

Volume XVI, Number 4

Fall 1982

MAJOR THEATER WORK REVEALS SECRETS OF FOXFIRE

Play Featuring Cronyn, Tandy, and Carradine Moves to New York



In the Guthrie Theater production of Foxfire, Holly Burrell (Katherine Cortez) interviews Hector and Annie Nations (Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy), as Dillard Nations (Richard Cox) looks on.

The play *Foxfire*, based on Eliot Wigginton's books, opened at the Ethel Barrymore Theater on November 10. Adapted by Susan Cooper and Hume Cronyn, *Foxfire* premiered at the 1980 Stratford Festival at the Avon Theater in Stratford, Ontario. It was featured at Minneapolis's Tyrone Guthrie Theater during its 1981 season, under the direction of Marshall W. Mason. Music was composed by Jonathan Holtzman.

Cronyn and his wife Jessica Tandy star as Hector and Annie Nations; the character of Annie is based on *Foxfire's* narrator, Aunt Arie Carpenter. She must decide whether to leave her Blue Ridge Mountains home to join her son (actor-folk singer Keith Carradine) in Florida. As Annie ponders, she remembers her life, especially Hector, who has been dead five years. The story line draws heavily on oral history. Before its New York premiere, *Foxfire* played Baltimore and Boston. Martha Ross (U. of Maryland) and a group of other Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region members attended *Foxfire* at Baltimore's Morris A. Mechanic Theatre. Though the play received mixed reviews in the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* (which mentioned neither Wigginton nor his books), Ross and colleagues reported favorably on *Foxfire*. The use of *Foxfire* material, the setting, and the acting were all praised. One incident depicted a high-school student, armed with tape recorder, interviewing the Nations; she consults her notebook and says in dismay, "Oh, I asked that already." The Baltimore production was directed by David Trainer.

Ross interviewed coauthor Susan Cooper shortly after the Baltimore performance. Cooper first became interested in oral history through Ronald Blythe's book, *Akenfield*. When Hume Cronyn needed material for a readings program, Cooper suggested a *Foxfire* excerpt. Intrigued with the *Fox*- *fire* technique, Cronyn wanted to create an entire program. He and Cooper next consulted Eliot Wigginton regarding dramatic rights to the *Foxfire* books. Wigginton retained veto control over the first draft; after its approval, he remained an unofficial adviser to the producers. He viewed the play at Stratford and again in Minneapolis, bringing the *Foxfire* staff and a group of students to the Guthrie. Cooper spoke of the inspiration for the characters:

I think there's more of Aunt Arie in Annie Nations than there is of any other single figure, and I think there's probably more of Simmie Free in Hector. What we asked the Foxfire people to do was to give us dramatic control over material from I think it was six characters, and I couldn't name them all to you off the top of my head, but it included those two. The things that we've taken—there aren't many that we've taken in chunks, but things like the buzzard story at the end of the play, the story about having teeth pulled... those things came from certain people.

Don Ritchie spoke with Wigginton following his Doubleday Lecture [See NEWS]. The *Foxfire* founder said he was happy with the play's adaptation of his books. He has retained artistic control over the production, including movie rights and other subsidiary rights, and will watch as the play makes its New York run.

A Directory of Oral History Programs in the United States

(OHA-sanctioned publication)

\$59.95+ shipping 20% off for OHA members

Order from: Microfilming Corporation of America P.O. Box 10 Sanford, NC 27330



Elizabeth B. Mason

MASON BECOMES SEVENTEENTH OHA PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Branch Mason (Columbia U.) became OHA's seventeenth president during the association's recent annual meeting in San Antonio. Mason was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up in Mexico City where she attended the bilingual American School. Her undergraduate work was at Mount Holyoke College, where she was Phi Beta Kappa and received the B.A. in history, romance languages, and English literature. Recipient of the Skinner Fellowship for graduate study, Mason took her M.A. in Latin-American history at Columbia University.

Mason returned to Mexico City where she worked as a press officer, 1941-47, at the British Embassy. From 1948-54, she was a civilian analyst for the Office of Naval Intelligence, U.S. Department of Defense, and taught at the University of Maine-Orono from 1955-57.

She has been on the staff of the Oral History Research Office at Columbia University since 1959. There she served as assistant director, 1964-68; associate director, 1968-80; and acting director, 1980-82. She returned to the post of associate director in July 1982. Also at Columbia, Mason has been a lecturer on oral history in the School of Library Science since 1973. With the late Louis M. Starr, she coedited four editions of *The Oral History Collection*, a guide to the oral history holdings at Columbia University.

Betty Mason has held almost every post of significance in OHA. She chaired the program for the 2nd National Colloquium at Arden House, Harriman, N.Y., in 1967 and has been either a panelist or a speaker during most of the association's colloquiums since that time. From 1972-78 she served on the editorial board for the Oral History Review. Election to the Executive Council in 1978 led to her elevation, in 1981, to the post of vice president/president-elect. Mason, always interested in improving professional standards for oral historians, served in 1979 as vice chairman of the Wingspread Task Force which drafted OHA's Evaluation Guidelines.

President Mason is married to John T. Mason, former oral history director at the U.S. Naval Institute in Annapolis, Maryland.

OHA MEMBERSHIP PANEL NOW SERVING REGIONS

A new membership committee is now serving the association. Appointed by President John Neuenschwander during the spring of 1982, and organized by U.S. regions approximating the postal ZIP-code system, the committee consists of the following persons:

R. Wayne Anderson (Northeastern U.) Terry L. Birdwhistell (U. of Kentucky) Michaelyn P. Chou (U. of Hawaii) Joel Gardner (La. State Archives) Lila Goff (Minnesota Hist. Soc.) Margot H. Knight (Washington Com-

mission for the Humanities) Roy Rosdenzweig (George Mason U.)

