



NEWSLETTER

The Advent of Independents: Oral Historians Who Stand Alone

By L. Elisabeth Beattie

Ever since oral history made its mark as a practice that's here to stay, most professionals in the field have worked for such institutions as colleges, universities, libraries, private or public museums or foundations of another sort in order to earn their pay. But increasing numbers of oral historians are also entrepreneurs, striking out on their own to form thriving interviewing enterprises of national repute.

Charles Morrissey, currently Director of the Archives and Oral History Office at Baylor College of Medicine and Oral History Consultant for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, and former Director of the Vermont Historical Society and adjunct professor of history at the University of Vermont, says, "Prior to making my decision to abandon my guaranteed salary, I spent many nights waking up abruptly in a cold sweat wondering if I was being beguiled by a fantasy or actually confronting a realistic prospect that a person could make a living as a self-employed oral history consultant. To my total amazement, once my availability evidenced itself to others, the number of clients seeking help from me as an oral historian became formidable. Seventeen years later, I'm still waiting for the tide to ebb, and it may do so in this sour economy. On the other hand, biomedical research institutions and corporate America, my areas of concentration, are two of several vast frontiers awaiting exploration by oral historians."

Although Morrissey's contractual affiliations continue to be long-term and constant, he admits that independent oral historians must face the fact that there's



Charles
Morrissey

nothing between "yourself and the wicked world in terms of making your own living." He comments, "If you're self-employed, you're so free to apply oral history skills in new and unexplored ways, and a person with competence in oral history linked with a knowledge of regional history has clear opportunities to strike out on his or her own. But self-motivation is crucial. If you lack that, you'll never survive."

Joel Gardner, founder of Philadelphia-based Gardner Associates, agrees, "My success or failure is my own concern," he states, "and so far I've succeeded because before I started my own business, I was experienced in both oral history interviewing and in management skills. I worry, though, about people getting involved who don't have enough background in either area. There's a tremendous market out there, but people must know what they're doing before they take the plunge."

It's been four and a half years since Gardner took the plunge from working for university-based oral history programs, from working in arts management, and from working as a journalist and as a freelance writer to working solely for himself. Contemplating his choice, he voices no regrets.

"After I interviewed the publisher Charles Scribner I realized that oral history was my greatest interest and I decided to take a chance on organizing my own company."

Since no institution-based comprehensive oral history program existed then or now in the Philadelphia area, Gardner started a business that specializes in conducting oral histories for corporations and other organizations. Although management and fundraising constitute a portion of his services, he states that 99 percent of his income derives from newly commissioned oral histories.

"I've been fortunate in that I haven't had to promote my business; most of my new contracts originate as referrals. And all of my clients have renewed my services for more than one year."



Joel
Gardner

Gardner's clients have included such venerable institutions as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Philadelphia Fire Museum, the Union League of Philadelphia and The PEW Charitable Trusts. But his success in landing such contracts derived from knowledge and foresight, not luck.

"My arts management experience en-

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From the President

Like others before me, serving as OHA President has prompted me to reflect upon my years in this Association. From the very beginning I found OHA members friendly and sincerely interested in each new member. The Annual Meetings (my first was in Asheville in 1975) have been informative, yet informal. I was given the impression, and I think it's true, that the Association was, and is, inclusive, not exclusive, and that individuals can make a difference in the Association's present and future.

John Neuenschwander appointed me to my first official OHA position on the Membership Committee. I still appreciate his initial confidence in me. Later, when Anne Ritchie and I were chosen by Cullom Davis to chair the 1984 Annual Meeting, we came to appreciate the dedication and hard work that Cullom, and others before and since, brought to the position of OHA President.

My work in OHA has been influenced by many individuals who served in an array of leadership positions for the Associa-



tion. Individuals have made important differences in the growth and development of OHA. Whether the debate has centered around ethics, theory, method, feminist issues, or the pressing need to make OHA more representative of, and attentive to, our multicultural society, individual leaders within OHA have come forward to make their arguments and to serve the Association with conviction and perseverance.

