



ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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IRAN STUDY FUNDED AT HARVARD

NEH, Ford Foundation, private grants supporting five-year research on Middle East revolution of 1979

The Harvard University Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) is expanding a study of Iranian history with a recent grant of \$300,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The NEH funding is for the period through June 1986. Grants of \$50,000 from the Ford Foundation and \$120,000 from corporate and private sources have also been received by the Iranian Oral History Project, a five-year study documenting the contemporary political history of Iran. Three researchers are at work on this subject which has gripped the world's attention for a decade.

Nearly 40 former Iranian political leaders and activists have already been interviewed. The bilingual project, in English and Persian, will ultimately include approximately 150 individuals who observed and participated in important national events

and decisions in Iran during the last four decades. The collection will be housed in the Houghton Library at Harvard.

"Conducting an in-depth study of Iran's political system is difficult," says Habib Ladjevardi, coordinator of the project and postdoctoral fellow at CMES, "because there are few reliable historical sources." The opportunity to fill this historical vacuum occurred, however, when a large number of public officials and political activists immigrated to the West after the Iranian revolution in 1979.

Interviewees are being selected from a master list of 350 which includes the nation's former prime ministers, members of parliament, judges, student leaders, cabinet members, writers, academics, and members of SAVAK, the Iranian security agency. The Harvard researchers are considering interviewing former U.S. presi-

dent Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, both of whose administrations were involved in Iranian affairs.

First director of the project was historian Edward L. Keenan, who conceived of the study in the fall of 1980 after noting similarities between the Russian Revolution and events in Iran. To Keenan, taping accounts with exiled political leaders was expedient. He said, "If you asked these guys to sit down and write out their experiences they would become theorists. We don't want theory," he added. "We want the news."

Other oral history research on Iran, sponsored by the Foundation for Iranian Studies, in Washington, D.C., was described in the winter 1984 issue of the *Newsletter*.

LIVING CENTER RESIDENTS RECORD LIFE HISTORIES

ARA Services, Inc., a highly diversified, Philadelphia-based corporate giant, is enthusiastic about oral history. During the past three years ARA personnel have been busy starting oral history projects in the United States.

Through ARA Living Centers, a nursing home subsidiary, the company has found that oral history projects are good for both the center's residents and ARA and, if current soundings are indicative of a trend, the parent organization may not stop until all of its nearly three hundred centers have ongoing oral history activity. Begun in 1981 through the leadership of Deborah Zackheim, a public relations specialist in the corporate headquarters, ARA's oral

history development is attracting the attention of gerontologists and other professional groups.

ARA's first oral history venture occurred in Colorado in September 1981; nursing homes and retirement centers in Fort Collins and Greeley decided to encourage tape recording the life histories of their residents. Lori Kuipers, from the Denver office, assumed a leadership role, as Living Centers in Colorado selected and trained students from nearby Colorado State University and the University of Northern Colorado to interview center residents for both academic credit and the good of each community. Students from

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ANNUAL MEETING, 20-23 SEPT., LEXINGTON, KY.

COLOR VIDEO NOT LIKELY TO FADE

by Hugh N. Ahmann

At the Seattle oral history Colloquium in 1983, there was a discussion as to the benefits of videotaping oral history interviews. Listening to the pros and cons dealing with the subject, it would appear that there are more benefits to be accrued from videotaping an interview than not videotaping.

However, while listening to the discussion, I noticed what appears to be general understanding that with color videotaping one can expect over the years that the color will fade. I am familiar with this problem in color film where the dyes will change over the years, resulting in either a washed-out film with little color or the problem of dyes changing color. Although I have had little experience in the field of videotaping, my background in electronics caused me to doubt that color videotape over a period of years loses its color properties.

One should remember that a magnetic tape recording results in the metallic oxide particles on the recording tape being arranged in a manner consistent with the information being stored on it. In essence, the taping medium or material is ignorant of what is being recorded on it, be it audio, black-and-white video, color video, radar signals, or computer information. On a color videotape, there are horizontal sync pulses, vertical sync pulses, white and black video levels, color video signals, a whole host of electronic information.

The videotape doesn't know what these individual signals are that have been recorded on it, only that something has been recorded. Thus, for the color video signal to fade, somehow the metallic oxide would have to single out the color signal and cause it to disappear while the other information on the tape would not.

I spoke to several video engineers and asked them if they were familiar with such a problem, and they were not. I then wrote a letter to the 3M Magnetic Audio/Video Products Division at the 3M Center in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The reply from 3M stated in part: "In regard to your question relative to archival storage of videotape . . . color videotape recordings do not deteriorate with time any more than a black and white videotape recording. We consider both to be very stable electromagnetically for long periods of storage."

The letter went on to point out that one "would expect negligible loss in retained signal even after 100 years, either due to physical relaxation effects or erasure effects. Magnetic relaxation effects would tend to be less in 100 years than that which would occur in playing back the tape. This is virtually immeasurable. Depending on the format, the deterioration effects of playing become noticeable only after several hundred to a thousand plays."

