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Archives of Appalachia
NEWSLETTER



Vol. XIV, No. 3

Fall 1993

Silvers Books Donated to Library

In early October Herb Silvers generously donated to the Sherrod Library at East Tennessee State University books from the library of his late wife, Barbara Jaffe Silvers. Mrs. Silvers was a part-time instructor in the history department and a supporter of the department and the university until her death in August 1992. Barbara Silvers earned both her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from East Tennessee State University. She was active in the ETSU Foundation and sat on the Board of Directors of the ETSU National Alumni Association. In 1984 ETSU

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named her "Outstanding Alumna" for that year. The Barbara Jaffe Silvers Memorial Scholarship was established through the foundation to honor the memory of Mrs. Silvers and to recognize her work in the history department.

The donated library includes a fine collection of 118 antiquarian titles which focus primarily on the history of Scotland and England. Among the antiquarian titles are rarities with publication dates ranging from the sixteenth through the nineteenth centuries. Among other books included in the donation are 93 non-antiquarian titles on the Tudor period and 22 titles on Tennessee. These volumes will be housed in Archives and Special Collections and maintained as a memorial library in honor of Mrs. Silvers. Another 291 titles consisting of American and British literature and historical studies will be placed in the general circulating collection of the Sherrod Library.

The archives is pleased to have the Barbara Jaffe Silvers Library as an important resource which will support specialized historical research. For more information on the Silvers library contact the archives at 615/929-4338.

STAFF NEWS

Norma Myers, director of the archives, attended the Tennessee Historical Records Advisory Board meeting held in Gallatin, Tenn., on July 8-9. She also attended the annual conference of the Society of American Archivists in New Orleans on September 1-5.

Marie Tedesco, technical services archivist, attended a seminar on photographic preservation sponsored by SOLINET and held in Atlanta, Ga., on September 27. She presented a paper, "Labor and Management in the Rayon Plants of Elizabethton, Tennessee: Three Generations of Appalachian Workers Remember the Past, 1926-93" at the Southern Labor Studies Conference, Birmingham, Ala., October 22, 1993. She also taught the three-week archives section of the public history course offered by ETSU's history department.

Scott Schwartz, technical services archivist, resigned his position to accept a position as an archivist for the Duke Ellington Collection at the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.

STUDENT ASSISTANTS

Michele Saas, a graduate student in English, returned to the archives as a graduate assistant. She helps supervise student archives projects. This semester the archives was fortunate to have four students who worked

during the spring and summer semesters return to the archives. They are **Bryan Daniels**, **Heather Edmundson**, **Michael Gates**, and **Blair Altizer**. Also returning after a year's hiatus is **Dawn Gentry**. At the present time student assistants are working on the following projects: flattening and listing Chancery Court cases of the Washington County Court Records; finishing processing the Coal Employment Project Records; reboxing and refolding the Culp Papers; and indexing the student newspaper, the East Tennessean.

POSITION CHANGE

The technical services archivist position, formerly held by **Scott Schwartz**, has undergone a revamping. Previously funded by the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, this position now is a faculty-line, library position. The new technical services position is responsible not only for accessioning, processing, and MARC format data, but also for maintaining the audiovisual materials. **Marie Tedesco** has switched positions. She was the public services archivist and now is the technical services archivist. A search is underway for the new public services archivist, who will work closely with CASS on joint archives-CASS projects.

SELECTED RECENT ACQUISITIONS

ROBERT J. HIGGS COLLECTION, 1993. 5 videotapes; 16 audiotapes; .2 linear feet. Consists of printed materials on East Tennessee railroads and audio and videotapes of lectures given as part of the course "Carolina Special: Railroads Through the Carolinas and Beyond." Donated by Robert J. Higgs, English department, ETSU.

THOMAS G. BURTON COLLECTION, 1908-93. 9 audiotapes and .5 linear feet, Addition.

