



# ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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## CHICAGO RECORDING ITS PAST

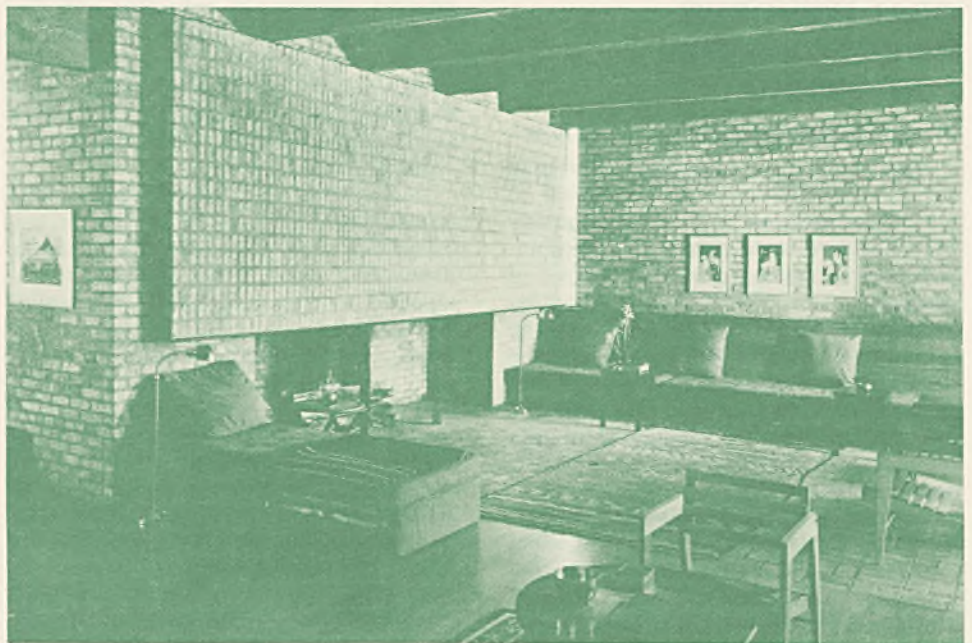
### UPTOWN... The Art Institute

The Art Institute of Chicago's Department of Architecture has begun research and planning of an oral history project entitled 100 Chicago Architects, 1920-1970. Although much has been written about Chicago architecture, the period from 1920 until 1970 has received relatively little attention, and oral history has never been applied as a gathering technique for Chicago's recent architectural history.

The project is the brainchild of the department. A recent feasibility study, funded by the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, revealed a large group of significant architects excited about participating in the project. The Illinois Humanities Council then funded a 1983 pilot study in which Project Coordinator Betty J. Blum, an institute researcher, interviewed architect Paul Schweikher. Schweikher designed many famous Chicago-area structures between 1930 and 1950, including the Third Unitarian Church of Chicago and Usonia Cooperative House. According to Blum, he "brought his own brand of modernism to Chicago's suburbs in the late thirties and early forties." Excerpts from the transcribed twelve-hour interview appeared in *Inland Architect* (November/December 1984) in conjunction with "Architecture in Context: Paul Schweikher and William F. Deknatel," an exhibition of Schweikher's architectural drawings held in Chicago at the Graham Foundation 10 October through 7 November 1984. Interview excerpts also served as labels of drawings and the exhibit catalog.

The Schweikher interviews will serve as a model for memoirs of 99 other architects influential in the Chicago area. The first series planned is with a group labeled the "disciples" of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, designer of notable steel-and-glass buildings and the Seagram Building in

*Continued on page 6*



*Schweiker Home and Studio, "South Willow," 1938; 645 South Meacham Road. Roselle (now Schaumburg), Illinois. Photo by Hedrich-Blessing. "I like a naked fire. I like the feel of it . . . the sound of it . . . the smell of it . . . it belongs partly to the indoors but also the outdoors. It has country quality about it, an at-home quality." [Paul Schweiker, 1984. Excerpt from oral history interview.]*

### DOWNTOWN... Jane Addams's Hull House

Mary Ann Johnson, administrator of Jane Addams's Hull House, has begun an oral history project to interview people related to the center from its founding in 1889 until Addams's death in 1935. The settlement house was created by Addams and Ellen Gates Starr to aid the urban poor, particularly the neighborhood's immigrants. Built for Chicago real estate developer Charles Hull in 1856, the residence served more than 9,000 people a week.

Addams did more than just cater to the basic needs of the tenement dwellers around the neighborhood. She wanted the settlement house to contribute to the im-

provement of living and working conditions for laborers, immigrants, blacks, women, and children. Hull House programs included a kindergarten, a theater group, English classes, a labor museum, a boys' club, and the Jane club, which was a cooperative living venture for young working women.

