



ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Volume XXII, Number 2

Summer 1988

NEWSLETTER

Baltimore Conference Focuses on Multiculturalism

by Andor Skotnes
Co-chair, 1988 OHA Conference

In his welcome to the Twenty-Third OHA Annual Meeting, to be held in Baltimore Thursday through Sunday, October 13-16, OHA President Ronald J. Grele writes:

Since its inception, oral history in the United States has been both a movement and a historical methodology. As a movement, it finds its fullest

expression in the many local and community history projects throughout the country; as a methodology, in the growth and maturation of the OHA. At times each has gone its own way. At other times the two have met with startlingly original and creative results. The program this year, I think, represents one of these moments of meeting.

Achieving such a moment has indeed been the goal of the program committee and others who have worked on the

1988 conference. Building on the conference theme of "Community History, Multiculturalism, and People of Color," a wide variety of panels, workshops, public history sessions, media events, offsite tours, exhibits, and major presentations have been assembled. In the last *OHA Newsletter*, many of the emerging features of the conference were summarized. The program is now complete, and some additional features can be highlighted.

(continued on p. 2)

Discount Air Fares to Baltimore

OHA has appointed T.V. World Travel Service the official travel agency for the 1988 annual meeting in Baltimore. T.V. World Travel Service is offering a discount on Delta Air Lines fares to Baltimore.

The discount arranged is 40 percent off the regular coach rate, or 5 percent off the very lowest fare available. The 40 percent discount requires a seven-day advance booking. The 5 percent discount will be determined by the rules regarding the fare booked, and applicable restrictions must be met.

The toll-free number for T.V. World Travel Service is 1-800-826-9682. When calling, ask for group reservations for the Oral History Association, and the operator will connect the call with the appropriate agent. *The discount is available only through this toll-free number.*

From the Smithsonian exhibit, "Field to Factory: Afro-American Migration, 1915-1940," which will be part of a special offsite tour led by Spencer Crews, curator of the exhibit and co-chair of the annual meeting this year.



OHA Annual Meeting in Baltimore

October 13-16, 1988



Baltimore is a fitting site for a conference focusing on community history and multiculturalism, and the 1988 program attempts to take full advantage of this fact. This city, an industrial-commercial center on the border of North and South, has a rich history of community-building by its racial and ethnic groups. Most importantly, the contemporary Black Freedom Movement emerged early in Baltimore in the early thirties and has been a powerful force ever since. To represent this movement at our conference, **Juanita Jackson Mitchell**, a key Civil Rights leader since 1931, will be joining us to make a welcoming address. Also, as a result of decades of struggle by the Black community, Baltimore now has its first elected Afro-American mayor, Kurt Schmoke, a veteran of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Mayor Schmoke will also be present to welcome the OHA to Baltimore.

Baltimore's multicultural working

class also has a rich history of social action: it has contributed to the struggles of the national labor movement, shared the fruits of labor's victories, but is now reeling under the effects of "deindustrialization" and the dismantling of the New Deal. The impact of this history will be explored at our conference through a **Saturday afternoon offsite tour to the Fells Point area**—a traditional center of shipbuilding, canning, and other waterfront industry and now a battle ground over gentrification. This tour will include an organized discussion with long-time community residents and activists, and a traditional Eastern European meal at St. Michael's Ukrainian Church Hall.

In recent years, inner-city redevelopment and gentrification has become, for many, synonymous with contemporary Baltimore. The complexities and contradictions of these processes, their relationship to Baltimore's historic communities, and the role historical

education and museums regarding them will be the focus of another offsite tour to the **Baltimore City Life Museums** and the **Baltimore Museum of Industry**. This tour will include discussions with the curators of these museums, and viewing and critical discussion of a videotaped living history presentation.

The 1988 conference will feature many other uses of historical resources in the Baltimore area that cannot be enumerated here. Even the conference headquarters, **The Hotel Belvedere**, is an interesting artifact of the city's history. Built in 1903 as an opulent Beaux Arts luxury hotel for the white upper crust, its fortunes have followed the course of urban center social transformations: decline, renewal, and it is now a part of Baltimore's inner harbor-downtown renaissance. One final Baltimore area resource, though, must be mentioned: the remarkable circle of community activists, community historians, community-oriented academics, and teachers who are contributing greatly to the organization and program of our conference.



Fells Point, Baltimore's colorful and historic waterfront district, is the destination of the Saturday afternoon offsite tour during the conference. Restaurants and pubs line the cobblestone streets of this multi-ethnic district.



Conference speakers: Civil Rights leader Juanita Jackson Mitchell, Community activist and historian John Kuo Wei Tchen, and Anthropologist and author Sidney W. Mintz.

A National Conference

As important as the Baltimore area is to the 1988 conference, it should be emphasized that this is a thoroughly national conference both in subject matter and constituency, reflecting the multicultural and regional diversity of the U.S. There will be participants from and topics on the African American, Latino, Asian American, Native American, and white ethnic communities in all regions of the contiguous states, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. Additionally,

there will be an international dimension, with Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada, and Europe represented.

The three main plenary presentations will reflect the conference's national and international perspective. On the opening evening of the conference, **Bernice Johnson Reagon**, director of the National Museum of American History's Program in Black American Culture, specialist in Black American oral and performing arts culture, performer, and social activist, will speak on "Oral Transmissions and Information Tech-

nology: A Twentieth Century Union." At the Friday luncheon, **John Kuo Wei Tchen**, co-founder of the New York Chinatown History Project and Associate Director of the Asian/American Center at Queens College, historian, and community activist will discuss "Oral History, Counter Hegemony, and the Year 2000." And after dinner on Saturday night, **Sidney W. Mintz**, professor of anthropology at The Johns Hopkins University, specialist on the Caribbean, and well-known author will make remarks on "History Within History: Memory and Enactment."

(continued on p. 4)





The Baltimore waterfront offers a rich laboratory for the study of maritime culture.

