

N. C. Depression In Multimedia Program

"Changing Times: A Theatrical Classroom," a two-act multimedia attempt to re-create -- through words, pictures and music -- the experiences of North Carolinians during the Great Depression, will be presented at Guilford College Saturday (April 7) at 8 p.m. in the Union Lounge.

The presentation is being offered to the public free of charge as part of the Guilford College Humanities Series.

Created by Peter Filene, a professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his history class of 20 students, "Changing Times" is being directed by Jed Dietz, executive producer of the Carolina Repertory Company. Each of the nine-member cast and crew are also UNC-Ch students.

"Changing Times" has been called a "theatrical history." It portrays the lives of North Carolina sharecroppers, businessmen, mill workers, and politicians, and their hardships of the 1930s. It is their story, in their own words, in photographs of their faces, their houses and fields, in the music they sang and heard.

Beginning in September, Filene and the students spent countless hours researching Depression era events, finding old photographs and records, writing scripts for various scenes, and coordinating their findings.

"The experience of working with (the students) on this project has been exhilarating," said Filene. "I didn't teach; we all learned together about how to create a multi-

media show.

"The students organized themselves, did research all over campus and even in Raleigh and Washington, and were always self-directed and responsible. No one ever once mentioned grades. I wish all my courses could be like this one."

At the conclusion of the presentation, the audience will be invited to join in a discussion with the cast and with one another, Filene said.

The production is partially funded by The North Carolina Committee for Continuing Education in the Humanities, the same organization which sponsors the Guilford College Humanities Series.

"Changing Times" will be performed before a wide diversity of audiences -- church groups, community college students, civic organizations, labor unions and others -- in twelve different North Carolina communities during the spring of 1973.

Senate Needs Organization Budgets

In an attempt to determine student organizational funding, fifteen senators, administrative advisors and organizational representatives convened in Founders parlor on Tuesday evening for the weekly community Senate meeting.

In spite of the fact that a written request for temporary budgets was distributed to every campus organization, few groups responded and only two of the organizations were represented at the meeting.

Speaking on behalf of the Fine Music Broadcasting Society, Alan Socol outlined the general needs of his constituents for the upcoming year. In addition to the representation from WQFS Judy Stewart Terrell discussed the projected needs of the fall cheerleading squad.

Due to insufficient information with regard to the past use of club funds, a modicum of temporary budgets, and the dearth of senators in attendance, no action was taken.

Final budgeting considerations will be made at the next Senate meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, at 6:00 p.m. in Founders parlor. All students, especially those who aren't sure if they have senators, are cordially invited to attend.

Act Now To Save Joyce Kilmer Forest

by Rick Newcomer

Have you ever walked in a virgin forest? The advent of the white man to North America has almost eliminated the great primeval forest of the Eastern United States - almost but not quite. In Western North Carolina, near the Tennessee line, there is a virgin forest of 2,800 acres which has remained undisturbed by man.

This land, now known as Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, is a unique and beautiful example of natural wilderness. The trees are big! One tulip poplar which we measured was four and a half arm spans in circumference. The forest has oaks and hickories which were there long before North Carolina became a state or the United States a nation. Interspersed among the hardwoods are huge hemlocks which cover the ground with a thick carpet of needles. These trees are extremely tall several hundred feet in height, and grow straight upwards in their struggle to gain the sunlight. The height of this canopy allows for large dogwood or sourwood trees and huge thickets of rhododendron and laurel.

On the forest floor, smaller life forms abound. A great variety of shrubs, herbs, and mushrooms find the damp, shady, organic soil well suited to their needs and burst forth in profusion. Little Santeelah Creek flows through the middle of the forest. It is crystal clear and cold because the natural conditions of Kilmer minimize erosion and make siltation impossible. Massive logs and stumps lie on the forest floor covered with moss, fungus, and small plants. Many of these are giant chestnut logs which fell due to the blight. Some of these logs are so large that a full grown man cannot see over their fallen forms.

Kilmer Forest is truly unique. The trees vary in size, as contrasted to a cut forest which grows up all at once. When a tree dies it stands for a few years, then falls, perhaps felling others in its wake, leaving a space through which life-giving sunshine can enter. Other trees then grow up to take its place. Kilmer is a remarkable example of natural succession. Its variety of plant life is equal to, if not exceeding, that of the nearby Great Smoky Mountains National Park. What's more, practically the entire plant community is of native origin. It is as close to being the real America, the America of the Indians, as can be found.

Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, and the adjacent Slickrock Creek and Citico Creek areas support a population of deer, turkey, squirrel, bobcat, black bear, and Russian boar. The boars were introduced from northern Europe and thrive in this wilderness area.

The natural and uninterrupted character of Kilmer and its adjacent wilderness are especially beneficial to wide-ranging animals such as the black bear. It is also one of the few viable habitats for the even wider ranging Eastern mountain lion.

All of these qualities make Kilmer Memorial Forest

a moving and edifying experience to the visitor. Among those magnificent trees, solitude can be absolute. There is no noise of train, traffic, or siren. It is seldom that the listener can even hear an airplane. Instead, the visitor hears the wind, the birds, and the ever present creek. Nowhere, except on the narrow foot trail, is there a trace of man. Above the valley, there are broad views from Stratton Bald and Haeo Lead. The opportunities present for the hiker, camper, naturalist, fisherman and even, in a limited way, the hunter, are varied and exciting. I have visited Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest and strongly recommend it to anyone who enjoys observing nature and its ways.

Perhaps you should visit it soon, for Kilmer, Slickrock Creek, and Citico Creek are open to that bogey of nature, development. Even though these areas are part of Nantahala and Cherokee National Forests that does not exempt them from road building and even logging. The only reason these forests survived was because of their inaccessible nature. At this time these areas contain 32,500 acres without interruption by a single road. However, presently three roads are planned which will subdivide this wilderness area. One plan which calls for a highway along Haeo Lead would completely sever Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest from the remainder of the wild area. Another road, the relocation of U.S. 129 would open the virgin forests of Slickrock Creek and Citico Creek to logging. Of course, these roads would lead to gas stations, motels, and hamburger joints, and undoubtedly, many people would find it necessary to litter a broad

area on either side of the highway. Even with an entire continent "under his thumb," that remarkable creature, man, will not allow nature 32,500 undisturbed acres.

There is a chance however, to save this unspoiled area. In January, 1973 the Omnibus Eastern Wilderness Bill was introduced in both Houses of Congress. Even though Kilmer and the adjacent areas are actually wilderness, they are not officially classified as such. Once an area is declared to be "wilderness" by the Congress, no development can take place. The Omnibus Eastern Wilderness Bill provides wilderness status for the Kilmer, Slickrock, and Citico Creek areas. If this bill passes there will be no roads, no logging, no gas stations, and no litter.

Unfortunately, this beneficial law faces an uphill fight in Congress. The special interests of lumber companies and developers are powerful forces in Washington. If support for the Joyce Kilmer Wilderness is to be found, it must come from the people.

How can you help? The best possible course for you to follow is to write a letter to your Congressman and your Senators. This letter need only say that you are a registered voter and that you favor the Omnibus Eastern Wilderness Bill (S. 316; H.R. 1758). If the voters speak the representatives will listen. Letters are very important especially on a bill such as this. Now is your chance to do something for your environment. For addresses and further information PLEASE contact Rick Newcomer on the mailstick or at the Support Joyce Kilmer Wilderness table in the cafeteria. Please write! Nature needs all the help she can get.



Photo by Truslow

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