

# NEWS

APPALACHIAN CENTER  
BEREA COLLEGE

# LETTER



Gordon B. McKinney • Thomas Parrish, Co-Editors

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## Looking Forward

**June 21:** Seventh annual Mountain Arts Festival at Valley of the Winds Art Gallery, Eolia, Ky.; an all-day (9 to 6) affair with quilting and woodworking along with music and storytelling and something for the kids; food, too. Call 606/633-8653 for more information.

**June 22-26:** 10th annual Emma Lake Fiddle Camp, Kenderdine campus of the University of Saskatchewan, Emma Lake, Sask.; other sessions will run June 28-July 2 and July 6-10. Designed to improve the skill levels of players and accompanists of all ages, the camp is run by the Saskatchewan Fiddle Committee, a component of the Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange Society. For details, phone the society at 306/569-8980.

**June 23-25:** Black Mountain Music Festival, Hendersonville, N.C., with John Wesley Harding, Roy Bookbinder and others; for details, phone 704/281-3382.

**June 26-29:** Music in the Mountains, Summersville Music Park, Summersville, W.Va.; phone 304/872-3145.

**June 28:** Hillbilly Nation Celebration, with the Metropolitan Blues All-Stars, the Kelly Richey band and other talents. Information from Appalshop, 606/633-0108.

**July 6-11:** Crafts, dance, folklore and music characterize this first of the five weeks of the Augusta Heritage summer schedule. During the following weeks areas and themes will vary, from bead embroidery to Celtic stone carving and from Cajun to Irish bluegrass. More information from the Augusta Heritage Center, Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, W.Va., 26241; phone 304/637-1209.

**July 11-13:** Uncle Dave Macon Days, Cannonsburgh Pioneer Village, Murfreesboro, Tenn. Heralded by the people who devise such ratings as one of the top 20 July events in the Southeast, this jamboree—named for the first person to be featured on the Grand Ole Opry as an individual performer—offers \$5,400 in prizes and is the home of three national championships—old-time banjo, old-time buckdancing and old-time clogging. There's lots more, too. If you're interested, get in touch with Wendy S. Bryant, P.O. Box 5016, Murfreesboro, Tenn. 37133; phone 615/896-3799.

**July 15:** Deadline for papers for the 1998 annual conference of the Sonneck Society for American Music, which will be held in Kansas City, Mo., next February 18-22. Though papers and performances will involve all aspects of music from Canada to the Caribbean, the sponsors invite special attention to band music of all kinds and to topics related to the "geographical centrality" of the host city.

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## Weatherford Prize to First Frontier

The audience at the 25th annual Weatherford Award ceremony heard an unusual—and unusually compelling—story from Wilma Dunaway, who received the prize for her book *The First Appalachian Frontier: Transition to Capitalism in Southern Appalachia, 1700-1860*. Speaking at the award



Chronicle photo by John Butwell

### Wilma Dunaway ... Aniykawi Usildi

luncheon, held in Berea on May 23, Dunaway told the guests that her "true name" is Aniykawi Usildi and that, as the daughter of an Irish mother and a Cherokee father, she is a descendant of the Deer clan and thus a member of a usually overlooked Appalachian group. She then described her childhood and adolescence in an Appalachia far different from that seen by most of her contemporaries—just as her prize-winning study describes an Appalachian economic history for which "controversial" seems to be the most common description. The book is published by the University of North Carolina Press.

Sponsored by the Berea College Appalachian Center and Hutchins Library, the Weatherford Award honors the

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More details about proposals from Karen Ahlquist, Department of Music, George Washington University, Washington, D.C. 20052; phone 202/994-6270.

**July 27-August 2:** 20th annual Appalachian Writers' Workshop, Hindman Settlement School. This year's anniversary session is dedicated to the memory of one of the workshop's longtime mainstays, Jim Wayne Miller. The cast of mentors will include James Still, Lee Smith, Sharyn McCrumb, Robert Morgan, George Ella Lyon and Sidney Farr. To find out more, write the school at P.O. Box 844, Hindman, Ky. 41822; phone 606/785-5475.

**August 8-10:** Augusta Festival, Elkins, W.Va., still another activity of the Augusta Heritage Center. Billed as a "Celebration of Traditional Music, Dance, Folklife & Crafts," this jamboree has something for just about everybody. See contact information above, and there's also an 800 number: 624-3157.

**August 21-25:** Old-Time Kamp: The Appalachian Folk Arts Program, Paramount Hotel, Parksville, N.Y.; classes in fiddle, banjo, clogging, collecting old 78s, and more. You can get full information from Living Traditions, 430 West 14th St., Suite 514, New York, N.Y. 10014; phone 212/691-1272.

