

RFK IN EKY TIMES

MAXIMUM FEASIBLE PARTICIPATION

SEPTEMBER 8-11, 2004



Kennedy Tours East Kentucky

Senator Listens to People on Poverty, Priorities

Robert F. Kennedy toured eastern Kentucky on February 13 and 14, 1968, landing at Lexington's Bluegrass Airport and traveling over two hundred miles in those two days. Kennedy's purpose in touring eastern Kentucky was to examine the outcomes of the first wave of "war on poverty" legislation with the people it most affected – previous trips of inquiry had been made to the San Joaquin Valley of California, the Mississippi Delta, northern New Mexico, and the hills of western Pennsylvania.

At the time of Kennedy's visit, the civil rights movement continued to challenge Americans - five days earlier, on February 8, three young people had been killed when South Carolina Highway Patrol officers broke up a civil rights protest at an all white bowling alley in Orangeburg. Martin Luther King Jr. continued to organize a national Poor Peoples Campaign. The Memphis Sanitation Workers' strike began on February 12.

At the same time, the United States was reeling from Viet Cong's Tet Offensive and the indelible photographs of South Vietnamese National Police Chief Nguyen Ngoc Loan's street execution of a Viet Cong officer. Two weeks earlier, North Korea had seized the USS Pueblo. Peter Edelman, Kennedy's aide, recalls "We decided to hold more field hearings on hunger. By then, though, the war in Vietnam had become even more enveloping and draining as a political issue. The country was deeply divided, and Kennedy was under relentless pressure from antiwar advocates to run for president." Less than a month later, RFK would announce his candidacy.

Kennedy's tour was organized by aide Peter Edelman: "I came down. I contacted the local

poverty program and asked them to identify articulate people to testify about the problems and also to identify families with difficulties that we can visit. You need to consult and rely on the suggestions of people who are active in the community, a newspaper editor, a local lawyer, a fiscal court judge."

Edelman found Tom Gish, the editor and publisher of the Mountain Eagle, in Whitesburg, Kentucky; Milton Ogle, head of the Appalachian Volunteers; Harry Caudill, attorney and author of "Night Comes to the Cumberlands," and John Tiller, a former coal miner and activist.

With Congressman Carl D. Perkins of Kentucky, an influential congressman responsible for an important body of adult literacy and technical education legislation, Kennedy toured eastern Kentucky's coal country, the same territory where President Lyndon Johnson had declared the war on poverty in 1964. Kennedy held field hearings for the Senate Subcommittee on Employment, Manpower and Poverty in two locations during the tour, in Vortex and Fleming-Neon, taking testimony that would be entered into the Congressional Record. RFK also visited individual homes, schoolhouses, and county seats during his tour, focusing on the needs of children and young people, and viewing for himself the effects of both poverty and the federal efforts to combat it.

Many people of the region remember RFK's visit fondly – often citing his careful listening, his large family, his warmth and genuine concern when they talk about his effect on them, and speak of the way he brought hope, hope that was shattered a few months later, with his assassination in June of 1968.

RFK Returns to EKY September 8-11 2004

RFK in EKY, The Robert F. Kennedy Performance Project, is a series of public conversations and art activities centered around the real-time, site-specific, intermedia performance recreating Robert Kennedy's 1968 two-day, 200 mile "poverty tour" of southeastern Kentucky.

Designed and directed by John Malpede, RFK in EKY is intent on encouraging the practice of citizenship. The characters in RFK in EKY, all drawn from the historic records, represent an amazing array of voices: different in their social status, connections to power, and perspective on poverty programs. All are citizen heroes, whether you agree with them or not – they speak their minds openly and honestly with one of the most recognizable senators in United States history. They also represent us, now, arguing that we too can address tough issues, share our opinions and expertise, join in community and national discussions of what our future will be. The project is designed to help people understand and discuss their connections to historic events, and to recognize their potential to participate in and shape the "history of the present."

Like the original tour, RFK in EKY focuses attention on indigenous expertise and

alternative visions of Appalachia, re-enacting the most significant events of Kennedy's visit in order to hold an historical mirror to present day issues and ideas. A series of contextualizing activities surround the two-day performance.

