

NEWS

APPALACHIAN CENTER
BEREA COLLEGE

LETTER

Helen M. Lewis – Thomas Parrish, Co-Editors

Vol. 22 No. 4 Fall 1993

Looking Forward

January 3-24: Music at the John C. Campbell Folk School, Route 1, Box 14A, Brasstown, N.C. 28902. Dulcimer; Horger Knight; Bluegrass banjo: J. D. Robinson. Contra and square dancing with Bob Dalsemer. Throughout this month you'll also find blacksmithing, spinning, weaving—including (January 23-29) weaving tweeds and checks—and all the rest of the usual kinds of crafts instruction. For a calendar of classes, contact the school.

January 30-February 19: Winter session, New Opportunity School for Women, directed by Jane Stephenson. Fourteen women will spend three weeks at Berea College exploring careers and enjoying educational and cultural opportunities. The project's address is C.P.O. Box 2276, Berea, Ky. 40404.

February 17-20: North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance Sixth Annual Conference, Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, Mass. An array of programs, exhibits and workshops with leading national experts, all designed to give you what the sponsors call "serious learning experiences"—all this, and networking too! For more information contact Folk Alliance 1994 Conference, P.O. Box 5010, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

March 11-13: 17th annual Appalachian Studies Conference, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va. This year's theme: "Appalachia and the Politics of Culture." The seventh annual Appalachian Youth Conference will take place in conjunction with the meeting. For full details, you can write to Elizabeth Fine, Department of Communication Studies, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va. 24061; phone 703/231-5327.

April 6: Sisters of the South, an evening of traditional music from the Appalachians, the Carolina Piedmont and the Cumberland Plateau, with Etta Baker, Sheila Kay Adams, the New Coon Creek Girls and other women artists. Contact the Mountain Heritage Center, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, N.C. 28723; phone, 704/227-7129.

April 12-13: Symposium, Berea College: "Defining Sustainable Development: A Workable Model for Appalachia?" (See separate story.)

June 13-July 1: Course in Appalachian literature and history, Berea College, with such veteran practitioners and mentors as Wilma Dykeman, Ron Eller and Jim Wayne Miller. For more information, write to the Appalachian Center, Berea College, C.P.O. Box 2336, Berea, Ky. 40404.

June 18-25: Appalachian Celebration, Morehead State University, Morehead, Ky. Mountain culture will be celebrated with traditional music and dance, storytelling, poetry and arts and crafts. To find out more, phone Shirley

Hamilton at 800/354-2090 (outside of Kentucky) or 606/783-2077.

Special request: If you sponsor an event you would like to see listed in the APPALACHIAN CENTER NEWSLETTER, please remember that we are a quarterly publication and we need lead time. We receive numerous announcements that, to our regret, come too late to be used. If you think you might be getting late, phone us.

Sustainable Development: What and How?

At a Kentucky conference that included representatives of environmental groups and persons from business and industry, one of the environmentalists made a telling point: If the debate between the two gets framed as development *versus* the environment, then—politically—the environment will always lose. To prevent this kind of outcome, and to move the discussion to a higher level, those concerned with preserving land, water and air have in the past few years been devoting much thought to the idea of *sustainable* development.

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ENJOYING THE SHOW: If you came to the November Loyal Jones Symposium at Berea College, you'll remember that entertainment played a big part in it. Here Jones and daughter Susan join in the general merriment. For more on the festivities, see inside pages.





SUSTAINABLE *from page 1*

But what, exactly, is that? More specifically, what might the idea of sustainable development mean for Appalachia? To explore the question, the Berea College Appalachian Center will be the host for a symposium to be held April 12-13, 1994. Setting the tone, as keynote speaker, will be David B. Brooks, formerly of Berea and Washington, D.C., who is currently director of the Environmental Policy Program, Environment and Natural Resources Division, International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada.

Cooperating in planning the symposium are various departments of Berea College—agriculture, economics, the Brushy Fork Institute, the New Opportunity School for Women, Students for Appalachia—and other organizations, including the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED), the Local Governance Project and the Community Farm Alliance.

