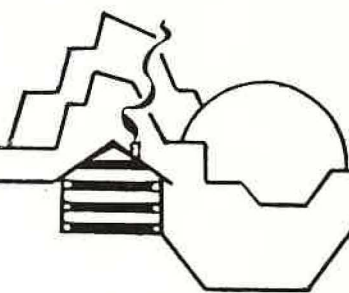


Appalachian Outreach

ARCHIVES OF APPALACHIA

The Sherrod Library
East Tennessee State University
Johnson City, Tennessee 37614-0002
Phone: (615) 929-5339



LONG STEEL RAIL:
SOUTHERN MOUNTAIN RAILROADS

APPALACHIAN OUTREACH

A series of programs with educational support materials, produced by the Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University, and funded in part by a grant from the Museum and Historical Organizations Program of the National Endowment for the Humanities' Public Programs Division

APPALACHIAN OUTREACH

Project Directors: Jean C. Flanigan and
Richard M. Kesner

Project Coordinators: Margaret Counts and
Laurel Horton

Assistants: Jeanette McLaughlin and Melinda
Royalty

Support materials written and compiled by
Nellie M. McNeil and Margaret Counts

COUNTRY MUSIC IN THE TRI-CITIES script by
Richard Blaustein and Charles Wolfe

Folder design by David Prickett

© Archives of Appalachia, ETSU 1982

LONG STEEL RAIL;
SOUTHERN MOUNTAIN RAILROADS

Most early settlers in the southern Appalachian Mountains area provided for themselves through farming and home industries, but they also established networks of trade with downriver communities and distant markets for timber, livestock, and minerals. Yet the mountains stood as a formidable barrier to trade and economic development. To supply the industrial Northeast and Midwest with these materials, enterprising entrepreneurs turned to the railroad.

Nowhere has the railroad had greater influence than in the southern Appalachian Mountains. It transformed the landscape and the life styles of the inhabitants. Small, isolated communities became railroad boom towns. Inaccessible hill tops became resort centers. Mineral deposits and virgin forests opened up to exploitation. Immigrants from both Europe and other parts of America came into the region. Former farmers became loggers and miners. Trains also brought in goods from the industrial centers. The railroad drew Appalachia closer to the commercial and cultural life of America.

LONG STEEL RAIL; SOUTHERN MOUNTAIN RAILROADS shows the impact of the railroads on the economic development of eastern Tennessee, western North Carolina, southwest Virginia, and eastern Kentucky, and its effect on the people living there. The program is suitable for use in social studies, language arts, and vocational education classes

LONG STEEL RAIL and the accompanying teaching materials are designed with the following content objectives:

1. To trace the history of railroading in East Tennessee;
2. To show the impact on the economic development of the region.

The packet contains a script, bibliography, ordered and timed teaching materials, learning strategies with instructions for their implementation, and an answer sheet for teachers.

LONG STEEL RAIL

Before viewing:

STEP #1: Activity #1--Warm-up(introduction) 10 minutes

To direct students' thinking toward the impact of the railroads on the East Tennessee region, flash slide #L-7 on the screen and ask the following questions to lead into a discussion of the need for transportation:

Imagine that you live in this little house on the left of the slide, and it is 1901. . .

1. Where would you go to a bank, a post office, a store to buy shoes or coffee? How would you get there?
2. Where would you go on vacation? How would you get there?
3. If coal were in the hills behind your house, to whom would you sell it? How would you get it to them?
4. If you wanted to cut the timber on your farm, what would be your market? How would you get it there?
5. If you opened a mine or began to cut timber, could you do it alone? Where would you find extra hands to help?
6. If you heard of women in other parts of America using sewing machines, how could you get one?

LONG STEEL RAIL will reveal how the railroad solved these problems.

STEP #2: Activity #2--Key Words 10 minutes

Either distribute copies of the handout of key words, or write them on the board and discuss each meaning. Let the students know that these words will be used in the program.

STEP #3: Activity #3 15 minutes

Distribute Data Retrieval Sheets to each student. Ask them to read over the questions, which will be answered after viewing LONG STEEL RAIL.

