



ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume XV, Number 1

Winter 1981

NEH GRANT IMPLEMENTS OHA STUDY

Nancy Whistler (Denver Public Library), project director of OHA's education and outreach study funded by NEH, reported to the Council at its midwinter meeting the results of her six-month, nationwide survey identifying persons and institutions involved in efforts to bring some coherence and standardized training to oral history. Data from the survey provides the association with information on existing education, outreach and evaluation activities in the field.

The study substantiates OHA's belief that an education-and-outreach program is necessary to enhance the quality of work done by oral historians on the local

and regional levels. Questionnaires indicated needs in four areas: general education, workshops, clearing houses, and grants/funding.

Responses came from 580 of approximately 2,000 oral historians; state humanities committees; state historical societies; state libraries; museums; special libraries; and selected colleges, universities and secondary schools. The National Meeting for State Humanities committees yielded much new information about available training services in oral history and the goals of potential funders of oral history. Data emerged on existing training programs at the state level, oral history curriculum

materials, qualified faculty, and other categories.

The study led to the conclusion that oral history training services in the United States lack both standardization and criteria for selection of teaching faculty. A further weakness is the random selection and development of instructional manuals and the frequent changes in locations of workshops. The absence of follow-up to workshops and courses and the failure of most training services to win permanent, regular funding point to OHA's next step: application for a major NEH grant to meet these needs.

SUFFRAGIST MEMOIRS COMPLETED AT ROHO

The Regional Oral History Office (ROHO) (U. of Calif.-Berkeley) has completed the suffragists project. The eight-volume, 2,948-page work took five years to gather and includes the only lengthy interview with Alice Paul, leader of the militant National Woman's Party and sponsor of the first Equal Rights Amendment.

In addition to Paul, who died in 1977 at the age of ninety, the twelve interviewees include Jeanette Rankin, first woman elected to Congress; Sylvie Thygeson, who ran an illegal birth control clinic sixty years ago; Ernestine Hara Kettler, who was at twenty-one the youngest woman arrested during feminist demonstrations in Washington; and Burnita Shelton Matthews, the first woman appointed as a federal district judge. They ranged in age from seventy-four to 104 when interviewed. Seven were national leaders and five were rank-and-file activists.

There are interviews with poet Sara Bard Field, Rebecca Hourwich Reyher, Mabel Vernon, Helen Valeska Bary, Jessie Haver Butler, Miriam Allen deFord and Laura Ellsworth Seiler.

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GRELE ASSUMES UCLA POST

Ronald J. Grele has been named director of the University of California-Los Angeles, Oral History Program, a section of the university library's Department of Special Collections. He was formerly research director for the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Grele holds the Ph.D. in history from Rutgers University and has served as archivist and interviewer for the John F. Kennedy Library Oral History Project and as assistant director of the Ford Foundation Oral History Project. He has taught at Rutgers, City University of New York, California State University-Long Beach, and Lafayette College, in addition to serving as Fulbright Professor at the University of Indonesia in 1977.

He is editor of *The International Journal of Oral History* and is the author of two books, *Where Cities Meet: The Urbanization of New Jersey* (1964), and *Envelopes of Sound: Six Practitioners Discuss the Theory, Method, and Practice of Oral History* (1975). He is an active member of OHA and has served on the Council.



Ronald J. Grele, director, UCLA Oral History Program.

The president's column will reappear in the spring issue.

LETTERS

Editor:

We would like to thank you for writing about our project in the *OHA Newsletter*. It really got us a lot of support in our district and we appreciate your support.

We would like to share a bit of good news with you. Last week the Long, Long Ago Oral History Project won the Golden Bell Award in a statewide contest sponsored by the California Boards of Education Association. The project was put forward by the Montebello Unified School District Board of Education and was entered in competition with other educational projects and programs throughout the state. After a process of elimination by a panel of educational experts, the Long, Long Ago Project was selected as one of the finalists. After one more selection process and a validation visit by one of the panelists, the project was declared the winner for the intermediate school level.

We're sure your article about us in the *Newsletter* helped us win the award which in turn will get us valuable local support.

Michael A. Brooks
Long, Long Ago Advisor
Suva Intermediate School
Bell Gardens, CA 90201

OH RESEARCH CONTINUES AT INDIANA U.

The Oral History Research Project at Indiana University, directed by Richard S. Kirkendall, has completed approximately 600 interviews. Tapes and transcripts, indexed by proper names, are housed in the university's Lilly Library.

Established in 1968 by the late Oscar O. Winther, third president of OHA, the project's goal was to gather information for a sesquicentennial history of the university. This work, written by Thomas C. Clark, was published and the project then expanded to cover the recent history of Indiana.

In addition to research, the project is dedicated to teaching and service. Staff members conduct workshops and seminars, teach credit and noncredit courses, and assist local oral history and folklore groups. Kirkendall also teaches history at Indiana U. and is executive secretary of the Organization of American Historians. The project is an affiliate of both the Indiana Oral History Roundtable and OHA.

MURRAY STATE NAMES LIBRARY FOR POGUE

The Forrest C. Pogue Special Collections Library at Murray State University (MSU) features materials on the history and culture of West Kentucky and environs. Pogue, a 1931 graduate of MSU, now directs the Smithsonian's Dwight D. Eisenhower Institute for Historical Research.

In 1975 the university paid tribute to its distinguished alumnus by naming its oral history program the Forrest Carlisle Pogue Oral History Institute of the College of Humanistic Studies. Pogue was recently recognized by Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region with the establishment of an award named after him and given annually to an outstanding scholar in the field. He is a member of the Kentucky Oral History Commission and was president of the Oral History Association from 1970-71.

MINNESOTA POWER LINE QUARREL DOCUMENTED

In 1972 two generating and transmission cooperatives serving most of Minnesota's retail electric suppliers announced an agreement to construct a coal-fired generating plant in central North Dakota's lignite field with a high-voltage power line connecting it to the Twin Cities. Lignite, a low-grade coal, cannot be transported economically to generating stations; thus the establishment of a mine-mouth facility.

