



ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER

Center for Documentary Studies Opens at Duke

Collecting and telling stories about the daily lives of ordinary people is not, of course, a new concept in university research, but it has often been a marginal activity, used to "flesh out" existing records or to popularize other research. At Duke University, however, a commitment to the documentation of the ordinary, the ignored, and the misrepresented has led to the creation of The Center for Documentary Studies. Established with a \$5 million endowment grant from the Lyndhurst Foundation, the center is dedicated to bringing together an assortment of researchers and artists to document people's lives through a variety of viewpoints and mediums. The aim is to "present the other in a way that is as close to the other's experience as possible," said Executive Director Iris Tillman Hill in an article in the February 21, 1990, issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Working with first-person accounts and images, the center hopes to create a record of the daily struggle in people's lives in order to better understand the human condition.

The center's research associates are well known to oral history — historians Theodore Rosengarten, William Chafe, Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, and Julius Scott — as well as photographer and founder of the Center for Documentary Photography (which the new center replaces) Alex Harris, author and physician Robert Coles, physician and teacher John Frey, novelist Lee Smith, and attorney David Bruck. Four areas of research have been selected for emphasis: the American family, African-American life and race relations, law and politics, ecology and the environment.

Associates are already at work on several projects. African-American Life in the Jim Crow South will collect oral history interviews, family photographs,

and will search manuscript archives in seven states to document the effects of segregation, particularly the ways in which it fostered self-reliance and a sense of community among blacks. In another study, Coles and Frey will interview and photograph the elderly who live alone and remain independent. Other projects include a film on poor children in the U.S. and interviews with documentary photographers and writers to examine what the documentary tradition means to its practitioners.

The first grants program will begin in the fall of 1990 and will consist of small grants for collaborative work in documentary studies beyond the projects developed by the center's associates. The first grant is designed to be given to a writer and

photographer to do fieldwork and research on a project that will ultimately result in a book. The second grant will go to several undergraduate students from the area to work on a summer project.

In the future, the center hopes to expand its grant program to fund more fieldwork, to initiate a documentary book prize, and to develop a program to support public-school documentary projects. While no degree program is being offered, several courses are sponsored by the center, taught by associates in academic departments at Duke. For more information, contact the Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University, Snow Building, Suite 511, 331 West Main Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701.

Fair Use of Unpublished Sources Denied

According to a report from the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History (NCCPH), on February 20 the Supreme Court refused to review a copyright ruling that severely restricts an historian's ability to quote unpublished material. The court declined to review the case of *New Era Publications v. Henry Holt*, which involved the use of unpublished letters and diaries in a critical biography of L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of the Church of Scientology who died in 1986. The appeals court had ruled that unpublished primary sources were protected from even "fair use" quotation and that if an author quoted "more than minimal amounts," publication could be forbidden. This ruling followed a similar decision discussed by John Neuenschwander in "*Salinger v. Random House*" (Volume XXII, Number 4, Winter 1988 of this newsletter), and it severely restricts the

ability of a researcher to work with primary source materials.

In response to the consternation which has arisen over the legality of quoting from unpublished sources, in March Representative Kastenmeier (D-Wisconsin) introduced House bill HR 4263 to clarify the "fair use" of unpublished material as written in the copyright law. Senator Simon (D-Illinois) introduced a parallel bill, S2370, in the Senate. Their bills call for inserting the phrase "whether published or unpublished" into the existing copyright law after the words, "fair use of copyrighted work."

Page Putnam Miller, director of the NCCPH (an association of fifty history organizations including the OHA), will monitor the progress of these bills. Individuals may wish to write their congressional representatives and encourage them to support HR 4263 and S2370.

News

The Oral History Advisory Committee of the **National Council on Public History** has proposed a series of oral history interviews with pioneers in the public history movement to be published as occasional articles in the *Public Historian*. If approved, the project will focus on career highlights rather than life reviews and may eventually result in a book. The committee (Cullom Davis, Charles Morrissey, Don Ritchie, and Otis Graham, ex officio) is seeking suggestions for appropriate interviewees, particularly women, minorities, and non-federal historians.

The **Federal Judicial Center** has launched a new history program which will compile the national federal judiciary history while working with existing projects already

under way among district and circuit courts. They plan to survey manuscript collections in private repositories that relate to the federal judiciary and to work with local programs to encourage preservation of and access to historical judicial records.

Major portions of the **Edward S. Muskie papers** are now open for research for the first time. Contact Christopher M. Beam, Director, The Edmund Muskie Archives, Bates College, Lewiston, Maine 04240.

The government of Australia has presented a gift of one million dollars for the establishment of a **South Pacific oral history archive**. Interest on the capital will be made available to selected oral history

projects throughout the region with copies of all material deposited in the national library.

A conference on oral history and computers is being planned for sometime this fall by the **Scottish Oral History Group**. If interested, obtain more information by contacting The Secretary School of Scottish Studies, 27-29 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9 LD, Scotland.

The **National Museum of American History and the Charles Babbage Institute**, with support from the Unisys Corporation, held an oral history conference on the UNIVAC computer May 17-18. Held at the Smithsonian, the meeting documented the development of the computer.

In 1962 the correspondence shown below was exchanged between David Wallace and longtime director of the Oral History Research Office at Columbia University, Louis Starr. The issue was the office's policy of reusing audio tape rather than preserving it after an interview was transcribed. Wallace is aghast; Starr attempts to defend the policy. The letters were submitted by Andor Scotnes and director Ron Grele, now directing oral history research at Columbia, as an interesting and amusing way to measure changes of attitudes among oral historians through the years. They hasten to point out that Columbia has not destroyed interview tapes since the late sixties!

