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News CASS: Newsletter of the Center for  
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Summer 1997

### News CASS: Newsletter of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services (spring/summer, 1997)

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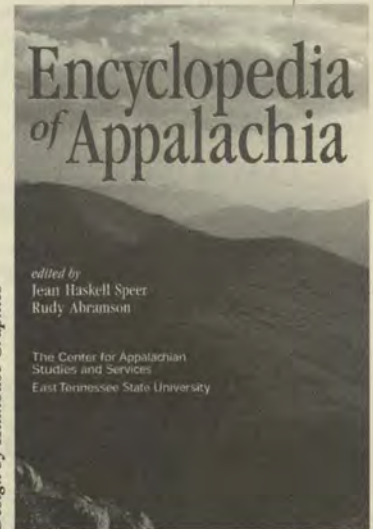
## UT PRESS NAMED PUBLISHER OF APPALACHIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA

The Center will join forces with the University of Tennessee Press to produce the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*. After meeting with several potential publishers, the co-editors, Center staff, and the Editorial Board of the *Encyclopedia* decided enthusiastically on the offer from the **University of Tennessee Press**.

The Press brings rich resources to the project. They have a highly professional and energetic staff, impressive technological capabilities, and a strong marketing and distribution program, plus a location in the heart of the Appalachian region. Most importantly for this project, the Press shares our

commitment to the study and appreciation of Appalachia. As one staff member at the Press commented, "Our continued love and interest in **Appalachian Studies** makes us a perfect candidate for this encyclopedia. We have the support and backing of the university administration, the dean of libraries, and the entire staff of the Press."

Center staff, Advisory Board members, and Editorial Board members of the *Encyclopedia* are excited by our partnership with the University of Tennessee Press and the prospect of what we can accomplish together. ♦



## ELDERHOSTEL STUDIES SCOTTISH TRADITIONS

**Appalachian-Scottish & Irish Studies**, in conjunction with the School of Continuing Studies and Buffalo Mountain Camp and Retreat Center, will be sponsoring its next Elderhostel class during the week of April 20-25. This will be the third such program presented, with the first two being extremely successful. In the past, hostelers have come to our area from as far away as California and Florida.

The theme of the Elderhostel week is **Scottish and**

**Appalachian culture**. The basic class structure is divided like Gaul into three parts: Scottish and Appalachian music, Scottish and Appalachian storytelling, and Scottish dance. Each portion will include instruction on the technique of each traditional art form.

The music section is called "From Scotland to Appalachia: The Evolution of Country Music." Students will take a musical journey from the ancient glens of the Campbells of Scotland to the modern-day Glen Campbells of country music. On this musical excursion, students will "travel" from Scotland to Ireland and on to the Southern Appalachian region of the United States where the roots of

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## CENTER BENEFITS EXTENDED

In recognition of the fact that all Center programs are united and that support for any one of them is support for the whole Center, we are now providing membership privileges (three issues of *Now & Then* magazine, *NewsCASS*, discounts on publications, etc.) to those who support any of our programs--the Reece Museum, Archives of Appalachia, Bluegrass, Appalachian-Scottish & Irish Studies--at the minimum \$15 membership level. For example, members of the Friends of the Reece (FORM) recently started receiving *Now & Then*. We hope all our "new" members will enjoy these benefits of membership and hope everyone will continue, and consider increasing, their support for the Center. ♦

*NewsCASS*, the joint newsletter of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, Archives and Special Collections, and the Reece Museum, East Tennessee State University, is published three times a year. Center members receive *NewsCASS* as part of the benefits of membership.

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*Now & Then*

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## HAIL AND FAREWELL!

**Shari Brown**, the Center's able and witty grants coordinator, left the Center in January to develop her own firm in regional land use planning. During Shari's time with the Center, she helped develop a significant number of grants, improved the Center's access to information on grants, and administered the Center's travel grants program. Her knowledge of regional planning added to the abilities she brought to her position. Everyone in the Center wishes Shari well with her new venture. We will miss her wry humor and energy. ♦

### *Elderhostel, continued from page 1*

modern country music run deep. Through experiencing the live sounds of the Celtic harp, the Appalachian dulcimer, the Autoharp, banjo, guitar, and ballad singing, students will discover how the sound that has become popular the world over began in Scotland, was reared in Appalachia, and found its adulthood in Nashville. Basic ballad songwriting technique will be discussed and students encouraged to write original ballads. **Stevan Jackson**, the director of Appalachian-Scottish & Irish Studies and a performer of traditional music will be instructor for this class.

