



ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume XV, Number 2

Spring 1981



Herbert S. Parmet

KENNEDY HISTORIAN FEATURED

Herbert S. Parmet, biographer of John F. Kennedy, will be the Saturday evening speaker at the Sixteenth Colloquium on Oral History. He is the author of two books on JFK: *John F. Kennedy and the Frustrations of Power* (in progress) and *Jack: The Struggles of John F. Kennedy* (The Dial Press, 1980). His speech will focus on these works and his use of oral history "when facing a subject so devoid, by restrictions, of substantive personal correspondence."

Parmet is professor of history at the Graduate School and Queensborough Community College of the City University of New York. His research, writing, and teaching center around post-World War II American history; he is the author of numerous books, articles, and papers in this field. He presented "John F. Kennedy and the Rise to Power" at the Conference on the Presidency of John F. Kennedy at USC in November 1980. Parmet holds the B.A. from SUNY, Oswego, and the M.A. from Queens College. He has done further graduate work at Columbia.

ANTHROPOLOGIST OF BLACK AMERICA TO ADDRESS 1981 COLLOQUIUM

One of the featured speakers at the 1981 OHA Colloquium will be the award-winning author John L. Gwaltney, professor of anthropology, Syracuse University.

A native of Orange, New Jersey, and a student of the late Margaret Mead, Gwaltney holds degrees from Upsala College (B.A., history/sociology, 1952), New School for Social Research (M.A., political science/sociology, 1957), and Columbia University (Ph.D., anthropology, 1967). He has taught at Henry George School of Social Science in New York City (1958-1959), State University of New York-Cortland (1967-1971), and Syracuse University (1971-present). Since 1980, Gwaltney has been on the faculty of Syracuse's Maxwell Graduate School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

The black anthropologist's teaching specialties include native anthropology; the life-history method in ethnology; black ecumeny; Afro-American ethnology; and peoples and cultures of Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and Mesoamerica. Gwaltney has done field work among the black Jews of Harlem, New York; the Highland Chinantec of Oaxaca, Mexico; the Shinnecock and Poospatuck Indians of Long Island, New York; the Maroons of Jamaica; urban Afro-Americans in northeastern U.S.; and marginal ethnicities of the northeastern U.S.

Gwaltney has published two books and numerous articles. His doctoral dissertation, winner of the 1967 Ansley Dissertation Award at Columbia, later appeared as *The Thrice Shy: Cultural Accommodation to Blindness and Other Disasters in a Mexican Community* (N.Y.: Columbia U. Press, 1970) and is a study of river blindness among the Yolox Chinantec of Oaxaca, Mexico. *Drylongso: A Self-Portrait of Black America* (N.Y.: Random House, 1980) presents forty-two of three hundred "drylongso" (black English for *ordinary*), urban, working-poor, black Americans from the Northeast who were interviewed by Gwaltney during the early 1970s. Sure to



John Langston Gwaltney

be controversial, *Drylongso's* narrators contradict the argument that Americans have made progress in race relations and describe white Americans as continuing oppressors. Essays and two other books are at press.

Awards and honors received by Gwaltney are Honorary D.Sc. (Bucknell University, 1979), Honorary Litt.D. (Upsala College, 1980), and the Association of Black Anthropologists' Publication Award in 1980.

**PREVIEW OF 1981
WORKSHOP AND
COLLOQUIUM
PAGES 4, 5**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

James W.
Hammack, Jr.



As a professional historian turned oral historian, I was recently dismayed by a description of program plans for an "oral history" session to be presented at the 1981 meeting of the Organization of American Historians. As an idea, the session's title, "Towards An Oral History of the Historical Profession in the United States," holds promise. Apparently, however, it is the intent of the session's organizers to move toward that oral history of the profession by having three distinguished panelists recount their experiences as historians. Comment on their recollections is to be by "The Audience," members of which are invited both to question the panelists and especially "to share memories of their professional lives." The whole is to be tape-recorded "as part of an effort to study the history of the historical profession in the United States." The clear implication in the program description is that the recollections captured on tape will constitute oral history. While I sincerely hope that implication does not represent the true intent of the session's organizers, I fear that many in the audience will mistakenly conceive themselves to be participating in the creation of oral history.

My apprehension on that point is heightened by similar implications in a recent *New York Times* article by James Traub entitled "Aiding the Humanities: Arguing Ends and Means." The article opens with the assertion that "Oral history is enjoying a boom year at the National Endowment for the Humanities." A principal point of the article is to question whether many of those oral history projects funded by NEH have anything to do with furthering historical knowledge. The examples offered are typical of projects that have in recent years caused numerous OHA members to express concern over the basis on which NEH accepts and rejects oral history proposals. According to Traub, that concern is now shared by Endowment Chairman Joseph Duffey to the extent that he has established "an additional review panel to weed out shoddy proposals."