Hull House organizers led investigations that prompted the first factory laws in Illinois, established the first tenement code, and led to creation of a juvenile court.

The interviews will study Hull House's effects on its residents—some of the first social workers and Near West neighbors,

*Continued on page 2*





Charles Babbage was one of the first theorists in the field of computing and information processing.

## ORAL HISTORIES OF INFORMATION PROCESSING

by William Aspray and Bruce Bruemmer

We live in what is commonly referred to as the "Information Age," a period in which information and the technology used in its accumulation and dissemination play increasingly important roles in modern society. The field of information processing has grown with breath-taking rapidity since World War II, based on the development of the digital computer and electronic communications. Because the Information Age has developed in less than a single life span, we have a unique opportunity to document its social, economic, and technical aspects through first-person accounts. But time is growing short to document the Information Age in this way. Many information pioneers are still active and able to recount their contributions; but a significant number are elderly, and many have died. The opportunities, and the challenges, are great for the oral historian of information processing.

Oral histories are already beginning to prove their value in the history of information processing. Perhaps because archivists and historians have only recently begun to collect other sources for historical study, interviews have been effectively used in the recent writings on the subject, both popular and scholarly. Katherine Davis Fishman's new journalistic account of the computer industry (*The Computer Establishment*, 1981), Pamela McCorduck's semipopular account of artificial intelligence (*Machines Who Think*, 1979), Emerson Pugh's technical history of magnetic core memory development (*Memoires That Shaped an Industry*, 1984), and Franklin M. Fisher, James W. McKie, and Richard B. Mancke's economic history of the U.S. data processing industry (*IBM and the U.S. Data Processing Industry*, 1984) all rely heavily on oral testimony.

Four repositories in the United States

hold major information processing oral history collections: The Computer Museum, MIT Archives, the Smithsonian Institution (National Museum of American History), and the Charles Babbage Institute (CBI). The largest oral history collection is that held by the Smithsonian. In the late 1960s and early 1970s Henry Tropp (Humboldt State U., then visiting at the Smithsonian) and Dr. Uta Merzbach (NMAH, Smithsonian) conducted some 230 interviews in cooperation with the American Federation of Information Processing Societies. These interviews concentrate primarily on the technical history of computer development in the period 1935-1960. Approximately 40 percent of these interviews are open for use at the NMAH.

The Computer Museum in Boston supports a series of interpretive lectures on the evolution of computing, with many by distinguished pioneers, in addition to their primary objective of collecting and displaying computer artifacts. By videotaping this lecture series the museum has amassed about 100 taped lectures. These videotapes are available for individual or small group viewing by prior arrangement with the museum staff.

During 1982 and 1983 Ithiel de Solla Pool and Richard Solomon of MIT, in collaboration with the Computer Museum, produced a small series of group videotaped interviews on the history of computing. The aim of this program was to reassemble computer design teams in order that the members might discuss their cooperative work. These tapes are available for viewing at the MIT Archives and the Computer Museum.

The Charles Babbage Institute, a research institute in the history of information processing at the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis, currently has the most active ongoing oral history project. CBI holds 74 interviews and is accumulating more at a rate better than ten a year. The current holdings can be broken into four categories. The largest category (35 interviews) is with senior technical and managerial personnel in the computer industry. These interviews focus on the entry in the 1950s and 1960s of the larger hardware manufacturers and on the founding of software firms in the 1960s. Examples of those interviewed are Walter F. Bauer (Informatics General), James W. Birkenstock (IBM), Richard Bloch (Raytheon, GE, Honeywell), J. Presper Eckert (Sperry), Robert Mumma (NCR), and Douglas T. Ross (SoftTech).

The second category (19 interviews) relates to the earliest and strongest academic centers of information processing, universities which built pioneering computers during or shortly after World War II, or which were early leaders in computer education and research. Examples of those interviewed are Robert V. D. Campbell (Harvard), Edward Feigenbaum (Stanford), Irven Travis (Pennsylvania), and Frank Verzuh (MIT).

The third category (5 interviews) relates to government organizations and government-sponsored organizations, including military installations, national laboratories, research institutes, and federal government bureaus like Standards and Census. Examples of those interviewed are Frances Holberton (David Taylor Model Basin), Ethel C. Marden (National Bureau of Standards), and Willis Ware (Rand).

The fourth category (15 interviews) focuses on computing in the major centers outside the United States, especially in Britain and Central Europe. Examples of those interviewed are Donald Davies (Britain), Antonin Svoboda (Czechoslovakia), and Konrad Zuse (Germany).

CBI transcribes all of its interviews and provides access to the tapes as well as the edited transcripts. The institute also holds tapes and transcripts of interviews conducted by other organizations and individuals. Notable among these are several sets of interviews with major computer figures conducted for the Science Museum of London, and a set of interviews on the history of the programming language FORTRAN. CBI also serves as an information clearing house for the information processing field, keeping track of oral histories and other archival materials on deposit in the United States and helping researchers identify and locate potential interview subjects.

