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Oral History Association

NEWSLETTER

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William Manchester Heads List of Speakers for Third Colloquium; Meeting Starts November 22; University of Nebraska is Host

WILLIAM MANCHESTER, whose *Death Of A President* made him easily the most talked about historian in the United States, will be one of the featured speakers during the 1968 Oral History Colloquium at the University of Nebraska.

Joining with Manchester will be Walter Lord, author of *Incredible Victory, Day of Infamy*, and other volumes that have utilized oral history interviews; Allan Nevins, "father of oral history"; Joe B. Frantz, historian at the University of Texas, who has been named by President Lyndon B. Johnson to set up an oral history project for the Johnson Library; and James B. Rhoads, newly appointed Archivist of the United States.

The meeting begins on Friday, November 22, at the Nebraska Center in Lincoln. It concludes on Monday, November 25. Local arrangements are being directed by Philip A. Crawl, Chairman of the History Department at the University of Nebraska.

William Manchester conducted hundreds of interviews for his book about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and he will distill what he learned from this and other ventures with oral history. Manchester is now associated with the Center for Advanced Study at Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

Walter Lord, whose interview experience goes back to 1912—he found some survivors of the *Titanic* whose recollections he used in preparing *A Night To Remember*—will build upon themes in the 1967 Arden House Oral History Colloquium that need elaboration.

Professor Frantz will discuss the video tape program on American cultural history that he has developed at the University of Texas. Participants to date have included Arnold Toynbee, Ralph Bunche, and leading American historians. Frantz promises a sample screening.

Allan Nevins will invite consideration of some new horizons in the development of oral history.

Dr. Rhoads has agreed to summarize his impressions of the Colloquium as a whole, and also to offer comments about the oral history movement. As Archivist of the United States he is concerned with six presidential libraries that are either underway or in the planning stages, and five of these (Hoover, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson) are collecting oral history interviews.

Several group meetings, as announced in the April issue of this *Newsletter*, will focus on special aspects of oral history.

This Colloquium is the first national meeting of the Oral History Association to be held in the Middle West. The first meeting, sponsored by the University of California at Los Angeles, was held at UCLA's conference center at Lake Arrowhead in 1966. Last year the host was Columbia University and the meeting was held at the Arden House Conference Center in Harriman, New York.



At the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, the spacious first floor lobby is an invitation to informal visiting.

FLASH! OHA GRANTED TAX EXEMPTION

Edward J. Fitzgerald, Jr., District Director of Internal Revenue in Manhattan, has granted the Oral History Association an exemption from payment of Federal Income Taxes. The Association, in his judgment, qualifies as an educational organization under the provisions of the IRS code.

OHA members should note that the ruling confirms the fact that contributions to the Association are tax deductible. It will also enable the OHA to avail itself of lower postal rates.

The ruling requires the filing of an annual information return that lists income and expenditures.

Getting It While It's Hot: Columbia's Oral History Research Office Does Interviews About the Recent Troubles on Morningside Heights

The disruption of an American university has become the latest—and least anticipated—project of Columbia's Oral History Research Office.

Student demonstrations at Columbia escalated into a crisis that forced a shut-down of the Morningside campus for several days and finally exploded in the pre-dawn hours of May 1, when a thousand police stormed five occupied buildings.

Mindful of the expiring academic year, the Columbia OHRO launched a "crash" interview project concerning the "troubles" with the assent of its advisory committee on May 8. Three Advanced Fellows at the Graduate School of Journalism were hastily recruited to interview students, faculty members, administrators, chaplains, mediators, and others drawn into the maelstrom.

By May 29, still without special financing, Columbia's OHRO had accumulated some 1500 pages of testimony. The same day the Edward W. Hazen Foundation of New Haven, Connecticut, though already committed for the year, agreed to furnish emergency financing.

"History, Warm has turned into History, Hot," Louis Starr, Director of the Columbia project, said of the interviews. "Appraisals of what happened here will have to come later, but we have never had an opportunity to obtain material about a single chain of events, all still fresh in mind, from such highly articulate, emotionally involved respondents."

The result, he said, should be a resource of value to all who ponder the structure of higher education in this country, the role of the urban university in modern life, and related matters like world-wide student unrest and its causes, and the responses of scholars in time of crisis.

