

Reece...continued from Page 1A

Reece and others on subjects pertinent to Appalachia; note cards; homemade and hand-crafted items including jewelry, baskets, soap, scarves, wooden bowls, pottery, ornaments, quilts, and Reece Farm embroidered towels and pillows.

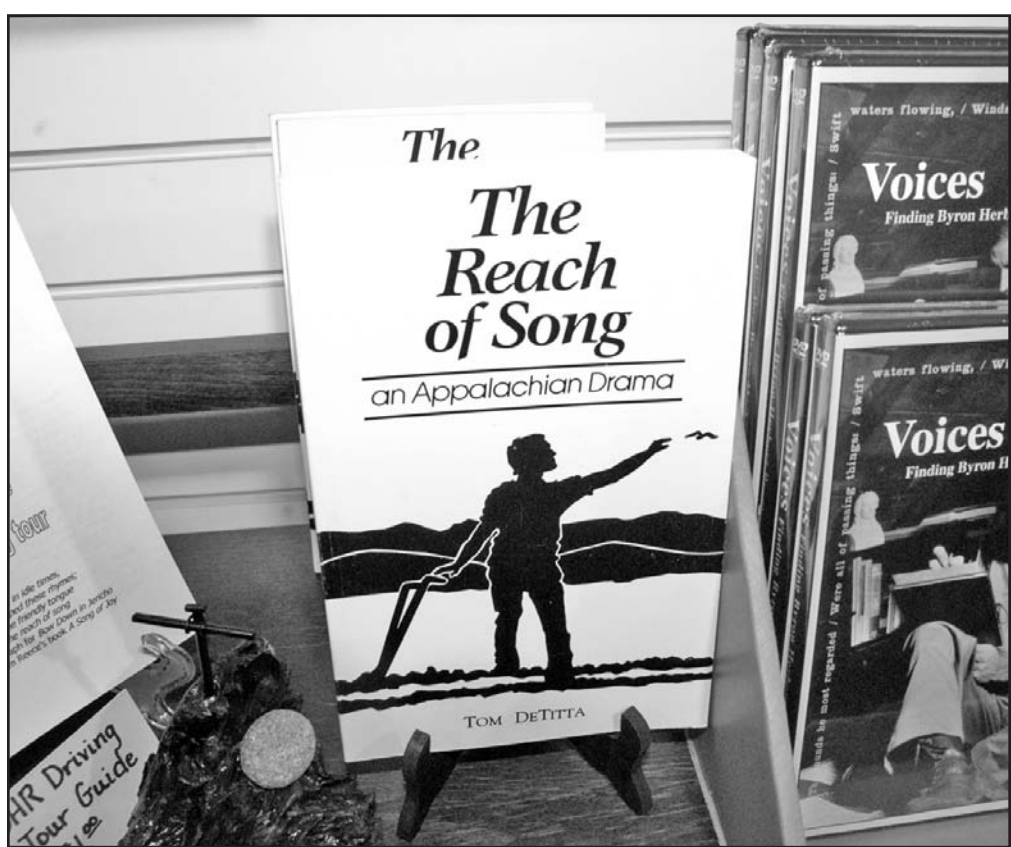
Stella Lloyd of Marietta is caught up in the Reece mystic.

"There's just something about his writing, it's so unique," she said. "I guess the burning question in my mind is where did all the talent come from? When I think about Reece, I think about John Boy Walton, you know, the young writer on *The Waltons*."

"I guess deep down Reece's writings brought Appalachia to life," she said. "I think he is one of the most unheralded writers of the 20th century. It's a shame someone has to die before their work is really noticed and appreciated."

The president of the Union County Historical Society, Bud Akins, paid a visit to the center as well.

"It looks like this has been a successful day," Akins said, referring to the number



Reece's work remains timeless as each year new fans arrive to learn about the Mountain Poet. Photo/Charles Duncan

of visitors at the center. "This center is a big part of Union County's heritage, as was Reece and his works."

John Kay was literally blown away by the event turnout.

"People were here before we even opened," John Kay said. "It's been a steady stream of people from the beginning of the day. It's been a remarkable turnout, we're pleasantly surprised."

"People have been so kind and gracious in their comments about the facility," he said. "It's been very gratifying."

