



ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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ANNE CAMPBELL NAMED NEW OHA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Oral History Association Executive Council at its fall meeting named Anne G. Campbell as executive secretary of the Association. She replaces Ronald E. Marcello (North Texas State U.), who is stepping down after ten years. The University of Kentucky (UK) has been selected to host the office of executive secretary.

Campbell has been curator of UK's Appalachian Collection since 1977. She holds the B.A. in political science from Loyola University (New Orleans) and master's degrees in library science and history from UK.

Campbell came to UK from the library at the Keeneland Racetrack in Lexington. Her charge to develop the new Appalachian Collection included collecting all forms of information, including oral history.

Active in regional studies groups, Campbell has served as secretary, news-

letter editor, and program chair for the Appalachian Studies Conference. She was on the committee for librarians and archivists for Reflections of the Past: Archival Resources in Kentucky, an NEH-funded study. She has been on several conference programs and the program committee of the Kentucky Oral History Commission. In spring 1986 Campbell will teach her first course at UK, an introduction to Appalachian studies.

Those who attended the 1984 meeting of the OHA in Lexington will remember Campbell's capable work as local arrangements chair and member of the program committee. She recently completed a two-year term on the OHA Nominating Committee, serving as chair in 1985. In addition to being a professional archivist, librarian, and oral historian, Anne Campbell is also the mother of Jennifer, 15, and Andrea, 11. Welcome aboard, Anne!

Alice Hoffman and Ronald
Marcello Honored

OHMAR FALL MEETING EXPLORES ANTHROPOLOGY—OH SYMBIOSIS

Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR) added a new dimension to the field at its November 1985 meeting in Washington, D.C. Two anthropologists and an anthropologist-oral historian team comprised a panel, "How Anthropologists and Oral Historians Look and Listen." The anthropologists were Michael Agar (U. of Maryland), author of *Professional Stranger*; Michael Kenny (Catholic U.), author of *Spanish Tapestry*; and Jasper Ingersoll (Catholic U.), who with his oral-historian wife, Fern, is working on a book to be entitled *The Drama of Development: Struggle for Well-Being in Village Thailand*. Moderator was Fred Steilow (U. of Maryland), whose research combines ethnography and oral history.

Two special presentations were made at the OHMAR business meeting. Alice Hoffman (Penn. St. U.) received the Forrest C. Pogue Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Oral History. Hoffman is professor of labor studies and director of Pennsylvania State University's oral history program. She is past president of and still active in the OHA. Ronald E. Marcello (North Texas St. U.), the retiring executive secretary of the OHA, was given a certificate of merit for his years of service to the national association.

New OHMAR officers for 1986 are: Barry Lanman (Baltimore County Schools), president; David Seaman (Davis & Elkins C.), vice president; Carol Dreyfus (Smithsonian Inst.), secretary; John Schuchman (Gallaudet C.), treasurer; and Perry Blatz (N.J. Hist. Comm.), board member at large. OHMAR will meet again March 22, 1986, at Morgan State College, Baltimore. For information: OHMAR, P.O. Box 266, College Park, MD 20740.

INTERVIEWEE DISCLOSES CANADIAN SCANDALS IN UNRESTRICTED INTERVIEW

A misunderstanding on the part of an interviewee has led to public revelations about corruption, electronic bugging, and sex in the Canadian Parliament. Lloyd Francis, former speaker of the Canadian House of Commons, revealed lurid details of scandals in an oral history tape which he believed would be restricted to the government archives. His interview was part of a project containing 200 interviews with former government figures; the Francis tape was deposited in the Library of Parliament archives with no indication of time restriction.

The controversial tape was broadcast in July 1985 over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). Francis, now Canadian ambassador to Portugal, recently was outraged upon learning of the tape's being made public on CBC; he has hired lawyers and may bring suit. After the controversy, the Library of Parliament announced that it would allow no further access to the Francis tape for

at least 15 years. Francis, in a telephone interview, commented, "The moral of the story is that you can't do tapes."

PROJECT CELEBRATES 150 YEARS OF TEXAS HISTORY

San Antonio area middle-school children are conducting oral history interviews with older Texans to explore their childhood experiences from the early 20th century. Passing the Torch: A History of Childhood in Texas is a project sponsored by Learning About Learning, a nonprofit educational foundation begun in 1970. During the summer of 1985 the children attended workshops on research techniques, interviewing skills, and creative writing. An edited version of selected interviews is slated for publication by Texas Monthly Press. Write: Susan Monday, LAL, 411 E. Mulberry, San Antonio, TX 78212.

HOLOCAUST'S CHILDREN USING RADIO TO REMEMBER AND SHARE EXPERIENCES

The Holocaust Media Project of San Francisco originated in 1981 to gather oral history interviews of Bay Area survivors of the World War II-era tragedy. In addition to its basic research, the project has produced a four-part radio series and is planning to publish its findings.

In 1981, Lani Silver, an independent radio producer and women's studies instructor at San Francisco State University, attended the World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, in Jerusalem, and asked the question "why?" in a series of interviews. In 1983, Silver and Ruth Linden, a sociologist, gathered more than 200 additional interviews during the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors. After repeated magazine rejections for articles submitted, the project leaders turned to radio and the result was the Holocaust Media Project, a distributor of radio documentary programs via National Public Radio satellite.

