

ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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SMITHSONIAN LEADS THE WAY AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES

By Pamela Henson

Although there is no central oral history office at the Smithsonian Institution, oral history methodology is employed by individual scholars to fill a variety of research needs. Oral history collections are to be found in museums, archives, folklife studies, and performing-arts programs. The research areas range from family history to art history to the history of science and technology.

The Anacostia Neighborhood Museum is the Smithsonian's community museum located in the southeastern part of the city. As part of its commitment to community involvement and local history, the research center of the museum has conducted an extensive research project on Anacostia history. This project culminated in the exhibit, "The Anacostia Story: 1608-1930," which opened in March 1977; in the publication of *The Evolution of A Community* and *The Anacostia Story: 1608-1930* (Washington, D. C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1977); and in the formation of the Anacostia Historical Society. Oral history interviews of residents as old as 102 years were an integral part of the program, coordinated by Louise Daniel Hutchinson. The approximately 100 tapes deposited in the research center are transcribed and are available to scholars in the field, subject to restrictions by the interviewees. The interviews cover the period from the 1890's to the 1940's and have been checked for accuracy through the use of manuscript collections. The interviewing will now be continued by the Anacostia Historical Society.

The National Air and Space Museum has collected oral history since 1968. Interviews are conducted by curators as part of their research projects in aviation and aerospace history. Tapes and transcripts are deposited with Lonnie Bunch of the Education Department and

are available to scholars subject to restrictions. Many, but not all, of the tapes are transcribed, and a list of interviewees is available.

In the National Museum of History and Technology, curators in various disciplines conduct and/or collect oral history interviews in conjunction with their research. The largest oral history collection in the museum, which documents the history of computers and other mathematical devices, is located in the Division of Mathematics. Many of the 270 interviews are transcribed, and an alphabetic listing of interviewees is available.

In the Division of Political History, Edith P. Mayo uses oral history techniques in researching the woman-suffrage movement. She has conducted interviews with Mary Mosher Winchell, the niece of Susan B. Anthony, and has acquired interviews with Mable Vernon of the National Women's party.

Other curators in the NMHT have used oral history methodology to document historical archaeology and the history of music. Interviews have also been acquired with manuscript collections documenting business history and history of science and technology. The *Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the National Museum of History and Technology*, available from the Smithsonian Archives, lists these collections.

The Eisenhower Institute for Historical Research of the NMHT is directed by Forrest C. Pogue, an historian who pioneered in the use of oral history during World War II. (See Profile, OHA Newsletter, Summer 1977, Vol. XI, No. 3, page 1.) Pogue is a past president of OHA (1970-71), and has published extensively using oral history, including three volumes on the life of General George C.

SPINDEX: TOOL FOR ORAL HISTORIANS

Nancy Sahli, of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), has an exciting new tool for oral historians engaged in the preparation of finding aids. Sahli's genie is SPINDEX III, a computer program which can assist in a wide range of activities from indexing individual interviews to publishing national guides.

The program was originally developed by the National Archives with funding from the Council on Library Resources, and currently has more than two dozen users, with applications ranging from records management by major corporations to guides to historical source materials, such as NHPRC's *Directory of Archives and Manuscript Repositories* (1978).

The *Directory* itself contains numerous descriptions of oral history programs throughout the country, from ROHO-Berkeley to the Dermatology Foundation of Miami, and includes information on their days and hours of service, acquisition policy, restrictions, and availability of copying facilities, as well as a general description of their entire holdings and supplementary bibliographic materials.

The data were gathered by a survey of more than 11,000 institutions throughout the U.S. After editing and indexing by the staff, information was entered into the system via a CPT tape-typewriter which produced cassettes. These cassettes were converted into magnetic tape data files for processing through the SPINDEX program. The processed data files were then transformed into composed pages, ready for printing, by means of interface programs.

The *Directory*, which will be updated every few years, is the first product from a data base that will grow during the coming years. Cooperative, NHPRC-funded projects in a number of states are surveying historical records holdings, including oral history materials, and will be producing their own SPINDEX data

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

William Moss



In the last issue of the *Newsletter* I wrote about the critical issue of evaluation of oral history. This time I want to deal with the critical issue of economics. At the Colloquium in Asheville we touted oral history as having come of age. With age comes responsibility, and being responsible costs us more and more in terms of money, time and effort. We have set up a new committee on serial and incidental publications to advise the Council on the *Oral History Review* and *Newsletter* and to recommend and monitor the publication of pamphlets and brochures on subjects about which the membership needs to be informed in a responsible and comprehensive way. Coming of age means that more and better articles are being written, and the pressure on the *Oral History Review* to go to a second issue a year is growing. It would take a \$5 increase in dues to support such an issue. Coming of age means that we have to act responsibly to the challenge of evaluation. We are planning a conference of the association's group of evaluators to address this issue head on. While a substantial amount of foundation support is going into this conference, it will also be expensive to the association. The growing complexity of the legal world of copyright and personal rights of those interviewed requires intensive research and translation of complex legal ideas into uniform language that everyone can apply to his own situation. This is expensive and requires time and effort on the part of individual members. It requires an association publication that costs money to produce and distribute. The association must also face squarely the cost of the ambience of its annual Workshops and Colloquia. Our last three meetings were all very expensive, and in anticipation of future costs being even greater, your Council has deemed it prudent to raise the fees for the Workshop and Colloquium (See COUNCIL ACTIONS following). We have to face the fact that we will not be able to afford to have our meetings in elegant or spectacular resort surroundings every year. I hope that the day will never come when we abandon our taste for these things, but we will certainly have to make do with less.

