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News CASS: Newsletter of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services (spring/summer, 1995)

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News CASS

Newsletter of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services • East Tennessee State University



Spring-Summer 1995

INSIDE:

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CENTER PLANNING BEGINS FOR APPALACHIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA

Current reference works about Appalachia are scarce, and few are comprehensive in their approach to the region. To answer that need, the center announces plans to edit and publish an *Encyclopedia of Appalachia* that will address topics, events, and individuals significant in Appalachian history.

The encyclopedia will be a multidisciplinary work that will take several years to complete. Center director Dr. Jean Speer says, "We're excited by the prospect of making this contribution to our region. It represents an enormous investment of time and funds for us, but we already have enthusiastic expressions of support from friends and colleagues of the center."

Co-editing the volume with Speer will be **Rudy Abramson**, Washington, D. C. correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times*, a long-time believer in the need for such a project. Abramson has enlisted the interest of former Tennessee Senator Howard H. Baker Jr., historian David McCullough, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and other influential sponsors. During a recent visit to the center, Abramson said "An authoritative reference book devoted to Appalachia will help stimulate scholarship and enhance public awareness and understanding of the region." While visiting ETSU, Abramson met center staff, members of the university administration, and various friends of the center.

Abramson has covered Washington, D. C. for the *Los Angeles Times* for more than 25 years as national

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SHELBRIDGE ROOM HONORS HERITAGE

To help commemorate our 10th anniversary, the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services established an **Appalachian Heritage Room** in Shelbridge, the historic home provided for presidents of East Tennessee State University. The room, which serves as a guest room in the home, is decorated with the finest in antique and contemporary art and craft work from the Appalachian region.

Contributions for the room came from many places

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Photo by: Jim Sledge, University Relations, 1995

Rudy Abramson and Jean Speer discuss the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia* project.

Now & Then Seeks Contributors For Upcoming Issues

Now & Then, the Appalachian magazine published by the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services at ETSU, is accepting fiction, poetry, essays, interviews, non-fiction articles, and photography about Appalachian life for the next two issues.

The deadline for the Fall-Winter issue on **Appalachian Entrepreneurs and Innovators** is **July 1**. This theme is a broad one. We're open to any submissions that answer the question: "What new ideas and approaches to old problems are coming out of Appalachia?" We'd like to hear about people starting new, imaginative businesses or coming up with exciting

solutions to problems in any walk of life.

The Spring 1996 issue will be **Conserving Appalachia**, with a deadline of **November 1, 1995**. This will be an opportunity to talk about the task of preserving this region's unique way of life—for example, by documenting Appalachian culture for future generations, by keeping some aspect of Appalachian life alive, or by adapting some custom from the past to present needs.

For more information, or to obtain writer's guidelines, please write *Now & Then*, CASS/ETSU, Box 70556, Johnson City, TN 37614-0556. We very much appreciate *written*, rather than phone queries. ♦

Heritage, continued from page 1

in the mountain region, including Kentucky, Southwest Virginia, Western North Carolina, and East Tennessee. The room features such items as a Star of Kentucky quilt, an 1890s vintage crazy quilt, a variety of other

"Handicrafts are an integral part of the culture of the mountain people."

—Allen Eaton, *Handicrafts of the Southern Highlands* (1937)

quilts and quilted pieces, handmade Windsor chairs, original oil and watercolor paintings, antique clothing, ceramics, woodcarvings, a cherry corner cupboard, an antique rope bed, and books about the Appalachian region. The craft artists and the donors are identified for visitors to the room.

The staff developed the idea for the room from a "Mountain Room" in the White House during the term of Woodrow Wilson. The White House room was furnished in the best of mountain craft work from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Believing that fine art and craft work are among Appalachia's great gifts to the world, the center celebrates that tradition in this special room.

