

# NEWS



# LETTER

APPALACHIAN CENTER  
BEREA COLLEGE

Loyal Jones · Thomas Parrish, Co-Editors

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## Berea Workshop Set For Third Summer

This summer (June 9-July 18) Berea College, in association with the University of Kentucky, will conduct the third annual Workshop in Appalachian Studies. The purpose of the workshop, which is designed for teachers and curriculum specialists, is to give participants the knowledge, materials and techniques necessary for them to establish courses in Appalachian studies in their local schools.

The workshop will offer two courses, for which six hours of graduate extension credit will be given through the College of Education at the University of Kentucky, and each participant is expected to take both courses. These are History and Culture of Appalachia and Literature and the Arts in Appalachia. The courses will be taught by a variety of staff members and visiting lecturers, including Richard B. Drake, professor of history and political science at Berea College and codirector of the workshop; Loyal Jones, director of the Berea College Appalachian Center and codirector of the workshop; Wilma Dykeman, novelist and biographer; Jim Wayne Miller, poet and short-story writer and professor of German at Western Kentucky University; Pat Wear, professor of education at Berea College; Richard L. Warren, professor of education in the College of Education, University of Kentucky; Lillie D. Chaffin, poet and novelist; Raymond K. McLain, folk musician and assistant professor of music at Berea College; John Ramsay, director of recreation extension at Berea College; Bets Ramsey, crafts specialist; Leonard Roberts, folklorist and director of the Appalachian Studies Center at Pikeville College; Cratis Williams, specialist in Appalachian speech, literature and folklore and dean of the graduate school of Appalachian State University; Joan Moser, specialist in Appalachian music at the Newfound School (Asheville, N.C.).

The plan for the workshop grew out of the current widespread examination of the American experience. As the sponsors put it, "we now recognize that all groups--ethnic, racial, regional and religious--have contributed to the building of this country, and their cultures have greatly enriched our national life. The Appalachian Mountains have nurtured one of these cultural traditions, rich in fundamental values, in folk songs, hymns, folk tales, handicrafts and pioneer skills. In the mass media, however, Appalachian people have been portrayed pri-

marily as people with problems. Of course we do have problems, but we also have many strengths. The media have not dealt adequately with these strengths, nor have local schools offered courses and materials that present the abilities of Appalachian people and their contributions to American culture. Therefore, many young persons learn only of the negative aspects of their culture and do not have an appreciation of its positive qualities."

The first four weeks of the workshop will be devoted to intensive study and the final two to developing an actual Appalachian curriculum and courses that can be instituted in the school from which the participant comes. The cost to the sponsoring institutions is \$425 per student, but the actual charge is only \$125, since scholarships cover the balance. You can apply by writing the Berea College Appalachian Center, College Box 2336, Berea, Ky. 40403.

## Population Going Up

The population figures of an area change in only two ways--by births and deaths (this is called natural change) and by migration into and out of the area. For almost a quarter of a century the big story in Appalachian population trends has been migration--out of the region. From 1950 to 1960 about 2.5 million people left the mountains and 1.6 million more went during the 1960s. For the region as a whole this emigration came close to equaling the net growth through natural change (contrary to a widespread belief, the region had a net population gain during those decades, as did the portion comprising Southern Appalachia, but the outmigration was so great that the increase was slight). In the heart of the region (the mountain counties of Kentucky, West Virginia and Virginia) there was an absolute decline in population.

This movement outward was not unique in the mountains but was part of a national and in fact worldwide country-to-city migration. The pace of the Appalachian exodus, however, was enormous. Some observers saw a day when many mountain counties would be deserted. In Kentucky, for instance, Harlan County's population showed a net decline of almost 27 percent during the 1960s alone; Perry County had about the same loss. Other counties were in the 10-to-15-percent range.

But now, according to studies made by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), all this is changing. The population trends have switched into reverse. For Ap-



Astor Dobson Collection

## Family Album

In the Fall 1974 issue of the CENTER NEWS-LETTER we reported that Alice Lloyd College has put together a photographic exhibition called "From the Mountains," which is to tour Kentucky under the sponsorship of the Kentucky Arts Commission.