Power lines were constructed across 425 miles, 170 miles with 695 towers at intervals of one-quarter mile crossing the property of 476 landowners in nine western and central Minnesota counties. A storm of protest arose from farmers in the rich agricultural counties of Grant and Pope, and over a two-year period towers were toppled and gunfire exchanged. The state patrol mobilized to guard the line.

The Minnesota Historical Society chose the dispute as its first major effort in documenting current events and now has fifty-one interviews representing conflicting positions. Selected follow-up interviews are planned.

Information: James E. Fogerty, MHS, 1500 Mississippi St., St. Paul, MN 55101.

**PLAN NOW
OHA
WORKSHOP-
COLLOQUIUM
September 24-27, 1981
Radisson Burlington Hotel
Burlington, Vermont**

CALENDAR

March 27-29
British OH Soc.
U. of Lancaster

April 1-4
Org. Am. Hist.
Detroit

April 24-26
OHMAR
Spring Workshop
Davis, W.Va.

May 1-2
Saskatchewan OH Conf.
US-Regina

June 7-11
Canadian Museums Assn.
Quebec City

June 28-July 4
Am. Library Assn.
San Francisco

ALL THAT JAZZ: OH AT RUTGERS

The late Marshall Stearns, professor of medieval literature at Hunter College and noted jazz historian, and a group of jazz devotees founded the Institute of Jazz Studies (IJS) in 1952. In 1966 Rutgers University-Newark became the institute's permanent home and received the core collection.

The institute's comprehensive program preserves and promotes jazz in all its facets. In addition to maintaining a jazz archive, the institute performs consulting services; sponsors seminars, exhibits and festivals; and publishes the semiannual *Journal of Jazz Studies*.

The institute also conducts a jazz oral history project which began at the Smithsonian Institution in 1974. With NEA funding, the project interviews noted jazz artists.

The *IJS Jazz Register and Indexes*, a microfiche register indexed by performer, performing group, title of selection, composer, arranger, etc., label name and issue number, sometimes reveals forgotten performances. Listening to these selections, jazz artists often remember times shared in the early days of their careers. With support from NEH, the institute is producing a computerized catalog of its recorded sound collection and works with other archives and institutions toward the creation of a union catalog of jazz recordings.

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NAVAL INSTITUTE OH ACTIVITIES

In 1979 the U.S. Naval Institute, Annapolis, Maryland, added twelve volumes of memoirs, more than 5,000 pages, to its holdings at the Naval History Center, the Naval Academy Library and the Naval War College, bringing the total volumes to nearly 100. For ten years John T. Mason, director of the institute's oral history program, has been helping people recall and record events.

The institute provided technical advice to the British Royal Navy and the Australian Naval Institute in setting up similar oral history programs. A project in India and a National Guard group in California also requested assistance.

The editors of the institute's monthly journal, *Proceedings*, recently initiated "As I Recall," a feature drawn from the oral histories. Each piece links the historical content of the quotation used with an article in that issue. Adm. Robert L. Dennison's account of the Bay of Pigs episode in the October 1979 issue gained national attention.

The use of oral histories in writing naval biographies is growing. Dean Allard (Naval History Center) reports completion of a number of works on naval history. Several more are in process, and in all cases the authors have used oral histories. Allard reports that every third person who comes to the center for information about the Navy is likely to use one or more of the oral memoirs. Scholars, writers and researchers from China, Japan, Western Europe, and Canada have used the collection.

Adm. U.S. Grant Sharp, in his book *Strategy For Defeat* (Presidio Press, 1978), refers to the two volumes of his memoirs. Cdr. Thomas Buell credited the use of some fifteen volumes of oral history in his biography of Fleet Adm. Ernest J. King. Using Adm. Thomas Hart's oral interviews, James Leutze is working on a biography of Hart in the Far East at the outbreak of WW II. Leutze's book will be published by the institute in 1981.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY ETHNIC ORAL HISTORY

The Fresno County (Calif.) Free Library, under the direction of local history librarian, Sam A. Suhler, has completed more than 150 interviews since 1968. Staffers Yoshino Hasegawa and Keith Boettcher, with the help of volunteers from the Japanese community, have completed thirty-nine interviews with Japanese-Americans, many of whom were interned during World War II. Many interviews deal with the culture and economics of various other ethnic groups of the area. All interviews are transcribed and resumes are filed at the California State Library and The Bancroft Library.

SMITHSONIAN GETS FILM SERIES

"Geographers on Film," initiated in 1970 at Plymouth State College (PSC), New Hampshire, is a videotaped series of interviews with North American geographers talking about the genesis and development of their profession. Maynard Weston Dow, a PSC geographer, directs the project.

PSC is the repository and distribution center for the video series, used in introductory college geography courses. The Smithsonian Institution recently added ninety-four of the interviews to its Geography Archives.

The project is funded by the Association of American Geographers and the National Science Foundation. Address: Dept. of Geog., PSC, 27 Highland St., Plymouth, NH 03264.

SUMMER OH COURSES

Oral History Mini Workshop

Jackson State University
Jackson, Mississippi
May 25-June 6
Instructor: Alferdteen Harrison

20th Annual Institute for Advanced Archival Studies

University of Denver
June 15-July 11
Instructor: Dolores C. Renze

ASTROPHYSICS EMPHASIS OF AIP

In 1976 the Center for History of Physics of the American Institute of Physics (AIP) decided to make a major effort in the field of astrophysics and initiated what may be the most extensive oral history project in the history of science: Sources for History of Modern Astrophysics (SHMA). The more than 400 hours of interviews with over 100 astronomers comprise the largest single consistent body of testimony yet gathered in any field of history of science.

