



ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume XIX, Number 2

Spring 1985

BLACK WORKERS' HISTORY AIRING ON RADIO

"There are more people that work with their hands than any other segment of folks. Those of us that work with our hands, that's the important thing—instilling some confidence in our people, in knowing that we'll be treated like ordinary human beings."

—Herman Taylor, retired steelworker

The memories of Herman Taylor and over 100 other workers, from coal and iron ore miners, sharecroppers, union organizers, domestic workers, teachers, ministers, lawyers, business proprietors, and others, are being preserved through an oral history project at the University of Alabama. Funded over five years with \$93,000 in grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the project is headed by Brenda McCallum, director/archivist with the University of Alabama Archive of American Minority Cultures. A series of 13 half-hour radio programs, "Working Lives," has been broadcast on National Public Radio since February 1985.

The focus of "Working Lives" is Birmingham, which in the 1920s had the highest percentage black population of any major American city. Ironworker Clarence Dean recalls his first impressions

of Birmingham: "I had never seen anything like that—the railroad terminal in Birmingham. . . . They had it written in big letters 'The Magic City of the South,' across where you go down under the tunnel there. . . . When we started down through the terminal and I seed all them bright lights, I told Mother, 'Ah, it's Christmastime!'"

The 13 radio programs detail migration from rural to city life; operation of the corporate welfare system and company towns; life in isolated mountain mining camps; early coal mining, iron, and steel work; unionization; family and community life; women's work; the Depression/New Deal decade; and racism and segregation. McCallum is the project director and executive producer of "Working Lives"; her husband, Steve McCallum, was editor and engineer for the project. Cliff Kuhn, Atlanta independent radio producer, was scriptwriter and assistant producer. All helped record interviews with more than 100 people, ranging in age from 35 to 103 years old.

Steelworker George Averhart recalled his family's work history: "My forefathers,

my ancestors, we all worked all our lives in the steel plants, blast furnaces, coke plants, and coal mines. I had a grandfather that worked for 38 years in the steel plant; I had an uncle that worked 55 years; I had an uncle that worked 32 years, and another uncle that worked 35 years. I had two brothers, one that worked 17 years. I presently have 28 years in at the plant. I figure it totals up to more than 200 years."

Segment titles indicate topics covered. "Quarters, Camps, and Clackers" examines life in company towns. "Everyone Was Black Down There" emphasizes the group identity of coal miners through customs, stories, and songs. "The Eagle Flies on Friday" features leisure activities: "juke joints," church socials, and "chitlin suppers."

Copies of tapes are available on open reel from the National Federation of Community Broadcasters and on cassette from Audion Associates. For project information contact: Brenda McCallum, Archive of American Minority Cultures, The University of Alabama, P.O. Box S, University, AL 35486 (205) 348-5512.

MARCELLO STEPS DOWN

Ronald E. Marcello, the Association's first executive secretary, has announced his intention to resign his post after almost 10 years of service. Stating his desire to concentrate on other professional matters, Marcello has requested that the Council name his replacement in the fall of 1985, perhaps during the next scheduled session of the Council at the Annual Meeting in Pensacola.

Information about the duties of the Association's executive secretary and the necessary related institutional commitment may be obtained directly from Marcello. President Martha Ross is naming an Executive Secretary Search Committee. Applications and nominations for the position may be sent either to Ross, 6008 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814, or the Association office, P.O. Box 13734, North Texas State University, Denton, TX 76203.



Photo: Arthur Rohatkin, Library of Congress

ANNUAL MEETING, 31 OCTOBER - 3 NOVEMBER, PENSACOLA

OHA FORVM: AN OFFICER AND AN HISTORIAN

Reprinted with permission from the *Radical History Review* 28-30 (1984):517-18.

The morning light has just begun to stream through your bedroom blinds as the angry ringing of the phone jars you awake. It is 0700 by your watch, and though you've been anticipating this call for the past few days, you find yourself automatically snapping to attention as the distant voice of your director at the Command Center at Headquarters Marine Corps gives you your instructions. The 22nd Marine Amphibious Unit, in place in Grenada since 2 October, requires the services of a crack oral historian, and that means you. You grab your pack and hustle over to the Marine Corps Historical Center in the Washington Navy Yard to get your orders, tape recorders, and tapes. By 1630 you are enroute [sic] by helicopter from Bolling Air Force Base to Norfolk, where you board (at 2400) a large Air Force transport for Barbados. Twenty-four hours later you're landing at Grenada's Port Salines airfield, not yet long enough for Soviet bombers but big enough for you. And you're just in time. The scene is one of utter confusion, and no one seems to know where the 22nd can be found. But that's why the Director called on you. It's a tough job, and someone has to do it: search and record.

Fantasy? Hardly. According to an only somewhatless breathless account in a recent oral history newsletter, Benis M. Frank received just such a call five days after Reagan's "pre-dawn vertical insertion" in Grenada. As head of the Oral History Section of the Marine Corps History and Museum Division, it was Frank's mission to record the musings of the amphibious command and staff following their conduct of Operation Urgent Fury. From Grenada, it was off to Lebanon aboard the carrier *Guam*. More interviews and then back to the States by Thanksgiving. A rugged assignment for "the oldest individual in the whole damn flotilla."

Perhaps that's why Frank's report seems so short on details. All we learn (and this by hearsay) is that the *Guam's* Executive Officer decided—the night before the Grenada invasion—to replace the regularly scheduled shipboard movie with a showing of the *Sands of Iwo Jima*. When you come to think about it, the experience of the Marines was not all that different, from the rest of us, who were compelled to watch network file tapes of military maneuvers for the first few days of the invasion. Frank's report raises, as they say, more questions than it answers. Was he among the 19,600 American servicemen and women who are expected to receive medals for their participation in the invasion? (Only 7,000 actually landed on the island.) And what, actually, is the military insignia of the Marine Corps oral historian? A screaming eagle in a Walkman? An owl of Minerva in oak leaf cluster? On these and other important questions, Benis M. Frank is silent. Perhaps he's saving his answers for the forthcoming Marine monograph on "the Grenadan operation" due off the press this year. Perhaps not. In any event, we think we'll just wait for the movie.

Ed. note: The OHA Newsletter invites thoughtful letters and short essays from readers who wish to question or raise issues about either its content or matters related to the field of oral history. OHA FORVM will appear as a feature from time to time or as often as contributors submit stimulating ideas to the editor.

Editor:

Benis Frank's memoir of his role as the Marine Corps Oral Historian in the Grenada invasion, presented as the lead article in the winter 1984 *OHA Newsletter*, inadvertently raises some important and troubling questions about oral history, questions unfortunately obscured and denied by the uncritical, breezy style in which the *Newsletter* permitted Frank to present this report. I'll bet I was not alone in finding the article hugely inappropriate in several respects and as such a disservice to readers.

Let's leave aside the politics of Grenada and Lebanon, though many members may wonder why the *Newsletter* devotes its major feature to an account ignoring every dimension except the most narrow, internal military vantage. The easy answer to this question begs the real one—the problematic notion of oral history defined in "You Are There" terms, especially when the Walter Cronkite figure is not an independent journalist or historian but an "in-house" official oral historian, brought along on a complex military mission to help construct a top-down historical record on the spot. This combines history and journalism in a way that to me undercuts the virtues of each, especially in contexts where independence and objectivity are probably closely linked. When one recalls that independent journalists were being kept out of Grenada—restrictions unprecedented in war journalism—while Frank was being airlifted in, then the *Newsletter's* highlighting of such "court history" becomes even more problematic.

The point is not whether I am right or wrong in feeling that oral history needs to be distinguished from instant journalism or that oral-historical integrity is compromised by Frank's groupielike pleasure at having been taken along (and arguably in) by his sponsors/subjects. The point I want to make, rather, is that this genre of work raises complex and important questions—matters that are legitimately controversial and which Frank might have been encouraged to discuss.

Instead, the *Newsletter* offered only a chatty memoir implying that there are no such issues, that "we" all share Frank's gung-ho excitement about being right there with the Marines. This presumed clubby consensus not only excludes and alienates many readers, it more seriously inhibits the very discourse and reflection that the *Newsletter* ought to be trying to encourage in its reports on oral-historical work. There is no reason to shrink from controversial subjects. But if they are to be covered, there needs to be more sensitivity to the issues they can and should raise for the diverse membership of the Oral History Association.