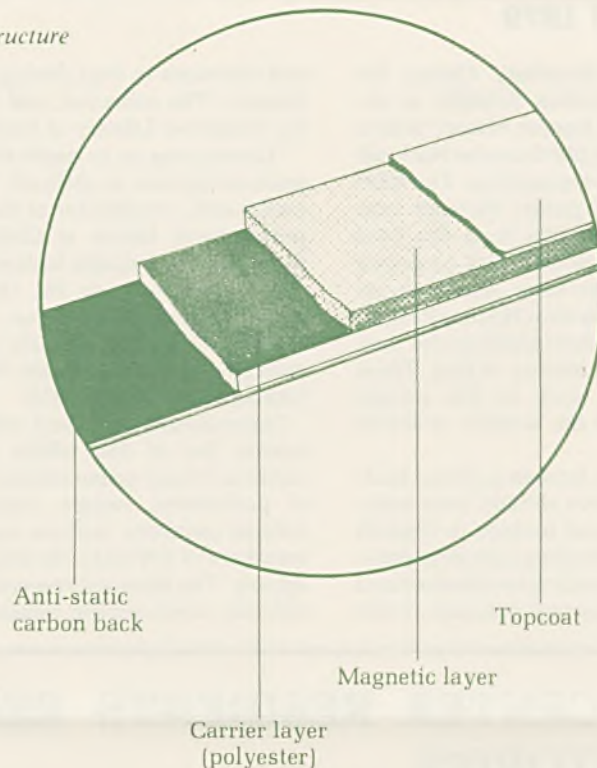
3M did point out that the binder materials which hold the magnetic particles together are "hygroscopic and thus can absorb moisture when exposed to high relative humidities," and should be stored accordingly.

The writer of the 3M letter, Video Technical Service Supervisor Norm C. Ritter, goes on to say that "color video recordings made in 1964, when played back today, indicate the quality is equal to that of the day they were made. The observations made on these recordings would lead one to conclude magnetic tape recordings can be stored for several decades without loss of quality."

I hope this information will lay to rest

the rumors that the color in color videotape fades after a period of time. This should encourage more people and oral history programs to look into the possible use of videotaping as a historical documentation method. [Ahmann holds a general radio-telephone operator license and an advanced class amateur radio license, served as an overseas communications technician/radio for the Department of State, and has worked in radio broadcasting and as an electronic technician. He also was employed as a two-way radio market representative for Motorola Inc., prior to becoming an oral historian, in 1971, with the USAF Oral History Program at Maxwell Air Force Base, in Alabama, his present position.]

Videotape Structure



Videotape consists of four layers. Source: Peter Lanzendorf, *The Video Taping Handbook* (New York: Harmony Books, 1983), p. 39. Used by permission of Crown Publishers, Inc.

INDIANA U. BEGINS NEW PROJECTS

The Indiana University Oral History Research Center (OHRC) has many ongoing activities in addition to grant-funded research on the state's auto industry. Graduate students John Wolford and Greg Stone are interviewing black citizens as part of the continuing People of Indianapolis Project. First begun in the Brightwood area of the city, the study has expanded city-wide, with the most recent focus on unionized blacks.

Realizing the importance of interview-

ing technique to many disciplines, on February 28 OHRC sponsored a panel discussion on interviewing technique. IU professors participating were Thomas Oltmans (psychology), Ruth Stone (folklore), and Paul Gebhard (anthropology). The session was videotaped.

John Wolford, OHRC Research Assistant, began the oral history of IU's School of Music in June of 1983. His first effort generated thirty hours of interviews with former dean Wilfred Conwell Bain.

LIVING CENTER

Continued from page 1

other Colorado institutions of higher learning soon made forays into ARA centers in Wyoming as well. Eight volumes entitled *Stepping Out*, comprised of the recollections of approximately ninety residents, have been published in the company's Western Division.

Similar developments have occurred in Indiana, California, Texas, and Oklahoma. In Texas, for example, during the fall of 1982, ARA centers in the Houston area forged partnerships with faculties and students at nearby San Jacinto College, Texas Southern University, and North Harris County College. The response by all associated with the ARA homes was tremendous and led to publication of *The Round-Up*, a book of recollections, in 1983. Kathy Weeks, of the ARA Central Division office in Houston, now plans to introduce oral history activity throughout Texas and Oklahoma to the firm's 170 homes.

ARA's oral history work in Indiana is led by Patricia Kline, of Carmel, headquarters of the Eastern Division. A project called "Hoosier Heritage" led to a publication of the same name in 1983 on life in Central Indiana, as ARA presented resi-

"... students get a feel for what goes on in nursing homes."

dents' "dreams . . . the stuff that memories are made of." Believing that "young people dream in the future and older people dream in the past," Kline worked out cooperative projects between students from Manchester College, Marian College, Franklin College, and Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, and residents from five Indiana nursing homes.