AIP was encouraged by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Preliminary interviews with prominent astronomers were held to identify trends, events, people and institutions to be included. The National Science Foundation granted funds for a three-year project. Other funds were provided by the American Institute of Physics, the Friends of the Center for History of Physics, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

The first and, until SHMA, the most extensive oral history project in the history of science, resulted in AIP's *Sources for History of Quantum Physics: An Inventory and Report* by Thomas S. Kuhn, John L. Heilbron, Paul Forman, and Lini Allen (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1967). This successful effort included microfilmed papers and interviews on the quantum revolu-

OREGON HISTORY SOC. ACTIVE IN OH

The history of scientific development in Oregon is the emphasis of the Oregon State Historical Society's oral history activities in 1980, centering on the evolution of medical education at the old University of Oregon Medical School. The society's five-year-old oral history program is also involved in efforts to preserve 150 reel-to-reel recordings, some made over twenty-five years ago, that are untranscribed and deteriorating.

Area interest in oral history has led to a monthly seminar for beginners. Contact: Linda Brody, Oregon St. Hist. Soc., 1230 SW Park Ave., Portland, OR 97205.

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Amelia Fry, an interviewer-editor at ROHO, began the project after meeting Paul in Washington while Fry was doing research in the archives at the woman's party headquarters. Other interviews were gathered by Fern Ingersoll, Malca Chall, and Sherna Gluck. Five of the memoirs were compiled by Gluck for Vintage Press and published in paperback in *From Parlor to Prison*. Fry and Chall codirected the project. For information contact Chall at ROHO (415-642-7395) or Fry in Washington, where she is working on a book on Paul (202-547-1058).

tion of the 1920s. Following the quantum physics work, AIP began a project surveying nuclear physics from the 1930s through the 1950s. Astrophysics follows the work in quantum and nuclear physics.

AIP, in cooperation with a panel on the history of astronomy, took an interest in astrophysics as early as 1970, conducted a few interviews and promoted the preservation of documents. For example, "Source Materials for the Recent History of Astronomy and Astrophysics: A Checklist of Manuscript Collections in the United States," appeared in the *Journal for the History of Astronomy* 2:210-18 (1971).

All interviews are transcribed and, after final editing, are given indexes of names, institutions, places, major instruments, and specific astronomical objects. An analytic table of contents listing one or two descriptive phrases per page is made for each transcript, as well as a one-paragraph abstract.

Plans are under way to deposit copies of the interviews (as well as microfilms, etc.) in the Regenstein Library of the University of Chicago, the American Philosophical Society Library in Philadelphia, and other appropriate repositories. Copies of most indexes, tables of contents, and abstracts are available at cost of photocopying from AIP, 335 E. 45 St., New York, NY 10017.

THE URBAN ARCHIVES' "DISCOVERING COMMUNITY HISTORY"

by Charles Hardy

Introduction

The Discovering Community History Project sponsored by the Urban Archives at Temple University was designed as an experiment aimed at democratizing history by enabling the residents of three very different Philadelphia neighborhoods to explore and document their communities' pasts. The objective was to provide aid and encouragement to those neighbors interested in developing historical projects of their own choice, rather than for project staff to establish the activities and do the work as in a more conventional historical project. We hoped to make people aware of the importance of their own and their community's history and to save local historical materials—the memories of long-time residents, personal or organizational papers, photographs or buildings—that might otherwise be lost forever.

The three communities we worked with were Haddington, a black turn-of-the-century row house neighborhood, integrated during the 1920s through the 40s and now almost 97% Black; Wynnefield, a residential neighborhood of mixed housing on the Western edge of the city that integrated during the 1960s and 70s; and Whitman, tucked away in the Southeast corner of the city comprised of Irish and Polish Catholics and scene of the Whitman Park housing controversy.

I

Rather than summarizing the results of the project or writing an overly technical description of our method I shall describe some important methodological issues we consider relevant to all "community" history projects in large cities: (1) the problem of overcoming traditional notions of what constitutes history; (2) the uses of oral history; and (3) why it is important to recognize the state of a community's economic development and the composition of its population, both ethnically and occupationally. Ignorance of these problems make it difficult to gauge a researcher's expectations and strategies.

The greatest initial barrier and recurring problem faced throughout the course of the project was the difficulty many people had in understanding exactly what the project organizers were there for and what constituted "history." Our initial meetings in each neighborhood consisted of panels of scholars describing the project and a slide show developed by Dr. Fred Miller, the Director of the Urban Archives, describing for the audience the varieties of materials that constitute local historical resources. The slide show was an effective aid but still wasn't strong enough to counter the neighborhood residents' previous educational exposure to history.

We were encountering the cumulative effect of an educational system and culture that has associated history with the lives of great men and major events. For the average citizen who has never been taught to realize the historical dimension and importance of their own lives and communities, merely stating this importance is, of course, not very convincing. Indeed, such stressing of individual importance is contradictory to a lifetime of experience as being "powerless" and inconsistent with their understanding of "history" and all that is associated with the word. Even *Roots*, after all, is the story of a remarkable family written by a professional journalist, not by an historian.

Such a reorientation takes time and repeated exposure. In two of our communities it wasn't until the final slide presentations, when actually faced with the results of our researches to date, that the residents saw how they were represented and how the neighborhood looked. It was then that they realized and understood what was being attempted—how it was genuine "history." They realized how critical their contribution was for a reconstruction that accurately portrayed their understanding and remembrance of their own lives and communities to counter prevailing stereotypes. This dawning realization was the major theme of these meetings.

These problems surfaced because the project did not, in two cases, tap the memories and photographs which the residents considered important in their lives, but which they felt would appear commonplace to "outsiders" and scholars. In one neighborhood it was not until the week before the project ended that a series of scrapbooks chronicling in detail one of the city's early and very successful urban renewal efforts was shown to us. These were complete with before and after photographs—in color—and excellent summaries of the events.

II

Oral history was a major component of our work in all three neighborhoods but was not the **sole** activity. Though the interviews themselves can be fascinating and of great historical worth, they are most effective when made part of a broader research effort and when placed in historical contexts. The background and complementary research is indispensable.

