

Spring 5-1-1996

Appalink

Appalachian Studies Association

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

UNICOI: Old Site, New Directions

Our 19th annual conference is almost at hand, and those of us down here at the lower end of the region and beyond are looking forward to hosting the ASA's third convergence on Unicoi State Park. We may be bursting at the seams there, as we have in the past, but Unicoi is such a beautiful site and such a wonderful conference facility that we don't want to admit yet that we've outgrown it. We hope you'll all bear in mind that whatever overcrowding we may face—particularly at meal time—is due to our own considerable success in the growth of our membership and in generating an ever-expanding interest in Appalachian studies. As you may have noted from the preliminary program sent out last month, Curtis Wood and his program committee have worked hard to put together what is the largest program yet, in terms of both the number of participants and the number of sessions in which they'll participate. Curtis, Kenneth Noe, who is heading up local arrangements, and Linda Turner, Unicoi's own conference coordinator, are working hard to overcome the various logistical challenges our swelling ranks pose.

Given that we are meeting relatively late this year, the last weekend in March, we like to think we can guarantee the same balmy, springlike weather we enjoyed at both of our earlier Unicoi conferences. With that in mind, I hope that many of you will be able to take advantage of the great outdoors in the Unicoi vicinity and spend at least some of your weekend playing tourist as well as conventioneer. (And I'm saying this only in part with the ulterior motive of attempting to relieve the pressures of the masses of humanity congregating inside the lodge!)

The North Georgia mountains match almost any part of the southern highlands in terms of rugged wilderness and scenic beauty. At Unicoi, you'll be across from one of several spectacular waterfalls, Anna Ruby, with others, such as Amicalola, within an easy driving range. Spectacular views from atop Bald or Black Rock Mountain are also well worth the short drives, and the first (or last, depending on one's orientation) 79 miles of the Appalachian Trail that fall within Georgia are never more beautiful than they are in early spring.

Lumpkin County (adjacent to White County where we'll be) was the site of America's first major gold rush, and a 20-mile drive to Dahlonega offers a sense of the region's history that's far more authentic than the Alpine-inspired character imposed on an even closer tourist mecca. If you've

never experienced Helen, Georgia, first-hand, you ought to drive (or hike on a trail that begins behind the Unicoi lodge) the couple of miles it takes to see just what cross-pollination between Bavaria and Gatlinburg can lead to. No other place in Georgia now attracts more visitors except Atlanta and Savannah!

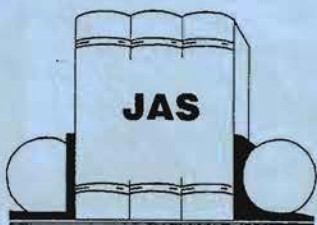
The land of James Dickey's *Deliverance* is also the land of Foxfire, and both sites in nearby Rabun County are worth exploring. The Chattooga River gorge can be hiked from a number of accessible sites, and the state's newest state park, Talullah Gorge, is only a few miles farther south on 441. Foxfire, which will be the focus of a number of sessions at the conference, will open its museum and other facilities to us before and after the conference. (It's right on the route of many of you driving down from North Carolina and Virginia.) A Saturday afternoon Forestwatch tour will explore sections of the Chattooga District of the Chattahoochee National Forest, and provide yet another option for those at the conference to see a bit of the region as well. (For details on both of these options, see the separate pieces here in *Appalink* or the descriptions in the preliminary program.)

Having attempted to wax eloquently, or perhaps merely excessively, on the glories of Georgia's mountains, I need to shift gears and address another, more basic, concern of the Association and the Conference. As you may have heard at some point over the past year or have noticed in the preliminary program, the Association's leadership has made a rather major change in this year's conference. The Youth Conference, which has been among the most distinguishing features of our annual meeting for the past eight years, has faced some problems of late. Over the past couple of years, we've experienced problems of cost, of diminishing attendance, and of maintaining continuity and recruiting coordinators as we move from state to state. Evaluation forms indicated increasingly mixed reactions, and even apathy, from many of the students who have participated in recent years.