Unfortunately, the problem at NEH extends beyond a review process that already includes referral of proposals to historians and other representatives of the

"intellectual community." It is a problem that stems ultimately from a lack of understanding among many traditional scholars (as well as NEH staff members) of what oral history is all about and what it is that oral history does best. Therein, also, lies the problem with the program description of the "oral history" session to be presented shortly at the meeting of the Organization of American Historians.

For OHA these examples of possible misconceptions of oral history raise a question of whether we, as an association, are communicating effectively with traditional scholars in related fields. My own conclusion is that, obviously, we are not. To remedy that, we must in the future find ways to speak more directly through our publications and annual colloquia to those who should be the principal beneficiaries of our collecting efforts—the users of oral history. In the process, we must place greater emphasis upon soliciting the views of traditional scholars about the most important uses for oral history methodology and about the types of projects that will best serve the future needs of historical researchers and the interested public.

The obvious way of facilitating that exchange of ideas is by recruiting into the Association or attracting to its annual meetings a larger number of oral history users. Toward that end, I invite all persons interested in the collection, preservation, and use of oral history to attend OHA's September 24-27 National Workshop and Colloquium in Burlington, Vermont. To those traditional scholars who should, to serve better their own research interests, know more about the nature and practice of oral history, I extend a special invitation to attend. The Vermont setting is highly attractive. The program will be highly informative. I hope to see you there.

COUNCIL CLARIFIES OHA POLICIES

As an outgrowth of problems and misunderstandings at past OHA annual meetings, the Council, at its midwinter meeting in New Orleans, established the following guidelines:

Policy on Colloquium Speakers

1. Colloquium registration fee is required of all member participants; registration fee is waived for all nonmember participants.
2. OHA will pay transportation, food, and lodging for headline speakers.
3. OHA will **not** pay any honoraria to Colloquium participants.
4. Headline speakers should be limited to two or three.

Policy on Tape-Recording Sessions by Audience

1. Copies of the following policy statement should be distributed to each speaker prior to the Colloquium. The statement will not appear in the program.
2. The Oral History Association allows members of the audience to tape-record presentations at the annual Workshop and Colloquium. If you do not wish to have your presentation tape-recorded, you should so inform your session chairpersons so that the audience may be properly alerted.

Policy on Tape-Recording Sessions by OHA

1. Workshop sessions will not be taped.
2. Colloquium plenary sessions will be taped; concurrent sessions will not be.

Policy on Press Access to Workshop/Colloquium

1. OHA actively encourages press attendance at the annual Workshop and Colloquium.
2. OHA will waive registration fees for press representatives at future Workshop/Colloquia.
3. Selected representatives of appropriate publications shall be invited to attend these meetings.

1981 COLLOQUIUM CHAIRMAN HAS NEW ADDRESS

Correspondence to Donald A. Ritchie, OHA's 1981 Colloquium chairman, should be sent to 1401 Newton Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017. Office phone, (202) 224-6900; home (202) 526-5303. He regrets that mail directed to the address listed in the fall 1980 *Newsletter* has been returned.

NOTICE

Members will vote at the 1981 Colloquium to change Section II-F of the "Goals and Guidelines" from: "Interviews should be conducted in a spirit of objectivity, candor, and integrity, and in keeping with common understandings, purposes, and stipulations mutually arrived at by all parties." to: "Interviews should be conducted in a spirit of objectivity, candor, and integrity, and in keeping with common understandings, purposes, and stipulations mutually arrived at by all parties. **Interviewers should be aware of their ethical responsibilities to their sponsoring program or project.**"

The following paragraph is also to be added to Section II: "**II-H: The interviewer should be aware of his/her rights and interests.**"

OHMAR PLANS AMTRAK PARTY TO COLLOQUIUM

David Goodman, secretary, Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR), is arranging AMTRAK accommodations for OHAers traveling to the 16th National Colloquium in Burlington, Vermont. Sixty reservations are necessary to obtain a group rate. Round trip between Washington, D.C., and Burlington is \$95.

The train will leave Washington Thursday evening, September 24, with boardings at Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York for arrival at Burlington early Friday morning.

All seats are coach; the more participants, the greater the discount. Savings exist on round trips as well as on early, confirmed reservations. Lounge-car reservations are available but include a modest surcharge for an attendant.

Contact Goodman before June 30 if you are interested. He must know your station of origin, whether round-trip or one-way, coach or lounge car. Goodman: 1661 Homewood Landing Rd., Annapolis, MD 21401, (301) 757-7643; office (301) 688-6946.

PROGRESS IN IDAHO

The Idaho Oral History Center recently received a grant from the Association for the Humanities in Idaho to complete a catalog of interviews. The \$17,300 is matched by in-kind donations and \$4,000 from the State Library Board. Madeline Buckendorf directs the work.

The State Historical Society also received a humanities grant of \$10,250.80 for a traveling exhibit using photographs of small-town activities highlighted by audio excerpts from interviews. The exhibit will be accompanied by a booklet on Idaho towns of the period containing photos and excerpts of interviews, as well as an educational packet and preplanned publicity. Stacy Ericson Lucas is project director.

MAJOR PROJECT BEGUN IN CONN.

