

Fall 9-1-1989

Appalink

Appalachian Studies Association

Follow this and additional works at: http://mds.marshall.edu/asa_newsletter

Recommended Citation

Appalachian Studies Association, "Appalink" (1989). *Appalink*. Paper 32.
http://mds.marshall.edu/asa_newsletter/32

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Appalachian Studies Association at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Appalink by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact zhangj@marshall.edu.

APPALINK

Newsletter
of the
Appalachian
Studies Conference

CENTER FOR APPALACHIAN STUDIES
University Hall, Appalachian State University
Boone, North Carolina 28608 (704) 262-4089

VOL. 13 #2

FALL 1989

President's Message . . .

I was recently browsing through some old copies of "APPALINK" when I came across a column penned by Ron Eller several years ago. His comments made me stop and think about our purpose in coming together each year.

"Those of us who come to 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the 1960s or out of some personal or disciplinary interest in the region may now be in danger of perpetuating our own outdated image and stereotype of Appalachia, stereotypes which for personal, humanitarian, or academic reasons obscure the reality of contemporary life in the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."

Ron went on to talk about the need for "periodic re-examination" of our positions and ideas. The program committee will be meeting at Unicoi in October to select the session topics for the 1990 meeting. These words present us with a challenge as we approach this task. The problems which face our region and our nation are complex and difficult. Drugs, pollution, poverty, and illiteracy are among the issues that confront us whenever we pick up a newspaper or turn on the radio. If solutions are to be found, they will come out of the kind of dialogue that characterizes our annual meeting. I encourage you to do two things. Continue to suggest and make presentations. Secondly, share your ideas, news, and discoveries through "APPALINK." Our Secretary does a wonderful job of ferreting out what is happening, but she can use your help. Each year we leave the meeting to go back to our respective areas. The newsletter is a good way to keep in touch and continue the sharing.

Doyle Bickers

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Appalachian Studies Association Officers

The Nominating Committee for 1989-90 is Wilburn Hayden, committee chair (Western Carolina University), Tyler Blethen (Mtn. Heritage Ctr., WCU), and Rosemary Goss (VPI & SU).

The committee must nominate members for the following positions: (1) Vice President/President Elect; (2) Conference Program Vice Chair; (3) four members of the Program Committee; (4) two at-large Steering Committee members.

For more information on the duties of officers and committees, and terms of office see our By-Laws, sections VIII, IX, and X.

Nominees must be current paid members of the Appalachian Studies Association. To nominate a member (including yourself), send the nominee's name, address, and telephone number, a statement indicating the nominee's willingness to run, and a short biographical sketch of the nominee by November 1, 1989 to Wilburn Hayden, Western Carolina University, Social Work Department, Cullowhee, N.C. 28223.

Sallie Miller Weaver



Annual Meeting Scholarships

Annual meeting Scholarships are available to potential participants who might otherwise not be able to afford the Conference registration fee. For more information contact:

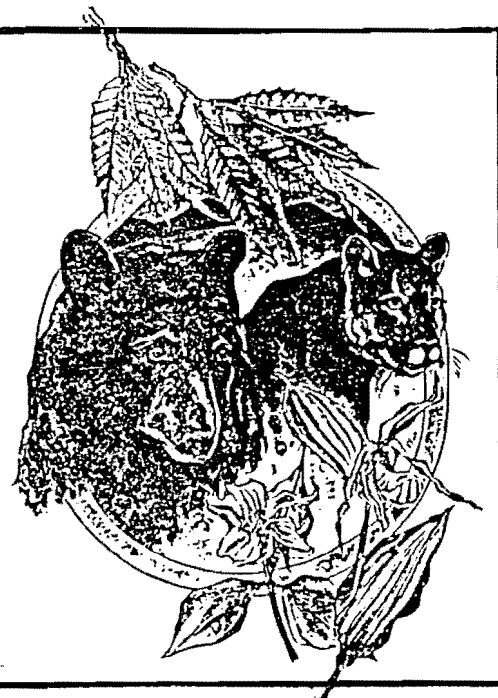
John Inscoe
University of Georgia
Georgia Historical Quarterly
History Department
Le Conte Hall
Athens, Georgia 30602
Tel.# (404) 542-6300

News and Notices

RESTORING BIODIVERSITY IN THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS: A STRATEGY FOR SURVIVAL

October 27, 1989

Owen Conference Center
University of North Carolina Asheville



We are on the threshold of a great decision. These times of ecological crisis require that we redefine the importance of our mountain landscape, its natural habitats, and the life forms they support. Science has shown that such habitats are vital to planetary life support systems and that these natural communities of interdependent plant and animal species constitute important reservoirs of biological diversity.

