

Spring 5-1-1998

## Appalink

Appalachian Studies Association

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Howard Dorgan

**W**ell, here we are in 1998. So, happy New Year, ASA! Just two more such beginnings and we'll be looking forward to our year-2000 conference, planned for Knoxville. The Volunteer State was supposed to have hosted the 1999 meeting, but somehow we got ourselves out of sequence in the rotation of the states. Nevertheless, we'll say "Better late than never!" and joyfully look forward to beginning a new millennium, or ending an old one (depending upon how one counts these things), by gathering at a location where we have never met before. Tennessee always promises to be "playing your song." So, perhaps all of us need to decide what that song is and let Jim Lloyd know. He'll need to rehearse the band.

On October 25, this year's ASA Steering Committee met in Boone for the association's annual business meeting and planning session. It was a long meeting, but a productive one. The board first heard your president's report, dealing primarily with arrangements for a first-time ASA event, the silent auction to be held in conjunction with this year's conference, March 20-22. Then Steve Fisher, ASA's Vice President, described plans being made for the March 19-21, 1999 conference, to be held in Abingdon, Virginia, at the soon-to-be completed Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center. Steve convinced all of us concerning his determination to stage an exciting, productive, well-organized, but economical 1999 conference. So, while you're becoming exhilarated by plans for the Boone gathering—which will be on us before we know it—start storing up some of that "Virginia is for lovers" excitement about historic Abingdon, with its Martha Washington Inn, Barter Theatre, and a host of Main Street old homes and small shops.

The greater portion of our October business meeting was devoted to a discussion of Doyle Bickers' treasurer's report, which clearly substantiated an over \$10,000 two-year drain from our financial reserves. Doyle argued that the 1996 and 1997 conferences had

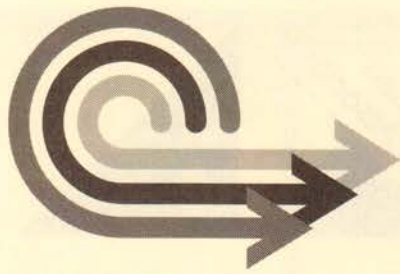
generated sufficient money to pay for themselves but that during those two years the association had failed to budget adequately for the additional costs we faced when we established our home office in Morgantown, West Virginia, and when we expanded the role of our journal.

Neither Doyle nor the Steering Committee, however, was critical of the operations of our home office and our journal. Indeed, considerable praise was lavished on Ron and Susan Lewis, along now with Sally Maggard (new journal editor), for the tighter operations of membership and financial accounting management. The same positive feelings were expressed for the cadre of individuals who in each instance have managed the last two conferences. The problem is simple: we have added an issue of our journal, and we have established a home office, with all of the cost such operations entail; therefore, we cannot continue with a budget that in the past dealt exclusively with the costs of an annual conference and the revenue needed to publish our proceedings.

To get us through this fiscal year—without additional drains on our reserves—the Steering Committee voted to increase the conference fee by \$15 for all types of memberships. In addition, this year's conference registrants will be given a chance to make a one-time \$25 (or more) contribution to ASA, all for the purpose of improving our financial picture. These measures should place ASA in approximately a "break even" mode for 1997-1998. A number of additional cost-cutting options were approved which will institute future expense reductions, including the dropping of one issue of *Appalink*, and the separating out of certain conference costs from the standard fee structure (possibly meals and entertainment).

It should be remembered that an ad hoc committee on conference financial matters has been appointed,

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **American Homespun for the President's House.**

As an artist and a Southerner, Ellen Axson Wilson, the wife of the twenty-eighth president of the United States, saw firsthand the expert craftsmanship of women during her travels to the North Carolina mountains and understood their struggle as artists and wage earners. By decorating the White House with handcrafted fabrics, she focused widespread attention on the lives, financial needs, and talents of mountain women. The exhibition **Homespun for the President's House—Ellen Axson Wilson and the Decoration of the Blue Mountain Room** is a unique opportunity to look inside the most famous house in the land for a better understanding of the compassionate spirit of artist Ellen Axson Wilson and to view striking examples of early twentieth-century American hand weaving by two extremely gifted Appalachian women, Allie Josephine Mast and Elmeda McHargue Walker. The exhibition was organized by and is on display at The Woodrow Wilson House Museum, 2340 S Street NW, Washington DC, from October 23, 1997 through April 20, 1998. Guest curator for the event is Kathleen Curtis Wilson, who has just published her study of Josephine Mast, one of the principle weavers for the White House project, in *May We All Remember Well, Vol. 1, A Journal of History & Cultures of Western North Carolina* (Robert S. Brunk, Asheville, NC 1997). The exhibition centers on the story behind Ellen Wilson's decision to decorate the president's bedroom with textiles and baskets purchased at a Washington craft show, organized by the Southern Industrial Educational Association (SIEA). While Wilson was still president of Princeton University, he was a trustee for the SIEA, and after he took office in 1913, Ellen agreed to serve as honorary president of the SIEA, knowing her patronage would bring national recognition to the association. Both the Wilsons upheld the association's mission to promote a settlement school education for Southern Appalachian children. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is honorary patron of the exhibition.

