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Archives of Appalachia NEWSLETTER



VOL. V, NO. 1

SPRING 1983

ARCHIVES TO BROADCAST "TENNESSEE'S MOUNTAIN HERITAGE" SERIES ON WETS-FM

The last issue of the Newsletter included a notice about a grant from the Tennessee Committee for the Humanities to enable us to produce a radio series based on Archives of Appalachia collections. The original proposal called for a year-long project to produce a thirteen program series. We were unable to raise the full complement of matching funds required and, with approval from TCH, have redesigned the project to produce a shorter series of three half-hour programs, called "Tennessee's Mountain Heritage." We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following organizations who made cash contributions to support the project: Fuller and Hillman, Inc., of Kingsport; Powell Construction Co., of Johnson City; and the Sullivan County Historical Society. In addition, we received contributions from individuals who wish to remain anonymous. To all these people who have given generous support, we offer sincere gratitude. The project staff has worked with a Community Advisory Panel of citizens with differing interests to ensure that the radio programs have a wide appeal. We would like to thank the following people who have given their time to serve as members of this panel: Ms. Dorothy Hamilton, Mr. Brad Jolly, Mr. Dale Larkin, Ms. Joyce Squibb, and Mr. Jack Tottle.

"Tennessee's Mountain Heritage" is designed to provide the listeners of WETS-FM with an entertaining and educational overview of various aspects of regional social history and folklore. Ellen Garrison, Director of the Archives of Appalachia, is the Project Director, and Margaret Counts is the Project Coordinator. Drawing upon recorded performances and interviews deposited in the Archives, Ms. Counts and Richard Blaustein, of ETSU's Department of Sociology and Anthropology, have written and produced the three programs which will be broadcast on WETS-FM (89.5 Mhz) on three consecutive Sunday evenings at 7:30.

The first program in the series, "Living on the Tennessee Line," will be broadcast on May 1. "Living on the Tennessee Line" features recollections of life in the Tennessee mountains, taken from interviews with Mr. George Payne. Mr. Payne discusses growing up in Greene county, near the Tennessee-North Carolina line, and talks about such things as farming, the first cookstove he remembers, the kinds of food his family ate, and the games he and his family played at get-togethers with their neighbors. The program also features several selections of ole-time string band music played by George Payne and his brothers, Sid and Loyd Payne.

On May 8, "Rolling Down the Track" will be broadcast. This program is based upon interviews with Mr. James A. Goforth, of Erwin, Tennessee, retired Chief Engineer of the Clinchfield Railroad. Mr. Goforth discusses the history and development of railroads in upper East Tennessee and some of the effects that the railroad has had on this area. The program also includes several musical selections and some rare recordings of railroad work chants which are a part of the Burton-Manning Collection in the Archives.

The third program, "Down in Johnson City," will be broadcast on May 15. This program features reminiscences of four local people--W. B. Miller, Jim Goforth, May Ross McDowell, and John Wayne Cox--about the development of Johnson City. The speakers discuss the influence of changing modes of transportation, the development of educational institutions, changing styles of popular entertainment, industrial and commercial development, and the changing look of Main Street through the years.

In conjunction with the broadcast, literature containing guides for doing local history, folklife fieldwork, and interviews will be offered to encourage listeners to collect such materials. For more information about "Tennessee's Mountain Heritage," contact the Archives of Appalachia.

SOURCES AND USE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

The Archives of Appalachia maintains photographic archives relating to both the Appalachia region and East Tennessee State University in order to preserve visual images of historical and research value.

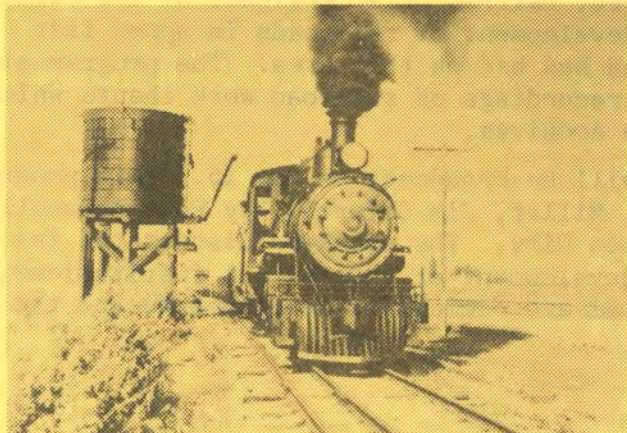
Our collections vary in size from a "walk-in" donor with a single family photograph to collections numbering as high as seven hundred photographs. Collections are diversified and depict subjects such as contemporary farm life; past and present Johnson City, Tennessee, buildings and street scenes; Clinchfield Railroad; mountain scenes of North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia; and people and landscapes in western North Carolina, eastern Kentucky, south-west Virginia and east Tennessee. Also, we have unusual photographs of the East Tennessee & Western North Carolina flood along their rail line; Clinchfield Railroad Santa Claus Special; and the life of men and women in the logging camps of central Southern Appalachia during the 1920's and 1930's.

