

# ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Summer 1976

## PROFILE



Samuel B. Hand

### OHA REVIEW EDITOR

Few, if any, persons have ever done as much for the Oral History Association as has Samuel B. Hand, affable adopted Vermonter who serves so ably as editor of the *Oral History Review*.

A native of New York City, Sam's life has been spent almost entirely in the northeastern part of the United States. He took his B.A. at New York University in 1952, and ultimately earned the Ph.D. in history at Syracuse University in 1960. Following a brief teaching assignment at Slippery Rock State College (Pennsylvania), Hand moved in 1961 to the faculty of the University of Vermont, where he found a permanent academic home. At present he serves as professor of history and chairman of the department there. Research grants by the Truman Library, the University of Michigan, University of Vermont, and state social studies organizations have aided him in his work.

An authority on Vermont political history and the life and career of jurist Samuel I. Rosenman, Hand has been a frequent contributor of articles and book reviews to scholarly publications including the *Journal of American History*, *New England Quarterly*, *History Teacher*, *Vermont History*, *American Historical Review*, *Historian*, and the *New York State Bar Journal*. He has also served as a NDEA history institute director, an evaluator for the USOE, an evaluator for the Vermont Department of Education, and an oral history consultant for numerous organizations.

Sam Hand is best known in the OHA as one of the editors of its publications during the past seven years. In its early years of existence (1968-1971), he labored as associate editor of the *Oral History Association Newsletter*. Since 1971 he has served with distinction as editor of the *Oral History Review*, successor to the earlier *Proceedings*. Sam's incisive droll wit, spiced with an exactitude befitting the OHA's top editor, makes him both the friend and adversary of all who publish in the *Review*, a mature journal now reaching new heights. He also chairs the OHA's publications committee.

Watch for Editor Hand at the annual OHA meeting. He will be the one soliciting manuscripts of articles for the *Oral History Review* 1977, and peddling copies of the 1976 edition.

### BROADFOOT - VanVORIS COLLOQUIUM SPEAKERS

The opening session of the Eleventh National Colloquium on Oral History at Le Château Montebello (September 10-12, 1976) will feature discussions of oral documentation by two persons of widely divergent backgrounds and scholarly careers. Enid Douglass, 1976 Colloquium chairperson, predicts a *tour de force* in the program session headlined by William H. VanVoriss and Barry Broadfoot.

VanVoriss, scholar of Restoration literature and modern Irish literature and history, was born in San Francisco, studied at the University of California-

Berkeley (A.B., 1949), and Trinity College-University of Dublin (Ph.D., 1956). He saw naval service in the Philippines and in China, 1943-1946, before attending college at Berkeley. From 1949 to 1951, he worked in the office of the Marshall Plan's Economic Cooperation Administration in Paris. The English department at the University of Oregon required his services as an instructor from 1953 to 1957, after which time he migrated to the faculty of Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where he continues today as associate professor of English.

VanVoriss is the author of two books, *William Congreve: The Cultivated Stance* (1965), and *Violence in Ulster* (1975). The second of these works, a major study of the civil warfare in Northern Ireland using interviewing methodology as a primary research approach, has won for VanVoriss both critical acclaim and a wide readership. The fifty-three-year-old author will bring to the 1976 OHA gathering the insights and experiences of a researcher/documenter of contemporary world affairs.

Sharing the program spotlight on the evening of September 10 will be Barry Broadfoot, who has been called the "Canadian Studs Terkel." A former journalist (*Winnipeg Tribune*, *Vancouver Sun*, and several other Canadian papers), Broadfoot, age fifty, is a native of Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he graduated from the University of



VanVoriss



Broadfoot

(continued on page 2)



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Alice Hoffman



Dear OHAers:

This will be my last letter before I see many of you in Canada and before Bill Wyatt takes over as president of the organization. I think it's important for the membership to understand that as the association has grown, so too has the job for the officers and council members.

This past year I have undertaken some sixteen speaking assignments to represent the association and the stack of mail grows very high at times. For this reason, I would hope that the membership will continue to ease the financial burden on the officers. I could not have functioned if OHA had not helped pay secretarial costs, and I feel that other officers, and certainly the program chairman, may need this kind of support from the organization as well.

Oral history is growing by leaps and bounds. While we applaud its growth it is also becoming something of a problem. For instance, at a recent meeting sponsored by the Pennsylvania Museum Commission for teachers and local historical societies, I was informed that over two hundred school districts in Pennsylvania have oral history projects at the secondary level. A recent note, in of all places, *The New York Times* travel section, describes a learning vacation for senior citizens which will teach them to conduct oral histories with their peers. Finally, I was informed the other day that several enterprising souls have undertaken "oral histories" as a new wrinkle in the realm of the vanity press. That is, they undertake, for a fee, to interview sufficiently affluent senior citizens and supply their families with the taped interview, representing presumably the wit and wisdom of Grandma. Several of our projects have been asked to cooperate in one way or another with such entrepreneurial enterprises.

All of this suggests that oral history is on the way to becoming a fad. Now, while I still applaud its growth and welcome the widespread interest it engenders, it does pose some challenges for us.

