

# ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume XIV, Number 4

Fall 1980

## SANGAMON STATE BEGINS ILLINOIS CLEARING HOUSE

The Illinois Oral History Resources Project, funded by a Library Services and Construction Act grant, recently established a statewide clearing house for oral history data at Sangamon State University. Kitty Wrigley has served as project director for the duration of the one-year grant. The clearing house interconnects hundreds of oral history enthusiasts. Data packets about oral history, funding sources, and the OHA went out to nearly 600 individuals and institutions.

Although seventy-five percent of the programs requested data packets, only fourteen percent were members of the OHA. Of the respondents who had conducted an oral history class or workshop, only twenty-two percent are OHA members. "The kind of information exchange which occurs at the annual OHA Workshop and Colloquium is needed in Illinois," Wrigley states, "and the clearing house was an important step in the right direction."

A primary activity of the clearing house was the compiling of the *Directory of Illinois Oral History Resources*, indexed by subject. The clearing house identified some 250 collections and projects, though not all were listed in the directory. According to the survey, the majority of projects and programs is evenly distributed among four types of institutions: high schools, colleges and universities, historical societies and museums, and libraries. Other program sponsors include free-lance interviewers, corporations, government agencies, and professional associations. Topics range from community history to medical librarianship.

Several common needs and situations came to light in the course of the survey. Many projects, varying in size from a few to many hundreds of interviews, have not transcribed interviews and have no guides to their collections. About forty percent of the programs requested information about processing methods. Many of these pointed

to a lack of funding and staff; a few mentioned a need for a transcription service. Sixty percent had no guides to their collections. This statistic closely coincides with a lack of contents sheets or interview indexes. Forty-six percent of the programs expressed a need for information relating to guide production and dissemination. The only need expressed more often than how to produce a guide came from nearly fifty percent of the respondents and related to interviewing techniques.

Data for the directory came from preliminary questionnaires sent to some 7,500 organizations and institutions in the state and from follow-up questionnaires sent to over 200 oral history programs.

Complimentary copies of the directory will be distributed to public libraries in Illinois as well as to all participants. Nearly 1,500 Illinois academic and special libraries will also receive copies through the Illinois library systems. Additional directories will be available at cost from the Oral History Office, Sangamon State University, Springfield, Illinois.

## UPDATE: ORAL HISTORY, AMERICAN MUSIC

Oral History, American Music, a project directed by Vivian Perlis and sponsored by the School of Music, Yale University, is in its ninth year. Perlis's oral history of Charles Ives, begun in 1968, led to a book, *Charles Ives Remembered: An Oral History* (Yale U. Press, 1974), and the founding of the American music program. The completed Ives project contains fifty-six interviews.

The Paul Hindemith Project, directed by Caitriona Bolster and supported in part by the Hindemith Foundation in Germany, contains over seventy interviews. The Hindemith Project, a prototype for research on the emigré composer, is nearing completion.

Active projects and directors are: Major Figures in American Music, Perlis; Stein-

## MAJOR LABOR HISTORY COMPLETE

One hundred eighty-five hours of interviews are available for research at the George Meany Center for Labor Studies, Pennsylvania State University-Radnor. Under the direction of Alice M. Hoffman, and funded by NEH, the project interviewed more than fifty union leaders on their role in the merger of the AF of L and the CIO. Seventy-five of the hours were interviews with George Meany conducted by Archibald Robinson for a forthcoming biography of Meany and, together with his manuscript, will be a part of the collection at the center. The interviews are also deposited at the archives of the AFL-CIO.

## CALL FOR REVIEWERS

The *Oral History Review* is compiling a list of potential reviewers. To be considered, send qualifications and state area of specialization to: John J. Fox, Book Review Editor/OHR, Dept. of History, Salem State College, Salem, MA 01970.

way & Sons, Elizabeth Harkins; Duke Ellington, Martha Onepp; Electronic Music, Joan Thomson; and Film Music, Irene Atkins. With support from the Martha Baird Rockefeller Fund for Music, videotaping will be incorporated whenever appropriate.

Acquisition of materials that might not otherwise be preserved has a high priority. Many interviews have been acquired from radio stations and universities. Manuscripts, correspondence, photos and memorabilia are deposited at the Yale Music Library. A brochure, "Oral History, American Music," listing projects, interviewees, acquisitions and other pertinent information is available.

Additional support for the work comes from NEH, The Rockefeller Foundation and The CBS Foundation.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



James W.  
Hammack, Jr.

In keeping with OHA tradition, the association's fifteenth annual meeting featured a memorable setting, a fruitful workshop, and an array of interesting, informative speakers. In many respects, however, the most gratifying moment in the colloquium proceedings occurred at the annual business meeting. Faced with a growing agenda and escalating costs the association's leadership, with some timidity, proposed to the membership a modest increase in individual dues from \$10 to \$12. The Council's proposal was instantly countered by arguments from the floor that the recommended increase was inadequate for the needs of an association that had raised its individual dues by only \$2.50 in the last thirteen years. At the insistence of the voting membership, a motion to set individual dues at \$15 was substituted and passed overwhelmingly.

That action stands, I think, as a striking testimonial to the association's importance to its current members. It is an importance worth conveying to those practitioners and users of oral history who do not belong to OHA. Here, therefore, is a brief statement of three areas in which OHA can serve the needs and interests of prospective members.