(Baltimore meeting continued)

The third offsite tour is more national in its focus than the two based in Baltimore, featuring two popularly and critically acclaimed exhibits at the **Smithsonian's Museum of American History**: "Field to Factory: Afro-American Migration, 1915-1940" and "A More Perfect Union" (on Japanese American Relocation During World War II). This tour will be led by Spencer Crew, curator of "Field to Factory," Afro-American historian, and co-chair of our conference; Dr. Crew will be joined by a curator from the second exhibit. As with the other two offsite tours, this tour will be held on Saturday afternoon, will require preregistration, and will cost \$15 to cover transportation and expenses.

Other Highlights

Oral history is at core a research technique, so, as in past years, the 1988 conference will provide ample opportunity to discuss the "how-tos" through workshops. There will be 9 workshops among the 36 small sessions this year,

divided between the basic and the more advanced. **Basic workshops** include interviewing techniques, transcribing, and organizing a community oral history project; the more **advanced** will include producing a slide/tape show, drama production, and two sessions each on audio and video production. The last four workshops, because they offer **hands-on experience with exotic technology**, require preregistration and will have fees of \$10 each.

Finally, public oral history—oral history applied to popular education—will be an important sub-theme throughout the conference, manifest in eight special small-group sessions, media productions, historical/artistic exhibits, and offsite tours. Among these public history events will be a sequence of two successive roundtables dealing with a unique feature of oral history: the fact that it is a **research tool with directly**

political uses for multicultural community activism. These two sessions, following and drawing on John Tchen's luncheon plenary presentation on Friday, are entitled "Memory, Culture, and Empowerment," and "Strategies for Community History." Those interested in oral history's potential to aid multicultural alliance-building and social transformation are urged to attend.

Obviously there is much, much more planned for this conference than can be reviewed here. **Registration materials** have been mailed, but if you have not received these, or want additional copies, write the OHA executive secretary. We urge you all to join us at the 1988 conference to help make it an event at which the community-oriented and methodological-oriented sides of U.S. oral history meet and fuse.#

Consumer Reports on Cassette Tapes

In its August 1988 issue, *Consumer Reports* magazine evaluates audio cassette tapes. Although the focus of the study was generally on the ability of cassettes to record music, the explanations and evaluations should prove helpful to oral historians as well. The article explains the differences in cassette tapes—Types I-IV—and defines terms such as “bias,” “tape hiss,” and “dynamic range.” The consensus of CR’s staff was that inexpensive Type I tapes, such as Certron LN, up to a thickness of C-90 worked well for the purpose of recording the human voice.



An Oral Historian's Work

The Northeast Folklore Society has recently produced a live-action video which provides a step-by-step instruction on how to conduct an oral history project. Sandy Ives, professor of folklore at the University of Maine and chairman of the anthropology department there, is narrator, star, and guide as he takes the viewer through the process from calling on prospective interviewees to archiving the tapes.

An Oral Historian's Work fills a real need in the profession for explaining in simple terms and with real-life situations how oral history operates. It gives the viewer confidence as Ives explains his own hesitations and concerns before each interview and then proceeds to follow clear instructions which result in a good oral history interview.

The thirty-minute video costs \$60 (less 10% for 3 or more tapes) and can be purchased from the Northeast Folklore Society, South Stevens Hall, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469.

A Permanent Savings Account for the OHA Why Set Up an Endowment?

by Thomas L. Charlton
Baylor University

In case you have not noticed recently, OHA is approaching a quarter of a century of service to oral historians and those who seek its professional help. The association's publications, its annual meetings, the committee structure which involves members in the on-going work of the association—all have stretched available funds and yielded impressive results. Aren't we doing well enough with our modest annual budget? Why tamper with success?

The fact is that our budget is stretched just about as far as it can go, and all of our goals have not been met. Membership surveys have suggested growth in several neglected areas, and long-range planning by the council has acted on those recommendations. Cooperation with other national historical groups, outreach to unserved constituencies, increased publications, bigger and better annual meetings—all of these require funds which we do not have.

Where will we find the money to do what most of us are committed to doing? I am an optimist, but I agree with the council's recent conclusion that some new sources of funding are needed if the OHA is to move boldly into new areas of service. The committee on endowments has proposed several ways in which the association might

approach future funding. From the committee's recommendations, the council has established a General Endowment Fund, comprised of life membership payments and unrestricted donations.

How will this relieve the pressures on the annual budget? Income earned from the General Endowment Fund—a permanent savings account, if you will—is added to the association's treasury and becomes available for use in annual budget along with other sources of income (such as dues, sales of publications and membership lists, and the annual meeting). While earnings from the endowment are tied to interest rates and the overall economic climate, a robust endowment is likely to ease the financial burden somewhat and lessen our dependence on membership dues as the most important source of income for OHA.

What can we do to make this happen? There are many of us who could, and should, demonstrate our confidence in OHA by becoming life members (a one shot \$250). Moreover, we who are committed to OHA and its principles should consider making special gifts to the General Endowment Fund.

Now is the time for more than a few good oral historians to come to the aid of their association. OHA merits our best efforts.

OHA Life Members

The Oral History Association gratefully acknowledges the support of its lifetime members.

Willa Klug Baum
Philip L. Cantelon
Thomas L. Charlton
Cullom Davis
Mary Jo Deering
Enid H. Douglass
David K. Dunaway
Vida S. Grayson
Samuel B. Hand
Robert F. Harney
Clement B. G. London
Carol S. Marlin
Maurice Maryanow
Laurie K. Mercier
James V. Mink
Charlie Morrissey
William W. Moss

Germaine L. Olson
Priscilla Petty
Patricia L. Pilling
Forrest C. Pogue
Donald A. Ritchie
Donald M. Ross
Martha J. Ross
Elinor Des Verney Sinnette
Patricia E. Sloan
Mary Belle Starr
Noel J. Stowe
Eddie Strong
Eleanor Swent
Dale E. Treleven
Winifred S. Wadsen
Craig L. Welch
Raymond Wood

In the February, 1987 issue of the *Newsletter* of the Organization of American Historians, Holly Shulman, who had recently completed a series of interviews in preparation for a history of Radio America, raised the question of the disposition of oral history interviews conducted for commercial publications. Realizing that she had collected basic documents which would be of interest to others, she asked what she, and the hundreds like her, should do with the tape recordings now that the manuscript was ready for publication. Following up on her concerns, she helped organize a panel session on this issue at the last meeting of the OAH in which Don Ritchie, former president of the Oral History

On what to do with oral history interviews after they have been used for commercial publications.

