



NEWSLETTER

Varied Voices Enhance Anchorage Program

An energetic array of multicultural offerings—from scholars to performance artists—enlivens the program for the 1999 Oral History Association annual meeting at the Anchorage, Alaska, Hilton Hotel Oct. 6-10.

Meeting for the first time in the 49th state, OHA members will have an opportunity to explore the role of oral history in myriad settings, discuss contemporary methodology issues, meet with like-minded oral history practitioners and hear noted international scholars and performers share their insights and their talents.

With the theme "Giving Voice: Oral Historians and the Shaping of

Narrative," many presentations focus on storytelling and related issues.

Featured presenters include:

+ Julie Cruikshank, anthropology professor at the University of British Columbia, who worked at the Yukon Native Language Centre for more than a decade. Her recordings of the oral traditions and life stories of Athapaskan and Tlingit elders formed the basis of booklets documenting family history, place names, land use, social history and other subjects. She is the author of three books, the latest of which, "The Social Life of Stories," deals with how competing forms of knowledge become enmeshed in struggles for legitimacy. Cruikshank

currently is involved in an oral history project in Siberia.

+ Robert Sam, traditional Tlingit storyteller and repatriation specialist for the Sitka Tribe of Alaska. A former member of the Naa Kahidi Theatre, Sam has represented Alaska in tours of Europe, Canada and the United States. He is regarded as a valuable resource in cemetery preservation and re-interment of human remains. Sam will present a performance of Tlingit stories at a special program at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art on Friday evening, Oct. 8.

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Pamyua, which calls itself a Yup'ik/Doo-Wop music and dance troupe, will present its unique blend of Yup'ik (Eskimo) dances and African-American music traditions at the OHA meeting.

Photo by Pamyua, Inc.

Editor's Note:

Copy deadline for the next issue of the OHA Newsletter is Dec. 1. State and regional oral history groups especially are encouraged to submit information about their fall activities. Stories about upcoming spring events also are welcome, as are contributions on oral history projects or issues of interest to oral historians.

Mail materials to: Mary Kay Quinlan, 7524 S. 35th St., Lincoln, NE 68516; fax to: 402-420-1770; or e-mail: OHAEditor@aol.com. Please do not send items as attachments to an e-mail message.



From Your President

By Howard Green
OHA President

As I write this column, the OHA year is approaching its brief quiet time. The annual conference program book is on its way to the printer to be mailed in a few weeks. The membership directory will be finished soon. The OHA office and the conference organizers have finished most of the work; their task now is mostly to wait--and worry.

To be sure, there are many things to be concerned about in this lull before the storm. What unexpected problems will arise before or at the conference? Will there be many people who accepted places on the program yet who don't come? How many audio visual problems will there be? How accurate will our attendance estimates be?

OHA budgets depend for their health on annual meetings that turn a profit. The association's other principal sources of revenue--dues and publications sales--do not by themselves provide for a balanced budget. While there have been some exceptions, in recent years the budget has only shown a surplus when the annual conference was a financial success. This is almost certain to be true this year.

The Council made a bold decision when it voted a few years ago to bring the 1999 meeting to Alaska. There was no way to know for sure whether we could be able to attract enough people--OHA members and others--to Anchorage to make the meeting a success. I think that we have given it our best shot, and we will know the results in a few months.

+Program co-chairs Will Schneider and Sue Armitage have put together a very strong program.

+Workshop chair Linda Morton-Keithley has assembled an attractive group of training sessions.

+Pat Partnow, chair of the local arrangements committee, and her

whole committee have worked hard to arrange dinner groups, tours and special events that will enhance the program and enable conference attendees to explore Anchorage and its surrounds and to get a feel for some of southcentral Alaska's natural beauty and ethnic diversity.

It was all coordinated under the diligent attention of Vice President/President-elect Laurie Mercier. Laurie took virtually complete responsibility for all the myriad details that are involved in planning a large conference. She did it with a wonderful combination of intelligence and good humor.

By the time you read this it will be too late for anything I might write to influence your decision to attend the Anchorage program. I can only hope that the combination of strong program and the chance to visit an attractive location will have been enough. I hope to see you in Anchorage. You will benefit and OHA will, too.

Besides the problem of planning a conference over the great distances involved in working in Anchorage, this has been a year of other challenges for OHA as well. We successfully negotiated a contract with Dickinson College for the relocation of the executive office, and we hired Madelyn Campbell, who was introduced to OHA members in the last **Newsletter**. Madelyn started work in May, and she has made an enormous contribution already.

Of course, Madelyn has large shoes to fill. Rebecca Sharpless served as OHA executive secretary with distinction and great dedication. She brought a deep sense of seriousness of purpose to her job, and OHA will long be in her debt. I am particularly grateful for the way she stuck with OHA, even though we were not able to complete our negotiations with Dickinson until many months after her contract had expired.

Another challenge that we are meeting, but which remains unresolved at this writing, concerns the editorship of the **Oral History Review**. Bruce Stave, who has done a truly admirable job, is leaving the

position and we are currently negotiating with potential candidates to replace him. Look for an announcement in the next **Newsletter**.

See you in Anchorage.

