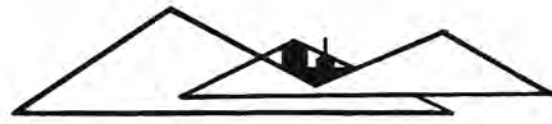


NEWS

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LETTER

APPALACHIAN CENTER

BEREA COLLEGE

Loyal Jones · Thomas Parrish, Co-Editors

Vol. 2 No. 2 · Spring 1973

Mountain Moviemakers Plan Far-out Feature Film

Gurney Norman's novel *Divine Right's Trip*, the account of a countercultured Kentuckian's journey back home, won some fine reviews and a measure of national fame for its author. So, not surprisingly, there are plans for a movie. What is somewhat surprising, however, is the fact that the people who have optioned the book are headquartered not in Hollywood but in Whitesburg, Ky. These moviemakers are called Appalshop, and they describe themselves as a "group of Appalachian young people portraying their history, culture and heritage through the media of film, videotape, still photography and audio recording."

How did they acquire such a potentially hot property? Author Norman explains: "I'm extremely pleased that the film rights to *Divine Right's Trip* have wound up in the hands of film makers who live and work in the Appalachian mountains . . . As I explained to my agent (in lobbying with him on behalf of Appalshop's bid for the rights), I think of the film rights to this story about this young Kentuckian as an important 'natural' resource, one that must be kept out of the control of absentee owners if the story's full potential as a movie is to be realized." He adds: "When mountain people make this movie themselves, then the film *becomes* what it is *about*."

Although production of a full-length feature film would be a decided first for Appalshop, the group has a lot more than theory and good intentions going for it. During the past three years Appalshop has made about twenty documentary and short dramatic films. The enterprise was established in 1969 with funds that ultimately came from the now-moribund Office of Economic Opportunity, and it currently operates with the support of a variety of public and private grants together with money earned by the sale of its products and services.

The making of a big commercial movie, however, calls for financial resources of an entirely different order of magnitude. To raise the cash, Appalshop is establishing a special subsidiary, in which investors may become partners and thereby support the project and perhaps make themselves a profit too. If you're interested in becoming one of Appalachia's pioneer movie moguls, you might want to get in touch with Appalshop's (and the movie's) director, Bill Richardson, at Box 743, Whitesburg, Ky. 41858. The telephone number is 606/633-5708. You might also want to ask for a catalog of Appalshop productions, which include such items as "Woodrow

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Foxfire editors with consultant

Foxfire, Robert Coles Win Weatherford Awards

The Foxfire Book, the Appalachian cultural phenomenon that has claimed unusual national attention, has been chosen as the winner of Berea College's third annual W. D. Weatherford Award for outstanding published writing about Appalachia. The book is a collection of pictures and articles from *Foxfire*, the extraordinary magazine published by students at Georgia's Rabun Gap-Nacoochee High School, and is edited by Eliot Wigginton, the teacher who founded the magazine and serves as its adviser.

Sharing Weatherford Award honors this year is Robert Coles, a child psychiatrist famed for his writing about the lives of America's poor. Dr. Coles is being honored with the first Special W. D. Weatherford Award to be

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Mountain Moviemakers--from page 1

Cornett: Letcher County Butcher"; "Judge Wooten and Coon-on-a-Log," and a documentary on the UMW's ex-president, Tony Boyle. (See following story.)

Appalachia--See It Now on Film and Tape

A number of universities and other organizations in Appalachia offer films and tapes for rent or sale. The following list does not pretend to be exhaustive, but it may serve as a beginning. If you wish to send us information about other sources, we'll be glad to publish it in future issues.

Bureau of Audiovisual Education
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, N.C.

"The End of an Old Song." This film, made in 1969 by John Cohen, shows the life style of Dillard Chandler, a Madison County, N.C., ballad singer. 30 min. Rental \$7.00.

"The Vanishing Frontier." A 1965 view of North Carolina mountain communities with statements by local citizens and prominent regional figures such as W. D. Weatherford, Sr., and Cratis Williams. Rental \$3.00.

"The High Lonesome Sound." Music of Eastern Kentucky, featuring Roscoe Holcomb. Made by John Cohen. 30 min. Rental \$7.00.

"The Roots of Hillbilly Music." Features Clarence Ashley, Maybelle Carter and Mose Ranger. 16 min. Rental \$5.00.

Audiovisual Service
Office of Academic Affairs
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana

"The Holy Ghost People." Film of Holiness church services, with snake-handling, in West Virginia. Rental \$14.75.

"Appalachia: Rich Land, Poor People." A look at poverty, strip mining and social action in Eastern Kentucky. Rental \$13.00.

"The Roots of Hillbilly Music" (see above).

Media-Film Booking Department
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida 32306

"The Holy Ghost People" (see above). Rental \$16.00.

Council of the Southern Mountains
Book and Record Shop
C.P.O. Box 2307
Berea, Ky. 40403

"Appalachian Heritage." An examination of Appalachian migration to cities and of problems such as strip mining. 55 min. Rental \$20.00.

