



NEWSLETTER

Buffalo Draws Big OHA Crowd

"Crossing the Border, Crossing the Line: Oral History on the Border" drew 460 oral historians to Buffalo in October for the 1998 annual meeting of the Oral History Association.

Co-sponsored by the Canadian Oral History Association, the conference featured a wide array of presenters and participants from the United States, Canada and a dozen other nations.

Program co-chairs Debra Bernhardt and Cliff Kuhn scheduled a variety of featured speakers, including John Mohawk and Yvonne Dion-Buffalo, both on the faculty of the State University of New York at

Buffalo, author Barbara Garson and filmmaker George Stoney.

OHA members engaged in lively discussion of oral history and new technology, and they approved new language in the OHA's **Evaluation Guidelines** to reflect ongoing changes in technology. (Details inside.)

New OHA officers were installed, and members were invited at an open forum to discuss the challenges of membership development, dues and member benefits.

At an awards dinner, the OHA recognized recipients of its awards for article, postsecondary teaching and

project involving oral history. The Columbia University Oral History Research Office also was recognized on its 50th anniversary.

An evening of multicultural dancing and music was on the agenda as well as an assortment of off-site tours, including a visit to Niagara Falls. The local arrangements committee was headed by: Virginia Bartos, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society; Michael Frisch, State University of New York at Buffalo; and Michael Niman, Buffalo State College.

(More Buffalo stories inside.)

Editor's Note

By Mary Kay Quinlan

Copy deadline for the spring issue of the OHA **Newsletter** is April 1. State and regional oral history groups are encouraged to report on their fall or early spring activities, if they haven't already done so. Stories about upcoming spring and summer events also are welcome, as are contributions on oral history projects or issues of interest to oral historians. Mail materials to: 7524 S. 35th St., Lincoln, NE 68516; fax to: 402-420-1770; or e-mail: OHAEditor@aol.com.



Howard Green of the New Jersey Historical Commission, right, took the helm as OHA president at the 1998 annual meeting in Buffalo. He will serve with Vice President/President-elect Laurie Mercier, left, of Washington State University-Vancouver, and First Vice President Cliff Kuhn, center, of Georgia State University. Not pictured are Lu Ann Jones of East Carolina University, elected to a Council seat, and newly elected nominating committee members: Darci Iki of the Japanese American National Museum, Marjorie McLellan of Miami University and Charles Hardy of West Chester University.



From Your President

By Howard Green
OHA President

Readers of previous presidential columns are aware that the past two years were difficult for the Oral History Association. In both 1997 and 1998 the association's expenses were greater than its revenues. What was a sizable surplus going into 1997 has been reduced substantially.

There is cause for guarded optimism as we enter 1999 because the 1998 annual meeting was profitable (as the 1997 meeting was not), and because we expect the University of California Press to be successful in its efforts to increase the subscriber base of the **Review**; but we still face serious financial challenges. To help deal with them the Council created a finance committee, which began taking a hand in association fiscal affairs this past year.

Last summer the finance committee made a recommendation to Council that called for a change in a fundamental and very special aspect of OHA. According to our bylaws, an increase in membership dues must be approved by the membership. This has been an OHA practice from its earliest years, reflecting a commitment to the idea that members of the organization should participate in the decisions that affect them.

But the finance committee reasoned that the Council must be in a position to act expediently in a financially responsible manner and

urged the Council to rescind the relevant bylaw, which, according to the OHA constitution, it has the power to do. Council, meeting in Buffalo before the annual program, agreed unanimously with the recommendation of the committee.

But Council also felt that before a decision such as this is taken, one that departs from a long-standing custom of the association, it should be discussed openly with the membership. At an open forum at the annual conference the issue was aired. A number of OHA veterans expressed the fear that removing the members' voice from the decision to raise dues was a serious departure from the democratic traditions of the organization.

I want to emphasize that the issue of a dues increase itself is separate from the issue of rescinding the bylaw, though they are closely related.

Some background to the dues question is necessary here. The prospect of a dues increase has been around for a while. The ad hoc long range planning committee report Council received last winter recommended that dues be raised, and the issue was specifically highlighted in the charge to the membership benefits and dues task force that is currently at work.

Last spring the University of California Press recommended a series of modest dues increases to be phased in over a three-year period. The Council agreed to an increase in the library rate, but chose to wait to consider the issue of a general dues increase until the task force makes its preliminary report this spring. Deciding not to raise the dues this year probably cost OHA about \$2,000 in 1999 revenue.

If we are to raise dues in 2000, a decision must be made by May 1999 to accommodate the budgeting process at the University of California Press. Unless we rescind the bylaw we will have to poll the membership by mail ballot about a dues increase. No doubt we can afford the few hundred dollars this will cost, though it's a cumbersome procedure for what is essentially an administrative decision.

At the midwinter meeting in

Anchorage, members of the Council will have to make two important decisions. In the short run we have to decide whether, based on the recommendation of the task force, to raise dues as the University of California Press has requested. It is always a serious matter when dues increases are discussed. But beyond the dues increase we also have to decide whether to rescind the bylaw that requires a vote of the membership before dues may be raised.

We won't be making either of these decisions lightly. But I welcome you to contact me on either of these questions.

