

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

FIFTEEN YEARS OF DIVERSITY AND CONTINUITY

by Roberta T. Herrin

The theme of the 1992 Appalachian Studies Conference, "Diversity in Appalachia: Images and Realities," is well reflected in the preliminary program that Tyler Blethen and the program committee have assembled and distributed. A quick scanning of sessions shows topics ranging from the Civil War to Cherokee stick-ball; from fire-handling to Fairlawn; from Mary Wolstonecraft to Lee Smith. Such has always been the richness and depth of our programs. But while we celebrate this diversity in 1992, we also celebrate continuity. We honor the wisdom and the foresight of the Steering Committee which gathered under the leadership of Loyal Jones to organize the first Appalachian Studies Conference at Berea College in 1977-78.

In his essay "Self-Reliance," Ralph Waldo Emerson argued that "An institution is the lengthened shadow of one man,... and all history resolves itself very easily in the biography of a few stout and earnest persons." When Loyal Jones helped organize the first Appalachian Studies Conference in Berea in 1977-78, he and his co-workers laid the foundation for the **institution** that we have all enjoyed for the last fifteen years. I'm sure Loyal would demur at the mention of his name alongside Emerson's quote, and yet we owe a debt of gratitude to Loyal and the "few stout and earnest persons" who have led this organization since 1977. I'm not sure that debt has been paid.

At the 1978-79 conference in Jackson's Mill, West Virginia, there was little formality; there was little attention paid to our first president, Sharon Lord; and there was certainly no sense of history--we had none. There was, however, that solid feeling of community which always characterizes an ASA conference, along with the confidence that this was a good thing and that it would endure. It has, and now our history need telling.

Tyler Blethen and his program committee have arranged a forum at this year's conference in which to tell this history and--in the telling--perhaps learn something about ourselves. Wilburn Hayden will convene a General Session on Friday afternoon, March 20, 3:00 to 4:30, for a round table discussion by former presidents of the Appalachian Studies Association. The session will do two things: It will first be an opportunity for the full membership to address the needs of a growing organization, needs which the Steering Committee has grappled with for several years. In addition to serious stock-taking, the session ought to produce some good stories (though I doubt that any can top Wilburn's account of the hotel raid at the 1991 conference). It should be a lively session; listed among the former presidents are some of our best humorists and raconteurs!

Fifteen years is a long time, and as we planned this session, I wondered if any of us could name all the ASA presidents dating back to 1978-79. I certainly could not and had to call upon Gerald Roberts and Shannon Wilson in the ASA Archives at Berea for an accurate list, which, by the way, doesn't exist anywhere else in print...until now.

- 1977-78 [no president: Loyal Jones, Chair, Steering Committee]
- 1978-79 Sharon Lord, University of Tennessee
- 1979-80 Joan Moser, Warren Wilson College
- 1980-81 John Stephenson, University of Kentucky
- 1981-82 Patricia Beaver, Appalachian State University
- 1982-83 Jim Wayne Miller, Western Kentucky University
- 1983-84 Charlotte Ross, Appalachian State University
- 1984-85 Richard Drake, Berea College
- 1985-86 Ron Eller, University of Kentucky
- 1986-87 Jean Speer, Virginia Tech (VPI&SU)
- 1987-88 Grace Edwards, Radford University
- 1988-89 Loyal Jones, Berea College
- 1989-90 Doyle Bickers, West Georgia College
- 1990-91 Wilburn Hayden, Western Carolina University
- 1991-92 Roberta Herrin, East Tennessee State University

When I look at this list, a number of observations immediately come to mind. First, exactly half of our presidents have been women, as is our president-elect, Becky Hancock. In an age when we hear

ASA Officers and Committees
1991-1992

Roberta Herrin.....President
East Tennessee State University

Rebecca Hancock.....Vice President/President Elect
Pulaski County High School, Virginia