- Thad Sitton (Texas Sesquicentennial Commission)
- Shirley E. Stephenson (Calif. State U.-Fullerton)

Kathryn Wrigley (Southern Ill. U.) Chou and Sitton are responsible for foreign membership development, with the latter concentrating on Latin America.

Former OHA Council member Martha Ross (U. of Maryland) has been serving as chair for the committee since its creation.

TRELEVEN NAMED TO UCLA DIRECTORSHIP

Dale E. Treleven has been appointed director of the Oral History Program at the University of California-Los Angeles, according to James V. Mink, university archivist. A veteran oral historian, Treleven leaves the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, where he has been state oral historian since 1974.

Treleven holds the B.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and the M.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he has also completed all Ph.D. requirements except the dissertation. From 1965-1966, he was a teacher in Watertown, Wisconsin, and 1966-1971 he researched the economic and social history of the state for the writers of the *History of Wisconsin* series. He then became research director for the Department of Family Medicine and Practice (U. of Wisc.-Madison) and taught family physician residents about socioeconomic aspects of rural Wisconsin, among other duties.

Treleven's eight years at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin saw him develop a statewide oral history program. He coordinated the society's oral history activity related to agriculture, rural life, labor, politics, business, and ethnicity and conducted numerous interviews in these projects.

A frequent faculty member at OHA workshops, Treleven is known as the originator of the Timed Access to Pertinent Excerpts system (TAPE), a time- and costeffective method for processing oral history interviews. In 1978 he taught "Oral History and the Community Library" over the educational telephone network of the University of Wisconsin Extension. Since 1980 Treleven has been equipment review editor for the International Journal of Oral History.

Treleven succeeds Ronald J. Grele, who has moved to Columbia University after a year's work at UCLA.

EDITORIAL IDEAS REQUESTED FOR 1983 COLLOQUIUM

A colloquium session on oral history editing is being considered and input from editors around the country will be helpful to those planning the session. If you have ideas on the subject or have encountered special problems, please submit them to an informal pool of information being compiled at the University of Kentucky Oral History Program in preparation for the 1983 Colloquium. If you are willing to be identified in regard to the point you raise, please indicate on your submission. It is hoped that such a comprehensive approach will lead to a more pertinent and constructive session. Comments should be received by February 1, 1983. Send to: Editorial Network, U. of Kentucky OH Program, King Library N., Lexington, KY 40506.

PLAN AHEAD FOR OHA 18th NATIONAL WORKSHOP AND COLLOQUIUM SEPT. 28-OCT. 1, 1983 Edgewater Hotel—Seattle, Washington

OHMAR HONORS ROSS

The fall meeting of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR) was held November 6, in Arlington, Virginia. A highlight of the event was the presentation of the 1982 Forrest Pogue Award for outstanding, unique, and continuing contributions to oral history to Martha J. Ross (U. of Maryland). Ross helped found OHMAR in 1976 and remains active in all areas of its work. Since attending the Fifth National Colloquium of OHA in 1970 in California, she has been an enthusiastic worker and supporter and currently serves on the association's council.

During the business meeting, new officers were elected to serve OHMAR in the coming year. They are: Patricia Cooper (Smithsonian Institution), president; Mary Io Deering (U. of Geneva), vice president; William Nolte (Canadian History), treasurer: Susan Shaffer (Charles County C.C.), secretary; and Roy Rosdenzweig (George Mason U.), at-large board member.

The afternoon working session focused on Using Oral History in Community History-An Update, organized by Sara Collins (Arlington County Lib.) and Rosdenzweig. Participants were Elizabeth Clark-Lewis (N. Virginia C.C.); Pamela Cressey (Alexandria, Va.); Roxanna Dean and Marcia Greenlee (Martin Luther King Lib.); Betty Key (Maryland Historical Soc.); Sandra Kurtinitis (George Washington U.); Marian Mohr (Fairfax County Pub. Schools): Diane Malone (Arlington Performing Arts); and Carl Oblinger (Penn. Historical and Museum Comm.).

OHMAR's spring workshop will be held in March, 1983, date and place to be announced.

TEXAS 1986 PROJECT

The Texas Sesquicentennial Oral History Project (TSOHP), under the guidance of the Texas 1986 Sesquicentennial Commission, is in the planning stage. One of several special projects related to the observance of the 150th anniversary of the Texas Revolution, the oral history project is a voluntary organization of community, county, and association-based efforts. It will be funded at the local level.

The project will deposit completed oral memoirs in the twenty-two regional historical resource depositories, a network of libraries and archival institutions affiliated with the Texas State Library. TSOHP leaders are planning workshops, and a self-training kit will be available to local participating groups by January. A tollfree telephone number will also help persons identify available local consultants. Acting director of the project is Thomas L. Charlton (Baylor U.). Contact: Thad Sitton, Texas 1986 Sesquicentennial Commission, P.O. Box 1986, Austin, TX 78767. (512) 475-1986.



1982-83 officers: (standing, L-R) Ronald E. Marcello (North Texas State U.), executive secretary; Ronald J. Grele (Columbia U.), Council; Elizabeth B. Mason (Columbia U.), president; Cullom Davis (Sangamon State U.), vice president/president-elect; John Neuenschwander (Carthage C.), immediate past president; (seated, L-R) Council members Joel Gardner (La. State Archives), Madeline Buckendorf (Idaho OH Center), and Donald A. Ritchie (U.S. Senate Historical Office).

