

# ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume XI, Number 2

Spring 1977

## PROFILE



**Willa K. Baum**  
**CALIFORNIA OH LEADER**

Willa Klug Baum, oral historian of note on the West Coast, has been active in the OHA since its beginning. She served on the Council 1967-69, and has contributed to most of the national colloquia and workshops. Baum is perhaps best known to veteran oral historians for her handbook, *Oral History for the Local Historical Society*, published in 1969 and revised in 1974.

Born in the Middle West and reared in California, Baum received her B.A. in American history and philosophy from Whittier College and went on to earn an M.A. in history and political science at Mills College while serving as a fellow in humanities. She did further graduate work at the University of California - Berkeley, in California and recent United States history and worked as a teaching assistant.

Baum has been with the Regional Oral History Office in the Bancroft Library at

*Profile continued p. 7*

## REGIONAL ORAL HISTORY

### WORK OF COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL WORKSHOPS AND ORAL HISTORY IN TEACHING

#### Profile

The Committee on Regional Workshops and Oral History in Teaching is currently working on two matters of great importance to the future of the Oral History Association:

Defining the relationship between regional oral history associations and the national organization.

Developing ways to disseminate information about OHA and to attract additional members.

The 1977-78 committee is composed of eight members from a variety of backgrounds and regions: Judith Austin (Idaho State Historical Society), Thomas L. Charlton (Baylor University), John Fox (Salem State College), Mary Ellen Glass (University of Nevada - Reno), John A. Neuenschwander (Carthage College), Carl Oblinger (Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission), and J. Riley Venza (Murray State University). Members of the OHA who have suggestions or proposals in these areas are encouraged to send them to: John A. Neuenschwander, Department of History, Carthage College, Kenosha, WI 53140.

#### Report

In response to a report by the Committee on Regional Workshops and Oral History in Teaching, the OHA Council at its midwinter meeting approved measures designed to help the OHA gain visibility and better serve newcomers to oral history:

Advertisements will be placed in selected professional journals telling of the existence and purpose of the OHA.

OHA members will be encouraged to present workshops on oral history at the regional and national meetings of other organizations. The Regional Committee will aid this effort by preparing a three-

year calendar of such meetings and by contacting program chairmen to ask for an oral history session on each program. The Council hopes that oral history workshop leaders will be drawn from areas near each meeting and that expenses, if any, will be borne by their home institutions.

A letter will be sent to various national, regional, and state groups offering the assistance of the OHA in starting oral history work—either through resource persons or through the sale of starter kits. The sessions of the 1977 Workshop will be tape-recorded, and those tapes will be made available for distribution by the committee.

An effort will be made by the OHA to communicate with area, state, and regional oral history groups to express the interest of the OHA in the well-being and development of such groups, and to consider the establishment of mutually beneficial links, such as joint membership arrangements.

The committee is authorized to prepare a two-to-three-year foundation grant proposal on behalf of the OHA to provide money for oral history workshops in research and teaching.

The committee recommended that more sessions for teachers be included in the program of the national Colloquium to encourage their participation in the OHA. The Council has asked committee chairman John Neuenschwander to offer OHA assistance in curriculum development to the departments of education in each state.

Although the committee recommended disassociation of the Workshop from the Colloquium and its decentralization into three smaller and more accessible workshops, the Council continues to favor the Workshop as it stands, with perhaps additional workshops as they are needed.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



**William Wyatt**

I am pleased to be able to report that preparations for the annual Workshop and Colloquium of the OHA—scheduled for San Diego on October 20-23—are proceeding on schedule, and I am confident that these preparations will culminate in an outstanding experience for those of you in attendance at this upcoming West Coast meeting.

On January 21-22, the Council of the Oral History Association held its midwinter meeting at the Hotel del Coronado—the host facility for our mid-October gathering. Council members departed that meeting with a very positive feeling for the administrative expertise of the hotel staff, and to a person they were laudatory in their praise of the physical properties and historical aura of this famous facility.

The Council session, itself, was a busy time for those in attendance, with a number of meaningful and far-reaching issues on the agenda for deliberation and decision. The workings of the membership recruitment program, instituted by the Council at the Montebello Colloquium in September 1976, were evaluated and slightly revised; steps were taken to organize an accessioning program for all outstanding OHA tapes, manuscripts and related archival materials; a listing of OHA members who might serve as advisers in the evaluation of oral history programs was assembled, with considerable discussion ensuing as to the guidelines to be used by them in evaluating the respective projects that may request their expertise; further instruction and direction were provided for the ongoing work of the Committee on Regional Oral History Workshops; and future colloquia sites were discussed and evaluated relative to the annual meetings for 1979 and 1980.

