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Spring 1999

News CASS: Newsletter of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services (spring, 1999)

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NewsCASS

Spring 1999

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

Encyclopedia of Appalachia Project Receives Major NEH Grant

The **National Endowment for the Humanities** has awarded \$82,600 to the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services for the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia* project for the 1999-2000 year. The Endowment also invited the Center to apply for a second year of funding by this summer's application deadline. This funding helps keep the project moving forward on schedule and continues the excellent work of managing editor **Jill Oxendine**. The Center and all our advisory and editorial colleagues in this project deeply appreciate the

Endowment's endorsement of the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*.

In other *Encyclopedia* project news, section editors, the editorial board, representatives of the University of Tennessee Press, and the Center's editorial staff for the *Encyclopedia of*

Appalachia met on March 18, just prior to the annual Appalachian Studies Association meeting at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon, Va. After reviewing the project's progress, 35 section editors met in groups to discuss overlapping and additional entries for their



Rudy Abramson

Roberta Campbell (l), section editor on Race, Ethnicity, and Identity, listens as **William Turner (r)**, editorial board member, makes a point during the recent *Encyclopedia* editorial meeting.

sections. Assignment of entries to the hundreds of writers who will be involved in the project will begin in July. The nearly 60 attendees agreed that the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia* was creating new ways of thinking about Appalachia and may spawn new areas for research.

Now & Then Takes a Break

Now & Then magazine will go on hiatus for one issue this coming winter, and *NewsCASS*, the Center's newsletter, will be distributed separately from the magazine starting this summer. Center staff came to these decisions after having reviewed the results of a recent survey

mailed to all Center members. While the summer 1999 **Appalachian Lives** issue, complete with winners of the **1999 Appalachian Fiction Competition**, will appear as planned, the winter 1999

Continued on page 2.



Recent Acquisitions
P. 3



First Ladies
Serve as Patrons
P. 4



New Contact
Information for Center
Offices
P. 3

Revised *Now & Then* Publication Schedule

Theme	Deadline	Publication Date
1999		
Lives	March 1	August
Health Care	November 1	April 2000
2000		
Appalachian Accents	March 1	August
Museums & Archives	July 1	December
Rivers & Valleys	November 1	April 2001

A complete listing and description of **upcoming *Now & Then* themes** can be found at <http://cass.etsu.edu/N&T/themes.htm>.

Visit ***News & Notes*** at <http://cass.etsu.edu/News&Notes.htm> for **up-to-the-minute news** about Center activities and other conferences, meetings, performances, and contests related to the Appalachian region.

NewsCASS, the newsletter of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services (Archives of Appalachia, Carroll 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

Jean Haskell Speer, Director

Archives of Appalachia

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

Reece Museum

Margaret S. Carr, Asst. Director / Registrar
Nancy Jane Earnest, Media Specialist
Lisa Erwin, Office Manager
Harold F. Stewart Sr., Preparator
Blair H. White, Asst. Director / Curator

Regional Resources Institute

Nancy Fischman, Mng. Editor, *Now & Then*
Rebecca Grindstaff, Office Manager
Stevan Jackson, Director, Appalachian-Scottish & Irish Studies
Charles Moore, Coordinator
Jill Oxendine, Managing Editor, *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*

Jack Tottle, Director, Country & Bluegrass Music Program

Jane Harris Woodside, Asst. Director & Editor, *Now & Then*

Research Associates

Richard Blaustein, Senior Research Fellow
Tess Lloyd, Research Associate
Neil Palmer, St. Andrews Society Fellow
Kathleen Curtis Wilson, Mary Mildred Sullivan Fellow

NewsCASS Staff

Margaret Carr, Nancy Earnest, Nancy Fischman, and Jane Woodside

Now & Then continued from page 1.

Appalachian Health Care issue of *Now & Then* will be postponed until the spring of 2000. **Appalachian Accents**, scheduled to feature the winners of the upcoming *Now & Then's* **Year 2000 Appalachian Poetry Competition**, will still be published the summer of 2000.

