



NEWSLETTER

"Project 30" Campaign Moves Ahead

"Project 30" is the Oral History Association's three-year fund-raising campaign designed to celebrate the OHA's 30th anniversary by building our endowment fund to a level necessary to provide a reasonable annual income.

Launched in 1994, this effort began with solicitation of current and former Council members plus veteran OHA members. Last fall the campaign broadened, with a direct mail appeal to all other members. Additional endowment funds have come from annual meeting silent auction proceeds and (when

available) an allocation from OHA operating surpluses.

The campaign will not end until September, but the results are already encouraging. Scores of OHA members and friends have made endowment contributions and pledges during the past three years, and nearly 50 people answered last fall's mail appeal. Gifts have ranged from \$15 to \$1,500. The silent auction in Philadelphia netted more than \$1,000, and the total proceeds in 1996 exceeded \$20,000.

The OHA Council and Endowment Committee originally set

\$50,000 as our "Project 30" goal. Judging from the results to date, our endowment "nest egg" will surpass that target.

Cullom Davis, Endowment Committee chair, reminds readers that it is not too late to participate. "All of us benefit from a financially healthy OHA, so everyone should consider participating with a donation, whether large or small."

Send your tax-deductible contribution, made out to OHA Endowment, to the Oral History Association, Baylor University, P.O. Box 97234, Waco, TX 76798.

September OHA Meeting in "Big Easy"

By Pamela Dean
Louisiana State University

New Orleans will be the site of the Oral History Association's 1997 annual meeting Sept. 25-28. The city's culture and history have been shaped by a unique mix of French, Spanish, Anglo, African and Caribbean influences, and the program will reflect this diversity.

The conference center, the Royal Sonesta Hotel, is on Bourbon Street in the heart of New Orleans' French Quarter, where it all comes together. But we think the program will prove provocative and enlightening enough to keep you in the sessions and off the enticing streets of the city they call the "Big Easy."

The theme of the conference,

"Looking In, Looking Out: Retelling the Past, Envisioning the Future," sets a context for discussions of some of the major themes and issues that have shaped the last half of the 20th century, as well as explorations of local history and culture. Session topics will include uses of oral history for business, schools and museums; how current reflection alters and shapes memory and identity; World War II and the home front; land rights, public history and ecology; religion and identity; shifting categories of racial and ethnic identity; Bohemian culture and the arts; social migration and international oral history projects.

Highlighting the proximity of the Caribbean, the keynote speaker,

(Continued on page 3)

Editor's Note

By Mary Kay Quinlan

With apologies for the confusion my constantly changing addresses may have caused, I am pleased to report a new permanent address: 7524 S. 35th St., Lincoln, NE 68516. Phone: 402-420-1473. Fax: 402-420-1770. E-mail: OHAEditor@aol.com.

Copy deadline for the summer issue is July 1, a good opportunity for state and regional groups to report on their spring meetings not covered in this issue.



From Your President

By Richard Candida Smith
OHA President

During the mid-winter Council meeting in February three publishing companies presented proposals for the Oral History Association to enter into a co-publishing venture for the **Oral History Review**. It was a difficult decision because all the proposals were excellent. Each had particular strengths, so in evaluating the proposals we had to consider how we wanted the organization to grow over the next decade.

After a long discussion, the Council voted to pursue negotiations with the University of California Press. The executive secretary and I have begun this process. We hope to have completed the deal by the middle of the year.

Our editorial office would retain complete control over the content of the journal, but California would take over production and distribution of the journal as of the Winter 1998 issue. California also would handle membership enrollment and renewals, beginning next year.

We considered a number of criteria as we discussed the issue. We also compared the advantages and disadvantages of continuing to self-publish the **Review** with each of the professional proposals. The issues that concerned us were professionalizing the operations of the editor's and the executive secretary's offices. California's proposals scored highest in both areas. The executive secretary's office will no longer be burdened by the many detailed tasks that accompany managing membership rolls and renewals, while the editorial office will be able in the future to concentrate entirely on the content of the journal without having to worry about printing and mailing.

We were concerned about potential for membership growth. California projected a growth rate of 10 to 13 percent and was able to demonstrate from their management of *The Public Historian* that such a rate is realistic. The Council felt that California's track record showed they could readily reach both academic and public history constituencies and increase our visibility to potential readers who are not presently members of OHA.

While the transition involves a decrease in immediate income as OHA will start paying for services

that members have provided to the organization voluntarily, we expect to see a marked increase in income over the next five years based on increases in membership gained from California's marketing expertise.

We were also concerned about how such a transition would affect the quality of the journal. We were impressed with the physical look of the journals they published and with the services they offer to assist editors. Content remains entirely under OHA's control and will not be affected by the transition except insofar as expanding our readership allows us to introduce new features. In the next issue of the **Newsletter**, I hope we can announce that the contract for the co-publishing arrangement has been signed and that we can publish the details in a special article.

Council also approved an ambitious publications schedule for the next year or so. We have allocated funds for production of a Spanish-language edition of the OHA "Evaluation Guidelines," a pamphlet on sound recording and preservation and a new, expanded edition of the pamphlet on community history. We anticipate that the last pamphlet will also be issued in a Spanish-language version, but decided to postpone

(Continued on page 7)

Executive Secretary's Report

By Rebecca Sharpless

The OHA Council meets twice a year, just prior to the annual meeting and at the time traditionally called "mid-winter." The 1997 mid-winter meeting, held in New Orleans in late February, proved to be unusually lengthy and extraordinarily substantive. OHA members will undoubtedly be impressed with the diligence of their officers eschewing the pleasures of the French Quarter to work 12-hour days on behalf of the association!

