

ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

OH Newsletter

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Left to right: Edward T. Quevedo, Director, Chicano Studies Center; Egambi F. K. Dalize, Director, Black Studies Center; Enid H. Douglass, Director, Claremont Graduate School Oral History Program; Alonzo Smith, Instructor, Black Studies Center.

WORKSHOPS

APPALACHIA IS THEME OF 4-COLLEGE CONFERENCE

The use of oral history in the documentation of the historical and cultural life of the Appalachian region was the central topic of a conference at Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina, in February.

The meeting, sponsored by the university's College of Continuing Education, was presided over by Mrs. Joy Lamm, director of ASU's participation in the Appalachian Oral History Project, a four-college project that includes, in addition to Appalachian, Alice Lloyd College (Kentucky), Lees College (Kentucky), and Emory and Henry College (Virginia).

Bill Weinberg, social sciences chairman at Alice Lloyd, is chairman of the joint project. Students and staff from the four colleges are collecting person-to-person data, primarily by taped interviews with old-time mountain residents, for use in a book on mountain life of the early twentieth century, to be published by the Alfred A. Knopf Company.

"There's never been a comprehensive oral history of this Appalachian region," said Mrs. Lamm. "We're about at the same point as black history."

Borden Mace, director of an Appalachian Consortium project studying the effects of urbanization on the people of Appalachia, and Dr. Jim Noel, executive director of the North Carolina Committee for Continuing Education in the Humanities, also spoke to the conference participants.

SHASTA COLLEGE HOSTS LOCAL ORAL HISTORIANS

On January 13, over 60 persons—high school students, college professors, and senior citizens—gathered in Redding, California to participate in an oral history workshop sponsored by the Shasta College Museum and Research Center. Grenville Gibbs, museum director and professor of history, organized the program to provide the seven historical so-

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CLAREMONT COLLEGES WIN NEH GRANT FOR BLACK-CHICANO PROJECT

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded the Claremont Colleges \$41,955 toward the \$53,504 first-year cost of a project to record the history of blacks and Chicanos in Southern California. This two-year project is a joint undertaking of the colleges' Black Studies Center and Chicano Studies Center and the Claremont Graduate School Oral History Program. Program director Mrs. Enid Douglass will coordinate the project, with Edward T. Quevedo, director of the Chicano Studies Center, and Alonzo N. Smith, instructor at the Black Studies Center, serving as codirectors.

In describing the purpose of the project, Mrs. Douglass said: "A large black community was established in the greater Los Angeles area relatively recently by people from varied geographic origins. The area has a native Chicano population. Neither group has systematically documented its history. Rather, they have principally an oral tradition, especially individual people and families of long standing. This project would provide systematic recording before pri-

mary sources are lost through the deaths of those who retain the oral tradition."

The plan calls for about 30 black and Chicano students to conduct taped interviews with old-timers and leaders of both ethnic groups. Before beginning their field work, the students will learn interview techniques in a special class and in tutorial sessions and also examine family records, newspaper accounts, and other documents. The interviewers will be upperclassmen from the five undergraduate colleges.

The black segment of the project will attempt to document the migration westward that began during World War II and the black community that existed in Southern California before that event, with a special emphasis on the involvement of blacks in the movie, radio and television industries.

The Chicano portion will focus on areas of Southern California with high concentrations of older families and organizations, such as the Wilmington-San Pedro community where, according

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