**September 27:** Seventh annual conference, Appalachian Teachers' Network, Radford University. This meeting is for teachers in all disciplines, in all levels, who wish to incorporate Appalachian studies into their teaching; enticingly, the people in charge tell us that, by participating, you

can earn five relicensure points. Contact Jim Minick at Box 6935, Radford University, Radford, Va. 24142; phone 540/831-5179, or call the university's Appalachian Regional Studies Center: 540/831-5366.

**October 3-5:** 15th Annual Sorghum Makin', John R. Simon's Family Farm, 8721 Pond Creek/Carey's Run Road, Portsmouth, Ohio 45663. If you have a yen for sorghum suckers and popcorn balls and apple butter, this may be the place for you to spend the weekend. All the eating (or, perhaps, eatin') will be accompanied by acoustical music, while butter gets churned and soap gets made. The number to call is 614/259-6337.

**October 5-6:** Sixth Annual Ohio Appalachian Conference, sponsored by Ohio State University Extension; Canter's Cave 4-H Camp Lodge, Jackson, Ohio. For more information, contact Deanna L. Tribe at 614/286-2177.

**October 24-26:** 24th annual Celebration of Traditional Music, sponsored by the Berea College Appalachian Center, featuring a variety of top performers. Details forthcoming from the center at C.P.O. Box 2336, Berea, Ky. 40404; phone 986-9341, ext. 5140.

**December 26-January 1:** Christmas Country Dance School, Berea College, directed by Susan Spalding, Berea's coordinator of dance. Participants may participate in a variety of classes—English clog, country and morris dance, rapper, Danish, Appalachian clogging and square dance, and contra. There's also singing, and would it be Berea without crafts? Deadline for early registration is December 1. To find out more, call 606/986-9341, ext. 5565.

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## WEATHERFORD from page 1

work published anywhere that in its year best illuminates the problems, personalities and unique qualities of the Appalachian South. Established, and supported for 17 years, by the late Alfred Perrin, retired publications director of Procter and Gamble in Cincinnati, the award originally commemorated the life and achievements of W. D. Weatherford, Sr., a pioneer and leading figure for many years in Appalachian development, youth work and race relations. This year the award committee announced that henceforth the award will honor Willis D. Weatherford, Jr., longtime president of Berea, as well as his father.

The product of a sharecropping family as well as of a Cherokee background on one side of the family, Dunaway conducted her research with a special awareness of various categories of Southern Appalachians "without history." Essentially, she rejects various standard theories of Appalachian history, thereby rejecting also numerous generalizations prevailing in writing and teaching about Appalachian people. Rather than existing in isolation, she says, the people of the mountains took part in the world economy as early as the 17th century—a characteristic example being provided by the role played by Cherokees in the international fur trade. The theoretical matrix for Dunaway's work is provided by world systems theory, her principal mentor being one of the gurus of this realm, Immanuel Wallerstein.

At the luncheon, Loyal Jones, retired director of the Berea College Appalachian Center, received a Special Weatherford Award for his scholarship and his work in helping found the Appalachian studies movement.

Weatherford winners in recent years have included Deborah Vansau McCauley, for *Appalachian Mountain Religion: A History*; Henry Louis Gates, Jr., for *Colored People*; Denise Giardina, for *The Unquiet Earth* (her second win); and Crandall Shifflett, for *Coal Towns*.

## EYE on Publications

*In the Hands of a Happy God*, by Howard Dorgan (University of Tennessee Press). The 18th-century theologian Jonathan Edwards is perhaps best remembered for his sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." Now we have Howard Dorgan, one of the leading writers on religion in Appalachia, telling us about a little-understood but more cheerful-sounding subdenomination called the Primitive Baptist Universalists and better known as the "No-Hellers." No-Hellers, it seems, reject the idea of an angry God determined to dish out punishment and retribution in favor of a more benign Lord who does not deal in eternal damnation. No-Hellers, however, do not deny the existence of hell but instead hold the sophisticated idea that it is a reality of earthly life—the torment that comes from lacking God's blessing. One elder of the group said, "I don't know about you, but I know when I've gotten out of step with God. I'm in hell and feel it." Another said, "Some Baptists take delight in assigning sinners to an eternity in hell. We're happy that everybody escapes that kind of eternity." What



**WINNERS** are usually in good spirits. Here Loyal Jones (far l.), recipient of a Special Weatherford Award, and winning author Wilma Dunaway (second from r.) share smiles with Anne Weatherford and Gordon McKinney, director of the Appalachian Center.

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about Hitler and Charles Manson? They represent the type of person completely removed from God's blessing, said the elders, with no hope of experiencing the joys of a temporal life properly aligned with God's will.