Henige in his *International Journal of Oral History* article on source monopoly apply to this situation. Everyone agrees on the impossibility of the situation. However, before we move ahead and draw up recommendations urging such scholars and intellectual workers to take their materials to

"How can there be anything close to peer review when the documents upon which such works are based are never seen by others?"

Association participated along with representatives of the OAH and the American Historical Association.

During the panel discussion, and then during the audience participation period afterwards, everyone agreed that the questions were crucial for the ways in which we do history, but that the solutions were complex. Shulman's basic suggestion was the establishment of regional centers where authors could deposit tapes and whatever transcripts they might have. The consensus which emerged did not go so far, rather limiting itself to the suggestion that some form of policy statement be hammered out in consultation between the major historical associations and the OHA and Society of American Archivists.

All of us concerned about the uses of oral history recognize the problem. In any one year, there must be, literally, thousands of interviews collected by historians, journalists, sociologists, anthropologists, and creative writers which are stored away in attics and basements, or simply destroyed. The fact that such interviews are unavailable to other scholars for alternative interpretations goes to the heart of what we do as historians. How can there be anything close to peer review when the documents upon which such works are based are never seen by others? All of the issues raised five years ago by David

various libraries, manuscript depositories or oral history collections, it is important to note some practical problems.

Most oral history collections would have to ask the following questions of anyone seeking to donate materials. Do these interviews fit with the goals of our collection? Is the depository selected for donation the most logical place for the materials to be deposited and used? What is the quality of the interviews? Will they be useful enough to justify the costs involved in accessioning? What is the quality of the recording? What is the state of the collection? Are

the interviews transcribed? Or does the researcher expect the depository to bear the cost of such work? Who is to pay for processing? Indexing? Building the proper finding aids? Above all we must remind scholar-collectors that any materials we receive must be covered by some form of legal agreement indicating that the person interviewed has given informed consent to depositing the interviews in a collection and knows that they will be made available to scholars on an equal basis.

Such issues are compounded on the local level, where libraries, historical societies, and other historical agencies have little budget or staff to handle such recordings. It would do little good to move the tapes and transcripts from the attics of writers to the cellars of local libraries where they are equally inaccessible.

In the next year, the association will engage in conversations with representatives of various other historical organizations in an effort to devise some form of policy for researchers in depositing tapes and transcripts. I urge all members of the association concerned with the issue to contact any member of the council, or any officer or committee member, to express their concerns on this issue. Before we develop a collective position on what such a policy should include, it is imperative that we get the input of our own members. Future issues of the *Newsletter* will note council action on this problem. Please let us know your thoughts.

Indiana U. Researches Folklore Institute and Public Memory in the Midwest

The Oral History Research Center of Indiana University has recently completed a history of the Indiana University Folklore Institute, including over 80 hours of interviews with associates of Richard M. Dorson and Stith Thompson. The interviews are closed to the public until around 1990 when a book on the project will be published.

The center also is researching the nature of public memory in the Midwest. Initial stages of the project involved documentary research on the

public arena, but the project is now beginning to use oral history to sample concepts of the past. So far, findings reveal that images and metaphors of pioneers dominated local and state celebrations before World War I. National patriotic heroes came into prominence after 1918, reflecting an expansion of public memory to a less regional scale. For more information, contact the Oral History Research Center, 512 N. Fess, Bloomington, IN 47405.

State & Regional News

A note from the editor: In the past, the Newsletter has tried to report on each regional and state group's meetings and new officers. As these groups have grown in number and in frequency of meetings, it has become increasingly cumbersome to cover all of the news. To remedy that, we will no longer attempt to announce new officers each year or to summarize regular meetings; however, we would like more than ever to help you publicize your meetings in advance and to share updates and news on projects, extra-special meetings, or extra-special speakers, prize recipients, and other news of particular interest. Because the Newsletter comes out only quarterly, we ask that you tell us as early as you possibly can when your meetings are, so we can publish the dates ahead of time. Keep those cards and letters coming.



The first volume of *The Annual*, the newly created journal of the New England Association of Oral History, was published this spring. Edited by John J. Fox, the journal contains many excellent articles and book reviews—most especially the lead article, a charming account by Dean Albertson on his early days in oral history as a graduate student of Allan Nevins. Other articles by Richard Sweterlitsch, E. John B. Allen, and Fox round out a strong beginning for the NEAOH journal.

Idaho will be celebrating its centennial of statehood in 1990, an occasion which already has stimulated a rush of new historical projects. Mountain Bell, the local phone company, has sponsored a statewide project honoring people who will be 100 years of age or older in 1990 and who have lived in Idaho at least 40 years. Called "Century Citizens," the project will include oral history interviews and a publication. The Idaho Oral History Center has been receiving

numerous requests for information by other groups planning centennial projects, and oral historian Madeline Buckendorf is one of the Idaho Centennial Commission's three regional consultants, so oral history should be thriving there in the next few years.

In celebration of the centennial of Montana statehood, the Centennial Committee of the Montana Oral History Association is launching a new statewide oral history project on family life. Focusing on contemporary family reunions and family life in Montana over the past 100 years, the committee believes that the project will illuminate what Montanans have in common, "the ties that bind farm, Native American, and working-class families." With financial support from the Montana Committee for the Humanities, project personnel will gather oral and written documentation, prepare a system for preserving and organizing the information, interpret the materials, and create public programs by 1990.

Also in Montana, the Montana Historical Society Oral History Office has begun documenting the New Deal

programs in the state in the 1930s. Last year the group conducted 55 interviews with former workers and residents of the Fort Peck Dam project who had returned to the site to celebrate its 50th anniversary. They plan to cover projects ranging from the WPA women's sewing rooms to rural electrification.

A "Foxfire" project was started last fall in northern Idaho. High school students videotaped interviews with older artists of the Lapwai Valley, took photographs and made sketches. The end product was a 1988 calendar developed from these materials. The project was under the supervision of Linda Boyer, an art teacher at Lapwai High School.

