



## NEWSLETTER

## Life in the Principle

## BYU Interviews Children from Polygamous Marriages

In 1976 Maude Taylor Bentley, the third wife of Mormon church leader Joseph C. Bentley, died in Mexico, where she had lived since polygamy was outlawed in the U.S. When news of her death reached the staff of the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at Brigham Young University, it dawned on them that she had been one of the last surviving wives from a church-sanctioned plural marriage. They realized that little was known about this aspect of Mormon history, and if historians were going to preserve the story of life in polygamous Mormon homes, steps needed to be taken immediately. Despite fears of appearing to support those not in line with church doctrine (plural marriages were denounced by the Mormon Church in 1890), the Redd Center staff set up the Polygamy Oral History Project.

Jessie L. Embry, oral historian at the center, began seeking interviewees among children from polygamous Mormon families, most of whom were in their sixties, seventies, eighties, and even nineties in 1976. Between 1976 and 1982, Embry and other Redd Center interviewers located and interviewed approximately 250 persons who were raised in polygamous families around the turn of the century.

The interviewers focused on living arrangements; fathers' schedules; relationships between parents, wives, and children; and feelings about the practice of polygamy. Additional questions were also asked about the setup of Mormon homes and communities in general in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The interview outline was modeled after the research of Kimball Young for his book, *Isn't One Wife Enough?*

In 1982 the Redd Center expanded the Polygamy Oral History Project to include those who grew up in *monogamous* Mormon households during the same time period. Interviewees were selected, based on their availability, from a flood of respondents to a query

the center sent out. An effort was also made to select people who had grown up in communities where there were large multiple families. Between 1982 and 1984, 150 people from monogamous households were interviewed.

*Continued on p. 7*



*Plural wives living in Mexico in the late 1800s. After polygamy was abolished in the U.S. in 1882, many plural families were forced to live underground in the states or move out of the country. Those who stayed in the U.S. went into hiding, remaining constantly on the move or setting up elaborate warning systems and secret rooms in which to go should a marshal come their way. Apprehended husbands were jailed for up to two years, and wives were also jailed if they refused to testify against their spouses.*

*Those who went to Mexico were at first rejected by Mexican officials who feared a large influx of Anglos would precipitate another rebellion, as it had done in Texas. Later, however, Mexico reversed its stance and six Mormon polygamous communities were established there. (Photo from Mormon Polygamous Families: Life in the Principle, courtesy of the University of Utah Press and archives of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.)*



# Committee Report on State and Regional Survey

by Kim Lady Smith, Chair  
State and Regional Committee

The 1980s may well be the decade of the state and regional oral history association. According to a 1987 survey conducted by the Oral History Association's State and Regional Committee, eight out of ten such organizations were established in the 1980s. Indeed, the creation of the OHA standing committee on state and regional associations in 1986 reflects an awareness of the increasing importance of these organizations.

Ten out of the eleven organizations listed in the *1987 Oral History Association Membership Directory* responded to the survey. Following is a brief analysis of the results.

The survey indicates that the majority of state and regional associations are thriving, with approximately 1,300 total members. The largest membership is reported by the Texas Oral History Association at 220, with Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region and the Southwest Oral History Association following with 210 and 200 members respectively. With the exception of the 25-member Wyoming Oral History and Folklore Association, all have stable or increasing membership.

Publications common to most state and regional associations are membership directories and promotional brochures. Other publications include how-to manuals (Montana and Michigan) and state collection guides (Montana and Ohio). The Southwest Oral History Association broke new ground for regional organizations with its publication of *Oral History Collections in the Southwest Region: A Directory and Subject Guide*. Another unique publication is *A Conference Handbook* by Betty Key published by Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

In regard to involvement in the Oral History Association, the majority of state and regionals indicated that from one to ten members attended OHA annual meetings on a regular basis. They each reported distributing OHA membership information at their meetings and all used Oral History Association publications at workshops, particularly the newsletter, *Evaluation Guidelines*, and the brochure, *Oral*

*History and the Law*. Nevertheless, the sense of the survey was that OHA publications did not appeal to the often localized interests of state and regional association members.

