



NEWSLETTER

Narratives Featured Throughout Meeting in Portland, Ore.

By Kathy Nasstrom
OHA Conference Co-Chair

The “narratives of our own times” run throughout the upcoming program for the 2004 Oral History Association conference, Sept. 29-Oct. 3, with sessions on cataclysmic events, such as war in Iraq and Afghanistan, the disintegration of the space shuttle Columbia and the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001.

Also represented are emblematic issues that define our times, including global migrations, the enduring problem of homelessness and the technological reshaping of American life—and of oral history.

The history of Portland, Ore., and the Pacific Northwest will be the subject of numerous individual presentations and several sessions. Conference attendees will learn about the racial and ethnic communities of the Northwest, homosexual history of Oregon and the history of the region’s native peoples.

The Saturday tours pick up some of these same themes, while also offering an introduction to the cultural landscape and natural beauty of the Portland area.

The tour options are:

+ McMenamins Cosmic Bus Tour, a dinner and after-dinner tour of local brew pubs;

+ Historic Old Town and Dim Sum Tour, taking in several of Portland’s ethnic neighborhoods and community organizations;

+ Public Art: Telling Stories on the Yellow Line, a view of public art, an integral part of all public construction projects in Portland, at a number of mass transit stations;

+ Portland, City of Gardens, an internationally flavored sample of the city’s many lovely gardens;

+ Columbia River Gorge and Timberline Lodge, a pleasure drive up the stunning river gorge east of the city.

The conference’s featured speakers and events focus our attention on the power of remembering and the dangers of forgetting:

+ Michael Honey, Saturday evening’s keynote speaker, addresses the distinctive character of working-class oral history and the importance of workers’ memories.

+ Linda Tamura, in her Friday luncheon keynote address, considers the historical amnesia surrounding Japanese-American World War II veterans.

+ On Thursday and Friday, acclaimed performer and educator Awele Makeba offers a performance and workshop on the untaught history of the Montgomery bus boycott and uses that history to understand the

legacy of racism.

+ Alessandro Portelli’s most recent book, “The Order Has Been Given,” is the focus of a Friday afternoon plenary session, featuring Portelli in conversation with noted scholars in history and memory studies: Jacquelyn Hall, Paula Hamilton, David Blight and Edward Linenthal.

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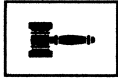
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From Your President

By **Rose T. Diaz**
OHA President

Over the past months that I have served as OHA president, it has been my pleasure to speak with many individuals who wish to become acquainted with the organization, its mission and goals and especially its members. While many contacts have been inquiries about the organization, most questions have dealt with technical questions and information regarding the “how-to” of oral history.

This leads me to believe that many communities are thirsting for the knowledge that we all take so much for granted. Some questions are simple and at the introductory levels of oral history work. For these, it is a pleasure to be able to recommend not only the OHA Web site as a point of reference, but also to steer individuals to some of the practical books and online materials available to help inform their work.

Other questions are more complex and really require those involved to become active in ongoing discussions with field experts. To this end, I have recommended they join us at our annual meeting to partake of the wonderful workshops, tours and panels that will continue to enhance their inquiries. Most callers are surprised to hear that we welcome community members and non-professional oral historians to our meeting.

Further, they are truly astonished when I indicate that we have “newcomers” events to make them welcome and to introduce them to the membership. I have suggested they look to the Web site for a “tour” of the upcoming program. I also talk about our wonderful publications and how they can be ordered. I believe the Web site and our publications are now more important than ever. They need to be continued and enhanced to the best of our ability, as they are

particularly important to those just entering the field and, hopefully, the organization.

Furthermore, I refer them to contacts in the regional or state oral history organizations. Hopefully some of them have been in contact with you.

Here is a sampling of the very diverse projects that have called for information:

- + a group developing young African-American oral historians/writers interviewing elders whose serialized stories will appear in a community newspaper;
- + a medical school professor working to interview doctors trained under a retired professor as a tribute to his life’s work and as a way to trace 20th century medical training;
- + several high schools that wish to do oral histories for reunions at 50th anniversaries.

Projects such as these are but a few of the many being developed in local communities. All these projects benefit not only from our involvement, but also from the involvement of historians, librarians and archivists. How best can we continue to get the word out?

I implore you to get involved in a community project at whatever level and time you have available. Many groups have much to tell about our “nearby histories,” and they are desperately in need of informed and reliable expertise. You have always been so willing—let’s pledge to assist at least one fledgling project this next year. We will all be the richer for it!

On a personal note, a special thanks to all who sent notes and called during my mother’s illness this past spring. We have certainly been blessed in her healing process and in the last few weeks have celebrated her 78th birthday!