PENNSYLVANIA: ORAL HISTORY DISCUSSED IN PITTSBURGH

About forty people attended a meeting at the Webster Hall Hotel in Pittsburgh on April 20, 1968, to plan a Pittsburgh oral history office. The meeting was initiated by J. Cutler Andrews, Professor of History at Chatham College, and participants represented the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie-Mellon University, Duquesne University, the Carnegie Library, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, the Pittsburgh Foundation, and other local institutions. They heard a talk by Louis Starr, portions of a tape-recorded interview with the late David L. Lawrence, former Pittsburgh mayor and Governor of Pennsylvania, and an afternoon panel discussion. Panelists were Alice Hoffman, Director of the Penn State Oral History Office; Professor Samuel P. Hays of the History Department at the University of Pittsburgh; and Dr. Starr. A steering committee headed by Keith Doms, Director of the Carnegie Library, was asked by the group to determine where the office should be based, how it should establish priorities among the many suggestions put forward, and how it might obtain financing. Copies of the proceedings of this meeting may be obtained by writing to Professor Andrews at Chatham College, Pittsburgh 15232.

TEXAS: MEDICAL HISTORY AT TEXAS TECH

The medical history of Lubbock and the South Plains as told by those who made it is available on tape recordings at the Southwest Collection at Texas Technological College in Lubbock. Recollections of physicians who practiced in the early 1900's are being obtained together with manuscript materials pertaining to medical history in the region.

KANSAS: 16 TRANSCRIPTS AT ABILENE

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Library reports that oral history interviews with the following individuals have been transcribed and accessioned: George Aiken, Earl Behrens, Andrew Berding, Samuel Brownell, Percival Brundage, Arthur Burns, Prescott Bush, Roscoe Drummond, Wesley D'Ewart, Robert Finch, Ralph Flanders, Clarence Francis, Barry Goldwater, Neil McElroy, Leverett Saltonstall, and Edward Thye.

CONNECTICUT: ORAL HISTORY AT MYSTIC SEAPORT

A year ago the Marine Historical Association at Mystic, Connecticut, began oral history interviews with people involved in the New England fishing industry. Attention at first was devoted to the oyster industry in Connecticut and Long Island, but tapes have also been obtained about salmon fishing in Penobscot Bay in Maine. Recently the project became interested in the United States Life Saving Service and the early Coast Guard Service, and interviews are being scheduled with retired surfmen. The next major goal is interviews with lobstermen. The project is operating under the direction of Edmund E. Lynch, Curator at Old Mystic. He notes that "I rely heavily on the oral interview for techniques and uses of equipment since published sources lack the immense detail so important to our operation."

WISCONSIN: INTERVIEWS IN THE ST. CROIX RIVER VALLEY

For the past two years the Area Research Center at Wisconsin State University in River Falls has been conducting an oral history program for the St. Croix River valley. "The primary concern has been an attempt to preserve the distinct and colorful history of this western Wisconsin vicinity before it is completely lost," explains Deryl Gease, Archivist at the Area Research Center. The current core of the Center's program includes investigations into the history of the lumber industry, medicine, music, the Spanish-American War, local city histories and the political-educational growth of the region.

NEW JERSEY: A NEW PROJECT IN NEWARK

Recently the New Jersey Division of the Newark Public Library set up an oral history project and interviewed George Stringfellow, a business associate of Thomas Edison, to start its collection. "The establishment of such a program," reports Charles Cummings, the Principal Librarian of the New Jersey Division, "seemed only logical since this division is responsible for collecting information, both historic and current, concerning Newark, Essex County, and the State of New Jersey."

Book Reviews: Benison's *Tom Rivers*; Recollections of the 1930's

TOM RIVERS: Reflections on a Life in Medicine and Science, an oral history memoir prepared by Saul Benison, 682 pp. with illus., \$17.50, Cambridge, Mass.: The M. I. T. Press, 1967.

With this impressive volume, one of the "pros" among the practitioners of oral history has performed a noteworthy service to medical history and the growing field of oral history. He has provided a scholarly discussion of the development of virology in the United States as seen through the eyes of Dr. Thomas M. Rivers (1889-1962). An investigator and then administrator, Dr. Rivers played an important role among the cast of characters involved in the growth of virus research from its beginnings in the early 20th century as an adjunct of bacteriology to its present position as an independent discipline. In addition to bringing together a vast quantity of information with interpretation by Dr. Rivers—information which has not been gathered together before—the memoir captures the personality of Dr. Rivers in a manner unique to the oral history process. Dr. Rivers in his inimitable outspoken manner discusses virus research at great length and provides candid commentaries about numerous scientific colleagues and the institutions and agencies with which he was associated.

