



# ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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## LEUCHTENBURG, HENIGE TO BE 1985 OHA SPEAKERS

The Association's 1985 Annual Meeting scheduled for 31 October-3 November in Pensacola, Florida, will showcase leading oral history scholars as featured speakers and session panelists. President Martha Ross assures OHA members that the meeting, program, and local attractions will provide a most interesting time.

William E. Leuchtenburg, the William Rand Kenan, Jr., Professor of History at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, will be the featured after-dinner speaker in Pensacola. A distinguished American historian, Leuchtenburg frequently uses oral memoirs in his writings on twentieth-century United States history.

A native of Ridgewood, New York, Leuchtenburg is a graduate of Cornell University (B.A., 1943) and Columbia

University (M.A., 1944; Ph.D., 1951). He taught at New York University (1947), Smith College (1949-51), and Harvard University (1951-52) before returning to Columbia (1952-83), where he held the DeWitt Clinton chair in history. In addition to his primary teaching assignments, he has lectured at 17 foreign universities, including his 1971-72 service as Harmsworth Professor of History at Oxford University.

Leuchtenburg is the author of eight books on recent American history, including the widely read *The Perils of Prosperity, 1914-32* (1958), *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal, 1932-1940* (1963), and *In the Shadow of FDR: From Harry Truman to Ronald Reagan* (1983). Three works in progress include a study of FDR and the Supreme Court crisis of 1937, an

essay on the achievement of the New Deal, and the final volume of *The Oxford History of the United States*, which will focus on America since World War II. He is past president of the Society of American Historians (1978-81) and is the current president of the Organization of American Historians.

In the field of oral history, Leuchtenburg was a member of the oral history advisory committee at Columbia University. Leuchtenburg was on the Association's second national colloquium program at Arden House, Harriman, New York, in 1967. His current *In the Shadow of FDR* uses numerous oral history collections for insight into various recent American presidential administrations.

A second special attraction of the  
*continued on page 5*

## ORAL HISTORY AND THE LAW FIRST IN NEW SERIES

The long-awaited inaugural number in the Oral History Association Pamphlet Series, *Oral History and the Law*, has just been published. Author John Neuenschwander (Carthage, C.) has provided readers with the most convenient guide to date to the labyrinthian field of law and its potential applications in oral history work. Neuenschwander, a historian-attorney, has a unique perspective on legal matters as they relate to historical research. Joel Gardner (Louisiana Div. of the Arts) is the editor for the OHA pamphlet series.

The pamphlet is intended for both professional and grass-roots oral historians and is presented in six brief but informative chapters. The first chapter, "Understanding and Avoiding Legal Problems," contains information on subjects such as defamation and invasion of

privacy. Chapter two is titled "Protecting Sealed Interviews from Subpoena." The third chapter, "Copyright," covers works of nonfiction, ownership and transfer, and registration of oral histories. "Legal Release Agreements," the subject of the fourth chapter, includes information on drafting agreements, contractual agreements, deeds of gift, and explaining legal issues to interviewees. The fifth chapter, "Some Special Considerations for Teachers," is Neuenschwander's attempt to help classroom teachers and their students avoid problems of defamation and the various privacy torts.

The author cautions that *Oral History and the Law* is "a venture in preventative or prophylactic law," not a guide to successful litigation or a trial lawyer's handbook. The recent federal cases involving copyright, *Suid v. Newsweek*

(1980) and *Harper & Row Publishers, Inc. v. National Enterprises* (1983) suggest what Neuenschwander calls a "sooner-or-later mentality"—that while oral historians are not in court today, they could be there tomorrow. Through the pages of the new OHA series pamphlet, which is carefully documented and strengthened by a bibliography, his advice—as both an oral historian and lawyer—is that oral historians should "seek legal counsel at the peaceful time when relationships are created, rather than at the painful time of their rupture."

Each paid member of the Association will soon receive one copy of *Oral History and the Law* to introduce the new pamphlet series. Additional copies may be ordered from the OHA executive secretary at \$4.00 each, with discounts for quantity purchases.

## ANNUAL MEETING, 31 OCTOBER - 3 NOVEMBER, PENSACOLA



# OHA FORVM: A FRANK REPLY

Editor:

You will note that this letter is written on my private stationery and the views contained therein are my own and not those of the Marine Corps History and Museums Division.

My ole Granddaddy once warned me never to get in a "spitting contest" with a skunk, but I never did pay much attention to what he said, hence this letter in response to the article by an Anonymous Radical Historian and the letter by Michael Frisch in the Spring 1985 *Newsletter*, both commenting on my "Odyssey of an Oral Historian." I might also say that I have always been put off by the bitchiness of the letters by academic historians appearing in the letters section of the *AHA Review* and promised myself never to indulge in such matters, but what the hell, promises are made to be broken.

At the outset, let me say that my "Odyssey" was never meant to be more than a trip report of a working historian, as it were, and not an official history of Marine activities in Grenada and Lebanon. At the end of my report, I indicated that official histories of both were scheduled for near future publication. Both the Anonymous Radical His-

torian (hereafter ARH) and Frisch took me to task for having written something I didn't write and for not writing something I should have written. Well, you can't please everybody, and in any case, no one really takes radical historians seriously for they are always too full of themselves and the causes they espouse, and are never willing or courteous enough to listen to the other side.

With respect to Frisch's letter, he, like ARH, deliberately misconstrues and distorts what I wrote. And while I thought that these tired old chestnuts had long ago been dumped in the garbage, where they belonged, Frisch insists upon bringing up the matters of "in-house history" and "court historians." His mentors and betters in Academe long ago recognized the objectivity, honesty, and worth of official histories and have long fed on the deep and probing research that had been accomplished in the writing of them.

