



NEWSLETTER

Wide-ranging Agenda Set for Anchorage

By Laurie Mercier
OHA Vice President

"Giving Voice: Oral Historians and the Shaping of Narrative" is the theme for the 1999 annual Oral History Association meeting scheduled for Oct. 6-10.

The Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, the city nestled between mountains and sea in the heart of Alaska's wilderness, provides the dramatic setting for panels, performances and presentations that will explore the ways in which oral historians shape recorded narratives as they give them public expression and mediate between narrators and their audiences.

Topics include preservation and intellectual property, the Pacific Rim, migration, interpretation and public agencies, biographies, pedagogy, recovering silenced voices, ethnic and gender identity, indigenous storytelling, community history, sharing narrative authority, editing narratives and the public use of oral history in film, exhibit, radio and computer formats.

Featured speakers will include:
+ Julie Cruikshank, British Columbia anthropologist and author of "Life Lived Like a Story" and "The Social Life of Stories," who will discuss her interviews with Yukon elders;

+ Carol Ford, whose one-woman show profiles women's voices from the Kenai Peninsula's Communities of Memory project;

+ Raven's Voice Theatre, who perform and discuss traditional contemporary stories, songs and dance; and

+First Nations oral historians from Canada.

Other featured activities include a reception at the Alaska Museum of History and Art and a dance with Pam Yua, a Yup'ik/Doo Wop Group, whose members meld traditional Yup'ik song and dance with a contemporary beat and performance

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Editor's Note:

Copy deadline for the summer issue of the OHA **Newsletter** is July 1. State and regional oral history groups are encouraged to report on their spring activities, if they haven't already done so. Stories about upcoming summer and fall events also are welcome, as are contributions on oral history projects or issues of interest to oral historians. Mail materials to: Mary Kay Quinlan, 7524 S. 35th St., Lincoln, NE 68516; fax to: 402-420-1770; or e-mail: OHAEditor@aol.com. Please do not send items as attachments to an e-mail message.



Anchorage, Alaska's largest city with 254,000 residents, sits on the Pacific Ocean's Cook Inlet and is sheltered by the Chugach Mountains to the East.

Photo by Frank Flavin, Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau.



From Your President

By Howard Green
OHA President

Meeting in Anchorage in March, your Council made several decisions that will color the affairs of the association for some years to come.

As I discussed in my last column, the Council considered Bylaw #1. This bylaw read: "The dues of members of the Association shall be fixed by the Council. Any changes shall be subject to a concurring vote by the members. Separate dues rates for voting members (individual members, student members, institutional members, life members, and memberships in a sustaining category) may be so fixed, as may non-voting members' dues (library memberships)." The Council, with one dissenting member, voted to remove the second sentence requiring a concurring vote of the membership on dues increases.

We took this decision under Article 17 of the OHA constitution, which authorizes the Council to "amend such bylaws as may be desirable to regulate the administrative practices of the Association." But the article goes on to say that, "any part of the bylaws shall be subject to review by the membership at any annual business meeting of the Association and may be changed by majority vote of those attending."

If OHA members would like to debate this issue beyond the discussion we held at the open forum in Buffalo, I welcome them to contact me so I can be certain the business meeting in Anchorage will have enough time for this discussion.

Following its vote on the bylaw, the Council turned to the question of a dues increase. To recapitulate this issue, last year the University of California Press recommended increases in **Oral History Review** subscription rates. The Council submitted this recommendation to the Task Force on Membership, Dues and Benefits, which it has commissioned.

The complete report of that group, chaired by Michael Gordon, is not expected until October 1999, but at the request of Council, the task force made a preliminary report in March on the proposed dues increase. The task force recommended that domestic individual membership dues be increased by \$10 to \$60 per year, that international individual dues go from \$65 to \$75 and student dues from \$25 to \$35. The task force also recommended that our two existing institutional categories be combined into one that will cost \$90 in 2000. The task force further recommended that all three of the individual membership categories stay at these levels at least through 2002, while the institutional membership price will increase gradually in each of the next three years.

The Council, by unanimous vote, accepted these recommendations. Council members were particularly persuaded by the estimates that the Gordon task force provided, which show that even at these new rates the cost of the **Review**, the **Newsletter** and the other membership benefits are not covered by dues. At current levels our members cost the Association more than \$60 a piece. This is an issue that you will hear more about in coming months when the task force reports.

But these were not the biggest decisions that the Council reached in Anchorage.

We approved a contract with Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., for the relocation of the executive offices of the Association. I am very optimistic that the relationship between Dickinson and OHA will be a long and fruitful one. Information about the new mailing address and phone number of the Association is on the back page of this **Newsletter**.

Probably most significant, the Council accepted a recommendation that OHA hire Madelyn Campbell as its next executive secretary. Madelyn is an experienced administrator, who will be leaving her post as associate director of the Dickinson College Financial Aid Office to assume her duties with OHA. I am confident that she will help ensure a smooth

transition from Baylor University to Dickinson College. Following Rebecca Sharpless, who did a wonderful job in her four years as OHA's executive secretary, Madelyn has a high standard to meet, and I expect she will.

Madelyn's first duties will involve helping put the finishing touches on the Anchorage meeting. She already has begun cooperating with Laurie Mercier. I hope you are planning now to come to Anchorage and see for yourself the results of Laurie's work, meet Madelyn and see Alaska.

Items Needed For Silent Auction

By Terri Schorzman
Idaho Humanities Council

The Oral History Association silent auction will be held in conjunction with the OHA annual meeting in Anchorage. The auction, which raises money for the OHA Endowment Fund, brought in almost \$2,000 at the 1998 meeting, according to Anne Ritchie, last year's auction organizer.

