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Archives of Appalachia NEWSLETTER



VOL. IV, NO. 3

ARCHIVES OUTREACH NEH GRANT ENTERS FINAL STAGES

The past year has been an important one for the outreach efforts of the Archives of Appalachia. With generous funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, we were able to expand our previously successful outreach program and add new dimensions to our services to the region. We have spent the last year developing educational support materials to accompany six of the previously produced slide-tape programs in the Appalachian Outreach series. We have also, through the NEH funding, been able to take the programs into communities in neighboring states at no charge to the audience. Even though our audiences have been made up of people of different ages, backgrounds, and interest groups, we have been well-received by all, and in nearly every case we have been asked to bring other programs or return to show the same program at a later date.

Early this fall, the educational packages prepared with NEH funding will be back from the printers and will be available for use with the slide-tape programs. Each packet includes a script of the program, questions for study, suggested activities and projects, bibliographic information, and information about the Archives and our collections. We have concentrated especially on developing units aimed at secondary school students and have designed the units so that all or part of the activities may be used. Many of the secondary schools activities are also suitable for use with out-of-school adults and college students.

Through budget renegotiations we were able to extend the duration of the NEH project an extra month, and during that time we are investigating the transfer of the slide-tape programs to other media. Those of our readers who have seen one or more of the programs know that they are all produced for a two projector, variable-speed dissolve unit, programmed through inaudible signals on one track of a cassette tape. Unfortunately, the equipment necessary for such a program is not readily available to the groups we have found to be interested in the programs, and the size of our staff and travel budget make it impossible for us to take the show to all interested groups. For this reason, we are considering the transfer of some or all of the programs to a more commonly-available medium, making it possible to mail out programs for use. Thus we could continue to serve our wide public even when we are not able to send a staff person with the equipment.

Media we are considering include (but are not necessarily limited to) filmstrip, videotape (half-inch or three-quarter inch), and a one-projector slide-tape program. We encourage NEWSLETTER readers to call (615-929-4338) or write the Archives Outreach Coordinator if they have a preference for media to be considered.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Last spring I was privileged to travel to the People's Republic of China as one of a group of American and Canadian archivists invited to exchange information and experiences with our Chinese colleagues. Our trip included visits to the First and Second Historical Archives in Beijing and Nanjing; a variety of provincial, municipal, hospital, and social welfare agency archives; and the Confucian family archives in Qufu, where we were the first foreigners to examine the manuscripts which date from the fifth century B.C.

We encountered a profound respect for their country's documentary heritage which is often sadly lacking in America. But we also encountered differences which made us proud of our own archival traditions.

In China, archives exist primarily to serve the administrative needs of the government. Few archivists collect the letters, diaries, and other records of ordinary citizens, and there are no private manuscript repositories comparable to the Archives of Appalachia. Access to records requires permission of the government.

Here at the Archives of Appalachia, as elsewhere in the U.S., our purpose is different. We want to collect and preserve the records of all Appalachians--rich and poor, famous and obscure, liberal and conservative--and to serve the widest possible community, not only those who come to the Archives but also those to whom we must take our resources.

Beginning September 1, we extended our hours of operation to better serve this community. We are now open evenings and week-ends by appointment for researchers unable to visit during regular hours (8-4:30 M-F). We will also continue the outreach programs (described elsewhere by Margaret Counts) which have been funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities for several years. Public service will continue to be a priority, our way of returning the support we have received from you.

This fall our Chinese hosts will visit the United States, and I and my fellow guests will meet with them in Boston in October. I hope to share with them something of this special, and perhaps uniquely American, relationship between archivists and the communities they serve. As I begin work at the Archives of Appalachia, I hope our special relationship with you will continue.

Ellen Garrison

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

E.T.S.U. Athletic Committee Minutes. 1 volume. Minutes of the E.T.S.U. Athletic Committee, 1956-1977. Gift of Dr. Frank B. Williams, who served as secretary of the committee for 21 years.

J.W. Hunter Ledger. 1 volume. Daybook, 3 September 1886 to 15 July 1887, of a general store in Johnson City, TN. Given to the Sherrod Library by Jack L. Blevins.

Lillian Poe Interview. 1 cassette tape. Reminiscences of Lillian Poe who taught from 1919 to 1962 at the Training School (now University School) of E.T.S.U. Gift of Dr. Frank B. Williams.