ARCHIVISTS INCLUDE OH IN ANNUAL MEETING

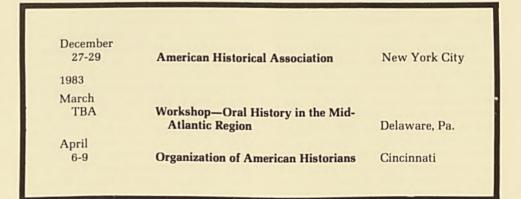
The annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) at Boston in October included several oral history activities. William W. Moss (JFK Library), former OHA president, directed a daylong oral history workshop held at the library. The emphasis of the workshop was archival treatment of interview tapes and transcripts as unique records.

The SAA also convened an oral history professional affinity group (PAG), the culmination of several years of planning by oral-history-minded archivists. Marjorie A. Fletcher (The American C.) chaired the PAG in which the workshop was discussed as well as program ideas for 1983.

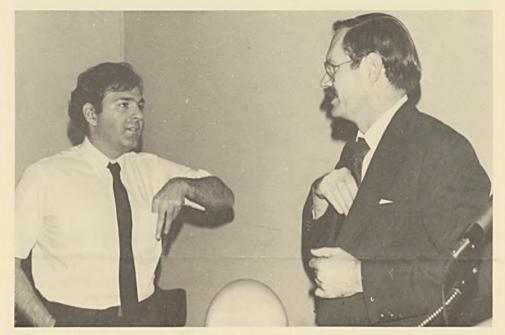
Oral History was the topic of a concur-

Perfect World and Its Alternative: Oral History and the Written Word, sought to present the archivist's perspective on oral history projects undertaken to complement manuscript and archival resources and materials stored in historical records repositories. Participants were Lucy Fisher West (Bryn Mawr C.) who spoke on "Supplementing the Written Record for Women's History-M. Carey Thomas to Katherine Hepburn," and James E. Fogerty (Minnesota Historical Soc.) whose paper was "Filling the Gap: Oral History in the Archives." Fletcher chaired the meeting and Charles T. Morrissey (Vermont Life Magazine) was commentator.

rent session during the SAA meeting. The



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 1982 NATIONAL WORKSH



Dinner speakers (left) Albert M. Santoli (New York City) and James R. Bennett (U. of Illinois-Chicago Circle), who participated fully in the meeting, converse after a session.



Sister Elizabeth O'Hanlon (Sinsinawa Dominican Archives) talks on the involvement of her religious order in the 1889 Spring Valley mine lockout.

REPORT FROM SAN ANTONIO

The Oral History Association's Seventeenth National Workshop and Colloquium took place in October at San Antonio's Menger Hotel. Workshop chairman Joel Gardner (La. State Archives) and Colloquium chairman John J. Fox (Salem State C.) prepared programs of wide interest for both novice and experienced oral historians. OHA 1981-82 President John Neuenschwander (Carthage C.) presided over all proceedings.

While the days offered a multitude of concurrent sessions, the evenings featured several thoughtful analyses of oral history and its uses. On Thursday night, Willa K. Baum (U. of Calif.-Berkeley), Thomas L. Charlton (Baylor U.), and Edward D. Ives (U. of Maine-Orono) discussed their respective manuals on oral history and their objectives in writing them. After Friday's dinner, James R. Bennett (U. of Illinois-Chicago Circle) spoke on "Human Values in Oral History." This erudite speech commented on the value of oral history for representing human values and resolving conflicts thereof. Mere data collection can be dehumanizing to its subjects; a longer representation of life such as an oral history is more than mere data collection. Preservation, according to Bennett, is important because the speaker's words produce an image of him; and oral history is as close a representation of an actual experience as an historian can make. Bennett also made the distinction between archival oral history and humanistic oral history, saying that the "objective" side of one may come into conflict with the other. He concluded by saying that oral history may contribute to a moral society.

Al Santoli addressed the association on Saturday night, with the topic "Oral History as a Living Experience." Drawing on his own experiences as both a Vietnam soldier and best-selling author, Santoli examined the relationship of the oral historian to his topic. He also discussed the technique behind his book, *Everything We Had* (Random House 1981), including the interviewing process, editing, and publication. In general terms, he described how the war affected the lives of all Americans and how he strove to attain a representative sample of interviewees for the book.

In the annual business meeting on Sunday morning, the following persons were elected to office for 1982-1983: Elizabeth B. Mason (Columbia U.), president; Cullom Davis (Sangamon State U.), vice president/president-elect; Madeline Buckendorf (Idaho State Hist. Soc.), and Donald A. Ritchie (U.S. Senate Hist. Office), threeyear Council terms; and Joel Gardner (La. State. Archives) to a one-year Council term. Elected for two years to the nominating committee were Benis M. Frank (U.S. Marine Corps), James W. Hammack (Murray State U.), and Kathryn Wrigley (Southern Ill. U.). They join holdover committee members F. Gerald Handfield (Indiana State Hist. Soc.), chairman; Richard Sweterlitsch (U. of Vermont); and Margot Knight (Washington Commission for the Humanities).



Margot H. Knight (Washington Humanities Council), next year's Colloquium chairperson, gathers pointers from 1982 chairperson, John J. Fox (Salem State C.).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 1982 NATIONAL WORKSHOP AND COLLOQUIUM, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



Dinner speakers (left) Albert M. Santoli (New York City) and James R. Bennett (U. of Illinois-Chicago Circle), who participated fully in the meeting, converse after a session.



