

1970

UA37/2/4 Kenneth & Mary Clarke Interview

Omniscope Collegiate Network

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Western Kentucky University
UA37 Faculty Personal Papers
Series 2. Small Collections
Item 4. Kenneth & Mary Clarke Interview

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Description: Audiotape of Omniscope Collegiate Network Program with interview of Kenneth and Mary Clarke.

Dates: 1970

Formats: 1 audiotape, 1 wav file, 1 cta file

Subject Analytics:

Audio recording
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Folk Studies & Anthropology (WKU)
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Kentucky

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Preferred Citation: UA37/2/4, Kenneth & Mary Clarke Interview, WKU Archives, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA.

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Interview Recording List

UA37.2.4 ~ Audiotape

10/16/2018

Media ID	Side	Start time	Subject
CD1060		00:00:00	<p><i>Lee Randall introduces the Omniscope Collegiate Network Broadcast about travel.</i></p> <p><i>Plays song by Ed Ames and Marilyn May.</i></p>
CD1060		00:02:34	<p><i>Announcer: This is the Omniscope Collegiate Network</i></p> <p><i>Lee Randall: Although we're well aware that summer is hardly giving us a second thought, we got tired of winter around here at the Omniscope studios, so we decided to think positively about what we're going to do next summer. And we just happen to have a couple of suggestions for your summer's entertainment if you're open for suggestions. If discovering America is your bag, there's a state tucked in between the Appalachians and the Mississippi famous for Daniel Boone and bluegrass that you just might like to visit. Kentucky is its name and Linda Francis is its visitor this week. She's on the campus of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green and she has a couple of guests for us, Dr. Kenneth Clarke and his wife Dr. Mary Washington Clarke both professors at Western Kentucky. Mr. Clarke is an authority on Kentucky folklore and Mrs. Clarke is an authority on the writings of Jesse Stuart, Linda.</i></p> <p><i>Linda Francis: You mentioned a few minutes ago, Dr. Clarke about Jesse Stuart whose writings so much are based on Kentucky folklore. How much of our current thoughts of early Kentuckians are legitimate?</i></p> <p><i>Mary Washington Clarke: Jesse writes of the culture quite naturally and he, he is so involved with the culture itself. His family back for several generations has been a part of Kentucky's development, some of them coming across the mountains and settling down the valleys along the rivers and it is his authentic use of this culture that makes his, well shall we say his literary world have so much reality. And I think his warmth for the humble people has had a great deal to do with the wide appeal of what he writes. He feels the rhythm of their hill dances and their fiddle tunes and he knows the, the side of it that suffers too. He knows that as you watch nature and as you watch people in what we're now calling poverty areas that the certainty of death gives a heightened appreciation to life and there's a vitality about his writing and about the things that take place in the people he writes about. They are capable of living in the old traditional ways with a kind of gusto, a lusty enjoyment of life that many richer people don't have. And I think Stuart's appreciation of this element in hill character is just very, very important today. I think as we try to understand the mountain people that we have to know their pride and we have to know their capacity for enjoying these things. We have to know their fatalism that in watching nature, the animals, the changing seasons, they know this happens to man and it gives them, although they couldn't say it, the ambivalence, the love and hate for their environment that goes with knowing all this that you're going to suffer, that you're going to die, but live, live while you can.</i></p>
CD1060		00:06:15	<p><i>Song by Linda Rich - There's More to Living Than I Know So Far</i></p> <p><i>Other songs by unidentified groups.</i></p>
CD1060		00:10:20	<p><i>Announcer: This is the Omniscope Collegiate Network</i></p> <p><i>Lee Randall: Let's go back now to Linda Francis. She's on the campus of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green and I believe she has a question now for Dr. Kenneth Clarke.</i></p> <p><i>Linda Francis: What are some of the unique contributions that Kentuckians have made to folk culture of our country?</i></p> <p><i>Kenneth Clarke: Folk culture exists anywhere. I think perhaps, the reason we think of Kentucky as having a special affinity for folklore is the fact that we've had so much publicity. The settlements are old here, the people were here a long time ago, the old time music, dancing, camp meetings, beliefs, agricultural practices, and things like that were here of course before they were carried by settlers that moved on west so that back home in Kentucky or back home in Tennessee this became a kind of attitude that many people all over the United States would be familiar with. Then too, the stability that we have in many parts of our state means that people can trace their beliefs and practices and entertainment back for several different generations on the same farm or in the same county. And this, of course, develops the feeling that there is a great deal more traditional life or folklore in Kentucky than elsewhere. Oh I don't think this is really true it's simply a difference of our perception.</i></p> <p><i>LF: When the settlers were actually settling Kentucky, were they an educated people, or were they for the most part ignorant of traditional education?</i></p> <p><i>KC: Well you can't make a broad generalization about a place as large as Kentucky. Kentucky was settled in various waves of immigrants who came from various directions at various times in various conditions of poverty or affluence. And it is true that we find that in some of the early settlement of Kentucky the people signed their name with an X, but, you know, this is also true of early settlement of Arizona for that matter. A whole lot of people who are moving on, looking for prosperity or better diggings are people who do not have affluence and I think this wouldn't be a generalization you could make about Kentucky particularly, but about</i></p>

Media ID	Side	Start time	Subject
CD1060		00:13:38	<p data-bbox="631 96 1520 268"><i>settlers and the advance wave of settlement of various areas. There are also plenty of families that boast of highly educated ancestors, people with money, we can't differentiate and say, "Well Kentucky's full of hillbillies because all the people there are ignorant." I know that this kind of a popular stereotype has grown up through some kinds of fiction, movies, television and so on. And there are always the elements of truth in these stereotypes, but when the stereotype becomes a kind of a fixed image that people immediately refer to it becomes largely false.</i></p> <p data-bbox="631 291 1427 338"><i>LF: Thank you very much Dr. Mary Washington Clarke and Dr. Kenneth Clarke, both professors at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky.</i></p> <p data-bbox="631 363 911 409"><i>More songs by the Letterman Peter, Paul & Mary</i></p> <p data-bbox="631 434 1414 459"><i>Interview with Hamp Price regarding the passion play of Oberammergau, Germany.</i></p> <p data-bbox="631 485 878 508"><i>Ed Ames sings Edelweiss</i></p>