

# ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume XIV, Number 2

Spring 1980

## 1980 COLLOQUIUM TO FEATURE FOLKLORIST ABRAHAMS



Roger D. Abrahams

Roger D. Abrahams, noted folklorist-cultural anthropologist and first Alexander H. Kenan Professor for the Humanities and Anthropology at Scripps and Pitzer Colleges, will address the 15th National Colloquium on Oral History on October 3 in Durango, Colorado.

A native of Philadelphia, Abrahams studied at Swarthmore College (B.A., 1955), Columbia University (M.A., 1959), and the University of Pennsylvania (Ph.D., literature and folklore, 1961). From 1960 to 1979, he taught English and anthropology at The University of Texas-Austin, where he was associate director of the Center for Inter-cultural Studies in Folklore and Oral History, 1968-70, and director of the African and Afro-American Research Institute from 1969 to 1973. Abrahams also chaired the UT-Austin English department, 1974-1979, then moved to his current post in the Claremont Graduate School and University Center. As Kenan Professor, he teaches in the Scripps interdisciplinary, core humanities program; he also teaches in the Pitzer College-Pomona College anthropology program.

Abrahams has been a guest lecturer at

more than thirty American universities, including Yale University, Brown University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Southern California, and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He has served as a visiting professor at Indiana University, Carleton College, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Numerous awards and honors have come to Abrahams. He did research in the West Indies as a Guggenheim Fellow, 1965-1966. The American Folklore Society named him a fellow in 1970, as did the National Humanities Institute of the University of Chicago in 1976-1977. After holding several other AFS posts, Abrahams served as its president in 1978-1979.

Widely known as a specialist in Afro-American studies, the OHA's guest is a prolific author. In addition to numerous articles, his books include *Deep Down in the Jungle: Negro Narrative Folklore from*

*the Streets of Philadelphia* (1964, 1970); *Anglo-American Folksong Style*, with George Foss, Jr. (1968); *Jump Rope Rhymes: a Dictionary* (1969); *Positively Black* (1970); *Language and Cultural Diversity in American Education*, ed. with Rudolph C. Troike (1972); *Deep the Water, Shallow the Shore* (1974); *Discovering Afro-America*, ed. with John Szwed (1975); *Talking Back* (1976); *Afro-American Folklore—An Annotated Bibliography*, with John Szwed (1977); *The Living From the Dead: Riddles which Tell Stories* (1980); *Counting Out Rhymes: A Dictionary*, ed. with Lois Rankin (1980); *Performers, Performances, and Enactments* (1980); and *And Other Neighborly Names*, ed. with Richard Bauman, to be published in 1981. Abrahams is on the board of advisers for the Harvard University Press's *Encyclopedia of American Ethnicity* (in press) and is the author of its essay on folklore.

## SwLA DEVELOPS OH PROGRAMING

Thomas J. Friedlund now directs the Southwestern Library Association's development of model programs to demonstrate the use of oral history in public programming. An alumnus of Carthage College, he did graduate work in American history at Murray State University with emphasis in oral history, worked on the Kentucky Governor's Oral History Conference and planned and conducted oral history training sessions.

Friedlund also worked on the Jackson Purchase Oral History Project involving libraries in eight counties of Western Kentucky, helping to write the grant proposal and develop framework for the project. He coordinated the work of the eight libraries and wrote several sections of a training manual for volunteer interviewers.

Friedlund's work with SwLA is funded by NEH and extends to June 30, 1981. In that period eighteen public libraries in a six-state region from Arizona to Louisiana will develop programs using oral history to present the humanities to the public. The libraries that successfully competed

for SwLA grants to participate in the project follow. **Arkansas:** Ozarks Regional Library, Fayetteville; Tri-Lakes Regional Library, Hot Springs. **Arizona:** Cochise County Library, Bisbee. **Louisiana:** Richland Parish Library, Rayville; St. Charles Public Library, Luling. **New Mexico:** Professional Library, Pine Hills; Farmington Public Library, Farmington; The Harwood Foundation, Taos; Arthur Johnson Memorial Library, Raton. **Oklahoma:** Southern Prairie Library System, Altus. **Texas:** Emily Fowler Public Library, Denton; Moore Memorial Public Library, Texas City; Cedar Hill Public Library, Cedar Hill; Waco-McLennan County Library, Waco; Castroville Public Library, Castroville; Sherman Public Library, Sherman.

SwLA conducted a five-day Oral History Institute in May at Texas Woman's University to acquaint the participants with oral history methodology and its use in library programming. In addition to Friedlund, Waddy Moore (UCA), Ron Marcello (NTSU) and David Stricklin (Dallas Public Library) presented oral history sessions. Kathy Dannreuther (Tucson Public Library), Jane Kenamore (Rosenberg Library, Galveston), and Brooke Sheldon (TWU) covered library topics.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Enid H.  
Douglass**

I first met Louis Starr at Lake Arrowhead in the fall of 1966. My good friend Douglass Adair and I attended this founding oral history colloquium and the following one at Arden House in November of 1967. This was the beginning of enduring professional and personal relationships for many of us. Like so many others, at every association meeting I always looked forward to seeing and talking with Louis and (in later years) his wife, Mary Belle. It is indeed hard to imagine an association meeting without him. He has always been "there," in place and ready to assist or engage in dialogue. He invariably stood for something and would argue for it. He was a participator!

Louis was an unusual and charming person—a marvelous raconteur and conversationalist. He had a great talent for turning a phrase. His background, education, and experience placed him at the crossroads of journalism and history—ideal positioning for an oral historian. This enabled him to bring a richness to his work and hence to our organization and its members. It was in the nature of things that he would be the first president of the national Oral History Association.

Our fifth colloquium was held on the California coast at Asilomar in November of 1970. In departing I drove with John Niven of my faculty (as in the case of Louis, a doctoral student of Allan Nevins) along the highway where we were hailed from another car by grand gestures from Louis. At the next signal he adroitly leapt out and came to our car to secure some invaluable document from us. By now we were the center of some considerable attention from our fellow highway travelers. He was very happy to have accomplished his mission and waved good-bye as he proceeded to his destination and we to the airport, to miss the flight. Such are the amusing incidents one remembers. And so the colloquia passed by. It is hard to realize that was ten years ago.

