

## EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Institute for Appalachian Affairs • Box 19180A • Johnson City, Tennessee 37614-0002 • (615) 929-5348, 4498

NEWSLETTER VOL. #9 No. 2

SEPTEMBER 1985

## A Note From the Chair . . .

A couple of months ago I received a telephone call from a New York based reporter who was conducting research for an article on "the New Appalachia." Convinced that the "old" Appalachia of poverty, isolation, and backwardness had given way to a more modern, "cultured," and prosperous region, she was interested in chronicling this latest addition to the American mainstream. After all, she confided, the Appalachian Regional Commission had fulfilled its promise, bringing new highways, shopping malls, industries, and consolidated schools to the mountains. "Even in Appalachia" one could now find designer clothes, contemporary homes, elegant resorts, and some of the finest restaurants east of the Rockies." The Appalachia which most Americans knew was disappearing, she believed, and today's hillbillies drove Saabs and wore Calvin Klein jeans!

Most of us in Appalachian studies would be quick to relegate this reporter's story to the stockpile of stereotypes and images which have with regularity characterized the popular response to Appalachia. At least since the late nineteenth century outland writers have periodically announced the demise of the region, only to rediscover it again a decade or so later. Along with the rest of the South, Appalachia has performed one of the longest disappearing acts in theatrical history, and reports of its ultimate demise are probably once again a bit premature.

Of late, however, we have witnessed a barrage of eulogies for Appalachia—some fostered by the popular decline of interest in poverty and ethnicity; others by the political death of the ARC. There is no doubt that the region has changed dramatically over the last twenty years. Modernization has again swept through the mountains with a vengeance, transforming the land and people as it did at the turn of the twentieth century. But statistically at least the region still maintains its identity. Appalachia continues to lag behind the rest of the country in most indices of material well-being. Rural unemployment levels are appalling and poverty levels are once again on the rise. Many of the human tragedies of exploitation and injustice persist, and here and there some of the traditional values of the mountains endure. There may be a "new Appalachia," but much of the "old" survives in the 1980s.

Yet, perhaps we should not take the idea of a "new Appalachia" too lightly. Those of us who came to the Appalachian studies out of the social struggles of the 1960s or out of some personal or disciplinary interest in the region may now be in danger of perpetuating our own outdated image and stereotype of Appalachia, stereotypes which for personal, humanitarian, or academic reasons obscure the reality of contemporary life in the mountains. It has been nearly twenty-five years since Harry Caudill wrote *Night Comes To The Cumberlands* and almost as long since the publication of Thomas R. Ford's *The Southern Appalachian Region: A Survey*. For intellectuals (academics and activists alike), the idea of a new Appalachia may be trite, but it should also cause us to pause and think, not only about the region which we purport to study, but about our own relationship to it as well. This periodic re-examination would be good for all of us.

What is the reality of life in the mountains today? What has changed in the last two decades? What has remained the same? Do older notions of the culture and political economy of the region still apply, or must they be modified to meet new circumstances and conditions? Does the notion of regionalism have more or less validity today than in the 1960s? Do Americans perceive Appalachia any differently in the 1980s than

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they did before the growth of the Appalachian studies industry? What motivates us to continue to analyze and serve this region? What have we learned about ourselves in the process of learning about Appalachia? Does continuity or change (traditionalism or modernization) stand as the main theme of Appalachian history, or is it a tension-filled combination of the two?

These and many other questions are raised by the idea of a "new Appalachia," and it is fitting that the Program Committee has selected "Contemporary Appalachia: In Search of a Usable Past" as the theme for the 1986 Appalachian Studies Conference. I hope that in the months ahead you will all have some time to ponder the condition of Appalachia and where we in Appalachian studies stand in relationship to the region. Let us all come together in March with new insights, new energy, and new hope. I look forward to seeing all of you on the mountain in Boone.

Ron Eller  
1986 Chairman of the Appalachian Studies Conference  
Director of the Appalachian Center  
University of Kentucky

## NEWS AND NOTICES

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### Two Celebrations Planned This Fall

**To Mark "Birthday"**—Celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the John C. Campbell Folk School will be held this fall, with the main event scheduled to coincide with the 12th annual Fall Festival on October 5 and 6. Other activities will be held in conjunction with the school's Board of Director's meeting on November 2.

