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Archives of Appalachia NEWSLETTER



Vol. XI, No. 1

FALL 1989

Barnicle-Cadle Folk Recordings To Be Placed In The Archives

Tillman Cadle, a former miner, union organizer and folk music collector who resides in Townsend, Tennessee, has agreed to donate to the archives over 500 acetate discs of folk artists made in the years from 1935-50. Included in the collection are such artists as Leadbelly, Woodie Guthrie, Sarah Ogan Gunning, Aunt Molly Jackson, Sonny Terry and Brownie McGee, Jim Garland, the Adams Family, and others. Among the variety of expressive forms are ballads, dance music, tall tales from Appalachia, ghost stories, work songs and bawdy songs.

The Barnicle-Cadle Collection is the result of a lifetime of work by Mary Elizabeth Barnicle and Tillman Cadle. The two, who met and married in the 1930s, made hundreds of recordings of folk artists in Kentucky, Tennessee and Greenwich Village, New York. Barnicle and Cadle housed these recordings at their cabin near Blair Gap, Tennessee. Cadle kept the discs in the cabin after Barnicle's death in 1979.

The recordings are scheduled to be transferred to the archives in late October. Soon thereafter the archives, in cooperation with the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services (CASS), will begin dubbing the recordings onto tape. CASS staff researcher

Tim Stafford, instrumental in securing the collection, will be responsible for the dubbing. The archives is indebted to Stafford for his work, and for supplying the information for this article.

ACSAS Conversion Project

The development of the computerized subject index system for the archives began in 1984 as an independent study in computer science by Lewis Cox, one of the archives' student assistants. Under the direction of computer science professor Evans Adams, Cox designed and tested the overall system structure, database file, report formats, and users manual the Archives Computerized Subject Access System (ACSAS). ACSAS provided the archives with a single subject index to its manuscript, vertical file and audio-visual holdings. The system utilized DB Master 4 Plus database management for the archives Apple II Plus microcomputer. The design of the system pushed DB Master to its limits, but nonetheless, upon entering the data, the system performed reasonably well. As the data file grew, however, the Apple performed sluggishly. Printing the latest update of the archives' holdings required over fifteen hours of computer time.

In 1989 the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services (CASS) furnished the

archives with an IBM PS/2 microcomputer with hard drive capabilities. The archives staff now faced the task of converting its administrative records and the ACSAS system from the Apple to the IBM format. Again, Adams arranged for a computer science student to take on an independent study in order to design a new system. Michael Lavarn began the project during spring semester, 1989. The goals of this project included both the conversion of existing database systems to the IBM microcomputer and the development of a long-range automation plan for the archives. Lavarn has worked with the archives staff to identify areas where existing automated processes could be improved and tasks which could benefit from automation.

Lavarn first evaluated available software packages, keeping in mind both the capabilities of the software and the needs of the archives. Three software packages have been purchased: ADBM (for data base management); Lotus 1-2-3, and Wordperfect. With the database management software Lavarn began reconstructing the ACSAS system on the IBM in preparation for the transfer of data from the Apple files. Once the data has been transferred, the IBM file structure can be edited to improve operations on the IBM PS/2. The conversion should be completed by the end of the 1989-90 academic year. Lavarn also will examine the conversion of other data base files, including, for example, accession records and user

registration records. In addition, Lavarn and archives staff have worked on an index for the Appalachian Photographic Archives.

With the completion of the conversion of ACSAS and the administrative files, the archives will be able to improve service to users through an expanded subject access system and a better understanding of the use of archives' holdings. The archives greatly appreciates the efforts of Adams and Lavarn in this conversion project.

Studying the Craftmakers

At fairs, festivals, roadsides and malls throughout Appalachia, crafts are sold to middle-class Americans willing to pay sometimes outrageous prices for "authentic" items. The ubiquity of crafts perhaps has obscured the fact that crafts have not always been items meant for conspicuous consumption. Crafts, as part of popular culture, are the products of the artistic expression of ordinary people. Perhaps it is true, however, as Gertie, Harriet Simpson Arnow's dollmaker realized, that mass production for the marketplace demands sacrifice of artistic crafting. The tension between art and marketplace is not unusual. But the overwhelming demand for craft items by middle-class Americans is an interesting phenomenon which no doubt reveals as much about American society and culture as do the artists and the



WEAVING CHAIRS AT ETSU'S HOMEFOLKS FESTIVAL

crafts they fabricate. Analysis and examination of artists and their handicrafts, as well as the importance and function attached to their crafts, are valuable to an understanding of national, regional and local cultures.

