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Appalachian Studies Association, "Appalink" (1979). *Appalink*. Paper 3.
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APPALACHIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

APPALINK--Newsletter of the Appalachian Studies Conference

Volume 2 Number 2 January, 1979

SECOND APPALACHIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE PLANNED

Preparations are well underway for the second Appalachian Studies Conference to be held March 16-18, 1979 at Jackson's Mill, West Virginia. Registration and room assignment will be from 1-5 p.m. on Friday, March 16. The Conference will begin with Dinner the 16th and end at Lunch on the 18th.

The tentative program includes the following:

GENERAL SESSIONS Friday and Saturday evening, including speakers, theatre, singing, a concert by the Hammered dulcimer string band Trapezoid and square dance.

TOPICAL SESSIONS on the following:

Nationalizing the Soil: the Politics
of Place in Recent Appalachian
Literature
Kilowatts and the Corps: Dams,
Proposed and Possible
Teaching About the Land
Environmental Perception in
Appalachia

Land Ownership Studies
The Mining Frontier
Land as a Theme in Appalachian
Literature (2 sessions)
The Wreckless Assault: Saviors
of Land and People

APPALACHIAN STUDIES DISCIPLINE SESSIONS:

- by area of specialization (history, political science, biology, etc.) to discuss common concerns, problems, resources, etc. and to focus on possibilities for working together;
- by trans-disciplinary groups (humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, etc.) to promote discussion across discipline lines with a more topical focus; and,
- by topically oriented small groups growing out of and continuing from discussions begun in previous sessions.

BUSINESS MEETINGS.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES: Rooms set aside and open continuously for the following:
musician's room for talking, trading songs and resting;
film and media exhibits; crafts exhibits; spontaneously generated meetings.

Pre-registration:

Name _____

Address _____

Institution _____

Discipline _____

Do you want us to reserve housing at Jackson's Mill? Yes _____ No _____

Enclose check or money order for \$10 registration (\$5 for students and persons with low incomes), payable to Appalachian Studies Conference and send to: Dennis Lindberg, ASC Registration, Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, WV 26241

(PLEASE PHOTOCOPY THIS PAGE AND DISTRIBUTE IT TO THOSE YOU THINK MIGHT BE INTERESTED.)

NEH FUNDS 3½ YEAR PROJECT

AN APPALACHIAN EXPERIENCE

An Appalachian Experience is a 3½-year National Endowment for the Humanities Learning Museum Program at the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge. The geographic area of concern is primarily a 16-county region corresponding to the East Tennessee Development District, but the program will make use of resources throughout Southern Appalachia. The general goals are to expand educational opportunities for East Tennesseans, to lay the foundation for a permanent Continuing Education Program and Center for Appalachian Research at the Children's Museum, and to put aspects of Southern Appalachian life into a balanced perspective from which Appalachian people can derive greater awareness of their past, pride in themselves, and self-confidence for the future. The program will do this through county workshops, courses of Appalachian study in Oak Ridge, educational television programs, and two proposed publications: an Anthology of Appalachia and an Appalachian Studies Teacher's Manual. Anyone who wants more information about An Appalachian Experience, or who wants to volunteer his or her services, should write P.O. Box 3066, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, or call 615-482-1075. Jim Stokely is the Director of An Appalachian Experience; Jeff Johnson is the Assistant Director.

ASC AGENDA COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Appalachian Studies Conference Agenda Committee will meet Saturday, February 10 at Highlander Center, New Market, Tennessee, to discuss issues, information, or ideas that need to be brought to the attention of the ASC membership during the March 16 and 18 business meeting at Jackson's Mill. If any ASC member wishes to introduce an agenda item for discussion at the business meeting, please contact Sharon Lord, Chairperson. (ASC Officers and addresses are listed on last page of this newsletter)

ARC FUNDS LAND OWNERSHIP STUDY

An Appalachian Land Ownership Task Force has received a grant of \$100,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission to investigate patterns of land-ownership in Appalachia. The Task Force was formed out of a series of meetings in which questions were raised about the failure of ARC to address problems related to land-ownership and to provide research funds to regional scholars. The task force brings together members of the research and public policy committee of the Appalachian Studies Conference and members of the Appalachian Alliance, a coalition of citizen's groups in the region.

The grant may represent the first time the ARC Research Committee has allocated major research funds to regional scholars. The Appalachian Studies Center at Appalachian State University will serve as fiscal agent for the project. State task forces of scholars and citizens will be set up immediately in target states. Data will be collected in county courthouses by student and community researchers.

The goals of the project are:

1. To document ownership patterns of land on rural Appalachia, looking at such factors as extent of corporate ownership, extent of absentee ownership, extent of individual or family ownership, extent of local ownership, descriptions of principal owners, rate of change in ownership patterns, relationships between ownership and land use.
2. To investigate the impacts of these landownership patterns upon economic and social development in rural Appalachia, exploring the relationship of land ownership patterns to land use, taxation structures, land availability for housing and industry, coal productivity, agricultural productivity, economic growth and stability, social development and stability.
3. To develop action-oriented policy recommendations for ARC, state, federal and local officials, government agencies and the public to assist them in dealing with problems relating to ownership patterns. To begin an education process helping the public and policy makers to become more aware of the problems and the policy options available to them.