By the turn of the century much of the primeval forest of the Southern Appalachian Mountains was fragmented and broken by human exploitation. Today, after 60 to 80 years of natural recovery under the protection of National Forest designation, a second generation forest is gradually maturing. There is now the potential to restore a functioning habitat that resembles the original forest. However, there is also the danger of losing much of the restoration already gained.

This conference proposes that habitat restoration and preservation, for the purpose of maintaining natural biological diversity, become a management priority for the National Forests in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. The conference will bring together top educators from several disciplines, scientists, natural resource managers, and conservationists to assess the present condition of forest habitats and the future need and potential for creating such a management priority. Discussion will focus on the application of ecological principles to viable and constructive options that could form the basis for future land use planning.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

- | | | | |
|-------|--|-------|--|
| 8:00 | Registration | 12:15 | LUNCH |
| 8:45 | Welcome - Dr. Gary Miller, Director Environmental Studies Program, University of North Carolina Asheville | 1:15 | "Aquatic Systems and Biodiversity in the Southern Appalachians"
Dr. William McLarney, Consulting Aquatic Biologist, Franklin, NC |
| 9:00 | "Restoring Damaged Ecosystems: A Global Perspective"
Dr. John Cairns, Director, University Center for Environmental and Hazardous Material Studies Virginia Polytechnical Institute and State Univ. | 1:45 | "Maintaining the Black Bear in the Southern Appalachians"
Lauren Hillman, Wildlife Biologist, USDA Forest Service, Asheville, NC |
| 9:45 | "Maintaining Biodiversity: Why We Need to Think Big"
Dr. Reed Noss, Project Leader, Global Climate Change Project, EPA National Laboratories, Corvallis, OR | 2:15 | "Reintroducing Large Carnivores in the Southern Appalachian Habitat"
Warren Parker, Wildlife Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Asheville, NC |
| 10:30 | Break | 2:45 | Break |
| 10:45 | "Natural Heritage of the Southern Appalachians: Identification and Protection"
Charles Roe, Director, Natural Heritage Program, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission | 3:00 | "All Our Relations"
Kay Littlejohn, Member, Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians |
| 11:15 | "Biodiversity in the National Forest System"
Dr. Hal Salwasser, USDA Forest Service, Washington, DC | 3:30 | "The Potential for Restoring Old-Growth Forests in the Southern Appalachians"
Dr. Robert Zahner, Professor Emeritus, Department of Forestry, Clemson University |
| 11:45 | "Human Carrying Capacity and Population Trends in the Southern Appalachian Region"
Dr. Robert Reiman, Professor, Department of Geography and Planning Appalachian State University | 4:00 | "PAW: Re-wilding the Appalachians"
Jamie Sayen, Preserve Appalachian Wilderness, North Stratford, NH |

"RESTORING BIODIVERSITY IN THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS: A STRATEGY FOR SURVIVAL"

Registration Fee: \$20.00 per person
Lunch is available at the school cafeteria or at local restaurants.
If you have questions or need more information, call (704) 251-6441.

Number of people attending _____
Amount enclosed: \$ _____

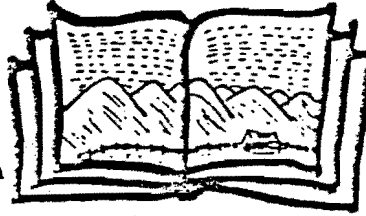
(Name) _____
(Address) _____

(Phone) _____

Please mail pre-registration to: Restoring Biodiversity Conference;
c/o Elmer Hall; Box 233; Hot Springs, NC 28743

Appalachian Mountain Books

George Brosi
 Bookseller
 Rt. 2, Box 238
 Whittier, North Carolina
 28789



Bookstore
 Phone
 (704) 586-5319

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN BOOKS, George Brosi's retail business dedicated to making all kinds of regional books available, has moved its headquarters, but continues to provide most of the same services as before. Located since its inception in 1972 in Berea, Kentucky, Appalachian Mountain Books is now located at the head of Bradley Branch about a mile off U.S. 441 between Cherokee and Dillsboro, North Carolina.

