

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

MEETING THE NEEDS OF A GROWING ORGANIZATION

Roberta T. Herrin

In the Winter 1991 issue of Appalink, President Wilburn Hayden addressed the tremendous growth and success of the Appalachian Studies Association in recent years and the consequent need for long-range planning. In his words, the Association has "evolved into a major impetus for research, dialogue, sharing of issues and innovations, and a loose network of individuals/groups examining and changing the shape of the region." Wilburn went on to say that, for better or worse, we have moved from a "gathering" to a much more complex organization.

One of the most attractive features of the ASA has been the very fact that we are a "loose" gathering of individuals. (Not to be confused, let me emphasize, with a gathering of "loose" individuals!) As former presidents Grace Edwards, Loyal Jones, and Doyle Bickers have often observed, the Association operates out of an oral tradition! But as Wilburn has pointed out, our growth and success have created the need for greater structure. At the August 9, 1991, meeting of the Steering Committee, Program Committee, and officers at the Mountain Heritage Center in Cullowhee, N.C., we discussed a number of ways to impose structure, at the same time hoping to retain some degree of informality which, I believe, is appropriate. At least three of our decisions are probably of interest to the full membership.

First, the Steering Committee established a Budget Committee composed of Howard Dorgan, Association treasurer; Tyler Blethen, program chair, and Rebecca Hancock, vice president/president elect. The committee is charged with reviewing and updating all financial policies and with establishing a working budget for the 1992-93 fiscal year. The Association has

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never before had--nor perhaps needed--a Budget Committee, but as we become larger, we need more financial structure and planning.

A second decision of the Steering Committee has to do with conference management. Western Carolina University has generously offered to manage the 1992 conference at no cost to the Association. Essentially, the Continuing Education Office at WCU, in cooperation with program chair Tyler Blethen and local arrangements chair Wilburn Hayden, will render the types of services which have traditionally been the responsibility of the Appalachian Consortium--with some exceptions. WCU will handle conference registrations, generate the call for papers, program, conference packets, and name tags. The secretary, John Inscoe, will continue to produce Appalink, but will now handle its mailing as well. The Steering Committee has opted to contract with the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services at East Tennessee State University, which already manages the Association's Journal, to update, purge, and manage our mailing lists. This arrangement will result in a savings of approximately \$3,000 over last year's expenses.

Finally, for a number of years, the Association leadership has discussed the need for promotional information regarding the Association. We have at last taken some action on that front, as you see from the brochure draft laid out on following pages for your inspection.

Obviously the organization still has work to do toward long-range planning, and the question of self-sufficiency, which Wilburn raised last year, is still an issue. But as the Appalachian Studies Conference grows, it need not lose the very qualities which have fed its success.

UPCOMING ASA MEETINGS

Program Committee:	Friday, November 9, 1991 Mountain Heritage Center Cullowhee, N.C. 10 AM
Steering Committee:	Friday, March 20, 1992 Conference Site, Asheville, N.C.
15th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference:	March 20-22, 1992 Asheville, N.C.

The deadline for submissions to the Winter 1992 issue of Appalink is January 1, 1992. Please send any material you wish to appear to the editor:

John Inscoe
Department of History
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

**Fifteenth Annual
Appalachian Studies Conference**

Sponsored by Western Carolina University
March 20-22, 1992
Asheville, NC

Diversity in Appalachia: Images and Realities

**CALL FOR PAPERS
AND PRESENTATIONS**

A call is extended for individual papers, panels, performances, or full sessions which explore some aspect of how the rich cultural, ethnic, political, social, and economic diversity of Appalachia has been interpreted and portrayed. Proposals should be submitted in the form of a one-page typewritten abstract. Include name, institutional affiliation (where appropriate), address, telephone number, and title and type of presentation. Please describe fully any audiovisual equipment needs. Abstracts for consideration by the Program Committee should be submitted no later than **October 15, 1991**, to the program chair:

**Tyler Blethen
Mountain Heritage Center
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, NC 28723**

Guidelines

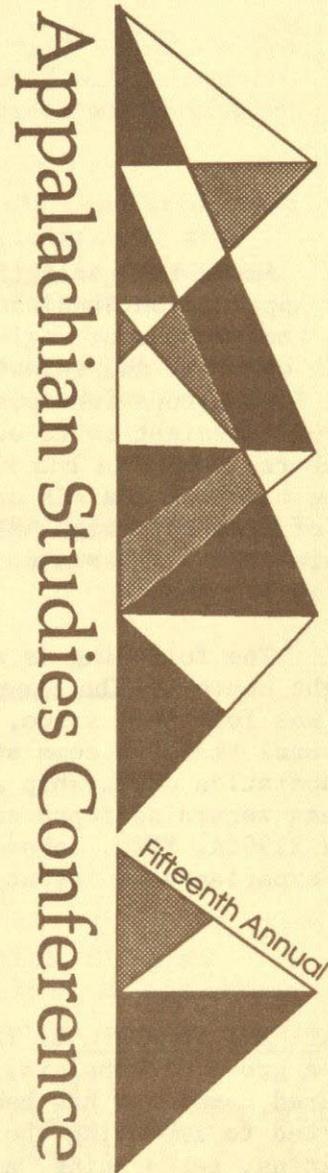
Because of the growing numbers of proposals, individuals may be restricted to one presentation. Appalachian Studies Association policy requires that abstracts of all papers presented at the Conference be available for possible *Journal* publication. Papers for publication consideration must be presented in ten or fewer typewritten (double-spaced, white paper) pages (including notes and bibliography). All documentation must be as defined in *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Individual presentations must not exceed fifteen minutes.

Student Paper Competition

The Carl A. Ross Appalachian Studies Association Student Paper Competition is open to high school, undergraduate, and graduate level students. Student papers must adhere to the same guidelines and subject matter as defined above, and will be considered for *Journal* publication. The deadline for submission of completed papers is **January 31, 1992**. Mail to Tyler Blethen.

The author of the winning paper will receive a \$100 cash award; the opportunity to present the paper as part of a Conference session; and possible *Journal* publication. Costs of attending the Conference are the winner's responsibility.

For more information call 704-227-7397 or 704-227-7129.



***Diversity in
Appalachia:
Images and
Realities***

**March 20-22, 1992
Asheville, NC**

sponsored by
**Western
Carolina
University**

Advertising Ourselves:

A Proposed Brochure for the ASA

Among the goals that President Roberta Herrin and the Steering Committee of the Appalachian Studies Association set for themselves for this year was to tackle the problem of regional stereotype and misconception that still pervades so much of print and television coverage of Appalachia. It was agreed that among the first steps for spreading the gospel of Appalachian Studies was to set the record straight as to our own organization and its purposes, activities, and members. Roberta has said that she routinely gets calls from individuals who have heard of the ASA and want quick information regarding it. A committee made up of Roberta, Dwight Billings, and Rebecca Hancock set to work to design a brochure that would sum up in concise, accessible form just who we are and what we're all about.

The following is a proposed rough draft of the information such a brochure might convey. The Steering Committee has reviewed it and added its input, but it was felt that since, once printed, this brochure will serve our cause for several years to come at least, it would be worth soliciting input from the Association membership as a whole. So read the following and if you have any ideas regarding improvements or changes, contact Roberta Herrin, English Dept., Box 22990A, ETSU, Johnson City, Tenn. 37614-0002. Input from anyone with ideas or experience in layout or graphic design would be particularly welcome.

THE APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The Appalachian Studies Association was formed in 1977 by a group of scholars, teachers, and regional activists who believed that shared community has been and will continue to be important for those committed to improving the quality of life in the Appalachian region and those writing, researching, and teaching about things Appalachian. Today hundreds of members of the ASA throughout the mountain region and beyond belong to the Association in order to coordinate analysis of the region's problems across disciplinary lines and to relate scholarship to regional needs and the concerns of Appalachian people.

ANNUAL MEETINGS: The Association meets annually for three days in March at sites across the Appalachian region, generally alternating between college campuses and state park conference centers. Recent annual conferences have included between four and five hundred participants who gather to present papers, participate on panels, and discuss a broad range of regional issues. Recent conference themes have included: "Appalachia and the South: A Region Within a Region," "Mountains of Experience: Interdisciplinary, Intercultural, International," and "Environmental Voices: Social, Cultural, Natural and Physical." Each year, sessions are devoted to Appalachian history, sociology, economics, literature, politics, music, arts, crafts, and culture as well as to topics such as community organizing, public policy, social reform, education, and the environment.

Exhibit space is available for displays of new books and other scholarly resources, publications, or projects. Conferences include an opening banquet with a keynote address and a business luncheon. Besides formal presentations, these annual meetings provide an important social space for informal sociability, formal and informal artistic performances, and the sharing of experiences and ideas across communities and disciplines.

As the only organization in the mountain region that encourages communication between grassroots and academic communities, the Appalachian Studies Association and its annual conferences provide an indispensable region-wide forum on life in Appalachia.

PUBLICATIONS: All members receive both Appalink, a quarterly newsletter that highlights business of the Association as well as other activities in the region, and the Journal of the Appalachian Studies Association, a refereed annual journal that publishes selected papers from each conference.