Materials useful for research on handicrafts are available in the Archives of Appalachia. Three types of media--video tapes, audio tapes and printed sources--document the fabrication and function of crafts in Appalachia. Included in the Broadside Television Collection, for example, are three-quarter inch video cassettes which center on cloth weaving, cane weaving, basket-making, quilting, sled-making, and toy-making. The Charles Gunter Collection

includes reel to reel audio tapes which discuss woodcrafts and the construction of miniature furniture, while the Burton-Manning Collection includes a few reel to reel audio tapes which discuss making broom, rugs and cornshuck dolls. The archives also holds a 21 minute program, "Hands All Around," which examines the role of quilts and quilting in American society from the nineteenth century to the present. The program is available in slide-tape and VHS formats.

Weaving is the topic of an in-depth interview conducted in 1975 with Taft Greer, a weaver from Mountain City, Tennessee. The documentation of the Greer interview includes printed materials, 10

reel to reel video tapes, and two audio cassettes. These materials are included in the Larry Nave Collection.

In addition to the above-mentioned sources, the archives holds a number of publications which focus entirely or in part on handicrafts. Among the titles contained in the archives' Special Collections are a number of the Foxfire books, as well as works on quilting, toy making, and crafts and craftmakers in Tennessee and southern Appalachia. The archives' Appalachian publications include titles which frequently carry articles on crafts. Among these publications are Highland Highlights, Goldenseal, and the Tennessee Folklore Society Bulletin.

Staff News

Norma Thomas, head of the archives, and **Marie Tedesco**, archivist, attended the fall meeting of Tennessee Archivists, held November 16-17, in Nashville, Tenn. The Tennessee State Library and Archives sponsored the meeting.

Thomas participated in the special ETSU seminar, "Appalachian Culture and School Curriculum: Regional Consciousness and the Classic Tradition." She commented on the epistolary tradition in Appalachian culture. **Thomas** also is representing East Tennessee archives and libraries for Tennessee's bicentennial celebration

sponsored by the Tennessee Historical Society. The first meeting of the East Tennessee regional committees took place in Knoxville on October 28, 1989.

Frank Heath became the archives new graduate assistant for the 1989-90 academic year. Heath attended undergraduate school at Hartwick College, Oneonta, New York, and took graduate courses at American University, Washington, D.C. A sociology master's student, Heath formerly owned and operated the Soup Kitchen Restaurant in Johnson City.

The archives has three new student assistants, **Jeffrey Clark**, **Dawn Gentry**, and **Amy Kilgore**. **Clark**, a resident of Kingsport, Tenn., is a freshman at ETSU. **Gentry**, a resident of Mountain City, Tenn., also a freshman, is interested in pursuing a career in social work. **Kilgore** is a resident of Newport, Tenn., and is a sophomore majoring in education. All three students will help process collections.

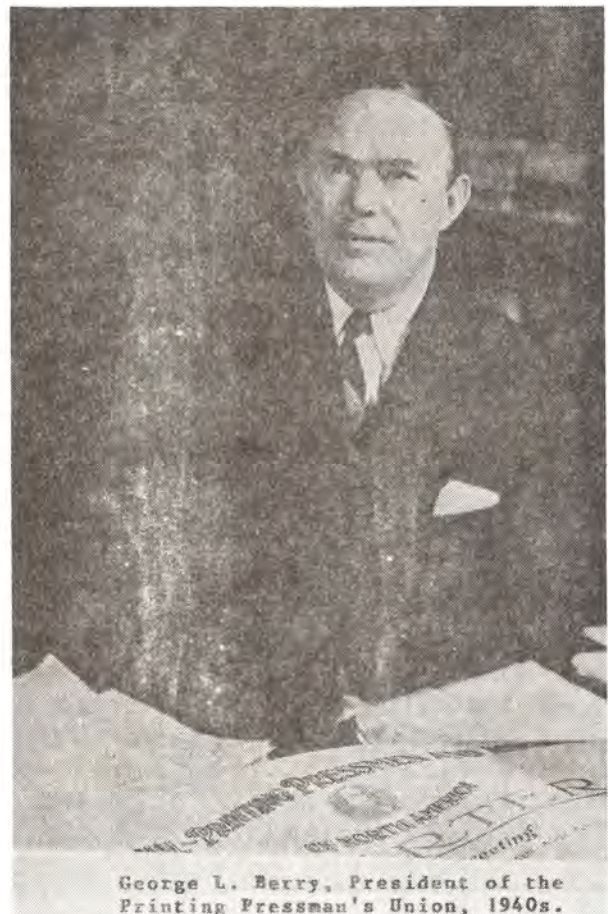
Recently Processed Collections

Archives staff members have processed the following Appalachian collections: **Joe Jennings Papers. Addition.** (1813-1967), 93 linear feet; covers the activities of Jennings as a public school administrator, Bureau of Indian Affairs official and East Tennessee State professor of history. Also included are Faulkner family genealogical

