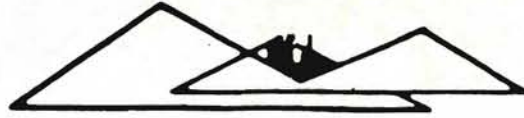


NEWS

LETTER



APPALACHIAN CENTER
BEREA COLLEGE

Loyal Jones • Thomas Parrish, Co-Editors

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Spring 1986

Looking Forward

July 4-September 20: 10th anniversary season of the Horse Cave (Ky.) Theatre, a "traditional nesting spot for outstanding actors, directors and designers," this year featuring Shakespeare, *Gaslight* and two new plays. For information, call 502/786-2177.

July 13-17: Fifth annual Blue Ridge quilting seminar, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tenn. 37614; a number of nationally known instructors will be on hand. Details from the Office of Continuing Education at ETSU.

July 13-August 17: Augusta Heritage arts workshop, Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, W. Va. 26241. Five weeks devoted to crafts, music, dance and folklore—herbs, letterpress printing, treenware, you name it. Information from the Augusta Heritage Center at the host college.

July 18-20: Cincinnati Appalachian festival, Coney Island amusement park; sponsored by the Appalachian Community Development Association of Cincinnati. You can learn more about the festival from the Urban Appalachian Council, 2115 West Eighth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45204.

July 19: "Baber Mountain Poultry Readin," on Baber Mountain near Richwood, W. Va. 26261. A variety of writers, artists, filmmakers, musicians and others are expected to be present. If you write to Box 413, Richwood, they'll send you a map.

July 25-26: "Treatment of the Anxiety Disorders," a training workshop for health professionals, Charlotte, N.C. The workshop, sponsored by the Southeast Institute, will be conducted by R. Reid Wilson, psychologist and author of the new book *Don't Panic: Taking Control of Anxiety Attacks*. Information about this and other sessions from the Southeast Institute, 103 Edwards Ridge, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

July 26-August 2: American dance and music week, Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth, Mass. 02360. For details about this and other summer activities at Pinewoods, write to Country Dance and Song Society, 505 Eighth Ave., No. 2500, New York, N.Y. 10018.

August 3-9: Ninth annual Appalachian writers workshop, Hindman Settlement School, Forks of Troublesome Creek, Hindman, Ky. 41822. In addition to the usual stellar workshop veterans (e.g., Jim Wayne Miller, Gurney Norman), this year's list of participants includes poet-Latinist Jane Wilson Joyce, actress and writer Jo Carson and a number of other looming lumi-

naries; on August 4, Ed McClanahan will be on hand. **October 10-12:** Fall fair, Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen, Indian Fort Theater, Berea, Ky.

Wig Wins Weatherford

Sometimes a Shining Moment, by Eliot Wigginton, founder of the *Foxfire* educational experience in Rabun Gap, Ga., has won the 16th annual W. D. Weatherford Award for outstanding writing about Appalachia. The prize was presented at a luncheon held in Berea on May 24.

It wasn't Wigginton's first trip to Berea to receive an award. In 1973 he and his high school students earned the prize for the first *Foxfire Book*, which went



Wigginton: His ideas are still evolving

on to draw national attention to the whole *Foxfire* experiment and, more generally, to the value of traditional Appalachian culture.

In *Sometimes a Shining Moment*, Wigginton tells how he began *Foxfire* magazine as an attempt to arouse the interest of his ninth- and tenth-grade English classes. In our review of the book (CENTER NEWSLETTER, Fall 1985), we observed that this experimental magazine grew into one of the publishing and educational triumphs of our time. In the new book Wigginton tells how it all happened, but he doesn't set out

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Jesse Stuart Year

Jesse Stuart was Kentucky's poet laureate for 30 years, from 1954 till his death in 1984. Now the Jesse Stuart Foundation, headquartered in Ashland, Ky., is leading the way in making 1986 a year of statewide celebration of the renowned writer's 80th birthday. Among the activities and programs making up "Passages," as the overall celebration is called, are an outdoor drama, special weekends at Greenbo State Park, and bus tours to W-Hollow, Stuart's home near the park.

The drama is based on Stuart's award-winning book about teaching, *The Thread That Runs So True*. As part of the celebration, the foundation is publishing two new works relating to Stuart. *Songs of a Mountain Plowman* is a collection of poems Stuart wrote between 1929 and 1931; also, Jerry Herndon of Murray State University is preparing *The Jesse Stuart Bibliography*.

For information about any and all events and activities, you can contact Jim Wayne Miller, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101, or Jim Gifford at the Jesse Stuart Foundation, P.O. Box 391, Ashland, Ky. 41114.

Three We Mourn

We herewith take note of the recent passing of three persons of importance in Appalachian life.