A new book and slide-tape program on the lumber company town of Potlatch in North Idaho both make heavy use of oral history. Keith Petersen, with sponsorship from the Latah County Historical Society and the Idaho Humanities Council, conducted interviews and utilized them in his book *Company Town* and in a slide-tape show. The slide show is a simulated "tour" of the Potlatch Lumber Mill in the early 1900s.

From the Executive Secretary

New Headquarters

The transition of OHA headquarters from Lexington, Kentucky, to Los Angeles is almost complete. Our current major project is transferring membership files to a new computer program. This has caused a little delay in getting out the 1988 Annual Report and Membership Directory, but the report will be in the mail by the middle of July. If you have not yet received the first issue of either the *Newsletter* or the *Review* and you think that you should have, please let me know.

Brochures Available

Revised membership brochures have been printed with a current list of available publications and the new OHA address. Those of you who are involved with planning workshops, conferences and meetings may wish to offer OHA publications for sale at these events; please contact me if you would like to have these materials made available.

OHA Endowment Fund

The Oral History Association Endowment Fund has grown to \$6,205, thanks to donations of \$4,575 received since the beginning of the year. I encourage all members to consider making a contribution over their annual membership dues. (See article in this issue.)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing Executive Secretary Anne Campbell for her assistance during this transition. Anne's experience, sense of humor, and organizational talents have provided valuable insights and advice on the operation of the OHA.

If I can be of assistance to you during the coming months, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. I look forward to working with you.

Richard Candida Smith

Book Notices

- Aisenberg, Nadya, & Mona Harrington. *Women of Academe: outsiders in the sacred grove*. Univ. of Massachusetts Pr. 1988. 217p. index. \$30; pap. \$10.95.
Over 60 interviews examine struggle of women in academic professions.
- Brian, Denis. *The True Gen: an intimate portrait of Ernest Hemingway by those who knew him best*. Grove. 1988. 288p. photogs. \$19.95.
- Brown, Kenneth A. *Inventors at Work*. Tempus Bks. 16011 NE 36th Way, Redmond, WA 98073-9717. 1987. 400p. \$17.94; pap. \$9.95.
Collection of interviews with diverse group of inventors.
- Buber-Neumann, Margarete. Milena. Seaver Bks. dist. by Holt. 1988. 213p. tr. from German by Ralph Manheim. \$17.45.
Interviews with Czech personality Milena Jesenska, and with her friends after her death.
- Ching, Frank. *Ancestors: 900 years in the life of a Chinese family*. Morrow. 1988. 512p. photogs. index. \$22.95.
A Chinese Roots.
- Collection Catalog of the Oral History Program, Univ. of Nevada-Reno, Reno, NV 89557-0044. 1987. 38p.
Annotated listing of all oral histories in the Oral History Program.
- Copland, Aaron and Vivian Perlis. *Copland: 1900-1942*. St. Martin's Pr. 1987. \$10.95 paper.
- Cutler, Thomas J. *Brown Water, Balck Berets: coastal and riverine warfare in Vietnam*. Naval Inst. Pr. 1988. 320p. bibliog. index. \$21.95.
Accounts of small-boat warfare from personal experience and interviews.
- Farber, David. *Chicago '68*. Univ. of Chicago Pr. 1988. 328p. photogs. index. \$24.95.
Includes interviews with New Leftists of the sixties.
- Fraser, Ronald, and others. 1968: A student generation in revolt. Pantheon. 1988. 408p. bibliog. index. \$24.95; pap. \$14.95.
Oral histories with participants in student revolts in six industrialized countries during 1968.
- Gentry, Diane Koos. *Enduring Women*. Texas A&M Univ. Pr. 1988. 245p. photogs. \$29.95; pap. \$16.95.
Photo essays based on interviews with 10 rural women.
- Gifford, Barry. *A Day at the Races: the education of a race-tracker*. Atlantic, dist. by Little. 1988. 208p. illus. \$17.95.
Track workers discuss their lives.
- Hastings, Max. *The Korean War*. Simon & Schuster. 1987. 364p. photogs. maps. bibliog. \$22.95.
Interviews with Chinese and North Korean veterans provides a new perspective.
- Holland, Ada Morehead. *Brush Country Woman*. Texas A&M Univ. Pr. 1988. 232p. photogs. bibliog. \$17.50.
Life on the Texas frontier through letters, journals, and interviews.
- Honig, Emily & Gail Hershatter. *Personal Voices: Chinese women in the 1980s*. Stanford Univ. Pr. 1988. 450p. pap. \$12.95.
Based on interviews and a study of the popular press.
- Hoyt, Edwin P. *The GI's War: the story of American soldiers in Europe and World War II*. McGraw. 1988. 640p. photogs. bibliog. index. \$24.95.
Stories of the rank-and-file soldiers.
- Jones, Charles O. *The Trusteeship Presidency: Jimmy Carter and the United States Congress*. Louisiana State Univ. Pr. 1988. 264p. illus. index. \$24.95.
From interviews with Carter and his staff collected by the Miller Center on the American Presidency, University of Virginia.
- Kurzman, Dan. *A Killing Wind: Inside Union Carbide and the Bhopal catastrophe*. McGraw. 297p. \$19.95.
- Laber, Jeri, & Barnett R. Rubin. *"A Nation is Dying": Afghanistan under the Soviets*. Northwestern Univ. Pr. 1988. 172p. bibliog. index. \$36.95; pap. \$14.95.
Summarizes hundreds of interviews with Afghan refugees.
- Master Index. *Oral History Program, University of Nevada-Reno, Reno, NV 89557-0044*. 1988. \$14.95.
Guide to 161 interviews on the history of Nevada and the West. Over 90,000 entries, biennial updates available.
- Mekler, Eva. *The New Generation of Acting Teachers*. Penguin. 1987. 256p. pap. \$8.95.
Interviews with 22 well-known acting teachers, tracing their careers.
- Mercier, Laurie, & Mary Murphy, Linda Peavy, Diane Sands, Ursula Smith. *Molders and Shapers, Montana Women as Community Builders: an oral history sampler and guide*. Montana Historical Society, P.O. Box 1232, Helena, MT 59624. 45p. 16 photogs. 8 appendices. bibliog. \$6.50 (plus \$1 postage and handling).
- Miles, Elton. *More Tales of the Big Bend*. Texas A&M Univ. Pr. 1988. 192p. 16 illus. bib. index. \$10.95 pap.
Oral tradition of the border frontier.
- Miller, Marc Scott. *The Irony of Victory: World War II and Lowell, Massachusetts*. Univ. of Illinois Pr. 1988. 232p. bibliog. index. \$24.95.
How war changed lives in a declining textile town.

