

Summer 6-1-1996

Appalink

Appalachian Studies Association

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the Georgia Mountains to Urban Appalachia

by Dwight B. Billings

The summer provides a relatively quiet moment both to look back upon some of the past year's accomplishments by the Appalachian Studies Association as well as an opportunity to look ahead toward next year's programming in what will be the Association's twentieth year. Many people did a lot of behind the scenes work to further the ASA this past year but special thanks are due several people in particular. Bravos to Ron Lewis and his associates at the Regional Research Institute for further institutionalizing both a cozy and efficient home base for us at West Virginia University and, especially, for launching the first issue of our new *Journal of Appalachian Studies*. Bravos as well to Curtis Wood (program chair), John Inscoc (past president) and Kenneth Noe (local arrangements chair) for facilitating another successful conference at lovely Unicoi State Park.

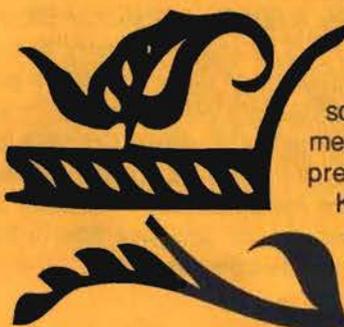
Unicoi State Park is one of the Association's most popular meeting places. Despite our finding—once again—comfort, success, and beauty in the Georgia mountains, last year's conference organizers worried that the ASA's growth in membership would make meeting in Unicoi difficult. Their hard work and planning, however (along with the cooperative spirit of the park's staff), were more than sufficient to compensate for any spatial shortcomings. As we look ahead to meeting in Kentucky in the Spring of 1997, however, spatial considerations play an even greater role in planning for next year's conference. This is especially the case since, long ago, Mr. Peabody's coal train not only hauled away much of our state's mineral wealth, but he and his associates also did not see fit to leave behind sufficiently large (public or private) meeting spaces in Appalachian Kentucky

for organizations as large as the ASA. While a new Center for Rural Development in Somerset, Kentucky may someday provide a comfortable meeting place for us, we have pretty much outgrown Berea, Kentucky's ability to accommodate the ASA after many fine meetings there. Necessity being a parent of inven-

tion, however, we look forward to an exciting new opportunity for locating the conference in Northern Kentucky in 1997.

When we looked around Kentucky for a new meeting site, we took into account the fact that as we rotate throughout the region to different sites, one of the most important things that happens is that by doing so, we learn about what's going on in the other corners of the region and we carry this information back home with us into our classrooms and communities. Therefore, in keeping with the theme for next year, "PLACES WHERE THE MOUNTAINS HAVE GONE," the ASA is going to follow the trek made previously by hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians and other Appalachians by going to one of the most important places where the mountains have gone, Northern Kentucky and the Greater Cincinnati area.

Even as the Unicoi meeting was going on, the elected portion of next year's program committee was already at work planning special treats for the March 14 to 16 conference which will take place in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky (about four miles across the Ohio River from Cincinnati) at the commodious Drawbridge Estate resort and conference center. Reversing the old Kentucky homecoming tradition, we're going to go out and see where our folks have gone and how they're done there. And, we are especially pleased that next year's ASA conference is being planned in cooperation with Cincinnati's Urban Appalachian Council so we can make the most of being there. Cincinnati, in a way, can be thought of as perhaps the largest Appalachian city since roughly 40 percent of its entire population is Appalachian. No educational, research, or community group has been more important in Cincinnati than the Urban Appalachian Council. We are thus really happy that they want to help us to make the conference especially memorable and the UAC joins with the rest of us on the ASA program committee to invite our members to get on Kentucky's "Hillbilly Highway" and join us next spring where the Mountains and the City meet.



ASA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR 1996-1997

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Shaunna Scott
University of Kentucky

Kate Black
University of Kentucky

*Additional members will be appointed

Shaunna Scott Calls for Papers

Shaunna L. Scott (University of Kentucky) is seeking articles for an edited volume focusing on gender, economy, and work in Appalachia. The purpose of this volume is to introduce upper-level undergraduates to research and theory on this topic from an historical and social scientific perspective. The volume will be interdisciplinary and will include a variety of theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches. The editor also seeks to include research on both urban and rural Appalachian workers, on people of color, and on residents from within and outside the coalfields. For the purposes of this volume, work and economy will be defined broadly and will include both waged and unwaged labor and formal and informal economic activities.

To have your work considered for this volume, please send a one- to two-page abstract to: Shaunna L. Scott, Department of Sociology, 1557 POT, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0027 by July 22, 1996. Finished articles should be 25 to 30 pages in length, including end notes and bibliography. They will be due to the above address on November 1, 1996.