Finally, I have been blessed with many friends and colleagues through this organization. It has been my pleasure to serve as your president this year, and I look to continue in your service throughout my career. You are the best!

I look forward to meeting the many newcomers and seeing old friends in Portland!

Portland Conference

(Continued from page 1.)

Workshops will offer training and skill building for a range of oral history practitioners. The conference features the following workshops:

- + introduction to oral history,
- + writing the story of oral history,
- + oral history and digital technology,
- + oral history and the law,
- + oral history and performance,
- + oral history and the World Wide Web and
- + oral history in the classroom.

Other featured events at the Portland conference include a roundtable discussion of oral history ethics, a presidential reception at the Oregon Historical Society, a newcomers breakfast, book signings and a Black Panther Party photo exhibit.

Also at this year’s awards dinner, recognition will be given to recipients of OHA awards for exemplary use of oral history in an article, project and post-secondary teaching.

The Portland Hilton and Executive Tower, the conference hotel, is in downtown Portland, within walking distance of excellent restaurants, the Portland Art Museum, the Oregon Historical Society, historic Old Town, the Chinese Gardens, the Willamette River walkway, galleries, shops, brew pubs and world-famous Powell’s Bookstore. Public transportation is available for excursions to parks, gardens and neighborhood districts. Call the hotel at 503-226-1611 for the OHA rate of \$124 a night.

We hope to see you there!

Endowment Gifts Sought

The Oral History Association welcomes your tax deductible contribution to the Oral History Endowment, which helps fund special projects. Send your donations to: OHA, Dickinson College, P.O. Box 1773, Carlisle, PA 17013.

Oral Historians Meet in Rome Where Conference Nourishes Minds, Hearts and Souls

By Jessica Wiederhorn
Columbia University

The 13th International Oral History Association Conference on Memory and Globalization, held June 23-26 in Rome, was very likely the largest conference in the history of the association.

It was organized and graciously hosted by Alessandro Portelli, who is, among his many incarnations, also the deputy of memory to the mayor of Rome. Portelli, with the help of his colleagues and students, brought more than 400 conference attendees (including local people from Rome) to the Piazza del Campidoglio, an exquisite piazza perched above the city with views of ancient Roman ruins as well as the bustle of contemporary Rome.

The opening session, held on June 23, featured a keynote address by the internationally renowned historian, Carlos Ginzburg. Ginzburg presented his audience with a dense analysis of the "archeology of memory" in which the politics of memory in our global age was the concluding theme.

The program listed 379 paper presenters from countries throughout the world. Workshops and panels, on the great variety of theoretical and methodological subjects and issues of concern to oral historians worldwide, were held in venues ranging from palazzos, bibliotecas and salas on streets and in piazzas neighboring the Campidoglio. Frustrated by the many excellent choices to be made during the two days of multiple sessions, we were delighted that the conference papers were published on disk and distributed to all participants.

The conference closed with a moving presentation by Estela Carlotto, of the Madres de Plaza de Mayo, Argentina. A striking contrast to the opening paper by Ginzburg, her presentation brought many in the audience to tears. We learned how the mothers of the "disappeared" are



The glories of Rome provided the backdrop for a June meeting of the International Oral History Association. Photo: Jessica Wiederhorn

not only struggling to find their lost grandchildren, but have created "treasure" boxes of memories for each of them. The boxes include taped narratives of those who can tell the lost grandchildren, now in their mid-20s, about their murdered parents and provide them with a sense of the identity for which they are searching. Janis Wilton, outgoing president of the IOHA, brought the conference to an end stating that our hearts and souls had been as well nourished as our minds.

The farewell dinner, held in the courtyard of the beautiful Palazzo Valentino, featured the songs and music of the tradition of Rome, brilliantly performed by Sara Modigliani and the Gruppo La Piazza—a delightful conclusion to four days of intellectually, aesthetically and gastronomically fulfilling events.

The next conference will be held in July 2006 in Sydney, Australia, marking the 10th anniversary of the association. The Sydney conference will be hosted by the University of Technology, Sydney; the University of New England, Armidale and the Oral History Association of Australia. The call for papers is expected to be available in October or November. For further information, refer to the IOHA Web site: www.ioha.fgv.br.

Here are the results of the IOHA elections:

+ Rina Benmayor, United States, president;

+ Gerardo Necoechea, Mexico, first vice president;

+ Funso Afulayan, Nigeria, first vice president.