The Council can do its part in respond-

ing to the challenges of the association's maturity and of inflation. We can design meetings and publications to meet emerging needs, and we can search for foundation support, and we can make the necessary adjustments in dues and fees. There are things that the membership can do, also, and I urge every one of you to make some effort to help. The urging carries with it an implicit threat and benefit. We have a dues structure that is absurdly modest. I hope that it will always remain so. Two things, in particular, can be done by the membership to help keep the lid on dues, and even keep the lid on Workshop and Colloquium fees. First, each and every member should try, within the next year, to persuade at least five new members to join the association. Remember that simply informing them doesn't do the job. The lid doesn't stay on unless new money actually comes in. Second, those that live in the vicinity of meeting sites should make every effort to encourage people to come to the Workshops and Colloquia. We are particularly interested in having people attend from places within an easy drive of the meeting site, so that they do not have to pay for lodging. Our normal attendance at Colloquia is in the neighborhood of 200 people. Under our new fee schedule it would take approximately 100 additional registrants for the combined Workshop/Colloquium to finance an additional issue of the *Oral History Review*. The more each of you can bring about increases in membership and Colloquium attendance, the more your association is going to be able to do for you and for the new members you bring in.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

At its February 2-4, 1979, midwinter meeting in San Antonio, Texas, the OHA Council conducted the following business:

- Executive Secretary Marcello submitted the year-end financial report for 1978 (see page 8 for analysis).
- Reaffirmed an earlier decision to hold the OHA 1980 Workshop and Colloquium at scenic Tamarron near Durango, Colorado.
- Voted to set 1979 fees (East Lansing, Michigan) at \$30, Workshop; \$40, Colloquium; and \$50 for both.
- Worked out details for the late-July 1979 conference of OHA evaluators at the Johnson Foundation's Wingspread Center, Racine, Wisconsin.

CALENDAR 1979

- March 17, 1979
Penn. OH/OHMAR Workshop
West Chester College
West Chester, Penn.
- March 22-23, 1979
Colo. Center/OH Workshop
Denver, Colo.
- March 23, 1979
Mid America Inter
Library Services
Kansas City, Mo.
- March 23-25, 1979
Int. Oral History Conf.
University of Essex
Colchester, England
- April 11-14, 1979
Organization of American
Historians
New Orleans, La.
- June 18-29, 1979
Oral History Institute
University of Vermont
Burlington, Vt.
- June 24-30, 1979
American Library Assn.
Dallas, Texas

COUNCIL CREATES PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The OHA Council, at its 1978 annual meeting, appointed a committee on serial and incidental publications to formulate print policies, make recommendations, and work with the editors of association publications in resolving problems. Staffing, content, and financial matters pertaining to printing and distribution remain the responsibilities of the editors. The Council reserves power to overrule decisions on any matter pertaining to its publications.

Named to two-year terms were Bernard Galm, chairman, Enid Douglass, Waddy Moore, Elizabeth Mason, John Neuen-schwander, Ronald Grele, Samuel Hand, Louis Starr, and Flavia Reps. Editors of the *Newsletter* and *Review* and the executive secretary are ex officio members of the committee.

\$ IMPORTANT NOTICE \$

Please notify the executive secretary of change of address. The PO charges OHA 25¢ for each address correction. (See Ex. Secy. column, page 8)

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 14TH NATIONAL COLLOQUIUM

LISTENING ROOM

Plans for a listening room at the 1979 Colloquium at Michigan State University are under way. Several cassette-tape listening stations and slide-tape synchronous displays, all with earphones, will be set up in one of the three exhibit rooms. Members are encouraged to send copies of exemplary and interesting interviews (with transcripts if available) to Maurice Crane of the Voice Library at MSU. Please mark cassettes and transcripts clearly as intended for the "Listening Room, OHA Colloquium, 1979." Maurice and Geneva Wiskemann, in charge of local arrangements, will organize the tapes and transcripts into a collection and will produce a catalog which will be available to members in the listening room. People attending the Colloquium will then be able to review the catalog and select specific items of interest for listening and reading. If you have a slide-tape show available, please let Crane know what is required in the way of display. The collection will need a minimum of 75 to 100 cassettes of at least ten minutes each in order to be worth doing. If it is consistent with your program's policy, the cassettes may be donated to the MSU Voice Library. If this is not permitted, please arrange for the cassettes' return by including a self-addressed, stamped mailer.