Michael H. Frisch
SUNY-Buffalo

1985 September 4-7	Association for Preservation Technology	San Francisco
10-13	American Association for State and Local History	Topeka
October 7-8	Baylor University Institute for Oral History Symposium	Waco, Tex.
9-12	Western History Association	Sacramento
9-13	National Trust for Historic Preservation	Seattle
16-20	American Folklore Society	Cincinnati
26	Community History and Oral History	Liverpool
28-Nov. 1	Society of American Archivists	Austin
31-Nov. 3	Oral History Association	Pensacola
November 12-15 21	Southern Historical Association National Council for the Social Studies, Preconference Session on Oral History in the Classroom	Houston Chicago
December 27-30	American Historical Association	New York

SMITHSONIAN STUDIES ADVERTISING



NATIONAL PARK HISTORIANS DEVELOPING ORAL STANDARDS

The National Park Service is realizing the great potential of oral history for its nationwide series of parks and historic sites. The NPS general research and archival center, located at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, conducted a survey in 1981 which identified more than 150 active NPS oral history programs. The quality of the described programs varies widely, among the most professional being the Lyndon Baines Johnson National Historic Site and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historic Park.

The unevenness of the programs led the NPS to develop a manual, *Collecting, Using and Preserving Oral History in the National Park Service*. The in-house publication was prepared by Blair Hubbard, Heather Huyck, and David Nathanson, all of the NPS. Although the manual exists in a limited quantity, it is in the public domain and may be duplicated. The manual is also available on interlibrary loan or may be borrowed from any NPS regional office.

Included with the manual are tape excerpts illustrating various points in the instructions. Also included are technical leaflets on preservation of magnetic recordings.

Contact: Nathanson, Office of Library and Archival Services, Harpers Ferry Center, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425 (304) 535-6371.

ORAL HISTORY GENERATION MEETS PEPSI HISTORY

The Smithsonian Institution is conducting research which combines, perhaps for the first time, corporate history with a study of popular culture. The innovative study by the Archives Center in the National Museum of American History is the Pepsi Generation Oral History Project, created in the spring of 1984 to document one of the most successful advertising campaigns in U.S. history.

The project, supported by a special grant from the Pepsi-Cola Company, builds on a recently donated collection of some 200 advertising items from the company. The research's overall objective is to illuminate Pepsi's advertising history during the past half century, with special focus on youth-directed marketing since 1963. Interviews contain material on decision-making processes in Pepsi's recent advertising successes, especially those in the nonprint media. Prior to the Smithsonian project, coordinated by Carol L. Dreyfus, little was preserved on the conception and development of the "Pepsi Generation" campaign.

Dreyfus and fellow oral historian Scott Ellsworth are chronicling the roles of a wide array of individuals and groups associated with the internal history of the "Pepsi Generation" campaign, with some attention also being given to the company's pre-1963 marketing strategies. The project includes not only the company's advertising executives and bottlers but also filmmakers, soft drink industry analysts, a broadcast announcer, a singer, and a songwriter. Also interviewed were members of the advertising agency which since 1960 has directed Pepsi's ad campaigns and promoted the ideal of youth in corporate advertising. According to Dreyfus, the project's scope "has allowed us to examine the structure of the soft drink industry in this country and its effects on advertising, and to attempt to fathom the impact of particular campaigns in the industry as a whole." Twenty-six interviews have been completed to date; taped interviews will be available to scholars after they have been abstracted and indexed using the TAPE (Timed Access to Pertinent Excerpts)

system.

The Smithsonian historians consider the "Pepsi Generation" campaign to be a landmark event in the history of modern advertising. The oral history project is tracing eight advertising themes at Pepsi since 1964—that year's "Come Alive! You're the Pepsi Generation" to the current emphasis on "The Choice of a New Generation." Such marketing efforts aimed at the younger population have enabled Pepsi to rival Coca-Cola, which previously was the unchallenged leader in the soft drink industry. According to Ellsworth, "the music, imagery, cinematographic technique, and philosophies employed in these campaigns have had a major impact on advertising, television, and, it has been argued, an entire generation of Americans."

The Smithsonian's project on soft drink advertising delves into what sociologist Vance Packard once called "the hidden persuaders" and the American passion for youth. It is a significant topic that may have been too long overlooked.

1985 OHA NOMINEES ANNOUNCED FOR

The Nominating Committee and the Council of the Association have carried out their constitutional duties in selecting nominees to present to OHA members by mail ballot in late summer. Readers are invited to acquaint themselves with the candidates for the various offices of the Association.

Nominees for vice president/president-elect and the Council are chosen by the Nominating Committee, which itself is an elected body. Chaired by Anne G. Campbell (U. of Kentucky), the 1985 Nominating Committee consists of John A. Neuenschwander (Carthage C.), Dale E. Treleven (UCLA), Elizabeth B. Mason (Columbia U., ret.), Laurie Mercier (Montana Hist. Soc.), and Edward D. Ives (U. of Maine-Orono). This year, in addition to the vice president/president-elect two new Council members will be elected for three-year terms. Three new members will be elected to the Nominating Committee for two-year terms.

The mail ballot will present the names of the following nominees and supporting information:

VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT:

Donald A. Ritchie

(U.S. Senate Historical Office)

Biography: Donald A. Ritchie is associate historian in the Senate Historical Office, where he conducts an oral history program. He graduated from CCNY and received his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. He chaired OHA's Burlington colloquium, served on the Long-Range Planning Committee, and since 1982 has been a member of the Council and chair of the Publications Committee. A former president and newsletter editor of OHMAR, he received in 1984 OHMAR's Forrest C. Pogue Award for significant contributions to oral history. His publications include *James M. Landis: Dean of the Regulators* (Harvard, 1980) and a high-school textbook, *Heritage of Freedom: History of the United States* (Macmillan, 1985).

Statement: *Having come to oral history through a regional organization, I am especially interested in building stronger ties between the state and regional groups and the Oral History Association and will continue to work to make the OHA an open, dynamic, and accessible association for all those collecting and using oral history.*

COUNCIL (two-year terms):

Terry L. Birdwhistell

(University of Kentucky)

Biography: Terry L. Birdwhistell is director of the University of Kentucky Library Oral History Program and Audio-Visual Archives. He holds M.A.'s in history and library science and has published articles on broadcasting history, Appalachia, and politics. Birdwhistell has worked extensively on media productions utilizing oral history, including a television program on Kentucky and the New Deal. He is currently coproducing "Kentuckians in Vietnam: A Television Oral History." Birdwhistell is adviser, Kentucky Oral History Commission; president, Kentucky-Tennessee American Studies Association; and past president, Kentucky Council on Archives. An eleven-year OHA member, he serves on the OHA Membership Committee and served as 1984 program chair.

Statement: *Each of us has benefited from OHA's guidance and support. OHA is a unifying organization in the oral history movement and must continue to grow and expand its services to members and oral history practitioners. Informative publications, successful annual meetings, and innovative leadership will assure the continued value of OHA.*

Margot H. Knight

(Washington Commission for the Humanities)

Biography: Margot H. Knight is currently acting director of the Washington Commission for the Humanities. From 1979 to 1982 she was director of Washington State University's Oral History Office, a statewide clearing house. There she organized statewide oral history conferences and regional and local workshops and edited *The Directory of Oral History in Washington State*. She was also regional coordinator for the Washington Women's Heritage Project. She has served as a consultant for over 50 oral history projects in Washington, Idaho, and Alaska. A member of OHA since 1977, she has been on the OHA workshop faculty twice and organized the 1983 national colloquium held in Seattle.

Statement: *Is OHA adequately reaching nonmember constituents? Are we contributing to the vitality of oral history on a national level? Should state/regional organizations have formal representation? We must continue to analyze the basic purpose, goals, and structure of the OHA so that we may best serve the interests of all its practitioners.*

Elinor D. Sinnette

(Howard University)

Biography: Elinor DesVerney Sinnette received a Ph.D. degree from Columbia University. Her dissertation was a study of black bibliophile and collector Arthur Alfonso Schomburg. Sinnette's employment experience includes eight years with the New York Public Library; service as a district librarian with the New York City Board of Education; academic appointments in library education at the University of Ibadan and Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria and the Polytechnic in Nairobi, Kenya, where she served as a UNESCO consultant in librarianship. In 1980, she established and organized the Oral History Department of Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center and is presently head of that department.