As one who has been associated with the Marine Corps for over 40 years—in combat in World War II as an enlisted Marine, and in Korea and the Reserves later as an officer, and for the past 25 years a civilian historian employed by the

Marine Corps—I must admit to a certain fondness for the Corps which I have never hid, and at the same time an awareness of its warts, and what institution is without them. It was a thrill to be back with the troops in my several interview trips to Camp Lejeune, Beirut, and in transiting the Atlantic and to interview as fine a group of officers and men I have ever seen or served with. The purpose of these trips, as was explained in "Odyssey," was to interview in depth the entire command and staff of all the Marine Amphibious Units involved in Lebanon and Grenada to ensure that the record was complete, and to ensure that such written records as were required and made were preserved for the use of historians and researchers—both government and academic. Well over 100 interviews were thus conducted and accessioned into the Marine Corps Oral History Collection to be used in the writing of official histories.

Well, I could go on, but I shan't. This letter and "Odyssey" speak for themselves. By answering this much, I have given far more credence to the words of ARH and Frisch than they deserve.

Benis M. Frank

## FEDERAL HISTORIANS SUGGEST OH STANDARDS

Oral history has moved high on the agenda of federal historians in recent months. The annual meeting of the Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG), held at the Library of Congress on 3 April 1985, opened with a session on Oral History as Evidence. Dan Melnick (Cong. Research Serv.) spoke on political scientists' uses of oral history; Donald A. Ritchie (U.S. Senate Hist. Office) discussed strengths and weaknesses of both written and oral documentation in the federal government; Seymour Hersh (*N. Y. Times*) told of his interviews for a book on the Korean Airline incident and of the need for using confidential sources; and George Garand (U.S. Dept. of Justice) explained how oral histories with Holocaust victims were being used to prosecute and deport concentration camp guards and Nazi collaborators living in the United States.

The March issue of the society's newsletter, *The Federalist*, carried a statement of "Principles and Standards for Federal Historical Programs," which included a section on "Using Oral Evidence." At the same time, SHFG's subcommittee on oral history completed a year's study of the problem of protecting donor restrictions on federal oral histories and presented its report to the National Archives. Because

there have been neither statutes nor court cases involving oral history as federal records, historians and agency legal counsels could not be sure that they could honor donor restrictions against challenges under the national Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Since earlier efforts to amend the FOIA and the Federal Records Act had proved fruitless, the subcommittee turned its attention to defining the type of record oral history actually is.

Consultation with the Copyright Office established that federal oral history interviews can be copyrighted if the interviewees were not government employees at the time of the interview and that they may be copyrighted by federal employees if not done as a requirement for or in connection with their official duties. While copyright by itself would not provide protection from FOIA requests, the determination that a person did not automatically waive copyright by giving an interview to a federal agency led the subcommittee to conclude, after consulting with legal counsel, that oral histories could be donated as gifts to the federal government by the interviewee. As gifts, the interviews may be restricted by the donor in the terms specified by the deed of gift.

The report outlined the criteria necessary to restrict access to interviews. These criteria were not intended to replace national security or other restrictions on access to information covered by statute, executive order, or agency regulations. Their use was intended to be voluntary and was suggested only for those agencies which must restrict access to some oral history materials in order to ensure the creation of a comprehensive historical record.

The National Archives leadership is studying the report and, when approved, will publish its findings and recommendations as a special bulletin. In the meantime, those interested in obtaining copies of the committee's report can write to Donald A. Ritchie, Senate Historical Office, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

*Ed. note: OHAN thanks Donald A. Ritchie for the above report from the April 1985 meeting of the Society for History in the Federal Government.*

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**Rick Harmon**, formerly of UCLA, joined the Oregon Historical Society in July 1984 and is serving half-time as oral historian.



# ORIGINS OF ORAL HISTORY: "BORROWED TIME" CLUB

by Bernard Mergen

In the January 1912 issue of *Popular Mechanics* there is a short article and a photograph of the "Borrowed Time" Club of Oak Park, Illinois. According to the article, the club was organized in 1902 by "Father" E. F. Robbins, who recorded his voice on a phonograph before he died in 1910. Pursuing this lead, I wrote to the Chicago Historical Society in the hope that it might have further material on the club, possibly even the wax cylinders Robbins used.

Linda Evans, associate curator of manuscripts, responded with a copy of the *Authentic History of the Borrowed Time Club of Oak Park, Illinois*, a pamphlet published for the club's twenty-fifth anniversary. The pamphlet was written by W. A. Carver and contains photographs of Robbins, his harness shop at 127 Lake Street; James B. Webb, a traveling salesman who served as the first secretary of the club; and of Carver. The pamphlet discusses the problem of senescence in a general way, concluding, the "old people's clubs" are a natural development in the life cycle.

Carver confirms the history given in *Popular Mechanics*. Webb, who turned seventy on 22 January 1902, suggested forming a club to Robbins. A number of men who dropped in the harness shop to pass the time were recruited as members. George M. Ambrose, editor of *The Oak Park Argus*, suggested the name, since all of the members were past seventy and living on borrowed time. The purpose of the club was purely social. Membership increased until it reached a peak of 182 in 1918, then declined to 117 by 1924. At this time, however, the club was meeting regularly to commemorate birthdays, attend religious services, and hear lectures.

A few of the "outstanding" members are described in detail in the pamphlet. Robbins was born in New York City on 20 June 1816. He recalled the visit of General Lafayette in 1824. After working as a harness maker in Connecticut and Evansville, Indiana, he moved to Oak Park in 1872. Other members are described more briefly: John D. Arey, a Chicago civil engineer; Peter M. Balken, a reporter with the *Chicago Evening Journal*; Col. H. R. Brinkerhoff, professor of military science at the University of Chicago; Anson T. Hemingway, an Oak Park realtor; Rev. Charles M. Morton, former assistant to Henry Ward Beecher; and Col. L. H. Whitney, an attorney. The names suggest that the club was fairly representative of the middle-class population of the area at the time.

