

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

"The Year in Review"

By

Rebecca D. Hancock

Cued by the media (and by our secretary/editor John Inscoc), "The Year in Review" seems an appropriate topic for my final message as ASA president. Upon reflection, the accomplishments of the past year appear to be the result of self-analysis and a desire to improve the Association's effectiveness within, as well as outside, the Appalachian region. Thus, led by its officers and steering and program committee members, the ASA greets the New Year with the following achievements in and resolutions for an improved self-image:

A brochure explaining the ASA's history, goals, and annual conference was developed by Dwight Billings and Roberta Herrin as a means of spreading the word about the ASA. Any Association member can duplicate and distribute these brochures wherever and whenever appropriate. They will be unveiled for the first time at the conference in Johnson City and made available to members for distribution.

Questionnaires giving ASA members an opportunity to express their opinions, expectations, and concerns to the ASA leadership will be distributed at this year's conference. Devised by Alice Brown, Danny Miller, and others, it will provide feedback from the membership that will be utilized in planning future conferences. (See the more expanded discussion of this elsewhere in this issue.)

An updated mailing list should help us in two ways: improved communication and saved money. In the past, some members received few or no mailings, while others received multiple copies. These problems have been greatly alleviated, if not completely solved, by the monumental efforts of Pat Arnow and her staff at CASS.

A revision of the association's by-laws came about after lengthy review by Roberta Herrin, myself, and a committee made up of past presidents Grace Edwards, Doyle Bickers, Richard Drake, and Loyal Jones. Countless hours and concerted efforts, particularly by Roberta, led to the presentation of the revised by-laws in the fall issue of Appalink, for review by the membership before it grants final approval to them at the conference next month.

Taking a more active stand in response to the media's negative depictions of Appalachia has been of concern to many ASA members. Jerry Williamson and Jean Speer served as a committee to brainstorm ideas of how we might challenge such transgressions. If you know of or have encountered such offenses in the past year, pass them along to Jerry Williamson before the conference.

The Cratis Williams Award has been established to annually recognize service and contributions to the Association and/or the Appalachian region. Grace Edwards suggested that such an award be named for Cratis in recognition of his impact on Appalachian Studies and in view of the fact that the conference grew out of a 1977 symposium held in his honor. The first award will be presented at the conference in Johnson City.

Appalachian Adaptations to a Changing World is the theme of this year's conference, with a program aimed at addressing current interests of ASA members while offering a look toward the future. Credit for what promises to be an outstanding program goes Norma Myers and her program committee and to Jane Woodside, who is handling local arrangements.

The Sixth Annual Youth Conference will be the result of tremendous effort on the part of Robby Anderson, chair, and Jim Minick, vice chair. The lineup of presentations and activities sounds exciting for attendees of either conference, and at last count, the number of participants promises to be well over the highest previous attendance total of 103.

So there it is, a review of ASA accomplishments in 1992 and on into 1993 and of those individuals responsible for them. On a personal note, I would like thank each of them, as well as the other ASA officers and steering committee members for their help and support. A special thanks to John Inscoe for his patience as Appalink editor and for never giving me a late grade on these messages.

Best wishes to you all in 1993. See you in Johnson City!

ASSOCIATION NEWS

OPENING PLENARY SESSION AT NEXT MONTH'S CONFERENCE:

In a tradition begun at last year's conference in Asheville, this year's conference in Johnson City will open with a plenary session at 3:00 PM on Friday, March 19 in the Culp Center on the ETSU campus. This year's session is titled "Fighting Back in Appalachia: Report from the Front," and will consist of representatives of three different community activist groups in East Tennessee: Save Our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM), headquartered in Lake City; the Appalachian Women's Guild, from Geersheba; and the Appalachian Community Fund in Knoxville. Steve Fisher will chair the session, where discussion will center on the work of these groups and on ways in which the Appalachian Studies Association can contribute to and interact with such efforts.

It is hoped that this focus on the activities and causes of such groups might be made a part of future Appalachian Studies Conferences, with presentations by a various organizations or projects in the state in which the conference meets. As the Association attempts to make this a new and vital part of its mission and its program, members are encouraged to arrive in Johnson City early enough on Friday to attend and participate.

EVALUATING THE CONFERENCE AND THE ASSOCIATION:

The ASA steering committee would like to know what ASA members think about the association and its activities. To encourage such input, incoming president Alice Brown and associates of hers at the University of Kentucky have prepared two brief evaluation forms which those attending the conference next month will receive in their registration packets upon arrival. The first form provides the opportunity to comment on the association itself; the second will ask for comments regarding this particular conference in Johnson City. As soon as possible after the conference, the results will be tallied and published in Appalink.