The challenges associated with designing and maintaining a web page in the absence of additional staff or budgetary support provided the impetus for the recent survey. Along with publishing *NewsCASS* and *Now & Then*, the Center's ongoing publication program also includes *News & Notes*. Now posted on the Center's web site at <http://cass.etsu.edu/News&Notes.htm>, this biweekly newsletter publicizes late-breaking items of interest to those involved in regional studies.

The survey polled Center members as to whether they preferred receiving *Now & Then* two times a year or three times a year. Nearly 70 percent wanted the magazine to continue its current publication schedule. The Center staff decided that postponing the winter 1999 issue would both honor the membership's wishes and give Center editors the time they need to work on the web site and other publication-related projects. Mem-

bers will still receive their three issues of the magazine as a benefit of membership in the Center. Renewal notices will not be sent out until spring of 2000.

"The web is one of the most important and exciting ways we can communicate with our members and with the world," notes *Now & Then* managing editor Nancy Fischman. "It just hasn't been possible for us to find the time between issues that it takes to do a really good job getting well-designed, useful pages up on the Internet."

The one-issue sabbatical will also give Center staff members time to work on a comprehensive index to the last 15 years of *Now & Then*. "There's so much valuable material in *Now & Then* that's nearly impossible to access without a good index," observes Jane Woodside, Center assistant director and *Now & Then* editor. "We're hoping to remedy that problem."

We have redesigned *NewsCASS*. The frequency of the newsletter will probably be reduced from three to two times a year. "We hope that all the wonderful supporters of the Center's work will benefit from the new informational resources this short hiatus will permit us to develop," says Center director Jean Haskell Speer.

The Regional Research Institute and the Archives of Appalachia Move into New Quarters

With the completion of East Tennessee State University's (ETSU) new Sherrod Library, both the Center's **Regional Resources Institute (RRI)** offices and the Archives of Appalachia have moved.

The RRI offices house staff for the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia* project and *Now & Then* magazine as well as the Governor's School for Tennessee Heritage, the Appalachian-Scottish & Irish Studies, the Appalachian Studies minor, and the ETSU Bluegrass and Country Music programs. These offices have temporarily moved to Warf-Pickel Hall, Room 209, from Room 119 in the old Sherrod Library on ETSU's campus in Johnson City, Tenn. When the old Sherrod Library building has been renovated, the RRI will move back to more spacious quarters in its old home. Work on the old Sherrod, however, is not scheduled to begin before July 1999 at the earliest.

The mailing address, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers should remain the same for those contacting the RRI from off campus. If you should experience difficulty in reaching RRI staff by phone, call ETSU's main switchboard at 423-439-1000 and ask the operator to connect you.

The Archives of Appalachia reopened on February 1 and has completed the transfer of collections and staff into its new home. The archives is housed on the fourth floor (Room 422) of the new Sherrod Library on the ETSU campus.

This new space offers greatly increased storage and processing areas for handling the archives' extensive holdings of Appalachian and ETSU collections. Researchers will find an attractive public reading room in which to carry on their work. Among the new features are what some are calling the best view on campus — a view that overlooks much of the

university and Johnson City. There are even two rocking chairs to provide restful seating. The rocking chairs are gifts from the archives' first two directors, **Richard Kesner** and **Ellen Garrison**.

An event marking the opening of the archives' new facility will be announced later this year. In the meantime, the archives is open to researchers Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Remember....

Until the old Sherrod Library is renovated, the RRI offices will be located in Room 209, Warf-Pickel on ETSU's campus.

Phone numbers: 423-439-5348 or 423-439-7865.

Archives of Appalachia: Selected Recent Acquisitions

CAROL BERRY COLLECTION

c. 1944-45 .1 ft.
Consists of 48 black and white photographs documenting Okinawa near the end of World War II. Donated by Carol Berry, Elizabethton, Tenn.