A \$170,000 NEH grant enables Bruce M. Stave and Robert Asher (both U. of Conn.) to join skills in researching Connecticut Workers and a Half Century of Technological Change: 1930-1980.

Stave, director of the university's oral history project, and Asher, a labor historian, will interview approximately 150 workers concerning technological development in the state's industry, commerce and transportation.

Also cooperating will be industrial groups, the State Labor Council AFL-CIO, the state Commission on the Status of Women, and a group preparing a history of brassworkers in the Waterbury area.

MOUNTAIN OH THEME OF OHMAR WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCE

OHMAR (Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region) held its spring conference April 24-26 at Canaan Valley State Park near Davis, W. Virginia. Host and program coordinator for the gathering were the Oral History of Appalachia Program-Marshall University and its director, Robert Maddox. James Hammack (Murray State U.), president of the Oral History Association, spoke to the luncheon group on the topic, "Oral History in the Eighties."

The conference theme was oral history in the mountains, presented by twenty-eight faculty members from twenty-two diverse organizations. The three concurrent sessions each included a workshop on oral history taught by veteran OHAers.

Following dinner, Joan Morrison and Charlotte Fox Zabusky presented "American Mosaic: The Immigrant Experience in the Words of Those Who Lived It."

LOUISIANA ADVANCES ORAL HISTORY

The Louisiana Historical Association included a session on oral history at its annual meeting in March.

Hubert Humphreys (LSU), Charles Branton (Richland Parish Lib.-Rayville), and Joel Gardner (State Archives) described methods of collecting oral history at the annual meeting of the Louisiana Library Association at Shreveport in April.

Margery Freeman (St. Mark's Community Cen.), Jim Isenogle (Jean Lafitte Natl. Hist. Park), and Garland Strother (St. Charles Parish Lib.-Luling) presented a panel on oral history to the Governor's Conference on the Arts and Humanities at Baton Rouge May 8.

The Baton Rouge Junior League has donated its oral history collection, documenting the history of the city and parish, to the Centroplex branch of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library.

CORRECTION

The fall 1980 *Newsletter* incorrectly located the George Meany Center for Labor Studies at Pennsylvania State University-Radnor. The center is located in Silver Spring, Maryland. All interviews and materials generated by the George Meany Center Oral History Project are deposited at the center.

CALENDAR

May 28-31
Canadian Museums Assn.
Ottawa

June 7-11
Am. Assn. Museums
Indianapolis

June 22-July 2
7th OH Inst.
U. of Vermont
Burlington, Vt.

June 28-July 4
Am. Library Assn.
San Francisco

Aug. 31-Sept. 4
Soc. Am. Archivists
Berkeley, Calif.

Sept. 24-27
Oral Hist. Assn.
Burlington, Vt.

BLACK MUSICIANS INTERVIEWED

James A. Standifer (U. of Michigan) has initiated a project entitled Videotaped Interviews with Elderly Black Musicians. Funding is from NEH grants and the University of Michigan's Institute of Gerontology, School of Graduate Studies, and Center for Research on Learning and Teaching. The materials will be available for public use at the university archives in late 1981.

AUSSIE GROUP PUBLISHES NEW JOURNAL

In his preface to *The Oral History Association of Australia Journal* No. 2 (1979-1980), G. C. Bolton, the association's president, notes the leading role of oral history in the forthcoming *Bicentennial History of Australia*. He reports also the importance of oral history in preserving aboriginal culture and folklore.

The editors of volumes 1 and 2, Morag Loh and Wendy Lowenstein, have resigned due to conflicts of time and distance, but Bolton is confident of the future of the journal and oral history.

The publication mixes memoirs, how-to, project and book reviews, and guest articles. Included in volume 2 is a list of current officers and members but no subscription price. Address: OHA of Australia, c/o 97 Ullapool Rd., Mt. Pleasant, W.A. 6153.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM FOR 1981 NATION

WORKSHOP

F. Gerald Handfield (Indiana State Library), Chair

THURSDAY, SEPT. 24, 1981

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Workshop begins at 1:00 p.m. with welcome by President **Hammack** and introductions by **Handfield**.

PLENARY SESSION

WHAT AND WHY OF ORAL HISTORY: **Carl Oblinger** (Penn. Hist. & Museum Comm.)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

BEGINNING AN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT: **John J. Fox, Jr.** (Salem State C.) and **Willa K. Baum** (U. Calif.-Berkeley)
NEW TECHNOLOGY AND ORAL HISTORY: **James McQuaid** (Data Terminal Systems)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

INTRODUCTION TO ORAL HISTORY EQUIPMENT: **Joel Gardner** (Louisiana State Archives & Records) and **McQuaid**
A POLITICAL SERIES RESEARCH PROJECT: **Gabrielle Morris** (U. of Calif.-Berkeley)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

THE BASIC ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW: **William W. Moss** (JFK Library)
SETTING UP A CLEARING HOUSE: **Nancy Whistler** (Denver, Colo.)