It is the recreation of the different personal perspectives through oral history and the placing of these individuals' experiences into the broader flow of history that bring both to life, demonstrate how individuals are participants in, and their lives illustrative of, the major movements and facets of the nation's history. History

is thus made more comprehensive and meaningful in an immediate and compelling manner.

The dilemma of encouraging community participation and elevating community historical consciousness is best solved by using local residents as interviewers. We have found that the best interviews often come from the enthusiastic amateur. There are a number of reasons for this. The historian generally comes from or has been trained in academic culture and an academic style which raises the problem of establishing rapport, particularly when the time with the interviewee is limited. Language can be a real barrier. For instance, elderly black men and women often felt compelled to adjust their speech to the listener.

Even when a good rapport is achieved by an accomplished or personable interviewer, the spontaneity and candor naturally extended between friends, neighbors, and people of the same background is often lacking. These matters of style are obstacles frequently never realized by the interviewer nor accepted as an inherent limitation in the project design. Yet they may be overcome, and should at least be tested by the use of local persons as interviewers.

In training volunteers we found that an overreliance on academic trainers and pedagogic overkill was possible. The best training was by practice and application. Strict questionnaire formats were a hindrance in this work. The comparability of data sought by many scholars is a concern of professionals working with strict conceptual requirements that need not be made the concern of the community historian.

With elderly people I've often found that interviewing them two or three at a time produced a better result than interviewing them singly. Not only do they refresh each other's memories but through the sharing of experiences they can stimulate support toward the task at hand. It is remarkable how much more is often recalled in such situations. Still, individual interviewing is also valuable because it's more comprehensive in scope.

Do, whenever possible, use the best quality of equipment; recorders, microphones and tapes of broadcast quality. There is no greater disappointment than to have a fabulous interview discarded because of the poor sound quality. One does not know to what future uses a tape might be put a year or fifty years from now and by using a low fidelity cassette or built in microphone all options are precluded because of poor sound quality. In the long run it is well worth the added initial expense and trouble.

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III

It is important when starting a project not to expect the same type of reception in different neighborhoods. This is not caused by differences of race or class but by factors that have to do more with an area's recent history and demographics. We learned over the course of our project that each neighborhood requires a unique set of techniques, strategies and expectations that recognize the problems to be faced and that can deduce with some accuracy where the information lies and how best to go about obtaining it.

In establishing contacts community organizations are excellent entrées into a neighborhood but by no means guarantors of success nor insurance of access to a representative cross section of the community or its leaders. A comprehensive canvassing of civic associations, clubs, agencies, et al. should be carried out to obtain a rough grasp of the distribution of subgroups and subcommunities within an area and to provide a reasoned plan for proceeding. It is extremely important to be comprehensive and to know the large contours and proportions before focusing in on a specific topic or group.

One, if not the most important, place to start is with the local churches (and synagogues). When someone has resided in a neighborhood for many years he/she is usually a longstanding member of some congregation. When a group of people moved into an area they usually established churches first. Find out when this happened and you are not far from the date of migration. And long after many a senior citizen has ceased his or her other activities they remain with the church. The churches have long cared for the elderly's spiritual and social needs. They are the last institutions outside the family and before the retirement homes envelop them with which contact is maintained. The church, too, can provide the credibility you need to contact someone and meet with a warm reception. This credibility is a crucial component.

Our success in Wynnefield was due in large part to the strong community organization which took an active part in contacting people, assigning tasks, checking up, and following through. It is an organization with this form of clout that one needs association with. The comprehensive canvassing of an area and background research will increase the chances of getting in contact with just such an organization.

* * * * *

Neighborhoods which do not show enthusiasm and participation, might be those with the most to tell. As I said, Wynnefield's success was in large part due to the community association's active management of the project. Our experiences in Haddington, where the community association because of more pressing concerns and a shortage of staff could not take this affirmative role, are an interesting contrast to Wynnefield.

Haddington's "Blockbusting" and racial movement occurred some twenty years before Wynnefield's; Haddington is, therefore, an older neighborhood. Today Haddington is overlooked by the City Hall planners because of greater blight and more pressing problems in other parts of the city. The residents find themselves, therefore, subjected to cutbacks in funds and city services. As one old gentleman told us, "I tell you what one of our problems is. We have lost our momentum. At one time we were able to get that school. We had a reputation of being active. The neighborhood used to come first. But now the older members are sick and have died—can't come out." And their counterparts and children have moved to other parts of the city or left the city altogether.

What is important, and why Haddington is of special interest, is the need to record and understand the story of Black Haddington in the inter- and postwar periods. These people are now advanced in age. The senior citizens of Haddington and the rest of Philadelphia are a tremendous, and irreplaceable resource. Their story, Haddington's story, is a microcosm of one of the last great migrations in American history—of rural Southern Blacks to the Northern cities. These people lived it, and in many cases are our only and most important sources of a history well worth the telling.

The history of Haddington that we discovered was one of not just survival but of moderate success for a number of Blacks who came to Philadelphia during the interwar years. This is a story not often told and the materials for the reconstruction of which become fewer day by day. As such it is important as an example of how people oppressed in many ways and tolerated in others accommodated to a new environment—a new way of life very different from the South they came from—and spent their lives in the West Philadelphia row houses of Haddington.

IV

The study of family and local history, and the lives of individuals through oral history, is an excellent way to trace com-

munity history. The connection between an individual and his or her society may be approached from many angles. One may approach from any time, from any locale, at any socio-economic position and connect directly to national and international events. This is the fascination and importance for the residents. To present their understanding of what it was like to live in their communities and to observe how each community is in fact a microcosm, integrally related to and affected by the trends and the forces of national and international life, is the task of the "community" historian. All too often there is too much concentration on the mechanics of oral history, and the purpose of it all is lost. Our educational system itself breeds this compartmentalization of analysis to the point where the integrated vision and sense of meaning that the layman expects and requires of his history become the farthest thing from the historian's mind. The interests of the academic and his training present formidable barriers between the historian and the citizenry. There is still a great deal to be learned by both sides.