**Columbia University
in the City of New York**
BUREAU OF APPLIED SOCIAL RESEARCH
605 WEST 118TH STREET
NEW YORK 28, NEW YORK

February 11, 1962

Dear Professor Starr,

Notation of the Oral History project in today's NY Times reminds me of keen distress felt about a week ago.

I was talking with an old friend, Frank Johnson of American Heritage. Someway, we vered onto the Oral History project, and what a great thing it will be for the future. Then—Frank told me you are erasing your tapes after they are transcribed into text! Good God, man, say it ain't so!

Some of the most valuable content of communications is in the inflection, intensity, hesitation etc. of the spoken voice. The words as text are but a minor fraction of the whole.

I was horrified to hear this news, and Frank felt the same as I—but he stuck to his claim that you are erasing. He said American Heritage will be happy to buy you all the tape you need, if saving on the stuff is at issue.

I meant to write then, but I do so now. And I hope that Johnson—good man that he is—is wrong on this score.

With best.

David Wallace
David Wallace
(CS Lecturer in Theory of
Public Opinion)

Dear Mr. Wallace:

2-16-62

You are right: we erase most of our tapes for re-use. This is largely because we permit our victims to edit their transcripts. While the editing, we urge, should be done with accuracy alone in mind, there is nothing to prevent a man from changing his own words—particularly in view of the fact that we regard the material as his, and if we kept the tapes, we'd be saving a first draft, which would make a lot of our people unhappy.

Cost is another factor, and so is storage—the problem of "feed back" has yet to be solved. Finally, we are inclined to doubt the practicality of saving, for example, 200 hours of Madame Perkins on tape, assuming she permitted us to do so. It would have to be indexed to be of much use, and that in itself would be pretty expensive. Only one scholar among the hundreds who have used the Oral History Collection has ever asked us for a tape, incidentally.

The solution, perhaps, would be to get permission to save at least one tape of everyone we do, and if your friend at Heritage thinks he can get the tape for us, I don't see why we shouldn't try it.

Thanks for your interest.
Cordially,

NOTE:
never happened

George Wright, Professor of Afro-American Studies at the University of Texas, has received UT's most prestigious award, the \$10,000 Friar Society Teaching Excellence Award. Selected by the students themselves, Wright was chosen for his ability to "get students involved and committed to understanding the lives of people of other cultures and their contributions to history."

We are saddened to report the deaths of two of our members, **Bobbe Herndon** and **Chester Lewis**.

Bobbe died April 11 in Springfield, Illinois, of lung cancer. She was a longtime associate and warm and loving friend of OHA, a leader in her community and — among many other activities — a National Sailing Champion and member of the Anti Rust Society.

Chester Lewis died April 30 in Manhasset, New York of throat cancer. He was the retired director of archives for the *New York Times* and a longtime advocate for the OHA. It was he who was instrumental in the first effort to micropublish oral history transcripts for wider distribution.

In honor of the 20th anniversary of the creation of MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging), the MARC XX Committee presented *An Oral History of the MARC Project* to the Library of Congress during the American Library Association's 1990 Mid-winter Meeting in Chicago, Ill. The MARC format has had a revolutionary impact on users of the world's libraries. The standardization of bibliographic information that the MARC format introduced has made possible the computer-based networks which today process and maintain bibliographic and authority records regardless of language or form of material.

The annual meeting of the Oral History Association will be November 8-11, 1990, at the Cambridge Sonesta Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts. OHA members will receive information packets this summer. Others may write to the Executive Secretary, OHA, 1093 Broxton Avenue, #720, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

I Wasn't There

by Charles T. Morrissey

Memory jokes are understandably popular among oral historians. As interviewers we try to retrieve reminiscences from the murky depths of dormant recollections, and anecdotes which illustrate how memories can be deceptive usually prompt ready laughter from oral history practitioners. Transcription jokes are also exchanged frequently by oral historians; phonetic interpretations of vocal sounds demonstrate humorously how oral history can become an aural mystery. A third variety of oral history humor might be labeled the "I Wasn't There" category. It takes its name from an admission by James MacGregor Burns, the political scientist and biographer of Franklin D. Roosevelt who addressed the 1967 and 1971 colloquia of the Oral History Association. "I'm going to write a book about myself entitled, *I Wasn't There*," Burns recently told an interviewer, "because I can give you many stories back to childhood, when I just seem to miss the great opportunity."

Burns, now retired after a long teaching career at Williams College, tells a "I Wasn't There" story centering on his decision not to participate in the 1947 graduation ceremonies at Harvard University. "I was awarded my doctorate at this commencement, but did not attend, and was walking down the street next to Harvard Yard, and a friend of mine said, 'Jim, you ought to be in there at your commencement,' and I said, 'No, it'll be some fuddy-dudd saying nothing.' Of course, it turned out to be General Marshall giving the famous Marshall Plan talk."

An amusing aspect of "I Wasn't There" stories, in which narrators admit they were not aware of the historical significance occurring within their presence, is how many of them occur at Harvard and its environs. Bradford Perkins, the diplomatic historian who has taught since 1962 at the University of Michigan, did attend that 1947 com-

mencement at Harvard but later told Forrest C. Pogue, president of the Oral History Association in 1970-1971, that Marshall's speech was not stirring, and that Perkins was unaware he had just witnessed one of the great rhetorical occasions in modern American history.

Because the next meeting of the Oral History Association will occur on November 8-11, 1990, in the Boston-Cambridge area of Massachusetts, it is timely for oral historians to freshen their repertoires of "I Wasn't There" stories and bring them to the upcoming colloquium for sharing with colleagues. Greater Boston spawns "I Wasn't There" stories; can oral historians from elsewhere match the specimens produced in the neighborhood of the Boston-Cambridge axis?