To quote Alice Brown: "We hope you will give us your honest assessment of what the association has accomplished in the past and what its goals for the future should be. We are counting on you to tell us us how we can improve the association over the next several years. You can count on us to make every effort possible to respond to your suggestions."

....AND NEXT YEAR, ON TO VIRGINIA:

The seventeenth annual Appalachian Studies Conference will meet on March 11-13, 1994 on the campus of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg.

Jean Speer was to have served as program chair for that meeting but she left Virginia Tech in January to become the new director of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services (CASS) at ETSU. Filling her shoes as program chair will be Elizabeth Fine, professor of communication studies at Virginia Tech. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details in the fall.

BALLOT
ASA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR 1993-1994

The following nominees are placed before the ASA membership its nominating committee for various offices and committees for 1993 and 1994. Following each entry is a blank space to either vote for that nominee or to write-in nominees for the same position. Please fill in ballots and return by March 1 to the Nominating Committee chair, Alice Brown, 110 Maxwellton Court, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0347.

For Vice President/President Elect:

Ronald L. Lewis is Professor and Chair of the Department of History at West Virginia University, where he also serves as coordinator of the graduate program in Appalachian history and social/labor history. His most recent book is Black Coal Miners in America: Race, Class, and Community Conflict, 1780-1980. He is currently working on a book about the social, economic, and environmental consequences of deforestation in West Virginia and Appalachia between 1880 and 1930. Lewis served as program chair for the Appalachian Studies Conference in 1988-1989.
Lewis _____ Write-In Nominee _____

For Vice Program Chair/Program Chair Elect:

Ken Sullivan is the editor of Goldenseal, the Magazine of West Virginia Traditional Life, which is published by the state's Division of Culture and History. A native of southwest Virginia, he earned a Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh, with a dissertation on the southern West Virginia coal industry. He has taught regional studies for Antioch University's Southern Appalachian Center, directed research for the West Virginia Labor-Management Council, and published widely in various state and regional journals. Sullivan has served on the ASA Steering Committee and chaired its Ad Hoc Publication Committee.
Sullivan _____ Write-In Nominee _____

For Secretary and Appalink Editor (2 year term):

Sandra Ballard is assistant professor of English at Carson-Newman College, where she also serves as secretary for the Center for Educational Services to Appalachia and teaches Appalachian literature. She recently received a Mellon Appalachian Fellowship to support her continuing work on a biography of Harriette Arnow. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee and has been an active member of the ASA since 1986. Ballard _____ Write-In Nominee _____

For Steering Committee (3 members for 2 year terms):

Steve Fisher is the Hawthorne Professor of Political Science at Emory & Henry College. He has written extensively about Appalachia, and most recently edited Fighting Back in Appalachia, a collection of essays forthcoming this spring from Temple University Press. Fisher was a charter member of the ASA, and served as the program chair for the first Appalachian Studies Conference.
Fisher _____ Write-In Nominee _____

Andrew Garrison works with Appalshop, Inc. in Whitesburg, Kentucky. A Florida native and graduate of Antioch College in Ohio, his involvement with Appalachia began in 1978 when he produced a documentary on a children's photography project, "Portraits & Dreams." He founded and operated a non-profit documentary media group in Dayton, Ohio before joining the Appalshop staff in 1985.

Garrison _____ Write-In Nominee _____

Nyoka Hawkins is a graduate student in history at the University of Kentucky, where she is researching Appalachian political history. She is actively involved in grassroots political work, and has a particular interest in issues relating to democratic access to media. She works with the Kentucky Local Governance Project in Frankfort, and edits its publication, Local Voices.

Hawkins _____ Write-In Nominee _____

For Program Committee (4 members for 1 year term):

Ricky Cox is an instructor of English at Radford University, where he earned a master's degree in 1990. He has presented papers at six Appalachian Studies Conferences since 1985, and served as a judge of the Carl A. Ross student paper competition last year.

Cox _____ Write-In Nominee _____

Rosemary Carucci Goss is associate professor of housing at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She is also a member of the Appalachian Studies faculty and teaches a course on the Appalachian family and the environment. She has served on the ASA steering committee and is a frequent program participant at its conferences.

