

Mountain Promise

Vol. 2, No.2

The Newsletter of the Brushy Fork Institute

Summer, 1991

**Sample of Martin
County teen survey
results**
page 4

**Bob Spera lands
disabled plane**
page 4

**Remember the New
Enterprise Challenge
Project? News from
Wise County, Virginia**
page 4

**Text of a speech
made by Lee
Countian (KY)
Neeley Elam Back at
a recent closing
workshop**
page 11

*Jane Fields consults with
Dr. Tom Ilvento
during one of Martin
County Visions' many
evenings spent
conducting phone
surveys.*

Focus on: Martin County, Kentucky

by Jane H. Fields

Martin County, Kentucky, located in the extreme eastern part of the state, was formed from sections of Floyd, Johnson, Pike, and Lawrence Counties in 1870. Martin County has a very mountainous surface, characterized by high elevations and narrow valleys along streams. The first settlers were mainly of Scotch-Irish and English ancestry.

The county's chief resources include natural gas, oil, coal and timber. The principal economic opportunity is mining; however, coal-related jobs have decreased in the past few years. Several of the major companies have made severe cutbacks, and consequently the county's unemployment rate has risen.

The county has two incorporated communities: Inez, the county seat, and Warfield. Each of these has a mayor and four city council members. A county judge-executive and five magistrates serve as the county government. At the time of the first census in 1880, Martin County had a population of

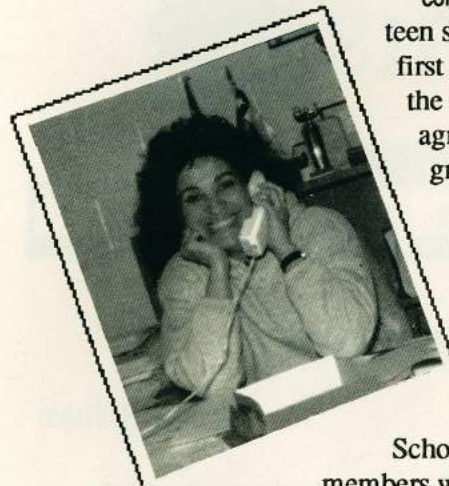
3,057 inhabitants; according to the 1990 census, 12,526 people currently live in the county.

In a small, rural county that needs so many services and facilities, it is hard to come to a consensus on exactly what most needs attention. With that in mind, the eleven Martin County participants in the Brushy Fork Institute leadership development program came together at Berea College to decide on their project. Approximately six ideas were discussed, but they were quickly narrowed down to two possibilities. When the participants were given 10 points and told to vote with their hearts between a county needs survey and a teen center, the final tally showed 65 points for the survey and 45 for the teen center. The survey won out, but the ones in the group for the teen center could still support it by including it as one of the items on the survey. So, we still had a very cooperative group working together. We concluded that a survey could provide valuable information to many groups in our county. With this decided, we headed back to Martin County to get our project started.

We wanted our survey to be more than a questionnaire thrown together by a bunch of amateurs. We contacted Dr. Thomas Ilvento, a professor of Rural Sociology at the University of Kentucky, and he agreed to meet with our group. Dr. Ilvento has worked with the UK Survey Research Center on numerous survey projects. He first came to Martin County on August 3, and reviewed the questions we had developed for our survey. We decided on two surveys: a teen survey and an adult survey. It was decided that the

continued on next page





Gloria Blackburn

continued from page 1
teen survey would be administered first while we were still working on the adult survey. Dr. Ilvento agreed to act as consultant to our group throughout the project.

The mid-term meeting was held on August 23, with Dr. Ilvento and Lisa Lewis Raymer of Brushy Fork in attendance, and also Mr. A.J. Haney, principal of Sheldon Clark High School. All but one of the regular members were there. A donation for multiple phone lines from South Central Bell and a matching grant from Brushy Fork's Seedling Grants Program covered the expenses of our project. Some members of our group went to UK for training to conduct surveys. These people then trained seniors in the 1991 graduating class who would be able to earn community service hours by helping with the survey. A computer program was purchased to decode and analyze the surveys. Mr. John Williamson and his computer class at the high school helped with this.