I see at least three concerns in all this:

1. How are we going to keep up with the dissemination of information about collecting efforts? Our directories are out of date when they are printed, and even in my own field, I'm constantly finding

projects in sometimes unlikely places. We will need in the coming years to give this problem serious thought.

2. How can we help set standards for the wide variety of projects which are being developed, and at the same time maintain flexibility and an innovative approach?

3. What should be our relationship with the various regional associations which are being formed such as The New England Oral History Association and The Mid-Atlantic Oral History Association? I see these groups as an important and vitally necessary vehicle to aid in bibliographic control and in setting high quality standards. But how can OHA best maintain close contact with these organizations, even assuming they want and need contact with OHA? It's my hunch we had best give careful thought to how we can attempt to be helpful to these organizations.

This year a number of committees have been at work wrestling with these problems. John Neuenschwander at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, is chairing the Committee on Regional Workshops and Oral History in Teaching. Waddy Moore at University of Central Arkansas, Conway, Arkansas, is chairing a committee, with Chester Lewis of *The New York Times*, to study the Evaluation of Oral History Projects. Also, Johnye Mathews at University of Arkansas-Little Rock is chairing a committee on Oral History as an Interpretative Device. The fine work of that committee is reflected in the questionnaire that appeared in the last Newsletter. I would urge all members who have not done so to return that questionnaire as soon as possible.

These committees will be working hard to produce reports for our business meeting, and it is my hope that the membership will provide them with advice and suggestions over the summer.

### FIRST OH PROJECT BEGUN IN FRANCE

France's first oral history project, a study of the administration of the social security program in that country, reports completion of interviews with twenty persons and the processing of approximately 1,750 pages of transcript. The project, begun in April 1975, includes interviews with bureaucrats, union officers, doctors, and employers connected with social security.

Sponsored by the Centre de Recherches Historiques of the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, the work is under the direction of Mme. Dominique Schnapper and her research team of Danièle Hanet, Sophie Deswarte and Dominique Pasquier. Approximately 200 interviews with some fifty people are planned through 1977.

(continued from page 1)

Manitoba in 1949 with minors in "playing bridge, drinking beer, and chasing coeds. . . ."

After his "retirement" in 1972, Broadfoot's first book, *Ten Lost Years 1929-1939: Memories of Canadians Who Survived the Depression*, rose to top ranking in 1973 in Canada. A study of Canada's struggles during the Great Depression, *Ten Lost Years* has also been seen as a videotaped play, as has his second book, *Six War Years: 1939-1945* (1975), another best-selling work in Canada. Broadfoot's third book, *The Prairie Years*, is scheduled to be published in October 1976.

Oral history notables to be on an OH panel for AASLH in September in Albany, New York are: Charles Morrissey, Louis Starr (Columbia University), and Alice Hoffman (Pennsylvania State University).

A first among the Presidential Libraries is Truman Library's publication of a two-part series on its oral history program in its newsletter, *Whistle Stop*.

Stanley Lewis, Queens College School of Library Science, has an extensive artists-on-videotape collection.

### OHA PROGRAM PLANNERS HARD AT WORK

OHA program planning for 1976 is in able hands. Those persons attending the Workshop and the Colloquium next fall in Canada should express appreciation to the following:

1976 COLLOQUIUM

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Enid H. Douglass, Chairman  
(Claremont Graduate School)

Thomas L. Charlton  
(Baylor University)

Mary Ellen Glass  
(University of Nevada)

Randall W. Jehs  
(Indianapolis, Indiana)

Floyd O'Neill  
(University of Utah)

John Neuenschwander  
(Carthage College)

Gwendolyn Safier (University of  
California School of Nursing)

Neil Rosenberg (Memorial  
University of Newfoundland)

Working with OHA Secretary-Treasurer Ronald E. Marcello on plans for the 1976 OHA Workshop are Cochairmen Léo La Clare (Public Archives of Canada) and James W. Hammack, Jr. (Murray State University). La Clare, who is president of the Canadian Oral History Association, is also serving as chairman of local arrangements this year and is deserving of special commendation for playing such major roles in the two OHA Canadian meetings.

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## COUNTY-LEVEL ORGANIZATION SPONSORED BY CAL POLY

California Polytechnic University is the new sponsor of an innovative county-wide consortium called the San Luis Obispo County Oral History Organization (SLOCOHO), an effort to coordinate the many diverse oral history projects in that West Coast community. Chairing this important local organization is Dr. Joseph B. Romney, professor of history at Cal Poly.

In its brief history, SLOCOHO has conducted an inventory of oral history in the county, adopted bylaws for the consortium, developed a common cataloging system for memoirs, compiled and distributed a bibliography, designed its own legal instruments, and planned a workshop, all of these steps taken under the auspices of Cal Poly.

Members of SLOCOHO, in addition to the sponsoring university, include the San Luis Obispo County Historical Society, the City-County Library System of San Luis Obispo County, the Atascadero Historical Society, The Friends of the Adobes, the South County Historical Society, and Solo Flight (a private, nonprofit group interested in cultural affairs.) Joseph Romney will describe SLOCOHO further in his presentation at the 1976 OHA Workshop in Ottawa, Ontario, September 9.

