



ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER

Documenting the Roots of Blues, Paying the Interviewees

The Original Down Home Blues Show

Walter Liniger
Blues Archive, University of Mississippi

An oral history project documenting the roots of the blues has led to a series of radio programs called *The Original Down Home Blues Show*. The show is the product of the collaboration between the Blues Archive, a branch of the J. D. Williams Library at the University of Mississippi, and Media Productions International, Inc. (MPI) of Memphis, Tennessee.

Documenting the history of the blues through interviews with the artists has always been the goal of the Blues Archive. To date ten persons have been interviewed, resulting in twenty-four radio shows which have been broadcast on National Public Radio. Since blues is a marketable form of oral history, we felt morally obligated to secure the rights of the informants and to pay them a fee for their contributions. Our research turned up evidence that in most cases informants in oral history projects had not been paid. Moreover, the financial situation at the University of Mississippi did not allow us to start such a program with these moral and ethical guidelines.

In the fall of 1986 we were approached by Craig Lee Koon of MPI. MPI offered to pay the material costs and the informants' fees and to secure pertinent copyrights in exchange for the use of the Blues Archive's resources—research materials, interviews, and my expertise as blues staff researcher. We felt that the project was a very worthwhile one to pursue. In addition to the radio series, we have developed an increasing archival collection of original fieldwork. If there are any royalties from the shows, the interviewees receive them.

Since we are interested in the personalities behind the music, the interviews cover the educational, social, religious

and moral aspects of each musician's community. Many of the informants have never been interviewed before, a fact which allows us access to "unspoiled and unrehearsed" stories and opinions.

We also let the interviewees select the records that are played on the show. This gives the informants a certain control over the interview, and it reveals a deeper insight into their sense of memory of place and time. Blues players have often been compared to the "griot" in the African tribal system. The "griot" was the storyteller, singer, and historian of the tribe. In a sense the blues player once

had a similar function: He/she processed and voiced in his/her own way the emotional undertones of the black community.

Many of the people whom we interview have always lived in the rural South. Remaining in touch with their immediate roots, they provide valuable sources for our program. They offer an educational source for us while we serve as a forum for the artists. Mr. Lee Andres "Cotton" Howell, who is 76 years old, expresses this well:

Continued on p. 2



Wilburt Lee Reliford on the blues harmonica at the Seventh Annual Northeast Mississippi Blues and Gospel Festival at Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi, September 13, 1986. (Photo by G. Michael Wall, courtesy of the Blues Archive, University of Mississippi)

Blues, *continued from p. 1*

Interviewer: Cotton, what does the blues offer to you today?

Howell: Oh well, it helps me along. It brings up stories and memories with my friends, we'd be sittin' and talkin', you know. Ain't that many left.

Our oral history project documents and preserves the attitudes, experiences, imageries, values, and memories of a generation which is dwindling day by day. Through the *Original Down Home Blues Show* the results of this documentation are spread throughout the communities, thus sharing the memories of the elders.

Home Economists Urged to Use OH to Document Everyday Life

Nineteen eighty-eight is the 100th anniversary of the Hatch Act, which established home economics in land grant universities throughout the country. In the fall 1987 issue of the *Journal of Home Economics*, Roberta Null and Carolyn Balkwell urge other home economists to use this centennial celebration as the occasion to develop oral history programs.

Aimed particularly at teachers of home economics, the article points out

that oral history not only promotes intergenerational understanding but also can provide historical data on home and family life which benefits the whole field of home economics.

Null and Balkwell suggest three approaches to historical research. The first approach is based on one developed at Valhalla High School in El Cajon, California. The entire sophomore class—around 300 students each year for the past five years—participates. For the most part, the program seems to follow the Foxfire method, except the focus is not on producing a publication. In Valhalla, students view the film *On Golden Pond* to examine the interaction between a teenager and an elderly person. The project culminates in an open house and reception honoring the interviewees.