As medical history, this volume has been received enthusiastically by Dr. Benison's historical colleagues as evidenced by the award of the William H. Welch Medal to the author by the American Association for the History of Medicine "for a particular contribution of outstanding scholarly merit in the field of medical history."

As oral history, this memoir has much for the novice and experienced interviewer to digest. The two keys to scholarship in oral history are exemplified by this work: (1) intensive and thorough preparation by the interviewer, and (2) reliance upon published and manuscript sources to create a framework for the interviews. Through the use of frequent footnotes, Dr. Benison expands, clarifies or corrects some of Dr. Rivers' statements. He also uses footnotes in certain instances to allow the subjects of Dr. Rivers' commentaries to defend themselves or at least to give their interpretation of the points under discussion. To my knowledge the latter is a novelty in the oral history memoir. The Appendices are noteworthy, particularly Appendix G entitled "A Note on Manuscript Sources, Footnotes, Appendices and Bibliography," which relates the published and manuscript sources consulted to each chapter of the memoir.

Benison's work is obviously the result of many months of preparation and attention to scholarly detail. One's first inclination after studying this book (or discussing the philosophy of oral history with Dr. Benison) is to turn off his own tape recorder and try other pursuits. However, though it may be painful for some to admit, the precepts illustrated by this published memoir are equally applicable to the one-hour interview and typescript transcriptions in our libraries. The more closely one approaches the perfection of Saul Benison, the more valuable will be the product of the oral history interview.

This memoir is published at an opportune time. The oral history interview is becoming an increasingly popular enterprise and is a technique with great potential. However, without attention to preparation and scholarly standards, it will soon succumb to its own weighty mediocrity as few scholars will seek it out and few administrators will finance it.

Peter D. Olch, M.D.
Deputy Chief
History of Medicine Division
National Library of Medicine

AS WE SAW THE THIRTIES: Essays on Social and Political Movements of a Decade. Edited by Rita James Simon. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1967, 253 pp. \$2.45.

Recently, a friend wrote to me: "I can accept your conclusion that the terms, 'revolution and watershed,' may seem to exaggerate the nature of change that took place in the depression decade as seen now in the perspective of history, but I can testify from living at the time that it felt a good bit like 'revolution!'" The contributors to this volume, who also lived through the 1930's, offer quite different testimony. The New Deal, Max Shachtman writes, "was capitalist reformism and as such it could never seriously solve the grave social problems that confronted American society in the 1930's." Earl Browder suggests that the New Deal was anti-revolutionary; it "cut the ground from under both the Socialist and Communist parties . . ." Browder supported Roosevelt but in doing so "postponed revolutionary prospects indefinitely." These quotations remind us that points of view are involved in oral history as well as other types. Unlike my friend, most people in this volume look at the history of the 1930's from vantage points to the left of the New Deal.

In a sense, the volume supplies a series of oral histories. The contributors were not interviewed; instead, they lectured. But they were recruited because they could supply eyewitness accounts of historical events, and they were asked a series of questions.

The method has weaknesses as a way of obtaining memoir material. A skilled interviewer could have forced the speakers to pay closer attention to chronology and to discuss episodes they preferred to "forget." He could have raised doubts about their interpretations of the significance of the activities in which they were involved.

Nevertheless, the lectures contain many of the values of other types of oral histories. The "interviewees" take us behind the scenes and behind the written records, and they enable us to see how the period looked to the participants and what they were like. Thus, the historian of the recent period, so heavily dependent upon the memories of people involved in significant historical events, should encourage the development of this method as well as the even more effective ways of tapping memories. After all, funds can be obtained for its support. Residents of Urbana must have found this lecture series an enormously fascinating affair.

Richard S. Kirkendall
University of Missouri, Columbia

Do baseball players have better memories than the rest of us? Lawrence S. Ritter's **THE GLORY OF THEIR TIMES: The Story of the Early Days of Baseball Told by the Men Who Played It** (The Macmillan Co., 1966, \$7.95) is based upon tape-recorded interviews with "greats" of the game fifty and sixty years ago (Rube Marquard, Smokey Joe Wood, Lefty O'Doul, Chief Meyers, Heinie Groh, etc.). Says Ritter in a preface: "The reader may wonder at the detail contained in these narrations, the near total recall of events that took place a half century or more ago. If so, he can join me in that wonderment. The memory of man is a remarkable storehouse indeed. Many of the people I talked to had to think longer to get the names of all their great-grandchildren straight than they did to run down the batting order of the 1906 Chicago Cubs. . . . Initially skeptical, I spent weeks checking a great deal of what was told me. I poured through record books and searched out old newspapers and other primary sources to verify a fact or an incident. But almost without exception I found that the event took place almost precisely as it had been described. And in those instances where something had been added, the embellishments invariably were those of the artist; they served to dramatize a point, to emphasize a contrast, or to reveal a truth."