In conclusion, the survey well documents that state and regional associations are providing an important service to the many and diverse practitioners of oral history. It also indicates that while the Oral History Association and the state and regionals have

developed a degree of mutual support, communication can be improved. With the 1987 survey providing the OHA with a clearer picture of the activities and interests of state and regional organizations and the creation of the State and Regional Committee as a vehicle for better communication, we can look forward to establishing a strong working relationship to further the professional advancement of oral history research.

## EXCERPTS

From an interview conducted with two ten-year-olds  
by Vicki Klaras, Waco, Texas

- Interviewer: I'm interested in what you mean when you say dolls have to be personal.
- Patricia: I can say anything to my dolls.
- Karen: I talk to my dogs.
- Patricia: I do, too. Like the time I told Suzi, "If you stay in, Suzi, it wouldn't be fair to all the other dogs." She didn't want to go outside.
- Karen: Sometimes I bundle up and go talk to Lulu—I can squench in Lulu's dog house . . . When I was little I had my imaginary people. Three ponies—Pony, Bullet, and Trigger—and one beautiful lady. The lady's name was "Howelluwisha" . . . you know that song "Alouette"—well, I was so young I thought it was "Howelluwisha." Anyway, she had long blue hair. She was kind of old, but elegant with a big "fluezy" hat. She was the best friend I ever had. She stayed in Evan's room—it used to be *our* room—the three ponies lived under my bed. One day I brought my neighbor in to see them.
- Interviewer: What happened to them?
- Karen: They just faded away more and more.
- Patricia: It seems sad—the way she said it: "They just faded away." I'd write a book about that . . . I'd write about how they faded away . . . it would be pretty into more words.
- Karen: I remember "Howelluwisha" lived at Port Landing. She traveled a little bit. She always came in from the wall. She would start out little. The wall would be her entrance. She didn't live with me. She lived in Port Landing, wherever that was.
- Interviewer: What happened to your imaginary friends?
- Karen: I made them go away, or I guess my age did.
- Patricia: When you get older, you don't have time for imagination.
- Karen: Yes, it's probably school that wore them away.
- Patricia: You were at kindergarten and you—
- Karen: —And you had too many things to think about—like coloring (snickering).
- Interviewer: Do you get to use your imagination in school?
- Karen: Sometimes you can. If we get to write stories. Once we let our imagination go on. You could pretend you were Magellan or on a ship with Columbus and what it would be like. Some people even pretended they were Columbus.
- Patricia: When you get big, people will think you're crazy if you imagine too much.



## A Report on the Oxford Conference

# International Oral History Conference Becoming More Truly International

by Carl Ryant, Chair  
International Committee

The Sixth International Oral History Conference was held at St. John's College, Oxford, 11-13 September 1987. More than 170 participants from over 20 nations attended. A number of members of the Oral History Association were present, including its president, president-elect, executive secretary, and journal editor. The papers presented covered a wide range of topics, all within the general theme of the conference—"Myth and History." Indeed, some who attended the meeting felt that the theme had been stretched too far, allowing "non-oral history" papers to be presented. Others defended the broad concept of the sessions.

At the conference a brief constitution was adopted, creating the International Oral History Association, which is not a membership organization but rather a means of obtaining funds and organizing future meetings. The next such meeting is tentatively planned for Spring 1990 in northern Germany (Hagen). Its theme will be "Memory

and Cultural Change" and more information concerning it will appear in future issues of the *Newsletter*.

Clearly the international oral history meetings are becoming more and more institutional. At the same time they are also becoming more truly international, moving from essentially European participation to include speakers from all over the world, including third world countries. This trend is healthy but promises some problems. Finances are a major issue for third world participants. Indeed, this year the Oral History Association helped provide funds to aid third world speakers to come to the conference. Language has always been an issue; now there is some demand for official languages other than French and English, particularly for Spanish, in recognition of the increasing number of participants from Spanish-speaking countries.

But whatever the problems peculiar to an international meeting, the basic issues confronting the conference are

those which confront oral historians everywhere: the role of oral history as a methodology within broader contexts of scholarship, the problem of memory, the interaction of all the participants in an interview, the most complete interpretation of the entire body of materials obtained, and the question of how to accommodate the standards of the scholar in a movement that supposedly encourages the people's history. Clearly oral history is an international movement, and American oral historians must become more aware of this international context. The International Oral History Association and its conferences are important vehicles for that purpose.