On the use of the phonograph to record the voices of the members, the pamphlet is disappointingly brief. It mentions that



Members of the "Borrowed Time" Club of Oak Park, Illinois, circa 1912. Reprinted with permission from *Popular Mechanics* 17, January 1912, p. 27. © Copyright The Hearst Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

the recording made by Robbins in 1904 was still playable in 1925 and that other members were recorded by Philander W. Barclay. The recording project had "brought him a commission from the *St. Louis Republican* to prepare an article and describe his method of connecting past generations with the present."

Perhaps a reader of the *Oral History Association Newsletter* will have more information on the "Borrowed Time" Club

or one of its members. Even if no other information surfaces, I think the club can be credited with having the first organized project to record oral histories by a mechanical device.

*Ed. note: Bernard Mergen is director of the American Studies Program at George Washington University. OHAN invites readers to locate and report other information about the "Borrowed Time" Club or other early instances of interview recording.*

## PACKERS' OH STUDY BEGUN IN WISCONSIN WITH NEH GRANT

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin (SHSW) has received a grant of \$84,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to record an oral history of the United Packinghouse Workers of America (UPWA), as recollected by union members. The interviews will enrich the society's existing collection of 600 boxes of UPWA archival material.

Under the direction of SHSW archivist Jim Cavanaugh, the project will interview 75 former and current UPWA members living throughout the Midwest. Rick Halpern and Roger Horowitz, recent M.A. graduates from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will conduct the research interviews.

UPWA is now a part of the United Food and Commercial Workers, the largest union affiliated with the AFL-CIO

national labor organization. SHSW is the official repository for UPWA records. Contact: Cavanaugh, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706 (608) 262-5645.

## SOHA INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

At its annual meeting last April, in Phoenix, the Southwest Oral History Association (SOHA) elected and installed officers for 1985-86. New officers for SOHA are Robert E. Treacy (Redlands Hist. Soc.), president; Sylvia Arden (San Diego Hist. Soc.), vice president; Wendy Elliott (Anaheim, Calif.), treasurer; Ranford B. Hopkins (UCLA), council member at large; Brooke Larsen Garlock (Pasadena Pub. Lib.), council; and Karin Ullmann (Tempe, Ariz.), council. Shirley E. Stephenson (Calif. St. U.-Fullerton), past president of SOHA, remains an officer ex officio.



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Martha J. Ross

In March, I had the privilege and pleasure of attending the V International Oral History Colloquium in Barcelona. Held biennially, these meetings bring together oral history practitioners from a number of nations, principally from Western Europe, for two days of sessions, discussions, and social occasions. As is the case with the Oral History Association and its conferences, the international meeting enjoyed the participation of individuals from many different disciplines and from a number of different types of institutions. Also like OHA, the Barcelona hosts and their institutions arranged for exceptionally pleasant meeting and living accommodations, with the historic city of Barcelona itself and particularly its Gothic Quarter offering evocative settings for a meeting of historians.

Elsewhere in this issue of the *Oral History Association Newsletter*, Carl Ryant reports in detail on the Barcelona meeting and the presentations there. I would like to comment here on some of the implications, as I see them, of this international conference for the Oral History Association and its members, a number of whom attended the colloquium. There are two principal implications of significance to OHA in my view. One is organizational, the other philosophical.

After extensive consideration and discussion, the international group in Barcelona decided to continue the mandate of its organizing committee but not yet authorize the formation of a formal organization. Each of the five international conferences has been mounted by an ad hoc group in the locale designated as the meeting site. The next meeting, in 1987, is tentatively scheduled for Oxford, United Kingdom, with Paul Thompson responsible for the program and meeting arrangements.

The delay in the formal organization of an international group leaves the Oral History Association as the preeminent professional association in oral history anywhere in the world. With an international membership and a world-wide audience for its publications, OHA continues to have a unique opportunity to provide leadership among oral historians around the world. This is a challenge to which OHA must continue to rise with distinction.

At Pensacola, for the first time the program will provide a time for participants with international interests to

caucus. The newly authorized Committee for International Liaison, under the leadership of Carl Ryant, will also meet for the first time in Pensacola. The OHA Council's charge to this committee is threefold: (1) to promote communication between OHA and groups in other countries, (2) to encourage the organization of program sessions among these groups, and (3) to seek funding for the exchange of program participants in OHA meetings and international conferences. A number of foreign scholars have indicated an interest in attending our annual meetings over the years but have been unable to do so for financial reasons. This situation prevails at Pensacola, where a natural focus on the Caribbean area is thwarted by the inability of a number of prospective participants and their institutions to pay for their attendance.

The opportunity for OHA to reach out to its international constituency and to provide professional leadership on an international scale is one that it must not neglect. The creation of a standing committee for this purpose expresses the OHA Council's concern for and interest in this challenge.

The organizers of the Barcelona colloquium, led by Mercè Vilanova and Jordi Planes of the University of Barcelona, circulated some months in advance of the meeting the texts of all available papers to be presented, so that participants would arrive already familiar with the work done and the interpretations reported. Despite the advantage this afforded, in most sessions participants spent their allotted time reading their papers and therefore generally left insufficient time for a full discussion of the method used or the issues raised.

Michael Frisch has pointed out that critical discussion in oral history is seriously hampered by the delay in the development of a vocabulary for that criticism. Comments therefore tend to arise from the context and vision of the commentator rather than against any well-considered, negotiated and accepted models for oral history practice and interpretation. The discussion of these questions and the development of an effective vocabulary for criticism are appropriate concerns for the professional organization in the field, the Oral History Association, and its publications are the appropriate forum for these discussions.

Art Hansen, in his proposal for the special issue of *The Oral History Review* in 1986, commemorating OHA's 20th anniversary, intends to assemble a collection of articles discussing the questions of field-work practice among oral historians, from the viewpoint of a variety of disciplines. This issue will not only make a valuable contribution to the literature of oral history but will also enhance OHR's claim to be the authoritative source for such seminal information. Two pro-

gram sessions at Pensacola will explore some of these questions and also provide the opportunity for full discussion by participants.