The range of issues and activities addressed by the Council is indicative of both the growth and increasing complexity of the concern areas facing the Oral History Association. I know that I speak for your other officers and the entire Council when I say that I not only look forward to seeing you in San Diego, but I am most anxious to share your thinking on many of the business matters so germane to the well-being of this organization.

# DEVELOPMENTS IN REGIONAL ORAL HISTORY

## THE NEW ENGLAND ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Founded in the fall of 1974, the New England Association of Oral History was formed to provide at the regional level the same type of services that the OHA provides at the national level. The founders of NEA/OH realized that many people in the New England area were unable to attend the OHA Workshops and Colloquia.

Since its inception, the association has held meetings each fall and spring. The meetings are divided into two sessions: during the morning session, papers are delivered; the afternoon session is devoted to workshops. NEA/OH has been fortunate in being able to attract some of the outstanding leaders in oral history to participate.

The spring 1977 meeting was jointly sponsored by the University of Rhode Island and the Pawtucket Public Library. The theme of the meeting was Oral History and Ethnicity. At this meeting the New England association set another precedent when it announced the selection of Dr. Bruce M. Stave of the Department of History, University of Connecticut - Storrs, as the winner of the Harvey A. Kantor Memorial Award for Significant Work in Oral History. As far as can be determined, this marks the first time that any professional organization in the United States has presented an award which is designated specifically to work in oral history.

Financially, the New England Association has been fortunate. In the early stages of its existence, printing and auxiliary services were donated by an anonymous friend. For the past two years Salem State College has supported the association by assuming mailing costs and making a yearly grant.

This past fall, members approved a constitution which becomes effective September 1, 1977. The constitution establishes a seven-member executive committee which will govern the organization. Members have indicated an interest in a single annual dues encompassing membership in both the Oral History Association and the New England Association of Oral History.

NEA/OH publishes a newsletter two to three times a year which is sent to its 234 members as well as to selected educational institutions and other interested organizations.

Membership is open to anyone in the New England states who wishes to join. Because there is no regional organization in New York state, the association

is actively recruiting members from this area. Those wishing to join should contact Henry G. Stenberg, Jr., secretary/treasurer of NEA/OH, Department of History, Salem State College, Salem, MA 01970.

Besides Stenberg, the officers of the association are John J. Fox, president, and Louis Silveri, vice president.

## OHMAR—OH IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION

OHMAR, (Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region) launched in the summer of 1976, covers Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and Southeastern Pennsylvania. Its first elected president is Benis Frank, head of the Marine Corps Oral History Program. Officers of OHMAR must be members in good standing of the Oral History Association; OHA membership is encouraged but not required of the general OHMAR membership.

Purposes and programs are of particular concern to the organization. The growth of new oral history endeavors in the region frequently requires assistance from the experienced individual members of OHMAR and from the comprehensive annual workshops. These workshops, proposed as a mainstay of OHMAR services, are particularly important in those years when OHA Workshop/Colloquia are geographically and financially removed. Advanced levels of oral history research and criticism will also be shared with the membership, either as part of the conferences or as occasional luncheon programs. OHMAR attempts to balance its offerings to suit the needs of the novice and of the professional oral historian as it seeks activities useful to a variety of local and regional oral history projects.

## ROUNDTABLE ADVANCES ORAL HISTORY IN INDIANA

The Indiana Oral History Roundtable, sponsored by the Indiana State Library, is a nonprofit organization of institutions and individuals interested in advancing the practice and use of oral history in Indiana. F. Gerald Handfield, director of the Oral History Project of the Indiana State Library and editor of the Roundtable's quarterly newsletter, *The Record*, believes the Indiana Roundtable to be the first statewide organization devoted to oral history. The IOHR first met March 27, 1971.

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# Regional Groups Active Across the Country

## PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania, through its state agencies, directly encourages oral history on the nonprofessional level. Employees of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Education help develop new oral history projects and act as on-site consultants for existing projects, conducting training seminars and evaluations. They hope to be able to provide a statewide bibliographic and clearing house service for oral history projects.

In addition, Carl Oblinger, associate historian of the PHMC and Elizabeth Spear Haller, curriculum specialist at the PDE, have taken responsibility for publishing the free, quarterly *Pennsylvania Oral History Newsletter*, which links and informs the oral history projects in the state. Oblinger and Haller mailed the first issue of the newsletter in December 1975, to around 600 people canvassed about their interest in oral history, including librarians, teachers, clubwomen, and many types of grass roots organizations. The mailing list now consists of over 300 organizations and individuals. Each issue of the newsletter is devoted to a particular theme, with a guest editor chosen for knowledge of the topic featured.