**Appalachian Studies Syllabus Guide and Teaching Materials.** A syllabus guide is available for Appalachian Studies, including sections on the Sociology of Appalachia, Culture, Literature, History, Social Institutions and Problems, Political Economy and Political

Science, Community Activism and Social Change. This guide is edited by Chris Baker and can be ordered from: Appalachian Studies Syllabus Guide and Teaching Materials, American Sociological Association Teaching Resources Center, 1722 N Street NW, Washington DC 20036-2981, phone: 202-833-3410.

**The Senator from Slaughter County.** The Jesse Stuart Foundation has recently reprinted Harry Caudill's novel *The Senator from Slaughter County*. East Tennessee State University historian Dr. Margaret Ripley Wolfe, professor of history and senior research fellow at the university, has written the introduction and is also at work on a biography of Caudill, one of Eastern Kentucky's most well-known figures. In the book's introduction Wolfe writes: ". . . for those who like a good read as well as a good lesson in nepotism and patronage; for enthusiasts of politics practiced with the chicanery that may not be unique to Kentucky but is so familiar in the Commonwealth; and for serious students of rural politics in the twentieth-century South, *The Senator from Slaughter County* awaits them." Copies of *The Senator from Slaughter County* can be purchased from The Jesse Stuart Foundation, PO Box 391, Ashland, KY 41114, phone 606-329-5232.

**Call for Papers, Twelfth Ulster-American Heritage Symposium. Deadline March 31, 1998.** Proposals are invited for papers for the Twelfth Ulster-American Heritage Symposium which will be hosted by the Mountain Heritage Center at Western Carolina University July 30-August 1, 1998. The Symposium will examine all aspects of emigration from Scotland and England to Ulster and on to North America and all the social and religious groups which took part in that migration. Papers are also invited on relevant aspects (including Gaelic and Catholic) of regional cultures and economies in Scotland, England, Ireland and North America as they affected that migration; on the wider political, socioeconomic, and religious background to the migration; and on religion, folklore, music, and other aspects of Ulster-American heritage. The deadline for proposals is March 31, 1998. A one-page abstract of the proposed paper (including a description of any audiovisual needs), the presenter's address, telephone

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## WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND

As Chairperson of the Urban Appalachian Council (UAC) Research Committee, I wish to comment on the March, 1997, Appalachian Studies Association conference in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky. I know it sounds cliché to say "well done," but having observed the efforts and skills that went into a successful conference, I believe it is an apt observation, and one that was repeatedly reinforced by conference participants. However, I need to note that the committee, not the Chair, was responsible for all the work.

I am not being modest when I say that the committee and the UAC staff deserve more credit than I do in organizing UAC and Greater Cincinnati area contributions to the conference. Pauletta Hansel, Assistant Director for Community Development and staff for the UACRC, labored long and hard on organizing the cultural events, papers and presentations, coordinating efforts with the ASA, and planning and leading the tour of the Lower Price Hill neighborhood in Cincinnati. Ron Mason, Cultural Outreach Worker, was responsible (along with Kate Goodenough) for arranging local talent. Louise Spiegel, the chair of the original UACRC, boosted our morale as well as our finances. Phil Obermiller and Laura Chase arranged the reception and stage for Jean Ritchie's concert at the Museum Center. Tom Wagner organized the plenary session (assisted by panelists Mike Maloney, Virginia McCoy, and UAC Executive Director, Maureen Sullivan) and posited establishing the ASA James Brown Research Award. Tom and Virginia also convinced Dr. Brown to attend the conference. Suzanne Kirk, my predecessor, besides her current committee work (including assisting in fundraising), established a reputation for us in guiding the UAC's 1995 Urban Appalachian Conference. The success of that conference helped lead ASA President-Elect, Dwight Billings, and the ASA Steering Committee to propose hosting the 1997 conference in the Greater Cincinnati area.

There are plenty more who deserve praise and I apologize if I neglected anyone. The ASA staff and conference organizers also worked hard for a successful conference, but I'll leave it up to ASA executive officers to give credit where it is due. But I'd like to return to the aforementioned Lower Price Hill tour in order to make a few points regarding scholarship, advocacy and education and the importance of organizations like UAC and ASA.

