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Archives of Appalachia NEWSLETTER



VOL. VII, NO. 3

SPRING, 1986

ARCHIVES DEVELOPS COMPUTERIZED ACCESS SYSTEM

An archivist is faced with the dual responsibility of caring for documents, manuscripts, photographs and audio/video tapes, and of providing researchers access to these materials. The Archives of Appalachia has depended on several card catalogs to serve as subject indexes to its holdings. A researcher, then, had to consult multiple catalogs for institutional records, photographs, books or audio/video tapes on any given subject. Because a manually-produced printed guide is impractical both to produce and to update, the archives decided to create a computer-generated guide which would consolidate the card catalogs. In July, 1984, the archives, with funding from the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, hired Norma Thomas as technical services archivist to implement the project.

The foremost problem revolved around designing an adequate system. In the fall, 1984 that problem was solved when Lewis Cox, a computer science student, agreed to develop a subject-based access system for the archives as an independent study under Dr. Evans Adams. The archives' system utilized DB MASTER 4 Plus data base management software for the Apple Plus microcomputer. Although the design of the system pushed DB MASTER to its limits, the software provided the necessary functions and has performed reasonably well. By the spring of 1985, the overall system structure, data base file, report formats and file maintenance forms had been developed and tested. In addition, Mr. Cox wrote a users manual which explained the operation of the system. The result was ACSAS (pronounced "access")--Archival Computerized Subject Access System.

Once the system had been designed and tested the archives staff had to implement it. The first task involved creating a standardized list of subject terms to be used to reference all research materials regardless of media type. The staff chose Library of Congress (LC) subject headings to create a consistent subject authority file. Reference terms previously used in the card catalogs then had to be converted to LC headings. This conversion proved to be both difficult and time-consuming.

The next step involved entering data into the computer. To date 5572 records--approximately 85 percent of the estimated total--have been entered into the system. Hopefully, data entry will be completed by the summer.

The final step in the project entails printing a comprehensive subject guide which will direct researchers to particular groups of materials that contain information about a selected subject. The guide will consist of four main sections: category list; categorical summary list; alphabetical summary list; and detailed list. The category list contains general terms which are used to group related subject reference terms. The categorical summary list consists of related subject references grouped under each category. The alphabetical summary list consists of an alphabetical listing of each subject term--including cross references--used as an access point to material in the archives. The detailed list is comprised of all subjects referencing collections in the archives. Each record in the detailed list includes the subject term, cross references, see also references, and the list of all groups of materials in the archives which contain information on a particular subject. By checking the printed guide a researcher or staff member will be able to determine quickly if, for example, the archives has an audio tape on a specific topic. In the end, then, ACCAS will improve the archives service to its patrons.

ARCHIVES ACQUIRES ADDITIONAL SPACE

Recently, the archives completed a rearrangement of materials begun at the end of the summer, 1985. At that time the archives acquired additional space when the medical library moved out of Sherrod library. The additional space allowed the archives to add a conference room which is used for classes, meetings, and researchers using audio-visual materials. The archives also added a room which not only houses maps and oversized materials, but also contains a work area for assembling exhibits and other large projects. And, most important, the archives acquired more storage space for its records.

"FACULTY NOW AND THEN"

In recognition of East Tennessee state university's 75th anniversary, the University Archives is currently displaying a "Faculty Now and Then" exhibit on the first floor of Sherrod Library.

The third exhibit in a series focusing on university history, "Faculty Now and Then" highlights the contributions of ETSU faculty in teaching, research and publication. Also featured is the work of faculty members in such regional organizations as the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, East Tennessee Education Association and the Appalachian Consortium.

HOMEFOLKS FESTIVAL

On Saturday April 19 the Fifth Annual Homefolks Festival took place at ETSU. Traditional Southern mountain music, crafts, dancing and storytelling all were part of the festival. Among the performers were the Homefolks Band, the ETSU Bluegrass Band, the Dixie Dewdrops, Jo Carson and Anndrena Belcher. The festival was sponsored by the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, B. Carroll Reece Museum and the Institute for Appalachian Affairs.



Ivan Powell, of the Dixie Dewdrops, one of this year's Homefolks performers.

75TH ANNIVERSARY SCAVENGER HUNT

What ETSU alumnus won the 78th Boston Marathon? What objects collected by a former US Congressman and Republican National chairman are now displayed in the campus building which bears his name? What is the name of the cranberry bog given to the university in 1979?

Eight student workers (Tracy Hoilman, captain, Jill Denton, Lisa Herdelin, Nathan Humbar, Kathy Klepper, Lori Peterson, Wilma Ray and Amy Wilder) in the office of university relations at ETSU recently discovered the answers to these and other questions and won first place in the scavenger hunt sponsored by the Residence Hall Association.