Although only five members of our group returned to Brushy Fork for the final presentation of the project, most of the original members of the group are still participating. We also think of Dr. Ilvento and Myron Evans, a county extension agent, as members of our group. They provided us with invaluable assistance.

There were approximately nine members of the group and several senior high school students who diligently worked on completing the surveys. Principal Haney graciously made the high school's office available to us in the evenings. From there we made our calls. It turned out to be quite a lot of fun. One time, I was in one office making calls and when the lady answered it was Zola, another member of our team who was in the office next to me. We tried the number again just to make sure, and we are now in possession of a



Zola Howell

number at the high school that no one else has! One lady, when asked the survey question, "Do you see drugs and alcohol as a big problem in Martin County?", responded to Donna Branham in this way: "Yes, it's a big problem. I have to go out of the county to get mine." Also, Missy Haney received a strange reply to one of her calls. After identifying herself, the man she was talking to burst into song: "I found my thrill on Blueberry Hill. . ." Both he and she hung up after this short rendition!

With a great sense of satisfaction, Martin County Vision completed the last of 302 adult telephone surveys on April 2. It took most of the month of March to complete the adult surveys, and they still have to be tabulated, analyzed, and the results reported. When the survey is completely finished, we intend to present it to various groups and organizations so the information gathered can be used to benefit the county. All members of the group are anxious to see what may happen in the future as a result of the survey and perhaps we may continue as a group to work on a particular needed project such as a teen center. Whatever evolves from our group, we all deeply appreciate the opportunity to work with Brushy Fork Institute staff members. The leadership skills and personal insights we gained will stay with us and, hopefully, be passed on to others as we work with our communities.

Meet Martin County Vision:

Frank Baldrige • A father of three and high school history teacher. Frank is also a renowned academic coach. Frank worked as survey coordinator for the group.

Gloria Blackburn • A mother of two and an elementary school teacher and academic coach, Gloria acted as arrangements co-ordinator for the group.

Donna J. Branham • A mother of two, executive secretary for a major coal company, and business consultant for Junior Achievement Program. Donna also served as arrangements co-ordinator for meetings.

Myron Evans • Adopted member, new father, UK extension agent for Martin County. Myron was very helpful with surveys.

Jane H. Fields • A mother of four, middle school teacher, PTSA secretary at high school, with a passion for Project Graduation. Jane served as publicity co-ordinator.

Chad Fitzpatrick • A high school senior at Sheldon Clark High School, member of Beta Club, Pep Club, and the yearbook staff. Chad was very helpful with surveys.

Missy Haney • A high school senior and academic team member, Missy is her school's valedictorian this year. She helped with publicity and surveys.

Zola Howell • A mother of two and a loan officer at a local bank. Zola works with innumerable organizations; among her many involvements she is first vice-president of the Kiwanis Club, vice-president of the PTSA, and PTA District 9 Drug and Alcohol chairperson. Zola now serves as facilitator of our group.

Dr. Tom Ilvento • Professor of Rural Sociology at U.K. and an adopted member of Martin County Vision. Tom provided valuable assistance to our group.

Tonya Mills-Delong • Newly married in December, Tonya is the deputy clerk for Martin County Court. She acted as recorder and sent out reminders of meetings.

James A. Muncy • A father and grandfather, vice-president of a local bank, president of the Chamber of Commerce, and local merchant. James helped to procure funding for the group.

Terry L. Spears • A local newspaper editor, Terry recently moved out of Martin County, but he still attends meetings when possible. Terry was responsible for most of our news coverage and originally served as our facilitator.

Ronald Workman • A father and the Mayor of Warfield, Kentucky, Ron worked as co-treasurer and fundraising co-ordinator.

Chad Fitzpatrick



At the time of printing Martin County Vision is working on its final report. However, the results of one of the surveys, the teen survey, have been tabulated and compiled in an 8-page booklet. A tally of responses to one of the survey questions and a few comments from teenage respondents are presented here.

On the minds of Martin County teens . . .