The Publications Committee presented a full agenda for Council to consider. In addition to approving revisions and translations of several

pamphlets, outlined in the President's Column, Council also asked the Publications and Education Committees to draw up a proposal for a revised pamphlet on teaching oral history. The Publications Committee also is working with the executive secretary's office to develop a mission statement for OHA-L, the oral history electronic bulletin board, which may affiliate with H-Net, the network of many bulletin boards related to history. They also will begin considering the ramifications of the distribution of oral history materials on the Internet.

Council also spent a substantial period discussing long-range planning for the association. An ad hoc long-range planning committee was established last year, with Anne Ritchie as chair. The committee is looking at all aspects of the OHA's

program, from publications to the annual meeting to the executive secretary's office.

Council also attended to many other matters, such as proposed revisions to the "Evaluation Guidelines" pamphlet. They voted to hold the 1999 annual meeting in Anchorage. We hope OHA members will plan ahead to be with us in the far North. To our knowledge, we will be the first national history group to meet in Alaska, and we believe the OHA has an excellent opportunity to set a precedent for other groups--as well as to have an outstanding meeting in a spectacular setting.

The Oral History Association is a vital and exciting organization these days. As always, the office of the executive secretary welcomes your inquiries and suggestions on how we can serve you better.



1998 Slate Presented

By **Lois E. Myers**, Chair
Nominating Committee

The OHA Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following candidates for first vice president and two Council seats.

For first vice president: **Laurie Mercier**, Washington State University, Vancouver.

For Council:

Place One: **Celia Alvarez**, Arizona State University West, or

Alva Moore Stevenson, UCLA Oral History Program.

Place Two: **James Fogerty**, Minnesota Historical Society, or **Michael Gordon**, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

OHA members also will elect members to the Nominating Committee. Three two-year positions are to be filled. Members will vote for one person from each of three places.

Place One: **Karen Hirsch**, Parquad, Inc./St. Louis University, or **Valerie Yow**, independent scholar, Chapel Hill, N.C.

Place Two: **Suellen Cheng**, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, or **Ora L. Cooks**, Clark-Atlanta University.

Place Three: **Arthur A. Hansen**, California State University-Fullerton, or **Dale Treleven**, UCLA Oral History Program.

The election of OHA officers and next year's Nominating Committee will be by mail ballot sent to each OHA member in good standing this summer. Biographical information and statements from each of the

nominees will be included with the ballots.

The Nominating Committee and Council will accept additional nominations for officers, Council members and Nominating Committee members in the following manner (See OHA bylaws, section 9, paragraph 2, on page 71 in the 1996 Membership Directory and Annual Report):

A petition signed by 20 or more OHA members in good standing may be submitted for each nomination, stating the particular office for which the nomination is made. A petition nominating a first vice president or Council nominee must be in the hands of the Nominating Committee by June 15, 1997. (Send to Lois E. Myers, Baylor University, PO Box 97271, Waco, TX 76798-7371.)

A petition nominating a candidate for the Nominating Committee must be sent to the OHA Council by June 15, 1997. (Send to Linda Shopes, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Division of History, Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026.)

Destination: "The Big Easy"

(Continued from page 1)
Michel-Rolph Trouillot, author of "Haiti, State Against Nation: The Origins and Legacy of Duvalierism," will discuss the distinctions between written history and oral memory in Haiti and the roles each has played in the political upheavals since the overthrow of Baby Doc Duvalier in the early 1980s.

On a lighter note, author and political commentator John Maginnis will endeavor to explain Louisiana's unique brand of politics. Maginnis is the author of "The Last Hayride," on four-term (and thrice indicted) Governor Edwin Edwards, and "Cross to Bear," on Edwards' 1991 gubernatorial campaign, which pitted him against former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke and featured the

bumper sticker, "Vote for the Crook. It's Important." It was a persuasive argument, winning Edwards his fourth term.

Preconference workshops on Sept. 24 will provide opportunities for professional training and development. These include: A Crash Course in Oral History for Beginners; Getting Your Oral History Project Funded; Video Taping and Editing; From Tape to Stage; and Oral History On Line. A full day workshop for teachers, Oral History in the Classroom, will be offered Sept. 27.

Our traditional Saturday afternoon tours offer a sampling of Louisiana's rich and varied heritage and include an architectural tour of New Orleans neighborhoods and unique above-ground graveyards; an African-American culture and history tour; a swamp tour; a visit to Laura plantation, which emphasizes the experiences of African Americans as

well as life in the big house; and walking tour of the French Quarter.

We'll also arrange Thursday and Friday evening dinner tours hosted by locals and notable oral historians who will lead small groups to their favorite restaurants and night spots. And after the banquet Saturday evening, we'll dance the night away to one of the region's finest Cajun bands.

OHA Roundtable Note

If you are interested in or are teaching oral history on the post-secondary level, please join us for an interdisciplinary discussion sponsored by the OHA Education Committee at the New Orleans meeting. Bring syllabi and reading lists and be part of an educational exchange. Contact Tim Fong at tfong@academ.hnc.edu or Ava Kahn at afkahn@ucdavis.edu.

