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Appalachian Studies Conference Newsletter

Appalachian Studies Association

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NEWSLETTER



APPALACHIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

VOLUME I NUMBER I JAN. 1978

APPALACHIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE ORGANIZED

The Appalachian Studies Conference was born at a planning meeting of 30 Appalachian scholars from 18 institutions in seven states representing twelve different academic disciplines, who met in Berea, Kentucky, on November 4 and 5, 1977. After sharing experiences, ideas and hopes, a final session saw the formal organization of the Appalachian Studies Conference whose purposes were seen to be:

- 1) to encourage Appalachian Studies through an annual conference, a newsletter and ad hoc meetings as necessary;
- 2) to provide a forum for the exchange of research information;
- 3) to coordinate analysis of the region's problems across disciplinary lines;
- 4) to increase and spread knowledge of things Appalachian;
- 5) to be an advocate for Appalachian research;
- 6) to relate scholarship to regional needs and the concerns of the Appalachian people; and
- 7) to support other organized efforts in harmony with the purposes of the Appalachian Studies Conference.

The A.S.C. considers itself an umbrella agency embracing various disciplines and points of view, and invites all with an interest in Appalachia into membership. At this point the organization is a loose one - our only officers are members of a Steering Committee with two co-chairmen and a treasurer, who have specific responsibilities for our first meeting in Berea on March 10 and 11, 1978.

The model for the Annual Conference was seen to be the very excellent conference honoring Cratis Williams in April, 1976, in Boone, North Carolina (see An Appalachian Symposium, J.W. Williamson (ed.); Boone: Appalachian State University Press, 1977). The particular theme agreed to for the first conference on March 10-11, 1978, will be Appalachian Studies, with special sections on 1) social action on specific regional problems; 2) the state of the creative arts in the region; 3) the status of academic research; and 4) specific developments in Appalachian Studies programs and curricula.

MEMBERSHIP INVITED

All persons interested in the aims of the Appalachian Studies Conference are invited to join. The annual membership fee is \$5.00, students \$3.00. (See Membership and Conference Registration form.)

FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The First Annual Meeting of the Appalachian Studies Conference will be held on March 10-11, 1978, at Berea College. The theme of the Conference will be "Appalachian Studies: Where Do We Go From Here?" The intention is to build upon the essays in the recently published Guide to Appalachian Studies (see enclosure) in an effort to assess the current state of Appalachian Studies and to determine what direction Appalachian Studies should take in the future. The Conference is to begin with three papers by Jim Wayne Miller, John Gaventa and Archie Green which will provide a rationale for Appalachian Studies Programs and discuss the goals or objectives around which such programs should be organized. Robert Scott, Federal Co-Chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission, will address the Conference in the evening, and this will be followed by music by the McLain Family Band, a poetry reading by Jeff Daniel Marion and folk dancing. The following morning, Conference participants will attend a workshop related to their particular Appalachian concern. The workshops are designed as a means for people who share common Appalachian interests, to get acquainted, share experiences, and discuss ways of working together. Five workshops are currently scheduled (see program), and others will be arranged depending upon the interest of those in attendance. There will be a business meeting later in the morning to discuss the format and future of the Appalachian Studies Conference. The afternoon session will offer an opportunity for general discussion and closing remarks by Gurney Norman.

The registration fee for the Conference is \$15.00 (no charge for students). Meals are available at Berea College Food Service - \$7.14 (3 meals). Dinner only-\$4.72. Each person is responsible for his/her own lodging on Friday evening, March 10. Enclosed is a list of motels in the Berea area.

Please bring with you any course outlines or bibliographies you would like to share. There will be space available to display books, journals, etc. For information on this, contact Loyal Jones, CPO 2336, Berea, KY 40404.

The Conference is being organized by a Steering Committee consisting of those named below. We welcome any suggestions or comments which you might have. Borden Mace, executive director of the Appalachian Consortium has described this Conference as an opportunity to bring diverse "efforts into a common focus and provide directions and models for colleges, schools, centers, and cooperatives seeking to launch programs and activities that will help Appalachians to know themselves, their history, and their problems..." We hope you will join us in this endeavor.

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