Elected to Council, with the regions they represent, were:

+ Sean Field, South Africa, Africa;

+ Parita Mukta, United Kingdom, Europe

+ Pilar Dominguez, Spain, Europe;

+ Gunhan Danisman, Turkey, Asia;

+ Eriko Yamamoto, Japan, Asia;

+ Aviston Downes, Barbados, Caribbean;

+ Antonio Montenegro, Brazil, South America;

+ Don Ritchie, United States, North America;

+ Paula Hamilton, Australia, Oceania;

+ Janis Wilton, Australia, Oceania, past president;

+ Anna Green, ex-officio, executive secretary;

+ Almut Leh, ex-officio, treasurer.

In addition, Ritchie, a past OHA president, was named newsletter editor, sharing the post with a co-editor from Spain. About a dozen OHA members attended the meeting.

Interviews on “60 Minutes” Trigger Defamation Lawsuit About Jurors

By John Neuenschwander
Carthage College

On Nov. 24, 2002, a segment of “60 Minutes” titled “Jackpot Justice” examined the multimillion-dollar verdicts rendered by juries in several counties in Mississippi against drug and asbestos companies.

Jefferson County was singled out in particular as the county with the most generous jurors. Two Mississippians, Wyatt Emmerich, a newspaper publisher and columnist from Jackson, and Beau Strittman, a florist from Fayette, were interviewed by Morley Safer

Both offered pointed assessments of why these jurors regularly assessed huge damage judgments against large corporations.

According to Emmerich, “There are more lawsuits filed than there are inhabitants of Jefferson County. Something like a third of all pharmaceutical cases for some drugs have been tried there.” The reason for this, he maintained, was the plaintiff friendly jurors who decide these cases.

Emmerich contended that most of the folk who served on these juries were “disenfranchised people.” As a result, they say: “Hey, stick it to the Yankee company. Stick it to the insurance companies. Stick it to the pharmaceutical companies.”

He went on to claim that for both white and black jurors, “...there’s a lot of resentment, a lot of class anger. It’s very easy to weave this racial conflict into a big money pot for the attorneys.”

Strittman’s assessment of why jurors were so willing to make huge damage awards against large corporate defendants had more to do with simple self interest. As he saw it, “The jury awarded these people this money, because they felt as if they were going to get a cut off it.” When pressed by Safer as to what he meant by this, Strittman replied:

“They benefit after court and everything is over with. Yes, sir.” Safer then asked: “Uh-hun. On the quiet?” To which Strittman answered: “Mm-hmmm. Under the table. Yeah.”

As a result of these and other statements, nine former Jefferson County jurors filed a \$6.5 billion defamation action against a number of parties, including CBS, the producers of “60 Minutes,” Wyatt Emmerich and Beau Strittman.

On June 30, 2003, two of the defendants, Emmerich and Strittman, were dismissed from the lawsuit. The reasons why Federal District Judge David Bramlette granted their motion to dismiss in the case of *Berry v. Safer*, 293 F. Supp. 694 (So. Dist MS, 2003) offer some instructive insights for oral historians.

In Mississippi a plaintiff must establish the following four elements to produce a viable claim for defamation:

“(1) a false and defamatory statement was made concerning the plaintiff;

“(2) there was an unprivileged publication to a third party;

“(3) the publisher was negligent in publishing the statement

“(4) the plaintiff suffered damages resulting from publication of the defamatory statement.”

The attorneys for Emmerich and Strittman maintained, however, that the plaintiff’s case was defective because they had failed to show that the statements, even if they were defamatory, were “made concerning the plaintiff”

Attorneys for the former jurors argued in response that in Mississippi, as well as most other jurisdictions, the injured party need not be mentioned by name so long as he or she could be readily identified by descriptive language or other circumstances. They further contended that membership on a particular jury was a small enough

group to allow a person to be recognized by statements about the jury’s actions even though no individual members were mentioned by name.

These arguments, however, proved unconvincing to Judge Bramlette. He noted that in their interviews neither of the defendants ever referred to a specific jury. As a result, he found as a matter of law that “an alleged defamation against all jurors in Jefferson County can have no personal application to any individual jurors.”

The failure of the plaintiffs (the nine Jefferson County jurors) to establish this vital element resulted in the dismissal of both Emmerich and Strittman from the lawsuit.

The case is instructive for oral historians on several levels. When reviewing tapes and transcripts for potentially defamatory statements, as this case points out, oral historians should not discount the possibility that an unnamed individual who was part of a small but readily recognizable group could file a lawsuit.

The plaintiff in the landmark Supreme Court case of *New York Times v. Sullivan* (1964) was such an unnamed person. The second lesson is simply that preventative measures are always far less stressful and expensive than litigation.