## Survey on Classroom Use of Oral History Shows 300% Increase Since 1974

By Barry Lanman, Chair  
Committee on Teaching

The Oral History Association's committee on teaching conducted a national survey on the classroom use of oral history. Over 3,000 surveys were sent to schools, colleges, and universities between December, 1985 and May, 1987. During that time, 302 educators responded to the survey. Of the responses, 155 were college and university instructors, while 147 were teachers of grades K-12.

The 1987 survey demonstrates a 300 percent growth in the classroom use of oral history when compared to the 1974 survey. The largest segment of growth was experienced at the secondary school level.

A session at the St. Paul conference was devoted to the summation and analysis of the survey, while journal articles on the topic will be forthcoming. For more information on OHA's 1987 Educational Survey contact Barry A. Lanman, The Educational Center for Oral History, Catonsville Community College, Baltimore, Md. 21228.

## OHA to Publish Pamphlet on Oral History and Secondary Education

"Oral History and Secondary Education" by Barry A. Lanman, Ed.D., and George L. Mehaffy, Ph.D., is the second volume of the Oral History Association's Pamphlet Series. Lanman, chairman of OHA's committee on teaching and an experienced educator, along with Mehaffy, Director of the School of Education at San Diego State University and a member of the committee on teaching, have authored a pamphlet which combines the theory and the practice of oral history as an educational methodology.

Lanman and Mehaffy collected curriculum materials and project information from around the United States, analyzed them, and used excerpts to demonstrate how oral history is actually being used in a variety of disciplines, from grades six to twelve, to motivate students, to instruct skills, and to teach content.

The theory outlined in the pamphlet is presented in a practical step-by-step approach, while its rationale is supported by student and teacher comments. By presenting the myriad ways in which oral history can be utilized within the classroom, the pamphlet provides food for thought for both experienced educators and novices.

The pamphlet will be available in the spring or summer. It will cost \$4.00 for a single copy and \$3.00 for ten or more copies. Members of the Oral History Association will not automatically receive the pamphlet. For advance orders contact the executive secretary. For additional information on the pamphlet series contact Jessie L. Embry, Pamphlet Series Editor, Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602.



Inevitably when one assumes a leadership role in an organization, or becomes an officer of it, thoughts flow back to the past and the traditions of the office. Intimately bound up with those thoughts are concerns with one's personal history and the history of the movement which the organization represents. These reflections are reinforced by Professor William Leuchtenberg's glowing tribute to my predecessor at Columbia, Louis Starr, which was delivered at the annual meeting of the association in Saint Paul.

As I noted at the business meeting when I was inducted as president, I take office at a propitious moment in the history of the OHA. Our publications program is now firmly established with two issues of the *Review* a year, a new pamphlet planned for next year, and new staff at all three publications. A new committee system has been instituted which has been singularly successful in bringing new members into the governance of the OHA. And, after many years of hesitation, and tension, relations with the state and regional oral history organizations seem to have reached a creative plateau.

Credit for these successes goes to a long line of strong and vital presidents and council members, and the evolution and carrying through of the Five Year Plan (Newsletter, summer, 1986). Initiated by John Neuenschwander, when he appointed his then Vice-President Elizabeth Mason to head a committee charged with setting the process in motion, the plan, set in place when Betty became president and then carried forth by Cullom Davis, Martha Ross, Sam Hand and Don Ritchie, became a guide to the council in setting forth ambitious plans for the expansion of the organization. It will continue to be the basic guideline for the next administration. It is the tradition I inherit as president.

On a personal note, I want to recognize my own great debt to Charlie Morrissey with whom I worked for so many years. When I joined the staff of the Kennedy Library, and the world of oral history, in 1965, it was Charlie who trained me. In Washington, and later in New York at the Ford Foundation, his friendship and wise counsel guided my own practice of oral history. Most of us have such debts which we honor.

*There is no doubt in my mind that the movements of the sixties and their call for a new, more responsive and democratic history have shaped the nature of what we do, how we think about what we do, and our visions of what our organization should be.*

For instance, those which so many of our colleagues owe to Jim Mink and Elizabeth Dixon for their efforts in founding our association, or again, my own to Waddy Moore for selecting me to be his program chairman for the Savannah colloquium. To me such memories are important for all of us because they remind us that the Oral History Association is a blend of many traditions, many histories, many intersecting relationships.