EQUIPMENT DISPLAY

Crane is coordinating an effort to induce equipment manufacturers to display their wares. He welcomes suggestions from the membership. Please send him a description of the kind of equipment you would like to see, including the name and address of the manufacturer.

PUBLICATIONS DISPLAY

As in past years, one room will be set aside for display of catalogs, manuals, microform publications and other products or descriptions of oral history work. If you wish to display material please send your requirements as soon as possible to Maurice Crane, Voice Library, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824.

The University of Vermont's fifth Oral History Institute will be held on the Burlington campus June 18-29. Amelia Fry (ROHO) and Charles T. Morrissey (Former Members of Congress) will again instruct. The format will be intensified and compressed into two weeks instead of three as in the past.



With Babies and Banners: Story of the Women's Emergency Brigade. Produced by the Women's Labor History Film Project. Director: Lorraine Gray. Producers: Anne Bohlen, Lyn Goldfarb, Lorraine Gray.

OH DOCUMENTARY WINS INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM

Best documentary, world-wide

With Babies and Banners: Story of the Women's Emergency Brigade, (Newsletter, Fall '78) a forty-five-minute color/black-and-white documentary film produced by Ann Bohlen, Lyn Goldfarb, Lorraine Gray, and the Women's Labor History Film Project of Washington, D.C., has received a nomination for the 51st annual Awards of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Winners will be announced from Los Angeles April 9. In addition, the film recently won the Gold Ducat at the Mannheim International Film Festival in Germany; the Silver Medal at the Nyon International Film Festival, Nyon, Switzerland; and the George Sadoul International Award in Paris for the best documentary world-wide. New Day films, Box 315, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417. Purchase, \$500; rent \$75-\$100; \$60 for one-time classroom use.

Nominees for the annual NEA/OH HARVEY A. KANTOR MEMORIAL AWARD FOR SIGNIFICANT WORK IN ORAL HISTORY (any endeavor using or fostering oral history) should be submitted with supporting data by May 15, to Henry G. Stenberg, Jr., Department of History, Salem State College, Salem, MA 01970.

OH FILM ON TEXAS WOMEN IN LABOR UNIONS

On February 15, 1979, in Austin, Texas, *Talkin' Union*, the first oral history film on working women in Texas, premiered. The sixty-minute, black-and-white film, produced by People's History in Texas, Inc., explores the lives of four women who worked from the 1930's through the 1950's and who became involved in unionization as a response to the conditions they experienced. The women are: Alberta Snid, former pecan sheller active in the 1938 Pecan Shellers Strike of San Antonio; Charlotte Graham, former garment worker and organizer for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) in Dallas; Olivia Rawlston, former president for twelve years of the black local of ILGWU in Dallas; and Andrea Martinez, former garment worker and rank-and-file leader in Laredo ILGWU.

Talkin' Union, made possible by a grant from the Texas Committee for the Humanities (NEH), culminates two years of oral history research by project coordinators Glenn Scott, Maria Flores and Melissa Hield of Austin. Directors are Flores, Scott and Jim Cullers. After April 1, 1979, *Talkin' Union* may be rented in English or Spanish for \$40. (Special rates for low-budget community groups.) People's History in Texas, Inc., 1506 Concordia, Austin, TX 78722.

OH IN HEALTH CARE REACHING EPIDEMIC PROPORTIONS

For more than a decade, health care professionals in the United States have known that oral history is a highly communicable (and very effective) method for documenting their recent history. In fact, several medical oral history efforts were under way when Saul Benison's influential *Tom Rivers: Reflections on a Life in Medicine and Science* was published in 1967, the year OHA was founded. One project has been in operation for twenty years. Since then, projects have sprung up in a variety of medical, mental, and other health-care and life-science fields, inspired in large part by the work of Peter D. Olch and Manfred J. Wasserman of the National Library of Medicine's History of Medicine Division.

Olch said in the January 1969 *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* that about one-fourth of the oral history programs then active in the United States devoted their efforts to the life sciences. Wasserman wrote in the same journal (April '70) that oral history is an essential part of the "... preservation of significant biomedical records [that] is vital if future historians are to understand the medical and social changes of the present and past." The work of Olch and Wasserman both reflected and called for a deep commitment to developing effective research methods for oral history in medicine and to relate its study to a broad concept of use. Some of the most vigorous applications of such methods have come from projects devoted to the histories of medical and nursing schools and health-care centers.

The *Newsletter* reported previously on the Washington University (St. Louis) School of Medicine's Library Archives which has a computerized system of access to its memoirs (Fall '78); interviews with women in medicine at the Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia (Winter and Summer '77), and at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston (Summer '78); and the work of Milton Senn of Yale whose interviews on child-guidance clinics are on deposit at the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Library of Medicine (Fall '78).

