



# ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION newsletter

Volume III, Number 4, October, 1969

## 1969 National Colloquium on Oral History Gets Underway on November 7

21 Sessions are Scheduled for Weekend Conference at Airlie House near Washington, D. C.

Oral Historians will gather at Airlie House in Warrenton, Virginia, on November 7-10, 1969, for the 4th National Colloquium on Oral History. The 21 sessions that have been scheduled will cover a wide variety of oral history activities that should meet the needs of neophytes and old-timers alike.

In addition the pleasant surroundings at Airlie House will encourage informal contact between the large number of persons from various backgrounds and regions who share a common interest in oral history. Airlie House is a conference center operated by the Airlie Foundation and is located 45 miles south and west of Washington, D.C., in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The 1969 meeting is the fourth since 1966 to attract oral historians from all sections of the nation. The first was sponsored by UCLA and held at the Lake Arrowhead Conference Center in California. The second was hosted by Columbia University at Arden House, and the third was held a year ago at the University of Nebraska Conference Center.

Major speakers during the Airlie House colloquium include Barbara Tuchman, author of **The Guns of August** and other historical books, and Frank Mankiewicz, well-known journalist and former press secretary to Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York. The program has been arranged so a person can vary his activities from receiving expert advice about a particular technical problem concerning a taped interview to hearing a Washington attorney discuss the legal problems that pertain to the use of tapes and transcripts.

Here is a summary of the program:

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1969

3-5 P.M. Executive Council Meeting  
(Blue Room)

5:30 P.M. Social Hour (no host bar)  
(The Lodge)

6:30 P.M. Dinner

8:00 P.M. **Where to Now?**  
Gould P. Colman, President, OHA  
(Federal Room)

### Oral History in the Washington Environs

Moderator: Forrest C. Pogue, Executive Director,  
George C. Marshall Research Foundation

Panel: Abe Bortz, Historian, Social Security Administration  
Eugene M. Emme, Historian, National Aeronautics & Space Administration  
Benis M. Frank, Director, Marine Corps Oral History Unit  
Uta C. Merzbach, Curator of Mathematical Instruments, Smithsonian Institution  
John F. Stewart, Supervisory Archivist, Office of Presidential Libraries, National Archives  
and Records Service

(1969 Colloquium: Program Continued Inside)

## 1969 Colloquium: Program Continued

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1969

- 8:00 A.M. Breakfast  
9:00 A.M. Welcome  
Co-host Forrest C. Pogue, Exec. Dir., George C. Marshall Research Foundation  
(Federal Room)  
**A Working Reporter (and Un'licensed Practitioner) Looks at Oral History**  
Elie Abel, NBC News Diplomatic Correspondent
- 10:30 A.M. Coffee Break  
(Visit Equipment Exhibit — Garden Room)
- 11:00 A.M. Individual Program Reports  
**Institutional Projects — Studio**  
Chairman: Warren Albert, Assoc. Dir., Archive-Library, American Medical Association  
**Science and Technology — Meadow Room**  
Chairman: Peter D. Olch, Oral History Program, National Library of Medicine  
**Regional and Special Projects — Federal Room**  
Chairman: E. W. Robischon, Asst. Dir. for Education & Information, National Air & Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution
- 12:30 P.M. Lunch
- 2:00 P.M. **A Field Study of Traditional African History — Federal Room**  
David W. Cohen, Department of History, Johns Hopkins University
- 3:30 P.M. Coffee Break  
(Visit Equipment Exhibit — Garden Room)
- 4:00 P.M. Group Sessions  
**Basic Problems in Oral History — Meadow Room**  
Panel: James V. Mink (Chairman) Director, UCLA Oral History Program  
Enid H. Douglass, Asst. Dir., Oral History Program, Claremont Graduate School  
Alice M. Hoffman, Director, Oral History Project, Dept. of Labor Studies, Penn State University  
**Press Relations & Publicity of Oral History Programs — Studio**  
Panel: Charles W. Crawford (Chairman) Director, Oral History Research Office, Memphis State University  
Charles T. Morrissey, Director, Vermont Historical Society  
William R. Wyatt, Center for Western Studies, Augustana College  
**Can Film Complement Oral History Interviews? — Federal Room**  
Sarah E. Diamant, Ph.D. Candidate, Cornell University  
John J. Leahy, Director of Medical Communications, Northwestern University Medical School
- 5:30 P.M. Social Hour (Courtesy of the 3M Company) — The Lodge  
6:30 P.M. Dinner  
8:00 P.M. **Ventures in Oral History — Federal Room**  
Barbara Tuchman, Author of **The Guns of August** and other books