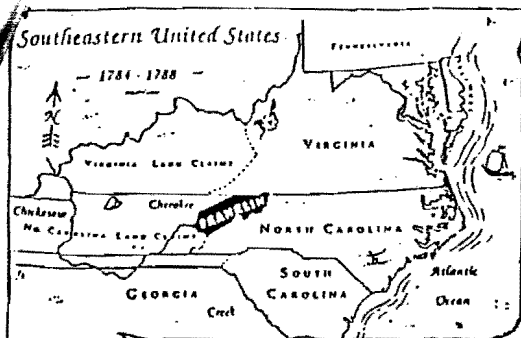
Books are available at various regional events, including the following in October and November, 1989.

Haywood (N.C.) County Fair
 Cherokee Fall Festival
 Museum of Appalachia's Homecoming,
 Norris, Tn.
 Traditional Music Festival, Berea
 College
 University of Kentucky's Appalachian
 Conference
 Arts & Crafts Fair, Pigeon Forge, Tn.
 High Country Christmas Art and Craft
 Show, Asheville Civic Center, N.C.

Brosi is available to do in-service training, workshops, seminars, classes or lectures, on any aspect of regional literature and books.

The periodical, APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN BOOKS is now in its fifth year of publication. Subscriptions are \$10.00 a year for twelve issues. Each includes listings of available books for sale and may also have book reviews, feature articles, complete bibliographies and other information of interest to all who care about mountain books. For further information write to George Brosi at the above address.

America's Lost State:
A Constitutional Inquiry
The Story of Franklin



Sponsored by the
Appalachian Consortium
Appalachian State University
University Hall

Boone, N.C. 28608 (704) 262-2064

Admission Free/Open to the Public

September 14 - Mayland Community College,
Auditorium, 7:00 P.M., Spruce
Pine, North Carolina.

September 19 - Lees-McRae College, Hayes
Auditorium, 7:30 P.M., Banner
Elk, North Carolina.

October 24 - East Tennessee State University,
Carroll Reece Museum, 7:00 P.M.,
Johnson City, Tennessee.

Fourth Annual Conference on Appalachia
ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
November 2-3, 1989 at the University of Kentucky

Sponsored by
The Appalachian Center and
The American Society of Agricultural Engineers

Contact the Appalachian Center
641 South Limestone, University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky 40506-0333
(606) 257-4584

The deadline for information to appear in
the next APPALINK is NOV. 11, 1989. Send
information to Sallie Miller Weaver, Center for
Appalachian Studies, Appalachian State University,
University Hall, Boone, North Carolina 28608.

APPALINK STAFF CONGRATULATES-

LOYAL JONES

Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tennessee, is proud to announce that Loyal Jones is the 1989 recipient of its Award for Educational service to Appalachia. Professor Jones is the immediate past President of our Appalachian Studies Association and Director of the Appalachian Center at Berea College, Berea, Kentucky. This richly deserved award will be made at an Appalachian Heritage Dinner from 6:00-7:45 PM on Friday, September 22, 1989 in the Stokley Memorial Cafeteria at Carson-Newman College. The attire for the evening is described as "very informal" which leads one to suspect that a grand ole' time will be had by all in attendance, with the distinct possibility that Loyal will spin a few tales and regale the audience with a "tetch" of mountain humor at some point. The APPALINK staff congratulates Loyal Jones for this honor and wishes him many more years of good health and service to Appalachia!

**NOW AND THEN**

CASS NEWS -

Center for Appalachian Studies and Services
East Tennessee State University
Box 19180A
Johnson City, TN 37601-9986

NOW AND THEN magazine's new issue will be released November 15, 1989. Focus is on Folk & Fine Art in Appalachia. Cost is \$3.50 from CASS.

Album Release - "Down Around Bowmantown," will be released October 1, 1989 and features recordings of Washington County, Tennessee folk musicians. Records and Tapes are available from CASS for \$9.50.



Appalachian Cultural Center Opens . . .