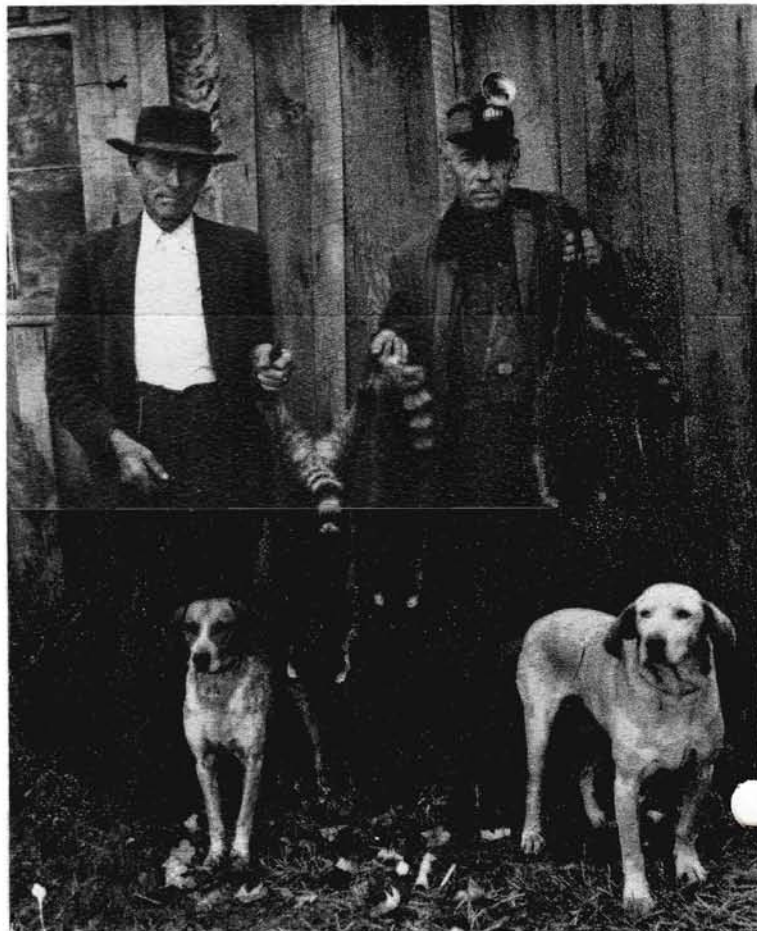
Now we give you a glimpse of the exhibition itself. The pictures on these pages were chosen from the 30 that make up the exhibition, which were themselves selected from more than 3,000 by Donald R. Anderson, who is in charge of the photographic archives at Alice Lloyd's Appalachian Learning Laboratory. As you can see from the pictures here, most of the photos are the kind you find in old family albums, though others are a little more interpretative or journalistic. If you would like your own collection of these pictures--and a spectacular bargain it is--12 of them plus a cover photo have been put together in a handsome calendar; the price is only \$2, postpaid (the college is located in Pippa Passes, Ky. 41844).

The picture at left, taken in the 1930s, shows Crockett Watson, who carried the mail from Lackey to Hazard, Ky.; the mail went on top and passengers went inside. Below are two Knott Countians, A. J. Dobson and William Cornett, taken about 1930.

At right, a group is leaving church in Johnson County, Ky., about 1910. The bottom photo is from Pike County, Ky., September 16, 1911.

palachia as a whole (north and south), the ARC foresees a gain in population of 1.5 million from 1970 to 1980 (this compares with a net growth of 348,000 during the 1950s and 486,000 during the 1960s). From 1970 to 1972 alone the estimated growth was 444,000, almost equaling the total for the entire 1960s. And the most rapid growth of all, says the ARC, is occurring in the hard-core Central Appalachian counties, where socio-economic inertia has long seemed most intractable. From 1970 to 1973 Harlan County was up a striking 9.1 percent; Johnson, a small Kentucky county, showed a remarkable increase of 12.7 percent.

The current coal boom is doubtless one of the causes of this population resurgence, but since the trend changed before the boom (and before the current recession), other factors must be at work. Neither the ARC nor anyone else is sure what all of them are, but they appear to include the return of persons discharged from the armed forces; the increase in black-lung and Social Security payments; the overall effects of Appalachian development efforts; other growth of employment opportunities; increasing popularity of mountain counties as recreational areas and as sites for retirement homes; the lessening of the idea that cities are the places for young people to go and the corresponding rise in popularity of rural areas. And, though the return to Appalachia began before the national slide into recession, there is some evidence that it was partly spurred by higher unemployment rates and housing shortages in the metropolitan areas to which migrants from Appalachia have traditionally gone.