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1969

- 8:00 A.M. Breakfast (Transportation available to church services)  
9:00 A.M. **A Critical Evaluation of the Oral History Process — Federal Room**  
Saul Benison, Prof. of History of Medicine, University of Cincinnati
- 10:30 A.M. Coffee Break  
(Visit Equipment Exhibit — Garden Room)
- 11:00 A.M. Group Sessions  
**Basic Problems in Oral History — Meadow Room**  
Panel: Lila M. Johnson (Chairman) Oral History Office, Minnesota Historical Society  
Elizabeth S. Calciano, Regional History Project, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz  
Gary L. Shumway, Oral History Program, California State College at Fullerton  
**Oral History as a Teaching Device — Federal Room**  
Panel: William W. Cutler, III (Chairman) College of Education, Temple University  
(other panelists to be announced)  
**Studies on the Accuracy of Oral Interviews — Studio**  
Panel: David F. Musto, Depts. of Psychiatry and the History of Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine  
Saul Benison, Prof. of History of Medicine, University of Cincinnati
- 12:30 P.M. Lunch

Royster Lyle, Jr., took this picture at Airlie House in mid-August when he and Peter Olch, accompanied by their secretaries, visited this conference center in Warrenton, Virginia, to discuss final arrangements for the 4th National Colloquium on Oral History in November. That is Mrs. Margaret Donovan, Dr. Olch's secretary, who is partially obscured, while Mrs. Louise Stuart (left) of the George C. Marshall Library staff looks on. Dr. Olch of the National Library of Medicine is Program Chairman for the November meeting; Royster Lyle of the Marshall Library is handling local arrangements.



### 1969 Colloquium: Program Continued

- 2:00 P.M. **A Lawyer Looks at Oral History** — Federal Room  
H. Mason Welch, Welch, Daily & Welch, Washington, D.C.
- 3:30 P.M. Coffee Break
- 4:00 P.M. **Business Meeting: The Oral History Association**  
(Reports and election of officers) — Federal Room
- 5:30 P.M. Social Hour (Courtesy of the Oral History Association) The Lodge
- 6:30 P.M. Dinner
- 8:00 P.M. **A Little Less Than History** — Federal Room  
Frank Mankiewicz, Journalist and former press secretary to Senator Robert F. Kennedy

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1969

- 8:00 A.M. Breakfast
- 9:00 A.M. **Business Meeting: Future Business** — Federal Room
- 10:30 A.M. In Sum: **A Critic Looks at Oral History** — Federal Room  
Nathan Reingold, Editor, Joseph Henry Papers
- 12:00 P.M. Lunch

Throughout the Oral History Colloquium a limited exhibit area in Airlie House will be reserved for OHA members who wish to exhibit oral history literature (especially interview transcripts) and the other oral history items they bring to the meeting.

William F. Jensen of the 3M Company will be present at Airlie House to display tape recording equipment and offer advice about technical recording problems. Oral historians are invited to bring their "problem tapes" to Mr. Jensen for his analysis and suggestions.

Buses will leave National Airport and Dulles Airport at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 7, for Airlie House.

Buses will return from Airlie House to the Washington area airports at about 1:30 p.m. on Monday, November 10.





What happens inside: View of the Airlie House dining room (left) as a group that met recently at the Warrenton site moved along the buffet table. Amenities during the Oral History Colloquium, according to Olch and Lyle, will not be overlooked.