Howard Green

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Review Editor Wanted

The Oral History Association seeks applications for editor of the **Oral History Review**, published by the University of California Press, to begin in the fall of 1999. Appearing semi-annually, the **Review** publishes articles and book reviews on subjects relating to oral history. Duties: with editorial board and section editors, evaluate manuscripts submitted for publication, negotiate with authors about revisions, plan special theme issues and prepare copy for publication. Qualifications: institutionally-based, published scholar preferred, knowledge of oral history theory and methods, experience in editing helpful. Compensation: OHA pays editor's honorarium and travel to OHA annual meeting. Host institution: support package should include release time, editorial assistant, and office support. Application information: send statement of qualifications and institutional support by March 1, 1999, to OHA President Howard Green at the above address.

Dickinson New Site For OHA Office

The Oral History Association office will be moving in early 1999 to Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa. Details will be available in the next OHA **Newsletter**. In the meantime, regular business should be conducted with the OHA office at Baylor University, Box 97234, Waco, TX 76798-7234.

OHA Involved in New Rules Affecting Academic Oral Historians

Oral history research is eligible for speedier review by campus research oversight committees under new rules issued Nov. 9, 1998, by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The Office for Protection from Research Risks (OPPR) in HHS' National Institutes of Health (NIH) amended federal rules aimed at protecting human research subjects from unreasonable risks. The rule change updates the list of research categories eligible for expedited review by a university's Institutional Review Board (IRB) because they involve minimal risks to human subjects.

The list now includes oral history research projects, in response to what OPPR said was about six comments specifically mentioning oral history. One was from the Oral History Association and was endorsed by the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians and the American Studies Association.

Expedited review means that proposed research projects involving oral history may be reviewed for approval by the chairperson of an IRB or by an experienced reviewer designated by the chair rather than by the full board.

OHA past president Linda Shopes, who led OHA's effort last year to submit comments on OPPR's

proposed rule change, said the new rule "properly assumes that most oral history projects involve minimal risk to narrators and so may help insure that IRBs do not evaluate oral history projects according to standards developed primarily for studies in medical and behavioral sciences where risk to subjects can indeed be greater."

She noted that while the new rule allows for "expedited review," the review criteria remain the same, including a requirement for informed consent and signed legal releases from interviewees.

Michael A. Gordon of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, a long-time OHA member who has followed the issue closely, said the new federal rule "is sensible and will make things easier, especially for people who have ongoing oral history projects and who conduct many interviews."

"Yet without the intensive oversight by institutional review boards, it's even more important for everybody who conducts interviews to abide by legal guidelines and by OHA ethical standards--and to insist that our colleagues do, too," Gordon said. "We shouldn't interpret the NIH's decision to mean that we have any less responsibility for maintaining standards."

Donald A. Ritchie, former OHA president who helped draft the OHA

response to the proposed rule change, also stressed the importance of maintaining high standards.

"Any oral historian who follows the principles and standards expressed in the OHA's **Evaluation Guidelines** should have no trouble meeting the concerns of the Office of Protection from Research Risks or of their university review boards," he said. "Maybe the specific inclusion of oral history in these reviews will help make the rest of the historical profession more aware of appropriate ethical standards for interviewing," Ritchie added.

Shopes said the fact that the OHA "took the lead in developing this language helps establish the association as the 'official' advocate within the profession for the sound practice of oral history."

Shopes, former OHA president Richard Candida Smith and new OHA President Howard Green met in 1997 with OPPR officials when the new rules were on the drawing board.

The OHA officers described oral historians' work and ethical standards outlined in the **Evaluation Guidelines** and discussed their concerns about interpreting rules meant for medical research as applicable to oral history interviews. OPPR officials indicated then that the OHA ethical standards seemed consistent with the federal intent to protect human research subjects from harm.

OHA Approves New Technology Guidelines

Oral History Association members have approved revisions to the OHA's **Evaluation Guidelines** to address rapid advances in technology that are changing the tools and techniques of oral history.

The revisions were approved by acclamation at the annual meeting in Buffalo, following detailed discussion at the meeting and at an earlier special session at which the OHA's Ad Hoc

Committee on New Technologies presented the proposed changes.

Committee Chair Sherna Berger Gluck said the committee focused on the implications of new technology--both technical standards as well as ethical concerns--and tried to achieve balance among contrasting interests and points of view.

She said the committee attempted "not to be prescriptive," but at the same time to establish guidelines that reflect the need for oral historians to consider the technical quality of their work as well as the ethical implications of the emerging electronic means of disseminating oral

histories.

The revised guidelines include language that calls for:

- + informing interviewees of the "potential for electronic distribution" of the interview as one of the possible forms of dissemination;

- + interviewers to "use the best recording equipment within their means in order to accurately reproduce the interviewee's voice and, when appropriate, other sounds as well as visual images;"

- + "good faith efforts" to "ensure that uses of recordings and transcripts comply with both the letter and the

(Continued on page 4)

New Technology Guidelines Okayed

(Continued from page 3)
spirit of the interviewee's agreement."

- + interviewers to "collect and record other historical documentation in the possession of the interviewee, if appropriate, including images, documents and other sound and moving image recordings;"

- + archives to "make good faith efforts to ensure that use of interview

recordings and transcripts, especially in new technologies, complies with both the letter and spirit of the interviewee's agreement."

The revised guidelines also include a new section on preservation of recordings, aimed at maintaining maximum technical quality of oral history interview tapes because of their potential use in non-print media.

The complete text of the revised guidelines will be available on the OHA Website (see back page) and will be incorporated in the next printed

edition of the **Evaluation Guidelines**, which is pending.

The last major revision of the **OHA Evaluation Guidelines** occurred in 1989 and 1990.

