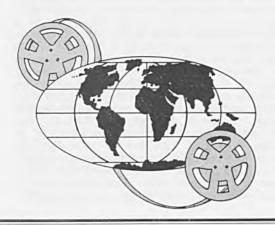
# 5TH ANNUAL ORAL HISTORY MEETING STARTS ON NOVEMBER 13



# ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION newsletter

Volume IV, Number 4, October, 1970

# Asilomar Conference Center in California is Site of 1970 National Colloquium on Oral History

Weekend Program is Preceded by a Workshop on Oral History Methods

The 5th National Colloquium on Oral History will attract oral historians to California for their first annual meeting since the OHA was founded at UCLA's Lake Arrowhead Conference Center in 1966. The forthcoming 1970 meeting, to be held at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, will begin on November 13 and end on Monday, November 16.

A one-day "Workshop in Basic Oral History Methods" will precede the Colloquium. The program for the Workshop and Colloquium is printed in detail inside this issue of the OHA Newsletter.

Pleasantly located on the tip of the Monterey Peninsu'a, Asilomar offers the serenity of the forest with views of cypress, surf, and sand dunes along the ocean shore. A bus tour of scenic and historic attractions in the area is planned

as part of the program.

Sponsoring the 1970 Colloquium are the University of California at Berkeley, UCLA, and Santa Cruz, and the Forest History Society in Santa Cruz. The all-inclusive fee for the Colloquium is \$100. Those attending the one-day "Workshop in Basic Oral History Methods" on November 12 will be charged a separate all-inclusive fee of \$25.00. Since accommodations at Asilomar are limited you are urged to make reservations promptly by writing to the Colloquium Co-Chairman, Mrs. Willa Baum, at the Regional Oral History Office, 486 Library, University of California, Berkeley 94720.

The 3M Company, Superscope (Sony), True Recording of Oakland, and Magnetic TVI of Los Angeles will send representatives to the Colloquium to display tape and video recording and transcribing equipment of interest to oral historians. They will also be available during the three-day meeting to answer questions and give demonstrations

of their equipment.

Turn inside this Newsletter for details about the full program.



Jim Mink of UCLA and Willa Baum of Berkeley are co-chairmen of the Asilomar Colloquium; here Jim points to a site on the Asilomar Conference Center grounds during a visit by the Program Committee to make plans for the November meeting.

# ORAL HISTORY IN OHIO: THREE NEW PROJECTS LAUNCHED

The Ohio Historical Society has started three new oral history projects concerning urban government, welfare, and cultural life. The finished tape recordings and transcripts will be added to the Society's rapidly expanding Urban Research Collection.

The interview series on urban government is a one-year project to interview 40 respondents on how Ohio's six targest cities have dealt with urban problems since World War II. Persons being interviewed include mayors, city managers, planning commission directors, state and federal urban program officials, academics, and journalists. The interviewer for the series, David J. Rosenblatt, a member of the Society's regular staff, holds his M.A. degree in recent American history from the University of Missouri.

Urban welfare will be treated in a case study of the history of private and public welfare in Franklin County since 1929. Mrs. Susanne Z. Stafford, a former professional social worker who is presently completing her M.A. degree at Ohio State University, will supervise this six-month project. Prominent persons in the history of welfare, such as agency administrators, county officials, civic leaders, welfare rights organizers, and federal and state officials who oversee local programs are being interviewed by Mrs. Stafford. Dr. Robert Bremner, professor of history at Ohio State University and a national authority on American social welfare history, is serving as special consultant for the project.

Cultural development will also be treated in a case study involving metropolitan Columbus. This series, lasting three months, will collect 25 interviews on the pattern of cultural trends in the 1960's in the areas of theater, music, and the graphic arts. Interview sessions are being scheduled with professional promoters and producers, financial patrons, leaders of amateur groups, newspaper critics, and academics. The interviewer for the series, Mr. James Smith, Chairman of the Speech and Drama Department at Ohio Dominican College, is focusing his series on how the urban community has interpreted national cultural trends and then translated them into cultural opportunities on the local level.

