

# NEWS



# LETTER

APPALACHIAN CENTER  
BEREA COLLEGE

Loyal Jones • Thomas Parrish, Co-Editors

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## Summer Workshops

This summer, for the third year in a row, Berea College will offer two different kinds of opportunities in Appalachian studies. If you can only take a week off, you can attend a short course called The Genteel and Frontier Traditions in Appalachian Literature, which will be held June 8-14. If you aren't pressed for time, you can spend six weeks at Berea (June 9-July 18) in the Workshop in Appalachian Studies. Previous participants in this workshop have called it the best single educational experience they have ever had.

The one-week short course will examine a theme which Randall Stewart aptly called "tidewater and frontier" in the works of a variety of writers—John Fox, Jr., Thomas Wolfe, James Agee and others. Former workshop participants are particularly invited to return for this concentrated study. James Gage of Berea's English department will direct the course, with special lectures being given by Wilma Dykeman, Jim W. Miller and Cratis Williams.

As usual, the six-week workshop will offer two courses, each for 3 hours of graduate credit through the University of Kentucky. They are History and Culture of Appalachia; Literature and the Arts in Appalachia. Loyal Jones will direct the workshop, and the list of resource persons, in addition to the lecturers mentioned above, includes Richard B. Drake, Pat Wear, Harry M. Caudill, Stephen Fisher, Persis Grayson, Louise McNeil, Joan Moser, Mike Mullins, John Ramsay, Ellen Stekert and David S. Walls.

Both the workshop and the short course are intended to help teachers develop course outlines and other materials for classes or units in their schools and colleges. If you want more information, write the Appalachian Center for a brochure describing the program of your choice.

## Appalachian Studies: Regional Report—III

The report on our survey of Appalachian studies programs at area colleges and universities (see CENTER NEWSLETTER Summer 1979 and Fall 1979) now moves into the mopping-up stage.

"Lest we be exposed as a 'laggard and nonfeasant,'" writes Clifford R. Lovin, director of the Mountain Heritage Center at Western Carolina University, "I will try to give you a very brief description of what we are doing in Appalachian studies. We have no major or minor and will not have one unless a demand develops. We do have a number of courses ... in Appalachian history, Appalachian biology and the sociology of Appalachia. A course in local folklore will be offered for the first time next semester. What has been done here that is even more important, I think, is the integration of Appalachian topics into a whole variety of courses."

From B. B. Maurer at West Virginia University comes a footnote about the university's Appalachian programs. Since 1975 a graduate course called Heritage of the Hills has been offered to teachers and others through the extension program; it is approved by the state Department of Education for certification purposes.

Although the John C. Campbell Folk School isn't a college or a university, Kay Rockwood of the school writes to suggest that its offerings ought to be included among Appalachian studies programs. In addition to craft classes, the school has a variety of dance and musical activities and a series of weekend workshops in Cherokee history, writing and various other subjects. It also plans a nine-month course in homesteading, to begin in September.

We have also heard from a university that, although not quite in Appalachia, has strong and obvious Appalachian interests—the University of Kentucky. The university opened its Appalachian Center in 1977 and, aside from various other activities, it has now "coordinated the development of 14 courses in Appalachian studies ... at both the graduate and undergraduate levels in such fields of study as literature, folklore, history, sociology, theater, geography, anthropology, family studies, political science and music. A number of other courses of a more general character also emphasize material oriented to Appalachia. Graduate concentrations in Appalachian studies are available, as well as a minor and a topical major at the undergraduate level." The report also stresses the Appalachian Center's emphasis on stimulating and coordinating research projects.