The Federal Government and Copyright: A Closer Look



By John Neuenschwander
Carthage College

A recent case before the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals revisited the question of whether a work that is created by an employee of the federal government can receive copyright protection. The case is also instructive on a number of other issues ranging from the attempted use of the Freedom of Information Act to obtain a government manuscript and the fundamental difference between a possessory and a copyright interest. Although the case is not about oral history per se, the decision nevertheless sheds light on a number of legal issues that some oral historians may encounter.

The title of the case, Pfeiffer v. C.I.A., 60 F.3d 861 (D.C. Cir. 1995), may immediately suggest to some that this is about spies, moles and deeply held secrets. It is, but to quote a line from a frequently aired car rental ad, "not exactly."

The court battles that began in 1985 and finally ended a decade later, relate to the status and ownership of a manuscript written by CIA historian, Jack Pfeiffer. His various attempts to have the work cleared for publication eventually involved the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Copyright Act and the First Amendment.

Case #1

One of Pfeiffer's major accomplishments while working for the CIA was an official history of the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion. His final volume examined the way in which the CIA conducted its own internal investigation of the overall operation. When he retired in 1984, he took a copy of the manuscript with him. Subsequently, after all of his efforts to have the "CIA's Internal Investigation of The Bay of Pigs Operation" declassified and cleared for publication proved unsuccessful, Pfeiffer filed his first lawsuit, Pfeiffer v. C.I.A., 721 F. Supp. 337 (D.D.C. 1989).

The major goal of this suit was to force the CIA to grant his FOIA request to release the "Internal Investigation" manuscript. Although the CIA claimed several exemptions supported its decision to deny Pfeiffer legal access, only one was needed to decide the case. The District Court held that the manuscript was an unfinished work and as such could be withheld from public access under the so-called deliberative process exemption.

Case #2

Rather than appeal, Pfeiffer next asked the CIA to conduct a "prepublication review" of the manuscript. This type of review is mandated for any current or former CIA employee before he or she may publish any writing that might be based on classified information obtained while working for the Agency.

The CIA, however, refused to grant such a review. The Agency maintained that its prepublication review process applied only to works created by an employee on his or her own time. Since the "Internal Investigation" manuscript had been prepared by Pfeiffer as part of his official duties, the CIA determined that it was not eligible for review.

Following this rejection, he filed a lawsuit to try and force the CIA to release the manuscript for publication. He claimed that the actions of the CIA amounted to prior restraint in violation of his First Amendment right to speak and that the government was barred from any proprietary interest in the manuscript by the Copyright Act of 1976. After the District Court granted summary judgment to the CIA, he appealed to the District of Columbia Circuit Court, which rendered its decision in August 1995.

Case #3

In a decision written by then Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Pfeiffer's prior restraint claim was quickly disposed of. The standard secrecy agreement he had signed when he joined the CIA in 1955 was deemed sufficient to cut off his prior restraint argument.

The copyright issue required more analysis. As Ginsburg noted, two sections of the Copyright Act address the ability of the federal government to obtain and hold copyrights.

17 U.S.C. Sec. 105 articulates the general prohibition:

"Copyright protection under this title is not available for any work of the United States Government, but the United States Government is not precluded from receiving and holding copyrights transferred to it by assignment, bequest or otherwise."

But this section must be read in conjunction with the statutory definition of a "work of the United States Government" found in 17 U.S.C. Sec. 101, "a work prepared by an officer or employee of the United States Government as part of that person's official duties."

Previous cases have raised several questions regarding the application of Sections 105 and 101, namely: what are the boundaries of a federal employee's "official duties" and under what circumstances can the federal government commission a work that can be copyrighted. [See Paul

Goldstein, Copyright, Vol. I, Sec. 2.52 (1995).]

Pfeiffer argued that the key copyright protection denied to the federal government is the exclusive right to reproduce "a work prepared by an officer or employee." Since he clearly was an employee of the CIA when he wrote the "Internal Investigation," Pfeiffer maintained that he could not be barred from publishing this work.

Judge Ginsburg, however, did not agree. She noted that a copyright interest can and often is distinct from a possessory or property interest. Here, the government did not have or need a copyright interest in the manuscript. Its possessory interest was sufficient. According to the Ginsburg opinion, despite his status as a government employee, Pfeiffer "has no more legal right to the copy of the report that he took from the Agency than he has to take a book from the bookstore of the Government Printing Office without paying for it."

Related Issues

Although the legal lessons to be learned from Jack Pfeiffer's failed attempts to legally obtain and then publish the last manuscript that he wrote while in the employ of the CIA are not extensive, they are worth some additional commentary.

To start with, it is important to emphasize that only the federal government is barred from obtaining copyright in works prepared by its officers and employees in the course of their official duties. Even this prohibition is not absolute. A federal agency that hires an independent contractor can secure copyright protection in the resulting work. [Schnapper v. Foley, 667 F. 2d 102 (D.C. Cir. 1981).] The U.S. Postal Service is another exception to this limitation on copyright protection.

The issue of whether a work created by a federal official or employee was prepared in the course of his or her official duties is far less settled. Judge Ginsburg, for example, pointed out that her decision only precluded Pfeiffer from possessing the manuscript he wrote for the CIA. If

he had been willing to recreate the manuscript from memory, then he would have been legally entitled to a prepublication review by the CIA. Furthermore, except for classified information, he could not have been barred from publishing his version of how the CIA investigated the Bay of Pigs invasion.