For information: The Charles Babbage Institute, 104 Walter Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455. (612) 376-9336. [William Aspray and Bruce Bruemmer are associate director and archivist, respectively, at The Charles Babbage Institute.]

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## Hull House

Continued from page 1

who comprise 19 ethnic groups. "We are looking for neighborhood people, people who learned a skill at Hull House and became involved in some larger movement or somebody who worked here and whose career was influenced by so many exciting ideas going on at once," said Johnson. Among the more celebrated Hull House alumni who will record their reminiscences are band leader and clarinetist Benny Goodman, jazz pianist Art Hodes, and musicians' union activist James Petrillo.

The oral interviews are part of Johnson's yearlong project, Planning an Interpretive Exhibit on the History and Influence of Jane Addams's Social Settlement, Hull House, which is funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant. The tapes will provide background for exhibit text and be integrated into an exhibit planned for Hull House's 1989 centennial.



## RITCHIE HONORED WITH POGUE AWARD

Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR) met in Washington, D.C., at Gallaudet College on 17 November. The morning session featured the presentation of the Forrest Pogue Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Oral History to Donald A. Ritchie, Associate Historian at the United States Historical Office. Ritchie, a cofounder of OHMAR and editor of its newsletter, is a member of the OHA Council and chair of the national association's publications committee.

The afternoon session, UNESCO: Oral History and Oral Reputation, featured United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization staff members Thomas Forstenzer and Joseph Mehan. They discussed "UNESCO's Oral History Program Around the World" and "UNESCO: Journalistic Folklore and Operational Reality," respectively.

OHMAR's spring meeting will be 30 March 1985, at Rutgers University. The meeting will discuss and critique a wide variety of community history projects.

## HOUSTON ELDERLY RECEIVE ATTENTION

Sheltering Arms is a Houston United Way agency in existence since 1893 whose mission is to serve elderly citizens living in their own homes. Under volunteer coordinator Linda Prager Held, the agency has begun an oral history project with its clients who have lived in Houston for at least forty years. According to Held, interviewing the elderly was a "natural" activity for the agency. Thirty-five interviewees were discovered through the agency newsletter and the agency's calling and visiting services which keep check on the elderly. Held has trained thirty-five volunteer interviewers, interested individuals and recruits from Houston corporations. Each interviewer is responsible for one interview session. Eight typists have also volunteered transcribing time.

The agency views the interviews as therapy for clients, using the life review method to promote self-esteem and provide a greater sense of life completion for participants. Executive director Woodrow D. McHarg views the involvement of the humanities and the social services as innovative.

Interviewees and interviewers will receive transcripts, while the tapes will join the Harris County Heritage Society's permanent collection. The project began as an early part of the Texas 1986 Sesquicentennial celebration. Sheltering Arms is the first social service agency in the Houston area to so designate a project. Held plans to edit the transcripts and publish them by topic. For more information write: Held, Sheltering Arms, 5419 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004 (713) 524-2032.

## MASON RETIRES AT COLUMBIA AFTER 25 YEARS IN ORAL HISTORY

Elizabeth Branch Mason, associate director of the Columbia University Oral History Research Office and past president of OHA, retired on 1 October 1984. She joined the Columbia office in September 1959, became associate director in 1968, and was acting director from July 1980 to June 1982, following the death of Louis M. Starr.

With Starr, Mason edited four editions of *The Oral History Collection of Columbia University*, catalogs of the collection. From 1973 to 1982, she was a lecturer in the university school and library service.

A cofounder of OHA, Mason has served the association in many capacities. She was an elected member of Council, 1978 to 1981; vice president/president-elect, 1981-1982; president, 1982-1983; and immediate past president on the Council, 1983-1984. Mason was elected in 1984 to a two-year

seat on the association's nominating committee.

Betty Mason and her husband, John T. Mason, Jr., former director of the U.S. Naval Institute's oral history program, have retired to their Sharon, Connecticut, home. "The rise of the [Columbia] Oral History Research Office to its preeminent position in the world of oral history has much to do with the talents and dedication of Elizabeth Mason," said Ronald J. Grele, Columbia director. "Her drive, energy and understanding, as well as her willingness to extend herself to the Columbia community and to those starting out in the field, have been unmatched."

Mason plans to stay in touch with oral history by serving as a consultant to some of the many programs she has helped over the years.