PLENARY SESSIONS

MY MOST UNUSUAL INTERVIEW SITUATION: Veteran Members of OHA
ORAL HISTORY AND THE SLIDE TAPE SHOW (leader TBA)
VERMONT STORIES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1981

PLENARY SESSION

ORAL HISTORY AND FAMILY HISTORY (leader TBA)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PROCESSING ORAL HISTORY: Transcribing and Alternatives **Morris** and **Whistler**
REGIONAL ORGANIZATION—NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF ORAL HISTORY AND ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION: **Louis Silveri** (Assumption C.) and **Pamela Henson** (Smithsonian Inst.)

PLENARY SESSION

SPREADING THE GOSPEL—TEACHING AND CONDUCTING WORKSHOPS: **Fox** and **Oblinger**

COLLOQUIUM

Donald A. Ritchie (U.S. Senate Hist. Office), Chair

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25, 1981

PLENARY SESSIONS

Welcome—**James W. Hammack, Jr.**, President (Murray State U.)
Report on the Workshop: **Handfield**
Keynote: "Ask Me A Question": **Madeleine Kunin**, Lt. Governor of Vermont

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

ORAL HISTORY OF THE NEW ENGLAND WORKPLACE
Chair: **Bruce M. Stave** (U. of Connecticut)
"The Cheney Silk Mills," **John Sutherland** (Manchester Community C.)
"A Different Way of Life: The Fishermen of New England," **R. Wayne Anderson** (Northeastern U.)
Comment: **Patricia Cooper** (U. of Maryland)

ORAL HISTORY AND BUSINESS HISTORY: FROM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE INDUSTRY
Chair: **Enid H. Douglass** (Claremont Graduate School)
"The Atlantic Richfield Project: How One Company is Combining Oral, Written, and Archival Sources," **James P. Roscow** (Atlantic Richfield Co.)
"Nevada's Gambling Industry: The Regulators and the Regulated," **Mary Ellen Glass** (U. of Nevada-Reno)
Comment: **Carl Ryant** (U. of Louisville)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

ORAL HISTORY AND THE SEARCH FOR THE BLACK PAST
Chair: **William H. Chafe** (Duke U.)
"Oral History and the Search for the Black Past in Kentucky," **George C. Wright** (U. of Texas-Austin)
"The Black Community in Microcosm: Oral History and the Search for the Black Past in San Francisco," **Albert S. Broussard** (U. of Northern Colorado)
Comment: **Nan E. Woodruff** (C. of Charleston)

INTERVIEWING POLITICAL WOMEN

Chair: **Johnye Mathews** (U. of Arkansas-Little Rock)
"The Emergence of Political Women in Connecticut, 1920-1945," **Joyce Pendry** (U. of Connecticut) and **Carole E. Nichols** (Sarah Lawrence C.)
"Why Can't a (Congress) Woman Be More Like a Man? Interviewing Former Congresswomen," **Fern Ingersoll** (Former Members of Congress)
"In Search of Alice Paul," **Amelia R. Fry** (U. of Calif.-Berkeley)
Comment: **Shirley Tanzer** (Jewish OH and Archives Proj.)

DINNER

Address: **John Langston Gwaltney** (Syracuse U.)

SELECTED FILMS FROM ORAL HISTORIES

PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM FOR 1981 NATIONAL OHA MEETING, BURLINGTON, VERMONT

WORKSHOP

F. Gerald Handfield (Indiana State Library), Chair

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PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1981

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

GOODTIMES: TOURISM, RECREATION AND ORAL HISTORY
Chair: **Charles T. Morrissey** (Oral Hist. Consultant)
"An Oral History of American Tourism in Eastern Canada," **James E. Morrison** (St. Mary's U.-Halifax)
"Values and Sport: An Oral History of New England Skiing, 1870-1940," **E. John B. Allen** (Plymouth State C.)

REEXAMINING WOMEN'S WORK: ORAL HISTORIES OF TEACHERS AND NURSES
Chair: **Lyn Goldfarb** (Service Employees Internat. Union)
"What Else Was There To Do?: Teaching in Vermont, 1900-1940," **Margaret K. Nelson** (Middlebury C.)
"A Charge to Keep: Nurses' Narratives of Initiation," **Barbara Melosh** (U. of Wisconsin-Madison)

STATE AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS: A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OF CURRENT AND PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONS

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

ORAL HISTORY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROVERSIES
Chair: **Martin Reuss** (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
"The Minnesota Powerline Construction Controversy," **James E. Fogerty** (Minn. Hist. Soc.)
"Grassroots Oral History: The Trinity River Barge Canal and Texas Water Plan Controversies," **J. B. Smallwood** (N. Texas State U.)

ORAL HISTORY AND PUBLIC PROGRAMMING: THE SOUTHWESTERN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION EXPERIMENT
Panel: **Thomas J. Friedlund** (SwLA)
Thomas L. Charlton (Baylor U.)
Waddy W. Moore (U. of Central Ark.)
Colleen Crowlie (Cochise Co. Lib.-Bisbee, Ariz.)