The center acknowledges the enthusiastic support received for this project from the following individuals and organizations: Dr. Roy Nicks, president of ETSU, and Ann Nicks; David Appalachian Crafts of David, Ky., especially director Julie Johnson; Susan Campbell, owner of The Mountain Heritage Collection in Knoxville, Tenn.; Dr. Murray Scher; the Bristol Art Guild, especially artist Susan Updyke; Grace Spurrell; quilter Wynne Stewart; painter Nancy Earnest; the Historical Society of Washington County, Inc.; Louise Palmer; quilter Hazel Speer; chairmaker Curtis Buchanan

of Jonesborough, Tenn.; Kathleen Curtis Wilson; William Baylor Adams, Cedar Bluff, Va.; Fred H. Combs, Tazewell, Va.

All items are on loan or are gifts to the **Reece Museum**, a division of the center. We still welcome contributions, either antique or craft items, or financial sponsorship of items in the room to make them permanent acquisitions for the museum.

If you would like to see the room, would like more information, or would like to make a donation, please contact the center. ♦

DANCE BOOK PUBLISHED

Communities in Motion: Dance, Community and Tradition in America's Southeast and Beyond (280 pp., \$59.95) has been published by Greenwood Press. It is a collection of essays and interviews on vernacular dance; its co-editors are center assistant director **Jane Harris Woodside** and former center fellow, Susan Eike Spalding. For ordering information, write CASS/ETSU, Box 70556, Johnson City TN 37614-0556 or call 615-929-5348.

CENTER STAFF

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Charles Moore, Coordinator
Penelope Lane, Technical Clerk
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Frieda Souder, Secretary



Archives & Special Collections

Archives of Appalachia
Special Collections
University Archives



D. R. Beeson, Sr. Papers, Archives & Special Collections, ETSU

Beeson and Mathes with group of men at weather station on top of Mt. Mitchell, 1915.

Series Planned For Beeson Diaries

With the success of the recent publication of the D. R. Beeson, Sr. hiking diary, *In the Spirit of Adventure: A Hike in the Great Smoky Mountains* (noted in the last issue of *NewsCASS*), Panther Press has decided to publish all four hiking diaries housed in the Beeson Papers in the archives as a series titled, *In the Spirit of Adventure*.

In addition to the Great Smoky Mountain diary (1914) published this past December, the series will include the publication of North Carolina hikes taken by Beeson with ETSU educator and author C. Hodge Mathes to Grandfather Mountain (1913), Table Rock (1914), and to Mt. Mitchell (1915). These volumes will be published during 1995-96 with proceeds from royalties going to support Archives and Special Collections. The Mt. Mitchell diary is being published this spring, to be followed by the Grandfather Mountain diary this fall and the Table Rock diary early in 1996.

The diaries are being edited by **Norma Myers** and **Ned Irwin** of the archives in conjunction with Charles Maynard of Panther Press. Individual volumes will contain a transcript of the diary text, reproductions of photographs taken on the hikes and included in Beeson's diaries, maps, a biographical sketch of Beeson and Mathes, glossaries, and other introductory materials.

On the Mt. Mitchell hike, taken in May of 1915, Beeson and Mathes encounter descendants of Big Tom Wilson, and are led by Dolph Wilson to the site where his father, Big Tom, discovered the body of Dr. Elisha Mitchell (1793-1857), who had fallen to his death on the mountain later to bear his name.

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Collection Spotlight: PHOTOGRAPHING APPALACHIA

The department is fortunate to have a number of collections which photographically document the history and culture of the Southern Mountain region. Some collections focus on customs, ways of life and the people of the region, while others center on buildings and landscapes.

East Tennessee is the subject of a number of collections, foremost among them the **Sing Along With Appalachia**, the **Clifford Maxwell Photographs** and the **Burr Harrison Photographs**. **Sing Along With Appalachia** contains both negatives and prints of life during the mid to late 1930s in the area now encompassed by the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Photos depict such activities as making lye

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Selected Recent Acquisitions

EDWIN C. ALEXANDER COLLECTION

1904-52 and undated. .5 linear ft.