Items being auctioned will be displayed in the conference exhibit area, bids taken throughout the meeting and distributed to highest bidders at the Saturday evening banquet.

If you would like to donate an item, please consider things that can be shipped and packed easily. Cassettes or CDs of regional music, books, crafts (pins, pottery, ephemera), T-shirts, mugs and notecards are terrific items for the auction. Please, no posters or other large items that are awkward to display and difficult to take home.

If you would like to contribute, contact Terri Schorzman at the Idaho Humanities Council, 208-345-5346, or e-mail: terriihc@micron.net.

OHA Meeting Promises Varied Topics, Unforgettable Scenery

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style. The performers/composers represent heritages as diverse as Central Yup'ik, Greenlandic and African-American cultures.

On Wednesday, Oct. 6, pre-conference workshops will provide opportunities for professional training and development. A full-day workshop will introduce beginners to the fundamentals of oral history methodology; two half-day workshops will focus on creating exhibitions from Native American oral history and preserving audio, video and film materials.

On Saturday, a half-day curriculum workshop will be offered for teachers who use oral history in the classroom. A forum for organizing and maintaining local, state and regional oral history groups also will be held on Saturday.

Saturday afternoon tours will include trips to Portage Glacier and Girdwood, the Independence Mine State Historical Park, a walking tour of Anchorage and a visit to the new Alaska Native Heritage Center where Native storytellers and artists will perform. On Sunday, a trip to Talkeetna, the gateway to Denali National Park, is planned, where local raconteurs will describe wilderness life.

Plan to come early and stay late, since the wonders of Alaska will beckon conference attendees. Within a short drive of Anchorage are popular hiking trails and wildlife viewing areas; lakes, glaciers and wilderness areas. Anchorage is also the place to begin exploring the Kenai Peninsula or set off on a trip to Denali National Park and numerous historic sites.

From Anchorage, you can take whale-watching cruises or flight-seeing trips. For more information on sights in Anchorage and Alaska, contact the Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau, 524 W. 4th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501, or www.anchorage.net.

Accommodations and Travel

Conference attendees are advised to make reservations well in advance of the meeting, since early October is the end of the tourist season in Alaska.

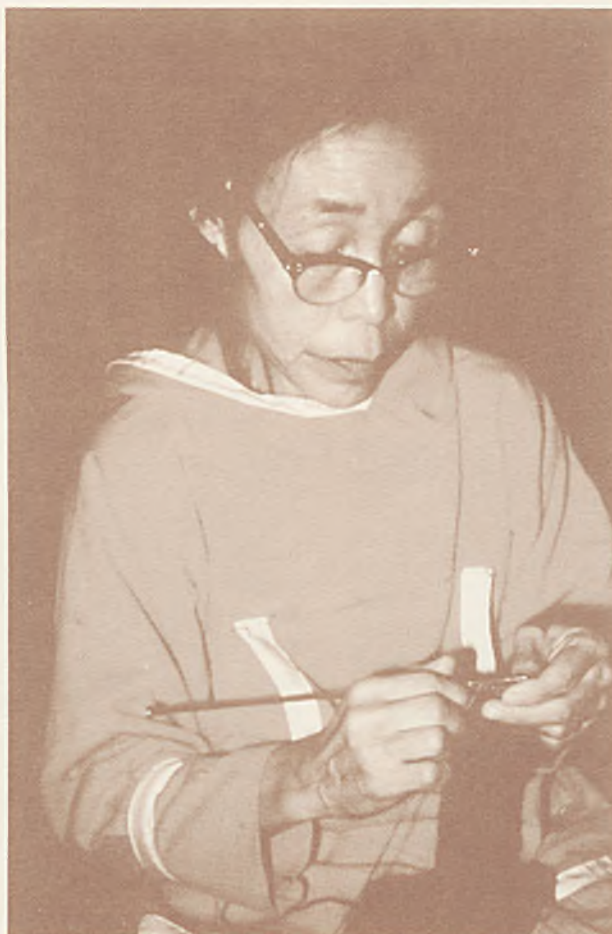
Special OHA conference room rates are \$107 single, \$118 double, with a free shuttle from the airport. The Hilton offers spectacular views, a health club, pool and spa, a business center and dining facilities. In the heart of downtown Anchorage, it is within walking distance of Cook Inlet, the Alaska Museum of History and Art, the Performing Arts Center and many restaurants and shops. Alternate accommodations will be listed in the conference program published this summer.

The Hilton is at 500 W. Third Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501. Phone: 907-265-7152. Fax: 907-265-7140.

Anchorage is served by more than a dozen major airlines. Alaska Airlines will offer a 15 percent discount in addition to any other discount fares. Mention the OHA convention fare special #CMJ0029.

Programs will be mailed to OHA members in July with full program, event and accommodation details. Program co-chairs Susan Armitage and Will Schneider plan to post the program sessions on the OHA Website soon. Beginning this summer, the Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau will post bi-weekly updates on airfares on the H-ORALHIST listserv.

For further information, contact the executive secretary, Oral History Association, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA 17013.



Alaska Natives demonstrate the state's fascinating Native cultures, crafts and traditions at the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage.

Photo from the Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The Private vs. Public Figure Standard in Libel Cases



By John A. Neuenschwander
Carthage College

Two recent cases decided by the Supreme Courts of California and Texas demonstrate how important the public or private status of a person is in determining liability for allegedly defamatory statements.