A. A. BRUNER PAPERS

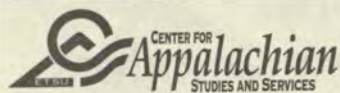
1852-92 .1 ft.
Photocopy of Bruner's journal, which describes his travels through the Carolinas, and on to Cuba. Also includes some family information such as births and deaths. Donated by Dr. James Hite, Kingsport, Tenn.

ERNEST SEEMAN COLLECTION

Undated 1 ft. Addition.
Consists of typescripts of two book manuscripts written by Seeman. One, an unpublished manuscript titled "Tumbling Creek: Its Past and Present," is related to Unicoi Co., Tenn., history. The other manuscript, titled "Tobacco Town," was eventually published in 1978 as *American Gold* and relates to the socio-economic influence of tobacco on a southern town. Donated by Elizabeth Seeman, Ernest's wife.

In addition, the archives thanks the following for the recent donations of materials: Pat Arnow, Durham, N.C.; Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, ETSU; Hazel Scott Craft, Kingsport, Tenn.; Will Davis, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Rolly Harwell, ETSU; Historical Society of Washington County, Virginia, Abingdon, Va.; John L. Kiener, Johnson City, Tenn.; Rachel McAllister, Gastonia, N.C.; Doreen McBride; Robert Nave, Johnson City, Tenn.; Frank B. Williams, Jr., Johnson City, Tenn.

Briefly...



Center Prepares All-America City Application

Center staff was part of a team from the Tri-Cities, Tenn.-Va., area which prepared an application for the All-America City competition sponsored by the National Civic League. Involved in researching and writing the application were **Lee Phillips**, Center research associate, **Jean Haskell Speer**, Center director, and **Jill Oxendine**, managing editor for the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*. **Rebecca Watson**, professor of sociology at Virginia Intermont College, Bristol, Va., was also part of the research and writing effort.

The application required a survey of the 43 municipalities, 13 counties, and two states included in the designated region to write a community profile, assess the region based on a civic index, describe the region's civic infrastructure, and provide three projects that demonstrated regional cooperation. If selected, the Tri-Cities, Tenn.-Va., region will be the first region, rather than a single city or town, ever chosen in the competition.



ETSU Bluegrass Band Plays the Kennedy Center

The East Tennessee State University Bluegrass Band performed in concert in February at the Kennedy Center for the Arts in Washington, D.C., to an enthusiastic audience. The group was selected to perform Tennessee favorites such as "Rocky Top" and "Tennessee Waltz" by U.S. Sen. **Bill Frist** for the Millennium Stage State Days Series, part of the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts for Everyone initiative.

Students from the Bluegrass and Country Music Program chosen to perform at the Kennedy Center were **Becky Buller**, fiddle; **Martha Scanlan**, guitar; **Beth Lawrence**, bass; **Jeremy Fritts**, guitar; **Thomas M. Sneed**, mandolin; and **J.P. Mathes**, banjo. They were accompanied on the trip by **Christian Seguret**, a native of France who is assistant director of ETSU's Bluegrass and Country Music Program.

The performance was part of activities put on by the Birthplace of Country Music Alliance during the "Birth of Country Music Celebration."

ETSU Bluegrass Band Performs in France

ETSU Bluegrass Band members spent 10 days performing in France this past March. The group — composed of students **Becky Buller** (fiddle) and **Jeremy Fritts** (guitar) as well as Bluegrass and Country Music Program assistant director and French native **Christian Seguret** (mandolin) — was hosted by the Alsatian town of Lingolsheim, near Strasbourg.

The group presented bluegrass music to local children, did a public conference about bluegrass and country music, and

participated, along with European musicians Olivier Andres and Thierry Massoubre, in the annual Lingolsheim Country Festival. There they performed before an enthusiastic crowd of 3,000. The three ETSU musicians also participated on a French television show that reached an estimated million viewers. Both Buller and Seguret were invited to participate in a recording session for French bandleader Lionel Wendling.