Editor’s Note: Oral History Association past president John Neuenschwander is an attorney and municipal judge as well as a history professor. He writes frequently on legal issues affecting oral historians and is the author of the OHA pamphlet “Oral History and the Law.” See the order form on page 11 to obtain a copy.

Recent Grants Help Support Oral History Work

Oral History Recordings Added to Online Archive

By Sherna Berger Gluck
California State University, Long Beach

Thanks to a two-year National Endowment for the Humanities grant, another 150 hours of original oral history recordings have been added to the Virtual Oral/Aural History Archive site of California State University, Long Beach.

This brings the total of available original oral history recordings from the CSULB women's history, labor history and Long Beach area history collections to some 650 hours and introduces a new jazz history series from the Collection on Musical Developments in Southern California.

The interviews newly uploaded include:

- + the remaining 70 hours with women war workers, now making available the full 254 hours from the Rosie the Riveter Revisited series,
- + the balance of 40 hours from the women garment workers series,
- + interviews with individual labor activists and witnesses to or participants in key moments in U.S. labor history and
- + jazz composers, arrangers and performers.

These narratives mainly document life in the first half of the 20th century. Interviews have been broken into organic time segments, which are summarized and assigned search terms. The user can listen to an entire tape or can choose a specific segment. The site design affords the user several ways of locating material: by browsing the collections, working through the hierarchy or searching for interview segments that match a search criterion specified by the user. Full bibliographic citations are provided for each segment.

The narrators range from suffragists, anarchists and communists to garment workers, oil

workers and jazz arrangers and include African-American men and women, Issei and Nisei, Latinos and Latinas and Eastern European immigrant women.

Check it out at: www.csulb.edu/voaha and watch for new series to be added in the fall.

Editor's Note: Sherna Berger Gluck, who directs the oral history program at CSULB, described the creation of the Virtual Oral/Aural History Archive in the Spring 2002 OHA Newsletter.

Yale's American Music History Project Receives Preservation Funds

The Oral History, American Music project at Yale University has received a \$148,000 Save America's Treasures grant, one of only eight given to arts-related institutions nationwide. Save America's Treasures is administered by the National Park Service.

"It is very satisfying to know that our federal government recognizes that American composers are national treasures," said Vivian Perlis, founder and director of the project. "We are pleased to have the means to preserve their voices and to make these unique primary source materials available into the future."

The American music project at Yale, featured in a Spring 2002 OHA Newsletter article, includes oral and video memoirs of many of the giants of American music, including Aaron Copland, Eubie Blake, Duke Ellington, Charles Mingus and Nadia Boulanger, among many others.

The federal grant will be used to ensure proper preservation of the collection, OHAM said in a press release. Original tapes, transcripts and video tapes will be duplicated and shelved at Yale's newly constructed state-of-the-art shelving facility. All tapes will be duplicated

to analog reel to reel, considered the most stable archival medium. Also, two CD copies will be made, one as the reference master and the other as a user copy.

For more information, see the Oral History, American Music Web site: www.yale.edu/oham.

Native American Vets Focus of New Project

The Nebraska Foundation for the Preservation of Oral History has received a \$36,168 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for a Native American veterans oral history project. The project is being carried out in partnership with the University of South Dakota's Institute of American Indian Studies, which administers the South Dakota Oral History Center. The university and the John F. Lindley Endowment are providing matching funds.

The project will create a Native American oral history training manual, a model oral history training workshop and an instructional training video.

Project director and longtime OHA member Barbara W. Sommer said that while the project aims to increase the number of interviews with Native American veterans for the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project, the instructional materials will be applicable to any Native American oral history project.

Charles Trimble, interim director of USD's American Indian studies institute and a past member of the American Folklife Center Board of Trustees, identified the need for the Native American veterans initiative, Sommer said.

Training materials will be made available to tribal colleges and other Native American organizations. For more information, contact Sommer at: barbsom@aol.com.

Blues Great Jimmy McCracklin Remembers



Blues musician Jimmy McCracklin. Photo: Caroline Crawford

“I was born in Arkansas. I was on a farm, you know. My dad had cows, hogs, chickens...that’s why I wrote ‘Arkansas.’ I made it to the true facts of actually what went down, when I remember, as I was a kid coming up.

“In the family was three boys and seven girls altogether. My father was a deacon in the church and my mother, she was an Eastern Star. They kept us in church and we used to sing in the choir. The facts are, though, it was almost enough of us together, just the family to make a choir of it. We loved the church as children; spent all day Sunday and several evenings there, singing and playing the piano and organ. Everyone was musical, brought up that way by the elders, and it taught us respect.