STEP #4: view LONG STEEL RAIL: SOUTHERN MOUNTAIN RAILROADS 28 minutes

STEP #3 continued 30 minutes

Ask two students thinking together to prepare short answers to the questions. Lead class discussion reviewing all questions.

LONG STEEL RAIL

STEP #5: Activity #5--Evaluation (short story writing) 1 hour (or for homework)

The coming of the railroad to the southern Appalachian Mountains region transformed the appearance of the region and the lifestyles of the people there. Following are some of the results:

1. Small communities became railroad boom towns.
2. Hilltops became resorts.
3. Coal, mineral deposits, and virgin forests were opened to exploitation.
4. Immigrants from Europe and other parts of America moved into the area.
5. Many mountain farmers became loggers, miners, and railroad laborers.
6. The railroad also brought in new goods and commodities from distant markets.

Choose one of the above results of the coming of the railroad. Write a short story using the detail you've learned from the program to show the changes on the characters you create.

KEY WORDS

1. ET & WNC Railroad: East Tennessee and Western North Carolina, a local railroad development with its center in Johnson City. It extended to Cranberry, North Carolina.
2. Southern Railway System: first railroad to reach East Tennessee in the early 1850's
3. Tweetsie: nickname for ET & WNC Railroad
4. narrow gauge: railroad tracks set three feet apart instead of the standard 4'8½"
5. Clinchfield Railroad: line running from Elkhorn, Kentucky to Spartanburg, South Carolina, which was developed from the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railroad by George L. Carter in 1902.
6. W.C. Hatton: chief engineer who built Clinchfield railroad tunnels and bridges
7. hamlet: a little cluster of houses in the country
8. archives: a place where public records and other historical documents are kept for research and preservation

LONG STEEL RAIL--Activity #3

DATA RETRIEVAL SHEET

Directions: Read over the following questions before viewing the program. After viewing, prepare short answers with a partner and be prepared to discuss them in class.

1. What two Appalachian Mountain resources did the industrial Northeast Midwest need?
2. What railway network was the first to reach East Tennessee in the 1850's ?
3. What was the first local railroad development begun in East Tennessee?
4. What was the primary purpose of this line?
5. What was Tweetsie's two-fold purpose?
6. How was the Cloudland Hotel built to span East Tennessee and North Carolina?
7. Even though the Tweetsie was small in size, it achieved a major engineering success. What was it?
8. What two things caused Tweetsie's decline?
9. What were some of the problems in building the railroad in the southern Appalachian Mountains?
10. What was the source of power for building the railroad prior to World War I?
11. What does "joint ahead, center back" mean?

LONG STEEL RAIL--Activity #3, continued

12. What is a "walking boss?"
13. What happened to the 3 C's line in 1893?
14. What two points does the Clinchfield Railroad connect?
15. What are some of the engineering masterpieces of the Clinchfield?
16. How many tunnels does the Clinchfield have?
17. How many bridges does the Clinchfield have?
18. For what development in Southwest Virginia is the Clinchfield directly responsible?
19. What industries developed along the Clinchfield?
20. Name two towns which grew up because of the Clinchfield railroad.
21. List ways the lives of the people of the East Tennessee region were affected by the railroad.

Activity #3 ANSWER SHEET

1. coal and lumber
2. Southern Railway System
3. East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad
4. outlet for rich iron ore of the Cranberry, North Carolina, area
5. carried timber and tourists
6. The ballroom was built directly over the Tennessee/North Carolina line.
7. crossing Linville Gap at an altitude of 4,100 feet
8. depletion of iron ore and timber and the building of highways in the 1920's and 1930's
9. cutting through rugged terrain, building tunnels through mountains, building bridges and trestles
10. man power
11. method of lining tracks--pulling the joint up to where the men were, then the men come back to the center to set the center up
12. boss on the railroad who walked from one crew of men to another giving orders
13. went bankrupt
14. Eastern Kentucky to South Carolina
15. road bed widths, bridge weight capacities, dimensions of tunnels
16. fifty-five
17. seventy-two
18. coalfields
19. furniture, hardwood flooring, metal finishing and pottery
20. Johnson City and Erwin
21. turned small communities into business centers, developed resorts, brought tourists, gave mountain people jobs, brought in new goods