Three First Ladies Serve as Patrons for Reece Museum

Honorary patrons for the **American Homespun for the President's House Exhibit**, from June 10 - August 8 at the Center's Reece Museum, will be **Martha Sundquist**, first lady of Tennessee; **Carolyn Hunt**, first lady of North Carolina; and **Roxanne Gilmore**, first lady of Virginia. They are expected to attend various events held in conjunction with the exhibit. This exhibit and associated programming have been made possible through the support of the **Tennessee Humanities Council**.

Chair Design Competition at Reece

In conjunction with the recent **Please Be Seated** exhibit, the Reece Museum hosted Northeast Tennessee's first **Incredible Edible Chair Design Competition** in March. The competition, sponsored by the American Society of Interior Designers' local chapter, featured entries constructed entirely of edible items. Winners were **Jill Webster**, first prize; **Jill Hanggi**, second prize; and **Julie Schwab**, third prize. Chairmaker **Curtis Buchanan** of Jonesborough, Tenn., and Museum assistant directors **Margaret Carr** and **Blair White** served as judges. ASID contributed \$750 to the local chapter of **Habitat for Humanity** and to the **Honduran Greenwood Project**.



Blair White

"Who Sat in My Chair?" by third-prize winner Julie Schwab was an entry in the Incredible Edible Chair Design Competition held in March at the Reece Museum.

1999

April 29 - May 30

Sponsored by First Tennessee Bank, the Johnson City Area Arts Council and the Center's Reece Museum, the **First Tennessee Bank Art Competition and Exhibition** is a juried exhibition of the finest in regional arts and sculpture. It includes work by established as well as emerging artists. The juror, Xenia Z. Zed, is executive director of the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences in Rabun Gap, Ga. She is an alumna of ETSU (B.F.A., 1975) and works as a professional artist in addition to teaching and participating in other arts-related activities. For more information, call 423-439-4392.

May 7

FORM will take a one-day trip to the McClung Museum at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville to view **Treasures from the Royal Tombs of Ur**, a major traveling exhibit organized by the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Philadelphia, Pa. The \$20 registration fee includes transportation to Knoxville, Tenn., and admission to the exhibit. Call 423-439-4392 for more information or to register.

May 11

First Tennessee Bank Art Competition Meet the Artists Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Reece Museum. For more information, call 423-439-4392.

May 15

Jonesborough artist **Tom Root** will present a one-day **Figure Drawing Workshop** on Saturday, May 15 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Reece Museum during the First Tennessee Bank Show.

Root is a popular workshop leader who has an exceptional talent for rendering the human body. The workshop is open to the public, and a live, clothed model will be present. There is a fee of \$40, which does not include supplies.



Nancy Jane Earnest

Tom Root

June 8 - August 8

The 1999 **Challenge Quilts** exhibit promises to be a treat for the eyes as **Blue Ridge Quilters Guild** members seek to use all their scraps in quilts which employ the string quilting or string piecing technique.

String quilting employs assorted narrow strips of fabric (strings) and shorter pieces (crumbs) in block form or as applique. For this challenge, Guild members must use the string piecing method on 25 percent of the quilt or wall hanging. An old craft for modern times, string piecing is one technique used in the past out of necessity when fabric was not plentiful. For more information, call 423-439-4392.

June 10 - August 8

American Homespun for the President's House at the Reece Museum. By decorating the White House with handcrafted fabrics, **Ellen Axson Wilson** (the wife of the 28th president of the United States) focused widespread attention on the lives, financial needs, and talents of mountain women. This exhibition provides an opportunity to view striking examples of early 20th century American hand weaving by **Allie Josephine Mast** and **Elmeda McHargue Walker**.