Gluck thanked OHA Executive Secretary Rebecca Sharpless and committee members Terry Birdwhistell, Charles Hardy, Pamela Henson, Marjorie McLellan and Roy Rosenzweig.

Gluck noted that the new technologies committee conducted all of its deliberations via e-mail.

OHA Transacts Business in Buffalo

About 40 Oral History Association members attended the annual business meeting in Buffalo Oct. 17, 1998, where the major action was approval of revisions to the **OHA Evaluation Guidelines**. (See story on page 3.)

Members also heard a variety of committee reports and an update from President Linda Shopes of various Council actions.

Shopes reported that:

- + OHA has liaisons with 20 other professional organizations;

- + OHA will co-sponsor with the National Council of Public Historians a reception in Toronto at the annual spring meeting of the Organization of American Historians;

- + Council has established an annual meeting task force to focus on the way OHA's annual conferences are handled;

- + the OHA annual meeting in 2000 will be held in Durham, N.C., Oct. 12-15.

Marjorie McLellan, education committee chair, reported that committee member Linda Wood has completed a manuscript for a new OHA teacher's guide. She thanked committee member Ora Cooks for organizing the conference's day-long teacher workshop.

James Morrison, international committee chair, told OHA members that 30 percent of papers presented at the Buffalo meeting were on international topics. He said

committee members intend to "actively canvas" the Pacific Rim for participants in the 1999 meeting in Anchorage.

Michael Gordon, chair of the membership dues and benefits task force, said his panel will examine the OHA dues structure and member benefits and will consider options for raising funds for the organization.

Gordon, also a member of the publications committee, said a five-year plan for developing OHA pamphlets is in the works. Publication of a field recording pamphlet and the new pamphlet for teachers are pending, as is a Spanish translation of the **Evaluation Guidelines**.

Dawn Hinton, multicultural committee co-chair, said the committee wants to change its name to include the word "diversity" as a way to be more inclusive.

Council member Kim Lacy Rogers noted that OHA provided scholarships to help two persons attend the Buffalo conference.

Linda Morton-Keithley reported that the state and regional committee decided to reorganize itself as a broader-based forum to share ideas about state and regional oral history activities.

Endowment Donors

The Oral History Association thanks the following members for their recent contributions to the OHA Endowment Fund: Albert S. Broussard; Cullom Davis, in honor of Linda Shopes; Lila Johnson Goff and Eleanor Stoddard.

Oral History Review Selects Editor For Books Section

Author and independent oral historian Valerie Yow of Chapel Hill, N.C., has been selected as the new book review editor of the **Oral History Review**.

Yow replaces Teresa Barnett, principal editor at the UCLA Oral History Program, who has been book review editor for five years. Barnett is leaving the **Oral History Review** to devote more time to her graduate studies.

Response Favorable To OHA-Sponsored Workshop at AASLH

Barbara W. Sommer, OHA's liaison to the American Association for State and Local History, and Mary Kay Quinlan, OHA **Newsletter** editor, presented a day-long oral history workshop at the annual AASLH meeting Sept. 9, 1998, in Sacramento, Calif.

The workshop covered all aspects of planning and conducting oral history projects and got high marks from the 16 workshop participants. They included representatives of large and small museums and historical societies from around the nation, many of whom wanted to start oral history programs or who had collections of assorted tape recorded interviews that they wanted to know how to handle.

Oral Historians, Archivists Examine Issues in New Digital Era

Oral historians and archivists hacked through the legal and ethical thicket created by the Internet, World Wide Web and other digital technologies at a lively and well-attended panel discussion in Buffalo.

The path they cleared raised questions and pointed the way to possible solutions in the rapidly evolving world of cyberspace.

Dale E. Treleven of the University of California, Los Angeles, Mary Ann Larson of the University of Nevada, Reno, and Christopher Ann Paton of Georgia State University described digital dilemmas they have faced and resolved.

Treleven noted that if institutions have signed releases from interviewees and have informed them of possible electronic reproduction of their words, "you may be on safe ground legally" but still have ethical or moral concerns, particularly if a party requesting use of the copyrighted material is a for-profit entity. The moral issue, he said, is whether there should be "profit-sharing with the interviewee whose words are being used."

Treleven said UCLA addressed that issue in a UCLA project, "L.A. CD-ROM Tour of Historic Los Angeles," which included excerpts from the Oral History Program's collection. While UCLA held rights to the interviews, Treleven said the interviewees or their heirs all were notified in advance of the project and all received a copy of the completed CD-ROM. "The copy was, in effect, a form of payment," he said, "in our judgment a moral obligation on UCLA's part."

"Aren't we obligated to see that interviewees profit from their own words?" he asked.

Treleven questioned whether "copyright interest for all practical purposes [will] be lost if interviews are mounted on the World Wide Web."

Paton echoed some of Treleven's concerns in describing a controversial student use of excerpts from Georgia State's audio archives collection of

materials from 20th century songwriter Johnny Mercer, which a professor wanted to publish on a Web site.

"We never before worried about what researchers did with our materials," Paton said. But the proliferation of the Internet, World Wide Web and other forms of digital communication "have caused a fundamental change in the interactions between researchers and archivists."

The traditional academic checks and balances of peer review and publication oversight are gone, she said. "Now anyone can mount anything they want without any oversight."

Materials available on the Internet "essentially are in the public domain" and available for anyone to repackage or reuse, posing a dilemma for archivists, she said. "It's not our job to censor or serve as attorneys or editors," she said, "but we still have an obligation to our donors who entrusted materials to us."

