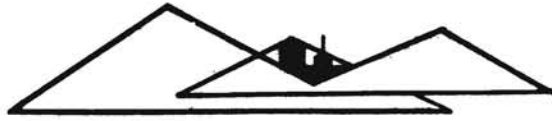


NEWS

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LETTER

APPALACHIAN CENTER
BEREA COLLEGE

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Old-Time Music Festival for Berea

Appropriately, in this day and time, Berea College has a Traditional Music Committee, made up of several musicians and authorities on old-time Appalachian music. Appropriately, again, the committee is planning an annual traditional music festival, the first one of which will be held November 7-10, 1974.

The purpose of the festival, which will be both a recreational and a scholarly occasion, is to encourage the music and instrumental musicianship traditional to Appalachian people. This is actually not a new aim at Berea, since a spring dance festival and the Christmas Country Dance School have been fixtures in the calendar for many years and the college has a long-time interest in the collection and preservation of songs and ballads (in fact, the Appalachian Center is currently offering to interested persons a new compilation, *340 Books of Ballads and Songs in the Berea College Collection*; you may write the Center for a copy).

This year's inaugural festival will begin on Thursday evening with a square dance and will include performances by musicians on Friday and Saturday evenings, instrumental workshops and a symposium during the day on Saturday, and gospel and shape-note singing on Sunday. Performers and authorities invited to participate include Jean Ritchie, Bradley Kincaid, Buell Kazee, Asa Martin and John Lair. The Saturday workshops will deal with techniques in old-time fiddling and banjo, dulcimer and guitar picking and with ballad, shape-note and folk-song singing.

The festival will be under the direction of the Appalachian Center, with the assistance of the music department and the Berea Country Dancers.

Deja vu in Boone

As a part of its continuing endeavor to keep up with Appalachian goings-on, the CENTER NEWSLETTER dispatched an observer to Boone, N.C., last May for a regional conference that was to consider the "nature of life in the mountains and how plans for the future can be made . . ." What follows is his report. If you aren't quite sure what to make of it, well, neither were we. We will say, though, that he seems to have enjoyed himself.

"The future ain't what it used to be," some fellow said

somebody else had said. That's one thing, at least, that we agreed on during the big spring conference at the Center for Continuing Education of Appalachian State University. The conference had various themes: "Education for Crisis" (he thought we've been doing that for 50 years, a fellow said, and we've certainly achieved crisis), "Energy - - Land Use - - The Human Spirit" and "Toward 1984: The Future of Appalachia." All of these themes were thoroughly gone into, sometimes through lengthy monologues, sometimes in heated exchanges.

Most people agreed that we are hell-bent for the future with a runaway team and broken checklines, on a downhill road that's rocky and gullied. One fellow said maybe we ought to get stopped, make a few repairs and then find a more suitable road and destination. Others said we can't do that because we've got a load of stuff that's got to be delivered. In the ditch is where it's going to be delivered, or on top of some poor soul, somebody else said. Well, the trouble is that we haven't got control and we ought to grab it, another said. That'd be robbery, wouldn't it? a fellow allowed. Who's robbing who? is the question, a woman threw in.

The problem in all this was that the conference had tried to embrace everybody who had any opinions about the future - - coal operators, government men, preachers, professors, specialists of various kinds, radical organizers. One thing about it - - it was great to see
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Barry Bingham, Jr., Alfred Perrin at
Weatherford ceremony (p. 3)



The Appalachian Regional Commission: For Service or Self-Preservation?

PRO

Through 1973 a total of \$1,996,400,000 in federal money had been appropriated to carry out this revolutionary (Appalachian development) plan. And when state and local matching dollars are added in, plus federal money acquired from programs other than Appalachia, the investment soars to well over \$4 billion.

In return for that the Appalachian Regional Commission . . . can claim the following accomplishments . . . Construction, or assistance in construction, or other type of assistance for:

881.9 miles of new completed highway, 407.4 more miles of highway now being built, and engineering and right-of-way work in progress on 783.3 more miles of highway.

320 health facilities, plus 171 for higher education and 622 for vocational education; 110 libraries, 308 water-pollution-control facilities, 123 airports, 59 grants to school systems, 11,232 housing units planned, 77 mine area reclamation projects and 16,637 land treatment and erosion control contracts let.

A wide-ranging demonstration health program involving 13 planning grants, 394 operating health projects, 104 health construction projects and 249 child development efforts . . .

If a resident who had left in 1965 were to return today, he would find many changes, including hundreds of miles of new four-lane highways, scores of new schools, access to impressive medical facilities and services, excellent opportunities for vocational training and an unemployment rate that is hovering closer to the national average than ever before. By the Appalachian Regional Commission count 545,800 new jobs were created between 1965 and 1970 and personal income increased by more than \$14 billion.

The hemorrhage of outmigration has also been stopped . . .