Tyler Blethen.....Program Chair
Western Carolina University

Norma Myers.....Vice Program Chair/Chair Elect
East Tennessee State University

John Inscoe.....Secretary
University of Georgia

Howard Dorgan.....Treasurer
Appalachian State University

Gerald Roberts.....Archivist
Berea College

Wilburn Hayden.....Past President
Western Carolina University

Steering Committee

John Alexander Williams, Appalachian State University
Dwight Billings, University of Kentucky
Laurie Lindberg, Pikeville College
Danny Miller, Northern Kentucky University
Kate Black, University of Kentucky
Ronald Lewis, West Virginia University
Pat Arnow (CASS representative, ex officio)

Program Committee

Chesla Sharp, East Tennessee State University
Durwood Dunn, Tennessee Wesleyan University
Ernestine Upchurch, Western Carolina University
Sally Maggard, West Virginia University
Curtis Wood, Western Carolina University
Pat Arnow, East Tennessee State University
Wilburn Hayden (Local Arrangements Chair)

PLEASE NOTE: The association secretary is also the editor of APPALINK, so all submissions to APPALINK in 1991 and 1992 should go to John Inscoe at the address at right. Deadline for fall issue: Aug. 15.

APPALINK EDITOR:
John Inscoe
History Department
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL

APPALACHIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

A Recap

Garry Barker
Program Chairman

The Fourteenth Annual Appalachian Studies Conference met at Berea College on March 22-24, 1991. It drew 357 registrants, with over 400 present for the opening banquet, which featured tributes to Harry Caudill and Wilma Dykeman's keynote address--"We were the land's before the land was ours." On Saturday eight concurrent sessions ran from 8:30 to 5:00, and were followed that evening by the premiere of Fred Johnson's video documentary on "Cratic Williams: Living the Divided Life," and Andreena Belcher's spirited one-woman dramatic portrait of Emma Bell Miles, "Wings Again, Wide and Free."

The 1991 theme, "Environmental Voices: Cultural, Social, Physical, and Natural," drew heavy emphasis on a variety of environmental themes and many new participants. Media presentations, panels, displays, individual papers, and the concurrent Youth Conference stretched the seams of Berea College's Alumni Building and filled every hour with activity. An open house at the Appalachian Museum, the Appalkids anniversary celebration, the ASA business luncheon (and two steering committee meetings) and late-evening gatherings kept every participant busy.

Papers from the program have already been selected for inclusion in next year's ASA Journal and editing is underway through the East Tennessee State University Center for Appalachian Studies and Services. Much of the local arrangement work for the conference was handled by Debbie Powell, Berea College's facilities/services coordinator, and by Berea students who gave up their spring break to help. Press coverage was coordinated by the college's public relations director Ed Ford. The 1991 program committee consisted of Pat Arnow, Karen Tice, Bill Best, Sidney Farr, and Garry Barker.

UPDATE ON 1992 CONFERENCE SITE

There is a change in plans regarding the 1992 Appalachian Studies Conference site in North Carolina. Because of limitations on space at the Maggie Valley Country Club, where along with the Western Carolina University campus, the conference was to be held next March, the meeting will be held instead at one of the large hotels in the heart of downtown Asheville. Stay tuned for further details from program chair Tyler Blethen in APPALINK and in other mailings.

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

SUMMER 1991

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL HIGHLAND SUMMER CONFERENCE, Radford University, June 17-28, 1991. The Department of English and the Appalachian Studies Program at Radford will conduct this lecture-seminar-workshop combination, which features prominent writers and performers, including David Huddle, Denise Giardina, Mike Seeger, and the Appalkids. For more information, contact Professor Grace Toney Edwards at (703) 831-5366.

APPALACHIAN WRITERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Radford University, July 5-7. Tennessee poets Bill Brown and Malcolm Glass, co-authors of Important Words: A Book for Poets and Writers, will be the keynote speakers. Readings, workshops, exhibits, and sessions with press representatives are planned. Air conditioned dormitory housing is available. For more information, contact Professor Parks Lanier, Box 5917 RU, Radford, Virginia 24142-5917. (703) 831-5269 or (703) 639-0812.

AUGUSTA HERITAGE CENTER, Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, West Virginia. Week-long workshops are slated for July 7 through August 9 at the Augusta Heritage Arts Workshops. The focus of this year's sessions will be on Appalachian literature and folklore, on comparative storytelling traditions, on regional herbs and woodlore, and on West Virginia folklife. More than 90 other workshops will examine traditional music, dance, and crafts conducted by master artisans and musicians from across the United States and Canada, Great Britain, and Ireland.