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Mouth of Wilderness, 1955

## Midwives in the Mountains

1940

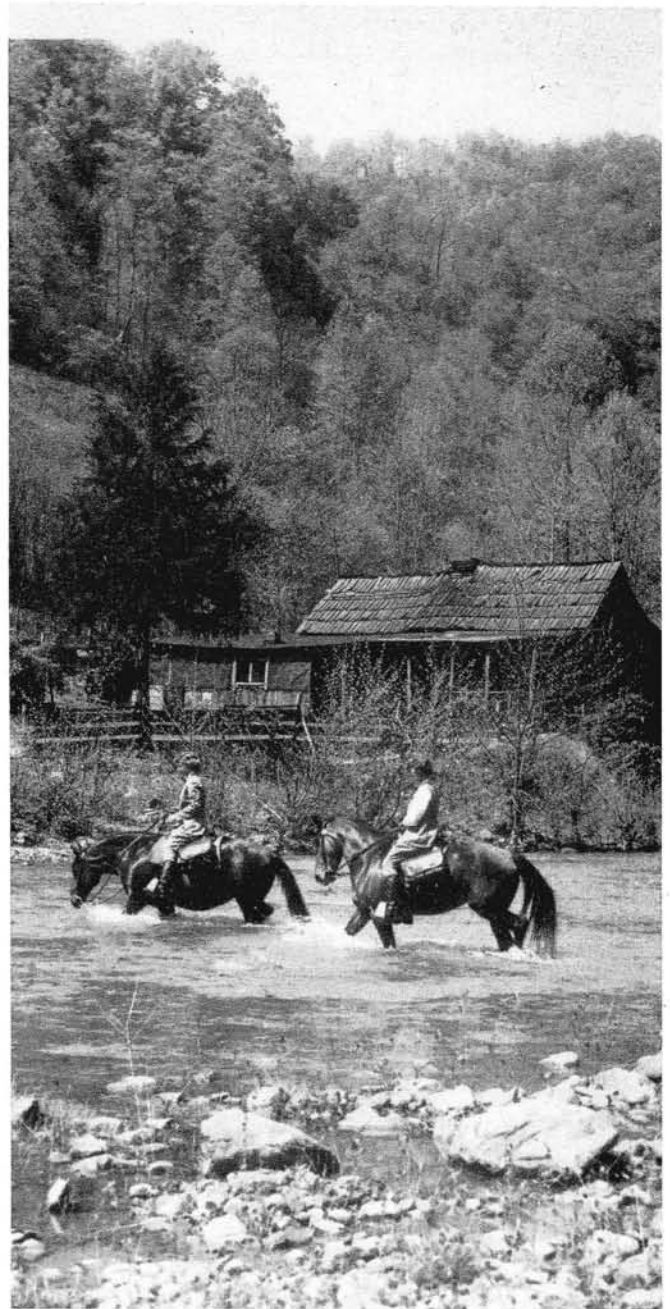






Mary Breckinridge and staff, 1963

The photos on these pages are from "Midwifery and Family Nursing: The Frontier Nursing Service in the Kentucky Mountains," a slide-tape show spanning the decades from the 1920s to the 1970s. The service, founded by Mary Breckinridge, operates in Leslie and parts of Clay and Perry counties, Ky. The slide-tape presentation itself is a blend of photographs, excerpts from oral-history interviews, and narration. Comments come from local people who are patients of the service or have been otherwise associated with it, and from professionals who supply the care. The show is the result of a collaborative effort by the University of Kentucky Oral History Program, the U.K. Department of Instructional Resources and the Frontier Nursing Service Oral History Project.



Buffalo Gap Clinic, about 1930





## **APPALACHIAN STUDIES** *from page 1*

If anybody else wishes to be heard from, our columns remain open. You'll find the address on the outside of this issue.

### **Smith on ARC**

As much as we can, we like to keep up with important changes in the high command of the Appalachian Regional Commission, partly on the grounds that if you don't remember who the faces are in a bureaucracy, then it becomes truly a faceless one. It's also true that it's nice to know who's in charge of spending your money. These remarks are by way of introducing Albert P. Smith, Jr., the new federal cochairman of the commission. Al Smith is a widely popular Kentuckian who publishes a string of small newspapers and has become well known as the moderator of the weekly Kentucky Educational Television program "Comment on Kentucky." He has also served as chairman of the state arts commission and the oral history commission.

In a talk shortly after taking office, Smith said that he will concentrate on the completion of the Appalachian Development Highway System; on energy questions, particularly the use of coal in place of oil; and on inducing mining and manufacturing corporations operating in Appalachia to reinvest in the region in order to fight the traditional boom-and-bust cycle.

### **Gatherings**

The CENTER NEWSLETTER is particularly pleased to make the first announcement of a conference which, the sponsors hope and expect, will be of unique importance to the Appalachian region.

Called "Private Efforts in Appalachia for the 1980s," the meeting—to be held on the Berea campus June 26-27, 1980—will be jointly sponsored by Berea College and the Appalachian Fund, a long-established private foundation set up by the Faber family of Cincinnati to assist health and welfare programs in the region.

Briefly stated, the purpose of the conference will be to enable the participants to examine and discuss the role of private organizations as compared with the activities of public agencies. During the next decade what will be the opportunities open to private organizations as they seek to meet regional needs and what problems

are they likely to face? The discussions will be chiefly concerned with education, health and religion.

The conference is open to everybody who is interested, and the sponsors hope for attendance by persons from a diversity of backgrounds. For more information, write to the Berea College Appalachian Center.

The last weekend in June is going to be a busy one. In addition to the Berea conference (see preceding story), the first annual conference on Appalachian children and families, with the specific topic "An Agenda for Research," has been announced, under the sponsorship of West Virginia State College and the Appalachia Educational Laboratory.

Social science literature, say the sponsors, is "noted for its dearth of 'hard' research on children and families in Appalachia. Knowledge of the experience of growing up in Appalachia is based largely on stereotypes, clinical hunches and impressions." The conference is aimed both at stimulating research and at promoting collaboration among researchers. You can get details from James Thomas, Sullivan Hall, West Virginia State College, Institute, W.Va. 25112.

### **Katharine Ayer**

Katharine Thompson Ayer, 78, editor and teacher, died in December 1979 at her home in Berea. A graduate of the University of New Hampshire, she had taught English at the Starr, N.C., American Missionary Association school and at Pleasant Hill Academy, Tenn., and she had served as an editor for the Council of the Southern Mountains. She was the widow of P. F. Ayer, longtime executive director of the council.

**CLARIFICATION:** In the Fall 1979 issue of the CENTER NEWSLETTER we inadvertently stepped on the toes of the ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools at New Mexico State University. In fact, we did it twice—first, by saying in the article "What Rural Education?" that the authors of a recent study call for a new clearinghouse concerned with information on rural education. The ERIC people point out to us that they are already such a clearinghouse and that the study calls for a clearinghouse on general rural problems. Our second tramping was to fail to credit this very ERIC clearinghouse as the publisher of the report, although we correctly listed National Education Laboratory Publishers as distributor. We are happy to make this correction, and we hope that anybody else who catches us in an error will pounce as promptly.

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