

A Publication of the West Virginia Humanities Council

Council project wins top honor:

The Great Textbook War

Every year, the Peabody Awards recognize the nation's best storytellers, and their scope is wide. They cover all broadcast platforms, including television, radio, and the web. Among the recipients this year are Fox's hit show *Glee*, Diane Sawyer's ABC News series on children in Appalachia, and the Sesame Street website. Another honoree is *The Great Textbook War*, a radio documentary produced with support from the West Virginia Humanities Council. The Peabody panel praised the work as "thoughtful, balanced and gripping," showing "how a 1974 battle over textbook content in rural West Virginia foreshadows the 'culture wars' still raging."

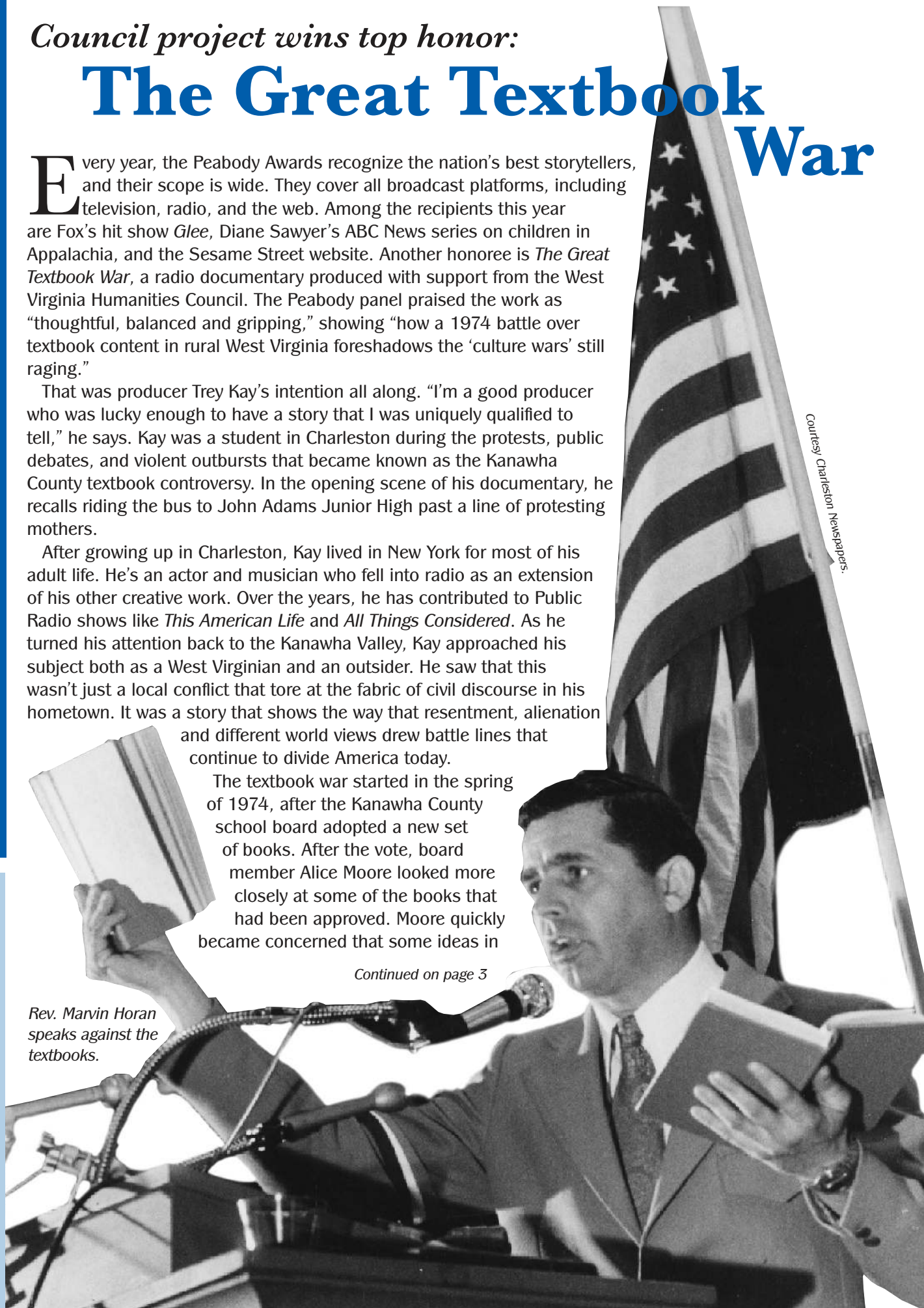
That was producer Trey Kay's intention all along. "I'm a good producer who was lucky enough to have a story that I was uniquely qualified to tell," he says. Kay was a student in Charleston during the protests, public debates, and violent outbursts that became known as the Kanawha County textbook controversy. In the opening scene of his documentary, he recalls riding the bus to John Adams Junior High past a line of protesting mothers.