Many of the fine photographs currently housed at the Archives of Appalachia have been preserved for study by future generations through the efforts of past and present university photographers. Tom Daniel, a former University photographer who was a self-trained archivist, was a major source of the university photographs which range in scope from visiting government dignitaries to beautiful campus snow scenes. We are frequently contacted for copies of photographs for displays, university publications and alumni who are interested in early photographs of the university for their own personal collections.

The Archives makes every attempt to provide community access to our materials. In so doing, we have had requests from attorneys, local businesses, and authors for prints to be used in their forthcoming books. Too, some have been used to adorn walls in business establishments, private homes, and government agencies.

From our holdings, prints were used to develop slide-tape multimedia outreach programs dealing with a particular aspect of Appalachian history and culture. The programs, funded in part by a grant from the Tennessee Committee for the Humanities, have been shown in public libraries, civic and community groups, and religious and historical organizations within a one hundred mile radius.

Kathryn Wilson



PROCESSING AND STORAGE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS

The photographic archives of the Archives of Appalachia contains photographs, slides, and negatives of Appalachia as a geographical region and as a culture. The subjects range from farm scenes; to railroads; to Johnson city as it used to be. There are also photographs of famous persons and of not-so famous, and of faculty, staff, and students of ETSU. Photograph collections range in size from a few items to over 15,000 items, as was the case with the Elizabethton Star negative files.

For any size collection, the processing is usually done in the same manner. The main tasks to be performed are as follows, in this order: (1) separating university items from general Appalachian items; (2) removing any damaging material; (3) registering the negatives; (4) sorting the photographs; (5) determining the subject headings to file under; (6) marking the photographs; (7) documenting items in the accession book; (8) storing items; (9) documenting photographs in the detailed photograph listing.

The photographic archives is divided into two general categories: Appalachian Photographic Archives (APA) and University Photographic Archives (UPA). And so, the first task to be performed is to separate the photographic collection into these two categories. While doing this, any damaging and unnecessary materials (tape, staples, glue, paper clips, and rubber bands) are removed. If negatives accompany photographs, the negatives are then registered. The negatives are numbered in sequence and a brief description of the subject is entered in the negative registry.

Next, the photographs are grouped according to subject. The subject headings under which each group is to be filed is then determined. After deciding the subject headings, the following information is then recorded in pencil on the back of each photograph: (1) the name of the collection; (2) the APA or UPA designation, along with the corresponding negative number; (3) the subject heading under which it is to be filed; (4) the names of any person, organization, building, etc., in the picture; (5) the name of the photographer.

All the items in the collection are then documented. A description (including subject, size, and type) of all items in the collection and their storage location is given on the accession sheet.

Once the documentation is complete, the photographs, negatives, and/or slides can be stored away. The photographs are placed in folders in the APA or UPA photograph cabinets. The negatives are put in protective acid-free envelopes or plastic sleeves, and then filed in the APA or UPA negative drawers. Any slides are placed in a transparent slide holder, and then filed in a separate cabinet.

Finally, if there are many photographs filed under a particular subject heading, a detailed listing of these photographs is made in a separate register. A researcher can look through the register and determine if the photograph he/she is looking for is under that subject heading. This also reduces wear and tear on the photographs.



FROM THE DIRECTORS OFFICE

Recently I attended the Appalachian Studies Conference for the first time. The conference, held at beautiful Pipestem State Park in West Virginia, attracted participants from as far away as California and Maryland and as close as Pipestem. I was struck by the diversity of the participants and of the conference program. Scholars and teachers from many disciplines--history, folklore, economics, communications, religion, sociology--mingled with craftspeople, musicians and artisans, public school teachers, writers and poets, and social activists working for causes from environmental protection to consumers' rights. Papers were presented on topics ranging from teaching Appalachian culture in schools to religious broadcasting in the region, while panels considered such questions as the lack of Appalachian heroes and the needs of women in the region, and musicians and dancers performed for near-capacity crowds.