The second portion of the class is entitled "The Storytelling Tradition of the Scotch-Irish and Appalachia." Students will learn about cultural links through history as well as the oral traditions of these two distinctive cultures. Many of the same stories show up thousands of miles and centuries apart. This course will explore how the similarities of their storytelling traditions are played out in both areas by studying examples of stories that are found in both traditional cultures. For many people in these areas, their storytelling and their lives are intertwined. Students will be captivated by the magical weaver of stories and instructor **Dianne Hackworth** from Boone, N. C. Basic storytelling techniques will be offered so the students may learn to weave their own words into magical stories.

"Step we gaily on we go" will be the theme of the Scottish dance portion of the Elderhostel where the students will learn a type of dancing that is easily accessible to most everyone. Students will learn many of the intricate patterns that make this very unique form of dancing popular the world over. Whether you have two left feet or you trip the light fantastic across the Arthur Murray ballroom, Scottish Country Dancing is a cultural experience that tugs at the very soul of anyone with Scottish blood or anyone with an interest in the land of kilt. **Dr. Bernard Kaiman** will be the instructor for the Scottish dancing segment.

Besides these classes emphasizing the culture of Scotland and Appalachia, the students will also participate in a Scottish bagpipe lecture/demonstration, learn about Appalachia while touring Tennessee's oldest town, Jonesborough, and walk the grounds of the Tipton-Haynes Historic Site. As always, the week will close out with a session demonstrating singing, storytelling, and dancing by the students for the students. For more information contact ELDERHOSTEL at (617) 426-8056 or Christina Dowling Soka at (423) 753-6678. ♦

## REECE MUSEUM

# COLLECTIONS FLAVOR EXHIBIT "TASTE"

Mourning ring  
from the  
collection of  
Margaret  
Gough



## BASIC GAELIC COURSE OFFERED FALL SEMESTER

East Tennessee State University will be offering a new language course in the fall of 1997 for all those interested in Scottish and Celtic culture. *Basic Gaelic I* will be given under the joint sponsorship of Appalachian-Scottish & Irish Studies, ETSU Continuing Studies, and Comunn na Gàidhlig (The Gaelic Society) of Scotland. It will be an evening class and will be available for traditional and nontraditional students of our area. *Basic Gaelic I* may be taken for credit, or it may be audited.

Scottish Gaelic is one of the existing languages of Scotland, belonging to the Celtic group of languages that includes Irish Gaelic, Manx, Welsh, Cornish, and Breton. Of these, only Scottish Gaelic, Irish Gaelic (usually called simply Irish), Welsh, and Breton are all that are still spoken. With roots that go back to central Europe, Gaelic has been spoken in Ireland and Scotland for over 2,000 years, having been brought first to Ireland and then from there to Scotland by settlers known as Gaidheil around the third century. Irish and Scottish Gaelic were the same, with regional differences of dialect, until about 200 years ago when they began to diverge linguistically to become two separate languages.

Scottish Gaelic was spoken by many of the settlers to the New World, with a colony of speakers settling in North Carolina. There was Gaelic being spoken in the Cape Fear region of that state into the 20th century. Reduced at one time to about 80,000 speakers, Gaelic is presently undergoing a renaissance. The number of learners is estimated as high as 23,000 worldwide, with the majority being in the United States. Many of these learners are using self-help texts because there are very few formal ways in which to learn the ancestral Celtic language of Scotland. With the cooperation of our friends in Scotland, it is now possible for East Tennes-

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The permanent holdings of most museums are characteristically diverse due to the nature of collecting. A museum that focuses on art and history would understandably have an even greater diversity in its holdings. ETSU's Reece Museum is no exception. A regular visitor to the Reece is likely to be aware of some of the museum's collection diversity by seeing a variety of exhibits identified as "from the permanent collection."

The intent of the exhibit, "A Taste," on display from April 24-May 25 is to work against the Reece's normal exhibit design of selecting objects of a similar media, technique, era, or other "theme." Instead, an effort has been made to select objects from the permanent collection that demonstrate and illustrate our diverse range. Consequently, "A Taste" is an eclectic sampling of the ten thousand plus artifacts, objects, and artworks housed in the permanent collection of Reece Museum.