Available to all NPR stations, the "Children of the Holocaust" series first aired in April 1984. Station managers, like the magazine editors, were at first reluctant to carry the documentaries, assuming that a 40-year-old story could not hold an audience. But the series grew in both support and acceptance, particularly on the West Coast.

The radio project has avoided romanticizing the Holocaust. It has been effective in demonstrating that Jews did not go to the gas chambers in Europe like sheep to the slaughter. There was resistance, both cultural and spiritual, and day-to-day survival. The voices of the survivors, many of whom were very young during the war, revive a story often told at great distance. Their accounts are offered as they have

been heard by their families—for the purpose of remembering and learning from past suffering.

The project has received assistance from San Francisco's Holocaust Library and fifty volunteers. Plans are under way, according to Silver, to make interview transcripts available to both academic and media communities. A forthcoming book will also share the project's rich collection. Silver and Linden are releasing in 1985 another series of six radio programs which focus on Jewish resistance to the Holocaust.

Contact: Holocaust Media Project, 601 Fourteenth Ave., San Francisco, CA 94118 (415) 751-6040.

COUNTRY MUSIC HISTORIAN ADDS TO ARCHIVES

Every alert oral historian should be a field representative for the world's archives and libraries, and Country Music Foundation (CMF) staffer John Rumble has proved exceptionally adept. While interviewing former Grand Ole Opry star Whitey Ford (also known as the Duke of Paducah), Rumble learned that the Duke had an extensive collection of memorabilia documenting not only his career but also those of many of his contemporaries. Many of the scrapbooks and hundreds of photographs and radio scripts have been donated to or microfilmed by the CMF. Rumble also helped the Duke catalog his personal library of American humor which has now become a part of the library at Emory University.

BAYLOR SYMPOSIUM SHOWCASES PRESENTATIONS, FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

On 7-8 October 1985 over 200 persons gathered in Waco, Texas, to hear thoughtful and cogent comments on oral history at The Past Meets the Present: A Symposium on Oral History. The symposium was part of the celebration of the Baylor University Institute for Oral History's fifteenth anniversary.

The speakers and their topics included William W. Moss (Smithsonian Inst.), "Oral History: What Is It and Where Did It Come From?" and "Oral History: Where Is It Going?"; Barbara Allen (U. of Notre Dame), "Oral History: The Folk Connection" and "Talking About the American Past: Oral History and American Studies"; Eliot Wigginton and Christopher Crawford (Foxfire Fund, Inc.), "Reaching Across the Generations: The Foxfire Experience" and "Foxfire, 'Cultural Jour-

nalism,' and the Educational Mainstream"; and Vivian Perlis (Yale U.), "Oral History as Biography." Cullom Davis (Sangamon St. U.) gave the after-dinner address, "Success and Excess: Oral History at High Tide." Other program leaders included Michael Gillette (LBJ Library), Thad Sitton (Texas 1986 Sesquicentennial Comm.), Jane Healey (Baylor U.), Charles T. Morrissey (Montpelier, Vt.), and Ronald E. Marcello (North Texas St. U.). OHA president Martha J. Ross (U. of Maryland) brought greetings from the Association.

Audio and videotapes of the symposium will be available to the public, and the proceedings will be published. Contact: David Stricklin, Institute for Oral History, CSB Box 401, Baylor University, Waco, TX 76798 (817) 755-3437.

GRANTS

Association for the Humanities in Idaho
Southeast Idaho Community Action Agency and Idaho State University Alumni Association. \$1,900 for "Hard Times in Idaho."

Iowa Humanities Board
American Association of University Women, Vinton, Iowa, \$3,836 for "Her Own Story, Oral Histories of Benton County Women: Phase Two," to transcribe a previous project.

Junior League of Tucson (Ariz.)
Arizona Historical Society, \$4,000 to produce 39 one-minute radio programs "Remembering Arizona," from the society's oral history collection exploring major themes in the history of southern Arizona.

Michigan Council for the Humanities
Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association (GLLKA), \$1,000 for "Living at a Lighthouse: Oral Histories from the Great Lakes."

National Endowment for the Humanities
Clark University, \$10,000 to conduct a conference for historians and anthropologists to assess research in family history.
Columbia University, \$71,545 to computerize the catalog for the oral history archives and for the creation of a computerized biographical index.
State Historical Society of Wisconsin, \$84,134 for an oral history of the United Packing House Workers of America.
Suquamish Tribal Cultural Center (Wash.), \$41,701 to publish a catalog expanding interpretation of "The Eyes of Chief Seattle" exhibition.
Susan Monday, \$28,224 to plan a project for middle-school students centering on childhood recollections of older Texans.
University of Vermont, \$166,559 to conduct a two-year series of public programs that explore and interpret eight historical periods of the Lake Champlain Basin.

MEDICAL CENTER DOCUMENTED

The two-decade history of the multi-dimensional Oklahoma Health Center, located in Oklahoma City, is a 30-month oral history study recently conducted by Robert C. Hardy. The project emphasizes the effects of politics and finances on health care, medical education, and research.