Both cases grew out of historical incidents that drew prolonged media interest and widespread national attention. The first event in time was the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, then a presidential candidate, on June 6, 1968, and the second was the raid by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms on the Branch Davidian compound on Feb. 28, 1993.

Background

Libel is a false statement of fact about a person that is published or broadcast and that injures the person's reputation. Generally, libelous statements must address one's profession or business, morality, sexuality, honesty or lawfulness.

In the field of oral history, a continuing concern is that an interviewee's statements regarding an individual or organization will result in legal action by the party so named. But since the common law of libel considers talebearers to be just as culpable as talemakers, oral historians and programs that make tapes or transcripts available for public use can also be sued for the interviewee's alleged libel.

As the result of two landmark Supreme Court cases, New York v.

Sullivan, (1964) and Gertz v. Robert Welch Inc., (1974), the burden of proof that the party filing suit must be able to carry in order to win often determines the outcome of libel cases well short of trial. Even if the offending statement or statements are truly false and injurious to a person or organization's reputation, if the injured party is a public figure, he or she must prove that the talemaker and/or talebearer acted with "actual malice" in publicizing the libelous material. This is a very high standard. It requires a showing that the publishing party either knew that the information was false but maliciously went ahead or recklessly disregarded clear warning signs that the information was untrue.

If, however, the person who claims to have been libeled is a private individual, the injured party need only show that the person or persons who published the material failed to live up to a reasonable standard of care. In other words, they were negligent in not catching the material before it was published. A possible example of such a showing in the context of oral history would be evidence that an oral history program did not review the tape or transcript for possible libel before making it available to the public.

Case # 1

The first case, Khawar v. Globe International, Inc., 965 P.2d 696 (1998), grew out of a book about the Kennedy assassination that was published in 1988. In his book, "The Senator Must Die: The Murder of Robert Kennedy," Robert Morrow, a former Central Intelligence Agency agent, claimed that the Iranian secret police (SAVAK) and the Mafia were the responsible parties. A young Pakistani by the name of Ali Ahmand was their instrument of death. The book also contained four photographs of a young man identified as Ahmand standing in a group of people near Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles shortly before he was assassinated.

In the April 4, 1989, issue of

Globe, a weekly tabloid newspaper, an article appeared entitled: "Former CIA Agent Claims: IRANIANS KILLED BOBBY KENNEDY FOR THE MAFIA." The article was characterized by the California Supreme Court as "...an abbreviated, uncritical summary of the Morrow book's allegations." It also included an enlarged photograph from the book showing a group of men standing near Kennedy with an arrow pointing to Ahmand. The issue of the tabloid that carried the story sold 2.7 million copies.

Shortly after the article appeared, the reputed assassin was determined to be Khalid Iqbal Khawar, a farmer living in Bakersfield, Calif. After he and his family were subjected to death threats, vandalism and physical retaliation, he filed a libel suit against Robert Morrow, Roundtable Publishing and Globe International.

Before the trial began, Khawar settled with the publisher. As part of the settlement Roundtable published a retraction exonerating Khawar from any association with or involvement in the assassination of Robert Kennedy. Morrow was dismissed from the case because he had not identified Khawar by his real name and the Court determined that he could not have been identified from the photographs as they originally appeared in his book.

Issue #1: Private Individual or Limited-Purpose Public Figure?

Following a trial that resulted in a jury awarding Khawar nearly \$1.8 million in damages and an unsuccessful appeal by Globe, its petition for review was granted by the California Supreme Court. The two main issues before the high court were whether Khawar was a private individual or limited-purpose public figure and whether California recognized the defense of neutral reportage.

The Court framed the first issue as, "When a published book places a person at the center of a public controversy, is that person an involuntary public figure for the

limited purpose of a media report about that book and that controversy?"

According to the U.S. Supreme Court in Gertz v. Robert Welch Inc., a limited purpose public figure is one who thrusts him or herself to the forefront of a dispute or controversy, whether it be of local or national nature. The high court also considered the possibility that someone could be drawn into a controversy and thus become a limited-purpose public figure without any purposeful action on his or her part. Lawyers for Globe International maintained that this is precisely what happened to the plaintiff. Khawar, they argued, became a limited-purpose public figure following the publication of Robert Morrow's book and thus should have to prove that Globe International was not just negligent in publishing the article about Morrow's book but did so with "actual malice." They also pointed out that on the day of the assassination, Khawar had wanted to be close to Kennedy so that he could be seen with him on television and in subsequent photographs.

In rejecting the Globe's arguments, the California Supreme Court noted that at the time of the assassination, Khawar was a freelance photo journalist who was on assignment for a Pakistani periodical. Although subsequently questioned by the FBI and Los Angeles police, he was never a suspect. When the Globe article appeared he was a naturalized U.S. citizen operating a farm in Bakersfield. The only media exposure he agreed to was an interview with a Bakersfield television station after the Globe article had appeared. In the Court's eyes, "...Khawar did not voluntarily elect to encounter an increased risk of media defamation and that before publication of the Globe article he did not enjoy media access sufficient to prevent resulting injury to his reputation...."

Issue #2: Availability of the Defense of Neutral Reporting

Globe's second major line of defense was the doctrine of neutral reportage. This privilege evolved out of the common law rule that one who republishes a defamatory statement is

deemed to have adopted it and so may be held liable like the originator.

But in a 1977 case, Edwards v. National Audubon Society, Inc., the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals endorsed the neutral reporting privilege in situations where the reporting of defamatory allegations relating to an ongoing public controversy has real informational value for the public regardless of the truth of the allegations. As the California Supreme Court noted, however, the U.S. Supreme Court has not taken a position on this privilege and there is a great deal of disagreement among courts and commentators as to its viability. In the jurisdictions that do recognize the privilege, most agree that it does not apply when the person allegedly defamed is a private individual. In the end, the Supreme Court refused to recognize the privilege in California even in cases where the suing party is a public figure.