**Application For The Directorship Of The John C. Campbell School** are now being accepted—following the resignation of Robert J. "Bob" Fink in June. Applicants are required to send resumes and references by September 1 to **Search Committee, John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, N.C. 28902.**

**The Quilt Show At John C. Campbell School—Cancelled**—The quilt show which had been scheduled for early September has been cancelled.

**Auction Sets New Record**—Approximately \$5,000 was raised Saturday afternoon and evening August 10, 1985, at the annual crafts auction in Brasstown, N.C. at the **John C. Campbell Folk School.** Approximately 125 guests attended the spirited auction.

**Call For Papers—Fifth Annual New River Symposium**—The New River Gorge National River of the National Park Service and the Wytheville Community College are sponsoring the fifth annual **New River Symposium** scheduled for April 10, 11, 12, 1986. The three day symposium will be held at the Wytheville Holiday Inn, Wytheville, Virginia. The Symposium is open to all those with a professional or avocational interest in the New River, from its North Carolina headwaters down to its mouth in West Virginia. Papers for the Symposium are being sought in many different areas. For more information, contact: **Bill Snyder, Wytheville Community College, Wytheville, West Virginia (703) 228-5541**

**Brasstown North Carolina—Glenn F. Gilmore** is the new resident blacksmith at the **John C. Campbell Folk School.** He will live in Tower House and set up a private studio next door in the **Cantrell Blacksmith Shop.** Gilmore was the resident blacksmith at Silver Dollar City in Tennessee before moving to North Carolina. As resident blacksmith Gilmore will work with visiting teachers and aid in program development as well as teach some classes each year. For more information, contact: **The John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, North Carolina 28902, (794) 837-2775**

**The Amy Foundation Announces Its First Annual Writing Awards**—The Foundation is searching for creative, skillful writing that presents in a sensitive, thought provoking manner, God's position on issues that affect the world today. Cash awards will be presented. Articles and/or inquires may be submitted to: **The Amy Foundation, Writing Awards, P.O. Box 16091, Lansing, MI 48901**

**The Free Southern Theater Project** will be holding a conference, performance festival, grand reunion and funeral starting November 20-24. The project is divided into five components: the conference, the performance festival, the reunion, document collection and oral history, and documentation. For further information contact: **CAC The Free Southern Theater Project P.O. Box 30498, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130** (The activities are scheduled to be held at Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana)

**The Cumberland Mountain Fall Festival** will be held October 10, 11, 12, 1986 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in downtown Middlesboro, Kentucky. Many traditional Appalachian crafts, demonstrations, activities, and events will be available to all who attend. *Come Join the FUN . . .* For further information, contact: **Beth**

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Cooke, KY Dept. of Travel Development, Capital Plaza Tower, 22nd Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

**The Twelfth Annual Celebration of Traditional Music**—will be held in honor of **Bradley Kincaid** in his **Ninetieth Year!!** The celebration will be held on the campus of **Berea College, Berea, Kentucky, October 24-27, 1985**. Many featured entertainers will be on hand to **pick and grin** in honor of Mr. Kincaid. **Jean Ritchie and George Pickow, Grandpa and Ramona Jones, The Stillhouse Reelers**, are only a few of the many set to perform. For more information or ticket purchases, contact: **Berea College Appalachian Center, College Box 2336, Berea Kentucky 40404, (606) 986-9341**

**Interested In Oldtime Music And Dancing In The Mid-South?** You will want to receive *Old Time Times*. It includes a calendar of events, news items, songs, and more. For further information, contact: **Old-Time Times, P.O. Box 1238, Madison, TN 37116**

**Appalshop In Whitesburg, KY** has been running a very full schedule of concerts, films, exhibits, and community classes. For more information on *Appalshop* events, contact: Jerri at: **Appalshop, Inc., 306 Madison, St., Box 643, Whitesburg, Ky 41858**

**The Bijou Theatrical Academy** is devoted to the production of quality literature through children's theatre. For information concerning classes and productions, contact Shirlee Grabko, Director at: **Bijou Theatrical Academy, P.O. Box 1746, Knoxville, TN 37901**

**If you are a folklorist working in the South**, you will definitely want to receive the *Newsletter Of The Association Of Folklorists In The South*. It includes information on conferences, grant opportunities, festivals, etc. For information, contact Burt Feintuch and Camilla Collins, Editors at: **Folklorists In The South, Programs In Folk Studies, Department Of Modern Languages And Intercultural Studies, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY 42101**