Howard Green
New Jersey Historical Commission
P.O. Box 305
Trenton, NJ 08625-0305
Phone: 609-984-3460
Fax: 609-633-8168
E-mail: hgreen@admin.sos.state.nj.us

Scholarships Available For Anchorage Meeting

A limited number of scholarships are available for non-program participants at the 1999 annual meeting of the Oral History Association in Anchorage. Applications are available at the OHA Website:

www.dickinson.edu/organizations/oha
or by contacting OHA Executive Secretary Madelyn Campbell at Dickinson College, P.O. Box 1773, Carlisle, PA 17013-2896. Or you can e-mail her at oha@dickinson.edu.

Completed applications should be sent to Kim Lacy Rogers, 235 S. West St., Carlisle, PA 17013 by Aug. 20.

Silent Auction Items Feature Regional Wares, Books, Gift Baskets

Transcription services, a scarf from the Smithsonian Institution gift shop, an Idaho "spud basket" and numerous books focusing on Pacific Northwest history are among the items to be auctioned at the annual meeting in Anchorage. Proceeds from the auction benefit the OHA Endowment Fund.

Items will be displayed in the conference exhibit area and bids will be taken throughout the meeting. Winning bidders will receive their items at the Saturday evening banquet.

Auction contributions are still welcome and may be made by contacting Terri Schorzman at the Idaho Humanities Council, 208-345-5346, or e-mail: terriihc@micron.net.

Anchorage Program Focuses on Oral History's Myriad Voices

(Continued from page 1)

+ Carol Ford, oral historian, writer, actor, director and teacher, will present "Hearing Voices: Stories of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula" at the Saturday evening awards banquet. Ford was local coordinator for the Alaska Humanities Forum's oral history project, "Communities of Memory," which collected hundreds of stories about life on the Kenai Peninsula over the past 200 years.

+ Pamyua, which calls itself a Yup'ik/Doo-Wop group, an *acapella* music and dance troupe created by two brothers who sought to merge the strengths of their Yup'ik (Eskimo) and African-American heritages. They perform traditional Yup'ik dances with unique musical arrangements taken from soul, gospel, Yup'ik, Inuit and jazz traditions. They will perform Saturday night after the awards banquet.

Also on tap for the meeting are an array of introductory and technical workshops, including a beginners' workshop, a session on using oral history in museum exhibits, a teachers' workshop and a session on how to organize and maintain local, state and regional oral history groups.

Program co-chairs Susan Armitage and Will Schneider have put together panels, presentations and roundtable discussions that focus on topics as varied as: intellectual property rights; interviewing spies; rural churches in Texas; audio, film and computer formats for oral histories; South African memories; oral history and literature; natural resource management; hidden communities; Amish culture; labor history; oral history in China and Japan; the disability rights movement; international perspectives on the Holocaust; dealing with danger in oral history fieldwork; and varying approaches to Aboriginal narratives.

Also on the agenda are the annual business meeting, a presidential reception at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art, dinner groups hosted by Alaska residents, a

newcomer's breakfast for those attending their first OHA meeting, an Oktoberfest Run, a cash bar reception sponsored by the OHA Committee on Diversity and an array of off-site tours that showcase Anchorage and the spectacularly scenic surrounding area.

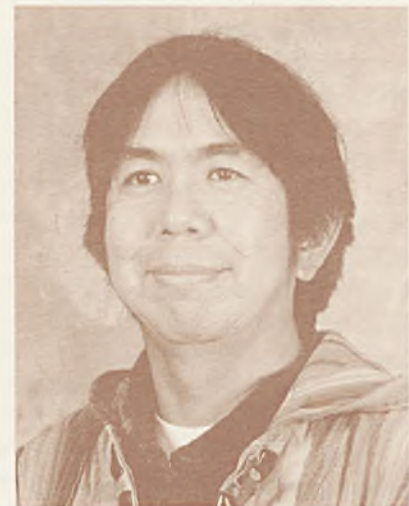
The annual awards dinner will feature presentation of the OHA awards recognizing outstanding oral history work in a book, non-print format (film, video, radio program, exhibit or drama) and a precollegiate teacher.

OHA members should have received the conference program and registration materials by now. If you have not, please contact OHA Executive Secretary Madelyn Campbell as outlined below.

Members are encouraged to make reservations as soon as possible.



Julie Cruikshank



Robert Sam

Exec. Secretary's Notes

By Madelyn Campbell

+ The executive office is up and running at Dickinson College. You can reach us at P.O. Box 1773, Carlisle, PA 17013. Our phone number is 717-245-1036. You can e-mail: OHA@dickinson.edu. Thanks for your patience in the transition.

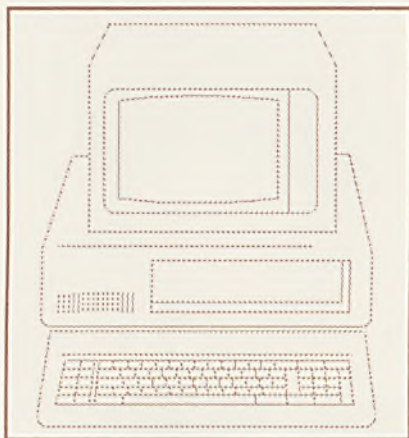
+ Packaged with this **Newsletter** is your 1999 **Membership Directory**. To hold down printing and postage costs, this year's book does not contain minutes from OHA Council meetings or budget reports. That information will be available later this summer on the new OHA Web site: www.dickinson.edu/organizations/oha

+ The membership database is now being maintained by the University of California Press, which this year only included names and addresses. Telephone, fax and e-mail numbers were carried over from last year, so some entries may not be accurate. UCPress will begin collecting that data beginning with this fall's renewal process.