At Jackson Hole in 1974 my husband and I were at the dinner table with Louis and his wife. Due to Louis's masterful ways we were the only table served wine. This undoubtedly was in no small part due to Louis having secured the waiter's undivided attention by ordering an expensive vintage wine. Needless to say, a convivial time was had by all. A few years later I

was a dinner guest at the Starr home in Connecticut and enjoyed the gracious hospitality of Louis and Mary Belle.

Yet another pleasant memory lies in the happenings of that historic trek to Canada in 1976. My husband and I accompanied the Starrs and a few others to an excellent French restaurant in Hull (selected after careful research by Mary Belle). Again, stimulating conversation and good fellowship were the order of the day.

I know many of you have countless memories of encounters with Louis. There is a large group to remember him because he always made it a point to mix with new people at our meetings and not simply visit with those he had known for years. I wanted to share a few of my personal recollections.

We shall miss Louis very much—professionally and personally. I believe there has never been a colloquium for which Louis has not assisted in securing speakers and in many other ways. Just before he died he was doing this for the 1980 Colloquium. He was always interested in the association being a success and gave of himself to make that possible. He set high standards for himself and others. He was a person of great quality and our lives are richer for having known him.

The 1980 Oral History Association Colloquium and Workshop will be dedicated to the memory of Louis Starr, our first president, in recognition of all he meant to us together and individually. Please come to Durango to honor Louis and be his kind of participator. David McComb, colloquium chairman, has arranged an excellent program. Nancy Whistler is offering a stimulating workshop with a new format. You will want to make your plans early to take full advantage of this opportunity to visit the dramatic Rocky Mountain area surrounding Durango and participate in the traditional association spirit of lively discussion and good fellowship.

### NOTICE

Members will vote at the 1980 Colloquium on whether to insert in the constitution as the second sentence in paragraph seven, "Officers and Government": "Only members of the Association in good standing (current dues paid) are eligible for nomination and service as officers and Council members."

### REMINDER

An exhibit from past colloquiums is being readied for the October annual meeting by Waddy W. Moore, U. of Central Arkansas, Box 933, Conway, AR 72032. See page 3 of the Winter '80 Newsletter for details or contact Moore.

## CALENDAR

August 4-8  
Int. Assn. Sound Archives  
Cambridge, England

September 7-10  
AASLH  
New Orleans

September 30-Oct. 3  
SAA  
Cincinnati

October 2-5  
OHA  
Durango, Colo.

October 8-12  
Nat'l Trust for  
Hist. Preservation  
New York City

October 15-18  
Western History Assn.  
Kansas City, Mo.

October 24-26  
2nd Int. OH Conf.  
Amsterdam, Neth.

## COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

In answer to readers' difficulties in contacting the U.S. Copyright Office as listed in the Fall '79 *NEWSLETTER*, the following changes should be noted. Write to: Register of Copyrights, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20559. Copyright information office: (703) 557-8700.

## SECOND INTERNATIONAL OH CONFERENCE AT AMSTERDAM IN OCT.

Following the successful Essex oral history conference in March 1979, the Second International Oral History Conference is being organized with the support of the University of Amsterdam and the encouragement of the Oral History Society of Britain. To be held in central Amsterdam October 24-26, the main session will deal with oral sources and the interpretation of history, memory and anthropology. A series of workshops will rely on local participation on topics such as women's history; urban, community, and rural history; and labor history. Visits to archives are planned as well as a walking tour of the city. Contact Jaap Talsma or Nelleke Bakker, Historisch Seminarium, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Herengracht 286, 1016 RX Amsterdam.



# LOUIS STARR, DISTINGUISHED ORAL HISTORIAN (1917-1980)

Louis Morris Starr, cofounder of the Oral History Association and its first president (1967-68), died of heart failure March 2 in Louisville, Kentucky. He was a professor of journalism and director of the Oral History Research Office at Columbia University for twenty-four years.

Starr was born in New York City on November 1, 1917, and lived there until he attended Yale University (B.A., 1940). Following a year with a typewriter company and the next year as a teacher in Tucson, Arizona, he became a newspaperman, first as editor-publisher of the *Gallatin* (Tennessee) *Examiner*, 1942-44, and then as reporter-feature writer for *The Chicago Sun*, 1944-47. A period of independent research and writing led to graduate studies at Columbia University where he earned the M.A. in 1953 and the Ph.D. in 1954. Allan Nevins directed Starr's doctoral dissertation which was published in 1954 by Alfred A. Knopf as *Bohemian Brigade: Civil War Newsmen in Action*.

Upon Nevins's retirement, Starr became oral history director at Columbia and oversaw the Oral History Research Office's rise to prominence as the repository of the memoirs of more than 3,300 persons, the largest such collection in the world. His work bore much fruit, as over 500 recently published books have been based in part on Columbia's oral history holdings.

Starr encouraged the OHA in numerous ways. He was organizer and host of the 2nd National OHA Colloquium on Oral History at Arden House, Harriman, New York, in 1967, in addition to participating in fourteen annual colloquia. At one time or another, he served on almost every committee of the association.

His publications were many. He was coeditor of four editions of *The Oral History Collection of Columbia University*. For ten years (1961-71) he was book editor of the *Columbia Journalism Review*. In published annual reports on COHRO's activity, Starr described the growth of the international oral history movement. He also broke new ground by making Columbia's memoirs available on microfilm. He wrote "Oral History: Problems and Prospects," published in 1971 in *Advances in Librarianship*, Vol. 2 (New York: Seminar Press).

Columbia paid tribute to Louis Starr on March 24 with a campus memorial service in St. Paul's Chapel. Henry F. Graff, historian, commented that Starr "stood on the bridge between the old history, which was written for the few and for the very few, and the new history, which was providing some kind of intellectual sustenance for thousands upon thousands of people not inured to reading history. . . ." Rather than playing the role of elder statesman in the OHA, Graff said, Starr demonstrated "that warm Pied-Piperish style that drew you in until you were caught and couldn't get

away." Former Columbia University President William J. McGill cited Starr as the "embodiment and guiding spirit of the oral history movement in the United States, and indeed the world," and a man who "more than most of the rest of us, was possessed of the unique power of vision and an extraordinary single-minded determination. . . . Louis Starr will always be remembered at Columbia for the endowment he has bequeathed to modern historical living scholarship," McGill concluded.