Underlying most of the conference was occasionally heated debate about the nature of Appalachia and the future of the region, a debate which has three implications for the Archives of Appalachia and companion archives and special collections. First, there is a growing sense of regional identity which must be firmly grounded in the study of the region's history and culture. Without archives and special collections, such study will be impossible, and so we have a vital part to play in shaping the future of Appalachia. Second, those of us responsible for collecting the documentary heritage of Appalachia must define our purpose broadly, seeking records of diverse organizations and individuals, because Appalachia itself is multifaceted. Third, we must encourage the use of our resources by the widest audience possible. High school teachers and social activists alike need to understand the region's roots, and we must make our resources accessible to them.

The Appalachian Studies Conference was thus an exciting reminder for me of the purpose of the Archives of Appalachia and of the challenge which carrying out that purpose will be not only for me, but for the friends and supporters who have made the Archives possible. I wanted to share that excitement with you, and to ask again for your continued help in meeting the challenge.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

JOHN BIGGS "PAT" ALDERMAN (1901-) PAPERS, 1918-1976. 4 linear feet. Photographs; newsclippings; booklets; manuscripts; notes; scattered correspondence; and programs and scripts of historical pageants and musical dramas of Pat Alderman, author, historian, composer and teacher. Additions expected. Restricted in part. Gift of Pat Alderman, Unicoi County, TN.

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SCIENCE. LIBRARY INSTITUTE RECORDS, 1948-1977. 1 linear foot. Newsletters; reports; scattered correspondence; newsclippings; scripts; slides; photographs; and institute proposals, applications, evaluations and guidelines. Gift of Dorothy Baird, Johnson City, TN.

JOHNSON CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE PAPERS, 1957-1978. 1 linear foot, incl. 1 volume. Photographs; programs; casts of plays; brochures; correspondence concerning tax-exempt status; scrapbook, 1957-1964; seating chart of theatre; blueprint and sketches of stage and sets. Gift of McBerney Burleson, Johnson City, TN.

KINGSPORT PRESS STRIKE COLLECTION, 1963-1967. 1 linear foot, incl. 2 audio tapes. AFL-CIO preiodicals; charts; booklets; poster; manuscript; bumper stickers; and correspondence related to 1963 strike against the Kingsport (TN) Press by locals of five printing and press unions. Taped interviews with Earl M. Derrick, president of Bindery Workers Union Local 82, International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, by Dale Larkin. Restricted. Deposited by Dale Larkin, Gray, TN.

KIWANIS CLUB PHOTOGRAPHS, 1981-1982. 91 items, B&W photographs of the Johnson City Kiwanis Club members and special guests. Gift of McBerney Burleson, Johnson City, TN.

JAMES W. MCKEE COLLECTION. 2 volumes. (Xerox copy) Civil War diaries, 1861-1865, of R. A. Spainhour and Finley Patterson Curtis, Co. B., 1st North Carolina State Infantry serving in the Army of Northern Virginia. One diary edited by Finley Patterson Curtis, Jr. Gift of James W. McKee, Johnson City, TN.

KENNETH MAYNARD MURRAY (1943-) PHOTOGRAPHS, ca. 1972-1982. 640 items. 8" x 10" B&W photographs of people and landscapes in western North Carolina, eastern Kentucky, southwest Virginia and east Tennessee, taken by Kenneth Maynard Murray. Restricted. Gift of Kenneth Maynard Murray, Johnson City, TN.

SULLIVAN, HAWKINS, HANCOCK CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL RECORDS, 1982-1983. 1 linear foot. Brochures; booklets; scattered correspondence; Tennessee legislative committees and AFL-CIO newsletters, periodicals and newspapers. Restricted. Deposited by Dale Larkin, Gray, TN.

M. B. VANCE DAY BOOK, 1870-1874. 1 volume. Account of measurements of cordwood and cross-ties of section 14 of the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railroad kept by W. B. Vance. Gift of Mike Grover, Johnson City, TN.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Director Ellen Garrison attended the Appalachian Studies Conference at Pipestem, West Virginia on March 18-20. She was elected to the program committee for the 1984 conference which will be held at Unicoi State Park, Georgia. She also attended the February 25th meeting of the Appalachian Consortium in Asheville, North Carolina.

"Archival Resources for Classroom Use" was the topic of Director Ellen Garrison when she spoke to the Franklin Council for the Social Studies in Bristol, Virginia, on March 1.

On February 2 Mildred Kozsuch met with the Hamilton Bank Committee at the Johnson City Country Club to select items to be included in the time capsule for the new Hamilton Bank building. The time capsule is to be placed in the new building in April or May of this year.

On February 17 Lewis Cox, (student assistant) along with Director Ellen Garrison, spoke to the East Tennessee Association of Student Photographers. They provided the students with an introduction to the photographic holdings of the Archives of Appalachia and to the care and storage of photographic materials.