Living in the Greater Boston area may inculcate a knack for being oblivious to history-making events. Wallace Stegner, the California novelist, faults Nathaniel Hawthorne, one of the greatest writers ever nurtured by the culture of eastern Massachusetts, for being blind towards a curious social phenomenon which occurred while Hawthorne was in England during the 1850s, serving as U.S. consul at Liverpool. Thousands of newly converted Mormons were embarking regularly from Liverpool on journeys to the Kingdom of Saints Brigham Young was establishing in the basin of the Great Salt Lake, beyond the settled edge of America's westering frontier, but Hawthorne did not consider their numbers nor their religious convictions to be significant enough to merit even a single notation in his journal.

"I Wasn't There" stories deserve a collector. Bring yours to Boston-Cambridge in November. When the 1990 colloquium is over, and people in your bailiwick ask "Did you hear any 'I Wasn't There' stories at the oral history meeting?" you won't have to say "No, I wasn't there."

State & Regional News

Oral History in Ohio celebrated "Oral History Day" on April 28 in Cleveland with a free public program sponsored by OHIO and the greater Cleveland Oral History and Community Studies Center. The program opened the day before with a photographic exhibit on immigration and workshops on transcribing and on radio. The keynote speaker was Al Santoli, the Cleveland-born journalist and author of *New Americans: an Oral History*, for which he traveled throughout the U.S. collecting stories from refugees from Afghanistan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, etc. Santoli argued that these refugees represent a wave of immigration similar to that seen at the turn of the century and with a similarly significant impact on the nation.

"Oral History Day" began with a community history walking tour, followed by three presentations which were designed to provide models of how oral history can be used to help a community recover or reconstruct its past. Folklorist Patrick Mullen talked about defining a community by occupation rather than by ethnicity or geography. James Borchert discussed reconstructing the past of working-class communities through visual analysis of the built environment as well as through oral history and other more traditional methods. Kimberly Phillips argues that the notion of community needs to be redefined when examining urban blacks, because many of them come from the rural South and have a different sense of community. Residents of the communities described above were invited to attend these sessions and to contribute their own viewpoints to those expressed by the speakers.

The **UCLA Oral History Program** has expanded efforts to document the lives of selected Los Angeles African-Americans through three interrelated projects with architects, artists, and musicians. UCLA's Black Leadership in Los Angeles Oral History Project continued to document the activities of prominent African-American business and civic leaders. For further information: Alva Moore Stevenson, UCLA Oral History Program, 136 Powell Library, 405 S. Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90024-1575.

New England Association of Oral History held its annual meeting May 12, hosted by the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord. It included a reader's theater presentation, "It Had to be Done, So I Did It," which documented the lives of women in rural New Hampshire.

Idaho Oral History Center has hired **Linda Morton-Keithly** to replace **Madeleine Buckendorf** as director. Linda was previously director of the Hunt County Museum in Texas and of the Owyhee County Historical Museum in Idaho. **Margo Knight** is also returning to Idaho to direct the Idaho Commission of the Arts, resigning from her brief tenure as president of OHMAR.

Also in Idaho, the **Basque Museum and Cultural Center** is conducting a study of the social history of the Basque population in Idaho. They recently received a grant from the Idaho Humanities Commission to gather oral histories from immigrants and their families. To accomplish this, they will hold town meetings in selected areas of the state, coinciding wherever possible with scheduled Basque community events.



The Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton, has named **Michael Onorato** director of its program. Assuming the duties last September, he has been on the history faculty there since 1965 and is a longtime advocate of oral history.

Montana Oral History Association has begun developing a set of materials for using oral history in the classroom. Their first step was to survey teachers in the state to identify the existing use of oral history, and they are now applying for grants to aid in distribution of the survey.

Southwest Oral History Association held its spring conference jointly with the National Council of Public History March 7-10 in San Diego. SOHA sessions featured the Los Angeles art scene, civil rights in Nevada and Arizona, cultural resource management in the Forest Service, the value of video, the California state government oral history program, and the origins of the California State University System. OHA President Lila Goff spoke at the annual luncheon.

SOHA's fall meeting will be held at Hemet, California October 20. (See Call for Papers.) A basic oral history workshop will be held in conjunction with the conference on October 19. The Spring 1991 conference will be held jointly with the Northwest Oral History Association May 3-4 in Reno. For more information contact Arthur Hansen, History Department, California State University, Fullerton, Fullerton, CA 92634; (714) 528-4237.

Kentucky Oral History Commission has received a \$29,477 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to publish a guide to the state's oral history collections and to create a database to facilitate future updated publications. The project, under the direction of Kim Lady Smith, was begun November 1989 and publication is tentatively scheduled for June 1991. Funding from NHPRC provided for the one-year employment of a project archivist, travel costs, and a portion of the publication costs. Cary Wilkins was hired as the project archivist and will prepare entries based on information provided in surveys and gathered through visits to the repositories.

The commission estimates that 20,000 interviews are located in repositories throughout Kentucky. Says Smith, "The lack of published information on the availability of these interviews has undermined the very purpose for which they were collected — to educate and further our understanding of the past. The publication of the guide will increase awareness of the rich and varied content of these sources and provide researchers with the specific information needed to access these materials."

International News

Canadian OHA Conducts Self Study

Oral History Association of Minnesota held its fifth annual conference April 7 at the Dakota County Historical Society in South Saint Paul. "Listening in: Family and Community Oral History" focused on church and community history and on the dynamics of interviewing.