Consists of copies of newspaper clippings and scrapbook items on Crawford Alexander and his role in Elizabethton, Tenn. city government, including the bringing of the rayon plants to the city. In addition, there is correspondence and legal documents concerning Alexander and his father, J. H. Alexander. Donated by Edwin C. Alexander, Elizabethton, Tenn.

APPALACHIAN-SCOTTISH STUDIES COLLECTION

1991-94. .75 linear ft. Additions.

Consists of 1991 schedule of lectures and events; Ian Fraser's lecture notes on the settlement and geography of Scotland; two oversized maps of Scotland; an audio cassette of Gaelic songs; audio and video recordings of 1993 and 1994 lectures, interviews, and performances; student research papers done for the 1994 program; an audio cassette recording of Gaelic songs recorded by Donald Archie MacDonald with lyrics to the songs. Donated by Thomas Burton, Department of English, ETSU.

HIRAM FAIN DIARY

1850-70. 1 item.

Consists of a photocopy of the original diary kept by Hiram Fain. Original in the possession of the East Tennessee Historical Society, Knoxville, Tenn. Donated by John Fain, Memphis, Tenn.

CHARLES GUNTER, JR. COLLECTION

1994. Addition.

Consists of nine audio cassette recordings of interviews with area residents conducted for Gunter's oral folklife project. Interviews focus on life in Appalachia during the "Great Depression" of the 1930s. Donated by Charles Gunter, Jr., Dept. of Geography and Geology, ETSU.

JOSEPH S. HALL PAPERS

1931-88. 7 linear ft. Addition.

Consists of audiotape recordings of interviews and music (1937-c. 1969) taped by Hall, miscellaneous audiotapes, 16mm and 8mm film recordings, and audiodiscs. In addition, two linear feet of paper records contain field notes, indexes and informant lists, ballads, and Smoky Mountain lore, as well as books and journals (1931-88). Donated by Michael Montgomery, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S. C.

HARRIS-WOFFORD FAMILY HISTORY

1990-92. .25 linear ft.

Consists of a photocopy of a narrative on the history of the Harris and Wofford families written by Charles Wofford. Donated by Charles Wofford, Johnson City, Tenn.

LEE R. HERNDON COLLECTION

1958-78. 1,100 slides.

Consists of 1,100 color slides of birds and flora of East Tennessee, Florida, and Texas taken by Lee R. Herndon. Donated by Lee R. Herndon, Elizabethton, Tenn.

ABRAHAM JOBE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

1850-70. 4 folders.

Consists of a photocopy of the autobiography of Abraham Jobe. Original in the Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tenn. Donated by Mildred Kozsuch, Jonesborough, Tenn.

MAXINE KENNY COLLECTION

1977-87. 3.5 linear ft.

Consists of materials on environmental issues in Appalachia, including clippings, interview transcripts for public radio programs, and audio cassette recordings of interviews taken for "A Time to Reap" and "Down to Earth: the Appalachian Family Farm." Donated by Maxine Kenny, Nickelsville, Va.

B. CARROLL REECE MUSEUM RECORDS

1981-94. 10 linear ft. Additions.

Consists of office files of the museum, including material on grants, meetings, scholarships, exhibits, museum-sponsored activities, museum management, regional and state organizations for Tennessee artists, financial records (1987-91), files of the Aesthetics and Heritage Committee (1986-94), and personnel records (1982-91). Donated by Margaret Carr and Blair White, Reece Museum, ETSU.

ARCHIVES STAFF

Norma Myers, Director
Marie Tedesco, Technical Services Archivist
Ned Irwin, Public Services Archivist
Ed Speer, Library Assistant
Georgia Greer, Secretary

Special Collections

WAYNE SCOTT RIAL COLLECTION

1987-94. .5 linear ft.

Consists of materials on gospel singing in southern Appalachia, including a report written by Rial and a series of index cards containing announcements of gospel sings in the region, 1987-94. Donated by Wayne Scott Rial, Bristol, Tenn.

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY COLLECTION

1980-93. .5 linear ft.