The aim of the symposium, said Appalachian Center Director Helen M. Lewis, is “to involve classes, community groups and policy makers in dialogue about how to plan a sustainable future for rural communities. We hope to bring together rural community groups and Berea departments that can work together to develop case studies and possible scenarios for selected communities.” Study groups could, for instance, examine what might happen in an Appalachian county after the coal is gone or in a farm county after tobacco, what sustainable development would mean for women, and what educational resources Berea College could provide to help communities build a sustainable future.

If you want more information about the symposium as plans progress, write to the Appalachian Center at C.P.O. Box 2336, Berea, Ky. 40404 or phone 606/986-9341, ext. 5140.

PEOPLE, PEOPLE ... Listeners, chatters, gyrating fiddlers—the symposium was a kaleidoscope of varied action.



Loyal Jones Symposium: People, Ideas, Music, Fun

As we informed you in the Summer 1993 issue of the APPALACHIAN CENTER NEWSLETTER, Loyal Jones, the longtime director of the center, retired at the end of the summer term. On November 12-13, to honor him and his work, people came to Berea from all over Appalachia and from points east and west as well.

The first thing to note is, indeed, the people. As the photos on these pages may suggest, every event in this weekend affair was filled to capacity. They stopped selling tickets for the banquet—"A Salute to Loyal Jones"—when they reached 390, the absolute capacity of the dining room.

On Friday afternoon John Stephenson, Richard B. Drake, Helen Lewis, Jean Speer and Ron Eller talked about Appalachian culture and studies. Then came music from Billy Edd Wheeler, Homer Ledford, Betty Smith and Jean Ritchie. At the dinner a group of readers coordinated by Sidney Farr read selections from Loyal Jones's writings. Then a group of speakers—Jim Wayne Miller, Grace Edwards, Bill Best, Tom Parrish and Bill Turner—spoke about Jones in the contexts in which they had known and worked with him.

The Saturday-morning activities were devoted to the three areas of special interest to Jones—Appalachian religion, Appalachian music and Appalachian humor. Deborah McCauley spoke on religion, with responses from Howard Dorgan and John Wallhauser; Bill C. Malone on music, with Jeff Titon and William Tallmadge responding; and Jack Higgs on humor, with Jim Wayne Miller adding his own touches.

All in all—speaking in a vein of mountain modesty, as Loyal Jones is wont to do—you could say that for a send-off, this weekend Appalachian get-together really wasn't half bad. If you weren't part of the crowd on hand, maybe the photos will suggest something of the flavor of the whole thing.



Berea College Public Relations Photos



EYE on Publications

Up from the Mines, by James B. Goode; major photography by Malcolm Wilson (Jesse Stuart Foundation, P.O. Box 391, Ashland, Ky. 41114). In introducing this collection of poems and photographs, James Goode tells us about the first coal miner who made an impression on him. That man, Goode says, "was a poet, storyteller, wood craftsman, farmer, stockbroker, numismatist, licensed waterworks operator and elder of the First Christian Church." He was also Goode's father. A neighbor was a welder, sculptor and carpenter, and another could play any stringed instrument put in his hands. So these poems, the author tells us, are meant to celebrate the "diversity of the Appalachian coal miner, whom I grew to love and respect."

The poems are accompanied by photographs taken by a young man who came to Goode as a student (at the Southeast Community College of the University of Kentucky) and soon proved to be a skilled and sensitive visual inter-

preter of the area and its people. Mixed in with his work is a selection of archival photos showing coal-camp scenes of 70 years ago.

Though he doesn't romanticize his subject, Goode agrees in the main with the point Crandall Shifflett makes in his Weatherford Award-winning book *Coal Towns*: there was much that was undesirable about life in coal camps, but for many of their inhabitants, "life was better than that of many rural families who subsistence-farmed and had no wage-earning job."