Sister Elizabeth O'Hanlon (Sinsinawa Dominican Archives) talks on the involvement of her religious order in the 1889 Spring Valley mine lockout.

REPORT FROM SAN ANTONIO

The Oral History Association's Seventeenth National Workshop and Colloquium took place in October at San Antonio's Menger Hotel. Workshop chairman Joel Gardner (La. State Archives) and Colloquium chairman John J. Fox (Salem State C.) prepared programs of wide interest for both novice and experienced oral historians. OHA 1981-82 President John Neuenschwander (Carthage C.) presided over all proceedings.

While the days offered a multitude of concurrent sessions, the evenings featured several thoughtful analyses of oral history and its uses. On Thursday night, Willa K. Baum (U. of Calif.-Berkeley), Thomas L. Charlton (Baylor U.), and Edward D. Ives (U. of Maine-Orono) discussed their respective manuals on oral history and their objectives in writing them. After Friday's dinner, James R. Bennett (U. of Illinois-Chicago Circle) spoke on "Human Values in Oral History." This erudite speech commented on the value of oral history for representing human values and resolving conflicts thereof. Mere data collection can be dehumanizing to its subjects; a longer representation of life such as an oral history is more than mere data collection. Preservation, according to Bennett, is important because the speaker's words produce an image of him; and oral history is as close a representation of an actual experience as an historian can make. Bennett

also made the distinction between archival oral history and humanistic oral history, saying that the "objective" side of one may come into conflict with the other. He concluded by saying that oral history may contribute to a moral society.

Al Santoli addressed the association on Saturday night, with the topic "Oral History as a Living Experience." Drawing on his own experiences as both a Vietnam soldier and best-selling author, Santoli examined the relationship of the oral historian to his topic. He also discussed the technique behind his book, Everything We Had (Random House 1981), including the interviewing process, editing, and publication. In general terms, he described how the war affected the lives of all Americans and how he strove to attain a representative sample of interviewees for the book.

In the annual business meeting on Sunday morning, the following persons were elected to office for 1982-1983: Elizabeth B. Mason (Columbia U.), president; Cullom Davis (Sangamon State U.), vice president/president-elect; Madeline Buckendorf (Idaho State Hist. Soc.), and Donald A. Ritchie (U.S. Senate Hist, Office), threeyear Council terms; and Joel Gardner (La. State. Archives) to a one-year Council term. Elected for two years to the nominating committee were Benis M. Frank (U.S. Marine Corps), James W. Hammack (Murray State U.), and Kathryn Wrigley (Southern Ill. U.). They join holdover committee members F. Gerald Handfield (Indiana State Hist. Soc.), chairman; Richard Sweterlitsch (U. of Vermont); and Margot Knight (Washington Commission for the Humanities).



Margot H. Knight (Washington Humanities Council), next year's Colloquium chairperson, gathers pointers from 1982 chairperson, John J. Fox (Salem State C.).

In a lengthy session, members also heard reports and amended the OHA constitution. Executive Secretary Ronald E. Marcello (N. Texas State U.) reported on association finances and membership. As of September 30, 1982, the OHA had a total of \$21,402.80 in its various accounts. Membership on this date was as follows: institutional-113, individual-739, library-350, student-102, and life-4, for a total of 1,308 members, eight fewer than last year. Marcello reported that the San Antonio meeting attracted 113 persons to the Workshop and 188 persons to the Colloquium. Work of the Executive Council reported by President Neuenschwander was as follows:

- 1. To develop criteria for OHA future site selection a committee will soon be created to identify a minimum of three alternative sites for 1985 and later years. The OHA will meet in Seattle in 1983 and Lexington, Kentucky, in 1984.
- 2. The association's membership in the National Humanities Alliance, a lobbying organization in Washington, D.C., has been renewed.
- 3. The MCA directory of oral history programs compiled in cooperation with the association is complete. OHA members are eligible for the discount price of \$48. (See box for ordering information.)
- 4. A membership committee (See separate story) will now work in seven regions of the U.S. When persons drop their association memberships they will be requested to complete exit questionnaires.
- 5. An anthology of readings on oral history edited by Willa K. Baum (U. of Calif.-Berkeley) and David Dunnaway (U. of New Mexico) is nearing completion and will be marketed by fall 1983. This is a joint venture of the OHA and the AASLH.
- 6. The association's grant proposal to the NEH for a summer humanities institute is on track. If successful, the institute will be held during the summer of 1983 at the University of Vermont.

Several unusual events marked the business meeting. New Council member Buckendorf was nominated from the floor during the election process. A constitutional

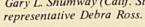
Copyright 1982 Oral History Association, Incorporated



(L-R) Peter Sehlinger (Indiana U.), Eugenia Meyer (Instituto Nacional De Antropologia E Historia-Mexico City), and Aspacia Carmago (Fundacao Gertulio Vargas) conducted a panel on oral history in Latin America.

amendment to introduce a mail ballot election procedure passed after extended discussion, tabling of the motion, removal of the motion from the table, and an informal period while OHAers were in the committee of the whole (See spring 1982 OHAN for text of amendment). Donald Ritchie





(U.S. Senate Historical Office) advocated passage of the amendment, while past-OHA President Alice Hoffman (Pennsylvania State U.) led the opposition and suggested absentee balloting as an alternative election system for the association.