TEACHING ORAL HISTORY TECHNIQUES AT COOPERSTOWN: A REPORT ABOUT LAST SUMMER'S SEMINAR

(This account by Wendell Tripp, Editor of *New York History*, is reprinted from *History News*, the monthly bulletin of the American Association for State and Local History—a newsletter that oral historians should read regularly. We are grateful to William T. Alderson, Director of the A.A.S.L.H., for permission to reprint this essay.)

Oral history is coming of age, both figuratively and literally. It was almost twenty years ago that Allan Nevins established at Columbia University the nation's first oral history program and coined the term "oral history." Since then a number of institutions have established oral history programs. And now, in what must be considered both a culmination and a beginning, a group of scholars are establishing the Oral History Association, the first national organization.

The New York State Historical Association recently sponsored one further developmental step when its annual Seminars on American Culture offered the first formal course on oral history techniques ever offered outside professional archivist training programs. The one-week course was taught by Gould P. Colman, Director of the Cornell Program in Oral History. The class was composed of teachers, local historians, students, librarians, archivists, folklorists, and a number of historical hobbyists.

The Association offered the course partly in recognition of the growth of oral history as a distinct research and archival method and partly as a service to the heterogeneous Seminar student body whose varied backgrounds suggested equally varied means of utilizing oral history. With this in mind, Colman set out to identify basic problems involved in oral history procedures and to suggest solutions that would accord with the individual needs of the class members.

He emphasized that oral history is but one of several methods for obtaining primary source material. Depending on the objectives of the researcher, it may not be the best method, for other techniques may be less expensive and less subject to bias. And in many cases it must be supplemented by other methods of obtaining historical information.

However, it is equally true that oral history has certain unique qualities which in particular cases make it an almost indispensable method. It preserves information that would otherwise be lost; it enables the compiler to obtain made-to-order information to suit his own needs; it permits researchers to compare existing historical sources against the statements of participants in the events described by those sources.

There are two simple, but basic, criteria for determining whether a particular individual is an appropriate source. He must have been in a position to acquire the information, and he must be willing to give the information. He must not be so biased as to distort the information, nor must he rationalize to the extent that in reporting he vitiates his observations and experiences as a primary witness.

The interview itself is but one part of the oral history process. To be effective it must be preceded by careful and deliberate planning, and it must be followed by precise evaluation. Novices too often confine planning to selecting audio equipment, which really presents minor problems. Planning should actually begin with a consideration of objectives. Thus the practitioner of oral history should determine who will be using the information (for examples, high school classes? local historians? museum researchers?). He must then decide whether these objectives require the preparation of typed transcripts; he must, if his program is an extensive one, select capable interviewers and insure their familiarity with the topic being studied; and he must select persons to be interviewed by subjecting them to the above criteria. Planning should also include the preparation of the respondent through a preliminary explanation

of the program, an exposition of the desired information, and an explanation of the procedures to be used in the interview. The planner must also prepare for the promulgation of his information, including cataloguing, storage, and distribution.

The process of evaluation is no less important. Proceeding from the simple to the complex, it should include: a procedure for insuring verbatim typed transcript of the taped material; a review of the interview itself to determine if the desired information was in fact obtained and if the manner of presentation affected the reliability of the information; and preparation for further interviews. The compiler should establish, with the person interviewed, conditions of ownership of the taped material and should determine if there are any restrictions on its use. Finally, effective evaluation would include a consideration of materials to supplement the interview. These materials could include a bibliography of materials consulted in preparing the interview as well as primary and published materials related to the topic under discussion.

To test and illustrate certain of these procedures, Colman assigned three students to conduct demonstration interviews. They were to assume that they were biographers in quest of primary materials for the life of a prominent scholar. The person interviewed in all three demonstrations was Colman, who actually was a former student and personal friend of the scholar in question. The students were to determine in a twenty-minute interview Colman's ability to give the desired information and his willingness to do so. The interviews were transcribed and evaluated by the class and the instructor.