Carol Ford

Guarding Against Cyberpirates



By Mary Ann Larson
University of Nevada-Reno

Ethical and legal issues posed by placing oral histories on the World Wide Web have been much discussed in the past few years. These concerns are addressed in the revisions to the Oral History Association's **Evaluation Guidelines**, roundtables and discussions have been held at a number of national and regional meetings in the past year, and an article on a recent OHA session appeared in the Winter 1999 issue of the **OHA Newsletter**.

Now that oral historians are becoming more aware of their ethical and legal responsibilities with regard to the Internet, what can they do from a technical standpoint to help better meet these responsibilities? Once they are sure they have the informed consent of chroniclers and can place materials on the Web, what tools are available for dissuading Internet users from pirating oral historical information without the proper permissions?

When it comes right down to it, there is no absolute way to keep people from misusing oral history materials, whether they are accessed in a reading room or on the Internet. But a number of reasonably simple precautions can be taken to keep information safer on the high seas of cyberspace. Some of these were mentioned briefly in the Winter 1999

article, but I would like to discuss them in greater depth.

The first safeguard is perhaps the simplest. **Do not post high quality duplicates of your materials on the Web.** If you are using sound files, they should certainly be clear enough for people to hear them easily, but they should not be broadcast-quality (something that is not always an issue with older recordings anyway!). Photographs and document scans added to a site to enhance context should not be posted in publication-quality files. People can still recognize the content of a reference-quality image.

To dissuade Internet users from pirating your files by downloading them and using them without permission, lower quality files often do the trick. They also have the added advantage of taking less time to download (for the impatient Web surfer or for one who is paying for access time). A good rule of thumb is to use sound files digitally sampled at 8 bits, 11khz, while photos are best presented at 72 dpi (dots per inch). All files should be reference quality only. If people want to utilize the real thing, they will be forced to go through the holding institution to request them.

The second safeguard is equally simple and equally important. **Add copyright statements to all pages and sub-pages on a site**, both to reduce unauthorized, unreferenced links and to provide copyright notice. Although notice is not strictly required on materials created after 1978, the copyright symbol serves as a reminder and puts users on notice that site managers are concerned about and aware of the possibility of copyright violations. The further implication is that someone is paying attention and may even be likely to prosecute in case of infringement.

A third way of addressing this issue is to **add a copyright barrier form**, which makes acceptance of the copyright or any stipulations very specific.

The barrier form is a Web page that can be placed before any pages containing information that requires protection (e.g. oral history transcripts or audio files, scanned photographs or other documents). The way it works is that an Internet user **cannot** get to the page with the pertinent information without acknowledging and agreeing to the copyright regulations or use restrictions.

Although simply having such pages for people to click on and having them operate on the honor system will sometimes be effective enough, there are also technical ways to register who has accessed certain parts of a site after agreeing to copyright rules. These pages are useful in the event that there is an infringement, because the people whose copyright was violated can demonstrate that a contract (in the form of the agreement) was breached.

Advances in technology also allow **restriction of Web-site access** through the use of passwords, local area networks (LANs) or limiting access only to computers with specified Internet protocol (IP) numbers, so only predetermined computers can connect to the site. If there is a concern on the part of a community or an individual about sensitive materials on a site, these options will allow oral historians to address those fears while still giving site access to the people or organizations for whom the program was designed.

Three years ago, for example, the North Slope Borough's Inupiat History, Language and Culture Commission (IHLC) worked with the University of Alaska Fairbanks to develop a Web site that combined archival photographs with audio files of an elder's recollections of the people and places in those images.

The site, entitled "The Marvin Peter Photograph Album," was designed by Karen Brewster with help from other IHLC staff members. Their target audience was the people

of the North Slope with an emphasis on school children and college students from the area. There was some discomfort with making the program too widely available, at least at first, so the decision was made to allow site access over a local area network, which would be linked through the school district, the local college and borough government offices. It was only to be delivered to people who had the cultural context to understand the information in question. If, after being able to review the site, members of the community were comfortable with its content, the material could be made available to a larger audience; otherwise, the site could stay securely on the LAN.

As mentioned previously, there are very few ways to keep materials absolutely secure, short of denying all access to them, whether on the Internet or through supervised use in a research area. The unscrupulous usually can find ways to utilize materials illegally if they want to. Fortunately for the oral history community, the main problem with our materials probably will be **unconsidered** use rather than unscrupulous use. Most individuals accessing oral histories will stumble into misuse of them through ignorance of copyright laws rather than through flagrant violations of them.

The first three precautions address those researchers who simply are not aware of their legal or ethical responsibilities regarding the use of oral histories. The fourth set of safeguards, on the other hand, is more technical in nature, more drastic in intent and more expensive in execution. But it is also the most effective way to thwart any cyberpirates who might be sailing the seas of the Web with malice of forethought.