The tour consisted of two "legs." Pauletta and neighborhood residents led some conference participants around the neighborhood to point out historical buildings and sites, highlighting those pertinent to Appalachian migration history. Karen Schlanger and Donna Jones, UAC's Environmental Staff, worked with residents to lead the "toxic" tour and participated in the conference. For Donna, the tour also fulfilled a re-

quirement in a class in Sociology of the Environment, a class I was teaching and which was jointly sponsored by Chatfield College and UAC's Lower Price Hill Environmental Leadership Coalition (through a grant from NIEHS), and which was conducted at the Lower Price Hill Community School. The requirement was that students were to develop community leadership and participation skills. Other students had varied and related community projects. (I have proposed a session for the 1998 conference based on their work.) To get to the point, however, I took the "toxic tour" myself, and in so doing I finally figured out what my mission as a teacher of the class really meant. The Lower Price Hill neighborhood has quite a history of environmental problems, something of which I was aware, yet not truly comprehending despite my frequent visits to the neighborhood. The tour helped me to conceive of the degradation that large-scale businesses had managed to inflict on the neighborhood and begin to really understand what it meant to live there, especially for children. Even as I was dismayed, I was inspired as a scholar and a researcher. If that isn't something that ASA wishes to encourage, then I don't know what is.

Recent social movement theories variously hold that social movements can only be successful if they can access and mobilize resources and that "new" social movements involve atomized organizations that seldom come together. In my doctoral dissertation on Appalachian identity I concluded that such an identity might be considered a "resource" for various organizations that are part of such a fragmented social movement. While taking the "toxic tour" as a teacher of the Sociology of the Environment (answering to the Urban Appalachian Council, Chatfield College, and the Community School), as Chair of the UAC Research Committee, as a member of the Appalachian Studies Association, and as a "card-carrying" Appalachian, I questioned my original assumption that any such social movement is fragmented. The fundamental importance of the partnership established by UAC and ASA is the reinforcement of existing links between organizations and the growth and maturity of a movement centered around identity and justice for all. What goes around comes around.

Lastly, I apologize for waiting so long to comment. I will use the excuse that in April I stepped into an oily puddle in a mall parking lot, resulting in a compound "tibia-fibula" fracture. (In layman's terms, I did a number on my leg.) While not incapacitating (except for about a week), it was severe enough to limit my movements and prove quite distracting. As of this writing, I am still walking funny but my doctor continues to be amazed at my recuperative powers. Guess I'm not as decrepit as I thought I was!

—Roberta M. Campbell

## ASA Officers and Committees for 1998-99

The following nominees are placed before the ASA membership by its nominating committee for various offices and committees for 1998-99. 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 blanks and return them by March 10 to the Nominating Chair:

Steven L. Fisher  
P.O. Box BBB  
Emory, Virginia 24327  
FAX: 540-944-6934  
e-mail slfisher@ehc.edu

### For Vice President/President Elect:

**Jim Lloyd**, Archivist, Special Collections, Hoskins Library, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, member of the UT Press Board of Directors and the UT representative to the Appalachian Consortium

Lloyd \_\_\_\_\_ Write-In Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

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### For Conference Program Vice Chair ('99)/Chair Elect (2000):

**Norma Myers** and **Jane Woodside**. Norma is the archivist of the Appalachian Collection at ETSU and Jane is the editor of *Now and Then*.

Myers and Woodside \_\_\_\_\_ Write-In Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Barbara Ellen Smith**, Director, Center for Research on Women, The University of Memphis, widely published on Appalachian social and economic development, social class, race and gender.

Smith \_\_\_\_\_ Write-In Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

**Sandra Barney**, Associate Professor of History, Political Science, Economics, and Management, Lock Haven University, Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, who is hard at work organizing a Northern Appalachian Studies program. Her book on gender and social class and the history of health care in Central Appalachia is due soon from the University of North Carolina.

Barney \_\_\_\_\_ Write-In Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

**Michael Maloney**, one of the founders of the Urban Appalachian Council in Cincinnati, currently organizing social services in Appalachian Ohio and leading an Appalachian political action group and advising the Ohio Arts Council on promoting Appalachian arts.

Maloney \_\_\_\_\_ Write-In Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

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### For Program Committee (four members, 1-year terms):

**Doug Powell**, an associate editor of *Appalachian Inside Out* and an assistant editor of the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*.

Powell \_\_\_\_\_ Write-In Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

**Jill Carson**. A resident of Lee County, Virginia for ten years and the Chief Fiscal Officer for the Lee County Head Start Program. She is president of the Appalachian African American Cultural Center in Pennington Gap, Virginia.

Carson \_\_\_\_\_ Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

**Donald Seceast**, author of *The Rat Becomes Light* and *White Trash, Red Velvet*, teaches in the English Department at Radford University.

Seceast \_\_\_\_\_ Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

**Deborah Thompson**, Director of the Appalachian Semester at Union College in Barbourville, Kentucky. She has been an active leader in the Appalachian College Association Task Force on Service Learning. She is a skilled banjo player.

