

, Thursday, January 30, 1975

Guitarist to play at WPCC

Mrs. Etta Baker, long-time Morganton resident whose folk artistry on the guitar won her national recognition in the 1950s, will appear in public concert Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the auditorium at Western Piedmont Community College.

Born into a family of skilled traditional musicians, Mrs. Baker has played the guitar since the age of three, when her father began to teach her.

The personal finger-picking style she developed on "John Henry" and "Bully in the Town" was transcribed and printed by Oak Publications, New York, in a collection, "Finger Picking Styles for Guitar," along with examples of the styles of Doc Watson, Pete Seeger, blind Lemon Jefferson, Dave Van Ronk and other nationally known folk artists.

Her versions of five traditional ballads are recorded by Tradition Records in a collection, "Instrumental Music of the Southern Appalachians."

Mrs. Baker, until her retirement less than two years ago, was employed at Skyland Textile Co. in Morganton. She rarely performs in public, but lovers of folk musical tradition have been drawn to Morganton from as far away as Japan to hear her play in her own home.

Tuesday's concert, which is open to the public without charge, is sponsored by the WPCC Arts and Lectures Committee.