The tape recordings are being typed verbatim by the Ohio Historical Society's oral history transcribers. The finished transcripts and tapes will then be open immediately for research by accredited scholars, unless the tapes have been restricted by respondents for a certain number of years. Description of the interviews in these three series, and in all other projects conducted since the establishment of the Oral History Department in 1968, will be published next summer in a Guide to the Oral History Collections at the Ohio Historical Society. The two staff members in charge of the oral history program, David J. Rosenblatt, manuscripts and oral history specialist, and David R. Larson, Chief of the Archives and Manuscripts Division, plan for the Society to be sponsoring three to five interview series at all times.

# INTERVIEWS RECORD DEVELOPMENT OF PHYSICS SOCIETIES

Recent interviews conducted by the Center For History and Philosophy of Physics have involved people concerned with the development of the American Institute of Physics and its member societies. On tape are the recollections of Paul E. Klopsteg, founder of the American Association of Physics Teachers, its Treasurer from 1932 to 1948, and its President in 1954. Also recorded are the memoirs of Harold W. Webb, Secretary of the American Physical Society from 1923 to 1928 and Acting Secretary from 1938 to 1941. In progress are interviews with Henry A. Barton, Director of the American Institute of Physics from its inception in 1931 through 1957. Other interviews have been conducted with founding members of the American Association of Physics Teachers.

#### SAC INTERVIEWS RECORD COLD WAR HISTORY

The Oral History Project of the Strategic Air Command, located at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, has recorded 48 interviews since the program was started in 1968. Most of these interviews will be used in the preparation of a book, Strategic Deterrence Since World War II, that is tentatively scheduled to appear in 1973. Because of the nature of the interviews they are classified for security reasons and therefore not open to the public. Command Historian John T. Bohn writes us that "These interviews varied in quality as do all interviews. Two points were illustrated by these interviews: one, the more knowledgeable the interviewer, the better the interview. Secondly, the rambling all-inclusive general interview produced little of value. The more tightly the interview was conducted the more useful the information that was obtained. By 'tightly' we mean that the interviewer kept the interviewee to the particular part he had played rather than letting him talk generally about areas with which he had no direct involvement."



Albert G. Giles, Director Ohio Department of Urban Affairs (left) is interviewed by David J. Rosenblatt, Oral History Specialist, Ohio Historical Society for an oral history series on Urban Government in Ohio.

Membership in the Oral History Association is open to all who are interested in oral history. Dues for individuals are \$7.50 per year, and for institutions and associations they are \$25.00 per year. Non-voting student and library memberships are \$5.00 annually (these members receive all publications but do not participate in the selection of OHA officers). Life memberships are available at \$150. Institutions which generously decide to become Sustaining Members pay between \$100 and \$150 each year. All checks for membership dues should be sent to OHA Treasurer Knox Mellon, Dept. of History, Immaculate Heart College, 2021 North Western Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90027.

### ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION WORKSHOP ON BASIC ORAL HISTORY METHODS

Co-Chairmen: Gary L. Shumway

Harry Jeffrey

November 12 and 13, 1970

Asilomar, California

Each year many persons attend the National Colloquium of the Oral History Association for basic instruction in oral history concepts and techniques. Since Colloquium sessions are often somewhat advanced, the Oral History Association is sponsoring this workshop with leaders in the field coming to the Colloquium one day early to share their expertise. Both in focused formal sessions and in casual conversations, the novice should receive important basic training, and the practicing oral historian will be afforded a helpful refresher course.

### TENTATIVE PROGRAM

### Thursday, November 12

4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Registration and Social Hour

6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00 to 8:00 p.m. "Reminiscences of an Oral Historian": Charles Morrissey, Editor, Oral History Association

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8:00 to 10:00 p.m. Conversation and refreshments

### Friday, November 13

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

"What's Happening in Oral History": Descriptions of their projects by representatives of wide-8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

ly diversified programs.

"A Preliminary Look at the Oral History Process": three experienced oral historians talk about "Preparation for the Interview", "The Interview", and "Transcripts and Their Use." 10:30 to 12:00 noon

12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Lunch

"Oral History for the Neophyte": round table discussions following a presentation by the 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

chairman for each session.