According to Oblinger, "Our initial objective was one of general information, i.e., to familiarize our clientele with ongoing projects, but I would say now that we are consciously interested in restructuring the practice and substance of oral history in Pennsylvania. We are committed to encouraging community history as a technique to improve the teaching of history as well as a means of promoting a particular consciousness in the towns and neighborhoods of Pennsylvania. Consequently the oral history we seek to promote is the kind which focuses on family and community interviewing. Too many projects, we feel, interview only locally prominent people. It is curious that so much of what the people have to tell us has nothing to do with a leadership's version of events.

"What we've discovered from our communications is that very few of the grass roots people know much about good investigative reporting and that most had 'bought' the leadership's version of a town's history and development. Something akin to our journalistic thrust would be the newly published, *Old Glory: A Pictorial Report of the Grass Roots History Movement*, America the Beautiful Fund, Shoreham Building,



Jim Morris, former Alice Lloyd College student, interviewing Ted Jewel of Busy, Kentucky.

## APPALACHIAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

A joint enterprise of the staff and students of four institutions (Appalachian State University, Emory and Henry College, Alice Lloyd College, and Lees Junior College), the Appalachian Oral History Project was formed to provide educational experiences for students and feelings of appreciation for interviewees (resident historians). A long-range goal of the project is to collect a body of information that will increase the country's understanding of mountain people so that attention can be focused on the problems of the region.

Project director Michael Mullins reports several major developments since the project was last featured in this newsletter (Summer, 1974). A book, *Our Appalachia* has been published (see Book Notices); nearing completion is an annotated catalog of the transcribed tapes of the four schools. To enable further use of the collection, Microfilm Corporation of America has rights to

publish and market transcripts in microfiche form. The staff of the AOHP actively promotes oral history, giving presentations and conducting workshops in the region.

There are now over 3,300 tapes in the collection, compared to 1,500 in 1974. In addition, at least four issues of *Mountain Memories* (Alice Lloyd College), three issues of *Recollections* (Lees Junior College), and two issues of *Highland Heritage* (Emory and Henry College) have been published in that period.

Funds for the project have been provided by U.S. Steel, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Rockefeller, Steele-Reese and Johnson Foundations. The individual schools, however, have assumed a continually increasing proportion of the expenses. Mullins hopes that sources such as the book, catalog, and MCA contract will lead the project to eventual financial self-sufficiency.

Washington, DC 20005 (\$4.95).

"You can see our efforts have evolved from one of general information and communication to promoting a different kind of history, a philosophical commitment if you will."

## COLORADO

The Colorado Center of Oral History, Denver Public Library, will compile a directory of oral history projects in the state based on survey questionnaires and individual interview cards completed by cooperating projects. Nancy Whistler is the project director.

## BAPTIST CONSORTIUM

Helping preserve the record of Baptist work in Texas are twelve learning institutions which make up the Texas Baptist Oral History Consortium. Established in January 1976, the cooperative statewide research effort focuses on Baptist institutional, congregational, and denominational history. Researchers from consortium member schools conduct interviews which are sent to a central coordinating, processing, and editing office at the Baylor Uni-

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# PREVIEW OF THE 1977 NATIONAL ORAL

Hotel del Coronado - San Diego, California

— Charles R. Schultz, Workshop Chairman (Texas A&M University)

Thursday, October 20, 1977

9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. REGISTRATION

1:30 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF WORKSHOP FACULTY

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. THE WHY'S OF ORAL HISTORY

Preservation: Kenneth W. Rock (Colorado State University)  
Teaching: Gwendolyn Safier (Moraga, California)  
Research: Manfred Waserman (National Library of Medicine)

Practical applications of oral history technique by experienced practitioners each of whom will describe his or her own project and experiences therein and will also summarize similar projects with which he or she is familiar.

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

A. ESTABLISHING AND ADMINISTERING ORAL HISTORY PROGRAMS

Large Program: Samuel Proctor (University of Florida)  
Small Program: Shirley Tanzer (Oregon Jewish Oral History Project)

Information on formulating plans for the program, securing initial and continued funding, budgeting, equipment selection, staffing, selecting interviewees and interviewers, and establishing operating policies.

B. PREPARING SLIDE TAPE PROGRAMS ON LOCAL HISTORY

Andrew Gulliford (Rifle, Colorado)  
Randall Teeuwen (Colorado Springs, Colorado)

6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. COCKTAILS

7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. DINNER

8:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS all under the general heading INTERVIEWING FROM A-Z

A. INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES DEMONSTRATION

Gary Shumway and other staff members of the history program at California State University - Fullerton

Demonstration of the good as well as the bad which can happen during an interview with suggestions of ways to cope with problems which can and do arise.