I appreciate the support I have received from this year's Council, and from Richard Smith, our Executive Secretary. I also

Terry Birdwhistell

want to acknowledge the work of those committee chairs and committee members who have served the Association. Thanks, too, go to those individuals who have willingly shared with me their time and advice during the past year.

My goals as a member of Council and as President have been to strengthen the financial foundation of the Association, to experiment with new avenues for serving our diverse membership, to strive to continue the tradition of excellent annual meetings and to involve as many members as possible in the activities of the Association.

As we both reflect upon our past and plan for the future, let's continue to work together to be inclusive as an Association, to maintain a structure in which individuals can make a difference, to be open to progressive changes, to be willing to experiment with new technologies and new theories and finally to continually celebrate what makes our work challenging and our Association unique, the life stories of individuals from around the world that are shared with us every day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thomas L. Charlton has been named assistant vice president for academic affairs at Baylor University. He continues as director of the Institute for Oral History and as professor of history. Charlton served as OHA president in 1990-91.

Anatoki Ilyashov just received another Fulbright Lectureship to Russia, this time to lecture on oral history for historians at the University in Nizhni Novgorod (formerly Gorki) in spring, 1993. In addition to lecturing, Ilyashov expects to organize oral history community studies.

He is soliciting offers for equipment, such as recorders, tape stock, batteries and cameras. Anyone who can help may contact Ilyashov at: 48 Beacon St., #5R, Boston, MA 02108. Tel: (617) 742-8319.

The *International Yearbook of Oral History and Life Stories* is soliciting oral and life history-based articles for a special issue on "Identity and Migration" to appear in 1993. The volume will focus on new conceptions and representations of identity emerging from contemporary migrations world-wide.

Among the topics are: constructions of cultural identity around class, ethnicity, and gender; around anti-racist and anti-colonial struggles; and around sexual orientation, religion and language. In addition, topics include: the formation of new communities, new concepts of citizenship within multinational states; the dynamics of multiple identities; and the politics of difference and equity.

The *International Yearbook* is a new journal published by Oxford University Press and headquartered in London, with editors based throughout Europe and North America, with links to Australia, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

The final date for submissions is January 31, 1993. Proposals for articles should be sent to volume co-editors: Rina Benmayor, Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College, CUNY, 695 Park Ave., Box 548, New York, N.Y. 10021. Phone: (212) 772-5687. Fax: (212) 772-4348; Andor Skotnes, History Dept., Russel Sage College, Troy, N.Y. 12180. Phone: (518) 270-2021. Fax: (518) 271-4545.

PROJECT NOTES

The Department of History at Mississippi State University has recently completed the John C. Stennis Oral History Project on the life and career of the former Mississippi senator. The collection includes approximately six interviews with many of Stennis' former Senate colleagues, staff members and political contemporaries. Tapes and manuscripts of the interviews are to be housed in MSU's Mitchell Memorial Library. Most of the material will be open for use with no significant restrictions. The Project was made possible by a grant from the Stennis Center for Public Service.

Planning for a new archives building has begun at the University of Connecticut. When completed, the structure will include new offices for the Center for Oral History, now housed in Wood Hall on the Storrs campus. The new facility will permit easier access to collections and will provide space for visiting scholars.

Call for Papers

The 1993 OHA Annual Meeting will be held in Birmingham, Alabama, November 4-7. The general theme of the conference will be "Thirty Years After: American Society and Culture Since 1963." Individual proposals and entire session proposals are welcome, especially on topics relating to race relations, civil rights, immigration, labor history and gender history. However, proposals on all topics relating to oral history work are welcome. Send proposals to Kim Lacy Rogers, 1993 Program Chair, History Department, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013 (717) 245-1521.

INDEPENDENTS

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abled me to analyze why most board arrangements are ineffective, and my ability to devise a realistic plan for what organizations can accomplish based on who their audiences are and on how they can best be served established the basis for my consulting. And although I've learned corporations need convincing that they need oral historians, most CEOs have impressed me with their understanding of what oral histories can accomplish and with the scope of their academic interests."

Gardner has written several corporation-commissioned books based on histories he's conducted, the latest of which is *Seventy-five Years of Good Taste, A History of the Tasty Baking Company*.