A free 56-page catalog, outlining at the full 1991 program, is available from the Augusta Heritage Center, Box OH, Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, West Virginia 24241-3996 or (304) 636-1903.

Upcoming Meetings of ASA Officers and Committees:

Steering Committee:	Friday, June 21 Boone, N.C.
Steering and Program Committees:	Friday, August 9 Cullowhee, N.C.
Program Committee:	Early November (TBA) Cullowhee, N.C.
15th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference:	March 20-22, 1992 Asheville, N.C.

The 20th W.D. Weatherford Award for the best book on Appalachia published in 1990 was presented in May to the editors of Ivanhoe, Virginia: Remembering Our Past, Building Our Future. This local history was produced for the Ivanhoe History Project and edited by Helen M. Lewis and Suzanna O'Donnell. The book consists of the two volumes: the first, a community history, and the second, a compilation of oral histories by fifty residents of Ivanhoe. The book's focus is on the impact of two major industries, National Carbide and New Jersey Zinc that moved into and then out of this small southwest Virginia community.

Ms. Lewis is a sociologist at the Highlander Research and Education Center in New Market, Tennessee. Ms. O'Donnell is the director of development at the Appalachian Film Workshop in Whitesburg, Kentucky. The \$500 award is sponsored by Berea College's Appalachian Center and Hutchins Library. For more information on the book, contact the Ivanhoe Civic League, P.O. Box 201, Ivanhoe, Virginia 24350.

A new organization, the Assembly on the Literature and Culture of Appalachia (ALCA) has now been officially approved as an affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of English, thus making it the 19th such special-interest assembly in NCTE, the world's largest subject-matter organization. As part of that network, ALCA's activities will be publicized in various forums and potentially will bring about wider recognition of study and research about Appalachia.

The Appalachian Studies Association, by action of the Steering Committee during the conference in Berea, has joined ALCA, and all individual members of the ASA are invited to join as well and to attend its meetings as part of NCTE conventions. The first will be in Seattle on November 21-28, 1991. The next three such conventions, which meet each fall and spring, will be within easier range of Appalachian members: in Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C., and Richmond. Membership in NCTE is not required for membership in ALCA. To join ALCA, use the form on the next page. To receive more information about the organization, contact its chair, Grace Toney Edwards, English Department, Radford University, Radford, Virginia, (703) 831-5366.

JORDON'S WAGER

Berkley Jordon is a middle-aged mountain lawman and gambler. A deputy sheriff, he's running for high sheriff of his home county in Eastern Kentucky and struggling with his own uncertainties. Shortly before the election, an 18-year-old girl — unmarried and pregnant — is found brutally stabbed to death in the woods behind her home. Jordon launches an investigation and soon finds himself being advised, then pressured and threatened to drop it. He refuses to do so

*A novel by
Frank C. Strunk about
murder and honor in
the mountains of
Eastern Kentucky*

and eventually figures out who he thinks the killer is, but cannot prove it. He then devises a strategy to smoke out the murderer.

Jordon's investigation leads him not only toward the killer, but also toward a point where he will be forced to look deep into his own life and motives as he confronts one of man's oldest dilemmas — doing what's in his own self-interest versus doing what's right.

JORDON'S WAGER is available through your local bookstore. \$18.95. Hardcover. ISBN 0-8027-5771-5. (Booksellers: Order from Baker & Taylor or Ingram. Or direct from Walker & Co., 1-800-AT-WALKER.)

about "token women" and when organizations and businesses scramble to balance their male/female ratios, the ASA can be proud of its long tradition of equality--a tradition, I might add, that evolved naturally and not out of any concern for "political correctness."

Another observation is that our leadership has reflected the diversity of our membership. It reflects our broad geographic scope, from Georgia to Kentucky and Virginia. While it is true that most of the leadership has come from the larger academic institutions in the region, smaller schools such as Warren Wilson College have also been represented. In 1992-93, we will officially recognize another major component of our organization--public schools. Because the ASA resolved last year to make the Youth Conference one of its priorities and to emphasize the involvement of youth in Appalachian studies, it is fitting that our 1993 president, Becky Hancock, is a public school teacher (at Pulaski County High School in Virginia) and the driving force behind the Youth Conference from its inception.