Consists of audiotapes of interviews with Burton concerning his book on serpent-handling; interviews with serpent-handlers; clippings on death attributed to snake bite and consumption of poison; and printed documents on George Hensley and other members of the Dolly Pond Church With Signs Following. Donated by Thomas G. Burton, English department, ETSU.

JOSEPHINE GERNESHEIMER PAPERS, 1935-36. .5 linear feet.

Includes correspondence, typescripts of letters, photographs and a grade book which document Gernsheimer's work as a teacher for the Carcassonne School, in Gander, Kentucky. Donated by Josephine Gernsheimer, Kingston, Rhode Island.

MARY NELL DOSSER KELLER COLLECTION, 1848-1982. 3 file folders.

Contains photocopies of correspondence, essays, and genealogical writings on the Dosser, Rhea and Fain families; a memoir by Robert N. Dosser and essays by Sarah Jane Foster. Donated by Mary Nell Dosser Keller, Johnson City, Tenn.

CENTER FOR APPALACHIAN STUDIES AND SERVICES RECORDS, 1984-87; 1993. 16 audiotapes; 2 file folders, ADDITION.

Consists of audiotaped interviews by Tom Bledsoe with Uncle Charlie Osborne; interviews of and lectures by individuals who participated in CASS-sponsored programs. Transferred by Jean Speer, Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, ETSU.

EDWARD R. FEAGINS COLLECTION, 1941-46, 1 file folder.

Consists of Feagins' World War II memoirs of his military training and of his combat in North Africa. Donated by Edward R. Feagins, Kingsport, Tenn.

JACK UNDERWOOD PHOTOGRAPHS, c.1900-1920, 16 photographs.

Consists of copies of 16 black & white photographs which depict CC&O Railway and other Appalachian railroads. Originals loaned by Jack Underwood, Johnson City, Tenn.

ROAN MOUNTAIN PROJECT COLLECTION, 1992, .5 linear feet; 18 audiotapes.

Consists of clippings, tape transcriptions and reports on the Road Mountain Project; 18 audiotapes of interviews with persons who live in the Roan Mountain area. Transferred by Thomas G. Burton, English Department and Jean Speer, Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, ETSU.

MURRELL FAMILY COLLECTION, 1887-1993, 2 audiotapes, 29 photographs, and 4 file folders.

Includes black and white photographs, clippings and audiotapes documenting the history of the Cloudland and Colonial Hotels, and the Snyder House in Roan

Mountain; and the Murrell family. Donated by Pauline Murrell Stone, Johnson City, Tenn.

JOHN AND CAROL LEBERT TAPES, 1993, 20 audio cassettes.

Consists of twenty 90-minute audio cassettes of story telling sessions, folk songs, and lectures which were part of the 1993 Appalachian-Scottish Studies Program held in Edinburgh, Scotland. Donated by the Leberts through Thomas G. Burton, English department, ETSU.

MIKE DeBOSE PHOTOGRAPHS, 1984-1985, 21 photographs.

Consists of 21 black and white photographs of Appalachian serpent handlers taken by Mike DeBose. Donated by Mike DeBose, Nashville, Tenn.

BUFORD J. GOLDSTEIN COLLECTION, 1929-40, .4 linear feet.

Consists of one ledger, reports to the Securities and Exchange Commission, and correspondence documenting the accounting practices of American Bemberg Corporation, Elizabethton, Tenn. Donated by Buford J. Goldstein, Johnson City, Tenn.

GORDON EBERSOLE PERSONAL PAPERS, 1967-1993, 3 linear feet.

Consists of two boxes of scrapbooks containing newsclippings, postcards, obituaries, and correspondence documenting world, national, and state events. Donated by Gordon Ebersole, Bowie, Maryland.

MIKE SMITH PHOTOGRAPHS, 1992, 25 prints.