PAST PRESIDENTS' LUNCHEON

Address: "The Oral History Association in Retrospect," **Forrest C. Pogue** (Eisenhower Inst.)

Afternoon: Visit Shelburne Museum; ferry ride on Lake Champlain; walking tours of Burlington

DINNER

Address: **Herbert S. Parmet** (City University of N.Y.)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1981

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

YOUR PAST WILL MAKE YOU MOVE: ORAL HISTORY AND COMMUNITY ACTION
Panel: **Howard Green** (N.J. Hist. Comm.)
Debra Bernhardt (Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives)
John Tchen (Chinatown Hist. Proj.)

MILITARY AND NAVAL ORAL HISTORY: A RETROSPECTIVE
Panel: **Benis Frank** (U.S. Marine Corps Oral Hist. Prog.)
Charles R. Shrader (U.S. Army Military Hist. Inst.)
Hugh Ahmann (U.S. Air Force Oral Hist. Prog.)
Paul Walker (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
John T. Mason (U.S. Naval Inst.)

PUBLISHING ORAL HISTORY
Chair: **Ann Banks** (Boston C.)
"The Making of *American Mosaic*: An Oral History from Conception to Publication," **Joan Morrison** and **Charlotte Fox Zabusky**
"Editing Oral History for Publication: Some Observations and Objections from a Reader," **Betty M. Key** (Maryland Hist. Soc.)
"Copyrighting Oral History Material: My Experiences in Court," **Lawrence Suid** (U. of Vermont)

BUSINESS MEETING

PLENARY SESSION

INTERNATIONAL VIEWS OF ORAL HISTORY METHODOLOGY
Panel: **Mary Jo Deering** (U. of Geneva)
Lutz Niethammer (U. of Essen)
Raphael Samuels (Oxford U.)
Luisa Passerini (Turin U.)
Daniel Bertaux (Centre d'Etudes des Mouvement Sociaux)
Ronald J. Grele (U. of Calif.-Los Angeles)



Burlington, Vermont, with Lake Champlain in the foreground.

AL OHA MEETING, BURLINGTON, VERMONT

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BUSINESS MEETING

PLENARY SESSION

INTERNATIONAL VIEWS OF ORAL HISTORY METH-
ODOLOGY

Panel: **Mary Jo Deering** (U. of Geneva)

Lutz Niethammer (U. of Essen)

Raphael Samuels (Oxford U.)

Luisa Passerini (Turin U.)

Daniel Bertaux (Centre d'Etudes des Mouvement Sociaux)

Ronald J. Grele (U. of Calif.-Los Angeles)



Burlington, Vermont, with Lake Champlain in the foreground.

POSITIONS

CHIEF INTERVIEWER/ADMINISTRATOR. Two-year, Montana statewide project, begins July 1, 1981. Bachelors in history, American studies, or related field, two years oral history exp., preferably western U.S. Resume and sample interview tape, by May 22, 1981, to: Director, Montana Historical Society, 225 No. Roberts, Helena, MT 59601. (406) 449-2694.

NEIGHBORHOOD OH CHANGES LIVES

Barbara Hager, director of Lincoln, Nebraska's, Neighborhood Oral History Project, says the work has made borough residents conscious of and enthusiastic about their cultural inheritance. The project began in three Lincoln districts with a grant from the state humanities committee. Soon, two additional neighborhoods joined, with the aid of minigrants. The three largest districts each employed two student interns from the University of Nebraska. The two smaller areas have one intern each.

Each neighborhood formed a history committee whose volunteer time provides a match for the grant. As a final objective, each committee will create a slide-tape presentation built around the theme "Changes in Life Styles."

There are also subthemes growing out of the interviews. For example, two neighborhoods were small villages built around Methodist and Seventh-Day Adventist colleges. The unique contributions these institutions made to their communities will be explored in their slide-tape presentations. An oral-historian storyteller is creating stories from some of the interviews for presentation to schoolchildren.

Hager hopes that, through sharing cultural heritages while working on the project, participants will transfer their energies to revitalization and preservation of their neighborhoods. Hager: City of Lincoln, 129 N. 10th, Lincoln, NB 68508

UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND NEARS COMPLETION OF FIRST OH PROJECT

The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Oral History Project, funded by a \$25,250 NEH grant, is nearing completion of the first phase of its documentation of higher education among blacks.

More than three decades after the founding of UNCF, several of the original college presidents and a few longtime volunteer workers have been interviewed. Approximately twenty-five interviews will make up the first phase.

Gregory S. Hunter, UNCF archivist, directs the work in conjunction with the Columbia University Oral History Research

Office. Martia Graham Goodson (CUNY), Afro-American oral historian, conducts the interviews for Columbia. UNCF provides research space and access to its archives and acts as liaison with the interviewees.

By agreement, the original tapes will be housed at Columbia to assure confidentiality of closed or partially closed interviews. UNCF will receive duplicates of all open interviews. Access is determined by each memoirist.