Harriette Simpson Arnow: The author of the famed novel *The Dollmaker* and seven other books was found dead on March 22 at her Michigan farm. She was 77.

A native of Wayne County, Ky., and a student at Berea College, she married Harold Arnow, a Detroit newspaper reporter, and moved to Michigan. It was while living in a Detroit public-housing project during World War II that she began writing *The Dollmaker*, about an Appalachian woman who followed a similar path to the city. The novel, published in 1954, succeeded both in earning critical acclaim and in staying on the best-seller list for 31 weeks. Speaking of its success, however, Mrs. Arnow once commented: "I don't know why a book about an ugly woman who couldn't get along with anyone and was so secretive could be so popular." This popularity even took a new form in 1983 with the production of the TV movie starring Jane Fonda.

Besides *The Dollmaker*, *Hunter's Horn* and three other works of fiction, Mrs. Arnow wrote *Seedtime on the Cumberland* and other highly praised nonfiction studies of her native area of Appalachian Kentucky. For her, writing was a vocation in the truest sense of the word; "you have to get it on paper," she once said, "or you'll go crazy."

Robert F. Munn: The father of West Virginia University's renowned regional history collection died on March 13 after heart surgery in Pittsburgh. He was 63.

Munn, dean of library services at West Virginia University, had been at the school since 1952. He was named chief librarian in 1957 and served as provost of the university from 1967 to 1970. The university library

underwent a great expansion under his leadership, and he became well known throughout Appalachia for his bibliographies of works dealing with the region. He also served as the first director of the West Virginia University Press. He was a longtime member and supporter of the Council of the Southern Mountains and was an original member of the panel of judges for Berea College's W. D. Weatherford Award.

Lawrence S. Thompson: The professor of classics and former director of libraries at the University of Kentucky died on April 19. He was 69.

A man of varied attainments, Thompson was a widely known book reviewer and bibliophile. He headed the UK libraries from 1948 to 1963 and wrote several books on printing and binding. He was a native of Raleigh, N.C.

One of Thompson's special interests was the creation and production of specialized periodicals, one of which was *Appalachian Notes*, a more-or-less quarterly roundup of bibliographic and other information about publications dealing with Appalachia. He also donated numerous books to the Berea College collections.

Ireland? \$250 Million?

The current move in Congress to send \$250 million in aid to Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic has caught the outraged eyes of a number of observers who are rarely startled by any action undertaken by our assembled senators and representatives. As James J. Kilpatrick wrote in an imaginary conversation with an "eminent Viennese consultant to Washington pundits": "I do not understand this. How did Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic get to be underdeveloped nations? What is the \$250 million for?"

With similar questions in mind, Harry M. Caudill, the eminent lawyer-writer of Whitesburg, Ky., took typewriter in hand. His letter to the press follows.

"By what conceivable standard can this be justified? The savings and loan companies and the banks are tottering under mountains of delinquent loans. The farmers are bankrupting by the thousands. Oil, coal and steel companies are facing disaster. Thousands of public schools are underfinanced and shockingly ineffective. The U.S. trade deficit runs to many billions per month. The national debt has doubled within five years, and benefits for the battle-injured veterans are being curtailed. The United States is staggering to the brink handing out paper money like a drunken sailor. It is living on credit and borrowing money to give away.

What About Appalachia?

"I have been to Ireland three times on vacations, and I love the place. However, it has no claim on the money the government takes from us in taxes under threat of felony imprisonment if we fail to pay up. Compared with the Appalachian coalfields, it is exceedingly well off. The people there (including Ulster) are better housed, better fed, better educated and in better



WEATHERFORD AWARD winner Eliot Wigginton (center) receives the prize check from donor A. H. Perrin. Others are (from l.) Tom Parrish, chairman of the judges; Berea President John Stephenson; Loyal Jones, director of the BC Appalachian Center.

IRELAND *from page 2*

health. It is an industrialized country and a member of the European Common Market.

"Instead of liquidating the Appalachian Regional Commission, Congress should use this \$250 million to complete the Appalachian regional highway system. . . . Projects have been abandoned for lack of funds, presumably so that we can 'reconstruct' Northern Ireland.

"Reading of such idiocies, one is compelled to wonder whether Lyndon LaRouche is as crazy as his critics claim. He calls congressman 'idiots,' and their reconstruction appropriations are all the proof we need that he is clear-eyed in this important respect."

As Kilpatrick summed it up: "Tip O'Neill wants \$250 million for the Irish. It is all so very hard to comprehend."

To which we say: "Oh, yeah?"

WIG WINS *from page 1*

to give us a chronicle of success. What he aims at, as a teacher, is to pass on what the *Foxfire* phenomenon has taught him. In his talk at the award luncheon, he described a number of specific persons and incidents that went into the making of his philosophy of education—a philosophy that is still evolving and that draws from both traditional and alternative ways of doing things.