The *APSolution* is published five times a year by Sandra Majors Elledge for the **Appalachian People's Organization (APSO)**, a coalition of fourteen Episcopal dioceses from Northern Pennsylvania to Central Georgia. This publication provides information concerning ministry with rural and urban Appalachian people. For further information, contact: **APSOsolution, Appalachian People's Organization, Inc., P.O. Box 1007, Blacksburg, VA 24060, (703) 552-3795**

**The School House** near Abingdon, Virginia, has been featuring a very full schedule of events, including oldtime and bluegrass music, children's shows and occasional dramatic performances. For further information, contact: **The School House, Rt. 5 Box 403, Abingdon, VA 24210**

**National Juried Show: "Political Statements"**—an exhibition of work reflecting social, political, economic, and environmental concerns is open to artists working in all mediums. \$10 jury fee for up to three works, submit a maximum of five slides. **Deadline:** December 12, 1985. Exhibition which opens at Vanderbilt University's Sarratt Gallery January 26 through February 18, 1986 will travel for one year. This project is made possible in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts through the Southern Arts Federation, of which the Tennessee Arts Commission is a member. For prospectus write to the project director **JoEl Logiudice, Assistant Director For Arts: 402 Sarratt, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37240**

**National Exhibition: "Woodturning: Vision And Concept"**, an invitational and juried exhibition of work of American woodturners will be on display at the **Arrowmont School Of Arts And Crafts** in Gatlinburg, TN; October 9—December 7, 1985. This exhibition will feature a range of functional and non-utilitarian works. Gallery hours are Monday—Saturday, 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. For further information, contact Debbie Johnson, Staff Assistant: **Arrowmont School Of Arts And Crafts, Box 567, Gatlinburg, TN 37738, (615) 436-5860**

**"New Photo Graphics"**—an exhibition previously scheduled to be displayed at the **Arrowmont School Of Arts And Crafts** in Gatlinburg, TN from August 19, 1985—October 5, 1985; has been postponed until 1987. Exact dates of the rescheduling will be announced at a later date.

The exhibition of **Alabama Works On Paper** and **Arrowmont Permanent Collection Clay Acquisitions** which are also scheduled during this time will be exhibited as previously announced from August 19, 1985—October 5, 1985. For further information, contact: Debbie Johnson, Staff Assistant: **Arrowmont School Of Arts And Crafts, Box 567, Gatlinburg, TN 37738, (615) 436-5860**

The fifty first annual meeting of the **Tennessee Folklore Society** will be held on Saturday November 9, 1985 at **East Tennessee State University** in the **Frontier Gallery** of the **B. Carroll Reece Museum**. For further information, contact: **Tennessee Folklore Society, Box 201, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132**

The third annual **Country Music Conference** will be held in conjunction with the **Jimmie Rodgers Memorial Festival** in Meridian, Mississippi on May 30-31, 1986. Deadline for submissions is November 29, 1985. Contact: **James E. Akenson, Co Chair, Box 5042, Tennessee Tech. University, Cookeville, TN 38505**

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The third conference on **Appalachian Geography** will be held at Pipestem State Park, Pipestem, West Virginia on March 14-16, 1986. For information write: R.T. Hill, **Coordinator Of Appalachian Studies, Concord College, Athens, West Virginia 24712**

Readers interested in **Appalachian Folk Music** will want to investigate the offerings of the **Folklife Family Store** owned and operated by Jean Ritchie, her husband George Pickow and their son Peter. Records and cassettes by Jean Ritchie and other artists are available, along with videocassettes, books, instruction manuals, and instruments. For further information, contact: **Folklife Family Store, P.O. Box 361, Port Washington, NY 11050**

**"Woodcarving—A Volunteer Tradition"**—Tennessee's touring woodcarving exhibit is now accepting entries. The exhibit, entitled **"Woodcarving—A Volunteer Tradition"**, is being sponsored by the Smoky Mountain Woodcarver Association and the Rose Center in Morristown. **"A Volunteer Tradition"** will be on display in nine communities in Tennessee during Homecoming '86. Woodcarvers, whittlers, and sculptors residing in Tennessee are eligible to submit entries. All carvings must be original work of the exhibitor; no kits or machine carvings allowed. November 1, 1985 is the deadline for entries. For more information, contact: **Bill Kornrich, P.O. Box 1976, Morristown, TN 37814**

