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News CASS: Newsletter of the Center for
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Summer 1998

News CASS: Newsletter of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services (spring/summer, 1998)

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News CASS

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



INSIDE:

Spring-Summer 1998

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The Center for Appalachian Studies and Services received a \$5,000 donation from K-VA-T Foods, Inc. for the Encyclopedia of Appalachia. Dr. Jean Speer, director of the Center (fourth from left) and Dr. Paul Stanton, president of ETSU (fifth from left) accept the check from K-VA-T representatives (left to right) Steve Shaffer, Bob Sutherland, CEO Jack L. Smith, Tom Hembree, and Rick Miller.

ARCHIVES

CONSULTANT STUDIES AUDIO-VISUAL COLLECTIONS

Media specialist **Dr. Michael Taft** recently spent three days as a consultant in the Archives of Appalachia examining the preservation needs of the department's audio-visual collections. Taft studied much of the archives' extensive holdings of recordings in such formats as audio cassettes, reel-to-reel audio and video recordings, VHS and 3/4" videotape, and 16mm film. Currently, the archives holds some 7,000 recordings in one format or another.

"Dr. Taft has been looking for possible preservation problems and giving suggestions regarding the audio-visual holdings of the archives as well as helping document the value these holdings have for scholars," said **Norma Myers**, archives curator. "Since the composition of tape and film can change over time, it is important that we insure the preservation of the

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ENCYCLOPEDIA MEETS \$50,000 FUNDING MATCH

After providing some start-up funding for the **Encyclopedia of Appalachia** project, the Appalachian Regional Commission issued the Center a challenge to raise \$50,000 in funding, identify sources for the remainder of funds needed for the project, and make significant progress on the work plan for the volume to become eligible to apply for an additional \$50,000 grant from the Commission. With the help of Advisory Board members, East Tennessee State University, and the University of Tennessee Press, the encyclopedia's publisher, the Center put together a \$50,000 funding package and identified additional grant agencies and foundations for potential funding. The Center has now been approved for the additional \$50,000 grant from the ARC.

The Center would like to thank everyone who helped us reach this milestone. We want to give special thanks to Advisory Board members Jane Stephenson, Dr. Roy Nicks, Lee Smith, Jean Ritchie, and Dr. Alice Manicur for personal gifts that totaled nearly \$5000, and Nicks, Wilma Dykeman, Noah Adams, Al Smith, Ross Spears, Bill Kovach, Congressman Rick Boucher, Jane Stephenson, Dr. Juanita Kreps, and the University of Tennessee Press for helping us identify other potential sources of funding.

In recognition of Lieutenant Governor Nancy Hollister's membership on the board, the State

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ARCHIVES REORGANIZES FOLLOWING TRANSITION

Following several months of self-study as part of the administrative reporting structure transition from the Sherrod Library to the Center (noted in the Winter 1997-98 *NewsCASS*), the **Archives of Appalachia** has recently reorganized its operations.

Previously known as Archives and Special Collections with sub-divisions of Archives of Appalachia, University Archives, and Special Collections, the archives will now be known as the Archives of Appalachia. It consists of three units: Appalachian Manuscript Collections, University Archives, and Special Collections (the department's book collection).

NewsCASS, the newsletter of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services (Archives of Appalachia, Reece Museum, and Regional Resources Institute) at East Tennessee State University, is published three times a year. Center and FORM members receive *NewsCASS* as part of the benefits of membership.

CENTER FOR APPALACHIAN STUDIES AND SERVICES

Dr. Jean Haskell Speer, Director

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Georgia Greer, Office Manager
Ned Irwin, University Archivist & Editor, *NewsCASS*
Norma Myers, Curator
Ed Speer, Archive Assistant
Marie Tedesco, Appalachian Archivist

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REGIONAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE

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Jack Tottle, Director, Bluegrass Program
Jane Harris Woodside, Asst. Director & Editor, *Now & Then*

Staff positions and responsibilities have changed to reflect the overall restructuring of the department. For several years the archives operated with a public services archivist (responsible for reference service) and a technical services archivist (responsible for collection processing). Now there will be a University Archivist (**Ned Irwin**), responsible for both reference and processing of the university collections and an Appalachian Archivist (**Marie Tedesco**), responsible for reference and processing of the Appalachian collections. In addition, the positions of office manager (**Georgia Greer**) and archive assistant (**Ed Speer**) have increased responsibilities under the new plan. The title of department head (**Norma Myers**) has changed to that of Curator of the Archives of Appalachia.

