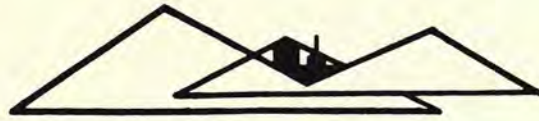


NEWS

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LETTER

APPALACHIAN CENTER
BEREA COLLEGE

Loyal Jones • Thomas Parrish, Co-Editors

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Writers in August

Kentucky's Hindman Settlement School is sponsoring a writers' workshop during the week of August 6-12. Present will be a number of Appalachia's leading literary luminaries, led by Harriette Arnow, James Still, Albert Stewart and Gurney Norman, who make up the full-time staff. Part-time lecturers and consultants include Wilma Dykeman, Cratis Williams, Jim Wayne Miller, Betty Payne James, Shirley Williams and Harry Caudill. As even the least perceptive reader of this newsletter might suppose, the workshop will have a "special Appalachian emphasis." Tuition fee for the full six days is \$50, room and board \$30. If you're interested, write to Appalachian Writers' Workshop, Hindman Settlement School, Hindman, Ky. 41822.

Appalachian Studies

As announced in the Winter 1978 issue of the CENTER NEWSLETTER, the Appalachian Studies Conference held its first annual meeting at Berea College on March 10-11. A variety of prominent Appalachian figures spoke to the meeting. Among them were Robert Scott, Federal Cochairman of the Appalachian Region Commission; Jim Wayne Miller, poet and essayist; John Gaventa, political scientist; Archie Green, folklorist; and Gurney Norman, novelist and short-story writer.

What emerged from the meeting was a plan for an organization that will further the study of things Appalachian in various ways. Through such means as meetings and newsletters, it will communicate information about research projects and their results, creative work in progress and academic and related support programs. Also, not suprisingly, it aims generally at advancing scholarship, teaching and learning "about the Appalachian people and the Appalachian region." It will also seek to "foster cooperation among Appalachian writers, artists and scholars as well as other Appalachian-oriented organizations and agencies" and to stimulate new work in Appalachian studies.

A watchdog role is envisioned, too. One clause of the bylaws says that the conference will "com-
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Four Receive Weatherford Awards

A pocketful of books with origins in Knott County, Kentucky, carried off the honors at the annual Weatherford Award ceremonies at Berea College on May 9. The Weatherford Award for outstanding writing about the Appalachian South was presented to Gurney Norman for his collection of short stories called *Kinfolks* (Gnomon Press) and to editors Laurel Shackelford and Bill Weinberg for *Our Appalachia* (Hill & Wang), a collection of oral-history interviews.

Norman's stories, which revolve around the character of Wilgus Collier and his family, are set in Knott County. *Our Appalachia* is based on interviews conducted by students at Alice Lloyd College, Pippa Passes (also in Knott County). Shackelford is a reporter for the *Louisville Times*. Weinberg, now a Hindman, Ky., attorney, was director of the Alice Lloyd oral-history project.

But the major thrust of the award ceremony was in the direction of James Still, who has lived in Knott County since the early 1930s. He received the fifth Special Weatherford Award in recognition of "his achievement in creating a body of writing about Appalachian people—fiction and poetry—characterized by disciplined excellence and linguistic precision. Widely recognized as a master stylist, Still has in his long career set a high standard for Appalachian writing."

Still is in excellent company. Previous recipients of the Special Award were Robert Coles, Wilma Dykeman, Jesse Stuart and Harry M. Caudill.

The awards were presented at a luncheon at Boone Tavern Hotel. Norman turned his acceptance speech into a touching tribute to Still. "Mr. Still and I have been friends for a good many years," Norman said, "and the friendship is important to me and his writing has been important to me."

Wilma Dykeman, novelist, biographer, columnist, teacher, former recipient of the Special Award and a special friend of Still, introduced him to the audience. It was a particularly moving moment, for Miss Dykeman called on memories of her late husband, James Stokely, who died last year, to talk of their close friendship with Still.

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APPALACHIAN STUDIES *from page 1*

municate research information as well as concern about research activities which affect public policy concerning Appalachia."

According to Sharon Lord, who was elected the conference's first "chairperson," membership is open to anybody with a "serious interest" in the Appalachian region. Ms. Lord, who is director of the Appalachian Center at the University of Tennessee, says that the conference will hold at least one region-wide business and program meeting annually and hopes to hold other meetings, in different parts of the region, which will have a purely program focus—for example, questions relating to the coal industry or problems involved in developing Appalachian studies programs at different universities and colleges. The next annual meeting is set for March 1979.