Two institutions that have done oral history self-studies include the Rush University School of Medicine in

Chicago and the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. Rochester's videotaped interviews with long-term faculty and associates have been shown at meetings of its medical-history society and its alumni association which helps make possible the videotape production. In the Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, interviews headed by medical-library staff and conducted by faculty members complement an active collection program of departmental and personal papers of retired faculty members. Although many of Bowman Gray's thirty interviews include such technical discussions as often result when professionals question colleagues, a number of sessions deal with the general history of medical practice in Winston-Salem and the rest of northwestern North Carolina. Similar state medical histories were gathered more than ten years ago at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (Oklahoma City) by R. Palmer Howard, director of the history of medicine program there.

Oral history is also being used as a tool to document the unique histories of various medical specialties. Miami dermatologist Victor H. Witten decided over twenty years ago at a convention lecture that recorded interviews should be used to preserve the professional philosophies, more than the scientific contributions, of leading and pioneer dermatologists in this country and abroad. Since then he has compiled 125 personal interviews, including some on videotape, that are transcribed and part of the Dermatology Foundation of Miami's Tape Studio and Library, eventually to go to the National Institutes of Health. Witten stresses the aural value of the interviews which he structures to corroborate each other almost in the manner of round-table discussions. These have proven valuable to University of Miami medical students who gain insights about leaders in the field.

Other societies and institutes that have or plan interview collections can be found in New York, the District of Columbia, Kansas, and California. One project, called the Living History of Anesthesiology, videotapes interviews

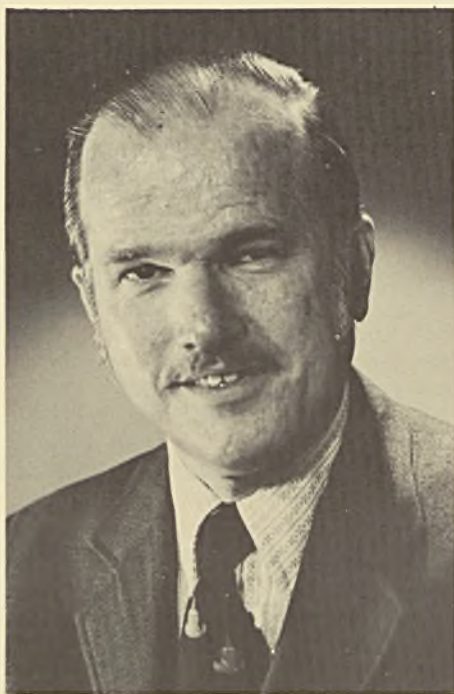
with pioneers in that field from the U.S. and Canada. A committee of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, chaired by John J. Leahy of Wynnwood, Pennsylvania, conducts several interviews a year which are deposited in the society's Wood Library Museum of Anesthesiology in Park Ridge, Illinois.

Leo H. Berman of the Elmcrest Psychiatric Institute in Portland, Connecticut, told of oral history interviews he has been conducting since the early sixties with clients of famous psychoanalysts in *Interaction* (See ... also in print), the journal of the Psychiatric Institute of America. Berman stated, "Oral history ... gives rich material for understanding the actual therapeutic process." He added, "It is true that such material may reflect distortions of the interviewee, but therapists and historians have had to deal with such issues at all times."

Other specialists have also noticed similarities between the methodologies and results of oral history and those of their own disciplines. Theoretical discussions into possible benefits to interviewees involved in the process of "life review" have taken place in articles such as that of Harriet Wrye and Jacqueline Churilla in *Frontiers* (See ... also in print, *Newsletter*, Winter '78); at workshops such as that incorporating oral history into nurses' training held by Patricia Pilling of Wayne State University at the Allen Park, Michigan, Veterans Administration Hospital (*Newsletter*, Spring '78); a symposium on "Oral History and Clinical Medicine" given by the Gerontological Society of San Francisco and led by nursing expert Gwendolyn Safier and Berkeley's Willa Baum (*Newsletter*, Fall '77, p. 8); and in OHA Colloquium addresses by Safier ('77) and Robert Menninger ('74) of the Menninger Foundation, Topeka, Kansas.

In his 1970 article Wasserman noted that "... at no time in the past have the fields of medicine and public health been more intricately involved in the complex changes within society than they are at the present." Consequently, oral historians will continue to examine how life review methods are used in aging and memory studies and how the interviewer-respondent relationship relates to that of therapist-client.

In the meantime, interviews in widespread locations and fields will shed light on previously unforeseen aspects of oral history itself and provide insight into the history as well as the social effects of modern health care.