Consists of materials on Roan Mountain (N.C.-Tenn.) and Yellow Mountain (N.C.), including reports, a case statement booklet, a computer disc and printout on the flora and fauna on Roan Mountain, and three reports on the flora and fauna on Yellow Mountain. Donated by Jerry Nagle, Dept. of Biological Sciences, ETSU.

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS RECORDS

1949-79. 19 items. Addition.

Consists of 19 reels of 16mm film related to East Tennessee State University, primarily to ETSU football games, including Burley Bowls in 1949, 1952-53, the 1969 Grantland Rice Bowl, and a 1979 game with James Madison University. Transferred from B. Carroll Reece Museum, ETSU.

W. B. "PAT" WATSON COLLECTION

1920-85. 1 linear ft. and 5 oversize folders.

Consists of road maps of Tennessee, Johnson City, Knoxville, and Chattanooga; photographs (including post cards) of Johnson City, Tenn. and the area; newspapers from Johnson City, Maryville, Bristol, and Knoxville, Tenn.; memorabilia on Johnson City, Tenn.; pamphlets, brochures, and clippings on Johnson City, Tenn. Donated by Herstyne Watson, Gadsden, Ala.

WCYB-TV COLLECTION

1994. 1 item.

Consists of one VHS format videotape recording entitled "Bristol: The Birthplace of Country Music." Donated by Greg Wallace, WCYB-TV, Bristol, Va. ♦

Beeson, continued from page 3

As in the earlier diary published, the account of the trip is filled with Beeson's dry and subtle wit, along with insights into what was involved in those early hiking days of making one's way to the highest point in the eastern United States and safely back down again.

The **Mt. Mitchell diary** may be purchased through the Center for Appalachian Studies & Services at ETSU, from the Panther Press, P. O. Box 636, Seymour, Tenn. 37865, or in area bookstores. The prices are \$12.95 (hardback) and \$7.95 (paperback). ♦

OTHER RECENT DONATIONS

* Two film chains from **WCYB-TV**, Bristol, Va., through the efforts of **Greg Wallace**.

* A financial gift made in the memory of **Kent Herrin** by **Mary Beth Spina**.

* A financial gift from former archives director **Richard M. Kesner** to both the Archives Fund and the Tom Daniel Fund.

Photographs, continued from page 3

soap, quilting, cutting sugar cane and weaving on a loom. Both the Maxwell photos and the Burr Harrison photos concentrate on Johnson City. The Maxwell collection includes prints of businesses, street scenes and events in Johnson City in the years from 1950-70. The Harrison photos concentrate on Johnson City in the early 20th century.

A number of collections contain images from East Tennessee and/or Southwest Virginia. The **Kelly and Green Collection**, for example, contains prints and negatives of Bristol, Tennessee and Virginia schools, churches and businesses, 1934-40. The **Charles Tiller Collection** includes black and white prints of logging in Southwest Virginia, while the **Kenneth Murray Photographs** consists of black and white prints on various subjects, among them coal mining, farm life, handcrafts, country stores, tobacco growing, railroads and plowing.

West Virginia is represented in the **Jeanne M. Rasmussen Collection**. Rasmussen's work concentrates on the coal-mining areas of that state. Contained in the collection are photos of miners and their families, as well as prints of mines, strip-mined land, and coal-mining communities.

The archives holds a great many photographs which relate to railroads. Prominent among the collections which focus on railroads are the **Henry Blackwell Photographs**, the **James T. Dowdy, Sr. Photographs**, the **James A. Goforth Collection**, the **William Cary Hattan Photographs**, and the **Jack Underwood Photographs**. The Blackwell collection consists of images which depict the August 13, 1940 flood on the Linville River Railroad. The Dowdy prints include images of the East Tennessee and Western Carolina Railroad, the Linville River Railroad, and the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railroad. The Goforth collection contains prints of places along the route of the Clinchfield Railway, while the Hattan prints focus on the building of the Clinchfield in the first and second decades of the 20th centuries. The Underwood photos are contained in a small collection which contains copy negatives and contacts of the 1904 New Market train wreck and other railroad-related topics.