But we are also aware of the fact that we, as oral historians, are participants

in historical processes which make our work more important than we imagined it would be when we embarked upon it. There is no doubt in my mind that the movements of the sixties and their call for a new, more responsive and democratic history have shaped the nature of what we do, how we think about what we do, and our visions of what our organization should be. Without that democratic upsurge, I am not so sure that we would have any very special mission. With it, oral history, and we, have become deeply embedded in the cultural dialogue of our times and a part of the defence of the rights of everyone to construct their own culture.

Thus organizational, personal, and historical traditions seem to me to merge in my own life and the life of the Oral History Association. I thank you all for the trust you have shown in me and for the opportunity to move the work of my predecessors forward.



*OHA officers and council members for 1987-88 gathered in the president's suite at the annual meeting in St. Paul, October 18. Beginning at top left is past President Don Ritchie of the U.S. Senate Historical Office, Margot Knight of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, new Vice President/President Elect Ron Marcello of North Texas State University, the one new council member Laurie Mercier of the Montana Historical Society, and Terry Birdwhistell of the University of Kentucky. Seated from left are Executive Secretary Anne Campbell, also of the University of Kentucky, new President Ron Grele of Columbia University, and Rebecca Sharpless of Emory University. Please note that the photograph is almost in focus and everyone's eyes are open.*

*Also elected in the fall ballot were three new members for the nominating committee: Jo Blatti of History Afield, Sam Hand of the University of Vermont, and Pam Henson of the Smithsonian.*



# State & Regional News

**Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region** presented its annual Forrest Pogue Award for excellence in oral history to the Institution on the Federal Theater Project and New Deal Culture at George Mason University. Roy Rosenzweig, Director of the Oral History Program and Assistant Professor of History, and Lorraine Brown, Administrator of the Institute and Professor of English, accepted the award at OHMAR's fall conference in York, Pennsylvania, November 14.

The third annual fall colloquium of the **New England Association of Oral History**, held in Springfield, Maine, October 24, focused on the processes, problems and rewards of using oral history in the classroom. The keynote address was presented by Dean Albertson who worked with Allan Nevins in launching the oral history concept at Columbia University in the 1940s.

**Southwest Oral History Association** held its fall meeting October 23 on the UCLA campus in Los Angeles. The meeting featured sessions on "Insuring Quality in Oral History," a progress report on the California State Archives State Government Oral History Program, and a panel discussion on the applications of oral history in diverse fields.

**Oral historians in Alaska** conducted workshops for the Alaska Historical Society in October and for the University of Alaska's Conferences and Continuing Education in October and again on January 29. The Commission on History, Language and Culture of North Slope Borough has funded major research to document the history of Inupiat Eskimo elders, including interviews in Nuiqsut by David Libbey and others by Edna MacLean, Wendy Arundale, William Schneider, and Margaret Blackman.

**Montana Oral History Association** held its annual meeting October 22 in Helena in conjunction with the Montana History Conference. MOHA conducted two workshops for beginners and for public programmers. The MOHA business meeting was conducted over a leisurely sack lunch and plans were

made for the statewide centennial project.

A teachers' workshop held at the **University of Hawaii** last summer focused on biography in the Pacific Islands. In addition to oral history, the workshop included case studies and sessions on the role of Pacific Island women and problems which arise when studying and writing about cultures different from one's own. The Center for Oral History at the University of Hawaii at Manoa also conducted a series of workshops throughout the islands.