Statement: *As a member of Council, I shall attempt to work cooperatively with colleagues to ensure the continuing fulfillment of the goals and objectives of OHA. I would also bring to Council deliberations a special perspective of the values of oral history in the preservation and documentation of the black experience.*

Shirley E. Stephenson

(California State University-Fullerton)

Biography: Shirley E. Stephenson has been associate director/archivist of the Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton since 1972. B.A., M.A., history, and M.S., library science, and other postgraduate training; in *Who's Who in Library and Information Services*; thesis: "Oral History Comes of Age: A Comparative Analysis"; active in OHA since 1973; cofounder/president of Southwest Oral History Association, 1982-; OHA Membership Committee, 1982-; chair, local arrangements, 1986; editorial staff, *Oral History Review*, 1983-; coauthor, *A Guide for Oral History Programs*; author, *Editing & Indexing Guidelines for Oral History*; "Selective Bibliographies," *OHR* 1983 and 1984; several journal articles; served on workshop and colloquium sessions for OHA and historical/archival organizations.

Statement: *As president of an active regional group, I strongly endorse expanded outreach programs; closer, more viable working relationships between OHA and regional/state organizations; a creative publication series which will assist grass-roots groups in and out of academic communities; and surveys of collections and needs in local areas.*

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Richard Sweterlitsch
(University of Vermont)

Biography: Richard Sweterlitsch (Ph.D., Folklore Institute, Indiana University, 1976) is assistant professor of folklore and English at the University of Vermont. His interest in American folk history drew him to the OHA. Between 1976 and 1980, he served as assistant editor and then editor of *The Oral History Review*. He participated in the OHA Evaluation Conference at Wingspread, assisted with local arrangements for the Burlington OHA colloquium, and subsequently served on the Nominating Committee. He has published articles and reviews in folklore and history journals and has delivered papers before the OHA, the New England Association of Oral History, and the American Folklore Society.

Statement: *The Association must continue serving as a body to which practitioners of oral history regardless of their particular interests can turn for information and exchanging ideas. I would like to see the Association strengthen its publication policies and encourage ties among individual, regional, and international oral history interests.*

The Council has chosen the following to be nominees for the Nominating Committee. Three are to be elected.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (two-year terms):

Kenneth W. Baldridge
(Brigham Young University-Hawaii Campus)

Biography: Kenneth W. Baldridge, professor in American history and director of the Oral History Program at Brigham Young University, Hawaii Campus, has been collecting oral history in the Pacific since 1971, as well as teaching, research, and writing. Ken has been in OHA several years and attended colloquia/workshops in Savannah, Durango, San Antonio, and Seattle. Last year at Lexington he and Gerald Saxon presented a well-received workshop on the solutions to problems faced by oral historians. Ken has a wife, Delma, six children, ten grandchildren, a dog and two horses, all of which he thoroughly enjoys—in that order.

Statement: *OHA needs to continue to establish guidelines in a still young field as well as provide education and encouragement for those just getting started. Hands-on, participatory workshops as well as sessions in which utilization of oral history can be demonstrated are especially helpful. Let's convene in Hawaii!*

Cullom Davis
(Sangamon State University)

Biography: Cullom Davis is a longstanding member and immediate past president of OHA. Professor of history and director of the Oral History Office at Sangamon State University, he has written a popular textbook (*From Tape to Type*) and several articles on oral history. The SSU program is an active collecting and teaching center and serves as a statewide oral history clearing house. Cullom directed the 1979 OHA national workshop and served on the Council from 1980 to 1982. He also holds board or officer positions with the Organization of American Historians, National Council on Public History, Illinois Humanities Council, and Abraham Lincoln Association.

Statement: *My recent services as Council member and officer, plus frequent attendance at state and regional oral history meetings, have acquainted me with a great many veteran and new OHA members. As a Nominating Committee member I would seek to use these contacts to produce a balance of experience and fresh ideas.*

Stanley Garfinkel
(Kent State University-Geauga Campus)

Biography: Stan Garfinkel graduated from Harvard in 1952 and pursued graduate study at Princeton. Since 1963 he has been teaching history at Kent State and has written textbooks and produced audio-visual programs and documentaries using and about oral history. Research topics include the Cleveland garment industry, Cleveland architects, and retired priests in the Youngstown Diocese. His current projects include an oral history of Christian Dior that will involve Stan in production of a video documentary and a Northeastern Ohio College of Medicine project entitled "Determining Health-Related Needs of the Elderly by using Oral History Methodology."

Statement: *I am interested in encouraging the development of well-conceived, community-based oral history projects. With proper training and guidance, such projects can make a valuable contribution to the historical record.*

Lila Johnson Goff
(Minnesota Historical Society)

Biography: Lila Johnson Goff began her career with the Minnesota Historical Society in 1967 as chief of the Oral History Office. She is presently assistant director for libraries and museum collections, a position which includes responsibility for the reference, newspaper, map and special libraries, the museum collections department, and the microfilm and library conservation labs. She has attended a number of Oral History Association colloquia and from 1971 to 1974 served on the OHA Executive Council. She is cocompiler of *The Oral History Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society* (MHS Press, 1984) and a founder and president of the Oral History Association of Minnesota.

Statement: *The Oral History Association is a valuable asset to those working with small oral history programs and to those involved with large, well-established programs. The Executive Council should reflect this and the other diversities of its membership. The leadership should continue to promote the Association and its guidelines and encourage high standards for oral history programs.*

Kimberly A. Lady
(Kentucky Oral History Commission)

Biography: Lady, a 1977 graduate of West Liberty State College, West Virginia, received her M.A. degree in history from Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, in 1980. She has been director of the Kentucky Oral History Commission since January 1980. Her responsibilities as director include supervising a grant program, editing a newsletter, directing projects, and conducting workshops throughout the state. Lady has attended the last five OHA annual meetings, chaired the 1982 meeting state/regional roundtable session, served on the 1984 meeting Local Arrangements Committee, was an instructor at the 1984 workshop, and is currently a member of the OHA Select Committee on State and Regional Relations.

Statement: *The OHA is a vital organization serving a vast and diverse constituency. Those responsible for administering the OHA must be sensitive to the inevitable changes within the ever-growing field of oral history and be prepared to address those changes without compromising professional standards or the purpose of the organization.*

The OHA constitution provides for nominations by petition before the mail ballot is prepared. A member of the Association may be nominated for any of the elective positions by a written petition signed by twenty (20) members in good standing. Petitions must reach the office of the OHA executive secretary by 15 June 1985 to be considered for the 1985 election.

OR MAIL BALLOT

Richard Sweterlitsch
(University of Vermont)

Biography: Richard Sweterlitsch (Ph.D., Folklore Institute, Indiana University, 1976) is assistant professor of folklore and English at the University of Vermont. His interest in American folk history drew him to the OHA. Between 1976 and 1980, he served as assistant editor and then editor of *The Oral History Review*. He participated in the OHA Evaluation Conference at Wingspread, assisted with local arrangements for the Burlington OHA colloquium, and subsequently served on the Nominating Committee. He has published articles and reviews in folklore and history journals and has delivered papers before the OHA, the New England Association of Oral History, and the American Folklore Society.
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(Brigham Young University-Hawaii Campus)

Biography: Kenneth W. Baldridge, professor in American history and director of the Oral History Program at Brigham Young University, Hawaii Campus, has been collecting oral history in the Pacific since 1971, as well as teaching, research, and writing. Ken has been in OHA several years and attended colloquia/workshops in Savannah, Durango, San Antonio, and Seattle. Last year at Lexington he and Gerald Saxon presented a well-received workshop on the solutions to problems faced by oral historians. Ken has a wife, Delma, six children, ten grandchildren, a dog and two horses, all of which he thoroughly enjoys—in that order.
Statement: *OHA needs to continue to establish guidelines in a still young field as well as provide education and encouragement for those just getting started. Hands-on, participatory workshops as well as sessions in which utilization of oral history can be demonstrated are especially helpful. Let's convene in Hawaii!*

Cullom Davis
(Sangamon State University)

Biography: Cullom Davis is a longstanding member and immediate past president of OHA. Professor of history and director of the Oral History Office at Sangamon State University, he has written a popular textbook (*From Tape to Type*) and several articles on oral history. The SSU program is an active collecting and teaching center and serves as a statewide oral history clearing house. Cullom directed the 1979 OHA national workshop and served on the Council from 1980 to 1982. He also holds board or officer positions with the Organization of American Historians, National Council on Public History, Illinois Humanities Council, and Abraham Lincoln Association.
Statement: *My recent services as Council member and officer, plus frequent attendance at state and regional oral history meetings, have acquainted me with a great many veteran and new OHA members. As a Nominating Committee member I would seek to use these contacts to produce a balance of experience and fresh ideas.*

Stanley Garfinkel
(Kent State University-Geauga Campus)

Biography: Stan Garfinkel graduated from Harvard in 1952 and pursued graduate study at Princeton. Since 1963 he has been teaching history at Kent State and has written textbooks and produced audio-visual programs and documentaries using and about oral history. Research topics include the Cleveland garment industry, Cleveland architects, and retired priests in the Youngstown Diocese. His current projects include an oral history of Christian Dior that will involve Stan in production of a video documentary and a Northeastern Ohio College of Medicine project entitled "Determining Health-Related Needs of the Elderly by using Oral History Methodology."

