

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS

Colloquy

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Gatlinburg baseball team, 1915

“From Pi BETA PHI to Arrowmont” Website Goes Live

As I write these words, we are putting the finishing touches on the “From Pi Beta Phi to Arrowmont” website [www.lib.utk.edu/Arrowmont]. The final segment of the project, the searchable file of images and articles, will debut within the next month. If you have been receiving the *Colloquy* for the past couple of years, then you have been able to follow the progress of our grant and read the story of the efforts of the Pi BETA PHI female fraternity to build a lasting presence in the mountain community of Gatlinburg from the early years at the settlement school to its current iteration as the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. [You can look at previous issues of the *Colloquy* at: www.lib.utk.edu/refs/smokies/colloquy.html]

The website features twenty-seven essays composed by Steve Davis, our grant historian, on topics such as Southern Appalachian culture, education at the settlement school, health care programs, student life, and arts and crafts, including contemporary Arrowmont. The essay page also includes a timeline of key dates in the history of the Pi Beta Phi initiatives blended with significant events from United States history.

The more contemporary time period is illustrated by two galleries of art work from the Arrowmont collection. “The Art of Arrowmont” collection

(continued on page 2)



Two boys on the steps of the Pi BETA PHI Elementary School, 1925

Early “News from the Little Pigeon” article from the Arrow



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Arrowmont Website Goes Live, continued

presents sixteen items created by Arrowmont artists/instructors and housed in the permanent Arrowmont collection. The innovative 360° image gallery allows the user to click on a craft object and move it, circling the object to see all sides. This method of viewing the objects was developed by the grant staff using a motorized object rig designed to hold the object and then move a digital camera around the object, snapping a photograph at certain increments. The result is an image which looks like it is twirling through space. We have added a how-to manual in PDF format for anyone who would like to replicate this technology.

The searchable collection includes thousands of pages from the *Arrow*, the magazine published by the Pi BETA PHI fraternity, chronicling the development of the settlement school and the accompanying health care and economic initiatives. The photographs in the collection range from early views of Gatlinburg to images of the Pi PHIS at work and play to photographs of the transitional years leading up the formation of the Arrowmont School. A sample of the photographs is included in this issue of the *Colloquy*.

One of the highlights of the website is five scrapbooks kept by Pi PHIS during the earlier years of the school, designed to showcase efforts in Gatlinburg to the larger fraternity. All the scrapbooks are a part of



the searchable collection in a unique format that allows the user to look at the scrapbook as a whole and to look at individual images. Although complicated in design, these scrapbook records allow the user to see the scrapbooks as though they were turning the actual pages themselves. In the case of the Marjorie Chalmers scrapbook, the online version is the only complete version of the scrapbook available. Miss Chalmers created several identical copies of the scrapbook to send to the Pi PHI chapters across the country. Over the years, several of the scrapbooks were lost or mutilated. Through the magic of the internet, you can view the complete Chalmers scrapbook along with the four other scrapbooks via the scrapbooks link on the Arrowmont collection homepage.

The final piece of the project is a K-8 curriculum developed by the teachers at the current Pi Beta Phi Elementary School in Gatlinburg as part of their heritage education program. The curriculum packages are designed to instill in students an understanding of their history blended with the broader events of the nation and of concepts like timelines and family trees.

It could be argued that no other Southern Appalachian community has changed as profoundly as has Gatlinburg in the almost hundred years since the founding of the settlement school in 1912. It is also doubtful that any other Southern Appalachian community has such a rich photographed and recorded history. The "From Pi BETA PHI to Arrowmont" website documents these profound changes and shares this rich history with the world. Please take a look at www.lib.utk.edu/Arrowmont.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: Two of Wiley Oakley's children from the scrapbook of Evelyn Bishop; Gatlinburg children with calf; Arrowcraft shop in Gatlinburg, 1930; Gatlinburg looking southeast, 1914; the Pi BETA PHI red barn in 1955 (now an Arrowmont dormitory)

New Smokies Collection: The Peter H. Prince Papers

Among the newest additions to the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Collection at the University of Tennessee Special Collections are the forthcoming Peter H. Prince Papers. This collection consists primarily of research that Prince, a genealogist and amateur historian, compiled while composing his masterwork *Ghost Towns in the Great Smokies*. He intended this work to span ten volumes and document the histories of 251 Tennessee and North Carolina towns that were destroyed by the creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Although he died before he could complete this ambitious project, his papers provide researchers with an excellent introduction to the history and culture of the Great Smoky Mountains.