ARA's attitude toward such far-flung developments in the Living Centers remains very positive. David Flaherty, who succeeded Zackheim in the Philadelphia office, says oral history is "filling a need" as it develops interaction between people in nursing homes and their communities. Moreover, reports Flaherty, in series of projects reasonable in cost, oral history activity "provides a chance for students to get a feel for what goes on in nursing homes" as they gather sources of history for libraries. ARA's overall objective, in addition to seeking ways for Living Centers residents to be involved and active, is to dissolve some of the traditional barriers between the nursing home and the community.

VIDEO ARCHIVE FOR HOLOCAUST

The Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale is the first major archive devoted exclusively to videotaped oral histories of survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust. The project began in New Haven, Connecticut, as an idea of filmmaker Laurel Vlock, and psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor Dori Laub.

In 1979, with the aid of the New Haven Farband, an organization with a large survivor membership, they formed the Holocaust Survivors Film Project, which videotaped some two hundred survivors. In 1981 those original tapes were formally deposited at Yale, and in 1982, with the aid of a grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation, the Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale, an official depository of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, was established as part of the university's Sterling Memorial Library.

There are presently close to three hundred videotaped testimonies in the archive, and the number is expected to exceed four hundred by the end of 1985. Taping is being done at Yale by the Video Archive and in other locations in the U.S. and abroad by affiliated projects which have agreed to deposit copies of their videotapes with the archive.

The testimonies are being cataloged and indexed. Information is available on-line through the RLIN (Research Libraries Information Network) system, a national bibliographic database. Detailed individual testimony inventories, which are keyed to time-coded VHS copies of the testimonies are available for on-site use.

With broad objectives, the Video Archive is producing broadcast-quality documentaries and edited versions of individual testimonies for classes and community groups and local television. The archive has a cooperative arrangement with the Facing History and Ourselves National Foundation, an organization dedicated to the development and implementation of Holocaust-related curricula.

Contact: Sandra Rosenstock, Archivist, Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale, Yale University Library, Box 1603A Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520.

NEW YORK NURSES ASSN.

The New York State Nurses Association, one of the largest of its kind in the nation, is interviewing nationally recognized nurses who were involved with the evolution and professionalization of the industry in the state from the early 1900s. The project began more than two years ago through the association's Council on Research in conjunction with the Foundation of the New York State Nurses Association. The first four interviewees each granted one-hour videotaped interviews, which are also in edited half-hour versions. The interviews are being conducted by prominent members of the nursing community. The memoirs are available to the nursing community at large and are used frequently for educational programs dealing with issues in nursing. For information: Warren G. Hawkes, Associate Librarian, New York State Nurses Association, 2113 Western Avenue, Guilderland, NY 12084 (518) 456-5371.



Examples of publications based on ARA Living Centers oral history projects (l to r) in Colorado, Indiana, and Texas. ARA Services, Inc., operates nursing homes and retirement centers in ten states in the U.S.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cullom Davis

My previous messages have explored two areas of organizational interest and concern: publications and finances. In this, my final report, I will address the remaining two subjects that I identified last fall as principal issues facing the OHA. They are regional affairs and relationships, and the design of our annual meetings.

Unquestionably the most important organizational development for oral historians in the last ten years has been the remarkable growth of state and regional associations. Pioneer efforts like the Indiana Oral History Roundtable were followed by notable regional groupings like the New England Association of Oral History, which celebrated its tenth anniversary last spring with a successful meeting in Worcester, Massachusetts. One of my most pleasant chores as president has been to attend four regional meetings this year. En route to NEA/OH's tenth birthday party I had the honor of addressing the charter meeting of OHIO (Oral History in Ohio) at Kent State University. Nearly 100 attendants helped launch that organization under the leadership of Stanley Garkinkel. Earlier in the spring I observed an excellent program and keen interest at the eighth annual workshop of OHMAR (Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region). Indianapolis was the site for one of the Indiana Roundtable's venerable workshops in April.

These personal experiences fortified my belief that regional and state organizations are a dynamic and effective associational activity in our profession. But those four visits revealed only a fraction of the regional movement. Each week's mail brings announcements or newsletters from new and existing organizations throughout the country. Indeed, oral history enthusiasts are busily adding to an alphabet soup of regional groups and publications: SOHA, NOHA (or some variant yet to be selected), MVOHA, POHN, IOHA, IOHN, KOHC, TOHA, MOHC, etc. The movement continues and the alphabet soup thickens.

The relationship of OHA to these proliferating and expanding regional organizations has been a subject of considerable thought and discussion. Gradually, and not without some controversy, there has evolved a relationship of mutual interest and support. Feelings of chauvinism and rivalry have disappeared as the national association and its regional partners have discovered complementary interests.

Many oral historians actively participate and exercise leadership in both OHA and their regional organizations. Symbolic of this maturing outlook is the fact that OHA's current president-elect (Martha Ross) is a founder and past president of OHMAR, and our current nominee for president-elect (Sam Hand) is president of NEA/OH. Many other persons combine leadership responsibilities at both the national and regional levels.

