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# Archives of Appalachia NEWSLETTER



Vol. XI. No. 3

Spring/Summer 1990

## COAL EMPLOYMENT PROJECT DONATES RECORDS TO ARCHIVES

In April 1989 the Board of Directors of the Coal Employment Project, Knoxville, Tenn., voted to place their records at the Archives of Appalachia. CEP officials are working with archives head Norma M. Thomas to coordinate the transfer of the records to the archives. As the present time, the transfer is almost complete, with over two-thirds of the entire donation having been transferred to the Archives of Appalachia.

The Coal Employment Project began operation in 1978 in Oak Ridge, Tenn., in response to concerns about sex discrimination against women in coal mining. CEP helps women obtain and keep jobs in coal mining. The organization provides legal support to end sexual harassment and discrimination, and annually sponsors a national conference which focuses on women in mining. In addition, CEP publishes a monthly newsletter, organizes local support groups of women miners and develops programs to address such work-related issues as parental leave, leadership development health, and safety, and connections to the United Mine Workers of America.

The Coal Employment Project Records, 1978-89, include a variety of media and cover a number of different topics. Records already transferred to the

archives includes both video and audio tapes--172 tapes, total. Of these 148 are video and 24 audio. These tapes document the ten annual conferences--including workshop--held by CEP, as well as coal mining strikes which involved female miners. Audio tapes in particular provide documentation of interviews with women miners in various topics ranging from the changing role of the UMWA in promoting mining for women to community perception of female miners.

The CEP records also contain 24 linear feet of paper documentation. Included among these papers are correspondence of CEP officers with community leaders, mining officials, and others; bulletins and newsletters; event programs, meeting minutes, and grant proposals which document the activities of the Coal Employment Project.

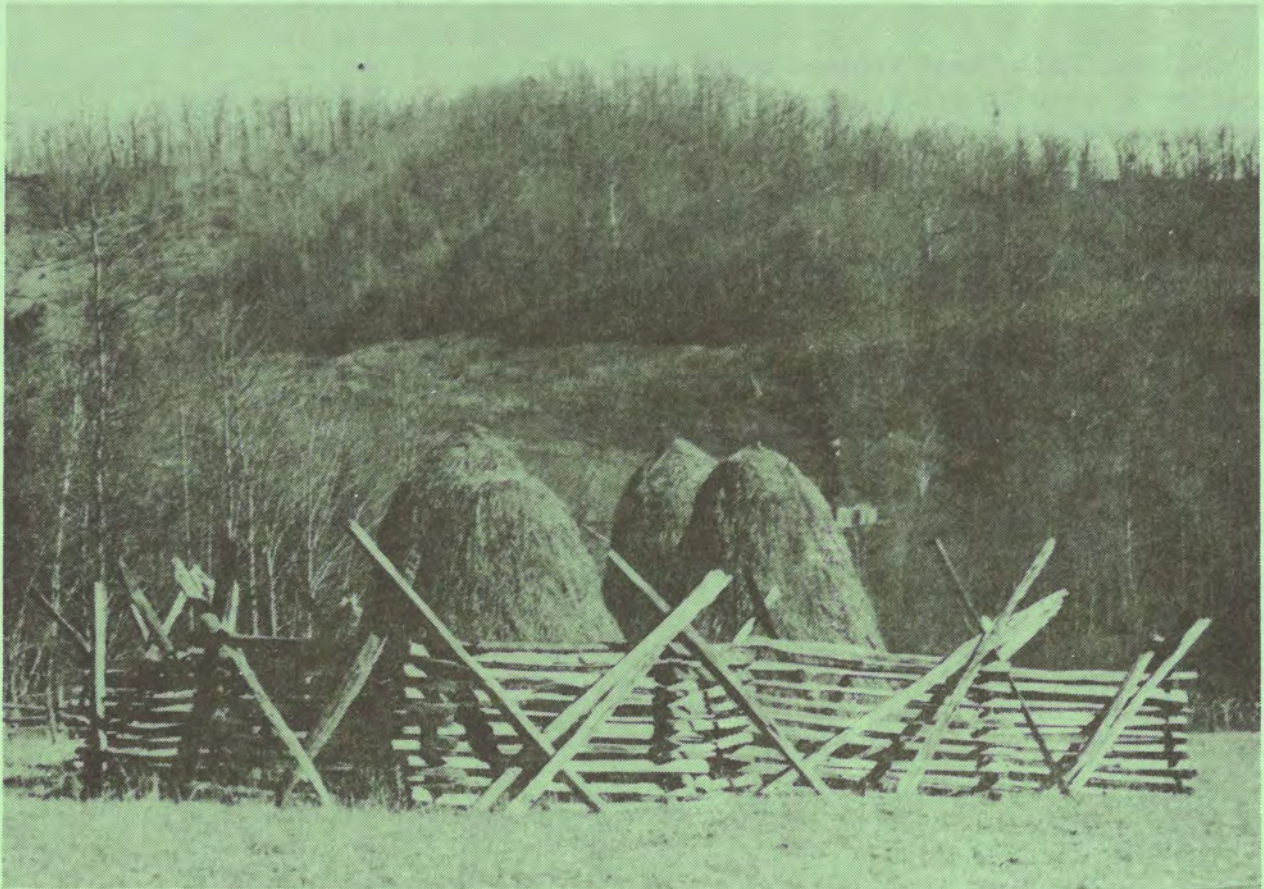
The records of the Coal Employment Project are a valuable and welcome addition to the archives' collections. The CEP records can be researched with profit by persons interested in women's history and sociology, Appalachian regional activism, and the economics and sociology of coal mining. For more information on the CEP Project records, please contact the archives at 615/919-4338.