Kennedy aide Peter Edelman and historian Loyal Jones will address the history and strategies of the "war on poverty" as it played out in central Appalachia, and the legacy of the programs' spirit and ideas.

Head Start workers will discuss the last intact program of the "war on poverty" and the idea of "maximum feasible participation of the poor."

Artist Harrell Fletcher will curate an exhibition of memorabilia at the Neon City Hall during Neon Days, where artists from the project will discuss how it came to be.

Ultimately, RFK in EKY not only recreates an historic moment, it holds a mirror to it and asks everyone to join the conversations, exploring hope and analyzing what's true in our relationships to government, community, and each other. As Robert Kennedy did, the project hopes to give people the opportunity and the courage to listen, speak, and act as free citizens in a true democracy.

Tune in to WMMT-FM 88.7:

For background on the war on poverty

Live broadcast of events

'60 music

I've worked on this project for four years and during that time learned much from the implications of my original concept.

A starting point for me was to create performance work that connected lived experience to the social forces that helped to significantly shape and determine that experience.

I decided to use government transcripts as "found texts" to be performed by community members. The issues at stake are important to the performers. As a director, I'm not looking to collapse or disappear the performer into their character. In this instance Bobby Kennedy will speak with a Kentucky rather than a Boston accent. The performers play themselves in the situation, and the situation is one they have a personal stake in, which registers in performance.

Robert Kennedy's official Senate Committee "field hearing" was one in a series of field hearings (others were held in the Mississippi Delta, California's Central Valley and on a native American reservation in New Mexico). The intent of these hearings was to build a national constituency for a second round of antipoverty legislation in the US Congress. RFK's visit to eastern Kentucky was a carefully constructed event that provided a platform for local reformers. As the hearing transcripts evidence, this opportunity was embraced by local citizenry.

Artist Statement/ John Malpede:

Because this was RFK's strategy, in RFK in EKY, today's citizens play not only policy makers, but also the engaged, active citizens of 1968.

RFK made stops in eight communities, during his two days in eastern Kentucky. Only two of these stops were the sites of Senate Field Hearings. The entire visit was extensively covered by print and broadcast media. Nevertheless, there are major omissions and inconsistencies in these journalistic accounts. In constructing a script for these events, I'm relying heavily on first person accounts gathered by myself and others working on the project. I've gathered numerous first person accounts during formal (for the video camera) and informal (talking with people while traveling the route) interviews. Many project activities are designed to gather this information: including working with college composition and history classes, with students interviewing family and community members who were present. Memorabilia collecting events, in which stories

are collected while digitally collecting the memorabilia.

Because of Robert Kennedy's public appeal this production engages people on many levels. As the brother and right hand man of the beloved and martyred president, RFK was highly esteemed and millions had shared in his grief. Indeed time and again, people have framed RFK's visit and the twin assassinations of the Kennedys as pivotal moments: moments of hope and hopelessness. It's amazing how often "hope/hopelessness" is the scale along which RFK is remembered. Time and again people have told me how their lives were changed: how these events caused them to engage with or retreat from public life.

Many people have announced themselves proudly as Republicans, but as Republicans who would have voted for Kennedy if they'd had the chance. I'm continually amazed by the passionate connection felt by so many different people for Robert Kennedy and by how widespread the enthusiasm is for this project. It makes

this a special opportunity for engaging the community across differences in a collective effort, which includes assessing the needs and concerns of the community today.

Many of the concerns of 1968 are present today in recognizable and unrecognizable fashion, including environment, economic development, quality education and local government. In 1968 hunger was an issue, today poor diet is registered in extremely high levels of obesity, diabetes, heart disease and cancer. Even the war issue - guns vs butter is uncannily present.

As I've worked on the project, I've become aware of other artists also interested in historical recreations and documentary theater, and for similar reasons. To tell an alternative history. To retrieve history from the realm of nostalgia and cultural heritage and to inject it with critical thinking.

Unlike, just about every 'historical recreation' I'm aware of, this project is not about recreating a battle, or any other kind of violence. It's about ideas. The force of ideas and the history of ideas. It's about the aspirations and problems confronting the region then and now. It's about social policies of the sixties and now. And ultimately it's about the level of political dialogue then and now. And for that reason it's simultaneously heart breaking and elevating.