The second method is based on that used to train staff members in Old Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts. Workers study in depth specific, real-life families of the early 19th century. Used in the classroom, a laboratory technique like that introduces students to the types of materials historians use in their research and to the ways in which these materials are analyzed.

Null and Balkwell suggest gathering demographic data and artifacts from the families of the students, conducting oral histories with family members, and then having students use all forms of data to look at their families analytically. This approach evokes both personal interest and awareness of historical change, making it easier for students to develop an understanding of the past.

The third approach involves "picturing" the family through photographs brought into the classroom. Using photographs along with interviews provides an opportunity to discuss rituals, material culture, values, and the influence of the environment on behavior.

Null and Balkwell also propose the use of oral history in extension programs which work with the elderly and in university classes in home economics. In the latter case, they suggest using oral history research data in marriage and family relations classes to provide points of discussion on values, lifestyles, and expectations.

EXCERPTS

The Blues Archive oral history project at Ole Miss uses field reports as an additional form of documentation. They are based on preliminary visits with the informants and present "subjectively processed impressions." This report was filed after a visit and February 13, 1987. Reliford is legally blind and suffers from diabetes.

... Wilbur's doors are always closed and locked; he doesn't need any light as his blindness creates a scenery of its own; there are no pictures on the walls which could explain and answer all the unasked questions; as usual, the smells of biscuits, beans, and fatback drift through the house. Wilbur's loud and booming voice fills the emptiness in his eyes.

Wilbur Lee is easily scared: the world he lives in is full of violence, broadcast over his small battery-operated radio. As usual, he unlocks the front door, then immediately retreats into the kitchen and hallway towards his bedroom. His bare feet shuffle across the stone floor, his hands slide along the walls for guidance. He talks to us with his back turned, shouting his questions into the darkness of his bedroom. It took close to an hour for Wilbur to feel at ease.

Most of his songs are about women. He is leaning back in his chair, his huge, strong hands molding the wailing and moaning sounds of his harp [harmonica]—at times it looks as if he is praying, the small harp cradled between his palms, singing through the opening. He even has put on his dark sunglasses—"I looks like—what's this fellow's name? Ray Charles . . . They tell me he is blind, too, just like me," and he plays some of the purest country harp I have ever heard.

Two of his children live close by, and they take care of his immediate needs. But he is alone in his night, in his world of sounds and schemes which only he can decipher. And they are not as sweet and friendly as his memories are. At the end of the interview I ask him, if there was anything that he would like to say to all the listeners of the program. "All I want to say is that people should live in peace with each other. They should do right; like you treat me the way you want me to treat you. I pray to Lord every day for that. He will make things right, I know that. He is my friend. He tells me that. It might take longer, till after I'm gone, but I hope people learn. God bless you."

Walter Liniger
University of Mississippi
February 1987

One-Woman Project Documents Lives of U.S. Women Ambassadors

In 1985 former Ambassador Jean Wilkowski suggested to Ann Miller Morin that she conduct an oral history project on women ambassadors. A foreign service wife, Morin latched on to the idea immediately and launched an oral history project which now includes more than 160 hours of tape. With funding furnished from private sources and a \$10,000-grant from former Ambassador Anne Cox Chambers, Morin interviews women who have been chiefs of U.S. Diplomatic Missions.

Forty-four women have served as ambassadors from the United States since the first, Ruth Bryan Owen, was appointed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1933. (Jimmy Carter appointed the most women—fifteen.) To date, Morin has interviewed 31 of the surviving 34, including one newly-appointed diplomatic chief. "She allowed me to follow her through all

the steps to becoming an ambassador, concluding with her swearing-in ceremony," Morin related. Morin has had to spend most of her grant money on travel, so only a few of the interviews have been transcribed so far. She points out that "much money must be raised before the whole collection can be done."

Morin's project is one of three being encouraged by the Association for Diplomatic Studies (ADS). The Senior Officer Project is being conducted by the George Washington University Foreign Service History Center, which is under contract to ADS. Financed by a Dillon Fund grant, the project includes oral history interviewing and conducting a bibliographic survey of oral history holdings related to foreign affairs in libraries throughout the country.