No known textiles or baskets remain at the White House from Ellen Wilson's decoration of the president's bedroom, known as the Blue Mountain Room. The exhibit consists of both the textiles and basketry that were originally offered for sale by the Southern Industrial Educational Association (SIEA) and later given to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. Other items in the exhibit came from descendants of Josephine Mast and from the permanent collection at the Woodrow Wilson House. This exhibit and associated programming have been made possible

through the support of the **Tennessee Humanities Council**. For more information, call 423-439-4392.

June 10

American Homespun for the President's House Reception and Panel Discussion. Crafts specialist **Andrew Glasgow**, folklorist **Jan Davidson**, historian **Shannon Wilson**, and guest curator **Kathleen Curtis Wilson** will discuss the history of the items in the exhibit and Appalachian crafts in general. For more information, call 423-439-4392.

June 13 - July 9

The Governor's School for Tennessee Heritage, coordinated by the Center, will take place on ETSU's campus. Fifty-six gifted high school students from across Tennessee will study the state's history and culture by attending classes, working on hands-on projects, and going on field trips. For more information, call Georgia Greer at 423-439-4338.

June 21

ETSU's **Senior Bluegrass Band** will be playing in the Cave of the D.P. Culp Center from 5

to 8 p.m. for a dinner in connection with a high school guidance counselors' retreat.

June 24

The next **After Hours Cabaret at the Reece** will be held Thursday, June 24, from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. **The Appalachian Trio** is composed of **Jane LaPella** on piano, **Jim Benelisha** on cello, and **Kellie Brown** on violin. Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m., and the performance begins at 6 p.m. For more information, call 423-439-4392.

Preview of Alumni Exhibit at Reece Museum

Suzanne Stryk: Natural Domain Series

August 12 - October 17

Suzanne Stryk earned her Master of Arts in painting from ETSU in 1990 and has lived in Bristol, Va., for more than a decade. A native Chicagoan, Stryk has exhibited throughout the East Coast and has worked as a free-lance scientific illustrator. Stryk's interest in depicting environmental subjects is apparent in her work: the use of insects, pods, and greenery.

"Insects interest me because of their strange yet familiar forms, distinct from yet so connected to the human world. Ever since I came to the Appalachian region, I've been struck by the jewel-like beauty of the common green June beetles invading our summer lawns and fields in their humming droves and awed by the unique variation of each beetle. And in May of 1995, I witnessed a most remarkable event of thousands of 13-year cicadas emerging from the earth to mate in an area which on the map was at one time intended to be flooded. Such experiences of both place and animal life are the source of the *Natural Domain Series*."

Landscapes by Gary F. Paduch

August 14 - October 17, 1999

Although currently a resident of Florida, Gary Paduch's depictions of his East Tennessee heritage clearly illustrate his love of the region. He graduated from ETSU in 1964 with a degree in physical education, but soon became interested in a career in art. He is largely self-taught and has attended workshops and the Art Student's League in New York City. A disciplined observer, he is greatly influenced by Winslow Homer, Andrew Wyeth, the early American impressionists, and Edward Hopper.

"Realistic or abstract, all painters paint the things around them. Painting is a worrisome thing. Explaining it is even more worrisome. It is an endless discussion. Once, I was told by an irate teacher to just shut up and paint. I have heeded that good advice over the years . . . most of the time. As I get older, it seems increasingly more important to follow that advice."

Calendar

July 5 - July 24

The three-week **Appalachian-Scottish & Irish Studies credit course** will take place at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Enrollment is closed.

July 24 - August 7

The inaugural two-week **non-credit Appalachian-Scottish & Irish Studies program**, sponsored by the schools of continuing studies both at ETSU and at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, will focus this year on Folklife Studies in Scotland. For more information, call 423-439-8795.

Membership Information

Membership Levels:

- Student Associates (for undergraduate and graduate students) \$10
- Friends \$20
- Contributors \$30
- Associates \$50
- Partners \$100
- Patrons \$250+
- Corporate Partners \$500+

Two-Year Memberships

- Student Associates \$15
- Friends \$35

Institutional Affiliates such as libraries are invited to join at the \$25 level. Payment enclosed _____ Please bill _____

Donations in excess of \$21 (for a single year) may be tax deductible.