"The Captive." Portrays the problems of an ex-coal miner, Herb Honaker, who is trying to find a new job. Features Jack Weller. 28 min. Rental \$10.00.

"Poverty in Rural America." Explores the causes of poverty in several regions, including Appalachia, and gives examples of community development. 30 min. Rental \$10.00.

"Spring Comes to Ventroux." Shows a West Virginia pilot project in community development. 15 min. Rental \$10.00

"The Newcomers." This is concerned with migration

to Cincinnati but also explores the places from which migrants come. 25 min. Rental \$10.00.

Appalachian Film Workshop
P.O. Box 332
Whitesburg, Ky. 41858

"Appalachian Genesis." Young people in Appalachia speaking their minds about the problems of the region. 30 min. Rental price on request.

"Coal Miner: Frank Jackson." A miner tells how change has affected the coal miner in Appalachia. 12 min. Rental \$25.00.

"In Ya Blood." A young man struggles to decide whether to go to college or into the mines. 20 min. Rental \$30.00.

"Judge Wooten and Coon-on-a-Log." A colorful county judge at a Fourth of July celebration with coon-dog contest. 10 min. Rental \$20.00.

"Line Fork Falls and Caves." An adventure in caves under Kentucky's Pine Mountain. 10 min. Rental \$20.00.

"Whitesburg Epic." Presents feelings of some mountain people about Vietnam, college unrest, the draft, young people--with some mountain music. 10 min. Rental \$20.00.

"United Mine Workers, 1970: A House Divided." The struggle for control between Tony Boyle and dissident miners. 15 min. Rental \$30.00.

The Video Maker
132 S. Washington
Cookeville, Tenn.

This enterprise produces a continuing, problem-centered "Living Newsletter" on videotape. For details of the operation, you should write to Ted Carpenter at the above address or telephone him at 615/526-8410. Numerous tapes are available; subjects include union organizing, strip mining, schools. In the tapes, mountain people who "have confronted problems and concerns central to Appalachian life record the experience that they as a group or a community have had."

Summer--the Seminar Season

Literature, movies, wrought ironwork, the evils of strip mining--whatever your regional interests, there seems to be a summer workshop or seminar for you somewhere in Appalachia. With our customary disclaimer to the effect that the following discussion does not purport to be complete, here is a brief guide.

Berea College: Workshop in Appalachian Studies. This program offers two courses for which six hours of graduate extension credit will be given through the College of Education at the University of Kentucky. The courses (participants are supposed to take both) are *Educational Sociology: History and Culture of Appalachia* and *Education and Culture: Literature and the Arts in Appalachia*. The workshop is designed for teachers and curriculum specialists who are interested in establishing Appalachian Studies courses in their local schools. The premise is that the communications media, by concentrating on Appalachian problems and deficiencies, have overlooked the achievements and contributions of Appalachian people. The workshop is sponsored by the Appalachian Center (College Box 2336, Berea) and is directed by Richard B. Drake.

East Tennessee State University--Film Workshop: The Many Worlds of Appalachia. Not a rerun of last year's successful show, but a new production. However,

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The Foxfire Gang

Young and old
unite to preserve a
unique culture



Weatherford Awards--from page 1

given in the three-year history of the awards, which are sponsored jointly by Berea's Appalachian Center and Hutchins Library. The donor of the awards is Alfred H. Perrin of Berea.

The awards are to be presented to Wigginton, a group of the *Foxfire* students, and Dr. Coles in a ceremony to be held in Berea on April 25. The winners will talk about their work and answer questions from the audience.

Foxfire, say the judges, is unusually important both as an educational experiment and as a cultural document. The articles are put together almost entirely by the students, who go into mountain communities with tape recorders and cameras and return with first-hand stories recounting the skills, the crafts and the memories of elderly people. As a teaching technique, *Foxfire* has been so successful that the Ford Foundation has granted the sponsoring organization funds that will enable it to help other cultural groups establish similar publishing projects. And a second book, *Foxfire 2*, is being published.

Although Dr. Coles did not write a book specifically about Appalachia, he is being recognized for the years he has devoted to developing an understanding of Appalachian people along with other groups and for the culmination of that understanding in his series *Children of Crisis*, particularly the book *Migrants, Sharecroppers, Mountaineers*, which was published in 1972. Through his fourteen books and hundreds of articles, Coles has won national fame as the advocate of people often stigmatized by stereotypes--mountaineers, migrants, blacks, Chicanos, and Middle Americans as well.

Other nominated works that won special praise from the Weatherford Award judges were *Coaltown Revisited*, by Bill Peterson; *They'll Cut Off Your Project*, by Huey Perry; *Only a Miner*, by Archie Green; *Divine Right's Trip*, by Gurney Norman, and *Appalachia in the Sixties*, an anthology.