The third project supported by the Association for Diplomatic Studies is

the Foreign Service Family Oral History Project. Directed by four Foreign Service wives—Jewell Fenzi, Hope Meyers, Penny Laingen, and Mary Louise Weiss—the project chronicles life in the foreign service as far back as 1919.

The ADS hopes to expand its oral history projects and its ability to support researchers in the field of foreign affairs. The association also plans to interview senior foreign service officials as they retire. For more information contact ADS, 1400 Key Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22209. Ann Miller Morin can be reached at 3727 Chesapeake Street NW, Washington, DC, 20016.

New Directory of Oral History Collections Published

Allen Smith of Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts, has compiled the *Directory of Oral History Collections*, published this year by Oryx Press. In the Preface, Smith points out that his intention was not to provide a registry of oral history projects but to supply information on oral history collections which "allow access to qualified researchers."

The directory has catalogued the most recent information on almost 500 collections throughout the United States. The data is based on responses from questionnaires sent to every institution or individual, public or private, large or small, possibly related to oral history research. Each entry lists the notable holdings and conditions of access, as well as the locations and hours of operation of each center. A subject index and interviewee index are also included.

Smith proposes to "act as a clearinghouse or registry of oral history collections and to provide interim information" between this volume and future editions. He adds, "We would appreciate hearing from any public or private collection that we have missed." Contact him at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA 02115.



Jean M. Wilkowski, career U.S. diplomat and ambassador to Zambia, 1972-76, greets Pope John Paul during his visit to Washington, D.C. in 1979. It was Wilkowski who first suggested to Ann Miller Morin an oral history project on women in the diplomatic corps.

From the President

Ronald J. Grele

Sorry, folks! It's time to talk about money again. Each year it becomes more and more difficult for the Association to underwrite its program. Despite the fact that we increased dues five years ago, we are still very close to the line. I know you all know about and appreciate the great expansion of services within the Oral History Association over those years, but I will repeat them again. We have moved from the publication of one issue of the *Review* each year to two; the first extra edition being the extraordinarily rich and thoughtful special issue on field-work methodology. We have also moved to enlarge the *Review* and to make it more inclusive of all of the interests of the membership. In that same time we have moved ahead our schedule on our pamphlet series; the second, on Oral History and Education, will be out this year. In addition, those of you who have been able to attend our last three Annual Meetings have probably noticed the great expansion of audio-video presentations and their increasing sophistication. That is part of our drive to keep you all abreast of as many of the latest developments in the field as we possibly can. The Council has also increased participation by expanding the committee system within the OHA.

All of this costs money, but I am sure no one in the Association would want us to cut back on services; such as going

The proposed dues structure is based on income rather than type of membership to avoid increasing dues for those least able to pay.

back to one issue of the *Review*, cancelling one of the planned pamphlets, or ruling out program presentations using sophisticated audio-video equipment. Therefore at its Mid-Winter meeting the Oral History Association Council voted to recommend to the membership a new dues structure to be presented to the membership at the Baltimore meeting in October. The new structure, which passed by a unanimous vote, follows the model now used by most scholarly organizations. It is based upon income rather than type of membership. It is our hope that in this way we can avoid increasing dues for those least able to pay, and, at the same time increase the overall income from dues. We will propose the following schedule:

Annual Income	Dues
Under \$10,000	\$15.00
\$10,000-\$25,000	\$25.00
\$25,000-\$40,000	\$35.00
Above \$40,000	\$45.00

Life memberships would be increased to \$500, Institutional memberships to \$50.00 and Library memberships to \$35.00. This is, in essence, the proposal which your Council will make in Baltimore. We would like to encourage members to express their opinions on this issue, either in writing to any member of the Council or to the Newsletter.

It was with a certain amount of hesitation that we made this recommendation, but the truth is our dues have always been very low, and that the organization needs the income if it is to survive and continue to offer the kinds of services our members demand and expect.



