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WKU Folk Studies Society

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WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Center for Intercultural Studies

Editor:
Annelen ArchboldFOLK STUDIES SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
March 1, 1974 Vol. 1, No. 5

The society would like to thank Don and Phyllis Whitaker for their efforts in putting together the semi-annual Folklore Get-Together for the Graduate Students. We deeply appreciate their time and efforts.

The first weekend in April is set for the Folk Studies Society picnic. The Drs. Clarke will provide the area if we provide the means. We are planning a cook-out, games, and entertainment for the whole family. However, we need a few volunteers to help with setting up the events that day. Please contact Annelen Archbold if you're interested. It will not be a success without your help!!! Don't forget the day, Saturday, April 6th at 1 p.m.

* * * * *

Ms. Sandra Ivey will be here on March 21st to discuss fieldwork. Her current work in Tennessee should provide some interesting insights for discussion.

On April 18th, Dr. Ellen Stekert will be here to talk with the Folk Studies Society on urban folklore. Those who are interested please set this date aside. The following day, April 19th, the Kentucky Folklore Society meets in Louisville. Dr. Stekert will be the featured speaker. Those who can attend let us know if you need transportation.

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The field of folklore is growing but where and how no one to date is quite sure. In an effort to discover the extent of our growth, the department has undertaken two projects which should bring the opportunities in folklore into better perspective. The first entails a letter which has gone out to community colleges throughout the United States to discern the opportunities available to the M.A. candidate in folklore. Later issues of the newsletter will contain the results of our survey.

A second letter has gone to the Secretary of the Interior. In addition, another letter is planned for the individual state and federal parks in the area which should further broaden the awareness of government officials on how the folklorist can be of value to the park service.

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101



Center for Intercultural Studies

February 7, 1974

Mr. Rogers C. B. Morton
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

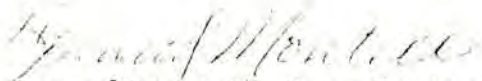
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Permit me in my capacity as a folklorist and the head of a graduate program in folk studies to bring an important matter to your attention. I would like to explore with you the possibility of employment for professionally trained folklorists in the National Park Service and other divisions of the Department of the Interior. These divisions have employed professional historians, naturalists, environmentalists, and others in important positions of public service. Folklore and folklife specialists are uniquely qualified to fill parallel positions, and deserve the privilege of demonstrating their capabilities. As keen observers of public opinion and sentiment at the grass roots level, folklorists can perform a vital service as our nation becomes more and more urbanized and torn loose from its traditional moorings.

I am not looking for a job for myself, but can identify marvelously energetic and well-trained graduate students who would be most useful in your divisions. I would appreciate it very much if you would call this matter to the attention of your various division chiefs.

I would be most happy to come to Washington to discuss this matter, or would welcome a visit by you or an assistant here in Kentucky.

Sincerely yours,


Lynwood Montell, Coordinator
Center for Intercultural Studies

LM:lf

REVIEWS:

There seems to be a revival of the preoccupation with the occult these days, evidenced by the fact that horror movies, even the old ones, are more popular than ever. The latest in this series is the much publicized "The Exorcist," a screen adaptation of the immensely popular book of the same name. Unfortunately, the movie is much overrated and does not deserve the warning signs that the theatre managers place in the lobby. For those who believe that they are possessed by a demon, and there seem to be a few, seeing the movie should alleviate their fears; or, if nothing else, at least show them that there's always someone worse off than they are. I feel that seeing "The Exorcist" is definitely not worth the long lines and exorbitant prices that the movie is demanding. If you must see it, wait until it comes to the drive-in--it won't be on T.V.

Steve Poyser

Lee, Dorothy. Freedom and Culture. (Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1959). 174pp. \$1.95

If one is somewhat anthropologically oriented and interested in cross-cultural perceptions of freedom, creativity, the self, responsibility, and individual autonomy, this selected collection of research articles could prove enlightening. Reference is given to the North American Indian-Navaho, Hopi, Wintu, Dakota, and Bella Coola; African cultures, Polynesia, and other exotic societies.

Comparisons between the symbolic reality of various cultures and that of the Western world supplement the objectives of stimulating the imagination and promoting awareness of existing perceptions of the universe. Lee's essential thesis is exemplified in the following passage from page 1:

The breaking of the soil in the agricultural process may be an act of violence, of personal aggression, of mastery, of exploitation, of self-fulfillment; or it may be an act of tender fostering, of involvement in the processes of the earth, of helping the land to bring forth in its due time; it may be an act of worship, and the field an altar.

Doug Tucker