Paton said Georgia State's solution is to put descriptions of its collection and finding aids on the Web, but not the interviews themselves.

Larson described a different approach taken in a project she helped create while at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, that involved creating electronic oral histories using voices, photos and other materials from Alaska Native villages.

The decision about whether to put the materials online at the outset was left up to the communities and the participants themselves, she said.

She suggested several options available to those concerned about unfettered Internet access to oral history materials:

- + do not post high-quality copies of materials on the Web;
- + add a copyright notice to all pages to serve as a reminder and put users on notice that you're concerned about the materials' use;
- + add a copyright barrier page that appears before any copyrighted materials, prohibiting users from going to the oral histories until they agree to the terms of the copyright;

+ limit site access only to people who have a required password.

Larson said Internet access to oral history materials offers important benefits for distance learning. Putting interviews on Web sites with pictures and sound allows oral history interviews to be contextualized, she said, noting: "Digitizing the audio and putting it on the Web takes the interview back to its original oral form."

Legal Issues Session Raises Internet Concerns

Oral history projects need to be sure their legal release form does what the project planners want it to do, particularly if they intend to make interviews available on the Internet, history professor and municipal judge John Neuenschwander told an OHA roundtable session in Buffalo.

Ultimately, the decision to put oral histories online is not a legal issue, he said. "It's a question of how widely available you want the collection to be."

"What is the goal of your program or archive? If it's maximum availability, then the Internet is out there," he said. "If it's less than maximum availability, then you have to decide" whether or how much to put online.

Oral history programs also have to deal with the management issue as well as the ethical questions of seeking interviewee permission to post pre-existing interviews on a Web site or sharing profits with interviewees, he said.

The materials oral historians generate can be misused, no matter how they're disseminated, he said. "And in the end, there's not a lot you can do about it....It's the price you pay for the free marketplace of ideas."

Neuenschwander, a past OHA president, writes about legal issues frequently for the **Newsletter** and presents updates at annual meetings.

Silent Auction Nets \$2,000 for OHA Endowment Fund

By Anne Ritchie
National Gallery of Art

Attracting many bidders, the 1998 silent auction raised a record-breaking \$2,000 for the OHA Endowment Fund. An assortment of objects donated from Buffalo added local flavor to the auction, along with other items from Canada to Texas, Kentucky and Alaska (the latter looking ahead to the 1999 annual meeting).

More than 80 OHA friends and colleagues contributed a record number of books, arts and crafts and other goods to make the auction an enjoyable success. Thanks to you all!

Special thanks to Lois Myers, Kathryn Blakeman and Hilary Gardner of Baylor University's Institute for Oral History for their assistance in Buffalo.

Make Anchorage A Highlight Of Fall 1999

Mark your calendar now for the 1999 Oral History Association annual meeting scheduled for Oct. 7-10 at the Anchorage, Alaska, Hilton Hotel. Come early, stay late and bring your family to explore the 49th state's natural splendors, such as Denali National Park, the Kenai Peninsula and Prince William Sound.

The local arrangements committee is planning tours of the Independence Mine at Hatcher Pass, Anchorage historic sites, the Dena'ina village of Eklutna, Portage Glacier and Alyeska Ski Resort, one of the only tidewater-to-mountaintop ski areas in the world.

Anchorage is easily accessible and is served by five major air carriers.



President Linda Shopes presents the Oral History Association's project award to Jonathan Young, director of the National Rehabilitation Hospital Research Center's project documenting the history of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

OHA Presents 1998 Awards

Women jazz musicians, interdisciplinary study of American culture and the Americans with Disabilities Act were the topics of oral history work that won recognition at the 1998 Oral History Association awards dinner.

In addition, special recognition went to the Columbia University Oral History Research Office in commemoration of its 50th anniversary.

The OHA awards went to:

+ Sherrie Tucker of the University of California-Santa Cruz, for her article "Telling Performances: Jazz History Remembered and Remade by the Women in the Band," published in the 1997 "Women and Music: A Journal of Gender and Culture."

+ Susan D. Rose, Charles Barone and Sharon O'Brien of Dickinson College, for postsecondary teaching. Their innovative American Mosaic Semester incorporated oral history as a central element of their interdisciplinary course that focused on Steelton, Pa., a multi-ethnic community in the throes of change.

+ the National Rehabilitation Hospital Research Center for "Equality of Opportunity: The Making of the Americans with Disabilities Act." The

project used oral history to document the evolution of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The article award committee was chaired by Timothy Fong and included Teresa Barnett, Paul Karlstrom and Tracey K'Meyer. The postsecondary teaching award committee was chaired by Ruth Hill and included Julian Bond, Darci Iki and Kim Lady Smith. The project award committee was chaired by Miguel Juarez and included Jeffrey Brown and Karen Hirsch.

OHA President Linda Shopes also presented Ron Grele, director of the Columbia Oral History Research Office, with an OHA Council resolution commending Columbia's 50 years of service for:

+ serving as "a model for other oral history archives throughout the world;"

+ helping to "train generations of oral historians and to promote high standards of oral history methodology" through the leadership of Allan Nevins, Louis Starr, Elizabeth Mason and Ronald Grele and

+ helping found the OHA and contribute to its growth.

Shopes noted that Columbia is widely recognized as the first, and largest, oral history program in the United States, if not the world, with a collection containing more than 7,000 taped memoirs and more than 700,000 pages of transcripts.