Reprinted, with permission of The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Comm., from Reel to Reel: Pennsylvania Oral History Newsletter, 2 (Fall 1980), [2,5-6]. Charles Hardy, Ph.D. candidate, Temple U., produces radio series on American popular culture for public station WUHY-FM.

OHMAR HOLDS FALL MEETING IN DC

OHMAR's November meeting in Washington, D.C. focused on "Post-Election Analysis: Oral Histories of Politicians." Speakers included Donald A. Ritchie (U.S. Senate Hist. Office), moderator; Fern Ingersoll (Former Members of Congress), Howard L. Greene (N.J. Hist. Comm.), and Helen Scharf (League of Women Voters).

Betty McKeever Key, director of oral history projects for the Maryland Historical Society, received OHMAR's second annual Forrest C. Pogue Award for outstanding contributions to oral history. In addition to her work for the society, Key discussed the Eugene McCarthy research project.

OHMAR officers for 1980-81 are: Pamela Henson (Smithsonian Archives), president; Bruce Wilson (U. of Maryland), vice president; Patricia Cooper (U. of Maryland), treasurer; David Goodman, secretary; and Greene, council.

UNITY HISTORY PROJECT"

III

It is important when starting a project not to expect the same type of reception in different neighborhoods. This is not caused by differences of race or class but by factors that have to do more with an area's recent history and demographics. We learned over the course of our project that each neighborhood requires a unique set of techniques, strategies and expectations that recognize the problems to be faced and that can deduce with some accuracy where the information lies and how best to go about obtaining it.

In establishing contacts community organizations are excellent entrées into a neighborhood but by no means guarantors of success nor insurance of access to a representative cross section of the community or its leaders. A comprehensive canvassing of civic associations, clubs, agencies, et al. should be carried out to obtain a rough grasp of the distribution of subgroups and subcommunities within an area and to provide a reasoned plan for proceeding. It is extremely important to be comprehensive and to know the large contours and proportions before focusing in on a specific topic or group.

One, if not the most important, place to start is with the local churches (and synagogues). When someone has resided in a neighborhood for many years he/she is usually a longstanding member of some congregation. When a group of people moved into an area they usually established churches first. Find out when this happened and you are not far from the date of migration. And long after many a senior citizen has ceased his or her other activities they remain with the church. The churches have long cared for the elderly's spiritual and social needs. They are the last institutions outside the family and before the retirement homes envelop them with which contact is maintained. The church, too, can provide the credibility you need to contact someone and meet with a warm reception. This credibility is a crucial component.

Our success in Wynnefield was due in large part to the strong community organization which took an active part in contacting people, assigning tasks, checking up, and following through. It is an organization with this form of clout that one needs association with. The comprehensive canvassing of an area and background research will increase the chances of getting in contact with just such an organization.

Neighborhoods which do not show enthusiasm and participation, might be those with the most to tell. As I said, Wynnefield's success was in large part due to the community association's active management of the project. Our experiences in Haddington, where the community association because of more pressing concerns and a shortage of staff could not take this affirmative role, are an interesting contrast to Wynnefield.

Haddington's "Blockbusting" and racial movement occurred some twenty years before Wynnefield's; Haddington is, therefore, an older neighborhood. Today Haddington is overlooked by the City Hall planners because of greater blight and more pressing problems in other parts of the city. The residents find themselves, therefore, subjected to cutbacks in funds and city services. As one old gentleman told us, "I tell you what one of our problems is. We have lost our momentum. At one time we were able to get that school. We had a reputation of being active. The neighborhood used to come first. But now the older members are sick and have died—can't come out." And their counterparts and children have moved to other parts of the city or left the city altogether.

What is important, and why Haddington is of special interest, is the need to record and understand the story of Black Haddington in the inter- and postwar periods. These people are now advanced in age. The senior citizens of Haddington and the rest of Philadelphia are a tremendous, and irreplaceable resource. Their story, Haddington's story, is a microcosm of one of the last great migrations in American history—of rural Southern Blacks to the Northern cities. These people lived it, and in many cases are our only and most important sources of a history well worth the telling.

The history of Haddington that we discovered was one of not just survival but of moderate success for a number of Blacks who came to Philadelphia during the interwar years. This is a story not often told and the materials for the reconstruction of which become fewer day by day. As such it is important as an example of how people oppressed in many ways and tolerated in others accommodated to a new environment—a new way of life very different from the South they came from—and spent their lives in the West Philadelphia row houses of Haddington.

IV

The study of family and local history, and the lives of individuals through oral history, is an excellent way to trace com-

munity history. The connection between an individual and his or her society may be approached from many angles. One may approach from any time, from any locale, at any socio-economic position and connect directly to national and international events. This is the fascination and importance for the residents. To present their understanding of what it was like to live in their communities and to observe how each community is in fact a microcosm, integrally related to and affected by the trends and the forces of national and international life, is the task of the "community" historian. All too often there is too much concentration on the mechanics of oral history, and the purpose of it all is lost. Our educational system itself breeds this compartmentalization of analysis to the point where the integrated vision and sense of meaning that the layman expects and requires of his history become the farthest thing from the historian's mind. The interests of the academic and his training present formidable barriers between the historian and the citizenry. There is still a great deal to be learned by both sides.

Reprinted, with permission of The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Comm., from Reel to Reel: Pennsylvania Oral History Newsletter, 2 (Fall 1980). [2.5-6]. Charles Hardy, Ph.D. candidate, Temple U., produces radio series on American popular culture for public station WUHY-FM.

OHMAR HOLDS FALL MEETING IN DC

OHMAR's November meeting in Washington, D.C., focused on "Post-Election Analysis: Oral Histories of Politicians." Speakers included Donald A. Ritchie (U.S. Senate Hist. Office), moderator; Fern Ingersoll (Former Members of Congress), Howard L. Greene (N.J. Hist. Comm.), and Helen Scharf (League of Women Voters).