**AWA Sets 1986 Conference—Berea, KY**—The reorganized **Appalachian Writers Association (AWA)** will sponsor its 1986 Conference June 20-22 at Virginia Polytechnical University in Blacksburg, Virginia. Membership in AWA is \$10, \$5 for students. Mail to AWA, P.O. Box 528, Berea, KY 40403

**Entries For Essay Contest Invited**—If you teach an Appalachian Studies course, please encourage your students to submit papers to the **Appalachian Studies Essay Contest**. Any theme or topic relating to regional interest or concerns will be considered. Essays should be double-spaced on standard typing paper and include a cover page indicating the title of the paper, student's name, home address, and school affiliation. Papers should preferably be 10-20 pages in length, but

there is no length restriction. The author of the winning paper will receive a stipend to attend the **Appalachian Studies Conference**, a cash award, a set of books from the Appalachian Consortium Press, a certificate, and also publication in the proceeding of the ASC. Again, please do what you can to induce your students to enter this competition and encourage your colleagues who teach Appalachian courses to do the same. Deadline for entries is January 10, 1986. Submissions should be address to: Dr. Barry Buxton, Appalachian Consortium, University Hall, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina 28608 (703) 262-2064

**Mailing List Corrections Needed**—Serious problems with the ASC mailing list have recently come to light. A number of **Appalink** readers have not been receiving the publication, largely due to the fact that old addresses have not been updated, zip codes have not been included in registration information at the annual meeting, and duplicate addresses have not been reported to the editor or the Appalachian Consortium office. If your mailing label needs correction, please let us know. Also, if you know someone who should be getting **Appalink** but hasn't, please tell them to contact: Lois Forrester, Appalachian Consortium, University Hall, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina 28608. Please do what you can to help us correct this situation.

**ETSU Center Fellowships**—The Center for Appalachian Studies at East Tennessee State University is inviting applications for the Spring 1986 round of **CASS Fellowships**. The fellowship program supports creative and scholarly work in various disciplines which relates to Appalachian themes and concerns. Applicants must submit completed application form, a current vita or resume, three letters of reference, and a sample of their work, where appropriate. Fellowships will support work carried out between January 1—May 31, 1986. Deadline for completed application is October 15, 1985. For application forms and additional information write or call: Dr. Richard Blaustein, CASS, Box 19180A, ETSU, Johnson City, TN 37614-0002. (615) 929-5348.

# **APPALACHIAN AGENDA**

## **October Calendar For John C. Campbell Folk School**

- October 5 thru 6** 12th Annual Fall Festival
- October 11 thru 13** Chamber Music House Party with James and Isabel Carley
- October 11 thru 13** Fall Craft Weekend
- October 13 thru 19** Fall Elderhostel I
- October 20 thru 25** Fall Elderhostel II (Repeat of Week I)
- October 25 thru 27** Fall Dance Weekend

## **November**

- November 1 thru 3** Board meeting and 60th Birthday Party
- November 3 thru 16** Fall Craft and home Week II
- November 17 thru 23** Holiday Craft Week
- November 23** 60th Anniversary of Folk School's incorporation

## **December**

- December 1** Fireside Sale
- December 8** Community Concert
- December 20** Old Folks' Party
- December 21** Children's and Dance Parties
- December 26 thru  
January 1** Winter Dance Week

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## **September Calendar For The Carroll Reece Museum East Tennessee State University**

**September 1 thru  
September 29**

The Carroll Reece Museum will be housing an exhibition of drawings by Robert Morrow in Gallery A. Morrow has done extensive mural design as well as photography.

**September 1 thru  
September 25**

In Gallery C of the Museum a collection of works by Roslyn Cambridge will be available for viewing. Cambridge, a native of Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies, is presently a graduate student at Syracuse University in the Museology Department. She follows the path of abstract expressionism, her works being characterized by mystical symbolism with philosophic and religious overtones.

**September 1 thru  
September 30**

In Gallery D of the Museum an exhibition of sculpture by Don Drumm will be available for viewing also. Drumm's work and design philosophy favor strong forms, textures and shapes

which are non-objective and relate to the given environment which will ultimately house the final art object.