## Dixon Honored

The following resolution was passed at the business meeting in St. Paul in October:

*WHEREAS a meeting held in 1966 at the Lake Arrowhead Conference Center, University of California, was the first national gathering ever of oral history practitioners; and*

*WHEREAS the discussion and debate at the First National Colloquium on Oral History so aroused and inspired oral history practitioners that the Oral History Association was organized the following year; and*

*WHEREAS the seminal conference at Lake Arrowhead could not have succeeded so well without the dedication, diligence, and energy of that meeting's spirited co-chair, ELIZABETH I. DIXON; therefore*

*BE IT RESOLVED that the membership of the Oral History Association at its annual business meeting at St. Paul, Minnesota, on October 18, 1987, while saddened to learn of ELIZABETH I. DIXON's death earlier this year, recalls with fondness and is ever grateful for her tireless efforts and robust enthusiasm in promoting the nation's oral history movement and in helping to build a solid, successful Oral History Association; and*

*BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Association forward copies of this resolution to the family and closest friends of ELIZABETH I. DIXON.*

## OHA Publications Will Now Accept Advertising

After several years of tossing around the idea, and in an attempt to enhance its publications service, OHA has decided to accept advertising in the bi-annual *Oral History Review* and in the *Annual Report and Membership Directory*. Services, products, publications, conferences, etc. which might appeal to oral historians can now be advertised directly to OHA's 1,300 members.

Ad rates range from \$35 for one-quarter page of one issue to \$250 for inside and back covers of two issues. Every ad purchased for the *Review* will also appear in the annual directory, and first-time advertisers will receive a 25 percent discount.

For copy deadlines, specifications and rates, contact Margot Knight, 1116 DeSale St. SW, Vienna, Virginia 22180, telephone (in evenings or leave a message) 703/281-1310.



## Membership Renewal

The 1988 Membership Renewal will be mailed early in the new year. When selecting your membership category, please note that the membership approved the following change at the business meeting in St. Paul:

Resolved: That life membership in the Oral History Association be increased to \$500 (from \$250) as of January, 1989.

All life memberships and unrestricted gifts are added to the endowment fund.

In order to be included in the 1988 Membership Directory, I would appreciate your returning the membership renewal form at your earliest convenience. All renewals should be returned to me no later than March 1, 1988.

Anne Campbell



# Book Notices

- Armes, Ethel. *The Story of Coal and Iron in Alabama*. Sloss Furnace Assn., P.O. Box 11781, Birmingham, AL 35202, 1987 reprint of 1910 edition. 581 pp. photos, index. \$29.95.
- Baum, Willa K. *Oral History for the Local Historical Society* (revised). American Assn. for State and Local History, 1987. paper, 80 pp. illustrations. \$9.75 (\$8.75 for AASLH members).
- Beesley, Stanley W. *Vietnam: The Heartland Remembers*. U. of Oklahoma Pr., 1987. 232 pp. map. \$16.95. Stories of 33 Oklahomans who fought or waited for those who fought in Vietnam.
- Catalogue of Memoirs, Volume 2*. The William E. Wiener Oral History Library, The American Jewish Committee, 165 E. 56th St., NY, NY 10022-2746, 1987.
- Coll, Steve. *The Taking of Getty Oil: from the Oil Patch to Wall Street; a True Story of Family, Ambition, and Greed*. Atheneum, 1987. 484 pp. index. \$19.95.
- Cott, Jonathan. *Visions and Voices*. Dolphin: Doubleday, 1987. 213 pp. photos. \$17.95. Conversations with artists and other creators about their work.
- Embry, Jessie L. *Mormon Polygamous Families: Life in the Principle*. U. of Utah Pr., 1987. 238 pp. photos. \$19.95. See article in this issue.
- Falk, Bonnie Hughes. *Country School Memories*. BHF Memories Unlimited, 3470 Rolling View Court, White Bear Lake, MN 55110, 1987. \$9.45. Recollections of teachers and pupils of one-room schoolhouses.
- Franco, Joseph with Richard Hammer. *Hoffa's Man: the Rise*