The evaluation centered upon three points: the importance to the user of knowing whether the transcript has been checked for accuracy of transcription; the importance to the user of knowing whether the transcript has been reviewed for accuracy and clarity; changes made in the transcripts and by whom these changes were made. The last point raised most discussion. Some class members felt that the interviewee's changes were of no value unless one knew his reasons for making them. On the other hand, the class felt that this review of the transcript increased accuracy and clarity of his statements.

There was, however, no disagreement in the group's evaluation of the course itself. They agreed that the guidelines presented in the course offered the basic ingredients of a successful program. And they further agreed that proper oral history techniques, with emphasis on planning and evaluation, were applicable to all situations—to single interviews and major oral history projects, to personal information-gathering efforts, and to formal institutional oral history programs.

Wendell Tripp

HOOVER PROJECT DEVISES A QUICK WAY FOR HANDLING LEGAL AGREEMENTS

The Herbert Hoover Oral History Program is asking respondents for release of their material directly on the tape at the close of each interview.

Interrogators explain the reason for the release either before the interview begins, but preferably when the recording machine momentarily is shut off near the end.

Then on resuming tape, a formal request for a release is made to the respondent by the interviewer in the form of a question. The respondent may reply with a simple "Yes," or he may state such conditions as he wishes to impose. This practice saves letter writing, procrastination and misunderstandings.

The Herbert Hoover Oral History Program, soon to enter the third of its scheduled three-year program of interviewing, has collected 138 interviews (174 tapes) and has at least 150 interviews still scheduled.

California Leads in Efforts to Catalog and Distribute Interviews

The establishment of a California Bibliographic Center for Oral History Materials is being worked on jointly by the staffs of the California State Library, the Regional Oral History Office at U.C. Berkeley, the Oral History Office at UCLA, and the Carmel Art Museum. Plans call for locating the Bibliographic Center in the State Library at Sacramento where card files will be kept on all oral history materials available for research in California.

Colleges, libraries, museums, historical societies, and individuals producing oral history interviews will be asked to submit specific information on the interviewees and the subjects covered. They will also be asked to indicate the conditions under which these materials can be consulted by researchers. Purpose of the Center will be to stimulate production and use of oral history materials and to prevent unnecessary duplication of similar interviews.

At Berkeley the Regional Oral History Office is making a cautious beginning in a program to distribute its interview transcripts to selected depositories. The ROHO program was spurred forward by Professor William Leuchtenberg's discussion at the 1967 Arden House Colloquium about the difficulties of getting oral history interviews to scholars for research use.

Notices about the nearing completion of certain ROHO interviews on agricultural history, Forest Service policies, and forest history, as well as an interview with the late photographer, Dorothea Lange, have been sent to professors, libraries, and museums known to have an interest in the material. The memoranda give details about the contents of interviews and the arrangements for deposit. The receiving depository will be charged the cost of reproducing the interviews.

According to Willa Baum of ROHO, these interview manuscripts would still be non-circulating, and all requests for deposit will still have to be agreed upon by each interviewee. The transcripts, nevertheless, will be more accessible to researchers throughout the nation.

CAN YOUNGSTERS DO ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS?

A New York Teacher Reports A Successful Effort

Twenty-two students in the 7th and 8th grades at the Lakeland Middle School in Mohegan Lake, N.Y., participated in an oral history interview this past spring. Their history instructor, Harry Kursh, made arrangements with Edward Ferro, chief of the Immigration Inspection Service at Ellis Island in the 1920's and '30's, to meet with the students. "I led off the questioning merely to warm up the session," Kursh reports, "then the children took over. The experiment proved to be of enormous worth." Duplicate tapes of the interview were sent to Columbia's Oral History Research Office for appraisal.

A report on a similar project will be contained in Charles Morrissey's "Oral History As A Classroom Tool," an article that will appear in the October issue of *Social Education*, the Journal of the National Council for the Social Studies that is published in collaboration with the American Historical Association.



Edward Ferro, who died shortly after granting an interview to 7th and 8th grade pupils of the Lakeland Middle School Oral History Project, is shown displaying an unusual aerial photograph of Ellis Island as it was in the early 1920's when Mr. Ferro was chief immigration inspector there.