MARYLAND HIST. SOC. DOUBLES HOLDINGS

The Oral History Office of the Maryland Historical Society is the recipient of three sizable collections which have doubled the society's holdings, according to Betty McKeever Key, director. The largest gift came from the Baltimore Neighborhood Heritage Project, sponsored by the Baltimore Regional Information Service Center of the University of Baltimore. The interviews with 220 persons average two hours each. All are indexed, with seventy-four transcribed. A resultant live docu-drama, *Baltimore Voices* has been produced throughout the U.S. A film on the project is available.

A second project, Generation to Generation: The Living Legacy of Older Persons, directed by Laura Ramsay and sponsored by the Greater Homewood Corporation, Action in Maturity, used Goucher College students to interview eighty senior citizens on their reactions to aging in themselves and others.

The State Department of Resources, Parks and Forests donated fifty tapes featuring interviews with veterans of the 1930's Civilian Conservation Corps.

The society accepts interviews if the sponsors consult with the Oral History Office on the design and implementation of their projects.

COUNTRY SCHOOL PROJ. MAKES BIG STRIDES

Interviewers are gathering recollections and memorabilia for the Mountain Plains Library Association's project, Country School Legacy: Humanities on the Frontier. A \$275,000 NEH grant enables Director Andrew Gulliford to oversee the work in North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado, Kansas, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada and Nebraska. In each state a humanities scholar directs one or two paid librarian researchers, as well as volunteers.

Research centers on six subthemes: Country Schools as Community Centers; Country Schools as Historic Sites; Teachers: Their Roles, Rules and Restrictions; The Americanization of Ethnic Groups; Reading, Writing, 'Rithmetic, and Recitation;

and Country Schools Today. More than 700 interviews are planned.

Funding provides for workshops sponsored by libraries, academic institutions or historical societies in participating states. Gulliford notes that this is a rare opportunity for staff enrichment at interested small libraries and historical societies.

In Nebraska, Nancy Whistler (Denver, Colo.) led a workshop sponsored by the new Oral Traditions Program at Kearney State College. Jessie Embry (Brigham Young U.) concentrates on education in Utah.

In the summer of 1981, 240 libraries and historical societies will hold seminars and discussions on country-school topics. Seminars will feature a thirty-minute color film produced by Randall Teeuwen, booklets, brochures, guest speaker, and a traveling exhibit created by Berkeley Lobanov.

Repositories for completed materials will be designated later. Interested groups and sponsors may contact Gulliford: Box 1431, Greeley, CO 80632.

LIVING ATLANTA SERIES AVAILABLE

Radio Free Georgia Foundation, Inc. (WRFG), a nonprofit organization, has completed a fifty-part oral history documentary series entitled, "Living Atlanta." It examines segregation and race relations from World War I through World War II.

The half-hour programs are drawn from over 200 interviews with a wide spectrum of Atlantans. The narration is based on documentary research and enlivened by music. Each program is complete in itself, but many topics are covered in depth through a two- or three-program subseries.

Harlon Joye directed the two-year effort aided by a \$91,000 grant from NEH. Background research and consultation on program content and quality was provided by scholars from Duke, Emory, and Georgia State Universities, and Morehouse College.

Each thirty-minute cassette costs fifteen dollars; the series, \$500. For a list of programs and additional information: Living Atlanta Project, WRFG, P.O. Box 5332, Atlanta, GA 30307.

ROHO CATALOG IN BOOK EXHIBIT

The Rounce and Coffin Club has selected the *Catalog of the Regional Oral History Office, 1954-1979* (Dharma Press), for inclusion in the 1981 Western Books Exhibition. The exhibit will travel to more than forty public and private libraries in the United States during 1981 and 1982. The club is "an association of individuals with a common interest in fine printing, the art of the book, and printing as a graphic art." ROHO's Suzanne Riess and Willa Baum edited the work.

GRANTS

NEH:

Huerfano County (Colo.) Board of Commissioners, \$50,762 to adapt county OH for theatrical presentation and photo displays in ten isolated, bicultural areas.

Indiana U.-Bloomington, \$100,000 for statewide OH network to preserve state's 20th-century labor history.

Residents Arts & Humanities Consortium, Inc., Cincinnati, \$20,000 for permanent exhibit on city's blacks from 1800-1960.

U. of Connecticut, \$170,000 for OH of fifty years of state's changing work technology.

U. of Illinois-Urbana, \$37,000, ethnohistory of isolated rural settlements of Spanish speakers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

Demonstration Proj. for Asian-Americans, Seattle, \$180,000 for two-year documentation and dissemination of Filipino- and Korean-American communities.

BOOK NOTICES

Oral History Collection on the Performing Arts. Comp. by Ronald L. Davis. (Dallas: Southern Methodist U., 1981. 55 pp.)

Black Oral History in Nebraska: A Handbook for Researchers and Students of Oral Traditions in Black Communities. By Brenda B. Johns and Alonzo N. Smith. (Omaha: U. of Nebraska-Omaha, 1980. 37 pp. \$2.50)

The Oral History Association of Australia Journal 2 (1979-1980), 1-90. Write: The Oral Hist. Assoc. of Australia, 97 Ullapool Rd., Mount Pleasant, W.A. 6153.