The opportunity to meet with oral historians from other countries is a stimulating one and one that OHA must promote, not only by encouraging its members to participate in meetings abroad but also by finding ways of facilitating the participation in its own meetings of interested foreign scholars.

As I am concluding this message, I have received a copy of the first in OHA's new pamphlet series, *Oral History and the Law*, by John Neuenschwander, professor of history at Carthage College in Wisconsin, a practicing attorney and a former president of OHA. As both a historian and an attorney, Neuenschwander has been able to bring together authoritative information bearing on the legal questions which concern oral historians and to discuss them in an authoritative yet accessible way.

Joel Gardner, editor of the pamphlet series, and Donald Ritchie, chairman of the Publications Committee, both merit the highest praise for their diligence and care in assuring the success of this pamphlet and in setting standards for the series that will enrich the literature of oral history and enhance the reputation of the Oral History Association in publishing useful information. Expressions of appreciation and congratulations are in order for all those involved in the publication of *Oral History and the Law*.

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## OHA SEARCH COMMITTEE APPOINTED, TO REPORT TO COUNCIL IN FALL

President Martha Ross has appointed a search committee to recommend a successor to Ronald E. Marcello, the Association's executive secretary for the past decade. Marcello has announced his intention to relinquish his post no later than the OHA Annual Meeting in October 1985.

The Executive Secretary Search Committee recently named is comprised of three former presidents of the Association and current OHA Vice President/President-elect Samuel B. Hand (U. of Vermont). Chairing the search group is William W. Moss (Smithsonian Inst.); others serving are Enid H. Douglass (Claremont Graduate School) and John Neuenschwander (Carthage C.).

Contact: Moss, Archives, A&I Bldg., Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560 (202) 357-1420, or Marcello, Executive Secretary, OHA, P.O. Box 13734, N.T. Station, Denton, TX 76203.



Pensacola program will be David P. Henige, African studies bibliographer at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Henige is the author of *Oral Historiography* (1982), a reevaluation of the collection and interpretation of oral historical data. He is also editor of the journal *History in Africa* and author of *The Chronology of Oral Tradition* (1974). Henige's work points to the distinctions between oral tradition and oral history. The bibliography of 502 titles in *Oral Historiography* is one of the most comprehensive to date. Henige is scheduled to be the Association's luncheon speaker on Friday during the 1985 Annual Meeting.



Wm. E. Leuchtenburg

Woody Skinner, a West Florida raconteur and folklorist, will regale OHA participants with local humor and stories on the light side on Saturday evening.

The program has been planned to meet the needs of both novices and veterans. Hugh N. Ahmann (Maxwell AFB) is program chair, while James Moody (His-

toric Pensacola Preservation Bd.) is in charge of local arrangements. In keeping with the meeting site's proximity to a major U.S. Navy air station, there are several sessions on military history. Business/economic history topics range from hotels in the South to merchandizing jewelry to entrepreneurship to railroading. The Association's new Committee on Teaching is responsible for the program's offerings on oral history and education. The policies, practices, and programs of state humanities councils (affiliates of the National Endowment for the Humanities) will be addressed by grant officers from three states.

Pensacola offers a variety of leisure activities. Bus excursions are available to the nearby Gulf Islands National Seashore/Fort Pickens and the Pensacola Naval Air Station. Walking tours a few blocks from the hotel lead through the restored Pensacola Historic District, and white sand beaches lie but a few miles from the meeting hotel.

Most of the meeting sessions will occur in the restored Louisville & Nashville Railroad depot, a 1913-vintage landmark now an integral part of the new Pensacola Hilton. The depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For further details, such as weather information and fishing prospects, call Sheila Bowman toll-free at (800) 874-1234.

## OHA BUSINESS

Ronald E. Marcello  
Executive Secretary

During the next couple of months, this office will be making several important mailings, and we want to be certain that all members receive the material.

By 1 August at the latest, we will distribute mail ballots for the election of OHA officers. The vice presidency, two Council positions, and three seats on the Nominating Committee are at stake. All individual, institutional, and student members are eligible to vote. While the voting deadline has been set at 15 October (approximately two weeks before the Annual Meeting), our goal is to have the ballots in the hands of all members by 1 September. If you do not receive a ballot by this date, please notify this office, and we will send you a replacement.

Very shortly, each member will be receiving a complimentary copy of John Neuenschwander's *Oral History and the Law*, which is the first product of OHA's Pamphlet Series. As an added service to the membership, and as a means of introducing this valuable project, Council decided to give a copy to each paid member of the Association in 1985. Our goal is to provide each member with a copy of *Oral History and the Law* by the end of the summer.

The third summer mailing will be the program and other pertinent information for the 1985 Annual Meeting in Pensacola. At this moment the program is being prepared for the printer by President Martha Ross and Chairman Hugh Ahmann. It is their hope that members have the program by the start of the fall semester or earlier. As is the case with almost all OHA mailings, the program will be sent in bulk, so it will take some time for delivery. If you do not receive your program by September 15, please inform us.

### OHA ELECTION PROCEEDING

Voting members of the Association who have not received, by 1 September 1985, ballots for the annual OHA election should contact the executive secretary's office. Mail ballots were sent to members on the first of August. Contact: OHA, P.O. Box 13734, N.T. Station, Denton, TX 76203.