This distinction was at the heart of a celebrated case involving former President Gerald Ford. Just before Harper and Row's publication of his memoir, "A Time to Heal," The Nation magazine obtained a copy. The Nation scooped the book with an article that summarized what the former president had to say about his decision to pardon Richard Nixon.

A sizable portion of the information that The Nation took from "A Time to Heal" involved Ford's recounting of conversations with Henry Kissinger, Alexander Haig Jr. and John Connally. One of The Nation's major arguments was that "...the words Ford spoke when he was in office may not be copyrighted by him...because they are works of the United States Government pursuant to 17 U.S.C. Sec. 105."

While the Circuit Court conceded that the testimony that Ford gave to a congressional committee investigating the Nixon pardon as well as any public statements or press releases he issued would be part of his "official duties" and thus not copyrightable by him, post-presidential reflections including conversations he had while president could be copyrighted. [Harper & Row Publishers, Inc. v. Nation Enterprises, 723 F. 2d 195, 206 (2d Cir. 1983), rev'd on other grounds, 85 L. Ed. 2d 588, (1985).]

For oral historians who work for the federal government this on duty/off duty dichotomy is also extremely important. 44 U.S.C. Sec. 2111 (1) empowers the National Archives and Records Administration to accept for deposit historical materials from other federal agencies "subject to restrictions agreeable to the Archives for their use;..."

In 1985 the National Archives established a procedure to allow oral historians working for the federal government to offer potential

interviewees the opportunity to obtain copyright in their words and impose access restrictions. Federal employees who agree to be interviewed on their own time can be accorded both protections whereas employees who are interviewed while still acting in their official capacity can claim neither.

While both the federal agency that initiates the interview and the National Archives have some say in what form these restrictions may take, the key point is that such protection from FOIA inquiries and other means of access encourages some federal interviewees to be more candid and forthcoming. The National Archives can also uphold any restrictions that might be attached to historical materials (oral histories, etc.) donated by private sources.

Conclusion

Like many seemingly straightforward legal tenets, the prohibition against the federal government claiming a copyright interest in any work produced by its employees is not absolute. There are occasions when the federal government can and does own a copyright interest in a particular work. The legal differentiation in the copyright law between what a federal employee does on and off the job provides federal oral historians with the opportunity to offer virtually the same sort of safeguards to federal employees as are available to programs in the private sector. Although Jack Pfeiffer was unable to obtain the manuscript he so dearly sought, his battles with the CIA helped to elucidate an area of copyright law that is too often taken for granted.

Editor's Note: John A. Neuenschwander, a past OHA president, teaches history at Carthage College and is a municipal judge in Kenosha, Wis. He is a frequent contributor on legal topics and is the author of the OHA's pamphlet, "Oral History and the Law."



Washington Update

By Page Putnam Miller
National Coordinating Committee
for the Promotion of History

Editor's Note: The OHA Newsletter is pleased to inaugurate a new feature from the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History (NCC). Since 1982, NCC has served as a national advocacy office in Washington for historical and archival professions. It is a consortium of more than 50 organizations, including the Oral History Association.

NCC Executive Director Page Putnam Miller provides weekly reports on news events in Washington related to history and archives.

Here are selected excerpts from recent "NCC Washington Update" columns, which will become a regular feature in the OHA Newsletter.

Head of Government Printing Office Questions Permanency of CD-ROM Format

In testimony on Feb. 11 before the House subcommittee on legislative appropriations, Public Printer Michael DiMario said the Government Printing Office is developing plans, as instructed by Congress, to develop

CD-ROM versions of the Congressional Record and the Serial Set. However, he noted that depository librarians view these documents as essential reference resources and as core documents of our democracy which should be preserved in paper format for the free use of the public in every state. He also raised questions about the permanency of the CD-ROM format, from an archival media standpoint, as well as issues concerning computer hardware and software obsolescence.

Congress in FY'97 directed the GPO not to distribute bound Congressional Records to the federal depository libraries and to distribute paper copies of the Serial Set only to regional depository libraries and to one depository library in each state that has no regional depository library. The Serial Set is the permanent record of Senate and House documents, congressional committee reports, presidential and other executive publications as well as treaty materials. Until last year the 463 depository libraries in districts throughout the country received paper bound Serial Sets and the bound Congressional Record to provide to their users permanent access to the work of Congress.

Robert L. Oakley, director of the Law Library at Georgetown University and professor of law, also testified at this hearing on behalf of four major library associations--the American Association of Law Librarians, the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries and the Special Libraries Association.

He identified as the two most critical concerns of the library community the public's ability to locate information that is distributed electronically and the fundamental need to guarantee that electronic government information will be permanently accessible. He urged the printing in paper format of the Congressional Record and the Serial Set for distribution to all depository libraries. He noted that the case has not been made for permanent electronic replacements that ensure long-term public access with the

ability to migrate from one technological platform to another.

Smithsonian Joins Bethlehem Steel to Establish Pennsylvania Museum on Nation's Industrial Past

On Feb. 27, Smithsonian Secretary Michael Heyman, along with representatives of Bethlehem Steel, announced plans for a \$60 million museum on America's industrial history. Heyman said, "This is the beginning of our nationwide program to share the vast Smithsonian collections with cities and towns across America."

