



COVER PHOTO—Athens, Ohio, June 6

VOLUNTEERS FOR CIVILIAN SERVICE in the Peace Corps and VISTA were flag bearers leading the processional at Ohio University's 210th Commencement, June 5. Peace Corps candidate Thomas A. Gray and VISTA Volunteer Janice Tannehill were flanked by traditional participants in the ceremony, color guards from the campus ROTC units. Gray is slated for two years of service with the Peace Corps food production program in India in the fall and will enter training in July. Miss Tannehill will enter training this month, prior to a year assignment with VISTA, Volunteers for Service in America. They were among 1444 to receive degrees from Ohio University.

VISTA VOLUNTEER

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Sargent Shriver and VISTA Volunteers launch

THE APPALACHIAN SUMMER PROJECT

One of the highest concentrations of college students in VISTA's history met last month at Union Station in Washington, D.C., before embarking on a unique program of bringing help and hope to poverty-stricken residents of Appalachia. On hand to explain the importance of the program was Sargent Shriver, director of the War on Poverty.

Some 500 Associates will spend 10 weeks in Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, and Tennessee, Shriver said. This figure represents a 300 percent increase over the previous summer.

VISTA's first summer program for Appalachia involved only a few Volunteers who conducted a summer school in Clay County, Kentucky, in 1964. Their work proved so successful that 150 Volunteers were sent to 43 communities the following summer. Their duties were expanded from teaching school to forming com-

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Musical Volunteers take a break for a song.



Sargent Shriver addresses the volunteers for VISTA's new Appalachian summer project.



An Appalachian Volunteer drives his point home.

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 munity organizations and working closely with the adult population.

This year's Volunteers, however, are the first members of the VISTA Associates program. They participated in a special 10-day training-orientation session, beginning June 15 at East Tennessee State University and in selected field areas. Concentrating on remedial reading, recreation, cultural enrichment and community development, the Associates worked, as they will all summer, with VISTA Volunteers who were already familiar with the region. Training also included an introduction to the history, economics and prospects of the Appalachian South.

Associates are now serving in 19 of the nation's 300 poorest counties, among which are nine of America's 35 poorest. Altogether, 100 rural communities, ranging in size from 50 families to 3,000 persons, will benefit from the summer project. Some 350 Associates are in Kentucky, 100 in West Virginia, and the remaining 50 in eastern Tennessee and southeastern Virginia. This is in addition to the 269 regular VISTAs already serving those states. A two-day evaluation session is expected to end the program

on August 20.

Shriver stressed the advantage of the VISTA Associates Program to the college students who compose it. After returning to school, he said, "Many of them will continue their service on weekends and during school vacations. It is hoped," he added, "that many will become full-time VISTA Volunteers after their education is completed."

Shriver referred to the project itself as "a new, important dimension in the VISTA program." He explained that it was designed "to tap the reservoir of voluntarism among the nation's college students." He further speculated that the program could be expanded in the future to bring thousands of students into anti-poverty projects all over the country.

Senator Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) said on the Senate floor: "This project, VISTA Associates, offers a unique opportunity for students who cannot spend a full year in the VISTA program but who desire personal involvement in fighting poverty that will make them better Americans, in a better America."

The Volunteer Associates program is conducted in cooperation with the Appalachian Volunteers, Inc., an organization administered by the Council of the Southern Mountains.



Volunteers have a chance for a last minute word with the OEO Director.



Glenn Ferguson, VISTA Director cites examples of previous summers' achievements.

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