

ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume X, Number 2

Spring 1976

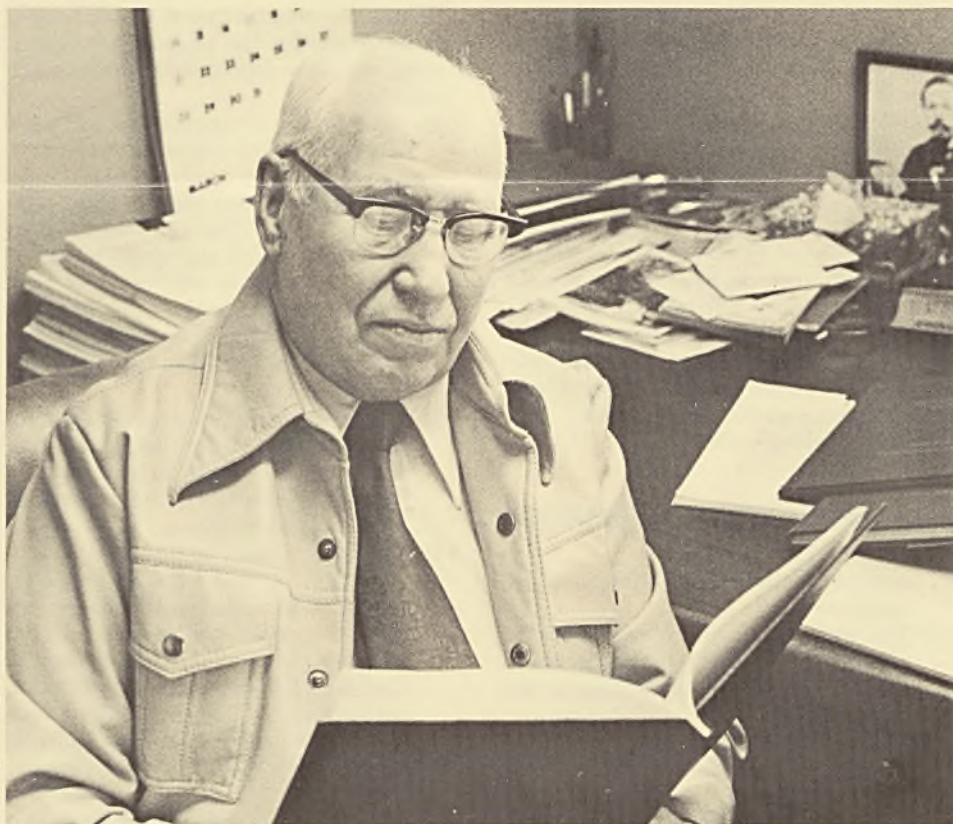


photo from Calgary Herald

Charles Ursenbach, oral historian of Calgary, Alberta reviews one of his finished transcripts.

WESTERN ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM PRESERVES ALBERTA'S PAST

A few years ago, after completing about 600 theatre stages in various parts of Canada, Charles Ursenbach retired from his stage designing career. However, retirement was short-lived; for according to the seventy-five-years-young Canadian, "I have never been busier in my life." Oral history is the reason.

It began in 1973 when members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints asked Ursenbach to help interview some old-timers and important leaders of the Mormon church. This stirred the interest that led to the development of the Western Oral History Program headquartered in Ursenbach's home in Calgary, Alberta.

In an effort to discover who should be interviewed, letters and a form were sent

to 280 mayors of the villages, towns and cities of Alberta. The names of 895 potentially interesting subjects were received.

"I can't cover 895 people," he said, but so far he has done a great job. He has logged 187 interviews. Ursenbach calculates that the taping time for an average interview is about two and a half hours. Then for each hour of taping he spends sixteen hours editing, typing and correcting the work. After the transcribing is finished, bound copies are sent to the archives in Edmonton, the Glenbow-Alberta Institute and to the interviewee.

The provincial government provides a small grant to the program, but it doesn't cover costs. "I am not in it for the money," he said, "I love Alberta. I think the people are important."

PROGRESS ON OHA CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

Revision of the Oral History Association's constitution is one of the most important subjects before the membership at the present time. At the annual business meeting on October 26, 1975, in Asheville, North Carolina, Charles T. Morrissey, chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee, gave the first reading of nine recommendations for revising the OHA basic document. The OHA council, at the midwinter meeting in San Antonio, Texas, February 13-14, 1976, modified the revision proposals for action at the annual business meeting in September 1976.

