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# Archives of Appalachia NEWSLETTER

VOL. VI, NO. 3



SPRING, 1985



Mayor Raymond Huff proclaims International Archives Week in Johnson City April 15 - 19. (See story page 2)

## Archives most important

Archives.

The very word conjures up mental images of dusty files. And that's sad -- because there's life and color and excitement in archives.

Mayor Raymond Huff Monday proclaimed this week as International Archives Week. And the best local connection is with the Archives of Appalachia at East Tennessee State University.

These archives, under Dr. Ellen Garrison, director, have a wealth of information about our heritage, seeing as how we're located in the Southern Appalachians. The Archives of Appalachia is a regional institution devoted to the collection and preservation of the documents

pertaining to the history and heritage of our region.

Archival material allows us to understand the past. After all, if you don't know where you've been, how can you tell where you're going?

The Archives of Appalachia is a figurative gold mine in the traditions, the heritage, the history which are integral elements in understanding where we came from.

An exhibit, "What is an Archives, Anyway?", is on display this month in the Sherrod Library at ETSU. We would recommend a visit to see it. Dusty files? Never.

JOHNSON CITY PRESS-CHRONICLE, April 16, 1985



## INTERNATIONAL ARCHIVES WEEK

The city of Johnson City and Commerce Union Bank joined the Archives of Appalachia in celebrating International Archives Week on April 15. In a ceremony held in the bank's conference room, Mayor Raymond Huff proclaimed Archives Week in Johnson City, citing the city's appreciation of the value of the resources held by the archives which document the political, social, economic and cultural heritage of south central Appalachia. Huff also called attention to the exhibit, "What Is An Archives Anyway?", arranged by the archives in the Sherrod Library.

Cookie McKinney of Commerce Union hosted a reception following the ceremony. Among the guests were Ron Suedekum, president of Commerce Union; Ruth Ellis, vice president of the bank and a member of the State Board of Regents; Tom Hodge, editor of the JOHNSON CITY PRESS-CHRONICLE; Robert Alfonso, ETSU vice president of academic affairs; Fred Borchuck, director of the Sherrod Library; and Earl Wade, chair of the department of history. John Thomas, retired general manager of the Clinchfield Railroad, and folklore collectors Mr. & Mrs. Tom Burton and Mr. & Mrs. Ambrose Manning represented the donors whose gifts form the basis of the archives' collections. Frank Williams, ETSU professor emeritus of history, represented the researchers who use the archives' resources.

Also attending were past and present archives staff, members of the local media, and representatives of the Office of University Relations.

Local television WJHL (Johnson City) and WCYB (Bristol) covered the proclamation ceremony April 15 during their evening news shows. WKPT-TV (Kingsport) featured the archives' exhibit during their evening news of April 16. That same week Director Ellen Garrison appeared on interview programs on local stations describing International Archives Week and the role and purpose of an archives in society. On Sunday, April 7, Garrison was interviewed on "OMNI", a program produced at East Tennessee State University and broadcast state-wide on public television.

## THANK YOU

The staff of the Archives of Appalachia enjoyed our first celebration of International Archives Week and appreciate the community interest in our work which was evident throughout the week. Many individuals, representing both donors and users, joined us for our proclamation ceremony, along with representatives of the university and the State Board of Regents which furnish us with the resources needed to build our program.

And it is to these individuals, and those they represent, that we owe our success in collecting, preserving and making available the documentary heritage of our region. We are grateful not only for your participation in our recent celebration but for your continued support of the archives. We look forward to working with you in the years ahead as we grow and serve our larger community.

## WHAT IS AN ARCHIVES ANYWAY?

To commemorate International Archives Week, the Archives of Appalachia installed the exhibit, "What is An Archives Anyway?", on the first floor of the Sherrod Library. The exhibit first explains how records are acquired from various sources such as businesses, organizations and individuals. An inventory with an explanation of its parts and materials on the ACSAS system (See story page 4) illustrates the description of records for users. The third portion of the exhibit shows the methods of preserving records used in archival work. The exhibit ends with materials demonstrating the ways in which records are made available to university students and faculty, area citizens and scholars throughout the United States and foreign countries. The exhibit will be on display through May.