1985 September 10-13	<b>American Association for State and Local History</b>	Topeka
October 7-8	<b>Baylor University Institute for Oral History Symposium</b>	Waco, Tex.
9-12	<b>Western History Association</b>	Sacramento
9-13	<b>National Trust for Historic Preservation</b>	Seattle
16-20	<b>American Folklore Society</b>	Cincinnati
26	<b>Community History and Oral History</b>	Liverpool
28-Nov. 1	<b>Society of American Archivists</b>	Austin
31-Nov. 3	<b>Oral History Association</b>	Pensacola
31-Nov. 3	<b>American Studies Association</b>	San Diego
November 12-15	<b>Southern Historical Association</b>	Houston
16	<b>Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region</b>	Washington, D.C.
21	<b>National Council for the Social Studies Preconference Session on Oral History in the Classroom</b>	Chicago
December 27-30	<b>American Historical Association</b>	New York



# BARCELONA CONFERENCE PROVIDES NEW CHALLENGES

by Carl Ryant

Barcelona was the site of the Fifth International Oral History Conference, which met 29-31 March 1985. Catalan Spain provided weather, hospitality, and scholarship sufficient for any oral historian. The conference, organized by Mercè Vilanova and Jordi Planes of the University of Barcelona, attracted over 200 registrants from more than 20 nations. An introductory workshop preceded the colloquium, which featured some 60 presentations. The official languages of the conference were French and English. Simultaneous translation was available for the plenary sessions but not for the parallel sessions. The differences in languages in the absence of translation caused some problems, although advance circulation of the text of the papers helped minimize such difficulties.

The general theme of the meeting was "Power in Society," making Barcelona—so important a site during the Spanish Civil War—a quite appropriate location. It is not possible to report on all the individual presentations, which are available in published form from the conference organizers for \$12. The titles of the various sessions suggest the wealth of materials: "Social and Political Power," "The Power of Men and Women," "Power in the Written and Spoken Word," "Towards a Latin American and Caribbean Methodology," "Local Power," "Image and Silence," "Political Power and Double Power," "The Perception of Power," "Political Power and Oral History," "The Power of the Image," "Identity and Memory," "Power in the Institutions," "Power and Protest," "Power of the Word and History," "The Power of the Individual," "Women and Power," "Political Change and Social Space," "The Power of Oral History."

Like most conferences, the Barcelona meeting varied greatly in the quality and nature of the sessions: in their relative emphasis upon theory, data, and their combination; in the way papers related to each other within sessions and to the session's theme; and in the way the papers and sessions related to the overall theme of the conference. Certainly one high point of the meeting was the appearance of two Polish scholars who spoke on recent confrontation in Poland (1980-84).

The conference met at a variety of interesting locations, including the Ateneu Barcelonès (a private library and scholarly organization), the Ajuntament de Barcelona (Town Hall), the Caixa de Barcelona (a bank which helped sponsor the conference), a naval museum, and the Institut Municipal d'Història de Barcelona. At this last site, a meeting was held to discuss the possible formation of an international oral history organization. The discussion there reflected the problems of a group



International friendship shown in Barcelona by Mercè Vilanova, Paul Thompson (U. of Essex), and OHA President Martha J. Ross.

Mary Lou Ryant

facing the issue of institutionalization. Some argued that an international organization would facilitate solicitation of funds and make easier the planning of regular conferences and the production of a newsletter. Others felt that such a formal structure would promote elitism. They also argued that there would be little support for an international organization in many countries, since for the most part there was an absence of national oral history organizations. The meeting expressed its confidence in the existing standing committee on international conferences and instructed it to plan for the next meeting (tentatively to be held at Oxford in the fall of 1987). The committee is to report to the next meeting as to whether it sees any need for an international organization.

At the conference's conclusion, Lutz Niethammer of Germany repeated a role from past conferences when he presented his evaluation of the meeting. Among his conclusions he found that oral history in Europe had "come of age." Papers as a whole were more refined, technically better, and more critical than in the past. At the same time, it seemed that less "popular" oral history was represented, increasing the possibility that the meetings would become academically dominated to the point of elitism. He urged the group to rethink the relationship of oral history to history, to resist the trivialization of history, and perhaps to view oral history more as one part of history than as a separate discipline.

In planning for future conferences, he concluded that the presence of a central theme seemed to unify presentations (although he observed that many papers satisfied the theme in the most minimal manner). Attempting to impose tight themes has organizational advantages but might also serve to limit participation. (Earlier in the conference it was suggested that broad, general meetings might alternate with smaller, thematic conferences.)

For an American oral historian the conference illustrates the greater emphasis upon social history and integration of oral history into broad historical studies found in Europe. It suggests that American oral history might profit from more thematic meetings and from a greater consciousness of the class implications of oral history. In the absence of a formal international oral history group, American oral historians should make a greater effort to keep informed of developments in other countries. To this end, the recent creation of a committee on international oral history within the Oral History Association is a positive step. There will be an opportunity for informal discussion of the issue of international oral history at the Pensacola meeting. We all should give the matter some thought, and those present at Pensacola may wish to contribute to the future direction of the Oral History Association in this area.

*Ed. note: Carl Ryant (U. of Louisville) is chair of the OHA Committee for International Liaison.*



## NW ORAL HISTORIANS MEET IN HELENA

Oral historians from across the U.S. Northwest convened in Helena, Montana, 17-18 May 1985 for the Pacific Northwest History Conference and annual meetings of the Northwest Archivists and the Northwest Oral History Association. This was the first time the three groups had met together, and representatives from the organizations agreed to combine meetings again in 1986.

At the Northwest Oral History Association's (NOHA) annual breakfast meeting, members and others talked about oral history projects completed and in progress in the region. Vice president Laurie Mercier (Montana Hist. Soc.) discussed briefly the history of NOHA, its objectives, and work to date. Paul Hansen (U.S. Forest Service) was commended for his excellent production of the association's first two newsletters, and Rick Harmon (Oregon Hist. Soc.) agreed to assist Hansen in this work.

The Northwest Oral History Association sponsored two sessions at the Pacific Northwest History Conference on Friday. Rick Ewig (Wyoming St. Archives) and James Fogerty (Minnesota Hist. Soc.) spoke on oral history's role in the archives. A discussion followed on tape storage and preservation problems in the archives, the issue of what constitutes "good" and "bad" oral history, and the utilization of oral history collections.