## BRITISH PERIOD IN INDIA PRESERVED BY CENTRE OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

The Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England, has, since 1968, been working on "An Oral Archive of the British Period in India." Under the direction of Mary Thatcher a "written archive" of unpublished manuscript material relating to the British in India from the time of the East India Company until Independence in 1947 has been assembled. The project concentrates on the papers of ordinary people who lived and worked in India and has collected a large number of letters, diaries, unpublished memoirs, and memorabilia of various kinds as well as home movies depicting domestic life in India between 1925 and 1947. The interviews concern not only the attitude of the British in India and the Indian attitude toward British rule, but cover such areas as the Indian Naval Mutiny in 1946, meetings with Nehru and Gandhi, the Partition riots, girls' schools and wives of Indian civil servants, to name but a few.

John Neuenschwander (Carthage College) has a NEH grant to support his study of how anthropological theory applies to oral history. The work will be done at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore from September 1976 to May 1977.

## KENNEDY DIRECTS OH WORKSHOP

Susan Estabrook Kennedy, cofounder of the Richmond [Virginia] Oral History Association, discussed the development of an effective oral history program and conducted an oral history workshop at the spring meeting of the Virginia Special Libraries Association in Lexington, Virginia. Now secretary of the Richmond Oral History Association and assistant professor of history at Virginia Commonwealth University, Dr. Kennedy was welcomed by Dr. Fred L. Hadsel, George C. Marshall Research Foundation executive director and former ambassador to Ghana and Somalia. (Dr. Hadsel succeeds Dr. Forrest C. Pogue, long active in the Oral History Association.) The conference was hosted by the George C. Marshall Research Library. The library's archivist, Anthony R. Crawford, and Librarian Barbara P. Vandegrift planned the conference.

## LETTERS: THE BEAT GOES ON

June 4, 1976

Editor:

I join Jean Joyce (Letters, spring issue) in objecting to the use of "oral historize" as a transitive verb. The conversion of a noun to a verb can often be a misdemeanor—"He 'authored' an article," for example—but the conversion of an open compound to a verb compounds the felony. Instead of simply transcribing the data oral historized the offender might even descend to typescripting the tape.

Besides, if this verb coinage should become permanent it might be used more appropriately in the dental profession—"Dr. Fell oral historized an infected wisdom tooth"—or in writing about food—"She finally oral historized the giant drumstick."

I very sincerely you,  
(signed) Peggy Lewis  
Editor

New Jersey Historical Commission  
Trenton, New Jersey

Editor:

June 1976

If oral historians oral historize, then historians historize and short story writers short storize.

In fact any noun or adjective ending in -y (or -ey or -ie) can become a verb by dropping -y and adding -ize: mothers babize, rabbit farmers bunnize, philanderers ladize or chippize. Comedians funnize, hypocrites phonize. Bankers monize, beekeepers honize. Lazy dogs lazize.

Sincerely,

(signed) Lee R. Parks  
Associate Editor  
New Jersey Historical Commission  
Trenton, New Jersey

Ed. note: The Newsletter invites reader comments relating to oral history.



(L-R) Glenn Jacobs, Edgar Colon, Vicente Ramos at work on Puerto Rican project in Philadelphia.

## PROJECT BEGUN ON FIRST- GENERATION PUERTO RICAN MIGRANTS TO PHILADELPHIA

Taller Puertorriqueño (Puerto Rican Workshop), Philadelphia, has just begun an oral history project on Puerto Rican migrants to Philadelphia. A nonprofit cultural and community development corporation, the organization has developed a six-stage research project on Puerto Rican identity in which the second generation will interview the first.

The interviews will cover the areas of neighborhood and/or village life in Puerto Rico; occupational and educational experience in both Puerto Rico and the United States; family life in Puerto Rico; the migration experience; neighborhood and community life in the United States; religion and folk medicine; recreation and leisure; and ethnic and racial discrimination. The use of second-generation interviewers will serve to assure cultural and linguistic accuracy, and the interviewers themselves will be research subjects in the larger study on Puerto Rican identity. A separate schedule will be employed to assess the effect of the interviewing experience on the second generation.

The project is a part of Philadelphia '76 and is supported by a Youth Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Project consultant is Glenn Jacobs, a qualitative sociologist; Edgar Colon is research coordinator; and Vicente Ramos serves as project audiovisual specialist and research assistant. Interested persons may contact: Taller Puertorriqueño, Inc., 3049 North Fifth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19133.

## WARNING

the secretary-treasurer has determined that nonpayment of dues is hazardous to the health of the association. (See page 8)



# BOOK REVIEWS

**STEVESTON RECOLLECTED.** By Daphne Marlatt, ed.; Victoria, British Columbia: Aural History, Provincial Archives of British Columbia, 1975. 104 pp. Photographs, map, bibliography, appendices.

Reviewed by Ellen Kuniyuki (Baylor University)

*Steveston Recollected* is a personal history. It is the personal history of Steveston, a Japanese-Canadian fishing village on Lulu Island, south of Vancouver. It is the editor's personal impressions of the interviewees at home and in the community. Most important, it is the personal history of Asamatsu Murakami, Umanosuke and Moto Suzuki, Hideo Kokubo, and the seven other residents who related their experiences.