Of the items listed above (local politics, water pollution, trash and litter, quality of schools, drugs and alcohol, availability of jobs, quality of jobs in terms of pay, hours and opportunity, lack of community togetherness), which one would you consider to be the greatest and the second greatest problem facing Martin County?

Greatest problem: drugs and alcohol [28.8%]
 availability of jobs [27.7%]
 trash and litter [19.0%]
 Second greatest problem
 availability of jobs [23.1%]
 trash and litter [21.5%]
 drugs and alcohol [20.4%]

"There is no economic opportunity in Martin County. The economy lacks diversity."

"People that are related get the good stuff; if you have no money or if someone doesn't know you, you're nothing."

"There aren't enough jobs in Martin County and the ones that are available don't interest me or are too dangerous—such as coal mining."

"I hope I can go to college. I hope I can afford it."

Associate Spera walks away from plane crash:

Bob Spera, a member of the Dickenson County Brushy Fork team (see "Focus on: Dickenson County, *Mountain Promise* Vol. 2, No. 1) successfully "controlled crashed" when the engine in his Tri-Pacer airplane malfunctioned during a flight to Knoxville on February 2. Bob and a passenger were minutes away from the Wise Airport, flying at an elevation of, 5,500 feet when the engine "lost most of its power." In a phone conversation earlier this month, Bob explained that as he turned the plane around and headed back to the Wise Airport the engine quit completely. He looked for a place to land and quickly selected a strip job (a ledge that has been mined) east of Wise. Dodging power lines and battling brush, Bob brought the plane down. Upon making contact with the marshy ground the plane flipped over completely. Fortunately Bob and his passenger were wearing harness belts and escaped from the wreck with only scratches and bruises. The FAA's investigation revealed that the engine failure was due to a part breaking off from within.

Bob's enthusiasm for flying was not dampened by the episode; he has, in fact, bought a new plane and is flying regularly.

Memo:

To: Brushy Fork
 From: Glen A. Skinner
 Re: New Enterprise Challenge Project

Just thought I would drop you a line and let you know that we haven't fallen off the edge of the earth.

We have officially completed the New Enterprise Challenge Project. The project was concluded early this month with the awarding of two \$500 grants to prospective businesses. (Although we stipulated that the grants could be used toward further education, if the grantees so desired.)

It has been an extremely busy period for us all. Personally, I am the proud Papa of an eight-week-old baby daughter, Anna Penn, who is just a delight!

I did, however, want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support given during the NEC project. I know at times it seemed as though the project was moving "at a snail's pace," because it was. However, we did meet most of the goals we set. More importantly, we opened up some young people's eyes regarding opportunities for someone who has an entrepreneurial spirit.

Looking toward the future, the Wise County Chamber of Commerce wishes to continue the project in some fashion. I am currently attempting to secure some funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission for its continuation. Keep your fingers crossed. I still believe that if enough citizens realize business opportunities do exist in the area, our local economy can and will prosper.

Again, thanks for your assistance. I've enjoyed working with you all. I hope I have an opportunity to do so again.

The Wise County team's project consisted of a business plan contest for teenagers. The project also entailed business classes for the contest participants. -Ed.

county team updates

The first leadership development cycle to begin in calendar year 1991 got underway with an initial workshop in late April. The four teams selected the following projects:

Whitley County, Kentucky, will publish a directory of social services and initiate a county beautification project with high school volunteer workers.

Overton County, Tennessee, will make an application on behalf of the county schools for the Governor's A+ status.

Scott County, Virginia, will compile and publish a directory of volunteer services.

Monroe County, West Virginia, will produce a series of live radio forums on various issues.

Good luck to these most recently formed teams. Progress reports on these projects should appear in the fall issue of *Mountain Promise*.

Berea College Student Team

by Regina Ragan

The Brushy Fork team at Berea College plans to continue working on the service and leadership transcript for the college students. After our closing workshop with Brushy Fork in March, the team again decided that allowing students to establish a record of their service and other involvements is a goal worth pursuing. During the spring, the group plans to meet with faculty and staff members to further discuss the transcript. After these meetings the team hopes to have a clear idea of the college's expectations.

