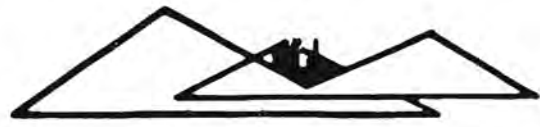


NEWS

LETTER



APPALACHIAN CENTER
BEREA COLLEGE

Loyal Jones • Thomas Parrish, Co-Editors

Vol. 11 No. 3

Summer 1982

New Jobs

According to generally accepted statistics, small businesses are the country's most important creators of new jobs. And in a typical Appalachian county, even five or 10 new jobs, together with their ripple effect, can have quite an impact.

With this point in mind, the Gateway Area Development District, in northeastern Kentucky (Owingsville), has played a leading part in forming a consortium of local business interests devoted to starting or expanding small businesses. Vearl Pennington, Gateway's executive director, and his staff make themselves available to businesses as financial consultants, efficiency experts and marketing counselors—whatever's needed. Staff members themselves are receiving training to help them do these jobs better.

These efforts appear not to have been in vain. The consortium reports a success story, that of a small toy company called Woodkins, Inc. With Gateway's help, Woodkins was able to acquire the financing needed to expand from a one-man show to an organized corporation with a payroll of 12, and it's aiming now at producing 4,000 toys a week.

Another Gateway project involved the creation of an entirely new company, Audio-Visual Media Magnetics, Inc., which makes magnetic tape. The company started with 12 workers and expects ultimately to employ 50. Here again, Gateway played a prime role in getting the financing together.

Anybody who has ever been involved in the creation of a small business is aware of the myriad day-in, day-out efforts that are required to keep it alive and of the continuing great temptation to claim success prematurely. Yet the news from Gateway sounds good. Perhaps it can find wider application.

"To Bridge the Gap"

In a recent speech, Albert P. Smith, Jr., the retiring federal cochairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission, included a discussion of the aims of the new development foundation supported by the governors of the Appalachian states.

"Fifteen billion dollars and 15 years of special federal and other government efforts invested in our Ap-
to page 2

Celebration!

One of Appalachia's top musical events—the Celebration of Traditional Music, presented by the Berea College Appalachian Center—returns in October for its ninth annual installment.

The proceedings will get under way on Thursday, October 28, with a 3:00 p.m. performance by folksinger Jean Ritchie; in the evening there's a street dance. The big old-time music sessions will be held on Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30; these blasts will be followed at 10:00 (or whenever) by folk dancing.

Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon will be devoted to instrumental workshops and informal performances, and at 3:00 Saturday afternoon George Pickow and Jean Ritchie will lead a symposium on song collecting and documentation.

And if you don't get to bed too late on Saturday night, you can join in the hymn singing at 9:00 Sunday morning.

The Celebration will present its usual stellar mixture
to page 2

Celebration headliner Jean Ritchie



CELEBRATION! *from page 1*

of established favorites and those invited to appear on the local stage for the first time. The participants will include, besides Ms. Ritchie, the Foddrell Brothers with Lynn Foddrell, Gordon Tanner and Phil Tanner, the Eller Brothers, Virgil Anderson, Phillip Kazee, the Walker Family, Berzilla Wallin and Doug Wallin, Mike Kline, the Gem Sisters, Barbara Edwards and Roger Cooper, Liberty Band, Jack Wallin and Arthur Gosnell, Jewell Middleton and the Pine Mountain Partners, John and Jane Harrod, and the Berea College Country Dancers.

If you need any further information, get in touch with the Appalachian Center at the address on the outside of the NEWSLETTER.

"TO BRIDGE THE GAP" *from page 1*

Appalachian region have created opportunities that ARE measurable, no matter how much critics of these programs protest to the contrary. I have not found one leader in all of Appalachia willing to turn back a single classroom, a health clinic, an inch of pipe or a foot of road to ARC.

"But our experiment that we call the ARC seems destined to end within a few years—with many of Appalachia's needs still unmet.

"With national priorities changing, our regional governors have asked me to help them plan an Appalachian development foundation that will bridge the gap between the old efforts and new approaches.

"Already it is clear that there will be no funds in the new foundation of a magnitude sufficient to provide a replacement for the massive investments in infrastructure made by the ARC. Changes in the corporate tax laws have reduced the incentives for those reinvestments of big business profits by absentee landlords that Harry Caudill and others have advocated. And it is impossible for other foundations already in existence, which gave \$2.6 billion last year, to close the gap created by reduced government spending on social and economic welfare.