This is the first time the Smithsonian has established a partnership to exhibit part of its large collection of artifacts outside Washington. Most of the 140 million artifacts that the Smithsonian owns are currently in storage, and the Smithsonian welcomes this opportunity to have more of its items exhibited.

The Smithsonian will be loaning objects to the new museum for five years, subject to renewal, and will be providing staff assistance for the planning and building of the museum. It, however, will not contribute money or help run the museum.

Future of the Museum of Women in the Military in Doubt

With the closing of Ft. McClellan in Anniston, Ala., the future of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) Museum located on that base is in doubt. The WAC Foundation built the museum with private funds and gave it to the Army. It is the only accredited museum in the country that focuses on women's military history.

President's Committee Calls for Increased Funding for Arts and Humanities

On Feb. 21 the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities issued a 35-page report titled "Creative America: A Report to the President." John Brademas, a former member of Congress as well as a former president of New York University, who heads the committee, presented a copy of the report to President Clinton and Hillary Rodham

Clinton, the committee's honorary chairwoman.

In a carefully drawn analysis, the report identifies the strengths and failings in the complex system that supports the nation's museums, libraries, institutions of higher education, local preservation commissions and public television and radio stations. While federal funding of the arts and humanities provides but a small percentage of overall support, the committee stated that reductions in federal support sent an unfortunate message of "a lack of value for the role of culture in society."

The report recommends increasing the funding level for the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts and the Institute of Museum and Library Services to \$2 per capita by the year 2000. These agencies are currently funded at approximately 88 cents per capita.

Exhibit Space Available In New Orleans

Last year 23 companies and institutions came to Philadelphia to exhibit their products or distribute information about their organizations.

A similarly large exhibit area for book publishers, equipment distributors and oral history programs is planned for the OHA meeting in New Orleans this year. Exhibit space is still available at costs ranging from \$65 for a half table to \$225 for a double table.

The OHA also furnishes some complimentary tables for the state and regional oral history affiliates and for non-commercial oral history activities.

For more information, contact Charles Bolton or Shana Walton, Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage, University of Southern Mississippi, Box 5175, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5175.

Phone: 601-266-4575. E-mail: cbolton@whale.st.usm.edu.

President's Column

(Continued from page 2)
budgeting for a translation until the revisions for the second edition have been completed.

Another major topic of discussion at the Council meeting was how to take advantage of new technologies. As many of you know, there is an oral history list service on the Internet. Terry Birdwhistell at the University of Kentucky did a wonderful job getting the list organized. It has grown over the past two years so that it has become one of the major places for discussion of oral history work and for sharing information.

OHA-List shortly will move to the executive secretary's office, and Rebecca Sharpless will take over as editor of the list. The goal will remain having as wide-ranging a discussion as possible, so the job of the editor is to remove material that is truly unrelated to oral history or inappropriate submissions such as advertising.

The executive secretary's office has also designed a Web page for OHA, which presents membership and annual meeting information, as well as the OHA "Evaluation Guidelines." Eventually all OHA materials will be available electronically, though we are still not sure about how this possibility affects issues of copyright and intellectual property rights. Nor are we sure about how OHA might charge for materials taken from the Web or from the Internet and recoup some of the costs involved in producing pamphlets and technical brochures. You can reach the OHA Web page at: <http://www.baylor.edu/baylor/Departments/acd/oralhistory>.

Jeff Charnley and Marjorie McLellan from the Education Committee have created an extremely useful Web page that allows access to oral history-related sites on the Web. Their page is at: <http://scnc.leslie.k12.mi.us/~charnle2/ohlinks.html>.

Many difficult issues face oral history archives as electronic accessibility of transcripts becomes a

reality. Digital technology makes it possible for audio and video tapes to be available to the public on line. These developments will soon make accessing completed oral histories much easier and should encourage the use of oral history sources by scholars, community groups and interested readers.

At the same time, however, we need to be sure use of new technology does not inadvertently undermine the ethical and legal safeguards that the OHA has worked so hard over the past 30 years to establish.

New technologies is a large and somewhat amorphous issue. Expectations have been high for what will become possible, but it is an area with a lot of uncertainty still. I strongly urge members who have thought about the relationship of oral history practice to electronic technologies to write up their suggestions and forward them to OHA's officers so we can take as wide a range of membership opinion as possible into account as we begin to address these issues. I would also urge you to send letters to the **Newsletter** so that the membership as a whole can discuss and debate the various options we will be facing in the near future.

Long-Range Planning Panel Wants Views

We'd like to hear your views on the future of the Oral History Association.

The long-range planning committee is currently studying the OHA's annual meetings, publications, finances, membership development and administrative structure. Your views on these and any other matters relating to the OHA would be greatly welcomed.

Please get in touch with the committee's chair, Anne Ritchie, at Gallery Archives, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20506; or e-mail her at a-ritchie@nga.gov.

STATE AND REGIONAL REPORT



Texas Oral Historians Issue 3rd Journal

By Lois E. Myers
Baylor University

The Texas Oral History Association is pleased to announce publication of Volume 3 of "Sound Historian: The Journal of the Texas Oral History Association (1995-96)."

Volume 3 presents a major article, "War Correspondent Ernie Pyle's 'Beloved Captain': The Life and Death of Henry T. Waskow of Belton, Texas, and the Column that Touched America," researched and written by Michael S. Sweeney, assistant professor of communication at Utah State University, Logan, Utah.