Memory and Memorabilia

The heart of Kennedy's visit exists mostly in the recollections of those who were there. A large part of RFK in EKY's development has been in finding and listening to these stories, in looking at memorabilia and artifacts from RFK's visit. Much of his visit exists only in memory.

In order to share these memories and what memorabilia still exists, RFK in EKY designed and implemented a series of Memorabilia Gatherings. Community members were invited to share their stories on video or audiotape; to have their photos and letters scanned; their artifacts photographed. Here is a sampling:



*Delmar and RFK in Hindman
Photo Courtesy of Delmar Draughn*

Lois Hill

(Lois still teaches at the Fleming Head Start.)

He, Robert came, and I'll never forget how he came walkin' up. Our playground is like this, and it just comes right up, and it comes in my door. . . the door that I go take the children out to the playground.

He came in and I was so excited to see him because, you know, I'd seen him on T.V., but I'd never seen him in person. So I was standing at the door waiting for him. He came in and he came up and he hugged me. And he talked to the children and . . . he enjoyed the children.

*He came in and
he came up and
he hugged me.*

But the thing of it is, we knew the Kennedys - the lifestyle they lived, but you wouldn't know it. He was so . . . he was one of us.

He was one of us. He just joined right in with us. And I expected him to be kind of a stand-off. By him being a celebrity - I called him a celebrity. But he was a sweet-heart. All of 'em were. And the thing of it is, they're the instigators of this program. Of the Poverty Program

*RFK on Liberty Street:
photo courtesy of Paul Gordon*

Delmar Draughn

(Delmar met Kennedy at the diner in Hindman. Delmar was Knott County Tax Commissioner and considered Carl D. Perkins his mentor.)

He just mixed and mingled and talked to people. Got up and spoke. Got up on chairs, you can see that (pointing at photo). Robert was a friendly feller, he was easy to talk to and he smiled all the time, just like he is there. . .

I remember one thing I said. . . after he was assassinated, it made me feel bad that I said it. But I'll never forget. I was the Tax Commissioner



in Knott County at the time and I told him. He said that's good, I like to get next to tax people. I say, well you may get shot . . . I never thought, but now that he did get assassinated, I thought Lord, what a remark I made. I didn't know what to say, to be honest. He was just as calm as he could be.

*I thought Lord,
what a remark I made.
I didn't know what to say,
to be honest.*

He just sit there and laughed and talked with everybody. No, he wasn't in no hurry or excited or hello and goodbye type. He's one of the greatest to me. Roosevelt was the greatest of all of them. I'd say, in my opinion, Kennedy would be number two.

Steve Cawood

(Steve Cawood was a young Appalachian Volunteer, who traveled with Kennedy on the tour.)

We were goin' up one of those hollers between there and that strip job. We were driving up this holler and there were shacks and junk cars and all that typical stuff you find in a holler. All of a sudden Bobby screams stop

this car, stop this car. We didn't know whether we'd run over somethin' or what we'd forgotten or what. We got out and he said, I wanna go over here and meet these people. He said, now this is part of the stereotype we're gonna crush right today, we're gonna stop this, I understand the problem. The problem isn't junk cars cause people wanna have junk in their front yard, it's cause he's puttin' those two cars together to make one. And it was true. The thought had never occurred to me and I was born and raised here. There was no coincidence by the fact that there two 1954 fords in that fella's front yard. He was robbin' one to make one run. And sure enough we went over there and Bobby had to talk to him all about it.

*All of a sudden
Bobby screams
stop this car, stop this car.*

It was some guy laid up, had the old car jacked up and he was underneath it working and he got out with grease all over his hands and dirty and he'd been workin' in the mines and his face was black. Bobby said, I wanna ask you somethin', you're obviously puttin' these two cars together to make one. He said, yea, I gotta have somethin' to go to work in. That just tickled Bobby to death. He had figured it out and he hadn't asked anybody in the car about it. He had never talked to anybody about that problem and he said I don't wanna hear one more damn word from anybody around about these people bein' attracted to junk and these people being slobenly and all that.

