



# NEWSLETTER

## Cambridge Meeting to Debate OHA Principles and Standards

A plenary session at the Cambridge meeting will debate and vote on adopting a new statement of principles and standards for the Oral History Association. These standards are designed to replace the Goals and Guidelines adopted in 1968. They represent a continuation of last year's process of reexamination and revision in

Galveston, when OHA adopted a major revision of the Evaluation Guidelines. After the Cambridge meeting, OHA plans to issue a new pamphlet containing both statements, as guides for all oral historians.

The following draft statement was prepared by a committee composed of Don Ritchie (chair), Willa Baum, Terry

Birdwhistell, Sherna Gluck, Pam Henson, Linda Shopes, and Lila Goff (ex officio). The committee encourages members of the OHA to comment on the draft statement and offer any suggestions for improvement. Any members unable to attend the Cambridge meeting can submit their comments via Don Ritchie, Senate Historical Office, Washington, D.C. 20510.

### *Draft: For Consideration at the Cambridge Meeting*

## PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS OF THE ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The Oral History Association promotes oral history as a method of gathering and preserving historical information through recorded interviews with participants in past events and ways of life. It encourages those who produce and use oral history to recognize certain principles, rights, and obligations for the creation of source material that is authentic, useful, and reliable. These include obligations to the interviewee, to the profession, and to the public, as well as mutual obligations between sponsoring organizations and interviewers.

Oral history interviews are conducted by people with a range of affiliations and sponsorship for a variety of purposes: to create archival records, for individual research, for community and institutional projects, and for publications and media productions. While these principles and standards provide a general framework for guiding professional conduct, their application may vary according to the nature of specific oral history projects. Regardless of the purpose of the interviews, oral history should be conducted in the spirit of critical inquiry and social responsibility, and with a recognition of the subjective nature of the enterprise.

### **Responsibility to Interviewees:**

1. Interviewees should be informed of the purposes and procedures of oral history in general and of the aims and anticipated uses of the particular projects to which they are making their contribution.

2. Interviewees should be informed of the mutual rights in the oral history process, such as editing, access restrictions, copyrights, prior use, royalties, and the expected disposition and dissemination of all forms of the record.

3. Once fully informed of their legal rights, interviewees should be asked to sign a legal release. Interviews should remain confidential until interviewees have given permission for their use.

4. Interviewers should guard against making promises to interviewees that they may not be able to fulfill, such as guarantees of publication and control over future uses of interviews after they have been made public.

5. Interviews should be conducted in accord with any prior agreements made with the interviewee, and such preferences and agreements should be documented for the record.

6. Interviewers should work to

achieve a balance between the objectives of the project and the perspectives of the interviewees. They should be sensitive to various social and cultural experiences, and to the implications of race, gender, and ethnic differences. They should encourage interviewees to respond in their own style and language, and to address issues that reflect their concerns. Interviewers should fully explore all appropriate areas of inquiry with the interviewee and not be satisfied with superficial responses.

7. Interviewers should guard against possible exploitation of interviewees and be sensitive to the ways in which their interviews might be used. Interviewers must respect the right of the interviewee to refuse to discuss certain subjects, to restrict access to the interview, or under extreme circumstances even to choose anonymity. Interviewers should clearly explain these options to all interviewees.

### **Responsibility to the Public and to the Profession:**

1. Oral historians have a responsibility to maintain the highest professional standards in the conduct of their work and to

*Continued on page 2*



# Principles and Standards Draft, continued

uphold the standards of the various disciplines and professions with which they are affiliated.

2. In recognition of the importance of oral history to an understanding of the past and of the cost and effort involved, interviewers and interviewees should mutually strive to record candid information of lasting value.

3. Interviewees should be selected on the basis of the relevance of their experiences to the subject at hand.

4. Interviewers should possess interviewing skills and professional competence or experiences with the subject at hand.

5. Regardless of the specific interests of the project, interviewers should attempt to extend the inquiry beyond the specific focus of the project to create as complete a record as possible for the benefit of others.

6. Interviewers should strive to prompt informative dialogue through challenging and perceptive inquiry. They should be grounded in the background of the person being interviewed and, when possible, should carefully research appropriate documents and secondary sources related to subjects about which the interviewee can speak.

7. Interviewers should make every effort to record their interviews. They should provide complete documentation of their preparation and methods, including the circumstances of the interview. Interviewers, and when possible interviewees, should review and evaluate their interviews and any transcriptions made from them.

8. With the permission of the interviewees, interviewers should arrange to deposit their interviews in an archival repository that is capable of both preserving the interviews and of eventually making them available for general use. Interviewers should provide basic information about the interviews, including project goals, sponsorship, and funding. Preferably, interviewers should work with repositories prior to the project to determine necessary legal arrangements. If interviewers arrange to retain first use of the interviews, it should be only for a reasonable time prior to public use.

9. Interviewers should be sensitive to the communities from which they have collected their oral histories, taking care not to reinforce thoughtless stereotypes or to bring undue notoriety to the community. They should take every effort to make the interviews accessible to the community.

10. Oral history interviews should be used and cited with the same care and standards applied to other historical sources. Users have a responsibility to retain the integrity of the interviewee's voice, neither misrepresenting the interviewee's words nor taking them out of context.

11. Sources of funding or sponsorship of oral history projects should be made public in all exhibits, media presentations, or publications that the projects produce.

12. Interviewers and oral history programs should conscientiously consider how they might share with interviewees and their communities the rewards and

recognition that might result from their work.

## Responsibility for Sponsoring and Archival Institutions

1. Institutions sponsoring and maintaining oral history archives have a responsibility to interviewees, interviewers, the profession, and the public to maintain the highest professional and ethical standards in the creation and archival preservation of oral history interviews.

2. Subject to conditions that interviewees set, sponsoring institutions (or individual collectors) have an obligation to prepare and preserve easily usable records, to keep accurate records of the creation and processing of each interview, to identify, index, and catalog interviews, and to make known the existence of the interviews when they are open for research.

3. Within the parameters of their missions and resources, archival institutions should collect interviews generated by independent researchers and assist interviewers with the necessary legal agreements.

4. Sponsoring institutions should train interviewers, explaining the objectives of the program to them, informing them of all ethical and legal considerations governing an interview, and making clear to interviewers what their obligations are to the program and to the interviewees.

5. Interviewers should receive appropriate acknowledgment for their work in all forms of citation or usage.

## Essen Conference Provides Opportunity to Meet Oral Historians from Eastern Europe

by Carl Ryant, University of Louisville,  
Chair, International Committee

Although there were some problems in the organization of the Seventh International Oral History Conference held at the Ruhrland Museum in Essen March 29 - April 1, 1990, the actual meeting went relatively smoothly. The conference location was excellent and simultaneous translation was provided for some of the sessions, easing the language problems for those for whom neither English, French, nor German were convenient. In addition, it made possible the use of Russian for those who felt more comfortable with that language.

While the central theme of the meeting was "Memory and Social Change," there were of course papers on a number of additional topics. What continues to impress

one is the variety of subjects being studied and the widespread use of oral history techniques all over the world. The movement is truly international in fact as well as in theory.

There were a large number of participants from East Germany and the USSR, as well as representatives from other eastern European nations. Their presentations were interesting and at times moving. Indeed, one sometimes feels that times have so changed that rather than *avoiding* criticism of their societies, they are almost *required* to do so as a demonstration of the new opportunities now available.

A number of American oral historians were there, including Ron Grele, Richard Candida Smith, John Fox, George Wright, Rick Smoot, Lila Goff, and Carl Ryant.

There was a discussion at the conference of a possible new international journal of oral history involving a broad representation of international oral historians and under the leadership of Paul Thompson. In addition, the International Committee was expanded in membership (Ron Grele and Carl Ryant now represent the United States) and plans were made to make other changes in the organization at the next meeting, which probably will be in Italy in late 1992 or early 1993.

For American oral historians, there is much to contemplate. While looking forward to attending the next international conference, we can anticipate increased opportunities to meet foreign scholars from all over the world at our own meetings in the next few years. We should do all we can to encourage this.



## Hearing on "Fair Use" Copyright Spurs Action

Page Putnam Miller of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History provides this update on the Congressional hearing concerning the copyright law on "fair use" of unpublished sources:

A joint hearing was held on July 11 to consider HR 4263 and S 2370, bills to amend the copyright law to clarify that the principle of fair use established for published copyrighted works should also apply to unpublished copyrighted materials. The need for such legislation derived from a recent decision of the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York which ruled that unpublished primary sources were protected from even "fair use" quotation. (See "Fair Use," *OHA Newsletter*, spring 1990.)

Eleven witnesses, representing both sides of the issue, testified at the joint hearing. Taylor Branch, author of *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-1963*, and J. Anthony Lukas, author of *Common Ground*, which examines the lives of three Boston families — black,

Irish, and Yankee — during the decade of struggle over school desegregation, explained how loss of access to unpublished sources would have a "chilling effect" on



research. Floyd Abrams, an attorney who has represented Random House and *The Nation* in recent copyright cases, also presented strong arguments in favor of this legislation.

Objections to the bills were presented by two computer specialists, the attorney for New Era Publications (which holds the copyright to the L. Ron Hubbard

materials, the contested material in the appeals-court case which stimulated this legislation), and Barbara Ringer, former U.S. Register of Copyrights. A panel of judges also provided testimony. In favor of the legislation were Chief Judge James L. Oakes of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals of New York and Judge Pierre Leval of the District Court for the Southern District of New York. Judge Roger J. Miner, who wrote the *New Era Publications v. Henry Holt and Co.* decision, expressed "grave reservations" about the proposed legislation.

Ralph Oman, the current Register of Copyrights, acknowledged the concerns that prompted the introduction of the bills and urged Congress to consider carefully the decision whether to let the courts refine the case law or to seek a legislative solution to the problem. Putnam Miller says that there is "considerable momentum" for this legislation right now, and congressional staff are working on technical language to deal with some of the issues raised at the hearing.

## Juanita Jackson Mitchell Suffers Stroke, Uses Memoirs in Therapy; Home to become a Museum

Everybody who attended the opening plenary session of the 1988 OHA conference in Baltimore will remember Juanita Jackson Mitchell's powerful welcoming statement. Mrs. Mitchell, a leader of the Black freedom movement for almost six decades, testified to the dramatic changes she has seen in racial-ethnic relations in Baltimore, the immense problems that still need to be solved, and the potential role of history and historians in the struggles ahead: she challenged us, as oral historians, to be involved.

Since the conference, Mrs. Mitchell has been engaged in difficult struggles of her own. One nearly cost her the home in which she has lived for 48 years — most of those years with her late husband, national NAACP leader, Clarence Mitchell, Jr. To help finance the legal defense campaign of her two sons — former state senators Clarence Mitchell III and Michael, who many leading civil rights activists believe to be victims of the concerted Reaganite attack on Black political leadership — Mrs. Mitchell took out a bank loan using her home for collateral. With her sons in jail, several lost appeals,

and mounting legal expenses, the payments on the loan fell behind. In late July 1989, the bank foreclosed, refusing to refinance the loan because of Mrs. Mitchell's age. A date was set to auction the Mitchell home. Mrs. Mitchell was callously informed to spruce up the house so it would get the best price.

The spectacle of a bank — an institution generally not noted for its contributions to the fight for African American equality — throwing Baltimore's leading veteran civil rights activist on the street mobilized the Baltimore Black community. In less than a month \$93,000 was raised, paying off the amount due on the overdue bank loan and a portion of another mortgage on the house. Support for Mrs. Mitchell was remarkably broad: according to the *Amsterdam News*, \$1000 was contributed by the inmates of Maryland Penitentiary. Despite the outpouring of community support and the rescue of her home, the stress of the situation proved to be too much, and Mrs. Mitchell suffered a massive stroke in the late fall.

Juanita Jackson Mitchell has made what doctors describe as a miraculous recovery

(her son Clarence told me that listening to tapes of her oral history interviews helped her to reorient during the initial stages of her illness). As of this writing, she has yet to recover full use of her limbs, but is otherwise very active. She will return home within weeks. A trust fund has been set up to retire the remainder of the mortgage, thereby allowing Mrs. Mitchell to stay in her house rent-free for the rest of her life. Eventually, money from the trust fund will be used to turn the house into a civil rights museum. Mrs. Mitchell has often remarked that it is a tragedy young people today, black or white, know so little of the history of the freedom struggle and the victories it achieved only a few years ago. It is fitting that, if sufficient money is raised, her home will become a center for popular historical education for many decades to come.

Contributions can be made to the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., and Juanita Jackson Mitchell Trust Fund, c/o Mitchell and Mitchell, 1239 Druid Hill Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21217.

Andor Skotnes  
July 1990



# Annual Meeting



"The Sacred Cod," Boston State House

The OHA Annual Meeting will be held at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which is on the Charles River overlooking Boston's famed Beacon Hill. Program chair Richard Sweterlitsch and Local Arrangements chair John Fox and their committees have put together a solid and intriguing meeting, which includes such innovations as a for-credit workshop for school teachers and off-site tours catering to interests which range from political history to cultural geography.

Complete program information, including suggestions for less expensive accommodations, is contained in the annual meeting registration information packet, which is being mailed to all OHA members.

## Program Highlights

**Thursday, November 8, 7:00 p.m.**

The banquet speaker will be **Byron Rushing**, member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, former civil rights activist, and eminent historic preservationist. Rushing's many accomplishments in the field of historic preservation have included saving the African Meeting House (purchased and restored by the Museum of Afro-American History when he was its president) and the establishment of the Boston African American National Historical Site (for which he lobbied Congress in 1976). The author of numerous articles on preserving Black heritage, Rushing is currently chair of the State Commission on the 350th Anniversary of the Arrival of Africans in Massachusetts.

**Saturday, November 10, 6:30 a.m. Fourth Annual OHA Fun Run/Walk.** See the sun rise over the Charles.

**Saturday, November 10,  
8:30 am - 6:00 pm  
Teacher's Workshop**

In conjunction with Salem State College, the OHA is offering a one-day workshop which will provide three credits for teachers. Under the direction of Professor John J. Fox of the Department of History at Salem State, the workshop will include, along with instruction in methodology, these sessions: "What Did You Do During the War, Grandma? Ninth Graders Examine Women's Roles in World War II," "Family History in the Classroom: Finding and Using Family History," and "A Heritage Within: Folk Music and Local History in Schools."



Harvard College, 1770, Engraving by Paul Revere

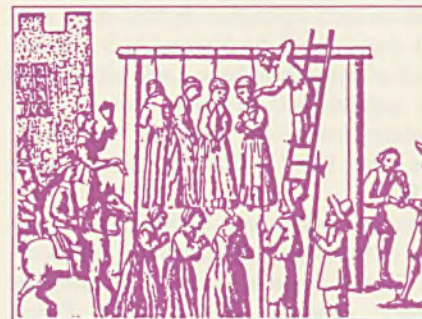
Those seeking credit will be required to attend all workshop sessions as well as the Saturday evening banquet and to fulfill all other requirements, including submission by January 4, 1991 of a curriculum unit into which oral history methodology has been integrated.

Tuition is \$285 (\$255 for Massachusetts residents), and participants must also pay workshop registration of \$60 to the OHA which includes one-day registration, workshop fees, and the banquet. Adjustments will be made for those who pay a full registration and buy the conference meal plan. For more information write FOX at OHA-TWS, Department of History, Salem State College, Salem, MA 01970, or call him at 508/741-6000, extension 2369, or 508/774-8031.

**Saturday, November 10,  
Afternoon Tours**

**Tour #1 Historic Salem**

12:30 p.m. Guided tour with visits to the Essex Institute, House of Seven Gables, Pioneer Village, and Chestnut Street. This tour is limited in number; preregistration is required.



Witch "Trials"

**Tour #2 Boston's Cultural Landscape**

1:00 p.m. Walking tour of Boston led by a folklorist and geographer with visits to the John Hancock Observatory for an overview, then to the Old State House, the Grannery, Old City Hall, City Hall, Kings Chapel and Quincy Market. This tour is limited to 15 people; pre-registration is required.



The Seal of Massachusetts Bay Colony reads "come over and help us."



# Cambridge, November 8-11

## Tour #3 Boston's Freedom Trail

1:00 p.m. Two-and-a-half mile walking tour conducted by National Park Service Rangers through Boston's Downtown, North End and Charlestown Navy Yard (berth of "Old Ironsides") with visits to the Old State House, Old South Church, Old North Church, and Paul Revere House, with time left at the end to shop in downtown Boston, relax at Faneuil Hall or visit the Museum of Fine Arts. Preregistration is required.

### CAUTION!!

**COLORED PEOPLE**  
OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,  
You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and  
advised, to avoid conversing with the  
Watchmen and Police Officers  
of Boston,

For since the recent ORDER OF THE MAYOR &  
ALDERMEN, they are empowered to act as

**KIDNAPPERS**  
AND  
**Slave Catchers,**

And they have already been actually employed in  
KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING  
SLAVES. Therefore, if you value your LIBERTY,  
and the Welfare of the Fugitives among you, Show  
them in every possible manner, as so many SOUNDS  
on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

Keep a Sharp Look Out for  
KIDNAPPERS, and have  
TOP EYE open.

*A broadside written by Boston abolitionists in 1851.*

## Tour #4 The Black Heritage Trail

1:00 p.m. Walking tour conducted by the National Park Service Rangers through Boston's 19th-century Black community, with visits to pre-Civil War buildings, the African Meeting House, Augustus Saint-Gaudens' memorial to Robert Gould Shaw and the Black Civil War soldiers of the 54th Regiment, with time left at the end to shop downtown or take the subway to visit the Kennedy Library or Harvard Square. Preregistration is required.

## Tour #5 John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Behind the Scene

2:00 p.m. Led by a library staff member, this tour will include the public exhibits on the lives of John and Robert Kennedy as shown in film, tape recordings, photos, letters, speeches, etc., and also will incorporate visits to areas closed off to regular visitors. Pre-registration is required.

**Saturday, November 10, 7:30 p.m.**

"It Had To Be Done, So I Did It: Portraits of Rural New Hampshire Women at Work," an amusing and often poignant performance by the Warner Women's Oral History Project about women and women's work in this century. Based on an oral history project which collected more than 100 hours of taped interviews, the play follows the lives of seventeen women who lived, or now live, in the town of Warner, New Hampshire. It traces women from the farm to the schoolroom to war, from volunteer to government work, and from housekeeping to domestic labor.



*New England women in the rise of feminism.*

**Airline Information:** American Airlines is offering special rates to all OHA annual meeting goers. Their meeting saver fare allows a 40% discount off roundtrip, unrestricted day coach fare within the U.S. American also offers 5% off the lowest applicable roundtrip airfare, including First Class. Tickets must be purchased at least seven days in advance. Call directly or have your travel agent call 1-800-433-1790. Ask for STAR #S-02NO4S.



*Revere's famous engraving of the Boston Massacre*



What have you been doing this summer? Interviewing, transcribing, and cataloging? Researching your community's history, developing lists of narrators, and training volunteers? Writing grant requests, pleading for funds, worrying about budgets? If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, you could be an oral historian in need of an annual conference.

I have been in touch with a few of our members during the past few months and I would like to tell you what they have been doing. Richard Sweterlitsch from the University of Vermont, chair of the program committee, has been putting the final touches on the program plans. Since the beginning of the year he has reviewed papers and proposals, searched for interesting speakers and topics and has pulled together an outstanding program.

John Fox from Salem State College has also been working to put together a memorable program. Responsible for the local arrangements for the conference, he has been setting up some great tours, not to mention dealing with the hotel, designing the program, finding a printer, finding exhibitors, lining up volunteers, and handling the many details of a professional conference.

Don Ritchie has been working with the committee on the principles and standards. All of the committee members have been actively participating in the conference calls that have resulted in the draft that will be discussed, amended, and adopted at the annual meeting.

### OHA NEEDS YOU!

To help the Oral History Association meet the needs of the future and to ensure that we can continue to provide the highest level of services, OHA invites members and friends to support the endowment fund.

The OHA Endowment Fund is a special account, based on but not limited to life memberships, that accumulates a balance so that earnings may be used for special projects or for emergency needs.

For information or to contribute to the endowment fund, write Richard C. Smith, Executive Secretary, Oral History Association, 1093 Broxton Ave., No. 720, Los Angeles, California 90024.



You have seen the results of the work Michael Frisch has done this year. The production of two issues of the *Review*, with interesting articles and reviews covering the broad spectrum of oral history research, requires a major commitment of time to oral history and to the many contributors to the journal. And you are holding the results of Jackie Jeffrey's summer work as you read this newsletter — yet another excellent OHA publication.

Richard Smith at UCLA has been taking in memberships and contributions and efficiently handling the unbelievable number of things that an executive secretary must do to keep an organization running smoothly.

Tom Charlton, already worrying about the 1992 meeting in Snowbird, Utah, has been working with Joel Gardner on the endowments committee, looking out for the future of the organization. All of the council members and the committee chairs have been involved in activities for the OHA,

and they always respond when called upon for help.

I have spent my summer marveling at so much activity in such a relatively small volunteer organization. I have also been worrying about how the association is going to be able to fund its outstanding publications and all of the other things we would like to do.

I admit that I had the most fun last spring at the International Oral History meeting in Essen, Germany. The enthusiasm and seriousness of the Europeans as they spoke of their many and varied projects, and excitement of the Eastern Europeans who were finally allowed to share their research and talk of their search for truth was truly invigorating. I am looking forward to the Cambridge meeting to meet again with OHA members and, as always happens, to return revitalized and better prepared to deal with Minnesota's oral history program.

The annual meeting provides more than just a forum for show-and-tell. It is the opportunity to talk about the issues, the problems, and the rewards of being an oral historian. It is important for the profession and it is important for the many individuals who practice oral history to participate in this professional community. It must be or there wouldn't be so many people willing to work so hard for the organization.

Join us in Cambridge November 8-11 to talk about what you have been doing and to share in some of the excitement of oral history.

### U. of North Texas Publishes 25-year Catalog

The Oral History Program at the University of North Texas announces the publication of its 25th Anniversary Catalog. Founded in 1964, the program has collected approximately 900 interviews, all of which have been transcribed and hard-bound. The interviews include topics on Texas political history; World War II, with particular emphasis on Pearl Harbor survivors and prisoners of war; New Deal in Texas; and local civil rights history. There is also a section on Texas entrepreneurial history, which is part of the UNT Business Archives Project.

The *Catalog* explains the Oral History Program's policies, procedures, and projects and contains annotations describing the contents of the processed interviews. Copies of the 283-page *Catalog* may be obtained by writing the Associates of UNT

Oral History, P.O. Box 13734, North Texas Station, Denton, TX 76203. The cost is \$15 per copy with checks made payable to Associates of UNT Oral History.

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**Ron Marcello**, director of the UNT Oral History Program, former Executive Secretary of the OHA, and immediate past OHA president, is in the process of drafting a description of the duties of association historian. At the mid-winter meeting, the council resolved that from now on, the immediate past president will be designated **OHA historian**.

The archives of the OHA are housed at the University of North Texas, **Richard Himmel**, UNT archivist, has in the past year completed the organization of those archives.



**Linda Shopes, Book Review Editor of *The Oral History Review***, has a new address as of September 4: Division of History, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108; 717/787-3034. As always, Linda invites readers to contact her about reviewing for the OHR. Please note content area(s) of expertise and interests in/experience with oral history.

**In honor of Lynwood Montell**, who has announced his retirement after 21 years at Western Kentucky University, *Southern Folklore* is establishing an annual prize for the outstanding paper published in *SF* during a year. A cash prize of \$100 will be awarded for the article, which will be selected by a panel of jurors. The **Montell Folklore Prize** recipient will be announced at the American Folklore Society annual meeting each October. Montell is currently Visiting Professor of American Studies and Folklore at Notre Dame.

**The Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University** is compiling a database to accompany its project to recover the history of African American life in the South during the **Jim Crow era**. The database will locate and disseminate research on this topic. The center wants to pin down what has already been collected — depositories containing archive and documentary material, existing

databases, published bibliographies, and photograph and any other special collections related to the segregated South. They also seek names and addresses of individuals working on this topic (professionals and non-professionals), contemporary journalistic accounts, and any other pertinent information or materials. Contact William H. Chafe at the center, Snow Building, Suite 511, 311 West Main Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701; 919/687-0486.

The recently completed **MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) Oral History Project** interviews were conducted by **J.E. (Jeff) Fall** for the history committee of the American Library Association through the Oral History Research Office at Columbia University. The interviews are available at Columbia and at the Library of Congress.

**The Oral History Program at California State University, Fullerton** has agreed to serve as archive for the oral history project of the **Old China Hands group**. Recently the group held its second international meeting in Anaheim. The group comprises mostly American, British, and French civilians who were caught in Shanghai and other Chinese cities on December 8, 1941 and were interned by the Japanese. At present fifteen interviews have been transcribed. Anyone

wishing more information about the project is invited to write Michael P. Onorato, Director, Oral History Program, L-431, California State University, Fullerton, California 92634.

**The Montana Oral History Association** has a new address: MOHA, P.O. Box 4985, Helena, Montana 59604.

**Bernhard Wichert**, a history teacher in Roetgen, Germany, who collects historical sound recordings from the earliest recorded sounds in the Weimar Republic to the Third Reich and including American and French recordings, would like to exchange recordings with other collectors. Write him at Gruenepleister, 4, D-5106 Roetgen, West Germany.

**The Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism** is sponsoring a conference at the University of Notre Dame on "American Catholicism in the Twentieth Century," November 1-3, 1990. Contact the Center for Continuing Education, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

**Ann Miller Morin** has been awarded a Public Service Grant by the American Association of University Women. She will use the funds received to transcribe interviews from her Women Ambassadors Project.





# Book Notices

"I promised her one week ago I would tell her what I planned to do."  
What do you plan to do?

I shrug. There is only one thing I can do: listen to people, see how they stick themselves into the world, hand them along a ways in their dark journey and be handed along and for good and selfish reasons. It only remains to decide whether this vocation is best pursued in a service station or —

Walker Percy, *The Moviegoer*

Materials are selected for listing here either because they are based on oral history research or because they are of some general interest to the field. Notes are based on reviews, primarily from *Library Journal*, or on materials directly called to the editor's attention. Readers are invited to submit comments and suggestions for materials covered here.

Bletter, Diana (text), and Lori Grinker (photos), **The Invisible Threat: A Portrait of Jewish American Women**, Jewish Publication Society, 1989. Photo essay of 60 women of various ages and backgrounds, focusing on how they balance change and tradition, feminism and Judaism.

Dibblin, Jane, **Day of Two Suns: U.S. Nuclear Testing and the Pacific Islanders**, New Amsterdam Books, 1990. Documents the negative effects of nuclear weapons testing on the people of Micronesia, based on first-person accounts with Micronesian women.

Echols, Alice, **Daring to Be Bad: Radical Feminism in America, 1967-1975**, University of Minnesota Press, 1990. Documents the "rise and fall" of radical feminism through interviews with feminists active in the movement during that era, and analyzes the rise of cultural feminism.

Fox, Stephen, **The Unknown Internment: An Oral History of the Relocation of Italian Americans during World War II**, Twayne Publisher, 1990. Traces the development, implementation, and abandonment of the internment policy and documents the relocation experiences of Italian aliens in California, based on 43 interviews; adds a new chapter to the internment story, which so far has been told from the Japanese viewpoint only.

Lewis, Nigel, **Exercise Tiger: The Dramatic True Story of a Hidden Tragedy of World War II**, Prentice Hall, 1990. Story of the pre-invasion training mission to prepare for the Normandy landings in 1944, which resulted in the deaths of some 700 men, based on eyewitness accounts.

**Oral History Program 25th Anniversary Catalog**, 1964-1989, University of North Texas, 1990. Catalog of holdings in the UNT Oral History Program, with descriptions of the program's policies, procedures, projects, and annotated list of interviews.

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

**Address editorial matters to:** Jaclyn Jeffrey, Editor, Oral History Association Newsletter, BU 7271, Baylor University, Waco, Texas 76798, or phone (817) 755-3437.

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## Articles

Neuenschwander, John A., "Is Fame Ever Fleeting? Contemporary Mission v. New York Times Company," *Communications and The Law*, Volume 12 (June 1990) Assesses the current case law dealing with the status of one-time "public figures" in defamation suits filed years later.



## Video/Audio Productions

**Mama's Pushcart: Ellen Stewart and 25 Years of LaMaMa, E.T.C.**, 54 minutes, color, distributed by Women Make Movies (225 Lafayette St. Suite 212, New York, NY 10012), 1988. Documents the history of New York's premier avant-garde theater company and the woman behind it, based on interviews.

**The Modern Presidency: David Frost Interviews Four American Presidents**, 5 volumes from 24-56 minutes, color, Enterprise Media (374 Congress St., Suite 508, Boston MA 02210), 1989. Frost interviews with Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan on different aspects of their administrations, each volume with an accompanying booklet.

## Call for Papers

**Call for Papers for the Oral History Association Annual Meeting, October 10-13, 1991, Snowbird, Utah.** Proposals for papers, panels and speakers, particularly on such themes as women, ethnic topics, and the region of the American West, should be sent by December 1, 1990, to either of the Program Committee Co-chairs: Jay M. Hammond, Utah State Historical Society, 300 Rio Grande, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101; or to Rebecca Sharpless, c/o Institute for Oral History, Baylor University, BU Box 7271, Waco, Texas 76798-7271.

**Call for historical accounts and analyses of pacifism** in religious traditions other than historic peace churches: Richard T. Hughes of Pepperdine University and Theron F. Schlabach of Goshen College invite synopses of proposed or existing papers and articles on that topic, to be used as basis for a possible conference and/or an anthology. Send abstracts to Theron F. Schlabach, Dept. of History, Goshen College, Goshen, IN 46526.

**The National Women's Studies Association** is offering five scholarships in women's studies for 1991: the Illinois-NWSA Manuscript Award for the best book-length manuscript, the Pergamon-NWSA Graduate Scholarship in Women's Studies, the Naiad-NSWA Graduate Scholarship in Lesbian Studies, the NWSA Award in Jewish Women's Studies, and a fellowship for a Chinese student or scholar. Contact NWSA, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20842-1325; 301/454-3757.

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