

Encyclopedia opens window on Appalachia region

Area of country diverse in ecology, business

By BOB BATZ JR.
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

In 1,860 pages, heavy as a big chunk of coal, the new "Encyclopedia of Appalachia" aims to tell people a few things they don't know about the oft-mythic mountain region.

Rudy Abramson, the tome's co-editor, said one objective for the project was to disabuse people of negative notions, including Appalachians themselves.

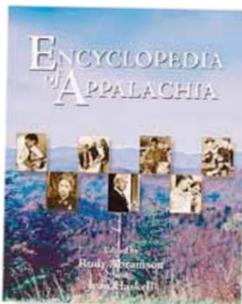
"But we wanted to get it right more than anything else," said Abramson, a former Washington correspondent for the

Los Angeles Times, who now lives in Reston, Va.

He was 58 when the project started a decade ago. He's delighted that it's finished and thinks it can be useful in many ways.

"One of the things this book does is show what an incredibly diverse place the region is, not just in terms of culture, but also in ecology and business," Abramson said.

Among the unexpected facts he learned is that the region is home to more than 50 species of orchids, as well as 100 colonies of the rare box huckleberry, one of the



oldest known living plants.

Appalachia is a federally defined 13-state region, with a five-state core, "where the affinity of history, culture, the economy, and the mountain land is strongest."

The book, which is being published by The Center for Appalachian Studies and Services at East Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee Press, drew funding from many sources, including the National Endowment for the Humanities. The project's vast cast of more than

1,500 includes editorial-board members and section editors from Juniata College, the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville, West Virginia University and Youngstown State University.

The 2,000 entries and 300 photographs and illustrations are divided into 30 sections in five major divisions: The Landscape, The People, Work and the Economy, Cultural Traditions, and Institutions.

The work embraces a huge range of topics, some scholarly, presented to be readable by a wide audience.

As laid out in its introduction, the encyclopedia attempts to document Appalachia as not a social and economic problem, but as a real, if often redefined and constantly changing, place, one that is too diverse to generalize.

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY BEST SELLERS

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. "Tenth Circle" by Jodi Picoult (Atria)
2. "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown (Doubleday)
3. "5th Horseman" by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro (Little, Brown)
4. "The House" by Danielle Steel (Delacorte Press)
5. "Cell: A Novel" by Stephen King (Scribner)
6. "The Templar Legacy" by Steve Berry (Ballantine Books)
7. "The Last Templar" by Raymond Khoury (Dutton Adult)
8. "False Impression" by Jeffrey Archer (St. Martin's Press)
9. "In the Company of the Courtesan" by Sarah Dunant (Random House)
10. "The Rebels of Ireland" by Edward Rutherfurd (Doubleday)

NONFICTION/GENERAL

1. "Marley and Me" by John Grogan (Morrow)
2. "Inspiration: Your Ultimate Calling" by Wayne W. Dyer (Hay House)
3. "The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century" by Thomas L. Friedman (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)
4. "The Automatic Millionaire Homeowner" by David Bach (Broadway Books)
5. "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt, Stephen J. Dubner (William Morrow)
6. "The Purpose-Driven Life" by Rick Warren (Zondervan)
7. "Jim Cramer's Real Money" by James J. Cramer (Simon & Schuster)
8. "Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer" by James L. Swanson (William Morrow)
9. "Left to Tell" by Immaculee Ilibagiza (Hay House)
10. "If You Could See What I See" by Sylvia Brown (Hay House)

MASS-MARKET PAPERBACKS

1. "Micah" by Laurell K. Hamilton (Jove)
2. "Kill the Messenger" by Tami Hoag (Bantam)
3. "Rage" by Jonathan Kellerman (Ballantine Books)
4. "With No One as Witness" by Elizabeth George (HarperTorch)
5. "Devil in Winter" by Lisa Kleypas (Avon)
6. "Fatal Burn" by Lisa Jackson (Kensington Publishing Corporation)
7. "Memoirs of a Geisha" by Arthur Golden (Vintage International)
8. "The Third Secret" by Steve Berry (Ballantine Books)
9. "Pretty Woman" by Fern Michaels (Pocket)
10. "Angels & Demons" by Dan Brown (Pocket)

Rocker finally has a hit

Jen Trynin pens book about not making it in the music business

By SCOTT BAUER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jen Trynin wanted to be a rock star. So, she did everything a hip, indie rocker in 1994 should do to make it happen.

She created her own label, sent her record out to all the right people, and created a buzz. The buzz turned into an explosion, with Trynin at the heart of the biggest record company bidding wars that year.

And then the bottom fell out. The whole experience is deftly detailed in Trynin's captivating, exhilarating, funny and sad memoir, "Everything I'm Cracked Up to Be."

Trynin's first book succeeds not only as a great insider's view for music fans who wonder what goes on behind the scenes but as a just plain good read for anyone.

Even though you know Trynin isn't destined to make it big (have you ever heard of her?), she builds interest in her story by detailing the adoring throngs of record company execs, attorneys, managers and other hangers-on who poured into her concerts, flooding her with attention and business offers.

Trynin's attitude toward the whole vortex of being courted by all the companies is not unlike what any person may feel: flattery, irritation, confusion, fear and excitement.

She's candid in her anxiety about whether she is acting as those around her expect an up-and-coming rock star to act.

Her tale is greatly aided by her knack for writing conversation.

Some of the funniest exchanges come at the expense of the executives who seem to endlessly flatter Trynin until she signs on the bottom line and the hunt moves on to the next big thing.

Much of "Everything I'm Cracked Up to Be" turns out to explode the rock 'n' roll lifestyle myth. She writes of long days caught in the never-end-



Jen Trynin is a musician turned author. Her memoir, "Everything I'm Cracked Up to Be," is about her experi-

ence in the music business. Trynin was an up-and-coming rocker before industry leaders lost interest in her work.

ing publicity machine, boring nights alone in strange places and stressful interpersonal relationships not only with band members but family and business associates.

What the book will do is motivate readers to hunt down some of Trynin's music. Her similarity to Alanis Morissette is obvious.

Trynin's lyrics sparkle with an emotional honesty that her book richly explores.

The refreshing thing about Trynin is that she embraces the journey and doesn't bemoan the outcome. To her it's a wild ride, and that's why at the end, when success doesn't come, she's more relieved than sad.

• Dating

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1)

children use online dating and finding mates," says Rochelle Adams, spokeswoman for Yahoo Personals.

"They're seeing that it's not such a crazy concept."

Match.com, another large online dating site, says boomers (which it defines as ages 45-59) are its fastest growing segment — they've increased by at least 350 percent since 2000, and now number 3 million — or 22 percent of total users.

Spokesperson Kristin Kelly says older users tend to be much clearer and more realistic about what they want: "There's no substitute for the wisdom

gained with age."

Claudia Polley certainly knows what she wants.

The beauty of online dating, says the 56-year-old museum consultant from Washington is that you can tell right away if someone can write well, a key test for her.

"If they can't spell, and they start out with 'Hiya!' — well, I wish them a wonderful life, but not with me."

Oooh! Aaah!

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