- Mowat, Farley. *Woman in the Mists: the story of Dian Fossey and the Mountain Gorillas of Africa*. Warner. 1988. 380p. \$19.95.
- The New Catholics: contemporary converts tell their stories. Crossroad Pub. Co. 1987. 187p. edited by Dan O'Neill. \$15.95.
- O'Neal, Bill. *The Texas League, 1887-1987: a century of baseball*. Eakin Pr. 408p. 122 photogs. stats. index. \$17.95; \$12.95 pap.
Based on interviews with former players.
- Oral History Collection on the Performing Arts. Oral History Collection, DeGolyer Institute for American Studies, Southern Methodist Univ. 136p.
Directory of 322 volumes of interviews on the performing arts, particularly popular music and motion pictures.
- Puckett, Susan. *A Cook's Tour of Iowa*. Univ. of Iowa Pr. 1988. 272p. photogs. index. \$14.95.
Colorful oral history as well as recipes.
- Ragsdale, Kenneth. *The Year America Discovered Texas: Centennial '36*. Texas A&M Univ. Pr. 1987. 352p. 62 photogs. bibliog. index. \$18.95.
Includes anecdotes based on more than 80 interviews.
- Shukert, Elfrieda, & Barbara Scibetta. *War Brides of World War II*. Presidio Pr. 1988. 336p. 40 photogs. \$18.95.
Based on interviews with more than 2,000 women.
- Sichrovsky, Peter. *Born Guilty: children of Nazi families*. Basic Bks. 1988. 192p. tr. by Jean Steinberg. \$17.95.
14 interviews with children of Nazi war criminals.



- Sims, Patsy. *Can Somebody Shout Amen!* St. Martin's 1988. 256p. bibliog. \$15.95.
Based on interviews with evangelists, workers and worshippers in Southern Pentecostal churches, including snake handlers.
- Small, Melvin. *Johnson, Nixon and the Doves*. Rutgers Univ. Pr. 1988. 315p. bibliog. index. \$35; pap. \$12.
Influence of antiwar movement on U.S. policy in Vietnam, based on interviews with many war debaters.
- Shukert, Elie, & Barbara Scibetta. *War Brides of World War II*. Presidio Pr. 1988. 308p. photogs. bibliog. \$18.95.
Based on reminiscences of 2,000 women and a few men.
- Tannenbaum, Mya. *Conversations with Stockhausen*. Oxford Univ. Pr. 1988. 160p. \$24.95.
Karlheinz Stockhausen is a significant and controversial composer.
- Thompson, Paul. *The Voice of the Past: oral history*. 2nd ed. Oxford Univ. Pr. 1988. 336p. \$29.95; pap. \$12.95.
This new edition includes family history.
- Todd, Joe L. (ed.). *County Directory*. Oklahoma Historical Society. 1987. 56p.

- Inventory of interviews in the oral history collection, by county.
- Todd, Joe L. (ed.). *Native American Interviews*. Oklahoma Historical Society. 1987. 34p.
Catalog of the collection housed in the OHS, grouped by tribal affiliation.
- Vennum, Thomas, Jr. *Wild Rice and the Ojibway People*. Minnesota Historical Society. 1988. 376p. 81 illus. bibliog. index. \$29.95; pap. \$14.95.
The place of wild rice in Ojibway culture from their own viewpoint.
- Vietnam . . . By Word of Mouth. Lufkin High School, Lufkin, TX 75901. 1988. 62p.
Student publication based on interviews with 74 veterans.
- Weyr, Thomas. *Hispanic U.S.A.: assimilation or separatism*. Harper. 1988. 320p. index. \$22.95.
Based on 300 interviews with Hispanic and Anglo leaders.
- Zientara, Marguerite. *Women, Technology & Power: ten stars and the history they made*. American Management Assn. 1987. 248p. index. \$18.95.
Stories of women in the microcomputer industry.

Audio and Video Productions

- At the Haunted End of the Day . . . A Profile of Sir William Walton. videocassette, color. 100 min. Kultur. 1987. \$59.95.
Portrait of British composer.
- Callas: Life and Art. videocassette, color. 70 min. Kultur. 1987. \$39.95.
Life of diva Maria Callas.
- Elvis. 4 videocassettes. color & b&w, range 26-28 min. New Image. 1987. \$14.95 each.
Includes interviews with karate teacher and hairdresser.
- Journey to Freedom: the Immigrant Experience. color & b&w. 13 min. AIMS Media. 1986. 16mm: \$295 (rental: \$50); videocassette: \$220 (rental: \$50). Preview avail.
History of immigration in the last 150 years.
- Martin Chambi and the Heirs of the Incas. color. 50 min. Cinema Guild. 1986. 16mm: \$795 (rental: \$85); videocassette: \$495 (rental: \$85). Preview avail.
Documentary on Peruvian photographer, with subtitled interviews.
- An Oral Historian's Work. color. 30 min. Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History. videocassette, VHA or Beta: \$60.
See article in this issue.
- Slow Fires: on the Preservation of the Human Record. color. 60 min. with text. American Film Fdn. 1987. 16mm: \$750 (rental: \$95); videocassette: U-matic \$145, VHS/Beta \$59.50. 30 min. version: 16mm: \$550 (rental: \$65); videocassette: U-matic \$105, VHS \$39.50.
Introduction for general public to deterioration problems with books, film, etc.
- Songs of Wool: Vena Tipton's Hooked Rugs. color. 18 min. Filmmakers Library. 1986. 16mm: \$350 (rental: \$40); videocassette: \$300 (rental: \$40). Preview avail.
Profile of 91-year-old folk artist.
- Vietnam: a Television History. 7 videocassettes. color. 13 hrs. WGBH-TV, Boston, dist. by Sony Video. 1986. with text. \$19.95; each \$29.95.
From the PBS series. Includes interviews with participants from North Vietnam as well as South.

