



ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume XIV, Number 1

Winter 1980

MAJOR DIRECTORY WILL AID LIBRARIES AND RESEARCHERS

OHA joins MCA and ALA in unique project

The most comprehensive directory of oral history projects, programs, and collections yet attempted is in the planning stage and scheduled to be published in 1981. The new finding aid, encouraged and endorsed by the Council of the Oral History Association, will describe more than 4,000 oral history activities throughout the world.

Microfilming Corporation of America, represented by Vice President Ed Reno, is responsible for gathering data for the new directory. The plan calls for MCA to pull the guide's contents together and handle layout before publication through the American Library Association, represented by publications editor Herbert Bloom. Louis

M. Starr (Columbia U.) is the liaison for OHA. The association will receive a ten-percent royalty.

Soon OHA members will receive a questionnaire from MCA requesting current data on all known oral history work. Oral historians will be urged to participate in this survey and assist in updating directories. The joint project is expected to add much to the association's own 1971 *Oral History in the United States: A Directory*, compiled by Gary Shumway, and the privately-produced *Oral History Collections*, edited by Alan M. Meckler and Ruth McMillin for R. R. Bowker Company in 1975.

MID-ATLANTIC FOLKLORISTS AND ORAL HISTORIANS MEET

A joint meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Folklife Association (MAFA) and Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR) gave both groups an opportunity to comment on their respective research methodologies and projects. This unique conference took place March 7-9 at Douglass College, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

While MAFA and OHMAR held separate business meetings, the joint conference included concurrent sessions with oral historians commenting on folklorists' papers and vice versa. There were also workshop sessions for planners of new oral history projects.

Sessions included "Folk Medicine and the Medical School," "Oral Testimony and the Migratory Worker," "Public-Sector Folklife and Applied Oral History," "The Folklore of Three Mile Island," "Oral History and Folklore of Vietnam Veterans," "Oral History and Community Resistance Movements," "The Folklore of the Deaf," and an interdisciplinary workshop on "Oral History and Folk Cultural Studies: Materials and Methods." Conferees also viewed six

examples of the work of New Jersey Public Television Folklore Films.

W. F. H. Nicolaisen (SUNY—Binghamton) spoke on "Variant, Dialect and Region: An Exploration in the Geography of Tradition" in his keynote address. Thirty-two others took part in the conference organized by David S. Cohen and Howard L. Green (NJ Historical Commission) including Yvonne Milspaw (Penn. State U.-Capitol Campus), president of MAFA, and Donald Ritchie (U.S. Senate Historical Office), president of OHMAR.

SWETERLITSCH RESIGNING *REVIEW* EDITORSHIP

New editor sought by publications committee and Council

Richard Sweterlitsch (U. of Vermont) will be on sabbatical in Italy during the academic year 1980-81 continuing his work in folklore and has submitted his resignation as *Review* editor effective upon publication of the 1980 issue this spring.

Sweterlitsch has been with the *Review* since 1977, first as associate editor with Samuel Hand, and as editor the last two years. Faculty at the University of Ver-

CANADIANS PLAN JOINT MEETING IN JUNE

The Canadian Oral History Association (COHA) will hold its annual meeting at the Université du Québec in Montreal June 2-4 as a part of the annual Learned Societies meetings. Members may attend sessions of folklorists, archivists, anthropologists, political scientists and historians. The Folklore Association of Canada and COHA plan a joint session.

Paul Thompson (U. of Essex, England) will be the keynote speaker. Ron Grele, editor of the new *International Journal of Oral History*, is slated to lead a discussion with international representatives on different approaches to oral history.

COHA will publish a national inventory of oral history collections this spring. The *Directory*, a five-year effort, is to be substituted for the second issue of the 1979 *Journal*. For information about the Montreal meeting: Richard Lochead, P.O. Box 301, Station A, Case Post, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8V3.

OBITUARY

Louis M. Starr, director of the Oral History Research Office, Columbia University, and first president of the Oral History Association, died March 2, 1980, in Louisville, Kentucky.

mont have been responsible for publishing the annual journal of the OHA since the late sixties.

The new editor will be nominated by the Serial and Incidental Publications Committee, chaired by Bernard Galm (UCLA). The Council hopes to make its selection of a new editor by late spring or early summer.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Enid H.
Douglass



This column is a report of the highlights of the midwinter meeting of the Council on January 25-26. In response to my suggestion that the Council set lower and upper limits for funds held by the association, it was voted that there be a treasury range of \$7,500 to \$10,000 and that these figures be reviewed every midwinter meeting. Because of the unusual demands this year in conjunction with the Wingspread Conference and the need to catch up with the effects of inflation on association costs, the Council recommended an increase in annual dues for individual members from ten to twelve dollars. This will be presented for your vote at the business meeting in Durango, Colorado. Institutional and library dues were raised at the last annual meeting.

A 1979 business meeting resolution directed the Council to establish graduated registration fees for the next Colloquium with the lowest fee to be no higher than fifteen dollars. The Council set a Colloquium fee of fifteen dollars, a Workshop fee of fifteen dollars, and a combined fee of twenty-five dollars for persons in the unemployed/retired category. A student fee of \$7.50 was set for the Workshop or Colloquium, with a combined fee of \$15.00.

John Neuenschwander reported the Johnson Foundation has generously offered to assist the association with up to one half the costs of publishing the Wingspread Evaluation Report. The Council agreed to accept this offer and move ahead with details of cooperating with the foundation on publication of this document. Distribution of the report will be to association members and funding agencies, as well as by request. The Council directed the Serial and Incidental Publications Committee, chaired by Bernard Galm, to select an editor to develop a focus and plan of action for a book of readings on oral history. With regret the Council accepted the resignation of Richard Sweterlitsch as editor of the *Review* (effective after the 1980 issue) and asked the publications committee to recommend an editor.