First, and most apparent, the Oral History Association provides to its members a forum for the exchange of information, ideas, and experience in the practice and use of oral history. Its annual colloquia offer unexcelled opportunities to hear well-informed presentations on timely subjects, participate in freewheeling discussions of pressing questions, and make contacts with others who share similar interests in the field. Between colloquia, the association's quarterly *Newsletter* keeps members abreast of the most recent developments in oral history activity, and its annual journal presents the latest in oral history scholarship. To facilitate less formal communication between members, the association also publishes periodically a membership directory and is presently cooperating with Microfilming Corporation of America in compiling an extensive directory of existing oral history projects.

Less apparent, perhaps, but certainly no less important, the association actively seeks to promote higher standards in the collection of oral interviews and broader

understanding of the value and uses of oral history sources. To this end, OHA's "Goals and Guidelines" and its recently published *Oral History Evaluation Guidelines* have been widely disseminated to members, to other professional organizations, and to agencies involved in funding oral history research. For those wishing to enter the field, as well as for veterans desirous of sharpening their skills, the association annually conducts a national workshop on oral history and maintains year-around an advisory and evaluative service to aid newly established and ongoing projects. In an effort to broaden educational opportunities in oral history, the association has recently initiated, with assistance from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a nationwide survey of oral history workshops and course offerings with a view to enhancing their number and quality. Consistent with this objective, OHA encourages publications on oral history, is itself presently sponsoring publication of a much-needed anthology of oral history essays, and through designated liaison persons promotes a continuous exchange of information between OHA and other professional organizations with related interests.

In a third area, OHA provides a means by which oral historians can collectively express their views on issues affecting their professional interests. At present, for example, the association is taking steps to present the needs of oral historians at congressional hearings on copyright law and in a current lawsuit that may well set crucial precedents regarding the application of copyright law to oral history interviews.

The purposes OHA seeks to serve in these and other areas address themselves not only to the needs and interests of collectors of oral history but to all who have an interest in preserving, funding, or using oral history sources. The most direct means of achieving those purposes is by bringing increasing numbers of practitioners, archivists, funders, and users of oral history into OHA. Every member of OHA can contribute to that goal. I hope that each of you will ardently and aggressively do so during the coming year by explaining to prospective members why the association is well worth the cost of an individual membership.

## PROGRAM CALL

Send 1981 program ideas to: (Workshop) F. Gerald Handfield, Indiana State Lib., 140 N. Senate, Indianapolis, IN 46204; (Colloq.) Donald A. Ritchie, 6 Terrace Ct., NE, Washington, DC 20002.

## CALENDAR

Dec. 27-30  
Am. Hist. Assn.  
Washington, D.C.

March 27-29, 1981  
British OH Soc.  
U. of Lancaster

April 1-4, 1981  
Org. Am. Hist.  
Detroit

April 24-26, 1981  
OHMAR  
Spring Workshop  
Davis, W.Va.

## PROFILE

*James W. Hammack, Jr., the OHA's president for 1980-81, will lead the association to its Vermont meeting next fall. Hammack is a veteran in the association, having lectured at national workshops since 1975 and served as chairman of the 1976 Workshop. He served on the nominating committee 1976-78, one year as chairman. He was program chairman for the 1979 Colloquium at East Lansing. He also served on the panel of evaluators, formed in 1977.*

*A native of Marion, Arkansas, Hammack took his undergraduate and master's work at Memphis State University (B.S., 1961; M.A. 1962). He earned the Ph.D. (1974) in American history at the University of Kentucky.*

*His teaching experiences include: Junior Military Academy, Chicago, Illinois (1962); Louisiana Tech University (1962-63), and the University of Kentucky (1967-68). Hammack then moved to the department of history at Murray State University where he has directed the Forrest C. Pogue Oral History Institute since 1973. There, Hammack has offered graduate study in oral history for several years. He and his students have developed several new oral history projects.*

*Hammack has also been active in oral history at the state level. He speaks frequently at workshops and conferences in Kentucky where in 1978 he was chairman of the Governor's Conference on Oral History. Since 1976, Hammack has been adviser to the executive committee of the Kentucky Oral History Commission. The new OHA president has been involved in the regional Coal Miners Research Association since its inception in 1976 and served as its president 1977-78.*



## EDITORIAL

(see related story on page 4)

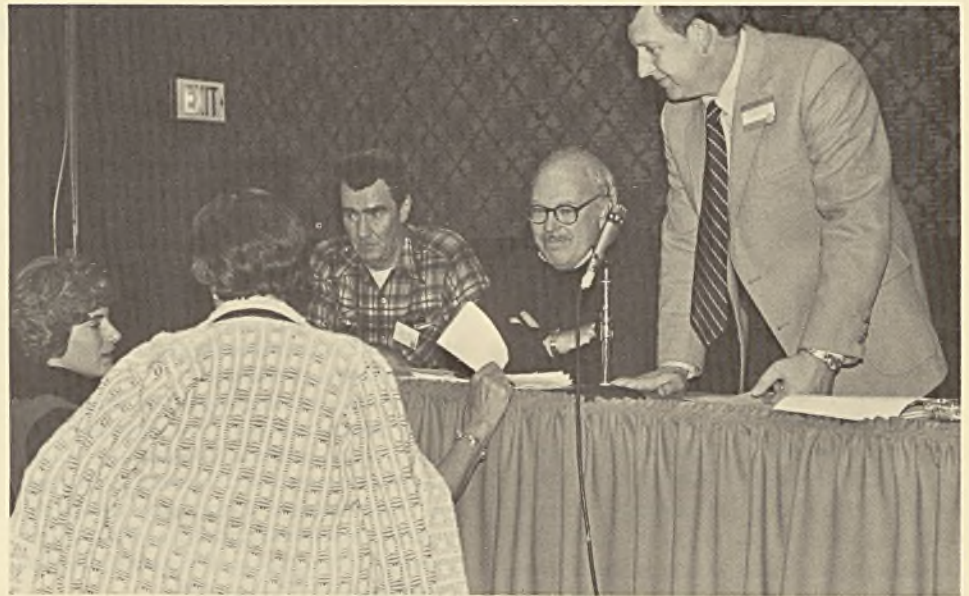
Some who attended the OHA's recent annual meeting were taken aback and, at the same time, confounded by a series of events on the afternoon of October 3 when two of the association's best-known members balked at reading papers on sensitive topics while the press was in the room. The situation raised several questions likely to be important in future oral history meetings.