Betty McKeever Key, director of oral history projects for the Maryland Historical Society, received OHMAR's second annual Forrest C. Pogue Award for outstanding contributions to oral history. In addition to her work for the society, Key discussed the Eugene McCarthy research project.

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POSITIONS

ORAL HISTORIAN. Coordinate oral collections of the Institute on the Federal Theatre Project and New Deal Culture and projected programs. Faculty, tenure track. Ph.D. in 20th-century U.S. hist. Training/experience in OH, rank/salary commensurate. Contact: Dr. Martin B. Cohen, Dept. of Hist., George Mason Univ., Fairfax, VA 22030. (703) 323-2242.

FIELD INTERVIEWER. Iowa Labor History Oral Project. Extensive travel in Iowa, interviewing trade unionists on the labor movement, collecting union records. Background in labor history and interviewing necessary, union experience desirable. Salary to \$14,000 plus expenses. Contact: Lynn Feekin, Labor Center, 319-353-5355. Deadline March 1.

DIRECTOR. Charles Babbage Institute for the History of Information Processing (CBI), University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Develop archival program, including OH. Ph.D. in science and technology or engineering, with interest in history of computing. Tenure track, twelve-month appointment. Rank/salary open.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CBI. Scientist-engineer, Ph.D. or equivalent. Familiarity with OH desired. Renewable contract, minimum three years. Twelve-month appointment, salary open. Contact: Roger H. Stuewer, School of Physics and Astronomy, U. of Minnesota, 116 Church St., SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

GRANTS

State Humanities

Grayson County (Texas) Historical Society, \$1,500, Railroad in My Blood: Recollections of Texoma Retirees and Wives.

Sangamon State U., \$18,671, Eyewitness, Illinois: Memoirs of the Governors.

The Labor Education Service, U. of Minnesota, \$23,000 for oral, visual and written data on teamster strike of 1934 and film.

NEH:

Adams County Hist. Soc., Hastings, Neb., \$424,480, introduction of adolescents to the Dust Bowl era by Great Plains historians and instruction in OH.

Feminist Radio Network, Washington, D.C., \$35,000 to produce eight programs for the Feminist Radio Network on women immigrants in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Monroe County Public Lib., Bloomington, Ind., \$73,417 to train 1,500 youths in family history through OH workshops.

Mountain Plains Lib. Assn., Vermillion, S. Dak., \$259,375 to produce films, exhibits, OH, seminars and discussions on the rural one-room-school experience; 188 public and academic libraries in eight states.

Sierra Club, San Francisco, \$87,493 to collect and transcribe 40-60 interviews of club and environmental leaders of the '60s and '70s.

Teaneck Public Library, N.J., \$9,633 to plan OH, videotapes and guide on town's response to local population growth and change.

United Negro College Fund, Inc., NYC, \$25,250, one-year project with individuals important to history of UNCF.

U. of Colorado, Boulder, \$25,210 to continue documentation of National Institute of Science.

Ft. Mason Foundation, San Francisco, \$152,790 to continue OH panels, lectures, exhibits, etc., on the Pacific Coast's maritime heritage.

Boys Club of Queens, Long Isl. City, N.Y., \$5,000 to teach OH to boys tracing ethnic and historic development of the Astoria community.

City of East Chicago, Ind., \$5,000 to teach youth to conduct interviews on the history of the city's major ethnic communities.

Friends of the Handley Library, Winchester, Va., \$2,500 to plan for youth to collect OH of the black community.

Indian Youth of America, Sioux City, Ia., \$5,000 to enable Indian youths to interview tribal elders.

Lithuanian Institute of Education, Chicago, \$5,000 to train youth to trace OH of area Lithuanian immigrants.

Lola T. Martin Scholarship Fund, Hempstead, N.Y., \$5,000 to train youth for OH of minority residents.

Memphis Public Library, \$2,500 for pilot OH project by youth to produce folklore pamphlet.

Museum of Transportation, Boston, \$46,074 to involve teen-agers in teaching OH to youngsters in afterschool activities.

Sheridan County (Wyo.) Fulmer Public Library, \$5,000 for high-school youth to teach rudiments of photography, OH and writing to special ed. classes for pictorial history of Sheridan.

Montgomery Neighborhood Center, Rochester, N.Y., \$2,500 to enable black and Hispanic youths to conduct OH and film of black citizens and organizations.

Ocmulgee Regional Library, Eastman, Ga., \$5,000 to enable youth to discover and document historical sites in five counties and present findings to larger groups.

Pitt County Community Schools, Greenville, N.C., \$2,500 for youth-produced OH of the county.

River Falls Area Schools, Wis., \$5,000 for youth OH and seminars on events in St. Paul/Minneapolis area.

Salem Youth Comm., Mass., \$5,000 to enable area youth to create exhibit and radio series from OH.

Dept. of Recreation, Village of Rockwell Center, N.Y., \$2,500 for youth to review photo archives and do OH on suburban family life.

Washington Neighborhood Center, Inc., Sacramento, Ca., \$5,000 for Chicano youth to do OH of their heritage.

YWCA of Easton, Pa., \$2,500 to enable youth to produce local OH media presentation.

YWCA Intervention Program, Auburn, Me., \$5,000 to develop slide-tape presentation on Franco-American cultural influences on the community.

Frederick County 4-H Clubs, Md., \$5,000 for youth to do research and interview elderly residents for slide-tape program on the urbanization of the area.

Mississippi Valley State U., \$2,500 to involve youth from eight cities in research and OH on the influence and contributions of black schools in the lives of urban blacks who migrated from Mississippi.

St. Croix Tribal Council, Webster, Wis., \$2,500 program plan for broadening tribal knowledge of St. Croix youth through OH, literature, anthropology, and archaeology.

Webb County Historical Comm., Laredo, Tx., \$5,000 for Hispanic youth to use OH in production of guidebook for walking tours of the county.

Wesleyan U., Middletown, Conn., \$2,500 for undergrads and high-school seniors to supervise high-school students in production of oral and religious history of blacks in Middletown.