1984 December 27-30	American Historical Association	New York
1985 March 29-31	International Oral History Conference	Barcelona
30	Oral History in the Middle Atlantic Region	New Brunswick, N.J.
April TBA TBA	Oral History and Museums Society of Architectural Historians	London
17-20	Organization of American Historians	Pittsburgh
24-28	Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group	Minneapolis Tongue, Sutherland, Scotland
26-27	Southwest Oral History Assn. and Natl. Council for Public History	Phoenix
May 4-5	Scottish Oral History Group and Ulster Society for Oral History	Glasgow
4 or 11	Scottish Records Association	Aberdeenshire
September 10-13	American Association for State and Local History	Topeka
October 26	Community History and Oral History	Liverpool
31-Nov. 3	Oral History Association	Pensacola



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Martha J. Ross

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The recent OHA Annual Meeting in Lexington—one of the most successful and enjoyable in the history of the association—reaffirmed to me the unique appeal and strength of OHA in the multiple diversities of its members: diversity of discipline, of institutional affiliation, of geography, even of professional level. Out of many backgrounds, places, and situations we come together, to talk to each other, to listen and, of course, to learn.

Those of you attending your first OHA meeting at Lexington must have been struck by the variety of disciplines you found represented there, in contrast to most professional meetings whose participants represent a single discipline or even a specialty within a discipline. The essentials of responsible oral history practice—thorough preparations, empathetic interviewing, appropriate processing, proper archival/ethical/legal handling—are effectively applied in research activities as diverse as anthropology and history of science, as journalism and genealogy. OHA, in its *Evaluation Guidelines*, sets standards applicable to any discipline.

This mosaic of disciplines is reflected in the splendid new collection of readings, *Oral History: An Interdisciplinary Anthology*, edited by David Dunaway and Willa Baum, and published by the American Association for State and Local History in

cooperation with OHA. (See enclosed discount offer to OHA members.) Historians, librarians, anthropologists, educators, journalists, archivists, folklorists, and ethnographers have contributed ideas and experiences to give a mult textured overview of the theory, practice, and application of oral history in its first twenty years.

OHA members also come from many different types of institutions. From great universities to community colleges, from presidential libraries to local historical societies, from prize-winning authors to individuals documenting their own families, from multinational corporations to local entrepreneurs—all can look to OHA for information and inspiration.

OHA encourages the highest levels of professionalism among oral history practitioners, regardless of institutional affiliation or level of funding. While the family historian interviewing his elders may not be able to afford a Nagra tape recorder, OHA encourages him to use the best equipment he can afford in order to make the best quality tape recording possible. The *Evaluation Guidelines* sets forth principles of project management, training and supervision of interviewers, handling of materials, and record keeping that can be applied to the all-volunteer local project as well as to fully funded projects with salaried staffs.

OHA has always attracted a membership of geographical diversity and attempts to serve those widely separated regions by moving its annual meetings to various parts of the country. Far-flung OHA members have also banded together in a number of ways to bring oral history activity into their own areas. In some places this has resulted in regional organi-

zations: NEAOH, OHMAR, SOHA, and NWOHA. Some states (Indiana, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Kentucky, Idaho, Montana) support state-funded oral history offices while others (Texas, Ohio, Michigan) have organized statewide voluntary associations. OHA's newly founded Special Committee on Regional and State OH Organizations will refine and update OHA's relationship with these groups and seek ways in which the interests of all are enhanced.

OHA's response to these diverse constituencies with their various interests and needs has been an attempt to serve them in the most effective ways possible with the resources available. While its service in the past has been limited by financial considerations, with income based largely on members' dues, OHA is beginning to explore additional sources of income that, if successful, will enable it to expand those services to the entire oral history community. Immediate plans involve the expansion of OHA's publication effort to include a series of technical pamphlets, a special issue of *Oral History Review* in 1986 commemorating OHA's twentieth anniversary, and the acceptance of advertising in OHA publications. You have already received the expanded *OHA Annual Report and Directory*, an even more useful volume with the addition of Council and meeting minutes, regional and state organizations, and OHA's constitution and bylaws.

Your association, its officers and Council continue to examine and explore ways to make OHA more effective in serving your needs. In expanding these services, OHA's mission will be advanced and its influence extended.

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## 1984 OHA MEETING INNOVATIVE, SUCCESSFUL

The OHA's Annual Meeting, held in Lexington, Kentucky, on 20-23 September 1984, more than met the expectations of its planners. From the standpoints of attendance, program speakers, exhibits, entertainment, and financial outcome, this year's association conference ranks among the best in the OHA's eighteen-year history. The program and local arrangements committees were chaired by Terry Birdwhistell and Anne Campbell (both of U. of Kentucky), respectively.

The conference was attended by 309 participants. Departing from its tradition of offering separate workshop and colloquium programs each year, the OHA's 1984 program featured workshop sessions intermingled throughout the meeting with panels, round-table discussions, plenary sessions, major addresses, and other sessions. A record-setting 112 speakers were on the program. Direct financial assistance was provided by Brown-Forman Distillers Corporation, Eastern Kentucky Universi-

ty, the Kentucky Oral History Commission, Murray State University, Northern Kentucky University, the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, and Western Kentucky University.