One of the most profound issues to surface deals with the need of oral historians to hear papers and panels on thorny issues confronting researchers, as illustrated in the recent meeting's session on "Abuses in Oral History." Surely, most members support the association's right (maybe even *obligation*) to schedule speakers who can address, with examples from their own work, highly sensitive matters such as rights of privacy, thefts of oral memoirs, and the problems attendant to research interviews with retired public officials. While historians might prefer careful documentation of papers at all scholarly meetings, the names of actual persons mentioned in papers can be protected by substituting fictitious names. Members have come to expect hard-hitting, analytical sessions during the annual colloquiums. They are right to expect the OHA to be on the cutting edge of issues related to oral history methodology.

The association's growing visibility and the press's reporting of its meeting also became topics of interest during the Colorado conference. To what extent should the OHA encourage press coverage of its conference speakers, especially those who have been asked to comment directly on traditionally sensitive subjects? Should the presence of the press during oral history deliberations affect the tenor of the meetings? The association is a mature organization which has earned the attention and respect of the press. *The OHA should address the equally important matter of how it will relate to the press.* Individuals on the association's programs should judge for themselves how their remarks may be seen or reported by the press and act accordingly.

It will be a sad day when the OHA attempts to exclude the press from its conventions. In general, press coverage is beneficial for the association and gives a wide audience opportunities to learn of oral history. Perhaps the Council should seek some viable method whereby the association can continue to present challenging, stimulating colloquium sessions while respecting the right of the press to report the organization's progress. To bar all tape recorders from the conference session is one thing; to suggest that a planned panel of papers should be abandoned because a correspondent is present is cause

*continued on page 5*



OHA meets the press at Tamarron. L-R Karen J. Winkler (*Chronicle of Higher Education*); Enid H. Douglass (Claremont Graduate School), back to camera; James Mink (UCLA); Charles T. Morrissey (Montpelier, Vt.); and James W. Hammack, Jr. (Murray State U.).

## PASSING OF THE 1890s: ALONE WITH OUR MEMORIES

Frederick Jackson Turner's famous essay, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History," is said to have set the historical profession on its intellectual ear. Ninety years after the event that inspired Turner's thesis, the closing or disappearance in the United States of a western continental border, another frontier of sorts is very quietly closing for us—a border that marks not how far we have gone forward, but how far back we can reach through the memories of living persons. Now that nearly a year has passed since the pundits remarked the passing of the 1970s, it may be safe to consider a few thoughts about what the turn of a decade symbolizes in light of our understanding of the past through oral history.

Possibly we are overly preoccupied with decades as starting and finishing places for trends and notions. Some writers say the very concept of decades as being distinct from one another was dreamed up by magazine editors and textbook publishers. But the advent of the year 1980 serves to remind us of the simple, unyielding fact that people who do oral history interviews live with a terrible dependence on a most fragile historical resource, the community memory. There simply are not many people around who remember the 1890s.

Somehow it is a little scary to anticipate the day when no events but those of this century will be accessible to the memory of living persons. We are coming to that time Allan Nevins foresaw when the people who came to positions of responsibility in the 1920s and 1930s, people reared dur-

ing the nineteenth century, may as well have been contemporaries of Grover Cleveland's (d. 1908). Nevins is gone, now also his successor, Louis Starr, those people who spoke so eloquently of the need to ensure that the records of our time hold more humanness than those left by earlier generations. Our seemingly countless efforts seek answers to questions we know we would have if left only the records of commerce and government, the kinds of questions we would give anything to be able to ask those long since dead.

The summer of 1980 brought the death of one of my aunts and left our family with only one member born during the nineteenth century. I suppose that has made me think about what it will be like when those of us who do oral history will no longer have people to interview who can reach back that far. Many of us have specialized in recent history out of choice and personal interest which made it natural to use a method such as oral history. We are now able to criticize a body of documents that includes not just those standard records but substantial supplies of oral history. If we expect to find these representations fuller, more human, than those of the pre-oral history days, let us hope we have been asking the right people the right questions. After we turn that corner around which no one can go back and ask how it was or how well our documents reflect a human reality, we will be alone with our memories. For those of us who have always had someone we could ask about these things, it will be very quiet.

DBS



# ACTIVITIES AT THE 15TH NATIONAL ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

The annual Workshop and Colloquium, held October 2-5 at Tamarron in the San Juan Mountains of Southwestern Colorado, was a time of renewal for some members and a new experience for others. The Workshop sessions planned by Nancy Whistler and the Colloquium program planned by David McComb comprised a conference not soon to be forgotten.

One hundred nine persons attended the Workshop which featured practical situations for new oral historians while the Colloquium attracted 155 persons to its more theoretical, discursive sessions on topics ranging from film to gerontology. Attendance was down from last year's meetings; but the tenor of this year's program was lively and the association's officers regarded the conference as a success, considering the remote location.