Peter D. Olch has been an active practitioner of oral history for many years and was present at the birth of the Oral History Association at Lake Arrowhead, California, in 1966. Since that September, Olch has served the association in almost every key position. He was a member of the Executive Council in 1968-69, vice president in 1969-70, and the association's fourth president in 1970-71. He completed the presidential term of Oscar O. Winther who died in office in 1970.

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Olch took the A.B. degree at Pomona College (1951) before earning the M.D. at Johns Hopkins in 1955. Board certification in pathologic anatomy and clinical pathology followed internship and residency, mainly in surgery, at Johns Hopkins, the National Cancer Institute (Bethesda, Md.), King County Hospital (Seattle), and the Clinical Center of the National Institutes of Health. He was a fellow in the Institute of the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, 1965-66.

The physician-historian has been on the staff of the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland, since 1964, first as special assistant to the director (1964-65), then as deputy chief, History of Medicine Division, in September 1966 (after one year at Johns Hopkins). His academic appointments include ongoing lectureships at George Washington University School of Medicine, 1969, and Georgetown University School of Medicine, 1969, both in

PROFILE

PETER D. OLCH

Deputy Chief, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, and pioneer oral historian.

MANFRED J. WASERMAN

Curator of Modern Manuscripts, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, and oral history bibliography compiler.



Manfred J. Wasserman is best known to members of the Oral History Association as the compiler of the two editions of *Bibliography on Oral History* (1971 and 1975). He is presently Curator of Modern Manuscripts, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland, a position he has held since 1965.

A native of Baltimore, he took B.A. and M.A. degrees in history at the University of Maryland following two years of military service. He also holds the M.S. in Library Science from The Catholic University of America and is a doctoral candidate in history at that institution. He was a librarian at Yale University for two years before moving to Bethesda and NLM.

In addition to his two OHA bibliographies, Wasserman has found time to publish articles on medical archives, oral history, and other subjects, in various journals including: *Medical History*, *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, and others. He is also compiler of the *Index to the Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, volumes 1-30, 1946-75 (1977).

Wasserman's current research interests include the history of child health care and the history of public health, both of which are receiving attention in his Ph.D. dissertation.

The OHA is in Manny Wasserman's debt for his excellent bibliographic service and for his ongoing support of oral history research in medicine, both at the NLM and elsewhere.

the history of medicine. Olch has also lectured at Yale College of Medicine, the University of Vermont, the Richmond Academy of Medicine, and before other organizations and professional groups on his research interests in the professionalization of American surgery; medicine on the frontier; and William S. Halstead (1852-1922), surgeon and professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins Medical School who made major contributions to the knowledge of local anesthesia.

Describing himself as a "bibliomaniac, particularly for Western Americana," Olch admits to "a continuing search for some bronzed buffalo chips." Author of more than twenty-five articles on medical history, he is remembered for his "A Dirty Mind Never Sleeps and Other Comments on the Oral History Movement" delivered at the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association in New Orleans in 1970 and published in the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* (1972). OHA Colloquium goers know Pete as an urbane and witty participant in oral history and affairs of the association.

GRANTS

The George Meany Labor Studies Center is the recipient of a \$68,000 grant from NEH to conduct interviews with American labor leaders concerning the merger of the AFL and the CIO in 1955. Alice M. Hoffman (Penn. State) will direct the project from the Labor Studies Center, Silver Spring, Maryland, during the '78-'79 academic year.

The Southwestern Library Association recently received a six-month \$19,687 NEH planning grant to develop a model training program in oral history for librarians in a six-state region and a historical assessment model for communities. Peggy O'Donnell directs the project for SWLA.

Smithsonian

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Marshall, for which he conducted approximately 200 interviews. Pogue is currently working on a fourth volume on Marshall.

The Division of Performing Arts presents the lively arts, and studies their relationships to American culture. It has utilized oral history and folklore methodology in several of its programs.

Since 1974, the Jazz Program of the DPA has administered a jazz oral history project under a contract with the National Endowment for the Arts. The project consists of approximately 90 interviews of older jazz musicians, seeking to document backgrounds, influences, and recollections of colleagues. Interviews are conducted by free-lance interviewers, usually jazz historians, and are coordinated by J. R. Taylor of the Smithsonian. Notable interviewees have included Samm Wooding and Buck Clayton. The interviews are transcribed and are available for research use subject to restrictions. The project will be transferred to another institution in April of this year.

Bernice Reagon, cultural historian in the DPA, has relied on oral tradition and interviews to collect black cultural materials for the African Diaspora Program, which evolved from the Festival of American Folklife held annually on the Mall by the Smithsonian. Reagon is currently finishing a book on the diaspora program which is based partly on these interviews, and these tapes are available to researchers. She will continue to study black cultural materials focusing on the role of music and cultural values in the civil-rights movement from 1955 to 1968 and will conduct interviews and collect tapes from that era. Based on this work, a conference is planned for January of 1980 which will address the problems of research and analysis of data on the civil-rights movement, especially the oral process.

