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Archives of Appalachia NEWSLETTER

VOL. IV, NO. 4



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Columns elsewhere in this issue describe the diverse activities in which we have been involved during the last three months--an exhibit based on the recently-acquired Taylor Family manuscripts, conclusion of a year-long grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to enrich school and community use of our slide/tape program, work by our student staff to make negative files of the Elizabethton Star more easily accessible to researchers, new acquisitions of manuscripts, and professional meetings and seminars to enable us to keep abreast of the latest developments in archival theory and practice.

In spite of their diversity, these activities have one purpose in common: broadening the service of the Archives of Appalachia to the community and enhancing our ability to meet the needs of our users. Service is the cornerstone of the Archives. No matter how good our collections and how professional our processing and public service, there would be no reason for us without you, our users and donors.

We have just received word from the Tennessee Committee for the Humanities of approval of a grant which will enable us to serve a new and different audience by developing a series of radio programs on "Tennessee's Mountain Heritage." The programs, based on our collections, will be broadcast over WETS-FM.

Our job now is to raise \$3900 in matching contributions which will make these grant funds available. We have already received several substantial gifts. If you would like to help make it possible for us to offer these programs to southern Appalachia, or would like more information about our plans for the series, please contact us. So many people have contributed to our success in the past, and I hope we will find the support we need to make a success of our newest project.

Have a good new year!

Ellen Garrison

"TAYLORS OF TENNESSEE" EXHIBIT AND RECEPTION

Tennessee's most famous brothers, Alf and Bob Taylor, former governors of the state, were once again remembered and honored in East Tennessee. An exhibit on the first floor of Sherrod Library during the months of November and December featured Robert Love Taylor, Alfred Alexander Taylor, Benjamin Harrison Taylor, and the Taylor family yesterday and today. Included in the exhibit were pictures, broadsides, letters, addresses, and books relating to their careers and the Taylor family from the 1860's through the 1970's. Of special interest to many people was the color picture of Alf and Bob fiddling on stage during "The War of the Roses," which appeared in a New York newspaper. Adding to the exhibit were the labels, prepared by Gretchen Whisnant, a part-time calligraphy teacher in the Art Department of East Tennessee State University.

Mrs. Lela Taylor, widow of Ben Taylor, made the exhibit possible by her recent gift of the Taylor Collection to the Archives. Ben Taylor, who was a law partner of Thad Cox in Johnson City and a leader in Democratic politics in the state during the early 1900's, was an avid collector of documents and pictures relating to the Taylor family. After his premature death in 1930, most of the Taylor Collection remained in a trunk which was sometimes searched for pleasure or information by members of the family and persons in the community.

A reception to open the exhibit, "The Taylors of Tennessee," was held November 9 from 4-5 p.m. in the Archives. Honored guests at the reception were descendents of Nathaniel Greene and Emmaline Haynes Taylor, parents of Alf and Bob. Family members attending were from as far away as northern California and as close to home as Johnson City, Tennessee, thus making a family gathering for all.

ARCHIVES OUTREACH GRANT: A FINAL WORD

During the past year over 5,000 people among three targeted audiences--school students, college and university students, and adult learners--have enjoyed the Archives' six slide/tape programs which explore the transformation of southern Appalachia since the turn of the century. A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities made it possible for grant coordinator Margaret Counts to travel to 148 groups in this area to share these presentations.

With the help of other project staff (Penny McLaughlin, Melinda Royalty, and Nellie McNeil), Ms. Counts and project director Dr. Jean Flanigan completed study guides to accompany each program, thus enhancing their effectiveness as classroom teaching tools.

The study guides, just received from the printer, were developed to provide secondary school teachers with a complete set of curriculum materials which can be used as a lesson plan or as suggestions to be incorporated into teacher-created lesson plans. The flexible format of the guides make it possible to assemble individualized packets to meet the needs of each particular user group. Extra copies of all the slides and tapes were also made so that the programs can be sent to interested groups without Archives personnel or equipment.

The audience response to the Archives, the University, and their region's economic and social history has been positive, and the contacts made by project staff have generated a great demand for long-range advance bookings. Since NEH support for the project ended in November, the Archives is no longer able to employ an outreach coordinator and the permanent staff will assume responsibility for all future presentations. Interested groups should contact the Archives for additional information or bookings.

PRESERVATION AND ORGANIZATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS: ELIZABETHTON STAR NEGATIVES

This summer the Archives received from the Elizabethton Star newspaper approximately 16,000 negatives, dating from 1956 to 1968. Norma Thomas, graduate assistant, inventoried the collection and developed a plan for processing the collection. Any plan for processing the negatives must include both consideration for the needs of researchers and for the protection of the negatives. To enable a researcher to locate a particular image more quickly the negatives have been divided into subseries according to subject and then arranged chronologically. The original negative storage containers were first cleaned and sorted by date. In October, Ann Hawkins, student assistant, began processing the collection. The negatives were viewed and divided into the following subseries: A - news; B - commerce; C - sports and recreation; D - buildings and street scenes; E - school and church activities; F - individual portraits; G - group portraits; and H - Carter County Hospital pictures. After sorting the negatives by subject, then began the mechanics of preparing the collection for storage. Each negative is cleaned, assigned a number, and placed in a polyethelene sleeve for protection. As a final step a

written guide will be prepared. The collection should be processed and open for research by May 1983.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Ambrose Manning Collection. 6 folders. Appalachian Consortium papers, 1970-1978. Gift of Ambrose Manning.

Smith County, Tennessee, History by Dr. John Wesley Bowen. (Xerox manuscript) 1 folder. Gift of Hal Smith.

Fannie Fain Diary. (Xerox copy) 2 folders. Fannie Rhea Fain of Sullivan County, Tn., recorded local events and family activities during the period 1863-1898.