The following constitutional revisions were recommended by the Morrissey committee last October:

- (1) The offices of secretary and treasurer should be combined into a single new position of executive secretary. This person should be appointed annually by the Council, and he should be a non-voting member of the Council.
- (2) The voting members of the Council should be the president, vice president, immediate past president, and four members elected at large. Four voting members should constitute a

(continued on page 2)

The Alberta native has become familiar to many people in his interviewing travels. Some of his interviewees have been pioneer men and women, surgeons, a blacksmith, a rabbi, and mothers of large families.

Says Ursenbach about oral history, "After I retired, I found nothing else so exciting and interesting. This is the most exciting thing I ever did."

INSIDE: PREVIEW OF

1976 OHA

WORKSHOP AND COLLOQUIUM

FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Alice
Hoffman**



We are just in the process of getting the Colloquium and Workshop programs to the printer.

I would like to take this occasion to express very special thanks to Enid Douglass, Jim Hammack, Léo La Clare and to their committees for months of hard work. The results are very gratifying, indeed.

The Workshop program will have two tracks. One is designed to make it possible for those who have been at it for a while to upgrade their skills and techniques, particularly in the area of sound production and improved quality of tapes.

Recently Jim Hammack and I were in Canada with Léo La Clare at the Canadian Public Archives. Their facility will be at our disposal to enable us to benefit from their experience in sound technology, and there will also be a session on videotaping.

We went out to Le Château Montebello, which is lovely even in March. Imagine what it will be in September! We sampled the French-Canadian cuisine, and altogether it promises to be our most splendid location to date. And I say that with full knowledge of the quality and beauty of our former colloquia sites.

The program Enid Douglass has put together has many fascinating elements. The first session on Friday night will be on oral documentation with two authors who have used oral history as the fundamental source for their work. They are Barry Broadfoot, the Canadian author of *Ten Lost Years*, an oral documentary of the Depression in Canada and William Van Voris, author of *Violence in Ulster*. I would hope that members would find the occasion to read their books before coming to Ottawa. Both authors have made use of oral history materials in a most exciting and instructive fashion. Both have relied upon oral documentation not merely to provide "corroborative detail for an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative," but instead as the totality of their message. In these books it is truly every man his own historian. The people illuminate their own story. But the arrangement of these stories is skillfully accomplished so as to enhance the impact of the message. Broadfoot's work has been used as the basis for two television programs. Those tapes will be available for members to watch and see

how the oral history material was translated into another medium.

Members should also be very interested in a panel presentation on the place of oral history at the presidential libraries and a discussion of the future directions for those libraries. The panel will consist of Daniel J. Reed, Office of Presidential Libraries, National Archives and Record Service; John F. Stewart, assistant director, John F. Kennedy Library; Benedict Zobrist, director, Harry S. Truman Library.

Finally, Dan Schorr, (formerly of CBS News until his recent involvement with the *Village Voice*) has agreed to come and discuss his views on protecting confidentiality versus the people's right to know. He will also discuss oral history from the perspective of the journalist as interviewer. Is it oral history or is it something else?

We have also tried to provide occasions for people with similar interests simply to talk and share "war stories." This is accomplished in part by setting up tables at lunch on Saturday by subject areas of interest. Saturday night will feature a hootenanny; so bring your best stories, your musical instruments; and I'll sing for you my specialty, "The Cloak Makers Union is a No-good Union."

See you in September!

OHA CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

(continued from page 1)

quorum for the transaction of OHA business.

- (3) The president and vice president should serve one-year terms, with the vice president succeeding to the presidency.
- (4) The four at-large Council members should serve three-year terms.
- (5) The Nominating Committee should consist of five members elected from a slate of eight to ten (minimum) candidates, proposed by the Council with more nominated from the floor at the annual business meeting if members in attendance want to increase the number of nominees. The top five vote getters would then constitute the committee. Nominees would not be pitted against each other.
- (6) Future Nominating Committees should nominate either one person for each vacancy, or more than two persons, in order to avoid the one-against-one confrontations that often create divisive feelings. Financial aid should be made available so prospective nominees can accept nomination and not demur on the grounds that their institutions cannot afford the costs incurred by a person serving in an OHA office.
- (7) The executive secretary should obtain professional advice to determine

whether the current language in the OHA constitution and bylaws on the dissolution of the organization is up-to-date, accurate, and proper.