The Reece Society was conservative in their expectations of the event.

"Before today, personally, I thought to myself if we had 100 people it would have been successful," John Kay said. "I was thoroughly pleased with the overflow crowd. They're in there spending money in the Gift Shop and these individuals are going to become ambassadors of good will for this venue."

"We've had more people here today than we did on our opening Sunday in June," John Kay said. "The folks who have stopped in have been very



Byron Herbert Reece

pleased with the venue. This is such a great asset to Union County and to agricultural tourism in general."

A Union County native, Hub Reece, who died at the age of 40, farmed, worked and cultivated the land in the Wolf Creek bottoms.

"The Mountain Poet" spent his free time reading the works of literary greats, and writing prose about the Mountain way of life.

During his short-lived career, Hub Reece, who attended, but did not graduate from Young Harris College, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, earned two Guggenheim awards, and served as

writer-in-residence at UCLA, Atlanta's Emory University, and Young Harris College in Towns County.

In his lifetime, Reece had his work published in the local newspaper, and later went on to compose four books of poetry and two fiction novels. His work, which included *Ballad of the Bones and Other Poems*, was highly acclaimed, earning esteemed literary praise and national attention. Other works included novels, *Better a Dinner of Herbs*, and *The Hawk and the Sun*.

Hundreds of unpublished Hub Reece poems still exist today, John Kay said.

Atlanta Constitution Executive Editor and later Publisher Ralph McGill once said that Reece was "one of the really great poets of our time, and one to stand with those of any other time."

Hub Reece was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his 1950 work entitled *Down in Jericho*.

The Reece Farm and Heritage Center opened in June and became part of the Southern Literary Trail map in September.

Your community needs your help

Don't be a Grinch! Donate now to Care to Share Drive. Boxes are available at all area Ingles, United Community Banks, Chamber of Commerce, *North Georgia News* Office and The Vacuum Store. Also, Fannin County, Towns County, Union County Public Libraries and Mountain Regional Library have donation

sites. There is such a great need for toiletries, socks, grooming aids, paper products, etc. When you do your grocery shopping at Ingles buy extra toilet paper or items (non food items) and drop off in the "Care to Share" box. Going to the bank? Bring your extra items! Checking out a book – your friendly public library staff will love to help

you – bring your paper products, and drop off. Visiting the Festival of the Trees? Support "Care to Share" by bringing needed items and placing them in our box. Need a newspaper? Come to our office – donate and get your paper. Please help our community family – they need us! Questions? Sandra Kraft 706-379-1327. NDdec5.211CA

Moncrief and White named to Dean's List at Savannah College

Local residents Ashlie Moncrief and Hannah White, both of Suches, GA, have been named to the Dean's List at the Savannah College of Art and Design for fall quarter 2012.

Full-time undergraduate students who earn a grade point average of 3.5 or above for the quarter receive recognition on the Dean's List.

Upcoming events at Folk School

A Christmas Carol Reading with Bob Grove - Wednesday, December 5, 2012; 7- 8 PM, Keith House Community Room. In period costume, Bob Grove will present a dramatic reading of the classic tale, including character voices. In the familiar story, miser Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Future who, in the course of a night, convince him to abandon his "bah, humbug" ways.

Dance Performance by Morris, Garland, & Rapper Sword Dancers - Wednesday, December 5, 2012; 8-9 PM, Keith House Community Room. After enjoying Bob Grove's reading of A Christmas Carol, don't go anywhere! Stay for a lively and fun performance by the Morris, Garland, & Rapper Sword dancers!

Smokie Mountain Melodies Concert - Thursday, December 6, 2012; 7 PM, Keith House Community Room. Smokie Mountain Melodies' program of favorite Christmas songs and carols will take you back to joyous holidays you remember. This local ladies' barbershop chorus sings four part harmony with style, joy and humor that is sure to entertain.

Brasstown Ringers Holiday Concert - Friday, December 7, 2012; 7 PM, Keith House Community Room. Brasstown Ringers, the community handbell group of western North Carolina and north Georgia continues to challenge its ringers and its audiences with new and exciting music, as well as old favorites.

Call 1-800-FOLK-SCH or 828-837-2775 for more information or visit www.folkschool.org <<http://www.folkschool.org>>. Free admission.