Statement: *I am interested in encouraging the development of well-conceived, community-based oral history projects. With proper training and guidance, such projects can make a valuable contribution to the historical record.*

Lila Johnson Goff
(Minnesota Historical Society)

Biography: Lila Johnson Goff began her career with the Minnesota Historical Society in 1967 as chief of the Oral History Office. She is presently assistant director for libraries and museum collections, a position which includes responsibility for the reference, newspaper, map and special libraries, the museum collections department, and the microfilm and library conservation labs. She has attended a number of Oral History Association colloquia and from 1971 to 1974 served on the OHA Executive Council. She is cocompiler of *The Oral History Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society* (MHS Press, 1984) and a founder and president of the Oral History Association of Minnesota.

Statement: *The Oral History Association is a valuable asset to those working with small oral history programs and to those involved with large, well-established programs. The Executive Council should reflect this and the other diversities of its membership. The leadership should continue to promote the Association and its guidelines and encourage high standards for oral history programs.*

Kimberly A. Lady
(Kentucky Oral History Commission)

Biography: Lady, a 1977 graduate of West Liberty State College, West Virginia, received her M.A. degree in history from Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, in 1980. She has been director of the Kentucky Oral History Commission since January 1980. Her responsibilities as director include supervising a grant program, editing a newsletter, directing projects, and conducting workshops throughout the state. Lady has attended the last five OHA annual meetings, chaired the 1982 meeting state/regional roundtable session, served on the 1984 meeting Local Arrangements Committee, was an instructor at the 1984 workshop, and is currently a member of the OHA Select Committee on State and Regional Relations.

Statement: *The OHA is a vital organization serving a vast and diverse constituency. Those responsible for administering the OHA must be sensitive to the inevitable changes within the ever-growing field of oral history and be prepared to address those changes without compromising professional standards or the purpose of the organization.*

The OHA constitution provides for nominations by petition before the mail ballot is prepared. A member of the Association may be nominated for any of the elective positions by a written petition signed by twenty (20) members in good standing. Petitions must reach the office of the OHA executive secretary by 15 June 1985 to be considered for the 1985 election.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Martha J. Ross

At this writing, your officers and Council have just concluded a very productive and successful midwinter meeting in Washington, D.C. A number of the actions taken will have important consequences for OHA.

Long-Range Planning

Building on the efforts of the Long-Range Planning Committee under Presidents John Neuenschwander and Elizabeth Mason and the results of the membership survey conducted by President Cullom Davis, the Council began a critical self-study process which will lead to the formulation of a mission statement for the Association. We are asking the questions: Who are OHA's clients? What are their needs? How well are we meeting those needs now? What priority should we assign to those needs not presently being met? Working through this process during the coming months, we hope to be ready to propose a mission statement for OHA at Pensacola.

Funding

For some time it has been apparent that OHA cannot fund an ambitious program of service to its various constituencies (through publications, services, and outreach) by membership dues alone. The membership survey emphasized your need for additional services without burdensome dues increases. In the past, OHA has sometimes responded negatively to requests for services because of the lack of necessary funding. This Council and its predecessor approved a gradual shift in this position to permit the acceptance of outside funding for portions of the Association's activities, without in any way compromising the Association's independence and integrity. Several Kentucky universities and the Kentucky Oral History Commission gave generous support for featured speakers and other conference activities at Lexington. We hope to continue this effort at Pensacola.

The 1984 *Oral History Review* initiates the Association's program of accepting advertising in its publications. We expect this effort to provide a new service to our membership, to increase OHA's visibility to businesses who offer equipment, supplies, and services to oral history offices, and to help fund OHA's publications. Shirley Tanzer has accepted chairmanship of this important program. Able, energetic, and creative, Shirley brings to this assignment not only her long experience in oral history but also her business acumen as

owner of her own business in Portland, Oregon. She will welcome your suggestions for potential advertisers.

Council's exploration of additional vehicles for accepting outside support in order to expand services without increasing dues will be reported on in Pensacola.

Expanding Committee Structure

The expansion of OHA's committee system promotes the Association's health and growth in a number of ways. First, it relieves Council members of the mire of detail necessary to develop well-researched and well-reasoned proposals for Council action. Second, it develops leadership among the membership, allowing newer members the opportunity to serve the Association in committee work and thereby gain visibility among the membership. The effort to involve more of the membership in the activities of the Association not only puts to use the energies and insights of those different individuals but also counters the recurring but false assertion that OHA is run by and for a clique of insiders. Expanded committee responsibilities have been spectacularly successful in the publications and membership committees.

Council took several actions to expand the number of committees now functioning. The Special Committee on Teaching was made a standing committee. Their excellent report, compiled by Barry Lanman, chair, Frank Fonsino, George Mehaffy, Bette Weidman, and Richard Williams, with Thomas Charlton as Council liaison, is reported elsewhere in this newsletter. Not only does it set forth long- and short-range goals and specific ways to proceed toward those goals but also the format of the report itself is a model for such reports to Council.

At Pensacola, this committee will offer two program sessions on oral history in the classroom. It will also distribute for comment curriculum packages being developed for distribution by OHA. Everyone involved either in teaching oral history or in using oral history in the classroom will want to participate in this process by attending the Pensacola sessions.

Council departed from OHA tradition in not requiring that the chairman of this standing committee be a member of Council. While Charlton will continue to monitor the work of the committee as an ex-officio member, Lanman will continue his excellent and innovative leadership as committee chairman.

The charge to the Special Committee on Regional and State Liaison has been extended to the Council meeting at Pensacola. John Fox chairs this committee with Stanley Garfinkel, Margot Knight, and Kim Lady contributing to this essential work.

Council authorized the formation of two new groups: one to consider site selection in a more rational and systematic way, especially using members of regional and state groups as advisers; and a group in-

terested in international liaison, organizing program sessions both here and abroad, exchanging information on a regular basis, and seeking funding for foreign scholars wishing to attend our meetings.

Oral History and NEH

At the suggestion of Roy Rosenzweig, George Mason University, and with concurrence of Council, I am writing to the National Endowment for the Humanities, requesting information on the positions of their various divisions on funding proposals involving oral history. You will be kept advised on the progress of this exchange.

Pensacola Plans

Plans for the Pensacola conference are proceeding apace, thanks to the diligent work of the Program Committee (Hugh Ahmann, chair, Virginia Hamilton, Hubert Humphreys, Randall Lawrence, Madeline Buckendorf, and Kim Lady) and enticing plans by the Local Arrangements Committee (James Moody, Jr., chairman). The next issue of the *Newsletter* will report these plans in detail.

Should you be interested in extending your Pensacola visit with a stay at the beach, call 1-800-874-1234 to arrange for any type of housing accommodation.

* * *

Council is especially indebted to OHMAR President Linda Shopes and Secretary Marie Allen for the delicious and delightful dinner they arranged in our honor on the Saturday evening of our meeting. Some 40 OHMAR members joined OHA officers and Council in a social exchange that included a multi-course Chinese meal. Even hard-working Council members must occasionally stop and eat, and the OHMAR group made memorable that necessary function.

OHR EDITOR POSITION TO BE FILLED IN 1986

Applications are invited for appointment as editor of *The Oral History Review*, effective at the end of 1986. *OHR* Editor Arthur A. Hansen (California St. U.-Fullerton) has announced his intention to vacate his position at the close of his second three-year term. Hansen will remain as editor through 1986 and be responsible for the two issues of *OHR* in the association's twentieth year.

Letters of application, along with supporting information regarding institutional commitment, should be sent to Donald A. Ritchie, Chair, OHA Publications Committee, Senate Historical Office, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE ADDS REGIONAL REPS

The Association's vital membership committee is almost up to full strength again, thanks to the appointment of four new members. A standing body of OHA, the committee is responsible for aiding the growth of the Association in several ways.