“Blues and jazz comes from the church, believe it or not. The church is what I’d call the foundation, because whatever you put into music is nothing but a feeling. What I feel I got to make you feel, because that’s the way I see life. And if you don’t feel it and I don’t feel it, I ain’t doing nothing but making noise. Blues is a feeling. You been mistreated and you aren’t the onliest one. Someone else in the world has been mistreated. That’s the blues. It’s all in your feeling and it’s really a true part of life. That’s what it’s all about.”

**By Caroline Crawford
University of California, Berkeley**

With the help of the National Endowment for the Humanities, music historian Caroline Crawford at the Bancroft Library’s Regional Oral History Office has for the past 15 years been interviewing the musicians who made up the vibrant blues community of the 1940s and 1950s in California.

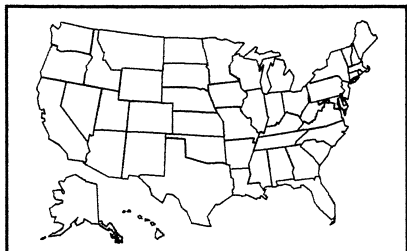
From this legendary community came such legendary figures as Charles Brown, Lowell Fulson, Big Mama Thornton, T-Bone Walker, Ivory Joe Hunter and Jimmy McCracklin, brilliant musicians who served the blues by writing and performing hundreds of songs that described their lives and times, songs that later were recorded by the Beatles, Otis Redding and B.B. King, among others.

California blues, rooted in the rural blues of the deep South, created its own voice and made a significant contribution to the general blues movement, which reshaped American popular music through its derivative forms: jazz, rhythm and blues, rock and roll, soul, rap and hiphop.

Crawford and filmmaker John Lightfoot are now making a documentary film titled “Jimmy Sings the Blues,” a narrative of the life of 84-year-old Jimmy McCracklin, whose “Thrill is Gone” became B.B. King’s signature song. Supported by a grant from the Lucius and Eva Eastman Fund the film tells the story of African-American life in the South, the wartime migration to the West Coast, persistent racial discrimination and, above all, the blues.

Another major project of ROHO’s music desk is the American composers series, funded by a \$100,000 grant from the Phyllis Wattis Foundation. The composers, all with California connections, come from a variety of backgrounds and musical languages. Included to date are Andrew Imbrie, Olly Wilson, Dave Brubeck, Pauline Oliveros, John Chowning, Joaquin Nin-Culmell and David Harrington of the Kronos Quartet.

STATE AND REGIONAL REPORT



New England Historians See Armenian Museum At Fall Conference

By Mehmed Ali
New England Association
of Oral History

The New England Association of Oral History will hold its annual conference on Oct. 30 at the Armenian Library and Museum of America in Watertown, Mass. The theme of this year's conference will be "Civil Rights and Human Rights" and will feature speakers who have worked in preserving through oral history the memories of peoples' struggles.

For more information contact Mehmed Ali at 978-275-1826.

Family History Month Provides Backdrop For Michigan Meeting

By Geneva Kebler Wiskemann
Michigan Oral History Assn.

"Oral History for Michigianians 2004," a conference sponsored by the Michigan Oral History Association in partnership with the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries, is scheduled for Oct. 23 at the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing.

The event, in recognition of Family History Month, will feature keynote speaker Elizabeth Goins, a conservation scientist at the Rochester Institute of Technology's Image Permanence Institute.

Goins will share information about a project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop diagnostic tools for conservation of magnetic tape collections in the United States.

For information, e-mail MOHA secretary Geneva Kebler Wiskemann at gwiskemann@arq.net

Group Seeks Interviews With Horse Cavalrymen

The U.S. Cavalry Association is making an all-out attempt to interview all the remaining horse cavalry troopers—many in their 80s—who served before mechanization. Texas A&M University is providing the transcriptions, and copies of the interviews will be accessible through both Texas A&M and the U.S. Cavalry Association Library at Fort Riley, Kan.

Because the troopers live across the nation, the association is seeking volunteer interviewers to help record these invaluable oral histories. If you are interested in helping or know of a retired cavalryman who should be interviewed, e-mail Dawn Ottevaere at Michigan State University, dottevaere@mindspring.com.

ROHO Newsletter Features California Oral History News

The Bancroft Library's Regional Oral History Office at the University of California, Berkeley, has published the first issue of its new newsletter, "Memory Lines."

The 16-page publication includes, among numerous articles, comments from ROHO Director Richard Candida Smith, excerpts from an interview with legendary photographer Dorothea Lange, which is part of the ROHO collection, articles by students and an interview with ROHO interviewer Sally Smith Hughes, a science and medicine historian.

