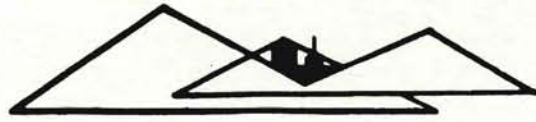


NEWS

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LETTER

APPALACHIAN CENTER

BEREA COLLEGE

Loyal Jones • Thomas Parrish, Co-Editors

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More Old-Time Music

This year's Celebration of Traditional Music at Berea College will be held October 25-28. Included among the musicians who will be on hand for the sixth annual installment of the event are Jean Ritchie, Kentucky folksinger; Curly Fox, Grand Ole Opry fiddler; the Morgan Family of Dayton, Tenn.; Wade Mainer, an early radio and recording star; David Morris, West Virginia traditional singer; Lily May Ledford, member of the first all-woman band, the Coon Creek Girls; the Reel World String Band, a Kentucky group; and the Foddrell Brothers, a black duo from Virginia, plus fiddlers, banjo pickers and ballad singers. The Celebration will also feature a symposium on traditional music, workshops on various musical instruments, a street dance on Thursday evening (October 25) and a hymn sing on Sunday morning. To find out more, write the Appalachian Center at the address on the outside of the NEWSLETTER.

Technical Helpers

Got a problem concerning land use, energy conservation, transportation, nutrition, occupational health or some similar public issue? If you do, you may wish to take advantage of the brand-new Appalachian Technical Network, which has been established to serve private citizens and local groups that are tackling such problems. The network, which went into operation on July 1, is sponsored by Appalachia Science in the Public Interest, a research organization.

The network currently lists more than 350 experts and resource organizations. These consultants generally provide free services. The list is still expanding; particularly sought are economists, statisticians and persons with management background. To request assistance, or to volunteer your own, write to Don Huesman, Appalachian Technical Network, P.O. Box 612, Corbin, Ky. 40701.

Challenge for Appalshop

Appalshop, the Whitesburg, Ky. enterprise that makes films and recordings, produces live theater and

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Appalachian Studies: A Regional Report

Recently the Berea College Appalachian Center asked other colleges in the area about the state of their activities in Appalachian studies. What are they doing and what do they intend to do? Thus far we've received answers from eight schools, and they tend to confirm the feeling we had that Appalachian studies is a field that is continuing to grow; it is spreading to more and more schools, and it is taking on increasing importance in schools at which it is already established. Programs vary considerably, from established and staffed centers to elective courses in subjects like the sociology or the politics of Appalachia. In this preliminary report, we present some highlights from the survey and some capsule descriptions of programs. The responding schools were Ohio University, Emory and Henry College, the University of Cincinnati, West Virginia University, Union College, Alice Lloyd College, Morehead State University and Wheeling College.

Two of the eight offer a major in Appalachian studies (fittingly enough, the two, West Virginia University and Wheeling College, are both in the "most Appalachian" state). Two others currently or will shortly offer a minor, and one presents a certificate after the completion of 24 credit hours in Appalachian studies.

The programs include, in varying proportions, two types of courses, those already in existence in various academic departments and those specially created for Appalachian studies purposes. At West Virginia, for instance, students combine traditional courses such as world physical geography and regional (not specifically Appalachian) economics with new courses — music in Appalachia, social change in Appalachia, social welfare policy and services in Appalachia, and others.

The program at Union College (Barbourville, Ky.) is unique. This "Appalachian semester" gives students from various colleges a one-semester Appalachian experience, with courses in the economics of Appalachian poverty and social institutions of Appalachia, plus an orientation course and a field practicum.

Ohio University, which has no Appalachian studies program as such, offers two specifically Appalachian courses — Appalachian sociology (which is said to be extremely popular) and the politics of Appalachia.

Activities are not confined to classroom courses. The

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APPALACHIAN STUDIES *from page 1*

Appalachian studies programs are engaged in creating publications (including Alice Lloyd's *Our Appalachia*, co-winner of the W. D. Weatherford Award for 1977), photograph collections, tape archives and slide shows. They work with local groups — a particularly important aspect of the University of Cincinnati's activities. They sponsor Appalachian Days, lectures, concerts and research projects.

A closer look at specific programs:

Emory and Henry College offers a "contextual area in Appalachian studies," including both traditional and specifically Appalachian courses. The student takes eight or nine courses, plus an internship or directed study.