YOUTH CONFERENCE: Since 1986, an Appalachian Youth Conference has met concurrently with the Appalachian Studies Association's conference. [More to come on this]

That's it at this point. Please let us know what you think and what else we might do to produce an attractive, informative brochure that will help us promote Appalachian studies more effectively. We value your input.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
Appalachian Studies Association

The nominating committee of the Appalachian Studies Association calls for nominations for the following officers and committee members:

- (1) Vice President ('93) / President-Elect ('94)
- (2) Conference Program Vice Chair ('93) / Chair Elect ('94)
- (3) Four members of Program Committee (1 year term)
- (4) Three members of Steering Committee (2 year term)

The nominating committee consists of Rebecca Hancock (Pulaski County High School), Laurie Lindberg (Pikeville College), and John Inscoe (University of Georgia). To nominate a member, send the nominee's name, address and phone number, a statement indicating the nominee's willingness to serve, and a short biographical sketch of the nominee **by November 1, 1991** to:

Rebecca D. Hancock
P.O. Box 518
Pulaski County High School
Dublin, VA 24084

For information on the duties of officers, committees, and terms of office, refer to the Association by-laws, Articles VIII, IX, and X. Nominees must be current members of the Association.

New Index to the Appalachian Journal Available

The Appalachian Journal announces the publication of its first index in more than a decade. The index makes up the Summer 1991 issue (Vol. 18, No.4) of the journal, also known as AppalJ, and covers the period from 1980 to 1991, Volumes 8-18. In addition to broad subject entries for all articles, interviews, research essays, poetry, and reviews, this index also includes subject entries for all "Signs of the Times" and "Chronicle" sections over the past decade.

Subscribers will receive this special issue automatically. Additional copies of the index are available for \$10.00. All back issues of AppalJ are available, most for \$4.10, as is a free back-number catalog. Subscriptions are \$18.00 a year, which includes four issues. Write Appalachian Journal, University Hall, Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C. 28608.

Thoughts from the North:
A Past President's Message

Doyle Bickers, who served as president of the Appalachian Studies Association in 1989-1990, moved this past spring from West Georgia College in Carrollton, Georgia to become Director of Admissions at Shippensburg University in the heart of the beautiful farm country of south central Pennsylvania. He assures us he has not deserted either the Association or Appalachia. (The Appalachian Trail passes less than ten miles from Shippensburg.) Doyle notes a similarity between the people of rural Pennsylvania and the way we stereotypically think of Appalachians, and cites the following passages from the Atlas of Pennsylvania as having a familiar ring:

Pennsylvania's combination of economic prosperity and political tolerance had made it a very attractive place for immigrants to America who were seeking to escape political and religion oppression. The Quakers, of course, had begun it all for in a sense they were refugees themselves and were willing to tolerate an assortment of immigrants who would have been viewed as crackpots or traitors in Puritan New England or in the slave-holding South. As a consequence, Pennsylvania was a natural destination for Europe's dissidents, zealots, and just plain eccentrics--people whose main goal was to make a decent living and be left alone to practice their particular beliefs....

While suspicion of centralized government has always been endemic in the United States, in Quaker Pennsylvania that suspicion often approached the level of paranoia. As a deliberate device to prevent the concentration of power, Pennsylvania consistently delegated political power to townships, boroughs, and cities--the smallest possible units of government. It traditionally has been very difficult to persuade these units of government to cooperate in such matters as regional planning, environmental protection, and even sewage disposal....

MAKING HISTORY

The First Ten Years of KFTC

- 192 pages; 30 historic photos; hard cover
- describes how Kentuckians For The Commonwealth was formed
- includes organizing lessons learned
- accounts of chapters and community groups working with KFTC
- personal stories to illustrate KFTC's accomplishments and values

Kentuckians For The Commonwealth is a citizens social justice organization that uses direct-action organizing to improve the quality of life for all Kentuckians. It is best known for its work to pass the broad form deed constitutional amendment in 1988.

\$15.00 per book, prepaid

If ordered by October 1, KFTC will pay postage and handling
Discounts available for multiple copies

Donors of \$100 or more to KFTC will receive a history book signed by all five of KFTC's chairpersons

To order send form below with payment to:
Kentuckians For The Commonwealth
P.O. Box 864
Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653

Please send me ____ copies of MAKING HISTORY at \$15.00 per copy = _____

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Shipping (FREE if ordered before Oct. 1; \$3 after Oct. 1) _____

Donation to KFTC (\$100 or more for a signed book) _____

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Book available October 18.

John Inscoe
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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
ATHENS, GEORGIA 30602

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