These and other collections in the archives contribute to the photographic portrayal of the Southern Mountain region. ♦

Carroll Reece Museum

EXHIBITIONS

Printmaking

The Reece continues its ongoing series spotlighting printmaking techniques. We open the month of April with an exhibit of contemporary works from Pace Galleries in New York City. This collection includes examples of aquatint, etching, serigraph, silkscreen, woodcut, drypoint, stratograph, relief print, and intaglio, among others. In June, we will continue showing various prints from the permanent collection in Gallery A.

Southern Voices

"This exhibit seeks to explore the ways in which the speech of Southerners exemplifies southern culture and defines it. It delves into the origins of the language, as much for the purpose of dispelling old myths as for clarifying and defining the truths they convey. Linguists tell us that the voices of the South are more alike than different. Regardless of racial, religious, or professional divisions, and regardless even of differences in national origin, there is unity in the speech of this region, grounded in common experience of the complex whole that is the South." (brochure, *Southern Voices: English in the American South*) A project of the Tennessee Humanities Council, the interactive exhibit, "Southern Voices," will aid your unraveling of stereotypical images of Southerners, discovery of word origins, and allow you to see and hear five Southerners from across the South.

First Tennessee Bank Show

The Seventeenth Annual First Tennessee Bank Art Competition and Exhibition fills the museum in May with the finest of regional artistic endeavors. Opening on the evening of May 4, the "Bank Show" is a collaborative effort, combining the resources and talents of the Johnson City Area Arts Council, First Tennessee Bank, regional artists, and the Carroll Reece Museum. The competition is open to persons residing in the state of Tennessee or within a 200-mile radius of Johnson City, Tenn. Jeff Fleming, chief curator for the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) in Winston-Salem, will serve as juror and will select work for inclusion in the exhibit and designate award winners. The First Award winner will be invited to have a one-person exhibit the following year. Sammie Nicely, First Award recipient in 1994, will present an exhibit this year at the Arts Council Gallery, downtown Johnson City, in conjunction with the "Bank Show" at the Reece.



"Regaining Our Heritage . . ."
by Sammie Nicely

The Hidden Warriors: Prisoners of War

Fifty years ago, Americans celebrated the ending of World War II. On May 8, 1945, German forces surrendered to the combined Allied Army; on August 14 of that same year, the Japanese Imperial Army also surrendered. Although the fighting had ceased, the conflict continued as negotiations determined the fates of those captured during the war. In most cases, prisoners of war were allowed to return to their families, while others were further detained to be tried for their alleged war crimes.

While awaiting such a trial, a group of German SS prisoners of war passed the time creating works of art. These paintings reflect the beauty of their environment, rather than the horrors of war. Included is a portrait of their guard, a soldier from Greeneville, Tenn., to whom they presented their collection of art. This collection, along with war posters and other paraphernalia, will explore the world conflict with a closer examination of the issues of being a prisoner of war. In commemoration of the end of the war, the Reece's summer exhibit will emphasize various aspects of the confinement of both Allied and Axis prisoners of war.



Tom Root in his studio

Tom and Peggy Root: Recent Work

The Reece's early autumn exhibit will feature the figurative/traditional oil paintings of artists Tom and Peggy Root of Jonesborough, Tenn. Since moving to the area from Lyme, Conn. two and a half years ago, the Roots have established themselves as classically trained artists as evidenced by their finely detailed and precisely executed portraits, landscapes, and still lifes. Both attended the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, Fla., and continued their studies at the Lyme Academy of Fine Art in Connecticut. Peggy's luminous landscapes evoke a mood of tranquility, while Tom's portraits and detailed still lifes are reminiscent of the work of the old masters. Tom is also at work on a children's book, which he has written and illustrated.

ARTISTS IN ACTION

April's Artist in Action will be Darla Beverage, a weaver from Gray, Tenn. Ms. Beverage will demonstrate her craft on the museum's large antique two-harness loom. She has produced award-winning tapestries as well as functional clothing which she markets throughout the area, and currently serves as secretary for the Overmountain Weavers' Guild.

