

Peyton to begin study of subcultures

## Fellowship subject 'a natural'

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By LIN CHAFF  
Of The Advertiser staff

"I'm sure when my year's study is over, I'll have many more questions than I do now," said The Huntington Advertiser's editorial page editor this morning, as he sat at his desk for the last time until next year.

David A. Peyton, the recipient of an Alicia Patterson Foundation fellowship from New York, begins his study of the Appalachian and Acadian (Louisiana Cajun) cultures tomorrow after being granted a year's leave of absence by the Huntington Publishing Co.

The only stipulation of the fellowship is that Peyton write a dozen newsletters that will be distributed to approximately 250 people and institutions.

Peyton's fellowship subject is a natural to the native Huntingtonian whose love for Appalachian culture has been expressed through his affiliation with mountain music — as a hobby, he plays an autoharp, an instrument generally associated with Appalachia — and his column, "My Land," which has appeared in The Herald-Advertiser.

Peyton said he believes his column, suggested by Huntington Publishing Co. Executive Editor John McMillan, helped him above all else win the fellowship.

"As far as I know, The Herald-Advertiser is the only newspaper in Appalachia with an Appalachian column. It seems newspapers have tried to deny Appalachia and had a tendency to write about everything but Appalachia until the past five years or so," Peyton said.

"Since then there has been a tremendous growth of

Appalachian awareness, just as there is now a growth of the Cajun's awareness about Acadia. Both peoples are becoming aware of who they are and want information about themselves," he said.

Peyton said he doesn't know what caused the recent surge of interest in both cultures, but hopes his fellowship will help him to find out.

"Like many other projects, this one will never be finished. It would be easy if all I had to do was compare the two cultures, but that's not the idea. I hope to gain insights about them that will apply to other subcultures in America," he said.

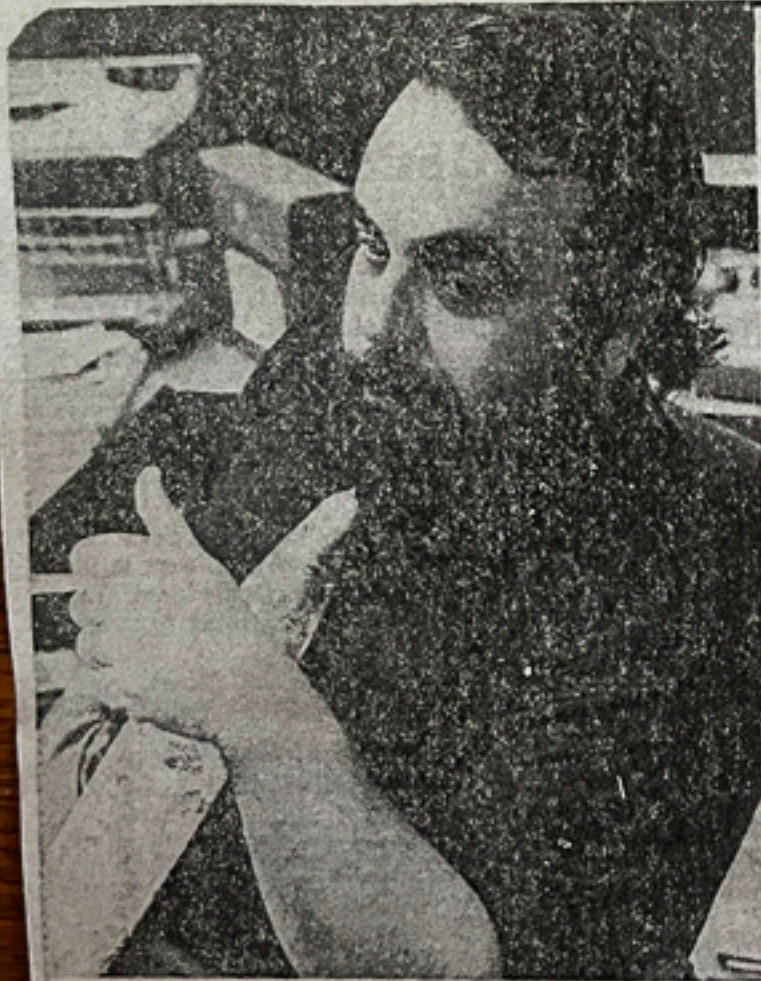
"It's really an asset in both cultures for a man to travel with his family. People are more assured your motives are good and holy," said Peyton about his wife, Susan and their 4-year-old son David Jr., who says he is anxious to move to "Weeziana."

Mrs. Peyton, a former Herald-Dispatch reporter, has already started a note file on points of interest and expects to help her husband out in "scholarly things," according to Peyton.

"I want to see if we can fit into the culture easily. My theory is that the cultures are so similar that we can. Eventually, I hope to see an exchange of dialogue that will be beneficial to the best interests of both," he said.

Peyton is not certain whether his column will be revived upon his return or whether he will return to work as editorial page editor.

"I'm going to hang loose and be very fluid and let my research lead me where it may," he said.



David A. Peyton