Helen Raulston Collection. 2 16mm. films and video tape copy. Films of the 1928 strike at Bemberg Manufacturing Company, Elizabethton, TN, taken by the company photographer. Gift of Mrs. Helen Raulston.

Ross Edgemon Collection. 2 volumes. Scrapbook, "Tourist of the Week, 1962-1963," a history of the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce's program with photographs and news clippings. Photograph album of the Edgemon and Billingsley families during the 1930's and 1940's. Gift of Mrs. Ross Edgemon.

Henry Blackwell Photographs. 43 items (copies). Photographs of the 1939 flood of the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad taken by Mr. Blackwell and of the Johnson City Junior High School Band and of Mr. Blackwell during World War I. Lent for copying by Mr. Harry Blackwell.

James D. Moody Collection. 9 items. Maps showing proposed subdivisions and viaducts in Johnson City, TN, ca. 1911-1954. Gift of James D. Moody.

William F. Freehoff Collection. 3 items. Mexican documents signed by Benito Juarez, Emperor Maximilian, and General Santa Anna, acquired by William F. Freehoff, Sr., while he was air and army attache at the Mexican embassy. Gift of William F. Freehoff, Jr.

Elizabethton Star Collection. Ca. 16,000 items. Negatives of photographs taken by the staff of the Elizabethton (TN) Star from 1956 to 1960 and 1966 to 1967. Subjects include news and sporting events; church and school activities; community organizations; buildings and street scenes. Gift of Glenn Hodge and Frank Robinson of the Elizabethton Star.

Mary L. Pearre Diary. 1 volume (copy). Diary, 1863-1864, of a Confederate sympathizer living in Rutherford and Wilson Counties, TN, about her life and that of her fiance, James Hamilton. Also genealogy of the Hamilton, Perry and Trice families. Gift of Mrs. Janie Stout.

Richard Blaustein Collection. 9 folders, 1 scrapbook, 15 tapes. Newsclippings; photographs; scrapbook; registration forms; radio album; song book; posters and tapes related to the Old Time Country Radio Reunions at Jonesboro, TN, which was organized in 1979 by Dr. Blaustein. Gift of Dr. Richard Blaustein.

Harry and William Faw Papers. 4 folders and 2 pictures. Addition to Harry and William Faw Collection which includes correspondence; genealogical materials; deeds; receipts and other legal papers related to Faw property; oiled-paper map of property and account pages. Gift of Charles C. Sherrod, Jr.

Isabel Martin Papers. 4 folders. Instructions; forms; reports; sample thank-you letters from participants; and other materials from the University School (E.T.S.U.) fifth grade camp organized and directed by Isabel Martin. The camp was held at Buffalo Mountain, TN, state park each May from 1922 to 1971. Gift of Miss Isabel Martin.

Walter F. Smith Papers. 1 linear foot, 1 photograph album. Agreements; minutes; financial statements; correspondence; newsclippings and memorabilia related to Smith's early career as a teacher of chemistry and mathematics and an industrial chemist for duPont de Nemours; his activities during World War I; civic activities in Kingsport, TN, and his career with the Kingsport Press, Inc. Also, books published by the Kingsport Press and other volumes collected by Walter F. Smith. Gift of George A. Smith, son of Walter F. Smith.

Harry G. Range, Sr. Papers. .5 linear ft., 111 photographs. Business papers; newsclippings; scattered correspondence and photographs of Harry G. Range, Sr., of Johnson City, TN, related to his business and civic interests including Munsey Memorial Methodist Church; the Salvation Army; Memorial Hospital; Kiwanis Club and Johnson City schools. Also genealogies of the Range, Smith, Gentry and Devault families and photographs of the Peter Range house in Johnson City, TN. Gift of the Harry G. Range, Sr. family.

Nellie McNeil of Kingsport, Tennessee, has donated an old Kingsport telephone directory to the Archives.

WASHINGTON COUNTY COURT RECORDS: UPDATE

Work on the Washington County Court Records has been aided by the consultant services of Mr. Gayle Peters, Regional Archivist, Fourth District, National Archives and Records Service, for the Southeastern region. On 2 September, Mr. Peters visited the archives and spent the day with the staff examining the documents of the Washington County Court. Based upon his assessment, Mr. Peters offered some very helpful recommendations for processing this large collection. The Court Records project will be an exercise in team processing involving most of the staff and five student assistants. We hope to complete processing the collection over the next year.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Ellen Garrison appeared as guest on William Freehoff's "Town Crier" program on WKPT-Kingsport on 29 August. She also attended the meeting of the Appalachian Consortium held at E.T.S.U. on 10 September and will be serving as a member of the Consortium's Heritage and Folklife Committee during the coming year.