Summer--from page 2

students again will look at movies, listen to lectures and participate in adjunct courses. Up to six hours of credit can be earned by those eligible, and auditors are wel-



At top, Foxfire founder Eliot Wigginton talks with students. Picture below shows Chairmaker Lou Reid with two grandchildren (see whether you can spot both of them). The consultant on page 1 is Aunt Arie Carpenter.

come, too. The movies are feature pictures (for instance, *Spencer's Mountain*, *All the King's Men*) having Appalachian or quasi-Appalachian themes. The participants include Thomas D. Clark, Harry Caudill, Wilma Dykeman, Loyal Jones. The project is under the direction of John B. Tallent, ETSU, Johnson City, Tenn.

John C. Campbell Folk School--Craft Courses. Credits take a back seat to creativity in this counter-urban program for people "who must live and work in the midst of the pressures and nervous tension of our complex urban society." You can tackle woodcarving, woodworking, weaving, macrame and even such exotica as straw orna-

ments and wrought ironwork. Because the scheduling is both complex and flexible, interested persons should write the school for particulars. The address is Brass-town, N.C. 28902.

Alice Lloyd College--Seminar in the Sociology of Appalachia. Tentatively scheduled for May 14-June 1, this three-week program is designed for undergraduate students only and offers three hours' credit. Harry Caudill, Jack Weller, John C. Campbell and Thomas Ford will be among the writers studied, and there will be movies, too. Of particular importance, say the sponsors, will be the many field trips that will be taken in co-operation with the college's ALCOR program. More information can be obtained from E. Shannon Bailey at Alice Lloyd College, Pippa Passes, Ky. 41844.

Clinch Valley College--Workshop in Appalachian Studies. History, culture, social and economic problems--these will make up the subject matter; speakers from the area, local groups, films, field trips, discussions--these will be the methods of this five-week workshop beginning June 4. It will be followed by a second session that will place students in local agencies, organizations and action groups as "interns." The first session will earn the participant six semester hours' credit, the second four. The address is Box 105, Clinch Valley College, Wise, Va. 24293.

West Virginia University--Regional School for Church Leaders. Sponsored by the Commission on Religion in Appalachia (CORA), this two-week school (July 2-13) is designed to help church leaders make themselves and their churches more effective in their communities. Actually, this year's program is part of a six-week school spread over three years and made up of a variety of courses, from community development to Appalachian culture to drug and alcohol education. Information about the school can be obtained from the office of the regional school, West Virginia University, Morgantown.

If You're Looking for a Book

Among the film sources mentioned in "Appalachia--See It Now" is the book and record shop operated in Berea by the Council of the Southern Mountains. This retail and mail-order enterprise has by now been around long enough and built up such a comprehensive stock that it may well deserve the title given to it by Director Nancy Graham--"Appalachian Resource Center." Films are a relatively new line but are expected to assume increasing prominence.

The basis of the business continues to be the almost totally inclusive stock of Appalachian books (more than 500 titles, of which perhaps 180 are books published currently or within the past two or three years). History, sociology and folklore lead the way, and there is of course a great deal of fiction. Children's books, says Mrs. Graham, are enjoying a phenomenal boom. Besides

Published by
Appalachian Center/Berea College
C.P.O. Box 2336
Berea, Kentucky 40403

books, the store handles magazines, pamphlets and just about anything else that's printed.

Though walk-in business is steadily increasing, most of the sales volume (about two-thirds) is mail order, stimulated by catalog mailings to all U.S. (and a number of foreign) universities and colleges and to all grade and high schools in Appalachia. And the bookstore is an invited guest at all sorts of meetings in the region. These promotional efforts help the shop meet what seems to be a good-sized need: last year about 10,000 books were sold.

Anyone wanting a book list should write to the shop at C.P.O. Box 2307, Berea, Ky. 40403.

"... Hallelujah"

Dickson Bruce, Jr., of the University of California at Irvine, has been announced as the first winner of a new competition for studies of "New World societies and cultures." The award, called the James Mooney Award, is sponsored by the Southern Anthropological Society, and consists of a \$1,000 prize and publication of the manuscript by the University of Tennessee Press.

Bruce's manuscript is entitled *And They All Sang Hallelujah: Plain-Folk Camp-Meeting Religion, 1800-1845*. The award is given, say the sponsors, for the manuscript that "best describes and interprets the people or culture of a distinctive New World population."

Anybody looking ahead to next year's award can obtain full information from Charles Hudson in the Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga. 30601.

Cincinnati Appalachian Library

The mountain family in the city is the special concern of the Cincinnati Appalachian Committee, which describes itself as a group devoted to advocacy and at the same time is--rather untypically--not disdainful of scholarship.

A leading spirit in the organizing of the Cincinnati committee was the late Dr. Frank C. Foster, whose library of Appalachian books and papers forms the nucleus of the new Frank C. Foster Research Library, sponsored by the committee. Other books and articles on Appalachian culture and the problems of rural-to-urban migration are to be added to the collection as fast as funds permit.

The Cincinnati committee, which is chaired by Stuart Faber, is made up of citizens who are interested in Appalachian culture and concerned about the problems faced by migrants. Persons with these interests are invited to get in touch with the committee at Room 412, 1015 Vine Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

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