The Family Folklore Program of the Office of American and Folklife Studies also developed from the Festival of American Folklife. Family stories were collected from approximately 2,000 festival participants from 1974 to 1977. These tapes are indexed and will be available for research use next year. The program focuses on the folklore traditions in family history; and *Family Folklore* (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1976), a guide to doing family histories, has been published. Steven J. Zeitlin and the program staff also conduct workshops on family history around the country under the sponsorship of the Smithsonian National Associates program.

The Archives of American Art has been involved in oral history since 1959. Its extensive collection of over 1,200 interviews includes all members of the American art community: painters, sculptors, printmakers, photographers, designers and craftsmen, as well as critics, dealers, curators and museum directors. Interviews are conducted by collectors from the Archives' field offices located throughout the United States. Many interviews are transcribed and are available for research use with the permission of the interviewee at the Archives' New York office. A *Checklist of the Collection* is available from the Oral History Program Director, Paul Cummings, Archives of American Art, 41 East 65th Street, New York, New York 10021. (See OHA *Newsletter*, Winter 1978, Vol. XII, No. 1, page 7.)

The Smithsonian Archives is the depository for institutional records and the personal papers of scholars. Its oral history project, begun in 1973, seeks to supplement the manuscript holdings by interviewing Smithsonian-related scholars and administrators. The focus is on institutional history and history of science, especially natural history which is the oldest Smithsonian research area. The collection consists of approximately 110 interviews which are transcribed, indexed, and available to researchers in the archives, subject to restrictions placed by the interviewees. A *Guide to the Smithsonian Archives* is available from Pamela Henson, historian for the project.

Further information about any of these programs can be secured by writing to the individual in charge, c/o The Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., 20560.

NOTICE

The Nominating Committee solicits names of candidates for OHA offices. Write: William R. Wyatt, Chairman, OHA Nominating Committee, Western Health Systems, 503½ Sixth Street, Rapid City, SD 57701.

Spindex

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files that will be compatible with the national system. Because of the versatility of SPINDEX, these individual files can be merged into one national master file and yet also can be used to generate products designed specifically for each project's needs. Using the selection features of SPINDEX, the NHPRC could produce a separate guide to oral history materials. Or, a national data base of information on oral history materials could be prepared independently by an organization such as the OHA, in a format compatible with the NHPRC's, and be merged into the NHPRC's file. By simple updating and selection from existing files, new editions and publications can be created in a cost-effective manner.

Because each individual project can create its own data-base design and information requirements, the varieties of applications relating to oral history that could utilize SPINDEX are virtually endless. An oral history program, for example, could produce an indexed guide to its interviews. Or, it could generate chronological listings, either according to interview date or date of subject matter covered. SPINDEX could be used to provide shelf listings of tapes and transcripts or to schedule transcription and tape maintenance. On a regional or national basis, SPINDEX could be used to compile directories of active oral history programs and collections of tapes and transcripts or to produce other publications or listings that would assist in the control or dissemination of information about oral history. It could be used in the transcription process itself to produce cumulative indexes as well as the actual transcript texts.

One SPINDEX project dealing exclusively with oral history materials is directed by Nancy Whistler of the Colorado Center for Oral History at the Denver Public Library.

A SPINDEX User Network (SUN) was organized in October 1978. Information about this organization may be obtained by writing to Ron Watt, LDS Church Historical Department, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84150. Information on SPINDEX acquisition may be obtained from the Planning and Analysis Division (NAA), National Archives, Washington, DC 20408. A SPINDEX III user training course is tentatively planned for late April in Washington, D. C. The week-long seminar is designed for both veteran users and newcomers to the system. Descriptive material on the program and the NHPRC data base as well as information on the training course is available from: Nancy Sahli, Coordinator, Guide Project, NHPRC, Washington, DC 20408.

CAL STATE DOCUMENTS 50's URANIUM BOOM

The Uranium Industry Project interviews at California State University-Fullerton, most of which were conducted by students in the summer of 1970, are considered among the most significant in the program's large collection. The uranium boom of the 1950's, which centered on the Colorado Plateau, a geographically defined region encompassing Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona, was caused by the race for development of atomic power and the resulting need for fissionable materials. It also produced its share of colorful characters.

Not only were Atomic Energy Commission officials there overseeing the program, but private individuals from many different backgrounds came to strike it rich. The project contains interviews with miners, stockbrokers, truckdrivers, lawyers, clerks, store owners, mill hands, heavy-equipment operators, geologists, construction workers, housewives, local government officials, Park and Forestry Service employees, and many others.

Jo-Anne Ely is current director of the project. Ely's involvement in the study dates from an oral history class at Utah State University, but she admits to being bitten by the mining bug in the motherlode country of California which was her backyard as a child. Her master's thesis centered on Charles Steen, one of the most flamboyant figures in the uranium boom.

The project is jointly sponsored by the OHP and the American West Center at the University of Utah with the latter having provided funds for interviewing and transcribing. Both institutions are depositories for the completed interviews and tapes.