A final observation is that many of our former presidents continue to be leaders in the organization, still serving on committees and participating in the program. During the last year, for example, Loyal Jones, Grace Edwards, Doyle Bickers, and Richard Drake graciously agreed to serve on an ad hoc By-laws Committee, and spent many hours reviewing and updating that vital document. Hardly a week passes without my having to call on one of them for help; they are always generous. As you'll note from the list of nominees on the ballot elsewhere in this issue of Appalink, our leadership will continue to reflect a very healthy balance of old and new blood.

I encourage you to arrive at the conference a bit early on Friday to attend the General Session. We have never before scheduled a session on the conference's opening afternoon, but because the number of program proposals submitted grows each year, we are finding it necessary to extend the conference time. So, this plenary session is an experiment in programming, but more importantly, it is an opportunity for us to honor the individuals who have shaped the association and to celebrate fifteen years of continuity.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE REMINDERS:

The deadline for pre-registration is March 6, 1992.

As noted above, this year's conference will begin earlier than usual with a general session, a round table of past ASA presidents, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 20.

Pre-registration material, with preliminary program, was mailed over a month ago. If you haven't received it, contact program chair Tyler Blethen at (704) 227-7129.

Now available from Waveland Press!

RURAL COMMUNITY IN THE APPALACHIAN SOUTH

Patricia D. Beaver

Written in a narrative style, this award-winning monograph deals with issues of community and family in Southern Appalachia. It explores several aspects of the social organization and system of values that make up the sense of community commonly associated with the Southern Appalachians—a fond identification with a certain place, close ties with people, a shared history of experiences and values.

182 pages, \$8.95; ISBN 0-88133-656-4

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4. Sex Roles and the Life Cycle
5. Foreigners
6. Community: Past, Present, and Future

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APPALACHIAN VALLEY

George L. Hicks

The people in one small part of Southern Appalachia—the Little Laurel River Valley in western North Carolina—are the subjects of this general ethnographic study. Although no longer isolated from the mainstream of American culture, they continue to display culturally distinct attitudes, speech, kinship relationships, and identities. As a monograph for courses examining rural life in complex societies, *Appalachian Valley* is an important resource. In addition, instructive parallels can be drawn between the community Hicks richly describes and rural communities in other parts of the United States, Canada, and Europe.

112 pages, \$7.95; ISBN 0-88133-639-4

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7. Communication
8. The Ethic of Neutrality
9. Beyond the Valley

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BALLOT
APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES, 1991-1992

The following nominees are placed before the Association membership by its Nominating Committee for various offices and committees for 1992 and 1993. Following each nominee's entry is a black space to either vote for that nominee or for write-in nominations for the same position. Please fill in ballots and return by March 1 to the Nominating Committee chair, Rebecca Hancock, Pulaski County High School, P.O. Box 518, Dublin, VA 24084.

For Vice President/President Elect:

Alice Brown serves as the director of Faculty Scholars Program (formerly the Appalachian College Program) in Lexington, Kentucky, which provides development opportunities for faculty at 38 private colleges in central Appalachia. She holds an M.A. from Appalachian State University and an Ed.D. in Higher Education from the University of Kentucky. She served as treasurer of the Appalachian Studies Association from 1988 to 1991.

Brown: _____ Write-In Candidate: _____

For Vice Program Chair/Program Chair Elect:

Jean Haskell Spear is the Director of the Appalachian Studies Program and Professor of Communication Studies and Humanities at Virginia Polytechnical Institute and State University. She is the author of The Appalachian Photographs of Earl Palmer (1989) and serves as cultural advisor to the Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway. She served as president of the Appalachian Studies Association in 1986-1987.

Spear: _____ Write-In Candidate: _____

For Steering Committee (3 at-large members) (3-year term):

Grace Toney Edwards chairs both the English Department and the Appalachian Studies Program at Radford University. She did her graduate work at Appalachian State University and has been among the most active members of the ASA over the last decade, serving as its president in 1987-1988.