"Memory Lines" editor Linda Norton said the second issue will be published this fall in conjunction with ROHO's 50th anniversary.

To see the newsletter, begin at ROHO's Web site:
<http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/ROHO>



New England Association of Oral History past presidents attended the 2003 conference in Bethesda, Md. They are, left to right, Sam Hand, Bruce Stave, Linda Wood, John Fox and current president Mehmed Ali. Photo: Ali.

Asking Hard Questions: Harvey the Historian as Colleague

By Elwood P. Dowd
AKA Charles T. Morrissey
Baylor University

To every oral history interview I escort an invisible friend. His name is Harvey. You may think my invisible companion is a six-foot rabbit named Harvey, from the play and movie "Harvey," but this is not so. Nor do I fantasize myself as being Jimmy Stewart, the actor who teamed with Harvey the rabbit in the 1950 film from Universal Studios, based on Mary Coyle Chase's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, first staged in 1944. My accomplice is Harvey the historian.

Harvey's special interest is the history of the future. You may think Harvey's chosen field is difficult to master, but actually Harvey helps me immeasurably during interviews.

How?

Because Harvey reminds me, by his constant but undetectable presence, of what to do when informants seem reluctant to divulge crucial explanations of sensitive topics. Sensing qualms about expressing forthright candor in a narrator's demeanor, I often mobilize Harvey as an ally.

"Imagine if a future historian sat here in this room with us now, participating in this interview," I say to my reluctant interviewee, phrasing my parry in a two-sentence format. "This future historian would likely speak up now by saying he will need to know how you dealt with this issue."

Or, varying the language while tangling with the same problem: "A future historian would be grateful to you to hear you explain how this difficulty was confronted."

Or: "A future historian, listening to the tape of this interview we are recording today, would at this point expect me to ask you...."

Or: "A future historian reading the transcript of this interview, would

rank me as remiss for not asking and thus not giving you an opportunity to answer this troubling but essential question." And then I pop the tough one.

If my stubborn respondent isn't persuaded by my appeals to Harvey, the invisible but helpful future-minded historian, and is still averse to disclosure, I indirectly cite Harvey's plight: "Future historical interpretations will derive from the voices of the articulate, and nobody speaks your story better than you do."

Harvey nods affirmatively, even if invisibly, at this attempted persuasion.

In effect this strategy suggests that omission is clearly not a sure defense for averting the adverse judgments of history, but participation in the historical discourse is a self-enhancing alternative. Volunteered testimony can assuage future historical judgments; silence can exacerbate them.

Harvey and I don't win all these encounters, but we concur that the strategy is worthwhile.

Do I tell informants that Harvey is also present at our interview? You bet I don't. Harvey and I keep this secret to ourselves. Our compact is complete as well as cordial.

But after each interview is done, and the time for relaxation has pleasantly arrived, Harvey and I usually commemorate the event and our good fellowship by knocking down a couple of libations. I drink the first one; then on his behalf I drink the second one.

When the check arrives I sign it with the name of the stage and film character who first encountered Harvey while the tall rabbit was leaning against a lamp post. You can call me Elwood P. Dowd.

OHA Member Cited For History Work

Philip L. Cantelon received the Society for History in the Federal Government's top honor, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the study of the federal government.

Cantelon, president of History Associates of Rockville, Md., was cited for his leadership regarding the historical challenges facing federal historians and for his "longstanding and stellar work" in the profession."

Cantelon, a longtime member of the Oral History Association, is a graduate of Dartmouth College with advanced degrees from the University of Michigan and Indiana University. He formerly taught history at Williams College, where he established the college's oral history program, and served in Japan as a Fulbright professor of American civilization.

North Texas History Position Opening

With the impending retirement of longtime OHA member Ron Marcello from the University of North Texas History Department, the department is seeking applicants for the position of director of oral history/20th century U.S. history associate professor. The position requires a person with a Ph.D. in history, a strong record of teaching and scholarly publication and experience in the field of oral history.

Priority will be given to applications received by Nov. 15.

Send letter of application, c.v., graduate transcripts and at least three letters of reference to F. Todd Smith, Department of History, P.O. Box 310650, University of North Texas, Denton, TX 76203-0650.

New Books, Videos, Web Sites Feature Oral History

African Cinemas

California Newsreel's 2004 Library of African Cinema resource guide lists a 33-part series on HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa, three new documentaries and two new feature films from Senegal and the Central African Republic. For detailed information, contact Cornelius Moore at cm@newsreel.org.

New Series on Memory

Transaction Publishers at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, announces "Memory and Narrative," a new series of books that reflects increasing cross-fertilization of developments in history, cultural and social research.