The final report on "Audio Preservation: A Planning Study," a research project of the Associated Audio Archives Committee of the Association for Recorded Sound Collections is now available. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the 862-page report includes recommendations on storage conditions for cylinders, discs, and tapes, among other topics. Copies can be ordered from Elwood McKee, 118 Monroe Street #610, Rockville, MD 20850. Cost is \$42.95 and must be received in advance.

Oral History Association Elections

While there are elections of greater significance going on in the country this fall, the election of officers, council members and nominating committee members for the Oral History Association should not get lost in the crowd. This year's nominating committee has completed its work and come up with a fine slate of candidates. Ballots will be mailed out in August.

Lila Johnson Goff, Vice President/President Elect

Lila Johnson Goff has been involved with oral history since 1967 when she established the oral history office at the Minnesota Historical Society. Presently assistant director for library and archives at MHS, she administers oral history as one of a number of efforts to collect and preserve the state's history. She served on the OHA Council (1971-1974) and was program chair in 1987. She is a compiler of *The Oral History Collection of the Minnesota Historical Society* (MHS Press, 1984) and founding president (1985-1987) of the Oral History Association of Minnesota.

Statement of Purpose: *The OHA has effectively served a diverse membership while maintaining high standards for the practice of oral history. It must now reach out to a large public through its expanding publications program and by encouraging the compiling of guides, directories, and databases. As president, I would work toward these ends.*

COUNCIL (Two Seats)

Michaelyn Chou

Michaelyn P. Chou joined OHA in 1978. On the membership committee since 1982, she has been its chair since 1986 and hosted the new members reception last year. Holding the Ph.D. (American Studies, University of Hawaii), Chou oversees oral histories as Head of Public Services, Special Collections, University of Hawaii Library. She currently conducts oral histories for the Hawaii Chinese Bicentennial celebration. Other endeavors include three oral histories for former members of Congress and publications in *The International Journal of Oral*

History and *The Oral History Review*. She presented oral history research papers nationally and in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, and Thailand.

Statement of Purpose: *OHA's Council must continue to strive to benefit its diverse members through experienced, creative leadership as well as informative, timely publications, workshops and conferences. As a Council member, I would be committed toward activities that foster broader grass-roots participation while encouraging efforts to reach the approved goals of the Association.*



Lila Johnson Goff of the Minnesota Historical Society, for Vice President/President Elect

David H. Mould

David Mould is Associate Director of the School of Telecommunications at Ohio University, where he teaches courses in electronic media production and cultural and historical issues. As a media producer, he has used oral history in public radio series, film and video documentaries, and record albums. He is equipment review editor for *The International Journal of Oral History* and a regular participant at OHA meetings. He is from Britain, where he earned a B.A. in European history and literature and worked as a newspaper reporter and television news producer. His M.A. from the University of Kansas is in Radio/Television/Film,

and he's trying to finish a Ph.D. in American history, literature and cultural geography.

Statement of Purpose: *If oral history is to broaden its audience, it must use the electronic media more effectively. I'd like to see more oral historians working actively in the media. Why leave oral history to be sliced up by slick television producers when we can be the producers ourselves?*

Carl Ryant

Carl Ryant is Professor of History and Co-Director, Oral History Center (Archives) at the University of Louisville, Kentucky. He holds a B.A. (Case Western Reserve) and M.A. and Ph.D. (Wisconsin). He teaches recent U.S. and oral history. Since 1975, he has participated in numerous OHA and international oral history conferences. He currently chairs OHA's International Committee and advises the Kentucky Oral History Commission. He has directed oral history projects on business, labor, and minority history. He has published on these and other aspects of oral history in a number of journals, including the *Journal of Popular Culture* and *Journal of Psychohistory*.

Statement of Purpose: *OHA must serve a broad-based community while recognizing its place in an international movement. Oral history must maintain high professional standards, but, not at the expense of the people it serves. We must remember that oral history is done by people, and about people, but not to people.*

John Sutherland

John Sutherland is Professor of History, Manchester (Connecticut) Community College. Ph.D. from Temple University, 1973; M.A., 1965; B.S. in Education, 1964 from University of Maine. He has obtained five fellowships from Connecticut Humanities Council and NEH, the Certificate of Merit from the New England Association of Oral History (NEAOH), 1987. Professional affiliations include NEAOH (President, 1983-84), Connecticut Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of

(continued on p. 10)

OHA Election

(Sutherland continued)

History (President, 1987-88), Association for the Study of CT History (Director, 1987-present); Oral History Association; Organization of American Historians; Immigration History Society. Numerous publications include "Of Mills and Memories: Labor-Management Interdependence in the Cheney Silk Mills," *Oral History Review* XI (1983).

Statement of Purpose: *The oral history methodology has great appeal, not only for the professional historian, but for students and the lay public as well. As a member of the council, I would support efforts to further engage the association in providing services to this very important group of practitioners.*

Dale Treleven

Director, UCLA Oral History Program, since 1983; previously oral history coordinator, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, where with colleagues developed the TAPE system, a nontranscribing processing methodology. Frequent, active participant in OHA/SOHA (Southwest Oral History Association) colloquia, workshops, annual meetings, co-chair, program committee, OHA Long Beach, 1986. Member, editorial board, *Oral History Review*; past equipment review editor, *International Journal of Oral History*. Directed SOHA's directory/online database project, 1985-1986; received SOHA's 1987 James V. Mink Oral History Award for distinguished contributions to oral history in the Southwest. Published articles and reviews primarily about Midwest agricultural/rural history, oral history and technology.

Statement of Purpose: *Preserving OHA's most valuable asset—the camaraderie among friendly, outgoing yet intense members—is a must. Yet council must take the lead in introducing, welcoming, and retaining new, engaging individuals who will further diversify but strengthen the U.S. association and sustain a vibrant international oral history movement.*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (three seats)

Sylvia Arden

Sylvia Arden, Head of the Library and Manuscript Collections of the San



Michaelyn Chou, U. of Hawaii



David Mould, Ohio U.

Diego Historical Society, developed and directs their volunteer Oral History Program. She was vice-president of the Southwest Oral History Association 1985-86, president 1986-87, currently chairs the education committee, and is a frequent lecturer at meetings and workshops. Arden served on the 1986 OHA Program Committee. She also works actively in the Society of California Archivists (officer and speaker since 1974) and in the Society of American Archivists, including its 1987 program committee. She currently is a board member of the SAA's Oral History Section.