He states, "Some of my clients seek me out because they don't want their oral histories to be housed any place but in their own institutions. Usually, university-based programs insist that they, as well as the institution about which they're conducting interviews, serve as a repository."

Gardner retains one salaried employee in an office management position and pays several people to act as part-time consultants.

"There are two things that make my independent status possible," he says. "My wife works and my office manager keeps my life in order."

Like Morrissey, Gardner is an independent consulting success, but both men count on regular contracts or on a second household income in order to justify professional risks.

"By being cautious, I may have missed opportunities to be more profitable," says Morrissey. "I've never rented an office or hired a secretary. Instead, I've built support staff into my interviewing site."

Morrissey's clients now include a family-run food products company in New England, his directorship at Baylor, his consulting work in Bethesda and the Annual Summer Oral History Institute he's conducted for 13 years at Portland State University in Oregon. These contracts provide him a regular income as well as the freedom to pursue additional projects.

"In the past 17 years I've had to do very little selling of my business," says Morrissey. "My interest in doing Vermont history has been deferred, and I've had to travel a lot, but I've always been glad that I sprung loose on my own."

Another individual who sprung loose and captured a pretty fair share of the Washington, D.C.-area oral history market is Phil Cantelon, President of History Associates of Rockville, MD.

"The great thing about being in business for yourself is that you can focus all of

your energy on projects that interest you without being distracted somewhere else."

That "somewhere else" to which Cantelon refers are the additional job requirements of an institutional setting; he founded and directed the Williams College Oral History Program while teaching American history and American civilization at the school.

History Associates conducts histories for organizations, and although its offerings include a wide array of research and writing services, Cantelon says, "There's often an oral history component involved."



Phil
Cantelon

Of the 45 to 50 people Cantelon employs, 10 to 15 percent of those people conduct oral histories. Obviously, History Associates depends on more than oral history contracts in order to survive, but Cantelon's current projects include a history of the telephone company, MCI, for which his company has conducted approximately 70 oral history interviews, and an oral history project for the American Furniture Hall of Fame.

"Initially, there's a big risk in going into business for yourself," says Cantelon, "because you're not established and, with an institution, you're established right away. There's also the headache of dealing with the Internal Revenue Service. But I've been fortunate that since 1981 my business has grown simply by word of mouth, and I find it exciting to be learning a new subject virtually all of the time."

Fern Ingersoll, a former colleague of Morrissey's on the Former Members of Congress Oral History Project and now the director of The Women in Journalism Oral History Project, an endeavor sponsored by the Washington Press Club Foundation, shares Cantelon's enthusiasm, while declaring reservations.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed my work designing and producing this three-phase project interviewing women journalists," she says. "But in spite of the support of my Board of Directors and of a hardworking oral history committee and of continuing Foundation support, I find that when your funding depends on grants, as mine does, I spend more time writing reports and applying for grants than I do interviewing."

Ingersoll, who wrote and received her project grant in the name of the Washing-

ton Press Club Foundation, adds, "We received money for the project's first phase rather quickly. It was much more difficult to obtain funding for the later phases. Depending on grants is difficult, especially when you have a lot of expenses, including the salaries of workers across the country, and when you have to pay for office space. I think it's rather tough sledding in an era in which the economy is depressed."

Fern
Ingersoll



Forty weeks of the year Ingersoll directs her oral history project and she spends 12 weeks annually as the study leader for Smithsonian tours to Southeast Asia.

"This grant isn't my only income," she says, but adds that in the future, when her current project is complete, she might abandon her self-employed oral historian status in favor of finding a situation in which she could spend more time interviewing and less time administrating. "I think what I would probably do is see if there's an organization, such as ROHO (Regional Oral History Office, Berkeley), where I once worked, that needs an interviewer in my area."

Pat Pilling, of Birmingham, Michigan, entered the oral history field 20 years ago as an interviewer for Wayne State University and for the University of Michigan, but started her own business, Share Your Memories, much more recently.