The historical collections began as a Department of History project in the late 1920s and developed through the years as the museum was housed in the university's library. The art department also had been collecting for a number of years and by 1965 had built a quality core art collection. Both the history and art collections were incorporated into one collection and combined with the B. Carroll Reece collection, at the museum's opening on October 10, 1965.

For the exhibit "A Taste," the Reece is pleased to display items which it has housed since its inception, along with items only recently acquired. Included in the exhibit will be a glass washboard from the **Mrs. I. G. Murray Collection**, a painting by Francine Tint, an insulator from the Tennessee

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## MUSEUM HOSTS REGIONAL ART SHOW

Over the past 18 years, the **First Tennessee Bank Art Competition and Exhibition** has become recognized as one of the finest art exhibits in the region. From the initial displays at the main office of the bank in Johnson City, to the present-day exhibits at the Reece Museum, the event has grown each year.

A major portion of the show's appeal comes from its diversity; works are accepted in a variety of styles, formats, and media, including paintings, drawings, photography, and sculpture. Last year's competition drew more than 330 entries, which were juried to an exhibit of 70 artworks. The competition is open to all Tennessee residents and to anyone living within a 200-mile radius of Johnson City.

This year, the selected works will be shown at the Reece beginning with the opening reception and awards presentations the evening of **June 5**. The exhibition will continue through Sunday, July 13. In addition to prize money

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## ARCHIVES

# SELECTED RECENT ACQUISITIONS

### APPALACHIAN-SCOTTISH AND IRISH STUDIES COLLECTION

1996. 42 tapes. Addition.

Consists of audiotape recordings of lectures and performances held during the 1996 Appalachian-Scottish and Irish Studies summer course and relates to such topics as Scottish-Irish immigration, ballads, folk music, and Scottish history and culture. Donated by Stevan Jackson, CASS, ETSU.

### CENTER FOR APPALACHIAN STUDIES AND SERVICES RECORDS

c. 1990. 21 tapes. Addition.

Consists of 20 audiotapes and one videotape related to bluegrass music, the "Bluegrass Heartland" radio series, and the making of hammered dulcimers. Artists featured in the recordings include Dan Crary, Bill Emerson, Josh Graves, Alison Krauss, Mark O'Connor, Ricky Skaggs, and Ralph Stanley. Donated by Charles Moore, CASS, ETSU.

### CHARLES GUNTER, JR. COLLECTION

1996. .5 ft. Addition.

Consists of seven audiocassettes, release forms, and a transcript of oral history interviews with area residents on such topics as Appalachian music, Unicoi Co., Tenn., history, government in Bristol, Tenn., farming, Greeneville, Tenn., history. Donated by Charles Gunter, Jr., Department of Geography, Geology, and Geomatics, ETSU.

### JOHN L. KIENER COLLECTION

1993-96. 2 ft. Addition.

Consists of correspondence, teaching materials, pamphlets, and miscellaneous printed matter related to such topics as adult literacy, the Washington County, Tenn., court system, the Tennessee bicentennial, the Johnson City Symphony, and local politics. Donated by John L. Kiener, Johnson City, Tenn.

### MAUDE MCGAHA COLLECTION

1865-1930. 1 folder.

Consists of materials related to the military service of John Black, of Cocke Co., Tenn., as a sergeant in the First Tennessee Cavalry, U. S. A. during the Civil War and includes his military discharge, pension certificate, death certificate, correspondence, and other printed matter related to Black's service pension. Donated by Maude McGaha, Richlands, Va.

### GLEN ROBERTS COLLECTION

1975-78. 34 tapes. Addition.

Consists of recordings of bluegrass musicians on Roberts' radio program and at music festivals. Performers include the Country Gentlemen, Osborne Brothers, Red Clay Ramblers, Seldom Seen, and Ralph Stanley. Donated by Charles Moore, CASS, ETSU.

### CARL WOODWARD PAPERS

1924-68. .1 ft.

Papers of this former ETSU physics professor include photographs, newsclippings, programs, and miscellaneous printed matter related to Woodward's military service, education, and teaching career. Donated by Edith Keys, Johnson City, Tenn.