Persons interested in working on the project should contact:

John Gaventa
Highlander Center
Box 370, Rt. 3
New Market, TN 37820
Phone: 615-933-3443

NEW PUBLICATION

Some Ballad Folks by Thomas G. Burton, East Tennessee State University Research Advising Committee, 1978, 108 pp., paper, with accompanying cassette, \$5.00. Some Ballad Folks provides perspectives of five mountain women and their traditional ballads of British origin. Texts, tunes, photographs, and analysis are given, but the focus is upon the singers' own life histories and discussions of these old songs.

SYMPOSIUM ON SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN AND OZARK ARCHEOLOGY
CONDUCTED AT SOUTHEASTERN ARCHEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

A symposium on the archeology of the Southern Appalachians and Ozarks was held on November 9, 1978, at the 35th annual Southeastern Archeological Conference in Knoxville, Tennessee. Organized by Burt Purrington (Appalachian State) and Mary Lee Douthit (Southwest Missouri State), the symposium compared the adaptation of Indians and early Euro-Americans to these environmentally similar southern highland regions.

The adaptive strategies of various Southern Highland groups were investigated from the perspectives of their subsistence (food-getting), settlement, and raw material procurement systems as revealed by archeological remains. Geographical areas whose prehistory was discussed included the western prairie-ozark ecotone (Douthit), the western Arkansas Ozarks (Mark Raab - U. of Arkansas), the eastern Missouri Ozark escarpment (Cynthia Price - Southwest Missouri St.), Piedmont South Carolina (John House - U. of Arkansas - Pine Bluff), the Great Smokies (Quentin Bass - U. of Tennessee), Mount Rogers, Virginia (Harry and Jackie Piper - U. of South Florida), West Virginia Highlands (Gary Wilkins - U. of Tennessee), and the Red River of eastern Kentucky (Wesley Cowan - U. of Michigan).

A paper on early Euro-American subsistence and settlement patterns on the eastern Ozark escarpment was presented by James and Cynthia Price (Southwest Missouri St.). Purrington discussed the marked tendency toward the evolution of small-scale, presumably egalitarian, Indian and Euro-American societies in both regions and offered cultural models to explain the high degree of stability of these highland cultures in terms other than the traditional isolation models which are simplistic and largely inaccurate. Hester Davis (U. of Arkansas) and Roy Dickens (Georgia State) served as discussants.

This was the first formal gathering on a region-wide scale of Southern Appalachian archeologists or of Appalachian and Ozark archeologists. The participants agreed that it should be the first of many.

ASU CENTER FOR APPALACHIAN STUDIES

Appalachian State University has received approval and funding by the General Administration of the N.C. State University system to establish a Center for Appalachian Studies. Patricia Beaver has been serving as Acting Director since the Center was officially formed in August, and Rich Humphrey will join the Center for the spring semester as a half time research coordinator. The Center is coordinating and facilitating the various programs and projects already existing on campus which have a regional focus; in addition, the Center is coordinating Appalachian Studies curriculum offerings--A.S.U. now offers an undergraduate minor and major (through a General College degree) in Appalachian Studies, and is anticipating approval for a Master's degree program soon. A number of projects are in the works for the spring semester and for the 1979-1980 academic year, involving such issues as energy, land use and land ownership, black culture history, museum development, and celebration and exploration of the arts. The Center looks forward to working with other colleges, universities, and educational institutions, public interest groups, and individuals with regional concerns, in enhancing the shared awareness of and attention to regional issues. The Center is located in 216 Watauga Hall, A.S.U., Boone, N.C. (Phone: 704-262-4089) and invites your inquiries, suggestions, ideas, and visits.

APPALINK SUBSCRIPTIONS:

IF YOU DID NOT ATTEND THE BEREA MEETING BUT WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING AND RETURN IT TO TOM PLAUT, BOX 639, MARS HILL, NC 28754.

NAME/AGENCY _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

OCCUPATION _____

INTEREST IN REGION _____

I AM ENCLOSING DUES OF \$4.00 FOR THE 1978-1979 FISCAL YEAR
(TO MARCH 1, 1979).

APPALACHIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

OFFICERS ELECTED AT 1978 MEETING:

Chairperson: Sharon B. Lord
Appalachian Center
316 Alumni Hall
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37916
615-974-5131

Treasurer/Secretary: Tom Plaut
P.O. Box 693
Mars Hill, NC
28756
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Program

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33 Pleasant Avenue
Elkins, West Virginia 26241
304-636-1900

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Program Coordinating Committee:

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University of Kentucky
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Don McLeod
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704-682-3222

Scotty Roberts Wiest
Rt. 1, Box 216
Rock Cave, WV 26234

Linda Scott, Director
Institute for Appalachian
Affairs
East Tennessee State Univ.
Johnson City, TN

Agenda Committee:

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