Surviving Starr are his wife, the former Mary Belle Head Bancroft, daughters Jennifer and Carolyn, and sons Thomas and Theodore. The family resides in Darien, Connecticut.

Memorials may be made to the Oral History Endowment Fund at Columbia University.

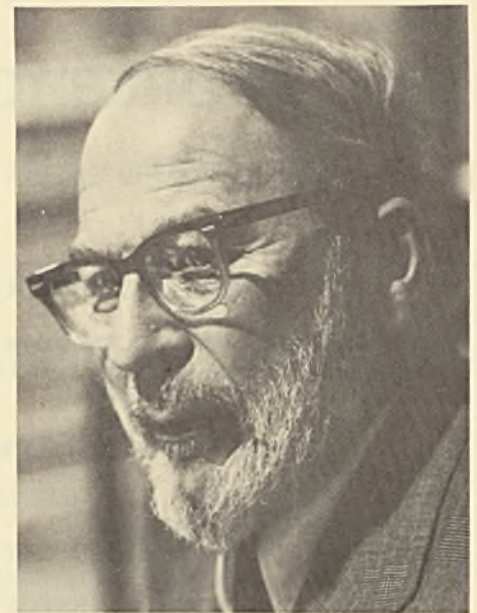
## STARR'S LEADERSHIP REMEMBERED

Louis Starr was more than our comrade in arms, he was our champion. Indefatigable in support of oral history and the Oral History Association, he more than any other single person provided unstinting support to a succession of presidents and program chairpersons, assuring a long string of distinguished speakers at our colloquia. No one else so willingly, year after year, assured that oral history would be brought to the attention of professional societies and the media. To say that he is irreplaceable is an understatement, and to say that he will be missed does but little justice to his contributions.

William W. Moss  
President, OHA, 1978-79

## LOUIS STARR AND ROHO: A REMINISCENCE

Although 3,000 miles away, Louis was a presence in ROHO almost from the beginning of our stumbling attempts to take up our recorders and continue H. H. Bancroft's 19th century "dictations." Those early letters from Columbia encouraged us with Louis's own success, and delighted us with his wit. Every line rested on his conviction that recording memoirs was bound to be the most significant change in historiography, and if the enthusiasm of Berkeley's brass did not yet match that of Columbia's, that it would come to do so was inevitable. He grouched at us for not raising our sights (Why keep the limiting word "regional" in our title?) and was forever confident that both our fame and our budget could expand if only we would develop more of a flair for publicity. Louis had that ability—to display stars otherwise hidden under their bushels—and this combined with his oral history talents to create a powerful force in the field, one



Louis Morris Starr

that ROHO as well as OHA came to depend upon.

In 1966 we met Louis and Allan Nevins, on the mountain (appropriately) at Arrowhead. Louis was not so much introducing Allan Nevins as sharing him with the rest of us much as a son would his much-cherished father. The following year, at Arden House (the classiest Colloquium ever) Louis was the host for the new OHA. Visions remain of Louis's ubiquitous figure on the red-carpeted elegance of the stairway, moving quickly up or running down but always speaking to everybody. That night he committed us forever to oral history when he introduced Alfred Knopf with mouth-watering descriptions of the fine wines and memorable meals that went with his taping sessions. Louis, obviously, "knew everybody" in the best New York sense, and his network was to be a priceless asset for OHA.

Is there a word for that energy and unbounded interest that Louis had in all he had come to know, all he could do, and in other human beings? A particularly personal and touching scene is lodged in our memory after the West Point Colloquium. Chita was delayed in New York and could not get home for Thanksgiving. He and Mary Belle were immediately to the rescue by including her in their family dinner Wednesday evening in Darien. The scene is of Louis, in an oceanic rain, transferring Chita's luggage from a taxi, drenching himself and, worse, the upholstery of his new Ferrari. On the drive to Darien, Louis talked not so much of oral history as of the marvelous attributes of his new "toy," as he called the Ferrari. With that picture goes one set in the chill of the following morning. Louis waving a dejected goodbye with greasy fingers, sad not because Chita

*Continued on page 7*



# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM FOR 1980 NATIONAL

## WORKSHOP

**Nancy N. Whistler** (Denver Public Library), Chair

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1980**

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Workshop begins at 12:45 p.m. with welcome by President **Douglass** and introductions by **Whistler**.

### ORAL HISTORY OVERVIEW

ORAL HISTORY, DEFINITIONS AND VARIETIES: **Ronald J. Grele** (New Jersey Hist. Comm.)  
ASPECTS OF LARGER ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS  
**Lawrence B. DeGraaf** (Calif. State U.-Fullerton)  
ASPECTS OF SMALLER ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS  
**Betty McKeever Key** (Maryland Hist. Soc.)

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS (each repeated three times)

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT: **Mary Ellen Glass** (U. of Nevada-Reno)  
EQUIPMENT: **Dale E. Trelevan** (State Hist. Soc. of Wis.)  
INTERVIEW PREPARATION & TECHNIQUES: **Willa K. Baum** (U. of Calif.-Berkeley)

### DINNER

*Room reserved after dinner for leaders of regional and statewide groups.*

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS (each repeated three times)

BUDGET & MANAGEMENT: **Thomas L. Charlton** (Baylor U.)  
PROCESSING ORAL HISTORY MATERIALS: **Mary Jo Deering** (George Washington U.)  
USING & PUBLICIZING ORAL HISTORY: **Charles W. Crawford** (Memphis State U.)