More OH Workshops for the Summer

In addition to the summer oral history courses mentioned in the winter newsletter, the following are being offered:

Oral History in the Media Workshop Augusta Heritage Arts Center, Elkins, West Virginia, July 17-22

Taught by David Mould, a freelance producer and professor at Ohio University, the course is designed to help people who collect interviews to present them to a wider audience. The course costs about \$160. For information on the Augusta Heritage Arts Program in general, call 304/636-1903. For information on the oral history workshop, contact Mould at 614/593-4873, or write him at School of Telecommunications, Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701.

Oral History Intensive Course Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, June 13-July 1

Taught by Cullom Davis, director of the Oral History Office at Sangamon State University, the three-week course is designed for beginners. Three credit hours can be earned, and can be applied toward a graduate certificate in Archival Administration. Contact Phillip Mason, Director, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202, telephone 313/577-4003.

June 3-7	American Association of Museums	Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 13-July 1	Oral History Intensive Course Wayne State University	Detroit, Mich.
June 10-12	Southern Conference on Women's History	Spartanburg, S.C.
July 5-15	Morrissey Oral History Workshop	Portland, Ore.
July 9-14	American Library Association	New Orleans, La.
July 17-22	Oral History in the Media Workshop Augusta Heritage Arts Center	Elkins, W. Va.
August 1-5	Morrissey Oral History Workshop	Montpelier, Vt.
Sept. 14-17	American Association for State and Local History	Rochester, N.Y.
Sept. 29-Oct. 2	Society of American Archivists	Atlanta, Ga.
Oct. 12-15	Western History Association	Wichita, Kan.
Oct. 13-16	Oral History Association	Baltimore, Md.
Oct. 26-30	American Folklore Society	Boston, Mass.
Nov. 9-12	Southern Historical Association	Norfolk, Va.
Dec. 28-30	American Historical Association	Cincinnati, Oh.

Committee on Multiculturalism Established

At its midwinter meeting, the Council of the Oral History Association voted to establish a Committee on Multiculturalism in the Oral History Association. The purpose of the Committee is to insure adequate participation and representation of people of color within the OHA. The Committee will make suggestions to other committees on how to effect this participation, such as suggestions to the Program Committee for the annual meetings or recommendations to the Membership Committee, etc. Nominations are now being accepted for service on the Committee. Any member interested in serving, or any member with a suggestion of another member who might be willing to serve is asked to contact Ronald Grele, President, Department of History, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA 92717.

New Committee Will Begin Updating the Evaluation Guidelines

Following the Annual Meeting in St. Paul, OHA President Ron Grele appointed a committee consisting of Ron Marcello and Don Ritchie to study the *Evaluation Guidelines*, which were published in 1980, and offer recommendations for additions or revisions.

The following suggestions were discussed and approved by the council at its mid-winter meeting at Baltimore in February:

1. The general format of the *Evaluation Guidelines* should be maintained, since they encourage a flexibility that enables individuals and programs to adjust according to local conditions and still maintain standards acceptable to OHA.
2. There is no cause for removing any part of the current *Evaluation Guidelines*, but there are certain issues that need to be added: (a) teaching and (b) videotaping.
3. There should be a major overhaul of the ethical/legal section due to recent court cases and interpretations of the law.
4. The *Evaluation Guidelines* should address the responsibilities of interviewers not affiliated with any archival or institutional collection on issues ranging from citation to verification and accessibility of interviews used in publications. Further, the question of restricting interviews also needs to be reexamined in light of recent initiatives by federal historians.
5. There are not enough issues to justify the time and expense of a separate, Wingspread-type conference. Instead, the president will use existing committees, and appoint *ad hoc* committees, to address the specific issues identified above. To make the process thoroughly democratic—and to gather as many perspectives as possible—these committees will offer their recommendations for discussion and adoption of a series of special sessions at the 1989 Annual Meeting in Galveston.