Professor Scott can also be reached by FAX at (606) 323-1956 or e-mail at soc247@ukcc.uky.edu.

APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Highlights of the 1996 Appalachian Studies Association Conference at Unicoi State Park near Helen, Georgia were the presentation of association awards. Among these awards were the following:

The Cratis D. Williams Award for both service and scholarship to the Appalachian community was presented to Helen Matthews Lewis for her extraordinary career in a variety of locations and institutions throughout the region. By coincidence, Helen was the keynote speaker at the Friday night banquet, where she and fellow speaker George Reynolds discussed their experiences as teachers, scholars, and activists in various parts of the region, from north Georgia to West Virginia. The award was presented to Helen by Loyal Jones who, with Richard Drake, was one of the two first recipients of this award in 1992.

The Appalachian Book Award was presented to David Hsiung for his manuscript *Two Worlds in the Tennessee Mountains: Exploring the Origins of Appalachian Stereotypes*. The award carries a \$1,000 stipend and is selected by a committee of the Association in conjunction with the University Press of Kentucky, which will publish the book. Hsiung is an associate professor of history at Juniata College in Pennsylvania.

The Carl Ross Student Paper Award, presented to a paper by a graduate or undergraduate student, was given to Jonathan Sarris, a Ph.D. student in history at the University of Georgia, for his paper "Guerrilla Warfare and Community Identity: Lumpkin County's Inner Civil War." His paper is taken from his dissertation, currently in progress, on the Civil War in the north Georgia mountains.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ETSU FEATURED IN *SOUTHERN LIVING*

Storytelling as an academic art form is highlighted in the May 1996 issue of *Southern Living*, with a focus on the master's degree program at East Tennessee State University. The two-page article, "Talking Your Way to a Degree," is featured in the special "Tennessee Living" section inserted into all magazines of Tennessee subscribers to *Southern Living*. Several ETSU students, faculty and storytelling graduates are mentioned in the article and shown in accompanying photographs.

GURNEY NORMAN FESTIVAL

Emory & Henry College will host a Gurney Norman Festival on October 24 and 25, 1996. Papers on Norman's work will be presented by Nancy Carol Joyner, Sandra Ballard, Jack Wright and Danny Miller.

APPALACHIAN STUDIES MINOR

East Tennessee State University offers a minor in Appalachian Studies. The Appalachian Studies minor allows students to select courses from a wide array of choices. These choices can be made from the departments of English, sociology, history, political science, music and many others. Penelope Lane of ETSU's Center for Appalachian Studies and Services says interest has steadily increased in the minor program, particularly with the James H. Quillen College of Medicine and the interdisciplinary rural health care Kellogg Program. Anyone interested in the minor in Appalachian Studies program should contact CASS at (423) 929-5348.

THE SEASONS OF JESSE STUART

Leather-bound slipcase Deluxe Editions of *The Seasons of Jesse Stuart: An Autobiography in Poetry* edited by Wanda Hicks (Archer Editions Press, 1976) can be obtained from the Jesse Stuart Foundation, P. O. Box 391, Ashland, KY 41114. This edition was limited to 145 signed and numbered copies. Each copy also contains a handwritten version of one of the poems by Stuart. Copies are available for \$200. A hardback bound in beige linen edition of the same book, with no dust jacket, in a limited edition of 489 signed copies is also available for \$55. Both of these editions are out of print and the Jesse Stuart Foundation owns all copies still for sale.

JEFF DANIEL MARION WILL SPEAK

Jeff Daniel Marion, Distinguished Poet-in-Residence at Carson-Newman College, will present the 5th annual Robert L. Palmer Memorial Lecture at Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Kentucky, on Thursday, October 24, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. in the Gatliff Chapel. The public is invited to attend the lecture and to meet the poet afterwards at a reception and book signing. Contact the Cumberland College English Department at 606-539-4455 for more information.

NOW AND THEN AND CASS MEMBERSHIP

Now and Then magazine is published by the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services (CASS) at East Tennessee State University. The Spring issue focuses on the region's approaches to conserving a distinctive Appalachian way of life. Jane Harris Woodside is the editor. The magazine is available for \$4.50 per copy from the CASS office at CASS, East Tennessee State University, Box 70556, Johnson City, TN 37614-0056, or call (423) 929-5348. Receiving three issues of the magazine annually is one of the benefits of becoming a CASS member. Memberships start at \$15.

