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Archives of Appalachia NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, No. 2

JUNE 1, 1979

MANY THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS!

Since the publication of the first issue of our Newsletter, many friends and colleagues have taken the time to send us kind words of encouragement. We in turn would like to thank all of you for your support, now and in the future. Building an archives is a community effort and our success depends to a large extent on those people throughout the region who alert us to materials that might appropriately join our other holdings. In addition, you may know of others who might benefit from receiving our Newsletter. Send us their names and we will see that they are added to our mailing list. In our efforts to build a fully professional archival program here at East Tennessee State University, we would be remiss if we failed to recognize the fine contributions made by the many well established manuscript and archives programs already active in the Southern Appalachian region. In particular, we would like to congratulate Berea College upon the opening of its Council of Southern Mountain Collections. It is indeed an honor and a pleasure to work along side such distinguished programs. We only hope that the Archives of Appalachia proves itself worthy of the noble traditions established by its sister institutions.

CONSERVATION CONFERENCE AT ETSU

Thanks to a generous grant administered by the Tennessee Committee for the Humanities, the Archives sponsored a community meeting and conference entitled: "Community Action and Conservation," in late April. The Conference ran from Friday evening, April 27th, through Saturday evening, April 28th, and included three workshops, two community roundtables and a tour of the Archives. Dr. Richard M. Kesner, Director of the Archives of Appalachia opened the Conference with a talk on the meaning and importance of conservation. Each of the guest speakers in turn addressed the assembly discussing general aspects of the conservation problem, such as conservation around the home, identifying the special conservatorial needs of particular objects, and the nature of professional training in the conservation of historical objects.

On Saturday, the workshops began with Alvin Gerhardt, Executive Director of the Rocky Mount Historical Association, talking about the care and treatment of books and paper. Craigie Hemenway, a local photographer and photographic restorer, followed Mr. Gerhardt and discussed historical photographs, how to distinguish between the different types and how to preserve them. In the afternoon, Cynthia Stow, Director of the Cumberland Art Conservation Center, presented a paper on painting restoration. All of the workshops included either actual examples of conservation measures or slide representations of conservatorial projects. Throughout the Conference, the audience, drawn from as far away as Knoxville, Abingdon, and Ashville, showed great enthusiasm. Discussions were lively and many people brought along books, photographs and paintings of their own. These materials served as the focus of Conference discussion as our guest speakers sought to advise the audience on possible restoration measures.

Total attendance at the Conference reached 351 persons with a few of the sessions numbering almost ninety. From the Archives point of view, the program was

a great success. The community demonstrated a real interest in conservation which may in turn lead them to view more critically the way their local libraries, museums, and they themselves store and display historical objects and documents. In the long run, this sort of interest will contribute to the preservation of the region's heritage by ensuring the survival of historically rich materials.

THE ARCHIVES OPENS ITS PHOTOGRAPHIC AND DISPLAY FACILITIES

With the arrival of a few major photograph collections at the Archives, the establishment of a formal photographic archives has become one of the program's most pressing objectives. As of June 1, 1979, Dennis C. Pelletier will join our staff as a student photographic archivist. Dennis attended the University of Maine before coming to East Tennessee State University and enrolling in our Fine Arts program to work on the B.F.A. degree. He is a specialist in both photography and graphics and will have as his main responsibility the arrangement, description, and servicing of our photographic collections. In addition, Mr. Pelletier will take charge of a series of museum display units located in the corridor adjoining the Archives facility. He will plan the annual calendar of shows to fill these display cabinets and will direct other Archives staff members in the actual mounting of shows. We are very pleased to welcome David to our staff.

THE SHERROD LIBRARY OPENS ITS GENEALOGY ROOM

With the growing interest in Genealogy, and in the Sherrod Library's efforts to address community research needs, Dr. Edward M. Walters, Director of Libraries, has established a special Genealogy Library work room on the third floor of the main Library building. Room 301 has been set aside for this purpose and the University's extensive Genealogy collections have been moved from the old stacks area to Room 301. In addition, the Watauga Association of Genealogists will occupy the research room's inner office (Rm. 302) and plan thereafter to make their exchanges available to genealogists using the room. To facilitate research and increase access to these materials, Ms. Pollyanna Creekmore of the Archives staff has moved to an office (Rm. 328) near the Genealogy Room. Ms. Creekmore will be available during regular working hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) daily to assist researchers using the room. The Archives will administer the day-to-day operations of the new Genealogy facility.