Individual site managers will have to gauge for themselves whether their primary problems will be with the ill-informed or the ill-intended.

Other factors to consider when deciding how thoroughly to protect a site include the sensitivity of the information presented, the comfort level of the chroniclers or the

community with widespread availability of the material and the level of technological expertise available to maintain the security features. Once all those aspects have been taken into account, then an informed decision can be made about how, or in some cases whether, to post oral history materials on the World Wide Web.

*[Editor's Note: Mary Larson is assistant director of the University of Nevada Oral History Program, having moved to Reno in 1998 from the program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She serves as media review editor for the **Oral History Review** and is on the editorial board for the *H-Oralhist* listserve. She is also a member of the executive committee of the Southwest Oral History Association.]*

Educators Group Announces New Award

By Barry Lanman
Assn. of Oral History Educators

The Association of Oral History Educators announces establishment of the Betty Key Oral History in Education Award to honor the individual or project that best resents exemplary use of oral history as an educational methodology.

Mrs. Key, who died in 1996, was a founding member of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region and long was interested in using oral history in the classroom.

For information on award criteria, to be considered as a member of the selection committee or to make a contribution to the Betty Key Award Fund, please contact: The Assn. of Oral History Educators, c/o Barry Lanman, P.O. Box 24, Ellicott City, MD 21041 or e-mail: AOHELanman@aol.com.

The Endowment Fund needs you!!! Your tax-deductible gifts support OHA programs.

New Oral History Catalogs Available

UCLA Oral History Program

The UCLA Oral History Program at the University Library's Department of Special Collections announces publication of a new 399-page edition of its Catalog of the Collection. It features generously annotated entries for nearly 40 years of oral history interviews completed in various areas of regional and national significance, ranging from African-American history, architecture and art to politics, motion pictures and television.

For information on how to order the catalog, call the library at 310-794-4408 or e-mail to: emacgill@library.ucla.edu.

UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library

Catalog II of the Regional Oral History Office at UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library is just off the press. More than 600 entries describe the work of ROHO from 1980 to 1998 in documenting the contemporary history of Northern California and the West. Subjects in the collection include the arts, banking, journalism, health care, law, natural resources and social and community history. Brief summaries also provide a guide to diverse memoirs in the Bancroft Library's Donated Oral Histories Program and the history of science collection.

For information on ordering, call 510-642-7395 or e-mail: roho@library.berkeley.edu.

Claremont Graduate University

The Claremont, Calif., Graduate University Oral History Program, established in 1962, has published a new edition of the catalog of its interview manuscript collection. The entries are fully annotated. The oral history program is part of Claremont's History Department, and its collection is deposited in Special Collections of the Honnold/Mudd Library at Claremont Colleges.

For information, call Enid Douglass at 909-607-3667 or e-mail: enid.douglass@cgu.edu.

"I, Witness to History" Sparks Retirement Community Interest

By Terryl M. Asla
Wesley Retirement Communities

Two compelling reasons have brought together Kansas historians and Larksfield Place retirement community in Wichita to develop a structured program to encourage Larksfield residents to preserve and share their life stories. First, their stories often have regional historical significance. Many of these older persons (average age: 85) were among the "movers and shakers" in Kansas from the 1940s through the 1970s. Second, the process of recording their life stories can have therapeutic benefit for residents and enhance the quality of their lives.

For these reasons and others, Larksfield Place, a continuing care retirement community (CCRC), established an oral history program in 1996 in cooperation with Wichita State University (WSU) and Emporia State University (ESU).

Larksfield Place is one of 5,000 not-for-profit CCRCs in this country. As such it offers a continuum of accommodations and services for persons over the age of 65. About 154 residents live in the independent living homes and apartments at Larksfield, while another 60 live in the licensed health care center.

In 1996, a resource center for residents was started under the direction of Terryl Asla, M.F.A. "I, Witness to History" was its first program. The concept of residents preserving their life stories for future generations proved to be popular among key residents, and a steering committee was formed early the following year, chaired by a Larksfield Place resident and including advisers from the faculty at WSU and ESU. "I, Witness to History" joined the Oral History Association and developed formal policies in line with OHA principles and guidelines. Generous donations made it possible to purchase professional quality audio recording equipment and to hire and train WSU graduate students to assist the director

with conducting oral history interviews. The center is equipped for professional desktop publishing and photo retouching, which add immeasurably when it comes to helping residents with their published pieces, aptly named "LifeWorks."

Today, "I, Witness to History" is a comprehensive program incorporating both traditional oral history and a reminiscence process that results in these LifeWorks. Residents who choose to participate are free to take part in the whole program or just one aspect. Regardless of their degree of involvement, they have the satisfaction of engaging in a meaningful program that is embroidering the tapestry of history for future generations.

With the resident's written authorization, a trained oral historian interviews and audio tapes his or her full life story. If there are historically noteworthy episodes, follow-up interviews are conducted. Copies of the tapes are then given to the residents and their families. Accounts of historical significance are transcribed, and both tape and transcription may then be archived in the Special Collection at WSU's Ablah Library. Beginning in May 1999, these items also are being archived at the Kansas Historical Library in Topeka.

