent three years of wartime service, and four decades later he set down his recollections of his life up until the end of the 18th century. He was on hand for some memorable events—the court-martial of Daniel Boone after his defense of Boonesborough in 1778 (Trabue remains the principal source for this episode in Boone's career) and the siege of Yorktown being perhaps the most notable. The manuscript is important not only as a historical source but as a phonetic record, since Trabue tended to spell 'em the way they said 'em. The editor teaches history and political science at Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky.

Old Knoxville, edited by William J. MacArthur (University of Tennessee Press). Thirty-two photographs, presented here as picture postcards, depict the "Queen City of the Mountains" as she was in the late 1800s and early 1900s. You can keep the

book intact or take advantage of the perforations and send glimpses of old Knoxville to 32 friends.

Lead Me On, by Lee Seifert Greene (University of Tennessee Press). Frank Clement was first elected to the governorship of Tennessee in 1952, when he was only 32. Four years later, in old-time stump style, he was intoning the keynote address at the Democratic national convention ("How long, O Lord?"), but his aspirations for national office were not to be realized. He was nevertheless an interesting governor of Tennessee, particularly as a moderating force in the early days of desegregation. This biography is by a distinguished professor emeritus of political science at the University of Tennessee.

Victims, by Phillip Shaw Paludan (University of Tennessee Press). In January 1863, in Madison County, N.C., Confederate soldiers captured and murdered 13 civilians they thought might be Unionist guerrillas. In this book the author seeks primarily not to tell the tale but to find out why the atrocity happened and what it meant to the people involved; to do so, he stirs psychology, sociology and anthropology into his narrative. His own discipline is history (he teaches at the University of Kansas).

Mission in the Mountain State, by B.B. Maurer and Keith A. Muhleman (McClain Printing Co., Parsons, W.Va. 26287). A "freeze in time," as one of the authors says, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the West Virginia Council of Churches; each major church group contributed a paper outlining its history in the Mountain State, from the days when religion "belonged to the one who was willing to be a missionary in hostile territory."

Selected Proceedings of the Scotch-Irish Heritage Festival at Winthrop College, edited by Jack W. Weaver (Winthrop College). The festival was unique, says the editor, "in attempting a total-culture examination of this significant ethnic group"; out of a wealth of informative and entertaining papers, the ones in this volume were chosen because they represent sharply contrasting viewpoints on the key question: Who and what were the Scotch-Irish? "They were—something—and then became American, if, in fact, they did not create America. But what were they?"

Life at an Early Age, by Jack Welch (Mountain State

Press, c/o The University of Charleston, Charleston, W.Va. 25304). A novel about a young university professor who has to surmount an early-life crisis—a heart condition requiring open-heart surgery. Associated with his story are such Appalachian themes as black lung.

Life, Work, and Rebellion in the Coal Fields, by David Allan Corbin (University of Illinois Press). According to the map on the wall, Urbana, Ill., is hundreds of miles away from anything that even the most expansive Congressman could regard as Appalachia. But the leadership being shown by the University of Illinois Press in Appalachian publishing makes you want to take another look at that map. To such previous notable books as the two Weatherford Award winners, *Which Side Are You On?* by John W. Hevener and *Power and Powerlessness* by John Gaventa, the people up at Urbana have now added this new study, subtitled "The Southern West Virginia Miners, 1880-1922." The book actually is a volume in the series *The Working Class in American History*, and to a large extent it is concerned with the development of "class consciousness"—and the reasons for this development—by the men who came to southern West Virginia to dig coal. This isn't just another oppression-and-violence story, although—as in all coal stories—these themes are important; what the author does is to build from the individual miner up rather than from the union down, and in doing so—though his point of view may be restricted—he offers an array of persuasive insights.

We're All Kin, by F. Carlene Bryant (University of Tennessee Press). A study of a Tennessee mountain neighborhood in which 194 of the area's 198 residents are related. The question posed is: Where everybody's kin, does kinship have any meaning? Further, the author wonders what, in such a setting, people really mean by kinship, and how they apply their conception to their social order.

(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.)

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