Thompson \_\_\_\_\_ Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

number, e-mail address, and brief curriculum vita, as well as requests for further information, should be sent to: Dr. Tyler Blethen, Director, Mountain Heritage Center, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723, phone 704-227-7129. E-mail [blethen@wcu.edu](mailto:blethen@wcu.edu).

**The Life and Legacy of Appalachia, a Meeting of the Virginia Humanities Conference.** Ferrum College in Ferrum, Virginia will host the conference "The Life and Legacy of Appalachia, A Meeting of the Virginia Humanities Conference" on April 3-4, 1998. For more information contact Dr. Lana Whited at Ferrum College, P.O. Box 1000, Ferrum, VA 24088, phone 540-365-4334 or FAX 540-365-4203 or e-mail: [whited@panther.ferrum.edu](mailto:whited@panther.ferrum.edu).

**Call for Papers on Jack Weller's *Yesterday's People*.** The Coalition for Appalachian Ministry, of which Jack Weller was one of the founders, issues a call for papers for a collection of essays on Weller's *Yesterday's People*. Weller is still living in Missouri but is suffering from Alzheimer's disease. For further information write to Paul Rader, Coalition for Appalachian Ministries, P. O. Box 10208, Knoxville, TN 37939-0208.

**Birthplace of Country Music Alliance (BCMA).** The Birthplace of Country Music Alliance (BCMA) announces that through the efforts and cooperation of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services (CASS) at East Tennessee State University, the BCMA now has a new home office located at 1227 Volunteer Parkway, Room 101, ETSU at Bristol. The public is invited to attend meetings and may seek further information by writing the BCMA, PO Box 216, Bristol, TN 37620, phone: 423-844-6300.

**Highland Summer Conference at Radford University.** The Highland Summer Conference will be held June 16-27 at Radford University. The first week will be led by West Virginia author Barbara Smith; the second week will be led by Gurney Norman. A special afternoon reading and session during the first week will be presented by Sharyn McCrumb, and a special afternoon reading and session during the second week will be presented by Nikki Giovanni. For further information contact Jo Ann Asbury at [jasbury@runet.edu](mailto:jasbury@runet.edu), or 540-831-5366, or write to her at Box 7014, Appalachian Regional Studies Center, Radford University, Radford VA 24142.

with the instruction that they examine the entire operation of ASA conferences, with a mind to reducing costs. This committee will deliberate whatever measures are judged relevant to conference expenditures, including time and place considerations.

Once the Steering Committee moved past the ugly realities of money, we got to hear about all the wonderful plans that Susan Keefe (Program Committee Chair) and Fred Hay (Local Arrangements Chair) are making for the Boone conference. Susan has arranged a full program, including two free Friday morning tours of Watauga County sustainable development efforts and a visit to ASU's Appalachian Cultural Museum. Watch for these events as listed in the forthcoming registration materials, and sign up early. Transportation seating will be limited. Fred Hay reported on—among other things—the room rates he has negotiated with the Broyhill Inn and other blocked conference lodging options: \$52 single and \$59 double. Thanks, Fred. Those reasonable rates should help some budgets.

Once again, plan to be with us for the Boone conference. Things won't be the same without *you!* Remember that we will have Lee Smith with us, and a lot of other good folk for whom we plan to keep the lights on. That definitely includes *you*.



### **Appalink Deadlines**

*Appalink* is published two times a year, in the Summer and Spring. All news items are encouraged. To help you plan your submissions, the editor provides the following schedule of deadlines:

Summer issue (published in July)  
Deadline for submissions is **June 1**.  
Spring issue (published in February)  
Deadline for submissions is **January 1**.

Please send news items or short articles to the *Appalink* editor: Danny Miller, Department of Literature and Language, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, KY 41099. E-mail address: [millerd@nku.edu](mailto:millerd@nku.edu). FAX: (606)572-6093.

◆ ANNOUNCING ◆  
A NEW JOURNAL OF IRISH STUDIES

*Nua* :  
**Studies in Contemporary Irish Writing**

Carson-Newman College is pleased to announce the launching of *Nua*, a journal that will provide a forum for scholarship about recent Irish writers, works, and issues. With *Nua*, we hope to provide a valuable resource to students and scholars of contemporary Irish literature.

**SUBMISSIONS**

*Nua* invites submissions on any aspect of Irish writing—fiction, short fiction, poetry, theater, film, autobiography, and studies of the Irish-Appalachia connection—during the past century years. We welcome a variety of critical frameworks.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Individual

US Address ..... \$15.00 for Vol. I (Nos. 1 & 2)

International Address..... \$20.00 for Vol. I (Nos. 1 & 2)

Institutional

US Address..... \$25.00 for Vol. I (Nos. 1 & 2)

International Address..... \$30.00 for Vol. I (Nos. 1 & 2)

For further submission information, or to subscribe, contact the Editor,

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