Hardy, executive of the Oklahoma Health Sciences Foundation, Inc., interviewed 161 persons related to the development of the health center. Nationwide interviewees included a U.S. senator, two governors, a half dozen legislators, four university professors, dozens of other academic administrators, and many health-care providers.

The center originated during the depths of the health-care shortage in the mid-1960s. Hardy's research traces the geometric growth of the medical center, which was the dream of James L. Dennis, a pediatrician who became dean of the University of Oklahoma's medical school in 1964.

A book, tentatively titled "Hero," is planned by Hardy on the subject. Hardy is also the author of *Sick: How People Feel about Being Sick and What They Think of Those Who Care for Them* (1978), a study of 60 medical patients' personal accounts of their illnesses and their encounters with the medical system. According to Hardy, a former hospital and health-agency administrator, "medicine is too important to be left to doctors."

BLIND GAIN ACCESS TO OH TAPES THROUGH LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress's National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) is interested in making oral history tapes available to clients through its distribution facilities. Michael Gillette (LBJ Library) is acting as coordinator for the effort, which is the first nationwide exposure of oral history to an audience which relies on audio programming.

Oral historians are invited to select a few of their best interviews, both from an audio and content standpoint, and submit them to NLS. Each interview should be preceded by an annotation of approximately 50 words introducing the subject and the interviewee. NLS will dub the interviews onto the required format, advertise their existence, and make them available on a nationwide basis. Contact: Gillette, LBJ Library, 2313 Red River St., Austin, TX 78705 (512) 482-5137.

HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS REACHING TEEN-AGERS THROUGH ORAL HISTORY

A 1984 survey conducted by Richard T. Farrell (U. of Maryland-College Park) reveals that oral history is one activity which attracts high-school students to the study of history. Farrell questioned 155 historical agencies listed in the American Association for State and Local History directory and that employed more than 20 full-time paid professionals; 91 (58.7 percent) returned the questionnaire. Of those agencies, 50 percent used students as oral history interviewers, while 44 percent loaned tapes or transcripts for student research. In ranking the effectiveness of oral history programs, 44 percent rated the use of student interviewers as highly effective, while 41 percent said it was effective and only 14 percent said it was not effective. Loaning tapes was less affirmed, as only 13 percent deemed it highly effective; while 53 percent found loaning effective, 34 percent said it was not effective. The overall study, however, noted that most research facilities are not as interesting to students as publishing programs. The study urges further training in oral history methodology and other short courses for getting students excited and involved in the study of history.



Officer Armand Lairgue on board the seized boat Black Maria with sacks of confiscated beer. Circa 1928

INTERNATIONAL ORAL HISTORIANS DOCUMENTING HERITAGE OF LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN

Residents of the Lake Champlain Basin are participating in a unique project cosponsored by the University of Vermont's Center for Research on Vermont and Burlington's Fletcher Free Library. The \$208,000, two-year project, Lake Champlain: Reflections on Our Past, is partly funded by \$166,559 from NEH. Samuel B. Hand (U. of Vermont) is project director.

Eight series of programs will explore the history of the region's politics, folklore, economy, Native Americans, technological development, and environmental changes. Also planned are exhibits, slide shows, interviews, and talks by scholars from Canada, New York, and Vermont. The object of the work is to enhance the community's awareness of its heritage and strengthen efforts to preserve that heritage. Oral history will play a major role.

The first stage includes two community activities centering on "Champ," the legendary Lake Champlain serpent. Published reports of a large serpent inhabiting the lake date to the early 1800s, and belief in the creature's existence remains an

important part of local lore. Richard Sweterlitsch (U. of Vermont) and Kathy Nielson ([Fletcher Free Lib.]) will conduct a youth program encouraging children to express their visions of the lake creature in art and narrative.

Sweterlitsch and Joseph Zarzynski (Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation) will hold community discussions to elicit tales of serpent experiences and the retelling of legends recited by parents and grandparents. Sweterlitsch will record the accounts in an effort to garner a broad sampling of the oral narratives sustaining the serpent legend.

Other topics include bootlegging, presented by Eleanor Ott (Vermont Folklife Center), and a session by Sweterlitsch on the great flood of 1927, which devastated the basin region. These sessions will be recorded by Sweterlitsch with the materials enriching the holdings of the University of Vermont's Archives of Folklore and Oral History. Contact: Sweterlitsch, Dept. of English, U. of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Samuel B. Hand

The 1984 *Oral History Review* includes an article by Charlie Morrissey entitled "Riding a Mule through the Terminological 'Jungle': Oral History and Problems of Nomenclature." I read it. I read and write a great deal about oral history. I am what some of you refer to as a POB, a print-oriented bastard.

I had intended to entitle this, my first presidential column, Confessions of a POB. Then I thought about terminological jungles. When I say print I almost always mean lettering, presumably by a press or a typewriter or some similar instrument. Yet print can also refer to a photographic image. Of course we could have a print of print, but with "the addition of videotape equipment to the arsenal of the oral historian," the word takes on a different context. The quote, incidentally, is from Joel Gardner's commentary on "Oral History and Video in Theory and Practice," also in last year's issue of the *OHR*.