- and Fall of Jimmy Hoffa as Witnessed by his Strongest Arm*. Prentice Hall, 1987. 336 pp. photos. \$17.95.
- Guide to the Oral History Collection*. The University of Texas at El Paso Institute for Oral History, El Paso, Texas 79968-0532, 1987. \$10.
- Howe, Barbara J. and Emory L. Kemp (eds). *Public History: An Introduction*. Krieger Publishing, P.O. Box 9542, Melbourne, FL 32902-9542, 1986. 516 pp. cloth. \$39.95. paper. \$27.50. Includes a chapter on oral history's connection by Donald A. Ritchie.
- Kari, James and James A. Fall. *Shem Pete's Alaska*. U. of Alaska, Fairbanks, 1987. 330 pp. maps, photos, paper. \$15.00. Recollections of 34 Dena'ina Athabaskan elders about the Cook Inlet region of Alaska.
- Oochiagrosso, Peter. *Once a Catholic: Prominent Catholics and Ex-Catholics Discuss the Influence of the Church on their Lives and Work*. Houghton, 1987. 371 pp. bibliog. \$18.95.
- Oral Documents from Latin America*. Institute of Contemporary Jewry, The Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem, Mount Scopus Campus, Israel, 1987. Guide to the collection of interviews on Latin American subjects from 1963 to the present.
- Smith, Allen (ed.) *Directory of Oral History Collections*. Oryx Press, 2214 North Central at Encanto, Phoenix, Arizona 85004-1483, 1987. 176 pp. \$49.50. (\$59.40 outside North America). Guide to nearly 500 collections in the U.S., including hours of operation and conditions of access, subject index, and interviewee index.

# Also in Print

- Grele, Ronald J. "On Using Oral History Collections: An Introduction." *Journal of American History*. September, 1987:570-578.
- Mechling, Jay. "Oral Evidence and the History of American Children's Lives." *Journal of American History*. September, 1987:579-586.
- Ritchie, Donald A. "Oral History in the Federal Government." *Journal of American History*. September, 1987:587-595.

## Columbia University Oral History Seminars on Audio Cassette

Over the past few years the Oral History Research Office of Columbia University has sponsored a series of seminars bringing European and American oral historians, community historians, writers, sociologists, and anthropologists to present their work and thinking to their counterparts from the New York City region. The seminar presentations—and the discussions that followed—were broad in scope, with the common theme of the social-historical use of oral history. Everything from the most theoretical questions (oral history and literary analysis) to crucial practical questions (the relationship between the oral historian and the ethnic community) were addressed.

Beginning April 1, 1988, recordings of these seminars will be available for purchase. The whole set can be ordered prior to April 1 at a special discount. For more information contact the Oral History Research Office, Box 20 Butler Library, Columbia University, New York, New York 10027, (212) 280-4012, 280-2273. The production of the seminars on cassette has been aided by a grant from the New York State Council on the Humanities.

this course is conducted by veteran oral historian Charles T. Morrissey and offers intensive training in interviewing skills, program design and management. Contact Charles M. White, Summer Session Office, Portland State University, P.O. Box 751, Portland, Oregon 97207.

**Morrissey Oral History Course**, August 1-5, at Vermont College in Montpelier. In its thirteenth summer, this course offers basically the same topics as the one above but is one week long. Contact Alan Weiss, Division of Continuing Education, Vermont College, Montpelier, Vermont 05602.

## Upcoming Meetings, etc.

**Memory and History Symposium**, February 25-27, sponsored by Baylor University, Waco, Texas. Brings together seven specialists in the fields of individual and collective memory, including oral historians Paul Thompson of the University of Essex and Michael Frisch of SUNY-Buffalo. Contact Institute for Oral History, Baylor University, CSB 401, Waco, Texas 76798, 817/755-3437.

**Texas Oral History Association** spring meeting, March 3-5 in Austin, Texas. In conjunction with the Texas State Historical Association meeting, features presentations on baseball and the Pershing expedition into Mexico. Contact Texas Oral History Association, Baylor University, CSB 401, Waco, Texas 76798.

**Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region** spring meeting, March 14 at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Focuses on new directions in oral history—technological innovations, educational trends, preservation activities, uses by the federal government, and a special presentation on oral history and the law by John Neueschwander. Contact John Schuchman, OHMAR, P.O. Box 2351, Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C. 20002, 202/651-5474.

**The Northwest Oral History Association** annual meeting, April 21-23 in Tacoma, Washington. Held in conjunction with the Pacific Northwest History Conference, the program will feature papers on Northwest history, oral history, archival studies, and museum studies. Contact Washington State Historical Society, 315 N. Stadium Way, Tacoma, Washington 98403.

**The Society for History in the Federal Government** annual meeting, April 28 in Washington, D.C. Contact the society in care of P.O. Box 14139, Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20044.