Some time ago it came to my attention that our present constitution does not state that officers and members must be members in good standing of the association. The Council recommended a housekeeping

amendment. Therefore, following the prescribed amendment process, there will be a mailing of the proposed amendment to the membership at least thirty days before the annual meeting, at which time a vote will be taken.

In response to concerns voiced by members, the Council discussed the pending appointment to the position of Archivist of the United States and the proposal by the head of General Services Administration, Admiral Rowland G. Freeman, to decentralize records of the National Archives. On the basis of unanimous Council support, I wrote Admiral Freeman to urge him to appoint an archivist/historian and to maintain a unified collection of documents of national importance in the National Archives.

SPECIAL FLIGHT

Group fare, OHAers only, Frontier Airlines, Durango-Denver, Oct. 5, \$53. Limited capacity.

EDITORIAL

From time to time the *Newsletter* receives questions and comments about the BOOK NOTICES and . . . **also in print**, lists of recent publications printed as a service to readers. Some OHAers do not understand what the editors are doing bibliographically and an explanation is in order.

Where does the *Newsletter* find the books and articles it lists? Associate Editor Margaret L. S. Miller combs *Publishers Weekly* and *Library Journal* for promising titles and information about them. Equally important is the search the editor makes through several scholarly journals and *Books & Arts*. Interested persons send us information about new books and articles and we learn about some of them through newsletters of other organizations. Because the large number of as-told-to biographies based on interviews are difficult to assess, few titles in this genre are selected. We reserve the right to bend this rule, and certainly the editors want to be flexible and note scholarly biographies, e.g. *Robert Kennedy and His Times*, by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., which are substantially based on oral history research. Only rarely do publishers send new books to the *Newsletter*, since the association has a book-review editor assisting *The Oral History Review*.

The lists themselves are simple. We prefer to place practical books about oral history at the head of the BOOK NOTICES. Then we try to group the remaining titles. The same is true for articles: practical articles first, followed by a topical arrangement. When several articles

from the same periodical or the same organization are to be listed, we stack them to conserve space.

None of these listings carries the association's endorsement. Each list is exactly what you see: an incomplete list of titles offered for readers' consideration. In an imperfect world the editors cannot hope to locate and publish comprehensive listings to update the OHA's bibliographies.

The *Newsletter* wants its bibliographical lists to be as useful as possible to a wide range of readers. At present, titles are published without regard for alphabetical order. Other schemes, e.g., alphabetical lists of authors followed by their titles, are possible. Again, questions and comments concerning the style used in presenting the bibliographic entries, as well as questions about how the entries are selected, prompt this explanation. The editors want to respond to the wishes of the membership. If you have a preference about how the listing is printed, we hope you will take the time to let us know.

NEW FACES ON OHA COUNCIL

Two new people were elected to two-year terms on the Council at the annual meeting last October. Alferdteen Harrison, associate professor of history at Jackson State University (Mississippi), is a specialist in black history with degrees from McPherson College, Kansas (B.A.), Wichita State University (M.A.), and the University of Kansas (Ph.D.). Her recent research has been on small, rural, black communities in the South.

Martha Ross, a founder and past president of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR), holds an M.A. in history from the University of Maryland, where she is a lecturer in oral history.

Also new to the Council is James W. Hammack, Jr., vice president/president-elect. Hammack graduated from Memphis State University (B.A.) and the University of Kentucky (M.A. and Ph.D.). He is a member of the department of history at Murray State University and also directs the Forrest C. Pogue Oral History Institute's research on Western Kentucky.

Hammack, Harrison, and Ross will serve with holdover Council members Elizabeth B. Mason (Columbia) and John Neuenschwander (Carthage College).

'80 COLLOQUIUM SITE IDEAL FOR VACATION

The 1980 Colloquium setting at Tamarcon resort near Durango, Colorado, presents a variety of activities suitable for the entire family. There are golf, tennis, swimming, fishing, hiking, trail rides, and raft trips from Tamarron. One can also rent a jeep in the vicinity and get off the beaten

Continued on page 3

COLLOQUIUM

Continued from page 2

path. The Purgatory ski area is not far away with its new alpine slide and breathtaking vistas. Farther afield in this famous Four Corners area (Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico) is Mesa Verde National Park with the ruins of the ancient Cliff Dwellers, and south of Durango are Aztec ruins. Durango, celebrating its centennial year this year, has Ft. Lewis College, a new, modern, liberal arts college, as well as interesting shops and restaurants. On Saturday afternoon, October 4, OHAs can take the Denver and Rio Grande Narrow Gauge Railroad through the majestic San Juan Mountains from Durango to Silverton or drive via the Million Dollar Highway. Because some activities close September 30, write for specific information: Durango Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 2587, Durango, CO 81301, (303) 247-0312; and Tamaron, P.O. Drawer 3131, Durango, CO 81301, (303) 247-8801.

ORAL HISTORY PLANNED AT FORD LIBRARY

The staff of the Gerald R. Ford Library, operating in temporary quarters at Ann Arbor, Michigan, is planning a general oral history project. William Moss, senior archivist of the John F. Kennedy Library and immediate past president of OHA, is assisting the Ford Library staff in project planning.