Gary L. Shumway (Calif. State U.-Fullerton) discusses a word processor with manufacturer's

OP AND COLLOQUIUM, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

In a lengthy session, members also heard reports and amended the OHA constitution. Executive Secretary Ronald E. Marcello (N. Texas State U.) reported on association finances and membership. As of September 30, 1982, the OHA had a total of \$21,402.80 in its various accounts. Membership on this date was as follows: institutional-113, individual-739, library-350, student-102, and life-4, for a total of 1,308 members, eight fewer than last year. Marcello reported that the San Antonio meeting attracted 113 persons to the Workshop and 188 persons to the Colloquium. Work of the Executive Council reported by President Neuenschwander was as follows:

- To develop criteria for OHA future site selection a committee will soon be created to identify a minimum of three alternative sites for 1985 and later years. The OHA will meet in Seattle in 1983 and Lexington, Kentucky, in 1984.
- 2. The association's membership in the National Humanities Alliance, a lobbying organization in Washington, D.C., has been renewed.
- 3. The MCA directory of oral history programs compiled in cooperation with the association is complete. OHA members are eligible for the discount price of \$48. (See box for ordering information.)
- 4. A membership committee (See separate story) will now work in seven regions of the U.S. When persons drop their association memberships they will be requested to complete exit questionnaires.
- 5. An anthology of readings on oral history edited by Willa K. Baum (U. of Calif.-Berkeley) and David Dunnaway (U. of New Mexico) is nearing completion and will be marketed by fall 1983. This is a joint venture of the OHA and the AASLH.
- 6. The association's grant proposal to the NEH for a summer humanities institute is on track. If successful, the institute will be held during the summer of 1983 at the University of Vermont.

Several unusual events marked the business meeting. New Council member Buckendorf was nominated from the floor during the election process. A constitutional

Copyright 1982 Oral History Association, Incorporated



(L-R) Peter Sehlinger (Indiana U.), Eugenia Meyer (Instituto Nacional De Antropologia E Historia-Mexico City), and Aspacia Carmago (Fundacao Gertulio Vargas) conducted a panel on oral history in Latin America.

amendment to introduce a mail ballot election procedure passed after extended discussion, tabling of the motion, removal of the motion from the table, and an informal period while OHAers were in the committee of the whole (See spring 1982 *OHAN* for text of amendment). Donald Ritchie (U.S. Senate Historical Office) advocated passage of the amendment, while past-OHA President Alice Hoffman (Pennsylvania State U.) led the opposition and suggested absentee balloting as an alternative election system for the association.



Gary L. Shumway (Calif. State U.-Fullerton) discusses a word processor with manufacturer's representative Debra Ross.



Former California Governor Edmund G. Brown (center) receives his oral history memoir from James D. Hart at the annual meeting of the Friends of the Bancroft Library, University of California-Berkeley. Looking on is author, Jessamyn West.

CALIF. GOV. PAT BROWN COMPLETES MEMOIR

The oral memoir of former California Governor Edmund "Pat" Brown, entitled *Years of Growth, 1939-1966*, has been completed at the Regional Oral History Office (ROHO), University of California-Berkeley. Brown's oral history is a part of a series of interviews with eighty-one persons who played a significant role in California government in the years 1953-1966. The thirty-five-plus hours of conversation with Brown cover state politics in the heyday of the Democratic party and provide a sense of the strong and conflicting views a governor must weigh before making decisions for which he alone is responsible. The project was made possible by grants from the California legislature, National Endowment for the Humanities, the Rockefeller Foundation, and private donors. Interviewers were Malca Chall, Amelia Fry, Gabrielle Morris, and James Rowland. Bound, indexed copies of *Years of Growth* are available at cost (\$63) for deposit in noncirculating libraries. Brown's memoirs and others in the series are available to researchers in the reading room of The Bancroft Library, UCLA Department of Special Collections, and The State Archives. Information: ROHO, 486 Bancroft Library, U. of Calif., Berkeley, CA 94720.

ORAL HISTORY RESTRICTIONS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Reprinted from OHMAR Newsletter (Vol. 6, No. 3)

The Society for History in the Federal Government recently addressed the issue of protecting restrictions on federal oral histories. At the society's annual meeting on April 14, 1982, members adopted a resolution urging further study of a proposed additional exemption to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permitting federal historical offices to accept and enforce donor restrictions on oral history tapes and transcripts. James Currie, historian of the Education Department, proposed the exemption as a means of safeguarding oral history restrictions against FOIA challenges.

The question was submitted to a special subcommittee of the Committee on Federal Historical Programs. Chaired by Donald A. Ritchie (U.S. Senate Historical Office), the subcommittee included Roger Anders, Richard A. Baker (U.S. Senate Historical Office), Philip L. Cantelon (C&W Associates), James Currie, Benis M. Frank (Marine Corps OH Prog.), Pamela M. Henson (Smithsonian Institution), Anna Nelson, William Nolte (Canadian History), and Trudy Peterson.

The subcommittee agreed that a definite problem exists. There is no guarantee that a federal agency can protect oral history donor restrictions against challenges under the FOIA. Agency legal counsels have offered a wide range of opinions on the likely success of such a challenge, but there has never been a court case to test these views. In several agencies, this uncer-

GRANTS

ASSOCIATION FOR THE HUMANITIES IN IDAHO:

Post Falls Public Library, \$971 for Post Falls history project. Idaho State Historical Society, \$4,242.07 for two, two-day conferences interpreting local culture and history.

ferences interpreting local culture and history. Nez Perce County Historical Society, \$4,571.95 for Early Setthement Along the Lower Clearwater (1880 Depression).

KENTUCKY FOLKLIFE FOUNDATION:

Kentucky Oral History Commission, \$1,000 for a two-month project on health care in rural Kentucky.