Area I "Establishing an Oral History Program" (each of these sessions will be held from

1:00 to 1:50 and from 3:00 to 3:50)

"Creating and Financing a Project"

A. "Creating and Financing a B. "Equipment and Personnel" C. "Legal Considerations"

"Collecting and Processing Oral History Materials" (each of these will be held from

1:00 to 1:50 and 2:00 to 2:50 p.m.)

A. "Preparing for and Conducting the Interview"

B. "Transcribing, Editing and Indexing"C. "Cataloging, Servicing and Using the Collection"

Area III "Varieties of Oral History Projects" (each of these sessions will be held from 2:00 to

2:50 and 3:00 to 3:50)

A. "Oral History and the Historical Society"

B. "Oral History and the Subject Project"

"Oral History and the Biographical Project" C.

"Oral History and the Library"
"Oral History and the Student" D.

F.

### ORAL HISTORY IN ANESTHESIOLOGY

The Director of the Oral History Project for the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Dr. John J. Leahy of Chicago, wrote to us last month to describe his program:

As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Wood Library-Museum I proposed about five years ago that we begin an Oral History Program while several of the real 'pioneers' who helped found our young medical specialty were still alive. Since that time we have interviewed about 50 members including about 25 who have had all or part of their interview recorded on motion picture film or on videotape. After presenting our first efforts at the annual meetings of our society we learned that several members had already been collecting oral history in various forms in scat-tered parts of the country. We have now reached the point where these efforts are being coordinated so that all of the material obtained will eventually be archived at the Wood Library in Park Ridge, Illinois.

We plan to present more results of our program at the next annual meeting of the American Society of Anesthesiologists at the Americana Hotel in New York City, October 17-21, and by our exhibit there we hope to stimulate more interest in 'satellite' programs around the country.

## SPRINGFIELD PROJECT COMBINES THREE DISCIPLINES

At American International College in Springfield, Mass., a sociologist, a historian, and a political scientist are jointly teaching a course entitled "A Social & Political History of Springfield: An Interdisciplinary Project in Oral History." The course description in the college catalog states: "A course to acquaint students with the advantages and problems of interdisciplinary research. To gather the primary data, student teams will interview Springfield area residents between 75 and 90 years of age, thereby recording for the future the richness of their collective experience. Term papers analyzing and interpreting their original data in the light of what is already known will be required." The sociologist involved in this venture, Robert H. Bohlke, adds that he hopes to involve some elderly people as non-tuition participants in the course who can serve as interviewers. Similarly, he hopes some of these oldsters who are fluent in French, Italian, Polish, and other languages can interview Springfield residents who are more comfortable when speaking a language other than English. For regular tuition-paying students the course offers six credits and requires a \$35 lab fee to cover the cost of interviewing equipment.

