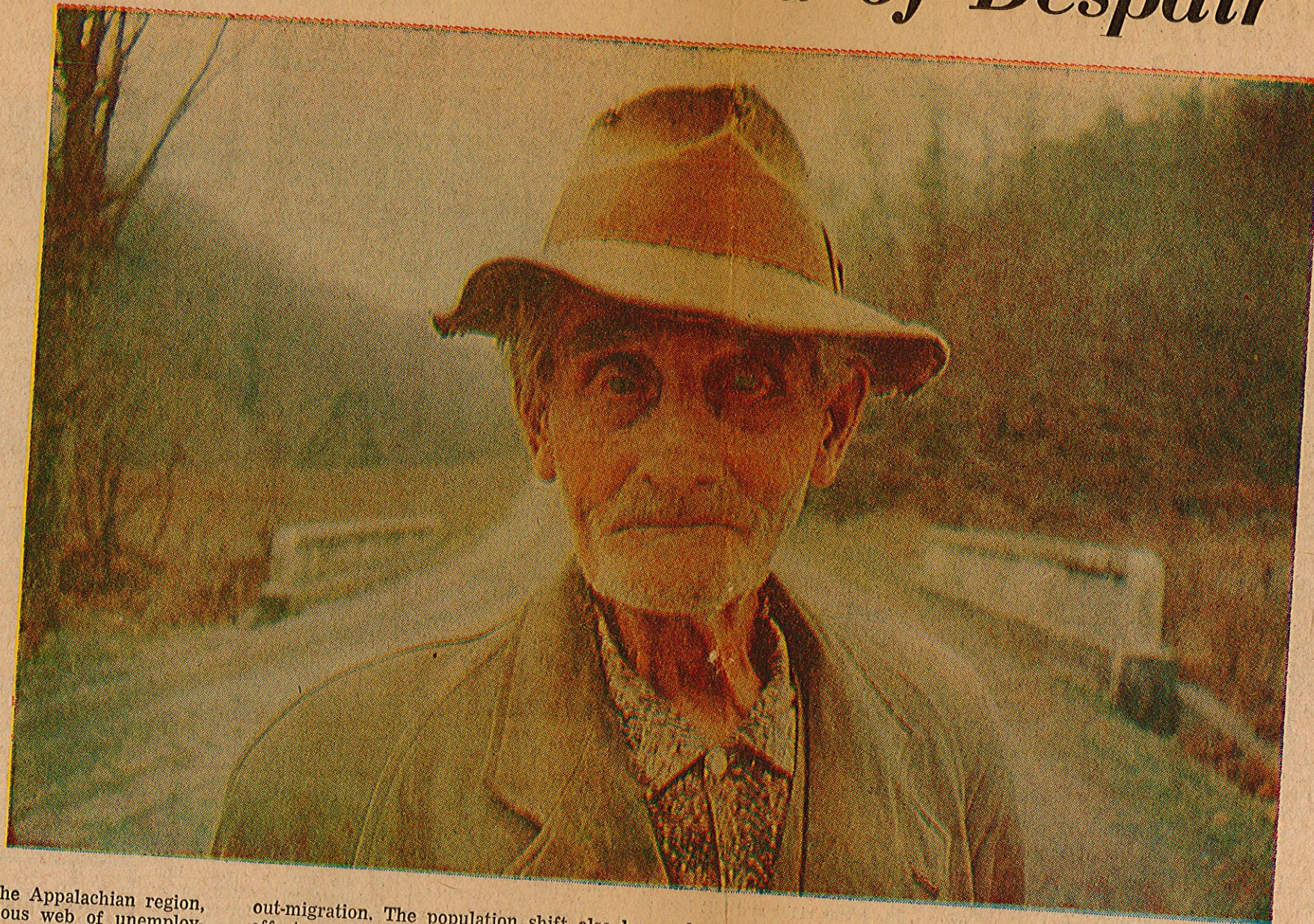


# Appalachia: Land of Despair

*File: Appalachia*

Hope has fled from the eyes of this 90-year-old man, who pauses from a stroll along a lonely road near Hurricane Gap, Ky.



Photos By  
Murray Lemmon,  
U.S. Department  
Of Agriculture

Poverty woes continue to beset the Appalachian region, which finds itself caught in a vicious web of unemployment, topography and lack of education and training.

Farming employment continues to drop off. The small farmer and part-time farmer find they cannot compete with advance of modern technology. The decline in coal markets and mechanization have brought on further unemployment.

Emigration by both these groups has brought serious economic problems to those remaining behind.

Loss of income and outmigration have reduced substantially the demand for all products resulting in further unemployment in the goods-producing and service industries.