*The thought had never
occurred to me and I was
born and raised here.*

He understood the problem. Of course that just tickled us all to death. That just delighted Carl Perkins. Carl was sayin' now you're bill's boy aren't ya and you work over there at so and so's coal mine. And he knew just exactly who the guy was.



Zona Akemon

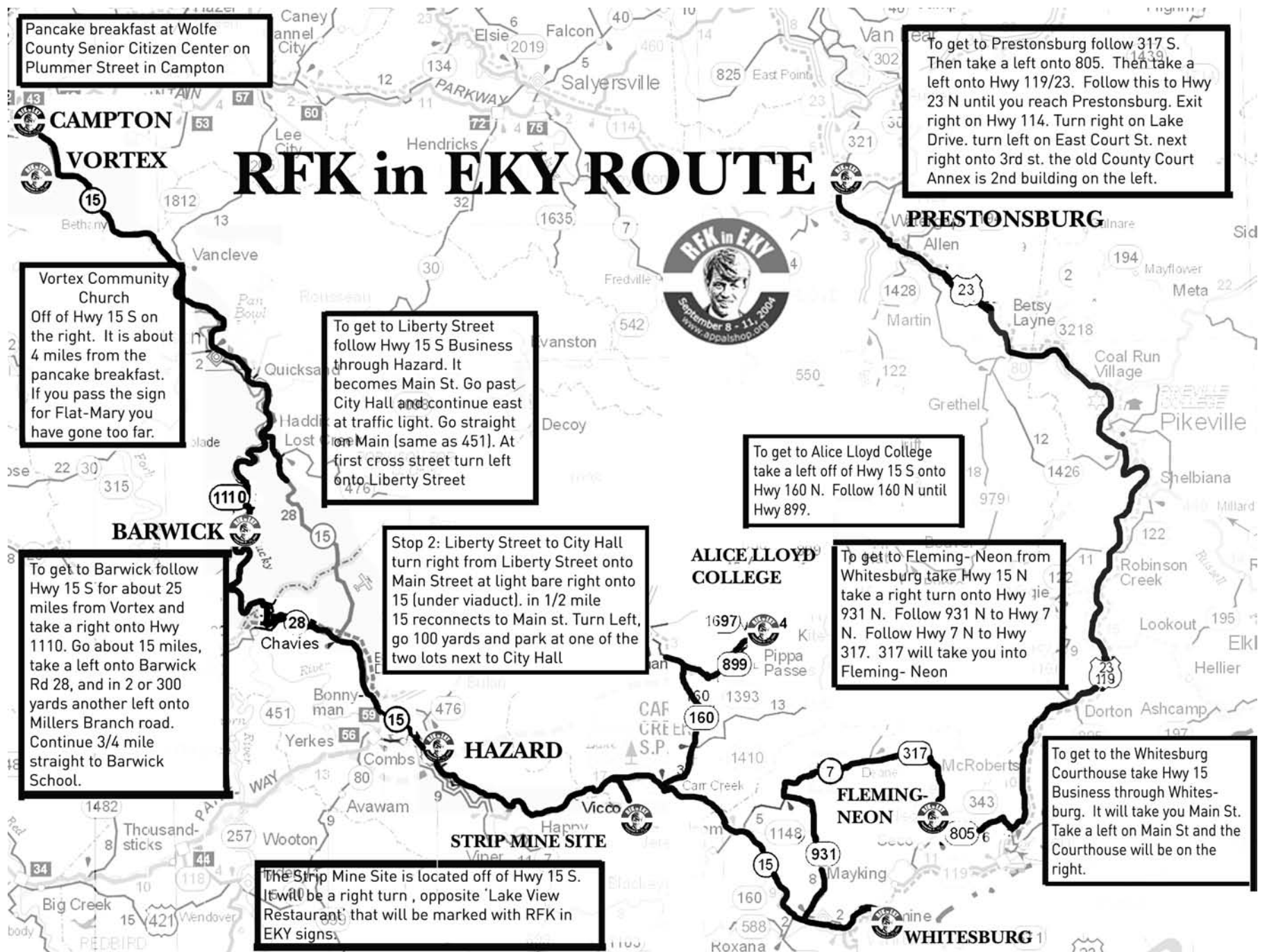
(Zona and her husband John owned the land where the Barwick School is located, and lived a short distance away.)