Keynote speaker Knox Mellon, California state historic preservation officer, read a paper on "Public History, Oral History, and Historic Preservation: California Birds of a Feather." Mellon described oral histo-

ry's role in documenting architectural details from living informants.

Roger Abrahams (Scripps C.) delivered the Friday evening address. Speaking on "Story and History: A Folklorist's View," Abrahams drew comparisons between his field of folklore and oral history, both of which he considered nonelitist, with an "egalitarian, sentimental thrust." To Abrahams, both oral historians and folklorists are guardians of the past.

Saturday evening's speaker, urban historian Bruce Stave (U. of Connecticut), gave a witty, alliterative paper on "Clio's Cassette Connection: Historians, History, and Oral History." Criticizing both Studs Terkel's and Oscar Handlin's views of oral history, Stave spoke of his own positive experiences in oral history.

Ten concurrent sessions gave those in attendance a wealth of opportunities to hear papers, see film examples, and consider panels on a wide range of oral-history-related topics. For the first time, the program included gerontology's use of the life review and the similarities between that field and oral history.

## 1980 BUSINESS MEETING

During the annual business meeting October 5, 1980, the following announcements were made:

1. Financial report, September 30, 1980, balance of \$7,157.44.
2. *Evaluation Guidelines*: \$2.00 each, \$1.50 for ten or more.
3. William Moss (JFK Library), Samuel Hand and Richard Sweterlitsch (U. of Vermont) will handle local arrangements for the Sixteenth National Colloquium on Oral History, September 24-27, 1981, in Burlington, Vermont.
4. The 1982 meeting will be held in San Antonio, Texas, October 7-10.
5. OHA will file an *amicus curiae* brief in *Suid v. Newsweek*, if it goes to trial. The case deals with copyright law and its effect upon oral history interviews.
6. Council's midwinter meeting will be January 15-18, 1981.

## OHA MEETS THE PRESS

Freedom of the press created a minor crisis at the recent OHA Colloquium, causing hasty consultation among officers, program panelists, and a journalist present for the session "Abuses in Oral History."

Before delivering his paper, "The Trouble With Congressmen," Charles T. Morrissey asked if there were any members of the working press in the audience. Karen J. Winkler, a correspondent for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and a registered participant, identified herself. Morrissey then said he could not proceed with the press in attendance and tore his paper in two. James Mink, the second of three on the agenda, announced he also could not proceed under the circumstances. Mink's paper on the alleged theft of an oral memoir from the UCLA special collections had been scrutinized and approved by UCLA lawyers so as not to jeopardize the litigation.

There ensued conversation between President Enid Douglass and Vice President/President-elect James Hammack, Morrissey, Mink and Winkler, after which Morrissey agreed to speak in very general terms and Mink consented to read his paper. The third panelist, Susan H. Armitage (Washington State U.) read her paper on women's history and the need to protect the privacy of interviewees.

Winkler's article appears on page three of the October 14, 1980 (Vol. 21, No. 8) issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.



1980-81 OHA officers. L-R Martha Ross (U. of Maryland), Council; James W. Hammack, Jr. (Murray State U.), President; Cullom Davis (Sangamon State U.), Council; Enid H. Douglass (Claremont Graduate School), Past President; Alferdteen Harrison (Jackson State U.), and Elizabeth B. Mason (Columbia U.), Council; John Neuenschwander (Carthage C.), Vice President/President-elect; Ronald E. Marcello (N. Texas State U.), Executive Secretary.



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Mary Louise Merritt, Pomona College student, and Roger Abrahams (Scripps C.)



Workshop session led by Dale E. Trelevan (State Hist. Soc. of Wisconsin), center.

## ATTENTION

Nominations for 1981-82 vice president/president-elect and Council should be sent to nominating-committee chairman, John J. Fox, Salem State College, Salem, MA 01970.

## CULLOM DAVIS ELECTED TO OHA COUNCIL

Cullom Davis, the newest member of the Council, adds much experience to the association's executive body.

Davis, holder of the A.B. from Princeton University and M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, has been at Sangamon State University, Springfield, Illinois, since its beginning in 1970. As assistant vice president for academic affairs, he helped plan and administer the university's curriculum and instruction during its first operating year. He is now professor of history and public affairs and, since 1973, has directed the oral history office.

Prior to his move to Sangamon State, Davis taught American history at Punahou Academy, Honolulu (1957-59), part-time at the University of Illinois (1960-64), and at Indiana University (1964-70).

Davis is active in state and national historical affairs. In the OHA, he has served on both the nominating and program committees and was chairman of the 1979 Workshop at East Lansing.

## REVIEW BOARD NAMED

Arthur A. Hansen, new editor of *The Oral History Review*, has named to his editorial board: Pamela Henson (Smithsonian Inst.), Alice M. Hoffman (Penn. State U.), Edward D. Ives (U. of Maine), Margaret L. S. Miller (Baylor U.), William W. Moss (JFK Library), and Gary Y. Okihiro (Santa Clara U.).

These persons, along with John J. Fox (Salem State C.), book review editor, will screen and evaluate articles and assist the editor during the next three years. Address: Hansen, Dept. of History, Cal. State U.-Fullerton, CA 92634.

## NEW DEADLINES FOR THE NEWSLETTER LISTED ON PAGE 8.

## EDITORIAL

*continued from page 3*

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The press handled the above matters well during and following the recent OHA meeting. Hopefully, the press will continue to chart the association's development. Hopefully, too, the association will continue to schedule annual meetings characterized by judicious, timely, and penetrating topics. The fourth estate should always be welcome at the association's public meetings.