When they have completed their oral histories, residents are then encouraged to use their personal tapes and transcripts as starting points from which to create autobiographical materials to be shared with others. These LifeWorks represent a significant change in the thinking of Larksfield Place regarding the quality of life of its residents. Encouraging older persons in their 80s and 90s to engage in activities they consider meaningful (work, in other words) is a recent concept for CCRCs.

Retirement communities grew out of a medical model in the 1950s that emphasized doing things "for the old folks." They subsequently have been influenced by the resort industry, with its emphasis on total service. Add to

these our society's tendency to stereotype the "elderly" as being "used up," with little meaningful left to contribute, and it becomes easier to understand why CCRCs have overlooked this essential factor. Larksfield Place, through "I, Witness to History," now offers its residents the opportunity to engage in meaningful work: preserving and interpreting the past for scholars and future generations. The end product may be a memoir or description of a significant episode or aspect of a resident's life. Most of the completed works are published as books, stories or articles or placed on a Web site: <http://larksfieldplace.org/iwitness.htm>. In addition to words and photos, projects have incorporated art, music and other forms of creative expression. Regardless of final form, the process always involves a formal organization of one's life and an extended period of thoughtful self-review.

The psychological value of reminiscence for older adults is well documented. Likewise, evidence suggests creativity does not decline significantly in old age. The LifeWork program combines these two findings in an effort to significantly enhance residents' quality of life.

Residents play a meaningful part in all aspects of the program, including serving in leadership roles on the "I, Witness to History" steering committee. To date, 51 of the independent living residents have recorded their oral histories, either individually or at group discussions. This represents some 60 percent of those considered cognitively able to participate. Nineteen of the 51 (37 percent) regularly attend a writers' workshop, which serves as a support group for the LifeWork process. Several residents have written two or more major works.

A number of residents have published their LifeWorks on the Internet with the staff's assistance. This has led to some remarkable success stories. Here are just three of them:

+ One Larksfield Place resident shared her love of greeting cards by putting 60 of the picture postal cards she received as a child on her Web pages, along with the stories behind them. As a result, her "Greetings from the Past" was featured in the Kansas Historical Society's magazine "Kansas" (September 1997) and in the local news media. Today, she finds herself in great demand as a speaker.

+ Another resident wrote a unique musical autobiographical children's book, "When We Were Nine." It charmingly describes one day in the life of a young girl growing up on a Kansas farm in 1922. The resident, an accomplished musician, wrote and recorded the story's theme music on her computer.

+ One resident began sculpting larger-than-life bronze figures when she was 80. On her Web pages, she explained the personal experiences that inspired each piece. Through her Web pages, Baylor University's Center on Aging learned of her work and in 1998 honored her in its annual calendar of outstanding older artists.

The Larksfield Place experience with its "I, Witness to History" program strongly suggests that



Larksfield Place resident Sylvia Muse and a young friend admire one of the antique picture postcards she placed on her "I, Witness" Web pages, "Greetings from the Past." Photo by Nelson & Nelson.

implementing such a program in other CCRCs may also benefit their residents, residents' families, the facility itself and future generations. To assist with this, the resource center staff and residents conducted training workshops for 150 Kansas CCRCs and nursing homes at the 1997 and 1998 state conferences of the Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (KAHSA). A workshop also was given in Los Angeles for representatives of the 5,000 facilities

attending the annual fall conference of the American Association for Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA). Larksfield Place will present again at this year's conference in Chicago.

As a result of these endeavors, KAHSA awarded "I, Witness to History" its 1999 Award of Excellence.

[Editor's Note: For more information, e-mail Terryl Asla at: wrc@southwind.net.]

Web Site Features Turkish Interviews

**By Umut Azak
Sabanci University**

Sabanci University in Istanbul, Turkey, has a new oral history Web site. The language of the Web site is in Turkish and includes sound recordings. You can listen to a wonderful song in Ladino (a Judeo-Espagnol song) even if you cannot read the life history of Yasar Paker, a 100-year-old Jewish resident of Istanbul who died last year. The site is at:
<http://www.sabanciuniv.edu.tr/sozlutar/ih/index.html>

[Editor's Note: We checked out this fascinating, colorful site, but wished we could speak or read Turkish.]

Calls for Papers

Rural Women's Studies Assn.

The Rural Women's Studies Association invites proposals for individual papers, presentations, sessions and workshops for its conference at the Minnesota History Center, St. Paul, Minn., June 22-25, 2000.

Sponsored by the newly formed Rural Women's Studies Association and co-sponsored by Women Historians of the Midwest and the Minnesota Historical Society, this meeting succeeds six previous conferences on Rural and Farm Women in Historical Perspective. The conference will be held triennially by the RWSA, established as an international association for the advancement and promotion of farm and rural women's/gender studies in historical perspective.

For information on the organization or the conference and details on submitting proposals, contact Ann McCleary at amccleary@westga.edu or Debra Reid, debrareid@aol.com. Deadline for proposals is Oct. 15.