Ghost Towns in the Great Smokies would have represented the apogee of Prince's lifelong interest in the people and places of the Smokies. He began researching the area as a hobby while working as a journalist for several Tennessee newspapers and devoted himself to this project full-time after his retirement. While much of the information in this collection was taken from secondary sources, Prince also scoured several archives and conducted numerous interviews with people who had lived on land now occupied by the Park and with their descendants, in search of relevant information. He even attempted to find long-forgotten graves located within Park boundaries. Much of this research is vividly illustrated in Prince's extensive photograph collection, which he compiled over the course of several decades. Prince was extremely proud of his research and was eager to ensure that it would be available to the public after his death so that it could fascinate and educate others as much as it had him.



ABOVE:
Caylor Gap
(*Wear Cove*),
taken by Pete
Prince in 1961



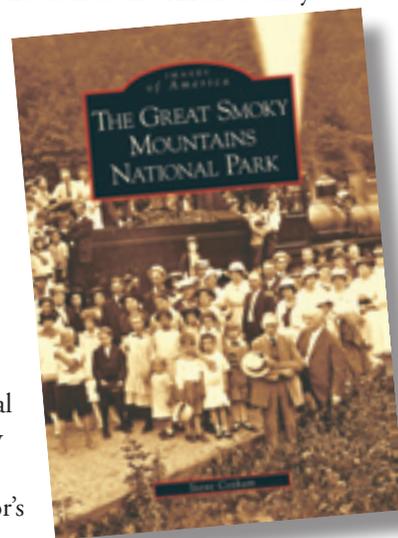
Ocona Lufly Missionary Baptist Church, circa 1906, from the Peter H. Prince Papers

*Elizabeth Dunham
Special Collections*

New on the Smokies Bookshelf

Cotham, Steve. *The Great Smoky Mountains National Park*. (Series: Images of America). Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing Co., 2006. 127 p.

One of the latest in the Images of America series is a photographic book on the Great Smoky Mountains National Park by Steve Cotham, manager of the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection of the Knox County Public Library. This series chronicles the history of America's communities through black and white photographs, with brief accompanying text and captions. The Smokies book features the photographs primarily in the McClung Collection and the archives of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, an appointment-only facility hidden away in the basement of the Park visitor's center at Sugarlands.



The book has a decidedly East Tennessee flavor, focusing as it does on the Tennessee side of the Park and the connection of the Park to Knoxville. Many of the photographs were taken by James (Jim) Thompson, a well-known Knoxville professional photographer and promoter of a national park in the Smokies. Featured also are the photographs of Harvey Broome, author and founder of the Wilderness Society. Thompson and Broome were two of a group of individuals who were prominent in the Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, hiking together and chronicling the amazing beauty of the Smokies through words and photographs.

The people of the mountains are definitely the "stars" of this book. The images of the Cherokee, many taken by Broome, depict a Smokies community often ignored in other publications. Thompson images of Elkmont, depicting the local village, life for the well-heeled at the cottages and the Wonderland Club, and the boys and girls at the scout camps, are intriguing in their detail. Rounding out the book are sections on early settlement, people, logging, tourism, Gatlinburg, vanishing communities, park formation movement, and park dedication. Anyone fascinated by the history of the Smokies will want to add this book to his or her book shelf.

New on the Smokies Bookshelf

NON-FICTION

Cotham, Steve. *The Great Smoky Mountains National Park*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Pub., 2006.

Harrah, Andy. *Iron Toothpick: A Thru-Hiker Reveals Life, Legends, and Oddities along the Appalachian Trail*. Oakton, VA: Rainmaker Pub., 2006.

Hollis, Tim. *The Land of the Smokies: Great Mountain Memories*. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2007.

Johnson, Randy. *Hiking North Carolina: A Guide to Nearly 500 of North Carolina's Greatest Hiking Trails*. 2nd ed. Guilford, CT: Falcon Press, 2007.

Lea, Bill, Jerry D. Greer and Nye Simmons. *Great Smoky Mountains Wonder and Light*. Johnson City, TN: Mountain Trail Press, 2006.

Pantas, Lee. *The Ultimate Guide to Asheville and the Western North Carolina Mountains: Including Hendersonville and More than 50 Other Mountain Cities and Towns*. Asheville, NC: R. Brent and Co., 2006.

Parham, Jim. *Off the Beaten Track: Western NC Smokies*. Almond, NC: Milestone Press, Inc., 2006.

Uncle John's Bathroom Reader Plunges into National Parks. San Diego, CA: Portable Press, 2007

JUVENILE

Philip, Neil. *The Great Circle: A History of the First Nations*. NY: Clarion Books, 2006.

Skurzynski, Gloria and Alane Ferguson. *Night of the Black Bear: A Mystery in Great Smoky Mountains National Park*. Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2007.

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