The University of Cincinnati, which awards the certificate in Appalachian studies, directs students to courses throughout the university; the program also works with the Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and Universities to develop courses and activities for students in the area. Much of this work, of course, is migrant centered.

Alice Lloyd College (Pippa Passes, Ky.) offers a very extensive program under the aegis of the Appalachian Learning Laboratory, including the "Appalachian term" and photographic, oral history and other activities. As this two-year college becomes four-year, it will offer a minor in Appalachian studies.

Morehead State University (Morehead, Ky.) has been designated the state's official Appalachian university. Hence the staff at Morehead's Appalachian Development Center is developing a large-scale academic program, which will include two administrators and 10 core faculty members. Current offerings include courses in Appalachian history, geography, politics, and so forth — the kinds of courses that have already become standard in the field. In addition, Morehead intends to develop graduate courses that will count toward public school certification.

Wheeling College has had its Appalachian studies program long enough for one major to have graduated; the college also offers a minor in Appalachian studies. Among the Appalachian history, music and other courses, one sounds distinctive: power and powerlessness.

Thus our partial report on the state of Appalachian studies in Appalachia. We hope it will encourage the remainder of the universities and colleges to return their questionnaires. When they're in, and we've digested them, we shall supplement this report.

APPALSHOP *from page 1*

publishes a magazine, has received a National Endowment for the Arts grant for \$125,000. The money isn't in the bank yet, however, because it's a challenge grant — Appalshop has to match it three to one. With an eye on the opportunity that the money would give to construct a permanent production facility, Appalshop is now seeking contributions from individuals to help meet the challenge. Shrewdly, the producers include among their planned projects a film on Eastern Kentucky basketball, probably the No. 1 passion among the region's coal kings — as anyone can attest who has ever seen the University of Kentucky basketball manor built

largely with coal money. If Appalshop could only hurry its basketball flick into production, it might find that a few quick showings would prove to be excellent fund raisers. If you wish to contribute to Appalshop, whether you're a coal king or not, or if you'd simply like to know more about the enterprise and its work, write to P.O. Box 743B, Whitesburg, Ky. 41858.

Housing Aid

In an attempt to make housing loan and grant programs more accessible to rural low-income families, the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) has instituted a \$1 million program of technical and supervisory assistance grants to community-based housing organizations. The idea is that these organizations will use the money to hire staff members who can work directly with local people to encourage them to participate in the programs and provide counseling to prevent delinquency and foreclosure.

The money will go to housing organizations in the 15 states (no more than one organization per state) that have the highest proportions of substandard housing and rural poor people; 10 are in Appalachia.

Asa Martin

Asa Martin, 79, a composer and performer of folk and country music for more than 50 years, died on August 15 at his Estill County, Ky. home. He had made music on radio stations in Lexington and Louisville and on WLS, Chicago, and had cut more than 600 record sides. He appeared with various vaudeville and stage groups and in films, including one with cowboy star Gene Autry. He composed numerous songs, the best-known probably being "Hot Corn, Cold Corn" and "Take Me Back to Alabam." His band, the Cumberland Rangers, appeared at various festivals and other events, including the Berea College Celebration of Traditional Music, and he was a member of Berea's Traditional Music Committee. Asa Martin will be remembered as a soft-spoken gentleman, a person who was always generous with his time and talent and who left his mark on American music.

EYE on Publications

More Tales of Tennessee, by Louise Littleton Davis (Pelican Publishing Co., Gretna, La.). A follow-up volume to *Frontier Tales of Tennessee* (1976); both are collections of articles from the Nashville *Tennessean's* Sunday magazine. The new book presents many of early Tennessee's prominent characters, both pious and profane, and depicts a society whose criminal justice system considered horse thieves worse than murderers and treated them accordingly.

"... in the mines, in the mines, in the Blue Diamond Mines..." (Coal Company Monitoring Project, Knoxville, Tenn.). A pamphlet describing the background and ownership, and the safety and pollution record, of the Blue Diamond Coal Co., which won unaccustomed and certainly unwelcome fame in 1976

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Bluegrass at Big Hill

During the August 17-19 weekend, Berea's McLain Family Band (center right) played host to a music festival at Big Hill, near Berea. Large crowds were drawn by the variety of musicians on hand, including Grandpa Jones (waving, top right), Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys (bottom left) and the Bluebird Special (bottom right). Everybody came to listen and some to dance.