Copies of Volume 3 and back issues are available for \$5 each from TOHA, P.O. Box 97271, Waco, TX 76798-7271.

Manuscripts of oral history-based research focusing on Texas or the Southwest are welcomed by "Sound Historian" editor, Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Department of History, Midwestern State University, 3410 Taft Blvd., Wichita Falls, TX 76308-2093.

TOHA held its annual program meeting in Austin on March 6, in joint session with the Texas State Historical Association. Three papers, presented by Eleanor L.M. Crowder, Lesley Williams Brunet and Mary L. Irving, highlighted the session titled "Health Care in Texas: Using Oral History to Document the History of Medicine."

SOHA in Pasadena For Annual Meeting

By Tom King
University of Nevada, Reno

The 1997 annual meeting of the Southwest Oral History Association was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Pasadena, Calif., April 25-27. Three workshops were offered, and the program included a dozen sessions relating to "The Art and Craft of Oral History."

A highlight of every SOHA annual meeting is the presentation of the James V. Mink Award for outstanding contributions to oral history in the Southwest region. This year's recipient is Noel J. Stowe, professor of history and senior director of the Public History Program at Arizona State University.

For 30 years Stowe has made extensive use of oral history in his research and writing, which includes three books and numerous articles. He introduced oral history into the ASU curriculum, has advised and supported local projects throughout Arizona and has served with distinction on numerous OHA and SOHA committees.

Chicago Roundtable Plans Terkel Reception

By Warren Albert, Secretary
Chicago Oral History Roundtable

The Chicago Oral History Roundtable (COHR) will cosponsor with the Chicago Newspaper Guild a reception for author Studs Terkel prior to a panel discussion about his contributions to working class history. The program is scheduled for Aug. 29 during the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists at Chicago's Fairmont Hotel. OHA members attending the SAA meeting are invited to come to the reception. For information, call COHR's Alan H. Stein at 312-963-8630.

COHR's monthly program series continues May 12 with "Brotherhoods of Color: African-American Railroad Workers' Struggle for Equality," presented by Eric Arnesen, professor of African-American history at the University of Illinois, Chicago.

The final program for 1996-97 is set for June 4 and will feature "Legends of our Time," a video oral history of Oak Park, Ill.

Michael Godow of the Oak Park Public Library and Frank Lipo of the Oak Park River Forest Historical Society will discuss this community history project done in cooperation with the library, historical society, Concordia University and local elementary schools.

Project features included intergenerational interviews of homebound elderly and focused on documenting Oak Park's effort at achieving racial diversity.

OHA members are welcome to attend COHR's programs. For more information call Warren Albert at 312-471-5643 or Victoria Haas at 708-681-3696.

SOHA Member's Book Traces Community History

Elaine Zorbas, co-editor of the SOHA Newsletter and head of research at the Pasadena Public Library, is the author of a new book.

"Fiddletown: From Gold Rush to Rediscovery" reveals the many moods of a California community as it evolved from a boisterous Gold Rush town, known for its sizable Chinese population, to an almost forgotten place that somehow managed to survive as a community. Fiddletown, located in the Sierra foothills about 45 miles southeast of Sacramento, has a population today of about 120.

Excerpts from diaries and oral history interviews with town elders form the heart of the book.

For more information contact Zorbas at the Pasadena Public Library, 285 E. Walnut, Pasadena, CA 91101. Telephone: 818-405-4057.



Marvin Dressler, Rabbit Boss of the Washoe Indians, 1995

Photo by University of Nevada, Reno, Oral History Program

Washoe Indian Tradition Video Sparks Interest

The University of Nevada Oral History Program is enjoying some success with its video documentary about a Washoe Indian tradition.

"Rabbit Boss" won awards at the 1996 Columbus and New York International film festivals and was selected for screening at the 21st Annual American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco and the University of Montana's 1997 Native American Film Festival.

"Rabbit Boss" explores a little-known dimension of life in the Great Basin. Every autumn, in sage brush valleys east of the Sierra Nevada, Washoe Indians renew an ancient connection with their natural environment. When the time is right, a leader known as the "rabbit boss" assembles a group of hunters to move through the brush, driving jackrabbits before them. As in the past, the rabbits are killed for their meat and pelts.

"Rabbit Boss" follows current leader Marvin Dressler on three rabbit drives in the austere beautiful basin-and-range country of the Washoe homeland. On-site footage and historic photos show how the rabbit

drive has survived the 20th century transformation of Washoe life, and excerpts from a decades-old home movie record the making of one of the last of the magnificent rabbit skin blankets.

Departing from customary documentary practice, the producers chose to use no scripted narration--no scholarly, voice-over interpretation of action or meaning. Dressler, the Boss, is the principal speaker, and his words are his own. Although he speaks in English, his is an authentic Washoe account of the rabbit drive, the weaving of a rabbit skin blanket and the importance of rabbits in Washoe life. In a world of accelerating social instability, "Rabbit Boss" captures the enduring, binding strength of a tradition. Its production was made possible by grants from the Nevada Humanities Committee and the John Ben Snow Trust.

For more information contact Tom King, Mail Stop 324, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557.

OHA COMMITTEE NEWS

Education Committee Update and Request

Tracy K'Meyer, Larry Hudson and Marjorie McLellan have received more than 20 responses to the Education Committee survey and requests for college level syllabi and projects.

