

NEWS

APPALACHIAN CENTER
BEREA COLLEGE



LETTER

Gordon B. McKinney • Thomas Parrish, Co-Editors

Vol. 32 No. 1 Winter 2003

Looking Forward

April 4-6 and May 2-4: If you don't have a week's getaway time, the John C. Campbell Folk School has offerings just for you—weekend classes in a variety of pursuits from toe-up sock knitting to beekeeping. But if you can set aside a whole week any time during the spring, you can choose from instruction in an even wider range of subjects. For details of all programs, contact the school at One Folk School Road, Brasstown, N.C. 28902; phone 800/FOLKSCH; www.folkschool.org.

April 6-11: Spring Dulcimer Week, Augusta Heritage Center, Davis & Elkins College. Jody Marshall, Ken Kolodner, Patty Looman and Rick Fogel will offer instruction in the hammered dulcimer; Anne Lough, Heidi Cerrigione, Lee Rowe and Lorraine Lee Hammond will teach mountain dulcimer. (Instruments will be available for loan or rental.) You can also receive tutelage on the autoharp from Les Gustafson-Zook. For full information, write the Augusta Heritage Center, 100 Campus Drive, Elkins, W. Va. 26241, or phone 304/637-1209; www.augustaheritage.com.

April 9-10: Berea College Appalachian Fund Affiliates Conference; Alumni Building, Berea College. Representatives of all the organizations helped by the fund will report on their activities, and members of the public are especially invited to attend. For more information, phone 859/985-3023.

April 11-13: Appalachian Women's Alliance tenth-anniversary celebration; Abingdon, Va; 540/745-5345 or AWA@swva.net.

April 24-27: 16th annual MerleFest, Wilkes Community College, Wilkesboro, N.C. A jamboree in which everybody seems to be a headliner: the list of performers includes Emmylou Harris, Ricky Skaggs and Thunder, Ralph Stanley and a clutch of other notables. For details, phone 800/343-7857.

April 26-27: Seventh annual Bear on the Square Mountain Festival, Folkways Center of the Georgia Mountains, Dahlonega, Ga. Concerts, jam sessions, traditional crafts, activities for children, with appearances by the Jim Hurst Band, James Bryan with Rachel Bryan and Will Dooley, Gold Rush and other regional groups. For full information, call the Dahlonega/Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce, 706/864-3711 or 800/231-5543; www.dahlonega.org.

May 1-3: 13th annual Boxcar Pinion Memorial Bluegrass Festival, Raccoon Mountain Campground (off I-24 at Exit 174), Chattanooga, Tenn. Among the performers on hand will be David Parmley & Continental Divide, Rhonda Vincent and The Rage (we don't know what they're mad

at), Charlie Waller and the Country Gentlemen, Mountain Heart, the James King Band, IIIrd Tyme Out and, not to be overlooked, the Dismembered Tennesseans (a band). You can get full details from Cindy Pinion at 706/820-2228.

May 9-11: 34th annual Appalachian Festival, Coney Island, Cincinnati, sponsored by the Appalachian Community Development Association. There's a small admission fee: \$7. ACDA's mailing address is P.O. Box 141099, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250; phone 513/251-3378. The organization's Web address: www.appalachianfestival.org.

May 16-18: Spring fair, Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen, Indian Fort Theater, Berea, Ky. At this Top Ten Kentucky festival, some 120 guild members will display their work in all media; it will all of course be available for purchase, and, say the sponsors, with more than 40 new artisans joining the guild's veteran members, "it's not the same old fair." There'll be music, too, and various projects for children. Highlight: For \$10, you can buy a chance on a \$5,000 stainless-steel sculpture by Kentucky artist Dave Caudill. More information can be obtained from the guild office: 859/986-3192.

May 23-25: Old-Time Fiddlers and Bluegrass Festival, Fiddlers Grove Compound, Union Grove, N.C. Held every year during Memorial Day weekend, this truly old-time event has not missed a beat since its founding in 1924. There'll
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Fair Taxer

In the early 1980s a group of Eastern Kentuckians, primarily concerned about some of the activities of area coal companies, formed an organization called the Kentucky Fair Tax Coalition. Gladys Maynard, a retired beautician, served as the first chairwoman. Earlier she had helped found Concerned Citizens of Martin County in response to plans by local officials to relocate more than 100 families from a symbolically named village: Beauty. Got to get people out of that flood-prone area, said the officials; Mrs. Maynard and others felt that coal reserves in the area were providing the real impetus for the project.