The Reece Museum's curator, Blair H. White, will demonstrate jewelry-making techniques as Artist in Action for May. White has taught numerous workshops and has served as an adjunct faculty member in ETSU's Department of Art. He currently designs and produces jewelry and small sculpture in a variety of media.

LUNCH BREAK AT THE REECE

The Appalachian Recorder Ensemble will entertain the Lunch Break audience in April with early music from the Renaissance and Baroque periods. The four-member group, playing together since 1992, provides non-traditional music for educational and social events of all types.

May's Lunch Break features the talents of folk musician Stevan Jackson. Jackson, known locally for his "Sense and Nonsense" column in *The Loafer*, has entertained audiences throughout the area with his guitar, Irish harp, and storytelling.

Artists in Action and Lunch Break at the Reece conclude with the May offerings, and will resume in September.

PROGRAM NOTES

A free public address will precede the FORM-sponsored trip to Charleston, S.C., for the Spoleto Festival.

In association with our summer focus on World War II, the museum will present three public lectures and a panel discussion in which historians and former POWs will broaden the public's awareness of conditions on both sides of the battlefield and in prisoner-of-war camps.

The museum's slide curator, Nancy Jane Earnest, will conduct her annual painting workshop on Saturday, May 13. Earnest will demonstrate watercolor technique and assist students in developing their own interpretive style.

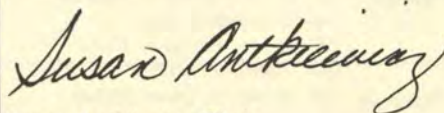
In conjunction with his early autumn exhibition at the museum, Tom Root will present a workshop in which students may practice classical oil painting techniques which are employed in many of his exhibited works.

ART SCHOLARSHIP NEEDS YOUR HELP!

For the past 26 years many deserving art students have received support from the Brightly Memorial Art Scholarship, and we wish to continue to provide this assistance. However, the museum has recently been notified by the Brightly Foundation that the funds have been exhausted.

Eligibility is open to all high school seniors, college students, and others in the area who wish to further their art education. The recipients of the scholarship have traditionally been chosen through an annual spring competition. A panel of judges decides on the monetary amount of the scholarship to be awarded to each recipient.

The Friends of Reece Museum has established an endowment fund for an annual scholarship, but in the meantime the museum must raise \$2000 for the 1995 competition. We encourage you to make a contribution to this important part of the arts, possibly an endangered species. Please make checks payable to **FORM 1995 Scholarship Fund**, c/o Reece Museum, Box 70660, ETSU, Johnson City, TN 37614-0660.



Susan Antkiewicz, Chair
FORM Membership/Development Committee



REMINDER: The Reece Museum will be closed:

**Friday - Sunday, April 14-16, for the Easter holiday
Tuesday, July 4, for Independence Day.**

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A Southern Appalachian Reader - edited by Nellie McNeil and Joyce Squibb. An anthology of fiction, poetry, and essays. An excellent text for high school and college classes. \$14.95.

Some Ballad Folks - by Tom Burton. Pioneering study of traditional ballad singers from Beech Mountain, N.C. Book - \$6.50, accompanying tape - \$5.00.

One For The Higger: Jack Higgs, A Man For All Seasons - edited by Lyle I. Olsen. Festschrift - a collection of articles by Higgs' colleagues, former students, and friends. \$10.00.

In the Spirit of Adventure: A 1914 Smoky Mountain Hiking Journal - written by D.R. Beeson, Sr. Taken from the Beeson diaries in the Archives of Appalachia, edited by Norma Myers, Ned Irwin, and Charles Maynard. \$7.95 paper, \$12.95 cloth.

Recordings

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JACK HIGGS HONORED WITH LAUREL LEAVES AWARD

Dr. Jack Higgs, recently retired from the English faculty at East Tennessee State University, has been named as one of two recipients of this year's Laurel Leaves Award from the **Appalachian Consortium**. The consortium, a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of Southern Appalachia, gives this annual award to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Southern Appalachia and the people of the region.