# HERE IS THE PROGRAM FOR THE 5TH NATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON ORAL HISTORY

NOVEMBE	R 13, FRIDAY	10:30 a.m.	Group Sessions:
2:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Registration Executive Council Meeting Social Hour Dinner First Plenary Session ORAL HISTORY IN THE WEST Willa K. Baum, Director, Regional Oral History Office, University of California, Berkeley. ORAL HISTORY: SOME PITFALLS, SOME PROFITS. Francis C. Schruben, Prof. of History, Pierce State College, Woodland Hills, California.		DOCUMENTING the CONTRIBUTIONS of a GROUP to the WIDER SOCIETY Moses Rischin, Prof. of History, San Francisco State College; Advisor, Jewish Community Oral History Project, Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum, Berkeley.  ORAL HISTORY and INFORMATION RETRIEVAL Samuel Riddlebarger, Oral History Program Officer, Maxwell Air Force Base.  ORAL HISTORY IN THE HISTORY SEMINAR Samuel B. Hand, Prof. of History, Univer-
10:00 p.m.	No Host Mixer		sity of Vermont.  LEGAL and ETHICAL CONSIDERA-
NOVEMBE	R 14, SATURDAY		TIONS IN ORAL HISTORY
7:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.		12 noon 1:30 p.m.	Mark Owens, Associate University Counsel and Patent Administrator, University of Cali- fornia, Berkeley. Lunch Group Sessions: INTERVIEWING PROBLEMS and TECH-
	fornia, Santa Cruz. Peter D. Olch, President, Oral History Association. Allan Nevins, Honorary Chairman, Oral History Association.		NIQUES Tape-recorded examples of oral history interviews will be presented and discussed. ARCHIVAL PROGRAMS
9:30 a.m.	ORAL HISTORY and BLACK STUDIES Paul Bullock, Associate Research Economist and Director, Pico-Union Project, Institute of Industrial Relations, University of Cali- fornia, Los Angeles. Vincent J. Browne, Director, Civil Rights Documentation Center, Washington, D.C. Clarence M. Simmons, Director, Oral His- tory Program, Mary Holmes College, West		John E. Wickman, Director, Dwight D. Eisenhower Library. INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY Harriet Nathan, Interviewer, University History Series, Regional Oral History Office, University of California, Berkeley. ETHNIC RESEARCH Floyd A. O'Neil, Assistant Director, Duke Indian History Project, Western History Center, University of Utah.
11:30 a.m.	Point, Mississippi. THE ORAL HISTORY SAFARI Elizabeth S. Calciano, Safari Leader. Director, Regional History Project, University of California, Santa Cruz. Buses leave for tour of the Monterey coastline and historic sites, including Carmel Mission. Box lunches will be provided for a noon stopover at Point Lobos State Park. Bring		LOCAL HISTORY Elizabeth S. Calciano, Director of the Regional History Project, University of California, Santa Cruz. REGIONAL and STATE HISTORY (Chairman to be announced). MILITARY HISTORY John T. Mason, Jr., Director of Oral History, U.S. Naval Institute.
1.00	your camera.		SUBJECT-ORIENTED PROGRAMS
4:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Social Hour: La Playa Hotel, Carmel Dinner		(Chairman to be announced).
8:00 p.m.	Third Plenary Session Robert Kenny, former Attorney-General of California.		RECENT POLITICAL HISTORY IN SEN- SITIVE SUBJECT AREAS John F. Stewart, Acting Director, John F.
10:00 p.m.	"The Party".		Kennedy Library, National Archives and Rec- ords Service.
NOVEMBE	R 15, SUNDAY	3:30 p.m.	Fourth Plenary Session
			Reports from Sunday Morning Discussion
7:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	Group Sessions: CONSIDERATIONS in PUBLISHING ORAL HISTORY Saul Benison, Prof. of the History of Medi-	5:00 p.m.	Groups. Social Hour: A Wine Tasting, Host, Paul Masson Winery. Elwood R. Maunder, Head Taster and Toastmaster; Director, Forest History Society, Santa Cruz.
	cine, University of Cincinnati. PROCESSING and PRESERVING ORAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS Enid H. Douglass, Assistant Director, Oral History Program, Claremont Graduate School. PUBLIC RELATIONS IN ORAL HISTORY	6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Dinner Fifth Plenary Session ORAL HISTORY and the WRITING of BIOGRAPHY T. Harry Williams, Boyd Prof. of History Louisiana State University.
	Chambre T Mannissan Dissert Mr. M.		om to my
	Charles T. Morrissey, Director, Vermont Historical Society.	10:00 p.m.	No Host Mixer

# News in Brief . . .

The Archives of American Art has moved its headquarters from Detroit to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. As noted in the last issue of this newsletter the Archives has recorded more than 600 interviews with artists and others during the past 10 years. This material is housed in the new offices the Archives now shares with the National Portrait Gallery and the National Collection of Fine Arts in the Old Patent Office Building at 8th and F Streets, N.W.

Advance In Librarianship, an annual first published this year by Academic Press under the editorship of Melvin J. Voigt, Librarian of the University of California at San Diego, will have a long report on Oral History by Louis Starr in Volume 2, to be published early in 1971.

A symposium was held on May 8 at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, about "Research In Indian Records - Indian Administration, Indian History, And Oral History." Sponsors were the Society of American Archivists, the Department of History at Gonzaga, and Region 10 of the National Archives & Records Service of the General Services Administration. At the University of Utah's Center for Studies of the American West, the Duke Oral Indian History Project has discovered that a worthwhile "spin-off" of the oral history interviews with leaders of the Ute Indian tribe to be preservation of tribal linguistics. The Center has published Uncompangre Ute Words And Phrases, a simplified dictionary to keep the Ute language alive.