Technology has changed a great deal since many of us first joined the OHA. In my case I had learned that something called the Columbia University Oral History Research Office had taped biographical interviews with Samuel Rosenman and a number of other Roosevelt associates in whom I was interested, and I went down to New York to listen to the tapes.

In making my preparations I noticed that some interviews were open, others were open but required permission to quote from, others required permission just to get at, still others were closed until some future date, and so on. After I secured my permissions I sat down to calculate how much time I would need in New York. I decided (and there was no systematic basis for arriving at this) that if there were 24 hours of tapes, I would need 32 hours to review the tapes. There were no cassettes in those days. Everything was reel-to-reel.

When I sat down to work out my schedule, I learned that Columbia computed interview length in pages. I discovered what that meant when I got to the research office, was handed 200 or so pages, told that was the Rosenman interview, and was ushered to a long table where I read through the interview and took notes. There weren't any tapes, just typescripts.

Although initially disappointed not to have the tapes, I quickly accommodated myself to the system. Indeed, I was captivated by it. It was a delightful

application of the cost-benefit ratio. I believed (and still believe) that oral history archives, whose product is the typescript, serve particular kinds of researchers well. Those planning a book or article or some other print (print in the form of lettering) publication, for a variety of reasons not possible to spell out in this short space, continue to find typescripts well suited to their needs.

This has been a rather long-winded way of getting to questions about the relationship of film and video products to oral history. Will they, like most oral history interviews, be produced primarily as grist for researchers' mills, to complement the written record? Will film and video productions be more like statements on the part of the producer? Which researchers in the *context of their own projects* will find filmed material most valuable? Will utility be most determined by subject or by media? Will bona fide researchers be permitted to reproduce frames from film and video productions in some manner similar to how they are permitted to quote from oral history interviews? What provisions *should* exist for integrating (I prefer that term to complementing) the visual with the written and oral record?

Implicit in my comments is the existence of archives. Will they be similar in structure, affiliation, and organization to what now exists? My impression is that film and video are moving toward a different system: a system under which the product will come increasingly under the direct control of the producer rather than the archive.

Traditionally, irrespective of how oral history interviews have been generated (whether by independent researchers, academic researchers working on their own projects, institutionalized oral history projects, or combinations of these) interviews that are deposited with archives are made available to scholars subject to established archival procedures and routines. This, irrespective of the particular archive, generally results in uniform access procedures, legal restrictions, and other routine functions we have come to associate with archives and which regulate some of our lives as researchers. We are reasonably confident that all documents comply with archival release policies, copyright, and other contractual arrangements and that all interviewees have read and approved their edited transcripts.

These are assumptions that underscore the *Oral History Evaluation Guidelines* (1980). I take considerable pride in having participated in the Wingspread Conference that produced the guidelines, but I also question how appropriate they are to film and video documentation. I am concerned with ethical questions, but also whether strict adherence to the guidelines would assure sterile and uninspired productions.

I am not sure whether the pen is mightier than the sword, and I doubt one picture is worth a thousand words. I think we can all agree, however, that the camera is a powerful weapon. With power come responsibilities and in the not-too-distant future we are going to have to give prudent thought to what those responsibilities are.

OHA ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED

The results of the OHA's 1985 election are now official. Thirty-two percent of the members returned ballots, according to Nominating Committee Chair Anne G. Campbell.

Samuel B. Hand (U. of Vermont) is the Association's new president. Martha J. Ross (U. of Maryland) will serve on the Council one year as Immediate Past President.

Results of the mail balloting, announced during the Annual Meeting 3 November in Pensacola, provides the Association with new leadership. Donald A. Ritchie (U.S. Senate Hist. Office), who has served a three-year Council term, is the new vice president/president-elect. Elected to the Council for 1985-88 were Terry L. Birdwhistell (U. of Kentucky) and Margot H. Knight (Vienna, Va.). Knight formerly was associated with the Washington Commission for the Humanities.

Nominating Committee members for 1985-87 are Lila Goff (Minnesota Hist. Soc.), Kim Lady Smith (Kentucky OH Comm.), and Cullom Davis (Sangamon St. U.). Continuing are Elizabeth B. Mason (Columbia U., retired), chair, Edward D. Ives (U. of Maine-Orono), and Laurie Mercier (Montana Hist. Soc.). Suggestions and nominations may be sent to the Nominating Committee in care of Mason, Oral History Research Office, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027.

1986 PROGRAM CALL

The Oral History Association will convene in Long Beach, California on 23-26 October 1986. The theme of this 20th Annual Meeting is "Transformation of the West." Individual and group proposals are invited relative to sessions featuring academic papers, panel discussions, media presentations, and workshop practicums.

Prospective participants should send, along with their vitae, a two-page typed prospectus containing a thesis of their contribution plus relevant bibliographical information by *January 15, 1986* to either Dale Treleven, Oral History Program, University of California, Los Angeles, California 90024 or Art Hansen, Department of History, California State University, Fullerton, Fullerton, California 92634.