The members of the group will part ways during the months of June, July, and August due to summer vacation. September, however, will bring the group back together again to complete the project of establishing a service/leadership transcript for Berea College students.

The members of the student team are: Layne Hawley, Linda Bayes, Glenn Mann, Glenna Taylor, Blake Jones, Hasan Davis, and Regina Ragan. Everyone will return to Berea College in September except for Glenn Mann, who graduates this month. Each of us is very grateful to

the Brushy Fork Institute for facilitating student participation in the program. We have gained knowledge of our college community and improved individual as well as group leadership skills.



Team members Regina Ragan, Layne Hawley, Glenna Taylor and Student Leadership Director David Sawyer at the closing workshop.

Lee County, Kentucky

An update on the Lee County team's work is included in the article on page 11, "Something Wonderful Has Begun." The article is the text of a presentation that was given by Lee County

team member Neeley Elam Back at a closing workshop on April 5. Her team's project, a survey of local support for a community center, was recently completed. -Ed.

Seven women and one man comprise the Wolfe County, Kentucky team. With the exception of one devoted retiree, all of the group members are employed full-time.

Our project selection task was a simple one because we agreed unanimously (and without prior discussion) that beautification of Campton, our small, rural county seat, was something we all wanted. Through our efforts, we hoped to instill a new sense of community pride—an element that has been lacking in Wolfe County. Shortly after our initial organization we incorporated as Wolfe County Homegrown Development, Inc., "the Main Street Connection."

With much enthusiasm to do something our first undertaking was to set a fall harvest display of fodder shock and pumpkins on the courthouse lawn. We then cleaned empty store front windows on Main Street and had them painted with winter murals by two artistic members of our team and a creative group of elementary children. So successful were the seasonal displays that a strong desire for a beautifully decorated Main Street for the Christmas holidays arose, not only in our group, but also among the local citizens and business people.

Christmas decorating was a project which had been talked about by many groups in the past but one that had never materialized. Our enthusiasm, coupled with our non-political motives, began to catch on. Three of our members began asking for donations. Civic organizations such as Woman's Club, Kiwanis Club and Lions Club, as well as churches, local businesses

and private citizens gave generously. In a short period of time we had collected more money than we ever dreamed possible. Within four weeks, eighteen hanging candle lights were purchased. With the cooperation of our Licking Valley RECC, the lights were mounted and turned on four weeks before Christmas.

To enhance the holiday mood set by the ornamental lights we hosted a community caroling at the courthouse nativity scene. Local businesses stayed open later than usual and offered special sales and customer gifts. A highlight of that evening was an open house at the historic home of one of our members. The house, now 99 years old, was beautifully decorated and everyone was invited to see inside. Pride radiated throughout our community.

Even though our formal Brushy Fork Program is over we are still united and planning for future projects. To date we have collected \$7,000 from local contributions and received \$2,000 in matching funds from the Seedling Grants Program at Brushy Fork. This spring a clean-up is planned for Swifts Creek. The creek runs directly through our town and is an unpleasant sight after winter weather and heavy spring rains. This clean up will be manned by community volunteers and "volunteers" of the court. The court is allowing persons paying off fines to contribute their time and energy to the project in exchange for credit toward their fine or sentence. The court does require insurance be provided for these court volunteers and Homegrown Development has secured the proper coverage to comply. Our local Soil Conservation Service Board contributed \$1500 to provide supplies and equipment to be used for this project. A free picnic lunch will be served as a thank you to those who participate.

To keep the spirit of community pride flowing we also plan to have seasonal flower boxes on each corner this year. To replenish funds used on various projects we have plans for a Memorial Day fish fry, which we hope will become an annual event. Finally, we still dream of acquiring a spot for a city park. There are a couple of possibilities, but the end result remains to be seen.



Genevieve Bach and Lisa Sparks exchange ideas at a closing workshop in March.