The materials fall into three categories: guidelines and assignments; outlines for upper division and graduate courses in either historical methods or oral history; and university-community collaborative projects.

While high school teachers make oral history assignments, the committee has received little representing either introductory survey courses or upper division courses outside of methods.

They are still gathering material and would like to hear from those teaching in gender, area and ethnic studies, as well as from community

college faculty and those teaching outside of the United States.

Please send curriculum materials to Tracy K'Meyer, Department of History, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40207.

Multiculturality Committee Reports Plans for Funds

Multiculturality Committee Chair Alva Moore Stevenson has reported that the \$1,000 allocated by Council to provide assistance for persons to attend annual meetings will be used exclusively to help persons whose papers, panels or other program participation have already been accepted. The committee chair will work closely with the program committee co-chairs to identify persons in need.

Miguel Juarez of El Paso, Texas, a community oral historian who attended his first OHA meeting in Philadelphia and who took an active

interest in the committee, has been appointed by President Richard Candida Smith to serve on the Publications Committee.

Juarez also took the lead on arranging for a translator in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, to draft a Spanish-language version of the OHA membership brochure.

International Committee Seeks Caribbean Interest

International Committee Chair Jim Morrison has reported that he sent information about the New Orleans meeting to 25 history departments, national museums and heritage societies in the West Indies.

Letters went to institutions in Jamaica, the Virgin Islands, Grenada, St. Kitts, Nevis, Trinidad, British West Indies, Antigua, Martinique, Barbados and Guadeloupe in the hope of attracting Caribbean attendance at the meeting.

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

1997 OHA in New Orleans

Plan now for the 1997 OHA meeting in New Orleans, Sept. 25-28. See page 1 for more details.

New Zealand Meeting Soon

The National Oral History Association of New Zealand and the University of Waikato will hold a 1997 conference on Queen's Birthday weekend, May 31-June 1, in Hamilton, New Zealand.

More Down Under

The Oral History Association of Australia will hold its national conference Sept. 4-7 at the Plaza Hotel in Alice Springs, Northern Territory.

Personal Historians to Meet

The Association of Personal Historians, an alliance of individuals who specialize in preserving personal, family and group histories, will hold its annual meeting Nov. 7-9 in Atlanta.

For information, call Kitty Axelson-Berry at 413-253-2353.

Calls for Papers

Conference on Women Religious

A conference called "Through Multiple Lenses: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the History of Women Religious," sponsored by the Conference on the History of Women Religious, will be held at Loyola University in Chicago June 21-24, 1998. Five copies of one-page proposals with curriculum vitae are due Nov. 15, 1997.

Send proposals to Florence Deacon, OSF, Department of History, Cardinal Stritch College, 6801 N. Yates Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53217-3985.

Opportunities

Fulbright Awards

Opportunities for lecturing or advanced research in more than 135

countries are available to college and university faculty and professionals outside academe.

U.S. citizenship and a Ph.D. or comparable professional qualifications required. For lecturing awards, university or college teaching experience is expected.

Foreign language skills are needed for some countries, but most lecturing assignments are in English.

Deadline for research or lecturing grants for 1998-99 is Aug. 1, 1997.

For information, contact the USIA Fulbright Senior Scholar Program, Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 3007 Tilden St., NW, Suite 5M, Box GNEWS, Washington, D.C. 20008-3009. Phone: 202-686-7877.

Irish-American Research

The Irish American Cultural Institute welcomes applications from researchers to investigate the Irish experience in America. Projects such as museum exhibits, oral history collections and the compilation of bibliographies and other research tools are eligible to apply.

Original research and possible assistance for travel or publication costs can be funded up to \$5,000 from each of three research funds.

The Irish American Cultural Institute is a non-profit membership organization with international headquarters in Morristown, N.J.

Application deadline is Aug. 15. Write to: Irish Research Fund, Irish American Cultural Institute, 1 Lackawanna Place, Morristown, NJ 07960 or call 201-605-1991.

Announcements

WAVES in World War II

An oral history project interviewing WAVES, both officers and enlisted rates, who served in World War II is located at the Naval Historical Collection, Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

Since 1993, 30 oral history interviews have been conducted with women who served as administrators, communicators, gunnery instructors, yeomen, hospital corpsmen,

storekeepers, Link trainer instructors, recreation specialists, pharmacists mates and aviation machinists mates.

The project was initiated to commemorate the 50th anniversary of World War II and to uncover the contributions that the WAVES made to the war effort.

For information, contact: Naval Historical Collection, Naval War College, Newport, RI 02841 or call 401-841-2435.

Country Grain Elevators

The Country Grain Elevator Historical Society is looking for an appropriate elevator to serve as a museum and archive to preserve and promote the history of country grain elevators, rapidly becoming extinct across the nation's agricultural landscape. The new group also plans to produce a newsletter and create a presence on the World Wide Web.

For information, contact the Country Grain Elevator Historical Society, P.O. Box 338, Bozeman, MT 59771.

International Memory Debates

Routledge Publishers in London announces its new "Routledge Studies in Memory and Narrative: New International Debates." The publication is an international, interdisciplinary, multicultural, bi-annual series specializing in international debates in memory and narrative.