#### **CIVIL RIGHTS: THE STRUGGLE SINCE 1960 IS BEING RECORDED IN ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS**

The Civil Rights Documentation Project was established by the Fund for the Advancement of Education on May 1, 1967, and maintains offices at 1527 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. According to the director, Dr. Vincent J. Browne, who is also dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Howard University, "The Project's primary objectives are to tape-record and transcribe interviews with persons significantly involved in civil rights activities from 1960 to the present; and to collect unpublished written materials—handbills, posters, letters, memoranda, minutes of meetings, records of civil rights organizations, and papers of noted persons involved in the movement."

The Project has taped over 600 interviews with persons in a number of categories: national, state and local leaders of civil rights organizations; state and local elected officials including members of state legislatures, city councils, and boards of education; persons who were involved as ordinary participants in civil rights activities such as sit-ins, the Freedom Rides, the March on Washington, the Selma-to-Montgomery March, the Poor People's Campaign, voter registration drives, picket lines and boycotts; leaders in organizations who have given significant support to civil rights activities; officials of the United States government who have been involved in legislation, executive orders, judicial decisions, the war on poverty, new policy of advocacy of rights, expanded powers of the Justice Department to initiate actions, etc.; and persons opposed to civil rights activities.

"Even though the Project is concentrating on activities during the period from 1960 to the present," says Dr. Browne, "necessary attention is also being given to events in preceding years. Many interviews include matters related to the 1954 and 1955 decisions of the Supreme Court on school desegregation, the 1955-56 Montgomery (Alabama) bus boycott, passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1957, and the work of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Moreover, there are some interviewees whose long careers in the civil rights field enable them to discuss developments over a period of many years."

At the conclusion of the Project's work, a bibliography will be prepared, describing the materials, both oral and written, which have been gathered, and the collection will be deposited at an institution yet to be determined.

#### **CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION IN ARKANSAS IS DOCUMENTED BY ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS**

This past summer the State College of Arkansas Oral History Research Office launched a project to interview the delegates to the Arkansas Constitutional Convention. The College is the only means of support for this program; consequently the project is run on a volunteer basis. To date seven part-time interviewers—two graduate students, one undergraduate, and four faculty/staff—have participated with Waddy W. Moore, the Oral History Office Director.

The program includes an attempt to interview each delegate, some of the Convention staff, and people who have played a prominent role in the campaign for Constitutional revision in Arkansas. Dr. Moore also arranged to have one of the SCA recorders located in the gallery to record the debates. A few committee meetings were also taped.

The work has progressed slowly. "We had to schedule our trips to Little Rock, which is thirty-five miles down the Arkansas River Valley," Moore writes, "after we finished a full schedule of summer school teaching each day. Interviewing didn't usually begin until the convention recessed. From one day to the next we did not know who was going to be able to go to Little Rock or which delegates would be available when we arrived. We tried at first to pre-schedule interviews, but more times than not the delegate would have an unexpected committee meeting to attend or would be too tired and beg off. This left us empty handed so often that it was hardly worth making the trip. We then decided to go to Little Rock and propose to delegates that the interviews commence immediately after the recess."

Moore adds that "We did not finish all the interviews of the delegates by the time they adjourned on August 23, but the convention will have another thirty day session next January."

The delegates are asked for basic biographical data, but the main interests of the project are to (1) collect otherwise unattainable information on the delegates' background; (2) record their attitudes concerning constitutional revision for Arkansas; (3) secure opinions, reactions and attitudes toward the inner workings of the convention; (4) collect the personal views and outlook of the delegates on contemporary national and international affairs; and (5) provide materials that will be particularly useful to future Arkansas historians.