### WRAP-UP AND EVALUATION

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1980**

### RESOURCE ROOMS (faculty will be available to answer questions)

LIBRARY PROJECTS—**Whistler**  
HISTORICAL GROUP PROJECTS—**Grele**  
ACADEMIC/SPECIAL PROJECTS—**Crawford**  
EQUIPMENT—**Trelevan**  
BUDGET & MANAGEMENT—**Charlton**  
PROCESSING—**Deering**  
INTERVIEWING—**Baum**

### REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE GROUPS

REPORT ON COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES: **Betty McKeever Key**, Chairman, Regional Groups Committee  
BASIC INFORMATION FOR REGIONAL AND STATE GROUPS: **Donald A. Ritchie** (U.S. Senate Hist. Office)  
STATEWIDE CLEARING HOUSE EFFORTS: **Nancy N. Whistler**

## COLLOQUIUM

**David G. McComb** (Colorado State U.), Chair

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1980**

### PLENARY SESSION, 11:00 A.M.

Welcome—**Enid H. Douglass**, President (Claremont Graduate School)

*Dedication of the Colloquium  
to the memory of  
Louis M. Starr:*

**Elizabeth B. Mason** (Columbia U.)

"The State of California and Oral History," **Knox Mellon**  
(Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation)

### LUNCH

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#### PUBLIC HISTORY

"Oral History and Public History," **G. Wesley Johnson** (U. of Calif.-Santa Barbara)  
"Isla Vista and Law Enforcement," **Gayle Clark Olson** (U. of Calif.-Santa Barbara)

#### ABUSES IN ORAL HISTORY

Presiding: **James W. Hammack, Jr.** (Murray State U.)  
"The Trouble With Congressmen," **Charles T. Morrissey**  
(History of Congress Project)  
"The Pirating of an Oral History Interview," **James V. Mink**  
(UCLA)  
"Private Lives and the Public Record: Some Questions in Women's Oral History," **Susan H. Armitage** (Washington State U.)

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#### TELEVISION AND THE USE OF ORAL INTERVIEWS

Presiding: **James E. Hansen II** (Colorado State U.)  
"The British Experience," **Stephen Peet** (British Broadcasting System)

#### MORMON LIFESTYLE

Presiding: **Joseph Romney** (Calif. Polytechnic State U.-San Luis Obispo)  
"This Part of the Vineyard: Community Life in Southeastern Utah," **Gary L. Shumway** (Calif. State U.-Fullerton)  
"Isn't One Wife Enough: Life in a LDS Polygamous Family," **Jessie L. Embry** (Brigham Young U.)

#### THE FRONTIER EXPERIENCE

Presiding: **Elwood R. Maunder** (Aptos, Calif.)  
"Pioneers on the Great Plains," **Joseph H. Cash** (U. of S. Dakota)  
"Ranch Hands of the Southwest," **David Murrah** (Texas Tech U.)



PRELIMINARY PROGRAM FOR 1980 NATIONAL OHA MEETING AT DURANGO, COLORADO

WORKSHOP

Nancy N. Whistler (Denver Public Library), Chair

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1980

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Workshop begins at 12:45 p.m. with welcome by President Douglass and introductions by Whistler.

ORAL HISTORY OVERVIEW

ORAL HISTORY, DEFINITIONS AND VARIETIES: Ronald J. Grele (New Jersey Hist. Comm.)  
ASPECTS OF LARGER ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS  
Lawrence B. DeGraaf (Calif. State U.-Fullerton)  
ASPECTS OF SMALLER ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS  
Betty McKeever Key (Maryland Hist. Soc.)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS  
(each repeated three times)

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT: Mary Ellen Glass (U. of Nevada-Reno)  
EQUIPMENT: Dale E. Trelevan (State Hist. Soc. of Wis.)  
INTERVIEW PREPARATION & TECHNIQUES: Willa K. Baum (U. of Calif.-Berkeley)

DINNER

Room reserved after dinner for leaders of regional and statewide groups.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS  
(each repeated three times)

BUDGET & MANAGEMENT: Thomas L. Charlton (Baylor U.)  
PROCESSING ORAL HISTORY MATERIALS: Mary Jo Deering (George Washington U.)  
USING & PUBLICIZING ORAL HISTORY: Charles W. Crawford (Memphis State U.)

WRAP-UP AND EVALUATION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1980

RESOURCE ROOMS  
(faculty will be available to answer questions)

LIBRARY PROJECTS—Whistler  
HISTORICAL GROUP PROJECTS—Grele  
ACADEMIC/SPECIAL PROJECTS—Crawford  
EQUIPMENT—Trelevan  
BUDGET & MANAGEMENT—Charlton  
PROCESSING—Deering  
INTERVIEWING—Baum

REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE GROUPS

REPORT ON COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES: Betty McKeever Key, Chairman, Regional Groups Committee  
BASIC INFORMATION FOR REGIONAL AND STATE GROUPS: Donald A. Ritchie (U.S. Senate Hist. Office)  
STATEWIDE CLEARING HOUSE EFFORTS: Nancy N. Whistler

COLLOQUIUM

David G. McComb (Colorado State U.), Chair

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1980

PLENARY SESSION, 11:00 A.M.

Welcome—Enid H. Douglass, President (Claremont Graduate School)

Dedication of the Colloquium  
to the memory of  
Louis M. Starr:

Elizabeth B. Mason (Columbia U.)

"The State of California and Oral History," Knox Mellon (Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation)

LUNCH

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PUBLIC HISTORY  
"Oral History and Public History," G. Wesley Johnson (U. of Calif.-Santa Barbara)  
"Isla Vista and Law Enforcement," Gayle Clark Olson (U. of Calif.-Santa Barbara)

ABUSES IN ORAL HISTORY  
Presiding: James W. Hammack, Jr. (Murray State U.)  
"The Trouble With Congressmen," Charles T. Morrissey (History of Congress Project)  
"The Pirating of an Oral History Interview," James V. Mink (UCLA)  
"Private Lives and the Public Record: Some Questions in Women's Oral History," Susan H. Armitage (Washington State U.)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

TELEVISION AND THE USE OF ORAL INTERVIEWS  
Presiding: James E. Hansen II (Colorado State U.)  
"The British Experience," Stephen Peet (British Broadcasting System)

MORMON LIFESTYLE  
Presiding: Joseph Romney (Calif. Polytechnic State U.-San Luis Obispo)  
"This Part of the Vineyard: Community Life in Southeastern Utah," Gary L. Shumway (Calif. State U.-Fullerton)  
"Isn't One Wife Enough: Life in a LDS Polygamous Family," Jessie L. Embry (Brigham Young U.)

THE FRONTIER EXPERIENCE  
Presiding: Elwood R. Maunder (Aptos, Calif.)  
"Pioneers on the Great Plains," Joseph H. Cash (U. of S. Dakota)  
"Ranch Hands of the Southwest," David Murrah (Texas Tech U.)