DAMP BUT SPIRITED ORAL HISTORIANS MEET IN PENSACOLA

Oral historians who attended the OHA's 1985 Annual Meeting proved in a special way their unflagging commitment to both the Association and their field of interest. Those who journeyed to Pensacola, Florida, for the conference were forced to weather Hurricane Juan, dubbed the "Halloween Howler," as they braved fierce elements throughout much of the week.

The hurricane affected the meeting in several ways. Some airline flights were canceled, causing delays for members and the absence of several scheduled speakers. When one of the principal speakers, William E. Leuchtenberg, was unable to arrive, his place on the program was taken by OHA veterans who recalled interesting moments in their oral history research. The Pensacola Hilton withstood the inclement weather save for a few leaks and broken windows.

Overseeing the program was Randall Lawrence (Sloss Furnaces Natl. Landmark). James Moody, Jr., (Historic Pensacola Preservation Bd.) chaired the local arrangements committee which was responsible for tours, registration, and other services for the Association.

A highlight of the meeting was a buffet/reception at the Naval Aviation Museum honoring pioneer oral historian Forrest C. Pogue, biographer of George C. Marshall and president of OHA, 1971-72. Pogue has announced his retirement from the Dwight

Eisenhower Institute for Research, Smithsonian Institution.

Two significant items of business were resolved at the business meeting. The Council named Anne G. Campbell (U. of Kentucky) to the position of executive secretary, succeeding Ronald E. Marcello (North Texas St. U.). Campbell was the choice of a search committee chaired by William W. Moss (Smithsonian Inst.). The committee also accepted the University of Kentucky's offer to house the OHA executive office. The second important matter acted on was a series of changes in dues structure. Three new categories include sponsoring institution, \$100; contributing individual, \$25; and retired, \$10 per year. Changes in regular dues, to take effect in 1986—the first increase since 1980—include institution, \$40; individual, \$20; library, \$15; and student, \$10. The additional revenue will be used to fund publications and other services to members.

The 1985 meeting was attended by 176 hearty souls. Now the attention of the membership shifts to Long Beach, California, 23-26 October 1986, for the 20th anniversary of the Association's founding. The 1986 Annual Meeting site will be the *Queen Mary*, a floating, docked conference center. Next year's theme is "Transformation of the West."

EDITORIAL

When Ron Marcello passed the OHA's office of executive secretary to Anne G. Campbell during the recent Annual Meeting in Pensacola, this professional organization marked the conclusion of a significant era and the opening of another. Never one to enumerate his record of service, Ron stepped down with grace and style. Only those closest to him know the relief he feels and the satisfaction he so richly deserves.

A decade is a long time for any person to serve as executive secretary of a professional association. Those who have served as elected OHA officers know well that Ron has earned every gray hair that adorns his head. His business acumen has seen the Association through the ups and downs of planning and staging major conferences from coast to coast and one in Canada. When Ron agreed to provide the glue for the OHA, first as secretary and then as executive secretary, his duties consisted principally of keeping the membership roll and taking minutes of business sessions. During Ron's tenure the responsibilities of the office of executive secretary have increased in geometric proportions. Presiding over a rapidly changing association characterized by members' demands for expanding professional service has not always been pleasant, especially when members have been reluctant to help generate additional revenues for OHA. The taciturn Pennsylvanian has sublimated most of the frustrations associated with his job, preferring to let out his emotions on the softball diamond and in other recreational pursuits.

Now the Marcello era is over, but his positive influence will long be felt by OHA. The treasury is not large, but the Association's finances are in sound, if vulnerable, condition. The official archives of OHA are in excellent condition. Ron's cautious optimism about OHA has become the hallmark of the Council. The institutional support rendered by North Texas State University throughout the Marcello years will long be remembered by thoughtful oral historians.

Thanks for memories, Ron Marcello. Go with the enduring appreciation of countless friends you made along the way while serving the OHA. Our wish for you is a very productive, successful career as a U.S. 20th-century political historian. Our expectation is that you will be more active than before as an oral historian, and we will count ourselves fortunate to be your colleagues and friends. May you have ample time to use your glove and bat and excel in the infield on your softball team. Most of all, however, we hope you will keep your Uher recorder busy and help us advance the cause of oral history.

TLC

1986 March 1	Texas Oral History Association with Texas State Historical Association	Austin
22	Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region	Baltimore
April 1-6	Society of Architectural Historians	Washington, D.C.
9-12	National Council on Public History and Organization of American Historians	New York
17-19	Association of Recorded Sound Collections	New York
24-26	Northwest Oral History Association with Pacific Northwest History Association	Corvallis, Oregon
May 3-4	Conference on Oral History and Labour History by the Oral History Society and the Society for the Study of Labour History	London
June 8-12	American Association of Museums	New York
30 Sept.- 3 Oct.	American Association for State and Local History	Oakland

HILL RESEARCHES 'WOMEN OF COURAGE'

Oral history has opened up the idea of what history is. We've always studied the elite. Oral history has brought in the people who were acted upon. In a sense, it's broadened the idea of who makes history, opened up important new aspects of history.