KENTUCKY ORAL HISTORY COMMISSION:

University of Kentucky, \$1,000 for project on Kentucky artist, Henry Faulkner. Portland Museum, \$500 for an oral history study of the Louisville [Ky.] neighborhood of Portland.

Continued on page 7

tain situation has prevented senior officials from participating openly and candidly in interviews.

After deliberation, the subcommittee decided that while the Currie Resolution offered a direct approach to the problem, it also raised several others. Members questioned whether an additional FOIA exemption was a realistic goal, and whether it would be contradictory to historians' longstanding efforts to limit FOIA exemptions. Since the Federal Records Act permits the National Archives (NARS) to accept oral histories as gifts to the presidential libraries, and thereby protects donor restrictions, it was suggested that a similar statute could be drafted to permit NARS to accept oral histories conducted by or through federal historical offices as gifts from the interviewees, subject to their restrictions. This would be in accord with exemption 3 of the FOIA, which protects from disclosure data specifically exempted by a statute. Such a statute would have the advantage of establishing the legal basis for oral history restrictions, ensuring the ultimate preservation of oral histories by NARS, and not raising the symbolically and substantively difficult issue of adding a new FOIA exemption.

On June 9, the subcommittee adopted the following recommendations, which were adopted unanimously by the society's executive committee:

1) While we support the ultimate goals of the Currie Resolution, we do not endorse the proposal to add oral history as a specific exemption to the Freedom of Information Act. Instead we urge the society to work to amend the Federal Records Act to permit the federal government to accept oral histories as gifts, similar to statutory provisions for the presidential libraries.

2) The executive committee should also consult with representatives of the National Archives to urge NARS to work with the federal agencies to adopt a uniform policy toward accessioning oral histories, drafting deeds of gift, establishing donor restrictions, and preserving tapes and transcripts.

Copies of the report and proposed legislation may be obtained from Donald A. Ritchie, U.S. Senate Historical Office, Washington, DC 20510.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES: Susan J. Draves, Scotia, N.Y., \$10,000 for history of the Grange

- in rural Northeast communities. Juan M. Otero, Brooklyn, \$1,591 for the history of Brooklyn's
- Automotive High School, Helena M. Dobay, Houston, \$2,091 to study the development of
- the Hungarian community in Houston. Mason Public Schools, IK, \$9,000 to develop a course in Creek
- history, as well as a series of interviews with Creek people. Margaret E. Willson, Bellingham, Wash., \$2,498 for the history
- of Chinese people in Whatcom County. Natl. Extension Homemakers Council. Rushville, Ind., \$153,125 to develop educational materials on the rural and small-
- town homemaker. Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, Chicago, \$36,000 to present a national program of activities for youth focusing on Lithuanian-American culture.

BOOK NOTICES

- Knight, Margot H. Directory of Oral History in Washington State, Pullman: Washington St. U., 1981, 76 pp. Indexes. Appendixes. \$1.
- Cantarow, Ellen: O'Malley, Susan Gushee; and Strom, Sharon Hartman. Moving the Mountain: Women Working for Social Change, N.Y.; Feminist Pr., 1980, 166 pp.

Contains or al memoirs of social activists Florence Luscomb [labor, suffrage, and peace movements]; Ella Baker (civil rights); and [lessie Lopez De La Cruz [farmworker and grass-roots organizer].

- Ford, Daniel. The Cult of the Atom: The Secret Papers of the Atomic Energy Commission. N.Y.: Simon & Schuster, 1982. \$14,50.
- Hanson, Dirk. The New Alchemists: Silicon Valley and the Microelectronics Revolution. Boston: Little, Brown, 1982. \$15.95.
- Hosokawa, Bill. JACL in Quest of Justice. N.Y.: Morrow, 1982. 354 pp. Index. S15.
- Japanese American Citizens League during World War II. Maxwell, Margaret F. A Passion for Freedom: The Life of Sharlot Hall. Foreword by Bruce Babbitt. Tucson: U. of Arizona Pr., 1982. \$17.50.
- Hall (1870-1943) was an oral historian in territorial Arizona. Reed, Wilma Kirkham, and Howell, Elmin Kimbol, Jr. With These Hands. Dallas: Baptist General Convention of Texas, 1982, 116 pp. Photos. Bibliog. Index. Notes. S6.00, \$8.00.
- 1982. 116 pp. Photos. Bibliog. Index. Notes. \$6.00, \$8.00. Rozier, John. Black Boxs: Political Revolution in a Georgia County, Athens: U. of Georgia Pr., 1982, 220 pp. Bibliog. Index. \$15.95.
- Smith, Curt. Long Time Gone: The Years of Turmoil Remembered N.Y. Icarus, Harner & Row 1982, \$15.95
- bered, N.Y.; Icarus-Harper & Row, 1982, \$15.95.
 Turner, Frederick. Remembering Song: Encounters with the New Orleans Jazz Tradition. N.Y.; Viking, 1982, 126 pp. \$12.95.
- Unger, Jonathan. Education under Mao: Class and Competition in Canton Schools, 1960-1980. N.Y.: Columbia U. Pr., 1982, 330 pp. Bibliog. S24.
- Avni, Haim. Spain, the Jews and Franco. Translated by Emanuel Shimoni. N.Y.: Jewish Pub. Society of America, 1982. 280 pp. Photos. Bibliog. Index. S19.95.Dornberg, John. Munich 1923: The First Full Story of Hitler's
- Dornberg, John. Munich 1923: The First Full Story of Hiller's Early Grab for Power. N.Y.: Harper & Row, 1982, 400 pp. Photos. Bibliog. Index, S16.95.Courlander, Harold, and Sako, Ousmane. The Heart of the
- Courlander, Harold, and Sako, Ousmane. The Heart of the Ngoni: Heroes of the African Kingdom of Segu. N.Y. Crown, 1982. 192 nn Biblion, S11.95.
- 1982. 192 pp. Bibliog. \$11.95. Kalb. Madeleine G. The Congo Cables: The Cold War in Africa from Eisenhower to Kennedy. N.Y.: Macmillan Pub., 1982. \$19.95.
- Rosenstiel, Leonie. Nadia Boulanger: A Life in Music. N.Y.: Norton, 1982, 449 pp. Illus. Index. \$24.95.