It can be argued also that whatever its shortcomings the Appalachian program has been an investment in people who needed help but were too proud and independent to ask for it. - - From *James Carey, Copley News Service, in the Cincinnati Enquirer.*

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everybody. We hadn't seen some of them since this kind of conference succumbed to historical necessity or whatever it was five or six years ago, in the twilight days of the multitrack Council of the Southern Mountains. But in sharp-focus 1974, everybody seemed offended to find people there who didn't share their own notions about things. It really looked as though several different invitation lists had been inadvertently combined.

Nowadays everybody knows that coal operators, government men, preachers, professors, specialists and radical organizers can't sit down and talk about energy or land use or the human spirit or any such stuff without getting all rankled up so that they can't enjoy the view of the Blue Ridge or the savor of those thick

CON

There is an unwritten law . . . that old bureaucracies, like generals, never die. They just keep spending your tax money . . .

This is the story of how one modest-sized bureaucracy - - the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) - - is plotting its survival . . .

The effort has already cost taxpayers - - at least on paper - - \$797,000 . . .

The story begins almost a year ago, when ARC policy makers determined their days might be numbered.

A child of President Johnson's Great Society program, the Appalachian commission, a federal-state agency, was eight years old at the time. Created to pump economic life into hard-pressed mountain areas, it had spent almost \$2 billion since 1965 in the 13-state region.

The results were mixed at best.

Commission statistics showed that some parts of the regions, especially the far northern and southern parts, experienced remarkable economic growth. In some cases, their per capita income and number of industrial jobs had increased faster than the nation as a whole. They had ceased to be poverty pockets and become prosperous.

Other areas, like Southwestern West Virginia and much of Eastern Kentucky, remain among the nation's very poorest. In them, per capita income stood at just over half the national average. And whatever new jobs had developed were the result of a boom in coal production - - something the commission had ignored. . . .

Top officials talked of revamping the entire Appalachian development effort, funneling more money into hard-pressed areas like Eastern Kentucky and West Virginia and figuring out where they had gone wrong in the past But when the commission finally implemented its plan for survival, it reacted in a typically bureaucratic way. It appointed a batch of committees, seven to be exact, and commissioned an equal number of studies, most by hired "outside experts." - - From *Bill Peterson in the Louisville Courier-Journal*

steaks. What you get is "to hell with the coal operators," "to hell with the radicals," "to hell with the professors," and so on. And, of course, there was a fine speech from Wilma Dykeman and a superb concert with Doc and Merle Watson where everybody seemed to be together - - except, that is, for the committee on future goals, who were off in a room working on a resolution, and maybe the other small group that worked on a counter resolution.

A few questions got answered and some others got asked, ones like "Isn't the government taking care of black lung and all those mine safety problems?" and "How can we each go home and start to solve these problems we've talked about?" and "Do you think there's any future for Appalachia in the future?"

Anyway, it sure was great seeing everybody.



Judge Louis Iglehart presents award to Wilma Dykeman

For the Scientific Method

Governments, educational institutions and private companies can receive scientific and technical advice and help from a Berea-based organization, Scientists and Engineers for Appalachia.

Founded in 1970, the group is currently conducting and planning a number of activities. They include a surface mining and reclamation project (with Lees College, Jackson, Ky.), an inventors' fair, a science education resource center and an information bureau.

Membership is not confined to scientists and engineers. What is required is that one "have an interest in the application of the scientific method to Appalachia." If that fits you, you might want to find out more about SEA with a view to becoming a member. Write to Scientists and Engineers for Appalachia, College Box 1880, Berea, Ky. 40403.

Appalachian Recordings

As a follow-up to the mention of Berea College's traditional music festival, we offer here a list of sources for recordings of music from the Appalachian region or by musicians from the region.

Folkways/Scholastic Records
906 Sylvan Avenue
Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632

American folk music series, language arts, social studies, Afro-American history and culture, ethnic series, American history, children's series, American Indian dances and music. Records by Jean Ritchie, Doc Watson, Bascom Lamar Lunsford, Artus Moser, Roscoe Holcomb and Wade Ward, Buell Kazee.

Archive of Folk Song
The Library of Congress
Washington, D.C. 20540

Records made from field recordings, including much music from the Appalachians, black and Indian music.

Arhoolie Records, Inc.
Box 9195
Berkeley, Calif. 94719

Mainly black blues and jazz but also some country, old-time string bands and Cajun music.

C-J, Wilma Dykeman Receive Awards

Louisville *Courier-Journal* editor and publisher Barry Bingham, Jr., and writer Wilma Dykeman received W. D. Weatherford Awards in the fourth annual ceremony, held in Berea on April 25. Special speakers were Thomas R. Ford, professor of sociology at the University of Kentucky, and three reporters from the prize-winning *Courier-Journal* - - Kyle Vance, Bill Peterson and Frank Ashley.

The awards honor the achievements of the late W. D. Weatherford, Sr., a long-time pioneer in Appalachian development, youth work and race relations. The primary award, won by the *Courier-Journal*, carries a cash prize of \$500; the special award, given to Ms. Dykeman, has a prize of \$200. Donor of the prizes is Alfred H. Perrin of Berea.