Titles in the series include "Trauma: Life Stories of Survivors," edited by Kim Lacy Rogers and Selma Leydesdorff and "Narrative and Genre: Contexts and Types of Communication," edited by Mary Chamberlain and Paul Thompson.

For more information, see Transaction Web site: www.transactionpub.com.

Reach OHA Online

The OHA Web site is: www.dickinson.edu/oha

The oral history electronic discussion list, H-Oralhist, is one of the H-Net affiliated scholarly lists. No dues or fees are required to enroll. To subscribe, send a message to: listserv@h-net.msu.edu with no subject and the following text: SUBSCRIBE H-ORALHIST
firstname lastname, affiliation.

Access the main H-Oralhist Web site at: <http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~oralhist>

Problems? Contact Editor Jeff Charnley at: charnl2@pilot.msu.edu

"Intolerable Burden"

"The Intolerable Burden," a story told through oral histories, recounts the experiences of civil rights pioneer Mae Bertha Carter and her children, the first black children to attend the formerly all-white schools in Drew, Miss., in 1965. The video describes the personal and institutional impact of historical events as blacks and whites from the Mississippi Delta recall their experiences with desegregation and resegregation.

The Carter children's subsequent divergent paths suggest the benefits and costs of the burden of their civil rights-era experiences.

The documentary, produced by Constance Curry, received the American Historical Association's prestigious John E. O'Connor Film Award for its "outstanding interpretation of history through the medium of film or video."

Concentration Camp Women

"The Jewish Women of Ravensbruck Concentration Camp," by Rochelle G. Saidel, is the first book in English to focus on the fate of Jewish women imprisoned in the infamous Nazi camp.

The book is based on interviews and unpublished testimonies from more than 60 survivors in the United States, Israel, Europe, Brazil and Canada as well as documents, oral histories and photographs from private and public archives.

Between 1939 and 1945, some 132,000 women from 23 countries were imprisoned in Ravensbruck, including political prisoners, Jehovah's Witnesses, Gypsies, prostitutes, lesbians, criminals, prisoners of war and Jewish women, who comprised about 20 percent of the population. Only an estimated 15,000 of the victims survived.

Chicana Artists in California

"Creative Collectives: Chicana Painters Working in Community," by Maria Ochoa, blends art history, social analysis and personal testimony to explore the artistic and ideological journeys of two groups of Northern California Chicana artists.

The book examines Mujeres Muralistas, a groundbreaking San Francisco group of mural painters organized in the early 1970s at the height of the Chicano movement, and Co-Madres Artists, a group of artists who came together in the 1990s after spending decades tending their families, becoming successful in their careers and launching key Chicano cultural institutions in the Sacramento valley. Ochoa's book reveals how these artist collectives combined art with activism.

Judges, Lawyers Tell Stories

Judges, lawyers and other court officials associated with the District of Columbia Circuit Court are being interviewed in an oral history project sponsored by the Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit Courts.

Transcripts of the interviews, biographical information, an index, sound clips and photographs are available on the historical society's Web site: www.dchcs.org

Securities Industry History

The Securities and Exchange Commission Historical Society's "Virtual Museum" features summaries, transcripts and excerpts from interviews with former commission members and staff, some with experiences in regulating the securities industry dating from the 1950s.

Check out the virtual museum at: www.sechistorical.org

The True Story an OHA Member Going to New York To Seek His Fortune on “Super Millionaire” Game Show

By Troy Reeves
Idaho Historical Society

Editor’s Note: This is a condensed version of a LOOOONG e-mail message Troy sent to colleagues, family and friends about his whirlwind trip to New York City to try to become rich and famous.

The “Super Millionaire” game show finalists met in the hotel’s lobby around 9 a.m. on May 21. A couple of people noted that they slept very poorly in anticipation. Being away from Owen, our infant son, I actually got my best night’s sleep in two weeks. We hopped on the shuttle and headed to the ABC studio. I used the bus ride to get to know my fellow competitors, Robin, Andy and Brian.

We arrived at the studio around 9:30 a.m. From then until the taping at 4 p.m., we did quite a few things. There were five associate producers (AP); each met with two finalists to go over a multipage questionnaire that we had filled out and e-mailed to them. My AP was Rich from Massachusetts. He basically said to play up the “I’m from Idaho” angle, if I made the hot seat. Various people came in during the morning to give us tips and the legal mumbo-jumbo. By mid-morning we were sent to makeup. Emir was my makeup guy; I told him that he did the impossible—make me look pretty. Also, during the morning hours that we were sequestered, I tried to get to know the rest of the finalists: Donna, David, Ramona, two Susans and Amy.