Committee chair Madeline Buckendorf (Idaho State Hist. Soc.) recently welcomed the following new members: Marjorie Edens (Southern Oregon Hist. Soc.) for Idaho, Oregon, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Washington, British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan; James Fogerty (Minnesota Hist. Soc.) for North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Manitoba, and Ontario; Judy Haynes (Springfield, Ill.) for Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois; and Louis Marchiafava (Houston Metropolitan Research Center) for Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mexico, and other Latin-American areas. The committee will work to contact new and nonrenewing OHA members in 1985. Also planned is committee responsibility for distributing OHA membership materials at meetings of other, related professional organizations and a reception for new members at the 1985 OHA meeting in Pensacola, Florida.

TEACHING COMMITTEE ELEVATED IN STATUS

The OHA has a new standing committee to address the interests of those who apply oral history concepts in academic settings. After a one-year trial period, the Association's Special Committee on Teaching now has the Council's authorization to function as the Committee on Teaching.

Chaired by Barry Lanman (Baltimore County Schools), the committee consists of Frank Fonsino (Oakton Community C.), George Mehaffy (Eastern New Mexico U.), Richard Williams (Plum Borough [Pa.] H. S.), Bette Weidman (Queens C., CUNY), and Council liaison Thomas Charlton (Baylor U.). Several additional members will be appointed during 1985 to represent other geographical regions.

The committee's work is based on its belief that classroom oral history will grow over the next decade at a greater rate than it did during the preceding one. The Council-mandated mission of the Committee on Teaching is to promote, organize, assist, and professionalize the use of oral history as an educational methodology.

The committee has already selected both short- and long-range goals for itself. During its first two years the committee plans to lead special sessions for teachers at the OHA's annual meetings, develop two curriculum packages for teachers, establish a network of regional advisers in the United States, and develop and administer an

educational survey. The committee's two- and five-year goals include the establishment of a teacher's special interest group related to OHA, publication of its survey findings, publication of a technical leaflet or pamphlet for teachers, and the development of curriculum materials.

For the OHA's 1985 Annual Meeting, the committee promises to have complimentary curriculum packages available for teachers who attend sessions on oral history and teaching. Williams and Weidman are developing curriculum packages for secondary and elementary teachers and materials for college faculty members, respectively. To test the usefulness of the curriculum packages, the OHA will bear the expense of their production during the first year.

Questions and suggestions for the Committee on Teaching may be sent to Lanman at 1306 Hickory Springs Circle, Baltimore, MD 21228.

PAMPHLET SERIES DEBUTS

Oral History and the Law, by John A. Neuenschwander, the first volume of the Oral History Association Pamphlet Series, will roll off the presses early this summer. This long-awaited publication is the first in a series which will include pamphlets on such topics as oral history grantsmanship, equipment, and teaching. A new venture by OHA, the series is in response to numerous requests by oral historians for practical, timely works beyond the information and articles carried in the Association's current publications.

Neuenschwander, the series' inaugural author, is a professor of history at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, as well as a practicing attorney and judge. He is a former OHA president and has spoken and written widely on legal problems in the field of oral history.

In *Oral History and the Law*, Neuenschwander discusses the legal subjects of defamation, copyright, and contracts, offering specific examples of each and how problems in each of these areas can be avoided.

Joel Gardner (Louisiana Division of the Arts) is the editor of the OHA's new pamphlet series. "This first volume is most appropriate," he recently said, "because legal problems are on the mind of every beginning interviewer or project director. Anyone who teaches workshops or classes knows that there will always be a question about legal responsibilities. The pamphlet answers those questions."

Upon publication, *Oral History and the Law* will be available from the Association office at the price of \$4.00, with special discounts available for quantity purchases. Editor Gardner may be contacted at 1011 Forge Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, by those who have comments or questions about the content of the pamphlet series.

OHA BUSINESS

Ronald E. Marcello
Executive Secretary

A look at OHA's balance sheet going into 1985 seems to indicate that the organization is on sound financial footing. With a record profit of \$9,500 from the 1984 Annual Meeting in Lexington, OHA's assets totaled \$14,000 going into 1985. This balance, I believe, is the highest OHA has ever had.

However, in order to maintain a balanced budget, assure fiscal soundness, and enable the Association to increase services to its members and the general public, Council has decided to change OHA's dues structure. These changes, which call for a dues increase and an expansion of membership categories, were determined at Council's midwinter meeting in early March. Council will offer the following proposals for a vote by the membership at the 1985 Annual Meeting: (1) an individual membership with a dues structure of \$17 for regular members, \$25 for contributing members, \$12 for student members, and \$10 for the retired/unemployed; (2) an increase in the institutional membership to \$40; (3) the establishment of a membership category for sponsoring institutions at a level of \$100 per year. It should be emphasized again that these proposed changes will be subject to further discussion and modification in Pensacola.

The largest portion of the projected increase in income will go toward expanded publications services. As an example, to enhance OHA's position as a professional organization, a regular, second issue of *The Oral History Review* will be initiated in 1986. At the same time Council also voted to give each paid member of the Association in 1985 a copy of *Oral History and the Law*, which is the first of the pamphlets in the projected series. Council made this decision as a means of acquainting persons with the new pamphlet series and to ensure that this timely publication receive immediate attention and use. Further, beginning in 1986, one issue of the quarterly *Newsletter* will be expanded from 8 to 12 pages. [Ed. note: By special permission, the spring 1985 *Newsletter* has 12 pages to accommodate the large volume of news and articles received.]

It should be noted that there was not unanimity among Council members relative to these changes in the dues structure, neither in the increases in fees nor the modification in the membership categories. I urge members to study carefully the proposals and forward their comments and reactions to this office between now and the 1985 Annual Meeting.

LEXINGTON MEETING YIELDS POSITIVE EVALUATIONS

The experimental format of the 1984 OHA meeting in Lexington, Kentucky, received favorable evaluations from the 18 percent of participants who returned their questionnaires. A large majority of oral historians at Lexington generally liked the new program format of integrated workshop and topical sessions. A total of 88 percent (62 percent and 26 percent, respectively) either strongly agreed or agreed that the 1984 meeting format was preferable to the previous years' format. Over 95 percent indicated they had learned much in Lexington and would recommend OHA meetings of the new type to others.

Specific meeting features also drew positive responses from attendees. Receiving "excellent" and "good" percentage totals were the sessions with papers (80 percent), publisher and oral history exhibits (79 percent), featured speakers (73 percent), workshops (70 percent), presidential reception (67 percent), and panel sessions (62 percent). Registering the lowest approval percentages were the business meeting (30 percent), caucuses and round tables (35 percent), films (39 percent), and media sessions (42 percent).

Lexington participants praised the diversity of presentations in the new meeting format, the featured speakers, the ambience during the meeting, the good organization of the conference, the accessibility of Association officers and veteran members, the regional emphasis, and the welcome extended to newcomers. Some negative opinions were expressed about such subjects as the lack of availability of meal and tour tickets for on-site purchase, the concurrent sessions, and concern about the overall cost for each participant attending the 1984 meeting.

The results of the evaluation have been reported to the OHA Council and the 1985 Program Committee. The complete tabulation of the evaluation is available from the office of the Association executive secretary.

1986 PROGRAM CALL

The Oral History Association will convene in Long Beach, California, on 23-26 October 1986. The OHA Annual Meeting Program Committee invites members to propose speakers, papers, sessions, panels, and themes. Contact: Dale E. Treleven, Oral History Program, University of California, Los Angeles, 136 Powell Library, Los Angeles, CA 90024 (213) 825-1305.

PENSACOLA LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS PLANS SET FOR 1985 MEETING

James Moody (Historic Pensacola Preservation Board), local arrangements chair for the OHA 1985 Annual Meeting scheduled for 31 October-3 November in Pensacola, Florida, has announced the completion of plans for most of the activities and facilities which await the Association next fall.

The Pensacola Hilton Hotel will be the meeting headquarters and the site of all program sessions. Those participants desiring accommodations at hotels offering lower rates may wish to contact the nearby Sherman Inn or the Seville Inn.

The picturesque, historic grounds of Seville Square, three blocks from the Hilton, will be the scene of the Greater Gulf Coast Arts Festival during the OHA's meeting next fall. Featured will be more than 200 artists in a variety of media, three performing stages, and craft displays. The 1984 festival attracted artists from 24 states. The festival area will be in the heart of the Seville Historic District, location of numerous restored Victorian mansions and cottages which serve as museums, galleries, specialty shops, and restaurants.

A visit to the U.S. Naval Aviation Museum will be on the OHA program. Known as the "Cradle of Naval Aviation," the Pensacola Naval Air Station is home both to an active naval base which features the home port for the aircraft carrier U.S.S. *Lexington* and the museum featuring major exhibits showing early flight navigation, several generations of combat aircraft, and space-age technology.