# Oral History in Canada: A "National Oral History Project" is Discussed

In 1968 the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association included a panel discussion on Oral History in Canada, and the momentum created by that exchange of viewpoints prompted the Archives Section of the CHA to plan a symposium during the 1969 Annual Meeting to continue the 1968 discussion. Meeting at York University, on the outskirts of Toronto, on June 5, 1969, the following were present:

Caiger, Anne .....	McGill University Archives
Chisholm, Elspeth .....	Free-lance Interviewer
Delisle, George .....	Public Archives of Canada
Dumas, Paul .....	University of Ottawa Archives
Guillaume, Sandra .....	Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
Hoar, Victor .....	University of Western Ontario
Jameson, Sheilagh .....	Glenbow Foundation Archives
LaClare, Leo .....	Public Archives of Canada
Marcus, Sharon .....	C.B.C. Programme Archives
McMillan, H. ....	Ontario Archives
McOuat, D.C. ....	Ontario Archives
Millar, David .....	National Film Board of Canada
Morrissey, Charles T. ....	Oral History Association
Ostaszewsky, R. ....	Alberta Archives
Parker, Jim .....	University of Alberta Archives
Smith, Dr. Wilfred .....	Public Archives of Canada
Taylor, Hugh .....	New Brunswick Archives
Weilbrenner, Bernard .....	Public Archives of Canada
Wilson, Ian E. ....	Queen's University, Douglas Library
Woods, Robin .....	C.B.C. Programme Archives

At the request of the Executive of the Archives Section, Georges Delisle and Leo LaClare served as chairman and secretary, respectively.

In an afternoon session the major item of business was the presentation of a report on a preliminary survey of oral history interviewing projects and collections of interviews. Initiated by the Public Archives of Canada, this project was conducted by means of questionnaires which were sent to the departments of history of all Canadian universities and colleges, major archival institutions, and individuals personally engaged in oral history. The contributing members were invited to add their comments or reply to questions concerning their own reports as the others described their involvement in oral history activities.

After dinner the evening session began with discussion of "the establishment of a center for the promotion, coordination, compilation and exchange of information on oral history projects in Canada." Many participants outlined the difficulties involved in such problems as defining oral history, creating a union catalogue of oral history holdings, and determining the location of an oral history clearinghouse. Further consideration of these matters was assigned to a standing committee on oral history of the Archives Section of the CHA, as moved by Professor Victor Hoar of the University of Western Ontario and adapted unanimously. Appointed to the 5-member standing committee were George Delisle, David Millar, Jim Parker, Elspeth Chisholm, and J. L. Granatstein.

Discussion about "the creation of a comprehensive national oral history project" centered upon the difficulty of operating such a project with objectivity and independence, and whether established Canadian institutions like the National Film Board or the Canadian Broadcasting Company should sponsor it. Finally the question was referred to the standing committee for further study.

Throughout the discussions it was evident that interest in oral history in Canada is growing rapidly. The report of the standing committee on oral history will be read carefully, and continuing discussions of oral history on a national scale seem most likely at forthcoming meetings of the Canadian Historical Association.

Pictured here are some participants in the first meeting in Tennessee to attract oral historians from different sections of the state for a discussion of mutual problems and procedures. The meeting was sponsored last May by the Tennessee State Library And Archives, which has agreed to serve as a clearing house for information about oral history in Tennessee in order to avoid duplication of effort. The meeting included a showing of the 90-minute film, "The Once And Always Mr. Crump" (about the career of Edward H. Crump, the late political boss of Memphis), because this film utilized the results of many interviews with Crump's contemporaries.





## ORAL HISTORY IN THE HAND OF GOD: MEMORIES OF JEWS WHO SURVIVED THE NAZI REGIME

On the tree-lined Avenue Chen in Tel Aviv, a residential building houses the oral history depot of Yad Vashem, Israel's "Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority." Yad Vashem (in Hebrew: The Hand of God) has its headquarters in Jerusalem. There it maintains a memorial, museum, library, and archive in memory of the Jews who were killed during the Nazi regime. Its Tel Aviv depot contains the depositions of survivors who in their own words relate how they had lived through these events.