In addition to electing a chairperson, the conference chose Tom Plaut of Mars Hill College as secretary-treasurer. Two standing committees were established—agenda, which is to serve essentially as an executive committee, and program-coordinating, which is to plan both the substantive part of the annual meeting and other meetings during the year. Ad hoc committees may be set up as the group desires. One, to carry out the public policy watchdog role, is already functioning under the chairmanship of Burt Purrington of Appalachian State.

In addition to Ms. Lord, the agenda committee is made up of Steve Fisher, Emory & Henry College; Julie Redding, VPI; Jim Wayne Miller, Western Kentucky; Leonard Roberts, Pikeville College; Pat Beaver, Appalachian State; and Scott Rogers (no affiliation listed).

The program-coordinating committee includes Dennis Lindberg, Davis and Elkins College; Jerry Alvey, University of Kentucky; Ron Eller, Mars Hill College; Linda Scott, Eastern Kentucky; Don McLeod, Mars Hill; Betty Jean Hall, Coal Employment Project, Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Scotty Roberts (no affiliation listed).

Summing up her role—and that of the organization—Ms. Lord says that it is to "facilitate what scholars and other concerned persons want to have happen." If you're one of these persons (either category), this organization may be for you.

The Energy Front

In response to the shock waves sent out by the great coal strike, President Carter has proposed the establishment of a White House Commission on Coal. The commission will have a rather broad purview—to study all the problems involved in producing enough coal to meet what are believed to be the country's energy requirements and, in particular, to examine the part that labor-management relations play in productivity. The Appalachian angle in all this being represented by the Appalachian Regional Commission, which plans a series of seminars to gather information about health, coal production, workers' pensions and other relevant questions. Their findings will be turned

over to the Coal Commission. If you have information that you believe ARC ought to have, you can send it to 1666 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20235.

The Appalachian governors themselves have established an Energy Policy Guidance Council to make recommendations to ARC about a comprehensive energy policy. This council at present has triple foci: questions relating to the commercialization of new energy technologies; the analysis of the impact of different kinds of energy production; and improving the coal flow through increased productivity and improved marketing methods.

ARC has recently released *Transportation of Energy Commodities*, a study which declares that very considerable amounts of capital will have to be invested in the coming years in order to ensure that the energy that is produced gets to places where it can be used. The study is quite detailed, focusing, for instance, on the need to expand the capacity of fixed facilities such as certain locks and dams along the Monongahela and Kanawha rivers and the Gallipolis locks on the Ohio River. Billions of dollars will be called for to maintain and increase railroad capacity, the report says. The study can be obtained from Michael Newton at the address given above.

Nutrition Newsletter

The Children's Foundation, which describes itself as a "national nonprofit food rights and anti-hunger child advocacy organization," is launching a newsletter for people working with school breakfast and lunch issues. The newsletter, says the foundation, "will talk about such things as what kinds of problems different community groups have had when they tried to get breakfast in their schools and how they solved the problems." The newsletter, a monthly, welcomes both contributors and recipients. To become either or both, write to Jolene Adams, The Children's Foundation, 1028 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

WEATHERFORD *from page 1*

The Weatherford Awards are made possible through donations by Alfred H. Perrin of Berea. The prize for the regular award is \$500, and the special award carries a prize of \$200. The awards are in honor of the late Dr. W. D. Weatherford, a long-time pioneer in Appalachian development, youth work and race relations.

Perhaps the most memorable portion of a highly memorable event was the reading by James Still of several of his poems, some of them newly written. Appearing below are three of the poems, presented here by special permission of the poet.

Court Day

They have come early into the town.
Dark as plowed earth the rising and the setting out,
On the creek-bed road, down the stony waters of
Troublesome,
Down the cold thin flowing, willow-dark and waking.



WEATHERFORD WINNERS: In top photo, from l., James Still, Gurney Norman, Laurel Shackelford and, far r., Bill Weinberg. Center is donor Alfred H. Perrin; to his l. is

Tom Parrish, chairman of award committee. In bottom l. photo, Perrin presents award check to Weinberg and Shackelford. At r., Still reading; to his l. is Norman.