In June, Mildred Kozsuch spoke to the Unicoi County Historical Society on the preservation of paper. In September, she visited the D.A.R. Library in Washington, D.C.; the Virginia Historical Society and Virginia State Library in Richmond; and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Research Archives in Williamsburg.

In June, July, and August, Margaret Counts continued to take the Appalachian Outreach slide-tape programs to various groups in the region. Included were University classes, family groups, audiences at the Henderson County (NC) Public Library; Senior Citizens groups in Clinchco and Clintwood (VA); and visitors to the Folklife Festival at the World's Fair in Knoxville. "Country Music in the Tri-Cities" was a featured attraction at the Old-Time Country Radio Reunion in Jonesboro, TN. Margaret also presented several of the programs as a part of the "Appalachian Life Styles" exhibit in the Farm and Home Building of the Appalachian District Fair in Gray, TN.

In August, Margaret Counts was named to the Folk Arts Advisory Panel of the Tennessee Arts Commission for 1982-1984.

COLLECTIONS OPEN FOR RESEARCH

The Council on Appalachian Women Papers are now open for research. In this collection the researcher will find information concerning the Council's activities during its operation from 1977 until 1981 and women in Appalachia. The papers include organizational documents, financial records, office files, and resource files of the Council. The collection also contains material concerning the presentation of two series of forums in North Carolina on Appalachian women and the publication of the Appalachian Women magazine.

The Walter F. Smith Papers have been processed and are open for research with the permission of the director. This collection reflects the life of Mr. Smith; his community activities in Kingsport, Tennessee; and his career with Kingsport Press, Inc. Most of the material dates between 1944 and 1970.

MEET OUR STUDENT ASSISTANTS

The Archives utilizes student assistants very effectively in performing the day to day operations of the Archives; therefore, we are very pleased to have returning this fall: Lewis Cox, Johnson City, TN; Lee Burrows, Elizabethton, TN; Patricia Lee, Chattanooga, TN; Sylvia Lewis, Kingsport, TN; David Marshall, Mosheim, TN; and Hal Moncier, Church Hill, TN. William Haynes, Johnson City, TN, joined our staff for the fall semester.

NEWS FROM APPALACHIA

Three East Tennessee State University faculty members recently received honors from the Appalachian Consortium and the Tennessee Arts Commission. Professors Thomas G. Burton and Ambrose N. Manning received the Laurel Leaves Award, presented annually by the Appalachian Consortium to individuals or institutions for meritorious contributions to Southern Appalachia. This is the first time the award has been presented to an ETSU faculty member. A special award of merit from the Tennessee Arts Commission was presented to professor Richard J. Blaustein for his work "toward the preservation and perpetuation of the cultural heritage of upper East Tennessee."

The Appalachian History of Medicine Society annual dinner meeting will be held November 18. David Hufford, medical folklorist at Pennsylvania State University, College of Medicine, will speak on "Traditional Health Systems." Dr. Hufford is past president of the American Folklore Society and editor of the Journal of American Folklore. Contact; Martha Whaley or Doris Dean (615-928-6426 ext. 252) at the Department of Learning Resources(Col. Med.), East Tennessee State University.

Carroll Reece Museum, East Tennessee State University, Special Events:
The International Folk Dancers will perform at the Museum on Sunday, November 7,
3:00 p.m. and Monday, November 8, 12:00 noon. On Sunday, November 14, 3:00 p.m.
the ETSU's dance group, the Mountain Movers, will perform in Gallery C.

The fall meeting of the Tennessee Archivists will be held December 2 and 3
in Knoxville, TN. For more information, contact Dr. Bill McArthur of the McClung
Historical Collection, Knoxville-Knox County Public Library, 500 West Church Ave.,
Knoxville, TN, 37902

Musical Instrument Classified, a monthly magazine, is offering a listing
of used musical instruments from musicians; dealers; antique stores; pawn shops
and individuals from around the country. For more information write: Musical
Instrument Classified, 842 South Monroe Street, Arlington, Virginia, 22204.

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