David Horrocks, the supervising archivist, and a skeletal crew have been working on Ford manuscripts since January 1977. The main building is under construction on the campus of the University of Michigan and is scheduled for completion next fall. A Gerald Ford museum is being built in the ex-president's hometown of Grand Rapids and will be under the supervision of the library's director. Temporary address: 326 E. Hoover St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

VOLUNTEERS IN COLO. ACTIVE IN OH

The Volunteers of the Colorado Historical Society was organized in 1957 with twelve members. Now numbering 350, the society supports a special committee on oral history. Volunteers conduct interviews to be indexed by other volunteers and deposited in the Colorado Heritage Center, Denver. Projects include the Centennial/Bicentennial and exhibits in the Heritage Center. A project manual was prepared in 1979. The Denver society's volunteers assisted an Eastern Colorado historical society in setting up its oral history project. Inquiries: Maxine Benson, 1300 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203.

SENATE HISTORICAL OFFICE COMPLETES FIRST MEMOIR

Floyd M. Riddick, parliamentarian emeritus of the United States Senate, has completed his oral memoirs for the Senate Historical Office. Riddick, creator of the *Congressional Record's* "Daily Digest" section and author of *Senate Procedure* and other books and articles on the legislative process, was the second full-time parliamentarian in the Senate's history. Copies of the 555-page transcript are available to researchers at the Senate Library, the Library of Congress, the Richard Russell Library (University of Georgia), and the libraries of Riddick's alma maters, Duke and Vanderbilt.

LABOR UNION PROJECT COMPLETED

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin-Madison has completed interviewing and abstracting the tapes of former and current leaders of the Textile Workers Union of America (TWUA). Funded by an NEH grant, James A. Cavanaugh and Dianne Agresta conducted the project under the general direction of Barbara Kaiser.

The project fulfilled its purposes: to produce new research material for the society's TWUA archival collection and to apply concentrated attention to its TAPE System for processing interviews.

The TAPE System (Timed Access to Pertinent Excerpts) creates an abstract of the interview keyed to an audible time-track on the same tape. An introduction is added to the abstract providing data about the interviewee, the interview, and research possibilities of the interview. An index to the abstract is also made, keyed to the timetrack. All the tapes have been processed, although use of some requires written permission of the interviewee.

CIVIL ENGINEERS ACTIVE IN OH

The American Society of Civil Engineers, through its Committee on the History and Heritage of American Civil Engineering, is emphasizing oral history and urging its more than 70,000 members to participate. To this end the committee has taped "An Introduction to Oral History," with transcript, for use by its section-level and branch-level history-and-heritage committees. Integrated in the material is an excerpt of an interview with Samuel Arnold Greeley (1882-1968), sanitary engineer.

The oral histories and background materials will be deposited in the Biographical Archives of American Civil Engineering of the Smithsonian and the society's library at its headquarters, 345 E. 47th Street, New York 10017.

OHA MEMORABILIA NEEDED FOR '80 COLLOQUIUM EXHIBIT

A feature of the 1980 Colloquium will be an exhibit from past colloquiums. Waddy Moore (U. of Central Arkansas) has agreed to arrange a display of members' slides, photos, souvenirs and artifacts. It is hoped the articles will be donated to the OHA archives; but they will be returned upon request. Those contributing to this exhibit should identify each article by (1) the workshop or colloquium which it represents; (2) identify all persons involved; (3) put each photo or slide in an envelope with all data on the outside or affix photo or slide to a sheet of paper containing the information. Do not write on the backs of photos themselves; use a label. Whether or not you plan to donate to the archives please be sure to give your name and address with your submission. Contact: Waddy W. Moore, U. of Central Arkansas, Box 933, Conway, AR 72032.

CALENDAR

April 9-12, 1980

Org. of Am. Historians
San Francisco

April 10-12, 1980

OH Roundtable Workshop
Indianapolis, Indiana

April 12-13, 1980

Oral Hist. Soc. (U.K.)
S. Wales Miners Lib.
Swansea, Wales

April 26, 1980

New England Archivists
New Bedford, Mass.

May 8-10, 1980

Assn., Recorded
Sound Colls.
Ottawa, Ontario

June 2-4, 1980

Canadian OH Assoc.
Univ. of Québec
Montreal, Québec

June 8-12, 1980

Canadian Museums Assoc.
Boston, Mass.

June 8-13, 1980

American Assoc. Museums
Boston, Mass.

CORRECTION

James H. Morrison is president of the Canadian Oral History Association, not James H. Harrison as reported in the last issue of the *Newsletter*.

NEEDS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL ORAL HISTORY

EDITOR'S NOTE:

How can this newsletter best serve the membership of the association? This question deserves an answer addressing the needs of the association's broad constituency.

From its beginning the *Newsletter* has published news and information concerning oral history nationally and internationally. Editors past and present have focused on innovations and contributions to the movement and covered official events of the association. We have sought to give those members not able to attend the national meetings a sense of what happened there. Now, believing that oral history has gained some standing as a serious research method, the editors seek to respond to what is perceived to be the wide range of interest and needs of its readers. This question persists: Is the *Newsletter* supposed to be a house organ or the voice of the members?

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However, without feedback from oral historians in all these areas we may fall short of our objectives. Please contribute your thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and interests to the *Newsletter* so that we may serve you better.

The following is an edited excerpt of an interview with two leaders in the oral history movement, Nancy Whistler of the Denver Public Library and the Colorado Center for Oral History and Joseph B. Romney of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. The interview took place the evening of October 27, 1979, at the OHA Colloquium in East Lansing and grew out of a Workshop session discussion on oral history and its practice in local libraries and historical societies. Nancy Whistler is well known for her path-breaking efforts in leading the first systematic attempt to identify and keep up with oral history work throughout an entire state. Joe Romney has made several contributions to the literature on oral history and the law. Although their occupations might make them appear to be "mainstream elite"—she, a specialist in a large metropolitan library and he, a history professor—they have earned reputations for sensitivity to the problems of people who do oral history in places and projects most of us never hear about.