The oral history program has been going on for about twelve years and is headed by its founder, Mrs. Rachel Auerbach. The researcher approaching Mrs. Auerbach's depot will find about 3,000 survivors' accounts in a dozen languages, indexed geographically and by subject matter. The deponents are a self-selected group and their stories are wholly unstructured—there is no standardized format, save for name, date of testimony, age, place of birth and, occasionally, some biographical details. The contents themselves are brief. Even so, they are sources for several kinds of information. Every once in a while, some light is shed on a particular occurrence. Often, there are microscopic views of a catastrophic situation. And always, these statements reveal something about the psychological makeup of the survivor himself.

Examples of testimony about happenings in specific localities are an account of Japanese actions against the 16,000 Jews in Shanghai (Dr. Emanuel Bergglas, 2326/216), a deposition by the sole surviving member of the Jewish Council of Rhodes on the deportation of 2,000 Dodecanese Jews to Auschwitz in July, 1944 (Mauricius Soriano, 1745/67), a description by a physician of Vapniarka, a camp established under German auspices by the Roumanians for the apparent purpose of conducting a controlled nutrition experiment involving hog food on 1,200 Jews, many of whom then became cripples (Dr. Arthur Kessler, 957/78), a compilation of protocols on the massacre of Hungarian Jewish forced labor companies on Mount Prebichl in Austria, April 7-8, 1945 (Benedykt Friedman, 1243/120), and an analysis of reports, including the recollections of a German ship captain, about the sea evacuation of the Stutthof concentration camp inmates and the havoc on the ships in Lubeck Bay under RAF bombing, with mention of the fact that SS and German naval personnel were still capable of firing on Jews clambering ashore during the night of May 2-3, 1945 (Dr. Olga M. Pickholz-Barnitsch, 736/54).

Historians interested in the conditions of daily ghetto existence will find considerable material in these files. To be sure, there are no organization charts, statistics, or minutes of meetings in the Jewish ghetto bureaucracy. The focus is rather on the molecular level and those mundane means which mattered most for individual survival: money, "connections," and sheer physical strength. Much is said also about the breakup of the ghettos and deportations to labor camps, gas chambers, or shooting sites. There are scenes of quarrels in a Roumanian cattle car over the use of a pail (Mrs. Saly Guttman, 510/42), a baby trampled on the floor of a boat on the Dniestr (Mrs. Lea-Luisa Neumann, 919/17), the "bazaar" in Moghilev where personal belongings were traded for life (Leopold Rauch, 1024/55).

Probably the most interesting discovery to be made in Mrs. Auerbach's depot is that each witness disclosed, consciously or unconsciously, aspects of his own personality. Indeed one has the feeling that any number of witnesses shared behavioral characteristics which in the aggregate are tantamount to a composite portrait of the survivor as such. In brief, the authors of these depositions were loners. They did not follow the herd, but relied on their own judgments. In several cases, when a call to assemble came, they absented themselves from the roundup. They were suspicious of orders which demanded absolute trust in the perpetrator and they could not bring themselves to rationalize a step into the unknown. They could not intellectualize

## SALT LAKE CITY CONFERENCE INCLUDES TALKS ABOUT ORAL HISTORY

Several papers concerned with oral history were presented during the World Conference On Records, held in Salt Lake City in early August and sponsored by the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. These papers are available at 25¢ each from the World Conference On Records, 79 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111.

C. Gregory Crampton discussed "The Indian Oral History Program Under The Doris Duke Grant" (I-39) and reviewed methods for obtaining interviews from members of a non-urban and now suspicious culture. He emphasized "the selection and choice of field workers [as] the single most important matter in the entire business."

"Oral History Methods Applied To Recent Pedigree Studies In The Pacific" (G-5ab) was the topic shared by Derek F. Metcalfe, specialist in Polynesian research for the Genealogical Society, and Mulivai Purcell, a Samoan himself, who is field operator for the Society's taping program in Samoa. Like the American Indian project, Polynesian studies require great cultural tact and sensitivity.

"Oral History As A Genealogical Research Tool" (I-19, Parts 1 & 2) was discussed by Willa Baum, Director of Berkeley's Regional Oral History Office. This paper covered what genealogical information might be available in already-produced oral history interviews and how the researcher could go about finding it, and how the genealogist himself could use oral history methods to produce materials for his own research and for the use of later researchers with other historical interests.