The Appalachian Cultural Center is now open to the public at Appalachian State University's University Hall. Upon entering the museum, the first thing a visitor sees is a series of slides taken from local family albums, which show how the people of the mountains saw themselves. Next is a section devoted to the natural environment of the mountains. A multi-media presentation provides an introduction to this and other sections of the museum. You will find displays that tell of the Indians who once lived in the northwest, including hundreds of artifacts. There are exhibits on Daniel Boone, blacks in Appalachia, antique looms and early furnishings from local homes, family pictures and a self-portrait collections, as well as toys and woven items that document the crafts revival of this century.

A display on mountain music includes rare instruments and items from the career of Lulu Belle and Scotty Wiseman along with a tape presentation that includes recordings of traditional musicians from throughout the Blue Ridge. Another wonderful presentation in the museum is the restored Watauga Falls Store. Once owned by John Ward, the turn-of-the-century store is fully stocked and has a small post office. There are numerous exhibits which explain the development of industry, tourism and the building of the Blue Ridge Parkway. You will find local storyteller Ray Hicks featured in a video which is part of a section on Jack Tales. Rare manuscripts from the late Richard Chase, author of THE JACK TALES, are also included.

One section on the development of tourism features restored relics from the Land of OZ, a snow-swept mural by Blowing Rock artist Johnny Meeks, and historic pieces from the early ski industry days.

The final display area will thrill sports fans when they see racing cars donated by the legendary Junior Johnson and view a rare video from 1965 which tells the story of this man who helped make the mountain-born sport of stock car racing a national pastime. Old and young alike will find many interesting and exciting surprises when they visit. Museum hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information contact the Appalachian Cultural Center, University Hall, Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C. 28608 or call (704) 262-3117.

FRIENDS OF GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN formed -

"Friends of Grandfather Mountain" has been formed to create a forum for issues involving the possible disruption of the natural state of the North slope of Grandfather Mountain near Linville, N.C. The group is a grass roots organization of local citizens that oppose the pending development of privately owned top choice scenic land totaling 1,200 acres. It is believed that Grandfather Mountain, a regional and national treasure, would be heavily impacted by the proposed condominiums, convention center, golf course, shopping center, and ski slope in an area that already has such facilities but a rapidly declining amount of undisturbed land. Additionally, rare and endangered plant and animal species such as the Northern Flying Squirrel and Bent Ravens are found on targeted land. The land in question also houses the headwaters for the Watauga and Linville Rivers, recently designated as Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW). The group's goal is to raise the \$800,000 necessary to secure an option to purchase the land and place it in public trust. Friends of Grandfather Mountain is an affiliate of the Elisha Mitchell Chapter of the Audubon Society, a non-profit organization. For more information, call or write:

Friends of Grandfather Mountain
P. O. Box 239
Sugar Grove, North Carolina 28679
(704) 265-3704

NEW EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE
All My Relatives:
The Circle of Life

"All My Relatives" is an unusual multidimensional video presentation. Eustace Conway, who holds a BA in Anthropology and English from Appalachian State University is a renowned teacher of native traditions. He has spent an entire decade living in a teepee and visiting native people throughout North America. All My Children focuses on American Indians, life in nature, and how we fit into "The Circle of Life," past, present, and future. It compares Native American traditional world-view with modern experience. Environmental influences and values are looked at, including pollution. "All My Relatives" emphasizes respect for natural environments, for ourselves, and for all things that share life with us.

Cost for the 43 minute VHS video tape is \$30 each. All proceeds for the sale of this tape support Turtle Island Land Preserve Environmental Education Center near Boone, North Carolina. Checks should be made payable to Eustace Conway and sent to Turtle Island Preserve, Route 1, Box 249B, Triplett, NC 28686.