They have come early to Justice, following the
water's sound
Out of the beechwood hollows.

*Why the dark journey? Was the landmark moved?
Perhaps it walked alone, wanting to stir itself
And rest slantwise upon another place.
Will Justice gladden your summer's plowing?*

The jury sits upon the bench.
The judge sleeps in his chair, and the noon-bright
hills

Crowd the tall windows, spreading their enormous
curtain
Against the light's pouring, heat-waved and
burning.
They have sat long upon the bench, with Justice
droning
Out of a hornet's throat.

Do not indict me. Let me shake your hand.
If the landmark wanders I shall take your part.
My testimony is sound. I swear by the hills,
By these eternal landmarks of the heart.

Are ye up there, Bad Jack?

Are you up there, Bad Jack?
Did He take you, Bad Jack Means?
Baptised though you were
In your sinking days, aged eighty,
Your path greased to heaven?

In your time, Bad Jack,
You rammicked, you knifed, you shot;
When you stirred life was barely tolerable;
You slew six, you slew hope,
You slew scores of tomorrows.

Are ye up there, Bad Jack?
If you are, if He took you in
I think I'll choose the Other Place.

Spring on Troublesome Creek

Not all of us were warm, not all of us.
We are winter-lean, our faces are sharp with cold
And there is a smell of wood smoke in our clothes;
Not all of us were warm, though we hugged the fire
Through the long chilled nights.

We have come out
Into the sun again, we have untied our knot
Of flesh: We are no thinner than a hound or mare,
Or an unleaved poplar. We have come through
To the grass, to the cows calving in the lot.

(Poems Copyright © by James Still. Story excerpted
from "Bookends," Louisville *Courier-Journal*.)

EYE on Publications

The Seasons of Jesse Stuart, poems selected and introduced by Wanda Hicks (Archer Editions Press). Subtitled "An Autobiography in Poetry," this collection presents poems in both type and reproduction of manuscript, accompanied by photos from Stuart family albums. The book is itself designed like an album, and altogether it's a package likely to appeal strongly to Stuart admirers.

Time Was, by John Foster West (Folkways Press). A reissue of a novel originally published back in the 1960s by Random House. Guy Owen, critic and himself a redoubtable novelist, called it "the best novel to come from the mountains of North Carolina in many a moon."

Silk Stockin' Row, by Charlie Ward (McClain). A collection of short stories about the people of Infinity, W. Va., and their doin's. The time is that strangely popular era, the 1930s—when today's middle-aged reminiscers were children. The author, a versatile fellow, is also a basketball expert, having written a book (published by Prentice-Hall) on the match-up defense.

The next two titles are offered in acknowledgment of the fact that summertime is children time.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, by Ruth Radlauer; photographs by Rolf Zillmer (An Elk Grove Book; Children's Press). A richly illustrated young people's guide to America's most popular national park and the activities therein. The author is credited with numerous books for children, and the photographer, a backpacker, obviously enjoyed his stay in the Smokies.

The Ella Jenkins Song Book for Children, created by Ella Jenkins (Oak Publications). The "creator" of this book has conducted hundreds of rhythm workshops in schools and at teachers' conventions, and also on TV and Folkways records. The present collection includes 26 songs and chants that parents who know some music may find handy when the youngsters clamor for something to do.

With the following title, we return to the adult realm.

Mountain Spirits, by Joseph Earl Dabney (Scribner's). The history of whiskey making, from its origins through its development at the hands of the Scotch-Irish of Ulster to its arrival in the United States along with Scotch-Irish settlers. Ultimately a lot of whiskey-making talent took up residence in Appalachia. Much of the book's material comes from interviews with moonshiners and revenue agents.

New and Selected Poems, by George Scarbrough (Iris Press). A widely published Tennessee poet, Scarbrough is also, his book tells us, "farmer, ecology buff and hiker." His poems come recommended by no less monumental a figure than Allen Tate, who says that "Scarbrough is one of the few genuine poetic talents to appear in the South in the past generation." And, says James Dickey, "anyone who gives himself without reserve to George Scarbrough's poems will find his life renewed."

The Cherokee Crown of Tannassy, by William O. Steele (John F. Blair, Publisher). The exploits of Sir Alexander Cuming, a young Scot who came to the New World to make his fortune, induced the Cherokees to declare collective loyalty to England, and so charmed the Indians that they offered him the crown of their kingdom. An unusual story, indeed.

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