TLC

## OH OF DENTISTRY

Col. Arden G. Christen, former professor of dentistry, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, conducts oral history as a hobby. *Aeromedical Review*, 1-78 (Oct. 1978), devoted the entire issue to his "Portrait of a National Dental Consultant: Life Story of a Prevention-Oriented Dentist: An Interview with Miles R. Markley, DDS." *Aeromedical Review*, 1-79 (June 1979), again devoted an issue to Christen's work: "A Modern Pioneer in Preventive Dentistry—Sumter S. Arnim, DDS, PhD, Teacher, Researcher, and National Dental Consultant: An Interview." Christen plans to publish a third memoir, "Portrait of a Dental Researcher: Recollections of 50 Years in Dental Research at the National Bureau of Standards: Interview with George C. Paffenbarger, DDS."

## OH OF A MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY

Greenville, Washington County, Mississippi, is the subject of an AASLH award-winning oral history project. Roberta Miller and Daisy Green, at the behest of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, produced 175 taped interviews. Greenville is an amalgamation of blacks, whites, Chinese, Lebanese, Italians, and Mexicans. Topics researched in the two and one-half years included the Ku Klux Klan, black exodus from plantations, bootlegging, prostitution along the river, and treatment of blacks during the 1927 flood.

The project was funded by CETA through the Washington County Library System. The transcribed and indexed interviews are housed at the county's William Alexander Percy Library with original tapes deposited in the state archives.

## BRITISH HISTORIANS PLAN SPRING MEET

The British Oral History Society will hold its annual conference March 27-29, 1981, at the Centre for North-West Regional Studies (CNWRS), University of Lancaster. In addition to a workshop, sessions include: "Working Mothers," Elizabeth Roberts; "Family and Economy in Fishing Communities," Paul Thompson; "Rural History of Cumbria and the Borders," Cynthia Thompson and Michael Robson; African history, John MacKenzie and Conrad Wood; "Conscientious Objectors," Margaret Brooks; "Communities," Mervyn Jones and Trevor Lummis; and textile history, Jill Liddington and Stanley Graham. Contact Elizabeth Roberts or Marion McClintock, CNWRS, U. of Lancaster.



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## OH OF A MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY

Greenville, Washington County, Mississippi, is the subject of an AASLH award-winning oral history project. Roberta Miller and Daisy Green, at the behest of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, produced 175 taped interviews. Greenville is an amalgamation of blacks, whites, Chinese, Lebanese, Italians, and Mexicans. Topics researched in the two and one-half years included the Ku Klux Klan, black exodus from plantations, bootlegging, prostitution along the river, and treatment of blacks during the 1927 flood.

The project was funded by CETA through the Washington County Library System. The transcribed and indexed interviews are housed at the county's William Alexander Percy Library with original tapes deposited in the state archives.

## BRITISH HISTORIANS PLAN SPRING MEET

The British Oral History Society will hold its annual conference March 27-29, 1981, at the Centre for North-West Regional Studies (CNWRS), University of Lancaster. In addition to a workshop, sessions include: "Working Mothers," Elizabeth Roberts; "Family and Economy in Fishing Communities," Paul Thompson; "Rural History of Cumbria and the Borders," Cynthia Thompson and Michael Robson; African history, John MacKenzie and Conrad Wood; "Conscientious Objectors," Margaret Brooks; "Communities," Mervyn Jones and Trevor Lummis; and textile history, Jill Liddington and Stanley Graham. Contact Elizabeth Roberts or Marion McClintock, CNWRS, U. of Lancaster.



# GRANTS

## NEH:

Cal. State Col.-Bakersfield: \$300,000, impact of dust bowl migration on five California counties.

Andrea L. Cohen, Amherst, Mass.: \$2,225, slide-tape show and transcribed, indexed interviews with a New England craftsman.

Jerome M. Levi, San Clemente, Calif.: \$2,074, photos and histories of Southern Calif. Indian elders.

Felita Bradford, Bloomington, Ind.: \$5,441, OH and folklore of the Bradford family in Mississippi.

Gregory M. Brewer, Chicago, Ill.: \$2,464, OH and slide-tape show on Frank Lloyd Wright's Galesburg country homes.

Peter T. Cameron, Flower of the Dragon, Inc., Vietnam War Veterans Archives Project, Santa Rosa, Calif.: \$25,000, OH and other records of Vietnam veterans.

Helen L. Dickas, Superior, Wisc.: \$1,765, OH and slide-tape show of native-born Scandinavians of NW Wisconsin.

Johnnye M. Fye, Tusculum College, Greeneville, Tenn.: \$2,495, OH and slide-tape show of blacks in Greene County, Tenn.

Charles T. MacFadyen, Northport, N.Y.: \$950, film and OH of Northport, N.Y., during Prohibition.

Nancy M. Norbrey, Ettrick, Va., \$5,334, film and OH of Pocahontas Island, Petersburg, Va., one of the oldest black communities in America.

Barbara J. Sirota, WGBH Educational Foundation, Boston, Mass.: \$150,000, series of radio programs based on interviews conducted by Federal Writers' Proj. in the '30s.

Robert M. Taylor, Bolton, Mass.: \$1,083, OH of a Mass. farm village.

Kathleen A. Wadden, Alexandria, Va.: \$2,000, multimedia display via OH on the influence of railroads on the culture of SE Appalachia.

Samuel D. Smith, Bolivia, N.C.: \$2,500, OH of commercial fishermen in Brunswick County, N.C.

New Jersey Historical Commission, \$115,000, second phase of the Multi-Ethnic OH Proj.