After growing up in Charleston, Kay lived in New York for most of his adult life. He's an actor and musician who fell into radio as an extension of his other creative work. Over the years, he has contributed to Public Radio shows like *This American Life* and *All Things Considered*. As he turned his attention back to the Kanawha Valley, Kay approached his subject both as a West Virginian and an outsider. He saw that this wasn't just a local conflict that tore at the fabric of civil discourse in his hometown. It was a story that shows the way that resentment, alienation and different world views drew battle lines that continue to divide America today.

The textbook war started in the spring of 1974, after the Kanawha County school board adopted a new set of books. After the vote, board member Alice Moore looked more closely at some of the books that had been approved. Moore quickly became concerned that some ideas in

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Rev. Marvin Horan
speaks against the
textbooks.



Spring
2010

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How's Your
WV-IQ?

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Next Board Meeting:
July 23, 2010, Lewisburg.
Open to the public.

Kennedy Primary

It seems hard to believe, but this month brings the 50th anniversary of the 1960 Kennedy-Humphrey primary. West Virginians of a certain age will never forget how JFK swept through our mountains, powered by endless charisma and cash to match. They watched as he won hearts statewide, and many saw Kennedy's bright smile join the iconic images of Lewis and Roosevelt already hanging on the living room wall.

It was one of the important political events of the 20th century, for West Virginia and the nation. For West Virginia, the primary and ensuing general election helped Democrats to secure a dominant place in state politics for another generation and cemented a lasting bond with the young president. He came to see us one last time in June 1963, as part of our state centennial and only months ahead of the assassin's bullet.

For the nation, the West Virginia primary demonstrated that Americans were ready at last to set aside religious prejudices, as a Catholic candidate won an overwhelmingly Protestant state.

At the Humanities Council we see anniversaries such as this one as "teachable moments," as the saying goes, special times when the public is focused on history and ready for more. History is what we do, and we are eager to bring our resources to bear in service of the public interest.

Thus we are honored to partner with the Governor's Office and the West Virginia Division of Culture & History to sponsor a day-long observance of the Kennedy Primary anniversary in Charleston on May 10. Events begin with a morning book-signing, followed by afternoon panel discussions led by Professor Rob Rupp, and concluding with an evening lecture by Kennedy advisor Ted Sorensen.

— Ken Sullivan

For more information about the Kennedy Primary programs, contact us at (304)346-8500 or Payne@wvhumanities.org.

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A state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the West Virginia Humanities Council serves West Virginia through grants and direct programs in the humanities.

We welcome letters, comments, and financial contributions. Please address all correspondence to West Virginia Humanities Council 1310 Kanawha Boulevard, East Charleston, WV 25301 or sonis@wvhumanities.org.

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The Humanities Council welcomes five new members to its board of directors, elected during the spring board meeting in Morgantown: H. Stan Cavendish, Charleston, former president of Verizon West Virginia and an active civic leader; Sarah Denman, Huntington, retired provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Marshall University; Eleanor Heishman, Moorefield, a member of the Hardy County Historical Society and previously director of libraries at the State University of New York, Binghamton; Karen Stakem, Wheeling, of the West Virginia Educational Broadcasting Authority board and formerly with Senator Jay Rockefeller's staff; and Victor L. Thacker, Elkins, provost and dean of faculty at Davis & Elkins College. We thank departing board members Cheryl Harshman of West Liberty, Ken Bailey of Charleston, and Joseph Laker of Wheeling.