- (8) The membership dues structure should be decided annually by the Council with the concurrence of the membership assembled at the annual business meeting.
 - (9) Because the Constitutional Review Committee voted 3-2 against the use of mail ballots, an informal straw vote should be taken on the matter at the business meeting. Further, the president should appoint a committee to study the mail ballot issue.
- The OHA Council took the following action regarding the proposed constitutional revisions during its February 1976 meeting:
- (1) The Council approved without modification recommendations 1, 2, and 3.
 - (2) The Council changed recommendation 4 to read "That the terms of four at large Council members be set at three years, with two being elected in the first year and every third year thereafter, with one member being elected in each of the two intervening years."
 - (3) The Council modified recommendation 5 to read "That the Nominating Committee should consist of five members elected from a slate of eight . . . candidates . . ."
 - (4) The Council decided to omit recommendation 6 as a constitutional revision and instead incorporate it as a by-law because of its instructive nature, and that the Nominating Committee therefore be instructed to present single candidates for president and vice president and multiple candidates for the Council positions.
 - (5) The Council decided that the executive secretary should carry out recommendation 7 and that he should present a motion responding to this recommendation at the next Council meeting if any changes are necessary.
 - (6) The Council approved without modification recommendation 8 "That the membership dues structure should be decided annually by the Council with the concurrence of the membership assembled at the annual business meeting."
 - (7) In response to recommendation 9 President Hoffman announced that she had previously appointed William Moss to chair a committee to study the feasibility of using a mail ballot for approval of the constitutional revisions proposed by the committee.

A copy of the current constitution may be obtained by writing to the secretary-treasurer, P.O. Box 13734, N.T. Station, Denton, Texas 76203.

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NEWS

The U. S. Army Military History Research Collection, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, released its thirteenth special bibliography, *Oral History*, in February. It is a list of all their current oral history holdings. For information or copies of bibliographies write to: Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Ethnic surveys in Baltimore, Maryland, and in Providence, Rhode Island, are going forward under the inspiration of Jean Scarpaci (Towson State College, Baltimore).

Under a grant from the Maryland State Bicentennial Commission of 1976-1977, Baltimore area students and members of local ethnic organizations will embark on a WPA-type project to locate, identify, and collect materials, both written and oral, relating to the ethnic experience. Informal and free courses by Prof. Scarpaci will provide guidelines for conducting archival/oral history research.

Providence students are doing interviews relating to the attitudes of ethnic groups during the 1930's and the war years, especially their feelings toward the lands of their cultural heritages. Prof. Scarpaci spoke to oral history classes at the University of Rhode Island in Providence, on February 26. The class focus was "People, Their Own Historians: An Introduction to Oral History."

ARCHIVES OF AMERICAN ART ISSUES CHECKLIST

The Archives of American Art has issued a checklist of its collection compiled by Arthur Breton, curator of manuscripts, and his staff. The Archives, a bureau of the Smithsonian Institution, is recognized as the major source of information on art in America.

The new volume lists all collections in the Archives with a single check device indicating the kinds of material in each collection. These include personal papers of 1,150 artists, collectors and dealers, as well as the records of twenty-three museums and fifty-eight galleries. It indicates whether such collections have letters, photographs, slides, diaries, memoirs, writings, scrapbooks, sketchbooks, drawings, oral history interviews, or business records.

While there is no indication of subject matter or names of correspondents in the collections, such information is shown in the card catalogs at each of the five regional centers of the Archives.

The checklist will be updated periodically and may be ordered through Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, cost \$5.00.

CANADIANS READY FOR 1976 OHA WORKSHOP AND COLLOQUIUM

Each year OHA members marvel at the programs planned for the annual Workshop and Colloquium. Those who have attended the association's annual gatherings have often asked: "Can this year's program be topped?" Let it be understood by all that the future of the Oral History Association, evidenced in the plans laid for 1976, is bright indeed! NOW is the time to mark the calendar, "squirrel away" budget funds, and investigate travel arrangements for the OHA conclave which will meet in neighboring, beautiful Canada.

This year the OHA, in accepting the gracious invitation of the Canadian Oral History Association (COHA), will enter into a hands-across-the-border approach to its annual professional meeting. As an added attraction, OHA members and other interested persons are cordially invited to travel to Ottawa one day early and participate in the annual meeting of the young COHA on Wednesday, September 8, 1976, at the Public Archives of Canada Building. At that time many OHAers will have their first tastes of their Canadian counterparts' unique and exciting approaches to oral history.