In response to these problems, the Association's officers, in conjunction with both the Steering Committee and the Program Committee, have decided to take another approach this year. We have decided to shift our focus and

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Congratulations



The first issue of *The Journal of Appalachian Studies* (Fall 1995) arrived in November. It was a handsome volume and the articles by Darlene Wilson, David L. Kimbrough and Ralph W. Hood, Jr., Ken Fones-Wolf, Ted Olson, Richard A. Couto, and Jo B. Brown were informative and interesting reading. Ronald L. Lewis, the journal's editor, is to be congratulated for this excellent first issue. Members of the Appalachian Studies Association will remember that the *Journal of Appalachian Studies* replaces our *Journal of the Appalachian Studies Association* which was published annually. The new JAS will be published twice a year. Articles in one issue will be chosen from conference papers; the other issue is open to submissions.



Graduate Students — Take Note

In order to provide an opportunity for graduate students to make contacts with each other, compare notes, exchange ideas, etc., the History Department at the University of Georgia will host a wine and cheese reception for all graduate students attending the Conference on Saturday afternoon, March 30, from 5:15 to 6:15. Check the program for location.



Permanent Section at Samla

Last November a special section in Appalachian literature was part of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLA) program in Atlanta. Danny Miller of Northern Kentucky University chaired the session. Papers were read by Moira Baker, Radford University, Timothy Dunn, Hazard Community College, Parks Lanier, Radford University, and Steve Mooney, Union College. This was the third year that a special section in Appalachian literature was on the program at SAMLA and we were eligible to petition for a permanent session at future conferences. Through the efforts of Roberta Herrin, Sandra Ballard, Steve Mooney and Danny Miller, as well as the successful sessions of the past three years, this section was made permanent. Next year's section chair is Steve Mooney and the section secretary is Irene Moser.

Off-Site Tours at Conference

Tours of Foxfire

Friday, March 29 at 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM
Sunday, March 31 at 12:30 PM and 2:30 PM

\$5 per person for guided tour; no prepayment or pre-registration required.

A two-hour guided tour of the Foxfire Museum and Center in Mountain City, GA. The Center consists of 25 historic and reproduction log buildings on a 100-acre section of Black Rock Mountain. The museum displays over 150 artifacts and crafts of early Appalachian life, and includes a gift and book shop. Built by Foxfire students and staff, both the museum and the center have become teaching tools for Southern Appalachian cultural history.

Tours will begin at the museum, located in a log cabin on Hwy. 441 north of Clayton, at the scheduled times. Self-guided tours are also available. Hwy. 441 is the main route into Georgia for most folks coming to Unicoi from the north. Traveling south, the museum is located on the right about six miles after crossing into Georgia from North Carolina. For those traveling from Unicoi, Foxfire is about a 45-minute drive. Go to Helen and take Hwy. 17 to Clarkesville. Pick up Hwy. 441 to Clayton and Mountain City. The museum will be on the left, about three miles past Clayton.

Forestwatch Tour

Saturday, March 30 at 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM

\$5 per person; transportation provided for the first 25 to register

Preregistration required for all participants.

Join Forestwatch representative James Sullivan for an afternoon tour of the Chattooga District of the Chattahoochee National Forest, organized by Donald Davis of Dalton, GA. The tour is an extension of a Saturday morning session entitled "The Forest for the Trees: Opposition to Timber Management Practices in the Southern Appalachians." On the tour, Mr. Sullivan and other panelists from the morning session will discuss recent attempts by local communities to curtail timber harvesting on public lands. Spring wildflowers should be abundant.



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

LYNN POWELL AT CARSON-NEWMAN

Carson-Newman College invites the public to a poetry reading by Lynn Powell from her new book *Old and New Testaments* on Tuesday, April 2, 1996 at Gentry Auditorium at 8 p. m. For more information contact Sandra Ballard (423/481-3282).

PHILOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE CAROLINAS

Winthrop University is the site of the Philological Association of the Carolinas, March 14-16. Address inquiries to Debra Boyd, Dept. of English, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29733 (803/323-4626, FAX 803/323-4837; boydd@winthrop.edu)

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTHERN LITERATURE

April 11-13, 1996. Inquiries, Suzanne Jones, SSSL, Department of English, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173 (FAX 804/289-8313)

SOUTHERN WOMEN WRITERS CONFERENCE

April 12-14, 1996, Berry College. Inquiries, Emily Wright, English Department, 5010 Berry College, Mount Berry, GA 30149 (706/232-5374; swwc@berry.edu)

COALITION FOR APPALACHIAN MINISTRY

April 16-17, The Spring Assembly, Coalition for Appalachian Ministry will meet at Parchment Valley, Ripley, WV. The theme is "Unleashing the Power of the Laity." For details

contact the coalition at P. O. Box 10208, Knoxville, TN 37939-0208 (423/584-6133).