## CLASSES VISIT THE ARCHIVES

During February and March 225 researchers used the resources of the archives. Thomas Burton's folklore class and Charlotte Ross's class on folk culture in the modern world visited the archives for instruction on the varied materials on Appalachia available for research. Students in Jerry Hillard's journalism class used university records to prepare feature stories on campus buildings and the individuals for whom they were named.

On March 22 Rebecca Porter brought the fourth grade gifted class from the Johnson City schools to visit the archives. Director Garrison talked with the students about the importance of archives and displayed various types of records including photographs and computer tapes. A demonstration of methods of preserving records and of testing paper for acidity concluded the visit.

During the same period, 495 persons, including members of the Johnson City Adult Day Care Center, the Watauga Association of Genealogists and the Watauga Valley Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Association, saw the archives' outreach programs. University classes in social work, geography and music also utilized the programs during the semester.

## ACSAS: ARCHIVAL COMPUTERIZED SUBJECT ACCESS SYSTEM

Project ACSAS (pronounced "access") originated in 1980 with the NEH-funded MARS (Microcomputer Archival Retrieval System) project conducted at the Archives of Appalachia by Dr. Richard Kesner and others. The MARS project's original goal was to produce a software package that could be used to keep track of an archive's holdings and for other administrative purposes. However, it soon became apparent that this goal was beyond the time and monetary limitations of the grant. Instead, project staff concluded that existing general-purpose software could be used effectively to achieve the same goals as custom-written software and provided guidelines for the selection and use of such software. During the course of the project, the Archives of Appalachia purchased an Apple II Plus microcomputer along with DB Master data base management and EasyWriter word processing software.

Further development of a computerized system was postponed when Dr. Kesner left the archives in 1981. In 1982 Dr. Ellen Garrison became director of the archives and work began again on creating a computer-based subject access system. One of the first steps in this project was to standardize the numerous and diverse subject headings then in use by converting them to Library of Congress headings. Norma Thomas, hired through the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, has been working on the conversion since September. Lewis Cox, a former student assistant, has designed a computer-based subject access system, using the archives' microcomputer and DB Master data base software as an independent study in computer sciences. When the project is completed, the archives will be able to provide a unified subject index to its manuscript, vertical file, photograph and audiovisual collections.



## NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Ellen Garrison and Norma Thomas recently attended the Tennessee Archivists spring meeting at Montgomery Bell State Park. At the meeting, Thomas presented a paper on the use of team processing to arrange the East Tennessee Light and Power Company Records. Garrison was elected as the organization's secretary for the next year.

On February 4th Norma Thomas and Ellen Garrison attended a Solinet workshop on the new archives and manuscripts format. The one-day workshop, held in Atlanta, introduced the new format, which was implemented by OCLC last December.

In February, Director Garrison delivered a lecture entitled, "The Second Oldest Profession: The Archivist in Western Culture," at the University of South Carolina. The public presentation was sponsored by the university's department of history.

On Saturday, March 16, Director Garrison participated in the Visual History Workshop sponsored by the Tennessee Committee for the Humanities. Her topic was "How to Preserve Photos and Slides." The workshop was held at the Rose Center in Morristown, Tenn.

Director Garrison was also the speaker for the Johnson County Historical Society on Sunday, April 21. Her topic was "Why Write a County History?"

The spring meeting of the Society of Georgia Archivists was held recently at Unicoi State Park in Helen, Ga. Director Garrison attended the meeting and served as chairman of the program committee.

Dr. Richard Kesner, former director of the archives, is now associated with Multibank Financial Corporation as vice-president for general services. His new address is: Dr. Richard M. Kesner, vice-president for general services, Multibank Financial Corporation, 100 Rustcraft Road, Dedham, Mass. 02026. Kesner was formerly manager of office systems and services with the Faxon Company.

## APPALACHIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

The 1987 Appalachian Studies Conference will be held at East Tennessee State University with Helen Roseberry, director of the Carroll Reece Museum, as chairman of the program committee.

The 1985 conference met March 29 - 31 at Berea College in Kentucky. Richard Blaustein, Charlotte Ross, Helen Roseberry, Charles Gunter, Gretchen Whisnant, Bob Lewis and Clay Estep attended from ETSU. Richard Blaustein read a paper for Jack Higgs entitled, "Sports and Play in Appalachia." Elected officers from ETSU include: Richard Blaustein, secretary; Charlotte Ross, member of steering committee; Ellen Garrison, treasurer; and Clay Estep, member of 1986 program committee.