Oral History: Louis M. Starr Spreading the Word, Oral History Course Input/Output, 1980. By Elizabeth B. Mason. (Oral History Research Office, Box 20, Butler Library, New York, NY 10027. 19 pp. Free)

The Closing of Windsor Prison: Vermont's Unique Experience in Correctional Change and Historic Preservation. By Charles T. Morrissey. (Waterbury Complex, 103 S. Main St., Waterbury, VT 05676: Vermont Dept. of Corrections, 1980. Booklet. \$2.50)

Transformation of prison into village for seniors.

Eisenhower the President: Crucial Days, 1951-1960. By William Bragg Ewald, Jr. (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1981. \$12.95)

Living Hard: Southern Americans in the Great Depression. By John L. Robinson. (Washington, D.C.: U. Pr. of America, 1981. Photos. 262 pp. \$19.75, \$10.75)

Federal Writers' Project with Farm Security Administration photos.

Powerline: The First Battle of America's Energy War. By Barry M. Casper and Paul David Wellstone. (Amherst: U. of Massachusetts Pr., 1981. 336 pp. \$18.50, \$7.95)

Minnesota farmers, 1973.

Three Mile Island. By Mark Stephens. (New York: Random House, 1981. \$11.95)

The Tycoons. By Arthur M. Louis. (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1981. \$13.95)

A Trumpet to Arms: Alternative Media in America. By David Armstrong. Fwd. by Ben Bagdikian. (Boston: J. P. Tarcher-Houghton Mifflin, 1981. Photos. \$12.95)

Writers at Work: The Paris Review Interviews, Fifth Series. Ed. by George Plimpton. Intro. by Francine du Plessix Gray. (New York: Penguin, 1981. Photos. Facsimiles. \$8.95; Viking hardcover, \$17.95)

Pride against Prejudice: Work in the Lives of Older Blacks and Young Puerto Ricans. By Dean W. Morse. Fwd. by Eli Ginzberg. Conservation of Human Resources, No. 9. (Montclair, N.J.: LandMark: Allenheld, Osmun, 1980. 238 pp. \$22)

Sojourners and Settlers: Chinese Migrants in Hawaii. (Honolulu: Hawaii Chinese History Center and U. Pr. of Hawaii, 1980. 408 pp. Photos. Index. \$20)

Ding Hao: America's Air War in China, 1937-1945. By Wanda Cornelius and Thayne Short. (New York: Pelican, 1980. Index. Bibliog. Photos. Appendixes. 502 pp. \$19.95)

Political Women in Japan: The Search for a Place in Political Life. By Susan J. Pharr. (Berkeley: U. of California Pr., 1981. Index. Bibliog. 238 pp. \$17.95)

NEWS

Mary B. Roberts, retired associate director of the State of Oklahoma's "Living Legends" project, died January 7, 1981. Roberts was the mother of Amelia R. (Chita) Fry (U. of Calif.-Berkeley).

Ten black families descended from seventeenth-century settlers on Long Island's Cow Neck Peninsula are the current focus of Eleanor Shodell's oral history research (funded by the Arwood Foundation) for the Port Washington (N.Y.) Public Library. Tapes and transcripts are housed at the library.

A two-day conference in February at Hunter College School of Social Work, sponsored by Hunter's Brookdale Center on Aging, included a workshop on the values of oral history, conducted by Bea Lemisch (NYU Tamiment Inst.). Also featured was an oral history project with blacks in Harlem senior centers and nursing homes generated by Hunter-Brookdale students in the department of black and Puerto Rican studies.

Mid America Inter Library Services of Park College and the University of Missouri School of Library and Informational Science cosponsored a two-day oral history workshop for librarians at the college in March. Harold Smith (Park College) and Aurora Davis (U. of Missouri) conducted the sessions.

Phase I of San Antonio's Oral History Program, begun as a Bicentennial project and continued under the aegis of the county historical commission, is complete. The indexed and cataloged transcripts are deposited in the research library of the city's Institute of Texan Cultures.

Neal Fitzsimons, civil engineer and historian, has donated his oral history collection to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The collection, gathered over the last twenty years, includes interviews with American, British and Swiss engineers. ASCE materials are deposited at the Smithsonian and in the ASCE library in New York City.

On March 1, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Archives began operating from new quarters on the eighth floor of the Union Health Center building, 275 Seventh Avenue, New York. Research access is by appointment.

The Park College Library offers an oral history course in conjunction with the Platte County Historical Society, focusing on county history.

The Maryland Historical Society sponsored a one-day seminar in April for some 250 gifted and talented students from Baltimore County schools. The seminar is one of five in 1981 in which students will identify and explore the various kinds of historical research source materials in libraries and museums.

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin (816 State St., Madison 53706) scheduled five regional workshops on local history this spring. Oral history was included in the May 2 session at Ashfield.

The University of Vermont's seventh Oral History Institute will be held June 22-July 2, with Charles T. Morrissey, oral history consultant, as instructor.