Case #2

The second case, McLemore v. WFAA-TV, 978 S.W. 2d 568 (1998), also rose out of an incident that attracted prolonged national attention. Unlike the first case that involved the reporting of a new interpretation of the Kennedy assassination 20 years after the event, this case emerged from the second guessing that occurred almost immediately after the failure of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) raid on the Branch Davidian compound.

On Feb. 28, 1993, John McLemore was a television reporter for station KWTX in Waco, Texas. After his station learned that an ATF raid on the Branch Davidian compound was imminent, he was sent there with a cameraman to cover the event. When the shooting began, McLemore and his cameraman were the only media representatives inside the compound.

Two days after the failed raid that took the lives of four ATF agents and three Branch Davidians, a reporter for the Houston Chronicle appeared on "Nightline" to discuss the raid with Ted Koppel. In answer to Koppel's question as to what went wrong, the reporter shared the view of some of

the ATF agents that David Koresh had been tipped off to the raid by members of the local media. These same agents pointed to the presence in the compound of local media representatives even before the shooting began.

WFAA, a Dallas television station, followed up on the story the next day. After recounting the "Nightline" report, the station broadcast footage showing McLemore inside the Davidian compound. The WFAA story went on to identify him by name as a reporter for KWTX-TV and indicate that he and two reporters from local newspapers were the only ones on the scene when the raid commenced. Later that same day, WFAA clarified its earlier report as follows: "[T]he only reporters at the scene Sunday morning were John McLemore and a photographer.... Wednesday night McLemore's station...demanded a retraction from 'Nightline' saying, '[T]he rumor that a Waco reporter had tipped the cult about the raid in exchange for permission to be on the compound grounds was completely false. No reporter or photographer from local media was on the compound grounds prior to the raid.'"

Issue: Private Individual or Limited-Purpose Public Figure?

Careful readers will note that this is the same issue that was posed in the first case. Once again, the outcome of a lawsuit would hinge upon how the party claiming to be libeled was characterized by the court. The Texas Supreme Court looked to a three-part test to determine whether McLemore was a private individual and thus required only to prove negligent conduct on the part of WFAA-TV or a limited-purpose public figure with the daunting task of proving that the station acted with "actual malice" in its reportage.

The first prong of the test requires a public controversy, the second goes to whether the person allegedly defamed played more than a trivial or tangential role in the controversy, and the third seeks to ascertain whether the alleged defamation was germane to the actual role played by the suing party.

(Continued on next page.)



2000 Slate Presented

By **Valerie Yow**, 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: **Mary Marshall Clark**, Columbia University.

For one Council seat:
Jeffrey G. Charnley, Michigan State University, or **Tom King**, University of Nevada Reno.

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: **Dale Treleven**, University of California at Los Angeles, or **Sherna Gluck**, California State University, Long Beach.

Place Two: **Linda Shopes**, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, or **Mary Ann Larson**, University of Nevada, Reno.

Place Three: **Rina Benmayor**, California State University, Monterey Bay, or **Ruth Hill**, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College.

The election of OHA officers and next year's Nominating Committee will be by mail ballot sent this summer to each OHA member in good standing. 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 79 in the 1998 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. (Send to Valerie Yow, 12 Davie Circle, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.)

A petition nominating a candidate for the Nominating Committee must be sent to the OHA Council by June 15. (Send to Howard Green, New Jersey Historical Commission, CN 305, Trenton, NJ 08625-0305.)

Private vs. Public In Libel Cases

(Continued from page 5)

The high court had no trouble determining that there was a public controversy and that at the time it contered mostly on trying to determine why the raid failed.

The second prong was a closer call, in part because McLemore was a television journalist and thus bound to be in the public eye by the very nature of his vocation. But the fact that he was the only journalist who ventured into the compound, spoke repeatedly and proudly to the media after the raid about both the risk he took by being in the compound and the aid he rendered to injured ATF agents while there, led the Texas justices to conclude that, "...by choosing to engage in activities that necessarily involved increased public exposure and media scrutiny, McLemore played more than a trivial or tangential role in the controversy and, therefore, bore the risk of injury to his reputation."

Based on the court's findings in relation to the first two prongs of the test, germaneness, the third one, was a given. Since McLemore was thus a limited-purpose public figure and WFAA was able to show that it did not create the report on the role of local media in the failure of the ATF raid with "actual malice," his libel suit was dismissed by the Texas Supreme Court.

Implications for Oral Historians

While both decisions could be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court and possibly reversed, the message at this juncture for oral historians is quite clear.

The Globe case underscores the continuing concern that all oral historians should have, namely, are we making available or publishing material that might be defamatory and result in a lawsuit? As the publisher or talebearer, oral historians and programs need to be ever vigilant. The editing or reviewing process for tapes and transcripts always should include a thorough defamation audit.

While the two cases reviewed here point up how much more difficult it is

for a public figure as opposed to a private individual to meet his or her burden of proof in a libel case, the uncertainty on how a court will rule makes this a defense of last resort at best. When and if a court determines that someone is a public figure as in McLemore v. WFAA-TV, and thus must prove "actual malice" in order to win, the expense and publicity of such a lawsuit have already occurred. Prevention through sound procedures is still the best safeguard.

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." To obtain copies of the pamphlet, please use the order form on page 11 of this Newsletter.

