

NEWS



APPALACHIAN CENTER
BEREA COLLEGE

LETTER

Loyal Jones • Thomas Parrish, Co-Editors

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Old-Time Music Again

The end of summer doesn't mean the end of festivals. Coming up October 26-29 is Berea's fifth annual Celebration of Traditional Music, conducted by the Appalachian Center. The goings-on will begin with a concert by Buddy Moss and a street dance on Thursday (the 26th) and run through Sunday.

On hand this year will be such noted other performers as Marshall ("Grandpa") and Ramona Jones, Bradley Kincaid, Betty Smith, David Morris, John McCutcheon, Rich Kirby and Tom Bledsoe (the last three appearing as "Wry Straw"). On Saturday afternoon Bill C. Malone, author of *Country Music, U.S.A.*, will lead a symposium titled "Traditional Roots."

The Celebration of Traditional Music is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. If you need to know more before deciding to come, you may get in touch with the Appalachian Center.

Jobs

Tale teller and collector Richard Chase needs an apprentice/driver to help him with programs. It's a great chance to learn from this noted performer. You can write Chase at R.R. 4, Box 308A, Hendersonville, N.C. 28739.

Executive director The Appalachian Regional Commission says that it is now engaged in an extensive search throughout the country for a new executive director. The governors on the search committee are Jim Hunt of North Carolina, Julian Carroll of Kentucky and George Busbee of Georgia; the committee also includes Federal Cochairman Robert W. Scott. Plans are to make the appointment by January. Resumes should be sent to Search Committee, Appalachian Regional Commission, 1666 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20235. If you know a governor or two, it probably wouldn't hurt to mention it.

Executive director At last report, the Appalachian Consortium was also in the market for an executive director. Along with administrative experience, you need to have a Ph.D. or something that the consortium will regard as equivalent. Applications and letters should go to Ms. Jeanne Hoffman,

Search Committee Chairperson, Box 490, Mars Hill, N.C. 28754. The phone number is 704/689-1228. Since the committee already is screening applications, you'd better hurry on this one.

Executive director Kentucky's Quicksand Craft Center is a third searcher for an executive director. The center is involved in the "enrichment of rural life through the cultivation of traditional and contemporary crafts, and the supplementing of family incomes through crafts employment." If you're interested in this job, you need to submit a resume, three letters of recommendation and a letter stating your personal and professional goals (writing it ought to be a lot of fun) to Personnel Committee, Quicksand Craft Center, Box 370, Hindman, Ky. 41822.

County Histories

Almost 60 years ago the Berea College librarian wrote that the library had the aim of securing for its mountain collection "a copy of every important book that has been published about the mountains." The result has been the building up, through the years, of the 9,000-volume Weatherford-Hammond collection, a regional archive of extraordinary value to scholars and students. Among its many subgroups is a gathering of 423 county and local histories from eight Appalachian states; the books range from the old and rare to the brand-new. A guide to this important collection of histories, arranged alphabetically by county within each state listing, is available free of charge from the Special Collections, Hutchins Library, Berea College, Berea, Ky. 40404.

Addie Graham

Addie Graham, an extraordinary singer of traditional songs, died this summer in Cynthiana, Ky., just weeks before her album, *Been a Long Time Traveling*, was released by June Appal Records. Mrs. Graham, a native of Wolfe County, Ky., had sung in recent years at various festivals, including Berea's Celebration of Traditional Music, in the company of her grandson, Rich Kirby, who recorded and co-produced this album. The album, with its

to page 4

Appalachia: The Illustrious Exploiters

Recently Harry M. Caudill, noted history professor at the University of Kentucky [and, of course, noted writer about Appalachian affairs] spoke in Charleston, W.Va., on the future of that city and its area. This future, he said, "lies, for good or ill, in the hands of the people and corporations who own the Appalachian heartland and its vast resources of soil, water, timber, minerals, open space and natural beauty." Who are these owners? What have they done in the past? What can they be expected or asked to do in the future? In the following excerpts from his speech, Caudill takes up these questions.

In April 1967, former Kentucky Governor Bert T. Combs spoke in New York to the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church. Combs, a dyed-in-the-wool mountaineer from Clay County, was an expert on the subject that had brought him to Gotham. He described the mountain section of Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia as "an underdeveloped area where unemployment and poverty are a way of life."

He continued his analysis. "For half a century we have permitted conditions to exist which have created the Appalachian problem. The valuable natural resources of the region have been pillaged by those whose only motive was financial profit."

Who are the exploiters who have, in Combs' words, "pillaged" the region for "financial profit?" They are the leading corporations of America, and the firms and individuals to whom they lease out their real estate for drilling, quarrying, mining and timber-cutting.