Continued from page 1

the books undermined Christian values. Textbook supporters hoped the books would introduce students to new ideas about multiculturalism. The disagreement led to raucous debates at school board meetings, and the tensions overflowed into neighborhoods throughout the Kanawha Valley. School buildings were hit by dynamite and fire bombs, school buses were riddled with bullets, and some parents kept their children home.

It is an ugly history, with ramifications still churning today. When he decided to return to the subject 35 years later, Trey Kay saw that he had to figure out how to navigate the politics and deep feelings that the memories still elicit. "Looking down on each other, we're not going to get anywhere," he says.

Kay did more than 40 interviews, including in-depth conversations with textbook opponent Moore, teachers who defended the books despite public pressure, and people who were students at the time. He dug through old newscasts and the recorded testimony from school board meetings, including sounds of a scuffle that broke out one evening.

Meanwhile, Kay had to figure out how to get his project done. This was an independent production, needing both funding and an eventual broadcast outlet. He received two major grants from the Humanities Council, one to fund the documentary and a second to produce a traveling exhibit. As simultaneous research, marketing, and fundraising complicated his efforts, Kay found an invaluable partner in Henry Battle. He is the president of the Kanawha Valley Historical and Preservation Society, which served as the production's nonprofit sponsor.

Battle says the decision to sponsor the documentary was not an easy

one for the historical group. The issue produced the first divided vote that he can remember from the society's board of directors. Battle himself felt that the project fell within the mission of his group. "It's our job to do history, and we need to do history. Primary sources are going to be lost, and it's time to get down what we can from the original participants."

That doesn't mean there haven't been some rekindled tensions. After *The Great Textbook War* first aired on West Virginia Public Radio in October, there was a forum at the Culture Center in Charleston with participants from all sides of the controversy. "Folks have maybe aged a bit, but the passions and beliefs are still there," Henry Battle says. "I said we don't want to open old wounds, we want to do history. That lasted about ten minutes. I guess I was being naïve." Kay was perhaps less surprised. His documentary goes to great lengths to give depth and complexity to all views, but it makes no definite conclusions. And it does not tame the controversy.

Now, Kay is focusing on the Peabody Awards New York gala and the prospect of celebrating alongside Diane Sawyer. Since the documentary's broadcast in West Virginia, he's been contacted by radio stations in Cincinnati and New York, the Third Coast radio festival in Chicago, and American Radioworks, a documentary series that runs on public radio stations nationwide. Kay is pleased that *The Great Textbook War* is getting such a wide airing.

"As it's been heard in West Virginia and outside West Virginia, I've just become more and more proud of the piece," he says.

- Anna Sale

A former reporter at West Virginia Public Broadcasting, Anna Sale was an associate producer of The Great Textbook War.

Grant Categories

Major Grants support humanities events: symposiums, conferences, exhibits, lectures. Maximum award: \$20,000. **Due:** Sept. 1

Minigrants have a budget of \$1,500 or less and support small projects, single events, or planning and consultation. **Due:** * June 1, Aug. 1, Oct. 1, Dec. 1

Media Grants support the production of electronic or film materials, or a newspaper series. Maximum award: \$20,000. **Due:** Sept. 1

Publication Grants are available to nonprofit presses and recognized academic presses, and support *only* the production phase of a completed manuscript. Maximum award: \$20,000. **Due:** Sept. 1

Teacher Institute Grants are available to colleges and universities and support summer seminars for secondary teachers. Maximum award: \$25,000. **Due:** Sept. 1

* Approaching Deadline!

Visit www.wvhumanities.org for applications and guidelines, email saunders@wvhumanities.org, or call (304)346-8500.