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

### ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA

ABRAHMS FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS AND CORRESPONDENCE, c. 1915-1960. 1 l.f. Photographs of and correspondence between various friends and family members of Virginia Abrahms from Rogersville, Tennessee. Donated by Martha Lewis Hampton, Johnson City, TN.

ACKER, ERNEST PAPERS, 1944-1945, 1982. ADDITION. 11 items. Legal documents, certificates, correspondence relating to Acker's military service and discharge. Donated on behalf of the Ernest Acker estate by Robert R. Allen, Hamilton Bank, Johnson City, TN.

ALDERMAN, JOHN BIGGS "PAT" PAPERS, 1956-1981. 4 l.f. Correspondence, research notes, drafts of books, audiotapes, sheet music, play and festival programs, and photographs concerning Alderman's career as a music teacher and his interests in the early history of East Tennessee and the conservation of natural resources. Donated by Alderman's daughter, Mrs. Larry Tittle, Kingsport, TN.

EAST TENNESSEE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION RECORDS, October 1984. ADDITION. 3 items. Agenda, minutes and resolutions from the Eightieth East Tennessee Education Association Convention in Knoxville, TN.

FIRST TENNESSEE-VIRGINIA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT RECORDS, April 1977-December 1984. ADDITION. 0.1 l.f. First Tennessee Development District's newsletter, DIRECTIONS. Donated by Jack Lawson, Director of Planning and Research, Johnson City, TN.

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS, April 1984. ADDITION. 2 items (1 photostat copy) Stephen Hatcher Civil War letter and copy of muster roll for the First Mississippi Mounted Rifles, Company D. Donated by Dr. Frank Williams, Johnson City, TN.

MORRIS, THOMAS HIGHLEY PAPERS, 1921-1938. ADDITION. 2.0 l.f. Correspondence and transcripts relating to legal cases of World War I veterans represented by Morris. Eight 5x7 copies of Morris family photographs. Donated by Elizabeth Highley Morris (Roberts) Bower, Johnson City, TN.

### UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS, April 1985. ADDITION. 1 cassette audiotape. One 60 minute audiotape of Lisa Alther's and John Shelton Reed's lecture concerning the characteristics of the South. Donated by Dr. Tom Burton, Johnson City, TN.

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

In recent months the Archives of Appalachia has received several professional publications relating to historic preservation, folklore or automation for archives. Copies of BROYLESVILLE, TENNESSEE AND HISTORIC SITES AND PRESERVATION IN UPPER EAST TENNESSEE prepared by the First Tennessee Development District were contributed by Martha Gray Hagedorn, historic preservation planner. Charles Gunter, ETSU geography and geology department, gave copies of PRESERVATIONS NEWS dating from December 1979 to January 1985. AMERICAN PRESERVATION, January 1978 - February 1980 and HISTORY NEWS, April 1969 - December 1983 were donated by Grady Webb, superintendent at the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site. Ambrose Manning, retired ETSU English professor, contributed recent issues of APPALACHIAN JOURNAL AND GOLDENSEAL. Former director Richard Kesner sent recent issues of the SAA NEWSLETTER, MIDWEST ARCHIVES CONFERENCE NEWSLETTERS and a copy of ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPT CONTROL FORMAT.

Several additional volumes concerning the Appalachian region and the university were donated in past months. Roger Butler contributed copies of his book, BUFFALO MOUNTAIN POEMS. The HISTORY OF THE METROPOLITAN ATLANTA BOYS' CLUBS, 1938-1976 by Frank Kentsmith was donated by former ETSU student Herman B. Guinn. Mildred Kozsuch of the archives staff has given a copy of the National Geographic publication, AMERICAN MOUNTAIN PEOPLE. THE SHERERTZ-SHERROD FAMILY was contributed by its compiler, James A. Sherrod. Peggi Morris sent the archives copies of ETSC COLLEGIAN, 23 September 1955 - 29 March 1985.

In addition to these contributors, the archives' staff would like to thank E. Harold Burleson, Harryet S. Blackwell, Robert Patton, Mayor Raymond Huff and Jim Nichols for donating miscellaneous newsclippings, photographs and brochures relating to the traditions and history of Appalachia.



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