## LAND USE IN RURAL APPALACHIA

Appalachia often has been viewed as a rural area of marginal farms and widespread absentee ownership. Writers at the turn of the century presented the Southern Highlands as a land settled by Scots Irish who lived on subsistence farms supplemented by hunting or making whiskey. In this view of Appalachia, each successive generation was pushed farther and farther up the mountainside to farm land which was too steep to cultivate and was depleted quickly of its nutrients.

In later years, this view of rural Appalachia was reconsidered. Younger writers said that the agricultural system of small farms had been disrupted by the infusion of outside capital in lumbering, mining and industrial adventures, and by the increase of absentee land owners. In this Appalachia of the third world, the land often was sacrificed for the wealth that could be extracted from the natural resources and the region's abundant supply of cheap labor. These simplified descriptions could not adequately explain rural life in the southern mountains; the





broad valleys of East Tennessee are different from the coal-rich mountains in Eastern Kentucky, and the agricultural concerns of the 19th century were different from those in the last decades of the 20th century. And in both time periods some consideration was given to the thoughtful use of the land.

Among the collections held by the Archives of Appalachia, the Frederick S. Heiskell Papers provide some insight on the importance of planning and land use in the 19th century. In a report prepared for a southern political convention on the eve of the Civil War, Heiskell argued that East Tennessee had been ignored with regard to agricultural production but that the area was capable of producing crops and livestock for export to other states in the South. The report indicated that the amount of land in cultivation had doubled in the 10 years since the 1850 census. Heiskell stated that the six and a half million acres of land in East Tennessee would "sustain in rural population of a million besides artisans and other town and city inhabitants to the amount of a half million." Heiskell's report detailed specific crops which should be introduced to increase productivity.

In another collection held by the archives, First Tennessee-Virginia Development District Records, a report prepared in 1973 by a group of urban planning students at East Tennessee State University, recounted the need for land use planning in rural areas. According to this report the extension of "urban fringe areas" into rural regions generally forced farmers to sell lands as a result of increased value and taxes. The students predicted a 25% decrease in land used for agricultural and environmental conservation purposes in the northeastern Tennessee district by 1990.

The archives holds several other collections with information relating to agriculture and rural life. The papers of

United States Congressman B. Carroll Reece, who served East Tennessee from the 1920s through the 1950s, contain materials on government policies affecting agriculture in the region. The Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railway Records spanning the early 1900s include information on the various agricultural enterprises in areas served by the railroad. In 1912, the railroad compiled a list of farmers and apple growers located along the line which stretched from South Carolina to Kentucky.

Representing a later period, the Model Valley Industrial Development Council Records document an effort in the 1970s to improve community services and to introduce a small industry into an economically depressed community in the rural area north of Knoxville, Tenn.

Three additional collections provide a more personal view of rural life. The Murray Family Papers and the Brabson Family Papers include correspondence, land surveys and deeds, and financial ledgers created by these families living in Washington County, Tenn., during the 1800s. The diary of Fannie Fain recounts the day-to-day life of a woman living near Blountville, Tenn., during the Civil War.

Audiovisual materials which illustrate rural life in the mountains since the turn of the century also are available. Traditional agricultural practices and folklore are described in tape-recorded interviews in the Burton-Manning Collection and Charles Gunter Collection. The Broadside Television Collection provides video recordings documenting rural life. These audiovisual collections cover such topics as quilting bees, bean stringings, apple peelings, hog killings, farming practices, and planting by the signs.