Center for Study of War, Society

The University of Tennessee's Center for the Study of War and Society is sponsoring a conference examining "The Veteran and American Society" Nov. 12-13, 2000. Organizers invite proposals from various disciplines and historical perspectives that examine the changing relationship of veterans with American society from the Revolutionary War to the Persian Gulf. For information, contact G. Kurt Piehler at gpiehler@utk.edu.

OHA ballots will be mailed soon. Please vote.



Washington Update

By Page Putnam Miller
National Coordinating Committee
for the Promotion of History

[Editor's Note: The National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History (NCC) serves as a national advocacy office in Washington for historical and archival professions. It is a consortium of more than 50 organizations, including the Oral History Association. Here are selected excerpts from recent "NCC Washington Update" columns.]

Library of Congress Assessing Policy of Shelving by Height, Not Subject

For several years there has been internal discussion at the Library of Congress on the possibility of saving money by shelving books by size instead of by subject. In Congressional testimony this spring, Librarian James Billington referred to the Library's strategic objective of "re-engineering our handling of access to books." Many inside and outside the Library wonder if this means the Library will make a shift in its shelving policy. Reference librarians, the Library of Congress unions and Congressional Research Service staff

have all expressed strong opposition to shelving by size at the main buildings.

Although library stacks are closed to researchers, some staff—including cataloguers, reference librarians and Congressional Research Service staff—regularly browse the stacks in the course of their work. Some have noted that they never would have met their deadlines if they had not been able to look at books in the stacks. Subject classified shelving not only enables a more efficient evaluation of a collection, but it allows for the in-depth research not available through on-line subject catalogs.

Bill Calls for House of Representatives History

Rep. John Larson, D-Conn., has introduced a bill directing the Librarian of Congress to prepare a history of the House of Representatives, "subject to available funding." Larson, a former high school history teacher, introduced the bill because of his disappointment as a new member of Congress with the lack of awareness in the House of its own history.

One section of the bill would authorize the Librarian to expand and update the oral history of the House as told by current and former members. The bill has 245 co-sponsors.

Judge Orders Release of Historic Grand Jury Records in Hiss Case

A federal district judge in New York has ordered the release of thousands of pages of 1940s grand jury testimony in the investigation of Alger Hiss. The grand jury proceedings led to Hiss' indictment and later conviction on two counts of perjury arising out of his denials under oath of having passed State Department documents to a Communist agent.

Under the law, grand jury information remains sealed except in certain "special circumstances" where a "particularized need" for the material is demonstrated. Release for historical research has not been regarded as meeting that standard.

But the court ruled in May that disclosure of the Hiss grand jury

proceedings "will fill in important gaps in the existing historical record, foster further academic and other critical discussion of the far-ranging issues raised by the Hiss case and lead to additional noteworthy historical works on those subjects, all to the immense benefit of the public. The materials should languish on archival shelves, behind locked doors, no longer."

The court opinion highlighted four historical issues on which the grand jury materials are likely to contain information: the extent to which the House Un-American Activities Committee was involved in the grand jury proceedings; allegations about Hiss; Soviet espionage activity in the United States and alleged improprieties in the grand jury proceedings.

The petition requesting release of the documents was filed by Public Citizen, a non-profit litigation group, on behalf of the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the Society of American Archivists and the American Society for Legal History.

Visiting Historic Sites Listed as Most Popular Cultural Activity

Last year Partners in Tourism, a collaboration of eight national associations and four federal agencies, commissioned the Travel Industry Association of America to add a series of questions about cultural visits to its August 1998 National Travel Survey. The results emphasized the important role heritage sites and museums play in travelers' decisions about the length of their trips.

Forty-six percent of the nearly 200 million U.S. travelers included a cultural, arts, heritage or historic activity while on a trip of 50 miles or more during the previous year. Visiting a historic community or building was the most popular cultural activity listed in the survey. It found that of the 92.4 million travelers who included cultural activities in their trips, 31 percent visited historic buildings, 24 percent visited museums, 15 percent visited art galleries and 14 percent went to see live theater.

STATE AND REGIONAL REPORT



Rural School Stories Told at OHAM Meeting

By JoAnn Hanson-Stone
Oral History Assn. of Minnesota

The Oral History Association of Minnesota's annual meeting in March featured various presentations that focused on education.

Tom Melchoir told stories of country school teachers he interviewed across the state. Gloria Morris-Grothe reported on public education in rural Cokato, Minn., from 1910-1935. Panelists Marilyn McGriff, Gloria Anderson, Anne Aby and Joel Wurl described how oral history is used in educational arenas from grade school to college. Joel reminded us of the wealth of stories contained in archival collections just waiting for someone to bring them to life.

OHAM members also heard from Anna Marschalter-Burns and Mariam Hadj-Moussa, who produced a video on Scandinavians and the Socialist Party in early 20th century Minnesota, and educators Carol Holm and Helen Carlson who work with young people in Duluth and Sweden to shape their family and life stories.

On Aug. 21-22, OHAM is co-sponsoring and participating in a storytelling conference with the Iron Range Research and Interpretive Center in Chisholm and is planning a November mini-series program on storytelling and oral history with Judy Goldstein, a professional storyteller from St. Paul.