DINNER

Address: "Story and History, A Folklorist's View," Roger David Abrahams (Scripps and Pitzer Coll., Alexander H. Kenan Professor for the Humanities and Anthropology)

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

"Colloquia I Have Known," Waddy W. Moore (U. Central Arkansas)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1980

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

HISTORIC SITES  
Presiding: John Albright (National Park Service)  
"Historic Site Surveys," Madeline Buckendorf (Idaho State Hist. Soc.)  
"Regional Training Workshops for Historic Sites Work," Margot Knight (Washington State U.)  
"Cle Elum Ranger District," Leonard R. Williams (Central Washington St. Coll.)  
"Newery," Daniel E. Wegner (Texas A&M U.)

LOCAL AFFAIRS  
Presiding: Floyd A. O'Neil (U. of Utah)  
"The Center of Southwest Studies," Robert W. Delaney (Ft. Lewis Coll.)  
"How to Become an Instant Old-Timer," Duane Smith (Ft. Lewis Coll.)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

FOLKLORE  
Presiding: David G. McComb  
"Folklore Narratives in Oral History Interviews," Richard Sweterlitsch (U. of Vermont)



Tamarron, site of the 15th National Colloquium, October 2-5, located 18 miles north of Durango, Colorado, in the San Juan Mountains, offers golf, tennis, swimming, horseback and wild-river riding, complete health club, supervised activities for children. Airline services from Denver, Albuquerque, and Salt Lake City. Make travel plans early.

"Women in Transition in Small-Town America: Folklore and Oral History," Carol A. Mitchell (Colorado St. U.)

ON STAGE  
Presiding: Ronald J. Grele (New Jersey Hist. Comm.)  
"When Social Significance Came to Broadway: Pins and Needles in Production, the Development and Dilution of A Radical Revue," Harry Goldman (Florida St. U.)  
"Signs of Life: A Producer's View of Oral History," Sondra Astor Stave (U. of Hartford)

GERONTOLOGY  
"Oral History and Gerontology: The Convergence of Disciplines," Cullom Davis (Sangamon State U.)  
"Life Review," Elizabeth J. Gonthelf (Hudson, Ohio)

LUNCH

Denver and Rio Grande Narrow Gauge train ride, Walking Tour of Durango, sports activities.

WESTERN-STYLE BARBECUE  
Cohost: Microfilming Corporation of America

"Clio's Cassette Connection: Historians, History, and Oral History," Bruce M. Stave (U. of Connecticut)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1980

BUSINESS MEETING

PLENARY SESSION

Presiding: Enid H. Douglass  
"Oral History in 1990"  
Alice M. Hoffman (Penn State U.)  
William W. Moss (JFK Library)

MIGHIGAN COUNCIL FORMING

Patricia Pilling (Wayne State U.) presided at the first meeting of the Michigan Oral History Council held at the Walter P. Reuther Library on the campus of Wayne State University on December 7, 1979. Philip P. Mason, director of the library and a cofounder of the new council, pledged \$250 for expenses.  
The statewide organization grew out of a meeting following the 14th National Colloquium in East Lansing last fall. An oral history session, chaired by Pilling, at the 22nd Local History Conference on April 19 at the university gave impetus to the new association.  
At the conference, Glenn Ruggles (Walled Lake) presented a paper, with slides, titled "Human Values Across the Generations." Esther Lehman (VA Hospital, Allen Park) told of verterans' use of their own transcripts as texts for a course on WW II.  
Following the conference, Pilling continued as chairman and appointed committees to work on plans for the organization, including a fall meeting. A goal of the group will be to identify existing oral history projects and act as a clearing house.



# LOHA MEETING AT DURANGO, COLORADO

## DINNER

Address: "Story and History, A Folklorist's View," **Roger David Abrahams** (Scripps and Pitzer Coll., Alexander H. Kenan Professor for the Humanities and Anthropology)

## PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

"Colloquia I Have Known," **Waddy W. Moore** (U. Central Arkansas)

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1980**

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### HISTORIC SITES

Presiding: **John Albright** (National Park Service)

"Historic Site Surveys," **Madeline Buckendorf** (Idaho State Hist. Soc.)

"Regional Training Workshops for Historic Sites Work," **Margot Knight** (Washington State U.)

"Cle Elum Ranger District," **Leonard R. Williams** (Central Washington St. Coll.)

"Newery," **Daniel E. Wegner** (Texas A&M U.)

### LOCAL AFFAIRS

Presiding: **Floyd A. O'Neil** (U. of Utah)

"The Center of Southwest Studies," **Robert W. Delaney** (Ft. Lewis Coll.)

"How to Become an Instant Old-Timer," **Duane Smith** (Ft. Lewis Coll.)

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### FOLKLORE

Presiding: **David G. McComb**

"Folklore Narratives in Oral History Interviews," **Richard Sweterlitsch** (U. of Vermont)

"Women in Transition in Small-Town America: Folklore and Oral History," **Carol A. Mitchell** (Colorado St. U.)

## ON STAGE

Presiding: **Ronald J. Grele** (New Jersey Hist. Comm.)

"When Social Significance Came to Broadway: *Pins and Needles* in Production, the Development and Dilution of A Radical Revue," **Harry Goldman** (Florida St. U.)

"Signs of Life: A Producer's View of Oral History," **Sondra Astor Stave** (U. of Hartford)

## GERONTOLOGY

"Oral History and Gerontology: The Convergence of Disciplines," **Cullom Davis** (Sangamon State U.)

"Life Review," **Elizabeth J. Gothelf** (Hudson, Ohio)

## LUNCH

Denver and Rio Grande Narrow Gauge train ride, Walking Tour of Durango, sports activities.

## WESTERN-STYLE BARBECUE

Cohost: **Microfilming Corporation of America**

"Clio's Cassette Connection: Historians, History, and Oral History," **Bruce M. Stave** (U. of Connecticut)

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1980**

## BUSINESS MEETING

## PLENARY SESSION

Presiding: **Enid H. Douglass**

"Oral History in 1990"

**Alice M. Hoffman** (Penn State U.)

**William W. Moss** (JFK Library)

## MICHIGAN COUNCIL FORMING

Patricia Pilling (Wayne State U.) presided at the first meeting of the Michigan Oral History Council held at the Walter P. Reuther Library on the campus of Wayne State University on December 7, 1979. Philip P. Mason, director of the library and a cofounder of the new council, pledged \$250 for expenses.