Archives and Special Collections thanks the following for donations of materials to the department recently: Augusta Heritage Center, Dr. Martha W. Bradley, Dr. Thomas G. Burton, Ron Campbell, Charles Moore, Robert T. Nave, Rebecca Nunley, Carol Ann Pierson, James H. Quillen, Gene Rutledge, and David Whisnant. ♦

### *Taste, continued from page 3*

Valley Authority's first voltage transmission line, a mourning ring from the **Margaret Gough Collection**, a slide rule from the ETSU Department of Mathematics, and the championship football from the 1969 Ohio Valley Conference. The museum intends to offer more exhibits in the vein of "A Taste" as it continues to strive to showcase and increase its fine permanent collection. ♦

## CENTER GETS GOOD GRADE IN STATE STUDY

Last year, the Center and all Centers of Excellence in the state, underwent a mandatory five-year review of programs and performance. The Center was required to prepare an extensive five-year report and spend an intensive review session with the evaluation team from the **Tennessee Board of Regents** during a site visit. Everyone on the Center staff, as well as university administrators, faculty, students, Advisory Council members, and community members who work with us, contributed to the effort. It was a successful effort, with the Center re-authorized for funding for another five years. In his letter to the Center, Tennessee Board of Regents **Chancellor Charles E. Smith** noted, "The evaluation report recognized the Center's outstanding accomplishments and the quality of service that it provided. Clearly, the Center has achieved a level of excellence that brings recognition and acclaim to the University, the System, and the state." The Center extends a thank you to our university administration, faculty, and students and to all our members and supporters without whom this good report would not have been possible. ♦

The Center for Appalachian Studies and Services awards travel grants twice each year to supplement travel funding for research about the Appalachian region and the presentation of research findings at professional meetings. Three grants were awarded in the December 1996 funding cycle:

**James Axtell**, the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va., received funding to defray the costs of traveling to ETSU in early April to deliver a public lecture on the history of Indian-white relations in the 18th century Southeast. He will be featuring the Cherokee Indian tribe and the deerskin trade of the Southern Appalachians. While at the

university, Axtell will guest-teach a class in early American history and meet with graduate students and faculty.

**Stevan Jackson**, director of Appalachian-Scottish & Irish Studies at ETSU,

## CENTER TRAVEL GRANTS AWARDED

received funding to travel to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga for the 1997 Southern Regional meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies in February. He presented "Running for the Hills: A Specific Case of Irish Diaspora in the Appalachian Mountains." His paper discussed the Irish Diaspora in general and then

focuses on the influx of Irish athletes to ETSU. In particular, the paper takes a look at how these athletes' presence affects culture both in Appalachia and in Ireland as they travel back and forth between America and their homeland.

**Kathleen Wilson**, director of cultural exhibits at the William King Regional Arts center, Abingdon, Va., received funding to defray the costs of studying the material culture of the textile industry in Scotland and Ireland. The focus of her study will be to understand better how the process of turning flax fibers into linen cloth greatly influences domestic life, the economy, and the inevitable migration of many Scottish and Irish people to America.

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## APPALACHIAN-SCOTTISH & IRISH STUDIES

# TEA TOTALS UP TO SUCCESS

March 10 felt the gentle winds of spring blowing in on the 1997 Appalachian-Scottish & Irish Studies **Tì Ard (High Tea)**, which was held at the Jonesborough Visitor's Center in Tennessee's oldest town. Once again, over 100 fellow Appalachian, Scottish, and Irish cultural supporters joined in the fun with a resounding *Fàilte* and a *Howdy* while the meeting hall was decked out in banners and standards and a full-size poster of Mel Gibson as William Wallace from the recent historical blockbuster movie *Braveheart*. There were books to browse concerning Scottish and Irish history and culture and a video running of one of the previous trips by an Appalachian-Scottish & Irish Studies class as well as beautiful scenic views of Scotland and Ireland.

The participants at the 1997 **Tì Ard** were treated to some wonderful snacks of the American variety as well as traditional Scottish and Irish faire. There were assorted blends of coffee and tea, of course, but also a good supply of other cuisine as well, such as traditional scones and Scottish shortbread (we were told they were the low-fat variety). The ever popular Scottish haggis (for those who could stomach the makings) was piped in by **Dave Macdonald**, a Scottish clan chief by heritage.