--Norma Thomas, Head of Archives  
and Special Collections  
--Marie Tedesco, Public Services  
Archivist

## STAFF

### Norma

Thomas, head of the archives, presented a paper titled "Architect and Hiker: D. R. Beeson, Jr." at the Appalachian Studies Conference, Helen, Ga.,



March 25. The paper was based on Beeson's diaries of his walking trips through the Appalachian mountains, 1913-17. Thomas also was a panelist in the March 24 session, "The Development of Appalachian Collections and Archives." On March 31, Thomas spoke on the handling and storing of paper-based materials for the Tennessee Heritage Alliance meeting held in Jonesborough, Tennessee. She also participated in the Southern Archivists Conference (SAC) as a respondent in a May 24 session which compared regional archival organization. SAC met at Lake Guntersville, Alabama and included archivists from Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Marie Tedesco, public services archivist, presented a paper, "Life and Labor in the Rayon Plant at Elizabethton, Tennessee: A Preliminary Survey of Workers' Lives, 1926-90," at the Appalachian Studies Conference, March 24, 1990, Helen, Ga. The paper utilized descriptive statistics gathered from questionnaires, together with material obtained from both the plants' official publication and the local newspaper. To facilitate the continuation of her research, Tedesco has been awarded a Center for Appalachian Studies and Services Fellowship for 1990-91. On May 10 Tedesco spoke to the Holston Valley Association of Genealogists in sources of genealogical research and preservation of documents.

Scott Schwartz, technical services archivist, read a paper, "Sacred Boogie-Woogie, the Music of the Appalachian Serpent Handlers," at the Appalachian Studies Conference, Helen, Ga., March 25. Schwartz also directed the semester's final performance of the ETSU Collegium Musicum. The performance featured English and Italian music of the late Renaissance.

## RECENTLY PROCESSED COLLECTIONS

Archives staff have completed processing the following collections: **General Shale Products Corporation Records, 1909-86, 1.5 linear feet** (includes records of the Johnson City Shale Brick Corp., Richlands Brick Corp., and General Concrete Products Corp.); **Nathaniel Taylor Winston Collection, 1781-1967, .5 linear foot** (contains documentation on Winston, a Bristol businessman and conservationist, 1896-1961, and on the Taylor and Winston families, 1796-1903); **Kingsport Press Strike Collection, 1961-82, .5 linear foot, and 2 audio cassettes** (Focuses on the strike at Kingsport Press, Kingsport, Tennessee, 1953-67); **Carl B. Knight Papers, 1972-83, 2.5 linear feet**, (Documents the professional activities of Knight, the editor and publisher of the Big Stone Gap Post Newspaper. Also includes documentation on Knight's activities as a member of the board of directors of Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railway, 1972-83); and the **Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railway Collection, addition, 1909-75, 94 linear feet** (contains accounting records, general ledgers, maps, contracts and annual reports).





**KATHRYN H. WILSON**  
1927-1990

Our saddest news is that Kathryn Wilson died on May 21, 1990, in Johnson City, Tenn. after a lengthy illness. Kathryn worked in the government documents department of Sherrod Library from 1967 to 1979 when she transferred to the Archives. She worked as the office manager at the Archives of Appalachia during the first years of its operation until her retirement in 1984. It was a pleasure to work with Kathryn. She expertly managed all of the details of daily operation and provided the public assistance in using the archives' materials. She also was a source of encouragement to the staff, student assistants and graduate students who have worked at the archives with her. We will remember her dedication to the archives over the years and most of all we will miss the person, Kathryn Wilson. We extend our sympathy to her husband, Charles W. Wilson, and children, Mrs. Jackie Maggard and Charles W. Wilson, II.

### SELECTED RECENT ACQUISITIONS

**CAROLINA, CLINCHFIELD AND OHIO RAILWAY COLLECTION**, 1901-1983, 96 linear feet, addition. The collection contains 96 linear feet of preliminary line maps, topographic survey maps, blueprint maps, bridge design ledgers, equipment design ledgers, town-railroad station maps, building designs, seismographic charts of track layout, and track mile post maps documenting the early design and construction of the CC&O Railway and the maintenance of the railroad track and equipment between 1909 and 1975. The maps are of varying sizes from 3' wide by 100' long to 2' wide by 3' long. Donated by Phillip Laws, representing the Watauga Chapter of the American Railroad Historical Society, Erwin, Tenn.