The statewide organization grew out of a meeting following the 14th National Colloquium in East Lansing last fall. An oral history session, chaired by Pilling, at the 22nd Local History Conference on April 19 at the university gave impetus to the new association.

At the conference, Glenn Ruggles (Walled Lake) presented a paper, with slides, titled "Human Values Across the Generations." Esther Lehman (VA Hospital, Allen Park) told of veterans' use of their own transcripts as texts for a course on WW II.

Following the conference, Pilling continued as chairman and appointed committees to work on plans for the organization, including a fall meeting. A goal of the group will be to identify existing oral history projects and act as a clearing house.



*Tamarron, site of the 15th National Colloquium, October 2-5, located 18 miles north of Durango, Colorado, in the San Juan Mountains, offers golf, tennis, swimming, horseback and wild-river riding, complete health club, supervised activities for children. Airline services from Denver, Albuquerque, and Salt Lake City. Make travel plans early.*



## POSITIONS

Director, UCLA Oral History Program, Dept. of Special Collections, UCLA Lib., \$21,312-\$25,704. Open July 1. Responsible for: administration, budget, funding, research, editing, Alvis Price, Assoc. Personnel Officer, Univ. Research Lib., U. of Calif.-LA, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

Oral historian, Dallas Public Library, Archives and Research Center for Texas and Dallas History. Begin \$15,168. Funded min. one year. M.A. in history or urban studies, or M.L.S. Exp. in training local historians and editing. Mildred Williams, Personnel Officer, DPL, 1954 Commerce, Dallas, TX 75201.

## NEWS FROM INDIANA

F. Gerald Handfield, Jr., Director  
Oral History Project  
Indiana State Library

After nearly a decade, the Indiana Oral History Roundtable is still talking, kicking, and rolling along. What else would a roundtable do?

Oral history has changed in Indiana since the fall of 1970 when formation of a state association was first discussed. In 1970 there were only four oral history projects: the state library, two universities, and a small public library. In 1980 there are more than 80 projects at Hoosier institutions. Tapes collected in 1970 numbered less than 100; today a handful of projects have collected nearly 2,000 interviews.

Despite rapid growth and change, the Roundtable's original purpose remains: "to get together to share information and help one another on the state and local level."

On April 10-11, the Indiana Oral History Roundtable, with help from the Indiana Committee for the Humanities, sponsored the first statewide oral history workshop at the state library in Indianapolis. Thirty-five persons from libraries, historical societies, church organizations, and schools attended a two-day workshop that emphasized a hands-on approach to oral history. Participants listened to veteran practitioners the first day, and practiced interviews and transcribing the next day.

Featured speakers included Jim Hammack, vice pres./pres.-elect of OHA; Cullom Davis, author of *From Tape To Type*; and George Dingley, mayor of Wabash, Indiana, and volunteer interviewer for 113 interviews during the past decade.

Roundtable members instructed small groups in the processing of oral history, videotaped and played back practice interviews, and served as moderators for panel discussions. Hammack and Davis commented on presentations and circulated as walking consultants, in addition to presenting excellent dinner speeches.

A statewide or regional workshop that

emphasizes the mechanics of oral history has a definite place in the oral history movement. National meetings do not allow time enough for small groups to practice.

Now that I've survived the workshop without a major disaster, I will pass on what I learned. It might explain the furrowed brows and frowns of those who plan our national OHA meetings. (1) Murphy's Law—if anything can go wrong, it will—does not always apply. I observed it in action only about twenty percent of the time. (2) You will suffer cardiac arrest when a featured speaker urgently calls from Illinois only hours before arrival, that he has a serious stomach problem, but will try to make it. (3) Always have panel discussions, concurrent sessions, or two speakers for each segment of the program. If someone fails to show, it won't be a major disaster. In any event, all oral historians will talk to fill in the extra time. (4) A full schedule will spark comments about being tired, but you must listen to the chatter level during breaks to see if they are tired. Most of the time the chatter was deafening. (5) Serve box lunches at the noon break since it saves at least one hour of time for instruction. (6) Keep coffee, cookies, and doughnuts available during all the breaks. (7) Pray a lot and trust in the human ability to improvise.

Expenses of the speakers and some of the workshop costs were funded through a minigrant awarded by the Indiana Committee for the Humanities (ICH). Donna Bucove, associate director of ICH, talked on funding to the workshop and pointed out that during the past year nine projects were awarded nearly \$60,000 (of \$500,000) for oral history projects. The ICH annual report for 1979 commented that "Oral history has also proved to be a stimulating way of gathering information and conducting public programs through an intimate involvement of the audience in research and discussion." In addition, one grant (\$45,000) for a series of radio programs used excerpts based on oral history interviews. A small public library received a large grant for a county-wide oral history project, but the library board refused to accept the money!

Ellen Baker and John Doolittle presented a slide-tape show, "The Indiana Elderly: Songs to be Sung," a project based on oral history interviews.

In Rush County, an historian is using the high school's large oral history collection (300 interviews) to update the county's history.

The OHA decided to meet in Indiana during the Roundtable's first year of organization. OHA veterans remind me at every national meeting that they have vivid memories of the terrible food during the sixth annual meeting at Indiana University. In the true spirit of Hoosier hospitality, I invite them to try again.

Recently, we received the OHA policy statement on regional organizations. As

one of the agitators on the regional liaison committee, I welcome the statement as a starting point for establishing more cooperation and a network for practitioners of oral history. Perhaps the future will bring more economic incentives for joining the national organization. We might even see the birth of more regional organizations as a way to beat inflation and the cost of transportation. A tip of the Hoosier hat to Bill Moss and the Council for listening.

## GRELE EDITOR OF NEW INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

The *International Journal of Oral History*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (February 1980), edited by Ronald J. Grele with John J. Walsh as managing editor, is off the press. Alan M. Meckler is the publisher.

Grele hopes to attract international participation, publishing articles that are "comparative in approach, make use of cross-disciplinary or interdisciplinary approaches, and concentrate upon methodological and theoretical discussions. . . ." Articles on social history in the broadest sense are especially sought.