Two other papers touched briefly on oral history. These were "Genealogical Methods and Sources for the Chinese Immigrants to the U.S.A." (H-7) by Thomas W. Chinn, Director of the Chinese Historical Society of America in San Francisco; and "Japanese-Americans: Origins, Past And Present," (H-1) by Joe G. Masaoka, Administrator of UCLA's Japanese-American Research Project.

When ordering copies of these papers, please indicate author, title, and the number of the paper as indicated in parentheses after the title.

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### Oral History In The Hand of God, Continued

compliance. All of them had presence of mind and an ability to make quick decisions. One woman repeatedly escaped within yards of her pursuers, at one point jumping in a night shirt from a Zagreb window (Mrs. Mitzi Abeles, 530/32). Another avoided death by answering a gendarme in Ukrainian (Rosa Gold, 1138/79). Many of them simply kept moving. They were **not** extraordinarily inventive—their ruses, if they employed any, were uncomplicated; they pretended to be Croats, Italians, Slovaks, or Poles. They did have tenacity. One or another buried wife or husband, brother or sister, son or daughter, on the way. (See the deposition by Mrs. Anna Loebel who lost all three of her children in a casern between the Dniestr and the Bug, 985/72). Twenty years later, still tenacious, they gave their testimony to posterity.

RAUL HILBERG  
Department of Political Science  
University of Vermont

Professor Hilberg is the author of **The Destruction Of The European Jews**, published by Quadrangle Books (1961, \$15.00), and republished as a paperback by the same publisher (1967, \$3.95). This book won the Anisfield-Wolf Award in 1968 "in recognition of extraordinary contribution(s) to intergroup understanding."

# Book Reviews: Are There Basic Techniques of Interviewing? Can a Local Historical Society Sponsor an Oral History Program?

Raymond L. Gorden: **Interviewing: Strategy, Techniques, and Tactics**, The Dorsey Press, Homewood, Illinois (1969), \$10.95.

Although of some usefulness, this is the most boring text I have read since I plowed through the writings of Hegel as an undergraduate. Everything an author can do to separate himself from his audience, Doctor Gorden has done. The prose is dead and flat, the chapters are highly repetitive, complex sentences, jargon laden, follow one after the other when shorter more explicit statements would have served just as well. The organization of the book is maddening. Every point which is made has four, five or six subpoints which are referred to as one, two, three etc., almost as if the written prose followed a student's outline notes. Besides being dull this technique makes it impossible for the reader to keep track of the main arguments. Lastly, despite reference in the footnotes to several modern students of psychology (like Carl Rogers, but significantly not R. D. Laing) the conception of personality at the heart of the book is a most naive hedonism. At one point the relationships between an interviewer and respondent are called bluntly "pleasure" and "pain." Obviously this organizing principle accounts for the pain one undergoes while reading the book.

Aside from these "minor" criticisms the book does have some limited use. I say limited because I am convinced that until we have a more sophisticated theory of personality dealing with the interviewing situation it will be impossible to construct a technique or tactic with any kind of theoretical precision. And this is essentially what Dr. Gorden's work is—a handbook for interviewers.

As such a handbook, the last two chapters ("Tactics in the Interview" and "Developing Skills in the Interview") offer a series of helpful suggestions for oral historians and other interviewers. What usefulness the book has lies in these chapters which deal with the basic skills and behavior needed by the interviewer if he is to be successful. Dr. Gorden who seems to favor a more open interviewing situation (as I do) points out quite rightly that this technique demands more structure and skill than a tightly controlled situation. Therefore, the extensive discussion of the interviewer's approach, bias, objectives and awareness. All of this is useful and, for that reason, makes the rest of the work a failure.

Here and there in the other chapters, Dr. Gorden scores points when he reminds us not to interrupt or when he is discussing the non-scheduled interviewing strategy, but these points are so buried under the form that only a hardy reader will have the patience to glean through the work to find them.

