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Short Subjects: News Reels

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News Reels

The Archives of Appalachia has announced the donation of the Mary Barnicle-Tillman Cadle Collection, an important group of field recordings, on 23 October 1989. The late Mary Elizabeth Barnicle was one of a handful of early American folklorists who realized the importance of field recordings. A teacher at New York University for over thirty years, she eventually met and married Tillman Cadle, a miner/union organizer originally from Claiborne County, Tennessee. In the 1930s and 1940s, Barnicle and Cadle made hundreds of recordings in the Pineville, Kentucky, and Townsend, Tennessee, areas and also recorded the emerging luminaries of the New York folk scene when they lived in Greenwich Village in the 1940s.

The collection consists of over five hundred field recordings which include original recordings of such folk music legends as Leadbelly, Woody Guthrie, Sarah Ogan Gunning, Aunt Molly Jackson, Sonny Terry and Brownie

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McGee, Jim Garland and others, as well as recordings of the Adams family—the first commercially recorded sacred harp singers. The great variety of expressive forms include Holiness Primitive Baptist services, ballads, dance music, sea shanties, Bahamian tales, tall tales from Appalachia, ghost stories, anecdotes, riddles, bawdy songs, and descriptions of labor activities.

For more information about the Mary Barnicle-Tillman Cadle Recordings or other materials in the archives’s collection, contact the Archives of Appalachia, Box 22, 450A, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee 37614, (615) 929-4338.

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Tougaloo College has received a $108,000 two-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to process its major civil rights collection. The 1200 linear feet of materials include papers of Aaron Henry, Edwin King, Rims Barber, Fannie Lou Hamer, the Delta Ministry, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and other significant participants in the civil rights movement. Directing the project is Virgia Brocks-Shedd, Tougaloo Library Director, Tougaloo, Mississippi. Jo Ann Bomar, former special collections archivist at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, is senior project archivist.
The New York State Archives and Records Administration has issued "Basic Elements of Historical Records Programs," an eight page brochure that summarizes the guidelines and canons of good practice for the sound administration of a historical records program. The brochure divides the basic elements into two main categories: administrative and operational. The administrative category includes discussion of such essentials as a mission statement, adequate financial support, and secure storage facilities. The operational category encompasses the actual work of dealing with historical records and discusses five elements, including appraisal and selection of records, finding aids, and preservation.

Anyone interested in historical records programs will find useful information in this brochure. The information should be of particular importance to custodians of historical records programs who are interested in strengthening their programs to meet these guidelines. For trustees and resource allocators of historical records programs, this brochure will help them appreciate and understand the kinds of resources that should be invested in a soundly administered program.

Copies have been distributed to the state's historical records programs, local government historians, historical service agencies, library resource councils, public library systems, college libraries, and other state archives.

"Basic Elements of Historical Records Programs" may be used in conjunction with SARA's self-study manual, *Strengthening New York's Historical Records Programs: A Self-Study Guide* (Albany, 1989) which provides a more
detailed explanation of historical records program elements and a set of self-study questions for use by repositories in evaluating their own programs. Both the self-study guide and the brochure were printed with funds from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Copies of "Basic Elements of Historical Records Programs" and *Strengthening New York’s Historical Records Programs* may be obtained from SARA, 10A46 Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230.

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Now available from Brown University is the *Research Guide to the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives* by Karen M. Lamoree. The guide analyzes and describes archival, manuscript and University Archives holdings in Special Collections at Brown for women's history research. More than one thousand collections are described in this illustrated, indexed reference tool. The holdings are especially strong in the areas of higher education, literary work, religious activities, philanthropy, clubs, employment, and reform movements. It is available for $35.00 ppd. from Brown University Archives, Box A, Providence, RI 02912.

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The Documentary Heritage Program for Western New York helped to celebrate the second annual New York State Archives Week, 1-7 October 1990, by co-sponsoring a series of training workshops for administrators, curators, librarians, archivists, volunteers, and others who collect, care for, and use historical records that form part of the region’s cultural resources. The workshops have been developed in support of the state archives’s mandate for the Documentary Heritage Program: "to ensure the continued preservation, access and use of our state’s documentary, cultural and informational resources." For more information about Archives Week in Western New York contact Heidi Ziemer, Regional Archivist, WNY Documentary Heritage Program, 180 Oak Street, Buffalo, New York 14203.