Other grants:

Port Washington (NY) Public Library, six-month grant from Arwood Foundation for interviews with descendants of settlers on Long Island's Cow Neck Peninsula.

BOOK NOTICES

Directory of Illinois Oral History Resources. Comp. by Kathryn Wrigley. (Springfield, Ill.: Illinois Oral History Clearinghouse, 1981. 54 pp. Index. Maps. \$1) Write and pay: Oral History Services, Sangamon St. U., Springfield, IL 62708.

Oral History for Louisiana. By Joel Gardner. Illus. by Stan Dark. 1980. Write: State of Louisiana Secretary of State Archives and Records Service, P.O. Box 44125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804. 29 pp. Free

A Field Notebook for Oral History. n.a., n.d. Write: Idaho State Historical Society, 610 N. Julia Davis Dr., Boise, ID 83702. Packet. Free

History Comes to Life in Your Grandmother's Stories. By Stacy Ericson Lucas. Illus. by Kathleen Silva. n.d. Write: *Idaho Oral History Center Newsletter*, Idaho State Historical Society, 610 N. Julia Davis Dr., Boise, ID 83702. Booklet. Free

The Man from Maine: Charles Dinsmore, an Oral History. By Peter Heffelfinger and Barbara Heacock. 1980. Write: Skagit County Oral History Assoc., Skagit Voices, Anacortes Library, 1209 Ninth St., Anacortes, WA 98221. 72 pp. Illus. Photos. \$2.45
Washington logging and folklore.

Nations Remembered: An Oral History of the Five Civilized Tribes, 1865-1907. Comp. by Theda Perdue. (Westport, Ct.: Greenwood Pr., 1980. 264 pp. Photos. Maps. Bibliog. Index. \$23.95)
From Federal Writers' Project.

This Song Remembers: Self Portraits of Native Americans in the Arts. Ed. by Jane B. Katz. Foreword by Dee Brown. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1980. 207 pp. Photos. Illus. Notes. \$8.95)

Voices from Three Mile Island: The People Speak Out. (Trumansburg, N.Y.: Crossing Pr., 1980. 124 pp. Illus. \$8.95)

Tom Ashley, Sam McGee, Bukka White: Tennessee Traditional Singers. Edited by Thomas B. Burton (Knoxville: Univ. of Tennessee Pr., 1981. Photos. Discographies. \$14.50)

We Didn't Have Much But We Sure Had Plenty: Stories of Rural Women. By Sherry Thomas. (Garden City, N.Y.: Anchor Press-Doubleday, 1981. \$7.95)

Flight of the Vin Fiz. (By E. P. Stein. (New York: Times Books, 1980. Illus. \$12.95)
Flight across USA, 1911.

Talking Medicine: America's Doctors Tell Their Stories. By Peter MacGarr Rabino-witz. Intro. by Robert Coles. (New York: Norton, 1981. \$14.95)

Language Death: A Case Study of a Gaelic-speaking Community. By Nancy C. Dorian. (Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania Pr., 1981. Bibliog. Index. 256 pp. \$22. \$9.95)
Sociolinguistics, language history.

Immigrant Women. Ed. by Maxine Seller. (Philadelphia: Temple U. Pr., 1980. \$17.50. \$8.95)

The Unknown Battle: Metz 1944. By Anthony Kemp. (New York: Stein and Day, 1980. Illus. \$14.95)

War on the Eastern Front 1941-1945: The German Soldier in Russia. By James Lucas. (New York: Stein and Day, 1980. 214 pp. Photos. Maps. Bibliog. Index. \$16.95)

The Israeli-Egyptian War of Attrition, 1969-1970: A Case-Study of Limited Local War. By Yaacov Bar-Simon-Tov. (New York: Columbia U. Pr., 1980. 256 pp. \$17.50)

Australian Dreaming: 40,000 Years of Aboriginal History. Comp. & ed. by Jennifer Isaacs. (New York: Lansdowne Pr.-Mere-weather Pr., 1980. 304 pp. Photos. Bibliog. Index. \$39.95)

Woody Guthrie: A Life. By Joe Klein. (New York: Knopf, 1980. 512 pp. Illus. \$15.95)

"Oral History in the Netherlands." By Jaap Talsma. *Higher Education and Research in the Netherlands*, 24 (Winter-Spring 1980), 41-45.

... also in print

"Guidebooks for Oral History Projects." Comp. by Willa K. Baum. *History News*, 35 (Dec. 1980), 34-35.

"Conversation with Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.: The Use of Oral History." By Lynn A. Bonfield. *The American Archivist* 43 (Fall 1980), 461-472.

"Oral History Research in Louisiana: An Overview." By Hubert D. Humphreys. *Louisiana History*, 20 (Fall 1979).

"Foxfire: Folklore and Oral History Light up a Curriculum." By Linda Blanken. *Humanities*, 1 (December 1980), 9-10.

"Whiskey Run: Where Coal Dust Mixed with Murder." By Eileen M. Cooper. *Pennsylvania Heritage*, 6 (Spring 1980), 15-19.

"Some Recollections of the Cooper Grocery Company: An Interview with Roger Conger." By Roger N. Conger and Thomas L. Charlton. *Waco Heritage & History*, 11 (Fall 1980), 21-35.

"Nothing Forced or Fancy." By David Stricklin. *Southern Exposure*, 8 (Winter 1980), 46-51.

NEWS

The Second Atlantic Oral History Conference was held October 17-19 at Memramcook Institute, New Brunswick, under the leadership of Ronald Labelle (Centre d'études acadiennes, Université de Moncton), and Gary Hughes (New Brunswick Museum, Saint John). Sessions were in both French and English.

Mary B. Roberts (Okla. Christian Coll.) recently retired as associate director of the Oklahoma Living Legends OH Project. Roberts is the elder of a two-generation oral history family, the younger being Amelia (Chita) Roberts Fry (U. of Calif.-Berkeley).