B. AUDIOVISUAL DEMONSTRATION

Corrine Crow (East Texas State University)  
Joel Gardner (University of California - Los Angeles)

Excerpts from and description of videotaped interviews along with comparison of costs between audiovisual and audiotaped interviews. This session is contingent partially upon the availability of facilities for showing the excerpts.

C. SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN INTERVIEWING

Interviewing Corporation Personnel: Chester Lewis (New York Times)  
Interviewing Famous Personalities: Ronald L. Davis (Southern Methodist University)  
Interviewing Members of an Immigrant Group - Vietnamese: Johnye E. Mathews (University of Arkansas - Little Rock)

Three practitioners describe both the joys and sorrows involved in their own projects as well as others of similar type. Among the subjects to be discussed are interviewing the boss, scheduling difficulties, meeting personalities in the performing arts, and language problems.

Friday, October 21, 1977

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A. PROCESSING INTERVIEWS - VARYING APPROACHES

Elizabeth Mason (Columbia University)  
Cullom Davis (Sangamon State University)

Descriptions of varying philosophies, methods, and procedures in transcribing and editing the transcripts.

B. AN ALTERNATIVE TO TRANSCRIBING

Dale Treleven (State Historical Society of Wisconsin)

Explanation of an abstracting-indexing technique which has been devised to provide ready access to the information at a lower cost than verbatim transcripts.



Serra Museum and Library, Presidio Park



California Tower, Balboa Park



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California Tower, Balboa Park

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 Noon CONCURRENT SESSIONS

A. DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDEXING SYSTEM FOR ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPTS

Ruth Brock (University of Texas - Arlington)  
Martha Matthews (Dogan Junior High School - Tyler, Texas)

Practical approach to indexing devised while working on an oral history project.

B. FUNDING ORAL HISTORY PROGRAMS

Willa Baum (University of California - Berkeley)  
Thomas L. Charlton (Baylor University)

## NOTICE

OHA dues for 1977 must be in the office of the executive secretary by June 1, 1977. After that date those who have not remitted will be dropped from the membership roll.

## TWELFTH OHA COLLOQUIUM: MOVABLE FEAST AT HISTORIC CALIFORNIA ISLAND HOTEL

by Joel Gardner

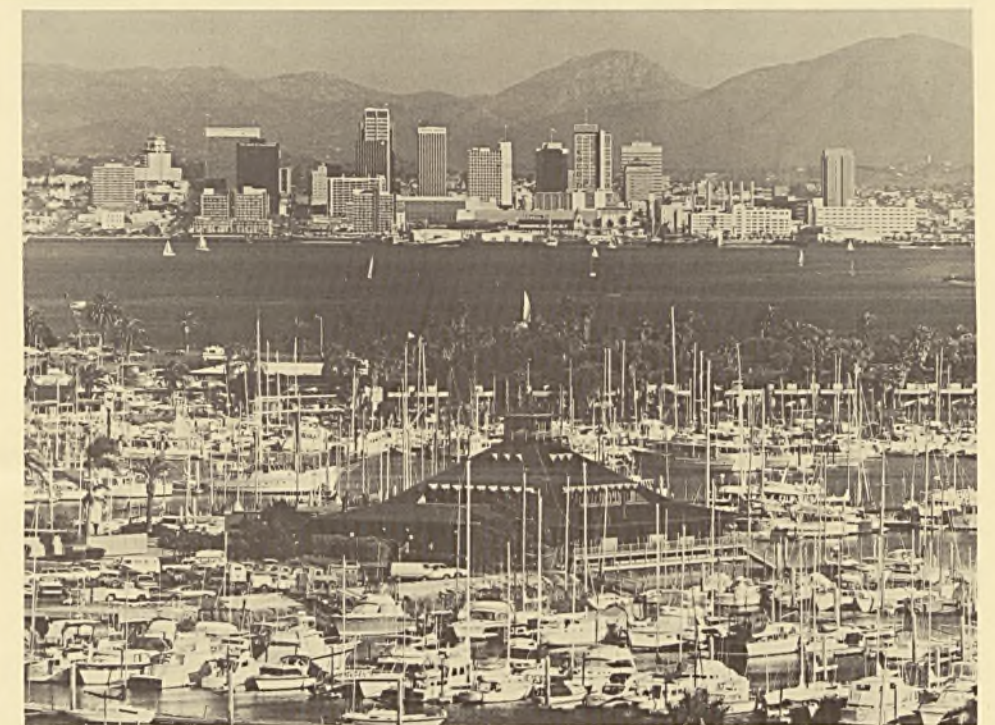
Oral History Program

University of California-Los Angeles

California, the new melting pot: amalgam of the Last Frontier and the Sun Belt, populace at once nativist and exotic, revolutionary and conservative. The Oral History Association Colloquium returns to the Golden State this year with a program as multifaceted and variegated as the setting.