John Egerton, author of the Pulitzer-nominated book *Generations: An American Family*, was the meeting's first principal speaker. A Nashville, Tennessee, freelance writer, Egerton credited Carl Becker with "throwing open the windows of history for me," and the speaker spoke movingly of those in his life who gave him a deeper appreciation of history by helping Egerton practice the "comely art of listening." He spoke of the value of "life as it is remembered by the elderly"—those who, like his grandfather, taught about "connections—geographical and human."

Joan Hoff-Wilson (Indiana U.), executive secretary of the Organization of American Historians, gave a luncheon address on her research experience in interviewing former President Richard M. Nixon and

others in his administration. Hoff-Wilson cautioned oral historians to be aware of the element of self-interest in interviews; she was "not convinced that time heals all wounds." Hoff-Wilson allowed no restrictions on the interview material she obtained from contemporary political figures, and commented that her focus was on decision making. The interviews she conducted were not primary documents, in the conventional sense of the term, she asserted, but efforts to obtain anecdotal material. Hoff-Wilson is at work on a study of the Nixon years, which she characterized as the best-documented administration in American history.

William Greider, national editor for *Rolling Stone*, was the conference's other major speaker. A former editor at the *Washington Post*, Greider complimented oral historians and spoke of the essentiality of their work. He also related his experience of researching the *Atlantic* article which became *The Education of David Stockman*





*OHA Officers for 1984-85, seated, left to right: Madeline Buckendorf (Idaho State Hist. Soc.), Thomas L. Charlton (Baylor U.), Donald A. Ritchie (U.S. Senate Hist. Office). Council; Cullom Davis (Sangamon State U.), Past President. Standing, left to right: Vice President/President-Elect Samuel B. Hand (U. of Vermont); John J. Fox, Jr. (Salem State C.), Council; President Martha J. Ross (U. of Maryland); and Executive Secretary Ronald E. Marcello (N. Texas St. U.).*

## 1984 ELECTION RESULTS

James W. Hammack (Murray State U.), chair of the Nominating Committee for 1983-84, announced at the association's Annual Meeting in Lexington, Kentucky, the following results of the OHA's 1984 mail-ballot election:

Vice President/President-Elect—Samuel B. Hand (U. of Vermont).

Council (1984-87)—John J. Fox, Jr. (Salem State College).

Nominating Committee (1984-86)—Edward D. Ives (U. of Maine-Orono); Elizabeth B. Mason (Columbia U.); Laurie Mercier (Montana Hist. Soc.).

Continuing on the Nominating Committee are Anne G. Campbell (U. of Ky.), 1984-85 chair; Dale E. Treleven (UCLA); and John A. Neuenschwander (Carthage C.). Suggestions for Council nominations may be sent to the committee in care of Campbell, University of Kentucky Library, Department of Special Collections, Lexington, KY 40506. Suggestions for nominees for the Nominating Committee should be sent to the Council, by way of the OHA executive secretary.

in book form.

The 1984 meeting's numerous highlights included extensive publishers' and manufacturers' exhibits assembled by Susan E. Allen (U. of Ky.).

At the business meeting, former OHA President John A. Neuenschwander (Carthage C.) gave a report from the association's "Roast Committee." Neuenschwander proceeded to zing Ronald E. "No-Doz" Marcello, the executive secretary of OHA since 1974, and to present the association's skinflint with both sporting and sartorial gifts secretly planned by many of Marcello's admirers and colleagues.

The 1985 Annual Meeting will be held in Pensacola, Florida, on 28 October-1 November, at the Pensacola Hilton. Plans are already under way for the 1986 meeting, which will take place aboard the *Queen Mary* in Long Beach, California, on 23-26 October.

## SPECIAL PANEL ON TEACHING AT WORK IN 1984-85

The Special Committee on Teaching, a one-year appointed body, is exploring the area of oral history instruction and will report to the Council.

Chaired by Barry A. Lanman (Baltimore County Schools), the committee includes Frank Fonsino (Oakton Community C.), Richard Williams (Plum Borough [Pa.] H.S.), George Mehaffy (Eastern New Mex. U.), and Bette Weidman (Queens C., CUNY). Thomas L. Charlton (Baylor U.) is serving as the Council liaison for the year. Suggestions are invited in time for compilation of a report to the OHA officers, who will meet again in early March 1985. Contact: Lanman, 1306 Hickory Springs Cr., Baltimore, MD 21228.

## OHA BUSINESS

Ronald E. Marcello  
Executive Secretary

During its recent sessions held in Lexington, Council made an important change in the bylaws that will affect every member. This change should be carefully noted.