Please designate my membership for:

- Center for Appalachian Studies and Services General Fund
- Archives of Appalachia
- Reece Museum
- Friends of the Reece Museum (FORM)
- Appalachian-Scottish & Irish Studies
- Country and Bluegrass Music Program
- Encyclopedia of Appalachia

If you are employed by a matching gift company, your gift could be doubled or tripled. A list of participating companies is available from any Center office.

There are other ways to contribute to the Center. Please call us for information about alternative giving and for full benefits of membership.

Thank you for your support. Make checks payable to: ETSU/CASS and send to CASS, Box 70556, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City TN 37614-0556. For further information about membership call 423 439-5348.

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One-Day Excursion to View The Royal Tombs of Ur

The **Friends of the Reece Museum** is sponsoring a one-day **Discover Tour** to the McClung Museum at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville on Friday, May 7 to view rare and exquisite Sumerian artifacts from the renowned, 4500-year-old royal cemetery at Ur. Ur is the city famed in the Bible as the home of the patriarch Abraham. **Treasures from the Royal Tombs of Ur** is a major traveling exhibition organized by the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in Philadelphia, Pa. Extravagant jewelry of gold, lapis lazuli, and carnelian, cups of gold and silver, bowls of alabaster, and extraordinary objects of art and culture were among the Mesopotamian treasures uncovered in the late 1920s by renowned British archaeologist C. Leonard Woolley in a joint expedition by the British Museum and the University of Pennsylvania Museum. One of the most spectacular discoveries in ancient Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq), the royal tombs at Ur opened the world's eyes to the full glory of ancient Sumerian culture (2600-2500 BC) at its zenith.

After having been divided in the 1920s and 1930s among the University of Pennsylvania Museum, the British Museum in London, and the Iraq Museum in Baghdad, the Ur treasures never again traveled — until now. The University of Pennsylvania collection will visit eight sites around the United States before its permanent reinstallation at that museum in 2001. The McClung Museum is the second venue on the **Treasures from the Royal Tombs of Ur** traveling exhibition and the only site in the southeastern United States.

Call the museum at 423-439-4392 for more information or to register.

Contact us ...



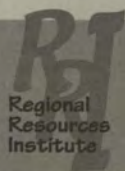
Archives of Appalachia

Phone: 423 439-4338
Visit us on the Web at:
<http://cass.etsu.edu/archives>
Mail us at:
ETSU Box 70295



Reece Museum

Phone: 423 439-4392
Visit us on the Web at:
<http://cass.etsu.edu/museum>
Mail us at:
ETSU Box 70660



Regional Resources Institute

Phone: 423 439-5348
Visit us on the Web at:
<http://cass.etsu.edu>
Mail us at:
ETSU Box 70556

Center for Appalachian Studies and Services

Phone: 423 439-5348
Fax: 423 439-6340
e-mail: cass@etsu.edu
Web: <http://cass.etsu.edu>

Special Thanks to...

The Center announces the establishment of two prizes for outstanding Appalachian fiction. **The First Bank & Trust** of Abingdon, Va., has agreed to underwrite a \$500 first prize, while the **University of Tennessee (UT) Press** will sponsor a \$250 second prize for the Center's fiction contests. First Bank & Trust and UT Press have pledged funds not only for *Now & Then's* 1999 **Appalachian Fiction Competition** but also for all future contests.

Now & Then Magazine plans to organize a fiction competition every other year, beginning in 1999, with the winners being published in the summer issue. Look for the stories penned by this year's winners in the upcoming **Appalachian Lives** issue this summer. **Robert Morgan** served as the final judge.

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Center for Appalachian Studies and Services
East Tennessee State University
Box 70556
Johnson City TN 37614-0556

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