"I'd conducted about 50 interviews for the Birmingham Historical Society and I'd conducted at least that many interviewing workshops when workshop participants started asking me if I would interview their family members, as they were uncomfortable doing so," she says. "That's how I started my business, which in the past several years has expanded to producing memory books."



Pat
Pilling

Pilling's books, based on one-to six-hour interviews, include the transcribed, edited interviews; illustrations consisting of professionally screened and imprinted family

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE 1992 ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 15-18, 1992

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Kathleen M. Blee is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Kentucky where she has also served as Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences and Director of Women's Studies. A graduate of Indiana University, she received her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in sociology from the University of Wisconsin where she began research on radical protests. Her examination of the role of women in extreme right-wing groups led to her book, *Women of the Klan: Racism and Gender in the 1920's*. For her book she conducted oral interviews with former Klan members and their relatives in Indiana. Blee has also been very active in the area of Appalachian studies. She is presently researching nineteenth century feuds in eastern Kentucky.

Straughton Lynd is an attorney with Northeast Ohio Legal Services. He received his Ph.D. in history from Columbia University and a law degree from the University of Chicago. In the late 1960s he became involved in working with rank-and-file union workers, especially in the steel industry. Along with his spouse, attorney Alice Lynd, he has done numerous interviews with workers which were published as *Rank and File: Personal Histories by Working Class Organizers*. Recently, Lynd has been working with retiree groups from LTV and General Fireproofing to protect their pensions.

George C. Wright is Vice Provost and Mastin Gentry White Professor of Southern History at The University of Texas at Austin. He received B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Kentucky and a Ph.D. in history from Duke University in 1977. He is the author of three books and numerous articles on the history of race relations, which utilize oral history research. One of his most recent books is *Racial Violence in Kentucky, 1865-1940: Lynchings, Mob Rule, and "Legal Lynchings."* Among his varied responsibilities as Vice Provost, Wright is devoting particular attention to undergraduate teaching and curriculum issues, including multicultural education at The University of Texas at Austin. He is the recipient of numerous teaching awards including the prestigious 1990 Friar Society Award for Teaching Excellence.

CLEVELAND

On America's North Coast

SPECIAL EVENTS

"STRUGGLES IN STEEL: A History of African-American Steelworkers"

Award-winning filmmaker Tony Buba and ex-steelworker Raymond Henderson will present and discuss excerpts from their new documentary on African-Americans who worked in the steel industry from 1875 to the present. The documentary uses oral history interviews to describe the migration of blacks to urban, industrial centers; strike-breaking; union organizing; racism in hiring and promotion; the civil rights movement of the 1960s; and the decline of the steel industry and its effect on the black community.

Buba, an independent filmmaker, has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim and Rockefeller Foundations. His work includes personal documentaries about life in his hometown of Braddock, Pennsylvania, and the feature film, "Lighting Over Braddock," which has been widely shown in the United States and Europe.

Henderson worked in the steel mills for 18 years, and served as union steward. He is a community activist and former president of a local chapter of the NAACP.

ORAL HISTORY IN OHIO (OHIO)/OHA OPEN HOUSE

Please join Oral History in Ohio (OHIO) and OHA members on the Mezzanine Level near the Registration Desk between 11:30 am and 12:45 pm on Thursday, October 15 for an Open House to welcome conference participants and new OHA members. The Open House is made possible through the generosity of Ohio University's School of Telecommunication and Oral History in Ohio (OHIO).

PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION

Everyone attending the conference is invited to join the officers of OHA for a

reception in the Ambassador Ballroom immediately prior to Thursday evening's dinner session.

EXHIBITS

Publishers and oral history programs will be exhibiting books and other oral history-related materials on the Mezzanine Level from Thursday morning until mid-day Saturday. Several books authored by featured speakers and other presenters at the conference will be on display. Please take the opportunity to browse through this area.

SATURDAY OFF-SITE SESSIONS

Ethnic Cleveland

Beginning with lunch at Miracle's Restaurant, a neighborhood deli, this tour will take you through Cleveland's Tremont and Near West Side neighborhoods. Following a visit to St. Theodosius Russian Orthodox and Plymouth Congregational Churches, the tour moves to the Carnegie-West Library where Edward Miggins, Director of the Greater Cleveland Oral History and Community Studies Center, will lead a discussion of why and how to do community-based oral histories. The tour also includes the showing of a documentary on Cleveland's Puerto Rican community, a visit to the neighborhood, and a demonstration of oral history theatre at St. Patrick's auditorium.