More Honors. The Radio Television Digital News Association recently announced that *The Great Textbook War* has won its 2010 Regional Edward R. Murrow Award. The radio documentary won in the audio news category and now becomes eligible for the national awards competition with winners to be named this fall.

10th
ANNUAL

West Virginia Book Festival

Headliners Announced

Fellowships Awarded

Humanities Council Fellowships are awarded annually to college faculty and independent scholars for research and writing projects within the humanities. The \$2,500 grants are unique in the Mountain State. The next Fellowships application deadline is February 1, 2011. The 2010 Fellows are:

Cindy Persinger, Morgantown Art History, "Meyer Schapiro: An American Art Historian"

Maria Cristina Burgueno, Huntington Spanish and Latin American Cultures, "Afro-Uruguayan Press"

Janet Snyder, Morgantown Art History, "Follow the Stone: A study of medieval masons' practice"

Debra Conner, Parkersburg Literature, "Friends and Influences: John Peale Bishop and F. Scott Fitzgerald"

Adam Komisaruk, Morgantown English Literature, "Erasmus Darwin's 'Botanic Garden': An Authoritative and Accessible Edition"

Kathleen McNeerney, Morgantown Spanish Literature, "Annotated Bibliography: Mercè Rodoreda"

Brian Luskey, Morgantown History, "Labor Agents, the Commodification of Labor, and the Meanings of Capitalism in 19th-Century America"

Two former fellows successfully turned their research into books. Barbara Smith of Philippi published *Judge Ira Ellsworth Robinson: West Virginia Statesman and Man of Letters* and Chris Green of Huntington published *The Social Life of Poetry: Appalachia, Race, and Radical Modernism*.

The West Virginia Book Festival, scheduled for October 16-17, celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. The 2010 festival brings best-selling author Nicholas Sparks, Civil War historian James Robertson, children's author Carmen Deedy, and West Virginia native and award-winning author Jayne Anne Phillips, among many featured writers, to the Charleston Civic Center.

Sponsored by the West Virginia Humanities Council, Kanawha County Public Library, the Library Foundation of Kanawha County, and the *Charleston Gazette and Daily Mail*, the event highlights national and regional authors during two days of programs, book-selling, exhibits by publishers and other book vendors, children's games and activities, and a huge used book sale. For more information visit www.wvbookfestival.org.



Jefferson County Crafts

The Historic Shepherdstown Museum has received a Humanities Council grant to conduct a workshop for Jefferson County teachers focusing on the history of Shepherdstown's crafts industries, including gun making, silver and copper smithing, and pottery. The teachers' workshop, scheduled for Tuesday, June 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Entler Hotel, also has limited space available for public participants. The "Teaching Local Crafts Industry History" workshop includes sessions on local 18th- and 19th-century craftsmen and their products. One well-known artisan from that time is Conrad Shindler. He made household items, with the copper kettle at left among them. Registration is required for the workshop. Contact Donna Northouse at (304)876-8177 or at claytonfinebooks@gmail.com.

Music Documentary

The West Virginia Music Hall of Fame is producing an hour-long documentary with major support from the Humanities Council. The film will accompany the Hall of Fame permanent exhibit at Tamarack, also supported by a Council grant, and tour with a traveling music exhibit to schools statewide. *A Film History of West Virginia Music* will focus on the music created by West Virginia's finest musicians. The film will include interviews with country novelty songwriter Little Jimmy Dickens; rhythm and blues singer Bill Withers; Fuzzy Haskins, one of four West Virginians currently in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; clarinetist Larry Combs; and the actress, musician and writer Anne Magnuson.



Larry Combs.

Courthouse History Reprinted

A Humanities Council grant has been awarded to the Barbour County Commission for the reprinting of its history of the first 100 years of the Barbour County Courthouse. First produced in 2003 for the courthouse centennial, the 22-page illustrated booklet includes material found in the courthouse archives. More than 1,000 copies will be printed and distributed at the courthouse and at the commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the first land battle of the Civil War in Philippi, planned for June 2011.