Everest Records
10920 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90024

Their Tradition label has several good records of Appalachian music, featuring Jean Ritchie, John Jacob Niles, and John Langstaff. Also has American Indian and black music and folk tales. Good discount to schools.

Rounder Records
727 Somerville Ave.
Somerville, Mass. 02143

Many records of folk and country music and early string bands. Most are reprocessed from 78 rpm recordings.

County Records
307-311 East 37th St.
New York 16, N.Y.

Many records with Appalachian music and performers. Most from old 78 rpm recordings. Charlie Poole, Gid Tanner, Uncle Dave Macon, Coon Creek Girls, Kenny Baker.

Folk-Legacy Records
Sharon, Conn. 06069

Primarily pure folk music and tales. Edna Ritchie Baker, Frank Profitt, Ray Hicks, Richard Chase.

Man with a Memory

One day in 1968, a young poverty worker named Raymond Overstreet fell into conversation with an elderly woman up in Eastern Kentucky. For fifteen years she and her husband had battled strip miners encroaching on their land, she said, and when the young fellow said he was planning to go to law school, she told him that if he ever had the chance to help people like her, he should take it.

Overstreet didn't forget her, and in 1974 he introduced in the Kentucky legislature House Bill 9, which sought in effect to do away with Kentucky's widely attacked broad-form deed, under which strippers could go after coal if they had secured the mineral rights to land, regardless of the wishes of the surface owner. "It was a very personal thing with me," says Overstreet.

In passing the law, Kentucky became the last Appalachian state to curb the abuses made possible by the broad-form deed. In all the other mountain states, the broad-form had been declared unconstitutional by the courts. But Kentucky's Court of Appeals had steadfastly refused to do so. This brings up a point that concerns some strip-mining watchers: What will happen when the Court of Appeals has occasion to review HB 9? "They will uphold it," Overstreet says. "It's perfectly constitutional."

Certainly the imminent demise of the broad-form deed hasn't dampened the operators' lust for coal. In the early months of 1974, permits for new mines were issued at a rate twice that of the same months in 1973.

EYE on Publications

Programs concerned with Appalachia may come and go, but Appalachian publishing seems to carry on and flourish. Below are listed a number of periodicals that deal wholly or in significant part with Appalachian matters. The list does not include purely literary magazines, of which there are many -- and many good ones.

Appalachia, Appalachian Regional Commission, 1666 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20235. Free. Monthly.

Appalachian Advance, Appalachia Educational Laboratory, Box 1348, Charleston, W. Va. 25325. Free.

Appalachian Heritage, Alice Lloyd College, Pippa Passes, Ky. 41844. \$5.00 a year. Quarterly.

Appalachian Journal, Box 536, Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C. 28607. \$8.00 a year. Quarterly.

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

Appalachian Notes, Erasmus Press, 225 Culpepper, Lexington, Ky. 40502. \$5.00 a year. Quarterly.

Appalachian Outlook (bibliography), West Virginia University Library, Morgantown, W.Va. 26505. \$3.00 a year.

Foxfire, Southern Highlands Literary Fund, Rabun Gap, Ga. 30568. \$6.00 a year. Quarterly.

Kentucky Folklore Record, Box 169, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101. \$3.00 a year. Quarterly.

Mountain Life & Work, Council of the Southern Mountains, Inc., Clintwood, Va. \$5.00 a year. Monthly.

North Carolina Folklore, North Carolina Folklore Society, North Carolina State University, Department of English, Raleigh, N.C. 27607. \$2.00 a year. Published twice yearly.

Southern Voices, Southern Regional Council, 52 Fairlie Street, N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30303. \$5.00 a year. Bimonthly.

Tennessee Folklore Society Bulletin, Tennessee Folklore Society, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tenn. 37130. \$2.00 for students, \$3.00 for all other individual subscribers and \$4.00 for libraries and institutions. Published four times a year.

Tennessee Valley Perspective, Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, Tenn. 37902. Free

BOOKS

Snake Handlers, by Robert W. Pelton and Karen W. Carden (Thomas Nelson). A religious documentary, with photos, about just what the title says. According to the subtitle, the book asks the question God-fearers or fanatics? The cover blurbs, rather unusually, are from members of the sects written about.

Roots of Futility, by Norman A. Polansky, Robert D. Borgman and Christine De Saix (Jossey-Bass). A study, carried out in western North Carolina and northeast Georgia, of the mothers of deprived children and the "apathy-futility syndrome" that characterizes their relationships with their children and their approach to life in general. If you're one of those who subscribe to the currently trendy belief that there's probably no such thing as deprivation or that there's not much wrong with it if it does exist, you ought to find the book enlightening.

One Sunset a Week, by George Vecsey (Saturday Review Press-Dutton). The author, a former Appalachian correspondent of the New York *Times*, chronicles a week spent with a mining family in southwest Virginia. Not your typical miner, Dan Sizemore is a long-time critic of the industry.

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