Dr. Saul Benison and Dr. Peter Olch were participants in a Conference on the History of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology sponsored by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Boston on May 21-23, 1970. Benison spoke about "The Nature of Oral History," and Olch described "The Oral History Program of the National Library of Medicine." A few days before this conference Dr. Olch was in New Orleans to address the History of Medicine Dinner at the Medical Library Association. His talk was titled "A Dirty Mind Never Sleeps and Other Comments on the Oral History Movement.'

The John F. Kennedy Library had 120 interviews opened to research as of March 1, 1970. A list of these open transcripts may be obtained by writing to John Stewart, Acting Director of the Kennedy Library, 380 Trapelo Road, Waltham, Mass. 02154

Colloquium Program (continued from page 4):

#### NOVEMBER 16, MONDAY

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Business Meeting

Oral History Association.

10:00 a.m.

Sixth Plenary Session HOW TO MAKE ORAL HISTORY MORE USEFUL:

The Current State of Oral History: A critical

view. Gary Shumway, Prof. of History, California

State College, Fullerton.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE for ORAL HISTORY

Arlene Custer, National Union Catalog of Manuscripts, Library of Congress, Washing-

ton, D.C IS CURRENT ORAL HISTORY RELE-VANT TO ONGOING RESEARCH IN THE

SOCIAL SCIENCES? Louis M. Starr, Director, Oral History Research Office, Columbia University.

12 noon Lunch

Buses depart for the Monterey Airport. 1:30 p.m.

# More News in Brief . . .

The American Association for State and Local History featured a discussion of oral history when it held its 30th annual meeting in Kansas City in late September. The session was entitled "The Spoken Word: The Techniques of Oral History," and the panelists were Lila Johnson of the Minnesota Historical Society, Owen Stratvert of the Tennessee State Library and Archives, and Charles Berry of the University of Louisville. Chairman was Ernest B. Bader of Washburn University.

The National Grange will deposit its non-current records in Cornell University's Collection of Regional History. These records cover the history of the Grange since it was organized in 1867. Oral history interviews with prominent Grange members will be recorded and used to supplement these files.

Mrs. Susan Schrepfer, a doctoral candidate in history at the University of California at Riverside, has joined the staff of the Forest History Society and is taking a leading role in reestablishing the Society's oral history program.

The Association for Recorded Sound Collections held its 1970 national conference at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, October 8-10. The group's strong interest in music archives led to the choice, headquarters of the Country Music Association. Also the Vanderbilt Library has recently ventured into video-taping of network news broadcasts, a project of interest to ASRC members. As of October 18, 1969, ASRC reported 325 members. Philip L. Miller, retired chief of the Music Division of the New York Public Library, has been ASRC president since its founding in 1966.

Do historians have better memories than other people? Writing in Volume 1, Number 1 (January, 1970) of the Western Historical Quarterly, Ray Allen Billington notes that "The papers of Frederick Jackson Turner, father of all frontier historical studies, provide countless examples of the fallibility of the human memory. Four times in his later years he was asked to reconstruct his early career, and particularly to explain the steps that led to his enunciation of the frontier thesis in 1893. Four times he did so, sometimes in letters thirty pages long, and each time he was hopelessly wrong."

A short piece entitled "American Indian Oral History: An Anthropologist's Note" appeared in History and Theory, Volume III, No. 3 (1969). Its author, Bernard L. Fontana, states that the anthropologist is less concerned than most historians with what is unique and more interested in the ordinary and commonplace. Given these predispositions, and a concern for how other peoples define truth for themselves, for anthropologists the tests of any particular oral history's validity and substantive value can differ markedly from those applied by historians.

The Library of Congress will establish a Preservation Research Office to undertake basic research in the preservation of library materials. Aided by a grant from the Council on Library Resources, this program will focus primarily on problems concerning the preservation of paper, but problems pertaining to the quality and dependability of magnetic tape will also be included.