"The changes are the result of an intense study over a period of several months undertaken by the archives staff of all aspects of the archives' operations. The new structure we feel will make the archives more efficient and effective in meeting the mission of the Center, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the university," said Norma Myers, archives curator. ♦

Encyclopedia, continued from page 1

of Ohio awarded the Center a \$4000 grant, and, through the efforts of Lee Smith, K-VA-T Foods, Inc. gave the Center a \$5000 donation (see photo). Dr. Paul Stanton, Jr., ETSU president, approved funding from the university that helped us finally reach the \$50,000 goal. Through the efforts of John Hall, we secured the first \$2500 corporate donation to buy copies of the **Encyclopedia** for schools and libraries in the region from Arch Coal Company. Former Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr. has assisted the Center in seeking foundation funding for the project, and Dr. Jesse White, federal co-chair of ARC, and the ARC staff have provided useful advice and steadfast support.

In other news, Dr. Tess Lloyd, a faculty member in the English department at ETSU, is spending the spring semester as a research associate in the Center working on the **Encyclopedia**. With her help, the co-editors, Dr. Jean Speer and Rudy Abramson, and the rest of the Center staff have been hammering out details of the topics/entries outline, the work flow plan, and other issues in managing such a large project. The encyclopedia's editorial board met in March prior to the Appalachian Studies Association meeting to work on the entry outline, identification of section editors, and resolution of some of the knotty content and organizational questions.

Current work on the **Encyclopedia** centers on preparing a grant proposal for the National Endowment for the Humanities, working with section editors to refine the entry submission process, and beginning the task of assigning and editing entries. The Center still invites letters of interest from potential contributors identifying their topics of expertise and gladly will accept financial gifts in support of the project and/or information about funding sources. ♦

CENTER COORDINATES APPALACHIAN SESSIONS FOR SEMINARY PROGRAM

The Center will coordinate an Appalachian Studies program sponsored by the **Catholic Diocese of Knoxville** for seminarians early in the summer. This is the third time the diocese has asked the Center to help prepare seminary students for ministering in the region.

Students are from the region and plan on returning here after graduation. **Father Mike Creson** represents the diocese with cooperation from the ETSU Catholic Center. Noted educators and experts from the region will deliver a series of lectures on topics from an Appalachian viewpoint about film, media, literature, politics, housing, family violence, music, activism, welfare, religion, and more. Field trips are planned to include an active deep-coal mine, the Carter Family Fold, a Primitive Baptist Universalist service, an evening service at Grace Temple, mass at an Hispanic service, and several work days. ♦

REECE MUSEUM

HERITAGE SERIES WORKSHOPS CONTINUE

Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage workshops are a continuing series of educational opportunities covering topics of family, local, and regional interest presented by professionals in their fields. Sponsored by the Reece Museum, Friends of the Reece Museum, and the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, the series was initiated in September 1997 when **Rudy Abramson**, former executive director of Protect Historic America and Washington correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times*, spoke in conjunction with the Reece's exhibit based on the publication of his book, *Hallowed Ground: Preserving America's Heritage*.

The series continues to explore aspects of Appalachian culture and life and its preservation in the shadow of the 21st century. Workshops scheduled for spring and summer include: "Collecting and Caring for Regional Art," May 19; "Collecting and Caring for Regional Crafts," June 9; "Preserving Appalachia's Musical Heritage," July 14; and "Preserving and Pickling: Foodways in Appalachia," August 11. The workshops are held 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the museum and are free and open to the public. Workshop topics have been scheduled to enhance concurrent exhibits at the Reece. ♦

REECE MUSEUM

EXHIBIT FEATURES BEST OF TENNESSEE CRAFTS

The Reece Museum will be one of six Tennessee and Georgia venues for the *Tennessee Association of Craft Artists (TACA) 1998 Biennial Exhibit* June 6 - July 19. The purpose of the competition/exhibition is to encourage and promote a high standard of excellence and design among Tennessee craft artists and to provide public visibility and recognition for the quality and diversity of crafts found in the state.

Assembled in an extraordinary mixture of colors, shapes, and textures will be works in clay, fiber, glass, wood, metals, leather, handmade paper, mixed media, photography, and printmaking. The juror of the competition, **Lloyd Herman**, founding director of the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, now works independently as a curator, juror, and lecturer in the field of American crafts. The TACA biennial exhibit is a favorite with museum patrons because of the excellent quality and range of items created by some of Tennessee's most gifted artisans. ♦



"WillegUrn II,"
1994, by Lynn
Whitehead.