The first issue contains two articles; five book-review essays; two essays on oral history equipment; a bibliographical section; and a "News and Notes" section carrying short reports on Sweden, Southeast Asia, Latin America, and France as well as projects in the U.S. Thirty-seven of the 83 pages are devoted to articles: "Italian Working Class Culture Between the Wars: Consensus to Fascism and Work Ideology," by Luisa Passerini (University of Turin, Italy), and "Communication in the Oral History Interview: Investigating Problems of Interpreting Oral Data," by E. Culpepper Clark, Michael J. Hyde, and Eva M. McMahan (University of Alabama). The second article suggests a method for analyzing oral history and discusses the concerns of communication theory, philosophical hermeneutics, and history.

Correspondence: Ronald J. Grele, 615 S. First St., Highland Park, NJ 08904. Subscriptions: \$40/year (Feb., June, Oct.) Meckler Publishing, P.O. Box 405, Saugatuck Sta., Westport, CT 06880.

## NEW DIRECTIONS IN OH TOPIC OF OAH PANEL

A panel considering "New Directions in Oral History" at the April meeting of the Organization of American Historians in San Francisco heard papers by Joseph Illick (San Francisco State U.), and Kenneth Kann (U. Calif.-Berkeley) on the ethical dilemmas of publishing portions of interviews and the pros and cons of interviewing as a peer or an outsider. Commentators were Robert Dykstra (U. of Iowa), Margery Wolf (Stanford), and Willa Baum (U. of Calif.-Berkeley).



## LETTERS:

Editor:

I wish to thank you for devoting two pages of the winter issue to a discussion of the present and potential relationship between the Oral History Association and regional oral history groups. In April, the OHA published a policy statement, prepared by the Liaison Committee for Regional Groups, which explains in detail the various means open at present for mutual supportive activities. It is a first step; undoubtedly, other avenues of cooperation will develop as time goes on.

The statement is the result of several years of consideration. The Council and the committee hope that it will be received as a sympathetic response to the inquiries we frequently receive.

Nineteen eighty marks another first in the aid that the OHA is offering to functioning or prospective regional, state or special interest oral history groups. On Friday morning, October 3, the Workshop and Colloquium chairpersons have set aside a session for these people to meet and share experiences and needs. The speaker will be Don Ritchie, author of the letter on regionals which was published in the winter issue and president of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region. He will describe OHMAR's recent experiences in financing itself, becoming a nonprofit organization, obtaining mailing rates and making a decision about incorporation. Each regional unit has unique strengths and purposes, and problems which the national organization does not face. The regional people can best learn from each other.

The liaison committee welcomes ideas which will enhance the relationship between OHA and the regionals and advance the practice of oral history.

Betty McKeever Key  
Chairman, OHA-Regionals Liaison  
Maryland Historical Society

*Ed. Note: Policy statement "Relationship, OHA and Regional Organizations" is available from Key or Exec. Sec. Marcello.*

Editor:

I read with interest "Needs of Local and Regional Oral Historians Explored" at the OHA Workshop, *Newsletter*, Winter, 1980. I would like to tell you about the Oral History Program in San Antonio.

It began during 1975-76 under the Heritage Committee of the Bicentennial. Thomas Charlton of the Program for Oral History at Baylor University started us off with a very successful workshop, funded by the Texas Historical Commission. We are now under the aegis of the Bexar County Historical Commission, making progress on a volunteer basis.

Our theme is "Early San Antonio and

Old-Timers," though we don't always stick to it as for instance, a project on San Antonio's HemisFair '68 is just being completed. Bexar County is one of the most historic counties in Texas so we have countless interviews still to do.

The statement in the *Newsletter*: "... local history is not a respectable activity" set me to thinking. I wonder if you oral historians with money, sophisticated equipment, sheltered by educational institutions may lose touch with those of us operating on a smaller scale. It seems to me that we, too, are capturing bits and pieces of historical importance to serve future researchers as no other source will be able to do.

I do agree your first order of business is to set up statewide networks of communications so that all our right hands will know what all our left hands are doing.

Esther MacMillan, Chairman  
Oral History Program  
Bexar County Historical Commission  
San Antonio, Texas

## MORRISSEY RECEIVES KANTOR AWARD

The New England Association of Oral History (NEAOH) met in conjunction with Hartford: The City and the Region Program at Hartford in May. John J. Fox, president of NEAOH, presided. Following a panel discussion, "Oral History on Stage: 'Signs of Life' in Hartford," Charles Weiner, director of MIT's Oral History Program, spoke on "Oral History and Contemporary History."

The Harvey A. Kantor Memorial Award for Significant Work in Oral History was presented to Charles T. Morrissey during the noon business meeting. Morrissey (U. of Vermont) is director of the George D. Aiken Oral History Project and a freelance oral history consultant. He began his career with a series of tape-recorded interviews of former members of Truman's White House staff, later became head of the JFK Library Oral History Project, Christian A. Herter Oral History Project at Harvard, and was president of OHA, 1971-72. Since 1976 he has been gathering an oral history of the U.S. Congress. He has written numerous articles including an oral history roundup in *Library Journal*, April 15, 1980, has been a consultant and adviser to many historical organizations and groups throughout the U.S. and was twice a fellow at the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies.

"Granite Town and Mill Towns: Uses of OH in Barre, Vermont, and Rockville and Willimantic, Connecticut" was the subject of the afternoon panel. Among the participants were Samuel B. Hand, director, Center for the Study of Vermont at U. of Vermont; and Bruce M. Stave, director of the Oral History Project at U. of Connecticut and first recipient (1977) of the Kantor award.

## STARR

*Continued from page 3*

was leaving for an interview, but because his daughter had to drive her to the station in the quite ordinary family car. The magnificent Ferrari refused to start.

Louis's presence still survives at ROHO. We wish he could see our catalog, out at long last after his years of urging in so many letters and at every colloquium. We will try to hold to his ebullient faith in the product and process known as oral history. We will remember we should keep our star, such as it is, out from under that bushel. And especially we will seek his optimism.

Amelia "Chita" Fry  
Willa Baum  
ROHO (U. of Calif.-Berkeley)

## MINNESOTA LABOR PROJECT GROWING

Martin W. Duffy and Christine E. Miller of the University of Minnesota Labor Education Service have completed one year of an oral history project documenting the Minneapolis Teamsters Strike of 1934. Over fifty hours have been recorded with participants, business, local and national government, political groups, and the media. Many respondents have donated strike memorabilia such as cudgels, union cards, and strike bulletins. In addition, primary source material has been gathered from archival institutions across the country. A guide for teaching labor history in the public schools is planned. All materials will be deposited with the Minnesota Historical Society.