An aural history project sponsored by Aural History, Provincial Archives of British Columbia, and its predecessor, Reynoldston Research and Studies, *Steveston Recollected* was produced primarily through the cooperative efforts of Maya Koizumi and Daphne Marlatt. Ms. Koizumi, a native of Japan, conducted the interviews, most of them in Japanese, then translated and transcribed them. An Australian who immigrated to Canada via Malaysia, Ms. Marlatt was selected to write this unique history because of her background as a writer. Two photographers, Rex Weyler and Robert Minden, documented the interview situation and the community graphically. The end product is a tasteful blending of excerpts from earlier studies on Steveston and the Japanese experience in Canada, the interviewees' personal reminiscences, Ms. Marlatt's prose portraits, and documentary photographs. The inclusion of reference appendices and a select bibliography supplement the history.

Reading *Steveston Recollected* is a pleasant experience, for one is able to "recollect" life in the fishing village and recognize the vital link between the fisherman and the sea. As the retired fishermen talk about their vocation, some profound ideas are expressed: "[Fishing's] not a job where you're hired by somebody. . . . A fisherman's his own boss, so he feels easy." (U. Suzuki, p. 7) "A fisherman has a fisherman's sense. But you have to like the work to do it. After all, there's only cedar planking between you and hell." (Unosuke Sakamoto, p. 7) "I wouldn't go fishing on days when the wind blew hard . . . the boat would have capsized, I could have been killed. Of course then I was broke, but life is everything, life's worth more than money." (A. Murakami, p. 8) The history goes beyond the individual fisherman and traces the develop-



photo by Rex Weyler

Mending nets

ment of several institutions which were founded for economic and social reasons. These included the dantai [fisherman's society], the Japanese Fisherman's Hospital, and the kumiai [a co-op]—organizations which met the common needs of the Japanese and gave them a sense of oneness.

Racism, restrictions on fishing licenses, and the enforced evacuation and internment during World War II are also covered in the interviews and documented by other references. Differences between the white and the Japanese were attributed to economic reasons primarily, but Rintaro Hayashi expressed a deeper underlying cause:

But there's another reason why the white and Japanese fishermen didn't get along: they have different life philosophies. The goal for a Japanese lies in the future. He works hard for future peace or security, he sacrifices his present for that so he accepts having a hard life now. But the Westerner places all importance on his present life. Maybe he thinks about the future, but he puts more emphasis on the present. (p. 30)

Recollections of their experiences during the war reflect a resigned attitude toward their treatment as unfriendly aliens and a remarkable adjustment to their imposed confinement. H. Kokubo voiced these ideas succinctly: "But as it was the war, there was nothing anyone could do . . . so we gave up. We were treated just like prisoners of war . . . nobody was violent, nobody did anything wrong. We didn't waste anything. We just saved it and used it. If a man finds himself in need, there's nothing he can't do. . . ." (pp. 66-68) A postwar Sansei (third generation), Ron Matsuzaki, interpreted their submissiveness as an acceptance of internment "as being and they take it from there—you do it because you have to and if you're going to do it you might as well make the best of it." (p. 66)

*Steveston Recollected* concludes on a reflective note. Despite their pride in their vocation, the fishermen do not want their sons to become fishermen because other opportunities are available to them. The modernization of the fishing industry with its accompanying problems of international competition and violations of conservation laws, are compared unfavorably with the methods and morals of an earlier generation. Steveston itself is losing its identity as it is gradually absorbed by metropolitan Vancouver. Fortunately, its history, as told by the people who experienced it, is preserved by this aural history project.



photo by Rex Weyler

(L-R) Rokuhei Konishi, Maya Koizumi, Daphne Marlatt



**DIEFENBAKER: LEADERSHIP GAINED, 1956-62.** By Peter Stursberg. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1975. 277 pp., illus. \$15.00.

Reviewed by Louis M. Starr (Columbia University)

This book is a model of its kind, and an eyeopener for those who imagine that Canadian oral history is limited to history-from-the-bottom-up. For all the volumes we in the States may parade to demonstrate oral history's multiple applications, I know of no equivalent.

John George Diefenbaker makes a provocative subject. Ontario born but raised to manhood in that newest of provinces, Saskatchewan, he became an orator of the Progressive Conservative (Tory) party, and in 1957 broke the Liberals' twenty-two-year grip on the premiership. Forcing an election the following year, he won the greatest victory in Canadian political history, his party capturing an unprecedented 208 of the 265 seats in the House of Commons.

This is the story of how those victories were achieved, and of what Dief (as the prickly, forceful, alternately humorous and sage prime minister was known to his intimates) did with them—all of it as told to Peter Stursberg by some forty participants in interviews that ranged from one to four hours and totaled more than a million words. In weaving this immensity into a taut narrative with the aid of Léo La Clare, the author, a former Canadian Broadcasting correspondent, brings off a minor miracle. His oral histories are deftly stitched together by his own interpolations, providing the connectors and just enough background. We go behind the scenes as Dief and associates cope with an unwieldy majority, a deepening recession, the multiple (and little understood) complexities of French Canada, the wheat deal with China, and the achievement of a Canadian bill of rights. Like all governments, Dief's eventually came to grief, but that has been reserved for a sequel.