Earthwatch volunteers are needed to help identify, record, and document the folklore and folklife traditions of communities in sixteen counties of Alabama and Mississippi soon to be affected by the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. Research teams (Apr. 4-19; May 30-June 14) will interview, transcribe, and edit tapes, as well as write vignettes, take photographs, and make video and audio tapes to be shared with arts and humanities groups and the Smithsonian Institution. Contact: Bernice Reagon (Smithsonian Inst.) or Jane W. Sapp (Miles College-Eutaw).

David McComb (Colorado State U.) received an American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) award of merit for his Colorado oral history and the July 1976 Big Thompson Canyon disaster. The award, for contributing to an understanding of contemporary Colorado, was presented at AASLH's annual meeting in New Orleans, September 7-10, 1980.

The Grand Lodge of Texas Committee on Masonic Education and Service has established a program for interviewing and recording the reminiscences of past grand masters and other prominent Texas Masons. The interviews will be deposited in the Grand Lodge Library, Waco, Texas.

Martha Ross (U. of Maryland) is interviewing George C. Paffenbarger, pioneer in dental materials research since 1929. Robert J. Nelsen, executive director of the American College of Dentists, commissioned the work.

The Charles Babbage Institute for the History of Information Processing (CBI) moved from temporary quarters in Palo Alto, California, to a permanent location at the University of Minnesota last November. New Address: 104 Walter Library, 117 Pleasant St., SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

NEWS continued on page 8

**OHA OFFICIAL
BUSINESS**

**Ronald E.
Marcello
Executive
Secretary**



As I was compiling the 1980 financial report for OHA, I was struck by the smallness of the income generated from the sale of publications. I then reviewed several previous annual financial statements and found the same thing occurring in past years. For whatever reason, publications sales have contributed a very small percentage of OHA's overall revenues. It may be that we have been remiss in publicizing and marketing our material. Perhaps it is not sufficient merely to list the "Publications in Print" in the annual *Review* or to mention occasionally specific publications in the *Newsletter*.

I would like to take this opportunity, therefore, to remind the membership of the broad selection of OHA publications that are available through this office. Our inventory includes large numbers of Shumway's *Oral History in the United States: A Directory* (1971); Wasserman's *Bibliography on Oral History* (1975); every *Oral History Review* since its initial publication in 1973 (except for the 1976 *Review*, which is out of print); the Proceedings for the 5th and 6th Colloquia (1 through 4 are out of print); all back issues of the *Newsletter* (some photocopied); and the *Evaluations Guidelines*.

OHA's latest, and perhaps most important, publication to date is the *Evaluation Guidelines*. Council considered it important enough to send a copy to each current member and to give one to every new member as a part of the annual membership package. Additional copies may be purchased, and this is one publication that

will probably be reprinted. The price is \$2.00 per copy, and orders of ten or more may be purchased for \$1.50 apiece. We believe that the *Evaluation Guidelines* are a "must" for serious practitioners of the craft, and that students in oral history classes and administrators of new programs should be aware of its contents.

Upon request I shall be happy to provide reasonable amounts of publications order forms. These forms indicate the available publications and their prices. They also describe the OHA publications that may be obtained in microform through Microfilming Corporation of America. Numerous members have also indicated the publications order forms are convenient for distribution at workshops and lectures.

It should also be noted that all orders of ten or more copies of the same title (with the exception of the *Evaluation Guidelines*) are entitled to a 50 percent discount on the basis of a no-return policy. Further, in January, 1978, Council decided to make available a "Publications Packet" consisting of the four latest *Newsletters*, the current *Review*, and the *Bibliography* at a cost of \$5.00. We do require prepayment for all publications orders due to past difficulties in collecting delinquent accounts.

**Executive Secretary
Box 13734, N.T. Station
Denton, TX 76203
(817) 387-1021 or 788-2252**

NEWS

continued from page 7

The Oral History Office at Sangamon State University, directed by Cullom Davis, began work in January on a two-year, \$66,144-project, *Eyewitness Illinois: Memoirs of the Governors*. Interviews with four ex-governors will document the evolution of the office from World War II, when less than a dozen persons were employed with an annual payroll of \$30,000, to the present 138 positions salaried at over \$2 million.

Members of Columbia's 1980 graduate seminar have inaugurated an Oral History Alumni Association which graduates of earlier classes are invited to join.

The four-year-old Oral History Program of the Houston Public Library's Metropolitan Research Center, directed by Louis J. Marchiafava, has compiled more than 300 interviews dealing with the political, cultural, and economic growth of the city. All tapes are indexed and listed by subject. Access is by appointment only.

Four half-hour color video programs, "Conversations with Missouri Writers," were produced by Park College with a grant from the state humanities committee. Interviewed in their homes and workplaces by poet-teacher Albert Bellg were: Charles W. Gusewelle, David Ray, Richard Rhodes, and Wilma Yeo, talking about their lives, writing, and goals. Cassettes are for sale or rent to individuals or groups from the media services department, Parkville, MO 64152.

Approximately ninety percent of the interviews in the Oral History of the Texas Oil Pioneers project are open for research, according to Don E. Carlton, director, Barker Texas History Center, The University of Texas-Austin.

The Texas Southmost College Oral History Program concentrates on the bilingual-bicultural history since 1900 of Cameron County in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. History students may conduct interviews in lieu of writing research papers. The tapes are deposited at the Brownsville City/ College Library. Selected interviews are transcribed.

The oral memoirs of B. F. Sisk of Fresno, California, who served twenty-four years in Congress (1955-79), have been completed by A. I. Dickman, head of the Oral History Office at the Shields Library, University of California-Davis. The project was funded by the former congressman's friends and supporters and will be published in the same manner.

Published quarterly: Program for Oral History, Baylor University, Thomas L. Charlton, editor. Associates: L. Katherine Cook, Adelaide S. Darling, Rebecca S. Jiménez, Margaret L.S. Miller; David B. Stricklin, contributing editor. Deadlines: Jan. 1, April 1, July 1, Oct. 1.

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