Leisure-time activities planned by Moody and his committee include tours of the Pensacola area. Of special interest will be the bus tour to the Gulf Islands National Seashore and Fort Pickens, both of which are on nearby Santa Rosa Island. The fort served as a Civil War bastion and was later the site of the imprisonment of Apache chief Geronimo.

OHA participants interested in renting condos, houses, and other properties on the Pensacola beach are urged to make arrangements prior to the conference. For information about beach rentals, call Sheila Bowman, Pensacola Chamber of Commerce, (800) 874-1234.

CONNECTICUT ORAL HISTORY GREATER THAN THE SUM OF MANY PARTS

Almost a decade ago, the University of Connecticut's Oral History Project and Manchester Community College's Institute of Oral History conducted a survey of oral history activity in the state. A second survey occurred in 1984, revealing the demise and the continuation of older projects as well as the establishment of newer ones.

While only 11 out of 25 historical societies who reported in 1974 were still in existence, 22 new ones had been created. Some of the ambitious newcomers include the Bradley Air Museum, with 250 interviews on all phases of aviation history; and the Jewish Historical Society of New Haven, Inc., with 120 interviews on the Jewish experience in that city, which were integral parts of the publication *Jews in New Haven* (3 vols., New Haven, 1978, 1980, and 1981). The Darien Historical Society possesses 37 interviews on its transition from small town to suburb; the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford grew from 6 interviews in 1974 to 325, 10 years later. The Weston Historical Society's 2 interviews have grown to 30. German-Americans and former textile mill operatives comprise the Vernon collection of 22 interviews.

Many Connecticut projects have resulted in publications; the Mattatuck Museum's Brass Workers' History Project, for example, formed the basis for the book *Brass Valley* by Jeremy Brecher, Jerry Lombardi, and Jan Stackhouse.

At Norwalk Community College, students in the second half of the course of western civilization conduct interviews with veterans of the two world wars. Tapes are deposited in the Living History Series in the college library. NCC received an S&H Foundation grant to transcribe half of the collection. The project was instituted by Gloria P. Stewart. At Manchester Community College, the Institute of Local History is directed by John F. Sutherland. Their ongoing research centers around immigration, neighborhoods, and 65 interviews on working-class life at the Cheney Silk Mills. Students and faculty serve as interviewers; in 1981 the institute produced a photograph exhibition with a Connecticut Humanities Council grant.

Many university faculty members in the state conduct individual research using oral history. David Courtright (U. of Hartford) has conducted 75 interviews, funded by the New York Division of Substance Abuse Services, with persons involved in narcotics. Stanislaus A. Blejwas (Central Conn. St. C.) interviewed 30 persons as Polish Survivors of the Holocaust. Herbert Janick (Western Conn. St. U.) has compiled 50 interviews by students on the Danbury region. David E. Phillips (Eastern Conn. St. U.) has established the Connecticut Folk Archives; students in folklore classes have amassed 200 interviews. *Continued on page 9*

Connecticut Oral History

Continued from page 8

Peter Brazeau (St. Joseph C.) conducted 179 interviews with acquaintances of Wallace Stevens for his book *Parts of a World: Wallace Stevens Remembered*.

At Yale, Vivian Perlis continues her research on American music. Also at Yale, Laurel Vlock and Dori Laub have established the Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies. More than 250 videotaped interviews have resulted in the Emmy award winner "Forever Yesterday," and "About the Holocaust," a special documentary for secondary schools. Also ongoing is the Center for Oral History at the University of Connecticut. Under the direction of Bruce Stave, the center has 600 interviews on a variety of projects.

Eleven Connecticut libraries have local oral history projects. With a Connecticut Humanities Council grant, the Thomaston Library studied clockmakers. Other library projects include those at Pomfret, Greenwich, Bridgeport, and the Oliver Wolcott Library at Litchfield.

Secondary-school oral history projects include Bridgeport's Department of Youth Services and Living History Project in which high-school students interview elderly citizens on local topics. Also in Bridgeport, the Afro-American Educators Association has a Connecticut Humanities Council grant to study Bridgeport neighborhoods. Middle-school students interview for the Redding Oral History Project, which has resulted in two books. Some activity is also occurring at Bolton High School, Coventry, Norwich, and Manchester.

The above information is amplified with lists of projects, in the fall 1984 issue of *The Association for the Study of Connecticut History Newsletter*. Contact: John F. Sutherland, Manchester Community College, Manchester, CT 06040.

ORAL HISTORY GROUP FORMS IN MINNESOTA

After several years of discussion, the Oral History Association of Minnesota (OHAM) was formally organized in March 1985. The first of a projected series of meetings will be held as part of the annual meeting of Minnesota Historical Organizations, a forum that attracts representatives of many of the state's more than 300 county, municipal, and special-purpose historical organizations. Officers of OHAM are president, Lila J. Goff (Minn. Hist. Soc.); vice president, James E. Fogerty (Minn. Hist. Soc.); secretary-treasurer, Jean G. Toll (General Mills, Inc.); council, Edward P. Nelson (Iron Range Research Center), Gail Cullinan (Goodhue County Hist. Soc.), Barbara J. Sommer (Carlton County Hist. Soc.), and Bruce H. Bruemmer (Charles Babbage Inst., U. of Minn.). Contact: Goff, MHS, 690 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101 (612) 296-2150.

WYOMING ORAL HISTORIANS HOLD SECOND MEETING

The Wyoming Oral History and Folklore Association held its second major conference 22-23 February 1985 in Cody. The meeting featured six workshop sessions and two major addresses.

The meeting's principal speakers were Roger L. Welsch (U. of Nebraska-Lincoln), an anthropologist and author of *Mister, You Got Yourself A Horse* and *A Treasury of Nebraska Folklore*, and Mary Rothschild (Arizona St. U.), a historian in the field of women's studies. Welsch spoke on "What Is Folklore?" and Rothschild on the differences between women's and men's oral histories. Also on the program were Gary Wilson (Pinedale, Wy.), Laurie Rufe (Northwest Community C.), Don Hodgson (Eastern Wyoming C.), and Dave Spencer (Sound Ideas, Cheyenne).

A theatrical production, "Gold Camp to Ghost Town and Halfway Back," performed by members of the Atlantic City (Wyoming) Oral History Project, was staged at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center auditorium. The play was filmed by PBS station WCWC, from the campus of Central Wyoming College, for telecast in May 1985.

The 1985-86 WOHFA officers elected during the business meeting are: president, Rick Ewig (Wyoming St. Archives, Museums & History Dept.); vice president, Don Hodgson (Eastern Wyoming C.); secretary-treasurer, Jean Brainerd (Wyoming St. AMH Dept.); Council, Gary Wilson (Mountain Man Mus., Pinedale), Winifred Wasden (Northwest Community C.), Mike Menard (Fort Casper Mus.), and Patty Myers (Johnson County Lib., Buffalo). Ewig is in his second year as WOHFA president.

GRACO HISTORY STUDIED

The oral history of a major manufacturing company is the latest endeavor of the Minnesota Historical Society's Oral History Office. The Graco Inc. Oral History Project was developed by Charles F. Murphy, Graco vice president for community affairs, and James E. Fogerty, deputy state archivist at MHS. The company, a major manufacturer of fluid power systems, celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 1976, and the Graco Foundation funded the historical study in 1980. The first interviewee was Graco cofounder Russell J. Gray, who died in 1983; other company leaders and friends followed for a total of twelve interviewees. In 1987 Graco will begin creation of a published history, partly based on oral history, to celebrate its seventy-fifth anniversary. Tapes and transcripts are deposited at the Minnesota Historical Society. Contact: Fogerty, MHS, 1500 Mississippi St., St. Paul, MN 55101 (612) 296-6980.

SOUTHWESTERN OHA MEETS WITH PUBLIC HISTORIANS

The Southwestern Oral History Association (SOHA) met with the National Council for Public History on 25-27 April 1985 in Phoenix, Arizona. Speakers for the SOHA workshop on basic techniques included Corajane Jenkins (San Diego Hist. Soc.), Kristin Valentine (Arizona St. U.), Nancy Whistler (Ojai, Calif.), Dale Treleven (UCLA), and Elizabeth Brandt (Arizona St. U.). A panel session on oral history and preservation work was comprised of Ray Brandes (U. of San Diego), Michael C. Scardaville (U. of South Carolina), Andrew Gulliford (Bowling Green St. U.), and Carleen Lazzell (U. of New Mexico). The Oral History—Discipline or Technique session—featured Dale Carlisle (Cyprus Community C.), Stephen Colston (San Diego St. U.), David Hooper (Arizona Hist. Soc.), and Don Ray (Burbank, Calif.). Oral History in the Development of Biography consisted of panelists from Northern Arizona University: George Lubick, Steven Chambers, Monte Poen, and Philip Rulon. The Family History and Oral History as Business session featured Deni Stevenson (Lifetapes), Kristina Minister (Oral History Center, Inc.), Gary Shumway (Calif. St. U.—Fullerton), and Elizabeth A. Wright (Family Oral History).