David B. Stricklin, contributing editor

STRICKLIN: *How do you each feel about the criticism that the Oral History Association caters to programs in universities and large research libraries?*

WHISTLER: I don't think it does by design. I think that the smaller projects perhaps don't have as much access to knowledge about the Oral History Association. They also often have funding problems, so their need for participation in the voice is perhaps a coming thing. But I certainly don't feel that it's been by design and I think that the members of the larger institutions are aware and concerned about this.

ROMNEY: I tend to think that there may be more of an intention to omit the local historical societies or people in the grass-roots. That's parallel to a feeling I get among some of my colleagues that local history is not a respectable activity. I feel that when we talk sometimes about guidelines there's a feeling that these people who are out with their little tape recorders in local history societies are doing things that are just not very useful. And the best thing for us to do is to somehow refine our own activities, but not be very much involved with them.

STRICKLIN: *Which is kind of a paradox because the OHA thinks of itself as being such an egalitarian organization and I've always felt that it is.*

ROMNEY: I think it's egalitarian on the level of larger organizations. It involves universities and libraries and historical societies

that are committed in a rather large way. But I think it can't be argued very successfully that it's egalitarian vertically; it seems to me it's horizontally.

WHISTLER: I think that it perhaps has to do with knowledge of projects. I think the major attendance here shows a level of sophistication by virtue of association rather than by design. These people understand organizations and conferences because they come to oral history from another discipline. But there is a tremendously large number of people, particularly in the rural areas, who do not have this level of sophistication and who are doing oral history in virtually a vacuum. They do not even know that there is an Oral History Association. Not until the association starts to make grass-roots outreach can you really find out who's involved. Then the participation of the small groups is a result of their education and interest. A lot of the small projects are volunteer organizations who do not have a lot of money and staff and simply can't do the processing according to basic historical standards to make oral history fully accessible. So, when you go out into the field and talk to these projects there is an automatic defensiveness because they know that their best for responsible work may not be up to the standards of "that professional organization." So their best defense is not to become involved, which is to our detriment as an organization.

STRICKLIN: *Let's say that the OHA is, whether by design or default, not serving the local groups as well as it could. How would you change that?*

ROMNEY: I'd pick up on what Nancy said initially, that there needs to be some outreach, rather than just with the organizations that are already involved—like regional organizations—something local enough to be readily accessible to small local organizations. An individual assigned to that particular area, who's familiar with the organizations, committed to the purposes of the OHA, but sympathetic to the needs of the local area would make contacts to set up workshops or to distribute literature advertising the OHA, or handle questions.

WHISTLER: For each state, you're talking about.

ROMNEY: Perhaps you'd want to have a representative for each state. I can see problems in getting personnel, maybe demand.

WHISTLER: Well, I agree, having seen the problems with personnel to manage something like that. But I do think that perhaps there needs to be an awareness on the part of local and other organizations that this is a need and that when people start

NEEDS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL ORAL HISTORIANS EXPLORED AT NATIONAL OHA WORKSHOP

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looking toward funding that this is something that they really need to approach. Efforts are being made and the funds are becoming available for this kind of statewide coordination, whether it be a clearing house, a coordinator, a center. But it needs to be more than a one-shot effort to locate projects and do a directory. It needs to be ongoing so that there is a networking and a communication and a dialoguing that can continue, other than just the gathering of information and the dissemination one time. **ROMNEY:** Along with that, it seems to me that there needs to be a renewed effort on the idea of regional or state workshops. This national workshop can and perhaps ought to emphasize larger programs that have something in common. Some states may not have those. But a state workshop perhaps could be better tailored and thus more effective to people who otherwise are not contacted.

STRICKLIN: Let's take the example of getting advice on legal agreements. Other than providing a framework for discussion, can the OHA give that kind of guidance to the local group?

ROMNEY: If there were local representatives at a clearing house, that person might be more familiar with, say, the statutes in a certain state as well as its court decisions regarding libel and statutes of limitations and so forth. Another thing is that the national organization could develop the same kind of thing perhaps that Columbia has, a general packet for local historical societies, say, or for local history which could be augmented by something from a certain state. The idea is that the OHA has developed something specifically for these people, and could respond to inquiries or be used as distribution.

WHISTLER: So you're thinking about providing models.

ROMNEY: Yes, because whether or not we think we can't provide models, as a matter of fact we do. The people I talk to in these historical societies, for example, just go to a book and lift the model out of it whether or not they're supposed to. So it seems like, rather than abdicating, we ought to provide the best possible model we can.

WHISTLER: I agree with what Joe's saying, but I'd like to go a step further. I'd like to have some vehicle—a packet or whatever

approach you decide—that brings to their attention the need for preplanning and analyzing. As Joe said, you may lift a release that you think is going to cover, when if you really define the purpose of the project, the legal release at the very beginning can be set up in a way that you avoid perhaps some of the pitfalls. So I'd add an education element, too—why you need a legal release and what it covers.

STRICKLIN: Okay, are there other ways the OHA might help local groups address problems?

ROMNEY: It surely seems to me that a direction that was suggested to be taken next year and has been carried on rather fitfully in times past ought to be followed, that of having a time set aside for regional discussion at the national colloquium where people who are involved with grass-roots activity can meet together, exchange ideas.

WHISTLER: The Council is very receptive to this and next year they have set aside time for exactly that type of communication and meeting. So I think that the needs are at least anticipated. We will have an opportunity and I think it will be exciting.

STRICKLIN: Well, I think this interview points up that there is receptivity within the organization to these groups, sentiment that would welcome them.

WHISTLER: I think that there is a tremendous need for these groups that are doing local history, that their voice be heard. We can't talk for people when we're not them. We can try to reflect what their needs are, but they need to be involved. And we want them.

