

## CULTURAL ECOLOGY NEWSLETTER

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No. 2, Summer 1983

W. Doolittle, Editor

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**ALIVE AND WELL.** The Cultural Ecology Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers has been quite productive and active during the past few years. However, there seems to be a lack of participation among the membership. While the Group has sponsored a number of activities that have been well-attended and successful, there is something less than a ground swell of interest in organizing activities and serving as an officer. The resurrection of this newsletter is an attempt to create a feeling of belonging in hopes that more members will take an active part in the Group.

Originally, the Group decided not to have a newsletter because of the expense. As it turns out, the Board now feels that money saved was not money well-spent. Furthermore, the recent increase in the amount the Group receives from the AAG (from 50¢ to 75¢/member) should off-set the cost of mailing. In addition, while the Group has in the past paid the registration fees for non-AAG members to participate in Group activities, the AAG will begin letting invited non-members participate at greatly reduced rates. Hence, we can well afford a newsletter -- one intended to add a sense of belonging and increase participation.

**RECENT ACTIVITIES.** A number of activities were organized and held as part of the annual meeting of the AAG in Denver. For openers we held an "Open Forum" for members to discuss topics of current concern among cultural ecologists and to voice their opinions on future Group activities, as well as the future of the Group. Among other things, the idea of this newsletter came out of the forum.

"Future Trends in Hazard Research" was the topic of a special session organized by W. Doolittle. The session consisted of invited papers by anthropologist Payson D. Sheets of the University of Colorado, James K. Mitchell, and Robert W. Kates. Over 70 persons attended this thought-provoking session.

In conjunction with the Rural Development Specialty Group, Susan Place and Ben Wisner organized two sessions on "Human Consequences of Complex Development Interventions." Papers were presented by Susan Place, Larry Grossman, Patricia Ballard, Susanna B. Hecht, David Drakakis-Smith, Barbara Bury, Thomas J. Bassett, and Robert W. Roundy. Ben Wisner and Lakshman Yapa served as discussants. Both sessions were well attended and intellectually stimulating.

**BOARD OF OFFICERS.** Because of a number of problems, including scheduling conflicts on the part of the AAG annual meeting program committees and other commitments on the part of our membership, a business meeting with an election of officers was not conducted at the 1981 San Antonio meeting. Members of the Board agreed to serve in their positions until such an election was held. At the Denver meeting, Larry Wolf stepped down as Secretary-Treasurer and Larry Grossman was elected to take his place. Next year we must have an election! Hopefully, the newsletter will serve as a device whereby people will nominate officers. Elections, according to the Bylaws, will be held at the Washington meeting. Until then, the Board of Officers is as follows:

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William E. Doolittle, Chairperson, University of Texas at Austin  
Larry Grossman, Secretary-Treasurer, Virginia Tech  
Susan E. Place, East States Director, Radford  
William M. Denevan, Central States Director, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Michael J. Watts, West States Director, University of California-Berkeley

THINGS TO PONDER. Are you planning to give a paper at the Washington meeting next April? Are you currently organizing, or are you willing to organize a session for this meeting? Are you conducting some research that may be of interest to the Group? Do you want others to know your address if you will be working out of the country this year? Do you know someone who will make a good officer for the Group? Are you willing to serve as an officer?

The purpose of this newsletter is multifaceted. Among other things, it will be a way in which individual members can keep in touch with the membership at large. It will also serve as a medium for conducting some Group business; and, it will provide an opportunity for members to become more involved. Note the last page. Please fill it out and return it to William E. Doolittle, Department of Geography, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712.

A second newsletter will be mailed out in December. It will include information that you provide on the attached sheet. Announcements of upcoming activities, addresses of members in the field, news of members' current research activities, and nominations for office will be included. Please respond. The Group depends on your participation.

Information provided below may be included in the next issue of the CULTURAL ECOLOGY NEWSLETTER. Anyone willing to participate, organize, or serve will be contacted by the Group Chairperson as soon as possible.

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Name, Address, and Phone:

Are you preparing a paper for the Washington meeting that could be included in a Group-sponsored session? \_\_\_\_\_

Title:

Are you organizing a session that could be held under the sponsorship of the Group? (We can arrange for paying registration fees for invited non-members.)

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Title:

Participants:

Will you organize an activity for the Washington meeting? \_\_\_\_\_

Title:

Participants:

Please provide a brief description of your current research.

Field address:

Are you willing to serve a two year term as an officer of the Group?

Please name someone who you think might serve:

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(Please return this form to: William E. Doolittle, Department of Geography, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas 78712.)