Goss _____ Write-In Nominee _____

Deborah Thompson is the Director of the Appalachian Semester and instructor in Appalachian Studies at Union College in Barbourville, Kentucky. She earned a master's degree in Appalachian Studies at ASU in 1988, and has been active as a consultant for historic preservation and director of various cultural programs in western North Carolina. She has been a frequent program participant at Appalachian Studies Conferences.

Thompson _____ Write-In Nominee _____

Barry Whittemore is a doctoral student at Carnegie-Mellon University, where he is writing a dissertation on the history of urbanization in Virginia's Blue Ridge mountains. He did his undergraduate work at Virginia Tech, and holds master's degrees from both Radford University and Carnegie-Mellon. He is currently living in Norfolk, Virginia.

Whittemore _____ Write-In Nominee _____

For Vice Chair of Youth Conference/Chair Elect:

Karen Morgan teaches English and Appalachian literature and culture at Lincoln High School in Shinnston, West Virginia. She holds a B.A. from Fairmont State College and an M.A. in education from Salem-Teikyo University. She has taught in rural high schools in West Virginia for the past 24 years and is an active member of the West Virginia Professional Educators Association and NCTE.

Morgan _____ Write-In Nominee _____

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

The Appalachian Center at Berea College is searching for a new director. Established in 1970, and the first of its kind, the Appalachian Center expresses Berea's continuing commitment to serve the southern Appalachian region. Programs consist of student outreach, a program for low-income women, a community leadership and development program, courses relating to the region, a newsletter, a research fellowship program, and numerous cultural activities. The director administers the programs through others on campus and teaches two to three college courses a year.

Requirements for the position include experience in the Appalachian region, credentials for faculty appointment in an academic department, and administrative experience. The position will be available in August 1993.

To apply, send resume or vita and letter of application to Martin D. May, Personnel Director, Berea College, Berea, KY 40404. The application deadline is March 1, but may be extended.

The first Ohio Appalachia Conference was held in this past November. Over a hundred people in attendance, the conference, entitled "Ohio Appalachia: Similarities and Contrasts" provided an arena for people from a variety of backgrounds and professions to learn more about Appalachia and its heritage; to validate Ohio's Appalachian region; and to provide a forum for scholars and students of Appalachia to share and compare studies and information and to promote future research and programs. A second conference is planned for November 1993. For more information on it, contact Deanna L. Tribe, South District Office of the Ohio Cooperative Extension Service, P.O. Box 958, Jackson, OH 45640; phone (614) 286-2177.

The Appalachian Center at Berea College announces its annual summer course in Appalachian history and literature, which will be held June 7-25, 1993. Ronald Eller and Wilma Dykeman will serve as the course's instructors, along with visiting lecturers Alan DeYoung, George Ella Lyon, Jim Wayne Miller, and Gurney Norman. The cost of the course, which includes room, board, and tuition, is \$275 for educators, and \$450 for others. There is a \$10 registration fee. For more information or to apply, contact Professor Loyal Jones, Director, Appalachian Center, Campus Box 2336, Berea, KY 40404; phone (606) 986-9341.

The Forest History Society announces its annual competition for the Theodore C. Blegen Award. The 1993 award will go to the article on forest and conservation history judged to be the best published in 1992. The prize consists of \$125 and a plaque, which will be presented at the Forest History Society's annual meeting in the fall. For more information on submission procedures, contact the Society's executive director, Harold K. Steen, 701 Vickers Drive, Durham, N.C. 27701; phone (919) 682-9319.

The Center for the Study of the American South announces the publication of a new journal, Southern Cultures, to be edited by University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill professors John Shelton Reed and Harry L. Watson and published by Duke University Press. The quarterly journal will examine cultural aspects of the American South, including folk, popular, and high culture. The editors seek scholarly contributions from history, folklore, anthropology, political science, sociology, journalism, architecture, and the arts. The first issue will appear in 1993. For further information, contact the managing editor, Alecia Holland, Southern Cultures, IRSS, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3355.

Billy Edd Wheeler and Loyal Jones will host the fourth Festival of Appalachian Humor on the campus of Berea College on July 16-17, 1993. The festival will feature performances by a variety of humorists from the region; scholarly presentations on humor by two Tennessee psychiatrists; and a contest in which members of the audience are invited to present their best humorous story, tale, routine, song, etc. for cash prizes. For more information, contact Loyal Jones at Campus Box 2366, Berea College, Berea, KY 40404; phone (606) 986-9341.

NOTE: The next issue of Appalink will appear this summer. Submissions should be made by June 15 to the new editor:

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