"The President believes his economic program will have a long-range recovery effect. While this assumption is being tested, we who live at the grassroots must count on the ingenuity of our children to help correct the deficiencies and mistakes in the world we have given them.

"A role of the Appalachian development foundation, as I envision it, will be to identify young leaders of promise...and connect them with older leaders who have some experience in coping with our historic regional problems. I suspect that the foundation will focus on one or two central issues, such as jobs and education. In the words of one of [Kentucky's] wise men, Barry Bingham, Sr., who has been advising us on ideas for the foundation, we would try to persuade the 13 governors 'to strike as 13 clocks together.' "

Wanted: Folklorists

The University of Mississippi's Southern Folk Arts Survey Project is seeking folklorists to conduct fieldwork in 11 southern states. Those selected to serve as interns

will be responsible for finding and photographing both historic and contemporary examples of Southern folk arts in historical societies, museums and private collections (including those of the artists). They will also interview folk artists. Applicants must be graduate students in folklore, art history or anthropology, and they ought to know how to take pictures. If you're interested, you should contact Dr. Maude Wahlman, Project Director, Art Department, University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi 38677.

Women in the Mines

If your group is looking for a film about women, you may be interested in a new release from Appalshop, the "media collective" headquartered in Whitesburg, Ky. *Coalmining Women* relates the experiences of women as they enter this classically male-dominated field and presents some of their feelings about the "advantages and disadvantages of their chosen occupation, including the compromise they face between their health and safety and the benefits of high wages." Write Appalshop, Inc., Box 743, Whitesburg, Ky. 41858.

EYE on Publications

Suitably rephrased to eliminate any suspicion of latent sexism, "everyman his own publisher" might well be regarded as the watchword for this current roundup of books having to do with matters Appalachian. Small local companies, neighborhood printers, authors themselves—these seem increasingly to be the sources of books about mountain people either at home or dispersed in their own (mostly midwestern) diaspora. When we can, we give you an address to write to.

The Cumberland Collection, by Erma Norton Harper (Avonelle Associates Ltd). Reminiscent essays about mountain life in the 1940s and '50s, before "television and superhighways...brought the outside world to the very tops of the ridges." These memories concern "'tale-spinning' in winter, pink chickens for Easter, ghost stories around a water pump" and even, says the author, "an insane woman who was my friend." In what she calls a disclaimer, Ms. Harper observes that Knoxville World's Fair goers could be expected to arrive "picturing the hillbilly as the stereotype from movies and funny postcards. This collection of essays was compiled to protest that stereotype."

The Arrowhead Scholar, by Bennie Lee Sinclair (Wilderness Books, P.O. Box 345, Cleveland, S.C. 29635). The poet and her husband live in a wilderness area in South Carolina which they maintain as a wildlife and wild-plant sanctuary, and she teaches creative writing in a Furman University extension program. An early contributor to *Foxfire*, in which her first published poem appeared, she has produced a previous collection of poems called *Little Chicago Suite* (which, it should be mentioned, has nothing to do with Mayor Byrne's metropolis). We can't tell you what we think of the present book, because we haven't decided. Maybe you should see for yourselves.



Returning Celebrants

Among the artists who will be back on the Berea stage October 28-30 are Phillip Kazee (above), Berzilla Wallin (right) and the Foddrell Brothers



EYE from page 2

Coal-Pickin' Jasper Mitchell's Gal Jenny, by Lonnie Hogg Breeding (Harlo Press, Detroit; author's address: R.R. 1, Box 28-A, Charlestown, Ind. 47111). Perhaps the greatest deficiency of self-publishing is the absence of experienced and objective editorial help and the consequent stilted dialogue, impossible physical reactions by the characters, and so on. In this novel, for instance, one of the men registers surprise in this fashion: "His left eyebrow went all the way up and the right eye narrowed to a slit." That may sound more or less all right when you're sitting at the typewriter, but we'll bet you can't do it without scaring the kids. At least, we couldn't; our best effort produced a grimace suggestive of a Nazi colonel who'd lost his monocle but didn't quite realize it. Yet this book shouldn't be dismissed out of hand; if it's deficient as a piece of fiction, it's of considerable interest as history and anthropology, the aim being truly to "represent life and culture of the stalwart Appalachian early in the century." Actually, the action takes place in the ever more-popular 1930s and '40s, so that here a caveat is needed too: the author

seems to pull a bit of a Doris Ulmann (or an Edward Curtis), making the characters both real and yet more archaic than they actually were at the time we see them. But, whatever the date ought to be, they sure work hard. As for Jenny herself—well, we just may have to turn back to the book and see how she comes out.