Washington Update

By Page Putnam Miller
National Coordinating Committee
for the Promotion of History

Editor's Note: The National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History (NCC) serves as a national advocacy office in Washington for historical and archival professions. It is a consortium of more than 50 organizations, including the Oral History Association. Here are selected excerpts from recent "NCC Washington Update" columns.

Congress Adds Three New National Parks

The 105th Congress created three new national parks, bringing the total to 378 units in the national park system. More than half, including all three new ones, focus on historical events. The new sites are: Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, for the pivotal role it played in the desegregation of public schools in America; Tuskegee Army National Historic Site, established in association with Tuskegee University to commemorate and interpret the impact of the Tuskegee Army and the thousands of other men and women who served in African-

American air force units during World War II; Oklahoma City National Memorial, related to the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City where 168 people died.

Conference Report on Digital Copyright Bill Passes

Congress gave final approval in October 1998 to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. It includes two treaties adopted in late 1996 by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) that deal with protection on the Internet of literary and artistic works and protection of the rights of performers and producers of phonograms.

A major section of the bill limits the copyright infringement liability of Internet service providers and includes a special provision to limit liability of libraries and educational institutions. Additionally, the legislation provides for copying for preservation purposes. It also affirms the current law's commitment to "fair use," the use of copyrighted material for teaching, criticism and research purposes in which the user does not secure the permission of the copyright owner.

The bill also establishes a review process for evaluating the possible negative impact the legislation could have on "fair use." It also calls for the Copyright Office to prepare within six months a report on how to promote "distance learning" through digital technologies.

It is a victory for the library, archival and scholarly communities that the final bill included specific provisions on "fair use" and omitted a database protection amendment added at the last minute, which many feared would harm scholarly research.

Copyright Protection Extended

Congress gave final approval to a bill extending copyright protection from the current law of the life of the creator plus 50 years to the life of the creator plus 70 years. Protection for corporate "creators" is increased from 75 to 95 years.

U.S. copyright protections are now consistent with those in the European Union.

Anticipate Results In Project Planning

By Charles T. Morrissey

When oral history projects are first proposed, the questions asked about them are generally quantitative in nature. In short:

- ▶ How many people will you interview?
- ▶ How many hours will you tape?
- ▶ How many pages of transcript will you produce?
- ▶ How much will the project cost?
- ▶ How long will the project last?

But when oral history projects are completed, the questions often shift from quantitative to qualitative, with one question being dominant. In essence: Just how informative is all that oral history you collected?

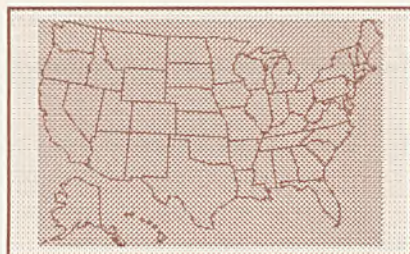
When seeking authorization from superiors to launch an oral history project or requesting a funding agency to finance your proposal, it is helpful to alert these crucial gatekeepers, early and explicitly, about the qualitative question that will predictably arise concerning the ultimate usefulness of your interviews.

This strategy makes them mindful of the value of conceptualizing oral history projects in terms of achieving high-quality results. It prepares them not to presume your project can be initiated and evaluated solely by numerical measurements of time, costs, size and products.

Also importantly, this awareness assists you in justifying budgetary allocations that promote high-quality interviews, such as ample time for pre-interview preparation, prudent pacing of interviews to avoid hectic overscheduling that is self-defeating, transcription by professionals and auditing of tapes and preliminary transcripts to assure accurate texts.

In effect, at the outset of an oral history project, anticipate that the outcomes will be assessed qualitatively, and plan accordingly.

STATE AND REGIONAL REPORT



Bay Area OH Group Holds Resource Fair

By Elizabeth A. Wright
Bay Area Oral Historians

The Bay Area Oral Historians (BAOH) was organized several years ago to serve the needs of oral historians in the San Francisco Bay area. A membership survey last year indicated major interest in networking opportunities and in workshops or events that provide practical, hands-on advice on all aspects of oral history.

To help meet those needs BAOH sponsored an afternoon Oral History Resource Fair on Sept. 12, 1998, at Mills College in Oakland, through the efforts of Nancy MacKay, a Mills College librarian.

Organized by BAOH steering committee members Ava Kahn and Doreen Cohen, the fair demonstrated the extraordinary versatility of oral history. Presentations showcasing various uses of oral history included:

- + College history: documenting the history and traditions of Mills College;
- + Education and performance art: storytelling based on oral histories to teach history to school children;
- + Historical sites: bringing life and meaning to national monuments;
- + Space age-NASA history: recording NASA Ames contributions to aviation and space age technology;
- + Corporate training: the ethics of corporate training on diversity issues;
- + International history: documenting Japanese-Peruvian history;
- + Labor history: preserving the history of the ILWU;
- + Civil rights for the disabled:

recording the history of the independent living and disability rights movements;

+ Oral history for all ages: preserving elders' stories and involving elementary school children in oral history projects;

+ Community history: researching the history of Fiddletown, a Sierra foothills mining community;

+ Technology for the 21st century: Demonstrating the use of digital technology for long-term preservation of family archives;

+ Public history: providing examples of oral histories focusing on natural resources, land use and the environment.

The next BAOH event will be held in the spring of 1999. For information about the event or about BAOH, contact Elizabeth Wright, e-mail: hipeaw@sirius.com. Telephone: 415-928-3417. Fax: 415-921-0298.