The book is written to cover almost all interviewing situations but in one respect must be read with caution by oral historians. I know of NO situation where a participant observer will conduct a more useful interview in oral history than a trained outside professional. While this technique is a great tradition in psychology and especially sociology, it spells doom for the oral historian. It has been my experience, and I am sure that of others, that the worst interviewer is the best friend.

In closing let me note what is possibly the most useful aspect of Dr. Gorden's study—the footnotes and bibliography. The references and articles cited will provide the interviewer with at least a basic bibliography of the more sophisticated studies of communications.

—RONALD GRELE

**Mr. Grele teaches history at California State College, Long Beach. In 1965-66 he was an interviewer for the John F. Kennedy Library Oral History Project.**

Willa K. Baum: **Oral History for the Local Historical Society**, Published by the Conference of California Historical Societies, University of The Pacific, Stockton, Calif. 95204, 1969, \$1.75.

To the growing list of publications concerned with the practice and promotion of oral history, Willa K. Baum has added a booklet designed to meet the needs of local history societies seeking to practice the oral historical tradition for the first time. In so doing Mrs. Baum will almost certainly generate enthusiasm at the local level for an historical undertaking designed to examine the past through the voices of those who helped to shape it, and for this alone she deserves high commendation. Furthermore, if these local practitioners will thoroughly digest the contents of this brief work they will be as well prepared for the oral history interview as one can be, minus actual experience, and for those of us who learned by trial and error, this status is not to be lightly regarded.

Mrs. Baum's compact little book encompasses the entire process involved in establishing a local oral history operation, from the appointment of the first history committee—a dangerous word—to the final indexing and storing of tapes. Among the vital considerations touched upon are the selection of tapes and tape recorders, the conduct of the interview, the indexing of recorded material and the ethical and legal considerations involved in the use of such collected materials. Her own extensive experience in the field is revealed in the many meaningful asides that are offered in addition to her "Tips for Interviewers" running from pages 19 to 22. As specific as the author has been throughout the pages of this book there will be some who will take issue with several of her assertions, including the hour and a half figure that she establishes as a maximum for a single interview, even for the elderly. This, however, is to be expected in a field of endeavor as recently formalized as that of oral history, and should provide additional food for thought wherever oral historians gather to discuss their work.

Despite several printing errors, partially compensated for by the inclusion of some humorous artwork, this easily-read booklet represents a significant contribution to the oral history movement. It is apparent that Willa Baum has drawn upon her own extensive experience in this field to help pave the path down which many "neophyte oralists" will soon be marching, and for this she is to be highly commended.

—WILLIAM WYATT

**Mr. Wyatt has recorded oral history interviews in South Dakota. He is Director of the Center for Western Studies at Augustana College.**

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## FINNISH IMMIGRANTS IN MINNESOTA ARE RECORDED

The oral history collection of the Minnesota Historical Society was recently enriched by the addition of about 40 hours of tape-recorded interviews with Finnish immigrants living in northern Minnesota. The interviews provide first-hand accounts of efforts to adjust to life in the United States through such organizations as the Finnish Cultural Movement, the Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, the Workers Alliance, and the Timber Workers Union Local 29 of Duluth. They also contain reminiscences of leaving Finland, the trip to America, and settlement in Minnesota. Adding to the value of the tapes is the preservation of the Finnish-American dialect used by many of the persons interviewed.

This collection was made possible through the efforts of Irene Paull, former editor of **Midwest Labor**, and by a grant from the Oscar F. and Madge Hawkins Foundation.



## FINAL CALL ISSUED FOR RESERVATIONS AT AIRLIE HOUSE

More than 100 reservations have been received for the 4th National Colloquium on Oral History at Airlie House from November 7 to 10, 1969. Since capacity at Airlie House is 165 persons, the remaining vacancies will be filled as reservations are received.

The inclusive fee for this Colloquium is \$100, which covers meals, administrative costs, and lodging (in a double room). A single room is an additional \$12.00.