*The deadline for the payment of annual dues has been moved forward to March 1.* Previously, the bylaws had established 30 April as the deadline, with the first and second dues notices sent on 1 January and 1 February, respectively, and then a final notice sent on 1 March. Under the new bylaw, only two dues notices will be issued to each member, the initial one around 1 January and a final notice on 1 February.

Council decided to make this change for several reasons. In the first place, the executive secretary (skinflint that he is) pointed out that OHA could save some money on postage, but, more important, three hundred plus persons who never intended to renew anyway would have received one and possibly two *Newsletters* gratis before their names had been culled from the rolls. Another important consideration was that the dropping of members and the subsequent reshuffling of the computerized membership list on or after 30 April occasionally led to delays in sending the mailing labels to the *Newsletter* editor in time for the spring issue. Such delays meant that some items were out of date by the time members received this *Newsletter*. Finally, the new deadline will facilitate the work of the Membership Committee. Under the old deadline, the committee often ended up trying to contact nonrenewing members during the summer, which was not a good time so far as academics were concerned.

For these reasons, therefore, Council decided to make the change. Please do keep the March 1 deadline in mind when you receive the initial dues notice.

## CALL FOR 1988 SITE PROPOSALS

OHA will hold its Annual Meeting in 1988 in the region including New England and the Middle Atlantic states. Proposals for the 1988 site, which will be selected in 1985, should be sent to John J. Fox, Jr., Department of History, Salem State College, Salem, MA 01970.



## WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES HELD

**In Our Keeping, a Parable Conference for Dominican Life and Mission** for historians, archivists, librarians, secretaries general, and directors of communications for religious orders and dioceses was held October 29-November 2, at Sinsinawa, Wisconsin.

**The Judicial Archives/Legal History Symposium** at Emory Law School, Atlanta, held 12-13 October, featured several sessions on oral history. In a multimedia presentation, Jack Bass (U. of South Carolina), in cooperation with the Emory Law School, presented an oral history: "A Modern Appellate Memoir: Elbert P. Tuttle." Six discussants shared a panel on expanding the archival base, which included oral history. Deborah J. Barrow and Thomas G. Walker (both of Emory U.) presented "The Use of Oral History to Study the Forces Behind the Creation of the Eleventh Circuit."

**Susan H. Armitage (Washington State U.) and Sanford Rikoon (U. of Missouri-Columbia)** spoke on "Interpreting and Utilizing Oral Interviews" during the

Diversity of Local History conference in Boise, Idaho, in September. The sponsor was the Working Together Project of the Idaho State Historical Society, with partial funding by the Association for the Humanities in Idaho.

**The Canadian Oral History Association** met 11-12 October 1984 in Winnipeg. The program featured sessions on labor history, women's studies, business history, Francophone communities, native studies, and material culture studies. COHA encourages the creation and preservation of sound recordings which document the history and culture of Canada.

**The University of Missouri School of Library and Informational Science and Park College** cosponsored a workshop for archivists in Kansas City October 31. Faculty included Harold Smith, library director at the college and resources director for the International Graduate School; Aurora Davis, instructor in library and informational science at the university; and Marjorie Sellers Patterson, oral historian.

## OHIO PROJECTS DOCUMENT RURAL HISTORY

Oral history projects in northeastern Ohio are now filling geographical gaps in the historical record. The cities of Akron and Cleveland have fairly well-documented histories, but the largely rural Cuyahoga Valley between them and to the south of Akron has been virtually ignored. Two independent projects have arisen in response to this need.

One project specializes in the Ohio-Erie Canal and features interviews with two dozen people who grew up on the canal. Included is an interview with 88-year-old Catherine Shafer, whose grandmother is believed to have been the only woman canalboat pilot on the Ohio-Erie. Tapes are going to Kent State University and to the Canal Fulton Heritage Society, the project's sponsor. Contact: Ann McLaughlin, CFHS, P.O. Box 584, Canal Fulton, OH

44614 (216) 854-3808.

Another project grew out of interviews begun by National Park Service intern Susan Garland, who sought out the memories of former Civilian Conservation Corps workers who had helped build the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. After her internship, Garland was asked to stay on and develop a project on the larger valley, and more than 60 persons have been interviewed. Many interview tapes have been transcribed, and they have already contributed to the park service's work, according to interpretive specialist Rory Robinson, who has used the interviews in programming for the park's historic structures. Contact: Robinson, Cuyahoga Valley Recreation Area, 15610 Vaughn Rd., Brecksville, OH 44141 (216) 535-0859.