OHA's standing Committee on Teaching will address issues concerning oral history and teaching. In addition, OHA is soliciting volunteers for the *ad hoc* committees that will be organized

to address the areas of: (a) videotaping (b) legal/ethical, and (c) non-affiliated oral history interviews. Interested members who wish to serve on any of the *ad hoc* committees should notify Ron Grele.

—Ron Marcello

Notes from the Executive Secretary

Richard Smith, newly appointed OHA Executive Secretary, officially began his term of office at Council's midwinter meeting in Baltimore. The Oral History Association is now headquartered in the Oral History Program at UCLA's Powell Library.

In preparation for the changeover, I spent considerable time reviewing and sorting the files that had accumulated during the past two and a half years. Several boxes were sent to the OHA archives at North Texas State University, but the majority were shipped, along with OHA's publications, to UCLA. Membership renewals continued to be received and entered into the computer at the Kentucky headquarters through March 31. All of this information has now been forwarded to Richard and the transition of the office is almost completed.

I have enjoyed serving as executive secretary. It has been a pleasure to meet and work with many of you. I look forward to continuing an active participation in OHA and seeing you at future annual meetings.

—Anne Campbell

Foreign Students Helped to Attend Annual Meetings

The Institute for International Education has awarded a grant to the Oral History Association which will allow the OHA to help foreign students attend its annual meetings. Students must be enrolled full-time in a graduate program in an institution of higher learning here in the U.S.

The OHA can now make small grants to eligible foreign students who wish to attend the annual meeting in Baltimore next October. Mini-grants will also be available to foreign students in the Baltimore area to cover casual expenses. The grant is part of the Short Term Enrichment Program (STEP) of the IIE, a federal agency.

For more information or application, contact Carl Ryant, Department of History, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky 40292, telephone 502/588-6817.

New Address for OHA Headquarters

Richard Candida Smith
Executive Secretary
Oral History Association
1093 Broxton Avenue #720
Los Angeles, California 90024

Telephone: 213/825-0597

Report from the Planning Committee

1988 OHA Annual Meeting

Andor Scotnes, Co-chair
Program Committee

At this writing, the main contours of the 1988 Oral History Association Annual Meeting—to be held at the Belvedere Hotel in Baltimore, October 13-16, 1988—are in place, and the program and local arrangement committees are filling in the details. Below is a summary of some of the major elements of the emerging conference program.

Conference Theme: The theme for the conference is oral history and community history, with emphasis on the history of Afro-Americans and people of color. While in the past, OHA conference themes have been of secondary importance, our program committee has worked to make this theme central to the whole 1988 conference. The goal is to make this conference as multicultural as possible, both in content and in social composition; we also hope to draw oral history practitioners of all types, from academics, to public school teachers, to community historians activists. Our hope is that success in these regards will help the OHA transform itself into a more multicultural, multi-ethnic, socially variegated organization in the longer term.

Plenary Programs: Aside from the opening session and the business meeting, there will be four plenary programs, each relating directly to the conference theme. After dinner on Thursday, October 13, we will be welcomed to Baltimore by two veterans of the Civil Rights Movement: Juanita Jackson Mitchell, a leader in the Baltimore and national NAACP since the early 1930s, and Kurt Schmoke, mayor of Baltimore. Following will be a keynote address by another Civil Rights veteran, Bernice Johnson Reagon, now director of the Program in Black American Culture at the Smithsonian; the tentative title of the address is "Oral Transmission and Information Technology: A Twentieth Century Union."

After lunch on Friday, John Kuo Wei

Tchen, founder of the New York Chinatown History Project, will speak on oral history, multiculturalism, and community identities. The Saturday dinner speaker will be Sidney Mintz, world-renowned anthropologist and author, whose talk is entitled "History Within History; Memory and Enactment."



Additionally—drawing on the experience of both the 1986 OHA Conference and the 1987 International Oral History Conference—we plan to end our conference with a plenary summation, led by a panel of three presenters including Paul Thompson of the British History Workshop. We feel the summation session is particularly fitting because the conference will be largely organized around a theme.