The Consumer Bulletin (December, 1969) warns that cheap cassettes may cause trouble in your tape recorder. "The present mechanical problems with low-grade cassettes may result in jamming of your recorder, broken tapes, or in other unpleasant difficulties." Some responsible dealers, according to Consumer Bulletin, have found it does not pay to sell the cheap cassettes because of dissatisfaction among customers.

### BLACK HISTORY: PROJECTS UNDERWAY IN VIRGINIA AND KENTUCKY

Two librarians at the Arlington (Virginia) Public Library and an official of the Arlington Community Action Project have recorded ten interviews with Negroes living in Northern Virginia. The librarians, Marilyn Gell and Kathleen Smith, and the Community Action official, Elsie Smith (who does the actual interviewing), decided to launch this program because of the absence of library materials about this aspect of local history. For 32 years, from 1870 (when Virginia was readmitted to the union) to 1902 (when the state adopted a "white supremacy" constitution), Negroes were a decisive part of Arlington's public life, occupying positions ranging from chairman of the board of supervisors to special policeman. Yet only one examination of this period in local history has been written—a master's thesis at Howard University in 1967. Many of the interviewees identified to date are elderly people who can recall Negro-white relations in the early years of this century.

At the University of Louisville the Oral History Center is making plans to do an audio-visual history of the black community and Urban League in Louisville. The project is being funded by a substantial grant from the Urban League of Louisville and in cooperation with the Photographic Archives of the University. Professor Charles R. Berry of the Oral History Center writes that "Increasingly the Oral History Center is involving itself in audio-visual presentations and not limiting its activities primarily to the traditional method of tape interview, although the tape and transcript still serve as the primary means of acquiring information."

information."

# BUSINESS HISTORY RECEIVES ATTENTION AT UCONN

Morton J. Tenzer, Director of the Oral History Project at the University of Connecticut, reports that interviews are underway with officials of the Collins Company, a Connecticut manufacturer of machetes and other blade tools which sold many of its products in Latin America. "It is hoped," says Tenzer, "that the history of this small, privately-owned Connecticut firm which made such a tremendous impact on man's survival in the tropics will be the first in an attempt by the Oral History Project to capture the living memories of Connecticut's unique contributions to commerce and industry."

### SELLING OLD BOOKS IN NEW YORK CITY

Theodore Grieder, Head of the Division of Special Collections for the New York University Libraries, has started an oral history program to preserve the history of antiquarian bookselling in New York. He explains: "I propose to approach everyone interviewed on an informal and relatively unstructured basis in order to preserve each dealer's freedom of expression. I think that the overall procedure will result in the preservation of valuable historical and cultural information."

# COMING SOON: DUBERMAN'S PLAY; STEIN'S BOOK

Martin Duberman's short play, The Memory Bank, will be published next month by the Dial Press at \$5.95 per copy. The Memory Bank was produced "Off Broadway" earlier this year; it concerns an oral historian trying to pry some recollections from an interviewee about the undergraduate experiences of a man who subsequently became prominent. Duberman, an historian at Princeton University, got the idea for this play while doing interviews for a book he is now completing about Black Mountain, the experimental college and community.

Also next month watch for Jean Stein's book of interviews, American Journey: The Times of Robert Kennedy. It was described this way in Publisher's Weekly: "This unique oral history unfolds Robert Kennedy's life from boyhood to his assassination, in the words of some 200 people who knew him—family friends, politicians, entertainers, athletes, civil rights leaders, journalists, and others."

### ORAL HISTORY FOR YOUNGSTERS IN INDIANA

Thomas Krasean has been promoted to Archivist for the State of Indiana; replacing him as Director of the Oral History Program for the Indiana State Library is John J. Newman. A former high school history teacher, Mr. Newman has an M.A. degree in history from Indiana University. He hopes to initiate an oral history program for youngsters who are active at the Junior Society level of the Indiana Historical Society.

An Index to all issues of the OHA Newsletter published to date is being prepared by James McCabe of Arlington, Vermont — an experienced indexer and former Vice President of the Vermont Historical Society.

The Oral History Association, Inc. Editorial Office The Vermont Historical Society Montpelier, Vermont 05602