Dorgan, who is billed as a teacher of communication (*sic*) at Appalachian State, is clearly a fascinated student of the varied ways of Appalachian theology and religious practice, as is evidenced by such previous books as *Giving Glory to God in Appalachia* and *The Airwaves of Zion*. Research for this book, says Deborah Vansau McCauley, required "the exact type of seasoned and comprehensive field experience which Dorgan has brought to it with meticulous care and insight."

## Good Deed, Computer Style

Every good deed, it seems, can have its unanticipated fringe benefit. In Estill County, Ky., for instance, volunteers who help the local community action agency (Kentucky River Foothills) handle applications for aid through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (known, understandably, as LIHEAP) find themselves learning to use computers. Teachers at the Head Start Learning Lab give instruction in word processing and computer spreadsheets so that the volunteers can take applications for LIHEAP and other programs. But as the result, these volunteers have also acquired training that fits them for paying jobs.

*Juliette Low*, by Mildred Mastin Pace (Jesse Stuart Foundation, P.O. Box 391, Ashland, Ky. 41114). Juliette Gordon, known as "Daisy" by her friends, was a young woman from Savannah whose life, as has been the case with many, took on special significance as the consequence of a single meeting. As the wife of a well-off British businessman, William Low, she lived for many years in Scotland, and in 1911 she met Sir Robert Baden-Powell, a colorful character who had recently founded the Boy Scouts. When Sir Robert told her he saw an enormous need for a similar program for girls, Daisy immediately set about founding troops in Scotland, and from there she brought the idea across the Atlantic and home to Savannah; hence she is remembered as the founder of the Girl Scouts of America. In 1926, the year before her death, she had the pleasure of seeing the United States play host to the third world encampment of the International Girl Scouts and Girl Guides. Her charm and energy had led to a movement that this year celebrates its 85th birthday.

Now why, exactly, is the Jesse Stuart Foundation reprinting this attractive book for young readers? We're not quite sure, actually, except that the author spent her late adolescence in Kentucky and worked for a year in Berea. Perhaps that's reason enough.

*Wild Peavines*, by Robert Morgan (Gnomon Press, P.O. Box 475, Frankfort, Ky. 40602). Like all Morgan's poems, those in this new collection evoke images of his native North Carolina mountains, even when dealing with so exotic a subject as Attakullakulla's presentation at court in London. Much of the time we are concerned with the wood-

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shed, the chicken house, the sanghoe ("Pick for grubbing shiny roots sweet/ as a hog's testicles." That's supposed to be pretty sweet, we guess) and other ordinary features and objects of daily farm life, but not for these things in themselves. We look up from them, indeed, "far out/ on the mountain's spine."

As the publisher points out, this chapbook will serve as a good introduction to Morgan's poetry for those who know him only as the author of the two recent novels *The Truest Pleasure* and *The Hinterlands*.

**Harriette Simpson Arnow: Critical Essays on Her Work**, edited by Haeja K. Chung (Michigan State University Press), Harriette Arnow—essayist, novelist, story writer, social historian—is one of those writers who offer something for critics of all stripes and trends. Appalachianists, Marxists, feminists, people who just love literature and others have, through the years, made use of her work for a variety of purposes, yet she remains respected but not fully evaluated.

Arnow won praise for her work during her lifetime, *Hunter's Horn* being selected in the *New York Times Book Review* as one of the ten best novels of its year and *The Dollmaker* being runner-up to William Faulkner's *A Fable* for the National Book Award in 1955. Yet then and ever after Arnow was treated as a regional writer—so much so that at Harvard, in 1975, a graduate student had to overcome protests by her professors before being allowed to write a

dissertation on her. But one of her admirers, Wilton Eckley, who contributes an essay to this book, sums her up as a "realist who rejects such things as experimental forms, complex plots, sentimental themes, the pyrotechnics of sex, and the contemporary mania for neurotic protagonists" and "combines in her work a penetrating and sensitive insight into the human condition with a lean prose style ..."

The editor, who teaches at Michigan State, says that it was the inaccessibility of sources that pushed her into compiling this collection, which consists of 16 essays about Arnow generally and about individual works, together with four pieces by the honoree herself. These articles generally read well, except where, in the style currently favored by the MLA, sentences are broken up by parenthetical references to sources, as though we were dealing with endocrinology or particle physics and should not presume to enjoy what we are reading.



**In Appalachian Heritage ...**

Highlights of the Spring 1997 issue of *Appalachian Heritage* include "The Days of Darkness," a memoir by Richard Sears, a study of surface-mine reclamation by Henry C. Mayer, and a brand-new, first-time-ever poem by James Still.

You may obtain the magazine (\$6.00 a copy, \$18.00 for a year's subscription) from *Appalachian Heritage*, Hutchins Library, Berea, Kentucky 40404.

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