SPRING DULCIMER WEEK

April 21-26, Spring Dulcimer Week, sponsored by Augusta Heritage Center of Davis and Elkins College. Address 100 Campus Drive, Elkins, WV 26241 (304/637-1209).

OLD-TIME MUSIC AND RADIO CONFERENCE

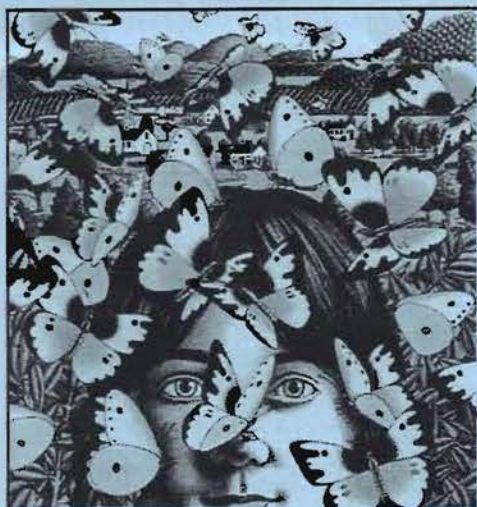
June 4-6. Second Old-Time Music and Radio Conference, Andy Griffith Playhouse, Mt. Airy, NC. Contact Old-Time Music Group, Inc., P. O. Box 3014, Elkins, WV 26241.

BEREA COLLEGE SUMMER SEMINAR

June 10-28, Berea College Appalachian Center summer seminar, "Politics in the Southern Mountains." For details contact Appalachian Center, C. P. O. Box 2336, Berea, KY 40404 (986-9341, ext. 5140).

APPALACHIAN TEACHERS NETWORK

The Appalachian Teachers Network invites your membership. Please contact Wilma Dotson, Membership Chair, Route 7, Box 62 K-1, Lynchburg, VA 24503 (FAX: 804/332-6666). The annual ATN conference is scheduled for September 28 with keynote speaker Marilou Awiatka, Appalachian/Cherokee writer and author of *Selu: Seeking the Cornmother's Wisdom*.



Come Go Home with Me

Stories by Sheila Kay Adams

Foreword by Lee Smith

"Pure mountain magic."—*Life*

Seventh-generation ballad singer and storyteller Sheila Adams provides a rare portrait of a distinctive mountain community.

136 pp. \$19.95 cloth / \$10.95 paper

Appalachia in the Making

The Mountain South in the Nineteenth Century

Edited by Mary Beth Pudur, Dwight B. Billings, and Altina L. Waller

402 pp. \$49.95 cloth / \$18.95 paper

Taking Up Serpents

Snake Handlers of Eastern Kentucky

by David L. Kimbrough

"The definitive oral history, written with sympathy and providing rare insight into a fascinating practice."—Ralph W. Hood, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

250 pp. \$34.95 cloth / \$14.95 paper

Country People in the New South

Tennessee's Upper Cumberland

by Jeanette Keith

"A rich and compelling book, one that gets at the central dilemmas of life in this time and place."—Edward L. Ayers, University of Virginia

308 pp. \$45 cloth / \$18.95 paper

STUDIES IN RURAL CULTURE

The First American Frontier

Transition to Capitalism in Southern Appalachia, 1700–1860

by Wilma A. Dunaway

"Readers of this book will never think of Appalachian history and society in the same old stereotypical ways again."

—Dwight B. Billings, University of Kentucky

Approx. 528 pp.

\$49.95 cloth / \$21.95 paper

FRED W. MORRISON SERIES IN SOUTHERN STUDIES

Hillbillyland

What the Movies Did to the Mountains and What the Mountains Did to the Movies

by J. W. Williamson

Having mined more than 800 movies, from early nickelodeon one-reelers to contemporary films such as *Thelma and Louise* and *Raising Arizona*, J. W. Williamson explains why hillbilly images are so pervasive in our culture and what purposes they serve.