Michigan Oral History Council cosponsored with GRTV, cable access television in Grand Rapids, a daylong workshop with renowned British documentary filmmaker, Stephen Peet, on May 15. Best known for his series, "Yesterday's Witness," Peet used examples from that series to discuss the use of oral histories in making documentaries.

Northwest Oral History Association offered a roundtable discussion on various aspects of oral history practice and programming — philosophy, workshop formats, project design, public access to materials, etc. — on April 19, preceding the Pacific Northwest History Conference in Boise, Idaho.

Last January, the **San Francisco Exploratorium**, a child oriented science museum, offered its visitors the opportunity to tell about or write down accounts of their experiences during the October 17, 1989, earthquake which devastated the Bay Area. The informal and therapeutic nature of the taping apparently produced interesting and, particularly with the younger children, charming accounts. Two videocassettes and about 100 written accounts were collected and are available at the museum and at the Bancroft Library at UC-Berkeley.

Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region has published in the spring 1990 issue of the *OHMAR Newsletter* an article by Andor Scotnes, of Columbia University, based on his paper which was presented in Galveston last fall, "Oral History and Marxism." The next issue will feature Wulf Halbach's paper on the reliability of oral history research, which was part of the same lively session.

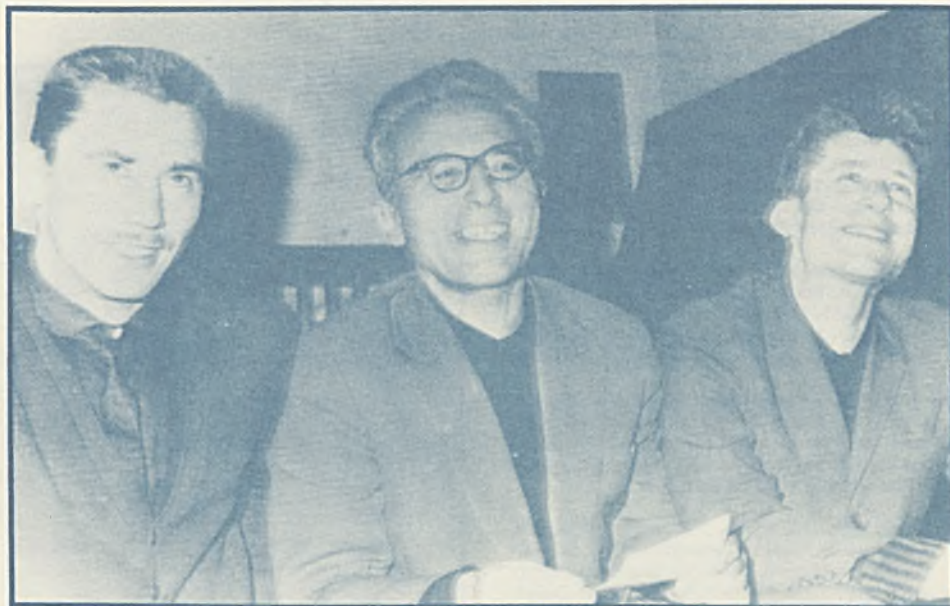
An article on the Canadian Oral History Association in the spring/summer issue of the *Northwest Oral History Association Newsletter* highlighted a discussion being held in Canada which focuses on issues which are of concern to us all. In October 1989 the Canadian Oral History Association convened for a special meeting to discuss the association's future and ways to adjust to changing circumstances. This was the group's first national conference since 1986 and the annual journal has not been published in three years, indications that there were serious matters to be addressed.

One of the points brought up at the meeting was the possibility that the association had declined because scholars no longer need conferences or special publications to explain or defend oral history; it is an accepted method in academe and has a body of literature to back it up. It was felt that this could account for the lack of support among universities in Canada.

The other main institutional supporters of the association have been archives, and most of the major archival institutions have their own infrastructure to handle oral history and have shifted much of their resources to broadcasting, film and video programming.

Some participants at the meeting felt that the major goals of the association had been achieved so the impetus to band together has diminished. However, others noted that small organizations and individual practitioners have remained interested in the association, so they must feel that there is something to be gained.

The upshot of the meeting was to devote more energy to regional interests and to publications. President-elect Wilma McDonald, of the National Archives at Ottawa, said she plans to renew the newsletter and bring the journal up to date. Meanwhile, members and potential supporters will be canvassed for ideas about the future of the association.



Astrophysicists Iosef Shklovskii, center, and Nikolai Kardashev, right, in 1965 with Russian colleague Gennady Sholomitskii in Moscow after the announcement of strange radio signals being received from outer space. The signals turned out to be, not flying saucers, but one of the first quasars ever detected. These men were leaders in raising the search for extraterrestrial intelligence from its early place, which was perceived as being on the lunatic fringe, to a level of scientific respectability. Their stories have been documented in a new book by David Swift, *SETI Pioneers: Scientists Talk about their Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence*, which consists of interviews conducted in the 1980s with the handful of scientists who first began to study communication with extraterrestrials. (Photo by Wide World Photos, from the book.)

Book Notices

Materials are selected for listing here either because they are based on oral history research or because they are of some general interest to the field. Notes are based on reviews, primarily from *Library Journal*, or on materials directly called to the editor's attention. Readers are invited to submit comments and suggestions for materials covered here.

Berube, Alan. **Coming Out Under Fire: Gay Men and Women in World War II**, Free Press, 1990. Based on ten years of interviewing veterans to reveal this suppressed chapter of U.S. history from the gay awakening which WWII presented to the postwar antigay hysteria.

Boeker, Paul H. **Lost Illusions: Latin America's Struggle for Democracy, As Recounted by Its Leaders**, Institute of Americas and Markus Wiener Publications, 1990. Collection of 26 interviews with leaders of countries where democratic revival is in progress, includes presidents and opposition leaders.