When he came, that was the day I told you he come out there by the trailer and I fixed a lunch for him that day . . . He come in and thanked me for fixin' the food for him. I fixed it outside cause my trailer was so small, I just had tables set up outside to put the food on where they'd have more room. Cause they was quite a few of 'em.

*. . . He come in and
thanked me for fixin' the
food for him.*

He came in the house that day, and I never did get any of the pictures, he said we'll send you some pictures back, but then like I said he got killed before he got a chance to find out what was goin' on. He went across the swingin' bridge to Jack Baker's house, and from there they went up on the river to the other area, that's where the little Stidham girl sit on his lap up there. There's a whole family of 'em up there. The mother...she had 13 children, two of 'em died and that was a big family. It was one of her boy's little girls. They had a picture of her on his lap and she's grown up by now, she's got a little boy and a grandbaby.

It was pretty weather, just so happened, it had rained all day the day before, I said oh no. Cause I knew he was comin'. It was cloudy that day but it didn't rain. Had a real good day for it.



Schedule of Events



Day One:

Wednesday, September 8

LEXINGTON

On February 13, 1968, RFK began his EKY tour, arriving at Bluegrass Airport. After a welcome from Representative Carl D. Perkins, Kennedy makes brief remarks, and they begin the eighty-some mile drive to Vortex.

RFK in EKY begins its tour with Peter Edelman – sharing an overview of Robert Kennedy and what he hoped to accomplish by returning the nation's focus to the war on poverty.

3:00pm
University of Kentucky Main Student Center, Rooms

113 and 115 . Orientation for Journalists, Acting Journalists, and Entourage Actors (Appalachian Volunteers, Vistas, Aides, Etc.)

7:30pm
University of Kentucky Student Center, Room 230
***An Evening with Peter Edelman**
"Searching for America's Heart: RFK and the Renewal of Hope"

Reception to follow
Sponsored by the Appalachian Studies Program, the College of Education, the departments of Sociology and Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation, the Appalachian Center, and RFK in EKY.

Day Two:**Thursday, September 9**

The first day of the reenactment begins with a community breakfast and the chance for audience members to fix their hair and put on some retro clothing – creating the look and getting into the spirit of 1968.

9:00am

Wolfe County Senior Citizens Center, Campton, KY
*Pancake Breakfast and Styling Party

VORTEX

Kennedy's first stop was the one-room school in Vortex, where he conducted a hearing of the Senate Subcommittee on Employment, Manpower and Poverty. The school then had five students – all members of the same family.

The school was torn down some years ago, so the reenacted hearing will take place next door in the community church.

11:00am

Vortex Community Church, Vortex, KY
Reenactment: Hearing of the Senate Subcommittee on Employment, Manpower and Poverty

BARWICK

Kennedy's next stop was at a one-room school in Barwick. Kennedy moved from desk to desk, speaking to each child individually, creating a private moment.

Rather than recreate these intimate moments, RFK in EKY has chosen to use the space for a public conversation.

Thanks to the Akemon family, the Barwick School still exists. It has been used as a community center and library over the years.

1:00pm

Barwick School, Barwick, KY
Peter Edelman, teacher
Bonnie Jean Carroll and Zona Akemon discuss hunger, poverty, and the Barwick School, circa 1968.

HAZARD

Arriving in Hazard, Kennedy is brought to Liberty Street by Mayor Willie Dawahare, who talks about the need for housing aid. Liberty Street was, at the time, Hazard's primary African American neighborhood. Kennedy walked the length of the street, and visited the Olinger home.

Shortly thereafter, Kennedy is interviewed by local television personality, and current mayor, Bill Gorman.

RFK in EKY expands on the historic moment, here, with an exhibit of photographs and a discussion of Liberty Street history with the Olinger daughters.