Bill Lang (Montana Hist. Soc.), Teresa Jordan (Butte Hist. Soc.), and Fogerty discussed strengths and weaknesses associated with conducting contemporary oral history projects. Fogerty's paper on the Minnesota Powerline Construction oral history project described the Minnesota Historical Society's work to document the 1977 construction controversy. Lang discussed his work in progress on Montana's Wilderness Decade, the question of how crucial objectivity is in documenting advocacy or interest group movements, and the role of oral history in documenting this kind of history. Jordan offered observations of Butte since the 1982 ARCO shutdown of mining operations and described her work interviewing miners and community residents about their lives after the shutdown.

The sessions were tape-recorded; copies are available from the Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT 59620. Each session is on one 90-minute cassette and sells for \$4.00 plus \$1.00 postage. Both sessions would be \$8.00 plus \$1.25 postage.

**The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF)** will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 1986, and the college's alumni have created an oral history program as their anniversary gift.

## BOOK NOTICES

- Ambrose, Stephen E. *Pegasus Bridge: June 6, 1944*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1985. 208 pp. Index. \$14.95.
- Ancelet, Barry Jean. *The Makers of Cajun Music/Musiciens Cadiens et Creoles*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1984. 164 pp. Photos. Bibliog. Discog. Filmog. \$24.95.
- Ardmen, Harvey. *Normandie: Her Life and Times*. New York: Franklin Watts, 1985. \$22.50.
- Interviews with crew members of this luxury ocean liner.
- Avedon, John F. *In Exile from the Land of Snows*. New York: Knopf, 1984. Photos. \$18.95.
- Based on numerous interviews with 14th Dalai Lama, untold story of Tibetan refugee community now living in India following Chinese takeover.
- Baker, Leonard. *Brandeis and Frankfurter: A Dual Biography*. New York: Harper & Row, 1984. \$22.50.
- Ballard, Allen B. *One More Day's Journey: The Making of Black Philadelphia*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1984. 320 pp. Photos. Index. \$17.95.
- Tracks author's family from South Carolina to Philadelphia.
- Bergreen, Laurence. *James Agee: A Life*. New York: Dutton, 1984. 457 pp. Bibliog. Index. \$20.
- Berio, Luciano, with Rossana Dalmonte and Balint Andras Varga. *Two Interviews*. Ed. and trans. David Osmond-Smith. New York: Scribner, 1985. 192 pp. Illus. Index. \$18.95.
- Extensive interviews with Italian composer.
- Brandon, Heather. *Casualties: Death in Vietnam, Anguish and Survival in America*. New York: St. Martin's, 1984. 357 pp. Photos. \$15.95.
- Interviews with 37 survivors describing life in the U.S.
- Butler, David. *The Fall of Saigon: Scenes from the Sudden End of a Long War*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1985.
- Personal accounts of 30 men and women.
- Carrigan, Ana. *Salvador Witness: The Life and Calling of Jean Donovan*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1984. 324 pp. \$16.95.
- Charlton, Michael. *The Eagle and the Small Birds: Crisis in the Soviet Empire: From Yalta to Solidarity*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985. 192 pp. Photos. Index. \$14.95.
- Thirty-three interviews, including former Communists.
- Delbanco, Nicholas. *The Beaux Arts Trio*. New York: Morrow, 1985. 260 pp. Photos. \$15.95.
- Directory to Montana's Oral History Resources*. A. Helena: Montana Oral History Association, 1985. 83 pp. \$1.00. Write: MOHA, P.O. Box 1282, Helena, MT 59624.
- Dunn, Peter M. *The First Vietnam War*. New York: St. Martin's, 1985.
- Vietnam during World War II.
- Ekrish, A.H. *Oral History and Oral Tradition: A Selective Bibliography*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh School of Library Science, 1985. 1,035 entries. Index.
- Ferris, Paul. *The Master Bankers: Controlling the World's Finances*. New York: Morrow, 1985. \$17.95.
- Interviews with leading financiers.
- Finks, P. David. *Reorganizing America: The Radical Vision of Saul Alinsky*. Ramsey, N.J.: Paulist Press, 1984. 304 pp. \$9.95.
- Fraser, Ronald. *In Search of a Past: The Rearing of an English Gentleman, 1933-1945*. New York: Atheneum, 1984. 192 pp. \$12.95.
- Graham, Hugh Davis. *The Uncertain Triumph: Federal Education Policy in the Kennedy and Johnson Years*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1984. 300 pp. Bibliog. Index. \$22.
- Guide and Directory of Oral History of the Upper Snake River Valley*. Write Harold S. Forbush, Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 244, Rexburg, ID 83440.
- Hardy, Robert C. *Sick: How People Feel About Being Sick and What They Think of Those Who Care for Them*. Chicago: Teach 'Em, Inc., 1978. 360 pp. Index. Paper.
- Henry, Frances. *Victims and Neighbors: A Small Town in Nazi Germany Remembered*. Port Washington, N.Y.: Bergin & Garvey, 1984. 203 pp. Illus. Index. \$27.95.
- Herken, Gregg F. *Councils of War*. New York: Knopf, 1985. 403 pp. Bibliog. Index. \$18.95.
- Fifty personal interviews about those involved in the development of nuclear weapons.
- Jellison, Charles A. *Besieged: The World War II Ordeal of Malta, 1940-1942*. Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 1985. Maps. Illus. Bibliog. Index. \$19.95.
- Langer, Elinor. *Josephine Herbst*. Boston: Atlantic/Little, 1984. 384 pp. Photos. Index. \$19.95.
- Biography of writer.
- Lanning, Jim, and Judy Lanning. *Texas Cowboys: Memories of the Early Days*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1984. 240 pp. Illus. Bibliog. \$15.95.
- Thirty-two first-person accounts given to the Federal Writers Project.
- McClure, James. *Cop World: Policing the Streets of San Diego*. New York: Pantheon, 1985. \$16.95.
- Interviews with San Diego police.
- Manso, Peter. *Mailer: His Life and Times*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1985. Photos. \$19.95.
- Morgan, Janet. *Agatha Christie: A Biography*. New York: Knopf, 1985. Photos. \$18.95.
- Nasaw, David. *Children of the City: At Work and at Play*. New York: Anchor Press/Doubleday, 1985. \$18.95.
- Turn-of-the-century "city kids."