APPALINK NEWS

If you have news that you would like to have included in *Appalink* please note the following schedule:

For the Fall (November) issue—
deadline for submissions, October 1

For the Spring (March) issue—
deadline for submissions, January 15

For the Summer (June) issue—
deadline for submissions, May 1

Send all news items to:

Danny L. Miller, Editor
Appalink
Department of Literature and Language
Northern Kentucky University
Highland Heights, KY 41099-1500
FAX—606-572-5566
Phone—606-572-5619



Internet Task Force Update

by Barbara Rasmussen



Let me thank all of you who sent in responses to our Internet inquiry. Out of respect for the sociologists among us, I'm not going to call it a survey, just an inquiry. Lou Athey, I, and our task force are working hard to establish a presence on the Internet for the Association. We hope to see the ASA on line in a few short months.

We had about thirty-five returned questionnaires. That's not a tremendous response rate, but we'll accept it anyway. Replies came from nearly every corner of the association's geography, and they were remarkably similar in content. There is a tremendous interest in establishing an Appalachian Studies Association presence on the World Wide Web. We heard from ASA members who are not working for an academic institution and those who are. Generally, it seems safe to say that most of our academic colleagues either now have, or will soon be getting, e-mail. It remains to be seen how we can stay connected to those colleagues who are not associated with "wired" institutions. Some interesting suggestions have emerged.

Sentiment runs mildly in favor of keeping the web site in Morgantown, where the association headquarters can maintain it. It appears that this will work out satisfactorily. By the time you read this, we should have the page well conceptualized.

Librarians should be important in this endeavor. By reading the List Serve maintained by the American Society for Information Science (ASIS), I have learned that librarians can think forwards and backwards through eons and emerging technology. They are the folks among us who are more familiar with the resources of the Internet and they have organizational skills that we are going to need.

There is some interest among the membership for news groups. Opinion is split about whether these groups should be wide open or moderated. Busy folks might prefer the moderated approach. Moderated news groups focus their responses in a restrained, businesslike way. On the other hand—freewheeling discussion groups can be fun for the adventuresome Internauts among us. In either case, maintaining news groups will take some initiative and commitment from individuals. The task force foresees that development coming after we establish the web page.

Some members believe we should put the membership list on the web, along with e-mail addresses where possible. This was a frequent suggestion for contents of our web page. Other information that respondents suggested included a clear mission statement and links to other resources about Appalachia.

Many items are suitable for inclusion in our web page. The task force believes a slow careful start will serve us best. Huge web pages present a maintenance task that we must plan in detail. We need to keep in mind that these things are not static and that we can make changes on down the line. In my experience at maintaining a page,

I find that initially it's easier to keep things simple. Visitors to the page will want it to change frequently, or they won't come back to see us.

The World Wide Web links Internet sites together via a vast network of electronic pathways. Every site has an address that the electronic protocols can identify and find. To "participate" in this network, a site must obtain an address, produce a page in hypertext markup language that the web can recognize, and post the page to the Internet. This is an unwieldy task, but not difficult. New editing tools on the horizon promise to make it simpler in coming months. Large institutions usually maintain the technical expertise needed to support a presence on the World Wide Web. Most of us can manage the HTML, or hypertext, editing. The youngsters among us more easily master the nuts and bolts of this technological evolution. Be assured that the technology is changing so rapidly that we will be evolving constantly.

The Internet task force will develop a plan of action to bring the association on line promptly. As other comments continue to come in, we will use these opinions to develop a World Wide Web page that will be helpful to the membership and of service to the region. We hope to have this accomplished long before the 1997 meeting. Those of you who have time to spare and ideas to share, please let us know. You may see our page on the Web very soon. You probably won't see everything you'd like all at once. Some things take more time than others. Inevitably, other organizations or institutions will link to us, and us to them.

The dynamic nature of this technology almost assures us that by this time next year, we will look back on developments that we can hardly imagine now. We can take Appalachia into the electronic era confident of two things: the Internet will improve communication with each other and those outside our membership, and the Internet will put issues that are of vital interest to Appalachia before a larger audience than many of us ever thought possible. The potential the Internet provides us for increasing Appalachian awareness is staggering. Enthusiasm within the membership is at a very high level. A galaxy of information waits for us in "cyberspace," just as cyberspace is waiting for our message. This new communication tool offers Appalachia an "equalizer" that will do as much as the Interstate Highway System did to reduce the isolation of our region. We must remain alert to the growing opportunity to extend our message to an ever-widening constituency.

I look forward to helping with this very exciting project, and I know each of you looks forward to mastering this exciting resource. We look forward to seeing you all in cyberspace soon!