All else having failed, the time has come for the states to turn to the gigantic corporations that own and extract the minerals and require them to cooperate with state agencies and the anemic counties in straightening out the muddle and resolving the paradox. These corporations are uniquely qualified to do so because they marshal the most impressive array of technological and managerial skills on earth, have immense financial resources at their command and, as international conglomerates, can reach and utilize global experience and knowledge.

Surely the Fords of Ford Motor Company -- "the company that builds them quieter," can take no pride in the Hurricane Creek disaster (in which 32 were killed in a mine explosion in 1972) and in their vast acreages of desolated and barren land. The Mellons, who own much stock in Aluminum Company of America, could feel nothing but shame if they were to see that corporation's ruined earth and the communities that cluster on and about it.

They are principal owners of Koppers Corporation which gave Kentucky the dismal town of Weeksbury, and of Gulf Oil, parent company of Pittsburgh and Midway Coal Company, which has created immense barrens comparable to Flanders in 1918.

Can the people who gave America the National Gallery of Art in Washington contemplate without

remorse the sustained and gruesome exploitation of Appalachian soil that paid for many of the exhibits?

In *The Rich and the Super-rich* Ferdinand Lundberg demonstrated a probability that the descendants of John D. Rockefeller own large (and perhaps controlling) interests in several of these Appalachian titans. They include Bethlehem Steel, Continental Oil, Norfolk and Western, Exxon, U.S. Steel, Chessie Systems, Standard Oil Company of Ohio (which mines through its subsidiary, Old Ben Coal Company), and International Harvester Corporation.

If these estimates are correct, former Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller and West Virginia's Governor John D. Rockefeller IV should examine the corporate operations in Appalachia that have endowed them with wealth and power. If they are sympathetic to suffering humanity, they must feel some urge to correct the glaring abuses that enriched them.

And what of Armand Hammer, founder and chief officer of Occidental Petroleum whose Island Creek Coal Company is sinking \$36,000,000 of Rumanian money into a colossal mining network in Buchanan County, Virginia? Should his company be allowed to spread devastation across the Virginia landscape and social chaos among its people in order to provide cheap coke to the Balkans? Is this not "exploitation" for the "financial profit" of the iron curtain?

A natural leader in the search for constructive change should be Sen. Howard Baker of Tennessee, an aspirant to the U.S. presidency and a prime beneficiary of the 37,206 acre Payne-Baker Family Trust.

The Morton Family -- including Thruston, the former Senator, and Rogers B., former Secretary of Commerce -- are major owners of Pittston Coal and so have a major duty to Appalachian land and people.

Wallace Delano organized the Dentennia Corporation, a large coal firm in Harlan County, Kentucky. His descendants and heirs still own stock in it, and we may trust that these Hudson River bluebloods share their cousin Franklin Roosevelt's old dream of improving coal-field life.

When the corporate facades are stripped away, Bert Combs' "exploiters" appear in flesh and blood. They include the most illustrious names in American philanthropy: Rockefeller, Mott, Hanna, Grace, Hochschild, Mellon, Cheatham, Flagler, Morton, DuPont, Ford, Delano, Sloan, Scaife, Pew, Pitcairn, Goodrich, Gimbel, Duke and many another -- plus their family trusts, charitable trusts, and foundations. In solid phalanxes they exploit and pillage Appalachia for financial profit.

Mixed with these moguls of finance and good works are such regional "aristocrats" as Catesby Clay of Runnymede Farm in Bourbon County, Kentucky, and his kinsmen, principal owners of Kentucky River Coal Corporation, which is yet to be caught in the act of giving so much as fifty cents to an Appalachian flood victim, hospital, nursing home, or anything or anyone else. Their pillaging for



Surrounded by History

Julia Miller, until recently assistant archivist in the special collections department of Berea's Hutchins Library, has just finished a task of considerable importance to students of Appalachian affairs. She is shown above with the results--295 boxes containing the archives of the Council of the Southern Mountains from 1913 to 1970. Ms. Miller and other members of the special collections staff under the direction of Gerald Roberts, Special Collections Librarian, sorted, arranged and indexed these records so that they are now ready for use by researchers. This work was made possible by a two-year grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, whose

funding also enabled the library to sort and classify the archives (1964-69) of the Appalachian Volunteers.

The CSM papers constitute a unique firsthand record of important Appalachian events, personalities and currents of opinion through 57 years. The archives include letters, memos, contracts, proposals, records of meetings and workshops and other kinds of written raw material for history.

A 96-page guide to the CSM archives, with a complete outline listing of the contents of boxes and folders, is available for \$2.00 from the Special Collections Department, Hutchins Library, Berea, Ky. 40404.

CAUDILL *from page 2*

financial profit has probably never been surpassed on any continent in any century.