3:00pm

Liberty Street, Hazard, KY
RFK walking tour; exhibition and discussion at the Liberty Street Community Center; Bill Gorman interview

**YELLOW CREEK**

While traveling to Alice Lloyd College, Kennedy is convinced by members of the Appalachian Volunteers to view a strip mine site. Mine owner Bill Sturgill denies access to Kennedy's caravan, but Kennedy and Perkins get

into a State Police vehicle and head up, followed by reporters. There are contradictory stories of what happened next . . .

4:30pm

Strip Mine Site, Knott County, KY
Former Appalachian Volunteer Steve Cawood discusses Kennedy's tour of the Yellow Creek Mine.

PIPPA PASSES

At the invitation of Professor Lawrence Balridge, Kennedy comes to Alice Lloyd College, near Representative Perkins' hometown of Hindman.

In Cushing Hall, Kennedy speaks to the student body and answers their questions on leadership, education, the war in Viet Nam, and economic development.

Cushing Hall is uninhabitable at present - the college is planning for its renovation. Kennedy's speech will take place in the Ralph Edwards Auditorium across the street.

6:00pm

Alice Lloyd College, Pippa Passes, KY
Dinner

7:00pm

Alice Lloyd College, Pippa Passes, KY
RFK addresses student body

photo: Alice Lloyd College

8:30pm

Alice Lloyd College, Pippa Passes, KY
Peter Edelman, Dee Davis of the center for Rural Strategies, and audience discuss current issues raised in the RFK tour recreation

Day Three:**Friday, September 10****WHITESBURG**

Begin the day's recreation with a pancake breakfast and the opportunity to style hair and dress in the 60's style. Then join the crowd as they welcome Kennedy at the courthouse steps.

9:00am

Appalshop, 91 Madison Ave, Whitesburg, KY
Pancake Breakfast and Styling Party

10:00am

Letcher County Courthouse, Whitesburg, KY
RFK speech

**FLEMING-NEON**

The Fleming-Neon hearing was the centerpiece of Kennedy's visit. The planned testimony brought together noted mountain activists like Harry Caudill, social workers, and unemployed mine workers. The audience included groups protesting a planned dam at Kingdom Come and poor quality schools. Members of the audience volunteered to speak.

The old gym no longer exists, so the hearing will be held in the new Fleming-Neon gym. Students from the school will join the audience.

After the hearing,

11:00am
Fleming-Neon High School Gym, Neon, KY, Hearing of the Senate Subcommittee on Employment, Manpower and Poverty
Fleming Headstart, Fleming, KY
RFK visits and reads story to Headstart class

PRESTONSBURG

Kennedy's last stop of the day was at the Prestonsburg Fiscal Court House, where he and Carl D. Perkins gave short speeches. The story is that local officials were concerned there wouldn't be a good crowd for Kennedy, so they brought the prisoners down from the jail to fill up the room.

Kennedy's speech was taped and photographed by a young student from Prestonsburg Community College, Ronnie Dee Blair.

4:30pm

Floyd County Fiscal Court, Prestonsburg, KY
Ronnie Dee Blair shares the tape and his story of Kennedy's speech
Loyal Jones, historian and author, and Tom Kiffmeyer, professor at Morehead University, discuss Kennedy's Appalachian legacy, the war on poverty, and issues raised by the recreation.

Day Four:**Saturday, September 11****NEON DAYS**

The Neon Days Festival is part county fair, part heritage and music showcase, and part midway.

All Day
Neon Days Festival, Neon, KY
Exhibition: RFK Memorabilia, Artifacts, and Commemoration Curated by Harrell Fletcher, John Malpede and RFKinEKY staff

1:00pm

Neon Days Festival, Neon, KY
Discussion with eastern Kentucky (LKLP) Headstart beneficiaries, teachers, and program directors on their history and the legacy of the "Maximum Feasible Participation of the Poor" programs

3:30pm

Neon Days Festival, Neon, KY
Memory and Mirrors to History – Artist Talk with John Malpede, Harrell Fletcher, RFKinEKY cast and staff