Virginia Tech. and the Blue Ridge Regional Library, \$220,000 for oral history and graphics to promote public programs in Patrick County.

North Shore Jewish Hist. Soc., Swampscott, Mass., \$52,000, history of Jews in the shoe industry of Lynn, Mass.

Salem Youth Comm., Salem, Mass., \$5,000, "Youth to Elderly OH Project."

## State Humanities

Southern Meth. U., School of Cont. Ed., \$1,500, from Texas Comm. for Humanities, one-hour videotape on interviewing.

Jewish Community Center of Cleveland from Ohio Arts Council and Program in the Humanities to produce a dramatization of the oral history of Jewish immigrants.

The Zigler Museum Foundation, \$22,500 each from Louisiana Comm. for the Hu-

manities and the Fred B. Zigler Foundation to document the history of Jefferson Davis Parish.

Idaho OH Center, \$17,300 from Assoc. for the Humanities and \$4,000 from the State Library Board to complete catalog.

Idaho State Hist. Soc., \$10,250.80 from Assoc. for the Humanities for traveling photo exhibit with audio excerpts from interviews.

## Other grants:

Radcliffe College, \$60,316 from National Inst. on Aging to transcribe and analyze interviews with elderly black women leaders.

# BOOK NOTICES

*History Comes Alive: Catalog of Oral History Holdings in San Luis Obispo County.* By Betsy Bertrando, Virginia Culbert, Debra Hansen, and Margaret Price. (San Luis Obispo County Oral History Organization, c/o San Luis Obispo County Historical Society, P.O. Box 1391, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. 55 pp. Indexes. Photos. \$3.50.)

*The Guide to the Whitman County, Washington, Oral History Collection.* Ed. by Margot H. Knight. (Colfax, Wash.: Whitman County Historical Society, Inc., 1980. \$4.50) Write: P.O. Box 67, Colfax, WA 99111.

*The Oral History Project of the University of Nevada-Reno, Library: a Bibliography.* By Mary Ellen Glass. (Reno, Nev.: U. of Nev. System, 1980. 27 pp.)

*The Oral History Collection of the Archives of Cooperative Lutheranism.* (New York: Lutheran Council in the USA, 1980. 43 pp. Photos. Index.)

*The Mississippi Oral History Program of The University of Southern Mississippi: Comprehensive Bibliography of Holdings.* (Box 5175, Southern Station, Hattiesburg, MS 39401: The Miss. O.H.P., 1980, 80 pp.)

*Oral History: Index, Oral History Volumes 1-6, 1972-3 to 1978, 7 (1979).* Write: Pamela Swadling, Oral History Editor, Nat'l Museum and Art Gallery, P.O. Box 5560, Boroko, Port Moresby, Papu, New Guinea. Subscription: 10 issues per year, K.13.50.

*Center of Southwest Studies: Opportunities for Research.* (Durango, Colo.: Fort Lewis College, 1979, 48 pp. Photos.) Guide.

*Oral History in Schools.* By Sallie Purkis. (Colchester, Eng.: Oral History Society,

1980. £1) Write: OHS, Dept. of Soc., Univ. of Essex, Colchester CO4 3SQ, Eng.

*Kaleidoscope 20: Oral History in the Classroom.* By Barbara Meyer, Barbara Perry, Ellen Sarkisian. (Boston: Massachusetts Dept. of Education, 1980. Photos. 56 pp. \$1.15) Write: Div. Curriculum and Instruction, M.D.E., 31 St. James Ave., Boston, MA 02116.

*History at Your Fingertips.* By Brian McKinlay. (East Melbourne, Vic., Australia: Primary Education, 1979. \$6.15) Write: Tradition Books, P.O. Box 33, Hawksburn, Vic., Australia 3142.

Teaching aid for primary school.

*First Person America.* By Ann Banks. (New York: Knopf, 1980. Photos. \$13.95) Federal Writers' Project.

*Foxfire 4, Foxfire 5, and Foxfire 6.* By Eliot Wigginton. (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1977, 1979, 1980. 3 vols. boxed. \$20.85, paper)

*Palouse Past.* (Colfax, Wash.: Whitman County Historical Soc., 1980. \$3) Write: P.O. Box 67, Colfax, WA 99111.

Readers Theatre script from oral history collection.

*The People of Three Mile Island.* By Robert Del Tredici. (New York: Sierra Club-Scribners, 1980. \$7.95)

*To Draw, Upset, and Weld—The Work of the Pennsylvania Rural Blacksmith, 1742-1935.* By Jeannette Lasansky (Oral Traditions Project, Court House Lewisburg, PA 17837, 1980. 80 pp. \$9.20)

*Pioneer Efforts in Rural Social Welfare: Firsthand Views since 1908.* Ed. by Emelia Martinex-Brawley. (University Park, Pa.: Penn State University Press, 1979. 576 pp. Illus. Epilogue. \$20 cloth. \$12 paper)



*A Congressional Record, the Memoir of Bernie Sisk.* By Bernice F. Sisk. (Fresno, Calif.: Panorama West Books, 1980. 280 pp. Photos. \$21.50)

Result of A.I. Dickman's (U. of Calif.-Davis) interviews.

*An Interview with Jean Vincenz: Public Works Oral History Interview Number 1.* By Jean Vincenz, Robert D. Bugher, and Suellen M. Hoy. (Chicago: Public Works Historical Society, 1980. 32 pp. Photos. \$5) Write: 1313 E. 60th St., Chicago, IL 60637.