**Oral History in Ohio** annual meeting, April 29-30 at the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus. Featured speaker is Donald Ritchie, past president of OHA, with other sessions on video production, oral history in the schools and in medical schools, and grants for oral history projects. Also sessions for beginners and advanced oral historians. Contact Donna M. DeBlasio, Ohio Historical Society, Youngstown Office, 47 Federal Plaza E., Suite 903, Youngstown, Ohio 44503, 216/743-5934.

**Morrissey Oral History Course**, July 5-15, at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. In its ninth summer,



## **POLYGAMY, continued from p. 1**

Embry, who became director of the Oral History Program at the Redd Center in 1979, has recently reported the findings of the Polygamy Oral History Project in *Mormon Polygamous Families: Life in the Principle*. She focuses on how plural marriages operated and how they differed from monogamous marriages of the same time period. She also discusses the decision to marry in polygamy, the setup of household, the fathers'/husbands' living arrangements, the relationships between members of the family, the effects of federal law, and the Manifesto—the revelation by the president of the Church of the Latter-Day Saints which ended polygamy.

Embry reports that Mormon families, like their 19th-century American contemporaries, had a strong division of labor between men and women. The economy was basically agricultural; men worked in the public sphere and women labored at home and cared for the children. Additional wives and children were able to help with the large amount of work. Because polygamy was practiced for such a short time, the plural families simply adapted their monogamous traditions to their relationships. According to Embry's analysis, there were very few differences between Mormon monogamous and polygamous families, and they were not very different from the American norm

of the time. She says that because Mormons believed that polygamy was a divine law of God and was essential for their exaltation in an afterlife, men and women suppressed jealousies and lived remarkably harmonious lives.

At the same time that Embry was collecting interviews, BYU archivist Dennis Rowley obtained the notes from interviews that Kimball Young's research assistant, James Hulett, conducted with members of polygamous families during the 1930s. The notes are housed at the Garrett Theological Seminary at Northwestern University. Hulett had been able to interview husbands and wives as well as children. In a few cases where Hulett had interviewed the parents and older children of the first and second wives, the Redd Center was able to talk with the younger children of other wives in the same families.

These two collections, the Polygamy Oral History Project and the Hulett notes, provide information not only about polygamous life but also about family life at the turn of the century. All of the interviews and the Hulett-Young Collection are available in the Manuscript Division of the BYU Library. The interviews are also available through interlibrary loan. Contact the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, 4069 Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602, 801/378-4048.

## **Call for Papers**

*Anthology on Regional Culture* is soliciting essays for an interdisciplinary anthology on American regional culture. The focus of the volume will be on folk culture within various regions and subregions of the United States, as illuminated by a range of disciplinary approaches, including (but not limited to) American Studies, anthropology, the arts, folklore studies, geography, history, literary studies, material culture studies, oral history, and religion. They are particularly interested in essays that present case studies of folk culture within a particular region and those grounded in an interdisciplinary perspective.

Scholars interested in contributing essays should submit 300-word abstracts by April 1, 1988. Twelve essays will be selected. Authors will be notified by May 15. The deadline for

submitted finished essays (approximately twenty pages) is August 15, 1988. Contact Dr. Charles E. Martin, Department of History, Transylvania University, Lexington, KY 40508.

**The fifteenth annual Historic Communal Societies Conference** of the National Historic Communal Societies Association will be held at the colonial Moravian sites of Old Salem and Bethabara Park in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, October 6-8, 1988. Papers, sessions and presentations on the theme "Living and Interpreting Community Life: Colonial Days to the Present" should be sent with brief abstract and vita by April 1, to Dr. Thomas J. Haupt, The Moravian Archives, 4 East Bank Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101-5307.

## **Lanman Demonstrates Superiority of Oral History Method of Teaching**

Barry A. Lanman of Temple University has been awarded the Judith Ruchkin Research Award, presented for outstanding research by the Maryland Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Lanman received the award for his research, *An Analysis of Traditional and Oral History Teaching Methods in a High School Immigration and Black History Curriculum*.

Lanman, who is chair of the OHA committee on teaching and co-author of the forthcoming pamphlet on teaching oral history in the secondary schools, concluded that oral history is an effective alternative for instruction. He studied the cognitive, affective, and preferential factors in instructional methodology with basic, average, and honors students in immigration and Black history classes.

