

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looking Ahead to the Annual Conference in Kentucky

by Dwight B. Billings

This spring's annual conference, which will take place March 14 through March 26, 1997 in Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati, promises to offer one of the largest and richest programs ever. Those of us who have been involved in planning for the conference are very excited about what we believe will be a truly rich and unique offering of events. In order to accommodate the unusually large number of requests for participation from regional scholars, teachers, and activists, the conference will begin earlier and run longer than ever before, *suggesting the need for folks to make their travel plans as early as possible.*

UNLIKE PREVIOUS YEARS, SESSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS BEGIN AT 2:00 P.M. ON FRIDAY AND RUN THROUGH SUNDAY 1:30 P.M.

Besides the usual full range of topics addressed at each annual meeting, two special features and several special events deserve early mention.

1) *Special Focus on the Urban Appalachian Experience:* The conference is being co-sponsored this year with the Urban Appalachian Council of Cincinnati. Members of UAC's Research Committee have worked closely with the ASA program committee to offer a number of special papers and panels that focus on the experience of Appalachians who have left the region for urban destinations. Sessions and topics will include historical and contemporary patterns of migration, urban history and demography, parenting, work and education, and language and identity.

2) *Appalachian Studies in the Classroom.* Continuing the ASA's commitment to sustaining dialogue among Appalachian Studies teachers at all levels, a number of panels address topics such as effective schooling in rural and urban settings, Appalachian youth projects, Foxfire, teachers talking to teachers, barriers to educational attainment, cultural identity, teaching Appalachian literature and children's literature, and other related topics focusing on educational practice and experience.

3) *Tours:* Two tour options, each occurring from 10 a.m. until noon on Friday, the first day of the conference, are

being offered. The Urban Appalachian Council is offering a guided tour of Lower Price Hill, a low-income, environmentally challenged urban Appalachian neighborhood in Cincinnati, that will include a focus on the community's environmental justice program. Also at that time, Cincinnati's Media Working Group is offering a guided tour of the Covington (Kentucky) Community Center and a visit with performers who are producing an oral history-based community performance, "Jack and Molly in the City."

An expanded conference and the larger-than-ever number of paper proposals are wonderful testimonies to the interest and continuing vitality of Appalachian Studies, yet success also invites the need to insure that compelling, common events give a core to the program that offsets the tendencies toward specialization and fragmentation that growth in scale often encourages. Consequently, the program committee has made a number of efforts to provide several notable, conference-wide events that promise to be very exciting.

1) *Key-note Speaker and Concert:* This year's banquet speaker is Gurney Norman. Since his own personal migration from Appalachian Kentucky and his return there as a writer and teacher parallel the conference theme, "Places Where the Mountains Have Gone," we are counting on Gurney to call our attention to issues that will circulate throughout the next two days. A concert of *Appalachian Bluegrass Music in Cincinnati* will follow the banquet.

2) *Plenary Session:* This year's plenary session, developed by members of the Urban Council Appalachian Research Committee and moved to Saturday morning, will give special attention to the conference theme on the Urban Appalachian Experience.

3) *Focus on the Appalachian Writer's Movement.* Thanks to a grant from the Kentucky Humanities Council, we will offer a special, conference-wide reading by three Kentucky poets, Kelly Ellis, Nikky Finney and Frank X Walker, who will read their poetry at the Saturday luncheon. They will also be available for a follow-up discussion moderated by

Continued on back page

Southern Voices

Voices from the Mountains



The people of Appalachia—their faces, their words, their songs
Collected and Recorded by Guy and Candie Carawan

VOICES FROM THE MOUNTAINS

Collected and Recorded by Guy and Candie Carawan

The people of Appalachia—their faces, their words, their songs

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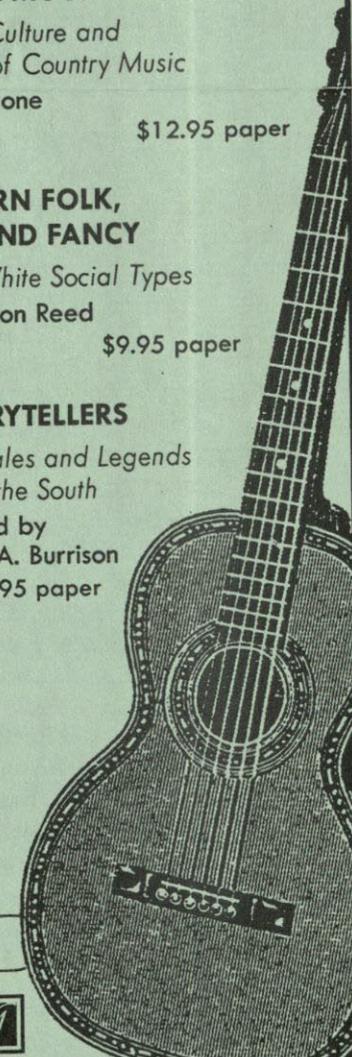
Native White Social Types
John Shelton Reed