—Ruth Edmonds Hill

Kantor Award 1985 recipient Ruth Edmonds Hill, coordinator of two recent oral history projects at Radcliffe College, has gained new insight into the value of oral history in preserving the histories of two often-overlooked groups in American society. From the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, Hill has



Ruth Edmonds Hill

overseen the Black Women Oral History Project and Women in the Federal Government: Documentation of Their Contributions Through Oral History, topics neglected by scholars until recently.

The Black Women project was initiated in 1976 by the late Letitia Woods Brown of George Washington University and supported with grants from the Rockefeller Foundation; the Blanchard Foundation; the National Institute on Aging; the Mary McCants Stewart Foundation; the Links, Incorporated; and the Ford Foundation. Interviewed were women who, according to Hill, had

worked to widen educational, cultural, and employment opportunities, improve health care, end lynchings and legal and social injustices of all kinds, provide social services, and in general improve conditions for black people. . . . These women seldom created or preserved written records on their struggles. . . . This is a group of women who had a profound impact on the black community in the decades before government or white liberals in any numbers began to join, however haltingly, the fight to overcome the results of inequality and discrimination. Each was a crusader in her own way.

A nationwide advisory committee of women narrowed the field of prospective interviewees to 71 black women over the age of 70. Included were officials from Tuskegee Institute, doctors, writers, artists, political and civil-rights activists (including Rosa Parks), teachers, social workers, singers, ministers, and union organizers.

Interviews were conducted by three Radcliffe fellows and others on a geographical basis from 1976 to 1981. The resulting oral memoirs focus on all aspects of the women's lives, but the most common thread, according to Hill, is that "they worked wherever and however they could until the doors opened that would lead them to their goals. . . . Although segre-

gation and discrimination pervaded their lives, the women were remarkably free of bitterness and hatred." Perhaps this attitude is exemplified by Detroit minister Charleszetta "Mother" Waddles, who was married, a mother, and widowed by age 19, and later an unmarried welfare mother of six. Best known as the founder of the Perpetual Mission for Saving Souls of All Nations, she declared in her interview,

I can certainly understand the pregnant girl. I can understand the widowed woman. I can understand the separated woman. I can understand the common-law woman. I can understand the happily married woman. I can understand them all, and I've been that, I've been every one of those groups. . . . And so I look at each one of those experiences as a blessing, because I finally found a way to make it a blessing.

The Black Women project took on added dimension in 1981 when free lance Judith Sedwick photographed 10 of the Boston and New York City-area interviewees, displaying them in February 1982 at the Schlesinger Library. A grant from Warner Communications, Inc., then funded Sedwick's travel to photograph the remaining women in the project. The photographs and capsule biographies of the women comprise *Women of Courage*, an exhibit first shown in December 1984 at the New York Public Library. The exhibition

traveled to Boston, Seattle, and Atlanta and is scheduled through 1987 with appropriate public programming. Featured on a poster and exhibit catalog cover is a photo of Eunice Rivers Laurie, who for over 50 years was a nurse among the rural poor in Alabama.

Thirteen U.S. libraries and oral history centers have bound, edited transcripts from the Black Women project. They include Atlanta University; University of California, Berkeley; University of Chicago; Columbia University; Fisk University; Howard University; Jackson State University; University of Kansas, Lawrence; Michigan State University; Schomburg Center of Research in Black Culture, New York; Tuskegee Institute; University of Washington, Seattle; and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Hill's second significant research effort, the Women in the Federal Government project, was funded from 1981 to 1983 by the National Endowment for the Humanities and focused on women who had served in the federal executive and judicial branches. "Few of these women attained the high public visibility of Frances Perkins, but many held positions of power and influence," according to Hill. An advisory committee which included Frank

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Charleszetta Waddles, the "one-woman war on poverty," who founded the Perpetual Mission for Saving Souls of All Nations in Detroit, is profiled in *Women of Courage*.

Hill *continued*

Freidel selected 80 women interviewees, balanced between Republicans and Democrats, appointees and civil servants, and a variety of government agencies.

Women began work as U.S. civil servants and government appointees following the creation of the Children's Bureau in 1912. The interviewees include those who began government service during the New Deal; among the research questions was how the women functioned in a predominantly male environment. American ambassador to Norway from 1964 to 1971, Margaret Joy Tibbetts commented in her interview:

Basically, in dealing with men, you hold your position just as firmly as you need to. But you don't argue and get emotional. You just hold your position and do it, and you take it for granted that you will be treated with respect. And you let them be as tough as they want, but you don't change. . . . This man came in and he said they'd come up with the idea, wouldn't it be nice to reserve certain posts, such as a small European post, for women? I said, "It's a terrible idea. . . . Well, first of all it's detrimental to the best interests of the United States. . . . And secondly, let's be serious. Women deserve the better posts. Why not say it? The men would be delighted to put women off in some small country and say, That takes care of it."

Scholars with appropriate academic backgrounds conducted forty interviews. Some interviewees, such as Grace Hopper, a Naval commander, mathematician, and computer specialist, proved challenging to match with interviewers. A variety of interests, experiences, and backgrounds are included in the project; many of the women began in clerical positions and ultimately gained high administrative posts, from archivists to wildlife biologists.