The 1976 Workshop on Oral History (September 9-10, 1976) promises to be one of the best ever. Co-chairmen Léo La Clare (Public Archives of Canada) and James W. Hammack, Jr. (Murray State University) have designed a program of interest to both novice and veteran oral historians. A glance at the Workshop program in this issue of the *Newsletter* reveals that this year's Workshop will please general researchers, librarians and archivists, persons representing institutions inaugurating oral history projects, and many others caught up in the movement. New and/or special attractions in the 1976 OHA Workshop are planned sessions on sound recording techniques, archival preservation of recordings, legal and ethical concepts, to consort or not to consort?, multi- and interdisciplinary uses of oral history, alternate uses (untranscribed), uses of oral history tapes, and timely sessions on videotaping, publishing, and broadcasting applications of oral history. Workshop participants will also be treated to a tour of the Public Archives of Canada. Bus transportation to the Château Montebello, site of the 1976 Colloquium, has been arranged for those planning to take in all of the OHA meetings in Canada.

The Eleventh National Colloquium on Oral History will take place on September 10-12, 1976, at splendid Chateau Montebello, located on the Ottawa River almost equidistant between the Canadian capital city and Montreal.

Colloquium goers will certainly want to make their plans early this year for accommodations at the Chateau will be limited. Colloquium Chairperson Enid Douglass (Claremont Graduate School) and her committee have an exciting program for the OHA in the land of the maple leaf. Highlights of the Colloquium program include the opening session with authors Barry Broadfoot and William Van Voris on oral documentation, the U.S. presidential libraries panel, and the address by CBS reporter Daniel Schorr. Also expected to attract large audiences are the sessions on Canadian topics, folksongs, grantsmanship, and the "debate" between Louis M. Starr (Columbia University) and Léo La Clare, president of COHA. Recreational moments are available to OHAers who try the challenges of the tennis, golf, swimming, horseback riding and walking opportunities provided by the Chateau.

Feast your eyes on the abbreviated Workshop and Colloquium programs included in this *Newsletter* and prepare to act promptly when the full printed program and preregistration materials arrive from the secretary-treasurer's office. Then it's ON TO CANADA IN SEPTEMBER!

BOOK NOTICES

Diefenbaker: Leadership Gained 1956-62. By Peter Stursberg. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1975. 271 pp. Photographs, index. \$15.00)

This book is about John Diefenbaker in his first six years as "The Chief," as recounted by those who helped to shape the Diefenbaker era in recent Canadian history. It is the first volume of an oral history compiled from transcripts of interviews with some forty people. The varying views of the participants have been faithfully recorded; any attempt at judgment is left to the reader.

Louis Starr of Columbia University is preparing a book review of *Leadership Gained* which will appear in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.

It's Not the Song, It's the Singing: Doing Oral History: A Panel Discussion. (Chicago: Precedent Publishing, Inc., 1975. Two magnetic tape cassettes. Two hours, \$12.95.)

Recording of panel discussion led by Studs Terkel with Jan Vansina, Alice Kessler Harris, Dennis Tedlock, Saul Benison, and Ronald J. Grele at Radio Station WFMT, Chicago, Illinois, April 13, 1973, during the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians. Terkel and his radio guests discuss how each entered the field of oral history and their varying views of the importance of the human voice. The recent publication, *Envelopes of Sound* (Chicago: Precedent Publishing Inc., 1975), is an edited version of Terkel's radio interview plus papers by Grele and Tedlock.

PREVIEW OF THE 1976 NATIONAL ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP...

Thursday, September 9, 1976

AFTERNOON SESSIONS:

AUDIO RECORDING TECHNIQUES

Ernest J. Dick (Public Archives of Canada)

PRESERVATION OF ORAL HISTORY RECORDINGS

Robert Carneal (Library of Congress)

SESSIONS ON METHODS AND APPROACHES IN ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH

SESSION I

ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM

Joseph B. Romney (San Luis Obispo County Oral History Organization)

LEGAL AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Edward Perzel (University of North Carolina, Charlotte)

PROCESSING ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

Corrine Crow (East Texas State University)

SESSION II

CONSORTIUM APPROACHES TO BUILDING ORAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

Bernard Galm (University of California, Los Angeles)