BEREA ACTIVITIES

Sixteenth Annual
**Celebration of
Traditional Music
Berea College**

Berea, Kentucky
October 27 - 29, 1989



Billy Edd Wheeler



Ginny Hawker and Kay Justice



Moses Rascoe

Featuring:

Billy Edd Wheeler
The Clint Howard Band
Belly Smith
Moses Rascoe
Morgan Sexton and Lee Sexton
Michael Kline

Ballard "Pappy" Taylor and
Tommy Taylor
Ginny Hawker and Kay Justice
Walker Calhoun
Melvin Wine
Roy Harper and Johnny Bellar

TRADITIONAL MUSIC · BALLADS AND SONGS · STRING MUSIC · SYMPOSIUM · HYMN SINGING · SQUARE DANCING

Schedule:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

7:30 p.m. Concert by festival musicians -
Phelps Stokes Chapel
10:00 p.m. Square Dance led by
Dr. John M. Ramsey, Music by Lewis and
Donna Lamb - Alumni Building

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

9:00 a.m. Instrumental workshops and
Concerts - Alumni Building

SATURDAY continued

7:00 p.m. Symposium "A Visit with Walter Calhoun,
Cherokee Singer," led by Michael Kline, Public Secu-
rity, Western Carolina University
7:30 p.m. Concert by festival musicians -
Phelps Stokes Chapel
10:00 p.m. Square Dance led by Dr. John M. Ramsey,
Music by Lewis and Donna Lamb - Alumni Building

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

9:00 a.m. Concert of hymns
by festival musicians - Alumni Building

Evening Performances:

Adults \$5.00 Children (10-17) \$2.50
Other Events Free

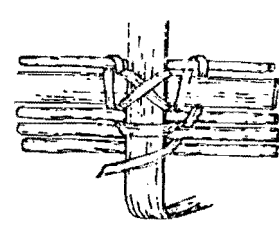
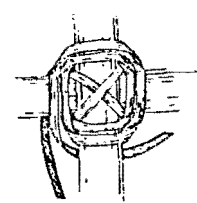
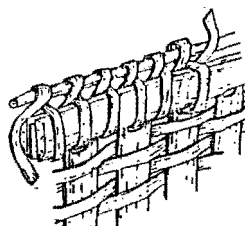
Berea College Appalachian Center, College Box 2336,
Berea, Kentucky 40404, Telephone (606) 986-9341, Ext. 5140

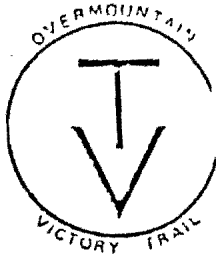


**Rods, Ribs & Splits:
Appalachian Oak Basketry**

On exhibit at the Berea College Appalachian Museum
September 10 - October 8, 1989

Opening Reception in honor of guest curators
Rachel Nash Law
and
Cynthia W. Taylor
Sunday September 10, 3:00-5:00 pm.





Overmountain Victory Trail '89 -
March #15

The Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA) is ready to launch its annual re-enactment march for the 15th consecutive year. The march begins at Abingdon, Va. on Monday, September 24th and concludes on Saturday, October 7th at Kings Mountain, S.C. National Military Park where the marchers will celebrate the "turning point in the American Revolution in the South" - T. Jefferson. Along the way, numerous educational programs will be held to help preserve the rich legacy of the Southern hill country militias in the struggle for independence - America's first civil war.

A special feature this year is that three weekends fall during the march. The Annual Meeting is at 2:00 PM on Sunday, October 1 at the Dysartville, N.C. Community Center. Gary Everhardt, Superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway will be the main speaker at the concluding ceremonies; 3:00 PM, October 7th at Kings Mountain. The public is warmly invited to any and all events along the way and to join in on the march - for a day or for an extended march. This year's Grand Marshal is Bill Hall of Elizabethton, Tn. and the Safety Marshal is Bob Sweeny of Manassas, Va. For additional information contact:

Hank Weaver
Center for Appalachian Studies
Appalachian State University
Boone, North Carolina 28608
(704) 262-4089

Special Note: OVTA is initiating a Scholarship Contest for worthy high school juniors along the route and in NE Georgia.

FALL COLOR WEEKEND

PINE MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENT SCHOOL-

October 20-22, 1989 - A time to treasure for people of all ages. Come enjoy as nature adorns the mountains with its finest colors in final preparations for the long winter sleep. Activities include: Slide presentations, Lectures and Trail walks and a Country dance one Saturday evening.