Briefs

Electing Lincoln. Gary Kornblith, Professor of History at Oberlin College, presents a free public lecture, "The Making of the President 1860," on Sunday, September 19, at 2:00 p.m. in the Judge Donald F. Black Courthouse Annex in Parkersburg. The event is cosponsored by the Humanities Council and the Wood County Historical Society.

Historian Laureate Named. Governor Joe Manchin named Ronald L. Lewis of Morgantown the Historian Laureate of West Virginia on January 29. Lewis, formerly vice-president of the Humanities Council and the author of numerous books and articles, held the Stuart and Joyce Robbins Chair at his retirement from the WVU History Department.

Harpers Ferry National Historic Park and American Public University offer an exclusive onsite summer teacher's institute and online graduate course for 4th through 12th grade teachers. "The Prelude to War: 1859-1861" costs \$150 and will be held July 5 through August 29. Register by June 25 by contacting Ms. Yoci Deal, 877-777-9081, ext.3764; or visit www.apu.apus.edu.

June House Tours. The Humanities Council's historic headquarters, the MacFarland-Hubbard House, will again be paired with the Governor's Mansion for house tours on June 19 during Charleston's popular FestivAll summer celebration. Seating is limited and tickets must be picked up in advance. Call (304)346-8500 or email payne@wvhumanities.org.

A Coal River Valley website, sponsored by Aurora Lights, has been named the Appalachian Studies Association e-Appalachia Website of the Year. The educational, interactive multimedia site, www.JourneyUpCoalRiver.org, is funded by two Humanities Council media grants.

We welcome new members to the Humanities Council Program Committee: Barbara Brandau, an administrator with the Wayne County Board of Education; William A. O'Brien, director of Concord University's Beckley Center; Larry Springer, director of the Morgan County Public Library; and Sarah Sullivan, a Charleston children's book author. We thank departing members Margaret Bennett of Grantsville, Cheryl Harshman of West Liberty, Nicoletta Villa-Sella of Wheeling, and George Rutherford of Ranson.

Little Lectures Continue

The MacFarland-Hubbard House filled to capacity when Billy Edd Wheeler kicked off the 2010 Little Lecture Series in March. Wheeler, a Boone County native and award-winning songwriter and playwright, entertained with songs

and storytelling and mingled with the crowd afterward. Little Lectures continued in April when Professor Robert Rupp of West Virginia Wesleyan College spoke on West Virginia's 1960 presidential primary. On May 23, mine wars author David Corbin speaks on the Battle of Matewan, and naturalist Scott Shalaway lectures on June 27. Both will be presented outdoors in the Council's pergola. Admission to the lectures is \$10 and includes a reception. Contact payne@wvhumanities.org or call (304)346-8500 for reservations.



Billy Edd Wheeler signs books at the March Little Lecture.

Working Life

West Virginia organizations are invited to submit proposals to host the Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit *The Way We Worked*. The exhibit examines how people identify with work as individuals and communities, the evolution of tools and technologies, and the changes that have affected the workforce and work environment over the past 150 years. The Humanities Council will choose six sites to host the exhibit from September 10, 2011, to June 24, 2012, and provide programming funds for each site. Apply no later than December 1 by contacting Mark Payne at (304)346-8500 or payne@wvhumanities.org.



Switchboard operators, 1943.

Sharon Rowe has been named the new chair of the Humanities Council Institutional Advancement Committee, our fundraising arm. "Sharon brings years of experience to this role and we are grateful that she will be guiding us," Development Director Michelle Walker said. Thanks to Dr. Kenneth Bailey, former IAC chair, for his past six years of service. He led the Council through some of its strongest fundraising, and we appreciate it.



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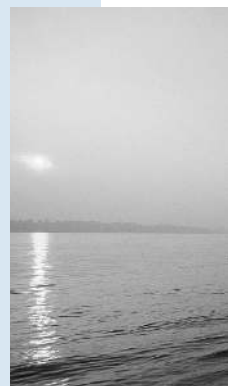
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Deluxe Bus and River Tour

The August 4-5 Humanities Council summer bus trip – with stops at Green Bottom Plantation in Cabell County, Battlefield State Park in Point Pleasant, and Blennerhassett Island in Parkersburg – has sold out, with only standby space available. The tour wraps up with a scenic river cruise back to Charleston aboard the Belle of Cincinnati. Watch for news about our 2011 bus tour.