340 pp. \$39.95 cloth / \$15.95 paper

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NEW BOOKS

Billy C. Clark. *Mooneyed Hound*. Jesse Stuart Foundation, P. O. Box 391, Ashland, KY 41114 (606/329-5233). Clark's junior novel is a sequel to *The Trail of the Hunter's Horn* (also recently reprinted by the Jesse Stuart Foundation). It is the story of Jeb and his half-blind hound Mooneye, a story of loyalty and faith. This attractive new edition is illustrated by Jim Marsh. (\$8.50 paper plus \$1.50 shipping and handling)

Jesse Stuart. *Come to My Tomorrowland*. Jesse Stuart Foundation, P. O. Box 391, Ashland, KY 41114 (606/329-5233). This is an illustrated junior book about a young girl who finds a lame albino fawn in the forest. The girl, a victim of polio, feels great compassion for the injured fawn and tenderly nurses him back to health. Inspired by her pet's recovery, she becomes convinced that the operation her doctor proposes for her will be successful and that she will someday be able to walk without crutches. With the publication of *Come to My Tomorrowland*, all eight of Jesse Stuart's illustrated junior books are now in print. (\$17.50 hardback, \$10.00 paper)

Glennis Stuart Liles. *The W-Hollow Cookbook*. Jesse Stuart Foundation, P. O. Box 391, Ashland, KY 41114 (606/329-5233). A collection of over 900 recipes collected from six generations of Jesse Stuart's family, compiled by Stuart's youngest sister Glennis, assisted by Betty Stuart Baird. (\$24.00 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling)

Garry Barker. *Notes from a Native Son: Essays on the Appalachian Experience*. Knoxville: U of Tennessee P, 1995. A wide range of essays written over the last decade and a half by Berea College writer and craftsman Barker, on himself, his region and his craft. (\$16.95)

Richard A. Bartlett. *Troubled Waters: Champion International and the Pigeon River Controversy*. Knoxville, U of Tennessee P, 1995. An historian's account of the environmental battles waged over a pulp and paper mill in Canton, NC, and its pollution of the Pigeon River. (\$35.00 cloth, \$17.95 paper)

Cecelia Conway. *African Banjo Echoes in Appalachia: A Study of Folk Traditions*. Knoxville: U of Tennessee P, 1995. A multi-faceted cultural history that makes a fascinating case for the transmission of African-American banjo music from NC's Piedmont to white highlanders in western NC and Virginia. (\$25.00)

Dennis Covington. *Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia*. Reading: Addison-Wesley P, 1995. The much-discussed and highly acclaimed journalistic account of

an attempted murder in northern Alabama in 1990. (\$20.00)

Edward Everett Dale and Gaston Litton. *Cherokee Cavaliers: Forty Years of Cherokee History as Told in the Correspondence of the Ridge-White-Boudinot Family*. Norman: U of Oklahoma P, 1995. A new documentary collection of crucial papers of Cherokee leadership before and after Removal. (\$15.95 paper)

Wilma A. Dunaway. *The First American Frontier: Transition to Capitalism in Southern Appalachian, 1700-1860*. Chapel Hill: U of NC P, 1996. A major new interpretation of the region's antebellum character and economic make-up, as comprehensive geographically as it is chronologically. (\$49.95 cloth, \$21.95 paper)

Carol A. B. Giesen. *Coal Miners' Wives: Portraits of Endurance*. Lexington: UP of KY, 1995. An oral history of women in coal-mining WV, based on interviews with 18 wives over several generations. (\$14.95 paper)

Laurence M. Hauptman. *Between Two Fires: American Indians in the Civil War*. New York: The Free Press, 1995. This comprehensive coverage of Native American activity in the Civil War includes coverage of Cherokee troops in western NC and East Tennessee. (\$25.00)

Jeanette Keith. *Country People in the New South: Tennessee's Upper Cumberland*. Chapel Hill: U of NC P, 1995. A study of this region's economics, politics, and folk culture from the 1890s through the 1920s. (\$18.95 paper)

N. Brent Kennedy with Robyn Vaughan Kennedy. *The Melungeons: The Resurrection of a Proud American People. An Untold Story of Ethnic Cleansing in America*. Macon: Mercer UP, 1995. Controversial account of the Melungeons. (\$16.99 paper)

David L. Kimbrough. *Taking Up Serpents: Snake Handlers of Eastern Kentucky*. Chapel Hill: U of NC P, 1995. Historian Kimbrough's much-anticipated study of the Holiness Serpent Handlers. (\$34.95 cloth, \$14.95 paper)