Barbara McDermitt Collection. 25 tapes. Recordings of Jack tales by Ray Hicks, Frank Proffitt, Jr., Stanley Hicks and Hatti Presnell. Gift of Barbara McDermitt.

Daniel Thomas McCoy, Sr. Collection. 3 photographs of McCoy family, 2 picture post-cards of the Virginia and Southwestern Railroad. 1 page of McCoy family genealogy and one letter by Daniel Thomas McCoy, Sr. Gift of Mrs. A.J. Trambarger, Jr.

Dr. Margaret Wolfe Photographs. 4 photographs of Church Hill, Tn. and area. Gift of Dr. Wolfe.

B. Carroll Reece Phonographic Records. 11 records, 78 r.p.m. Speeches of B. Carroll Reece, Thomas Dewey and Joseph Martin. Gift of Mrs. Mack P. Boyer.

James Garvin Ellis Collection. 3 Paige boxes of negatives, 1958-60. Mr. Ellis was photographer for the Johnson City, Tn., Press Chronicle. Gift of Mrs. James G. Ellis.

Dr. and Mrs. A.S.N. Dobson Biography by A.S.N. Dobson. (Xerox copy) 1 folder. Several newsclippings on Dobson home and Broylesville, Washington Co., Tn. Biography covers the late 1800's and gives the details of Dr. Dobson's service in the Civil War. Loaned for xeroxing by Kyle McQueen.

"Tennessee Traditions in Perspective" Collection. 1 folder. 3 tapes. Report of a grant received by Dr. Thomas Burton from the Tennessee Arts Commission. A colloquim was held in April 1978 to gain perspective on the traditional folk arts in Tennessee. Gift of Dr. Burton.

R.M. Shank Account Book and Sullivan County Map. 1 ledger. 1 map. Farm account book of R.M. Shank, 1898-1949 and hand drawn map of Sullivan County, Tn., dated about 1900. Gift of Chester A. Wilson.

Emanuel Lutheran Church Records, ca 1817-1831. (Xerox copy) The Washington County, Tn., Emanuel Lutheran Church was established in the early 1800's. The records, some in German, include lists of communicants, baptisms, birth and financial reports. Loaned for xeroxing by Susan Walters.

NOTEWORTHY SPECIAL COLLECTION ACQUISITION

East Tennessee: Places of Discovery II by Lou Harshaw, Lakemont, Georgia, Copple House Books, c1982. 171 p. Lou Harshaw, noted as a "teller of tales," writes of the historic and interesting places of East Tennessee and the noted men and women who played an important part in the development of the state from the time of the Woodland and Cherokee Indians' settlements to the opening of the World's Fair in Knoxville in 1982.

EXHIBIT: HISTORIC INNS OF EAST TENNESSEE

The current exhibit of the Archives features the Chester, Deery, and Netherland Inns and Devault Tavern. Documents from the Washington County court records illustrate the history of these historic landmarks in Washington and Sullivan counties. Photographs, paintings, post cards, printed travel narratives and brochures supplement the documents.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Dr. Ellen Garrison, director of the Archives of Appalachia, presented a paper, "Regional Archival Publishing in the 80's" at a session of the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Boston October 18-22 which she also chaired. In addition, Dr. Garrison was one of four members of the Society's 1982 exchange visit to the People's Republic of China who participated in a panel discussion of their experiences. Among the visitors attending the meeting were five Chinese archivists who had been the group's hosts during their visit in April and May, 1982.

Dr. Garrison also presented a slide show and discussion on "Archives in China" at the annual meeting of the Society of Georgia Archivists in Atlanta on November 18th and at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Archivists in Knoxville on December 2.

On November 15 and 16 the director attended a workshop on "Management Techniques for Archivists" sponsored by the Society of American Archivists. The two-day workshop, conducted by the Society's executive director, covered planning, budget and finance, annual reports, personnel, and time management and included two case studies completed by the fifteen member group.

Mildred Kozsuch attended the fall meeting of the College and University section of the Tennessee Library Association at Middle Tennessee State University on October 15, 1982, and on December 2 and 3 Ms. Kozsuch also attended the Tennessee Archivist annual meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee.

On November 18 Norma Thomas attended a records management seminar conducted by Ms. Gwen Haas for TAB Products. The seminar covered cost determination and reduction of record storage, space and equipment planning, principles of record keeping systems, controls and procedures in record management, and record retirement to inactive storage.

NEWS FROM APPALACHIA

Dr. Richard Blaustein, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, East Tennessee State University was elected vice-president (president-elect) of Tennessee Folklore Society at its annual meeting on October 30, 1982. Mrs. Mary Manning, Department of English, ETSU, was reelected treasurer of the Society.

"Appalachian Celebration" at Morehead State University, Morehead, Ky., sponsored by the Appalachian Development Center, June 19-25, 1983. This promises to be a week filled with exciting events centered around mountain dance, workshops, exhibits, displays, demonstrations, lectures, hikes, tours, arts, crafts and concerts. Who is the Celebration for? It's for anyone who's interested in gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation of Appalachia and its people. The major components of the Celebration appeal to a wide variety of interests and to a broad span of age groups.

"Cherokee Crafts Today" including basket making, pottery, woodcarving, finger weaving, beadwork and silver jewelry, will be on exhibit at the Folk Art Center operated by the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild, from January 15th to May. All craftspeople represented in the exhibit are members of the Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual, Inc., a cooperative which operates a gallery and craft shop in Cherokee, North Carolina. According to cooperative manager Betty Dupree, who selected the works. "These objects reflect deep awareness and appreciation for the natural world and are exemplary of excellence in design and craftsmanship." The Folk Art Center, located on the Blue Ridge Parkway four miles east of downtown Asheville, is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

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