In any case, the local people organized and won their cause, and Mrs. Maynard proceeded to help create the Kentucky Fair Tax Coalition, which flourished, played a part in curbing the power of the coal companies, and, preserving its initials, went on to become Kentuckians For The Commonwealth.

In February, Mrs. Maynard, 79, died at her home in Inez, Ky. ■

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be the usual competition, and this year's special guests, Doc Watson and his grandson Richard Watson, will give a concert on Saturday evening, May 24. Also appearing during the festival will be the Cockman Family, the Trantham Family, Laura Boosinger, Hal Beaver & Bluegrass, Wicker & Jones and the Cane Creek Cloggers, as well as J. P. Fraley and Robin Warren. Information: 704/539-4417; www.fiddlersgrove.com; fiddlersgrove@yadtel.net.

May 30: "Forestry Issues and Needs in Kentucky," a one-evening public forum sponsored by the Kentucky Environmental Quality commission; Student Center, Morehead State University, Morehead, Ky. The American Southeast yields more timber than any other region or even country in the world; the forum will address issues related to this high level of production. Information from the commission at 14 Reilly Road, Frankfort, Ky. 40601; www.kyeqc.net; EQC@mail.state.ky.us.

May 30-31: Appalshop's 31st annual Seedtime on the Cumberland Festival of Mountain Arts, Whitesburg, Ky.; appearing will be performing artists from a variety of cultures. Find out more from Appalshop, 306 Madison St., Whitesburg, Ky. 41858; phone, 606/633-0108.

June 1-21: Summer session, New Opportunity School for Women. Successful applicants (up to 14 per session) to this popular program spend three weeks learning about jobs and how to get them. The school is designed for low-income women (age 30-55) who have high school diplomas or GED certificates or are actively working for the GED but have not completed college. The program includes classes in computer basics, leadership development, Appalachian literature and writing, along with field trips and—all-important—workshops on building self-confidence; 385 women have now graduated from the school, and three-fourths of them hold jobs or are taking additional training.

This record recently won for the New Opportunity School a \$100,000 Use Your Life Award from Oprah Winfrey. The cash will help the school offer three sessions a year rather than the previous two. For full information, write the school at 204 Chestnut Street, Berea, Ky. 40403; phone, 859/985-7200; e-mail, info@nosw.org. (Note: The deadline for applications is April 18.)

June 8-14: Appalachian Family Folk Week at the Hindman Settlement School. As always, this year's session will be a total immersion in traditional music, dance and other aspects of Appalachian culture, and you can come by yourself or bring the whole family. Jean Ritchie, Art Stamper, Cari Norris, Elwood Cornett and Ray Slone will be among those providing entertainment; the chairmaker Terry Ratliff will return, and you can also watch the work of third-generation basket maker Darvin Messer, woodcarver Harvey Amburgey and master quiltmaker Wanda Layne; also, the kids won't want to miss Randy Wilson, the "pied piper of children."

For full details, write the school at P.O. Box 844, Hindman, Ky. 41822, or call 606/785-5475; e-mail: jss@tgtel.com.

June 8-14: Blue Ridge Old-Time Music Week, Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, N.C. In "an atmosphere of friendship and encouragement," you can spend a week in banjo, dulcimer or other sessions, including a new class in the oral traditions of Madison County; among the instructors are Riley Baugus, Laura Boosinger, Brad Leftwich, Rhonda Gouge and Sheila Kay Adams (Madison County love

songs). More information from 828/689-1646 or at www.mhc.edu/oldtimemusic.

June 16-July 25: 22nd annual Hindman Settlement School summer tutorial program for children with learning disabilities/dyslexia; see Hindman contact information for June 8-14.

June 20-August 2: Swannanoa Gathering, a series of weekend workshops held on the campus of Warren Wilson College, outside Asheville, N.C. Beginning with Cherokee Heritage Weekend, the series progresses through dulcimers, swing and other delights, ending with guitars; www.swangathering.org.

June 22-27: Fourth annual Mountain Dulcimer Week, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, N.C. This must be a pretty good show: one of last year's participants said, "I would walk the 500 miles to attend." However they get there, those who come to learn have access to more than 25 course instructors—that takes care of mornings; the afternoons are devoted to workshops. Contact the university at 828/227-7397; e-mail: hensley@wcu.edu; Web page: cess.wcu.edu/dulcimer.