... also in print

Cox, Diane. "Spoken Words Trace Path of History." New York Times, 4 July 1982, Connecticut Weekly section, pp. 1, 5, University of Connecticut's Center for Oral History and their Connecticut Workers and Changing Technology, 1930-80, NEH-funded project.

... other publications

- Indochina Refugees. Martha Stuart Communications, 1981. Color. 58:48 min. 34" videocassette. Buy: \$250. Rent: \$35/day. Preview.
- Night Voices, Day Voices: 35 Years after the Final Solution. Everyman's Film (Dist. by Alden Films), 1978, 1981. Color. 16 mm. Buy: Inquire. Rent: \$10. Memorial Kibbutz and Museum in Israel.

- Rahm, Barbara LaPan. "I've Got a Soft Spot for Some Old Horse ... Bob Severe, Master Saddle Maker." Slide-tape show. Color. 18 min. Free. Folk Arts Program, Idaho Commission on the Arts: 304 West State SL: Boise, ID 83702.
- "Timbers and Dovetails: The Log Cabin Tradition in Idaho." Slide-tape show. Color. 10 min. Free. Folk Arts Program, Idaho Commission on the Arts; 304 West State St.: Boise. ID 83702.
- We Were German Jews. Blackwood Prod., 1981. Color. 58 min. Buy: \$690. Rent: \$90. Preview.
- Holocaust autobiography of Herbert and Lotte Strauss.

NEWS

The 1982-83 officers of the New England Association of Oral History are: Bruce M. Stave (U. of Connecticut), president; and John F. Sutherland (Manchester [Conn.] Community C.), vice president/presidentelect. Henry G. Stenberg and John J. Fox (both Salem State C.) continue their respective positions as secretary-treasurer and editor of the *Newsletter*.

The fall meeting of the Michigan Oral History Council, 23 October near Wixom, was titled Videotaping Oral History. Brad Jolly, author of *Videotaping Local History* (1982), demonstrated the use of modern recording equipment in capturing a contemporary record. John Provancher (Western Michigan U.-Kalamazoo), Robert Humitz (Catholic Archdiocese-Detroit), and Booth Media Associates-Grosse Pointe gave reports and demonstrations of their oral history projects. The program was funded by the state council for the humanities. Contact Geneva K. Wiskemann, 5580 W. State Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

The University of Texas-Austin will observe its centennial in 1983 with a special oral history project. Interviews are planned with 200 persons on such topics as administration, academic research and teaching, library and museum development, development of academic departments and colleges, athletics, student life, and the minority experience. The staff of the Barker Texas History Center (BTHC) and other university personnel will conduct the interviews under the coordination of Don E. Carleton. Contact: BTHC, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712.

In August, the Watumull Foundation of Honolulu deposited eighty memoirs of native-born and longtime Hawaii residents with the state archives, the University of Hawaii, and the Cooke Library at Punahou School. The project began in 1971 when David Watumull sought to preserve the stories of people whose families were involved in the progress and development of Hawaii. Katherine Allen directed the project and also served as editor and frequent interviewer.

Bert Ruesterer (Indiana U.-Purdue U.-Indianapolis) has begun two extensive oral history projects. The first series is with Hugo E. Heurich, a German native who immigrated to Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1902, and fought for the Spanish Republic in the Spanish Civil War.

The second project deals with a retired German couple, Lotte and Hermann Termeer of Hattingen, Ruhr, who recalled their experiences as citizens of Nazi Germany. The Heurich interviews are in English while the Termeers' are in German. Both families contributed personal materials—photos, maps, military records, and family documents. All tapes and the supplementary materials have been deposited at the Indiana State Library.

American Mosaic: The Immigrant Experience in the Words of Those Who Lived It, (1980, E. P. Dutton) by Joan Morrison and Charlotte F. Zabusky has been adapted for the stage by the Mark Taper Forum. Last March and April, the Forum presented American Mosaic as one of its four productions in the New Theatre For Now Festival at the Aquarius Theater in Hollywood where it played for three weeks and won critical acclaim. Write: Zabusky, 5871 Aylesboro Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

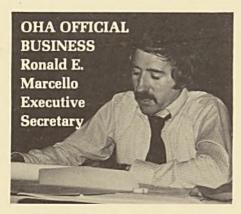
A panel discussion at the Twenty-second Annual Conference of the Western History Association held at Phoenix October 20-23, focused on four state-level oral history projects on older Western women, using a life-cycle interview format. Panelists were Mary A. Rothschild (Arizona State U.), Katherine Jensen (U. of Wyoming), Joan Jensen (New Mexico State U.), and Susan Armitage (Washington State U.) Chair was Jessie L. Embry (Brigham Young U.).

The correct title of the Bonnie Thompson-Jim Likowski documentary film recalling how jobless Oregonians mined for gold in back yards and beneath houses and streets during the 1930s is *Undermining the Great Depression*.