The University Circle

After lunch at Miracle's Restaurant, a neighborhood deli, this session will introduce you to the impressive array of museums and university offerings at Cleveland's University Circle. Stops include the Western Reserve Historical Society, where historian and archivist John Grabowski will discuss the programs of its oral history archives, the Cleveland

Oral History Association



**1992 Annual Meeting
Cleveland, Ohio
October 15-18, 1992**

John Quinn

Museum of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the campus of Case-Western Reserve University.

Steel Town

A 90-minute bus trip, featuring a box lunch and commentary of the region's industrial past by Donna DeBlasio, will take this session to an area once described as "America's Ruhr Valley." Your destination is the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor, a memorable, post-modern structure featuring exhibits and collections focusing on the industrial, labor, urban and ethnic heritage of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley. David T. Wilson, curator of the Youngstown Center, will lead a panel discussion featuring Youngstown-area labor leaders whose interviews are in the Center's archives.

Each off-site session is limited to 42 persons and requires preregistration. The fee for each tour is \$25. Reservations for tours may be made by marking the appropriate slot on the preregistration form.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Stouffer Tower City Plaza Hotel, conference headquarters, is in the heart of downtown Cleveland adjacent to the Tower City Center complex. Tower City Center, renovated and reopened in the spring of 1990, is an exciting blend of shopping and fine and casual dining (120 specialty shops and stores on The Avenue), entertainment (an eleven-screen cinema), and contemporary office space, surrounding a completely modernized commuter rail station.

Also near the Stouffer Hotel is Cleveland's historic riverfront, commonly called the Flats. This area along the Cuyahoga River is the site of many fine restaurants and a vibrant nightlife.

The Cleveland Museum of Art, located in University Circle, just 10 minutes from downtown, is one of the nation's top museums and houses one of the world's most impressive art collections. Five hundred acre University Circle has one of the largest concentrations of cultural attractions and institutions in the United States. Other fine museums in the Circle area include: the Museum of Natural History, the Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum, the Western Reserve Historical Society, the Health Education Museum and the Cleveland Children's Museum.

Cleveland's 524,600 residents make it the 22nd largest city in the U.S. The average temperature for October/November is 48 degrees. Cleveland is located in the Eastern Standard Time zone and observes Daylight Savings time from the first Saturday in April until the last Saturday in October.



Longtime golf great, Gene Sarazen, center, autographs his official United States Golf Association oral history memoir at the May 16 opening festivities of the USGA Golf House exhibition, "Gene Sarazen: A Champion's Story." Looking on are Thomas W. Chisholm, Chair of the USGA Museum and Library Committee, and Alice M. Kendrick, USGA Oral Historian.

As custodian of the game's history in the United States, the USGA maintains a Museum and Library at Golf House, adjacent to its headquarters in Far Hills, NJ. The Library, which contains more than 8,000 volumes, is the largest collection in the world dedicated solely to golf.

The oral history collection was established two years ago in preparation for the 100th anniversary of the USGA in 1994. The Sarazen exhibit, spanning the years of his personal achievements, can be seen through November 1.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is initiating a scholars-in-residence program, beginning in May, 1993, to promote the interpretation of Pennsylvania history, to encourage research drawing upon the Commission's documentary and material resources and to develop relationships between scholars and Commission staff. Awards will be made for a period of four to 12 consecutive weeks, between May 1, 1993, and April 30, 1994, at the rate of \$1,200 per month. Scholars selected will be in residence at one of the PHMC facilities that corresponds to their own research interests and needs. While the terms of residency are negotiable, it is expected that scholars will engage in collegial relationships with agency staff and share their research as appropriate.