Southern Oral History At Chapel Hill Celebrates 25 Years

By Spencie Love, Acting Director
Southern Oral History Program

The Southern Oral History Program (SOHP) has spent a quarter century exploring 20th century Southern history, interviewing men and women from all walks of life. Founded in 1973 and based at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, SOHP has grown to be a nationally recognized program, led by Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, its long-time director.

To date, the SOHP has collected more than 2,000 interviews on subjects ranging from Southern politics and business to Southern labor struggles and the human side of industrialization and deindustrialization, from women's leadership and grassroots activism to the unfolding drama of Southern race relations as well as the changed Southern landscape and environment.

The program supports numerous oral history projects with teams of researchers conducting interviews all over the state. The most recent undertaking, "Listening for a Change: North Carolina Communities in Transition," is creating the basis for a new North Carolina history, exploring the lives of both long-time residents and recent immigrants and focusing on the state's evolution since World War II.

The SOHP anniversary celebration will culminate with a day of panel discussions and an evening program and celebration on April 8. Panelists will range from well-known oral historian Michael Frisch to Russ Rymer, author of the recently published nonfiction book, "American Beach: A Saga of Race, Wealth and Memory." They will discuss innovative uses of oral history, especially approaches that challenge the traditional historical narrative, exploring the relationship of history, memory and myth-making.

William Ferris, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, will be keynote speaker at the evening reception.

For more information on the 25th anniversary celebration, please call the SOHP at 919-962-0455 or by e-mail at: emillwoo@email.unc.edu.

NOHA to Meet In British Columbia

The Northwest Oral History Association will hold its annual meeting April 15-17 in Victoria, British Columbia, in conjunction with the 52nd Pacific Northwest History Conference.

The conference theme is "Neighbors and Neighbours" and will celebrate Pacific Northwest history on both sides of the border.

Other sponsors of the spring meeting are the Washington State Historical Society and the University of Victoria History Department.

OHMAR Visits Gettysburg College

By Regina T. Akers
Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic
Region

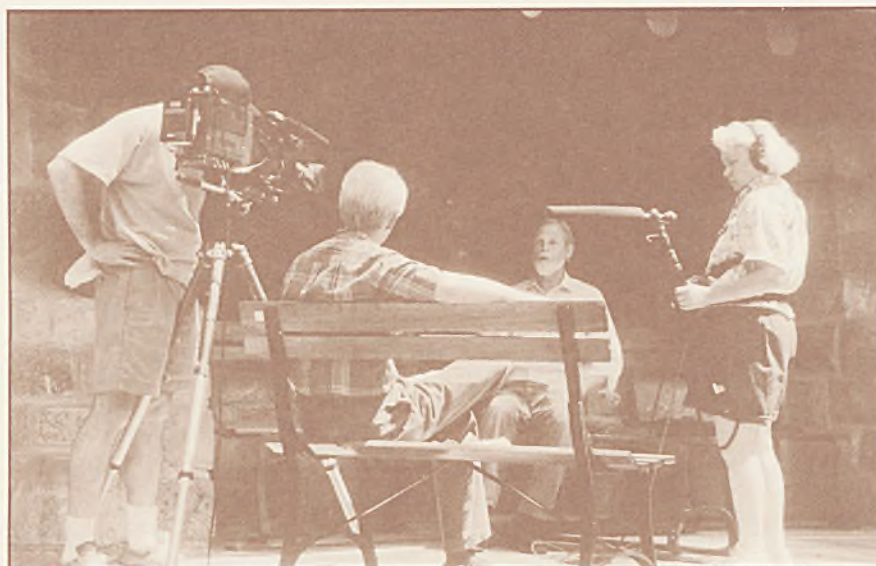
More than 50 historians, archivists, students, educators, oral historians and folklorists attended the Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region's fall meeting Nov. 7, 1998, at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. Attendees represented the federal government, community repositories and organizations, small and large businesses and institutions of higher education. Morning sessions included professors from local colleges and universities describing their student-led oral history projects.

OHMAR President Judith Knudsen presented the Forrest Pogue Award to Abby Trafford for the Washington Press Club Foundation's Women in Journalism Oral History Project.

The afternoon program offered tours of the Gettysburg battlefield and a roundtable discussion about the differences between folklorists and oral historians. Other issues addressed at the meeting included: funding oral history projects, ethics and oral history, oral history and the Internet, using audio versus video tape, and teaching oral history.

OHMAR's new officers are: President Elaine Eff, Vice President Cindy Swanson, Secretary Donita M. Moorhus, Treasurer Phyllis Palmer and at-large board members Roger Horowitz, Regina T. Akers and Jessica Elfenbein.

OHMAR's spring meeting is set for April 15-16 at the Naval Historical Center in the Washington, D.C., Navy Yard. It is co-sponsored by the Naval Historical Center, the Naval Historical Foundation and the Marine Corps Historical Center and will focus on oral history and the military. Beginning and advanced workshops are planned as are sessions on teaching oral history and on oral histories with women and minorities. For information, contact Akers at 202-433-3224 or gakers@nhc.navy.mil



Architectural historian Charles Nelson is interviewed outside historic Forest Inn in Minnesota's Itasca State Park. L-R: Videographer Kevin Galligan, interviewer James E. Fogerty, Nelson and sound technician Rosemary Davis. Photo by Michael Thompson, Minnesota Historical Society

Oral History Helps Document Minnesota Park

By James E. Fogerty
Minnesota Historical Society

Itasca State Park is the oldest park in Minnesota and second oldest in the nation. It is home to nearly one-third of the remaining old growth white and red pine forests in Minnesota--the majestic trees that are inextricably linked to any popular view of the "Land of Sky-Blue Waters." The park also contains the source of the mighty Mississippi River and is thus a major destination for thousands of tourists from across the nation and around the world.