Consists of 25 color 16"x 20" photographs taken by Mike Smith for a CASS fellowship project. The photographs contain images of various ways Christmas is celebrated in Appalachia. Transferred by Jean Haskell Speer, Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, ETSU.

HEISKELL FAMILY COLLECTION, 1877, 1 scrapbook. ADDITION.

Consists of 1 scrapbook of newsclippings on American humor, poetry, religion and history. Donated by Edward M. Steel, Jr., Morgantown, West Virginia, May 20, 1993.

JOSEPH S. HALL PAPERS, 1939-1991, .5 linear feet.

Consists of newsletters, pamphlets, books, periodicals and reviews documenting Hall's research of Appalachian dialects and folklore of the Smoky Mountains. Donated by Helen Hall, Hollywood, California.

CONGRESS FOR APPALACHIAN DEVELOPMENT RECORDS, 1960-1993, 1 linear foot, ADDITION.

Includes photocopies of photographs, correspondence, newsclippings, and reports that were compiled by Gordon Ebersole as part of his work with the Congress for Appalachian Development. Donated by Gordon Ebersole, Bowie, Maryland.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH RECORDS, 1936-1978, 9.5 linear feet, ADDITION.

Consists of 14 boxes of financial records and correspondence which document the financial operation of St. John's Episcopal Church. Donated by Rev. Don Johnson, Johnson City, Tenn.

MARY BETH SPINA FAMILY PAPERS, 1952-1974, .3 linear feet, ADDITION.
Consists of 1 scrapbook and other materials documenting Mary Elsie White's career as the first executive director of Appalachian Girl Scout council; the history of the Kentucky Derby; and Frederick T. White's military career. Donated by Mary Beth Spina, Clarence, New York.

COUNTRY MUSIC IN THE ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA



The Archives of Appalachia has 17 collections which contain recorded country music or information about country music. The recorded music is on audiotape, videotape or disc. The tapes are in both reel to reel and cassette format, while the discs are either vinyl or acetate with aluminum, glass, or cardboard cores. The music dates from the 1920s through the 1980s, and includes various types of country music. Represented, for example, are bluegrass, old-time country, folk ballads, gospel, hymns, blues and protest/political music. The regional focus of the music in these collections is the southern Appalachian area, but there are ballads from Scotland in the Appalachian-Scottish Studies collection. Please note that restrictions on dubbing tapes or copying photographs apply to those collections designated as "restricted." Contact the archives for the nature of restrictions on a particular collection.

Selected Collections

Accession 25. Burton-Manning Collection and Addition. Includes taped (audio and video) musical performances of artists from East Tennessee and western North Carolina, as well as such noted performers as Arlie Watson, Doc Watson, Tom Ashley, Horton Barker, the Carter Family, and the Toe River Valley Boys. Types of music include ballads, shape note, bluegrass and old-time. Also includes written documentation. **RESTRICTED.**

Accession 28. Broadside Television Collection. Contains many 3/4" video cassettes of musical performances. Performers include: the Morris Brothers, Taylor and Stella Kimble, the Fiddlin' Powers Family, Ralph Stanley, Tommy Jarrell, Johnny Cash, and Malcolm Johnson. Types of music represented include old-time, bluegrass, ballads and mountain blues guitar. Also contains videos on WZAP, a country-music radio station, and on making musical instruments.

Accession 111. Richard Blaustein Collection and Addition. Includes audio and videotapes on old-time, country, bluegrass, gospel and revival music. Performers include Ralph Mayo, Bailes Brothers, Joe Clark, Dixie Dewdrops, Victory Quartet, Charlie Bowman, Carter Family, Uncle Dave Macon, Roan Mountain Hilltoppers, and G.B. Grayson. Festivals include ETSU Homefolks, Ferrum Blues and Old Time Country Radio Reunion. Also contains printed materials and photographs on country music. **RESTRICTED.**