Photo by Nancy Jane Earnest

Now & Then

NEW THEMES PLANNED

Now & Then's winter 1998 issue will be devoted to **Transportation in Appalachia**. It's your chance to talk about trains, planes, and automobiles in the region. The deadline for the Transportation issue is **July 1, 1998**.

The theme for the spring 1998 issue is **Appalachian Architecture**. As always, we welcome submissions on any and all types of architecture, from barns to skyscrapers. And of course, we'd be interested in receiving stories on architects themselves and on subjects such as landscape architecture. The deadline for Appalachian architecture is **November 1, 1998**.

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 not selected will be returned. Send submissions and written queries to *Now & Then*, ETSU, Box 70556, Johnson City TN 37614-0556; call 423-439-5348; or e-mail woodsidj@etsu.edu. You may obtain a copy of *Now & Then's* guidelines for writers, reviewers, or illustrators (specify which you would like) by writing to the Center; guidelines are also available on the web at <http://cass.etsu.edu/n&t/guidelin.htm>. ♦

On July 24-September 6, 1998, the Reece Museum, in conjunction with *Now and Then* magazine's "Food in Appalachia" issue, will exhibit **"Food For The Senses: An Appalachian Cultural Sampler."** The exhibit features historical items having to do with food and food preparation. The Archives of Appalachia will contribute a display of food product labels from the IPC Dennison Company in Rogersville, Tenn.

If you have ever wondered what a pioneer kitchen contained, or what the latest labor-saving devices of 1879 were, you will get a pretty good idea as you view the Reece's various food grinding items, molds for butter, a skillet with legs and a waffle iron (to be used in a fireplace), a dough tray and stove-top bread baker, mortar and pestle, butter churn, a copper kettle and wooden paddle used for making apple butter over an open fire, and a flour sack from Johnson City's own Model Mill, among others.

Appalachia's rich cultural history includes foodways brought to the area from other parts of the country as well as overseas. This exhibit, as well as the *Preserving our Appalachian Heritage* workshop on **"Preserving and Pickling: Foodways in Appalachia,"** (August 11) and *Now and Then's* "Food in Appalachia" issue will help light the aromatic path from great-great-grandmother's kitchen to our own.

During the Food Exhibit, ETSU will be promoting the publication of its own cookbook, *Home and Away: the Cooking of East Tennessee State University*, with a reception at the Reece on Tuesday, August 25, 1998, from 4-6 p.m. Stop by and enjoy a "taste of ETSU." ♦

REECE MUSEUM

FOOD IS THE FOCUS OF SUMMER EXHIBIT

ARCHIVES SELECTED RECENT ACQUISITIONS

EARL ANDERSON COLLECTION

1.75 ft.

Consists of correspondence, notes, maps, and genealogies related to various East Tennessee families and churches. Donated by Thomas Earl Anderson, Piney Flats, Tenn.

ROY W. CARDEN COLLECTION

1997 and undated. .1 ft. Addition.

Consists of correspondence and photocopies of printed material related to the Carden family and Georgia Gov. Nathaniel E. Harris. Donated by Roy W. Carden, Poulán, Ga.

EDWARD D. CROSS COLLECTION

1901-93. 8 ft.

Consists of 85 scrapbooks of clippings documenting various international, national, regional, and local events and personalities. Donated by Edward D. Cross, Piney Flats, Tenn.

ALTA ELIZABETH PARDUE KEIRN PAPERS

1914-48 and undated. .2 ft.

Consists of correspondence, a biographical sketch, photographs and a photograph album documenting the career of educator Keirn, believed to be the first student enrolled at East Tennessee State Normal School (now ETSU) in 1911.

Donated by Mary Frances Keirn Vanzant, Johnson City, Tenn.

NATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

1997. .1 ft.

Consists of question lists, interview tape list, release forms, and photographs documenting interviews with participants in the 25th annual festival held in Jonesborough, Tenn. Donated by Dr. Jean H. Speer, CASS, ETSU.

TRI-CITIES ARTS COUNCIL RECORDS

1966-80. 2.5 ft.

Consists of correspondence, incorporation charter and bylaws, minutes, news releases, newsletters, memoranda, membership lists, financial records, grant proposals, and other printed ephemera documenting the council's activities, including the Summerfest '79 Road Show and Summerfest '80. Donated by Dr. James Reese, Dept. of English, ETSU.

FRED WASKIEWICZ COLLECTION

1903-68. .75 ft.