Itasca contains a magnificent group of National Register log structures that are at once an important attraction and a source of concern to historic preservation.

The Minnesota Historical Society recently completed five days of videotaping in the park as part of a larger cooperative project with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Focusing on issues of forest, wildlife and visitor management, as well as historic

preservation, the project is a multi-year effort to document the evolution of response to these and related issues.

Because Itasca is a highly visible part of the state's outdoor recreation attractions, the project also is part of the Minnesota Resort Industry Oral History Project.

SOHA Plans Meeting In Palm Springs

By Susan Douglass Yates
Southwest Oral History Assn.

The Southwest Oral History Association will hold its annual meeting April 16-18 in Palm Springs, Calif., at the Palm Springs Hilton Resort.

The program will include introductory and advanced oral history workshops and sessions on preservation, oral history in the schools, organizing community projects and academically funded versus contract funded programs.

For more information or to receive a program, if you are not a SOHA member, contact Susan Douglass Yates, UCLA Oral History Program, Box 951575, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1575, phone: 310-825-7524, fax: 310-206-2796, e-mail: douglass@library.ucla.edu.

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

1999 OHA in Anchorage

Plan now for the 1999 OHA meeting in Anchorage Oct. 7-10. See page 6 for more details.

Australians Plan for Melbourne

The Oral History Association of Australia will hold its national conference Sept. 2-5 at the State Library of Victoria in Melbourne. Conference theme is "Tales of the Century."

Computer History Group

The American Association for History and Computing will meet at Temple University in Philadelphia, April 24-26. The meeting focus is on how computing technology will transform teaching, learning and education.

New England Meeting Planned

The New England American Studies Association will hold its spring conference, "Erasures, Evasions and Absences: Contestations for Control of the Public Record, Past and Present," at Suffolk University in Boston May 15-16.

Texas Group Sets Gathering

The Texas Oral History Association and the Texas State Historical Association will meet March 4-6 in Dallas for their annual meeting. The program theme is "Thanks for the Memories: Remembering the Southwest Conference."

Announcements

Student Transcripts Published

The Long, Long Ago Oral History Project at Suva Intermediate School, Bell Gardens, Calif., recently published transcripts of student interviews as part of its artists series. The interviews are with JoAnn Falletta, award-winning conductor of the Long Beach Symphony Orchestra, and opera singer Suzanna Guzman,

who grew up in East Los Angeles. The Long, Long Ago project is directed by Michael A. Brooks, an OHA award-winning teacher.

Columbia Issues CD

As part of its commemoration of its 50th anniversary, the Columbia University Oral History Research Office has published a CD called "Stories from the Collection." It contains excerpts of interviews in the Columbia collection with a wide array of 20th century figures, including Thurgood Marshall, Fred Astaire, Dorothy Parker, Orvil Faubus and more than a dozen others.

Bilingual Oral Histories Published

The Nebraska State Historical Society and the Nebraska Mexican American Commission have produced a bilingual publication, "Our Treasures: A Celebration of Nebraska's Mexican Heritage." It includes essays on the history and culture of Mexicans in Nebraska and summaries of 50 oral history and folklife interviews conducted by volunteers in four Nebraska communities.

New Books Available

The Williams Center for Oral History at Louisiana State University has published two new books.

"Louisiana Voices: Remembering World War II" is a collection of edited transcripts of interviews with Louisiana World War II veterans, with an introduction by noted historian Stephen Ambrose. The transcripts were selected and edited by Janet Barnwell.

"Talking Gumbo: An Oral History Manual for Secondary School Teachers," by Toby Daspit, Petra Munro and Pamela Dean, is a how-to guide aimed primarily at English, history and social studies teachers. It includes tips on equipment, choosing projects and using oral history to meet curriculum requirements. Included with the book is a 30-minute video on how to conduct interviews.

Billy Graham Exhibit Online

The Web site of the Archives of the Billy Graham Center has opened a new virtual exhibit, "Many Voices, One Story," highlighting its oral history collection. Site visitors can hear audio excerpts from 10 interviews, running from 2 to 10 minutes, and link to the transcripts and guides to the archives' collections.

The excerpts include:

- + missionary Martha Philips on her experiences in a Japanese internment camp in China from 1941-43;

- + evangelist Tom Skinner describing his first evangelistic meeting in Harlem in the early 1960s;

- + evangelist and youth worker William Drury giving a sample of the street corner sermons he preached in New York City in the late 1940s.

RealAudio software is required to listen to the exhibit. Those unable to hear the audio clips can view the transcripts, photos and other information.

The Billy Graham Center's Archives documents the efforts of North American Protestant evangelicals to spread the Christian gospel in the 20th century. Since 1978, archives staff members have interviewed hundreds of evangelists, missionaries, pastors, broadcasters, chaplains, youth workers, filmmakers, Bible translators and many others.

To visit "Many Voices, One Story," go to:
<http://www.wheaton.edu/bgc/archives/exhibits/ohistory/oral01.htm>

Personals

Pamela Dean, former Oral History Association Council member and founding director of the Williams Center for Oral History at Louisiana State University, is taking a year's leave of absence to turn her dissertation into a book. She received a 1998-99 National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation post-doctoral fellowship for research and writing on education.