MULTIDISCIPLINE USES FOR ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH

Michael Mullins (Alice Lloyd College)

OPEN FORUM ON PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITIES IN ORAL HISTORY

Martha Ross (University of Maryland)

EVENING SESSION:

INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES, ELITE AND FOLK DEMONSTRATION TAPES

Don Phillipson (National Research Council of Canada)

Philip Tilney (National Museum of Canada)

Discussant: Charles Crawford (Memphis State University)

Friday, September 10, 1976

MORNING SESSIONS:

ALTERNATIVES TO TRANSCRIBING ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

Janet Cauthers (Provincial Archives of British Columbia)

Patricia Freeman (Eastern Michigan University)

GRANTSMANSHIP AND THE PREPARATION OF GRANT PROPOSALS

Thomas Charlton (Baylor University)

INTERPERSONAL DYNAMICS IN INTERVIEWING

Kathie Smallwood (Tarrant County Junior College, Texas)

PUBLISHING AND BROADCASTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORAL HISTORIANS

Samuel Hand (University of Vermont)

Ian Montagnes (University of Toronto Press)

Cameron Graham (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation)

AFTERNOON SESSION:

VIDEO RECORDING TECHNIQUES

A. Blanchette (External Affairs, Canada)

Denis Mole (Public Archives, Canada)

TOUR OF THE PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA



Parliamentary Library



Parliament Building

OTTAWA, CANADA

photos from Canadian Government Travel Bureau



photo from Canadian Government Travel Bureau

LE CHÂTEAU MONTEBELLO



photos from Canadian Public Archives



Friday, September 10, 1976

EVENING SESSION:

ORAL DOCUMENTATION

Barry Broadfoot (Author, *Ten Lost Years*)
Film based on book shown Saturday morning.

William Van Voris (Smith College; author, *Violence in Ulster*)

Saturday, September 11, 1976

MORNING SESSIONS:

CANADIAN AND AMERICAN APPROACHES TO ORAL HISTORY

Louis M. Starr (Columbia University)
Léo La Clare (Canadian Oral History Association)

NORTHEAST FOLKLORE

Chairman, Neil V. Rosenberg (Memorial University of Newfoundland)
Edward D. Ives (University of Maine)
Carole Henderson (York University)

THE HISTORIAN LOOKS AT ORAL HISTORY AND ORAL DOCUMENTATION

Forrest C. Pogue (Smithsonian Institution and George C. Marshall Research Library)
Herman Gutman (City College of New York)

POLITICAL HISTORY

Waddy W. Moore (University of Central Arkansas)
Amelia R. Fry (University of California, Berkeley)
John Main (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education)

ORAL HISTORY AND FOLKSONG: A NON-ELITIST LOOK AT ART

Neil V. Rosenberg (Memorial University of Newfoundland)

GRANTS: A DIALOGUE WITH FUNDING INSTITUTIONS

Chairman, Ronald J. Grele (Rutgers University)
Robert Kingston (National Endowment for Humanities)

Representative of a private foundation
Respondents:

Samuel Proctor (University of Florida)
Willa K. Baum (University of California—Berkeley)

AFTERNOON SESSION: PANEL

THE PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES: BICENTENNIAL PERSPECTIVES

Daniel J. Reed (National Archives and Record Service)
John F. Stewart (John F. Kennedy Library)
Benedict Zobrist (Harry S. Truman Library)

EVENING SESSION:

SPEECH: Bernard Ostry (Secretary-General, National Museums of Canada)

BUSINESS MEETING

... AND COLLOQUIUM

Sunday, September 12, 1976

MORNING SESSIONS:

BICENTENNIAL PROJECTS:

CELEBRATIVE AND PERMANENT
Chairman, Jeannette Lasansky (Union County Bicentennial Commission, Pennsylvania)

NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS

Floyd O'Neil (University of Utah)
Gordon M. Day (National Museum of Man, Canada)

FRENCH-CANADIAN HISTORY

Paul Carpentier (National Museum of Man, Canada)
Jean-Claude Dupont (Université de Laval, Canada)

REGIONAL ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATIONS

Chairman, John Neuenschwander (Carthage College)

PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIALITY VERSUS THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW

Daniel Schorr (Television News Reporter)
Film documentary on Boss Crump of Memphis

THE EARS HAVE IT?

A mild controversy between Canadians and Americans on the favoring of tape-recordings versus transcripts may spark lively discussion this fall at the joint meeting of the Canadian Oral History Association and the Oral History Association.