Indigenous Peoples' Oral Histories Raise Ethical Issues

Editor's note: The following article is excerpted from a commentary by Winona Stevenson at the 1998 OHA meeting in Buffalo, N.Y. Stevenson is head of the Indian Studies Department at Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Panelists discussed a variety of issues relating to oral histories of indigenous peoples, on which Stevenson elaborated.

...What stands out most prominently in doing indigenous oral histories, emphasized by my own study and those presented here today, is that doing indigenous oral histories is more than a singular project--they are done for far more reasons than mere interest, because our communities do not have the luxury of pursuing knowledge just for the sake of knowledge itself. There are too many critical issues on-going in our communities that require immediate attention--land claims, governance issues, child and family welfare concerns, language, cultural retention and identity issues and economic development concerns....

The reality is that M.A. and Ph.D. students can no longer get away with "collecting and publishing." They can no longer simply slip in, draw data, slip out and publish to enhance their own careers and/or to feed their personal curiosities and interests.

As our communities gain in political strength and voice, graduate students and their teachers are facing the moral, ethical and extremely political reality that the research enterprise is no longer uni-directional. Indigenous peoples are increasingly demanding that researchers "give back," that they accept and follow the reciprocal obligation tenet. They are being forced to shift their methods from conventional anthropological field study, for example, to collaborative methods that respect and adhere to the protocols, boundaries and research needs of the communities themselves.

We could debate the pros and cons of advocacy research ad nauseam, but the reality is indigenous communities

are sick and tired of giving and giving and receiving little if anything in return. So I say to scholars who strive to maintain their scholarly distance and standards (which, by the way, support existing power relations and the status quo), I say, "get a grip or move over."

...Indigenous communities are increasingly developing formal researcher/research guidelines because university and funding agency research ethics guidelines do not adequately protect indigenous intellectual and cultural property rights. For example, contrary to Western conventions, among many indigenous peoples, all knowledge is not knowable, and very rigorous traditional protocols have been in place for centuries which govern the keeping and transmission of knowledge....

At the rural level, almost every community has its own oral historian, and those who retain community, tribal and national histories are sanctioned by the community to keep and transmit that knowledge because they apprenticed for decades with the community historians before them. How does an urban community oral historian emerge? Can traditional teacher-student relations be replicated in an urban environment? One looks to the research methods employed to illuminate these questions. Are the researchers apprentices or are they consultants? Do they adhere to traditional knowledge-seeking conventions or do they impose foreign "interview" modes? What are the potential impacts of using contemporary Western research methods on the interviewee-interviewer relationship and the research results? Is what we are doing even oral history, as defined by our oral traditions, at all, or are we simply collecting personal reminiscences?

In most indigenous traditions, personal life histories are very different from oral history, and researchers need to know how indigenous peoples view each of these sets of knowledge before they unilaterally impose categories. Whose

standards and rules and definitions are we applying when we say we are doing indigenous oral history? To what degree is the contemporary method, and the form and content of the research results, influenced by tribal-specific forms and content?

Clearly what is missing in contemporary oral history on indigenous peoples are discussions specific to traditional intellectual history or indigenous historiography--how indigenous peoples structure, organize, sift, retain and transmit knowledge of the past....

The last issue I want to address is politics. [You] cannot avoid politics no matter which way you try in Indian country. Everything is political and the most pervasive politics are personal and familial....Strong families emerge in [rural and]urban communities,...and they are the ones who gain a large degree of control over the means of communication and, for our purposes, the results of research. They are the ones who gain positions of authority, and so, they are the ones who assert representative voices. How do we overcome this obstacle to "objective research?" Or should we even try? To what degree does politics influence the research methods and findings? No matter how sensitive this issue is at the local level, researchers need to address it....

...[S]tudies such as these presented here today are ground-breaking. As indigenous peoples we are demonstrating yet again that we can selectively adopt some of the colonizer's tools to enhance our ways of doing things. How we apply or use these tools--as supplements to traditional methods or as new devices or somewhere in between--will determine the degree to which we can continue to protect our respective cultural integrity.

Acquiring knowledge from indigenous peoples requires far more than a research grant and a tape recorder. It requires learning a whole new set of social relations, a new set of cultural and intellectual traditions, and it requires a life-long commitment.

STATE AND REGIONAL REPORT



Project to Document Maine Vietnam Veterans

**By Chris Beam, Director
Edmund S. Muskie Archives**

Maine will soon become the site of a pilot project to document its citizens' participation in the Vietnam war. Funded by a Maine Humanities Council grant, the Maine Vietnam Veterans Oral History Project will employ five area college students to conduct taped interviews of 25 Vietnam veterans from central and western Maine. The project is based at the University of Maine at Farmington.

Chris Beam, director of the Edmund S. Muskie Archives at Bates College, and Doug Rawlings, coordinator of the Basic Writing Program at UMF, will direct the project. Robert Whelan, professor of English at the University of Maine, and Pauleena MacDougall, associate director of the Maine Folklife Center in Orono, will serve as project scholars. Beam, Rawlings and Whelan are Vietnam veterans.

Participating students will conduct the interviews this summer. Tapes and transcripts of the interviews will be deposited at the UMF library and the Main Folklife Center and will be made available to the public. The project will develop a study guide and finding aid for Maine high school and college teachers who wish to use the veterans' recollections in their courses.

In the spring of 2000 a symposium at UMF will bring together Vietnam veterans, educators and students to review the project's findings, discuss ways to document and teach the Vietnam war and acknowledge the efforts

of project participants.