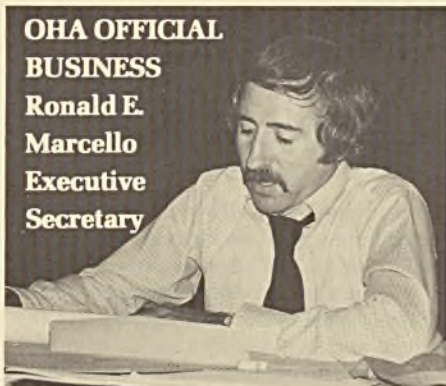
## ALASKA LIBRARY PUBLISHES SALMON INDUSTRY GUIDE

Forty-eight interviews conducted in 1978 by Stephen Levey and George Figdor with Southeast Alaska salmon fishermen are available at the Alaska State Library, Juneau. Information on this collection is contained in the library's Historical Monograph Number 6: *The Southeast Alaska Salmon Fishery: A Guide to Interviews with Men and Women Engaged in Commercial Fishing, 1913-1978*. The project produced six half-hour radio shows and a half-hour videotape in addition to the monograph. Funding agencies for the interviews and publications were the Alaska Humanities Forum, NEH, NEA, State Council on the Arts, State Library, Historical Commission, and KTOO FM & TV in Juneau. Contact: Alaska State Library, Pouch G, Juneau 99811.



## OHA OFFICIAL BUSINESS

**Ronald E.  
Marcello  
Executive  
Secretary**



In February, the Oral History Research Project at Indiana University donated to OHA certain archival materials from the files of Martin Ridge and the late Oscar O. Winther. Winther was active in OHA from its beginning and served as its president in 1969-1970. He was also chairman of the committee which developed the association's original "Goals and Guidelines" in 1968. Ridge was in charge of local arrangements when the 6th Colloquium was held in Bloomington in 1971. During that period, the two men accumulated a number of materials relating to OHA business, including information on the colloquia, minutes of Council meetings, and a great deal of OHA correspondence. Altogether this bonanza represents an important segment of our organization's formative years.

Since the establishment of the official "Statement of OHA Archival Policy," approved by Council at Savannah in January, 1978, several former officers have contributed their papers. In addition to Winther's manuscripts, presidential material has been received from Forrest Pogue, Alice Hoffman, Waddy Moore, and William Moss. Former Workshop and Colloquium chairpersons Thomas Charlton (1975 Coll.), Enid Douglass (1976 Coll.), and Charles Schultz (1977 Wkshp.) have sent their files. From the Forest History Society has come a collection of photographs taken at the 1st National Colloquium at Lake Arrowhead.

Council has authorized a project on the Oral History of OHA so these archives will be an invaluable source of research material for the interviewers. This project has considerable intrinsic logic, since OHA does advise other organizations to complete their own oral histories. I urge, therefore, that all members having manuscript material pertaining to OHA consider donating it to the archives. OHA's "Statement of Archival Policy" may be obtained from the office of the executive secretary, or it can be found in the fall 1978 issue of the *Newsletter*.

Executive Secretary  
Box 13734, N.T. Station  
Denton, TX 76203  
817-387-1021

## NEWS

Charles T. Morrissey (Former Members of Congress) will teach oral history at the Seminars in American Culture sponsored by the New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, New York, June 29 to July 5; at Portland State University in Oregon July 7 to 17; and at the University of California-Santa Barbara, July 28-August 1. On May 17 he spoke before the Music Library Association, Western New York and Ontario Chapter, Buffalo, on "Oral History and Music Libraries."

Joel Gardner, former senior editor at UCLA's Oral History Program, has relocated in Louisiana and hopes to edit and interview for projects in that region. Address: 4518 Y.A. Tittle #27, Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

Last fall the city and county of Denver approved a new position of oral historian for the Western History Department of the Denver Public Library. Nancy Whistler holds the position, formerly funded by LSCA grants from the Colorado State Library.

William R. Kearney, a native of Chicago now residing in Indiana, is president of the Indiana Oral History Roundtable for 1979-80. Kearney, who retired in 1973 after thirty-five years as a mechanical design engineer for Delco Electronics Division of General Motors, is director of the Howard County Historical Society. His current interviews deal with the history of Indiana interurbans and workers at the Pittsburgh Plate Glass company in Kokomo.

Two weekend workshops were held, one each, in March and April by the Houston Center for the Humanities and Public Policy under a grant from the Houston Cultural Arts Council. Louis Marchiafava (Houston Metropolitan Research Center) and Robert Calvert (Texas A&M University) provided instruction on uses, techniques and ethics of oral history.

The Central Texas Museum Association (65 museums in 32 counties) held a one-day workshop at Temple, Texas, in April. The Railroad and Pioneer Museum of Temple sponsored the event which featured presentations by Ronald E. Marcello (NTSU) and David Murrah (Texas Tech U.).

Richard Sweterlitsch (U. of Vermont) addressed the Center for Research on Vermont, at Burlington, on April 8. He spoke on "Oral History: The Narrative as History and Fantasy." In February, D. Gregory Sanford (U. of Vermont) addressed the center on "The (George D.) Aiken Oral History Project" which project he formerly codirected.

## 1981 PROGRAM IDEAS SOUGHT BY RITCHIE

OHA's meeting Sept. 24-28, 1981, in Burlington, Vermont, will be several weeks earlier than usual and Donald A. Ritchie, 1981 Colloquium program chairman, is working well in advance to line up sessions and speakers. Please send suggestions or ideas to Ritchie at 6 Terrace Ct., NE, Washington, DC 20002.

---

Published quarterly: Program for Oral History, Baylor University, Thomas L. Charlton, editor. Associates: L. Katherine Cook, Adelaide S. Darling, Rebecca S. Jiménez, Margaret L.S. Miller; David B. Stricklin, contributing editor. Deadlines: Feb. 1, May 1, Aug. 1, Nov. 1.

---

Oral History Association Newsletter  
Baylor University, Box 228  
Waco, Texas 76798

Address Correction Requested

Nonprofit Organization U. S. POSTAGE PAID Waco, Texas Permit No. 1823
---