APPALINK—Newsletter of the Appalachian Studies Conference

Volume 2 Number 2 January, 1979

SECOND APPALACHIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE PLANNED

Preparations are well underway for the second Appalachian Studies Conference to be held March 16-18, 1979 at Jackson's Mill, West Virginia. Registration and room assignment will be from 1-5 p.m. on Friday, March 16. The Conference will begin with Dinner the 16th and end at Lunch on the 18th.

The tentative program includes the following:

GENERAL SESSIONS Friday and Saturday evening, including speakers, theatre, singing, a concert by the Hammered dulcimer string band Trapezoid and square dance.

TOPICAL SESSIONS on the following:
- Nationalizing the Soil: the Politics of Place in Recent Appalachian Literature
- Kilowatts and the Corps: Dams, Proposed and Possible
- Teaching About the Land
- Environmental Perception in Appalachia
- Land Ownership Studies
- The Mining Frontier
- Land as a Theme in Appalachian Literature (2 sessions)
- The Wreckless Assault: Saviors of Land and People

APPALACHIAN STUDIES DISCIPLINE SESSIONS:
--by area of specialization (history, political science, biology, etc.) to discuss common concerns, problems, resources, etc. and to focus on possibilities for working together;
--by trans-disciplinary groups (humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, etc.) to promote discussion across discipline lines with a more topical focus; and,
--by topically oriented small groups growing out of and continuing from discussions begun in previous sessions.

BUSINESS MEETINGS.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES: Rooms set aside and open continuously for the following: musician's room for talking, trading songs and resting; film and media exhibits; crafts exhibits; spontaneously generated meetings.

Pre-registration:

Name ____________________________

Address __________________________

Institution _________________________ Discipline ________

Do you want us to reserve housing at Jackson's Mill? Yes _______ No _______

Enclose check or money order for $10 registration ($5 for students and persons with low incomes), payable to Appalachian Studies Conference and send to: Dennis Lindberg, ASC Registration, Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, WV 26241

(please photocopy this page and distribute it to those you think might be interested.)

PROPERTY OF ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
NEH FUNDS 3½ YEAR PROJECT

AN APPALACHIAN EXPERIENCE

An Appalachian Experience is a 3½-year National Endowment for the Humanities
Learning Museum Program at the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge. The geographic
area of concern is primarily a 16-county region corresponding to the East Tennessee
Development District, but the program will make use of resources throughout
Southern Appalachia. The general goals are to expand educational opportunities
for East Tennesseans, to lay the foundation for a permanent Continuing Education
Program and Center for Appalachian Research at the Children's Museum, and to put
aspects of Southern Appalachian life into a balanced perspective from which Ap-
palachian people can derive greater awareness of their past, pride in themselves,
and self-confidence for the future. The program will do this through county
workshops, courses of Appalachian study in Oak Ridge, educational television
programs, and two proposed publications: an Anthology of Appalachia and an
Appalachian Studies Teacher's Manual. Anyone who wants more information about
An Appalachian Experience, or who wants to volunteer his or her services, should
write P.O. Box 3066, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, or call 615-482-1075. Jim Stokely
is the Director of An Appalachian Experience; Jeff Johnson is the Assistant
Director.

ASC AGENDA COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Appalachian Studies Conference Agenda Committee will meet Saturday,
February 10 at Highlander Center, New Market, Tennessee, to discuss issues,
information, or ideas that need to be brought to the attention of the ASC
membership during the March 16 and 18 business meeting at Jackson's Mill.
If any ASC member wishes to introduce an agenda item for discussion at the
business meeting, please contact Sharon Lord, Chairperson. (ASC Officers
and addresses are listed on last page of this newsletter)
ARC FUNDS LAND OWNERSHIP STUDY

An Appalachian Land Ownership Task Force has received a grant of $100,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission to investigate patterns of land-ownership in Appalachia. The Task Force was formed out of a series of meetings in which questions were raised about the failure of ARC to address problems related to land-ownership and to provide research funds to regional scholars. The task force brings together members of the research and public policy committee of the Appalachian Studies Conference and members of the Appalachian Alliance, a coalition of citizen's groups in the region.

The grant may represent the first time the ARC Research Committee has allocated major research funds to regional scholars. The Appalachian Studies Center at Appalachian State University will serve as fiscal agent for the project. State task forces of scholars and citizens will be set up immediately in target states. Data will be collected in county courthouses by student and community researchers.

The goals of the project are:
1. To document ownership patterns of land on rural Appalachia, looking at such factors as extent of corporate ownership, extent of absentee ownership, extent of individual or family ownership, extent of local ownership, descriptions of principal owners, rate of change in ownership patterns, relationships between ownership and land use.