The organizers have both personal and professional reasons for initiating this project. "As an archivist and historian, I want to ensure that the recollections of those who carried the burden of the fight are preserved before these memories are lost. This effort will provide a framework for doing that," said Beam, an ex-Marine who has taught courses on the history of the conflict at Bates College and the University of Southern Maine.

"For many of us, the Vietnam war was a defining moment," noted Army veteran Rawlings, whose poetry on the war has been published in several journals. "This project will enable later generations to gain a better understanding of how a divisive episode in recent American history affected the people of Maine."

For information, contact Beam at 207-786-6354 or cbeam@bates.edu or Rawlings at 207-778-7292 or rawlings@maine.maine.edu.

Muskie Project Takes Shape

**By Andrea L'Hommedieu
Muskie Oral History Project**

The Edmund S. Muskie Oral History Project, begun last year at the Muskie Archives at Bates College, Lewiston, Maine, has completed about 40 interviews.

The archives contains the personal papers, office files, campaign records and memorabilia of the prominent Maine political figure and long-time leader in the U.S. Senate. Funded by the Muskie Foundation in Washington, D.C., the oral history project has hired several Bates students to conduct many of the interviews.

Long-time Muskie associate and staff member Don Nicoll directs the project, while Andrea L'Hommedieu supervises its daily operations. More than 300 people have been identified for future interviews. When completed, the project will have created a unique body of documentation on Muskie's life and career and of Maine politics since 1945.

Texas High Court Oral Memoirs Published

**By Mike Widener, Archivist
University of Texas at Austin**

The oral memoirs of three former chief justices of the Texas Supreme Court, covering 35 years of the court's history, have been published by the Jamail Center for Legal Research at the University of Texas at Austin. Entitled "A Texas Supreme Court Trilogy," the three-volume set includes lengthy oral history interviews with Joe R. Greenhill, Jack Pope and the late Robert W. Calvert.

The interviews shed light on the Texas Supreme Court's inner workings, its landmark decisions and its members during their tenure (1950-1985). All three also have much to say about campaigning for statewide office and their ideas for reforming judicial elections.

The interviews also document each man's unique contributions and experiences. Calvert gives colorful accounts of his speakership in the Texas House in the 1930s, of small-town law practice in Hillsboro, Texas, and of the battles between liberals and conservatives that split the Texas Democratic Party in the 1940s. Greenhill discusses his work on the 1949 Sweatt v. Painter case, which led to the integration of graduate school education in the South, and of the developments in product liability, water and mineral law, which he helped shape as an attorney and judge. Pope describes his landmark Valmon Plantations decision (1961), involving Spanish water rights, and his work as a judicial reformer.

The interviews were conducted in 1985-86 by H.W. (Bill) Brands, now a history professor at Texas A&M University. Each interview includes a detailed index of names, court cases and subjects.

For more information, contact Mike Widener, 512-471-7263, or mwidener@mail.law.utexas.edu.

UCLA Continues 40-Year Tradition

By Bill Van Benschoten
UCLA Oral History Program

In the year of its 40th anniversary, the University of Southern California at Los Angeles Oral History Program continues a long tradition of collecting and preserving oral histories relevant to ongoing and future research programs in the arts, sciences and humanities. Recent additions to its collection show the diversity of the program's research interests.

Most recently the oral history of world famous historian of France Eugen Weber became available. Weber, professor emeritus at UCLA, is well known for his nearly half-century of scholarly output, the bulk of which displays his trademark wit and deep erudition.

Continuing to build upon its already extensive jazz oral history, the program also has completed the oral history of Mel Powell, former jazz pianist in the Benny Goodman orchestra, founding dean of the School of Music at the California Institute of Art and classical composer. In his interview, Powell speaks at length about the evolution of his compositional style and the state of music in American academia.

Recently completed have been the oral histories with Robert F. Heinecken and Henry T. Hopkins. Heinecken, a photographic artist/montagist, helped develop UCLA's College of Fine Arts, founded the Society for Photographic Education and has played an important role in L.A. contemporary art since the 1960s.

Hopkins, another important figure in the Los Angeles art scene and director of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in the 1970s and '80s, remains one of the most innovative museum directors and curators in America. In his oral history, he discusses the "museum wars" between Los Angeles and San Francisco, makes his predictions on the future of U.S. museums and discusses the

development of the UCLA/Armand Hammer Museum of Art and Culture.

The program also has completed work on the oral history of Nobel laureate of chemistry Donald J. Cram. Cram, now a UCLA professor emeritus, has devoted almost half a century to building a nationally renowned Department of Chemistry. His Nobel Prize work involved understanding mechanisms of molecular recognition that are fundamental to enzymic catalysis, regulation and transport.

Interested persons may read these and other transcripts in the oral History Collection in UCLA's Department of Special Collections at the Charles E. Young Research Library or at the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley. To purchase transcript copies, contact Alva Moore Stevenson at UCLA, 310-825-4932 or by e-mail at: astevens@library.ucla.edu.

Interview Turns Up Long-Lost Relative

By Diana Bahr
UCLA Oral History Program

Oral history brings people together! I had an article published in the Winter 1998-99 edition of "News from Native California," which was based on interviews with Viola Martinez, a Paiute from Owens Valley, Calif.

The day the article appeared, Viola received a phone call from a woman, Carol Hilpert, who lives near Owens Valley. Carol is a long-lost grandniece of Viola, the granddaughter of Viola's deceased brother.

At some time in her life, Carol had heard about her grandfather's sister who was "educated" and had obtained her phone number in Los Angeles. After reading the article, she realized the Indian elder featured in the interview must be her great-aunt. She telephoned, hoping to make contact. And she did!