When the Brushy Fork people encouraged the September 1990 workshop participants to think in terms of what they wanted their communities to be fifty years from now, Fentress County, Tennessee, people listened well. Looking into the crystal ball of the future revealed a concern about the leadership development of local citizens—both those being elected to public office and those participating as members of citizen groups. Knowing it would be difficult (and most likely less effective) to offer leadership development activities to currently elected officials and other adults, the Fentress County group chose to concentrate its efforts on the future elected officials and adults—high school students. Thus evolved their LeADS (Leadership Development for Students) project.

The LeADS project was patterned after the Brushy Fork Institute leadership development program with modifications. Two 3-hour sessions were conducted on the evenings of October 22 and 23, from 6:00 to 9:00. Students from both high schools participated. A total of fifty-two students were involved. (We thought it would be wonderful if we could have seventy-five students participate, but were stretched to our limits to manage fifty.)

The students were divided into four groups to decide on projects on which they wanted to work. The groups were:

On Campus • Planned to produce a school news program highlighting students and activities and broadcast weekly through closed circuit to all classrooms.

Students of Service (S.O.S.) • Planned to work with older citizens needing companionship, errands run, mail read, house cleaned, etc. and work with younger boys and girls as big brothers, big sisters.

Students Who Are Teachers and Tutors (S.W.A.T.T.) • Planned to work with fellow students who needed help with school work.

Helping Elderly Leadership Project (H.E.L.P.) • Planned to work with older citizens who were not in nursing homes and received no other public services, but who needed assistance.

The LeADS committee members served as advisors to the various groups. Each group assigned responsibilities and set meeting dates agreeable to the various groups.

The students response to the LeADS training sessions was very positive. Participants were asked, "What did you like best about the LeADS sessions?" Here are a few of their responses:

- "Knowing that we can all be leaders if we work as a team."
- "We (as students) had more input."
- "You can really express your opinions."
- "New people and practice leadership techniques, interesting discussions."
- "Lets me be involved."
- "We worked as a group to accomplish our ideas."
- "Getting to meet and work with new people."

A follow-up meeting was held for all LeADS seminar participants on February 13, 1991. The students evaluated what had occurred within the individual groups and discussed what they had learned from the experiences.

Preliminary plans are in place to conduct the LeADS Seminar next Fall (1991). Some modifications are planned and the possibility of adding new activities for those who may be repeat participants is being explored.

Fentress County designs leadership program for high school students.

Morgan County, Tennessee

by Judy Underwood

The Tennessee team, Citizens for a Better Morgan County, chose a directory and speaker's bureau of professional, business and industrial people as its project. The directory of speakers is intended to help local educators to provide vital information to their students regarding career opportunities and the steps necessary in order to take advantage of those opportunities.

Educators for grades kindergarten through 12 will be able to use the list to contact the speakers to schedule visits to the classroom. During those visits, students will be able to gather first hand information they can use to set career goals and establish an educational plan to fulfill those goals.

In January members of our group divided a list of possible speakers and shared the responsibility of getting information surveys to business, professional and industrial people. Those interested in being a part of the speaker's bureau returned their completed surveys during the month of February. Next, team members edited these entries and compiled the directory. The booklets were put together at the Morgan County Superintendent of Schools Office, which helped keep the cost of publishing down.

Citizens Bank and Trust Company in Wartburg provided financial support for the

project through a donation. This allowed us to cover the cost of materials and other expenses.

The completed directory consists of 58 pages and includes local artists and craftsmen along with business, professional and industrial people. Some industries from neighboring counties are also included to provide information regarding careers in high tech fields. Educational facilities, such as Roane State Community College and Pellissippi State Technical Community College, are also listed.

Job descriptions and educational requirements for several technical fields are a part of the booklet. Copies of the booklet are being distributed to the schools and teachers should begin utilizing it in the coming school year.



Dickenson County, Virginia

by John C. Stanley

A steering committee for the Dickenson County Community Center Project has now developed from the 1990 efforts of the county's Brushy Fork participants. Both the concept and the reality of the community center will inevitably evolve over a period of years. At this early stage, where most of the important work must be done behind the scenes, patience and determination are being shown.