ROMNEY: I'm tickled that there seems to be more receptivity to this kind of idea. When I've attended the meetings of historical societies and there hasn't been the connection with the OHA that there might have been, it's made me think rather often that for the benefit of both groups, we can do much better. I'm delighted if this airing of the issue and the apparent growing awareness of these needs indicate a turn in direction for the OHA.

REGIONAL CONCERNS

January 23, 1980

Editor:

At the Michigan State colloquium there were several signs of the OHA's growing awareness of the work of the regional oral history associations. I understand that a session will be scheduled regularly at the annual workshops where regional representatives can meet together to discuss common issues; and that the council will invite regional leaders to join them at a meeting at each colloquium. But I think there has also been a feeling that the OHA has moved too slowly in recognizing the needs and contributions of the regional groups.

Speaking for OHMAR, I would say that a number of things remain to be done. We especially hope that the council will soon act on the report of Betty Key's committee on regional associations and will publish the leaflet they have prepared.

Our greatest need as a regional associa-

tion is publicity: to alert people to our activities, attract them to our meetings, and involve them in our projects. Unfortunately, our meetings do not always coincide with the deadlines of the national newsletter, and so coverage is often sparse or out of date. Perhaps the newsletter could establish a regular column covering the meetings, elections, awards, publications, and upcoming events of the regionals. Owing to the diversity of groups, I suspect that this will require some soliciting of information to ensure that items make the deadlines for publication.

We also need advice and guidance. The current network of oral history regional groups has grown on an ad hoc basis. The OHA could further the development of regionals by preparing a package of information explaining such organizational details as the merits of incorporation and nonprofit status, how to meet IRS requirements (OHMAR is in the process of revising its constitution in order to acquire bulk mailing privileges), setting up a practical

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Sincerely

Donald A. Ritchie
President, OHMAR, 1979-1980

ANS EXPLORED AT NATIONAL OHA WORKSHOP

looking toward funding that this is something that they really need to approach. Efforts are being made and the funds are becoming available for this kind of statewide coordination, whether it be a clearing house, a coordinator, a center. But it needs to be more than a one-shot effort to locate projects and do a directory. It needs to be ongoing so that there is a networking and a communication and a dialoguing that can continue, other than just the gathering of information and the dissemination one time. ROMNEY: Along with that, it seems to me that there needs to be a renewed effort on the idea of regional or state workshops. This national workshop can and perhaps ought to emphasize larger programs that have something in common. Some states may not have those. But a state workshop perhaps could be better tailored and thus more effective to people who otherwise are not contacted.

STRICKLIN: Let's take the example of getting advice on legal agreements. Other than providing a framework for discussion, can the OHA give that kind of guidance to the local group?

ROMNEY: If there were local representatives at a clearing house, that person might be more familiar with, say, the statutes in a certain state as well as its court decisions regarding libel and statutes of limitations and so forth. Another thing is that the national organization could develop the same kind of thing perhaps that Columbia has, a general packet for local historical societies, say, or for local history which could be augmented by something from a certain state. The idea is that the OHA has developed something specifically for these people, and could respond to inquiries or be used as distribution.

WHISTLER: So you're thinking about providing models.

ROMNEY: Yes, because whether or not we think we can't provide models, as a matter of fact we do. The people I talk to in these historical societies, for example, just go to a book and lift the model out of it whether or not they're supposed to. So it seems like, rather than abdicating, we ought to provide the best possible model we can.

WHISTLER: I agree with what Joe's saying, but I'd like to go a step further. I'd like to have some vehicle—a packet or whatever

approach you decide—that brings to their attention the need for preplanning and analyzing. As Joe said, you may lift a release that you think is going to cover, when if you really define the purpose of the project, the legal release at the very beginning can be set up in a way that you avoid perhaps some of the pitfalls. So I'd add an education element, too—why you need a legal release and what it covers.

STRICKLIN: Okay, are there other ways the OHA might help local groups address problems?

ROMNEY: It surely seems to me that a direction that was suggested to be taken next year and has been carried on rather fitfully in times past ought to be followed, that of having a time set aside for regional discussion at the national colloquium where people who are involved with grass-roots activity can meet together, exchange ideas.

WHISTLER: The Council is very receptive to this and next year they have set aside time for exactly that type of communication and meeting. So I think that the needs are at least anticipated. We will have an opportunity and I think it will be exciting.

STRICKLIN: Well, I think this interview points up that there is receptivity within the organization to these groups, sentiment that would welcome them.

WHISTLER: I think that there is a tremendous need for these groups that are doing local history, that their voice be heard. We can't talk for people when we're not them. We can try to reflect what their needs are, but they need to be involved. And we want them.

ROMNEY: I'm tickled that there seems to be more receptivity to this kind of idea. When I've attended the meetings of historical societies and there hasn't been the connection with the OHA that there might have been, it's made me think rather often that for the benefit of both groups, we can do much better. I'm delighted if this airing of the issue and the apparent growing awareness of these needs indicate a turn in direction for the OHA.

REGIONAL CONCERNS

January 23, 1980

Editor:

At the Michigan State colloquium there were several signs of the OHA's growing awareness of the work of the regional oral history associations. I understand that a session will be scheduled regularly at the annual workshops where regional representatives can meet together to discuss common issues; and that the council will invite regional leaders to join them at a meeting at each colloquium. But I think there has also been a feeling that the OHA has moved too slowly in recognizing the needs and contributions of the regional groups.

Speaking for OHMAR, I would say that a number of things remain to be done. We especially hope that the council will soon act on the report of Betty Key's committee on regional associations and will publish the leaflet they have prepared.