The Newsletter invited Léo La Clare, president of the Canadian Oral History Association, to offer a brief treatise on the subject of tapes versus transcripts. La Clare is head of the Sound Archives of the Public Archives of Canada, and is co-chairman of the OHA Workshop to be conducted in Ottawa, Canada next September.

This article is the first of several anticipated on this subject. Readers may air their opinions by submitting letters or articles to the editorial office of the Newsletter. Brevity will be appreciated.

La Clare's article:

Generally, American practitioners of oral history consider the typescript as the essential oral history record, whereas Canadians consider the tape-recording as the essential document. The tape-recording captures accents, tone, pitch, volume, and pauses in speech not conveyed by the written word. In this respect, the tape-recording includes more information than the typescript about an interview. However, the recorder tapes errors of detail—dates and names for instance—which can be corrected in a typescript. In addition, a typescript can include valuable information added after the interview. But, by

the same token, valuable historical information may be subtracted from the typescript—such as an eloquently spoken statement that reads awkwardly.

Both the tape-recording and the typescript are valuable documents and care should be taken to ensure the high quality of each. Interviews should be recorded with the best equipment, facilities, and expertise available in order to achieve first-quality sound reproduction. High quality tapes are much easier to transcribe than poor quality tapes. Typescripts should also be prepared with the best equipment, facilities, and expertise available.

With regard to research uses, the tape-recorded document can be used as a source of information for written publications and as production material for radio programs, documentary disc recordings, and sound tracks for museum displays, teaching aids, television programs, and motion picture films. On the other hand, typescripts can be quickly consulted and used for publications such as theses, articles and books. However, researchers should not object to transcribing portions of taped interviews. Ideally, the researcher should use both the tape-recording and the typescript because these documents complement, rather than duplicate each other.

In my opinion, the tape-recording is the only authentic archival record of the interview. The typescript is a derived document that inevitably includes a certain amount of interpretation by the transcriber, interviewee and interviewer.

OH NEWS FROM SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Eugenia Meyer, coordinator for the Program of Oral History at the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City, reports the publication of a general catalogue, to be out in the late summer, which will include all the interviews ready for use by scholars on the basic projects: History of the Mexican Revolution (1910-20), Cinema in Mexico, Contemporary Mexico 1920-... and Education in Mexico 1920-40. The publication is co-sponsored by the National Museum of Anthropology and the National Library of Anthropology and History and will be distributed through academic book shops.

Also coming off the press this year will be seven volumes of edited interviews of eyewitnesses of events in the sound movie industry in Mexico since 1930. Two of these volumes are already in circulation. This is another joint effort of the Museum and the Cineteca Nacional.

Two successful regional deployment centers have been established for the use and development of oral history. The first one, the Centro Regional del Noroeste in Sonora, is under the direction of Cynthia Murrieta, and Julia Tuñon coordinates activities at Regional de Occidente at Jalisco. The University of Vera Cruz at Xalapa sponsors another program through its Centro de Estudios Historicos.

Technical supervision, materials, and transcribing for these projects are provided in the program's main office in Mexico City. Each regional center retains a copy of all transcriptions plus catalogues, photo archives and like materials.

Eugenia Meyer, Peter Sehlinger (Purdue University) and Oscar Martinez (University of Texas at El Paso) are in the process of editing a Chicano-Latin-American oral history directory. Plans are to include in it a general account of what is being done in research and information retrieval as well as in publications.

CANADIANS EXTEND INVITATION TO OHA MEMBERS

The Canadian Oral History Association will hold its third annual conference at the Public Archives of Canada in Ottawa on September 8 and 9, 1976. In tribute to the contribution of archivists to the Canadian oral history movement, the theme of the conference will be "Oral History and Archives." This theme will be developed during two special sessions, but there will also be general sessions on oral history definitions and principles of oral history in the Ottawa region, as well as concurrent sessions on the use of oral history in the study of Canada's cultural, economic, political, and military history. A highlight of the conference will be the banquet speech by Peter Stursberg, author of *Diefenbaker: Leadership Gained 1956-62*.

Since the OHA Workshop and Colloquium immediately follow the Canadian conference, it is hoped that many OHA colleagues will join the deliberations on September 8 and 9.