Public Oral History: Recent OHA conferences have devoted more and more program time to the public presentation of oral history through film, radio, and teaching. Such public or applied oral history is especially important to the 1988 conference, because of its thematic focus on

communities. Therefore, we are scheduling a series of roundtables focusing on experiences with and concerns about oral history and the mass media, radio and audio programming, use of slide tape shows, video and film, public school teaching, and community activism.

The 1988 conference will continue the tradition of presenting oral history-based media productions, including a special series of "Friday Night Shows," where the video, film, and slide/tape producers will be present for conversation after their productions are shown. Finally a number of oral history-based artistic/historical exhibits by organizations such as the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College and St. Mary's County Documentation Project, will be on display throughout the conference.

Scholarly Panels, Workshops, and Offsite Sessions: More traditional, elements of OHA Annual Meetings are not being slighted. A strong set of scholarly panels, largely reflecting the conference theme, is now being finalized. A wide range of workshops on both the basic and advanced levels, addressing everything from basic interviewing techniques, to radio editing and sound mixing, to producing slide/tape shows, videos, and drama will be included. And a number of offsite sessions for Saturday, October 15, that take advantage of the historical resources of the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. region are in the works.

Thus far enormous interest has been shown in the 1988 conference; we received, for example, far more excellent paper and panel proposals that we could schedule. What we need now is the help of all OHA members and supporters in spreading the word about the conference. For those that can use them, flyers announcing the conference are available from the Oral History Research Office, 606 Butler Library, New York, NY 10027, phone 212/280-4012.

Projects Completed

The history of flight in British Columbia from early bush pilots to jets has been completed and deposited in the Provincial Archives. Conducted by the Canadian Museum of Flight and Transportation in Surrey, B.C., the project included commercial, military and recreational flying. The collection contains 165 interviews with 73 persons and was produced to enhance the museum's flight exhibits, but is also available for general research.

Dan O'Neill is completing a film on transportation history in Alaska, based on interviews from the Rasmuson

Library Oral History Office, University of Alaska, with dog team drivers, steamship captains, pioneers of aviation, etc. O'Neill is the writer/producer of the Alaskan history radio series which won the "Best of the West" award for educational radio in 1986. A guide to transcripts, logs and summaries of recordings at the Rasmuson Library has been completed by Diana Kokborg.

The Oral History Collection of The American Lutheran Church, Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches and Lutheran Church in America was conceived to preserve the individual

histories of the three Lutheran churches which are merging this year. Produced by the Archives of Cooperative Lutheranism, Lutheran Council in the USA, New York, the collection includes interviews with 70 church leaders. The project was directed by Alice Kendrick and Helen Knubel. A guide has been published and the collection will be housed in the new offices of the Archives of Cooperative Lutheranism in Chicago.

The Oral History of United Packinghouse Workers of America Project has been completed by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Funded by an \$84,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the project includes 225 hours of interviews with former packinghouse workers in 13 major meat-packing cities. An 1150-page guide has been published and the collection can be found in the State Historical Society Archives, 816 State St., Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

Golden Gate Bridge Workers Project has been completed by the Labor Archives and Research Center in San Francisco. Interviews with workers and nurses who cared for those injured in constructing the bridge have been compiled, and a program and exhibit honoring the builders produced. The project was funded by the California Council for the Humanities, Ironworkers 377, and five other unions. A catalog can be obtained from the LARC, San Francisco State University, 480 Winston Dr., San Francisco, California 94132.

California government and politics from 1953 through 1966 has been documented by the Regional Oral History Office at Berkeley. Focusing on the gubernatorial eras from Goodwin Knight to Edmund G. Brown, Sr., the series includes 80 interviews. It carries forward research begun in 1969 with the documentation of the governorship of Earl Warren, which includes more than 120 interviews. The collection is located at the Bancroft Library at Berkeley. Volumes can be purchased from the Regional Oral History Office, 486 Library, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720.