## IMMIGRANT WOMEN FEATURED IN RADIO SERIES

"The Golden Cradle: Immigrant Women in America" is a ten-part public radio series employing drama, music, narrative, and interview excerpts to tell the story of almost twenty million immigrant women. Interviewees include Chicago neighborhood organizer Florence Scala; Congresswoman Barbara Mikulski, a third-generation American of Polish ancestry; Jesse Lopez de la Cruz, the first woman field organizer for the United Farm Workers; and author Paule Marshall, who explains

the Marcus Garvey Movement and its importance to West Indian immigrants of her mother's generation. Coproducers were Louise O. Cleveland and Deborah George for Soundscape Incorporated, an independent nonprofit organization, in cooperation with National Public Radio. The series was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information, write: Cleveland or George, 902 Neal Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308 (703) 780-9151.

## TEXAS QUILTERS TO DO ORAL HISTORY PATCHWORK

The recently formed Texas Heritage Quilt Society (THQS) is studying the twenty-six known quilters guilds in Texas through oral history. The society, dedicated to documentation and preservation of quilting as a traditional women's art form, will use the approaching Texas Sesquicentennial as its focus and extend its study beyond 1986, the 150th anniversary of independence from Mexico and formation of the Republic of Texas.

According to Kay Hudec of the Kingwood Area Quilt Guild and THQS, she and her colleagues are "creating a record of quilts and quiltmakers in Texas before the quilts are rags and the stories have passed from memory. This is a legacy we can leave to future quilters—our daughters and granddaughters (and sons and grandsons)." The society's first steps are to sponsor "quilt days" in various regions of the state in association with the guilds and search for undocumented quilts across Texas. The first quilt day was 6 October 1984 at Jasper in East Texas, with another one, "Celebration of Quilts—Texas Then & Now," planned for 19-20 April 1985.

Many of the ideas emerging in the THQS oral history project and related activity are based on the Kentucky Quilt Project, the work of the Kentucky Heritage Quilt Society and its oral history activity directed by Camilla Collins (Western Kentucky U.). Contact: THQS, Box 5342, Kingwood, TX 77325.

## Art Institute

*Continued from page 1*

New York City and the National Gallery in Berlin. The oral history series will augment a special 1986 exhibit at the Illinois Institute of Technology in honor of Mies's centennial. For the entire series, audiotapes will be augmented by video highlights of architectural work of the period. As a direct result of the pilot study, architectural drawings such as Schweikher's have been donated to the institute's permanent collection, thus increasing with visual documentation researchers' understanding of an architect's reminiscences and his/her contribution to the Chicago architectural scene. Other architectural centers around the U.S. have expressed interest in using the Chicago project as a model for their respective areas. The materials will be available in tape and transcript form; the project will be indexed and, when possible, presented in thematic groupings.

The institute continues to seek Chicago architects who practiced in the designated period. For more information, contact Betty Blum, Project Coordinator, Department of Architecture, Art Institute of Chicago, Michigan at Adams streets, Chicago, IL 60603 (312) 443-3631.



# BOOK NOTICES

- Allinson, Sidney. *The Banians: The Untold Story of World War One*. New York: Mosaic Pr., 1982. 287 pp. \$19.95, \$12.95. Value of 50,000 diminutive British Guardsmen in France.
- Borenstein, Audrey. *Chimes of Change and Hours: Views of Older Women in Twentieth-Century America*. Rutherford, N.J.: Fairleigh Dickinson U. Pr., 1983. 518 pp. Bibliog. Index. \$49.50.
- Currey, Cecil B. *Follow Me and Die: The Destruction of An American Division in World War II*. Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.: Stein & Day, 1984. 336 pp. Photos. Maps. Bibliog. Index. \$17.95.
- Earle, Michael. *36 Children Revisited*. New York: Anchor/Doubleday, 1984. 280 pp. \$16.95. Twenty-one oral histories of East Harlem elementary-school classmates of author.
- Faulkner, Audrey Olsen, Marsel A. Heisel, Wendell Holbrook, and Shirley Geismar. *When I Was Comin' Up: An Oral History of Aged Blacks*. Hamden, Conn.: Shoe String Pr., 1982. 221 pp. Bibliog. \$19.50. Migration of Southern blacks to Northern cities, principally Newark, New Jersey.
- Fielder, Anita J. *Memory Sharing: Group Programs for the Older Adult*. Buffalo, N.Y.: Potentials Development for Health and Aging Services, Inc. 1981. 82 pp. Illus. \$5.95.
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## 1986 CALL FOR PAPERS

The National Council on Public History will meet jointly with the Organization of American Historians in New York City, 9-12 April 1986. The NCPH program committee invites oral historians to propose sessions, panels, papers, and workshops. Contact: NCPH Co-Chair Deborah S. Gardner, The Institute for Research in History, 4432 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. Deadline is 1 March 1985.



