



Preserving the Past...



For the Future

Museum of Appalachia



Smithsonian Institution
Affiliations Program

Norris, Tennessee

*A Pioneer Farm, Village, & Museum
in the Southern Mountains*

A 501 (c) (3) organization

Museum of Appalachia

Elaine Irwin Meyer
President

Board of Directors

Stephen W. Dean
Chairman of the Board

Honorable Daryl R. Fansler
Vice Chair
Lindsey Meyer Gallaher
Secretary

Hack Ayers
Robert M. Baird
Jenny Boyd
Kay Brookshire
R.G. Chinn, Jr.
H. Peter Claussen
Samuel J. Furrow
Dr. Joe Johnson
Dale A. Keasling
Fred Marcum
Elaine Irwin Meyer
Manya Pirkle
General Carl Stiner
Billy J. Stokes
Honorable Gary Wade
Jack Williams

Board of Advisors

Jay Crippen
Fred Fields
Larry Foster
Dr. Charles Gouffon
Bo Shafer
Steve Weaver

CONTACT PERSON: Will Meyer

Museum of Appalachia
865-494-7680 or 494-0514
e-mail: willmeyer@museumofappalachia.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Museum of Appalachia’s “Tennessee Fall Homecoming” to end after 38-year run.

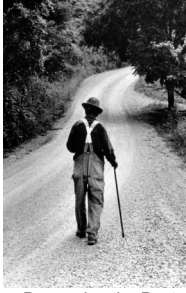
NORRIS, Tenn. – The Museum of Appalachia in Norris, Tennessee has announced that their annual Tennessee Fall Homecoming event has come to an end. The festival started in 1980 as a one-time event to recognize, display and celebrate the disappearing music and culture of the Southern Appalachians, but grew over the years into a multi-day event attended by tens of thousands of people annually.

According to the Museum’s Board of Directors Chairman, Stephen Dean, the event had grown to the point of requiring more than three thousand hours to plan, promote and execute. “Homecoming was an enormous investment for a museum of our size,” Dean stated, “and if we lost a day of attendance due to weather, we simply could not make it up. Even if a Homecoming was successful financially, the amount of time and effort invested simply wasn’t justifiable. We have to be responsible for the entire Museum’s operation.”

The 38th and final Homecoming, held this past October, was one of their most well-received events. They introduced all-new evening concerts featuring artists like Lee Ann Womack and The SteelDrivers. As a result, they boasted record-breaking attendance and attracted new visitors.

“It was a wonderful send-off for this beloved festival,” said Museum President Elaine Meyer, daughter of Museum founder, John Rice Irwin. “We will always look back at Homecoming as a wonderful and important experience, not only for the Museum, but also for the thousands of visitors who attended over the years. But today, our mission to preserve and showcase the museum’s significant historical collection of artifacts and stories must come to the forefront.”

However, that doesn’t mean that the Museum will stop hosting entertaining and educational special events. Meyer said, “Discontinuing Homecoming will allow the Museum to host more activities and events throughout the year, because we won’t be spending all of our time...



Preserving the Past...



For the Future

Museum of Appalachia



Smithsonian Institution
Affiliations Program

Norris, Tennessee

*A Pioneer Farm, Village, & Museum
in the Southern Mountains*

A 501 (c) (3) organization

Museum of Appalachia

Elaine Irwin Meyer
President

Board of Directors

Stephen W. Dean
Chairman of the Board

Honorable Daryl R. Fansler
Vice Chair

Lindsey Meyer Gallaher
Secretary

Hack Ayers

Robert M. Baird

Jenny Boyd

Kay Brookshire

R.G. Chinn, Jr.

H. Peter Claussen

Samuel J. Furrow

Dr. Joe Johnson

Dale A. Keasling

Fred Marcum

Elaine Irwin Meyer

Manya Pirkle

General Carl Stiner

Billy J. Stokes

Honorable Gary Wade

Jack Williams

Board of Advisors

Jay Crippen

Fred Fields

Larry Foster

Dr. Charles Gouffon

Bo Shafer

Steve Weaver

planning for a single event.” When asked if there would be a replacement for the Homecoming event, Meyer said, “Nothing can really replace Homecoming, but our plans are to find new ways for visitors to interact with and share in the rich culture that developed in Southern Appalachia. We look forward to announcing our list of special events for 2018 very soon.”

The Museum of Appalachia, an internationally acclaimed living history farm/village located 16 miles north of Knoxville, is home to a unique collection of early pioneer artifacts from the Southern Appalachian Mountains. A non-profit organization, the Museum’s mission is to preserve Appalachian artifacts and instill in the community—regionally, nationally, and internationally—a greater knowledge of, and appreciation for, the Appalachian heritage. For additional information, call 865-494-7680 or visit the website, www.museumofappalachia.org