

## HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL: A PARTIALLY ANNOTATED SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Earlene J. Moore, Paul Meek Library  
for the Sixth Annual Civil Rights Conference, University of Tennessee at Martin  
February 20–25, 2006.

Highlander Folk School was established in 1932 by southerners Myles Horton and Don West in Monteagle, Tennessee. Initially the school educated union workers showing promise as labor leaders. In the 1940's Highlander began including African Americans into its programs and shifting emphasis to aiding southern rural people. This was a change that fostered suspicion among conservative groups and lead ultimately to a raid on the school in 1959; after lengthy legal proceedings, the state of Tennessee revoked the school's charter and confiscated its Monteagle property in the early 1960's. Highlander chose to move to a new location in the Knoxville area and continue its work under a new charter with a new name, the Highlander Research and Education Center. Highlander works today providing support and education to "...people struggling against oppression, supporting their effort to take collective action to shape their own destiny. It creates educational experiences that empower people to take democratic leadership towards fundamental change." Quote is from Highlanders web page:

<http://www.highlandercenter.org/a-mission.asp>

Classification numbers for materials available at the Paul Meek Library follow the entries in **bold** type; journals that are available in microfilm are arranged alphabetically by title they are marked **Media Services** to designate where they are located. Other items may be requested through Interlibrary Loan. Many of the resources available here are housed in the West Tennessee Heritage Study Room and are for use in the library only. Please report errors or omissions to: [ejmoore@utm.edu](mailto:ejmoore@utm.edu).

*What is too big for one person to handle can be figured out by all of us together. We will have a new kind of school—not a school for teaching reading, writing and arithmetic, but a school for problems. — Myles Horton in Tjerandsen*

### Primary Source Material

Records of the Eighty-first Tennessee General Assembly, Special Investigating Committee, Highlander Folk School, 1959. Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville. Record Group 114. Finding aid available at: <http://www.state.tn.us/TSLA/history/state/recordgroups/findingaids/rg114.pdf>

*FBI file, Highlander Folk School* [microform]. Wilmington, Del.: Scholarly Resources, [1990]. Like many other populist movements, the FBI maintained an investigation file on Highlander School between 1936 and 1972. This file, acquired under the Freedom of Information Act and published on microfilm, is a rich source of material. The file covers forty years of the school's history and includes many school-produced materials as well as local newspaper clippings. **Microfilm 1550; guide: LC5301.M65 F32 1990** Library use only.

*Highlander Folk School Audio Collection*. Nashville, Tenn.: Tennessee State Library and Archives. Manuscripts Section, 1964. **H62.T35** Library use only.

A list of audio recordings of labor and civil rights conferences, workshops, and panel discussions held under the auspices of the Highlander Folk School between 1953 and 1963.

These discs were copied from original tapes made at Highlander during its last eight years as a Folk School and its first two years as a Research and Education Center.

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### **Secondary Literature: Books, Theses, and Reports**

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\_\_\_\_\_ *Highlander, No Ordinary School, 1932–1962*. Lexington, Ky. : University Press of Kentucky, 1988. **TENN LC5301.M65 G55** Library use only

\_\_\_\_\_ *On the Cutting Edge: A History of the Highlander Folk School, 1932–1962*. Ph.D. thesis, Vanderbilt University, 1985.

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Bibliography includes both primary and secondary sources.

Hobbs, Joan. *Politics of Repression: The Prosecution of the Highlander Folk School, 1957–1959*. M.A. thesis, Vanderbilt University, 1973.

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Ayers, William. "A Dream that Keeps on Growing: Myles Horton and Highlander." *Teaching for Social Justice: A Democracy and Education Reader*, ed. William Ayers, Jean Ann Hunt, and Therese Quinn. New York: New Press: Teachers College Press, Distributed by W.W. Norton, 1998, 150–156.

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### **Video and Electronic Sources**

*The Adventures of a Radical Hillbilly* [videorecording] WNET/13. New Market, Tenn.: Highlander Research and Education Center, 1981.

Bill Moyers interviews southern educator and founder of the Highlander School Myles Horton in this two hour video.

Highlander Folk School web site  
<http://www.highlandercenter.org/>

*Myles Horton, Paulo Freire and Friends Gather at Highlander*. [videorecording] New Market, Tenn.: Highlander Research and Education Center, 1987.

*You Got to Move* [videorecording]: *Stories of Change in the South*, by Cumberland Mountain Educational Cooperative, Inc. New York: First Run; Icarus Films, distributors, 1985. 87 min.

### **VIDEO 4169**

Discusses the civil rights education projects of the Highlander Education and Research Center as well as citizen's actions against toxic waste dumping and strip mining in Kentucky and Tennessee.

International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame  
<http://tel.occe.ou.edu/halloffame/1998/horton.html>