NEW COLLECTIONS ACCESSIONED

Many of the small collections accessioned by the Archives this quarter relate to the histories of families who settled in Northeastern Tennessee during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. These family papers include: the Caldwell Family Collection, the Mrs. S.E. Miller Collection, the Shelby Family Collection, and the Rinehard, Ellis and Edwards Family Collection. We also received two small collections relating to the history and development of East Tennessee State University. The Joe M. Cox Collection includes architectural drawings of ETSU buildings by this local engineer and architect. Gretchen Hyder, for many years a resident of Milligan, Tennessee, and a faculty member at the University, has left the Archives her papers relating to her involvement in the American Association of University Women and other national education organizations. She has also left the University a series of early Tennessee documents that will be the subject of a report in the next Newsletter. Finally, the Archives has received two sets of papers, mostly proceeding minutes, relating to the nineteenth century activities of two important regional religious organizations: the Holston Methodist Conference and the Holston Baptist Association.

NEW COLLECTIONS OF PARTICULAR NOTE

The Carolina, Clinchfield, and Ohio Railroad Collection. The CC&O, through its Clinchfield Railroad Headquarters in Erwin, Tennessee, has kindly donated to the Archives materials relating to the construction, development, and operation of this bit of engineering wizardry. The story of the Clinchfield Railroad is intimately connected with the growth of Johnson City as a rail and industrial center. Though small at this time, the collection will grow with the cooperation of the Railroad, affording students and scholars a fresh perspective on the economic development of the region. Unfortunately, the Clinchfield's Erwin offices recently suffered from flood damage during which many important and historically valuable records were destroyed. We look forward to the time when the Archives can participate more fully in the protection of the company's papers.

The Derry Inn, Blountville Collection, the Tom Daniel Collection, and the Appalachian Farm Collection. These three collections have much in common in that they are primarily photographic. The Derry Inn Collection created by Richard Lawson, a Masters Student in the ETSU English Department, chronicles the history of this beautiful Blountville building. Tom Daniel served for over a decade as ETSU's official photographer and his collection therefore depicts most happenings on campus during the period 1965-1975. But the collection also includes materials from the early 1960's and some glass negatives that go back to the University's earliest days as a Normal School. Finally, the Appalachian Farm Collection stems from a project initiated by Prof. Michael Smith, Director of the University's Humanities Program. Through a grant from the Tennessee Committee for the Humanities, Prof. Smith arranged to bring the California Historical Society's American Farm Exhibit on to campus. To complement that exhibit, Prof. Smith arranged for local photographers, including: Jack Schrader, Craigie Hemenway, John Anderson, Kenneth Murray, Earl Carter, and Bill Blanton to take pictures of contemporary Appalachian farm life. He subsequently convinced the Committee to deposit copies of these pictures in the Archives.

Since its establishment as a Normal School in 1911, East Tennessee State University has been deeply committed to teacher training and educational development. It is therefore noteworthy that we have acquired two collections of particular relevance to the history of Tennessee education. The Joe Jennings Collection includes all of the materials collected by Prof. Jennings as Director of the University's Research Council and specifically those records relating to the University's effort in the Tennessee Higher Education Survey of the early 1960's. The Tennessee Parents and Teachers Association Collection includes scattered papers relating to the Association's activities in the 1920's, 30's, and 40's.

COLLECTIONS PROCESSED AND OPEN FOR USE

The primary aim of the Archives of Appalachia is to collect, preserve, and make available materials relating to the history of Southern Appalachia. As such, we endeavor to place as few restrictions on access to our holdings as possible. We are pleased to report that at this time all of our collections are opened without restriction to serious scholars and students of Appalachia. However, the Archives does reserve the right to close collections to all researchers until the collections are properly processed.

The following collections are now processed and open for use:

East Tennessee Education Association Collection
Johnson City Kiwanis Club Collection
Johnson City Rotary Club Collection
Bernard Cantor Collection
Burton-Manning Collection
Le Roy Reeves Collection
B. Carroll Reece Collection
Watauga Personnel and Guidance Association Collection
Major F. S. Heiskell Collection

ARCHIVES COURSE OFFERINGS FOR FALL QUARTER

The Archives of Appalachia will offer two courses during fall quarter. Both courses will be taught on the main campus of ETSU in the Archives facility by the program's Director. "The Principles of Archival Administration" (History 4920/5921) concentrates on the basic elements of archival administration, including: arrangement and description of manuscript materials, archival security, professional ethics, copyright law, replevin, oral history, records management, computer records, and the conservation of historical objects. This course will meet Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. beginning October 2, 1979, and may be taken for both graduate/undergraduate credit or continuing education units. In either case, students will receive three units of credit for the ten course meetings.