Articles are welcomed on: new and continuing debates on the nature and use of memory in the social and behavioral sciences and history; theory, method and technology of interviews; issues of subjectivity and social change; contemporary significance of "oral" society; and book reviews.

For information, contact Kim Lacy Rogers, History Department, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA 17013-2896.

AIDS Volume Available

The Regional Oral History Office at the University of California, Berkeley, announces publication of the second volume in its oral history

series documenting the experiences of 16 physicians and epidemiologists who played key roles in the early years of the AIDS epidemic in San Francisco.

For information, write to:
Regional Oral History Office, 486
Library, University of California,
Berkeley, CA 94720. Telephone:
510-642-7395.

Oral History Guide Published

The University of Illinois at Springfield has published a new guide to its collection, which includes abstracts of its transcribed memoirs and untranscribed tapes as well as indices and descriptive listings.

The university's oral history collection includes more than 1,200 interviews recorded on more than 3,000 hours of audio tape and 100,000 pages of transcripts.

The interviews include World War II prisoners of war, Illinois coal miners, farm wives, African Americans, Illinois legislators, governors and other state officials, one-room school teachers, small businessmen, conscientious objectors, immigrants, Ohio River steamboat crew members and numerous others.

Thomas J. Wood, university archivist, said the collection's "diversity and regional focus...makes it a vital record of life in 20th century Illinois and the nation as a whole."

Personal Notes

Barbara Sommer, a founding member of Oral History in Minnesota, has formed BWS Associates, specializing in the collection, transcription and use of oral history for museums, archives, corporations, historical organizations and government agencies.

Now living in Lincoln, Neb., Sommer has been involved in oral history for more than 20 years. She has worked on a wide variety of projects, conducts oral history workshops and has developed museum exhibits using oral history materials.

Jo Blatti of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center and **Elly Shodell** of the

Port Washington, N.Y. Public Library, presented the oral history component of a National Endowment for the Humanities-funded grant "Preserving the Recent Past" at the Worcester, Mass., Historical Society under the auspices of the Bay State Historical League.

Topics included: evidence, ethics and methodology; implementing a project; documentation, technology and archives; and public conversations.

Fred Calabretta of Mystic Seaport and **Allen Smith** of Simmons College were key participants at the day-long conference, which focused on oral history as a research technique, a tool for preserving the past and resource for introducing public audiences to 20th century history.

James V. Mink, long-time OHA member, has been appointed an emeritus member of the University of California.

In announcing the appointment, Chancellor Charles E. Young, University of California, Los Angeles, wrote to Mink: "Your many contributions to this institution and to scholarship in your field have won our respect and appreciation. You may take special satisfaction in the knowledge that your work has had an impact and that the results of your efforts will continue to be felt within the framework of your discipline. Such is the unique reward of the scholar."

Audrey Galex of Roots & Wings Life Stories reports that an illness in the family prevented her from co-convening the discussion session on oral histories for profit held during the 1996 OHA meeting in Philadelphia. She said she would like to talk to or correspond with anyone who attended the session. Galex can be reached at 28402 Plantation Dr., Atlanta, GA 30324. Telephone: 404-636-2702.

Two members of the National Oral History Association of New Zealand--**Anna Green** of the University of Waikato and **Megan Hutching** of New Zealand's Department of Internal Affairs

Historical Branch--reported in the NOHANZ Newsletter about their attendance at the 1996 OHA meeting in Philadelphia. Both highlighted several of the sessions they attended noting the wide range of topics from which to choose.

Hutching said she "went to some thought-provoking papers and had some interesting discussions about the practice of oral history." But she said she was struck by "the complete lack of indigenous input, the preponderance of university-based oral historians attending and presenting papers and the invisibility of community-based oral historians."

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OHA Thanks Donors

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Council Considers Proposed Human Subjects Guidelines

By Richard Candida Smith
OHA President

The Professional Division of the American Historical Association asked for the Oral History Association's input in developing language for professional guidelines regarding historians' responsibilities towards human subjects. The division submitted a draft paragraph to us for our consideration. With the help of Michael Gordon, Donald Ritchie and Dale Treleven, the OHA Council has suggested some revisions.

AHA has approved the following language, which all historians should consider as they plan their projects:

"Certain interview research may be governed by the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (codified at 45 CFR 46). Such research may require prospective review by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) as well as written

informed consent of the interviewee. Additionally, institutions engaged in biomedical and behavioral research are likely to have internal policies that also pertain to interview research. Historians should be cognizant of and comply with all laws, regulations and institutional policies applicable to their research activities. Before beginning any research that may include oral history, historians should contact their IRB for policies and regulations governing the use of human subjects in research projects. They will also find it useful to read and follow the Oral History Association's 'Principles and Standards of the Oral History Association' and the 'Evaluation Guidelines' of the Oral History Association."

Human subjects review policies have been an issue of concern to many of us. Much of the concern revolves around the uncertainty of

when such policies apply and whether policies designed for medical, psychological and sociological research are suitable for the very different situations involved in oral history interviewing. These concerns were discussed at a session at the last annual meeting.

OHA will be in contact with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Protection from Research Risks to discuss whether the OHA "Evaluation Guidelines" provide sufficient protection that the OPRR would be willing to rule that following the guidelines constitutes a reasonable and adequate effort to protect human subjects from research risks.

We will be reporting on the results of these discussions. Hopefully such contacts can clarify what oral historians need to do to comply with current federal regulations governing research involving human subjects.

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