Statement of Purpose: *My active participation in the oral history field, especially with the Southwest Oral History Association, historical societies and small institutions, has sharpened my awareness of the need for education and guidance to those entering the rapidly-growing world of oral history. As a member of the nominating committee, I would seek nominees sensitive to their needs.*

James E. Fogerty

James E. Fogerty heads the Acquisitions and Curatorial Department at the Minnesota Historical Society, which includes responsibility for the Society's oral history program. He has directed oral history projects on business, environmental issues, and the Minnesota Powerline Construction

Oral History Project. He represents the U.S. on the International Council on Archives Committee on Audiovisual Archives, is past president of the Midwest Archives Conference, and chaired the Society of American Archivists' Task Force on Archives and Society. He headed the 1987 OHA Local Arrangements Committee, has presented papers at OHA meetings, and is currently president of the Oral History Association of Minnesota and vice-chair of the SAA Oral History Committee.

Statement of Purpose: *Oral History is a necessary component of any effort to document the later half of the 20th century. It is widely used, and the OHA is a vital link and resource for its practitioners. OHA benefits from the growing strength of regional and local oral history groups, and its Council should reflect commitment to work with those organizations for mutual benefit.*

Ruth Edmonds Hill

Ruth Edmonds Hill is Audiovisual Coordinator (1984-), Coordinator Black Women Oral History Project (1977-), Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College. Advisory Committee, "Traditional Storytellers of New England" (1983-84). Advisory Committee, Wheaton College Oral History Project (1983). Board of Directors, Public Media Foundation, Boston, and Oral History



Carl Ryant, U. of Louisville



John Sutherland, Manchester CC



Dale Treleven, UCLA

Center, Cambridge. Coordinator "Women of Courage" exhibit (1984-), Radcliffe College. New England Association of Oral History (1979-) (recipient of Harvey A. Kantor Memorial Award, 1985). Oral History Association (1979-). Society of American Archivists (1979-) (coeditor *Third World Archivists Newsletter*, 1987-). Editor, *Women of Courage, an exhibition of photographs . . .* (1984). Coeditor, *Black Women Oral History Project, a Guide to the Transcripts* (1987).

Statement of Purpose: *Candidates should possess those leadership qualities which would make them effective representatives in the public arena and with other professional organizations. They should encourage and understand the many uses of oral history in the academy and in the community, and be open to the variety of needs of OHA's diverse membership.*

James Briggs Murray

James Briggs Murray is Curator of the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Department of the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. For the past decade Murray has published and lectured extensively on subjects relating to Blacks in motion picture film, television, radio, music and the recording industry; generally, analyzing and interpreting the ways in which African-based cultures have been documented

via audiovisual technologies. Murray is founding director of the Schomburg Center's Oral History/Video Documentation Project; and is a producer for Radio Station WOR-AM in New York.

Statement unavailable at publication deadline.

Donald A. Ritchie

Donald A. Ritchie is Associate Historian in the Senate Historical Office, where he conducts an oral history program with retired members of the Senate staff. He has served as president of the OHA, member of the council, chair of the publications committee, and chair of the 1981 program in Burlington, Vermont; and is also a past president of OHMAR (Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region). His publications include *James M. Landis, Dean of the Regulators* (Harvard Press), a high school textbook, *Heritage of Freedom: History of the United States* (Scribners), and several articles on oral history.

Statement of Purpose: *I believe that the Nominating Committee must seek candidates who reflect the broad diversity of our membership's interests, affiliations, and geographic regions, to encourage balanced representation in OHA's leadership.*

Geneva Kebler Wiskemann

Geneva Kebler Wiskemann is an archivist and specialist in Michigan

history and a founding member of the Michigan Oral History Council. After four years as president, she writes, lectures, conducts workshops, interviews, and directs oral history projects. Current projects include a library-based local history collection, a transportation museum, and a women's military organization. She initiated and directed Michigan's first government-sponsored oral history project, "Voices of Clintonians" and organized Oral History For Michiganians, a two-day conference during the state's Sesquicentennial. She holds a B.S. degree from Western Michigan University with post graduate work in media and communication arts.

Statement of Purpose: *The rich mix of OHA's membership challenges the committee to select officers with commitment, energy and enthusiasm who will share expertise, inform practitioners, and encourage associated regional oral historians.*

* * *

The nominating committee for 1987-88 included Jo Blatti, Madeline Buckendorf, Sam Hand, Pam Henson, and Martha Ross, chair. Additional nominations may be made by submitting a petition containing at least twenty signatures to the executive secretary. The results of the election will be announced at the annual meeting in Baltimore in October.#

News

The University Library at UCLA has developed a comprehensive prototype for the online cataloging and retrospective conversion of audiotapes and transcripts in the collection of its Oral History Program. Special collections and the cataloging divisions collaborated to develop the prototype record, using the OCLC Archives and Manuscript Control (AMC) format. Contact Jenifer S. Abramson, Oral History Program, 136 Powell Library Building, UCLA, Los Angeles, California 90024-1575, for a sample of the prototype record.

The Sierra Club is conducting an oral history project preserving the record of the club's history "from mountain outings at the turn of the century to accounts of political and legal action on behalf of environmental concerns." With additional funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, interviews are being conducted by Sierra Club history committee volunteers and by the staff of the Regional Oral History Office of The Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley.

Linda Jett will take on the job of directing the Oral History Office at Sangamon State University, replacing Cullom Davis. Davis is on extended assignment as senior editor and director

of the Lincoln Legals project, sponsored by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the Abraham Lincoln Association. Jett is an experienced oral and public historian who has worked in the office for nine years.

The Public Works Historical Society is conducting research on the history of the Interstate Highway System for the American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials. They plan to include at least 90 oral history interviews with senior state highway officials, which will be the basis for an assessment of the lessons learned from the Interstate program.