Characters and Cast

WHITESBURG

Senator
Robert F. Kennedy

Representative
Carl D. Perkins

Peter Edelman

Tom Johnston

Jack Faust

Frank Taylor

Mitty Owens

Dave Reynolds

Judge James M. Caudill

Anna Laura Craft

Mountain Eagle Reporter

Appalachian Volunteer

Sheriff Maynard Hogg

James M. Caudill

Jamie Adams

Bryan Gover

Michelle Reynolds

Sheriff Danny Webb

FLEMING-NEON

Bailey Guard

Harry Caudill

Robert Choke

Gussie Davis

Cy Hamilton

John Tiller

Tommy Duff

Judge George Wooten

Edwin J. Safford

Cliston Johnson

Dr. Doane Fischer

Lynn Frazier

Wincel E. Raborn

Pat Gish

Hobart Maggard

Clay Collins

Frank Collins

Gillis Brassfield

David Zageer

Arvin Dobson

Ann Raider

Steve Holbrook

Carl Banks

William Arnone

Jeanette Ladd

Tony Slone

Tracey Frazier

John Childers

Sam Chandler

Marty Blackson

Mickey McCoy

Nina McCoy

Charlotte Davis

Ossie Noble

Ella Tolliver

Steve Brewer

Donald Quillan

Don Doklage

Benjamin Vance

Roy Crawford

Nicky Lowe

Nell Fields

VORTEX

Swango Fugate

Teacher

Viola Holland

Nancy Cole

John Akemon

Betty Terrill

Mary Rice Farris

Ann Raider

Cecil Webb

Myrtle Webb

Berma Matthews

Rita Robinson

Don Doklage

Phyllis Buckner

Ludrina Hagens Shepherd

Nell Fields

LIBERTY STREET/HAZARD

Willie Dawahare

Young Bill Gorman

Charlie Hammonds

Shad Stewart

ALICE LLOYD

Lawrence Baldrige

President William Hayes

Students

Lawrence Baldrige

Dr. Paul Beasley

Hannah Whitaker

Amy Bryant

Sarah R. Caudill

B.J.Fuller

Kyle Smith

Haley Vallance

PRESTONSBURG

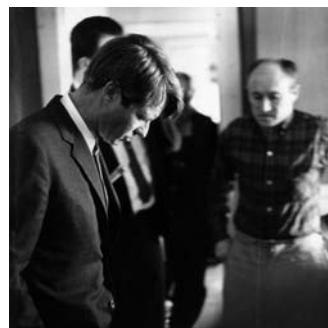
Ronnie Dee Blair

Ronnie Dee Blair

Community Partners

The staff of RFK in EKY would like to thank all of our community partners for making this project possible, and for their ongoing work in eastern Kentucky.

- Alice Lloyd College
- Appalachian Heritage Alliance
- Appalshop, Inc.
- B&W Resources, Inc.
- Berea College
- Berea College Appalachian Studies
- Cordia High School
- Commission on Religion in Appalachia
- East Kentucky Leadership Network Conference
- Eastern Kentucky University Appalachian Studies Department
- East Letcher County Ministries
- Evarts High School
- Evarts High School Family Resource and Youth Services Center
- Fleming-Neon High School
- Floyd County Fiscal Court
- Frank Mohr Institute
- Harlan County Public Library
- Hazard City Hall
- Hoovers Department Store
- KCTCS Hazard Community College
- KCTCS Knott County Campus, Hazard Community College
- KCTCS Whitesburg Campus, Southeast Community College
- Knott County Public Library
- Knott County Historical Society
- Letcher County Board of Education, Superintendent Anna Caudill Craft
- Letcher High School
- Letcher County Action Team
- Letcher County Chief Judge Executive's Office
- Letcher County Military Museum
- Letcher County Sheriff's Office
- Letcher County Tourism and Convention Commission
- Letcher Funeral Home
- Lillian Webb Library,
- NeonLKLP Headstart Program:
 - Chavies Headstart Centers
 - Fleming Headstart Center
- Neon City Hall
- Neon Fire Department
- Reynolds Furniture
- Save the Children, Cowan Community Center
- University of Kentucky Appalachian Studies Program
- College of Education
- Department of Sociology
- Department of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation
- Appalachian Center
- Vortex Community Church
- Whitesburg City Hall
- Whitesburg High School
- Wolfe County Public Library
- Wolfe County Senior Citizen's Center
- Wade Boggs
- Zona and John Akeman