The dates are October 21-23; the site is San Diego; the place is the splendid Hotel del Coronado, which sprawls on an island in the bay, its turn-of-the-century Victorian facades concealing its modern amenities. Through its corridors will pass oral historians of all specializations—writers whose names earn headlines in the media as well as scholars who toil in little renown.

Robert Scheer will be there. Scheer—editor of *Ramparts* for five years, currently a staff writer for the *Los Angeles Times*—conducted *Playboy* interviews with Jimmy Carter (that famous “lust-in-my-heart” session) and California’s own Jerry Brown. Perhaps the best-known practitioner of radical journalism, he’ll speak to the Saturday night dinner meeting.



San Diego Skyline. Photos pages 4 and 5 courtesy James E. Moss, San Diego Historical Society, local arrangements chairman, 1977 Workshop and Colloquium.

John Toland will be there. Toland conducted more than 150 interviews in assembling *Adolf Hitler*, a massive biographical study. A Pulitzer prizewinner for *The Rising Sun* in 1970, Toland will describe his interviewing work and its pertinence to biographical studies at the Friday night dinner meeting.

Michael Medved and David Wallechinsky will be there. The two graduates of Palisades High, Los Angeles, class of '65, turned the cliché “What ever happened...?” into one of the best-selling nonfiction works of 1976. Medved and Wallechinsky will speak in plenary session Sunday morning.

Of special interest will be two other plenary presentations. At the Saturday luncheon meeting, “The New Copyright Law” will be discussed by Eugene Aleinikoff, copyright lawyer and lecturer in the law school of Rutgers University.

And in an introductory session Friday afternoon, Colloquium participants will hear “Tale of Two Cities: Houston and Phoenix,” documenting the use of oral history to reconstruct the history of large communities. Presenters will be Louis Marchiafava, oral history project coordinator for the Houston Metropolitan Archive and Research Center, and G. Wesley Johnson, executive director of the Phoenix History Project.

Western and Latin-American history,

the arts, and technology will be prominent among the other ten sessions. Film history will be spotlighted during the Saturday morning sessions. And for the first time, oral historians from Hawaii will visit an OHA Colloquium to discuss the Islands’ various programs.

Of course, the usual time will be set aside for recreation, for greeting old friends and meeting new ones. A cocktail hour will greet participants Friday evening, and following dinner and speeches, they’re invited to a reception hosted by OHA President William Wyatt. Saturday afternoon will be free time—“On the Town and On the Beach”—during which registrants can bask in the California sun or visit the many nearby sights from Tijuana to the zoo. That evening’s dinner and speeches will be followed by the OHA business meeting.

Ultimately, the value of a professional conference must be informational, and that value guided Bernard Galm of UCLA, Colloquium chairman, as he assembled the San Diego program. The Twelfth Oral History Colloquium will be an omnibus for the practicing or learning oral historian: it will offer something for everyone.

**Ed. Note:** Joel Gardner is a former associate editor of the *OHA Newsletter*, and is senior editor in the UCLA Oral History Program.



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**Ed. Note:** Joel Gardner is a former associate editor of the *OHA Newsletter*, and is senior editor in the UCLA Oral History Program.



## BOOK NOTICES

*Adolf Hitler.* By John Toland. (Garden City: Doubleday, 1976. 2 vols. 1102 pp. Bibliog. Photos. \$14.95)

Best-selling biography based largely on interviews with more than 150 people personally involved with Hitler.

Toland will be a featured speaker at the 1977 OHA Colloquium.

*Hitler's Children: The Story of the Baader-Meinhof Terrorist Gang.* By Jillian Becker. (New York: Lippincott, June 1977. Photos. Notes. Index. \$12.50)

A study, derived from interviews, of the motives, associations, and backgrounds of three members of a German terrorist group, student unrest in the 1960s and leftwing opposition to American influence.

*The Salt Book.* Ed. by Pamela Wood. (New York: Anchor Press, June 1977. Illus. \$5.95)

A high school project using oral history to detail crafts, life styles, and cultural aspects of New England yesterday and today.

*Black Jack, The Life and Times of John J. Pershing.* 2 vols. By Frank E. Vandiver. (College Station, Tex.: Texas A&M University Press, May 1977. Illus. Maps. Bibliog. Index. \$35.00)

Domestic and foreign sources, official records, archival materials, and personal interviews with people who were a part of Pershing's life and milieu form the foundation for this work.