Test your WV-IQ: Answers for the back cover quiz.

1. d) Jack Rollins
2. b and d) Lost River and Cacapon River
3. b) Interstate 64
4. a and c) Golden Delicious and Grimes Golden
5. a) Elizabeth Kee
6. d) Thurmond
7. b) disputed inheritance
8. a) a Mardi Gras-like celebration in Helvetia
9. b) Mudwall
10. a) Daniel Greathouse

Scoring: 8-10 correct answers = *Mighty Mountaineer*
5-7 correct = *Genuine West Virginian*
0-4 correct = *Foot Hiller*

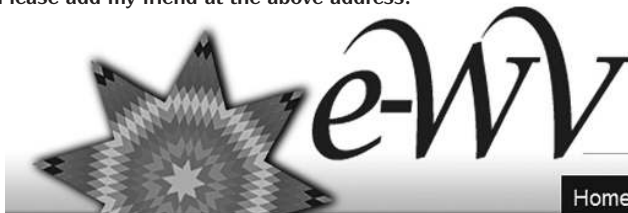
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How's Your WV-IQ?

Among the many interactive elements of *e-WV*, the upcoming online version of the *West Virginia Encyclopedia*, will be a quiz feature called "Test your WV-IQ." Offering hundreds of questions drawn from thousands of articles on West Virginia subjects, "Test your WV-IQ" will generate quizzes on topics ranging from Sports to History, Literature, Nature, Folklore and much more.

To whet your appetite, we offer the following sample quiz drawn from questions now being prepared for *e-WV*. You may find the answers on the previous page.

1. Which West Virginia songwriter wrote "Frosty the Snowman?"
a) Frank George; b) Sylvia O'Brien; c) Chu Berry;
d) Jack Rollins
2. Which West Virginia River has two names?
a) New River; b) Lost River; c) Gauley River;
d) Cacapon River
3. Which was the last Interstate highway completed in West Virginia?
a) Interstate 77; b) Interstate 64; c) Interstate 79;
d) Interstate 81
4. Which of these apple varieties originated in West Virginia?
a) Golden Delicious; b) Red Delicious; c) Grimes Golden; d) Winesap

5. Who was the first woman to represent West Virginia in the U.S. Congress?

- a) Elizabeth Kee; b) Helen Holt; c) Pearl Buck;
d) Shelley Moore Capito

6. Which West Virginia town was once described as "hell with a river through it?"

- a) Parkersburg; b) Philippi; c) Charleston;
d) Thurmond

7. Which of the following generally is NOT considered to be one of the causes of the Hatfield-McCoy feud?

- a) Civil War; b) disputed inheritance; c) romantic tryst; d) stolen pig

8. What is Fasnacht?

- a) a Mardi Gras-like celebration in Helvetia; b) a Christmas Eve celebration in Wheeling; c) an all-night marathon race held annually in Lewisburg;
d) a centuries-old German dessert still popular in the Eastern Panhandle

9. What was the nickname given to "Stonewall" Jackson's cousin William Lowther Jackson, who commanded the losing Confederate forces at the Battle of Droop Mountain?

- a) Haywall; b) Mudwall; c) Sandwall; d) Drywall

10. Which frontiersman led the band that killed Chief Logan's family in 1774?

- a) Daniel Greathouse; b) Daniel Boone; c) Michael Cresap; d) Morgan Morgan

Keller joins e-WV. The online version of the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* took a big step forward with the hiring of its first full-time staff when Mike Keller joined the project in January. Hired as *e-WV* media editor, Keller is an outstanding photographer and former webmaster for the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. "We are delighted to have Mike's creative talents on our team," said editor-in-chief Ken Sullivan. "Now we are looking for a good content editor to work with him."