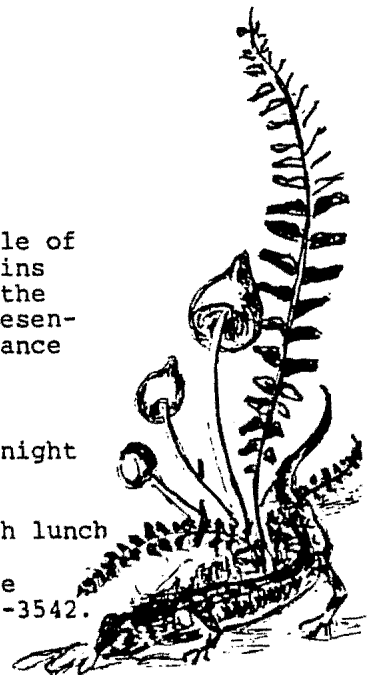
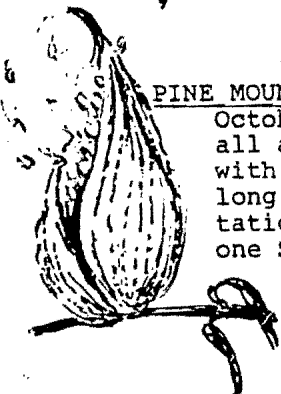
Registration in Advance: \$10 Non-Refundable
after seven days prior to Oct. 20.

Tuition: \$10 Lodging: \$10 per person per night

Breakfast: \$2.75 Lunch: \$3.50

Sunday Lunch: \$5.25

Registration 4:00 - 6:00 P.M. Friday and ends with lunch on Sunday. For further information contact The coordinator, Pine Mountain Settlement School, Pine Mountain, Kentucky 40810 or call 558-3571 or 558-3542.



September '89 Events

- 16-17 9th Annual Roan Mountain State Park's Fall Festival Roan Mountain State Park, Tn.
- 19- Forum Series:: "America's Lost State"
7:30PM, Hayes Auditorium, Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk, N.C. (704) 262-2064.
- 22-23 Old Boone Craft Show, Jones House and Old Downtown Boone, N.C. (1-800-222-7515)
- 22-24 IBMA Bluegrass FanFest 1989, Peter B. English Park on the Banks of the Ohio in Owensboro, 326 St. Elizabeth Street, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301 or call (502) 684-9025.
- 23- Music In The Mountains-Folk Music Festival, 5:00-10:00PM, Patience Mullendore Park, Burnsville, N.C.
- 23- Beginning OVTA re-enactment, Abingdon, Va.
- 23-25 A WORKING REGIONAL CONFERENCE: THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, contact Appalachian Educational Laboratory, P.O. Box 1348, Charleston, WV 25325.
- 28-30 15th Annual Mountain Heritage Days, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, N.C. (704) 227-7234.
- 29-Oct.1-OUR SCOTTISH HERITAGE: 250th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARGYLL COLONY, Museum of Cape Fear, Fayetteville, N.C. Sponsored by ECU, Greenville, N.C. 27858-4353.

October '89 Events

- 7- Autumn Crafts Classes begin, Roan Mountain State Park, Tn. (Each Saturday through October.)
- 6- 8 17th Annual National Storytelling Festival, Jonesboro, Tn., (615) 753-2171).
- 13-15 Southeastern Indian Cultural Festival, Cartersville, Georgia.
- 14- 15th Annual Blue Ridge Hearthside Craft Fair, 9:30-6:00PM, Sheraton Appalachian Inn, Boone, N.C.
- 21- 12th Annual Wolly Worm Festival and Craft Fair, Hwy 184, Banner Elk Elementary School Grounds, Banner Elk, N.C.
- 21- Valle Country Fair, Brounds of Mission School Apple Barn, Valle Crucis, N.C. (1-800-222-7515)
- 24- "Franklin: America's Lost State," East Tennessee State University, Carroll Reece Museum, 7:00PM, Johnson City, Tn. (Sponsored by the Appalchian Consortium, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC.)

October events cont:

- 27-29 16th Annual Celebration of Traditional Music, Berea College, Berea, Kentucky (606) 986-9341).
- 27- RESTORING BIODIVERSITY IN THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS: A STRATEGY FOR SURVIVAL, Owen Conference Center University of North Carolina Asheville, N. C. (704) 251-6441.
- 28- Hickory Ridge Homestead Apple Festival Fundraiser, Hickory Ridge Homestead Museum, 9:00-5:00PM, Horn In The West, Boone, N.C. (704) 264-2120.
- 28- FOR ALL THINGS WILD, Forest Rescue Action Workshop, Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, N. C. (704) 298-3325

November '89 Events

- 4- Statewide second annual Quilters Symposium, Hiddenite Center Educational Center, quilting workshops, related tours, and exhibits, (704) 632-6966.
- 18- URBAN APPALACHIAN COUNCIL BENEFIT CONCERT - 8:00PM, First Unitarian, on Linton at Leading Road, Cincinnati, Ohio. Featured will be the Ohio Valley Rounders (bluegrass), Ten Strike (celtic) and more. For more information call (513) 251-0202.

GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS VOTE SUPPORT FOR STRIKINGPITTSTON MINERS-

The following resolution was passed by the Appalachian Development Projects Committee (ADPC) of the Commission on Religion in Appalachia (CORA) at their meeting June 2:

"THE APPALACHIAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE, REPRESENTING OVER 40 GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY GROUPS COVERING 8 STATES, WITHIN THE COMMISSION ON RELIGION IN APPALACHIA, IS IN SOLIDARITY WITH AND SUPPORTS THE STRIKING FAMILIES OF THE UMWA AGAINST THE OPPRESSIVE AND UNION-BUSTING TACTICS OF THE PITTSTON COAL COMPANY IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA AND SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA."

GRASSROOTS cont:

CORA is an ecumenical organization of 17 denominations and state councils of churches, founded in 1965. The Knoxville, Tn.- based organization called on the governors of Virginia and 12 other Appalachian states to bring an end to the strike, now one of the longest, most bitter, and sometimes violent strikes in the region in the last half century.

The UMW went on strike after Pittston refused to join in a three year contract negotiation by the union and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. More than 1,400 miners in Virginia and West Virginia are striking the company.

The miners say the strike is not over wages, but concerns pensions, health benefits and the right not to work on Sunday. Coal miners traditionally work Monday through Friday, but the company is asking for flexible work schedules, which would include Sunday Work.

For more information on the current stalemated situation, contact CORA at P. O. Box 10867, Knoxville, Tn. 37939-0867 or (615) 584-6133.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY LIBRARIES -
Lexington, Kentucky 40506-0039

The Wheelwright Collection, an extensive archives documenting the history of Wheelwright, Ky., is now open and available for public research at the University of Kentucky Libraries' Dept. of Special Collections and Archives in Lexington.

Wheelwright, located in eastern Kentucky's Floyd County, is a town created by the coal industry. Elk Horn Coal Corporation developed Wheelwright as a coal camp in 1911 - the same year the railroad line into town was completed. Inland Steel Co. bought Wheelwright in 1930. For 35 years, they mined coal and developed the town into what many have called a "model" company town. By 1966 when Island Creek Coal Co. bought Wheelwright, the town properties were showing signs of physical deterioration. Within eleven mos., Island Creek, keeping the mines, sold the town to Mtn. Investment Co. The buildings and grounds further deteriorated during this period and Island Creek shut down its mining operations in the early 1970s, leaving Wheelwright with a severe employment crisis.

In 1979 Mtn. Investment sold the town to the Ky. Housing Corp., a state agency whose aim was to revive the town and transfer ownership to the residents.

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
WELCOMES
DR. JOHN ALEXANDER WILLIAMS
NEW DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR APPALACHIAN STUDIES

The new director comes to Appalachian State University from the American Folklife Center of The Library of Congress, where he was a consultant for the observance of the Columbian Quincentenary in 1992. In that role, he has helped develop the Center's research, conference, exhibition, and publication program. Prior to this Williams led the Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission, and earlier was Assistant Director of the Division of Research Programs for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Williams earned his undergraduate degree at Tulane, then a M.A. and Ph.D. (in U.S. history) from Yale.

Appalachia, especially West Virginia, has been an interest of Williams since college days. His thesis was on businessmen in politics in that state, and he is the author of WEST VIRGINIA; A HISTORY and WEST VIRGINIA AND THE CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY.

In other Appalachian experience, Dr. Williams planned the West Virginia Coal Life exhibit that was shown at the Knoxville World's Fair and elsewhere, served as a consultant for Appalshop films, and wrote and narrated TV programs on West Virginia historic sites. We welcome Dr. Williams to the Center for Appalachian Studies at Appalachian State University, and hope he enjoys his new position and colleagues.