The time has come for the Appalachian governors to take notice of Bert Combs' old speech, and to act upon it. The states ought to join at once in a new effort to modernize and cleanse the befouled and backward hill country and, in doing so, should demand the effective aid of the region's corporate owners.

If pressured, the exploiters are scarcely in a position to withhold their cooperation.

The states have a broad arsenal of powers with which to confront the sprawling Appalachian dilemma, including eminent domain as a final resort, taxation of mining profits for regional enhancement, regulation or even outright prohibition of harmful practices. The states are in a winning posture provided, of course, that the will to act is first mustered.

The states should enlist these gigantic business enterprises in a cooperative campaign to rehabilitate the central and southern Appalachians. Simple self interest on the part of the corporations and a desire to survive as viable commonwealths on the part of the states should be motivation enough. ■

ADDIE GRAHAM *from page 1*

generous notes by Kirby and Barbara Edwards, captures much of her charm, knowledge and breadth of musical repertory. "Miss Addie" sings 21 numbers, including Pretty Polly, Three Little Babes, Lonesome Scenes of Winter, O & K Train Song, Omie Wise, Ida Red, The Indian Tribes of Tennessee, We're Stole and Sold from Africa, Been a Long Time Traveling, Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah, Jesus Reigns, My Head and Stay Is Called Away, When Moses and the Israelites and Dear Friends Farewell. For copies of the album, send \$5.98 to June Appal Recordings, Box 743, Whitesburg, Ky., 41858. Ask for a listing of other June Appal recordings.

EYE on Publications

Appalachia on Our Mind, by Henry D. Shapiro (University of North Carolina Press). The rather breezy title is misleading; a better guide to the tone and quality of this book is the subtitle, "The Southern Mountains and Mountaineers in the American Consciousness, 1870-1920." The book is not a history of Appalachia, the author says; in fact, one gathers, there may or may not be any such place as Appalachia. It is a "history of the idea of Appalachia, and hence of the invention of Appalachia. It attempts to examine the origins and consequences of the idea that the mountainous portions of eight or nine southern states form a coherent region inhabited by an [*sic*] homogeneous population possessing a uniform culture." It is thus a study of perceptions of reality rather than of the primary reality itself. The author, a historian at the University of Cincinnati, seems particularly interested in the careers of John C. Campbell and Cecil J. Sharp, of whom he has something of a revisionist view. In any case, this is an interesting and stimulating book. Some Appalachialogists may even find it disconcerting.

Teaching Mountain Children, edited by David N. Mielke (Appalachian Consortium Press). An anthology that is an "outgrowth of a Title IX grant received by Appalachian State University in 1975 to assist public school teachers in meeting the educational needs of children in a twenty-six county area of Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina." The hope, says the editor, is that "this collection will facilitate understanding of the special needs of the Appalachian student by school personnel and will contribute in some small way to bringing about more

relevant educational experiences." The articles come from a variety of sources--scholars, journalists, even a musician or two--and could well dispel some prejudices. One article, for example--"The Media vs. Appalachia"--is an absolute corker; no suburbanite who reads it with a half-open mind can ever feel the same way again about the 1974 textbook fight in Kanawha County, W.Va.

Religion in Appalachia, edited by John D. Photiadis (West Virginia University). Religion is here studied as a social phenomenon. The contributors are a varied group, with various viewpoints. The last word, both substantively and literally, is held by Loyal Jones, who says, "It is not my intention to say that Appalachians are better, in their religious life or in other ways, than mainstream Americans, but I feel strongly that they are as good."

Mucked, edited by Bob Henry Baber and Jim Webb (Southern Appalachian Writers Co-op). A book of poems dedicated to the "abolition of strip mining, clear cutting, and disaster syndrome." Aside from the dedication, it has a slogan: "They take the buck,/we rake the muck"; hence -- at least partly -- the title of the book.

The Appalachian Oral History Project (a joint endeavor of Alice Lloyd College and Lees Junior College in Kentucky, Emory and Henry College in Virginia and Appalachian State University in North Carolina) has published the *Union Catalog*, containing more than 600 annotations of selected transcribed tapes. According to the publishers, "a detailed subject index makes the *Catalog* exceptionally useful for those interested in the sociology, history, folklore, music, language and crafts of Central Appalachia." You can order it from the Appalachian Oral History Project, Alice Lloyd College, Pippa Passes, Ky. 41844.

Subscribers, Friends

Last year we published a note suggesting that some readers of the CENTER NEWSLETTER might wish to become volunteer subscribers, the suggested contribution being \$1.50. And then we had a follow-up note, reporting that we had received a heartening response to the idea. We were grateful then, and we're grateful still. Now we merely wish to say that volunteer subscribers are still welcome; our costs continue, and, like everything else, they have increased. But, of course, the NEWSLETTER will continue to be available to all who wish to receive it, contributors or not.

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