Some years ago OHA issued a policy statement on the subject of regional organizations. While a useful first step, this statement quickly became obsolete as an expression of our mutual interests and reciprocal support. Efforts are under way through the leadership of Martha Ross to revise the policy text to more accurately reflect the relationship as it actually exists.

Another constructive step of some years ago was the development of a formal liaison relationship between regional groups and OHA. Round-table sessions at our annual meetings and formal discussions with OHA Council have built greater understanding and support. OHA Council now believes the time has come to explore new ideas for strengthening the regional perspective in OHA governance. Members can expect to hear more about this in the months ahead. Whatever mechanism emerges will reflect the maturity and good will that characterize our partnership. Manifestly OHA and the myriad regional groups share a common destiny of service to oral historians and promotion of the highest standards in our craft.

I close with a few observations about our annual meetings. This year OHA breaks with the longstanding tradition of offering a separate national workshop and colloquium at its annual gathering. After careful consideration we concluded that this successful tradition had exhausted its usefulness and that it was time to integrate workshop sessions with papers, panels, and media presentations in a revamped four-day annual meeting. Extensive planning and effort went into the printed program that members received in June. Initial reaction has been very favorable, but of course the real test comes in late September. The distinctive format, variety, and program announcement of this conference are the result of inspired and tireless leadership by Terry Birdwhistell and Anne Campbell, who chair the program and local arrangements committees. As proud as they and we are of this new departure, we freely recognize that it is experimental. To fully and accurately test this approach we need your reaction. Write them or me about your assessment of the printed program. At the Lexington conference itself you will have an opportunity to evaluate the overall design and features of the 1984 annual meeting. Please help us continue improving our national conference as a memorable occasion for dialogue and discovery.

No organization can succeed if it is

static, and no organization can flourish through the efforts of only one or a few individuals. The Oral History Association shows signs of health and growth in its many diverse activities. It has been an honor to preside during a year of such constructive achievement and change. For that I am grateful to our membership for its loyal support, our Council and executive secretary for their energy and wise counsel, our editors and authors for their high standards, and our committee members and other volunteers for their hard work. The pleasure has been mine, but the credit belongs to you.

DISCUSSION GROUP FORMING

Anyone wishing to participate in an informal discussion group at the OHA annual meeting concerning the indexing of Holocaust oral histories should contact Sandra Rosenstock, Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale, Yale University Library, Box 1603A Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520. (203) 436-2157.

MICROPUBLISHERS INVITED TO LEXINGTON

OHA President Cullom Davis has invited six micropublishers to attend the Annual Meeting in Lexington, Kentucky, this fall. Association members can view publishers' exhibits and talk with representatives about publishing completed oral history collections on microform.

Publishers invited to the meeting include Meckler Publishing; University Microfilms International; Chadwyck-Healey, Inc.; American Theological Library Association; Scholarly Resources, Inc.; and Bell and Howell. Daniel Helmsstadter, president of Scholarly Resources, Inc., and an OHA member, has already requested exhibit space. A representative of Chadwyck-Healey, Inc., attended the 1983 OHA meeting in Seattle.

For more than a decade, most microfilming and marketing of oral memoirs was done by Microfilming Corporation of America, a division of The New York Times Company. MCA's recent decision to cease micropublication of oral memoirs opens this important field to competition. OHA seeks to encourage and facilitate conversation and negotiation between oral historians and micropublishers.

Do you have a workshop or conference to announce? Send us the information in time to meet our deadlines. (See masthead on back page.)

PERLIS RECEIVES KANTOR AWARD

At its tenth anniversary meeting at Worcester, Massachusetts, in April, the New England Association of Oral History (NEA/OH) presented its 1984 Harvey A. Kantor Memorial Award for Significant Work in Oral History to Vivian Perlis. As founder and director of Oral History, American Music, at Yale University, Perlis specializes in contemporary music and is known for her publications and record and film productions involving such composers as Charles Ives, Aaron Copland, and John Cage. She has taught courses for the School of Music, American Studies, and Afro-American Studies programs at Yale and is a lecturer and writer on American music subjects. The American Musicological Society voted her book, *Charles Ives Remembered, An Oral History* (Yale U. Press, 1974), best book of the year. Research materials from the Ives project and content from the book went into the making of a Peabody-award-winning film, *A Good Dissonance Like a Man*, for which Perlis was historical consultant. She received a Grammy nomination as producer of "Ives 100th" for Columbia Records.

The Kantor award, an annual presentation, memorializes Harvey A. Kantor, a founding member of NEA/OH, and was first presented in 1977.

OHIO FORMED IN OHIO; FIRST CONFERENCE HELD AT KSU

The first Ohio statewide conference on oral history met at Kent State University 26-27 April 1984. One of the purposes of the meeting was the formation of the Oral History in Ohio (OHIO) association.