*Enola Gay.* By Gordon Thomas and Max Morgan-Witts. (New York: Stein and Day, August 1977. \$11.95)

Based on interviews and previously secret data on the bombing of Hiroshima.

*Comrade Chiang Ch'ing.* By Roxane Witke. (New York: Little, Brown, April 1977. 549 pp. Photos. Maps. Index. \$15.00)

Biography of Mao Tse-tung's fourth wife based on one week of interviews with her in 1972.

*Our Appalachia.* Ed. by Laura Shackelford and Bill Weinberg. Photos by Donald R. Anderson. (New York: Hill and Wang, 1977. 397 pp. Index. \$12.95)

Reflects the evolution of cultural patterns in Appalachia. Turn-of-the-century life in remote hollows, in mining towns, at husking bees, with physicians on horseback, with teachers and schools, with fundamentalist preachers, and with hunters and trappers.

*Big Thicket Legacy.* Comp. and ed. by Campbell and Lynn Loughmiller. (Austin, Tex.: University of Texas Press, May 1977. Photos. Map. \$12.95)

Oral memoirs gathered by naturalists conducting scientific explorations of the Big Thicket in East Texas. Recollections range through logging days, traveling bees, searches for rare plants, and hunts for bears and panthers.

*The Texas Sampler, A Stitch in Time.* By Donna Bearden and Jamie Frucht. (Austin, Tex.: Office of Governor, State of Texas, 1976. 224 pp. Photos. Free)

Character studies of twenty-five Texas senior citizens, a Bicentennial-related project funded by the Governor's Committee on Aging, P.O. Box 12586, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711.

*Between the Creeks, Recollections of Northeast Texas.* By Deborah Brown and Katharine C. Gust. (Austin, Texas: The Encino Press, 1976. Photos. \$12.50)

A combination of oral history and photography that presents the realities of everyday living in the isolated ranch country between White Oak Creek and the Sulphur River of Northeast Texas. Selected as one of the Outstanding Southern Books of 1976, in the Southern Books Competition of the Southeastern Library Association.

*Four Men: Living the Revolution: An Oral History of Contemporary Cuba.* By Oscar Lewis, Ruth M. Lewis, and Susan Rigdon. (Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, May 1977. Drawings. Tables. Glossary. \$15.00)

Described as oral sociology, this is the first of three volumes planned on the work of the late Oscar Lewis. Focus on the response of Havana's shantytown poor to the Cuban revolution and to socioeconomic developments in Cuba.

*Americans Remember the World War II Home Front.* By Roy Hoopes. (New York: Hawthorn Books, August 1977. \$12.50)

Life in the USA from Pearl Harbor to VJ Day depicted through interviews.

*Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream.* By Doris Kearns. (New York: Harper & Row, 1976. \$12.50)

Conversations with Johnson are the source of Kearns's evaluation of strengths and flaws in LBJ.

A summer oral history course, "Workshop in History: New Methods in Teaching," will be offered at East Texas State University, July 11-22, Corinne Crow and Robin Rudoff, faculty. Inquiries: History Department, ETSU, Commerce, TX 75428.

## NEWS

The Restore Ellis Island Committee will microfilm documents on persons who passed through Ellis Island as immigrants during the years 1891-1954 or worked there as immigration officers. They seek records, particularly oral histories, whether or not they have been transcribed, pertaining to this era. The project will inventory existing holdings and supplement them with regional interviews. Betty McKeever Key of the Maryland Historical Society is consultant for the program. For information: August C. Bolino, Department of Economics, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC 20064.

The University of Nevada-Reno will offer a summer session course on "Oral History: Methods and Technique" June 3-July 15, taught by historian Mary Ellen Glass. The course is cross-listed which means students may register for it through the journalism, history, education, or library science departments. For information: Mary Ellen Glass, Head, Oral History Project, 33 Getchell Library, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89507.

"The Adventure and Responsibility of Creating Oral History: Camera, Computer and Recorder in the Science of Medical History" was the topic of G. E. Erickson, professor of medical science, Brown University, at the twenty-seventh Kate Hurd Mead Lecture presented in conjunction with the Medical College of Pennsylvania April 27 in Philadelphia. Peter D. Olch (National Library of Medicine) led the discussion following the lecture.

Shirley Tanzer of the Oregon Jewish Oral History and Archive Project announces that project's merger with the Jewish Historical Society of Oregon.

Oral History Association Newsletter  
Published quarterly

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

Thomas L. Charlton, Editor  
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David B. Stricklin, Associate Editor

Newsletter deadlines: Summer 1977, July 1; Fall 1977, November 4. Articles should be no longer than 400 words. Send change of address to: Executive Secretary, Box 13734, N.T. Station, Denton, TX 76203.