*Late Bloomer: Profiles of Women Who Found Their True Callings.* By Lois Rich-McCoy. (New York: Harper & Row, 1980. \$10.95)

*Wouldn't Take Nothin' for My Journey Now.* by Jock Lauterer. (Chapel Hill: Univ. of NC Press, 1980. Illus. \$12.50)

N. Carolina mountains.

*Maritime Folklife Resources: A Directory and Index.* By Peter Bartis and Mary Huford. Pub. of American Folklife Center No. 5. (Washington, D.C.: American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, 1980. 130 pp. Institution directory. Glossary. State index. Free)

*Big Thompson: Profile of a Natural Disaster.* By David G. McComb. (Boulder, Colo.: Pruett Pub. Co., 1980. 118 pp. Photos. Index. \$19.95)

AASLH Award of Merit.

*Naming Names.* By Victor S. Navasky. (New York: Viking, 1980. 430 pp. Index. \$15.95)

Hollywood blacklist.

*As the Twig Is Bent.* By Terry Lane. (Melbourne, Australia: Dove Publications, n.d. \$7.75) Write: Tradition Books, P.O. Box 33, Hawksburn, Vic., Australia 3142.

*In Those Days.* By Collingwood History Committee. (Collingwood, Vic., Australia: Richmond Hill Press and Collingwood City Council, n.d. \$5.65) Write: Tradition Books, P.O. Box 33, Hawksburn, Vic., Australia 3142.

An industrial suburb of Melbourne.

*Growing up in Richmond.* Ed. by Morag Loh. (Melbourne: Richmond Community Education Centre and Fieldworkers in Oral History, n.d. \$3.95) Write: R.C.E.C., 121 Church St., Richmond, Vic., Australia 3142.

*The Mountain Speaks: a Folk History of the Bulga Plateau.* By Helen Hannah. (Privately printed, n.d. \$5.85) Write: Helen Hannah, Glenwarrin Mill, Elands, New South Wales, Australia 2429.

*The Winds of December.* By John Dorschner and Roberto Fabricio (New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1980. Illus. \$15.95)

The 1958 Cuban revolution.

*Mao's People: Sixteen Portraits of Life in Revolutionary China.* By B. Michael Frolic. (Cambridge: Harvard U. Pr. 1980. 278 pp. \$15)

*Long Engagements: Maturity in Modern Japan.* By David W. Plath. (Palo Alto, Calif.: Stanford Univ. Press, 1980. 248 pp. Index. \$17.50)

*Church and State in Yugoslavia since 1945.* By Stella Alexander. (New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1979. 351 pp. Maps. Bibliog. Index. \$34.50)

*Miracle of November: Madrid's Epic Stand, 1936.* By Dan Kurzman. (New York: Putnam, 1980. Photos. \$14.95)

Over five hundred interviews and archival material.

*The Cruellest Night: Germany's Dunkirk and the Sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff.* By Christopher Dobson, Ronald Payne, and John Miller. (Boston: Little, Brown, 1980. Illus. \$9.95)

## ... also in print

"Oral History: Coming of Age in the 1980s." By Karen J. Winkler. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 14, 1980, p. 3.

"New England Teachers Go to the Source." By Warren Leon. *History News*, 35 (Sept. 1980), 11-13.

"Migration, Kinship, and Urban Adjustment: Blacks and Poles in Pittsburgh, 1900-1930." By John Bodnar, Michael Weber, and Roger Simon. *The Journal of American History*, 66 (Dec. 1979), 548-565.

"Window on the Past: A Guide to Oral History." by John Fox, Jr. *Choice*, 17 (June 1980), 495-508.

"Portrait of a National Dental Consultant, Life Story of a Prevention-Oriented Dentist: An Interview with Miles R. Markley, DDS." By Miles R. Markley. Interviewer, Arden G. Christen. *Aeromedical Review* (October 1978), 1-65. Free.

"A Modern Pioneer in Preventive Dentistry—Sumter S. Arnim, DDS, PhD, Teacher, Researcher, and National Dental Consultant, An Interview." By Sumter S. Arnim. Interviewer, Arden G. Christen. *Aeromedical Review* (June 1979), 1-80. Free.

*Journal.* Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC). Membership @ \$10 per year buys *Journal*, a newsletter, and annual bulletin-membership roster. Write: P.O. Box 1643, Manassas, VA 22110.

*Passin' It Along.* n.d. Occasional newsletter. SwLA/NEH Oral History Project Newsletter. 6 pp. Write: Thomas J. Friedlund, P.O. Box 23713, TWU Sta., Denton, TX 76204.

## NEWS

The National Institute of Aging awarded a \$60,316 grant to Radcliffe College to transcribe and analyze interviews with elderly, black women leaders. Researchers at the Henry A. Murray Research Center and the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library will process the interviews and study the coping strategies black women have developed for survival. The interviews, conducted as part of Radcliffe's Black Women OH Project, supported by a grant from The Rockefeller Foundation, are part of the collection at the Murray center. Most of the seventy-five interviews are available to researchers at Schlesinger, and copies are also deposited in libraries throughout the U.S.

One hundred fifty persons attended the recent "Oral History for Louisiana" workshop in Baton Rouge. Speakers were Thomas L. Charlton (Baylor U.), Hubert Humphreys (LSU-Shreveport), Richard B. Allen (Tulane U.), and Burt Tietje (Zigler Museum). Joel Gardner directed the one-day meeting for which he prepared a booklet on the applications of oral history within the state. Funding was from the Louisiana Committee for the Humanities and the state archives and records service.

The history of scientific development in Oregon was the emphasis of the Oregon State Historical Society's oral history activities in 1980, centering on the evolution of medical education at the old University of Oregon Medical School. The society's five-year-old oral history program is also involved in efforts to preserve 150 reel-to-reel recordings, some made over twenty-five years ago, that are untranscribed and deteriorating.