U.S. SENATE STAFF ORAL MEMOIRS COMPLETED

The U.S. Senate Historical Office Oral History Collection now has available 10 interviews with retired Senate staff members. Begun in 1976, the project was the first attempt to record the memories and experiences of the Senate staff. These individuals, usually professionally anonymous, worked behind the scenes to draft speeches and legislation, attend to parliamentary and records procedures, and generally make the legislative process function. Their recollections are now available on microfiche as well as in their original forms.

The subjects of the interviews, for the most part, were among the first generation of professional Senate staff members, whose appointments followed the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Their years of government experience span from the Truman to the Reagan administrations, and they saw hundreds of senators arrive or depart from the national political scene. Interviewees in the collection have worked as reporters, Capitol policemen, chiefs of staff, pages, clerks, aides, secretary to the Senate, and Senate parliamentarian.

OHMAR MOVES ITS TENT TO NEW JERSEY

Oral History and the Community: An Introspective View was the theme of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region's meeting on 30 March 1985 on the Rutgers University, Camden campus. The keynote address by Deborah S. Gardner (New York Stock Exchange and the Inst. for Research in Hist.) was on "The Importance of Being Earnest: The Varied Communities of Oral History."

Concurrent sessions included The Basics of Oral History: Interviewing, Processing and Funding, with Alice M. Hoffman (Penn. St. U.), Perry K. Blatz (N.J. Hist. Comm.), and Maria S. Pappalardo (Penn. Humanities Cncl.); and Labor History and Oral History, featuring Frank McKelvey (Hagley Mus.), David Paskin (United Auto Workers), and Philip Scranton (Rutgers U.-Camden). Presenters in the session Oral History in the Classroom were William Fernekes (Hunterdon Central H.S.), Roderick McDonald (Rider C.), Susan Sorkenn (Eric S. Smith School), and Allen Howard (Rutgers U.-New Brunswick), while the session Afro-American

History and Oral History included Charles Hardy (Atwater-Kent Mus.), Gilbert Ware (Drexel U.), and Elinor Sinnette (Howard U.).

The final part of the meeting included a session on Afro-American History and the History of Race Relations in Four New Jersey Communities, with Priscilla Anderson (Township of Willingboro), Dorothy Conley (Assn. for the Study of Afro-American Life and Hist.), Clarence H. Still (family history), Gwendolyn Roberts (Teaneck Public Lib.), and Giles R. Wright (N.H. Hist. Comm.). Also presented was a session on Corporate History, Ethnic History, and Community History: Three Oral History Projects from Carol Dreyfus (Smithsonian Archives Center), Howard L. Green (N.J. Hist. Comm.), and Matthew Magda (Penn. Hist. and Mus. Comm.).

Cosponsors of the meeting were the Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission, the Camden County Historical Society, the Department of History at Rutgers University, Camden, and the New Jersey Historical Commission.

INDIANA U. BEGINS JOURNAL OF ORAL HISTORY AND FOLKLORE

Indiana Folklore and Oral History made its debut in January 1985, resuming as Volume 14, No. 1, of the previously published *Indiana Folklore*. The Indiana Historical Society is providing partial funding. Published at Indiana University, Bloomington, by the Folklore Institute and the Oral History Research Center, the journal's editorial board consists of editors Linda Dégh and John Bodnar, associate editor Jeanne Harrah-Conforth, managing editor Inta Gale Carpenter, and subscriptions manager Velma Carmichael. Oral history offerings in the first publication include "The Bloomington Jaycees' Haunted House" by Sabina Magliocco and "Remembering Black Indianapolis" by Greg Stone.

Contact: Dégh and Bodnar, 504 N. Fess, Bloomington, IN 47405.

RURAL VIRGINIAN TRADITIONS GATHERED

The essence of Patrick County, Virginia—its people, traditions, points of pride and struggles—has been captured in an oral history project called Patrick County: Continuity and Change in a Rural Community.

Through a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and the Blue Ridge Regional Library have documented the vital role played by tradition and culture in shaping the past and determining the present of Patrick County.

Begun in 1980, the project has produced more than 100 oral history interviews, now cataloged; nine folklife programs; five slide-tape programs on growing up in Patrick County, migration, community life, making a living and hard times; a 30-minute film; and a collection of photographs and slides of life in rural Virginia from the late nineteenth century to the present.

"We wanted to work with people in thinking about their community heritage, values, how things were changing and whether they wanted them to change or not and in what way," Jean Jaskell Speer, senior folklorist for the project, said. "We discussed continuity and change and what's worth holding onto."

Trained interviewers in the county talked with more than 100 county residents about tradition and culture, including trundle beds, molasses boilings, bean stringings, duck plucking for pillows, and bed ticks. The Virginia Tech library has



Interviewing and filming the Foddrell Brothers, traditional blues musicians, at their store in Patrick County.

cassette tapes of the interviews, background information on the interviewees, a subject index to the information on the tapes, newspaper clippings, and photographs. All the originals are in the Patrick County Library, and Virginia Tech holds the copyright on them. Materials at both libraries are available to the public.

The slide-tape programs and film have been shown several times in Patrick

County, according to Mary Britt, codirector of the Reynolds Homestead with her husband David. Families of people who have died since the interviews have come to listen to the tapes of their relatives, she said. "It means something to Patrick County people that there are permanent records of their relatives," Britt said.

Contact: Sally Harris, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061 (703) 961-6668.

NEA/OH 1985 MEETING FEATURES STERN; NEW OFFICERS AND KANTOR AWARDEE RECOGNIZED

The recent eleventh annual meeting of the New England Association of Oral History (NEA/OH) marked the beginning of the first regional oral history organization's second decade. The 1985 NEA/OH conference was held at Northeastern University in Boston.

The program of the 1985 meeting was chaired by R. Wayne Anderson (Northeastern U.), vice president of the association. Sessions on Oral History in the Fields and Factories, Oral History in the Classroom and Community, and Oral History in the Archives presented speakers and discussions for a broad audience. Sheldon Stern (JFK Lib.), the featured speaker, gave a presentation on "The John F. Kennedy Library: A Twenty-Year Perspective."

NEA/OH also selected its officers for 1985-86. Elected at the business meeting were president, R. Wayne Anderson (Northeastern U.); vice president, James Findlay (U. of Rhode Island); council, three-year terms, Richard Sweterlitsch (U. of Vermont) and Pamela Wood (SALT, Kennebunkport, Me.), and two-year term, Lamont Thomas (Bolton [Conn.] H.S.). Continuing on the NEA/OH council are Linda Wood (South Kingston [R.I.] H.S.) until 1987; and Charles Weiner (Massachusetts Inst. of Technology), and E. John B. Allen (Plymouth [New Hamp.] St. C.) until 1986.

The recipient of the annual Harvey A. Kantor Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Oral History was Ruth Edmonds Hill of the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College. Hill was honored for her Black Women Oral History Project funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, National Institute on Aging, Ford Foundation, and other funding agencies. A photograph exhibition based on this project, *Women of Courage*, is currently touring the U.S. Her latest research, *Women in the Federal Government Oral History Project*, is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Kantor Award recognizes sustained contributions in (1) published works, (2) development of archives, (3) production of documentaries, (4) innovative classroom work, and (5) theatrical productions related to the field of oral history. The late Harvey A. Kantor, a founder of NEA/OH, was a historian at the University of Rhode Island.

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Michigan Oral History Council's winter meeting, held on 26 January 1985, featured Lynne Brooks-Finn's presentation on her oral history experiences in the state of Washington during the 1940s. As a student at Eastern Washington University, she recorded the folk history of the waning American frontier by interviewing cowboys, drifters, and Indians during Washington's 50th anniversary of statehood.

The Historic Preservation Conference of the Texas Historical Commission, 2-4 May 1985, in Fort Worth, included a session on Oral History Interviewing: Techniques and Advice taught by Gerald D. Saxon (Dallas Public Lib.).

The Society of American Archivists' four-day workshop on Business Archives: The Basics and Beyond, 20-23 May, in Dallas, included Thomas L. Charlton (Baylor U.) speaking on preservation of the individual experience in the corporate environment.