Unlike the Black Women project, these transcripts were not retyped or bound. They are on deposit at Columbia University as well as at Radcliffe. A few memoirs are still in the editing stages and some interviews are yet in progress. The project will become part of the ongoing work of the Schlesinger Library; a guide will be prepared for distribution to researchers and libraries.

Ruth Edmonds Hill has been at Radcliffe since 1977; she was previously librarian at the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology. She has been consultant to the Cambridge [Massachusetts] Oral History Project since 1980; chairman of the advisory board of the Oral History Center in Cambridge and on the advisory board of the Wheaton College Oral History Project in 1983. She holds a degree in library science from Simmons College.

For more information or to order the Women of Courage catalog (\$6.95, including postage) or poster (\$5.00 plus postage), contact: Schlesinger Library, 10 Garden St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

The New England Association of Oral History and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Film/Video section cosponsored a workshop on Oral History and Its Relation to Film and Video Documentation in Boston on October 19. Focus of the meeting was on the potential and the problems in using oral history methodology and information in video, film and slide productions, and in using visual documentation in connection with oral history interviews. Workshop faculty included Samuel Hand (U. of Vermont), Richard Leacock (MIT), Jeannie Cooper (Lawrence, Mass.), and Michael Roper (MIT).

The Oral History Project, University of Hawaii-Manoa, conducted a workshop last June with the theme *The Preservation of Historical Data Through Planned Interviews*. The workshop was the first ever on the island of Molokai and was cosponsored by the Friends of R. W. Meyer Sugar Mill and the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

The Society for the Study of Ethnicity in Nova Scotia, The Canadian Oral History Association, and the Atlantic Oral History Association will sponsor *Ethnicity, Oral Testimony, and the World of Work*, at Baddeck, Nova Scotia, 8-11 October 1986. Persons interested in participating as discussants or chairpersons or submitting papers should contact John deRoche, Sociology Dept., U. College of Cape Breton, P.O. Box 5300, Sydney, N.S. B1P 6L2. Deadline for topic abstracts: January 30, 1986.

Paris [Texas] Junior College's A. M. and Welma Aikin, Jr., Regional Archives and the Paris Sesquicentennial Committee cosponsored a workshop, *Caring for the Past of the Red River Valley*, September 14. Thomas L. Charlton and Rebecca S. Jimenez (both Baylor U.) were the presenters. Daisy Harvill (Aikin Regional Archives) and Linda Su Suarez (Paris Sesquicentennial Committee) were codirectors.

The Western History Association at its October meeting in Sacramento, California, included a session, "The Uses of 'Elite' and 'Non-Elite' Oral History in Alaska." William Schneider and John S. Whitehead (both U. of Alaska-Fairbanks) presented papers entitled "Oral History and the Eskimo Experience," and "Elite Oral History and the Alaska Statehood Commission," respectively.

The Michigan Oral History Council and the Historical Society of Clinton met jointly in October. The theme of the meeting was *Exploring Oral History Workshop Interview Techniques*.

NEWS

The A. A. Brill Library of the N.Y. Psychoanalytic Institute is interviewing their members whose professional training took place in Vienna, Berlin, and other European centers. Developments in the field in the U.S. are also included, along with discussion of the interviewees' particular contributions to psychoanalysis. Contact: Ellen Gilbert, A. A. Brill Library, N.Y. Psychoanalytic Institute, 247 E. 82nd St., New York, NY 10028.

Andor Skotnes assumed the position of assistant director of the Columbia University Oral History Research Office on September 1. A native of California, he is currently writing his doctoral dissertation at Rutgers University on the relationship between the civil rights movement and the labor movement during World War II.

The Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, has commissioned Charles T. Morrissey (Montpelier, Vt.) to conduct a full oral history of the institution, founded in 1903. Morrissey began the full-time work in January 1985.

Reflections of the Past: Archival Resources in Kentucky, is a two-year, NEH-funded project of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives and the Kentucky Historical Society. One result of the work will be four radio programs using oral history materials. Terry Birdwhistell (U. of Kentucky) and Kim Lady Smith (Kentucky OH Comm.) are coproducers.

Long Island's oldest Afro-American families are featured in an exhibit of vintage photographs and memorabilia, "It Looks Like Yesterday to Me," at the Port Washington [NY] Public Library (PWPL). Containing a large oral history component, the work presents Afro-American life around the island's historic Mill Pond area. The exhibition was organized by Elly Shodell (PWPL), assisted by Larry Brown, photographer; Charles Potter, audio producer; and Gerald Davis and Steven Zeitlin, folklorists. Funding came from the New York State Council on the Arts, Friends of Long Island's Heritage, the TDK Corp., the Arwood Foundation, and LuEsther T. Mertz. The exhibit is touring cities in New York from November through May 1986.

Chicago Polonia Women, Image and Self-Image is the result of interviews conducted by Emma Kowalenko in Polish. The study details women in Chicago's Polish community from 1915 to 1945. Contact Kowalenko, 7639 North Eastlake Terrace, Chicago, IL 60626 (312) 764-0485.

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News continued

Jewell Thomas, assistant regional librarian of the Lake Cumberland [Kentucky] region, is the author of "Remembering," a weekly feature in the *Cumberland County News*. The articles consist of transcribed interviews Thomas conducts with local folks on county history.