Richard M. Kesner, former Director of Archives of Appalachia, recently completed a revised edition of his book, Information Management, Machine-Readable Records, and Administration: An Annotated Bibliography, published by the Society of American Archivists. Dr. Kesner is presently manager of Office Systems for F. W. Faxon Company, Inc. in Boston Massachusetts.

NEWS FROM APPALACHIA

The second annual Appalachian Writers Association conference, "Appalachian Writing: The Flowering Laurel," will be held the week of July 18-24, 1983, at East Tennessee State University. The Institute for Appalachian Affairs is now accepting ideas for program topics and participants; any suggestions will be appreciated.

The conference will focus upon the current state of writing and publishing in Appalachia by addressing three principal elements: the creative process, publishing in Appalachia, and the nature of Appalachian culture and literature. The week will consist of several three-day, preconference workshops on various aspects of Appalachian dialect, culture, and the writing process. It will also be possible to receive university credit for a two-week writers' workshop beginning July 11 and continuing through the conference. Activities during the conference will include a bookfair for writers to sell their works, scheduled conference with publishers and agents, the awards ceremony for the winners of the First Old Town Appalachian Writers Association competition, readings, and sessions devoted to specific aspects of writing, Appalachian language, and culture.

Persons interested in writing, publishing, Appalachian culture or literature, and in supporting the written arts in Appalachia are encouraged to participate in the conference. Registration will be \$10.00 for AWA members and \$20.00 for non-members, with special discounts for elementary, secondary, and college students. For additional information contact: Dr. Jay Reese, Institute for Appalachian Affairs, ETSU, Johnson City, TN. 37614-0002.

The spring meeting of the Tennessee Archivists will be held on May 19-20 at Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee. For further information concerning the meeting or registration contact John Thweatt, State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue N. Nashville, Tennessee 37219.

The 1983 Augusta Heritage Arts Workshop will be held July 19 through August 12 at Davis and Elkins College in Elkins, West Virginia. The five week festival of traditional arts will include classes and enrichment programs in music, dance, crafts, and folklore. Additional information on registration, classes and housing may be obtained by writing Augusta Heritage Arts Workshop, Davis and Elkins College, Elkins, West Virginia 26241, phone 304-636-1903.

OUTREACH CONTINUES

Over four hundred people enjoyed outreach presentations by Archives' staff during the first three months of 1983. Fourteen groups including schools, clubs and civic groups, and senior citizen centers in Johnson City, Kingsport, and Unicoi as well as on-campus clubs and classes saw one of the slide/tape programs. "Johnson City Album" and "Hands All Around" continued to be the most popular programs, but every slide/tape was shown at least once. For the first time, study guides prepared under the most recent NEH grant were used along with school presentations, and they proved effective and enjoyable. Staff members presenting the programs were Margaret Counts, Ellen Garrison, Mildred Kozsuch, and Norma Thomas.

ASSOCIATED PRESS FEATURES ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA

A visit from Knoxville Associated Press reporter Tom McCord resulted in a feature story on the Archives which appeared in the Chattanooga Times, the Knoxville News-Sentinel and Journal, the Watauga (NC) Democrat, and the Montgomery (Alabama) Journal and Advertiser in January. McCord deftly sketched the history and purpose of the Archives, described some of our interesting documents and manuscript groups, and emphasized the broad public purpose of the Archives in preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of Appalachia. The story has already brought several letters asking about possible placement of family and business papers in the Archives.

GRADUATION EXHIBIT

Graduation has been the concluding event of academic life at East Tennessee State University since the summer of 1912 when students received certificates for the one year course from the Normal School. As graduation will be held again in May, this will be the theme for the Archives' exhibit in May and June. Featured in the exhibit will be photographs; letters; copies of speeches; diplomas; clippings about commencement; and programs and invitations to graduation, baccalaureate services and entertainments. The exhibit will be on the first floor of the Sherrod Library which will open the last week in April.

PUBLICATION AVAILABLE FROM THE ARCHIVES

APPALACHIA/AMERICA: THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1980 APPALACHIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE is available. The volume includes a collection of outstanding essays on the history, development, and current problems of the region. The analytical approach taken by most authors is comparative, casting new light and revealing fresh data about Appalachia and its people. As an anthology dealing with contemporary Appalachia, this volume is incomparable. We encourage our friends and colleagues to take advantage of this offer for \$3.00 per copy. Also, instructors considering adopting it as a text may request a single examination copy. Checks should be made out to the Archives of Appalachia, ETSU Foundation and sent to the Director, c/o the Archives.

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