*Oral History for Montana: A Manual*. Helena: Montana Oral History Association. \$4.95. Write MOHA, P.O. Box 1282, Helena, MT 59624.

- Perry, Charles. *The Haight-Ashbury: A History*. New York: Random House, 1984. 310 pp. Photos. Index. \$16.95.
- Santoli, Al. *To Bear Any Burden: The Vietnam War and Its Aftermath in the Words of Americans and Southeast Asians*. New York: Dutton, 1985. \$18.95.
- Scott, Renata, and Octavio Roca. *Scott: More than a Diva*. New York: Doubleday, 1984. 245 pp. Index. Photos. \$16.95.
- Secrest, Meryle. *Kenneth Clark: A Biography*. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1985. 310 pp. Photos. Index. \$17.95.
- Sereny, Gitta. *The Invisible Children: Child Prostitution in America, West Germany & Great Britain*. New York: Knopf, 1985. \$17.95.
- Shanon, Donald R. *Behind the Lines: The Private War Against Soviet Censorship*. New York: St. Martin's, \$13.95.
- Silver, Eric. *Begin: The Haunted Prophet*. New York: Random House, 1984. 278 pp. Photos. Bibliog. Index. \$17.95.
- Interviews with Menachem Begin's early cohorts.
- Smith, Rex Alan. *The Carving of Mount Rushmore*. New York: Abbeville, 1985. Photos. \$19.95; collector's edition \$100.00.
- Interviews with 25 key participants including crew members.
- Spoto, Donald. *The Kindness of Strangers: The Life of Tennessee Williams*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1985. \$19.95.
- Strickland, Ron. *River Pigs and Cayuses: Oral Histories from the Pacific Northwest*. San Francisco: Lexikos, 1984. 224 pp. Photos. \$11.95.
- Vegh, Claudine. *I Didn't Say Goodbye: Interviews with Children of the Holocaust*. Trans. Ron Schwartz. New York: Dutton, 1985. \$14.95.
- Volkov, Solomon. *Balanchine's Tchaikovsky: Interviews with George Balanchine*. New York: Simon & Schuster. Photos. \$17.95.
- Ware, Gilbert. *William Hastie: Grace Under Pressure*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1984. 305 pp. Photos. \$25.
- Whalen, Charles and Barbara Whalen. *The Longest Debate: A Legislative History of the 1964 Civil Rights Act*. Cabin John, Md.: Seven Locks Press, 1985. \$16.95.
- Wilcox, Robert K. *Japan's Secret War*. New York: Morrow, 1985. 176 pp.
- Bibliog. Index.
- Interviews with wartime Japanese nuclear scientists and support staff.

## ... also in print

- Association for the Study of Connecticut History Newsletter* (Fall 1984). The Institute of Local History, Manchester Community College, and Manchester Historical Society, 106 Hartford Road, Manchester, CT 06040.
- Survey of oral history activity in Connecticut.
- Bodnar, John, and Linda Dég, eds. *Indiana Folklore and Oral History*. Vol. 14, No. 1 (January-June 1985). 504 N. Fess, Bloomington, IN 47405. Twice a year; subscriptions, \$12 for institutions, \$10 for individuals. Continuation of *Indiana Folklore*, suspended from 1980 to 1985.
- Magliocco, Sabina. "The Bloomington Jaycees' Haunted House," pp. 19-28.
- Stone, Greg. "Remembering Black Indianapolis," pp. 29-79.
- Chepesiuk, Ron, and Ann Y. Evans. "Videotaping History: The Winthrop College Archives' Experience." *American Archivist* 48 (Winter 1985):65-68.
- Vogel, Hal. "The Autogiro of the Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition." *Fram: The Journal of Polar Studies* (Summer 1984):402-28.
- Aircraft on U.S. antarctic expeditions.

## ... other publications

- Citizen: The Political Life of Allard K. Lowenstein*. 16 mm. or videocassette. Color. 72 min. Allard K. Lowenstein Foundation for Media, dist. by Cinema Guild. 16 mm. \$900 (Rental: \$100). Videocassette \$750 (Rental: \$100).
- Crime to Fit the Punishment*. A. 16 mm. or videocassette. Color. 46 min. First Run Features, 1983. \$650 (Rental: \$75).
- Mining strike, 1951-52. Silver City, New Mexico.
- Electric Valley*. The Videocassette. Color. 90 min. Ross Spears, dist. by James Agee Film Project, 1983. \$545 (Rental: \$175).
- History of Tennessee Valley Authority.
- Lynn, Harlan C. "An Oral History of Extension Radio in Missouri." Ph.D. diss., University of Missouri, 1983.
- Rehwal, Mary. Interview with Seymour Smith. Write Plumas County History Project, P.O. Box 1110, Feather River College, Quincy, CA 95971. Videotape rental for a minimum fee.
- Ninety-three-year-old Maidu Indian who ran 500 miles from San Francisco to Grants Pass, Oregon, during the opening of Highway 101.
- Robertson, Jean E. "Language in Oral Histories: The Shape of Discourse About the Past." Ph.D. diss., University of Pennsylvania, 1983.
- U.S. Senate Historical Office Oral History Collection. Interviews with Senate Staff. Wilmington, Del.: Scholarly Resources Inc., 1984. 10 interviews on 32 microfiche. \$100.
- Vashon Maury Island Historical Association. Packet of materials to facilitate the management and recording of oral history. \$5.00. Write VMIHA, P.O. Box 723, Vashon, WA 98070.



## GRANTS

### Association for the Humanities in Idaho

Latah County Historical Society and the University of Idaho, \$2,153, for "Passing It On: A Conference on Local Culture and Traditions," one-day conference demonstrating a variety of ways in which local cultures and traditions can be interpreted for the public; \$1,903.41, for "An Interpretation of the Social History of the McConnell Mansion."

