

## **Films for Use with *Strange as This Weather Has Been***

*American Hollow*. Dir. Kennedy, Rory. Home Box Office, 1999. DVD, 90 min.

Reserves F210 .A53 1999

"The Bowling clan has lived for more than 100 years in a hollow in eastern Kentucky. Iree Bowling, the family matriarch, is at the heart of this portrait of an extended family (13 grown children). Although they live off the land by gardening as well as gathering ginseng, moss, and blood root, they also rely heavily on government assistance. Living in an area that is remote even by rural standards, and impoverished in terms of the consumer values most Americans hold dear, the Bowlings exude family pride and loyalty and a love for their verdant land"--Film Forum.

*Appalachia: A History of Mountains and People*. Dir. Ross Spears. Agee Films, 2009. 2 DVDs, 240 min. Reserves F217.A65 R67 2009

Explores the intersection of natural history and human history in the Appalachian Mountain region.

*The Appalachians*. Prod. Mari-Lynn C. Evans. Appalachians Home Video, 2005. 3 DVDs. 180 min. Reserves F106 .A662 2005

A 3-part series explores the political, economic, musical, and spiritual history of the Appalachian region. Part 1 examines the early history of Appalachia, its religious influences and culture. Part 2 covers Native Americans, race, the Civil War, feuds, the coal wars and music of the period. Part 3 examines 20th century economic hardship, music, strip mining and migration to the Midwest. Commentary by Johnny Cash, Loretta Lynn, Senator Robert C. Byrd, Ricky Skaggs and others.

*Black Diamonds: Mountaintop Removal & the Fight for Justice*. Dir. Catherine Pancake. Bullfrog Films, 2006. DVD, 72 min. Reserves TD195.S75 B53

Charts the rise of large scale coal surface mining in Appalachia and the community

resistance of a region caught between the national appetite for cheap energy and a sense of Appalachian culture and beauty.

*The Buffalo Creek Flood: An Act of Man and Buffalo Creek Revisited.* Dir. Mimi Pickering.

Appalshop, 2006. DVD. Reserves TC557.W42 B84 2006

Focuses on the Pittston Coal Company, and the disaster which occurred in 1972 when a coal waste dam burst, leaving 125 dead and 4,000 homeless. The first part discusses the disaster through interviews with survivors, union leaders, citizens, and company officials. The second part, filmed ten years later, explores survivors' efforts to rebuild the communities and the difficulties they faced from the government and the Company. (DVD 40 min.).

*Buffalo Creek Revisited* Filmed 10 years after the flood and explores the survivors' efforts to rebuild. (DVD 31 min. color, 1985).

*Harlan County U.S.A.* Dir. Barbara Kopple. Criterion Collection, 2006. DVD, 105 min.

Reserves HD5325.M62 H37 2006

Chronicles the 1973 Harlan County, Kentucky coal miners' strike against the operators of the Brookside mine and the Duke Power Company, which resulted from the company's refusal to honor the national contract of the United Mine Workers of America when the miners joined the union.

*Hillbilly: The Real Story.* Dir. Prod. David Huntley. Moore Huntley Productions for the History

Channel and A&E Television Networks, 2007. VHS 90 min. Reserves F210 .H540 2007

A documentary narrated by Billy Ray Cyrus about hillbillies in America and their 300-year history which includes battling the British, establishing the first American labor unions, and their creation of popular aspects of American culture such as NASCAR and country music.

*In Ya Blood.* Dir. Herbie Smith. Appalshop, 1971. VHS, 20 min. Reserves PN1997 .I6 1971

A dramatic film whose central theme revolves around the decision faced by all Appalachian youth: whether to stay in the mountains or leave in search of a better life.

*Matewan*. Dir. John Sayles. Evergreen Entertainment, 1996. VHS 142 min.

Reserves HD5326 .W4 M38 1996

A labor leader seeking to organize the workers of a company town sets off a powder keg of racial hostility, corruption and betrayal in this tale of the bitter clash between unionist miners and the tyrannical coal company owners in West Virginia in the 1920's. (Catalog description).

*Mountain Born: The Jean Ritchie Story*. Dir. H. Russell Farmer. KET, Kentucky Network. 1996.

VHS 60 min. Reserves M1629.7.K4 R58

Biography of folk singer Jean Ritchie, told through interviews with her and some of her friends.

*Mountain Top Removal*. Dir., Michael Cusack O'Connell. Haw River Films, 2007. DVD 74 min.

Reserves TD195.C58 M68 2007

A look at the coal mining practice of mountaintop removal, and the involvement of Appalachian citizens to stop this practice in the Coal River valley of West Virginia. Ed Wiley, especially, is portrayed as the grandfather who walks to Washington and leads protests against West Virginia's governor in order to secure help to build a new school to replace the one directly below a slurry pond. Background music adds a magic touch: "This World is Getting Mean," "There Must Be," "Like This," "Johnson Boys," "All My Tears," and "New River Overture."

*Mountains of the Heart*. Perf. Sharyn McCrumb. Otterbein College, 1998. VHS, 60 min.

Reserves F217 .A65 M138 1998

Sharyn McCrumb discusses her writing and how the culture of the Appalachian region where she grew up influenced the development of the characters she created in her Ballad series.

*People Like Us: Social Class in America.* Dir. Louis Alvarez, and Andrew Kolker. Center for New American Media and CNAM Film Library, 2001. VHS, 125 min.

Reserves HN57 .P46 2001 +manual

Discusses how social class plays a role in the lives of all Americans, whether they live in Park Avenue penthouses, Appalachian trailer parks, bayou houseboats or suburban gated communities.

*Stranger with a Camera.* Dir. Elizabeth Barret. California Newsreel, 2000. VHS, 61 min.

Reserves HN79.K4 S77 2000

In 1967 Hugh O'Connor, a Canadian filmmaker, and his crew came to eastern Kentucky to make a film showing people from all walks of life in the United States. They finished the day by filming coal miners and their families in rental houses. As the filmmakers were leaving, Hobart Ison, the owner of the property, drove up and fired three shots, killing Hugh O'Connor. Elizabeth Barrett, from Kentucky herself, explores why this happened by trying to understand the people and culture of eastern Kentucky in different socio-economic backgrounds.

*The True Meaning of Pictures: Shelby Lee Adams' Appalachia.* Dir. Jennifer Baichwal. Mercury Films, 2003. DVD, 71 min. Reserves F217.A65 T78 2003

Shelby Lee Adams has been photographing the eastern Kentucky Appalachian mountain people for thirty years, and been both praised and derided for his portraits of impoverished Appalachian families. Accused of perpetuating stereotypes, Adams is said to exploit his subjects; this documentary explores the controversy. The director allows Adams, his critics and the subjects of his work to speak their minds.