AUSTRALIAN OHA EXPERIENCES GROWTH

The Oral History Association of Australia, founded by Jean Teasdale of the University of Western Australia-Crawley, has been in existence some eight months. Already approximately one hundred dues-paying members are spread throughout the country and a regional branch has been formed in South Australia.

A national conference is planned for August in Perth, W.A., and will coincide with the International Conference on Indian Ocean Studies, which also will have a session on oral history. Teasdale's group will be looking toward Australia's bicentennial in 1988 and hopes to experience the same interest and activity that characterized the OHA during the years preceding the U.S. bicentennial.

OHMAR ADOPTS CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OHMAR (Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region) adopted a constitution and by-laws at its annual meeting last November. The nearly three-year-old organization elected Martha Ross (Univ. of Maryland), president; Donald Ritchie (U.S. Senate Historical Office), vice president; Frank Van der Linden (Historical Research Foundation), secretary; and Karen Wickre (Research Center for the Federal Theatre Project), treasurer. Betty Key (Maryland Historical Society) developed the constitution and by-laws for this important regional group. Arlene Barber Sirkin is researching information on incorporation.

At the OHMAR board meeting in December two new seats on the board were authorized: Key to coordinate relations between OHMAR, OHA, and other regional groups; and Pamela Henson (Smithsonian Archives), to coordinate affairs between OHMAR and oral historians in the federal government.

Carl Oblinger (Penn. Hist. and Museum Comm.) and his committee are putting the finishing touches on the spring workshop set for March 17, in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Sara Collins (Arlington County Public Library) is OHMAR's outgoing president.

NATIONAL RECORDS ACT PASSED BY CONGRESS

Congressional passage of the Presidential Records Act last fall ensures continuance of the present structure of the presidential library system. The bill defines presidential records as those documents created or received by the president or his staff to aid the president in the fulfillment of his official duties. It also declares those presidential records created on or after January 20, 1981, to be the property of the United States. Not later than twelve years after the close of an administration all presidential records will be governed by the Freedom of Information Act. The bill directs that vice-presidential records are to be treated in the same manner as presidential records, except that the archivist may enter into an agreement for the deposit of vice-presidential records in a nonfederal archival depository.

BOOK NOTICES

Maryland Manual of Oral History. By Betty McKeever Key. The Maryland Historical Society, 201 W. Monument St., Baltimore, MD 21201, 1979. 47 pp. Methodology and theory.

How to Trace Your Family History. By Bill Linder. (Edison, N.J.: Everest House, 1979. 200 pp. \$6.95) Methods guidebook.

Oral History: An Introduction for Students. By James Hoopes. (Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press, April 1979. \$10 cloth. \$5 paper)

Past Present: Recording Life Stories of Older People. By Sara Jenkins. (Washington: St. Alban's Parish, 1978. 150 pp. \$4.95)

Methods, examination of values. Order: National Council on Aging, 1828 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Folklore for the Time of Your Life. By Elaine S. Katz. (Birmingham, Ala.: Oxmoor House, 1978. 224 pp. Photos. \$9.95) Includes oral history methodology.

Foxfire 5. Ed. by Eliot Wigginton. (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, June 1979. \$12.95 cloth. \$6.95 paper)

The Eighth Day of Creation. By Horace Freeland Judson. (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1979. 600 pp. Index. \$15.95)

Enriched with oral history, tells of the discovery of DNA's double helix.

Island of Hope, Island of Tears: The Great Migration through Ellis Island to America Told by Those Who Made the Passage. By David M. Brownstone, Irene M. Franck, and Douglass L. Brownstone. (New York: Rawson, Wade, May 1979. Photos. \$12.95)

Jewish Responses to Nazi Persecution. By Isaiah Trunk. (New York: Stein and Day, 1979. Illus. Appendix. Index. \$15.95)

Testimonies, sixty-four survivors.

... also in print

"The Human Side of Psychoanalysis: Oral History Portraits." By Leo H. Berman, *Interaction* 1 (Fall 1978), 30-8.

Based on interviews, former clients of pioneer psychoanalysts.

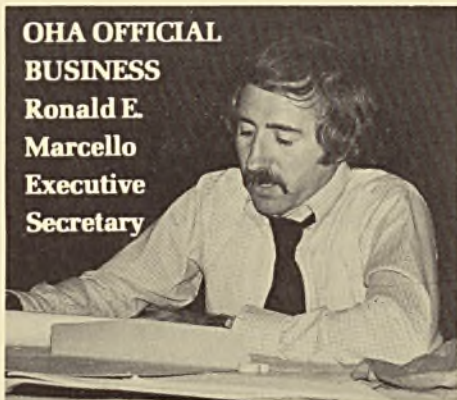
"Just a Young Fella Comin' through the Country: Oral History from the Texas Frontier." By Mabel Aiken Bayer. Ed. by Jane Stopschinski. *The American West* 16 (Jan./Feb. 1979), 14-7, 59.