frontpage: RFK walking down Liberty Street - photo courtesy of Paul Gordon

page 4: Main Street in Hazard photo courtesy of Berea Archives

RFK at Neon photo courtesy of Berea Archives

page 2: Zona's Trailer photo courtesy of Zona Akemon

page 5: RFK and student at Barwick photo courtesy of Rick Bell

page 7: Top: Neon, center left to right: Whitesburg, Hemphill, Yellow Creek, photo courtesy of Berea Archives bottom: Fleming-Neon high School photo courtesy of Steve Cawood

page 3: Zona and John Akemon photo courtesy of Zona Akemon

Students of Alice Lloyd photo courtesy of Berea Archives

Project Staff

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 Brendan Hunt, Web Design
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 Kate Black, Reference Librarian and faculty, Department of History, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
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 Anna Laura Craft, Superintendent of Schools, Letcher County, KY
 Ron Daley, Director, University Center of the Mountains, Hazard, KY
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 Josephine Richardson, Letcher County Tourism Board, KY
 Robert Salyer, Filmmaker, Louisville, KY
 Sjoerd Wagenaar, Theater director, The Peer Group, Drente, The Netherlands

Organizational and Funding Support

RFK in EKY is made possible by the wide range of organizational and funding supporters who have given generously to secure and enact its goals.

RFK in EKY is a project at Appalshop, a remarkable media and cultural center in Whitesburg, Kentucky, created through Office of Economic Opportunity funding in 1969 as part of the “war on poverty.”

RFK in EKY was first conceived at the American Festival Project’s 2000 Artist and Community Gathering. The American Festival Project has contributed critical development and organizational support to RFK in EKY. Funding for RFK in EKY has come from the following sources:

The Rockefeller Foundation’s MAP and PACT Programs
The Association of Performing Arts Presenters’ Arts Partners Program
The Kentucky Arts Council, a state agency in the Commerce Cabinet,
with support from the National Endowment for the Arts
The Nathan Cummings Foundation
The National Performance Network’ s Community Residency Fund
The Appalshop Education and Production Fund

Logistics

All events associated with RFK in EKY are free, and open to the public. Breakfast and lunch will be served for a minimal cost at different points along the route, with proceeds helping community organizations. Dinner and breakfast will be available in the Alice Lloyd College Dining Hall. Thursday evening, there are quite a few restaurants in Hindman and Hazard; Friday, there are many dining options in Prestonsburg and Pikeville. We encourage you to support locally owned businesses. If you’re looking for a place to stay, there are a number of motels in Hazard, Prestonsburg, and Pikeville. We’ve figured Hazard as the central location, and lodging is available at:

Eighty Hotel, Highway 80, Hindman	606.785.3126
Super 8, 125 Village Lane, Hazard	606.436.8888
Hazard Hampton Inn, Hazard	606.439.0902
Holiday Inn, 200 Dawahare Drive, Hazard	606.436.4428
Daniel Boone Inn	606.439.5896
Buckhorn Lake State Park (near Hazard)	606.398.7151
Carr Fork Lake State Park Campgrounds	606.642.3058

Contacts

If at any time you get lost, or need to know where to meet up with the RFK in EKY caravan, call the Appalshop at 606.633.0108. All times on the program are approximate, and depend, as did Kennedy’s original schedule, on circumstance and travel conditions. Numbers that may come in handy:

Campton Senior Citizens Center	606.668.3954
Hazard City Hall	606.436.3252
Alice Lloyd College	888.280.4252
Hindman Settlement School	606.785.5475
Fleming-Neon High School	606.855.7597
Floyd County Fiscal Court	606.886.9193
Emergency at all sites: dial 911	

Keeping in Touch

Please look for updates, further documentation, and assessment at our website: www.appalshop.org/kennedy

Thank you for your interest and support. If you’d like to contact us, please email to rfkineky@appalshop.org.

Please take an active role in every election. Register to vote. Vote. In between elections, please find ways to take an active role in your community. Let your voice be heard, and listen, thoughtfully, to others.