

Fellowship Activities Report
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During my fellowship at Berea's Appalachian Sound Archives, I researched and developed themes and scripts for a radio series that will highlight recordings of traditional Appalachian performers found in the John Lair and the Celebration of Traditional Music collections. Early production work on the series began during the later months of my fellowship, with the first show "in the can," and several other shows in various states of production. The series is entitled "Relics and Treasures, Old and New: A Celebration of Traditional Music Found in Berea College's Appalachian Sound Archives," and is being produced for WMMT-FM, a community radio station operated by Appalshop, in Whitesburg, Kentucky. When completed, the series will be made available to public and community radio stations.

Further developments in the distribution and production of this series have occurred post-fellowship. WMMT-FM has put forth a grant to the National Endowment for the Arts in support of Rich Kirby's radio series about the life and music and Lily May Ledford. This show is being produced for national distribution, and it will include shows from the "Relics and Treasures, Old and New" series that feature the Coon Creek Girls and Lily May Ledford.

I have a grant pending with the Kentucky Foundation for Women to conduct interviews with Cari Norris, Lily May Ledford's granddaughter, for the purpose of deepening the content of the shows.

During my fellowship, I listened to thousands of hours of recordings from the John Lair and Celebration collections. Working with the Celebration of Traditional Music Collection, I narrowed my focus to the first decade, 1974-1984. I identified, researched and developed several themes for individual shows within the series. Each show will be one hour in length. I have not yet decided how many shows will make up the entire series, and this will become more clear once all the current shows are "in the can." Only the strongest and most interesting shows will be included in the final series.

Coming into this fellowship, I overestimated how much production work I could accomplish while also conducting archival research. There was such a great amount of material to explore as possible content, and I spent the majority of my time listening and collecting audio content and developing themes that fit the most interesting audio that I discovered. The post-fellowship work has involved editing each individual song or concert track down into content that is ready for air-play, identifying song titles of unidentified tracks, deciding the best archival content for each show, writing scripts that bring the material into context and adjusting audio levels so that each show has a seamless audio sound. Needless to say, this is time consuming work! Over the next year, I will continue with this work, and I hope to have the series complete and ready for distribution within a year. These shows will be posted on Appalshop/WMMT-FM's website and made available to Berea College's Appalachian Sound Archives for posting onto their website.

Additional Programs Planned for the Series

1. Return of the Coon Creek Girls: Lily May Ledford & Dora Mae Wagers at Berea's Celebration of Traditional Music Festival
2. The Distinctive Banjo Style of Wildcat Rock City's Virgil Anderson
3. Traditional Roots of Country Music: 1978 Symposium with Dr. Bill C. Malone
4. Former Radio Stars of the 1930s-50s return to the Stage
5. Pinex Merrymakers and Plantation Party shows from John Lair Collection
6. Donna & Lewis Lamb
7. Sparky Rucker
8. African American performers at the first decade of CTM
9. Women string bands at the first decade of CTM
10. The Sodom Laurel Mafia: Ballad Singers and Banjo Players from Madison County, NC.
11. The Smathers Family: Luke, Quay and the Dutch Cove String Band
12. JP & Annadeene Fraley