Stuart and Slack confer

Marshall University Librarian Kenneth Slack, right, chats with Jesse Stuart during a visit to the author’s home in W Hollow, Greenup County, Ky. Slack is in charge of arrangements for “Jesse Stuart Day,” scheduled Nov. 18 at Marshall. Stuart is seated at the desk where he still produces as much as 30 pages of copy a day. [Photo for Marshall University by JOAN MITCHELL]

Kentucky author will be honored

Marshall University has designated Tuesday, Nov. 18, as “Jesse Stuart Day,” in honor of the Greenup County, Ky., author of poems, short stories and books on Appalachian culture.

“We are fortunate to have one of America’s outstanding writers living in our area and it is fitting that Marshall University recognize him not only for his great literary contributions, but also for the inspiration he has provided hundreds of young writers in this region,” said Dr. Robert B. Hayes, Marshall University president.

Stuart will speak at a convocation at 11 a.m. in the Memorial Student Center and will be the guest of honor at a luncheon following the convocation.

In the afternoon, Stuart will be present for the unveiling of a recently acquired collection of his works at the James E. Morrow Library.

The collection contains 60 volumes, including first editions of all of Stuart’s books and a number of limited, special editions.

“We were tremendously pleased to be able to obtain the Stuart collection,” said Dr. Kenneth T. Slack, director of libraries at Marshall. “Jesse Stuart undoubtedly ranks as one of the nation’s greatest living authors and his collected works will be a key element in meeting our goal of building the Marshall library into one of the outstanding regional libraries in the country.”

Slack learned in August that the editions were available and made arrangements to obtain them for the Marshall library through a California firm, International Bookfinders Inc. In addition to the books, the collection will include some of Stuart’s 455 published short stories and poems.

Stuart, who was awarded an honorary degree by Marshall in 1962, was recently nominated for a Pulitzer prize in poetry for his 46th book, “The World of Jesse Stuart.”