Applicants are encouraged to conceive of research topics as broadly as possible, and it is not required that research be limited to materials in PHMC archival or museum collections. Particular consideration, however, will be given to proposals that address topics relevant to the broad, interpretive themes addressed by the Commission's programs, including, but not

limited to, Pennsylvania's tradition of religious and political toleration, colonial life, rural and agricultural life, military history, the development of ethnic communities and ethnic relations within the state, industrial and labor history, the history of communal societies, architectural history and the history of public policy. Proposals that address the agency's current programmatic initiatives in African-American history, industrial history (including the history of labor, business and technology), and social history broadly defined are especially encouraged. Projects that are likely to result in widespread dissemination of research through publications, public lectures and other means will also be given particular consideration.

The program is open to college- and university-affiliated scholars, including graduate students who have completed all degree requirements except the dissertation; independent researchers; and public history professionals. For further information and an application form, contact the Division of History, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Box 1026, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108; (717) 787-3034. The application deadline is January 25, 1993.

INDEPENDENTS

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photographs; such memorabilia as baptismal, graduation and marriage certificates; family charts rendered in Pilling's own calligraphy; maps; the signed oral history release forms and a preface and an introduction written by Pilling. These professionally-bound books take about a year to produce, and Pilling receives \$1,500 to \$10,000 for her efforts. She charges \$65 an hour for taped interviews.

Pilling comments, "When people ask why my oral histories cost what they do when anyone can turn on a tape recorder and ask questions, I respond by asking, 'Can you cook?' They always say, 'Of course.' Then I ask, 'But can you make a gourmet meal?' The analogy always stops them short and they see the value of professional expertise."

Pilling is particularly excited about her new interest in interviewing children at various stages of their development. "It's one thing to ask an 80 year-old to reflect on her life," she says. "It's quite another to record that life at various ages to capture comments on events as they occur as well as to trace evolving viewpoints." But despite the price of expertise, and despite Pilling's steady stream of clients, she says she couldn't survive if her company were her total means of support. Family oral historians such as Pilling have long been attacked by some institution-affiliated oral historians as stepchildren, as amateurs liable to taint the reputations of professionals. But in the past decade or so, such knowledgeable oral historians as Pilling and the other independent historians mentioned above have pioneered their own oral history concerns, and, in doing so, have buried dying prejudices.

"The concern used to be that independent oral historians in general and family oral historians in particular might not be educated in their topics or their techniques, and that too many untrained practitioners could destroy serious oral historians' reputations," says Morrissey. "But today people's credentials precede them, so it's fairly easy to determine who's legitimate and who's not."

Perhaps, too, the growing entrepreneurial trend in oral history signals an era in which oral historians no longer feel obliged to justify or defend oral history either as a practice or as a technique. Quality may be rapidly becoming an assumed trait of the professional interviewer, not an entity irrevocably bound to only a few institutions or organizations. Indeed, oral historians secure in their purpose and their technique may now feel free to concentrate on creative methods of expanding the role of oral history itself.

CALLS FOR PAPERS/ PROPOSALS

The New England Studies Association Annual Conference: "The Cultures of Technology: Science, Media and the Arts," April 30 - May 2, 1993, Brandeis University. NESA invites proposals for panels, papers, roundtable discussions, teaching and curriculum workshops for secondary and university faculty, performances, and alternative methods of presentation, with a broad, interdisciplinary focus. Send abstract of 300-500 words to Lois Rudnick, Director, American Studies Program, University of Massachusetts/Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125. Proposals Deadline: January 25, 1993.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission announces its sponsorship of the Sixteenth Annual Conference on Black History in Pennsylvania. The conference will be held in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, in May of 1993. The theme of the conference is "African Americans on the Move."

The PHMC seeks proposals for individual papers and full sessions dealing with the broad issue of African American migration. Proposals can address historical or contemporary issues; they should relate to Pennsylvania History and Society; and they should be accessible to a diverse, general audience. 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, Pennsylvania 17108.

Limited funds may be available to support the travel expenses of participants without institutional affiliations or whose institutions cannot support travel.

The CENTROL DE ESTUDIOS PUERTORRIQUENOS at Hunter College, CUNY, has been selected as the site of a Rockefeller Foundation Resident Fellowships in the Humanities Program. The Centro will host two full-time scholars each year, from 1993-94 through 1995-96.

Rockefeller fellows will join Centro scholars in advancing comparative critical analyses of the following themes: 1993-94: Cultural Rights and Citizenship; 1994-95: Histories and Discourses of Group Poverty; 1995-96: The Cultural Politics of Education.

Our major concern is to further the understanding of how claims for social equity and cultural rights are asserted within disenfranchised cultural communities. How do demands for cultural

equity, historically and at the present moment, challenge or otherwise engage hegemonic cultural theories, discourses and national policies?

The Centro invites applications from scholars examining these issues in a broad array of cultural communities within North America, Latin American, Caribbean and Western European contexts.

The Centro is the principal U.S. institute for research on the Puerto Rican experience. It offers visiting fellows a collective, interdisciplinary and comparative structure for work. It is linked to a wide network of Latino and other research institutions in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and provides fellows with an opportunity to draw on the unique resources of the New York area.

For further information contact program co-directors: Dr. Rina Benmayor and Dr. Antonio Lauria, Centro de Estudios Puertorriquenos, Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, Box 548, New York, NY 10021 (212) 772-5687. The deadline for 1993-94 applications will be January 15, 1993.

The 1993 annual meeting of the Social Science History Association will be held on November 4-7 in Baltimore, MD. Please submit proposals for panels and papers by February 15, 1993. Contact program co-chairs Eileen L. McDonagh, Department of Political Science, Meserve Hall 303, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115. Phone (617) 495-8140; FAX (617) 495-8422; Bitnet EMCD@NUHUB; or, Philip J. Ethington, Department of History, Boston University, 226 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215. Phone (617) 353-2551; FAX (617) 353-2556.

The annual Midwest Journalism History Conference calls for papers on any communication history topic for its meeting April 23-24, 1993, at the University of Iowa. The deadline is February 1, 1993. Special themes will be World War II-era women journalists and the federal FOI Act. For information, contact Jeffery A. Smith, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242; (319) 335-5826.

The NATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION is now accepting proposals for the spring national conference March 31-April 3, 1993, in downtown San Francisco, California. This national conference will feature papers, discussions, workshops and symposia in all social science disciplines. Please send your proposal along with a 25-word abstract to NSSA San Francisco Meeting, 2020 Hills Lake Dr., El Cajon, CA 92020-1018, or phone the association office at (619) 448-4709.

The NATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION is now accepting proposals for its fall national conference November 11-14, 1992, at the Royal Plaza Hotel in the Disneyworld complex in Orlando, Florida. This national conference will feature papers, discussions, workshops and symposia in all social science disciplines. Please send your proposal along with a 25-word abstract to NSSA Orlando Meeting, 2020 Hills Lake Dr., El Cajon, CA 92029-1018, or phone the Association office at (619) 448-4709.

CALL FOR FILMS AND VIDEOS

The UCLA Film & Folklore Association invites film abstracts on contemporary folklife and popular culture for the 1993 VITAS Film Festival, to be held February 20, 1993. Works must have been released no earlier than 1989. Send a one-page synopsis by Monday, September 27, 1992; include information on format, running time, B&W or colors, etc. A selection of films for preview will be made and filmmakers will be invited to send their films by Friday, October 15, 1992. Final judging will take place by the end of November. Synopses should be mailed to the Folklore and Mythology Center, 1037 GSM-Library Wing, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024; (310) 825-4242.

BIRMINGHAM '93

I am compiling a list of individuals who might review books for The Oral History Review. If you are interested in reviewing for the journal, please send a resume and a short description of your areas of expertise to me at the following address: Teresa Barnett, UCLA Oral History Program, 136 Powell Library, 405 S. Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024-1575.

Reviewers should know something about oral history methodology and be able to write clear, readable academic prose. They need not, however, have any previous experience reviewing for scholarly journals. I am particularly interested in hearing from scholars with an interest in theoretical issues related to oral history. I would also encourage graduate students to consider writing for the Review as a way to add to their resume and/or begin their professional publishing career.