MARYLAND: INTERVIEWS WITH DR. HASTINGS ARE COMPLETED

The most recent major project of the Oral History Program of the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland, has been the completion of approximately 35 hours of interviews with Dr. Albert Baird Hastings, former Professor of Biological Chemistry at Harvard Medical School (1935-1958). This biographical memoir contains extensive discussions of Dr. Hastings' research as well as that by others in those fields of biological chemistry dealing with the acid-base balance of the blood, calcium metabolism, tissue electrolytes, and intermediary metabolism. His associations with many institutions, including the Rockefeller Institute, the University of Chicago, the Harvard Medical School, and a variety of Governmental committees, provides an interesting view of academic medicine since 1921. When the transcript of this memoir is completed, it will be placed in the NLM Library together with Dr. Hastings' personal papers.

NEW YORK: ORAL HISTORY FOR JEWISH HISTORY & IDENTITY

On June 4, 1968, the American Jewish Committee sponsored a meeting in New York at which almost forty scholars discussed the uses of oral history in documenting the story of Jewish history and identity in the United States. In charge of this beginning oral history project is Mrs. Lucy S. Dawidowicz of the American Jewish Committee.

ALSO IN NEW YORK: A GRANT TO CORNELL

The Cornell University Program in Oral History recently received a Hatch Act grant for \$4,650 to finance an analysis of interviews done during the past three years on the development of the sugar beet industry in New York state. Gould Colman, Director of the Cornell Project, explains that the interviews will be analyzed and coded; structured questionnaires will be developed for obtaining additional information and for testing the reliability of the content of the oral history interviews.

The death of Douglass Adair on May 2, 1968, has saddened friends of oral history everywhere. As Professor of History at the Claremont Graduate School he directed oral history on his own campus and also participated in a major way at the 1966 Oral History Colloquium at Lake Arrowhead and the 1967 meeting at Arden House. His personality was always pleasant, his observations were perceptive, and his judgment was sound. His contributions will be missed.

A REPORT ON OHA MEMBERSHIP

Knox Mellon, Treasurer of the Oral History Association, reports that OHA membership looked like this as of June 1:

| | Individuals | Institutions | Students |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| Renewals | 53 | 34 | |
| New members | 34 | 6 | 9 |
| No Answer | 31 | 29 | |
| Cancelled | 2 | 1 | |

COUNCIL CREATES STUDENT, LIBRARY MEMBERSHIPS

Two new categories of membership in the Oral History Association, both of them non-voting, have been created by the Executive Council. One is for students and the other for libraries, and annual dues for each are \$5.00. These are subscription memberships, entitling those who qualify to receive the **Newsletter**, Colloquium proceedings, and other publications that go free to OHA members.

ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION, INC.

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ORAL HISTORY GOALS & GUIDELINES ARE BEING FORMULATED BY OSCAR WINTER'S COMMITTEE

Oscar O. Winther, Professor of History at Indiana University, is the new chairman of the Oral History Association's study committee on goals and guidelines. Professor Winther, who has taught at Indiana since 1950 and has written, edited, or co-authored a dozen books on the history of the American West, attended both the U.C.L.A. and Columbia oral history meetings in 1966 and 1967 and has been actively interested in oral history at Indiana.

Serving with him on this committee are Professor James Harvey Young of Emory University in Atlanta, Mrs. Amelia Fry of the Regional Oral History Office at the University of California at Berkeley, and Dr. Philip C. Brooks, Director of the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Mo.

This committee will report upon its work at the Lincoln Colloquium in November. It came into being after Gould Colman, the first chairman, expressed a desire "to see what a new group can do."

Members of the Oral History Association should forward their suggestions to Professor Winther.

ALLAN NEVINS NAMED OHA HONORARY CHAIRMAN

A proposal to name Allan Nevins the honorary chairman of the Oral History Association has been unanimously adopted by its Executive Council. Nevins, Senior Research Associate at the Huntington Library in San Marino, Calif., since his retirement from Columbia, launched the first oral history project at Columbia in 1948. He continues to serve as chairman of the Columbia Oral History Advisory Committee, an interdisciplinary group, and addressed the First National Colloquium on Oral History at Lake Arrowhead, California, in 1966—the UCLA-sponsored meeting which gave birth to the Association. "The honor bestowed on Professor Nevins by the Council is in recognition of the inspiration and leadership he has provided from the beginning," said OHA President Louis Starr in announcing the action. Council Member Willa Baum offered the resolution.

A NEW BROCHURE EXPLAINS THE OHA

Willa Baum has prepared a brief brochure about the Oral History Association. This small mailing piece will be sent to people who inquire about the purposes and functions of the OHA, and undoubtedly it will serve to stimulate new applications for membership. The Executive Council authorized this project at its February meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska.

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