## POSITIONS

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**, oral history. Experience with research and documentation, transcribing and editing essential. Must have strong organizational and administrative ability to help run small but growing oral history program at George Washington University. Contact: Mary Jo Deering, Oral History Program, G.W.U. Library, 2130 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20052.

**ORAL HISTORIAN**, full-time staff position with Forest History Society, 3-5 years experience in preinterview research, interviewing, audio editing, and final processing. Knowledge of indexing desirable. Salary range \$10,500-\$12,000, depending on credentials and experience. Applicants should send resumes with references to Elwood R. Maunder, Executive Director, Forest History Society, P.O. Box 1581, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

## MAIL BALLOT DOES NOT INTEREST MEMBERSHIP

Of the 766 eligible voters only 242 mailed their ballots to the executive secretary voicing an opinion on the use of a mail ballot to elect OHA officers: 195 approved the mail ballot and forty-seven opposed its use. The Starr resolution required the affirmation of a majority of voting members in order to institute the mail ballot. Therefore, officers will continue to be elected at the annual business meeting.

## REVISED OHA GOALS AND GUIDELINES

Preregistration packets for the 1977 OHA Workshop and Colloquium will include advance copies of the revised Goals and Guidelines. This statement of ethics and general oral history principles will be presented to the membership for adoption at the annual business meeting in San Diego in October. Members may send their comments to Amelia R. Fry, The Regional Oral History Office, The Bancroft Library, University of California - Berkeley, CA 94720. For background information see *Reflections on Ethics*, by Amelia Fry, *The Oral History Review* 1975.

Claremont Graduate School plans a seminar in oral history June 20-July 22. The course, to be taught by Enid H. Douglass, is designed to acquaint students with oral history resources and the literature evolving from them, and seeks to provide a mastery of the oral history technique as a research tool. Inquiries: Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, CA 91711.

## BAPTIST CONSORTIUM

*continued from page 3*

versity Program for Oral History in Waco. The interviews are transcribed by the consortium staff, returned to the originating school for editing by the interviewee, and sent back to Baylor for final typing and binding.

Bound volumes resulting from consortium interviews are deposited in the library of the school that originated the research, in The Texas Collection at Baylor, and in Fleming Library of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. Consortium members provide interviewer time and recording equipment; a grant from the Baptist General Convention of Texas provides production and supply funds.

Topics emerging in the interviews include problems of small, denominational colleges; the fundamentalist controversies; issues in church-state relations; and foreign missionary work. Consortium members are Dallas Baptist College, East Texas Baptist College, Hardin-Simmons University, Houston Baptist University, Howard Payne University, Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Mexican Baptist Bible Institute, San Marcos Baptist Academy, Valley Baptist Academy, Wayland Baptist College, Baylor University, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Thomas L. Charlton, Baylor University, serves as director of the Texas Baptist Oral History Consortium; David B. Stricklin as state editor. Estelle Owens of Wayland Baptist College is the consortium's most prolific interviewer, having conducted fifty-four interviews in the sixteen months since the research began.

## PROFILE — BAUM

the University of California - Berkeley since its inception in 1954. Beginning as an interviewer, she later became director of the program, a position she still holds. A specialist in water and agricultural history, Baum has led her oral history colleagues into national prominence and developed a major research center studying such diverse topics as the California wine industry and the life and legal career of Earl Warren. The oral history movement owes much of its success to the efforts of this leader in the field.

OHA Vice President/President Elect Waddy W. Moore, director of the Oral History Program, University of Central Arkansas, conducted a one-day oral history workshop May 18, in Ruston, Louisiana, for the Louisiana Trail Blazer Library System, a consortium of Northern and Central Louisiana libraries.

## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY ORAL HISTORY ORGANIZATION

The San Luis Obispo County (California) Oral History Organization was organized March 4, 1976, to encourage and coordinate the collection and use of oral history materials among the various people and groups interested in the history of San Luis Obispo County. This organization was prompted by the need to coordinate the work being done by several individuals and groups and to effectively plan and implement the collection and use of additional interviews from people who have something significant to say about the county's history.

Members join SLOCOHO upon the unanimous assent of the board, the organization's governing body, which is composed of one representative from each of the members. Dues are set by the board. At regular meetings members report on their oral history activity, exchange information and materials, and make plans to further oral history in the county. The organization itself does not own tapes and transcripts, but works with materials owned by its members.