The Baylor University Institute for Oral History (formerly the Program for Oral History) is expanding its areas of responsibility. In addition to ongoing research projects, the institute will develop an oral history clearing house for Texas and explore the formation of a statewide oral history association. New ties with the university's graduate program in gerontology also exist, along with expanded word processing use and a graduate assistantship. Thomas L. Charlton directs the institute; Rebecca S. Jiménez is assistant director.

Eliot Wigginton (Foxfire Fund, Inc.) gave the Frank Nelson Doubleday Lecture at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution on 29 September. Wigginton's presentation was on "Foxfire: A Quiet Revolution in a Rural Public School."

Continued on page 8



Although the balance sheet for the 1982 Workshop-Colloquium is incomplete at this writing, it appears that OHA is going to take a loss this year. The principal reason for finishing in the red is because we overestimated the number of people whom we thought would be attending the luncheon and dinner sessions. I shall assume responsibility for this error. Given the attractiveness of San Antonio and the widespread oral history activity in Texas, we thought there would be a larger turnout for on-site registration and meals. Unfortunately, this did not happen, and since the hotel required meal estimates seventy-two hours in advance, we took a financial bath.

The reduced fee structure for registration also contributed to the negative balance sheet. Although nonmember participants on the Colloquium program were required to pay a registration fee this time, the revenue generated was not enough to offset the estimated \$2,000 lost by reducing the overall fee structure.

At Council's midwinter meeting in February, 1983, I plan to make the following recommendations in planning for future Colloquiums: first, raising the registration fees to their previous levels so that we stand a chance for a reasonable profit; second, basing meal estimates on the preregistration count only, or giving the hotel an estimate based on preregistration plus ten percent on a first-come, first-served basis; third, maintaining the registration fee for nonmember participants; fourth, getting OHA out of the equipment-rental business for program participants having such needs. Arranging for equipment is time-consuming and expensive. I am suggesting that the local arrangements chair locate and procure equipment but that the participant be responsible for all rental costs.

The quarterly OHA Newsletter is sent to members of the Oral History Association and to institutions holding subscriptions: individual \$15, student \$7.50, library \$12, institutional \$30, life \$250. Members also receive the annual Oral History Review. Send membership, change of address, and subscription inquiries to: Ronald E. Marcello, Executive Secretary; P.O. Box 13734, N.T. Station, Denton, TX 76203. [817] 387-1021, 788-2252. Address editorial matters to: Thomas L. Charlton, Editor, Baylor University, C.S.B. Box 228, Waco, TX 76798. [817] 755-3437. Associates: L. Katherine Cook, Adelaide S. Darling, Rebecca S. Jiménez, Margaret L. S. Miller, Deadlines: Jan. 1, Apr. 1, July 1, Oct. 1, Articles should be limited to 400 words and may be edited. I am also going to ask Council to consider doing away with some of the banquets, especially when the meeting occurs in an urban setting. I suspect that many conferees in San Antonio preferred to sample the local cuisine, and probably the same thing will occur in Seattle. Obviously, the cost of hotel banquet meals is high, and we can understand why some would wish to eat elsewhere, but OHA has no control over these prices.

Hopefully, Council will adopt some or all these recommendations and thus ensure that future colloquiums will operate in the black. I also wish to solicit suggestions from the membership concerning ways to cut costs for OHA at the annual meetings.

NEWS

Continued from page 7

Reminiscences: A Glimpse of Old East Dallas, 1872-1960 is the result of a volunteer project begun in the early 1970s as the Lakewood Oral History Project at the Dallas Public Library. The book, to be released in the spring of 1983, contains interview excerpts and photos. Contact: Gerald D. Saxon, Dallas Public Library, 1954 Commerce St., Dallas, TX 75201.

The Student Center for Innovation in Research and Education (SCIRE) at Stanford University is interviewing local members of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, as well as involving students in a variety of other oral history projects. Contact: Becky Fischbach, 590A Old Union, Stanford, CA 94305.

Joel Gardner (Louisiana State Archives) coordinated a one-day oral history seminar as a part of the second annual Louisiana State Archives workshop held in Baton Rouge October 1-2. Richard Swift Productions, an independent film company, has released *The Light in the Valley*, a thirty-minute videotaped oral history of the Honeycomb United African Methodist Episcopal Church in Lima, Pennsylvania. The church dates from the days of the underground railroad. Contact Richard Glassman, Richard Swift Productions, 15 E. State St., Media, PA 19063.

Vida S. Grayson serves as consultant and oral historian for the new Social Work Archive of The Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College. In addition to personal and professional papers, the archive collects interviews of leaders in social work education and practice who have no previous biographical documentation.

Former OHA president, Enid H. Douglass (Claremont Graduate School) is the new mayor of Claremont, California.

A breakfast for oral historians will occur April 8, 1983, during the Organization of American Historians annual meeting in Cincinnati. Cullom Davis (Sangamon State U.) will speak on "New Directions in Oral History" and Ronald J. Grele (Columbia U.) will preside.

TEXANS FORM OH ORGANIZATION

On October 10, 1982, forty-five Texans attending the annual OHA meeting in San Antonio voted to form an association of oral historians for their state. Thomas L. Charlton (Baylor U.) was elected chairman and requested to draft a constitution and seek a nonprofit corporate charter for the organization. Contact: Charlton, CSB Box 228, Baylor U., Waco, TX 76798.

Oral History Association Newsletter Baylor University, Box 228 Waco, Texas 76798

Address Correction Requested