Oral History Workshop Planned at Columbia

By Ronald Grele
Columbia University

The 1999 Columbia University Oral History Research Office Summer Institute will be held June 7-18 in New York City. This year's faculty will include: Alessandro Portelli from the University of Rome, Jose Carlow Sebe Bom Meihy from the University of Sao Paulo, Joanna Bornat, The Open University at Milton Keynes, UK, Alistair Thomson of the University of Sussex and Mary Marshall Clark and Ronald Grele of Columbia University.

We will accent the use of oral history in a variety of research and community settings.

Application forms and information on fees and housing are available on the Columbia Oral History Web page: <http://www.columbia.edu/libraries/indiv/oral>

We are particularly interested in developing an international perspective.

Morrissey Workshop Set for Vermont

Charles Morrissey's 1999 Oral History Workshop will be held at Vermont College of Norwich University in Montpelier, Vt., Aug. 16-20. Class size is limited to the first 20 registrants.

A former OHA president, Morrissey has conducted this nationally recognized workshop in Vermont for many years. Morning and afternoon sessions cover interviewing skills, project design and management, fundraising/grantsmanship, equipment, processing materials, uses, ethics and legal considerations.

The workshop is being held at the picturesque Montpelier campus of Vermont College, located only a few blocks from the Vermont state capital.

For registration information, call Arlene Hoskins, 802-828-8802, or fax your request to 802-828-8610.

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

Appalachian Ethnicity, Gender

The Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia at Marshall University, Huntington, W. Va., is sponsoring a conference March 3-5, 2000, tentatively titled "Piecing it Together: Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia." For information, call Mary Thomas, 304-696-3348 or e-mail: mthomas@marshall.edu.

History of Children

Marquette University will host a conference on the history of children in 19th- and 20th-century American cities on May 5-6, 2000, in Milwaukee. Papers on the upper Midwest and Milwaukee are particularly welcome. Submit proposals to Thomas Jablonsky, Institute for Urban Life, Marquette University, P.O. Box 1881, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1881. Proposals should be no more than one page long. Include a brief vitae. Deadline is July 1. For information, call Jablonsky, 414-288-5300 or e-mail: jablonskyt@marquette.edu.

International Conference Session

Organizers of a session on teaching oral history at the primary and secondary school levels for the International Oral History Conference, June 15-19, 2000, in Istanbul, Turkey, would like to hear from anyone interested in participating. Write to: Allan Redfern, Crewe School of Education, Manchester Metropolitan University, Crewe Campus, Crewe CW1 5DU or e-mail: A.R.Redfern@MMU.AC.UK, or write to: Dora Schwarzstein, Programa de Historia Oral, Facultad de Filosofia y Letras, Universidad de Buenos Aires (Argentina) or e-mail: schwarzs@mail.retina.ar.

History of Medicine

The American Association for the History of Medicine invites papers for its meeting May 17-21, 2000, on topics related to the history of health

and healing from all eras and regions of the world. Send six copies of a one-page abstract of no more than 350 words to Harry M. Marks, Dept. of the History of Science, Medicine & Technology, The Johns Hopkins University, 1900 E. Monument St., Baltimore, MD 21205. Deadline is Oct. 1. E-mail or faxed proposals are not acceptable.

Opportunities

Oral History Media Reviewer

Oral History Review media review editor Mary Ann Larson is looking for people who would like to write media reviews for the **Review**. Larson said "media" include anything that's not a book, such as CDs, Web sites, radio series, films and videos. If you are interested, send your name and a short resume to Larson at the University of Nevada Oral History Program, Mail Stop 324, Reno, NV 89557-0099, or e-mail to: malarson@scs.unr.edu.

Rutgers Oral History Opening

The History Department at Rutgers in New Brunswick, N.J., invites applications for a three-year position as director of the Oral History of the New Jersey Legislature Project. The director will serve as the project's chief administrative officer and leading researcher/interviewer. The project involves interviewing present and former New Jersey legislators, former governors and senior legislative staff to document the rise of the modern New Jersey legislature since 1965. The director will be granted visiting faculty status.

Applicants must have a master's degree in history or related field, extensive experience as an oral history interviewer, knowledge of New Jersey history and the ability to interact with a diverse range of constituencies. Send letter of application, resume, three letters of recommendation and other materials to: Search Committee Chair, Oral History of the New Jersey Legislature, History Department,

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 16 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1108.

Announcements

Foreign Affairs CD-ROM

The Foreign Affairs Oral History Program of the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training announces its new CD-ROM "Frontline Diplomacy: The U.S. Foreign Affairs Oral History Collection."

More than a decade in preparation, it contains transcripts of interviews with some 900 retired senior State Department officials, ambassadors and working-level diplomats. For information, call Stuart Kennedy, 703-302-6990.

Personals

OHA past president **Linda Shopes** has been elected to a three-year term as member of the American Historical Association's 12-member governing council. The AHA, founded in 1884, is the oldest and largest professional historical organization in the United States.

Michael Frisch of the State University of New York at Buffalo has been elected president of the American Studies Association. Frisch, a long-time OHA activist and local arrangements co-chair for the 1998 OHA meeting in Buffalo, was the winner, along with photographer Milton Rogovin, of the OHA's first book award in 1995 for his "Portraits in Steel."

Linda Morton-Keithley, who has been the Idaho State Historical Society's oral historian for the past 10 years, has taken a new position as administrator of the Society's Historical Library and Archives. Morton-Keithley has long been active in both the OHA and the Northwest Oral History Association and said she expects to continue to "dabble" in oral history.