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**THE INVISIBLE SOLDIER: THE EXPERIENCE OF THE BLACK SOLDIER, WORLD WAR II.** By Mary Penick Motley. Michigan: Wayne State University Press, 1975. Maps and illustrations. \$13.95.

Reviewed by Robert E. Lee (Lawson State Community College)

Mary P. Motley of Wayne State University, Detroit, has written an important and highly readable scholarly study of the personal experiences of the Black American soldier during World War II. The information was collected in 1971-72 from taped interviews, government agencies, letters and diaries kept by some of the men. The study is a compilation of oral histories of each man's stateside and overseas experiences, and some of the personal problems he carried with him. As we celebrate the Bicentennial year, it would only be fair to open an area of study of the treatment of the Black soldier during wartimes.

One will find that the Black soldier served in every war beginning with the American Revolution through the last conflict in Vietnam. In the American Revolution Black soldiers fought side by side with other troops in the struggle for liberty, and there is not a battlefield from Maine to Georgia that has not been crimsoned with their blood.

As early as World War I a few men saw the need for Black officers even though discrimination was active. In the early part of 1917, Colonel Charles Young established the first training school for Negro officers at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Fifteen of the Black soldiers passed the officers' examination, but they were told later they would not be commissioned. Then

One rollicking example (among many) of what oral history turns up that would never get into print otherwise: Pierre Savigny, recalling the Tories' 1957 campaign in Quebec, tells of secretly slipping into the text of Dief's crucial speech there the passage in French that the mighty Maurice Duplessis had insisted Dief must include. Dief had balked, and Savigny had coached him in the pronunciation of what Dief did want to say in the French part of his address. What was the speaker's surprise, then, when he came to the French passage to find himself on the air with Duplessis' text coming falteringly from his own lips. "If you think I had received hell before and I received hell after," Savigny recalls, "you should have seen the blast I got that time." Then Dief got a wire of congratulations from Duplessis; the speech had gone well! "I knew I had been forgiven for my terrible sin, which I have never admitted to him."

This is but a teaser. There is much more in a similarly now-it-can-be-told vein, and it is interesting to note how much dovetailing takes place between one respondent and another, though it is true also, of course, that there are differing interpretations of the same event, quite as one would expect. These, too, lend interest.

Where is the protagonist himself? Dief was interviewed for nineteen hours by Peter Stursberg, only to sign a contract to write his own memoirs and enjoin Stursberg's use of the tapes. (What has become of them? I hope Léo La Clare has them safely locked away!) It is a tribute to these articulate associates, newsmen, opponents, and above all to a skilled and dedicated interviewer that this book doesn't appear to suffer in the least. Indeed, if I were Dief, I would worry that my own would not measure up to it. He is ever present. Political scientists from the Maritime Provinces to British Columbia, surely, will make this book assigned reading. As for US readers, those planning to venture north of the border this summer will find it a fascinating introduction to the mysteries of Canadian politics, wherein labels like "Tory" must be taken with a smile.

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they were ordered to report to Fort Des Moines not later than June 1917.

In World War II the 92nd and 93rd Divisions were two of the oldest units that were composed of mostly Black troops with white officers. It was the primary purpose to use the Black soldiers' outfits as service units for both the Pacific and Europe. For the Negro American, World War II was a traumatic experience. The treatment of Negro officers was shameful, and Black soldiers were repeatedly humiliated. Both officers and soldiers trained for combat were forced into labor battalions or assigned menial chores. Throughout the war, there were ugly conflicts between Negro and white soldiers, and between Negro soldiers and white civilians.

One of the great ironies of the war concerned the four Black Regular Army regiments that had already earned outstanding reputations on many battlefields; the 9th and 10th Cavalry, and the 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments. These units were assigned to positions within the United States or its territories while draftees were chosen to do the fighting. These four outfits, professional by reputation and experience, who had fought Indians, Spaniards, Filipinos, and Mexicans, were not allowed to fight the Teutonic Germans.

Thirty years have passed since World War II, and the soldiers' stories have been retold and collected. Some men who felt they had been exploited during the war refused to share their stories because they wanted to forget the whole episode. Also, they felt nothing would come of their stories. However, there were other men who felt such a book should be written to give the younger Blacks a picture of the Black soldier during World War II.





Loblolly in process. Lincoln King standing with Tommy Hooper to his right. Seated L to R, Lauri Gauntt, David Hammers (editor), Chris Morton and Mark Robinson.

### LOBLOLLY: A BICENTENNIAL SUCCESS IN EAST TEXAS

To some the word "loblolly" is a general name for a beautiful pine tree found in the southern part of the United States. Even more general is the Southerner's use of loblolly to describe a mudhole. In British dialect the same term describes a thick gruel. Newest of the applications of this colorful word of the people may be found in the small East Texas community of Gary, located in Panola County along the Texas-Louisiana border. *Loblolly* now designates a delightful quarterly journal of folklore and oral history edited and published by Lincoln King and his students at Gary High School.