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Resources for a Migration Component in an Appalachian Studies Course

Compiled by Phillip J. Obermiller
Appalachian Center Associate, University of Kentucky

Books (in order of publication)

- The South Goes North*. Robert Coles. 1967. Little, Brown and Company.
- White Southerners*. Lewis Killian. 1970. University of Massachusetts Press.
- Mountain Families in Transition*. Harry K. Schwarzweller, James S. Brown, and J. J. Mangalam. 1971. Pennsylvania State University Press.
- Hard Living on Clay Street*. Joseph Howell. 1973. Anchor Books.
- Appalachian Migrants in Urban America*. William Philliber. 1981. Praeger.
- The Invisible Minority*. William Philliber and Clyde McCoy, eds. 1981. University Press of Kentucky.
- Too Few Tomorrows*. Phillip Obermiller and William Philliber, eds. 1987. Appalachian Consortium Press.
- From Mountain to Metropolis*. Kathryn Borman and Phillip Obermiller, eds. 1994. Bergin and Garvey.
- Down Home, Downtown: Urban Appalachians Today*. Phillip Obermiller, ed. 1996. Kendall/Hunt.
- Perceptions of Home: The Urban Appalachian Spirit*. Malcolm J. Wilson and Don Carothers. 1996. Urban Appalachian Council.
- Appalachian Migration: A Selectively Annotated Bibliography*. Compiled by Phillip J. Obermiller. Forthcoming from Greenwood Press in 1997.

Serials

- Mountain Life and Work* published three special issues on Appalachian migrants: v. 44, n. 8 (Sept 1968); v. 52, n. 8 (Aug 1976); and v. 64, n. 4 (Oct-Dec 1988).
- Now and Then: The Appalachian Magazine* published a special issue on Urban Appalachia, v. 8, n. 2 (Summer 1990).

Films/Video

- The Newcomers*. Board of Missions of the Methodist Church. 1963.
- Although Our Fields Were Streets*. Peter Allison. 1991. P. Allison Productions.
- Long Journey Home*. Elizabeth Barret. 1987. Appalshop.

A Selected Bibliography Appalachian Migratory Literature

Compiled by Danny L. Miller
Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights KY

- Agee, James. *A Death in the Family*. New York: Bantam, 1938.
- Alther, Lisa. *Kinflicks*. New York: Plume, 1976.
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- Fox, John, Jr. *The Heart of the Hills*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1913.
- Godwin, Gail. *A Southern Family*. New York: Avon, 1987.
- Henson, Michael. *A Small Room With Trouble On My Mind and Other Stories*. Minneapolis: West End Press, 1983.
- . *Ransack*. Albuquerque NM: West End Press, 1980.
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- Holbrook, Chris. *Hell and Ohio*. Frankfort: Gnomon, 1995.
- Lumpkin, Grace. *To Make My Bread*. New York: Macaulay, 1932.
- Mullaney, Pat. *Shaking the Money Tree*. New York: An Apple Paperback, Scholastic Inc., 1991.
- Murfree, Mary Noailles. "Drifting Down Lost Creek." *In the Tennessee Mountains*. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1884.
- Norman, Gurney. *Divine Right's Trip*. New York: Dial Press, 1972.
- Reston, James, Jr. *A Knock at Midnight*. New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 1975.
- Schayer, Julia. "Molly." *Scribner's Monthly* 16 (1878): 712-21.
- Scott, Carol J. *Kentucky Daughter*. New York: Fawcett Juniper, 1985.
- Settle, Mary Lee. *The Beulah Quintet*. Columbia: The U of South Carolina P, 1996.
- Smith, Lee. *Family Linen*. New York: Putnams, 1985.
- Wolff, Ruth. *A Crack in the Sidewalk*. New York: Scholastic Book Services, 1965.