The purpose of the hunt was to familiarize students with the university's history in celebration of the 75th anniversary. Forty questions were designed and judged by Dr. Ellen Garrison, university archives, and Helen Roseberry, Reece Museum, chair of the 75th anniversary committee.

The research involved trekking to the archives and museum, telephone calls to various offices on campus, counting handicapped parking spaces and flags on campus, and interviewing faculty, staff and students.

Now for the answers--Neil Cusack won the 78th Boston Marathon, Congressman B. Carroll Reece collected elephants; and Jess Jenkins donated the "Jess Jenkins Cranberry Bog." (See photo page 7)

BLUEGRASS LECTURE

Dr. Neil V. Rosenberg, leading authority on the history of bluegrass music, spoke Sunday evening, April 20 at the Culp Center, on the discovering, naming and preserving of bluegrass. Professor of folklore at Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland, Dr. Rosenberg recently completed BLUEGRASS: A HISTORY (University of Illinois Press, 1985). Dr. Rosenberg also is a musician who writes regularly for scholarly and popular publications. The Center for Appalachian Studies and Services and the Institute for Appalachian Affairs cosponsored the lecture.

CASS BUYS MONITOR

Recently the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services (CASS) purchased a new monitor for the archives Apple II Plus computer. Thanks, CASS.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

In May and June the B. Carroll Reece Museum will host two photographic exhibit's, one to commemorate Tennessee Homecoming and one to commemorate ETSU's 75th anniversary. "Tennessee: A Homecoming," will open June 1 and close June 29. This exhibit will be sponsored by the Third National Corporation. Opening on May 3 and closing on May 28 is "A Photo History of Women at ETSU 1911-86."

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

On the evening of March 20 the Boone Tree Library Association held its winter meeting at the Archives of Appalachia. In addition to conducting a business meeting, the association viewed two slide/tape presentations: "Johnson City Album," which focuses on the history of Johnson City, and "Hands All Around," which focuses on quilting and social aspects of quilting.

On March 21-23 director Ellen Garrison and Norma Thomas attended the Appalachian Studies Conference held in Boone, North Carolina.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA. SEQUOYAH COUNCIL TROOP 36 RECORDS, 1958-1967. 2.5 l.f. Charter, correspondence, membership and leader lists, applications and certificates relating to membership and activities of Troop 36 in Johnson City, TN. Also included are teaching materials on a variety of topics (outdoor recreation, physical fitness, citizenship, etc.) Donated by Dr. William F. Campbell, ETSU.

EAST TENNESSEE MEDICINE COMPANY RECORDS, 1890-1923, ADDITION. 1 file folder. Photocopies of formulae for patent medicine and legal documents regarding transfers of ownership of the company. Donated by William Perry Bailey, III.

VIRGINIA IRON, COAL & COKE COMPANY RECORDS, 1900-1905. 3 l.f. Contains typed copies of legal transcripts, lists of property owned, abstracts of title and deeds relating to resource rights and lands in Carter and Johnson Counties, TN which were owned by the company or its predecessor, Doe Mountain Mining & Improvement Companies. Abstracts of title cover the period of 1790s to 1870s. Donated by Bob Shirley, American Natural Resources.

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

ALUMNI AFFAIRS OFFICE RECORDS, 1973-1983. 3 l.f. Photographs relating to alumni and student activities, fund raisers, homecoming and the quarterly publication of the office. Transferred by Alumni Affairs Office.

BUCCANEER PHOTOGRAPHS, 1984-1985. 0.5 l.f. 427 color photographs taken for the BUCCANEER, the ETSU student annual. Events depicted include: athletic events, homecoming, beauty pageants, Greek activities, campus scenes, concerts and Senator Albert Gore and Congressman Claude Pepper's visit to campus. Donated by Greg Walters, Managing editor for the BUCCANEER.

ROGERS, WILLIAM FLYNN PAPERS, c. 1935-1964. 6 l.f. Includes the former ETSU history department chairman's grade books, teaching materials, tests, student papers and thesis in addition to research data on local history. Donated by Dr. Frank Williams, Johnson City, TN.

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS RECORDS, 1965-1985. ADDITION. 4.5 l.f. Contains color slides; negatives; color and black and white photographs of various campus events, students, faculty and administrators at ETSU. Transferred by Larry Smith, University Photographer.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Archives of Appalachia thanks the following donors for a variety of items relating to Appalachian culture, local and university history:

Irene Thomas Davis
Mike Powers
Thomas Burton
Joe Hodges
Roberta Herrin
Mrs. Starr Wood
Thomas T.S. Huang
Joe Garrison
Charles Gunter
Dr. & Mrs. Howell Sherrod
Elizabeth Davisson
Michael Briggs
Robert Patton

ETSU SCAVENGER HUNT... (L-R) Amy Wilder, Tracy Holiman and Kathy Klepper
search for scavenger hunt artifacts in the B. Carroll Reece Museum at
East Tennessee State University. (See page 4)



Archives of Appalachia
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