ARSC LEARNS ABOUT ORAL HISTORY

Oral history was the discussion topic at the annual meeting of the Association of Recorded Sound Collections at Stanford University, February 8-11. Speakers were Willa Baum, University of California, Berkeley, on "Oral History in the United States;" Bernard Galm, UCLA, on "Videotaping Oral History;" and Léo La Clare, sound archivist of the Public Archives of Canada and president of the Canadian Oral History Association, on "Oral History in Canada." Clark Smith, professor of rhetoric at UC, spoke on his oral history research on Vietnam War veterans.

The first law for the historian is that he shall never dare utter an untruth. The second is that he shall suppress nothing that is true. Moreover, there shall be no suspicion of partiality in his writing, or of malice.

Marcus Tullius Cicero, 106'43 B.gc. *De Oratore II*, 62

Oral History Association Newsletter
Published quarterly

Editorial Office
Program for Oral History
Baylor University, Box 228
Waco, Texas 76703

Thomas L. Charlton, Editor
Adelaide S. Darling, Associate Editor
Judy Edquist, Associate Editor
Margaret L. S. Miller, Associate Editor
Carla Everett, Student Editor

OHA QUESTIONNAIRE

Please photocopy, complete and send to: Johnye Mathews, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204 or Ronald E. Marcello, P.O. Box 13734, N.T. Station, Denton, Texas 76203.

The Committee to Study the Use of Oral History as an Interpretative Device is charged with conducting a study of the interpretative uses of oral history and reporting its findings to the OHA. For this purpose, "interpretative" has been defined as "designed or fitted to interpret," which includes writing, classroom teaching, dramatic or musical performance, artistic productions, still photography, and such multi-sensory media as film strips, slide/tape shows, movies, videotapes, and other uses known or anticipated for oral history materials. Please respond to the items by checking the appropriate blanks or adding your own comments wherever they are relevant. If you wish to make suggestions for future directions this committee should take, please write to the Committee Chairperson Johnye Mathews or Secretary-Treasurer Ron Marcello, addresses listed above.

1. What types of use have been made of your oral history collection?
 - ☐ published books or articles
 - ☐ newspaper or magazine features
 - ☐ television documentaries
 - ☐ papers read at professional meetings
 - ☐ museum lectures or guide tours
 - ☐ civic group programs
 - ☐ genealogical studies
 - ☐ fund raising projects
 - ☐ creative writing projects
 - ☐ classroom teaching
 - ☐ other (list) _____
2. Does your oral history collection presently contain prepared audio-visual projects suitable for use in one of the following areas?
 - ☐ classroom
 - ☐ elementary
 - ☐ high school
 - ☐ college
 - ☐ historical society program
 - ☐ local
 - ☐ state
 - ☐ regional
 - ☐ national
 - ☐ international
 - ☐ civic group program
 - ☐ other (list) _____
3. What is the form and approximate number of such audio-visual projects in your oral history collection?

	1-5	6-10	11-25	over 25
<input type="checkbox"/> slide/tape show	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> filmstrip/tape show	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> movie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> videotape	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> music project	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> audio project only	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> other (list) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. What subject areas are represented in your audio-visual projects?

<input type="checkbox"/> folklore	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> institutions
<input type="checkbox"/> biography	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> military life
<input type="checkbox"/> politics	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> social movements
<input type="checkbox"/> crafts	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> historic events
<input type="checkbox"/> hobbies	<input type="checkbox"/> geography	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> local history	<input type="checkbox"/> science	<input type="checkbox"/> sports
<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic groups	<input type="checkbox"/> biology	<input type="checkbox"/> other (list) _____
5. Are the audio-visual projects in your oral history collection available for loan or rent?
 - ☐ loan
 - ☐ rent (Fee: _____)
 - ☐ must be shown by member of our staff
6. If your oral history collection does not have audio-visual projects at present, do you anticipate having them in the future?
 - ☐ yes
 - ☐ no
 - ☐ perhaps, if the interest is sufficient
7. Has your oral history collection ever sold or leased materials to a commercial company for the preparation of a product for sale to:
 - ☐ the general public
 - ☐ schools or colleges
 - ☐ radio or television broadcast
 - ☐ other (list) _____
8. If your collection has been sold or leased to a commercial company, please give the name of the company and the conditions under which the transaction was made.
9. Are you interested in having information about audio-visual projects which have been compiled from oral history materials?
 - ☐ yes
 - ☐ no
 - ☐ yes, if they are available for loan or rent
10. How long has your oral history collection been in existence?
 - ☐ 1 year
 - ☐ 2-5 years
 - ☐ 6-10 years
 - ☐ other (list) _____
11. How many interviews does your oral history collection contain?