On the first day, Kimberly A. Lady (Ky. Oral Hist. Comm.) outlined the status of oral history in neighboring Kentucky, while Hugh Earnhart (Youngstown St. U.) did the same for Ohio. Keynote speaker was OHA President Cullom Davis (Sangamon State U.), who discussed "The Validity of Oral History: Oral History vs. Oral Hearsay." Gerontologist Mildred Seltzer (Miami [Ohio] U.) spoke on the importance of interviewing Ohio's gerontological pioneers. Session topics taught by twenty-two participants included funding, community-based projects, public-school uses, labor and family history, preservation and uses, and oral history in the Mahoning Valley.

Charter members of OHIO elected the following officers: President, Earnhart; Vice president, Charles R. Berry (Wright State U.); Secretary, William Wilen (Kent State U.); Treasurer, Dennis East (Ohio Hist. Soc.); and Directors, Stanley Garfinkel (Kent State U.), Tana Mosien Porter (Toledo), Susan Redman-Rengstorf (Cincinnati Hist. Soc.), and Frank Schiraldi (Ohio Department of Education).

OHA BUSINESS

Ronald E. Marcello
Executive Secretary

At its midwinter meeting in February, Council decided to replace the *Membership Directory* with a new publication, *Annual Report and Directory*. In addition to the membership listing, the new booklet will also include OHA's minutes for 1982, 1983, and 1984; the Constitution and Bylaws; recognition of the officers and standing committees; identification of the state and regional oral history organizations; the Cumulative Financial Report for 1983; membership statistics; and the 1984 budget. A couple of clarifications concerning the new information are in order.

As usual, the membership listing indicates those whose dues were received by April 30, which is our constitutionally mandated deadline. Anybody paying thereafter will be included in an "Addenda" section up to that time when the entire publication is sent to the printer. Telephone numbers are listed only if the dues-paying person so indicated on the 1984 dues notice. In other words, if a person had given us telephone numbers in 1983 but not for 1984, we assumed that he/she no longer desired to have them listed.

There is also a logical explanation for printing the minutes for the past three years. Up to 1982, they appeared in the annual *Review*, but last year, for various reasons, they were not included. Council decided, therefore, to print the minutes for 1982, 1983, and 1984 in abbreviated form in the new publication. Any member desiring a complete copy may receive it by writing the executive secretary. Next year and thereafter, only the most current minutes will be included.

The *Annual Report and Directory* is now in the hands of the printer and should be available well in advance of the 1984 Annual Meeting. I suggest that each member examine his/her listing and if the information is incorrect, please notify us as soon as possible.

1985 PROGRAM CALL

Proposals for papers and sessions for the OHA Annual Meeting, 31 October-2 November 1985, in Pensacola, Florida, should be sent by 1 December 1984 to Program Chair Hugh N. Ahmann, 243 Harvard Dr., Montgomery, AL 36109. (205) 293-2785.

August 30-Sept. 2	Society of American Archivists	Washington, D.C.
September 18-21	American Association for State and Local History	Louisville, Ky.
20-23	Oral History Association	Lexington, Ky.
29	Scottish Oral History Group and Scottish Labour History Society	Newbattle, Scotland
October 10-13	Western History Association	St. Paul
11-12	Canadian Oral History Association	Winnipeg
24-28	National Trust for Historic Preservation	Baltimore
26-27	Workshop for Oral History for Librarians and Archivists, International Graduate School and the University of Missouri	St. Louis
31-Nov. 3	Southern Historical Association	Louisville, Ky.
December 27-30	American Historical Association	New York

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

The International Graduate School (IGS) and the University of Missouri will offer a workshop on Oral History for Librarians and Archivists, 26-27 October 1984 at the International Graduate School (IGS) in St. Louis. Leaders will be Aurora Davis (IGS) and Harold F. Smith (Park C.). For information, IGS, 55 Maryland Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63108 or call Marjorie Patterson at (919) 772-7364.

Texas Sesquicentennial Oral History Workshops will be held in Waco (8 Sept.), San Angelo (20 Oct.), Corpus Christi (17 Nov.), and Marshall (8 Dec.). Spring 1985 workshops are being planned for Beaumont, Fort Worth, Lubbock, and Austin. For information: Texas Oral History Association, CSB Box 401, Baylor University, Waco, TX 76798. (817) 755-3437.

CORRECTION

The International Oral History Conference in Barcelona, Spain, will be held on 29-31 March 1985. Participants are invited to bring at least one copy of their publications to be added to an oral history library which will be installed at the conference. Contact: Mercedes Vilanova, Departament d'Historia Contemporània, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona-28, Spain.

NEW SOUTH RADIO SERIES "WORKING LIVES"

Over one hundred older black residents of Birmingham, Alabama, will be interviewed for "Working Lives," a thirteen-part public radio series to be produced by the Archive of American Minority Cultures of The University of Alabama. The series, whose planning began in 1982, focuses on the New South city before World War II and includes programs on migration from the country, the industrial work place, unionism, and the church and other community institutions.

Production is funded by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, as was the pilot development. The series will be broadcast in February 1985 on radio station WBHM-FM in Birmingham, with additional distribution to follow.