James Lee McDonough. *War in Kentucky: From Shiloh to Perryville*. Knoxville: U of Tennessee P, 1994. The most comprehensive study to date of the Civil War in KY. (\$32.00 cloth)

Mary Beth Pudup, Dwight B. Billings, and Altina L. Waller. *Appalachia in the Making: The Mountain South in the*

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BALLOT

ASA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR 1996-97

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The following nominees are placed before the ASA membership by its nominating committee for various offices and committees for 1996 and 1997. 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 15** to the Nominating Committee Chair:

Dwight Billings
Dept. of Sociology
1515 Patterson Office Tower
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506-0027

For Vice President/President Elect:

Howard Dorgan, Professor of Communications at Appalachian State University and author of several books on Appalachian religions.

Dorgan _____ Write-In Nominee _____

For Conference Program Vice Chair ('97)/Chair Elect ('98):

Susan L. Keefe, chair of the Anthropology Department at Appalachian State University who has published widely on mental health in Appalachia and has served on both the program and steering committees of ASA.

Keefe _____ Write-In Nominee _____

For Treasurer (three year term):

Doyle Bickers, Director of Admissions at Western Carolina University and President of ASA 1989-90.

Bickers _____ Write-In Nominee _____

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

Phillip Obermiller, visiting professor in the School of Urban Planning and Urban Affairs of the University of Cincinnati and author of several books on the urban Appalachian experience

Obermiller _____ Write-In Nominee _____

Barbara Rasmussen, teacher of West Virginia history at Fairmont State University and technical writer for US Dept. of Energy in Morgantown.

Rasmussen _____ Write-In Nominee _____

Bobby Ann Starnes, President of Foxfire Fund, Inc. in Mountain City, GA.

Starnes _____ Write-In Nominee _____

For Program Committee (two members, one-year term):

Roberta Campbell, Visiting Professor of Sociology, University College, University of Cincinnati and a member of the Board of Directors of the Urban Appalachian Council

Campbell _____ Write-In Nominee _____

Shannon Wilson, college archivist at Berea College and co-editor of a collection of essays on the Civil War in Appalachia

Wilson _____ Write-In Nominee _____

President's Message continued from page 1

our energies from students to teachers. This year's program committee, with help from Foxfire's new president Bobby Ann Starnes and others, has created a number of sessions dealing with the teaching of Appalachian studies, from elementary to college classrooms. Spurred by a very generous Teacher Enrichment Grant from the Georgia Humanities Council that will allow us to waive the registration fee for any teachers attending the conference, we hope to see more high school, middle school, and elementary school teachers attend the conference. We hope that they will participate both in the special sessions designed and delivered by other teachers and any of the regular sessions and other activities that they may find of interest for themselves or of use in their schools and classrooms.

We see this year as an experimental year. If there seems to be a serious outcry for the return of the Youth Conference, next year's leadership will certainly have the option of

resurrecting it. But we are optimistic that we may be launching a new and more effective alternative for serving much of the same constituency, while reaffirming and reinvigorating the ASA's commitment to education throughout the region. Through their teachers, we see the possibility of ultimately reaching far more students than the few (20 to 30) who were attending the last few conferences. Foxfire's willingness to use that network in coordinating this effort in future years will be an important element in providing the strong connective tissue that the Youth Conference's management has lacked in recent years.

We hope that many of you will take the opportunity to attend one or more of these teacher-focused sessions and will share with us your feelings on this new direction and your suggestions as to how we might make it even more effective in the years to come.

New Books continued from page 4

Nineteenth Century. Chapel Hill: U of NC P, 1995. A pathbreaking and multi-faceted new collection of fourteen essays reflecting much of the new scholarship on 19th century Appalachia. (\$49.95 cloth, \$18.95 paper)

Edward M. Steel, Jr., ed. *The Court-Martial of Mother Jones*. Lexington: U of KY P, 1996. The edited transcripts of Mary Harris "Mother" Jones's 1913 trial stemming from labor violence in the coal fields of Kanawha County, WV. (\$49.95 cloth, \$18.95 paper)

Charles Reagan Wilson. *Judgment and Grace in Dixie: Southern Faiths from Faulkner to Elvis*. Athens: U of Georgia P, 1995. A lively, provocative commentary on the expressions of regional religious life as reflected in literary and popular culture. (\$29.95 cloth)

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ADDRESS CORRECTION

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