The committee consists of citizens enlisted during and after the October 26, 1990, first-ever Dickenson County Leadership Conference. (The conference was the short-term goal successfully completed by the county's Brushy Fork team.) The steering committee also includes several of

the original BF participants; other members of the original team have moved on to other projects, but many warmly express their support and willingness to help at a future time. The influence of the BF training is evident in the activities and procedures of the steering committee. Time-line planning and small-group discussions within the larger group meetings are two examples of the BF influence.

The group has established four subcommittees: organizational, site, finance and public relations. The organizational subcommittee has worked to economize the use of meetings, creating an Executive Committee which meets informally once a month. The complete steering

continued on next page

*Transitions in
community
center effort*

committee will meet only quarterly, or as needed.

Early on, the group concluded that public interest and support would be greatly enhanced if they could secure an actual physical location for the center. The site subcommittee is currently involved in positive discussions with several principle landowners, especially Pittston Co. (the county's largest landowner), who is hinting about a possible "free" site!

The finance subcommittee is working toward incorporation, which will allow tax-deductible contributions, and the public relations subcommittee is keeping the media apprised of the project's developments.

In late March, recognizing that a major component of support for a community center stems from the current lack of such facilities and

leisure opportunities for young people, the group joined forces with two other organizations and made a presentation before the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors. With the Office on Youth Teen Center Task Force and the Commonwealth Alliance for Drug Rehabilitation & Education (CADRE) the committee made a joint plea seeking support and funding for a part-time recreation director to help provide some temporary relief while the community center drive proceeds. The time-line calls for at least a building to be in place by December 1993.

While a response to that proposal has yet to come, the citizens and governing body of Dickenson County are just beginning to experience the depth of commitment from this innovative new group called the Committee for a Community Center.

Russell County, Virginia

by Katie Hess

Marketplace Developers, the project undertaken by the leadership development group from Russell County, Virginia, is set to begin operating a Farmer's Market which will run June 15 through Sept. 28. The idea behind this market is to provide a service to the people of Russell County who want to either buy or sell home-grown products including, but not limited to, produce. We anticipate that crafts will be added in the future.

Many of the individuals of the original group were unable to attend the final workshop at Berea in March. Those who did attend

concluded it was time for the group to evolve into the People's Market Group (PMG), with Nancy Ascue of the Russell County Extension Office and Curtis Cox, a math professor at Southwest Virginia Community College, working directly with the group. Other Brushy Fork members have been asked to serve as consultants to the PMG as needed.

The Extension Office has been instrumental in spreading the word about the forthcoming market. The most difficult obstacle to overcome has been selecting the best location for this market. Many choice spots have been identified and a final decision is expected soon.

Tazewell County, Virginia

by Mary Lawson



TRACasaurus Rex ("T.R." for short) made a return visit, after thousands of years, to Tazewell County recently to see how those folks were taking care of that beautiful county.

While T.R. is usually a happy, lovable (and noisy!) character, he was not pleased with what he found. Those

Tazewell Countians were littering too much, buying tons of products, all packaged for convenience in the popular throw-away style. The county landfill was overflowing and the citizens were just now beginning to wonder what to do about this mess they were creating.

During his visit T.R. made a new friend in Tracy, the Tired Trash Can. Because Tracy was tired (from too much trash) and wanted to retire, she and T.R. set out to inform the important citizens of the county—the elementary school

continued on next page

children, the same who would inherit the problem and with whom the long-term solution would lie. Together T.R. and Tracy pranced and danced and shouted their message to eager and responsive children! The result was the creation of TRAC KIDS, who promised to help clean up the environment by recycling.

Meanwhile, other members of the TRAC team (Bobbi Jo, Laura, Jean, Bob, Jim and

Johnny) were busy designing a brochure, meeting with the "powers that be," visiting the county landfill, distributing helpful books to schools and clubs, and writing PSA's. All our efforts are aimed at getting the word out that we must recycle in order to protect the environment of Tazewell County and maintain it as a beautiful and clean place to live, work and play.

