

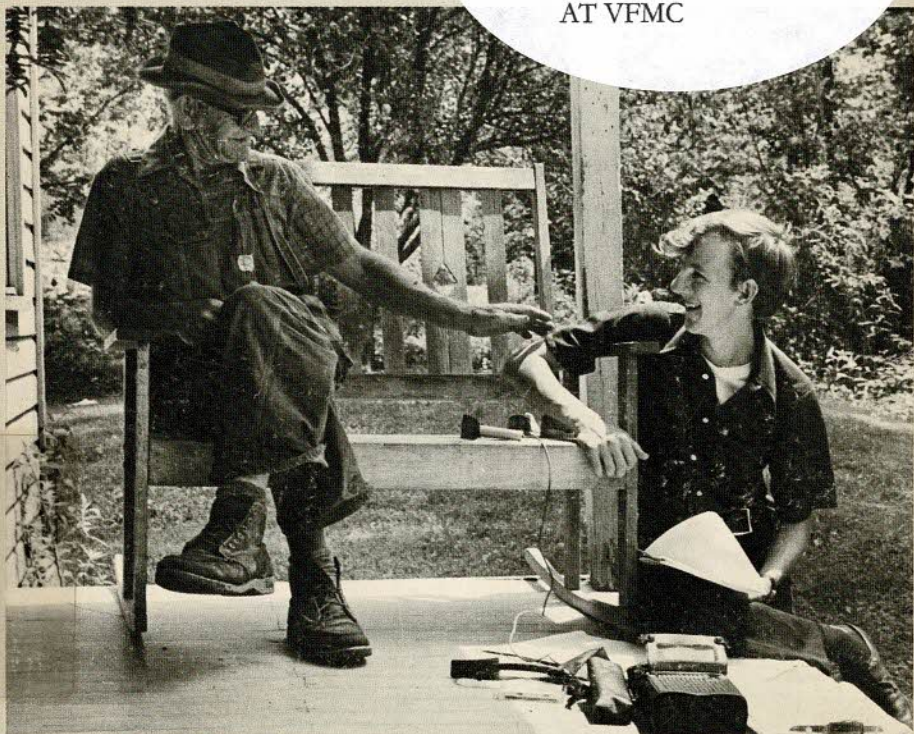
Our Appalachia

An oral history edited
by Laurel Shackelford
and Bill Weinberg

Photographs by
Donald R. Anderson



PLEASE RETURN TO
WAL (0407 86 9696)
AT VFMC



"*Our Appalachia* is a fascinating folk history of a distinctive American subculture. Here, in the words of the actual participants, is the story of the transformation of the mountain region during the past century. It is a story of a land oppressed by grinding poverty, ruthless exploitation, and violence; but it is also a story of a warm, open-hearted people, deeply religious and passionately attached to their barren land. It is a joy to read, for the interviews capture the flavorful, slightly archaic texture of Appalachian speech. No serious student of American civilization can afford to neglect this book."

—David Herbert Donald, Professor of American Civilization,
Harvard University

"A beautiful book. It is powerful and revealing, and it tells us far more than any novel can of a way of life. . . . It is a lovely saga of survival."

—Studs Terkel

"What a wonderful book! . . . These extraordinary interviews bring these neglected and misinterpreted Americans to life on every page."

—Herbert G. Gutman, Professor of History at the City College of
New York and the Graduate Center—CUNY

"Here are lawyers, politicians, teachers, miners, horsetraders—telling us about their lives through stories that are sometimes absolutely gripping. . . . It's a fine book."—Eliot Wigginton, editor of the *Foxfire* books

"*Our Appalachia* is the best collection of oral history interviews that has come to my attention from any author." —Harry M. Caudill

LAUREL SHACKELFORD was a reporter for the *Louisville Times* from 1969 to 1973, when she left to become the Appalachian Oral History Project Editor. Her work has appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Appalachian Heritage*, *Mountain Review*, and *Civil Rights Digest*. BILL WEINBERG served as assistant to the Academic Dean and director of the Appalachian Learning Laboratory at Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes, Kentucky. He practices law in Hindman, Kentucky. DONALD R. ANDERSON is an associate professor of fine arts at the University of Louisville.

Cover design by Nanette Stevenson
Cover photograph by Donald R. Anderson

CONTENTS

Introduction 3

Part One A Simpler Time

1 God, Badmen, and Schoolmarms 17

2 Hearthstones and Homelife 63

3 Working 91

Part Two A Culture under Attack

4 Outside Influences 133

5 From Farms and Hollows to Camp Towns 193

6 A People's Response 243

7 The Cruel Choice 297

Part Three Digging In

8 "We're Not Playing Catch Up" 343

The Narrators 383

Index 391