Accession 160. Thomas G. Burton Collection. Contains various types of materials on folk music. Included are dub sheets and transcripts of interviews with folk performers; songs sung by Hattie Presnell and Stanley Hicks on audio cassettes. **RESTRICTED.**

Accession 208. WETS-FM Records. Includes reel to reel audiotapes of various types of country music. Artists represented include Ed Snodderly, the Corklickers, Friday Brothers, Bluegrass Ramblers, Whitetop Mountain Band, John McCutcheon, Red Rector, Roan Mountain Hilltoppers, Bill Clifton, Foggy Bottom String Band and Mountain Memories. **RESTRICTED.**

Accession 251. Center for Appalachian Studies and Services Records. Contains videotapes and audiotapes of performances by Bowmantown (Washington County, Tenn.) musicians; and audiotapes of home recordings of Clyde Dykes, the Rock Springs Ramblers, Bob Crawford, Ruby Whitaker and Orland Whitaker. Also includes 22 reel to reel audiotapes of programs which aired on public radio for "Bluegrass Heartland." **RESTRICTED.**

Accession 326. Appalachian-Scottish Studies Collection. Includes audio and videotapes of American and Scottish artists performing English and Scottish ballads, and playing dulcimer, banjo and Jew's harp. Includes artists Margaret Bennett, Frank Profitt, Jr., Orville Hicks and Emily Lyle. **RESTRICTED.**

Accession 347. Barnicle-Cadle Collection. Includes audiotapes of such artists as Jim Garland, Sara Garland, Huddie Ledbetter (Lead Belly), the Osborne Family, Aunt Molly Jackson, Sonny Terry and Brownie McGee, and the Ritchie Sisters. **RESTRICTED.**

Accession 349. The Earl Yates Collection. Includes country and western music songbooks, picture books, and photographs, 1935-66. Artists represented include the Foggy Mountain Boys, the Stanley Brothers, Bill Monroe, and the Tennessee Hilltoppers.

Accession 356. WCYB Radio Tapes. Contains seven reel to reel audiotapes, dubbed from transcription disks, of 1947-49 WCYB radio programs "Farm and Fun Time," and "Thrift Supply Company." Artists represented include Curly King and the Tennessee Hilltoppers, Roy Russell and Roy Webb.

Accession 379. Glenn E. Roberts, Jr. Tapes. Contains cassette audiotapes of Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee bluegrass radio shows and festivals, 1970-81. Artists represented include Roberts and the Rolling Firestones, the Hotmud Family, J.D. Crowe and the New South, Seldom Scene, Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, Jim and Jesse, and Jimmy Martin. **RESTRICTED.**

Accession 386. Jack Tottle Bluegrass and Old-Time Music Collection. Contains audio cassettes of bluegrass, old-time, and blues music taped from live and recorded performances, 1940-76. Artists include the Poplin Family, Flatt and Scruggs, Uncle Dave Macon, Etta Baker, Stanley Brothers, Kentucky Colonels, Bill Monroe, Hylo Brown and Don Reno. **RESTRICTED.**



The music of the Tennessee Hilltoppers (pictured above, ca. 1950) is featured in the WCYB Radio Tapes. Photo from the Richard Blaustein Collection, Archives of Appalachia.

Accession 387. Southern Songbirds: the Women of Early Country and Old-time Music. Contains seven audio cassettes of interviews with women instrumental in the early development of country and old-time music. Included are Etta Baker, Jean Ritchie, the Carter Family, Martha Carson, and Hazel Dickens. **RESTRICTED.**

Accession 399. J.E. Brooks Collection. Included are audio cassette copies of Carter Family discs, LP's, commercial audio cassettes, and printed materials on the family. **RESTRICTED.**

OTHER MATERIALS

The Archives of Appalachia also has vertical files, vertical file publications, and books on country music. Consult archives' indexes and the Sherrod Library's on-line catalog for references to these materials.



The Archives of Appalachia is part of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services. For more information on the center call 615/929-5348.

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