Joy in the Mountains #2, by Lou and Alice Winokur and Patricia A. Hope (Joy Publishing Co., P.O. Box 2532, Boca Raton, Fla. 33432). Having previously produced *Joy in the Mountains #1*, a guide to the Blue Ridge country, the authors turn here to the Great Smokies. They sound like happy folks indeed. Their approach to travel writing, with chapters arranged by hobby and interest, is "based on the premise that everyone needs at least one major interest for self-expression and fulfillment to make life more meaningful, and to add luster and joyous expectancy to wonder-filled days." The coauthors "find their lives an unfolding adventure—discovering people, places and pastimes, all intertwined with their zest for new, ever recharging ex-

to page 4

EYE from page 3

periences with nature." They regard the outdoors as being magical, majestic, etc. In spite of the hyperthyroid prose, the book appears to be full of detailed and carefully arranged information.

Choosing Books for Appalachian Children, by Judy Martin (Friends of the Berea College Library). A thoroughly annotated bibliography, developed with the aim of enabling parents, teachers, and librarians to "match a child with the right book." In the preface, Anne McConnell, a University of Kentucky library science teacher, remarks that those who have "deplored the middle-class suburban setting of textbooks and trade books because children of Appalachia found nothing familiar in them" can take heart: "Children of Appalachia, help is on the way!" A special feature of the book is the "related activities" paragraph that accompanies the discussion of many of the titles.

TVA and the Dispossessed, by Michael J. McDonald and John Muldowny (University of Tennessee Press). As the subtitle puts it, this is a study of the "resettlement of population in the Norris Dam Area," the purpose being to assess the TVA social experiment in modernization at the grass-roots level. The authors look at the agency's operating procedures, the changes brought about in the Norris Basin, the physical and demographic characteristics of the area, and the people involved—both TVA staff and the displaced local inhabitants, a number of whom speak in interviews. TVA's original mandate, its internal policy debates, and its politics all come under scrutiny. (*TVA and the Dispossessed* should make interesting parallel reading with Borden Deal's novel *Dunbar's Cove*, a fictional view of the same "physical and demographic" situation.)

City Behind a Fence, by Charles W. Johnson and Charles O. Jackson (University of Tennessee Press). A study of the second great federal operation in East Tennessee, the creation and maintenance of the top-secret city of Oak Ridge, 1942-46—an operation made possible by the electricity flowing from the turbines of the TVA. The authors, both of whom are history professors at Tennessee, say that the book grew out of an afternoon bull session, in which they began to speculate about the nature of the secret city and to wonder what it

must have been like to live there.

Foxfire 7, edited by Paul F. Gillespie (Anchor Press/Doubleday). This is not at all what you might expect—still another collection of reminiscences intertwined with instructions on basket-making, pickling and other mountain-life crafts. Instead, it concentrates on religion—"ministers, church members, revivals, baptisms, shaped-note and gospel singing, faith healing, camp meetings, footwashing, snake handling, and other traditions of mountain religious heritage." In a "historical overview," Dr. Bill J. Leonard, who teaches at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, says that the book attempts to sort out the reality of religion in the region from the caricature; there is snake handling and speaking in tongues, but there is much more, and in great variety. What *Foxfire 7* aims at doing is to "preserve something of the reality of Appalachian Christianity as found in the memories of those who experienced that religion for themselves."

Appalachian Migrants in Urban America, by William W. Philliber (Praeger). The "urban America" referred to here is Cincinnati, and the author, who teaches at the State University of New York at New Paltz, concludes that the city is something less than a promised land; in fact, he says, unlike blacks in Cincinnati, Appalachians have experienced "little intergenerational mobility in terms of education, occupation and income." To counter this dismal nontrend, he calls for a range of programs, even including affirmative action.

Tragedy of Platitudinous Piety, by Bill Best (Kentucky Imprints, Berea, Ky.). Remember the War on Poverty? Well, Bill Best does, and this bit of blunt satire is the delayed-action result of his frequent contacts or confrontation with bright, young, well-educated outlanders who came to Appalachia to "organize" mountain people, take on the "power structure," "enrich" the lives of the children and generally to help throw off the shackles of "oppression" from the poor. Best's message is that most of these workers operated from a sense of middle- or upper-class guilt. This little book may outrage the few who remained to work in the region but will perhaps bring twinges of renewed guilt to those who returned to graduate school, the family business or other more metropolitan and lucrative callings.

**Published by
Appalachian Center/Berea College
C.P.O. Box 2336
Berea, Ky. 40404**

**Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Berea, Ky. 40404
Permit No. 19**

Address Correction Requested