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tion is publicity: to alert people to our activities, attract them to our meetings, and involve them in our projects. Unfortunately, our meetings do not always coincide with the deadlines of the national newsletter, and so coverage is often sparse or out of date. Perhaps the newsletter could establish a regular column covering the meetings, elections, awards, publications, and upcoming events of the regionals. Owing to the diversity of groups, I suspect that this will require some soliciting of information to ensure that items make the deadlines for publication.

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Sincerely

Donald A. Ritchie
President, OHMAR, 1979-1980

RESEARCH CALLS

Projects involving persons who passed through or worked at Ellis Island. August C. Bolino, Ellis Island Restoration Commission, Inc., CUA, Cardinal Station, Box 1314, Washington, DC 20064.

Collections pertaining to psychology. Ludy T. Benjamin, Jr., American Psychological Assoc., 1200 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Directory information about interviews outside of Maryland concerning the state's history and people. Cathy Snead, Oral History Office, Maryland Historical Society, 201 W. Monument St., Baltimore, MD 21201.

COLUMBIA ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT

Oral History: Looking to the 1980s, by Louis M. Starr, the 1979 report of the Oral History Research Office (OHRO), Columbia University, contains a state-by-state list of libraries where researchers may consult the fourth edition of *Oral History Collection of Columbia University* prior to journeying to New York for work in the collection. The report also lists recent publications resulting from research in the Columbia oral memoirs.

During the past year the estate of Admiral James Fife gave Columbia over \$100,000, part of which is in a revolving fund for publications with the remainder in permanent endowment for OHRO.

Starr credits interviewer Carl Brown (Princeton) for eliciting a major memoir from John Badeau; John Niven (Claremont Grad. Sch.) for a fifteen-hour memoir by Henry Steele Commager; Henry Graff (Columbia) for interviews with Columbia's retired president William J. McGill; and Luther Jackson (Columbia) for interviews with civil-rights leader Henry Lee Moon. During the past year other researchers have added memoirs by Nelson Rockefeller, Averell Harriman, Gerda Lerner, Phyllis Cerf Wagner, Kitty Carlisle Hart, and others to increase the holdings by 25,000 pages. Most of the above memoirs are a part of the American Leaders Project.

In the report Director Starr includes a prediction for the 1980s:

The growing legions of authors doing their own interviews, no longer content to proclaim the fact and leave the reader to accept their findings on faith, will begin to follow oral history methodology so that their source materials (both tapes and transcripts) will qualify for an appropriate repository. This will document their books. It will also benefit others. OHA's new standards will foster that trend; we are ready to do all we can to encourage it.

ORAL HISTORY SERVES SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Numerous scientific societies have established or are in the process of establishing permanent history divisions incorporating oral history. One of the oldest, most active groups is the Center for History of Physics of the American Institute of Physics (AIP) in New York City. Two of their projects document the history of the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Batavia, Illinois), and the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. AIP is also actively involved in documenting the history of modern astronomy, astrophysics and cosmology. Funding comes from several sources including the National Science Foundation and DOE.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) has founded a Center for Electrical Engineering History which will include oral history. IEEE now budgets for oral history and grants and donations will be sought. J. E. Brittain (Georgia Tech.) was instrumental in planning the center.

The Division of History of Chemistry, a section of the American Chemical Society, is urging the society to set up a history

office similar to the AIP center. Meanwhile, the division is planning interviews with outstanding chemists. John H. Wotiz (Southern Illinois U.) heads the history movement.

The Charles Babbage Institute (CBI) for the History of Information Processing includes not only technical but also socioeconomic aspects of the history of information processing. CBI is supported by allied professional societies and industrial organizations. Founded in 1977 by Erwin Tomash, chairman of the board of Data-products Corp., CBI hopes to select a permanent location at a major university this spring. It supports a doctoral fellow and provides financial and consulting help to scholars in the field. Paul Armer (Palo Alto, Calif.) is executive secretary.

The Niels Bohr Library (New York City) is the depository for thirty-seven interviews by Steve Woolgar done in connection with his thesis research. The tapes deal with the discovery of and subsequent work on pulsars and were conducted in confidence. They are available for research by special permission.

CAROLINA MED SCHOOL EXPERIMENTS WITH WORD PROCESSING OH

Barry K. Miller, *Special Collections Librarian and Archivist, Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Wake Forest University.*

The archives of the Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, has been experimenting with the use of word-processing equipment in preparing oral history transcripts. Two techniques have been tried, using the equipment and services of the school's centralized Document Preparation Center.

In the first experiment, interviews were transcribed by Document Preparation Center staff using an IBM Office System 6 word processor. Retyping following editing was reduced to a minimal level, as one of the advantages of this equipment is that a document be typed (or keyboarded) only once and revisions are made using a typewriter-like keyboard and a cathode-ray tube similar to a small TV screen.

In order to return control over original transcribing to the archives and to save on equipment costs, a second experiment was undertaken in which transcripts typed on paper using a ball-element electric typewriter with a special ball were prepared and fed into a Hendrix typereader, an optical character recognition (OCR) device. Similar devices have been used in banks for reading information on the bottom of checks for years, but OCR scanners are now becoming available with more attractive type styles and at less cost. The transcript was typed and then transferred from the

OCR scanner to an attached Office System 6 word processor. Revisions and corrections were accomplished with that device.

The second approach to transcript preparation was preferable in the case of the Bowman Gray School of Medicine Archives, as the volume of transcription does not justify the cost of a word processor, and the centralized Document Preparation Center is not particularly designed for the peculiarities of oral history transcription. In the second experiment, the equipment cost was only \$18 to \$20 for the special ball element. An otherwise ordinary typewriter was used. Transcription could be done by regular oral history transcribers, and the only other costs were for the labor of the Document Preparation Center staff in making revisions and corrections to the transcript.