EYE from page 2

when its Scotia mine exploded. If you suppose that the Coal Company Monitoring Project was not set up for the purpose of praising coal companies, you're right, and Blue Diamond is not the hero of this book. For that matter, neither is the federal government, which documents endless Blue Diamond violations of mining laws but seems to take no further action. If you like *chutzpah*, however, you've got to like Blue Diamond's response to the 1976 disaster: the company has sued the government for \$9.5 million for allegedly causing the second of the two explosions that took place.

The Kingdom Within, by Jesse Stuart (McGraw-Hill). In this "spiritual autobiography," Shan Powderjay (the author's alter ego) undergoes a massive coronary attack and dreams that he is well, free, riding on a train carrying people whom he created in stories and poems. The destination is the little church in which Shan's funeral is to be held. He thus has the unique opportunity to attend his own last rites — "a great moment for Shan Powderjay."

Blue Ridge Mountain Memories, by Alice McGuire Hamilton (Conger Printing and Publishing Co., Atlanta, Ga.). This book of fictionalized reminiscence about life at the turn of the century was produced in 1977, when the author was 89. People then, she says, did not consider themselves "poor whites" in need of "missionaries," and her story demonstrates the kind of life she and her kinfolks led.

The Goodliest Land: North Carolina, by Nancy Roberts; photographs by Bruce Roberts (Doubleday). There are no surprises here, but the pictures are handsome and the text generally pleasant, though ample attention is paid to smog, sprawl, greed and other threats to the future of the "goodliest land."

Trout Fishing in the Southern Appalachians, by J. Wayne Fears (Fast & McMillan, Charlotte, N.C.). No, this is not an offbeat novel by some contemporary spoofer like Richard Brautigan; it really is a guide to trout fishing in the mountain region, and a very complete one it is. The author is qualified by academic training, by practical experience and, we are assured, by membership in such organizations as the National Fishing Hall of Fame and Trout Unlimited.

Tennessee Trails, by Evan Means (Fast & McMillan). The author, an outdoor editor, originated the Cumberland Trail and was co-founder of the Tennessee Trails Association. The book provides details and maps for more than 100 of the best walking and backpacking trails outside the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Appalachian Trail.

Musical Instruments of the Southern Appalachian Mountains, by John Rice Irwin (Museum of Appalachia Press, Norris, Tenn.). A history of and guide to the in-

struments housed in the author's fabulous museum, including many pictures of the makers.

Just Schools (a special issue of *Southern Exposure*, published by the Institute for Southern Studies, Chapel Hill, N.C.). This issue commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision which, reversing the Supreme Court ruling of 1896, decreed the end of public school segregation. It's a fascinating roundup of background, expectations, developments and results. And for our feature column "letters we doubt they'd write today," we choose the gem on page 28, from the registrar of Athens College in Alabama. Look it up and recall the bad old days.

The Big Sandy, by Carol Crowe-Carraco (University Press of Kentucky). The Big Sandy, with its two principal tributaries, the Tug and Levisa forks, is the big river of Eastern Kentucky. This book, the umpteenth in the publisher's Kentucky Bicentennial Bookshelf, tells the story of its region. The author is a historian at Western Kentucky University.

Squirrel Huntin' Sam McCoy, compiled by Hobert McCoy and Orville McCoy; edited by Leonard Roberts (Pikeville College Press). Big Sam McCoy was the only participant in the famous feud who wrote an account of the whole story; this book includes a photocopy and a transcription of that manuscript, together with various other narratives and notes. The compilers are, respectively, a son and grandson of Sam.

Quare Do's in Appalachia, by Berniece T. Hiser (Pikeville College Press). A *do* is a supposedly real happening, and the book records a number of quare ones about which the author was told by family and friends. One of her purposes in compiling these folk tales, she says, was "to record for philologists and other word-enjoyers the language hot off the lips of us mountain dwellers."

A Landless People in a Rural Region, edited by Steve Fisher (Highlander Research and Education Center, New Market, Tenn.). The subtitle of this book describes it succinctly: "A Reader on Land Ownership and Property Taxation in Appalachia." The publishers observe that "a thorough knowledge of ownership patterns and their impacts is necessary before the region and the nation can adequately address public policy questions related to housing, property taxation, land use, coal and agricultural productivity, and poverty." (This note is based on the publisher's description; the book itself was not available at press time.)

(NOTE: The Appalachian Center does not sell books. However, if you encounter any difficulty in obtaining a title, you may order it from the Council of the Southern Mountains Bookstore, C.P.O. Box 2160, Berea, Ky. 40404. The bookstore also distributes an extensive bibliography on the Appalachian South.)

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