All members interested in receiving an electronic notice of a home page when it's available, please send their e-mail addresses to Lou Athey at: Lou66@cris.com or L_Athey@cad.SandM.edu.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

HARRIETTE SIMPSON ARNOW

Critical Essays on Her Work

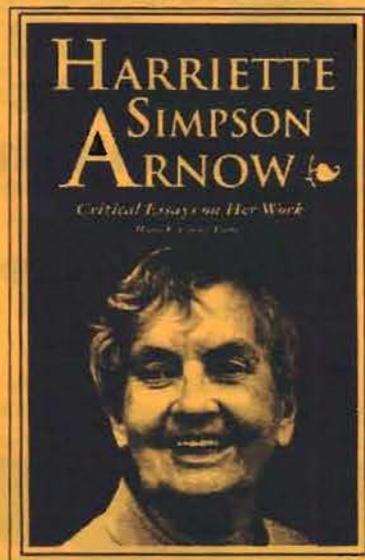
Haeja K. Chung, editor

At her death in 1986, Harriette Simpson Arnow left a modest collection of published work: ten short stories, five novels, two non-fiction books, a short autobiography, and nineteen essays and book reviews. Although the sum is small, her writing has been examined from regionalist, Marxist, feminist, and other critical perspectives. The 1970s saw the first serious attempts to revive interest in Arnow. In 1971, Tillie Olsen identified her as a writer whose "books of great worth suffer the death of being unknown, or at best, a peculiar eclipsing." Joyce Carol Oates wrote in the *New York Times Book Review* that Arnow's *The Dollmaker* is "our most unpretentious American masterpiece."

In the 1990s, it is appropriate to take stock of her earlier work and to prompt reexamination of this powerful yet poorly understood writer. This collection of critical essays examines traditional as well as new interpretations of Arnow and her work. It also suggests future directions for Arnow scholarship and includes studies of all Arnow's writing, fiction and non-fiction, published and unpublished.

Notes, index, photographs, 320 pages, 6" x 9"
ISBN 0-87013-381-0, hardbound, \$45.00

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We are forever losing our writers in the United States; we mislay them like a pair of reading glasses. But the growth and development of American literature can be understood as a process in which writers have discovered the land and life of our different geographical and cultural regions. When we, in turn, discover their works the result is that we have a heightened sense not only of our national diversity, but also of our core identity. Harriette Simpson Arnow has written insightfully about the upland South from pioneer and settlement days into mid-century America. . . . Arnow's work makes a significant contribution toward understanding the American experience, and the essays in this collection examine and assess that contribution.

Jim Wayne Miller
Western Kentucky University

This collection of essays purports to fill a major gap in Arnow research by making available material that is out of print, inaccessible, or heretofore unpublished. There is a great need for such a collection.

Roberta T. Herrin
East Tennessee State University

**Call for
Participation,
Papers and
Presentations for
1997 Appalachian
Studies
Conference**

**March 14-16 at
Drawbridge Estates, Ft.
Mitchell, KY**



A call is extended for individual papers, multi-paper sessions, roundtable or group discussions, panels, or performances which explore some aspect of the conference theme *Places Where the Mountains Have Gone*. Historical and contemporary perspectives in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences on the theme are encouraged. Presentations on the theme will be given preference, but other topics will be considered. Proposals should be limited to two pages, to include: (1) a cover sheet (single copy) showing title of presentation, presenter's name, address, and telephone number; a one-paragraph biographical sketch; and a description of audio-visual needs or other special arrangements. For panels and multi-paper sessions, please include names, addresses, and biographical information for everyone involved; (2) 12 copies of a one-page abstract of the paper or description of the presentation. Because of the growing number of proposals, individuals may be restricted to one presentation. Individual presentations must not exceed 15 minutes. Proposals for consideration by the Program Committee for the Appalachian Studies Conference should be submitted no later than **October 15, 1996** (firm deadline) to the Program Co-Chair:

Shauna Scott
Department of Sociology
1557 Patterson Office Tower
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506-0027
FAX: 606-323-1956
email: soc247@ukcc.uky.edu
phone: 606-257-6882

Student Paper Competition

The Carl A. Ross Appalachian Student Paper Competition is open to students in two categories:

- middle and high school
- undergraduate and graduate

Student papers must adhere to the same guidelines and subject matter of other conference papers. The deadline for submissions of completed papers is **January 15, 1997**. Mail to Shauna Scott at the address above. The author of the winning paper will receive a \$100 cash award and the opportunity to present the paper as part of a conference session. Costs of attending the conference are the winner's responsibility.

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Regional Research Institute
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