<input type="checkbox"/> 1-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 151-200	<input type="checkbox"/> 1000 plus
<input type="checkbox"/> 26-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 201-300	
<input type="checkbox"/> 51-100	<input type="checkbox"/> 301-500	
<input type="checkbox"/> 101-150	<input type="checkbox"/> 501-1000	
12. Approximately how many of the interviews in your collection are transcribed?

<input type="checkbox"/> 1-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 151-200	<input type="checkbox"/> 1000 plus
<input type="checkbox"/> 26-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 201-300	
<input type="checkbox"/> 51-100	<input type="checkbox"/> 301-500	
<input type="checkbox"/> 101-150	<input type="checkbox"/> 501-1000	

Name of respondent: _____

Address: _____

OHA OFFICIAL

BUSINESS

**Ronald E.
Marcello
Secretary-
Treasurer**



OHA FINANCES: The organization made a profit of \$3,340.85 from the 1975 Workshop and Colloquium. As of February 13, 1976, OHA had \$11,256.99 in its savings account and \$849.06 in the checking account. Council decided that OHA funds in the savings account beyond \$10,000 be invested in certificates of deposit.

OHA MEMBERSHIP: As of February 13, 1976, there were 1,294 members, broken down into the following categories: Individuals, 768; Institutions, 159; Libraries, 276; Students, 86; Life, 5.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW: Council spent considerable time studying and deliberating the recommendations of the Constitutional Review Committee. Some of the committee's recommendations were accepted as presented, while others were accepted with some modifications. A more complete accounting of the recommendations of the committee appears in another column of this Newsletter.

1976 WORKSHOP AND COLLOQUIUM: A special session of the midwinter council meeting was devoted strictly to the preparations for the Canada meeting. The secretary-treasurer's office hopes to have the preregistration packets in the mail by May 15. Registration fees will be the same as those of Asheville (\$20 for the Workshop; \$30 for the Colloquium; \$40 for the Workshop and Colloquium). Since hotel space for the Colloquium is limited, it is imperative that everybody preregister.

**Oral History Association Newsletter
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MINIPROFILE



Robin McGee has been functioning as administrative assistant to OHA Secretary-Treasurer Ronald E. Marcello for the past year. A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Robin is a junior at North Texas State University in Denton where she is majoring in speech pathology. She is a member of Zeta Tau Alpha social sorority and has held numerous offices in that organization. In addition to handling routine OHA office activities, Robin has provided invaluable assistance to Marcello in making preparations for the annual workshops and colloquia, keeping the OHA membership lists current and accurate, and maintaining the financial records.

"TESTIMONIAL RESCUE" IN CUBA

"Testimonial rescue" of the 1960 Revolution in Cuba is being encouraged in that island nation. Margaret Randall's *Women in Revolution* is probably one of the most outstanding works done there in the opinion of OHA member Eugenia Meyer, coordinator for the Program of Oral History at the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City.

LETTERS

March 16, 1976

Editor:

Your newsletter is very informative varied and well done all around.

BUT, as a member of OHA of good standing, can I object *violently* to the use of the unspeakable word (verb transitive) "oral historize?" It's an atrocity used in your winter issue, in a review (enclosed) ["Hawaiian Chinese History", p. 4]. The reviewer may have used it, but what editorial assistant permitted it to stand unchallenged?

Oral historians have a hard enough time, don't we, to be accepted as scholars by "real" historians? But so far, at least, I've not seen one of them write (or speak) of "historizing" the American Revolution or whatever.

Please, please, ban—prohibit—pass an editorial injunction against—an OHA resolution against—the term "oral historize." It's bastardy—and incidentally, far below the excellent level of writing and editing in the OHA Newsletter generally.

Very sincerely,

(signed) Jean Joyce [Washington, D.C.]

*Not even 16 years as a senior editor in the federal bureaucracy prepares my eye or ear for such horror as "oral historize." That's how bad it is!

Ed. Note: Additional readers' comments on this subject are most welcome.

Newsletter deadlines: Summer, June 30; Fall, October 6. Articles should be no longer than 400 words.

The Newsletter requests OHA members to send changes of address to the Secretary-Treasurer, Box 13734, N. T. Station, Denton, Texas 76203.

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