Edwards: _____ Write-In Candidate: _____

Chesla Sharp is a member of the English Department at East Tennessee State University. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin and is interested in the transforming role of folklore and music in Appalachian society. He served this past year as a member of the ASA program committee.

Sharp: _____ Write-In Candidate: _____

For Steering Committee (continued):

Jerry Williamson founded the Appalachian Journal: A Regional Studies Review in 1972, two years after he joined the faculty at Appalachian State University, and has edited it ever since. He was educated at Wayland College in Texas and at the University of Utah.
Williamson: _____ Write-In Candidate: _____

For the Program Committee: (4 positions) (1-year term)

Sandra Ballard is a member of the English department at Carson-Newman College. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee. She has published on a variety of Appalachian subjects and is presently at work on a biography of Harriette Arnow.
Ballard: _____ Write-In Candidate: _____

Phyllis Bickers holds an M.Ed. in counseling from West Georgia College. She has just moved from Georgia to Shippensburg, Pa., where her husband Doyle serves as director of admissions at Shippensburg University. Both Phyllis and Doyle have long been active in the ASA, particularly during his year as president in 1988-89.
Bickers: _____ Write-In Candidate: _____

Lewis Martin is an instructor of sociology at New River Community College in Dublin, Virginia. He served as president of the Virginia Humanities Council last year. He is currently conducting research for a comparative study of the Scots-Irish influence on Appalachian and Australian cultures.
Martin: _____ Write-In Candidate: _____

Jim Minick teaches English at Radford University, where he received his M.A. degree. He organized the Appalachian Teachers' Network, a network of Southwest Virginia teachers, which held its first conference this past fall. Jim has agreed to serve as Vice Chair of next year's Youth Conference and chair the Youth Conference when the ASA meets in Virginia in 1994.
Minick: _____ Write-In Candidate: _____

[Three additional program committee members are to be appointed by the program chair.]

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

The Journal of the Appalachian Studies Association has been selected for inclusion in the prestigious Modern Language Association's Master List of Periodicals of the MLA International Bibliography. This means that it will be indexed for inclusion in the annual Bibliography and listed in the MLA Directory of Periodicals. Pat Arnow, the ASA Journal's managing editor, and ASA President Roberta Herrin were instrumental in winning approval for the journal's inclusion. The journal has been published at ETSU's Center for Appalachian Studies and Services for the past three years.

Union College is pleased to announce that Deborah Thompson has been named director of the Appalachian Semester Program. The Appalachian Semester is an interdisciplinary, experiential program that explores the mountain region through classwork, readings, discussions, field trips, guest speakers, and community activities. At the heart of the program is a supervised internship or directed study project which allows students to explore particular areas of interest.

The Appalachian Semester Program, in operation since 1970, is open to mature sophomores, juniors, and seniors from accredited colleges and universities, and offers 15 hours of transferable credit. Union College is a small Methodist-affiliated, liberal arts college located in Barbourville, Kentucky. For more information, contact Deborah Thompson, Director, Appalachian Semester, Union College, Barbourville, KY 40906; phone (606) 546-4151, ext. 324.

The Western North Carolina Historical Association announces the winner of the 1991 Thomas Wolfe Literary Award, presented annually for the best work of fiction or non-fiction that focuses on the region and its people. This year's recipient is Confederate Colonel and Cherokee Chief: The Life of William Holland Thomas, by E. Stanly Godbold, Jr. and Mattie U. Russell. Published by the University of Tennessee Press, the book is a biography of one of 19th century Appalachia's most accomplished residents. A lifelong resident of western North Carolina, Thomas exerted tremendous influence on the region through his roles as businessman, politician, Cherokee Indian agent, and Confederate leader during the Civil War.

Now and Then, the Appalachian magazine published by the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services at East Tennessee State University, seeks articles, essays, poetry, short stories, and photographs for two upcoming special focus issues. For an issue devoted to "The Appalachian-Scottish Connection," material should be received by March 1, 1992. For the following issue, on "Sports in Appalachia," the deadline for submissions is July 1, 1992. For guidelines or other information, write Pat Arnow, Editor, Now and Then, Box 70556, ETSU, Johnson City, TN 37614-0556.