"Voices of Our Time." By Gwendolyn Safier. *Human Behavior* 7 (May 1978), 51.

"Speaking of History: Oral History in the Classroom." By James A. Harris. *Learning* 7 (Oct. '78), 72-4.

Wausau, Wis., public schools.

**OHA OFFICIAL
BUSINESS
Ronald E.
Marcello
Executive
Secretary**



The recently completed cumulative financial report indicates that OHA operated at a deficit of \$2,000 during 1978. It is necessary, therefore, to examine certain receipts and expenditures to pinpoint the factors responsible for the situation.

OHA's chief source of revenue, membership dues, increased only slightly over 1977, going from \$14,071 to \$14,275. During the same period, publications sales dropped from \$1,450 to \$900.

The principal factors contributing to the deficiency were inflation, an increase in Council expenses, added services to the membership, and a Workshop-Colloquium deficit. To cite a few specific examples, postage costs rose from \$850 in 1977 to \$1,300 in 1978; Council expenses jumped from \$4,700 the previous year to \$7,500 in 1978, due mainly to the longer distances from the members' homes to the meeting site; the 1978 *Membership Directory* added another \$600 to OHA's operating expenses; and expenditures for the Workshop-Colloquium outran receipts by \$1,500. Surprisingly, printing and computer expenses actually decreased; and two of the largest single expenses—the *Review* and the *Newsletter*—showed very insignificant increases over last year.

The treasury will be able to absorb the 1978 deficit without too much difficulty, but the organization obviously cannot af-

ford continued annual deficits of \$2,000. What this means is that OHA must hold the line on services to the membership or face a dues increase in the very near future.

NEWS

The Colorado Center for Oral History, Denver Public Library, has scheduled a two-day workshop for March 22-23. Sessions will deal with copyright laws, specialized projects, establishing projects, grants and funding, interviewing special groups, and examples of using oral history materials. It is hoped that representatives from all states in the region will be in attendance and that this workshop might be a starting point for a Mid-Mountain Regional Oral History Association. Contact Nancy Whistler, Project Director, 1357 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203.

The Illinois Department on Aging originated an oral history project that employed low-income, unemployed, retired senior citizens to gather a grassroots oral history of Central Illinois. Funded by CETA, the six-month project which began in January 1978, was sponsored by Lincoln Land Community College and Danville Junior College. The idea to use "seniors" came from Josephine Oblinger, director of the Illinois Department on Aging. The project not only provided productive work for elderly people but the interviewers believed their advanced years made it easier to relate to the narrators.

After securing CETA funds, Oblinger arranged an intensive training program at Sangamon State University under Cullom Davis. Also directing the project was Kay MacLean, a faculty assistant at the Clayville Rural Life Center. Davis and MacLean met regularly with the interviewers to offer suggestions. Transcripts are deposited with the Illinois State Archives in Springfield and the Department of Aging.

Senior citizens in seventeen suburban towns northwest of Boston participated in an oral history program designed to provide them with a worthwhile activity and at the same time accumulate historical information. The project began at four of seven nutrition sites where elders receive well-balanced and inexpensive lunches.

Conceived by John Pynoos, executive director of the Minuteman Home Care Corporation of Lexington, Massachusetts, and funded by CETA, the project was designed and conducted by Alan Clive, assisted by Lucie Springman. MHCC provides services to persons sixty and over who wish to remain at home rather than in a nursing facility.

The project staff has conducted interviews and assisted other elder-service organizations interested in oral history. Each narrator is given a transcript; and in addition, libraries in Arlington, Bedford, Concord, Maynard, and Woburn, Massachusetts, and Wakefield, New Hampshire, will house the tapes and transcripts.

The Greater Boston Regional Education Center, Massachusetts State Department of Education, has initiated a project: *Voices, Ethnic Discovery Through Oral History*, which began February 1 and will continue into May. Two one-session workshops designed for teachers, curriculum coordinators and community groups will cover the basics of oral history. A five-session course, beginning March 22 and continuing each Thursday for five weeks, on "Oral History in the Classroom," will be taught by Barbara Meyer, Barbara Perry and Ellen Sarkisian. A final workshop, May 10, is designed to share the results of projects and activities. Funded under the Ethnic Heritage Act, ESEA Title IX, the course is free to the public. Graduate credits from Lesley College may be obtained by qualified registrants. Write: Greater Boston Regional Education Center, 54 Rindge Avenue Extension, Cambridge, MA 02140.

Published quarterly: Program for Oral History, Baylor University, Thomas L. Charlton, Editor. Associates: L. Katherine Cook, Adelaide S. Darling, Margaret L. S. Miller, David B. Stricklin, Phillip A. Thompson. Deadlines: Spring, May 1; Summer, August 1; Fall, Nov. 1.

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