

North Carolina



Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009

Cover Photos:

North Carolina greets Etta Baker and Doc Watson, as well as the North Carolina mountains, are featured on the cover. The Office of the State Controller wishes to thank documentary photographer Cedric N. Chatterley for the photographs of Etta Baker and Doc Watson. The mountain photos were provided courtesy of the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development.

Etta Baker was a master of the blues guitar style that became popular in the southern piedmont after the turn of the century. She was raised in the foothills of Caldwell County where music was central in the lives of her family and friends. Both parents played several instruments, and Etta began picking the guitar at the age of three.

Mrs. Baker played the guitar and banjo. She rarely sang, preferring to let the instrument speak for her. Like most traditional artists, she played music for personal satisfaction and for the pleasure of friends and family. However, in 1956, her music was recorded on the influential album *Instrumental Music of the Southern Appalachians*. She was also featured on a 1972 recording *Music From the Hills of Caldwell County*. Her popular CD, *One Dime Blues*, came out in 1991 to great reviews.

In her last 30 years, Mrs. Baker carried her music far beyond the borders of Caldwell County. She performed at the National Folk Festival at Wolf Trap Park in Virginia, the 1984 World's Fair in Knoxville, the Kent State Folk Festival, and the Augusta Heritage Festival. In 1982 she and her sister Cora Phillips were honored jointly with the North Carolina Folklore Society's Brown-Hudson Award. She received the National Heritage Fellowship Award from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1991.

Etta Baker and her husband Lee raised nine children, many of whom carry on the family musical tradition. Mrs. Baker passed away in October, 2006 at the age of 93, having achieved international recognition for her artistry and for North Carolina's finger-picked blues tradition.

(Write-up of Etta Baker courtesy of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources)

For more than three decades, Doc Watson has been America's most renowned and influential folk guitar stylist – known primarily for his flatpicking and fingerpicking styles. Arthel Lane (Doc) Watson was born March 3, 1923, in Deep Gap, North Carolina. His eyes became infected, and he lost his sight before his first birthday.

Doc's first instrument was the harmonica, which he started playing at the age of 5. When Watson was 19, he was performing on a radio show when someone in the audience shouted "Call him Doc" – a name that has stuck since then.

At the age of 24, Doc married Rosa Lee Carlton, with whom he had two children, Eddy Merle and Nancy Ellen. In 1953, he started playing lead electric guitar in Jack Williams' Country and Western Swing Band. In 1960, he was discovered as a solo artist. In 1964, after returning home from a concert tour, Doc found that Merle had taken up the guitar. Merle started recording and touring with him later that year at the Berkeley Folk Festival. For the next two decades Doc was the front man warming the crowd, singing all the vocals while Merle let his guitar sing harmony. Together they made 20 albums and won four Grammys including "Then and Now" in 1973 and "Two Days in November" in 1974.

A tractor accident took Merle's life in 1985, but Doc and Merle's music still is celebrated each year in Wilkes County through MerleFest which has become one of the most critically acclaimed acoustic music festivals in the world.

All total, Doc Watson has received seven Grammy awards (including the Lifetime Achievement Award), and was inducted into the International Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame in 2000.

(Sources: Wilkes Community College and MerleFest, and About.com: Folk Music)

North Carolina Mountain Region Facts

- North Carolina's mountains contribute to three primary ranges: the Black, Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains.
- In North Carolina, there are more than 120 species of trees, more than you'll find from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean Sea.
- You can hike from the bottom to the top of one of our 6,000-foot peaks and see almost every kind of flora you could encounter in driving from Georgia to Canada.
- Three hundred miles of the Appalachian Trail wind through North Carolina's mountains.
- North Carolina has more than 300 waterfalls, including Whitewater Falls, a 411-foot, two-tiered cascade that is the highest on the East Coast. There are more than 250 waterfalls and 200 miles of mountain streams in Transylvania County alone.
- Mt. Mitchell, at 6,684 feet, is the highest mountain in the eastern United States.
- Sliding Rock, in Transylvania County, is a popular natural water slide. Eleven thousand gallons of water per minute rush visitors down 67 feet of smooth stone, depositing them into a 7-foot-deep pool at the end of the ride.
- The New River is the oldest river in the nation and the second oldest in the world.
- The Blue Ridge Parkway, our nation's most scenic byway, stretches 250 miles in North Carolina, from Cherokee and the entrance to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to the Virginia-North Carolina border and beyond.
- The oldest stand of virgin timber in the eastern United States is in North Carolina's mountains at Joyce Kilmer National Forest, where some trees are more than 400 years old and are among the tallest living organisms in the Eastern United States.
- The Uwharrie Mountains in Montgomery County are thought to be the oldest mountains in North America and are among the oldest in the world at more than 600 million years old.
- The Biltmore House, a 250-room French chateau, was completed in 1895 as the summer home of George Vanderbilt. Located in Asheville, it is the largest privately owned residence in America.

More information on North Carolina mountains can be found at www.visitnc.com