### Kentucky Oral History Commission

Annie Archbold, \$990, for "Oral History of Warren County Homemakers," 20 interviews with women associated with the Warren County Homemakers organization.

Christian Appalachian Project Oral History Project, \$2,300, to collect 40 interviews on the organization's history.

Country Music Foundation, \$914, to conduct a study of Renfro Valley, Kentucky.

Arthur Kelly, \$1,432, for "World War II Veterans in Kentucky," 25 interviews.

John Klee, \$4,722, for "Tobacco in Kentucky: From Seed to Cigarette," for statewide expansion of pilot project.

Medical Foundation of the Jefferson County Medical Society, \$786, for "Topics in Medical History in Jefferson County," 10 interviews on medical education at the Old Medical School building, medical accomplishments during the period the school was in operation, and renovation of the building.

Morehead State University, \$943, for "Oral Histories of Vintage Fiddlers of Eastern Kentucky," with six traditional fiddlers.

Murray State University, \$4,905.20, for "Governor Edward Breathitt, Jr., Oral History Project," study of his life and career.

Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, \$500, for "Kentucky Governor's Journal Project," quarterly interviews with Governor Martha Layne Collins.

St. Catherine College, \$1,500, for "Adaptation of Small Dairy and Beef Cattle Farms to Changing Technology," 40 interviews concerning family farms and agricultural development in Marion, Nelson, and Washington counties.

University of Kentucky Oral History Program, \$2000, to transcribe interviews with Ed Prichard, Jr.

University of Louisville, \$2,860, for "An Oral History of the Distilling Industry in Kentucky: Part II," to continue and expand previously funded project.

## WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

The Institute on Humanities, Arts and Aging, Brookdale Center on Aging, Hunter College, held a conference, Stories to Live By, on 7 June 1985 in New York. The meeting emphasized reminiscence as storytelling, elders as historical witnesses and literary personae, transmitting ethnic heritage through stories, the value of reminiscence in human development and family life, cultural transmission, and continuity and change as reflected in oral memoirs.

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. Marcello, 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) 755-3437. Associates: Adelaide S. Darling, Harriet H. Fadal, Rebecca S. Jimenez, David Stricklin. Deadlines: Jan. 1, Apr. 1, July 1, Oct. 1. Articles should be limited to 400 words and may be edited. Copyright 1985 Oral History Association, Incorporated.

The Michigan Oral History Council and the Historical Society of Clinton (Michigan) will sponsor a workshop, Exploring Oral History, on 12 October 1985 at the United Church of Christ in Clinton. Contact: Historical Society of Clinton, P.O. Box 519, Clinton, MI 49236 (517) 321-1746.

The National Genealogical Society held its fifth conference August 1985 in Salt Lake City. Gary L. Shumway (Calif. St. U.-Fullerton) spoke on "Utilizing Oral History as a Means of Obtaining Family Histories" and Allan Lichtman spoke on "Oral History: Analysis and Techniques."

The Popular Culture Association and the American Culture Association met jointly 3-6 April 1985 in Louisville, Kentucky. Susan E. Allen (U. of Kentucky) presented a paper on "Anticipating the Past, Recalling the Future: Pursuing the 4th Dimension in Oral Testimony." Dwayne Cox (U. of Louisville) read a paper on "Oral History and the Study of Higher Education."

Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas, sponsored a Sesquicentennial/Oral History Workshop on 6 July 1985 focusing on local history in East Texas and the approaching Texas Sesquicentennial. Speakers were Thad Sitton (Tex. Sesquicentennial Comm.), David DeBoe (Tex. St. Hist. Assoc.), Francis E. Abernethy (Tex. Folklore Soc.), Lincoln King (Gary [Tex.] H. S.), and Archie P. McDonald (East Tex. Hist. Assoc.).

The Suquamish Museum and Tribal Cultural Center hosted a workshop 23-25 July 1985 on Documenting Community Histories Through Historical Photographs and Oral History. The meeting was for tribes and other ethnic groups of the Pacific Northwest. Faculty for the workshop included Dave Warren (Inst. of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe), Nancy Fuller (Smithsonian Art Mus.), Rod Slemmons (Seattle Art Mus.), documentary producer David Current, and ethnohistorian Barbara Lane. The museum is located on the Olympic peninsula of Washington on the Port Madison Indian Reservation.

The Association of Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC) recently elected officers for the next biennium: Michael Biel (Morehead St. U.), first vice president/president-elect; Richard Perry (York U., Toronto), second vice president; John Gibbs (U. of Washington), secretary; J. F. Weber (Vienna, Va.), treasurer; and Barbara Sawka (Stanford U.) and Tim Brooks (Floral Park, N.Y.), board members at large. John Francis (Brooklyn, N.Y.) has been named editor of the *ARSC Journal*.

## CHARLES URSENBACH, CANADIAN ORAL HISTORIAN, DIES AT 82

Charles Ursenbach, pioneer oral historian in Western Canada, died at his home in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, on 24 March 1985. He was 82 years old.

Originally taught by William G. Hartley (Brigham Young U.), Ursenbach began oral history interviewing as a hobby upon his retirement as a bookkeeper and entrepreneur in several businesses. He devoted much of his later years to field interviewing with scores of old-timers, both prominent and ordinary, in southern Alberta, conducting interviews for a Royal Canadian Mounted Police project and for Alberta's centennial. Some 250 of Ursenbach's projects are now housed at the Glenbow Foundation in Calgary, the Provincial Archives in Edmonton, and the archives of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in Salt Lake City, Utah. His papers, including copies of oral history tapes and transcripts, will be housed in the library of the University of Calgary.

### CALL FOR PAPERS

The American Culture Association will meet in Atlanta, Georgia, 2-6 April 1986. Persons interested in proposing papers, sessions, or other presentations involving oral history and American culture should submit 250-word abstracts by 1 October 1985 to Carl Ryant, Department of History, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292 (502) 588-6817.

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