**CITY OF JOHNSON CITY RECORDS**, 1923-1988, 13 linear feet, addition. Contains 13 boxes of bonds, ordinances, oaths of office, pamphlets, reports, financial statements, audit reports, and newspaper clippings documenting the general operation and management of Johnson City between July 15, 1923 and June 1, 1988. Donated by Vickie Hames, Johnson City, Tenn.

**MARAT MOORE COLLECTION**, 1987-1990, 4 video tapes, 5 audio tapes, and 1 linear foot of manuscripts. This addition to the Marat Moore Collection contains 4 VHS tapes, 5 audio cassette tapes, pamphlets, event programs, books, newspapers, and photocopies of newsclippings documenting the history of the UMWA and the Pittston Coal strike, 1987-1990. Donated by Marat Moore, Washington, D.C.

**COAL EMPLOYMENT PROJECT RECORDS**, 1978-1989, 148 video tapes, 24 audio tapes, and 5 linear feet of manuscripts. The collection contains 148 video tapes (98 VHS, 29 3/4 inch cassettes, 21 reel-to-reel); 24 audio tapes (4 reel-to-reel and 20 cassettes) and 5 linear feet of correspondence, memoranda, agendas, event programs, pamphlets, receipts, Federal tax returns, bills, reports and financial statements documenting the full spectrum of administrative activities conducted by the Coal Employment Project between 1978 and 1989. Some of the activities include trip planning, publication of the newsletter and the writing of project proposals. Donated by Madeline Rogero, Knoxville, Tenn.

**COAL EMPLOYMENT PROJECT RECORDS**, 1977-1985, 19 linear feet. This addition to the Coal Employment Project Records contains 19 boxes of correspondence, financial reports, audits, bills, receipts, invoices, pamphlets, bulletins, event programs, agenda, minutes, and grant proposals documenting the general activities of the Coal Employment Project between 1977 and 1985. The focus of a majority of the records is on women in the coal mining industry. Donated by Madeline Rogero, Knoxville, Tenn.

**WCYB RADIO COLLECTION**, 1947-1949, 7 reel-to-reel audio tapes. The collection contains 7 seven-inch reels of audio tapes of Curly King and the Tennessee Hilltoppers produced by WCYB Radio, Bristol, Tenn., between 1947 and 1949. The tapes contain Fisk Tire Programs and Thrift Supply Company Shows featuring the Tennessee Hilltoppers and such regional musicians as Curly King, Don Campbell, Leslie Keith, Cousin Zelee and Roy Russell. The tapes were copied from the original discs owned by Don Campbell by Richard Blaustein and Don Campbell in 1979. Donated by Richard Blaustein, Johnson City, Tenn.



**EILEEN WILLIAMS COLLECTION, 1903-1987, 1 linear foot.**

The collection contains newspapers, newsclippings, pamphlets, broadsides, and a report documenting regional events of Kingsport, Tenn. and the activities of its residents between 1903 and 1987. In addition to this material there are copies of the Chattanooga News and Knoxville Sentinel describing East Tennessee events. Donated by Eileen Williams, Kingsport, Tenn.

**CHARLES E. PRICE COLLECTION, 1990, 12 audio tapes.**

The collection contains 12 audio cassette tapes of interviews with various participants involved in the care of injured residents and the investigation of the John Sevier Retirement Home fire, Johnson City, Tenn., December 24, 1989. The interviews were conducted by Charles E. Price throughout the month of January 1990. Donated by Charles E. Price, Johnson City, Tenn.

**HARVEY LEE HUGHETT COLLECTION, 1950-1977, 128 audio tapes.**

The collection contains 128 5-inch and 7-inch reel-to-reel audio tapes that were recorded by Harvey Lee Hughett, Sr. between 1950 and 1977. The recordings contain interviews with East Tennessee religious and lay church leaders, together with recordings of Christian services and homecomings. Donated by Harvey Lee Hughett, Jr., Moscow, Idaho.

**ELIZABETH JOBE HENLEY COLLECTION, 1803-1895, 1 folder.**

The Elizabeth Jobe Henley Collection consists of receipts, bills of sale, correspondence, and a will documenting the personal and business activities of Isaac Henley and the Henley family between 1803 and 1895. Donated by Sara Huffine, Johnson City, Tenn.

**MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS**

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

Vic Weals	Charles Gunter, Jr.
David Hsiung	Beffie Bren
Denton C. Sansom	Richard Blaustein
John C. Thomas	Slyvia Gaylor
Andy Miller	



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