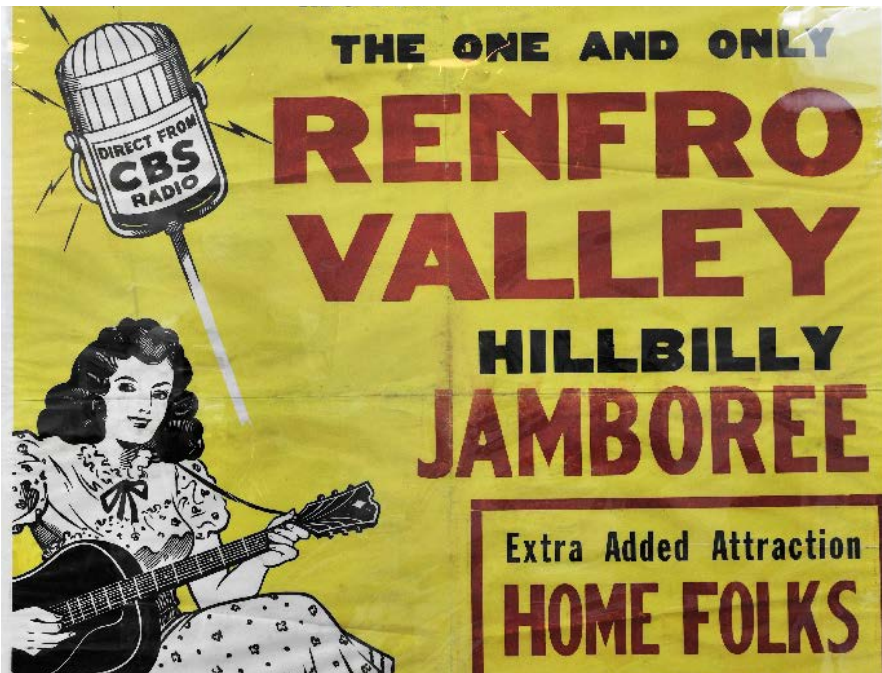


THE KentuckyHistoricalSociety PRESENTS

LEADERSHIP & LEGACY IN KENTUCKY HISTORY

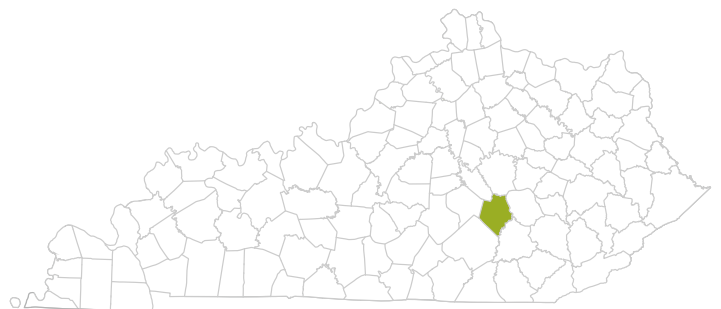
JOHN LAIR | 1894-1985



Renfro Valley Hillbilly Jamboree poster, ca. 1950. (2000.60.1 The John Lair Heirs Collection, Kentucky Historical Society)

Learn more in the new issue of the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, published continuously since 1903.

“HOME” ON THE RADIO – “Each Saturday night as I hear your theme song I am carried back to ... Rockcastle,” wrote one exiled Kentuckian to radio host John Lair. From the 1930s on, Lair’s “Renfro Valley Barn Dance” broadcast pieces of home to Kentuckians who had moved to Cincinnati and northward in search of work. Equally important, Lair’s presentation of positive images of the Mountain South helped those Kentucky migrants combat negative “hillbilly” stereotypes, which complicated their search for employment, housing and prosperity in the Midwest. The performance hall Lair built and the programs he recorded there became stand-in homes for those who had to leave theirs behind.



Rockcastle County

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The Kentucky Historical Society is an agency of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet.