



NEWSLETTER

Preserving Languages Preserves Histories

University of Florida and Mexico Host Project to Save Indigenous Languages

If preservation of personal narratives is one of the goals of oral history, then a team of scholars in Oaxaca, Mexico and in Gainesville, Florida should be gathered into the fold. In a joint project of the University of Florida and agencies in Mexico, scholars are helping people preserve their own stories in their own languages. The work began in 1990, when the Inter-American Indian Institute (part of the Organization of American States), the General Directorate for Indian Education in Mexico, the Mexican Center for Advanced Studies in Anthropology, and the University of Florida, initiated a joint project in Oaxaca to teach native Americans to write and publish works in their own languages.

To date, 65 persons from Central and South America have been trained to write and publish in their native languages. According to project founder, H. Russell Bernard, professor of anthropology at the University of Florida, speakers of dying/nonliterate languages tend to live in societies that are dominated politically and economically by groups that have little use for cultural heterogeneity. The pressure to give up native language and conform to the dominate culture is strong.

One of the ways that Bernard sees to preserve language is by providing literature. "Unless there is something to read, there is no point in knowing how to do it," he says. Desktop publishing is helping to solve this problem of providing literature, and oral history is helping to provide the subject matter.

Jesús Salinas Pedraza, director of the school in Oaxaca, is himself working on an oral history of the pueblo of Dexto, state of Hidalgo, in his own language of Nāhñu. Town leaders asked him to write the history of their town in their language. Salinas began by collecting oral

histories from the eldest citizens. He is currently editing those narratives and plans to publish them in Nāhñu, via desktop publishing, in the coming year.

Josefa Ventura y González, who co-directs the Oaxacan project, is also working on a book about her hometown in her native language of Mixtec. Together, Salinas and Gonzalez have established the Publishing Center for Computer-Based Indian Literature.

Students at the center apply their newly acquired skills in various ways. One Chinantecan man has planted a garden containing samples of all the plants used traditionally in his region to cure illnesses. He plans to record medicinal lore from his people and then publish a book describing the plants and cures.

Last year Salinas and Bernard celebrated the results of a 20-year collaboration when Sage Publications published *A Native*

continued on back page

This passage is from the transcript of an interview which Jesús Salinas Pedraza, codirector of the Publishing Center for Computer-Based Indian Literature, conducted with an elderly man recalling times in his village of Dexto, in the state of Hidalgo, during the Mexican Revolution. Using the word processing system which Russ Bernard of the University of Florida developed, Salinas transcribed the interview in Nāhñu, the language of the Otomí Indians who live in central Mexico. Then he translated it into Spanish. The original Nāhñu transcription is on the left, shown just as Salinas produced it on computer.

011.- Di beni, di beni, ndi handä rä xi'mhai rä 'bospí, rä 'bospí. Xi habu män'a mi täpābi, rä nāxu. Nde xä dä zu'ä n'a rä fñeni nu'ä xä dä du'ri ndo'yo, nu'ä ni pa gi 'mai. 'Ne rä ji ents'uä rä xñu nde. Nsoktä nduthe nu'ä ge'ä ndi pe'stä'ä. Nu'ä bi balogihee (bi nzakigihee) nu'ä rä bināgre 'ne rä ngonthfaani. Xä dä tunts'ä nu rä ngonthfaani 'ne dä nāxä nu rä bināgre 'ne dä kue'tä rä nāxu, hänge mänt'ä dä 'yot'i.

012.- Nā'ä ndu má papa, nu'ä rä freshnu 'na, n'a manza rä freshnu bi guni 'na; ko nge'ä bi alibyo (ñāñi). Di 'met'ä nu rá dehe rä freshnu bi juní. Nu'ä ndāpo ya hin gi 'mai nūa. 'Mai, ha yä uäthe, 'mai. Nu rä freshnu xä fñho pa rä fñeni, xä fñho. Rä 'mai ngu 'ñena rä demzaa.

011.- Lo recuerdo, lo recuerdo bien, yo veía que el mundo era de color cenizo, cenizo. Interlocutor: Y en qué parte del cuerpo era donde más afectaba.

Era en la cabeza. La enfermedad te dominaba de tal manera que sentías el cuerpo entumido, sin fuerzas ni para pararte. Y también sangrabas por la nariz. Estaba yo sediento. El vinagre y la carne de res fueron los recursos que me curaron; se extendía muy bien la carne de res y encima se le echa vinagre y en seguida se pegaba en la frente, era increíble ver como pronto se secaba.

012.- Mi difunto padre nos platicaba que él se curó usando el fresno; lo molió y bebió la cantidad que le cabe un plato. Dicha planta ya no crece por aquí cerca. Ahora crece en la zona de riego. Por lo anterior consideramos que el fresno es una planta muy buena para curación. La planta tiene un parecido al nogal.

From the President

Thomas L. Charlton

Now is the time . . .
. . . for all OHA members to come to the aid of their association.

Your Oral History Association continues to progress as it approaches the 25th anniversary of its chartering this fall. To assist OHA in realizing its potential, your consideration and direct support are needed in the following ways and I hope you will join me in lending a hand to our dynamic organization:

1. Make certain that your 1991 dues have been paid,
2. Plan now to attend the 1991 OHA annual meeting at Snowbird, Utah, and the 1992 meeting in Cleveland, Ohio,
3. Contribute regularly to OHA endowment funds to provide support for future OHA development,
4. Attend and participate in each year's OHA business meeting and be an integral part in the governance of the association,
5. Vote in all OHA elections,
6. Volunteer to serve on an OHA committee and accept when officially invited,



7. Encourage others to join OHA and its affiliate regional/state organizations,
8. Offer OHA editors and committee chairs your suggestions and constructive criticisms,
9. Purchase and donate copies of OHA publications to libraries and other organizations which do not belong to the association, and
10. Volunteer to serve as an OHA liaison to another professional organization which may be interested in oral history.

If each OHA member will conscientiously strive to follow the above suggestions, we can be assured of a bright future for our beloved association. I am greatly honored to be working with you this year.

Thomas L. Charlton

Reduce Elusiveness in OH

By Charles T. Morrissey

Oral history interviewees and their tape-recorded memories are often located in unexpected places. When Joseph E. Illick, an historian at San Francisco State University, decided to write a history of his Liberty High School class of 1952 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, he knew that oral history would serve as his primary tool of research. And he anticipated that his former classmates would be scattered from coast to coast. But two who chose medical careers were both working in the Texas Medical Center in Houston. One, Gerald P. Bodey, does research on infection-prone cancer patients at the M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute. The second is William J. Lennarz, head of biochemistry at M.D. Anderson Hospital.

Profiles of Bodey and Lennarz and excerpts from their interviews are in *At Liberty: The Story of a Community and a Generation: The Bethlehem, Pennsylvania Class of 1952* (University of Tennessee Press, 1989). Illick says, "These two men were the top scientists in our class, and certainly they now rank high in the nation." Since both talk about their work at M.D. Anderson Hospital their commentaries serve usefully for depicting the research and patient care occurring there. But who would think of looking inside a book about a high school in Pennsylvania for portraits of preeminent scientists?

Going to where oral history respondents are located, and finding where their oral histories are published are twin endeavors confronting all who record or utilize oral history as modern documentation of 20th-century America. History has been described as geography in motion, but too frequently geography divides historians from their informants.

Can guides, indexes, and similar finding aids surmount this problem? To increase public and professional awareness of oral history resources, practitioners of oral history need to reduce the elusiveness of the spoken memories we strive to preserve.



Yidishe Gauchos in Argentina. This photo is taken from a documentary about the little known story of Jews who escaped Eastern Europe at the end of the 19th century to become farmers and ranchers on the pampas of Argentina. Based on oral histories and rare archival footage, the video shows Jews who dressed and worked like gauchos, but who also built schools, libraries and synagogues in the wilderness. Produced by Mark Freeman, Fine Line Productions, distributed by Filmmakers Library.

The Oral History Office at **Sangamon State University** is no longer a separate office but has been transferred to the university archives. **Cullom Davis**, history professor at SSU and former manager of the Oral History Office, said, "Although this could be seen as the product of a tough budget year, the shifting of the holdings to the Brookens Library archives would have been an eventual and logical move." The office grew out of a class that Davis began teaching in 1971. Since then it has become a major center for oral history research in the Midwest. Davis left in 1988 to direct the Lincoln Legal Papers Project. Linda Jett, the one professional staff member, will be reassigned. Although no major additions to the collection are planned, Davis will continue to teach the oral history methods course about once every two years, and the best oral histories completed in that class will be added to the collection in the university archives.

We were saddened to learn of the death of **R. Wayne Anderson**, who died on February 15, 1991, after a long and degenerative illness. Until 1989 Anderson was executive secretary of the National Council on Public History. He began teaching in the history department of Northeastern University in 1974, where he expanded and developed their Oral History Program, going on to become president of the New England Oral History Association and member of OHA Editorial Board. At the time of his retirement he was working on a book about early twentieth-century passenger liners and on the official oral history of the Dukakis presidential campaign. A memorial may be sent to Hospice West, Inc., 254 South Street, Waltham, MA 02254, or the Chiltern Mountain Club, Box 407, Boston, MA 02117.

Seth Kretzer of Johnston Middle School in Houston, Texas, won the **National Oral History Award** for his project, "Behind Barbed Wire: Japanese-Americans During World War II," at the National History Day contest held at the University of Maryland on June 9-13.

Michael Gillette is leaving his post as director of the oral history program at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Austin,

Texas, to direct the Center for Legislative Archives in Washington, D.C.

The **Idaho Oral History Center** has announced that Susan M. Stacy has received the 1990 Idaho Book Award for *Conversations: A Companion Book to Idaho Public Television's, Proceeding on Through a Beautiful Country, A History of Idaho*. The award is presented annually by the Idaho Library Association.

Conversations is based on some 150 videotaped interviews conducted from 1988 through 1990 with Idaho educators, scientists, business and religious leaders, farmers, ranchers, artists, and others. The interviews are being processed and deposited at the Idaho Oral History Center Library with the other 900+ interviews which make up the oral history collection.

Applications are being sought for the position of Editor of the Oral History Association Newsletter. Qualifications include interest and experience in oral history, ability to provide necessary editorial services (some institutional support may be necessary), commitment to providing a quality product, and understanding of editorial and publications processes. Send an application letter, a resume, and two reference letters to Eva M. McMahan, OHA Publications Committee Chair, P.O. Box 870172, Tuscaloosa, AL, 35487-0172.

Last March, Ron Marcello, Lois Myers, and Jaclyn Jeffrey participated in a workshop on **Ecotheater** in Canton, Texas. Ecotheater was founded in New York City by Maryat Lee and is based on the concept that ordinary people without formal training can create a powerful theater experience from stories in their own lives and those of others in their communities. Director Joyce Marshall brought in the oral historians to teach the workshop participants how to collect stories which they could use in developing scripts. For more information contact Marshall at Realistic Living, P.O. Box 140826, Dallas, TX 75214; 214/327-8215.

The **Oral History Program, California State University, Fullerton**, announces the retirement of **Shirley E. Stephenson** from the program as of July 1, 1991. Her efforts on behalf of the program and oral historians will be missed by her colleagues.

The Oral History Program, California State University, Fullerton, has published an *Addendum to the 1985 Catalog, Oral History Program*, CSUF comprising over 200 annotations of interviews processed since the publication of the main catalog in 1985. The cost is \$16 (tax, handling included). A limited supply of the 1985 catalog is still available at a cost of \$20 (tax, handling included).

The **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission** will sponsor the fifteenth annual Conference on Black History in Pennsylvania at Lincoln University, Oxford, Pennsylvania, on May 8-9, 1992. The theme of the conference is "Empowerment: Perspectives on African Americans in Pennsylvania."

The PHMC seeks proposals for individual papers and full sessions dealing with the broad issue of self-determination both within African American communities and vis-a-vis the larger society. Proposals — no longer than two pages and accompanied by brief biographical information — should be mailed to Robert Weible, Chief, Division of History, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Box 1026 Harrisburg, PA 17108. (717-787-3034). Deadline is December 1, 1991. Limited funds may be available to support the travel expenses of participants without institutional affiliations or whose institutions cannot support travel.

The newest in the OHA pamphlet series, *Guidelines and Principles of the Oral History Association*, will be out soon. The new series editor is Barbara Allen, replacing Jessie Embry, whose term expired this year.



Remember to contribute to the Oral History Association Endowment Fund.

At the suggestion of OHA attorney Norman Silber, in order to conform to changes in laws governing non-profit, educational organizations, certain changes have been made in the constitution of the association. An ad hoc committee composed of the president, vice president, and executive secretary studied the operations and goals of the organization and suggested improvements in order to meet the new criteria and streamline OHA operating

procedures. At its 1991 mid-winter meeting, the Council agreed to the proposed changes and submitted them to Silber for his review. Since the OHA was chartered by the State of New York, it was necessary to be sure that the changes in the constitution and bylaws satisfied the legal requirements of that state. The bylaws are now in effect and the constitution will be voted on at the annual meeting on 10-13 October 1991.

Constitution and Bylaws of the Oral History Association

NAME

1. The name of the organization shall be the Oral History Association. The Association is incorporated as a non-profit organization under the laws of the state of New York.

OBJECTIVES

2. The Oral History Association is a professional organization established to:
provide a means for effective cooperation among persons concerned with the documentation of human experience;
stimulate and publish the results of research in the techniques and uses of oral history;
promote the development and adoption of sound principles and standards by all agencies, public and private, that have responsibility for the collection and preservation of historical information obtained through the techniques of oral history;
foster a better understanding of the nature and value of oral history;
maintain and strengthen relations with archivists, historians, librarians, educators, public administrators, and others in allied disciplines;
cooperate with other professional organizations, cultural and educational institutions, and international organizations having mutual interests in the preservation and use of our recorded heritage; and
participate in local, national and international projects with mutual goals and interests.

MEMBERSHIP

3. Individual membership shall be open to those who support the objectives of

the Association. *Honorary members may be elected by the Council of the Association in its discretion, with such privileges as the Council may decide upon.*

4. Institutional membership shall be open to institutions or agencies that are concerned or substantially interested in the objectives of the Oral History Association. An institutional member shall be entitled to representation at any meeting by one delegate, who may vote; but, if also an individual member, may not cast a second vote.
5. A member shall be enrolled upon receipt of the first payment of dues.

OFFICERS AND GOVERNMENT

6. The officers of the Association shall be president, a vice-president, and an executive secretary. The vice-president shall be elected by mail ballot for a term of one year and shall serve until the election of his or her successor is announced at the annual meeting of the Association immediately following the election. The person elected as vice-president shall thereby be president the following year. The executive secretary shall be appointed by the Council at the annual meeting of the Association and shall be a non-voting member of the Council and shall exercise the functions of secretary and treasurer of the Association.
7. The government of the Association, the management of its affairs, and the regulation of its procedures, except as otherwise provided in the constitution, shall be vested in Council composed of the president, the vice-president, the immediate past president, and four Council members elected at large for

a three-year term. *Decisions of the Council shall be binding on the Association unless modified by a majority of the membership voting.* Only members of the Association in good standing (current dues paid) are eligible for nomination and service as officers and Council members. The executive secretary shall be a non-voting member of the Council. Four members, including at least one officer, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Association business.

8. If a vacancy shall occur in the council or in any of the offices except the presidency, it may be filled by the Council, and the person designated shall hold the position for the unexpired term of the person vacating it.

PUBLICATIONS

9. *The Association shall publish annually a report of its activities including the state of its finances and summary of its expenditures. Such a report shall be distributed to all members as a benefit of membership.*
10. When funds are available the Association shall publish a newsletter and such other publications as the Council may designate. Every member in good standing shall be entitled to receive the newsletter and other serial publications.

FINANCES

11. The Council shall be responsible for investment of funds and care of other assets of the Association. Fiscal control of the funds and assets shall be maintained by such records and accounting system as may be prescribed by the Council. An annual audit of the financial affairs shall be made and a report of the audit published.

12. *Consistent with its Certificate, Constitution, other bylaws of this Association, and with applicable law, the Association through its Council may establish an endowment fund, or other such fund as it deems necessary, to manage responsibly the affairs of the Association and to further its purposes. The Council may delegate to its committees, officers or employees of the Association, or agents, the authority to act in place of the Council in investment and reinvestment of institutional funds, contract with independent investment advisors, so to act, and authorize the payment of compensation for investment advisory or management services, so to act. The Council shall be relieved of all liability for the investment and reinvestment of institutional funds by, and for the other acts or omissions of, persons to whom authority is so delegated or with whom contracts are so made. If a fund is established with private donations or Association funds, only interest and not principal may be expended, except with authorization of a majority of the members.*

MEETINGS

13. The Association shall hold an annual meeting at such time and place as the Council shall determine, and special meetings may be called by the Council. Notice of each meeting of the Association shall be mailed by the executive secretary at least thirty days before the date of the meeting. ~~A majority of the registered members of the Association at the annual meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transacting of business but a smaller number may adjourn to another date. These members who are registered to attend an annual meeting or a single meeting of the membership shall constitute the membership class of those entitled to vote at the business sessions of such meetings. One-tenth of this class, present in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum at such business sessions. Except as otherwise required by applicable law or these bylaws, the act of a majority of the members present at any meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of members. Members present at any meeting may adjourn the meeting despite the absence of a quorum.~~
14. The Council shall meet in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Association and shall hold such other meetings as it may determine. Special

meetings of the Council for any purpose shall be called by the executive secretary on the written request of the president or of three members of the Council. Four voting members including at least one officer shall constitute a quorum for the transacting of business, but a smaller number may adjourn to another date.

RECORDS

15. The minute-books, correspondence, and other records of the Association and its committees shall be preserved by the officers and chairpersons of committees and shall be promptly turned over by them to the executive secretary when their terms expire. Records that have ceased to be of use in conducting the current affairs of the Association may, by direction of the Council, be turned over for preservation to a depository selected by it; and any records so deposited shall be available to the officers of the Association on request.

DISSOLUTION

16. In the event of the dissolution of the Association, its property, funds, and others assets shall pass to whatever agencies may be designated by the Council in office at the time of dissolution.

AMENDMENTS

17. Amendments to this constitution must be proposed in writing by at least ten members and filed with the executive secretary *in advance of the mid-winter meeting or by February 1, whichever date is later. The Council by majority vote may also propose amendments.* Copies of the proposed amendments shall be mailed ~~by the executive secretary to all members at least thirty days in advance of the meeting at which they are to be considered to the full voting membership of the Association at least six weeks before the annual meeting. The votes shall be mailed, counted, and checked in the same manner as the election votes.~~ If approved by the Council, they may be adopted by a majority of the members voting on the amendments; if not so approved, a two thirds vote of the members voting on the amendments will be required. *The results of the vote shall be announced at the business meeting and in the publications of the Association.*
18. The Council is authorized and directed to prepare, adopt, or amend

such bylaws as may be desirable to regulate the administrative practices of the Association. An up-to-date copy of these bylaws shall be available to any member upon request to the executive secretary. Any part of the bylaws shall be subject to review and amendment by the membership at any annual business meeting session of the Association ~~and may be changed by a majority vote of those attending.~~

ELECTIONS

19. The names of all candidates for Council, and nominating committee shall be placed on the annual mail ballot. The annual ballot shall be mailed to the full voting membership of the Association at least six weeks before the annual meeting. No vote received after the due date specified on the ballot shall be valid. Election shall be by plurality of the votes cast. The votes shall be counted and checked in such a manner as the nominating committee shall prescribe and shall be sealed in a box and deposited with the executive secretary for at least one year. The results of the election shall be announced at the business meeting and in the publications of the Association. In case of a tie vote, the choice among the tied candidates shall be made by the business meeting.

BYLAWS DUES

1. The dues of members of the Association shall be fixed by the Council. Any changes shall be subject to a concurring vote by the members. Separate dues rates for voting members (individual members, student members, institutional members, life members, and memberships in a sustaining category) may be so fixed, as may non-voting members' dues (library memberships).

Membership coincides with the calendar year. Two membership renewal notices shall be sent, the first on January 1 and the second (final) on February 1. Members who have not paid their dues by March 1 shall be deemed delinquent and dropped from the rolls after due notice from the executive secretary.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

2. The president shall direct and coordinate the affairs of the Association.

continued on next page

The president shall preside at all business meetings of the Association and of the Council and shall perform such duties as may be directed by the Council.

3. The vice-president shall perform the duties of the president in case the president is absent or incapacitated, and, in case of a vacancy in the presidency, the vice-president shall assume that office and hold it for the remainder of the term.
4. The executive secretary shall keep the minutes of the Association and of the Council, prepare and mail notices, present at each annual meeting a report on the activities of the Association, and perform such other duties as may be directed by the Council. In the absence of the president and vice-president, the executive secretary shall preside. The executive secretary shall have the custody of and preserve the corporate seal of the Association and shall affix the seal under the direction of the president and Council.
5. The executive secretary shall have the custody of all the monies belonging to the Association and shall pay them out only upon the authorization of the Council. The executive secretary may be required by the Council to give bond for the faithful performance of his or her duty in such sum as it shall determine. The executive secretary shall keep an account of all *funds*, receipts and payments and shall report thereon in full to the Association at each annual meeting and to the Council whenever so ordered. The executive secretary shall also maintain the membership roll.
6. The president, vice-president, and executive secretary constitute an executive committee which shall approve all investments, prepare a budget for submission to the Council, and make routine decisions when it is inexpedient to poll the full Council. *If such decisions are made via telephone or other electronic communication, a written statement of the decisions must be sent within ten days to all members of the Council.* A poll of all Council members shall be made upon the request of any Council member.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

7. There shall be a nominating committee composed of six members, three of whom are elected by the members on each annual mail ballot from a slate of not less than five nor more than

seven candidates proposed by the Council, in addition to nominations by petition. Members shall vote for three candidates and the three candidates receiving the greater number of votes shall be elected. Members of the nominating committee shall serve for two years until their successors are announced at the annual meeting of the Association immediately following the election.

The nominating committee shall consult the membership for suggestions, shall make nominations for vice-president and Council, shall obtain the consent of nominees (including any nominated by petition), and shall collect biographical information and statements of purpose from all candidates for office who wish to submit them, and promulgate this information to the membership with the mail ballot.

The nominating committee shall convene immediately after the announcements of new members elected to the committee and elect its own chairperson.

ELECTIONS

8. The nominating committee, in making its annual mail ballot nominations, shall nominate one or more persons for the office of vice-president and shall nominate two or more persons for each prospective vacancy on the Council. In years where a single Council seat is to be filled, the candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected.

The nominating committee (or, in the case of nominees for the nominating committee, the Council) shall also accept nominations made by petitions carrying in each case the signatures of twenty or more members of the Association in good standing and indicating in each case the particular office for which the nomination is intended. Nominations by petition must be in the hands of the nominating committee at least three months before the annual meeting.

COMMITTEES

9. The standing committees of the Association, except for the Nominating Committee, shall be appointed by the president for specified terms. In addition to the standing committees, the president may appoint such ad hoc committees as may be necessary from time to time.

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

10. *The Council may authorize affiliate status for state and regional oral history organizations and other organizations who support the objectives of the Association. The Council may develop guidelines for such status, including unique dues for joint memberships. However, no agreements with other organizations may be in conflict with the Association's constitution and bylaws. The Association shall not assume any legal responsibility nor incur any debt or other liability on account of the authorization of affiliate status without approval of the membership.*

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

11. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the Association except as otherwise provided for in the constitution, bylaws, and special rules of the Association.

INDEMNIFICATION

12. *To the full extent permitted by the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law of New York, the Association may indemnify any person who is or was a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that he is or was a member, directory officer, employee or agent of the Association, or is or was serving at the request of the Association, as a member, director, officer, or employee, against expenses, including attorney's fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding.*



Book Notices

The J.D. Somerville Collection at the Mortlock Library in Adelaide, Australia, now has high quality field equipment for long-term loan to persons conducting "country-based" oral history projects. Borrowers receive training on how to use the equipment and must reimburse the library if the equipment is lost or badly damaged. A transcribing machine with foot pedal is also available for loan. In the June 1991 issue of the newsletter of the South Australian Branch of the Oral History Association of Australia, "Word of Mouth," **Beth Robertson** notes that the loan service is time consuming but well worth it because it improves the quality, "both technical and substantial, of the recordings subsequently donated to the collection." Robertson is Oral History Officer at the Mortlock Library as well as being editor of "Word of Mouth" and this year's president of the South Australian Branch of the OHA of Australia.



Cold Fusion Documented

The controversial Cold Fusion experiment wars have been documented through oral history. An archive, compiled during the recent scientific controversy, is now available for use. It includes 50 tape-recorded interviews with researchers, research administrators, public information representatives, and journalists involved with cold fusion. The archive was created as a resource for historians, sociologists and others, with the support of the National Science Foundation. To receive a finding aid, which includes a basic chronology of cold fusion events and background material on cold fusion and the archive, contact Bruce Lewenstein, Program on Science, Technology and Society, 632 Clark Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; 607/255-3810. To use the archive, contact Elaine Engst, Department of Manuscripts and University Archives, Olin Library, Cornell; 607/255-3530.

The Black Women Oral History Project, 10 volumes, and **Guide to the Transcripts**. Meckler Publishing, 1991. Edited by Ruth Hill.

A major oral history project on the life histories of 72 elderly black women documenting their work in their communities, in civic organizations and in professions. Their occupations range from secretaries to maids to journalists to performers and physicians. The guide includes brief biographies of the women, descriptions of their interviews, notations of relevant resource materials on each subject, and a short index to the transcripts.

Capozzoli, Mary Jane. **Three Generations of Italian American Women in Nassau County, 1925-1981**. Garland Publishing Co., 1991.

Part of a series on European immigrants and American society, this book is based in part on 94 interviews with Italian American and 20 interviews with non-Italian women in Nassau County. Identifying a definite, gradual trend toward assimilation, the book focuses on issues of women's work, education, religion, sexual morality, leisure and household activities, and familism.

Cows Are Freaky When They Look at You: An Oral History of the Kaw Valley Hemp Pickers. Watermark Press, 1991. Edited by David Ohle and others.

Interviews with former marijuana harvesters around Lawrence, Kansas, during the 1960s and 1970s.

Dallek, Robert. **Lone Star Rising: Lyndon B. Johnson and his Times, 1908-1960**. Oxford University Press, 1991.

Dallek has had more access to papers in the LBJ library than past biographers, and his work reflects detailed research. This is the first of two volumes and offers an interesting contrast to Robert Caro's biography of LBJ, which did not use as many oral history interviews.

Feng, Jicai. **Voices from the Whirlwind: An Oral History of the Cultural Revolution**. Pantheon, 1991.

Reminiscences of 14 Chinese, from Red Guards, to local officials, to students.

Formisano, Ronald P. **Boston Against Busing: Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the 1960s and 1970s**. University of North Carolina Press, 1991.

Focuses on the white antibusing groups during Boston's busing crisis.

Grundy, Pamela (text), and Ken Elins (photos). **You Always Think of Home: A Portrait of Clay County, Georgia**. University of Georgia Press, 1991.

A regional portrait and collective memoir consisting of excerpts from interviews with residents.

Havard, Virginia (ed.). **Ex-Prisoners of War...by Word of Mouth**. Lufkin High School, Lufkin, Texas, 1991.

This little volume is a collection of memoirs drawn from oral histories compiled by high school English students.

Holloran, Peter C. **Boston's Wayward Children: Social Services for Homeless Children, 1830-1930**. Fairleigh Dickinson Univ. Press, 1989.

A history of the origin and development of the American social welfare system through a study of homeless children and their families, including old and new archival and oral history materials on immigrant families, foster children, charitable institutions for non-delinquent children and child welfare records in New England.

Kinzer, Stephen. **Blood of Brothers: Life and War in Nicaragua**. Putnam, 1991.

Balanced assessment of the events which led to the fall of the Somoza regime in 1979, based on interviews with members of the Somoza, Sandinista, and contra hierarchies.

Krause, Corinne Azen. **Grandmothers, Mothers, and Daughters: Oral Histories of Three Generations of Ethnic American Women**. Twayne Publishing, 1991.

Eighteen women, representing six families from three ethnic groups--Jews, Slavs, and Italians--in the Pittsburgh area tell their life stories, reflecting both generational patterns and great variety of experience.

Minds Stayed on Freedom: The Civil Rights Struggle in the Rural South; An Oral History, by Youth of the Rural Organizing and Cultural Center. Westview Press, 1991. Eighth and ninth graders in Holmes County, Mississippi, interviewed former Civil rights workers on the grassroots aspect of the civil rights movement.

Morgan, William D., and Charles Stuart Kennedy. **The U.S. Consul at Work**. Greenwood Press, 1991.

This is the first publication to come out of the Foreign Affairs Oral History Program of Georgetown University.

Book Notices

continued from page 1

Designed to show from the inside the activities and viewpoints of consular officers, it will be used as a text in training new consular officers.

Schwartz, Karen. What You Can Do for Your Country: An Oral History of the Peace Corps. Morrow, 1991.

First-hand accounts of Peace Corps experiences from the 1960s to the present. Views represent the complexity of the PC as more than an elite corps of rugged, egalitarian idealists doing good all over the world. Their stories include successes and problems, such as coping with meaningless assignments, being used as instruments of foreign policy or capitalism, and AIDS.

Tamura, Linda. An Oral History of the Japanese-American Community of Hood River, Oregon, 1992.

Based on interviews with first-generation families from Japan who settled in rural Oregon.

Film/Video

The Deming of America. Produced by Priscilla Petty.

A biographical tribute to the American industrial management theorist who was largely responsible for the industrial boom in Japan.

Miss Amy and Miss May. Produced by Phase 3 Productions, distributed by Women Make Movies, 1990.

An unusual format combines interviews with these two Jamaican social activists with dramatized scenes from their youth. Chronicles the friendship between these women from different social and racial backgrounds as they strive to improve the lives of Jamaican women.

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

Address membership, change of address, subscription and delivery inquiries to: Richard Cándida 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, P.O. Box 97271, Baylor University, Waco, Texas 76798-7271, or phone (817) 755-3437.

Copyright 1991 Oral History Association, Incorporated

Other Faces, Other Lives: Asian Americans in Idaho. Produced by Alan Lifton, distributed by University of Idaho Library, 60 minutes.

Based on interviews with Japanese, Chinese and Filipino families throughout the state, this video focuses on topics ranging from WWII internment to feelings about intermarriage. The population of Idaho was at one time one-fourth Chinese, and this documentary was made by the Palouse Asian American Association to remedy their neglected history.

Ribbons of the Osage: The Art and Life of Georgeann Robinson.

Produced by Scott Swearingen, distributed by Full Circle Communications, Tulsa, OK. color.

From the Native American Masters Video Series, this is a portrait of an Osage woman who makes ribbons for ceremonial dances.

Songs of Wool: Vena Tipton's

Hooked Rugs. Produced and distributed by Cathey Edwards Productions, Tulsa, OK, color, 18 minutes.

An intimate portrait of a woman's work in which she has literally woven the story of her life experiences. Through interviews she describes the harshness of her life and her determination to create beauty in spite of the harshness.

Trouble Behind. Produced by Robby

Henson, distributed by California Newsreel, 54 minutes.

This is the story of racial conflict in Kentucky. It is based on interviews which have been used in ways which have stirred some controversy.

Waldine. Produced by Marlene

Richardson. Distributed by KLRN public television, San Antonio, TX.

Portrait of a sculptor based on oral history interviews.

Ethnography. The book's beginnings date back to the early 1970s when Bernard began working with Salinas to write the Otomí language of Nāhñu. Bernard developed a word processing system which allowed Salinas to type in the characters of his language. The book he wrote is one of the first of its kind, an ethnography from the native's point of view.

Bernard points out that books like *A Native Ethnography* offer a forum for people to tell their own stories while contributing to scholarly research. "In the book, Jesús brought out aspects of Otomí life that I would never have even thought of asking about," Bernard says.

Bernard also notes that the Columbus Quincentennial is no celebration for linguists, "Since 1492 more than 500 indigenous languages here have vanished. What if we had those languages on tape and stored in some archive? We'd know a lot more about Native Americans than we do now, and that's good. But wouldn't it be even better to actually have the Indians themselves to talk to? We cannot revive those Indian groups, but we *can* help other cultures which are dying out. We don't want to stop at collecting tape which will benefit scholars in the future--we want to help people *now* to preserve their cultures by preserving their languages."

June 28 - July 1, 1992 a Conference on Women Religious and the Social Fabric, sponsored by the History of Women Religious Network, will be held at Marymount College, Tarrytown, New York. One-page proposals for papers with c.v. are due January 10, 1992. Proposals and requests for information to Karen Kennelly, CSJ, 12001 Chalon Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90049; 213/471-9500.

Oral History Association Newsletter
Baylor University, P.O. Box 97271
Waco, Texas 76798-7271

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