BALLOT

ASA Officers and Committees for 1997-98

The following nominees are placed before the ASA membership by its nominating committee for various offices and committees for 1997 and 1998. Following each entry is a blank space where you should mark your vote for that nominee or write in a nominee for the same position. Please fill in ballots and return them by March 10 to the Nominating Chair:

Howard Dorgan
Dept. of Communication
Appalachian State University
Boone, NC 28608

For Vice President/President Elect:

Steve Fisher, Director of the Appalachian Center for Community Services, Emory & Henry College, and editor of *Fighting Back in Appalachia: Tradition of Resistance and Change*

Fisher _____ Write-In Nominee _____

For Conference Program Vice Chair ('98)/Chair Elect ('99):

Tal Stanley, Volunteer Service Coordinator for the Appalachian Center for Community Services, Emory & Henry College

Stanley _____ Write-In Nominee _____

For Secretary/Appalink Editor:

Danny L. Miller, currently serving in this capacity, associate professor of English at Northern Kentucky University

Miller _____ Write-In Nominee _____

For Steering Committee (three members, 2-year terms):

Patricia Beaver, professor of anthropology, Appalachian State University, and author of *Rural Community in the Appalachian South*

Beaver _____ Write-In Nominee _____

Fred Hay, Director of W. L. Eury Appalachian Regional Collection, Appalachian State University

Hay _____ Write-In Nominee _____

Jane Woodside, editor of *Now and Then: The Appalachian Magazine*

Woodside _____ Write-In Nominee _____

For Program Committee (three members, one-year terms):

Cecelia Conway, associate professor of English, Appalachian State University, author of *African Banjo Echoes in Appalachia*

Conway _____ Write-In Nominee _____

Thomas Plaut, professor of sociology, Mars Hill College

Plaut _____ Write-In Nominee _____

Mary Greene, adjunct professor for the Center for Appalachian Studies and the School of Music, Appalachian State University

Greene _____ Write-In Nominee _____

Gurney Norman on the politics of writing and the relationship of identity and region immediately after the luncheon.

4) *Jean Ritchie Concert*: Thanks to the University Press of Kentucky, the great Kentucky folksinger Jean Ritchie will perform for ASA and UAC conference participants on Saturday night at Cincinnati's beautiful Union Terminal Building concert hall. After the concert she will be available to sign copies of a new edition of her *Folk Songs of the Southern Appalachians as Sung by Jean Ritchie*. **IMPORTANT: ONLY CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS WHO PRE-REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE AND ASK FOR FREE TICKETS WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND THIS EVENT.**

5) *Photo Exhibit*: Immediately before the Jean Ritchie concert at Union Terminal, the Urban Appalachian Council and the Cincinnati Historical Society Library will sponsor a reception and an exhibit of the photographic display, "Perceptions of Home: The Urban Appalachian Spirit."

So, I hope you can see why this year's program committee is excited about what lies ahead. Look over your preliminary ASA program and make plans to join us as soon as possible in Northern Kentucky, "where the mountains have gone."

"John Henry: Beyond the Myth and Legend"

Call for Papers and Presentations

The John Henry Center for Culture and History Exchange announces the 25th annual John Henry Festival and Conference on Aug 29-31, 1997 at Lincoln School (205 Hill Street), Hinton, West Virginia. Abstracts for papers and presentations are now being accepted, not to exceed two pages, for sessions, panels, individual papers and other presentations relating to the factual basis and roots of John Henry—America's greatest labor hero and African-American folk hero. Papers from all disciplines (folk studies, Appalachian studies, labor studies, African-American studies, popular culture studies, etc.) are encouraged. Music, dance, theater, literature, visual arts, storytelling, media presentations are also welcome, if they relate to John Henry or African-American experiences in the Appalachian region. Presentations must be presented in no more than twenty-five minutes. Send abstracts to: John Henry Center for Culture and History Exchange, PO Box 1172, Morgantown, WV 26507. Phone: 304-292-0767. Deadline for abstracts: May 31, 1997.

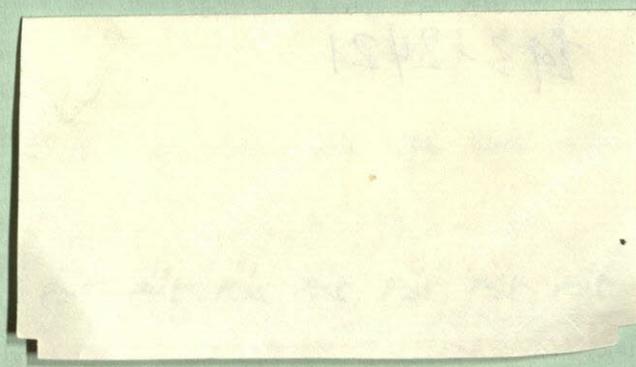


Amendments Pass

The two proposed amendments to the ASA Constitution in the last issue of *Appalink* were passed: 1) To create the position of a non-salaried liaison officer to facilitate communication between the ASA and its institutional base; and 2) To establish a committee on Maintenance of the ASA Web Site.

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