

From the 1987 Crandall Library Annual Report

Folk Arts Project

The Folk Arts Program at the New York State Council on the Arts awarded the Library \$10,000 for this year's project, "Adirondack Folk Arts in a Tourist Economy." An outgrowth of the 1986 survey and conference, its goals have been twofold:

documentation of North Country traditions and the creation of a library-based collection to be used as the basis of future programming and publications.

to increase public awareness and support for folk arts through publications and live presentations.

Todd DeGarmo, the 1986 project director, returned this Fall to direct the three-month project. Todd has a Masters in Anthropology from SUNY at Albany, and is a Ph.D. candidate in American Studies from George Washington University, Washington, DC. He has worked two years with the Smithsonian Folklife Program, most recently as Program Coordinator for the 1987 Festival of American Folklife, an annual celebration held in Washington, DC.

Documentation

The Library now houses the beginnings of a North Country Folklife Collection. The collection consists of color slides, black and white photographs, field notes, tapes, artifacts, manuscripts, and bibliographies. These materials have been amassed through fieldwork, research, and generous donations.

Public Programming

The Library will host an Open House in celebration of Adirondack Folk Arts, Saturday, January 16, 1988, from 1 to 5 pm. An afternoon of informal demonstrations, the Open House will feature 12 artists from 5 Adirondack counties. The traditions to be represented are guide boats, balsam pillows, rustic furniture, tied quilts, pack baskets, fly tying, woodcarving, traditional songs and stories.

A series of photo essays are in their final stages of production. They address this year's tourism theme, looking at several of the more neglected North Country folk arts: balsam pillows, tied quilts, woodcarving, and work experiences at resort hotels.

In February 1988 a slide show and talk will be presented for Adirondack Discovery, Inlet, NY. Its subject will be Folk Arts at Crandall Library.

Meetings Attended

North Country Folk Arts Consortium, Glens Falls, September 11, 1987;

New York Folklore Society, Syracuse, September 26, 1987;

American Studies Association, NY, NY. November 22-24, 1987;

NYSCA Folk Arts, Colonie, December 3 1987;

NYS Folk Arts Roundtable, Syracuse, January 20-22, 1988.

1988 Projections

In February, we will be notified about NYSCA funding for "Women and North Country Folk Arts." Public presentations may include:

slide shows and video documentation of two community groups who raise money for their churches making and selling traditional arts;

Library gallery display of women traditional artists;

documentation of North Country foodways, i.e. homestyle, lumber camp, hunting camp, boarding and tourist house, and resort hotel.

Also in February, the Library's lobby will be the site of folk arts displays, one on balsam pillow, and another on the Library's Folk Arts and Adirondack Folklife holdings.