*Loblolly* started in January 1973, when the students in the class of 1976 selected their Bicentennial project. Writing in the 200-page Bicentennial Edition of the quarterly magazine (Volume III, No. 4, Spring 1976), now available for \$2.00, Lincoln King, GHS's social studies-history-geography teacher argues: "What happens to the kids while working on the magazine proves the educational value of each project. These students have really discovered their culture and heritage roots while interviewing their friends, relatives, and neighbors. It has helped end any generation gap when these young people really talk to those older, quite often for the first time. . . . So I believe the *Loblolly* project has been good for those whose lives it has touched, and it has been good for the community and school as a whole. We have had fun also, and that's what learning should be."

While earlier issues of *Loblolly* chronicled the lives of Panola and surrounding county residents who told of faith healing, moonshining, water witches, quilting traditions, and many other topics indigenous to the piney woods region, the Bicentennial issue, the culmination of the class of 1976's project, is mainly devoted to the economic history of Panola County. It is based on more than fifty interviews and included are in-

terviews and photographs on such subjects as timber, farming, cotton, cattle, poultry, channel catfish, gas and oil, and lignite mining. Readers of *Loblolly* are constantly reminded of the *Foxfire* publications, in whose tradition the *Loblolly* staff consider themselves. This exciting example of curricular use of oral history and folklore has attracted the attention of all of Texas. Both the Texas Interscholastic League and the Texas State Historical Association have cited the *Loblolly* project as one of the most inspiring of its kind. Funding for the work of *Loblolly* has come from sources ranging from subscriptions to grants from the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Texas and IDEAS (Institutional Development and Economic Affairs Services, Inc.). Sales of back issues also provide some revenue.

Secondary education teachers, as well as persons interested in interpretive uses of oral history, will want to tune in on *Loblolly's* work. Lincoln King and his students may be contacted at *Loblolly*, Inc., Gary High School, Box 88, Gary, Texas 75643.

### NATION'S FIRST B.A. IN ORAL HISTORY AWARDED

The first baccalaureate degree in the field of oral history was awarded by Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin, at its 126th commencement in April, to Linda Elisabeth Beattie of Syracuse, N.Y. Miss Beattie completed the nation's first undergraduate major in the field with honors and graduated as a Porter Scholar, a distinction awarded, though rarely, to outstanding students who are "wide-ranging in their intellectual curiosity and abilities."

Miss Beattie was able to design and complete her unique major under Beloit's Track Two program, which allows qualified students to integrate work in a variety of departments to create one-of-a-kind concentrations tailored to their individual educational needs. As part of her oral history major, which included work in the departments of English, history, and an-

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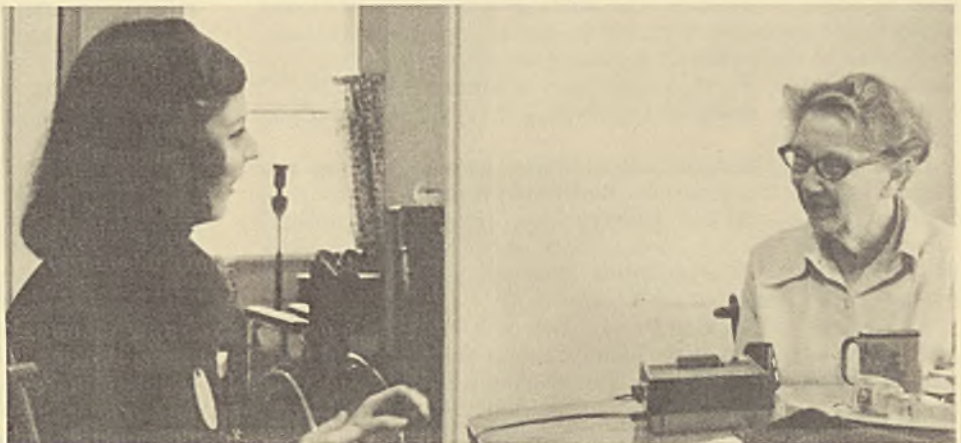
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Newsletter deadlines: Fall, October 6; Winter 1977, January 21; Spring 1977, April 15; Summer 1977, July 1; Fall 1977, November 4. Articles should be no longer than 400 words.

The Newsletter requests OHA members to send changes of address to the Executive Secretary, Box 13734, N.T. Station, Denton, Texas 76203.

thropology, she conducted a series of fourteen hour-long interviews with an eighty-year-old Wisconsin woman, Hazel Cox, whose memories extend from the Indian friends in the cranberry marshes of her childhood through her recent career of service to Wisconsin ornithological and conservation organizations. Miss Beattie transcribed, edited, and indexed her tapes, took field trips to the areas described in them, and assembled photographs and genealogical charts to supplement them. She plans to use the results of her research in preparing a book about Hazel Cox.

In addition to her major in oral history, Miss Beattie completed conventional majors in English composition and literature, receiving honors in English literature for her thesis based on an examination of the manuscripts of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. She hopes to do some professional work in oral history before pursuing graduate work in English.