More than 120 Alaskans gathered at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage in October to hear 10 papers on a variety of oral history topics. William Schneider (U. of Alaska) organized the conference.

Feather River College, Quincy, California, offered historic preservation workshops, including oral history, during the 1984-85 school year. The workshops were taught by Mary Rehwald, director of the Plumas Community History Project (PCHP), and Charles James, archeologist for the Plumas National Forest, and were funded by the California State Office of Historic Preservation. The PCHP is in its third year; projects include student interviews available through the Quincy public library and five workshops in Northern California community colleges. Contact: Rehwald, Feather River College, P.O. Box 1110, Quincy, CA 95971.

Jessie L. Embry and William G. Hartley (both of Brigham Young U.) presented workshops on oral and family history at the Annual Family History and Genealogical Research Conference at BYU 31 July-3 August 1984. Copies of their presentations are available from Conferences and Workshops, BYU, Provo, UT 84602, for \$5.00 each.

The Oral History Project, Social Sciences Research Institute, University of Hawaii at Manoa, sponsored From Memories to History, a one-day workshop in Wailuku, Maui, on 17 November 1984. Warren Nishimoto and Michi Kodama-Nishimoto (both of OHP) taught the group, which included many from the Maui Homemakers Extension Club.

GRANTS

The American Association for State and Local History Oral History Research Center, Indiana University, \$1,209, to examine the historical and functional role of blues music in the adaptation of blacks in the industrial North from 1920-1960.

Roy Rosenzweig, George Mason University, \$2,932, to research and write a social history of New York's Central Park, providing a case study of the development, use, maintenance, and control of urban public space.

California Council for the Humanities

Southwest Oral History Association, \$500, a planning grant, to develop a full proposal to the CCH to be submitted in the category, "Development of Humanities Resources."

National Endowment for the Humanities

The Western Jewish History Center of the Judah L. Magnes Museum, \$54,000, to publish a catalog of its archival and oral history collections.

The Hoover Institution at Stanford University

The Oral History of Iran Archives at the Foundation for Iranian Studies, \$6,000, to begin translating oral history transcripts from Persian into English.

New York State Council on the Arts

Port Washington Public Library, \$20,000, for "It Looks Like Yesterday to Me," an exhibition on Afro-American families on Long Island.

NEWS

The Montana Legislature is expected to fund three oral history projects in the state. Using Cultural and Aesthetic Projects funds for 1986-88, the legislature appears to be prepared to continue two ongoing projects and one new project. Traditional stories and personal histories are being recorded in the Rocky Boy Tribal Elders projects, which is seeking an additional two years of funding. Continued funding may also be granted to the Montana Historical Society for expansion and utilization of its previous projects. A new project is likely to be established at the Fort Peck Tribal Archives to record Sioux and Assiniboine Indian ceremonies. Final approval of H.B. 940 is expected in the House and Senate.

National Public Radio has available a free catalog of programs broadcast. Oral historians interested in the use of interviews on public-radio programs may wish to have access to tapes on a range of subjects from the Foxfire method to conversations with a variety of regional and national figures of prominence. Contact: NPR Cassette Publishing, 2025 M Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

The Oral History of Iran Program at the Foundation for Iranian Studies has begun a joint undertaking with the Oral History Research Office at Columbia University to interview 30 Americans with first-hand knowledge of Iranian affairs. Contact: Mahnaz Afkhami, OHIP, 4801 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Suite 670, Washington, DC 20016 (202) 686-1224.

Continued on page 12

There were 1,642 members of the Oral History Association on 31 March 1985.

The Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at Brigham Young University continues to encourage oral history activity. Director Thomas G. Alexander has conducted 100 interviews with employees of the U.S. Forest Service for a contract history of the Intermountain Region. Daniel Tyler (Colorado St. U.) was the center's summer fellow for 1984. He is interviewing farmers and government officials in his study of undocumented Mexican Workers.

The Ketchum [Idaho] Community Library's new Regional History Department includes 185 oral history tapes. The collection began with 20 interviews done by Miriam Breckonridge on the area's sheep industry. Other topics include mining, Chinese settlement, and the development of the Sun Valley resort area. Contact: Ginger Piottter, Regional History Department, Ketchum Community Library, P.O. Box 2168, Ketchum, ID 83340.

Alaskans continue to gather interviews on the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps after the CCC's 50th anniversary in 1983. Conner Sorensen is interviewing in southeastern Alaska, while Dale Stirling has gathered material in the Chugach National Forest area and plans to work with the Prince William Sound Community College oral history program to interview CCC veterans in the Valdez/Copper River region.

Michael H. Frisch (SUNY-Buffalo) has been elected to the council of the American Studies Association. His term of office will be through 1987.

Edna Jordan Smith (Baton Rouge, La.) taught local teachers in a course entitled "Exploring Louisiana's Black Canadian Heritage" at Southern University. Tapes on a variety of local topics have been deposited at SU.

Betty Orbeck, archivist at the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum in Midland, Texas, has added 100 interviews to the museum's collection since 1976. She previously assisted Samuel D. Myres in interviewing 200 persons for *The Permian Basin: Petroleum Empire of the Southwest*. Contact: Orbeck, PBPM, 1500 Interstate 20 West, Midland, TX 79701 (915) 683-4403.

Pacific Lutheran University's Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection includes the project New Lands—New Lives: Scandinavian Experience in the Northwest. Funded by the L. J. Skaggs and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation of Oakland, California, interviews with 178 persons are supplemented with 42 interviews from other immigrant projects. Janet Rasmussen is preparing a book based on the project. Contact: Rasmussen, Dept. of Languages, PLU, Tacoma, WA 98447.

Keith Petersen and Mary Reed (Pullman, Washington) have concluded a research project on environmentalist Virgil T. McCroskey of Whitman County. The project, funded by the Washington Commission for the Humanities, resulted in a traveling exhibit and an interpretive booklet. The indexed tapes are at the Whitman County Historical Society.

The Sound and Moving Image Division of the British Columbia Provincial Archives receives oral history materials from Behind the Kitchen Door (interviews with Victoria and Vancouver women), Guides of the Canadian Rockies, and the British Columbia Legal History Project. Contact: Provincial Archives of British Columbia, Victoria, B.C., Canada V8V 1X4.

The Regional Oral History Office (ROHO) at the University of California, Berkeley, has 70 interviews documenting the governorship of Ronald Reagan as a part of its continuing projects on governors' administrations. Project director Gabrielle Morris reports that completed interviews are available at cost to noncirculating libraries. ROHO's Judith Dunning is focusing on shipping and shipbuilding in Richmond,

California, with a grant from the California Council on the Humanities. Three chronological divisions will document the growth of the area into a deep-water port, the changes brought by the World War II shipbuilding industry and its departure in the fifties, and the value of waterfront land. Contact: ROHO, General Library, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720 (415) 642-7395.

The Montana Folklife Project (MFP) interviewed former U.S. Forest Service smokejumpers during the smokejumpers' three-day national reunion in Missoula 20-22 July 1984. The 80 tapes will be deposited at the Mansfield library and archives at the University of Montana in Missoula. Michael Korn, MFP director, is interviewing horse and mule packers to document packing in West Montana. Contact: Korn, MFP, Montana Arts Council, 35 N. Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59620 (406) 444-6430.

Daren Jorgenson-Ismaili demonstrates oral history in units on local history in elementary classrooms in the Berkeley, California, school district. She is also an adviser for the Clio project of the University of California and the state's Department of Education which will strengthen public-school curriculum and teaching of history and social sciences as mandated by recent state legislation. Contact: Jorgenson-Ismaili at (415) 530-2416.

OHR DELAY

Council and officers wish to apologize for any inconveniences caused by the delay in the distribution of the 1984 *Oral History Review*. Unforeseen technical problems, personnel changes, and a larger-than-usual issue are the sources of the problem. Although the Association's bylaws instruct the executive secretary to terminate membership for those whose dues are in arrears after March 1, such mandate will not be carried out until he is assured that each member for 1984 has received his/her copy of the *Review* for that year.

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, 565-3385 or 2549. Address editorial matters to: Thomas L. Charlton, Editor, Baylor University, CSB Box 401, Waco, TX 76798. (817) 755-3437. Associates: Adelaide S. Darling, Harriet H. Fadal, Rebecca S. Jimenez, David Stricklin. Deadlines: Jan. 1, Apr. 1, July 1, Oct. 1. Articles should be limited to 400 words and may be edited. Copyright 1985 Oral History Association, Incorporated.

Oral History Association Newsletter
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