McDowell County, West Virginia

by Jean Tee

For the summer, we have decided to run a 6-week program for children who failed the last school year. It will run from June 24, 1991, through August 1, 1991. We plan to have paid tutors (college students) from a local college. The summer session will begin at 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. We will have a sack lunch prior to dismissal.

We are planning for our recreational activities to be held in a local park. The activities will be supervised by youth from the Governor's summer youth program. The youth in this program will be supervised by two of our tutors, Vondelere Scott and Audrey Morris.

Also during the summer we plan to take the children in our summer program on an outing. We'll tour the local college campus and then have a picnic.

Roane County, West Virginia

by Robert Sergent

"It's at the printers," (shades of the old dodge, "the check is in the mail"). After fifteen meetings the group, Roane Countians for a Bright Future, has assembled the information, completed a draft, edited, obtained funding and taken to the printers a directory of youth resources. Sounds easy, doesn't it! Well now, the truth is that along the way we lost one member before we started, one member spent a third of the time working out of the state, two made a Florida trip during the busiest time, one decided that the process did not fit her style, two had to care for children who became ill, and one is so

overscheduled that he missed several meetings—but our physician, our major and our facilitators kept the ship on course.

Funds have been received for the printing of fifteen hundred copies of the directory which will be distributed to students in the upper grades of our schools and those who work with them.

At our last meeting those present indicated that their most important gain from the training and project was the getting to know, and working with, this group which has so varied a background.



Illustrations by Dr. Carroll Christiansen of Roane County

Remarks from a presentation made April 5 at a closing workshop

Something wonderful has begun

by Neeley Elam Back
Lee County, KY

Something wonderful started at Brushy Fork for Lee County, Kentucky. The program gave us the tools through which we would be able to start effecting change within our own community. Brushy Fork taught us about short/long term goals, how to delegate responsibility and act responsibly, how to meet deadlines, resolve conflict and remain flexible. In short, how well communities can work with well-run community involvement.

Our project, a survey to gauge local interest in a community center survey, was simple—it had to be. We had only seven members. Two of our number were high school students. We met every two weeks from 1 1/2 to 2 hours. By the process of suggestion, discussion, deletion, and vote, we put together our survey form. It was our intention to make this form easily identifiable, simple, brief, self-explanatory, and enjoyable to complete; gaining the maximum amount of information and encouraging participants to discuss their choices among themselves.

All our committee members contributed to make our project work. Eula Mae Combs proved to be a fundraiser with capabilities beyond our wildest expectations. With everybody donating prizes under her expert guidance, we hosted an old-fashioned turkey shoot and our mountain men came to our financial rescue as they have in years past, raising enough money to get us started.

Jill Lauer and Tina Stewart, our two high school students, acted as recording secretaries. They produced excellent minutes and kept us all honest in honoring promised commitments. They also supervised the high school survey participation.

Sam Cockerham was our money man, acting as treasurer. He literally kept our money but also kept meticulous books. He allowed us the freedom from intrusion we felt we needed in our small community.

Charles Best filled in our gaps and there were many gaps. Like magic he produced everything from trophies to T.V. talk show invitations. He also was the one member on our committee with lots of previous experience. His knowledge was invaluable.

Ray Shuler was the only elected public official on the committee and he was most knowledgeable about the county. He had a firm pulse on what would and would not fly within his constituency which was highly representative of the entire community. Ray also built a display board (flip chart) for our group meeting (the board weighs a ton—it was built to last!).

We were foiled, as is any project of long duration, with "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune," both

opportune and inopportune. We received an invitation from our local television station to be guests on an hourly community issues program. We were to appear the same day our survey was published in the paper. We had moved publication of the survey back from our original schedule to coincide with this wonderful television opportunity. Well, 24 hours prior to our appearance and after the survey had already gone to press, the T.V. station blew a tube and we were unable to appear until the following week. (We accused Eula Mae of arranging this breakdown because she was panic-stricken at the idea of live television, but both Eula Mae and the program were a success.)