Molders and Shapers in Montana: Business and Professional Women members painting the library in Columbia Falls in 1956. These women are featured in a new publication based on an oral history project sponsored by the Montana Historical Society which documented the experiences of women who have made meaningful contributions to their communities through involvement in women's organizations and clubs. *Molders & Shapers, Montana Women as Community Builders: An Oral History Sampler and Guide* not only describes these experiences, it also provides information on how to carry out an oral history project which examines the history of women's organizations and volunteer work. Copies of the 45-page booklet are available from the Molders & Shapers Collective, P.O. Box 1232, Helena, MT 59624 for \$6.50 plus \$1.50 postage and handling. (Photo by Mel Ruder, courtesy of the Montana Historical Society)

News

Twayne Publishers has named **Donald Ritchie** of the U.S. Senate Oral History Program to edit a new book series using oral history research based on a single theme and aimed at the college level.

Benis M. Frank, head of the Marine Corps Oral History Program, has been awarded the Department of the Navy Superior Civilian Service Medal for "his outstanding contributions in the research and writing of a history of marine operations in Lebanon."

Naval History is a new magazine being launched by the Naval Institute. Published quarterly, the magazine is edited by **Paul Stillwell**, the institute's Director of Oral History. The first issue was published in February and included several articles based on oral history. Stillwell also managed to find the time to spend the month of January in the Persian Gulf conducting interviews and taking photographs of Navy convoying of Kuwaiti tankers. Stillwell hopes the trip was the beginning of a continuing program documenting current naval operations for future use.

The **Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly** has begun publishing interviews with California jurists conducted by the California State Bar Committee on History of Law. The winter 1988 issue focused on Justice Otto Kaus.

sor of History, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, AR 72204. Deadline for submission is February 15, 1989.

Requests for . . .

... Information on the History of Electricity

The Centro da Memória da Eletricidade no Brasil is compiling a history of electricity in Brazil and would like to discuss the project with others who may have conducted such a task, on a small or large scale. Contact **Orcélia Barroso**, Executive Director, Centro da Memória da Eletricidade no Brasil, Av. Presidente Vargas, 435-88 andar, 20071 Rio de Janeiro-RJ Brasil.

... Information on the Liturgical Art Movement.

The Archives of Modern Christian Art is collecting material on the liturgical art movement in America 1925-65 and is searching for material on religious art and architecture from various regions of the U.S. Contact **David Ramsey**, Director, AMCA, College of Notre Dame, Belmont, CA 94002.

... Material on American letter carriers

The National Association of Letter Carriers will be celebrating its centennial in 1989. They are seeking research materials and memorabilia for a major exhibition and are particularly interested in recollections of letter carriers in the U.S. Write **Candace Main Rush**, NALC, 100 Indiana Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20001.

Call for Papers

The **Oral History Association** will hold its 23rd Annual Meeting on October 19-22, 1989, in Galveston, Texas. Papers, panel discussions, media presentations and workshops sessions are now being solicited. All subjects concerning oral history are welcome. Each proposal should include the presenter's vita, plus a two-page typed prospectus with thesis statement, methodological description, and relevant bibliographical information. Proposals must be submitted by November 30, 1988 to **Michael L. Gillette**, Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum, 2313 Red River, Austin, Texas 78705.

Opportunities

The **Arkansas Women's History Institute** announces the 1988 **Susie Pryor Award** competition for the best unpublished essay or article in **Arkansas Women's History**. The award carries a \$1,000 prize and will be presented at the 1989 annual meeting of the Arkansas Historical Association. For further information contact: **Patricia Mooney Melvin**, Associate Profes-

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OHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (office) _____ (home) _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

Individual:

Life, \$250 _____

Contributing, \$25 _____

Regular, \$20 _____

Student/retired, \$10 _____

Institutional:

Sponsoring, \$100 _____

Regular, \$40 _____

Library, \$20 _____

(receives publications

but does not vote) _____

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