The "Working Lives" staff includes Brenda McCallum, project director; Cliff Kuhn, production consultant; Peggy Hamrick, production assistant; and Steve McCallum, technical consultant. Local humanities scholars are Edwin L. Brown, Blaine A. Brownell, and Horace Huntley. For more information, contact: Brenda McCallum, Archive of American Minority Cultures, The University of Alabama, P.O. Box S, University, AL 35486 (205) 348-5512.

OAH SPOTLIGHTS ORAL HISTORIANS

The Organization of American Historians (OAH) annual meeting, held in Los Angeles April 4-7, focused on oral history in several sessions. Rarely before has the largest body of U.S. history professionals presented so many papers, panels, and special gatherings pertaining to oral history.

A panel on Doing Biographies of Ordinary People included Ronald J. Grele (Columbia U.), Bruce Stave (U. of Connecticut) was a panelist for the session on Private Lives and Public Programs: Documenting Social History through Oral and Written Testimony.

Local History and Oral History: Linking the University, the Community, and the School was a plenary session. Sherna Gluck (Calif. State U.-Long Beach) discussed using oral history to link the university with the schools. Session chair Lawrence De Graaf (Calif. State U.-Fullerton) spoke about linking the university with the community. Howard Shorr's (Theodore Roosevelt H.S., Los Angeles) presentation concerned linking the high

school with the community and Michael Brooks (Suva Intermed. School, Bell Gardens, Calif.) addressed the subject of using oral history to link the intermediate school with the community.

The session Deaf Awareness: History of a Forgotten Minority showcased an unusual type of oral history research. John Schuchman (Gallaudet C.) spoke on "Oral History Interviews with Deaf Individuals."

Gathering the Oral History of the Left was the topic of a panel chaired by Dale Treleven (UCLA). Panelists were Bret Eynon (New York U.), Julia Reichert (Heartland Productions, Dayton, Ohio), Mare Frantz (U. of Calif.-Santa Cruz), and Dick Flacks (U. of Calif.-Santa Barbara).

Also on the OAH program was a special breakfast for oral historians chaired by Enid Douglass (Claremont Graduate School), who spoke on "Twenty-Five Years of Oral History at UCLA." Arthur A. Hansen (Calif. State U.-Fullerton) presented a paper, "Oral History, Perspectivism and the Japanese American Evacuation."

NEW ENGLAND SKIERS

John B. Allen suggested an oral history archive for the New England Ski Museum without really knowing what he was proposing and found himself the director of the New England Ski Museum Oral History Project. The museum began with no building, no library, few artifacts, but much enthusiasm.

Allen studied under Charles Morrissey and began an experimental course at Plymouth State College of the University System of New Hampshire. His students gathered about twenty oral histories of varying quality and subjects, some of which were transcribed. Allen published several sports history papers and articles based on his own and student interviews. An article written for a forthcoming *Oral History Review*, based on sixty-three interviews, shows the values attached to skiing

before 1940 and the development of the organized sport.

A planning grant from the Vermont Humanities Council for a documentary film on skiing, based on oral history, led to *Legends of American Skiing*. Directed by Rick Moulton, the film premiered in New York in October 1982. Thirty hours of videotaped oral history, home movies, thousands of stills, Movietone news clips, and more than 150 films were pared to an eighty-minute movie; the outtakes will eventually be housed with the film in the archive of the New England Ski Museum.

The New Hampshire humanities council has funded a slide show which will appear in ten different locations around the state. The show will become part of the package of ongoing programs. Contact: Allen, Department of History, Plymouth State College, Plymouth, NH 03264.

LINGUISTS STUDYING AMERICAN SPEECH

The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL), with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, is engaged in preserving and facilitating access to speech recordings held in private collections. They are currently conducting a survey of tape-recorded speech samples of American English. Oral history, folklore, and language research communities hold extensive sets of such recordings. The survey is being conducted by mail questionnaire, and all interested persons are asked to contribute.

Information gathered will comprise a reference guide listing audiotape collections and their relevant characteristics.

Private collectors contributing to the survey will receive a copy of the reference guide and a set of guidelines on the preservation of sound recordings. Second, the center will establish a representative collection of speech sample recordings; this collection will create a centralized source of American speech samples and will provide for the preservation of the tapes. The CAL asks that holders of speech recording collections or anyone who knows of interested persons write: Donna Christian, Project Director, CAL/NEH Dialect Recordings Survey, Center for Applied Linguistics, 3520 Prospect Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007 (202) 298-9292.

POSITIONS

DIRECTOR - The Vermont Historical Society, established in 1838, is seeking a full-time director to oversee its museums and reference library and be responsible for the society's quarterly, *Vermont History*, its bimonthly, *Vermont History News*, and other publications. Additional areas of responsibility include program and membership development, budgeting and operational management, fund raising, legislative liaison as well as cooperation with local historical societies. The society is financed by memberships, contributions, and legislative appropriations. Deadline for application is February 1, 1985. Position open: July 1, 1985. For further information, write Search Committee, Vermont Historical Society, 109 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602.