The Weatherford Award is jointly sponsored by Berea College's Appalachian Center and Hutchins Library and is given every year to the writer of the published work of any kind or length that best illuminates the problems, personalities and unique qualities of the Appalachian South. The \$500 prize is donated by Alfred H. Perrin of Berea in memory of the

late W. D. Weatherford, Sr., a pioneer and leading figure for many years in Appalachian development, youth work and race relations. The list of winning works in recent years includes John Ehle's *Last One Home*, John Egerton's *Generations*, Ron Eller's *Miners, Millhands and Mountaineers* and John Gaventa's *Power and Powerlessness*.

Appalachian Counties Poor Performers

Whatever its ultimate fate may be, the Appalachian Regional Commission keeps on producing economic reports on the region. Some items of interest from a recent document:

- In each part of the U.S. now, metropolitan areas are outperforming rural areas. The surge of growth in rural areas and small towns that began in the mid-1970s has been reversed; emigration from rural areas is again the norm.
- Over the past 15 years, 144 Appalachian counties were able to improve their relative economic standing, while 253 declined. Counties in the Appalachian north and south that have large manufacturing employment generally have suffered over the past decade and a half.
- In 1970, 33 Appalachian counties were among the top 20 percent of U.S. counties in economic performance. But by the mid-1980s, only 12 of these counties were still in that group, and only 4 new Appalachian counties had come along to join it, making the net loss 17. Of the 16 thriving Appalachian counties, it is interesting to note, all but one were located in southern Appalachia.

EYE on Publications

Davy Crockett: The Man, the Legend, the Legacy, 1786-1986, edited by Michael A. Lofaro (University of Tennessee Press). When tourists arrive at the Davy Crockett Birthplace State Historic Area in Greene County, Tenn., they usually, after looking around for a minute or two, have a pressing question to ask of the park personnel: "Where's the mountain top?" Alas, there's none to be seen; the famous 1954 song, wherein "Davy" is celebrated as the "king of the wild frontier," was not the result of historical research but was simply one more contribution to the stream of Crockett legend: Davy was a flatlander. So extensive is the legend, in fact, that scholars have adopted the convention of referring to the historical Crockett as David and the fictional figure as Davy. David, unlike the late Senator Estes Kefauver, never wore a coonskin cap; however, Davy, before Walt Disney got hold of him, made up for this deficiency by promenading through the frontier country with a full wildcat skin perched on his head, and he grew as rapidly as the United States itself both before and after the death of David. The contributors to this book follow Davy through two centuries of almanacs, songs, theater, films and TV, and they relate the real and the fictional Crocketts to trends in American popular culture.

Community and Family Change in Rural Appalachia, by John D. Photiadis (West Virginia University Center for Extension and Continuing Education in Cooperation with the Appalachia Educational Laboratory, Inc.). For some reason, the publishers don't see fit to tell the reader anything about the author of this book, but we know from other sources—and so will tell you—that Photiadis is a leading scholar of Appalachian life, social change and migration. The scope of the book is perhaps best presented by listing the three main parts and some of the chapter headings under them. From "The Years Prior to World War II" we move to "Recent Patterns of Social Transition in Rural Appalachia"

and on to "Modern Rural Community and Family: Programs of Development." "The Great Migration" and the adjustments necessitated by it are discussed in the "Recent Patterns" section.

This is a work of sociology, complete with charts and tables, but its sponsors at the WVU extension center explicitly wish for it a useful future in the practical hands of extension agents, community development experts and other field workers; the last portion of the book is devoted to a discussion of "implications for action programs." There are no doubt a good many such implications here, but you may as well know that you're going to have to dig them out; this isn't a book to be skimmed for fun.

Barns, Stables and Outbuildings: A World Bibliography in English, 1700-1983, compiled by LeRoy Schultz (McFarland & Co., Inc., Box 611, Jefferson, N.C. 28640). The author is apparently mad about barns and stables; he has, the publisher tells us, accumulated more than 10,000 pictures of these vital adjuncts of agricultural life—tobacco and hop barns, corn cribs, granaries, silos, and every other sort of outbuilding. We are told (we haven't seen the book itself) that the bibliography lists more than 3,000 items, from the United States, Britain, Scandinavia, France and other European countries. Schultz teaches rural social work at West Virginia University.

Appalachian Mountain Books is a combined magazine and catalogue issued six times a year by George Brosi, Bookseller, 123 Walnut Street, Berea, Ky. 40404. It contains reviews and book notes in addition to the listing of books for sale.

The Kentucky Explorer is a brand-new monthly magazine "featuring things old and new about Kentucky"—legends, places, history and so on. As the publisher says, "it's produced to be economical"; the cover price is \$1. The address is Box 227, Jackson, Ky. 41339.

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