2. To investigate the impacts of these landownership patterns upon economic and social development in rural Appalachia, exploring the relationship of land ownership patterns to land use, taxation structures, land availability for housing and industry, coal productivity, agricultural productivity, economic growth and stability, social development and stability.

3. To develop action-oriented policy recommendations for ARC, state, federal and local officials, government agencies and the public to assist them in dealing with problems relating to ownership patterns. To begin an education process helping the public and policy makers to become more aware of the problems and the policy options available to them.

Persons interested in working on the project should contact:
John Gaventa
Highlander Center
Box 370, Rt. 3
New Market, TN 37820
Phone: 615-933-3443

NEW PUBLICATION

Some Ballad Folks by Thomas G. Burton, East Tennessee State University Research Advising Committee, 1978, 108 pp., paper, with accompanying cassette, $5.00. Some Ballad Folks provides perspectives of five mountain women and their traditional ballads of British origin. Texts, tunes, photographs, and analysis are given, but the focus is upon the singers' own life histories and discussions of these old songs.
A symposium on the archeology of the Southern Appalachians and Ozarks was held on November 9, 1978, at the 35th annual Southeastern Archeological Conference in Knoxville, Tennessee. Organized by Burt Purrington (Appalachian State) and Mary Lee Douthit (Southwest Missouri State), the symposium compared the adaptation of Indians and early Euro-Americans to these environmentally similar southern highland regions.

The adaptive strategies of various Southern Highland groups were investigated from the perspectives of their subsistence (food-getting), settlement, and raw material procurement systems as revealed by archeological remains. Geographical areas whose prehistory was discussed included the western prairie-ozark ecotone (Douthit), the western Arkansas Ozarks (Mark Raab - U. of Arkansas), the eastern Missouri Ozark escarpment (Cynthia Price - Southwest Missouri St.), Piedmont South Carolina (John House - U. of Arkansas - Pine Bluff), the Great Smokies (Quentin Bass - U. of Tennessee), Mount Rogers, Virginia (Harry and Jackie Piper - U. of South Florida), West Virginia Highlands (Gary Wilkins - U. of Tennessee), and the Red River of eastern Kentucky (Wesley Cowan - U. of Michigan).

A paper on early Euro-American subsistence and settlement patterns on the eastern Ozark escarpment was presented by James and Cynthia Price (Southwest Missouri St.). Purrington discussed the marked tendency toward the evolution of small-scale, presumably egalitarian, Indian and Euro-American societies in both regions and offered cultural models to explain the high degree of stability of these highland cultures in terms other than the traditional isolation models which are simplistic and largely inaccurate. Hester Davis (U. of Arkansas) and Roy Dickens (Georgia State) served as discussants.

This was the first formal gathering on a region-wide scale of Southern Appalachian archeologists or of Appalachian and Ozark archeologists. The participants agreed that it should be the first of many.
ASU CENTER FOR APPALACHIAN STUDIES

Appalachian State University has received approval and funding by the General Administration of the N.C. State University system to establish a Center for Appalachian Studies. Patricia Beaver has been serving as Acting Director since the Center was officially formed in August, and Rich Humphrey will join the Center for the spring semester as a half time research coordinator. The Center is coordinating and facilitating the various programs and projects already existing on campus which have a regional focus; in addition, the Center is coordinating Appalachian Studies curriculum offerings—A.S.U. now offers an undergraduate minor and major (through a General College degree) in Appalachian Studies, and is anticipating approval for a Master's degree program soon. A number of projects are in the works for the spring semester and for the 1979-1980 academic year, involving such issues as energy, land use and land ownership, black culture history, museum development, and celebration and exploration of the arts. The Center looks forward to working with other colleges, universities, and educational institutions, public interest groups, and individuals with regional concerns, in enhancing the shared awareness of and attention to regional issues. The Center is located in 216 Watauga Hall, A.S.U., Boone, N.C. (Phone: 704-262-4089) and invites your inquiries, suggestions, ideas, and visits.

APPALINK SUBSCRIPTIONS:

IF YOU DID NOT ATTEND THE BEREA MEETING BUT WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING AND RETURN IT TO TOM PLAUT, BOX 639, MARS HILL, NC 28754.

NAME/AGENCY_______________________________________________________

ADDRESS__________________________________________________________ Phone_____

OCCUPATION__________________________________________________________

INTEREST IN REGION__________________________________________________

I AM ENCLOSING DUES OF $4.00 FOR THE 1978-1979 FISCAL YEAR (TO MARCH 1, 1979).
APPALACHIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

OFFICERS ELECTED AT 1978 MEETING:

Chairperson: Sharon B. Lord  
Appalachian Center  
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Agenda Committee:

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