Journalist Group Hears from OHA

By Maurine H. Beasley
American Journalism Historians
Association

Three members of the Oral History Association appeared on a panel at the American Journalism Historians Association (AJHA) convention in Louisville, Ky., Oct. 22, 1998, to help familiarize that organization with oral history methods.

Tracey K'Meyer and Mary Margaret Bell, co-directors of the University of Louisville Oral History Center, and Jeffrey S. Suhanek, assistant director of oral history at the University of Kentucky Library, took part on a panel titled "Oral History: Method or Madness for Journalism Historians?" About 100 persons attended the convention.

The panel was moderated and arranged by Maurine H. Beasley, professor of journalism, University of Maryland, College Park, chair of the AJHA oral history committee. Beasley is the OHA liaison to AJHA.

AJHA has about 350 members, mainly individuals who teach history courses in journalism colleges. It is considering republishing, possibly electronically, its 1996 monograph, "Oral Histories Relating to Journalism History," which is now out of print. It was compiled by James D. Startt of Valparaiso University, former chair of the AJHA oral history committee.

For further information, contact Beasley at the College of Journalism, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742 or mb25@umail.umd.edu.

AJHA also is planning an oral history program, interviewing leading journalism historians and founders of AJHA, which held its first convention in 1982. It welcomes close contacts with members of OHA.

Family Histories Come of Age

By Elizabeth A. Wright
Association of Personal Historians

"Into the Millennium: Family Histories Come of Age" was the theme of the Association of Personal Historians' (APH) fourth annual

Networking Conference Nov. 5-8, 1998, in Santa Ana, Calif.

The conference included a day of workshops devoted to video training, writing and editing, interviewing techniques and technology and a panel discussion of business techniques used in preserving personal histories.

The APH was formed several years ago to fill the previously neglected niche of professional support for entrepreneurs interested in preservation of personal histories.

The program focused on techniques for preserving personal histories in the 21st century. It included a presentation about the oral history program at the University of California-Fullerton by Kathy Frazee and Tracy Smith.

Author T. Jefferson Parker discussed turning everyday events into stories, and Orange County Register columnist Jan Norman offered useful marketing tips. She is author of a recent book, "What No One Ever Tells You About Starting Your Own Business."

Next year's meeting will be in Chicago. For APH membership information, call President Bob Joyce at Hawthorne House, 714-545-5435.

OHA Pamphlet Order Form

Add to your professional reference library the Oral History Association's pamphlets. OHA members get a 10 percent discount for orders of 10 or more copies. Clip and mail this coupon, with your check made out to OHA, to:
Oral History Assn., Baylor University, Box 97234, Waco, TX 76798-7234.

Name _____

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State _____ Zip _____

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All prices include shipping via domestic mail. Inquire for costs of Federal Express delivery. International shipping by surface mail at no extra charge; add 30 percent to your order if you prefer international airmail delivery.

Pamphlet	Price	Quantity
Oral History and the Law, \$8.00 2nd ed., by John A. Neuenschwander, 1993		_____
Oral History in the Secondary School Classroom, by Barry A. Lanman and George L. Mehaffy, 1988	\$8.00	_____
Using Oral History in Community History Projects, by Laurie Mercier and Madeline Buckendorf, 1992	\$8.00	_____
Oral History Evaluation Guidelines, 2nd ed., 1991	\$5.00	_____
Order total:		_____
Optional mailing charge:		_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED:		_____

Reach OHA Online

The Oral History Association's home page on the World Wide Web can be found at:

<http://www.baylor.edu/~OHA>.

The oral history electronic discussion list, H-ORALHIST, is one of the H-Net affiliated scholarly lists. There are no dues or fees of any kind to enroll. Subscribers only need an e-mail address on the Internet. To subscribe, send a message to: listserv@h-net.msu.edu with no subject and the following text:

SUBSCRIBE H-ORALHIST
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Access the main H-ORALHIST Website at:

<http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~oralhist>

If you have questions or problems subscribing, contact H-Oralhist Editor Jeff Charnley at: charnle2@pilot.msu.edu.

April 1 Deadline For 1999 Awards

The Oral History Association invites nominations for its 1999 awards for an outstanding book, precollegiate teacher and outstanding use of oral history in a nonprint format. April 1 is the deadline for all three awards.

The awards, which are honorific, will be presented at the 1999 annual OHA meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, Oct. 7-10. Winners receive framed certificates, one-year memberships in OHA and registration to the annual meeting.

Works published between Jan. 1, 1997, and March 31, 1999, are eligible for the book award. Details about criteria and submitting nominations should be sent to book award chair, Kathryn Nasstrom, History Department, University of San Francisco, 2130 Fulton St., San Francisco, CA 94117-1080. Other committee members are Albert S.

Broussard of Texas A&M University and Kathleen Blee of the University of Pittsburgh.

The precollegiate teaching award recognizes a primary or secondary teacher who has made exemplary use of oral history in the classroom. For detailed criteria and information on submitting nominations, contact chair Ora Cooks, 1221 Lorenzo Dr., SW, Atlanta, GA 30310. Other members of the precollegiate teaching award committee include Bret Eynon of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Loretta Lobes, Carnegie Mellon University.

The nonprint media award recognizes a film, video, radio program or series, exhibit or drama that makes significant use of oral history to interpret an historical event, person, place or way of life. For detailed criteria and information on submitting nominations, contact chair Judi Jennings, 338 Wildwood Place, Louisville, KY 40206. Other committee members are John Tchen of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Daniel Sipe of Merion Station, Penn.

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