For oral history projects with access to a centralized word-processing center, especially one with an optical-character recognition scanner, the second approach to word processing may be possible. For larger projects, particularly those which require that extensive editing be done on transcripts, an in-house word-processing machine may be desirable.

Ed: Information about use of word-processing equipment by other oral history programs is welcomed.

BOOK NOTICES

Oral History Workshop Guide. By Nancy Whistler. (Denver: Denver Public Library, 1979. 55 pp. \$3.50)

Colorado Center for Oral History.

Oral History Division: Catalogue No. 5. (Jerusalem: The Institute of Contemporary Jewry, The Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem, 1979. 124 pp. Key to projects. Index)

Funded by Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, New York.

The Search for Solutions. By Horace Free-land Judson. Introduction by Lewis Thom- as. (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Win- ston, 1980. Illus. \$16.95)

History of scientific discovery, personal interviews.

The Right Stuff. By Tom Wolfe. (New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1979. \$12.95)

American astronauts.

The Partnership: A History of the Apollo- Soyuz Test Project. By Edward Clinton Ezell and Linda Neuman Ezell. (Washing- ton, D.C.: NASA, 1978. 560 pp. Bibliog. Photos. Notes. Index. Appendices. U.S. Govt. Printing Office no. 033-000-00730-2. \$8.30)

Chariots for Apollo: A History of Manned Lunar Spacecraft. By Courtney G. Brooks, James M. Grimwood, and Loyd S. Swen- son, Jr. (Washington, D.C.: NASA, 1979. 541 pp. Photos. Bibliog. Index. Notes. U.S. Govt. Printing Office no. 033-000-00768-0. \$9)

Sources include three hundred forty-one interviews.

Conquest of the Skies: A History of Com- mercial Aviation in America. By Carl Sol- berg. (Boston: Little, Brown, 1979. 400 pp. Photos. Bibliog. Index. \$14.95)

Text includes interviews.

From the Captain to the Colonel: The Informal History of Eastern Airlines. By Robert J. Serling. (New York: Dial Press, 1980. Illus. \$12.95)

Wake Up, It's a Crash: The Story of the First 747 Jet Disaster. By Earl Moorhouse. (New York: Paddington Press, 1980. Illus. \$8.95)

Lyndon: An Oral Biography. By Merle Miller. (New York: Putnam's, Aug. 1980. \$16.95)

Back in Those Days: Reminiscences and Stories of Indiana. Edited by Carol Burke and Martin Light. Photos by Jackie Ull- man. (Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Writes, 1978. 112 pp.) No cost. Out of print but a second printing is under consideration.

Memphis since Crump: Bossism, Blacks, and Civic Reformers, 1948-1968. By David M. Tucker. (Knoxville: Univ. of Tennessee Press, 1980. 185 pp. Illus. Bibliog. Index. \$10.50)

The Narrative of Hosea Hudson: His Life as a Negro Communist in the South. By Nell Irvin Painter. (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 1979. 400 pp. Photos. Index. \$17.50)

Mammoo's Soggy Coconut Cake. By Guy Miles, Frances Hurley and Fay Miles. Photos by P. Harlan Hambright. MDI Publications, P.O. Box 344, Evinston, FL 32633. 56 pp. \$3.98.

Trapped! By Robert K. Murray and Roger W. Brucker. (New York: Putnam, 1979. 335 pp. Photos. Index. \$12.50)

Floyd Collins disaster, 1925.

Beltran: Basque Sheepman of the American West. By Beltran Paris. Interviewer, Wil- liam A. Douglass. (Reno: Univ. of Nevada Press, 1980)

Basque book series.

Recollections of Mining Ventures, Life in Eastern Nevada and the Nevada Mining Association. By Paul Gemmill. Interview- er, Mary Ellen Glass. (Reno: Univ. of Nevada-Reno Library, 1974-1975. 421 pp. Open)

Also at University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

Power on the Left: American Radical Move- ments Since 1946. By Lawrence Lader. (New York: Norton, 1979. \$16.95)

Interviews part of research.

The View in Winter: Reflections on Old Age. By Ronald Blythe. (New York: HBJ, 1979. Bibliog. \$12.95)

An English village.

The Boer War. By Thomas Pakenham. (New York: Random House, 1979. \$20)

Interviews with fifty-two veterans.

... also in print

"A Story of Accommodation: I stayed right where I was." By Howard Boksenbaum and Carl Oblinger. *Pennsylvania Heritage*, 5 (Fall 1979), 13-16.

"Christian Frederick Koch: Farrier and Blacksmith." Reflections by Florence Ra- buck. Interviewer, Nicolette Murray. *Penn- sylvania Heritage*, 6 (Winter 1980), 14-17.

"Unending Memories of the Spanish Civil War: This Oral History Is a Prodigious Record of the Collective Consciousness of the War's Survivors." By Allen Josephs. *Books & Arts* (Sept. 28, '79), 16-17. Book review, Ronald Fraser's *Blood of Spain*, discusses oral history theory con- cerning historiography, interstitial reality.

Humanities 1,1 (Jan.-Feb. 1980). By Na- tional Endowment for the Humanities. Tabloid format, twenty-eight pages, six issues per year \$7, in U.S.; \$8.75 elsewhere.

NEWS

The University of Vermont's sixth Oral History Institute will be held on the Bur- lington campus June 16-27, with Charles T. Morrissey (Former Members of Con- gress) as instructor.

Lawrence B. de Graaf became director of the California State University-Fullerton Oral History Program in May 1979. A spe- cialist in recent American and black his- tory, de Graaf has been on the Fullerton faculty since 1959.