As a member of the membership committee of the Southern Historical Association this year, the editor of Appalink is taking advantage of this space to invite anyone interested in southern history to join the association. For those of us doing Appalachian history, the Journal of Southern History has become a significant outlet for cutting edge scholarship on our region, including recent and forthcoming articles by historians such as Ronald Lewis, Martin Crawford, Wilbur Miller and Ralph Mann, all on Appalachian topics. The SHA's annual meeting, held in early November, has in recent years featured sessions on Appalachian history that provide a useful and stimulating means of contact and interchange between historians of both the highland and the lowland South. This year's meeting will be held in Atlanta on November 4-7, 1992.

Membership in the Association is one of the best bargains in the profession, a mere \$20 annually for regular membership, and \$8 for students with proof of current enrollment. To join, write Will Holmes, Secretary-Treasurer, Southern Historical Association, Department of History, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.

The next issue of APPALINK will appear this summer.
Deadline for submissions or ads: June 15, 1992.

Submit to: John Inscoe, Appalink Editor
Department of History
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602
Phone (404) 542-6300

Appalachian Passage

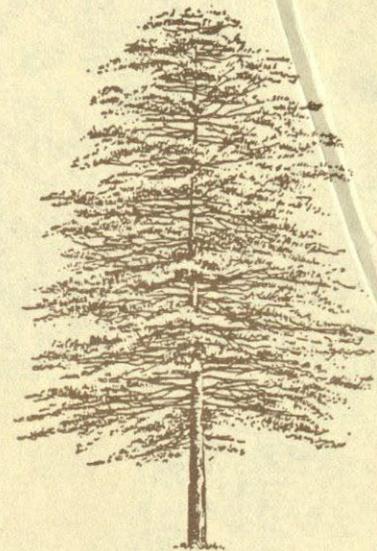
Helen B. Hiscoe

Appalachian Passage is a memoir of the year (June 1949-July 1950) the author and her physician-husband spent in a West Virginia coal-mining camp where he was the company doctor. Recalling the difficulties of their life there and offering an indelible picture of the place and its people, the book is filled with insights into the social structure of mining camps and the problems of rural health care.

"Through Helen Hiscoe's clear and humorous eyes, we are able to enjoy a rich panoply of characters who raise chickens, gossip, work in the mines, give birth, cook meals, and create places for themselves in this rural coal town. Equally important, she faithfully recounts her own emotional response—however unflattering—to the many new situations that challenge her in this unfamiliar terrain. In so doing, she allows us to participate in her own life at a depth and level of detail that only the memoirs of forthright and perceptive people can provide."

—From the Foreword by Barbara Ellen Smith

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The Appalachian Consortium is a Cycle of Activity

SERVICE

The Consortium's goal is to provide services to the region, in order to improve the quality of life and raise pride in the area.

PRESERVATION

The Consortium has been a leader in preserving the Appalachian way of life for over twenty years.

VOLUNTEERS

The Consortium is made up of numerous volunteers, contributing their energy toward preserving regional traditions.

PROGRAMS

The Consortium sponsors a variety of programs in local communities, schools, colleges, and universities.

RESEARCH

The Consortium sponsors many conferences, including the Appalachian Studies conference.

PUBLICATIONS

Since 1973, the Appalachian Consortium Press has published books about the Southern Appalachian Region. The books are aimed at increasing general awareness of the region.

Popular Titles from the Appalachian Consortium Press:

Mountain Preacher Stories by Ben C. Fisher
Cabin: A Mountain Adventure by Barbara Hallowell
Paul Green's Wordbook: An Alphabet of Reminiscence by Paul Green
The Mountains Have Come Closer by Jim Wayne Miller
A Village Tapestry: The History of Blowing Rock by Barry M. Buxton
A Southern Appalachian Reader edited by Nellie McNeil and Joyce Squibb
The Brindle Mule: Stories and Poems of the Brushy Mountains by Dr. Robert R. Leeper
The Summer People by John Foster West
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