Conrad, James H. **Developing Local History Programs in Community Libraries**, American Library Association, 1989. Practical guidelines for small to medium-sized libraries who want to start local history, genealogy, and oral history programs.

Crow, Bill. **Jazz Anecdotes**, Oxford University Press, 1990. Short pieces based on oral tradition on 21 jazz giants. When two versions are known, both are printed.

Frisch, Michael. **A Shared Authority: Essays on the Craft and Meaning of Oral and Public History**, State University of New York Press, 1990. A collection of Frisch's essays, interviews, and reviews which examine the interpretation and presentation of history, a volume in the SUNY series in Oral and Public History.

Harvard Dissertations in Folklore and Oral Tradition, 13 volumes, Garland Publishing Company, 1990. Selected doctoral dissertations from a variety of disciplines which deal with folklore and oral tradition, edited by Albert B. Lord.

Heyck, Denis Lynn Daly. **Life Stories of the Nicaraguan Revolution**, Routledge, Chapman & Hall, 1990. Experiences of 24 Nicaraguans including Violeta Chamorro and Ortega's mother, recorded by an American Spanish professor who served as an interpreter for visitors there.

Heynen, Jim (text), and Paul Boyer (photos). **One Hundred Over 100: Moments with One Hundred North American Centenarians**, Fulcrum Press, 1990. Essays and portraits which redresses the oversight of attention to the very old, based on interviews.

Historia y Fuente Oral, No. 2 Memoria y Biografia, Universitat de Barcelona Publications, 1990. An interdisciplinary collection of essays (in Spanish) on memory and biography from The Oral History Seminar, Department of Contemporary History, University of Barcelona.

Illick, Joseph E. **At Liberty: The Story of a Community and a Generation**, University of Tennessee Press, 1990. History professor interviews his 1952 classmates at Liberty High School, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Keyssar, Helene, and Valdimir Pozner. **Remembering War: A U.S.-Soviet Dialogue**, Oxford University Press, 1990. Based on a live television show produced by Soviets and Americans in 1985, with expanded narratives based on interviews on the two home fronts, the battle fronts, Nazi atrocities, etc.

Lopinski, Maciej, and others. **Konspira: Solidarity Underground**, University of California Press, 1990. Interviews with prominent activists on their early efforts to build an underground movement, extensively edited.

Odendahl, Theresa. **Charity Begins at Home: Generosity and Self-Interest Among the Philanthropic Elite**, Basic Books, 1990. "This book is almost certain to anger the individuals it studies," says *Library Journal*. Based on interviews with 140 wealthy American philanthropists, it suggest that the rich neglect basic human services in their giving.

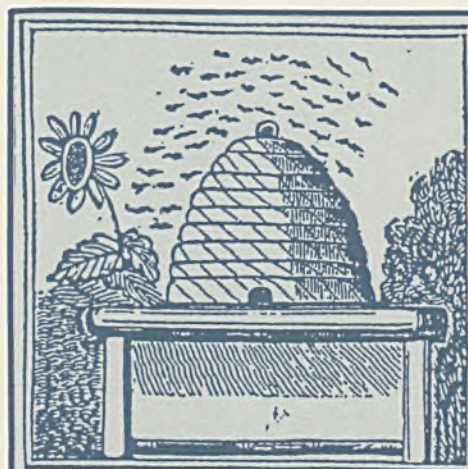
Osborne, Richard. **Conversations with von Karajan**, Cornelia and Michael Bessie Book: Harper, 1990. Based on interviews from 1977 until a month before his death in 1989, covering his career, composing, and recording.

Straight, Michael. **Nancy Hanks: An Intimate Portrait, The Creation of a National Commitment to the Arts**, Duke University Press, 1988. Biography based on interviews with friends and associates of this arts activist.

Swift, David W. **SETI Pioneers: Scientists Talk About Their Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence**, University of Arizona Press, 1990. Sixteen scientists discuss their work, their lives and this new field of science which has evolved from "lunatic fringe to scientific respectability."

Articles

Gray, Judith A. "Documenting Native America with Sound Recordings: The First 100 Years of Federal Involvement," *Folklife Center News*, Winter 1990. Survey from the first use of field recording in 1890 of two Passamaquoddy men by Jesse Walter Fewkes to the present.



Call for Papers for the Oral History Association Annual Meeting, October 10-13, 1991, Snowbird, Utah. Proposals for papers, panels and speakers, particularly on such themes as women, ethnic topics, and the region of the American West, should be sent by December 1, 1990, to either of the Program Committee Co-chairs, Jay M. Haymond, Utah State Historical Society, 300 Rio Grande, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101; or to Rebecca Sharpless, c/o Institute for Oral History, Baylor University, BU Box 7271, Waco, Texas 76798-7271.

Morrissey, Charles. "The Interview as Inquiry for Psychiatrists and Oral Historians," *Public Historians*, Winter 1989. Explores the relationship between these two fields in their use of the interview.

Montell, Lynwood. "Me 'n Ina: Dual Viewpoints on the Fieldwork Relationship," *Southern Folklore*, Volume 47, 1990, Number 1. Discussion of the — too often undiscussed — relationship that develops between a fieldworker and his informants.

Video/Audio Productions

Letters from America: The Life and Times of O. E. Rolvag, Color, 30 minutes. Unity Productions, 7400 SW 70th St., Aberdeen, SD 57401. Film biography of the Norwegian immigrant author of *Giants in the Earth* using voiceover narrative by Rolvag and reminiscences from friends and relatives.