**September 4**

On Wednesday the 4th at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. a film entitled "Grand Central" will be shown in the Reece Gallery.

**September 18**

On Wednesday from 12 noon until 1 p.m. the first in a series of monthly mini-concerts will be presented. The Dixie Dew Drops will be featured in the Gallery.

**September 28—  
November 20**

Invitational Alumni Exhibition—Ogle Neas will be the featured Alumnus. He graduated East Tennessee State with a B.S. in 1938.

## October

**October 4 thru  
November 20**

In Gallery A of the Museum a collection of illustrations by Barbara Morrow will be made available for viewing.

**October 3 thru  
November 20**

Paintings, drawings, and sculptures by Mark and Bob Alexander will be on exhibit in Gallery D.

**October 5**

12 noon until 5 p.m. the Museum will participate in the University's Family Day with music, demonstrations, and other programming.

**October 26**

The Friends of the Reece Museum will sponsor a Homecoming Day Brunch.

## December

**December 1 thru 20**

Christmas Trees/Seasonal Exhibition. The Johnson City Council of Garden Clubs will again co-sponsor the Museum's seasonal exhibition. Included will be trees depicting the 75 years of ETSU's growth along with special exhibitions such as Chanukah, dollhouses and others. Special programs will continue throughout the exhibition period.

**December 1**

1 until 7 p.m. The Johnson City Council of Garden Clubs will co-sponsor an opening day tea opening the Christmas Tree/Seasonal Exhibition.

**For further  
information, contact**

Helen Roseberry, Director, The Carroll Reece Museum, Sherrod Library, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee, Box 22300A, 37614-0002 or phone: (615) 929-5348 or (615) 929-4498

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## September Calendar For Reynolds Homestead Continuing Education Center

**September 5**

Tuesday, Recent works by Jane Stoger, opens.

**September 9**

Monday, Reynolds Homestead Booth. Visit us at the annual Patrick County Agricultural Fair Nightly, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**September 12**

Thursday, Dried Flower Arranging. \$20 supply fee. 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

**September 15**

Sunday, Homestead Weavers Exchange. The program will be on the use of natural dyes and materials in weaving. 2:00 p.m.

**September 17**

Tuesday, Sculptured Basketry. Pattie Neal, instructor.

**September 24**

Tuesday, Sculptures, begins. Troy Vessells, instructor.

## October

- October 1** Tuesday, Appalachian Byways, opens. Art photography by Jack Jeffers, Radford University.
- October 7** Monday, Virginia Museum Artmobile, opens.
- October 11** Friday, Julie Henigan in Concert. Ms. Henigan is a talented young folk singer who performs music from both Appalachia and the Ozarks.
- October 17** Thursday, Dollmaking, begins. Jenny Smith will be the instructor.
- October 28** Entries due for the eighth annual Patrick County Photography Show and Contest.

## November

- October 1** Tuesday, Appalachian Byways, opens. Art photography by Jack Jeffers, Radford University.
- November 1** Children's craft sampler, grades 4-7.
- November 2** Saturday, Children's craft sampler: Basketmaking.
- November 3** Sunday, Eighth Annual Patrick County Photography Show opens.
- November 3** Sunday, Photography show reception.
- November 5** Tuesday, Acrylic painting workshop, begins.
- November 9** Saturday, Children's craft sampler: Tin-smithing.
- November 11** Monday, Wreathmaking. Anita Cox and Connie Kreh, instructors.
- November 16** Saturday, Children's craft samplers: Photography.
- November 18** Monday, Evening wreathmaking. Anita Cox and Connie Kreh, instructors.
- November 23** Saturday, Children's craft sampler: Batik.

## December

- December 4** Wednesday, "Presences": Recent works by sculpture/artist Anne Bell, opens.
- December 4** Wednesday, Victorian Christmas.
- December 17** Tuesday, Arranging for Christmas.

## January

- January 2** Thursday, Book discussion. "Gallery Talk".
- January 7** Tuesday, Open Studio. The Homestead is offering the use of its studio space to artists interested in painting, drawing, or sculpting.
- January 16** Thursday, Woodcarving, begins.
- January 22** Wednesday, Black Women: Achievements Against the Odds, opens.

For further information, contact: **The Reynolds Homestead Continuing Education Center, Box 21, Critz, Virginia 24082**