Clan Chief Macdonald provided other piping entertainment. Other entertainment included harp playing and ballad singing. There were two main highlights of the evening from across the waters. **David MacCrossan**, or as he is known by his Gaelic name, Daibhidh MacanChroisàn, came from Glasgow to share his time

with us. Daibhidh works as the director of economic development for Comunn Na Gàidhlig, The Gaelic Society. He shared

*continued on page 11*

### *Gaelic, continued from page 3*

see State University to be at the forefront of the worldwide Gaelic Renaissance.

*Basic Gaelic I* will be designed to equip the students with basic conversational and personal language survival skills in Scottish Gaelic. The scope of the course is based on the Scottish module currently in use with the Scottish educational system. The class will be taught by a native Gaelic speaker from Scotland provided to ETSU by Comunn na Gàidhlig. The class will run approximately 14 weeks during the fall semester of 1997. This will include a two-or-three-day immersion and orientation at the beginning of the semester to acquaint the students with the Gaelic language, 12 weeks of classroom work one night per week, and a follow-up two-or-three-day immersion session at the end of the class. The core materials for the Gaelic class will be the highly successful *Speaking Our Language* television series and study packs. If this class is successful, we hope future ones in Gaelic will be offered.

For further information on the *Basic Gaelic I* class or other aspects of Appalachian-Scottish & Irish Studies, contact Stevan Jackson, director, at Box 70556, Johnson City TN 37614 or phone at (423) 439-8465 or by e-mail to jacksons@etsuvax.etsu-tn.edu. ♦

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*continued on page 8*



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The staff of Reece Museum has determined that there is a need in the permanent collection for items from both world wars. We have been fortunate to receive a number of items from various donors over the last few months. Most recently, Ms. **Betsy W. Parker** of Kingsport contributed a collection of items from her grandfather **Robert Lee White's** estate. Mr. White died in December 1996, just two months before his 102nd birthday. He was from Southwest Virginia and served in the American Expeditionary Force in France during World War I. His collection includes uniform items, a gas mask, a shaving kit, trunk, and

## WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II ITEMS BUILD REECE COLLECTIONS

other military gear. Supporting documentation includes a small book on the history of his unit, as well as handwritten notes and a map concerning his experiences in France.

The uniform which belonged to **Col. Kent Herrin**, a Johnson City attorney, was contributed by **Nancy Herrin** late in 1996. Col. Herrin was a 1941 graduate of ETSU and served for 30 years in the U. S. Army Reserve. Additionally, **Rosemary Barson** has

generously donated her husband **Bill's** army uniform. Mr. Barson served in World War II.

Other World War I and World War II items are included in a large collection from Mr. **Howard Bliss**. The Bliss collection consists of uniform items and various insignia from the World War II era, as well as a lighter, pocket knife, and "canvas water bucket" from World War I. ♦

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## **MEMBERSHIPS GIVE YOU NOW & THEN AND MUCH MORE**

Membership in the Center provides public recognition of your generosity and your support for our work in the Appalachian region. No matter what size the investment, a contribution to the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services through membership brings important returns. Your benefits of membership are:

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- Members receive the Center's newsletter, **NewsCASS**, three times a year. Members are publicly acknowledged in the newsletter once each year.

- Members receive special member rates and discounts on books, recordings, and other publications or productions, study tours, study abroad, conferences, and programs.

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Friends of the Center are also encouraged to support specific programs with special funds already established for them.

YES! I'd like to make an additional contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to:

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FORM members receive Museum and CASS publications, a membership card, discounts on FORM-sponsored events, and preferred seating at FORM-sponsored lectures and public forums. Those interested in joining FORM should contact the Reece Museum at (423)439-4392.

- FORM Student \$5.00
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## THANKS TO F.O.R.M. AND OUTGOING BOARD

**MEMBERS** Friends of the Reece Museum (FORM) has worked tirelessly for the past few months on several projects in support of museum programs. Most recently, a group of Friends members put together a major fundraiser, "Mesches and Jazz after Dark," held on April 10. The event was designed to raise funding for the FORM Scholarship Endowment and featured distinctive door prizes and jazz music.