Consists of surveys, deeds, contracts, correspondence, reports, title abstracts, and miscellaneous records related to the operations of the Pittsburgh Lumber Company, Laurel Fork Railway Company, Buckeye Lumber Company, Braemar Power Company in Carter County, Tenn. Donated by Fred Waskiewicz, Austin, Tex.

The archives thanks the following for other donations of materials or financial contributions to the department recently: B. J. Bryson; Thomas G. Burton; Elizabeth Cushman, Charles Gunter, Jr.; David and Rachel Hsiung; Beverly Ingersoll; Instructional Materials Center, ETSU; John L. Kiener; Irwin Marcus; Carolyn Moore; James H. Quillen; Sherrod Library, ETSU; Mary A. Toborg; and University Press. ♦

CENTER ASSOCIATE'S EXHIBIT FEATURED AT WOODROW WILSON HOME

Ellen Axson Wilson, wife of America's twenty-eighth president Woodrow Wilson, saw firsthand the expert craftsmanship of mountain women during her travels to the southern mountains. She understood their struggles as artists and wage earners. By decorating the White House with handcrafted fabrics from the region, she focused national attention on the lives, financial needs, and talents of mountain women.

The exhibition, "**Homespun for the President's House**—Ellen Axson Wilson and the Decoration of the Blue Mountain Room," provides an opportunity to look into the most famous house in the



On hand for the exhibition opening were, from left to right: Dr. Alan Jabbour, director of the American Folklife Center in Washington, D. C.; Dr. Jean Haskell Speer, Center director; Scott Prouty, who provided music; and guest curator and Center research associate Kathleen Curtis Wilson.

country and view striking examples of early twentieth-

century crafts and hand-weaving by two gifted Appalachian women, **Allie Josephine Mast** of North Carolina and **Elmeda McHargue Walker** of Tennessee. The exhibition opened October 23, 1997 and is on display through April 20, 1998 at the Woodrow Wilson House Museum in Washington, D. C.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is honorary patron for the exhibit. The Center for Appalachian Studies and

Consultant, continued from page 1

recordings for the future. Dr. Taft's visit will help us immensely in this cause."

The visit was made possible by assistance from SOLINET (Southeastern Library Network); **Dr. Don Johnson**, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; **Dr. Michael Woodruff**, associate vice president for research; and funding support from the Center.

Taft is media and image archivist at the Southern Historical Collection of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The report of his findings following the consultation is due later this spring. ♦



Representing honorary patron **Hillary Rodham Clinton** at the opening of the "**Homespun for the President's House**" exhibition were **Kaki Hockersmith** (second from left), personal designer for the Clinton White House, and **Betty Monkman** (fourth from left), curator of the White House. They are pictured here with guest curator and Center research associate **Kathleen Curtis Wilson** and curator of the Woodrow Wilson House Museum, **Frank Aucella**. (Photographs by Beverly Resnick)

Services at ETSU provided partial sponsorship for the exhibit. Center research associate **Kathleen Curtis Wilson** is guest curator for the exhibition.

Wilson recently published a study of Josephine Mast, one of the weavers featured in the exhibit, *May We All Remember Well*, a journal of history and cultures of western North Carolina. She currently is working on a study of the Southern Industrial Education Association, an organization that promoted settlement school education in Appalachia and which helped Ellen Wilson purchase textiles and crafts used in the Blue Mountain Room. As a result of her research and development of the exhibition, Kathleen Wilson has been asked to be part of a panel on cultural and design interests of First Ladies at the Gerald Ford Library and to prepare an exhibition on Appalachian textiles for the American Textile History Museum in Lowell, Massachusetts.

The **Woodrow Wilson House Museum** is a National Trust Historic Site, located at 2340 S Street NW in Washington. Curator is Frank Aucella. For information about the exhibit, contact the museum at 202-387-4062. ♦

Museum Event Postponed

The Reece Museum's fund-raising event, "**Raise the Window**," scheduled for Friday, March 13 has been postponed because of unforeseen circumstances, including the "Snowstorm of '98" and the accompanying inconveniences experienced by all. The new date will be announced in future publications. ♦

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Rudy Abramson, co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*, was chosen by the Pew Charitable Trusts to write a book in support of their project on the future of Social Security. The project, "Americans Discuss Social Security," will provide public discussion forums and publish information that helps Americans and public policy makers think about the future of this significant social program.

Abramson's book, *The Human Face of Social Security*, will be based on his interviews with Social Security recipients from all over the country. His most recent book was *Hallowed Ground: Preserving America's Heritage*. ♦



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