NEWS continued on page 8

OHA OFFICIAL

BUSINESS

**Ronald E.
Marcello
Executive
Secretary**



Since the current issue of the *Newsletter* deals mainly with the 1981 Workshop-Colloquium, I shall devote my column to the financial aspects of the meeting. This information will help in your budgeting and planning.

All registration fees will remain the same as last year, that is, \$30 for the Workshop, \$40 for the Colloquium, and \$50 for the combined Workshop-Colloquium. OHA will again offer discount registration fees for students and the retired/unemployed. Student rates have been set at \$7.50 for the Workshop, \$7.50 for the Colloquium, and \$15 for both; the retired/unemployed rates have been set at \$15 for the Workshop, \$15 for the Colloquium, and \$25 for both.

For this meeting, OHA will be responsible for the payment of meals. We have worked out the following meal packages: Workshop, \$21 (dinner and lunch plus two refreshment breaks); Colloquium, \$62 (three lunches and two dinners plus three refreshment breaks); Workshop and Colloquium, \$75 (three lunches and three dinners plus five refreshment breaks). The above prices also include a 5 percent meal tax and 15 percent hotel service charge.

A trip to Shelburne Village has been built into the Colloquium schedule for Saturday afternoon. With 35 buildings spread over 45 acres, Shelburne Village houses some of the world's most famous collections of quilts, textiles, glass ceram-

ics, scrimshaw, furniture, and pewter. Some of the furnished period buildings include private homes, a courthouse, and a school. For this four- to five-hour visit OHA will provide admission ticket and bus transportation for \$7.50 per person.

The registration fees, meal packages, and the Shelburne reservations may be purchased in advance, and I strongly urge that this be done. A strong preregistration will be an invaluable aid in planning for the meeting. Facilities at the Burlington Radisson are limited, moreover, and we are expecting perhaps our best Workshop-Colloquium attendance, thus making preregistration all the more urgent.

OHA PUBLICATIONS

5th & 6th Colloq. <i>Proceedings</i>	\$1.00
<i>Review</i> (except 1976 & 1980)	\$1.00
<i>Evaluation Guidelines</i>	\$2.00
10 or more, each	\$1.50

NEWS

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The Armenian Assembly Oral History Project, Washington, D.C., has completed 400 interviews with survivors of Turkey's Armenian Holocaust of 1915-23. Transcription, indexing and translation are in progress. Materials will be deposited at institutions with Armenian-studies projects. Laurens M. Ayvazian coordinates the NEH-funded project. Write: 1420 N. St., NW, Suite 101, Washington, DC 20005.

William R. Wyatt (Western Health Systems, Inc.), past president of OHA (1976-77), has been appointed to the twenty-one-member South Dakota Committee on the Humanities by Governor William Jank-

low. In announcing Wyatt's selection to the body responsible for the distribution of the state's humanities moneys, Janklow cited Wyatt's contributions to the oral history movement in both the state and the nation.

Northeastern University-Boston has available for research interviews with shoe workers, fishermen, immigrants, and merchant seamen, as well as memoirs on such topics as transportation, World War I, and area communities. All materials are housed at the university. R. Wayne Anderson directs the work.

The Saskatchewan Archives Board (U. of Regina) sponsored a two-day oral history conference in May. The various sessions addressed the state of the art, oral tradition among Saskatchewan Indians, oral history and folklore, classroom use of oral history, and methodology and application. The keynote speaker was Robert C. Cosbey (U. of Regina).

Catherine Scholten (ROHO, U. of Calif.-Berkeley) died in February following a traffic accident. She was completing her Ph.D. in American history, and in addition to teaching oral history classes and workshops, she completed a number of projects for ROHO.

* * *

Persons wishing to submit proposals for papers or sessions, or to serve as moderators or commentators at the 15th Annual Duquesne University History Forum, October 12-14 in Pittsburgh, should contact Steven B. Vardy, director, History Forum, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

* * *

Potential participants in the Northern Great Plains History Conference, Sioux Falls, S. Dakota, October 8-10, should submit proposals for sessions or papers (with short abstract) before June 1 to James E. Spaulding, Dept. of History, U. of S. Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069.

The quarterly *OHA Newsletter* is sent to members of the Oral History Association and to institutions holding subscriptions: individual \$15, student \$7.50, library \$12, institutional \$30, life \$250. Members also receive the annual *Oral History Review*. Send membership, change of address, and subscription inquiries to: Ronald E. Marcello, Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 13734, N.T. Station, Denton, TX 76203. (817) 387-1021, 788-2252. Address editorial matters to: Thomas L. Charlton, Editor, Baylor University, U.B. Box 228, Waco, TX 76798. (817) 755-3437. Associates: L. Katherine Cook, Adelaide S. Darling, Rebecca S. Jiménez, Margaret L. S. Miller; David B. Stricklin, contributing editor. Deadlines: Jan. 1, Apr. 1, July 1, Sept. 1. Articles should be limited to 400 words and may be edited.

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