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# Archives of Appalachia NEWSLETTER

VOL. IV, NO. 2



JUNE 1, 1982

## INTRODUCING THE ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA NEW DIRECTOR

Dr. Ellen B. Garrison, currently an archivist in the Southern Labor Archives at Georgia State University in Atlanta, has been named Director of the Archives of Appalachia and Special Collections at East Tennessee State University.

Dr. Garrison, who was awarded the Ph.D. in history from Stanford University in 1981, takes over her new position July 1, 1982. In addition to her doctorate, she also holds a certificate in archives administration from the Georgia Department of Archives and History at Emory University.

According to Dr. Fred P. Borchuck, Director of University Libraries at East Tennessee State University, "We think Dr. Garrison's training in American history and archives administration will provide the continuity in our archives acquisitions and outreach programs. We are delighted with her acceptance of this most important position."

A member of both the Society of American Archivists and the Society of Georgia Archivists, Dr. Garrison has been principal investigator for special projects funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities and associate investigator for projects funded by the NEH and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

In addition, she has been consultant for the Georgia Historical Society, the University of Mississippi and the Consumer Health Care Information Network.

On behalf of the East Tennessee State University and the Archives of Appalachia staff we welcome Dr. Garrison. The archives staff look forward to the arrival of Dr. Garrison. Under her superb leadership the Archives of Appalachia shall continue collecting and preserving our cultural heritage. We encourage NEWSLETTER recipients, researchers, prospective donors and patrons to contact Dr. Garrison (615-929-4338) or a member of her staff if the archives may be of service.

## NEW ACQUISITIONS

One of the recent acquisitions to the Archives is a collection of pictures, slides and newspaper clippings relating to the history of the Appalachian Flying Service, Tri-City Airport and the career of Mrs. Jane Hilbert. After receiving her pilots license in 1932, Mrs. Hilbert served as an airline hostess for Eastern Airlines in the early days of stewardesses and then managed the American Airlines Airport in Bristol, Tennessee. When she married Louis Hilbert in 1942, she became manager of the Appalachian Flying Service for the duration of the war while he served in the Military Air Transport Service. After the war she became vice-president of the Appalachian Flying Service, which her husband had founded in 1936, and they operated the service for a number of years. Mrs. Hilbert is the donor of this collection.

Mrs. Ben (Lela) Taylor has donated pictures, letters, speeches, political broadsides and newspaper clippings concerning the political career of Governor Alfred A. Taylor of Tennessee (1921-1923) and the Taylor family in Upper East Tennessee. Also included are some of the papers and pictures of Ben Taylor, the son of Governor Alf and Jennie Taylor, who was an attorney and active in state politics before his death in 1930. In fact, it was Ben Taylor who accumulated the collection over a period of years. Many remember Governors Alf and Bob for their colorful oratory and careers, and especially the gubernatorial campaign of 1886, "The War of the Roses," when they ran against each other. Since the early settlement of this area, the Taylor family has been noted for their contributions to the state and nation.

Richard Blaustein Collection This collection consists of 15 10" audiotapes of music and reminiscences recorded by WETS-FM at the Third Annual Old Time Country Radio Reunion in Jonesboro, Tennessee on May 15-17, 1981. The collection includes appearances by early country radio and recording artists such as Ada and Carrie Powers, Red Lambert, the Bailes Brothers, Fiddlin' Ralph Mayo, George Simerly and many other old-time bluegrass and country performers from the Upper East Tennessee and Southwestern Virginia area. This collection will have additions added to it periodically.

### NELLIE MCNEIL TO SERVE AS CONSULTANT ON NEH OUTREACH PROJECT

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Nellie McNeil, of Kingsport, Tennessee will begin work in June as a special consultant on the Appalachian Outreach Project. Mrs. McNeil will spend the next few weeks working with Margaret Counts, Outreach Coordinator, continuing and completing development of the study guides and other learning tools which will accompany the slide-tape programs. Mrs. McNeil will concentrate particularly on

preparation of teachers' guides for the programs. Mrs. McNeil holds both the B.A. and M.A. degree in English from East Tennessee State University, and has worked since 1971 as a teacher at Science Hill High School in Johnson City, Tennessee. Prior to her position there, Mrs. McNeil served for two years as coordinator of activities at the Carroll Reece Museum, ETSU. Mrs. McNeil brings highly developed skills to her work with the Outreach Program, having spent several years teaching Southern Literature, Appalachian Studies, and film study, and working with inter-disciplinary studies and general humanities education. She has also served on the media review and pilot regional review panels of the Tennessee Arts Commission; organized the People-to-People High School Ambassador program in Washington County, Tennessee; participated in the Mid-South Humanities Project, emphasizing using local cultural resources in the classroom; and initiated "Art Goes to School," an outreach program with the Reece Museum which includes field trips to the museum. Included among Mrs. McNeil's publications is a study guide for AGEE, a documentary film of the life of James Agee.

## STAFF ACTIVITIES

During the last quarter, Margaret Counts has taken the Archives' Appalachian Outreach slide-tape programs to many communities in the region. Audiences have included many secondary school classes; several senior citizens groups; classes at Emory and Henry College; Mars Hill College; the University of Tennessee; East Tennessee State University; Daughters of the American Revolution chapters in Johnson City and Erwin, Tennessee, and Boone, North Carolina; several club meetings sponsored by the Extension Homemakers of Scott County, Virginia; and groups visiting the Folklife Festival of the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee.

In March, Margaret Counts participated in the 5th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. Two of the Appalachian Outreach slide-tape programs were featured as part of the Conference media exhibits. On May 1, Margaret presented two workshops on Outreach for the Fourth Annual Appalachian Area School Media Conference, held at East Tennessee State University. Margaret attended the Tennessee Archivists Spring meeting in Nashville, Tennessee on May 13-14, and served as a member of the program panel, giving a repository report on the Archives of Appalachia and the Archives at Tusculum College in Greeneville, Tennessee.

On May 13-14 Mildred Kozsuch and Norma Thomas attended the spring meeting of the Tennessee Archivist Association at the State Library and Archives in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Charles Bryan, Director of East Tennessee Historical Association, spoke on the preservation of modern documents.

A booklet of 36 old postcards of Elizabethton, Johnson City and Jonesboro has recently been published by Mildred Kozsuch. Featured are old street scenes, courthouses, homes, churches, hotels and schools, which will be remembered by senior citizens. Many of the buildings have been demolished or greatly altered in appearance. Thirty of the cards are in color and ready to be mailed.

## CONTRIBUTIONS ACKNOWLEDGED

The Archives of Appalachia is pleased to acknowledge a financial contribution from Mr. Sequoyah A. Perry, Tulsa, Oklahoma and Daniel Boone Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution, Boone, North Carolina. These contributions will allow us to continue to develop and preserve our audio-visual collections. We are glad to be of service to Mr. Perry and the Daniel Boone Chapter of the DAR, and any other member of a community group interested in preparing a program for their family reunion or special interest groups.

With gratitude we acknowledge a contribution from Mr. Earl Taylor, a Johnson City attorney. Reprints of four of our photographs will adorn the walls of his business establishment along with a plaque acknowledging our organization and its contribution to the display. These monies will be of financial assistance in developing our photographic archives. Many thanks to ALL for their contributions!

DON'T FORGET THE ARCHIVES FUND, C/O THE ETSU FOUNDATION.  
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT. REMEMBER YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX  
DEDUCTIBLE!!!