Consequently the distressed area has become less attractive for businesses and workers, leading to further

out-migration. The population shift also has a depressing effect on the quality of public facilities, particularly in educational opportunities.

Education and training is one of the biggest factors. Many who migrate elsewhere find they are still among the unemployed because they're fitted for no jobs.

The \$1.1-billion Appalachia Bill passed this year is expected to provide a start in fighting this problem by building highways to open the region to industry and recreation and providing new vocational education.

Federal, State and local government agencies, as well as private organizations, must provide resources for Appalachia development, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture economic survey. Some, such as the Agriculture Department's Farmers Home Administration already have moved in with aid.



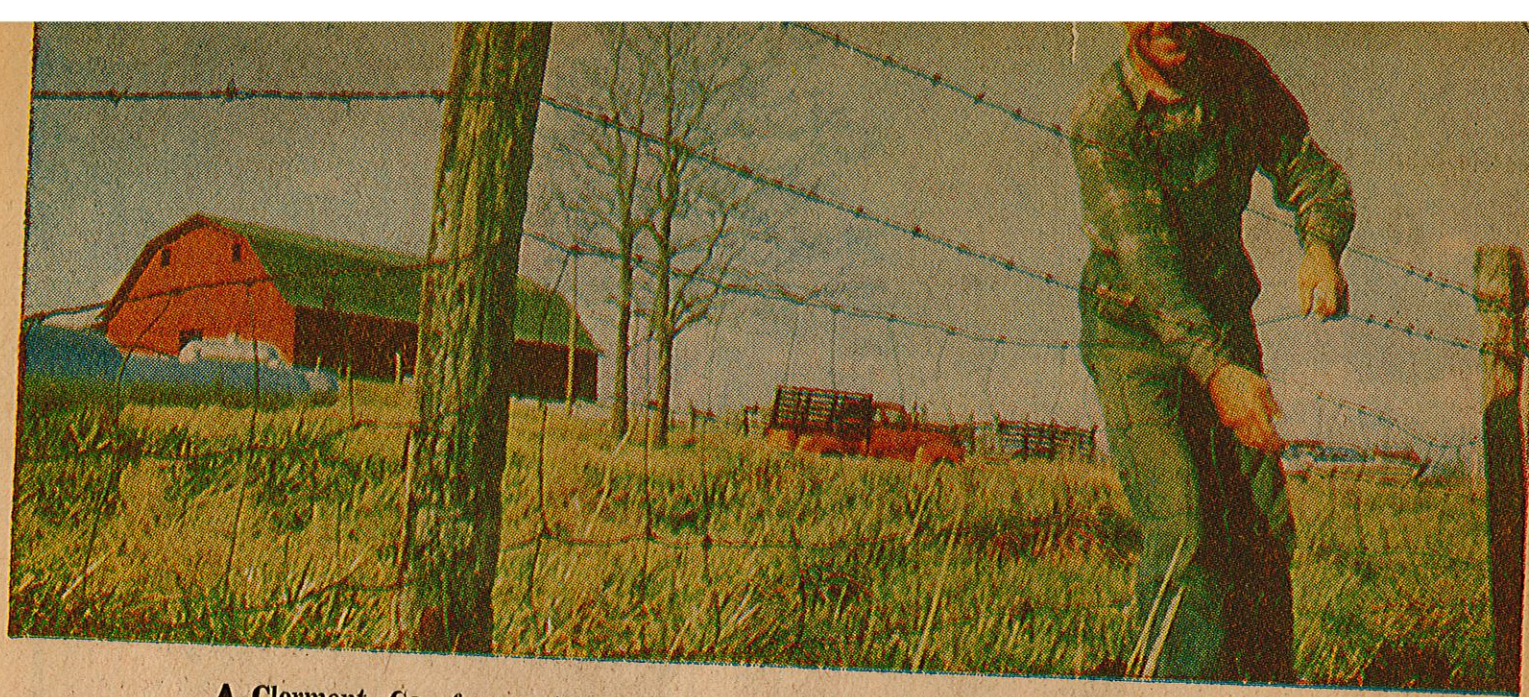
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A Clermont, Ga., farmer tries to repair the broken-down fence on the farm he rents.



Their Georgia town has an unrealistic name—Wilson Junior High. But the poverty that surrounds them is all too real. They live in a house that rents for \$15 a month. Their only supply of water is an old well.



The scene is Deer Lodge, Tenn. The home is a firetrap and the husband is away in another state, scratching out a meager income. Three children are home with their mother. Three other children have died. The family's yearly income is about \$1600.



The place: Blairsville, Ga. The father, presently jobless is home with six of his children. The U.S.D.A.'s Farmers Home Administration has not sided on the U.S.

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