Teresa Barnett, Book Review Editor, Oral History Review.

PUBLICATIONS/FILMS

Trevor Lummis is the author of a six-page explanation of oral history in *Folklore, Cultural Performance and Popular Entertainments: A Communications-Centered Handbook*, edited by Richard Bauman of the Department of Folklore and Anthropology at Indiana University and published by Oxford University Press in 1992. Lummis is one of 37 contributors of short essays to Bauman's collection. He emphasizes that "Giving a voice to the voiceless was a strong impulse in the development of oral history," and urges that tapes be saved as original sources because typescripts, however accurate, do not retain the distinctive traits of oral communication. "Both the oral and the aural qualities of the historical source may be thought of as part of its distinguishing feature."

Based in London, England, Lummis views the modern development of oral history under Allan Nevins at Columbia University as ironic because Nevins solicited prominent individuals for reminiscences, not "ordinary people," representing ethnic minorities and the economically underprivileged. "Although modern American oral history started as a study of elites," Lummis writes, "It soon returned to its roots and spread in the 1960s as a record of nonelite groups. And although elite groups are still researched, the study of nonelites is now central to oral history throughout the world."

"Listening to the People" is an unsigned article in the July, 1992, issue of OREGON HUMANITIES on oral histories being recorded about the Hispanic experience in Oregon. Phase one of this project entails 30 interviews with Mexican-Americans in six Oregon communities; phase two will obtain 20 more interviews with Hispanic Oregon-

ians from other countries in Central and South America. A conference on Hispanic residents of the Pacific Northwest, involving participants from Idaho, Washington and Oregon, is being planned for the fall of 1993. For information please query the Oregon Council for the Humanities, 812 SW Washington Street, Suite 225, Portland, Oregon 97205.

Involving college students in researching the history of World War II is described by Werner E. Braatz and Virginia G. Crane, both members of the history department at the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh, in "Ordinary People in Oshkosh, Wisconsin: Videotaped Interviews and the Study of World War Two," in *Midwest Review: A Journal of the History and Culture of the Missouri Valley*, Volume XIII, 1991. Their students interviewed Holocaust survivors, war brides, German and American soldiers and others with memories of the second World War. Student evaluations showed that history majors praised the course but commented on the extraordinary amount of time required to do off-campus interviewing. *Midwest Review* is edited by Kent Blaser and is published by the Social Science Division of Wayne (Nebraska) State University.

WOMEN'S VOICES IN THE SOUTHERN ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM COLLECTION
Kathryn L. Nasstrom, editor
(xv + 178 pp. Indexed. \$17.00)

The Southern Oral History Program and the Southern Historical Collection are pleased to announce the publication of *Women's Voices in the Southern Oral History Program Collection*. The guide to the collection contains abstracts of more than 300 oral history interviews with southern women,

grouped together by topical series, with an introduction describing each series. Along with the abstract, each entry identifies the interviewee and interviewer, date of interview, life dates or flourish dates of the interviewee, the number of pages in the transcript (if one has been prepared) and the number of tapes available. Explanatory notes follow each abstract with information on other material available on the interviewee, reference to related manuscript collections in the Southern Historical Collection, and an indication of any restrictions placed on the use of the interview. An extensive index allows access to the interviews by subject headings. Introductory materials provide an overview of the collection and a discussion of the value of oral history methodology for researching women's lives. *Women's Voices* can be ordered from the Southern Oral History Program, CB# 3195, Hamilton Hall; UNC-Chapel Hill; Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3195; (919) 962-8076.

Documentary films on American composers Eubie Blake, Aaron Copland and John Cage are now available from Vintage Productions, Inc. through co-producer Vivian Perlis, oral historian. The unique films include interviews with the subject, performances and archival footage which give an in-depth portrait of three major figures in the world of American music. The documentaries are suitable for music courses at the college and secondary school level, as well as for acquisition by libraries, oral history collections and music archives.

One hour in length and in color, the films are available on 1/2" VHS format. For descriptive brochure and order form, please write to Vintage Productions, Inc., 139 Goodhill Rd., Weston, Ct. 06883 or telephone (203) 227-1719.

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