The Laurel Leaves Award is a sculptured relief of the laurel worked in aluminum, then hand painted and mounted on wormy chestnut and oak taken from an old barn in Avery County, N. C. Higgs will receive the award at the April 7th meeting of the consortium at Mars Hill College in North Carolina.

Higgs, nominated by the center, has a record of impressive accomplishments, particularly in the field of Appalachian literature. He is co-editor (with previous Laurel Leaves Award winner Ambrose Manning) of *Voices from the Hills: Selected Readings of Southern Appalachia*, the most widely used anthology of Appalachian writing since its publication in 1967. The University of Tennessee Press has just published Higgs' *Appalachia Inside Out: A Sequel to Voices from the Hills* (in two volumes), co-edited with Manning and

Encyclopedia, continued from page 1

science correspondent, Pentagon correspondent, and White House correspondent. A native of Florence, Ala., he is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and attended Columbia University on a Sloan-Rockefeller Fellowship in Advanced Science Writing. In 1988-89, **Abramson** was the Mary and Barry Bingham Adjunct Professor at Berea College, during which time he wrote his biography of W. Averill Harriman, *Spanning the Century*. Abramson currently serves as executive director of Protect Historic America, a national committee promoting historic preservation.

Several university presses have expressed interest in publishing the encyclopedia. The project will likely take five years to complete. In the next few months, the center will assemble the advisory committee and the senior editors for the project and develop the budget and funding for the project.

The center is asking anyone interested in contributing to the project to send a letter and short vita to the center office. We welcome ideas for topics that should be covered and suggestions for sources of financial support. ♦

Jim Wayne Miller (also a Laurel Leaves winner).

Higgs has published articles on Appalachia for *Appalachian Journal*, *An Encyclopedia of East Tennessee*, *Appalachia/Appalachian Literature*, *Mossy Creek Journal*, and *Essays in Honor of Cratis Williams*. Just last year, Higgs was honored by the Appalachian Studies Association with the **Cratis Williams Award** for outstanding teaching and scholarship in Appalachian studies. He is widely known for his work on Appalachian humor, both as practitioner and scholar, having contributed to two books and several programs on the topic. His command of knowledge in many fields coupled with a great wit keeps him in high demand as a speaker.

All of us at ETSU are proud that Jack Higgs is our colleague. He gives unstintingly of his time and energy to students, colleagues, and our regional communities. Jack Higgs cares about learning, and he cares about the people of Appalachia. ♦

IN MEMORIAM

Everyone in the Appalachian Studies family mourns the death of **John Stephenson** on December 6, 1994. Throughout his entire academic career and especially during the years he served as president of Berea College in Kentucky, John influenced the development of Appalachian Studies and contributed to improvement of life in Appalachia in countless ways. He was mentor and friend to many people, including me.

When I was a young university professor, just becoming involved in Appalachian Studies, John always made me feel welcome. His bright smile, kind eyes, softly cadenced voice, and passionate commitment to Appalachia commanded presence in every Appalachian Studies gathering I attended and made me want to be like him. When we finally had an opportunity at Virginia Tech, where I taught for many years, to get grant money from the National Endowment for the Humanities for an Appalachian Studies program, John was a member of the site visitation team. We got our program. It changed the course of my life.

The last conversation I had with John was when

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In Memoriam, continued from page 11

we shared a panel at the retirement party for Loyal Jones in Berea. I concluded my remarks with a quote from something John had written about our commitment to Appalachia some years earlier that I always loved. John wrote: "How many of us are there...who have made secret pledges to ourselves that *we will not forget* this time, that we will work in large or small ways, quietly or noisomely, for as long as we draw breath, to make some small difference in what is known about this place and improving life for the people of this place. And what an incalculable difference is made by this grand conspiracy, this community of pledged lives, this not-so-secret society of the committed." After the session, John asked me, "Did I write that? That's pretty good, isn't it?" Yes, John, it is good. It came from the heart of a good man. You will be missed.

—Jean Haskell Speer



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