The second course, entitled: "Book Conservation and the Public or School Library," will meet four consecutive Wednesday nights in October, beginning October 3, 1979, at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of this course is to introduce those who are involved in the management and care of books and records to the field of paper conservation. The mode of class instruction will be lecture/discussion. Where appropriate, audio-visual aids and walking tours of the Sherrod Library will be employed to help demonstrate points and techniques brought up during course meetings. Special emphasis will be placed on developing evaluation strategies for measuring the capacities of local libraries to deal with conservation problems. This course is open for continuing education units only. Community members are encouraged to sign up for either or both of these classes. For more information, please call the Archives (615-929-4338 or 4365) or the Office of Continuing Education (615-929-4214 or 4223).

APPALACHIAN CONSORTIUM TO HOST APPALACHIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE AT ETSU

On March 21-23, 1980, the Appalachian Studies Conference will hold its annual meeting on the campus of East Tennessee State University. The theme of the meeting is Appalachia/America. Through key-note speeches, papers, and discussion sessions, the Conference plans to explore the idea and reality of life in Appalachia as it compares with life, politics, and economic development in other regions of America. Current session proposals include: the Women's Movement in and out of Appalachia, the Labor Movement, Strip Mining, Appalachia and "Third World" development, and Education as a developmental tool. The Conference's programing committee is now seeking specific proposals for session topics, papers and speakers. They are also looking for two dinner speakers. If you have any suggestions or recommendations, please contact Ms. Martha McKinney, Appalachian Consortium Inc., Boone, North Carolina 28607, as soon as possible. This coming year's meeting, it is hoped, will draw upon the

Appalachian community as a whole for both speakers and audience. We encourage all interested parties to submit their suggestions to Ms. McKinney and to attend in March. In conjunction with the Conference, the Archives staff will handle local arrangements and hopes to provide meeting participants with a variety of cultural activities from concerts, to plays, to museum displays. See you in the early spring!

STAFF NEWS AND NOTES

The Archives is pleased to announce the addition of Mr. David Goodin to its staff as a graduate assistant and processor. Mr. Goodin is a Johnson City resident and a Masters candidate in the ETSU History Department. He is currently enrolled in the Archives training program and is at work on his thesis research relating to early modern English navigation.

Mildred Kozsuch and Richard M. Kesner will both be gone from the office in June. From June 1-15, Ms. Kozsuch will be in Washington, D.C. at the National Archives for a seminar on archival administration. During that same period and until July 15th, Dr. Kesner will be in London (UK) on research leave. Friends and colleagues who write them during June and July will hear from Mildred and Richard eventually but their replies may be delayed due to these absences. Please do not despair; we thank you in advance for your patience.

Dr. Kesner has published a brief article in the inaugural issue of Second Growth (Spring, 1979), entitled: "In Search of Appalachia: The Mission of the Archives of Appalachia." Two other articles have recently been accepted: "Labor Union Grievance Records: An Appraisal Strategy and its Ramification," by Archivaria and "A Bibliographic Survey of Dissertations Dealing with Appalachia," in the Appalachian Journal. Both articles are due out this summer. He is currently at work on an annotated bibliography for the SAA Committee on Automated Records and Techniques entitled: "Automation, Machine-Readable Records, and Archival Administration."

APPALACHIAN FILM WORKSHOP: APPALACHIA IN TRANSITION

Begun in 1972, the Appalachian Film Workshop provides a rare opportunity for people to come on to ETSU's campus to view films relating to the region, its culture, art, and traditions. The Workshop runs from July 2 through July 13 and includes the following films: "Echoes from the Hills," "Aunt Arie," "Inherit the Wind," "They Shall Take Up Serpents," "Sergeant York," "All the Way Home," "Harlan County USA," and "A Walk in the Spring Rain." Cratis Williams, Harry Caudill and Wilma Dykeman, among others, will serve as Workshop speakers. Three hours of University credit will be given for participation in the Workshop. Contact Dr. John B. Tallent, Chairman, Department of English, ETSU, Johnson City, Tennessee 37601 for details.