From the Montana Oral History Association Newsletter: Terry Weaver, owner of the Red Velvet Carriage Service in Billings, will use oral history tapes in her business' sight-seeing vehicles this summer. The history tapes will be played for passengers riding an elegant trolley pulled by a team of Belgian horses. Weaver is gathering taped oral statements from longtime Billings residents who are familiar with historical sites in the city. Her procedure for getting a story is to take the person on a Red Velvet Carriage tour and record the narrator's interesting anecdotes pertaining to sites as they travel through downtown Billings.

Call for Papers

The American Culture Association will hold its 1989 annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, April 5-8. Persons interested in proposing papers, sessions, or other presentations involving oral history and American culture, should submit 200-word abstracts, by September 15, 1988, to Carl Ryant, Department of History, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292, 502/588-6817.

The Oral History Association will hold its 23rd Annual Meeting on October 19-22, 1989, in Galveston, Texas. Papers, panel discussions, media presentations and workshops sessions are now being solicited. All subjects concerning oral history are welcome. Each proposal should include the presenter's vita, plus a two-page typed prospectus with thesis statement, methodological description, and relevant bibliographical information. Proposals must be submitted by November 30, 1988 to Michael L. Gillette, Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum, 2313 Red River, Austin, Texas 78705.

Opportunities

The Montana Historical Society is seeking an interviewer/director for its oral history program. Ten-month appointment begins September 1, 1988, with strong possibility of two-year renewal. Advanced degree in history, folklore or American studies preferred, and at least two years of oral history experience required. Salary \$19-23,000 depending on experience, plus benefits. Send resume and two sample interview tapes by August 15 to Oral History Office, Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT 59620.

The Oral History Association Newsletter (ISSN:0474-3253) is published quarterly by the Oral History Association for its members. Copy deadlines are January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1.

Address editorial matters to: Jaclyn Jeffrey, Editor, Baylor University, CSB Box 401, Waco, TX 76798, or phone 817/755-3437.

Copyright 1988 Oral History Association, Incorporated.

Send membership, change of address, and subscription inquiries to: Richard Candida Smith, Executive Secretary, Oral History Association, 1093 Broxton Avenue #720, Los Angeles, California 90024.

New Address for OHA Headquarters

Richard Candida Smith
Executive Secretary
Oral History Association
1093 Broxton Avenue #720
Los Angeles, California 90024

Telephone: 213/825-0597

Oral History Association Newsletter
Baylor University, CSB Box 401
Waco, Texas 76798

Nonprft. Org.
US Postage Pd.
Waco, TX
Permit No. 1823

OHA Annual Meeting in Baltimore

October 13-16, 1988



Baltimore is a fitting site for a conference focusing on community history and multiculturalism, and the 1988 program attempts to take full advantage of this fact. This city, an industrial-commercial center on the border of North and South, has a rich history of community-building by its racial and ethnic groups. Most importantly, the contemporary Black Freedom Movement emerged early in Baltimore in the early thirties and has been a powerful force ever since. To represent this movement at our conference, **Juanita Jackson Mitchell**, a key Civil Rights leader since 1931, will be joining us to make a welcoming address. Also, as a result of decades of struggle by the Black community, Baltimore now has its first elected Afro-American mayor, Kurt Schmoke, a veteran of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Mayor Schmoke will also be present to welcome the OHA to Baltimore.

Baltimore's multicultural working

class also has a rich history of social action: it has contributed to the struggles of the national labor movement, shared the fruits of labor's victories, but is now reeling under the effects of "deindustrialization" and the dismantling of the New Deal. The impact of this history will be explored at our conference through a **Saturday afternoon offsite tour to the Fells Point area**—a traditional center of shipbuilding, canning, and other waterfront industry and now a battle ground over gentrification. This tour will include an organized discussion with long-time community residents and activists, and a traditional Eastern European meal at St. Michael's Ukrainian Church Hall.

In recent years, inner-city redevelopment and gentrification has become, for many, synonymous with contemporary Baltimore. The complexities and contradictions of these processes, their relationship to Baltimore's historic communities, and the role historical

education and museums regarding them will be the focus of another offsite tour to the **Baltimore City Life Museums** and the **Baltimore Museum of Industry**. This tour will include discussions with the curators of these museums, and viewing and critical discussion of a videotaped living history presentation.

The 1988 conference will feature many other uses of historical resources in the Baltimore area that cannot be enumerated here. Even the conference headquarters, **The Hotel Belvedere**, is an interesting artifact of the city's history. Built in 1903 as an opulent Beaux Arts luxury hotel for the white upper crust, its fortunes have followed the course of urban center social transformations: decline, renewal, and it is now a part of Baltimore's inner harbor-downtown renaissance. One final Baltimore area resource, though, must be mentioned: the remarkable circle of community activists, community historians, community-oriented academics, and teachers who are contributing greatly to the organization and program of our conference.



Conference speakers: Civil Rights leader **Juanita Jackson Mitchell**, Community activist and historian **John Kuo Wei Tchen**, and Anthropologist and author **Sidney W. Mintz**.

A National Conference

As important as the Baltimore area is to the 1988 conference, it should be emphasized that this is a thoroughly national conference both in subject matter and constituency, reflecting the multicultural and regional diversity of the U.S. There will be participants from and topics on the African American, Latino, Asian American, Native American, and white ethnic communities in all regions of the contiguous states, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. Additionally,

there will be an international dimension, with Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada, and Europe represented.

The three main plenary presentations will reflect the conference's national and international perspective. On the opening evening of the conference, **Bernice Johnson Reagon**, director of the National Museum of American History's Program in Black American Culture, specialist in Black American oral and performing arts culture, performer, and social activist, will speak on "Oral Transmissions and Information Tech-

nology: A Twentieth Century Union." At the Friday luncheon, **John Kuo Wei Tchen**, co-founder of the New York Chinatown History Project and Associate Director of the Asian/American Center at Queens College, historian, and community activist will discuss "Oral History, Counter Hegemony, and the Year 2000." And after dinner on Saturday night, **Sidney W. Mintz**, professor of anthropology at The Johns Hopkins University, specialist on the Caribbean, and well-known author will make remarks on "History Within History: Memory and Enactment."

(continued on p. 4)



Fells Point, Baltimore's colorful and historic waterfront district, is the destination of the Saturday afternoon offsite tour during the conference. Restaurants and pubs line the cobblestone streets of this multi-ethnic district.