Linda Beattie interviews Hazel Cox at Beloit, Wisconsin.



## BOOK NOTICES

*From Parlor to Prison.* Edited by Sherna Gluck. (New York: Vintage Press, 1976. 285 pp. Photos, selected bibliography, chronology. \$3.95)

Five women, eighty years or older, give strikingly honest self-portraits of the early twentieth century women's suffrage movement. Each of their backgrounds are different and each carries the history of American feminism to our own time. The oral history interviews on which this book is based were conducted as part of the Feminist History Research Project.

*Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods: A Phenomenological Approach to the Social Sciences.* By Robert Bogdan and Steven J. Taylor. (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1975. 266 pp. Field notes, bibliography. \$11.95)

Robert Bogdan and Steven J. Taylor, sociologists from Syracuse University, have organized a guidebook to conducting qualitative research. The first section, dealing with "how to do qualitative research," includes a discussion on styles of interviewing. The second section centers on developing and analyzing research material toward a finished product. Examples of field notes and other raw material are also in this section.

*The Engineering of Abundance: An Oral History Memoir,* by Roy Bainer. (Davis: Oral History Center, University Library, University of California, 1975. 449 pp. Photos, index. \$17.00)

The invention of the mechanical tomato picker and tree-shaker devices are but two examples of the agricultural technology research in which Professor Roy Bainer was involved.

A. I. Dickman, head of the Oral History Center at the University of California-Davis, through his interviews has produced a biography of California's most famous agricultural engineer.

*Land of the Post Rock: Its Origins, History, and People.* By Grace Muilenburg and Ada Swineford. (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas. xiv, 207 pp. Illustrations, photographs, maps, charts. \$13.50)

Descendants of post-Civil War Kansas pioneers relate how homesteaders used fence post limestone as a substitute for wood in the building of homes, fences and bridges on the prairie. The ethnic personalities of the European immigrant groups are examined. Also, the authors explain how fence post limestone was quarried and how it was prepared for construction use.

*Conversations with Klemperer,* compiled and edited by Peter Heyworth. (London: Gollancz, 1973. 128 pp. Illustrations. £3)

This work is based on conversations between the compiler and musical conductor Klemperer and is recorded in English for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and in German for the Cologne Radio. Covered in the study are musical conditions in Central Europe until the advent of the Nazis. Heyworth, in his introduction, comments on "the subject of German persecution of the Jews which runs through these conversations with the persistence of a *Leitmotiv*" and reminds readers that Klemperer's justification is that many of his close associates died or had their lives ruined by the Nazis' actions. A full review appears in *Recorded Sound: The Journal of the British Institute of Recorded Sound*, 62 (April 1976), 546.

*Religious America.* By Philip Garvin. (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1974. 189 pp. \$12.95)

This book grew out of a television series called "Religious America" produced by Philip Garvin. Garvin has interviewed and photographed average Americans—young, middle-aged, and old. He includes members of older traditions, but his particular interest is the great variety of new religious trends, such as Christian communes, Eastern mysticism, the Pentecostal movement, and the significance of religion for POW's.

Garvin is not concerned with institutional structures, nor with doctrinal formulas; rather, his questions have probed the personal, inward, religious experience of contemporary Americans.

*We Be Here When the Morning Comes.* By Bryan Woolley, photographs by Ford Reid. Introduction by Robert Coles. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky. \$7.50)

This book describes, from the point of view of the striking mountaineers, the thirteen-month strike at the Brookside and Highsplint coal mines in Harlan County, Kentucky. Writer Woolley and photographer Reid lived with a miner's family during the last weeks of the strike in August 1974, and with tape recorder and camera they explored the feelings of the participants.

*Yessir, I've Been Here a Long Time; The Faces and Words of Americans Who Have Lived a Century.* By George Mitchell. (New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1975. 124 pp. Photographs. \$8.95)

The people in this book were born before 1872, and their memories and opinions stretch from slavery and the Stanley Steamer to Sputnik and the atom bomb.

*Allan Nevins on History.* Compiled and introduced by Ray Allen Billington. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1975. 420 pp. Index. \$15.00)

Ray A. Billington, successor to Allan Nevins at the Huntington Library, has compiled and edited a selection of essays by the late unorthodox Columbia University historian, who although he never received the Ph.D. in his field, reaped two Pulitzer Prizes and distinguished himself further as a founder of the modern oral history movement. According to editor Billington, Nevins saw history as "mankind's most essential instrument for progress."

*New Burlington: The Life and Death of an American Village.* By John Baskin. (Norton. 259 pp. Photographs. \$9.95) "O memories that bless and burn!" muses Sarah Haydock Shidaker, 82.

In 1972, John Baskin, a farmer's son, moved to New Burlington, Ohio, to talk to old folks like Mrs. Shidaker about their way of life. To supplement his information, he used diaries, letters and photographs to develop a poetic and moving document of the community.

New Burlington is now beneath a reservoir, but through Baskin's stories about gravediggers, preachers and chicken thieves it stays alive.