The Chicago chapter of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) has been interviewing for the past two and a half years Jews whose lives have given shape and dimension to the city in the 20th century. The interviews are transcribed and deposited in the chapter library with copies at AJC's national William E. Weiner Oral History Library in New York.

The Marion E. Wade Collection at Wheaton College is recording the reminiscences of family, friends, colleagues, and former students of seven British Christian authors: Owen Barfield, G. K. Chesterton, C. S. Lewis, George MacDonald, Dorothy L. Sayers, J. R. R. Tolkien, and Charles Williams. To date there are approximately two dozen interviews, half on videotape. Contact Lyle W. Dorsett, Curator, The Marion E. Wade Collection, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL 60187.

A \$100,000 increase in the New Jersey Historical Commission's (NJHC) grant-in-aid funds this year brings the available total to \$200,000, plus \$20,000 from the commission's Afro-American History Program. Persons interested in all phases of New Jersey history should write for applications and guidelines: Grants and Prizes, NJHC, Department of State, 113 W. State St., CN 305, Trenton, NJ 08625. Most deadlines are April 15, 1986.

New Yorkers report a flurry of community-based oral history activity. The Oral History Committee of the Unitarian Church of All Souls has produced a slide-tape show based on interviews with members who recall the church in the 1920s. Operation Crossroads, a research project of the Brookdale Institute on Humanities, Arts, and Aging is editing transcripts of interviews they

conducted about not-for-profit cooperative housing in New York City. Elders Share the Arts, Inc., held its fifth annual Living History Theatre Festival in May, staging original plays based on the stories of their lives. Members from the Bronx Y Drama Group staged *From the Glitter to the Gloom: The Depression to the Golden Years*.

Any and all information is needed about the history of oral history in Southern California prior to 1960. It will be used in an essay on oral history in Southern California (for this purpose defined as those counties from the Mexican border north to and including San Luis Obispo, Kern, Kings, Inyo, and San Bernardino counties) which will appear in the California volume of the series *Guides to the History of the History of the United States*. Contact: James V. Mink, UCLA Oral History Program, 136 Powell Library, University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

The Baylor University Institute for Oral History presented a set of the *Oral Memoirs of W. R. Poage* to the Library of Congress in July. The 45 hours of interviews documented Poage's 40-year career in the U.S. House of Representatives and were bound in five indexed volumes.

Publisher Dan Lacy was recently interviewed at the Library of Congress (LC) as part of the Center for the Book's history of books program. The two-hour, audio-taped interview, conducted by the center's executive director, John Y. Cole, focused on Lacy's LC career as assistant director of the processing department (1947-49) and deputy chief assistant librarian (1950-51), and then on his subsequent employment.

The Library of Congress Folklife Center in Washington, D.C., has top-of-the-line Nagra tape recorders for loan to interviewers and programs conducting local oral history interviews. Users are expected to pay for air freight shipping of the recorders. Contact: Media Specialist, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Josephine Evarts, a much beloved and controversial physician in Sharon, Connecticut, was the subject of a one-woman documentary, *In Her Own Words*, produced at the Sharon Playhouse Gallery in September. Evarts was interviewed for 10 hours in 1980 for the Columbia University oral history collection by John T. Mason, Jr.; after her death in 1983, one of her childhood friends, Eunice Trowbridge, created the script from transcripts. The production will be repeated elsewhere in Connecticut and at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York.

The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 1986, and the college's alumni have created an oral history program as their anniversary gift. Volunteer interviewers are conducting research with a wide variety of individuals. Contact: ESF College Archives, Room 15, F. Franklin Moon Library, SUNY-ESF, Syracuse, NY 13210.

The Montana Oral History Association (MOHA) has completed an assessment of oral history collections in the state and published a *Directory to Montana Oral History Resources* with the assistance of a grant from the Montana Committee for the Humanities. Included in the project were visits to museums, libraries, historical societies, and Indian culture committees in each of the 56 counties and 7 tribal reservations in the state. Contact: Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT 59620.

POSITIONS

The Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) in the United States seeks to hire a researcher and author to prepare its history. Some incidental archival material is available, but most of the project will result from oral history interviews of port chaplains. Travel and research costs are covered, and the stipend is negotiable. Contact: Rev. Dr. L. Thomas Snyderwine, Chaplain to Port of Erie, Pennsylvania; P.O. Box 1811; Erie, PA 16507 (814) 871-7551.

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 Oral History Review*. Send membership, change of address, and subscription inquiries to: Anne G. Campbell, Executive Secretary, University of Kentucky Library, Department of Special Collections, Lexington, KY 40506 (606) 257-9401. Address editorial matters to: Thomas L. Charlton, Editor, Baylor University, CSB Box 401, Waco, TX 76798 (817) 755-3437. Associates: Adelaide S. Darling, Jaclyn L. Jeffrey, M. Rebecca Sharpless, David Stricklin. Deadlines: Jan. 1, Apr. 1, July 1, Oct. 1. Articles should be limited to 400 words and may be edited. Copyright 1985 Oral History Association, Incorporated.

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