The Men Who Danced: The Story of Ted Shawn's Male Dancers, 1933-1940, Color and b&w, 20 minutes. Ron Hansa, dist. by Dance Horizons Video, P.O. Box 57, Pennington, NJ 08534. Documents a unique chapter in dance history, when a women-dominated field was opened to men, through interviews with surviving members of that first group.

One of Ours: Young Scoop Jackson, Color, 38 minutes. Institute for Media and Creative Arts, Everett Community College, Everett, Wisconsin 98201. Early history of Jackson and of his hometown, woven together by the faculty at Everett College, "highly recommended as a model" by *Library Journal*.

The American Culture Association will meet in San Antonio, Texas, March 27-30, 1991. Persons interested in presenting papers on any aspect of Oral History and American Culture should send a one-page abstract and vita to Carl Ryant, Department of History, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky 40292, by September 1, 1990.

The National Council on Public History invites submissions for complete sessions, individual papers or panels for its annual meeting in Toledo, Ohio, May 3-5, 1991. Other topics are welcome, but the theme is "The Audiences of Public History." Send a one-two page summary and resume to Diane F. Britton, Department of History, University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio 43606.

The Southwest Oral History Association invites proposals on the theme "The Southwest: Romance and Reality" for its 1990 fall meeting at Hemet, California. Send a 250-word prospectus and vita by August 1 to Arthur Hansen, History Department, California State University, Fullerton, Fullerton, CA 92634; (714) 528-4237.

Southern Folklore publishes reviews on topics related to folklore, folklife, and tradition, especially of the American South, and is interested in reviewing works which deal with other related aspects of Southern culture. If you would like to write a review for *Southern Folklore*, contact Frank de Caro and Rosan Jordan at the Department of English, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803, or call (504) 388-3049 or 388-3165.

Nominees for 1990 OHA Election

The nominating committee has completed its work for another year, rounding up a slate of oral historians who are distinguished and hard-working. This year's nominating committee consisted of Chairman Don Ritchie, Sherry Boswell, Jim Fogerty, Ron Grele, Ruth Hill, and Ava Kahn.

Additional nominations may be made by submitting a petition containing at least twenty signatures by OHA members to the executive secretary by July 15. Ballots will be mailed out in late summer, but here is a preview of the candidates:

For Vice President/President Elect: **Terry Birdwhistell**

Resume: Terry Birdwhistell is University Archivist and Director of the Oral History Program at the University of Kentucky. He holds a B.A. degree in American studies and M.A. degrees in history and in library and information science. He has served as a member of OHA's membership committee, a program chair of the 1984 annual meeting, as a member of the OHA council (1985-1988) and most recently as chair of the Committee for Independent/Unaffiliated Researchers. Birdwhistell serves as an advisor to the Kentucky Oral History Commission and is co-editor of an oral history series being published by the University Press of Kentucky.

Statement: *The last decade has witnessed the maturation of OHA as a professional organization. My goals are to continue to expand our membership base, promote quality publications and annual meetings, increase cooperation with other professional associations, and enhance OHA's leadership role in promoting oral interviews for a variety of purposes.*

Nominees for One Seat on the Council

JO BLATTI: Current affiliation is History Afield, a consulting firm specializing in public programming (co-founder); M.A. American Studies, SUNY-Buffalo, 1975; B.A. Macalester College, 1968. Recipient NEH, NY Council for the Humanities and NYS Council on the Arts production grants for oral history-based radio projects; Skaggs Foundation and Jerome Foundation grants for public programming projects. Publications: *Past Meets Present* (editor and contributor, 1987); *Landscape of Hope and Despair* (co-author, 1989); contributing editor for media and public history, *Oral History Review* 1984-. OHA activities: presentations at annual meetings in 1979, 1986; program committee 1987; nominating committee 1987-89; ad hoc committee on evaluation guidelines/independent research, 1988-89; committee on multiculturalism, 1990-. Board member, Oral History Association of Minnesota, 1989-.

Statement: *If elected, my primary commitments will be maintenance of the OHA's standards of excellence as a professional organization and to further diversity within our number. The practice of oral history has been fundamental to my projects as a public historian and to my thinking about the communities we serve; I would hope to contribute to the work of the council and the association in these areas as well.*

WILLIAM SCHNEIDER: I am Curator of Oral History at the Elmer Rasmuson Library and Associate in Anthropology, University of Alaska Fairbanks. I am a cultural anthropologist with a specialty in cultures of the North. My formal training was at Bryn Mawr College where I received a Ph.D. in 1976. In 1980 I started the Oral History Program at Rasmuson Library where I conduct research, acquire collections and provide archival management and patron access. Through the University of Alaska Press, I have published *The Life I've Been Living* by Moses Cruikshank, the first in our Oral Biography Series.

Presently, I am President of the Northwest Oral History Association.

Statement: *As a council member I will encourage development and dissemination of high quality oral history documentation in multiple formats: audio, video, academic articles, popular magazine pieces, and published books. I am also concerned that greater strides be made to integrate oral history into the formal disciplines of anthropology, folklore, and history. Therefore, I will work to insure our meetings and publications incorporate a diversity of humanistic scholarship.*

ELINOR DESVERNEY SINNETTE received a Ph.D. degree from Columbia University. Employment experience includes eight years with the New York Public Library; district librarian with the NY City Board of Education; academic appointments in library education at the University of Abadan and Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria and the Polytechnic in Nairobi, Kenya, as a UNESCO consultant. In 1980, she established the Oral History Department of Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, and headed the department until her appointment as Chief of the Center's Library Division in 1987. From June, 1988 to September, 1989 she served as the Research Center's Acting Director.