Day guests will be charged \$15.00 daily (without meals), or \$20.50 (with meals). The overflow from Airlie House will be referred to motels in the Warrenton area.

Reservations should be submitted promptly to Royster Lyle, Jr., the Conference Coordinator. His address is the George C. Marshall Research Foundation, Lexington, Virginia 24450. His telephone number is (703) 463-4242.

Checks should be made payable to the Oral History Association.

## FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT ORAL HISTORY COLLOQUIA, 1966-1968

Louis Starr of Columbia's Oral History Research Office, and first OHA President, recently pulled some dog-eared folders from his file cabinet and sharpened his pencil to produce these facts:

To date a total of 289 persons (repeaters included) have registered for the three Oral History Colloquia held since 1966. 41 of the 50 states have been represented. California is far in the lead with 63 registrants, followed by New York (38); the District of Columbia (18); and Massachusetts (10). The Californians got off to a flying start because UCLA sponsored the first Colloquium at Lake Arrowhead, but attendance at the 2nd Colloquium (at Columbia's Arden House) and the 3rd (at the University of Nebraska Conference Center) also attracted a phalanx from the west. The forthcoming Airlie House Colloquium will probably continue the pattern; 16 of the first 100 registrants for the meeting in November are Californians.

OHA Treasurer Knox Mellon also sharpened his pencil over the recent Labor Day weekend and computed OHA membership to consist of 399 members. The treasury, he reported, contained \$2404.06. A detailed and up-to-date report will be presented to the OHA meeting at Airlie House.

Special buses for Airlie House will leave Washington National Airport and Dulles Airport at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 7.

Buses will return from Airlie House to the Washington area airports at about 1:30 p.m. on November 10.

## SANTA CRUZ INTERVIEWS ITS EARLIEST ALUMNI

12 members of the first four-year graduating class at the Santa Cruz campus of the University of California have been interviewed by Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, Editor of the Regional History Project at Santa Cruz. The students spoke quite candidly about the strengths and weaknesses of the University, its administration, faculty, classes, and general campus life. They described the development of the campus during the four years since it first admitted students in 1965, and commented on the changes they thought would or should occur as the campus grows larger.

A similar series of interviews was recorded in the spring of 1967 with two-year students who had transferred to Santa Cruz as Juniors in 1965 and were graduated in June, 1967.

Excerpts from the introduction written for the 1967 series explain some of the philosophy and purpose behind these interviews: "1967 was a year of activity for University [of California] historians—they were delving into archives searching for material that would be published in honor of the University's Centennial Year, 1968. During this same year the University's newest campus, Santa Cruz, was preparing to graduate its first class. It occurred to the Regional History Project that here was a unique opportunity for using oral history—instead of interviewing men in their nineties, we would interview students in their twenties; instead of obtaining views that have mellowed, and sometimes distorted, by the passing of years, we would obtain views with the sharpness, urgency, and, yes, distortion of the present.

"As any historian knows, institutions invariably create a wealth of material that if preserved provides fertile grounds for research. But files of correspondence, records of meetings, and business, financial and personnel records, valuable though they are, often offer only scanty material to the historian trying to determine the social, cultural, and emotional history of the people who make up an institution. When dealing with educational institutions, the historian is fortunate in that he can also turn to the back copies of student publications, veritable gold mines of information. But here again, the whole story is not revealed. Literary publications concentrate on literature, and newspapers, quite naturally, select newsworthy items for publication—that which is everyday, or obvious, or non-controversial is ignored. The "Letters to the Editor" section can be most illuminating but here again the historian must pause, because generally people will take time to write the editor only if they are particularly agitated about an issue. The vast majority of a group, be it a student body or the general citizenry, will never pause to record its views.

"These interviews, of course, are not the perfect answer to all problems—far from it. Their purpose is to supplement the other historical sources. But it seemed to the editor that **now** was the time—we are a new campus, a rapidly changing campus; we had a unique opportunity; we took it."

The Regional History Project plans on scheduling this type of interview series at five or ten year intervals.

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