Elizabeth B. Mason will teach Columbia University's oral history seminar, Jan.-May 1981.

Carl Oblinger's oral history course at Franklin and Marshall College, Feb. 3-May 30, 1981, is titled "American Community and Family: The 19th and 20th Centuries."

"Learning to Listen: Techniques of Oral History," will be taught by Margot H. Knight (Wash. State U.) July 27-31, 1981.

The Screen Actors Guild project, The Actor's Legacy, presents videotaped conversations with some of the screen's superstars. The intention is to have the interviewers and the interviewees be actors in an actor-to-actor format. In the first of two pilot programs, Charlton Heston interviewed Henry Fonda for nearly two and a half hours. The second pilot features Fernando Lamas interviewing Eddie Albert. The

*continued on page 8*



**OHA OFFICIAL  
BUSINESS**

**Ronald E.  
Marcello  
Executive  
Secretary**



At the annual business meeting of the 1980 Colloquium in Durango, it was voted unanimously to increase dues for individual memberships to \$15 per year, beginning January 1981. Along with the dues increase, the membership also voted to publish a 1981 *Membership Directory* with free distribution to members.

Council had originally intended to boost annual individual dues to \$12 and publish a new *Membership Directory* (the last one was published in 1979 at no charge to the membership) to be sold at a nominal price. This motion was presented at the annual business meeting but was replaced by the substitute motion from the floor calling for the increase to \$15.

Several convincing arguments were presented in favor of the \$15 increase. One member pointed out that dues for individuals started at \$7.50 when OHA organized back in 1967 and had increased by only \$2.50 since then. Another person observed that, given the current rate of inflation and OHA's increasing responsibilities, the dues structure was unrealistically low; and the proposed increase of \$2.00 meant that Council would have to ask for another increase within a year or two.

As executive secretary, I totally agreed with the above arguments and favored the \$5 increase. At this time of year, OHA almost always faces a temporary cash-flow bind that is not alleviated until the annual dues are collected. In the meantime, payment of some bills is delayed. Such a condition makes me uncomfortable, and

the situation can be especially touchy if the annual meeting does not make a profit. I believe that the new dues structure will eliminate our temporary fiscal problems, assist in future planning, and generally put OHA on a sound financial footing.

**Executive Secretary  
Box 13734, N.T. Station  
Denton, TX 76203  
(817) 387-1021 or 788-2252**

## NEWS

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project is designed for study by actors and film students. Edward Ashley is coproducer.

In the past six months the Minnesota Historical Society OH Office held seven workshops taught by Deputy State Archivist James E. Fogerty. The workshops were designed to aid organized OH groups in standardizing the work throughout the state. The workshop series began in 1977 and has provided training to forty-two groups numbering more than 600 people. Contact: MHS, 1500 Mississippi St., St. Paul, MN 55101.

Laurie Mercier (Lambuth C.) coordinates the Business History Project (BHP) of Jackson, Tennessee. Funding comes from the state committee for the humanities with cosponsorship by the college's Center for the Study of American Business. Contact: BHP Office, Lambuth College, Jackson, TN 38301.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission presented a two-day community oral history conference at Westmoreland County Community College in October. Cosponsors were the college and the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies. Faculty included Martha Ross and Linda Shopes (U. of Maryland), Howard Greene (New Jersey Hist. Comm.), Debra Bernhart (N.Y.U.), and Joseph Makarewicz (U. of Pittsburgh). Michael Novak, author, was keynote speaker.

Charles T. Morrissey, oral history consultant, will lead a workshop at Neumann College, March 28-29, 1981. Contact: Sr. Jacqueline Marie Kotz, Artists and Lecture Committee, Neumann College, Aston, PA 19014.

Judith Kidd Rudoff has been named oral historian at East Texas State University succeeding Corrinne Crow. A five-year ETSU oral history veteran, Rudoff holds the B.A. from Austin College-Sherman, and the M.A. in history from ETSU.

Rudoff and her staff, in cooperation with the Dallas Public Library, recently began the Dallas Mayors Oral History and Records Project tracing the municipal history of the city in the post-World War II years. Alan Mason, former urban planner for Dallas, will conduct most of the interviews.

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California Historical Society held its first meeting in April and set up a program to document the court's history since its inception in 1851. ROHO (U. of Calif.-Berkeley) will conduct the interviews.

Gerald Saxon, recent N. Texas Univ. Ph.D., is the new oral historian at the Dallas Public Library, succeeding David B. Stricklin.

Jeannette Lasansky (Union County, Penn., Oral Traditions Project) organized an exhibit on Pennsylvania wrought iron displayed at the Hershey Museum of American Life, June 15-September 15. Oral accounts of Pennsylvania blacksmiths are included in her research.

Loyola U.-Chicago now offers a master's degree in public history which includes oral history methodology.

Following a workshop conducted by Oscar J. Martinez, director, and Sarah E. John, administrative assistant, of the Institute of Oral History (The University of Texas-El Paso), local members of the National Council of Jewish Women began interviewing descendants of Jewish pioneers in the area. Copies of the tapes will be deposited at IOH.

Published quarterly: Program for Oral History, Baylor University, Thomas L. Charlton, editor. Associates: L. Katherine Cook, Adelaide S. Darling, Rebecca S. Jiménez, Margaret L.S. Miller; David B. Stricklin, contributing editor. Deadlines: Jan. 1, April 1, July 1, Oct. 1.

Oral History Association Newsletter  
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