July 6-August 10: Music, crafts, dance and folklore, capped by the three-day Augusta Festival (August 8-10), Augusta Heritage Center, Davis & Elkins College. You may pick your week and pick your pursuit: Irish culture, rhythm guitar, hula dance, Cajun cooking, blues and bluegrass—just to mention a very few of the varied offerings. For full details, consult the contact information for April 6-11.

July 11-13: 26th annual Uncle Dave Macon Days Old-Time Music and Dance Festival, Cannonsburgh Pioneer Village, Murfreesboro, Tenn. Recently picked by tourism specialists as one of the best 100 events in North America (just two per state), while maintaining its status as one of the top 20 July events in the Southeast, this family-oriented jamboree—named for the first person to be featured on the Grand Ole Opry as an individual performer—is expected to draw more than 45,000 people and offers \$5,400 in prizes; it's the home of three national championships—old-time banjo, old-time buckdancing and old-time clogging. There's lots more, too, notably including a reunion of previous title winners. If you want overall details, get in touch with Wendy S. Bryant, P.O. Box 5016, Murfreesboro, Tenn. 37133; phone, 615/893-6565; the 800 number is 716-7560.

July 17-20: 17th annual Scopes Trial Play and Festival, Dayton, Tenn. This reenactment of the famous "monkey trial" confrontation between William Jennings Bryan and Clarence Darrow, which is sponsored by the local chamber of commerce and Bryan College, will be accompanied by various other kinds of entertainment. As the date comes closer, you can get details from the sponsors at 423/775-0361.

July 17-20: Summer edition of the 56th annual fairs, Southern Highland Craft Guild, Asheville Civic Center, Asheville, N.C. The sponsors chose this year's theme, "Tradition and Innovation," as a backdrop for their creation of a new permanent-collection gallery, which is now under construction; visitors will see the work of some 170 contemporary craft makers in a historical context. (The fall edition will come out October 16-19.) You can find out more from Paige Johnson at 828/298-7928; paige@craftguild.org.

July 27-August 1: 26th annual Appalachian Writers'

Jane Stephenson, founder of the New Opportunity School for Women, receives the \$100,000 Use Your Life Award from Oprah Winfrey at a taping of Winfrey's TV program. Such donations have particular importance, said Stephenson, because the organization, which operates on a tight budget, takes no state or federal funds.



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Workshop, Hindman Settlement School. The list of mentors for this summer's renewal of the yearly get-together includes a mixture of rising stars and veteran luminaries—among them, George Ella Lyon, Silas House, Ron Rash, Leatha Kendrick, Pamela Duncan, Chris Holbrook, Marie Bradby and Anne Shelby. To find out more, check the contact information for Hindman, June 8-14.

EYE on Publications

Challenge and Change in Appalachia: The Story of Hindman Settlement School, by Jess Stoddart (University Press of Kentucky). Several years ago in these pages, we took note of a book called *The Quare Women's Journals*, an account of the invasion of a corner of Appalachia, beginning in 1899, by two remarkable women, Katherine Pettit and May Stone. Well educated and influenced by the settlement-house work of Jane Addams at Hull House in Chicago and by the overall contemporaneous Progressive movement, these women held summer settlement camps for three years before settling permanently in Hindman, Ky., in 1902, where they established the first rural settlement school in the United States.

Katherine Pettit's notebooks, edited by Jess Stoddart, formed the bulk of the earlier book; Stoddart is a professor emeritus of history at San Diego State University.

Why "quare women"? Both of these idealistic ladies came from Kentucky families that were not only long established but were progressive and politically active. To the mountain people, however, these exotic and earnest newcomers from the lowlands seemed at first to be comic figures, with their funny dresses and their odd hair styles. Locals came from miles around to get a good look at them.

What happened after the locals came to look, and what has gone on happening ever since, forms the substance of Professor Stoddart's new book, which is quite explicit and thorough in recounting its absorbing story, even though the publishers saw fit to present it with a notably vague title.

"Having little experience and less money," said Pettit and Stone, "we started a school." Whatever assets the two may have lacked, however, they entered upon their

Feudin' and Litigatin'

Who would have thought that an interstate war that began back in the 19th century would still be raging in the 21st?

However, West Virginians and Kentuckians bearing the famous names Hatfield and McCoy recently went into battle, this time using words as their weapons. The original fight broke out, people say, over the theft of a pig, but at stake in the present controversy is the right claimed by two McCoy's to visit a family cemetery that, regrettably, happens to be located on a land owned by one John Vance, a descendant of the Hatfields.