His data revealed that oral history is superior to the traditional method in several areas. For example, the oral history method produced greater gain scores between pre- and post-tests than the traditional method. It also demonstrated an increase in group participation and involvement in the unit of study. For basic ability students, it increased the realism of history, and for honors students, it motivated them to continue their own study after the unit was completed.

In all other affective areas, Lanman found that oral history was statistically equal to the traditional methodology. According to *Focus*, the newsletter of the Maryland Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the implications of this research suggest that oral history is "a competent method of affective instruction and that if used for certain objectives, it may offer potential motivational and attitudinal advantages." Lanman also pointed out that students said they preferred being taught by oral history and class discussion.

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Truth is for each of us our picture of the world. When I say I want to tell the truth, I mean I want to paint my picture.

—Anna Louise Strong



# News

## Davis Promotes Oral History in Jamaica

Cullom Davis, Director of the Oral History Office at Sangamon State University and former OHA president, is on assignment during the winter and spring of 1988 at the University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica. The recipient of a Fulbright research award, he is establishing an oral history project there in cooperation with members of the history department. In 1979 UWI historians inaugurated a "Social History Project" aimed at documenting and studying the social history of Jamaicans in the period since the abolition of slavery there in 1834.

Oral history is a key element in this plan. Davis is advising project personnel on developing procedures, goals, funding sources, and priorities for their oral history effort. In addition he is conducting interviews on their behalf and establishing plans for processing and dissemination. Key UWI historians with whom he is working include Drs. Carl Campbell, Brian Moore, Karl Watson, and Barry Higman.

## Don Wilson Named Archivist of the U.S.

The nomination of Don W. Wilson to the post of Archivist of the United States was unanimously confirmed by the Senate on November 20. As a non-partisan, professional historian and archivist, Wilson received the support of numerous historical groups who had opposed the previous nomination of John Agresto. Last spring the White House abandoned its push for Agresto and asked for suggestions from interested groups. Wilson was among those suggested by the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History (NCCPH).

Wilson is currently the director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum. He obtained his PhD in history from the University of Cincinnati and has held positions at the Kansas State Historical Society, Eisenhower Presidential Library, and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Wilson has expressed concern over the fact that many federal records have not come under the control of the National Archives, and plans to address that problem as a first order of business.

*"No recent public event has called attention to the problems of administration of electronic records and the protection of federal documents in such a clear way as the Iran-Contra hearings. Lost Presidential findings, the destruction of key policy memos, and the absence of any note taking at crucial high level meetings have illustrated that good management and history depend on proper documentation."*

—Page Putnam Miller  
The Director's Report,  
National Coordinating Committee  
for the Promotion of History, 9/23/87

## Opportunities

**J. Franklin Jameson Fellowship in American History** offers \$9,000 for post-doctoral research at the Library of Congress for 1988-89 academic year. Projects must be in American history and ones for which the Library of Congress collections offer unique research support. Application deadline March 1, 1988. Write J. Franklin Jameson Fellowship, American Historical Association, 400 A Street SE, Washington, DC 20003.

**Cooperstown Graduate Program in History Museum Studies** is accepting applications for fellowships. The program is cosponsored by the New York State Historical Association and the State University of New York. Write Cooperstown Graduate Program, P.O. Box 800, Cooperstown, New York 13326.

## Requests for . . .

### . . . Litigation Information

In the interest of keeping the OHA membership abreast of current legal problems involving oral history, please send us any information that you may have regarding a lawsuit or actual trial involving oral history. This information will then be sent on to John Neuenschwander for review and analysis. Write the Newsletter, CSB 401, Baylor University, Waco, Texas 76798.

### . . . Information on Gays in the Military

Mary Ann Humphrey is documenting experiences of gays who either served honorably in the military without detection or who were removed because of their sexual preference, from pre-World War II to the present. Write her at 9920 SW 48th Ave., Portland, Oregon 97219.

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Send membership, change of address, and subscription inquiries to: Anne G. Campbell, Executive Secretary, Oral History Association, P.O. Box 926, University Station, Lexington, KY 40506-0025 or phone 606/257-1688.

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TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

Individual:

Life, \$250 \_\_\_\_\_

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Student/retired, \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional:

Sponsoring, \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

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Library, \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

(receives publications but does not vote) \_\_\_\_\_

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