A workshop for churches, historical societies and colleges was held last Novem- ber at Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama. Cosponsored by the Southern Baptist and Alabama Baptist Historical Commissions, the event attracted more than seventy participants. Rollin Armour, who directed the workshop, is head of Auburn University's religion department and is also chairman of the Oral History Commission of the Alabama Baptist Con- vention.

OHMAR's 1979-80 officers are: Donald Ritchie (U.S. Senate Historical Office), president; Pamela Henson (Smithsonian Archives), vice president; David Good- man, secretary; and Bruce Wilson (U. of Maryland), treasurer.

The Psi Chapter of Beta Phi Mu, a national honorary society of the Univer- sity of Missouri-Columbia School of Li- brary and Information Service, is record- ing the memories of prominent Missouri librarians. The UMC library school, in cooperation with the Psi Chapter, will use oral history students to conduct and proc- ess the interviews. Laura Krog, reference librarian at Southwest Baptist College (Bolivar, Missouri) is chairman of the oral history project for the chapter.

The Organization of American Historians meeting in San Francisco, April 10, will have a session, "New Directions in Oral History." Participants include: Joseph E. Illick (San Francisco St. U.), "Recon- structing the History of a Peer Group"; Kenneth Kann (U. of Cal.-Berkeley), "Recon- structing the History of a Community"; commentary by Willa Baum (ROHO-Berke- ley), Robert R. Dykstra (U. of Iowa), and Margery Wolf (Stanford). Derek Reimer (Aural Hist. Prog., Provincial Archives of British Columbia) will preside.

Continued on page 8

OHA OFFICIAL

BUSINESS

Ronald E.
Marcello
Executive
Secretary



At the close of the 1979 calendar year, the financial assets of OHA totaled \$6,740.72. Broken down, they included \$2,023.62 in savings, \$2,318.11 in certificates of deposit, and \$2,398.99 in the checking account. This balance was the lowest that OHA has had for several years. Usually, the assets of the organization have hovered around the \$10,000-\$12,000 mark.

The largest extraordinary expense during 1979 was that for underwriting 50 percent of the transportation costs for the delegates at the Wingspread Evaluation Conference. Enough has already been written in previous *Newsletters* about the importance of that conference, so it is not necessary to go into that subject again. Suffice it to say, that, considering what was accomplished there, the money was well spent.

As usual, the largest outlays were for the *Newsletter* (\$3,230.39), the *Review* (\$5,124.70), and Council expenses (\$5,222.10). Very little can be done to reduce the cost of publishing the *Newsletter*, for those expenses are already at a minimum. On the other hand, OHA is exploring the possibility of having the *Review* printed more cheaply, and as President Douglass has explained in her column, Council has taken rather drastic action to reduce its expenses.

Going into the new year, OHA clearly needs to build up its treasury. This is the reason why institutional and library dues have already been raised, and why the membership will be asked to approve a two-dollar increase in annual dues for individuals. Obviously, OHA is not simply

intent upon accumulating a large treasury surplus. With the added funds, however, it will be able to continue providing the membership with special publications, additional conferences, and other services as in the past. At the same time, a sound financial situation will serve as a hedge against deficits incurred at the annual workshops and colloquium.

Executive Secretary
Box 13734, N.T. Station
Denton, TX 76203
817-387-1021

NEWS *Continued from page 7*

Ed and Gerda Sundberg's Ribbons of Memories American-Scandinavian Ethnic Heritage Oral History Program, headquartered at Watsonville, California, has interviewed about 450 individuals concerning immigration to America. The Sundbergs do four to six interviews a month.

The Ethnic Studies Oral History Project (ESOHP) of the University of Hawaii sponsored a demonstration of mochi (rice cake) pounding at the Ala Moana Center last December. In addition to the pounding, several photo displays, oral history transcripts, New Year's exhibits and slide shows were on view. The purpose of the demonstration was to introduce young people to Hawaii's rich multicultural heritage. ESOHP is supported by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts under a special appropriation by the legislature. Chad Taniguchi is project coordinator.

Talkin' Union, the film produced by People's History in Texas, Inc., is ready for distribution in both English and Spanish. The Spanish version is on videotape. The story of four women who organized unions in Texas (1930s-1960s), it is the first film of its kind in the state. Rent or purchase: University of Texas-Austin Film Library, Box W, Austin, TX 78712.

Wendell P. Holbrook (Bryn Mawr College) has received NEH funds for the 1979-80 academic year to conduct oral history interviews and collect material for a book on the impact of World War II on Ghana. Students in Holbrook's African history class participated in the early roster building for the interviews and the Ghana Legion, an ex-servicemen's organization, helped locate informants in Ghana. Approximately 500 ex-servicemen answered questionnaires and another fifty will be interviewed in depth. Copies of the completed questionnaires and transcripts will be deposited in the Ghana National Archives at Accra.

Grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission and the Ethnic Heritage Studies Program of the U.S. Office of Education have aided Thomas H. Brown in his effort to build an archive of life histories of the ethnic communities of New Jersey. Brown and his students at Cumberland County College in Southern New Jersey have completed almost 100 interviews which are used in oral history classes and then become a part of the state's oral history library.

The annual technical seminar for historical agency personnel to be conducted by the New Jersey Historical Commission at Jersey City State College May 17, will be entitled "Oral History, Local History and the Local Historical Society." The program will feature beginning- and intermediate-level workshops and a panel discussion on local history, ethnic history, and folklore.

Family Heritage magazine ceased publication with its August 1979 issue, according to Publisher-Editor Scott McDade.

ATTENTION

Nominations for 1980-81 vice president/president-elect and Council should be sent to nominating-committee chairman, John J. Fox, Salem State College, Salem, MA 01970.

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