Statement: *My retirement from the library profession after more than forty years should afford me time to devote to the concerns of the association. I shall attempt to work cooperatively to ensure the continuing fulfillment of the goals and objectives of OHA. I would bring to council deliberations a special perspective on the international view of oral history and its values in the preservation and documentation of the black experience.*

Nominees for Three Places on the Nominating Committee

RINA BENMAYOR is Research Director of Cultural Studies at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College, CUNY. For eight years, she has been involved in oral history research of the Puerto Rican community in New York City. She has a doctorate in Spanish Literature and has written on oral traditions, oral history and testimonial narrative. She is also co-chair of the OHA Committee on Multiculturalism.

Statement: *OHA has made a strong commitment to diversifying its membership and programs. I am happy to be part of that effort, as I am grateful to be part of a growing movement among Latinos and other people of color to document, disseminate and affirm histories which have been made invisible. However, affirmative actions that are truly significant have to take place on multiple levels. In OHA this means attracting and being responsive to the needs of students, academics and non-academics from "minority" communities. It also means insuring representation at all levels of OHA.*



Terry Birdwhistell

OHA Election, continued

FERN INGERSOLL is currently director of the Washington Press Club Foundation's oral history project with women in journalism. She has been involved in oral history since 1965 when she was Washington representative of the University of California Regional Oral History Office in Berkeley. She has been project manager and interviewer for the Former Members of Congress project and for the U.S. Department of Education. In 1982 she and her husband returned to a Thai village where they had lived 25 years before. For a year they combined oral history and ethnography to understand changes in villagers' lives.

Statement: *Having done both elite and grass roots oral history interviewing, I realize how many approaches there are. My experience has been that with each new project an oral historian may need contacts and experience that seemed not at all necessary several months before. For this reason I would like to get new people with new experiences actively involved in the Oral History Association.*

RONALD E. MARCELLO (Ph.D. Duke University, 1969) is associate professor of history and director of the Oral History Program at the University of North Texas. From 1976-1985 he served as executive secretary of OHA, and was OHA president in 1988-1989. He has published articles in the *North Carolina Historical Review*, *Journal of Sport History*, *Southern Studies*, and *Public Historian*. He has forthcoming articles in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* and the *North Carolina Historical Review*, and a book-length anthology (co-authored) of interviews with Pearl Harbor survivors to be published in 1991.

Statement: *My service as Executive Secretary and President, plus frequent attendance at state and regional oral history meetings, have acquainted me with many veteran and new OHA members. I would use these contacts to produce a balance of experience and fresh ideas, as well as cultural diversity, in the filling of OHA positions.*

W. LYNWOOD MONTELL (Ph.D. Indiana University) is Visiting Professor of American Studies and Folklore at Notre Dame and former Professor of History and Folk Studies at Western Kentucky University. He is the author of numerous works and five major books, including *The Saga of Coe Ridge*; *A Study in Oral History*, which won the AASLH Award of Merit, and most recently, *Killings: Folk Justice*

in the Upper South. Former coordinator of the Center for Intercultural and Folk Studies, Montell has created degree programs in folk studies, Afro-American Studies, and Latin American Studies.

Statement: *One of the strengths of the OHA has been its efforts to involve and serve grass roots as well as professional oral historians. I support that tradition and would work to expand that to include a diversity which reflects the inclusive values and maturity of the profession.*

CARLOS VASQUEZ has directed the UCLA California State Archives State Government Oral History Program since 1987 where he has conducted extensive oral histories with members of the California legislative and executive branches, campaign specialists, commission members and reapportionment experts resulting in over 200 hours of interviews. He took his undergraduate training at UCLA in political science, graduate training in political theory at Stanford University and is finalizing his doctoral dissertation in history at UCLA. He teaches courses in both American and Latin American history.

Statement: *We have the historical opportunity and duty to reflect the complex tapestry of our nation's social history. Members of every major cultural group in the country, with an interest in our common history, are ready to contribute to the enterprise of compiling an accurate reflection of our country's multicultural population.*

RICHARD VOELKEL is currently editing *Business and Community*, using oral history techniques to examine the significance of small businesses in community development. He has just finished a volume utilizing oral history to examine historic preservation, *Architecture: A Window on the Past*. Voelkel was the director of the Washington Entrepreneurs Project, an oral history project on the role of older businesses in Washington, D.C. He is past president of the Southwest Oral History Association, which he has also served as program chair and newsletter co-editor. He is the current chair of OHA's State and Regional Committee.

Statement: *Just as many of the possible uses for oral history remain to be discovered, OHA members' opportunities for gaining from the insights of our varying constituencies should remain open. Leadership that has carefully sought and worked in creative areas will benefit us all.*



Schneider



Blatti



Sinnette

OHA Committee on Multiculturality Midyear Report

by Warren S. Nishimoto and
Rina Benmayor, co-chairs

Since the 1989 OHA Annual Meeting in Galveston, the Committee on Multiculturality has been busy addressing a number of issues and goals, and preparing for participation in the 1990 meeting to be held in Cambridge.

One of the goals is to establish and maintain a network of people and projects conducting research with a multicultural focus. The committee is currently conducting a national survey of individual and academic community-based institutions doing such research. Readers are urged to complete the attached survey form if they know of any such research going on in their part of the country. So far, we have identified and contacted people from various regions of the country to serve as liaisons.

With the Cambridge meeting in November just around the corner, the committee has been working with the program committee to ensure a broad and balanced multicultural representation in papers, panels, speakers and attendees. A good

working relationship with the Cambridge Program Committee has been important in order to avoid the problems encountered at Galveston; namely, ghettoization, poor attendance at committee-sponsored panels, scheduling of simultaneous panels on subjects of multicultural interest, the assignment of unqualified commentators, and the lack of attention given to the financial needs and other concerns of low-income and "minority" participants. These problems were pointed out by committee members following the Galveston meeting and were shared with both the council and the Cambridge program committee.