The staff of the Reece Museum wishes to acknowledge and thank the FORM board members who concluded their terms during spring 1996. **Susan Antkiewicz, Rosemary Barson, and Tim Dills** have collectively volunteered many



### FORM Board plans special event

hours of their time for the betterment of Reece Museum and have actively assisted in many projects of the Friends. Their presence on the FORM Board will be greatly missed. ♦

## NOW & THEN SEEKS SUBMISSIONS

*Now & Then* is seeking submissions for the winter 1997 issue on Northern Appalachia and the spring 1998 issue on food.

Where does Appalachia (with a short "a" in the third syllable) turn into Appalachia (with a long "a")? The winter 1997 **Northern Appalachia** issue with its focus on the northern part of the region will attempt to answer this and other burning questions. This issue will concentrate on the Appalachian portions of Ohio, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, and northern West Virginia. "Over the years, we have said that we cover the entire Appalachian region as defined by the Appalachian Regional Commission, but most of our stories head north, then stop dead at about West Virginia," observes *Now & Then* editor Jane Harris Woodside.

"We've decided to try to rectify this situation in a major way with this issue." Submissions on a wide variety of topics will be entertained. **The deadline is July 1.**

Then in the spring of 1998, we will produce the issue that managing editor and good cook Nancy Fischman has long been anticipating: **Food in Appalachia**. We want to cover the subject of food thoroughly... from recipes to articles about the role certain foods have played in Appalachian life to a survey of the foods people from various parts of the region miss the most when they move away. **The deadline is November 1.**

*Now & Then* is published by the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services at East Tennessee State University. Each issue examines a facet of life in Appalachia. Articles and fiction should not exceed 2,500 words; book reviews should be no more than 750 words. If a self-addressed, stamped envelope with sufficient postage is enclosed, work will be returned.

Send submissions and written queries to *Now & Then*, East Tennessee State University, Box 70556, Johnson City TN 37614-0556, call 423-439-5348, or send e-mail to woodsidj@etsu-tn.edu. A sample copy of the magazine is available for \$4.50. ♦

### Tea, continued from page 5

with the audience the state of the Gaelic language in our modern world as well as a few words and phrases in the ancient Celtic language. He was here also to promote the upcoming class in the fall at ETSU of *Basic Gaelic I* (see related article on page 3).

Also here from across the waters was someone already acquainted with many of the audience members due to several previous visits to our area. **Billy Kennedy**, a writer from Northern Ireland, was back in East Tennessee discussing his country and his new research. Billy has two books under his belt that pertain to this region, *The Scots-Irish in Tennessee* and *The Scots-Irish in the Shenandoah Valley*. He is currently researching information pertaining to his latest literary effort concerning the Scots-Irish in North Carolina.

As a fund-raiser, the 1997 Tì Ard (High Tea) was quite helpful. Contributions were, of course, tax deductible and can still be made to ETSU/ASIS, Box 70556, Johnson City TN 37614. For more information on this or other aspects of Appalachian-Scottish & Irish Studies at ETSU, please contact Stevan Jackson at (423) 439-8465 or by e-mail to jacksons@etsuvax.etsu-tn.edu. ♦

### Travel grants, continued from page 5

The next deadline for receipt of travel grant requests is June 15. All current ETSU faculty, professional staff, and undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to compete for grants. Persons outside the university may qualify for two discretionary grants if their research is deemed essential to the work of the Center. The maximum award is \$250. Forms are available at the Center office. ♦

### Art Show, continued from page 3

provided by First Tennessee Bank, the winner of the First Award is invited to have a solo exhibition held concurrently with the following year's bank show. The work of **Steven Wyandt**, winner of the First Award in 1996, will be exhibited at the Johnson City Area Arts Council's Signature Gallery during the month of June. ♦

Newsletter of the Center for Appalachian Studies  
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## GOOD HOMES SOUGHT FOR NOW & THEN ISSUES

Current members, both individuals and institutions, may obtain back issues of *Now & Then* up to and including the fall 1994 "Rituals and Celebrations" issue for just the cost of postage. Complete sets of the magazine through the fall 1994 issue are also available. The Center will provide photocopies of back issues which have sold out.

If you're interested in obtaining back issues, please contact **Rebecca Grindstaff**, CASS/ETSU, Box 70556, Johnson City TN 37614-0556, or call (423) 439-5348, or e-mail at [grindstr@etsu-tn.edu](mailto:grindstr@etsu-tn.edu). Send \$2 for 1-2 issues, \$4 for 3-10 issues, and \$10 for 11 or more issues (including full sets). ♦



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