*Foxfire 3.* Edited by Eliot Wigginton and compiled by the students of Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School, Rabun Gap, Georgia. (New York: Anchor Press/Doubleday, 1975. 511 pp. Photographs and illustrations, index of people, cumulative index for *The Foxfire Book*, *Foxfire 2*, and *Foxfire 3*, \$4.95)

*Foxfire* magazine, one of the earliest and most successful concepts of education and oral history, is ten years old and the latest effort, *Foxfire 3*, covers animal care, banjos and dulcimers, hide tanning, summer and fall wild plant foods, butter churns, ginseng, and still more affairs of plain living.

## NEWS

The Lutheran Historical Conference will feature a workshop on oral history at its Philadelphia meeting October 21 and is conducting a \$30,000 project on recent interchurch relations. Alice M. Kendrick, 1976 graduate of Columbia's oral history seminar, will conduct the project.

Esta Sobey, 1976 graduate of Columbia's oral history course, has transplanted it to Pace College (New York) as an adult education offering. Sobey began the class while a Ph.D. candidate in history at Columbia.

Greenfield College (Massachusetts) has plans to interview Archibald MacLeish, who lives in nearby Conway. The work is to be integrated with his papers.

(continued on page 8)



## OHA OFFICIAL

### BUSINESS

**Ronald E.  
Marcello  
Secretary-  
Treasurer**



There are certain facts concerning the financial condition of the Oral History Association that I think deserve the attention of the membership. These facts are important to the point that they will influence the course of OHA for years to come.

First, it goes without saying that OHA's operating expenses have increased markedly during the past few years. The costs for postage, telephones, and stationery have been spiraling. In addition, the tab for publishing the *Newsletter*, *Review*, and *Bibliography* has risen considerably; and rising publication costs have come simultaneously with a desire on the part of a substantial number of members for updating the *Directory*.

At the same time, there is another serious situation. When the third—and final—billing was mailed, there were still 450 members out of a total of 1,339 who were in arrears on their dues for 1976. These individuals and institutions are in danger of being dropped from OHA unless their dues are paid immediately; and if this step has to be taken, it will mean another decline in OHA's income.

Third, sales for OHA publications have decreased considerably. This is especially distressing in the case of the revised *Bibliography*, a fine booklet that should be in the possession of every serious oral historian, another loss of income for OHA.

The result is that OHA has been breaking about even to this point in 1976 so far as daily operating expenses are con-

cerned, and no surplus funds have been deposited in the savings account. How long the organization can expect this trend to continue is uncertain. What happens, for instance, if one of the colloquia turns out a financial disaster? What happens if some of our member institutions are no longer able to continue underwriting some of the administrative costs of OHA? We shall have to dip into our \$10,000 savings account, a reserve that is not all that great in the light of the inflation of the past several years.

At this point I am not ready to recommend another dues increase, coming only two years after the last one. Such a step would probably be self-defeating in that it would further deplete our membership. More realistically, we all need to spread the word and enlist new members, and Council should take steps to strengthen the activities of the OHA's newly-organized Membership Committee. The financial condition of OHA has by no means reached a state of alarm, but all members should give it some serious thought as the 1976 Colloquium approaches.

Have you returned the QUESTIONNAIRE that appeared in the summer *Newsletter*?

## NEWS

(continued from page 7)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology now has an oral history program under Charles Weiner, former director of the American Institute of Physics program.

*Forty-three Years in the Field with the U.S. Forest Service*, an interview by Elwood R. Maunder with Charles A. Connaughton, a veteran of the Forest Service, is now available in book form for \$38.10 plus 50¢ postage and handling from the U.S. Forest Service, P.O. Box 1581, Santa Cruz, California 95061. California residents add six percent sales tax.

An interview with Charles Morrissey on oral history, its growth, uses and techniques, was taped by Dan Price, Chicago broadcaster, during a conference at Wingspread, the headquarters of the Johnson Foundation in Racine, Wisconsin, May 11-13, 1976. Sponsored by Former Members of Congress, Inc., in conjunction with the United Nations Association, the conference concerned the roles of Congress and the UN in confronting global problems. The thirty-minute tape will be aired on ninety-one radio stations from New England to Hawaii during the summer and early fall.

Under the direction of Dr. Geoffrey Wigoder, the Institute of Contemporary Jewry, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has acquired an extensive collection of oral history tapes in many languages. The program, begun in 1959, has researched topics including the history of Israel, wartime experiences of Jews and life in Jewish communities in other parts of the world. Samuel Proctor, director of the oral history program at the University of Florida, gave several public lectures and seminars on oral history at the institute while visiting Jerusalem in January.

The Department of English, University of New Mexico, has issued a call for papers for the December 1976 Modern Language Association Seminar, "Forms of Personal Narrative: Diary, Autobiography, Biography, Oral History and Narrative Fiction," to be held in New York City right after Christmas. Papers should be under twenty minutes in length. Deadline is August 30. (Topics with popular focus should be submitted to the MMLA which meets in St. Louis November 4-6, 1976.) For more information concerning either organization contact Lynn Z. Bloom, 96 Arundel Place, Clayton, Missouri 63105, until August 25. Thereafter, Humanities Building 217, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131.

Oral History Association Newsletter  
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