Actually, the McCoy's want the cemetery to be included in a proposed tour of feud sites, but Vance has posted a NO TRESPASSING sign on the driveway leading to the old McCoy graves. Though he's interested in promoting tourism, Bo McCoy shed tears as he testified during the court hearing, and Ron McCoy, the other plaintiff, declared, "This is not about publicity. I would have to be a genius to get the kind of international press we're getting here." The trial judge did not say when he would issue his ruling. But at least this fight hasn't left any McCoy's tied to paw-paw trees with their bodies full of Hatfield lead.

venture with lofty aims in mind—to create a model for reforming mountain education and to initiate a variety of general programs like those offered at Hull House and other big-city settlement houses.

As we observed in commenting on the *Quare Women's Journals*, these women came to the mountains with the aim of improving the locals, a purpose that has not always found unqualified favor with subsequent commentators. Here the author treads with some care, leaning neither toward beatification nor toward debunking. She points out, in particular, that Jane Addams, the pioneer in the field, believed that settlement workers had much to learn from the people among whom they lived, and that settlement houses should honor all cultures. In Appalachia, a local resident put it succinctly: "Mixin' larns both parties."

The author demonstrates Hindman's efforts, through
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the years, to adapt its mission and activities to the needs of the surrounding community—nowadays fostering new regional development while celebrating the literary and artistic heritage of the region. The conclusion that emerges from the book is that Hindman was not only the first rural American settlement school, it was also the most successful.

Culture, Environment, and Conservation in the Appalachian South, edited by Benita J. Howell (University of Illinois Press). Though mostly academics, the contributors to this anthology are a varied group, including a tree farmer, a city planner and a civic activist. These interests fit well with the overall aim proclaimed by the editor, a cultural anthropologist at the University of Tennessee—to explore “historic and contemporary relationships between culture and environment in southern Appalachia.”

As a contribution to the commonly fierce and self-interested debates over issues of land use and conservation, the book offers looks at ways in which physical space has been transmuted into cultural “place” by buildings and other kinds of construction and by social factors—family traditions and the “sense of place” dear to many commentators on regional matters.

The contributors share the hope, says the editor, that “readers will be persuaded to integrate cultural science perspectives in working out culturally grounded local solutions for local problems.”

Literary Note

In February, Katherine Vande Brake, who teaches English at King College in Bristol, Tenn., received the second biennial \$2,000 Harry Caudill prize for her study *How They Shine—Melungeon Characters in the Fiction of Appalachia*.

“The prize recognizes outstanding contributions to reporting Appalachian life and values,” noted the sponsor and donor, Jim Presgraves, proprietor of Bookworm and Silverfish (we don’t have to tell you what his shop sells) in

Wytheville, Va. For information about nominating a work for a future award, write to the sponsor at P.O. Box 639, Wytheville, Va. 24382.

Applauding the winner (which was published by the Mercer University Press), one of the judges commented that the subject is so esoteric that “it is remarkable that the book was ever thought of,” but he found it interesting and important.

In noting his desire to honor the memory of the late Harry Caudill for the courage and integrity he brought to his writing about Appalachia, Presgraves remarked that “many people now are not familiar with his best-known work, *Night Comes to the Cumberlands*”—the book that blew the trumpet for Appalachia in the early 1960s. One has to ask: Can that really be true?



In *Appalachian Heritage*...

From Editor George Brosi: The spring issue of *Appalachian Heritage* will feature two authors, one historical and one contemporary. The historical author is Byron Herbert Reece (1917-1958), who was raised on a small farm in Union County, Ga. Our contemporary featured author is James B. Goode, the retired founding director of the Appalachian Center at Southeast Community College in Cumberland, Ky. The issue will include a previously unpublished story by him and another by Sallie Page and a story from Lee Maynard that is a sequel to the one we carried in the last issue. Our pictorial feature will highlight the Tennessee pen-and-ink artist David White, and we will have multiple poems from Jeff Mann of Virginia Tech as well as individual poems from several other outstanding regional poets. Book reviews and write-ups and our regular features of regional literary news and events will fill out the magazine. For updates check our Web site: www.berea.edu/ApCenter/AppHeritage.html.

Appalachian Heritage is available (\$6 a copy, \$18 for a year’s subscription) from the Appalachian Center, C.P.O. Box 2166, Berea, Ky. 40404.

Published by
Appalachian Center/Berea College
C.P.O. Box 2166
Berea, Ky. 40404-2166

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