Astor Dobson Collection



Henry P. Sealf Collection



## EYE on Media

### BOOKS

Of special interest here is the Kentucky Bicentennial Bookshelf, a unique venture sponsored by the Kentucky Historical Events Celebration Commission and the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs. The bookshelf, which is published by the University Press of Kentucky, will consist of 50 relatively short books covering "significant aspects of the Commonwealth's history and tradition for the past two centuries," the theme being "the dramatic tradition." Authors include Harriette Simpson Arnow, Jesse Stuart, Clement Eaton, Bell I. Wiley and a variety of others. Full information may be obtained from the University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky. 40506.

#### Other books:

*Sequatchie, A Story of the Southern Cumberlands*, by J. Leonard Raulston and James W. Livingood (University of Tennessee Press). A grassroots history of this long valley, from Indian days to the contemporary hydroelectric era.

*Sang Branch Settlers: Folksongs and Tales of a Kentucky Mountain Family*, by Leonard Roberts (American Folklore Society/University of Texas Press). The result of four years of interviewing and taping the Couch family of Harlan and Leslie counties, Kentucky, during the 1950s. The book brings together in a new editing material that had appeared in the author's *Up Cutshin and Down Greasy* and the microcard volume *Tales and Songs of the Couch Family*.

*Down to Earth—People of Appalachia*, by Kenneth Murray (Appalachian Consortium Press). A Tennessee photographer uses his camera to create a black-and-white essay showing the diversity of people and lives in the Appalachian South. Murray's is not the cosmetic world of the travel brochures but the unpretended world occupied by miners and country storekeepers and snake handlers.

*This Proud Land: The Blue Ridge Mountains*, by John Foster West and Bruce Roberts (McNally and Loftin). A writer (West) and a photographer combine to produce a "beautifully prejudiced book in favor of what was best and still is best of the Blue Ridge Mountains." The contemporary photos are accompanied by many historical pictures from the Library of Congress and other archives. The book makes an interesting contrast with Kenneth Murray's *Down to Earth*.

#### Book Club

If you want some help in keeping up with regional books, you might consider availing yourself of the services of the West Virginia University Regional Book Club.

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

The club's address is: WVU Regional Book Club, WVU Book Store, Morgantown, W. Va. 26506.

### FILMS

A variety of filmmakers have been represented in a January festival sponsored by the Berea College Appalachian Center. The approach, which may be of interest to others wishing to use films in connection with Appalachian studies, has centered on short to medium-length documentaries rather than standard feature films.

The films have included *The End of an Old Song and The High Lonesome Sound*, by John Cohen; *Music Makers of the Blue Ridge* (featuring Bascom Lamar Lunsford), by Jonathan Gordon and David Hoffman for NET; *Stir-Off* (sorghum making), by George Pickow; *The Holy Ghost People* (snake handling), McGraw-Hill; *Appalachian Heritage*, a made-for-TV film by Avco Broadcasting about migrants to Cincinnati; and a variety of films by the Appalachian Film Workshop of Whitesburg, Ky.: *Nature's Way* (old-time remedies); *Tomorrow's People* (music); *In the Good Old-Fashioned Way* (Old Regular Baptist Church); *Tradition* (moonshining); *Strip Mining in Appalachia*; *Music Fair*; *Ramsey Trade Fair*; *Fixin' to Tell About Jack* (on a tale teller).

While speaking of the Appalachian Film Workshop (which calls itself Appalshop), we should point out that its 1975 catalogue is available. It includes all the films mentioned above and a number of others. The address is Appalshop, Inc., P. O. Box 743, Whitesburg, Ky. 41858.

It is undoubtedly fudging to include videotapes in the film category, but we wish to remind you of Broadside TV, a cooperative enterprise that circulates educational and documentary tapes. Write to Broadside TV at 204 E. Watauga Ave., Johnson City, Tenn. 37601.

### MAGAZINE

The people at Appalshop are doing a little media-hopping of their own. They've launched *Mountain Review*, a quarterly magazine devoted to "discoveries and recollections of the way it is in the mountains." Write the above Appalshop address.

### STUDIES AND PAPERS

The Urban Appalachian Council (Room 514, 1015 Vine St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45202) has a number of working papers available: "Up Here and Down Home: Appalachians in Cities," by Gary L. Fowler (\$2.00); "The Implications of Appalachian Culture for Social Welfare Practice," by Michael E. Maloney (\$1.00); "Urban Appalachian Health Behaviors," by Jenny McCoy Watkins (\$1.00); "Ethnicity and Education: The Intercultural Dimension," by Philip J. Obermiller (\$1.00); "Report of the Appalachian School Study Project," by Thomas E. Wagner (\$2.00).

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