EDITORIAL AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, Baylor University Institute for Oral History. Appointment available 1 September 1984. M.A. preferred. Duties include editing and field interviewing in oral history program emphasizing economic, judicial, and social history research. Strong humanities and/or social science background required. Institute is interdisciplinary department and headquarters of the Texas Oral History Association. Salary competitive. Send letter of interest, resume, and three references to Manager of Personnel Services, Baylor University, P.O. Box 6397, Waco, TX 76706. AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

GRANTS

American Association for State and Local History
Indiana University Oral History Research Center, \$2,077 for travel and supplies for research on auto industry in Indiana.

Association for the Humanities in Idaho
Latah County Historical Society, \$1,937.80 for Crop Dusting in Latah County. Project director: Mary E. Reed.
Owyhee County Historical Complex, \$1,911.11 for Sagebrush Schools: Teaching in Owyhee County. Project director: Linda Morton.

Brown-Forman Distillers Corp.
University of Louisville, \$6,000 for An Oral History of the Distilling Industry in Kentucky.

Early American Industries Association, Inc.
Charles M. Snyder, Millinburg, Pennsylvania, \$1,000 for a study of the buggy industry in the Northeast, Middle West, and South.

Kentucky Oral History Commission
The Architecture and Furnishings of The McDowell House as Viewed Through the Eyes of the Principal Participants in the Restoration, McDowell House, \$448. Director: Carol Johnson.

Lou Tate Foundation, Louisville, \$968 to conduct interviews associated with master weaver Lou Tate and the Lou Tate Foundation.

An Oral History of Butchertown-Wesley Community House, \$916. Director: Don Boklage.

University of Kentucky Oral History Program and Fayette County Medical Society, \$2,219 for The History of Medicine in Fayette County, Kentucky. Director: Terry Bird-whistell.

University of Kentucky, \$2,219 for Ethnicity in Lexington. Director: Arthur Graham.

University of Louisville Oral History Center, \$3,768 for An Oral History of the Distilling Industry in Kentucky. Directors: Carl Ryan and Sherrill McConnell.

Bobette Buster, \$690 to continue the study of the town of Greelsboro.

National Endowment for the Humanities
Indiana University Oral History Research Center, \$59,000 for a two-year research project on the auto industry in Indiana.
Harvard University, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, \$300,000 for an oral history project on recent events in Iran.
Lehman College of City University of New York, \$75,000 for an oral history project on the South Bronx and for the library.

Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy
David E. Hoffman, Averett College, Danville, Virginia, \$12,000 to conduct an oral history on Schoolfield, Virginia, growing up in a textile mill town (1903-1951), including archival tapes, lectures, slide-tape show, and an 8-page tabloid.

NAT'L. COUNCIL ON SOCIAL STUDIES ADDS ORAL HISTORY TO AGENDA

The National Council for the Social Studies recently appointed an ad hoc committee on oral history. The committee's first responsibility will be an oral history pre-conference session at the National Archives 14 November 1984, in Washington, D.C., for social studies educators from throughout the United States.

Speakers include Martha J. Ross (U. of Maryland), president-elect of the Oral History Association, who will discuss the recent rise of oral history as an academic discipline. Following her presentation, Donald A. Ritchie (U.S. Senate Hist. Office) and William Moss (Smithsonian Inst.) will discuss approaches and problems in interviewing elite figures. They will each make a short presentation, followed by a panel discussion with questions from the audience. After lunch, Pamela Henson (Smithsonian Inst.) will give a presentation on technical matters associated with oral history collections. The remainder of the afternoon will be devoted to identifying major figures in the social studies field and planning a cooperative effort for the collection of memoirs.

The preconference session will introduce social studies educators to the field of oral history and encourage and coordinate systematic collection of oral memoirs of major figures in the field. This first year's effort will be followed by a second-year preconference focusing on oral history in the social studies classroom. The 1984 preconference is led by George L. Mehaffy, director of the School of Education at Eastern New Mexico University.

NEWS

Bombay's Xavier Institute of Communications (XIC) and India's National Archives of Oral History (NAOH) have signed a collaboration agreement envisaging a program for training communications students at XIC in oral history methods. The project coordinator is Ruth Deshpande, managing editor of *NAOH Annual*.

The Zoological Society of San Diego and San Diego State University's Center for Regional History has begun an oral history research on the zoological society, which was founded in 1916. Approximately four hundred persons will be interviewed, and tapes will be available at the society.

Continued on page 8



Columbia University Vice President and Librarian Patricia Battin, seated; Ronald Grele, Director of the university's Oral History Research Office; and Elizabeth Mason, Associate Director, watch as Alan Meckler of Meckler Publishing of Westport, Connecticut, signs a new contract for the micropublication of oral histories from the collection. The contract, signed in February 1984, signals a new era in the publication of the Columbia memoirs.

The Onondaga Valley Oral History project was initiated in January 1983 by the Onondaga County Public Library System to help preserve the history of the valley section of Syracuse, New York. The valley is adjacent to the Onondaga Indian Reservation, and residents of the area are involved in taping reminiscences of their Indian heritage. For information: Marybeth Petrella, Adult Services Librarian, Betts Branch Lib., 4862 S. Salina St., Syracuse, NY 13205.