*(Reprinted from the OHAM News,
June 1999)*

Opportunities Offered For Oral Historians

Missouri

The State Historical Society of Missouri has an opening for an oral historian to work with an established program documenting the history and activities of the Missouri General Assembly and Missouri politics. Full-time permanent position carrying University of Missouri academic non-regular status with excellent benefits package. Salary: \$23,700. Available Oct. 1. Application deadline is Aug. 31.

Requirements: Masters degree in American history, political science or one of the humanities or social sciences. Preference for experience in oral history.

Send application letter, resume and names of three references to: James W. Goodrich, Director, State Historical Society of Missouri, 1020 Lowry St., Columbia, MO 65201.

Florida

The Reichelt Program for Oral History at Florida State University has several assistantships available for new graduate students who wish to pursue a masters degree in oral history. For further information, please contact Robin Sellers, Director, Reichelt Program for Oral History, History Department, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2200.

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission invites applications for its 2000-01 scholars in residence program and its recently inaugurated collaborative residency program.

The scholars in residence program provides support for full-time research and study in the manuscript and artifact collections at any PHMC facility, including the State Archives, State Museum and 26 historic sites and museums around Pennsylvania.

The collaborative research program will fund original research relating to the interpretive mission of PHMC sites and museums.

Both programs are open to all who are conducting research on Pennsylvania history and support residencies of four to 12 weeks at a rate of \$1,200 per month. Application deadline is Jan. 17, 2000. For more information, contact: Division of History, PHMC, Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17109 or e-mail: lshopes@phmc.state.pa.us or the PHMC Web site: www.phmc.state.pa.us

Texas

The Baylor University Institute for Oral History welcomes applications for a \$3,000 fellowship for the spring of 2000, open to individuals in any field who can benefit from the Institute's holdings. The fellowship is designed to bring scholars to Waco, Texas, to work with oral history materials housed in The Texas Collection special library.

The oral history collection has many aspects but is strongest in Central Texas history and religion in the Southwest. The Guide to the Collection is at: http://www.baylor.edu/~Oral_History/Guide_welcome.html

Grant guidelines are at: http://www.baylor.edu/~Oral_History/fellowship.htm.

Canadian Oral Historians Focus on Annual Journal

The Canadian Oral History Association is focusing its activities on publication of its annual journal entitled "Oral History Forum/Forum D'Histoire Orale." The 1999 issue will be devoted to the theme of native oral history and the 2000 issue will include a variety of topics.

For information, contact Editor Ronald Labelle at: labelle@umoncton.ca.

Call for Papers

"At the Crossroads: Transforming Community Locally and Globally"

Oral History Association Annual Meeting

Durham, N.C.
Oct. 11-15, 2000

The Oral History Association invites proposals for papers and presentations for its 2000 annual meeting, Oct. 11-15 in Durham, N.C. The theme of the meeting is "At the Crossroads: Transforming Community Locally and Globally."

As we turn to a new century, we take this opportunity to examine the many ways oral history can explore how globalization affects communities and cultures. What impacts do the social, economic, political and cultural processes of globalization have on local and regional communities? What kinds of narratives are emerging at the local, regional, national and international levels about the changing nature of community?

We also seek to encourage a reexamination of the ways oral historians work within communities. What is the role of oral history in documenting and understanding the transformation of community? How does the practice of oral history change community or community members, including oral history practitioners? Have recent concerns over shared authority altered the ways oral historians shape history and interact with communities?

Proposals on all aspects of the practice and interpretation of oral history also are welcome.

The 2000 OHA meeting gives us an opportunity to draw upon the rich history of Durham-Chapel Hill as a center of oral history work, regional studies and documentary expression. The program committee especially encourages sessions that experiment with forms of documentation in addition to customary panels. Presentations may include film, video, radio, exhibits, drama and electronic media and may take the form of panels, roundtables, workshops, poster sessions, media- and performance-oriented sessions and other formats we haven't yet imagined.

The OHA invites proposals from: academic and public historians; folklorists; graduate students; library, archives, museum and media professionals; community workers; and educators of all levels of students.

We especially encourage proposals from community-

based projects and welcome proposals from other professional organizations, including state and regional oral history associations affiliated with the OHA. Considering the theme of this year's conference we are particularly eager to invite proposals from the international community.

Applicants must submit five copies of proposals. In all cases, please include the full name, mailing address, institutional affiliation (if any), phone number and e-mail address (if any) for each session participant. For full sessions, submit a one- to two-page abstract of the session and one-page vitae of all participants. For individual proposals, submit a one-page abstract and one-page vita of the presenter.

For queries, contact either program co-chair. Send proposals to Mary Murphy by Dec. 15, 1999.

Mary Murphy, Associate Professor
Department of History
Montana State University
P.O. Box 172320
Bozeman, MT 59717-2320
Phone: 406-994-5206
Fax: 406-994-6879
E-mail: uhixmm@montant.edu

Alicia J. Rouverol
Southern Oral History Program
Department of History
CB#3195, 406 Hamilton Hall
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3195
Phone: 919-317-4244
E-mail: ajrouver@email.unc.edu

Proposal deadline: Dec. 15, 1999

OHA Leaders Praise Rebecca Sharpless for Tireless Service

When Baylor University's Rebecca Sharpless ended her four-year stint as the Oral History Association's executive secretary early this year, she left a legacy of efficiency, professionalism and dedication to the aims of oral history, say former OHA presidents who worked with her.