Our county meeting with team leaders from Brushy Fork helped us enormously. We had originally planned to put our survey exclusively in the paper expecting an excellent response. However, Frank Taylor told us those results would be minimal and he was right. We only received seven forms clipped from the paper but more than 100 through the mail. The remaining 432 were collected by hand. For better than two weeks our community was papered with surveys. Also forms continued to dribble in for weeks. It should be noted that many people have stopped each of us and apologized profusely for not getting theirs' completed but have asked us to add them to the list of potential workers.

The most telling and very unexpected result was that 307 of the respondents signed their names to the forms. Most of these people have not been previously involved in community action. In Lee County, as is the case in too many of our communities, apathy is the most pressing problem. This survey is a sure indication, because a signature was optional, that when given the chance many people want to be involved in desirable community projects.

During the next few months the Lee County Community Development Committee (no T-shirts for us!) want to continue. What was started as a survey is now going to become a planning committee. We are going to hold two community meetings over the summer; the first, to inform our local structured organizations and clubs; and second, our citizenry, about our survey findings and ask for their participation. This will be our first expansion of the original seven Brushy Fork Associates. We will then break into small committees under finance, site/construction, charter and public relations headings. Divide and conquer.

Although the community center is our long-term goal, we know through our own experience that much

Book about Ivanhoe wins Weatherford award

"Remembering Our Past, Building Our Future," a book compiled and edited by Helen M. Lewis and Suzanna O'Donnell, has won the 20th W.D. Weatherford Award for outstanding writing about Appalachia.

The writing prize, sponsored by the Berea College Appalachian Center and Hutchins Library, was presented at Monday's awards luncheon at Boone Tavern Hotel. The annual competition recognizes published works that illuminate the problems, personalities and unique qualities of the Appalachian South.

Something wonderful continued more will happen. The most significant result will be an opportunity to work at the democratic process, to breathe back into our own lives the workings of the free process, to teach and to learn from one another what we need and want. And, the ability to control our own communities. It is a wonderful thing Brushy Fork has done for us, giving people tools and hope. Let us all remember hope is not an end but a process, not something given but something earned. Thank you all so very much.

The winning book—a collection of photographs, stories and poetry which capture the social and economic history of a small Appalachian community—was created by the people of Ivanhoe, VA, as a way of tracing the community's past so that plans could be made for its future. The project, produced for the Ivanhoe History Project, was published by the Ivanhoe Civic League.

Co-editor Helen Lewis became acquainted with Ivanhoe as a staff member of the Highlander Research and Education Center in New Market, TN, an adult education center which works with grassroots groups trying to make changes in their communities.

Ivanhoe, once home to two of the largest industries in southwest Virginia, had become a commuter town since the closing of National Carbide and New Jersey Zinc. In September of 1987, she participated in a series of economic discussions to help the community evaluate the first year of a revitalization effort.

The idea for "Remembering Our Past, Building Our Future" began during those discussions and Lewis

agreed to help with the historical book.

Suzanna O'Donnell is director of development at the Appalachian Film Workshop in Whitesburg and editor of the newsletter, "Appalshop Notes."

In previous years, the Weatherford Writing Award has honored such works as "Mountain Master, Slavery and Sectional Crisis in Western North Carolina" by John Cunningham Inscoc, Lee Smith's "Fair and Tender Ladies," Denise Giardina's "Storming Heaven," Eliot Wigginton's "Sometimes a Shining Moment," John Ehle's "Last One Home," "Generations" by John Egerton and Gurney Norman's "Kinfolks."

Mountain Promise, the newsletter of the Brushy Fork Institute, is published four times a year in February, May, August, and November. Articles, reports, clippings, black and white photos and line drawings are welcome. The deadline for submissions is the first day of the month preceding the publication month. Write or call: *Mountain Promise*, attention Lisa Lewis Raymer, BFI, CPO 35, Berea College, Berea, KY 40404; (606) 986-9341 ext. 6838.

Mountain Promise

c/o Brushy Fork Institute
CPO 35
Berea College
Berea, KY 40404
(606) 986-9341 ext. 6838

Nonprofit Org. Third Class U.S. Postage PAID Berea, KY 40403 Permit #19
--



printed on recycled paper