The Center for Oral History at The University of Connecticut and its associated service, TAPESCRIBE, has published a Catalogue of Interviews for the NEH supported project. Connecticut Workers and A Half Century of Technological Change, 1930-1980. Contact Bruce Stave, Director, The Center for Oral History, The University of Connecticut, Storrs, CN 06268.

The fourth annual Living History Theatre Festival was held in New York City on 31 May 1984. Sponsored by Elders Share the Arts, Inc. (ESTA), the festival presented original plays—*Excerpts From Our Lives*, *Blackout on the Boardwalk*, and *From Letters to Action, 1929-1940*—based on stories from the lives of the players drawn from drama groups in the Bronxdale Senior Center, the Bronx YMHA, and Hodson Senior Center. The festival was funded by the Bronx Council on the Arts, Chemical Bank, Con-Edison, Citibank, and individual senior centers.

Marian Ashby Johnson and Deni Stevenson (U. of Calif.-Santa Barbara) are at work on a project called Critical Perspectives on the City Beautiful Movement in Santa Barbara. Partially funded by the California Council for the Humanities, the project on architecture, landscape architecture, decorative arts, historical preservation, and environmental planning will lead to slide talks based on interviews.

The Corporate Archives of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Greater New York, founded in 1983, is augmenting a growing document collection with interviews of longtime employees, retirees, people in positions which have influenced the direction of the corporation's development, and current officers and leaders. Many of the interviews will be videotaped and indexed on microcomputer so that subjects may be accessed in both the document and the oral history collections. For information: Dr. Esther R. Dyer, Manager Archives and Information Services, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Greater New York, 3 Park Ave., N.Y. 10016.

Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound, a large consumer-governed organization, has completed an oral history project with twenty of its founders. Interviews are on GHC's birth in 1945 and efforts to develop a unique system of affordable health care for low- and middle-income people in Seattle. Free copies of the GHC oral history are available from: Public Relations Dept.; GHC of Puget Sound; 300 Elliott Ave., West; Seattle, WA 98119.

G. Wesley Johnson (U. of Calif.-Santa Barbara) recently returned from France and four North and West African nations. Sponsored by U.S.I.A. and the U.S. State Department, Johnson lectured in French on American developments in oral and public history.

NUCMC, the National Union Catalog of Manuscripts Collections, of the Library of Congress, recently celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. Now in its twenty-first volume, NUCMC contains descriptions of approximately 2,320 collections, including oral history, located in seventy repositories in the United States.

The Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System, has appointed Dean Herbst (Austin, Tex.) to conduct a series of interviews with each of its former board chairmen. The project's completion is anticipated by early 1985.

Paul T. Majkut, free-lance oral historian, recently returned from a two-year sojourn in the People's Republic of China where he interviewed Vietnamese boat people at a resettlement area on the island of Hainan in the South China Sea. His project covers the Vietnamese diaspora from 1978 to present and includes interviewees of varied ages, religions, classes, regions, and political convictions. Address: 1825 Denver St., San Diego, CA 92110.

Four new volumes of transcripts, including Admiral Kemp Tolley's colorful reminiscences of his unorthodox naval career, have been added to the U.S. Naval Institute's extensive oral history collection. The entire collection of naval oral histories numbers more than 140 volumes and is available in Annapolis at the institute and at the Naval Academy's Nimitz Library as well as at the Naval Historical Center in Washington, D.C. Selected volumes are also at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. A descriptive catalog is available for \$2.00. Contact: Paul Stillwell, Oral History Director, U.S. Naval Institute, Annapolis, MD 21402.

CALL FOR PAPERS TENTH BIENNIAL AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONVENTION (1985)

Proposals for all areas of American studies are sought with particular attention to folklore, folklife, oral histories, and works bridging the disciplines. Deadline for proposals 15 January 1985; convention 31 October-3 November 1985, San Diego, California. For information and guidelines write: American Studies Association, 307 College Hall/CO, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104. (215) 898-5408.

The quarterly *OHA Newsletter* is sent to members of the Oral History Association and to institutions holding subscriptions: individual, \$15; student \$7.50; library \$12; institutional \$30; life \$250. Members also receive the annual *Oral History Review*. Send membership, change of address, and subscription inquiries to: Ronald E. Marcolla, Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 13734, N.T. Station, Denton, TX 76203. (817) 387-1021, 565-3385 or 2549. Address editorial matters to: Thomas L. Charlton, Editor, Baylor University, CSB Box 401, Waco, TX 76798. (817) 755-3427. Associates: Adelaide S. Darling, Harriet H. Fadal, Jaclyn L. Jeffrey, Rebecca S. Jimenez. Deadlines: Jan. 1, Apr. 1, July 1, Oct. 1. Articles should be limited to 400 words and may be edited. Copyright 1984 Oral History Association, Incorporated.

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