Weavers of the Southern Highlands: Berea, by Philis Alvic (1622 Miller Ave., Murray, Ky. 42071). How did Berea become and remain a place to which weavers come to produce their work? If you've ever wondered about this phenomenon (or even if you haven't), this interesting little (28-page) book will give you some answers and introduce, or reintroduce, you to a collection of notable characters from Berea's unique history—not only such eminent presences as William Goodell Frost and William J. Hutchins but

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Hettie Wright Graham, Edith Matheny, Anna Ernberg (especially) and others.

Partisans of President Frost, in particular, will welcome some of the information Philis Alvic gives us. Though Frost has often been accused of looking down on Appalachians white or black and of cheerfully dismissing the existing regional culture, we find him telling Anna Ernberg, who had a Swedish background, that Berea College did not "wish to introduce forms of weaving which are new and foreign to the people here but to encourage and develop the forms which have been handed down by tradition from the Old English and Scotch sources." And to welcome a visiting Quaker journalist in 1903, Frost chose to wear a linsey-woolsey suit that looked, said the visitor, "as if it would wear till it went out of fashion, if men's suits ever do go out of fashion." The book also makes it clear that both Frost and Hutchins were executives who kept a canny eye on the bottom line.

You can get a copy of *Weavers of the Southern Highlands: Berea* from Garry Barker, Berea College Crafts, C.P.O. Box 2347, Berea, Ky. 40404. The price is \$3.50, postpaid.

Foxfire 10, edited by George P. Reynolds, Susan Walker and Rabun County High School Students (Doubleday). For more than 20 years now, the industrious students down at Georgia's Rabun County High School have seen their work appear not only in the famous magazine *Foxfire* but in a series of fat volumes bringing their explorations together in permanent form. At latest count, more than 7 million copies of the first nine books were in print. Now comes No. 10, and it represents something of a switch. Like its predecessors, it is made up largely of interviews, and it has the usual goodly supply of photographs, but this time a single theme dominates the book—the nature of life in the Appalachian South from the 1900s through the years of the Great Depression. We are told about building a mountain railroad, about life in old-time boardinghouses, and about the accomplishments of the WPA and the CCC of the 1930s. (It's interesting to note that nationally those often-lampooned New Deal agencies produced some amazing to-

als—1,634 school buildings constructed, for example, just in the first two years of the WPA, along with the establishment of 5,800 traveling libraries and the providing of 128 million school lunches.)

In addition to all this, *Foxfire 10* offers, as has become customary, detailed instruction in folk arts and crafts, showing you this time how to make chairs, banjos, snake canes, pottery, whirligigs and things out of gourds. Will this phenomenon go on forever? Ultimately, by all logic, everybody in Rabun County will have been buttonholed by eager students and made to contribute memories and ideas to this ongoing archive. But until then, you can probably expect more books like this one.

Simon Kenton, Kentucky Scout, by Thomas D. Clark (Jesse Stuart Foundation, P.O. Box 391, Ashland, Ky. 41144). Every even halfway literate Kentuckian knows who Tom Clark is—a living person, now 90 years old, who can justly be called a legend if anybody can be. Crowned in 1990 by the state legislature as Kentucky's laureate historian, Clark through the years has become known not simply as a teacher and a writer of history but as an untiring advocate of history and of enlightenment in general. If the legislature had needed another title for him, they might simply have settled on "wise man."

Author of numerous books, Clark produced *Simon Kenton* in 1943 as a story for teenagers, and it reappears now as a 50th-anniversary reprint. The hero was one of the daring woodsmen who opened up the land west of the Appalachians in the 1770s. A notably deft tracker of Indians, he won a special place in history by rescuing Daniel Boone during an Indian attack on Fort Boonesborough.

Note: The Berea College Press has just published *The Holy Season: Walking in the Wild*, a collection of poems "sacred and profane" by Albert Stewart, writer, teacher and editor who lives in Knott County, Ky. Stewart was the founding editor of *Appalachian Heritage* magazine. You may order the book from the Appalachian Center, C.P.O. Box 2336, Berea, Ky. 40404. The price is \$14.00 plus \$1.25 for postage.

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