Rockefeller Biography: A Historical Oral History

Editor's note: Donald A. Ritchie, associate Senate historian and past OHA president, contributed the following from a new biography of John D. Rockefeller.

When his publisher first proposed that award-winning author Ron Chernow write a new biography of John D. Rockefeller Sr., Chernow was dubious. Having read the previous Rockefeller books (including two volumes by Allan Nevins), Chernow thought that Rockefeller often seemed "missing from his own biographies."

The industrialist had a historical reputation as a sphinx who trained himself to reveal as little as possible, even in private letters that might someday fall into the hands of some prosecuting attorney. "How could one write a biography about a man who made such a fetish of secrecy?"

In the foreword to his book, "Titan" (Random House, 1998), Chernow describes his first visit to the Rockefeller Archive Center in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y.:

"When I told the curators of my misgivings and explained that I couldn't write about Rockefeller unless I heard his inner voice--the 'music of his mind,' as I phrased it--they brought me the transcript of an interview privately conducted with Rockefeller between 1917 and 1920. It was done by William O. Inglis, a New York newspaperman who questioned Rockefeller for an authorized biography that was never published.

"As I pored over this seventeen-hundred page verbatim transcript, I was astonished: Rockefeller, stereotyped as taciturn and empty, turned out to be analytic, articulate, even fiery; he was also quite funny, with a dry midwestern wit. This wasn't someone I had encountered in any biography."

Chernow concluded that "Rockefeller had submitted to this exercise only to please his son, who wanted to cleanse the family name of all controversy....Despite his initial hesitation, Rockefeller couldn't resist the invitation to relive his turbulent

early years in the petroleum industry, and he warmed to the giant task of remembrance. During hundreds of hours of interviews, spanning a three-year period, he revisited the past and spoke his mind freely....

"Before Inglis's wondering eyes, the old man was rejuvenated by the flood tide of memory, and his voice deepened from the high, breathy pitch of old age to the mellow baritone of early adulthood. His step grew springy and lithe as he paced the floor, recounting the glorious struggles of his career.

"Far from dodging controversy, Rockefeller suggested a novel structure for this retrospective talk: Inglis would read passages from Rockefeller's two chief antagonists, Henry Lloyd and Ida Tarbell...and Rockefeller would refute them, paragraph by paragraph." Rockefeller had for years refused to read what his critics had written about him, but he admitted, "now that I've gotten into it I find it interesting."

OHA Pamphlet Order Form

Add to your professional reference library the Oral History Association's pamphlets. OHA members get a 10 percent discount for orders of 10 or more copies. Clip and mail this coupon, with your check made out to OHA, to:
Oral History Assn., Dickinson College, Box 1773, Carlisle, PA 17013.

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All prices include shipping via domestic mail. Inquire for costs of Federal Express delivery. International shipping by surface mail at no extra charge; add 30 percent to your order if you prefer international airmail delivery.

Pamphlet	Price	Quantity
Oral History and the Law, \$8.00 2nd ed., by John A. Neuenschwander, 1993		_____
Oral History in the Secondary School Classroom, by Barry A. Lanman and George L. Mehaffy, 1988	\$8.00	_____
Using Oral History in Community History Projects, by Laurie Mercier and Madeline Buckendorf, 1992	\$8.00	_____
Oral History Evaluation Guidelines, 2nd ed., 1991	\$5.00	_____

Order total: _____

Optional mailing charge: _____

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Oral History Association Moves Office to Dickinson College

After four years at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, the Oral History Association office has been relocated to Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa. Beginning May 1, the office, housed at Dickinson's Community Studies Center, will be managed by the new OHA executive secretary Madelyn S. Campbell.

OHA's new address and telephone numbers are:

**Oral History Association
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013
Telephone: 717-245-1036
Fax: 717-245-1046
E-mail: OHA@dickinson.edu**

Campbell, 49, is taking the half-time position as OHA executive secretary after a career in higher education administration, most recently as Dickinson's associate director of financial aid. A graduate of the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in education, she

previously worked in academic administration at Brown University. Campbell said she is looking forward to working with OHA members and to learning as much as she can about oral history.

"I'm really looking forward to supporting the association," she said. "You're doing really important work." She said she discovered first hand the importance of getting stories from people while they're still alive to tell them when her mother died last summer. "I was desperate to get stories from her, but didn't," she said, beyond one tape that wasn't very successful. Campbell's parents moved to Oak Ridge, Tenn., after World War II, where her father was a physicist. Very few people are left now who know the stories of what it was like building that community from scratch, she said.

Campbell, whose husband is a Dickinson College economics professor, said she was looking forward to the greater flexibility her part-time work for OHA would afford.

When not working, or spending time on professional volunteer activities, such as serving as treasurer of the Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Campbell participates in a memoir writing group and enjoys playing the cello, sailing and walking her dog.

OHA Thanks Donors

The Oral History Association thanks the following members who made donations to the Endowment Fund since the last OHA **Newsletter**:

Willa Baum, in memory of Shirley Tanzer; Timuel Black; Michaelyn Chou; Sara Collins, in memory of Forrest Pogue; Cullom Davis; Amelia Fry; Matthew J. Ginal; Lu Ann Jones; James Klotter; Cliff Kuhn; Ronald Marcello; Marjorie McLellan; Laurie Mercier; Anne and Don Ritchie; Linda Shopes; Kim Lady Smith; Shirley Stephenson, in memory of Richard Voelkel; Dale Treleven and James D. Williams.

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Address membership, change of address, subscription and delivery inquiries to: Oral History Association, P.O. Box 1773, Carlisle, PA 17013.

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