Past president Linda Shopes said Sharpless took over the executive secretary's position "during a critical period of transition, as the association sought to expand and professionalize its services."

Sharpless won praise for successfully negotiating with the University of California Press to transfer publication of the **Oral History Review** and management of membership records.

Past president Richard Candida Smith, who also served as an OHA executive secretary, noted that Sharpless, as director of Baylor's Institute for Oral History, "did a marvelous job of negotiating the balance between her responsibilities to OHA and her responsibilities to Baylor."

"She worked many more hours than OHA ever could have afforded to pay," Smith said. "There was never any question of things not getting done on time."

Past president Anne Ritchie, also a former OHA executive secretary, said

Sharpless "moved the association forward into the technological world."

"She was the first to record the minutes of Council's sometimes long and tedious meetings on a laptop computer," Ritchie said, adding that Sharpless also was responsible for improving OHA's membership and financial records, arranging regular audits and closely monitoring expenditures and income.

Past president Dale Treleven said Sharpless' behind-the-scenes organizational skills ensured that the OHA's awards program was successfully inaugurated in 1995.

OHA members "knowingly or unknowingly" benefitted from her efforts, Treleven said, "because of her determination, diligence and wisdom."

Shopes said the OHA "needs to recognize the unheralded support of both the Institute for Oral History and Baylor University. I know that on more than one occasion, Institute staff pitched in to help OHA meet a deadline."

Lois Myers, Institute associate director, said Sharpless' "ability to get things done and make things happen is in high demand." In addition to her work for the OHA, her administrative duties for the Institute, teaching and interviewing, Sharpless has served as



M. Rebecca Sharpless
Photo from Baylor University

president of Baylor's Phi Beta Kappa chapter, is on the University Research Committee and is involved with numerous national and regional history groups as well as her local neighborhood association and church.

Myers said Sharpless is leading the Institute "beyond collecting and preserving oral history toward disseminating the results of its research in various formats."

Sharpless' book, "Fertile Ground, Narrow Choices: Women on Texas Cotton Farms, 1900-1940," was published this spring, and she is researching her next book, a study of gender and food in the American South since the Civil War.

OHA Pamphlet Order Form

Add to your professional reference library the Oral History Association's pamphlets. OHA members get a 10 percent discount for orders of 10 or more copies. Clip and mail this coupon, with your check made out to OHA, to: Oral History Assn., Dickinson College, Box 1773, Carlisle, PA 17013.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Country _____

All prices include shipping via domestic mail. Inquire for costs of Federal Express delivery. International shipping by surface mail at no extra charge; add 30 percent to your order if you prefer international airmail delivery.

Pamphlet	Price	Quantity
Oral History and the Law, 2nd ed., by John A. Neuenschwander, 1993	\$8.00	_____
Oral History in the Secondary School Classroom, by Barry A. Lanman and George L. Mehaffy, 1988	\$8.00	_____
Using Oral History in Community History Projects, by Laurie Mercier and Madeline Buckendorf, 1992	\$8.00	_____
Oral History Evaluation Guidelines, 2nd ed., 1991	\$5.00	_____

Order total: _____
Optional mailing charge: _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Reach OHA Online

The Oral History Association's home page on the World Wide Web can be found at:
<http://www.dickinson.edu/organizations/oha>.

The oral history electronic discussion list, H-ORALHIST, is one of the H-Net affiliated scholarly lists. There are no dues or fees of any kind to enroll. Subscribers only need an e-mail address on the Internet. To subscribe, send a message to: listserv@h-net.msu.edu with no subject and the following text:

SUBSCRIBE H-ORALHIST
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If you have questions or problems subscribing, contact H-Oralhist Editor Jeff Charnley at: charnle2@pilot.msu.edu.

Oral History In Classrooms Is Roundtable Focus

By Ava Kahn
San Francisco State University

The Oral History Association's Education Committee and the **Oral History Review** are sponsoring a special roundtable session at the Anchorage conference to examine oral history in the classroom

The session is a follow-up to the **Review's** special issue, "Practice and Pedagogy: Oral History in the Classroom" (Summer/Fall 1998). The session is scheduled for Oct. 8 at 4:15 p.m.

Because teaching is so important to our profession, it is necessary to assess how the special issue was useful in rethinking philosophy and pedagogy.

Roundtable panelists are: Chuck Lee, University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse, who will discuss the

impetus of the special issue; Tim Fong, Sacramento State University, who will talk about the editing of the roundtable article; Ava Kahn, San Francisco State University, who will address how the articles in the special issue changed her teaching, and Marjorie McClellan, Miami University, who will illustrate how the issue made her reconsider teaching methods and what issues she would like to see future teaching articles address.

We would like to ask those of you who have read the **Review** special issue to share your thoughts with us in advance of the session via e-mail and to be an active participant in the session.

In addition, we would like interested members to bring syllabi, course assignments, reading lists, etc., that could be published as an important resource guide as well as posted on the OHA Web site.

For comments or more information, contact Ava Kahn at: akahn@sfsu.edu.

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Editor: Mary Kay Quinlan, 7524 S. 35th St., Lincoln, NE 68516.

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