## NEW ENGLAND GROUP ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At its annual meeting in Worcester, Massachusetts, 28 April, the New England Association of Oral History elected 1984-85 officers. Samuel B. Hand (U. of Vermont) moved from vice president/president-elect to the presidency and was succeeded in his former position by Wayne Anderson (Northeastern U.). For the executive committee, Charles Weiner (MIT) was elected to serve through 1986 in William Moss's unexpired term; Linda Wood (South Kingston [Rhode Island] High School) will serve a three-year term. The immediate past president, John F. Sutherland (Manchester Community C.), also joined the committee, whose holdover members are E. John B. Allen (Plymouth State C.), James Findlay (U. of Rhode Island), Martin Butler (Southeastern Massachusetts U.), and Edward D. Ives (U. of Maine-Orono).

## PIONEERS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBJECT OF VIDEO PROJECT

Researchers on the Pioneers of Science and Technology Videotape Project plan to videotape one hundred individuals who have made revolutionary advances in science and technology. Interviewees are being selected from a list of Nobel Prize winners, members of the Inventors' Hall of Fame, Fermi Award winners, Presidential Medal of Science recipients, and suggestions from distinguished panels of scientists.

Each person will give one to two hours of "career autobiography" as a narration; the role of the volunteer interviewer will be minimal. The tapes are donated by the designated depositories: the University of California, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of Maryland. Project director is Clarence Edward Larson, former director of the Oak Ridge Institute for Nuclear Studies. For more information, write: Larson, 6514 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817 (301) 365-0686.

## STATE/REGIONAL SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED FOR ONE YEAR

A Special Committee on State and Regional Relations will study the OHA Policy Statement on State and Regional Oral History Organizations and recommend revisions at the association's 1985 meeting. President Martha Ross and the Council recently reiterated the need for the association to have excellent relations with state and regional groups.

Serving on the special committee are John J. Fox, Jr. (Salem State C.), chair; Stanley Garfinkel (Kent State U.); Margot Knight (Washington Council on the Humanities); and Kim Lady (Ky. OH Comm.). OHA members are invited to submit suggestions to the committee.

## NEWS

**Bruce M. Stave**, professor of history and director of The Center for Oral History at The University of Connecticut, has been appointed Fulbright Professor of American History at Beijing University for the 1984-85 academic year. If circumstances permit, he plans to work on an oral history project and to offer seminars and lectures about oral history.

**The Ethnic Studies Oral History Project** at the University of Hawaii at Manoa has relocated on the university campus after having its office for several years in the Manoa Elementary School. ESOHP was established in 1976 and is supported by Hawaii's state legislature. Two finding aids, *Catalog of the ESOHP Collection 1976-84* and *Master Index to the ESOHP Interviews 1976-83*, have recently been published.

**Jack L. August, Jr.**, assumed the duties of Head of Field Collection and Oral History at Arizona State University last April. He is a doctoral candidate at the University of New Mexico.

**The Regional Oral History Office (ROHO)** has completed a series of interviews with 28 California women political leaders. The interviews span the years 1920 to 1970 and represent a variety of views in the political spectrum. ROHO also recently deposited interview series with Wilson C. Riles, the first black person elected to a statewide office in California, and Gobind Behari Lal, Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian journalist. For more information, write ROHO, the Bancroft Library, the University of California, Berkeley 94720.

On 31 May **Elders Share the Arts (ESTA)** presented a festival of plays from three different Bronx senior centers. The Hodson Senior Center gave *Ready for Love*, while the Bronx Young Men's Hebrew Association performed *Excerpts from Our Lives* and the Bronxdale Senior Center, *The Days of the Nickel*. The groups performed the three life-history plays for an audience of high school students, seniors, and nursing home residents at the Hodson center.

During the early summer the Shorefront Living History Group performed *Blackout on the Boardwalk* at six different locations in New York. The play remembers 1942 when the city was prepared for German invasion.

A series of thirteen workshops in living history theater, creative movement, and oral history began throughout senior communities in early October. ESTA will also run a 30-week model workshop program in living history theater in conjunction with the New York City Department for the Aging.

**C. Elizabeth Nowicke**, Archivist of Navy Laboratories, is preparing a guide to all oral histories on the subject of Naval Research and Development. The first edition will have information and abstracts of over 300 interviews at 21 institutions.

**Chris Howard Bailey** is completing a dissertation at City University of New York on "Oral History Theatre and the Senior Adult." She would like to hear from anyone using dramatizations of life histories of senior adults. Write: 12 Pond Rd., Canton, CT 06019.

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, 565-3385 or 2549. Address editorial matters to: Thomas L. Charlton, Editor, Baylor University, CSB Box 401, Waco, TX 76798. (817) 755-3437. Associates: Adelaide S. Darling, Harriet H. Fadal, Rebecca S. Jimenez, David Stricklin. Deadlines: Jan. 1, Apr. 1, July 1, Oct. 1. Articles should be limited to 400 words and may be edited. Copyright 1984 Oral History Association, Incorporated.

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