The Committee on Multiculturality has also encouraged the OHA to offer alternate, low-cost accommodations and childcare for annual meeting attendees. Information on both will be included in future programs. Our committee has also proposed that OHA secure financial support enabling low-income, student and community oral historians to attend annual meetings. No plan, however, has yet been put in place.

Council has recently approved our proposal for an organization-wide resolution pledging OHA's commitment to diversity and multiculturality in all aspects of the organization's work. Council also supports the committee's proposal for a brief talk on multiculturalism at one of the annual meeting's plenary sessions.

Council denied our request to use part of our annual allocation to fund travel expenses of needy Multicultural Committee member(s) attending program committee meetings.

Finally, because we feel that multiculturalism is the concern of not only one OHA committee but of all, we are trying to identify individuals doing multicultural research willing to serve on other OHA standing committees. If anyone is interested in serving on a committee, or know someone who is, please let us know.

SURVEY OF MULTICULTURAL ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH

1. Name _____
Address _____
Affiliation (if any) _____
Telephone No. _____
2. Focus of multicultural research _____

3. How oral history is being used in research _____

4. Names of others in your area doing similar work _____

PLEASE ATTACH ANOTHER SHEET IF NECESSARY. CLIP AND SEND

TO: Rina Benmayor
Center for Puerto Rican Studies
Hunter College, CUNY
695 Park Ave., Box 548
New York, NY 10021
Phone: (212) 772-5690

Opportunities

Archivist wanted to develop and administer America's first major storytelling archives. Requires master's degree in library information science with a minimum of three hours of archival course work and three years of experience in basic archival functions. Preference given to someone with experience in storytelling, oral narrative, oral history, and/or folklore and handling of audio and video cassettes and records management. Headquartered in Jonesborough, Tennessee, a restored living community in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains. Salary \$25,000-\$28,000. Write Beckie Fields at National Association for the Preservations and Perpetuation of Storytelling, P.O. Box 309, Jonesborough, Tennessee 37659 or call (615) 753-2171 for information and application.

The Fulcrum Writing Award for 1992 will be given to the best original work in the field of Western American History or Biography. Suggested topics include history of women, Spanish-Americans, Native-Americans, and westward expansion. The material should present new information or interpretation of historical events or personalities. For more information write the Fulcrum Writing Award, 350 Indiana Street, Suite 510, Golden, Colorado 80401.

Excerpts

In this excerpt from an interview with Fred P. Wertheimer, conducted by Howard L. Green for the New Jersey Historical Commission on May 14, 1980, Wertheimer tells how he became involved in labor organizing in Trenton, New Jersey in 1944. He has gone on to a career of more than forty years as a political publicist and public relations counselor. This transcript can be found in the New Jersey State Archives.

By that time I got embroiled in a number of controversies until one day one of the workers says, "Why don't you join the nigger Jew union?" And I responded, "I didn't know we had one." He said, "The CIO." "What CIO? We've got AF of L here." He said, "The CIO, they want to come in, they're good for Jews and niggers. The Jews stink, the niggers stink and the CIO stinks. That's where you belong." I think he wanted to provoke me into a fight; instead I started to find out where was this CIO. It was United Steelworkers of America conducting an organizing campaign. After a little searching around, I found the organizer, so called....

I said, "If you're the organizer, how come you don't organize?" He says, "They don't like it." I said, "Who don't like it?" "The bosses don't like it"....I said, "...How did you get in this? He says, "Well, my brother got a good settlement over at General Motors and the international rep came to the house and said he wanted me to organize. So I took the cards, but I'm afraid." I said, "Give me them cards."

So I took his cards and I went down to a meeting of the CIO....I came out with a big button, oh, about three inches across. "USA, Steelworkers of America." And I came back looking like kind of a hero. I had created more excitement in one day than if I had come in with no clothes on. Well, the great fraternity of discussion always took place in the men's room....I said, "Listen, you guys, this is power; we don't have to stand around here working for 60, 70 cents an hour begging them for a lousy nickel. The CIO will come in here, you'll get real raises." They thought it was a big joke....

So I came back one day with ten ten-dollar bills and I got the boys, in the men's room, I said, "...Here are ten membership cards, sign ten membership cards, I'll put ten dollars against each card, I'll go harass the foreman. Monday morning if I'm fired you've made ten bucks, no investment. But Monday morning, if I'm still around, you're in the union." Well, they thought that was funny as hell....

So, Johnny Gunther was a good foreman, a real decent guy. With the pack behind me I approached Gunther, looked at my watch, clocked him, I said, "Get away from that machine, I've clocked you. Nine minutes is instructing, ten minutes is operating. You've been on this machine eleven. You are operating a violation of Section 462 P.L.E.L." Incidentally, that's a postage regulation, but he didn't know the difference.

Gunther ran down to the superintendent, Jorgenson, and my chorus watched me in amazement. They figured my day was done. But what happened was, I had planted a rumor that...there was a job awaiting me in Chicago at \$25,000 a year. Now [the company] was very peculiar, if you wanted to get out, they wouldn't let you get out. If you wanted to stay, they'd throw you out.

Gunther came back with his head down. Monday morning I was on tap, nothing happened, I had ten members. Then I said, "Okay, boys, the ante has changed, five dollars a head, I want twenty signatures." I lined up another twenty by insulting another foreman and getting away with it. Well, by that time I was having one hell of a good time, enjoying myself, and in the meantime lining up members. The election was held, and the CIO won by twenty-four votes.



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