materials. **Appalachian-Scottish Studies Collection** (1971-89), .5 linear feet, 61 audio cassettes (originals and dubs), 57 three-quarter inch video cassettes, 25 reel to reel audio cassettes, and nine 33 rpm phono discs; focuses on the 1988 Appalachian-Scottish Studies program held at ETSU, and includes information on the history, culture and interrelationship between southern Appalachia and Scotland. **Norris Dam Photographs** (1933-34), nine 3 1/4 x 4 1/2 inch black and white photographic prints of the construction of Norris Dam. **Kyle Huddle Photographs** (1910-30), 14 5x7 black and white photographic prints of Kingsport, Tenn. **Pressman's Home Photographs** (1907-76), 38 black and white photographs, (5x7 and 8x10) and one color poster print, of the buildings at Pressman's Home, Tenn., and of the officers and members of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants Union. **Charles Tiller Photographs** (1924-38), 84 5x7 black and white prints, 84 2 1/2 x 2 1/2 black and white negatives and 84 black and white slides of logging operations and camp life at William M. Ritter limber camps in Dickenson County, Virginia.

Recently processed university collections include the following: **Alumni Affairs Office** (1911-84), 5.5 linear feet; consists mostly of photographs which focus on life at East Tennessee State. **William Flinn Rogers Papers** (1854-1975), 4.5 linear feet; concerns the teaching and research of Rogers, a history

professor at East Tennessee State, 1925-68. **Office of University Relations Records** (1913-86), 101.5 linear feet; covers the activities of University Relations and its predecessor offices at the university.



George L. Berry, President of the Printing Pressman's Union, 1940s.

**RECENT ACQUISITIONS
ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA**

Daughters of the American Revolution, John Sevier Chapter, Records, 1913-62. 1 linear foot. Addition. The addition contains one minute book, three financial and membership ledgers, correspondence, reports, receipts, newspaper clippings and pamphlets documenting the general business activities of the John Sevier Chapter, 1913-62. Donated by Macie Poteat, Johnson City, Tenn.

H. Phil Carr Collection, 1792-1949. .5 linear foot. Contains one purchase agreement between J.S. Love and G.W. Green, 1900; and copies of warranty and sheriff's deeds, 1792-1949, documenting the purchase of Johnson City property by Paul Carr, Ann C. Carr, S.H. Carr, and Frances B. Carr. Donated by H. Phil Carr, Johnson City, Tenn.

John Wesley Garland Papers, 1859-87. One file folder. Contains one file folder of bonds, will, purchase agreements, correspondence, broadsides, military orders, and receipts, documenting the activities of John Wesley Garland in Tennessee and North Carolina. Donated by Ernest Harold Burleson, Johnson City, Tenn.

William Cary Hattan Collection, 1897-1905. One linear foot. Contains five books on railway construction, general chemistry and water works, with personal notes written in the margins by Hattan during the time he worked on the Clinchfield Railway. Donated by Mary Hattan Bogart, Erwin, Tenn.

Johnson City Council of Garden Clubs Collection, 1958-87. 33 scrapbooks; three linear feet. Contains 23 general scrapbooks, ten flower show scrapbooks and administrative files and memorabilia documenting the operation of the council. Donated by Mrs. Carl Fletcher, Johnson City, Tenn.

Old-Time Dance Conference Collection, 1989. Eight three-quarter inch video cassettes. Contains eight three-quarter inch video cassettes of the 1989 Old Time Dance Conference held at East Tennessee State University on April 27-29. Featured performers and speakers included Bob Dalsemer, Jacky Christian, Phil Jamison, Walker Calhoun and Mike Seeger. Donated by Richard Blaustein, Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, ETSU.

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Applied Science and Technology, School of, Records, 1950-80. 13 linear feet. Contains correspondence, reports, course schedules, curriculum proposals, grade reports, bulletins and research proposals which

document industrial and vocational education at East Tennessee State. Transferred to the archives by Wayne D. Andrews, Director, School of Applied Science and Technology, ETSU.

Delta Eta Chapter, Delta Zeta Sorority, Records and Scrapbooks, 1955-89. Two linear feet; one flat box. Contains scrapbooks, photo albums, song sheets, books, pledge records and memorabilia documenting the activities of Delta Eta. Transferred to the archives by Kristn C. Fry, University Relations.

Edwin Greninger Collection, 1950-83. One linear foot. Contains correspondence, periodicals, memoranda, and reports documenting the activities of Greninger as a member of the history and political science departments at East Tennessee State. Donated by Edwin Greninger, Johnson City, Tenn.

Frank B. Williams Papers, 1946-89. Eight linear feet. Contains correspondence, memoranda, lecture notes, reports, pamphlets, newspapers clippings, speeches, maps, teacher evaluations and personal notes on Williams' activities while a member of the history department at East Tennessee State. Donated by Frank B. Williams.

Miscellaneous

The archives extends special thanks to Richard Kesner and Amy Tipton Gray for their donations to the archives.

The archives thanks the following donors for a variety of items relating to Appalachian culture and local history:

Everette L. Horton, Jr.
Jack Jones
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Ed Speer

Margaret Hyder DeVault
Jane Woodside
Marie Tedesco
James C. Nichols

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