In addition to exchanging information and materials, SLOCOHO prepares suggestion sheets on various aspects of oral history, and through individual contact and workshops assists in oral history activity. It is preparing a card index of oral history materials from which it hopes to prepare a catalog. In these and other ways yet to be determined, the organization works to foster effective oral history activity in and about San Luis Obispo County. For more information: Joseph B. Romney, History Department, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407.

## MURRAY STATE OFFERS ORAL HISTORY CONCENTRATION

The history department of Murray State University, in cooperation with the Forrest C. Pogue Oral History Institute, has created an oral history concentration as an integral portion of history graduate study. Students who wish to pursue the concentration in oral history, whether they elect a thesis or nonthesis degree option, will receive training in oral history methods, techniques, and program development. In addition, independent study and research involving oral history interviewing and analysis will be a requirement for completing the program. Assistantships are available. Contact: James W. Hammack, Director, Forrest C. Pogue Oral History Institute, or Melvin E. Page, Director of Graduate Studies, Murray State University, Murray, KY 42071.



## OHA OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Ronald E.  
Marcello  
Executive  
Secretary



There are several random activities occurring in the executive secretary's office that should be of interest and value to all OHA members:

First, the Council minutes for the annual meeting (Ottawa-Montebello) and the midwinter meeting (San Diego) have been typed in final form. The edited minutes for both meetings will appear in the 1977 *Review*, but any member wishing a copy of the complete minutes may request one from this office.

Second, as part of a new policy we are now compiling quarterly financial statements detailing OHA's expenditures and income. Again, any member who wants this information may have it by writing this office.

Third, sometime around midyear we plan to make available a roster of the names and addresses of all members in good standing, i.e., those who have paid their 1977 dues. The roster will be in mimeograph form and due to labor and material costs there will be a nominal fee charged for this service. This fee has not yet been determined, but it will probably amount to a dollar or two.

Fourth, the final membership billings were mailed in early April. At that time 214 members out of a total of 1,048 had not paid their 1977 dues. They break down into the following categories: 201

individuals; 50 libraries; 35 institutions; 28 students. These members will be dropped from the OHA roles if their dues are not received by June 1.

Fifth, we have had printed in tablet form membership applications. If any member attending a professional meeting or conducting an oral history workshop desires these applications for distribution, please inform this office.

## LETTERS:

March 30, 1977

Editor:

As OHA's first president, and the lone one elected by mail ballot, may I tell in a bit more detail how that postal ballot got included in your last issue?

At our annual meeting last fall, a motion to adopt the mail ballot came before us. Several spoke for it, along lines set forth in your last. I was obdurate enough to make these points against: (1) an absence of contests for the top offices, as then recommended by our constitutional review committee, would render it useless; (2) the present system, as witness OHA's health and vigor, argued against change; (3) merely conforming with standard practice, considering that most associations show miserable rates of return on mail ballots, seemed poor policy for a society that has prided itself on doing things differently—and better.

We might settle the issue, I suggested, by mail—with the proviso a majority of all members entitled to vote (and not merely a majority of those voting) approve the mail ballot by mail ballot. Voices asked if I would put this in the form of a substitute motion. I did. On a voice vote, the chair ruled the "No's" had it, whereupon a call for a tally produced a show of hands that reversed the result, to the surprise of practically everyone. Hence the post cards.

I have no idea of the verdict, but I recall vividly our one previous encounter with mail ballots. The Arden House meeting in 1967 decided to elect officers in the same mailing that would ratify our constitution. Contests for Council resulted in a dead heat between Willa Baum and the late Douglas Adair for the three-year term. What to do? Jim Mink, who did so much for the OHA in our formative days, called me with this news from UCLA. A week or two later he called again: problem solved. He had found an unmailed ballot in a nook of his car, finally retrieved from the repair shop; he had mailed it to the deprived voter; that mortal had opted for Willa.

Let readers draw their own conclusions. Would a mail ballot, sans contests, leave us all happy?

(Signed) Louis M. Starr  
Columbia University

**Ed. Note:** See mail ballot, page 7

## NOMINEES SOUGHT FOR OHA EXECUTIVE SLOTS

The nominating committee of OHA solicits names of members to be nominated for office at the annual meeting in October. It is recommended that one person be nominated for each vacancy, preferably several, to avoid the one-on-one confrontations that often create divisive feelings. Send names to: Sara Collins, Arlington County Public Library, Arlington, VA 22210; James Hammack, Murray State University, Murray, KY 42071; Samuel Proctor, University of Florida - Gainesville 32601; Johnye E. Mathews, University of Arkansas - Little Rock 72204; Edward Perzel, University of North Carolina - Charlotte 28213; Shirley Tanzer, Jewish Oral History & Archives Project, 6651 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, OR 97219.

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