Around noon they herded us to the arena to practice fast-finger questions. They turned on the lights, and the stage managers ran us through how things would look. Then, the show’s lawyer read the practice fastest-finger questions and answers. Even though I was sitting in chair No. 3 (my lucky number), none



With stars still in his eyes, OHA member Troy Reeves basks in his 15 minutes of fame on “Super Millionaire” game show. Photo: Chris Walhof.

of that luck stuck. I answered four of the five questions correctly, but I was never close to being the fastest.

After the rehearsal we walked to the ABC cafeteria, and on the way we met the “holdover,” Chris. The holdover is a person whose time on the hot seat ended before taping of his show ended, so he returned to begin our show. The now 11 of us were given a cafeteria-style brunch that for cafeteria food was, well, cafeteria food.

Then we returned to our little room where, except for shooting a promo and getting a makeup touch-up, we chatted nervously in the green room. We were taken down to the arena around 3:30 p.m. Before the camera rolled, they announced us as we entered the stage. Then we waited some more. Regis came in to a standing ovation. He said a few words, shook our hands and headed back to his dressing room.

Taping started sometime after 4 p.m. The show started with Chris the holdover and his \$10,000 question. It was nice not to start with a fastest-finger question, but I also knew the longer he stayed on, the shorter our time would be. He missed his \$500,000 question, took his \$100,000 fake check and went back to the

reception area behind the arena.

Finally, our first fastest-finger question. I answered it correctly, but knew that every person on my side of the arena pressed their buttons before me. Regis called Amy’s name. She had been on the show before but missed being on the hot seat. Also during that previous taping, she won one of the fastest-finger questions, but because of a computer glitch, they disallowed all answers.

For those reasons Brian and I screamed the loudest as she ventured to the hot seat; we felt that justice had been served. Amy missed her \$20,000 question—about gargoyles—received her fake check and went back to the reception area.

After several minutes we were given the next fastest-finger question: “Put these movies in order by the time period in which they were set, starting with the earliest.” I saw the answers come up, and I had a chance: four movies that I had seen and far enough apart to not get the time periods confused.

I answered and looked up to see if it accepted my answers, which it did. Then, my stomach went queasy because of those of us on our side of the arena, I had hit the accept button first. So, I was touching my good

luck charms (pictures of the kids) and trying not to throw up. Fortunately, there was only a slight pause until Regis read the question and the answers and the list of names flashed on the big board. I won!! It was my fastest time, just over four seconds. I was 2.5 seconds faster than the only other two people who answered the question correctly.

Those of you who watched know what my 15 minutes of fame looked like. I will say that during the three breaks I chatted briefly with Rich and Regis. I know it is Regis' job to be likeable, and he was. Most people have commented that I appeared calm and collected. I am glad that it looked that way. I spent most of the time in the hot seat repeating the same two words to myself: "Holy S***!"

I missed my \$30,000 question, although the \$20,000 one really did me in. I was there to either win \$5,000 or \$100,000 or more. I knew I was going to have to guess at some point. I did and guessed wrong. So

Regis shook my hand and gave me my fake check, and I staggered down to the reception area.

Afterwards, my guest, Chris Walhof, and I watched while Susan from Colorado did her hot seat work. She, like Amy and I, ended up with \$5,000. Taping ended around 6:30 p.m. Everyone else joined us in the reception area and waited to return to the green room to get our clothes. They gave most of us our fake checks. I only got my \$100,000 and \$10,000,000 checks, which means as I age, I will talk about winning those amounts and have the checks to prove it!

As we walked to the shuttle to return to the hotel, I asked Brian if he and his wife wanted to join us for dinner. He agreed and asked if I would be willing to have a drink or two with dinner. Of course. (Those of you who have seen me at the OHA annual meetings know that I rarely pass up a beer.)

Brian and I passed the word to all the other contestants to join us in the lobby at 7:15 p.m. I was surprised to

see 13 of us in the lobby. We decided on Carmine's on Broadway. As my guest, Chris, noted, the ratings for "Super Millionaire" would be better if they followed the contestants around New York City after taping and included that footage in the show.

We spent a couple of hours at Carmine's bar before we were seated. We ate dinner and went to another bar for a nightcap. After a stop at a pizza joint—New York-style, of course—we arrived at the hotel around 2:30 a.m. New York was still very busy at that time of night; they say this city never sleeps. But I did, finally, around 3 a.m.

As I have told some people, besides our wedding and the births of Ainsley and Owen, this day was one of my best. I regret that Christine was not there to share it with me. Since then, there have been no TV offers, so my 15 minutes of fame has ended. Thanks to all of you who wished me well during that week-long, wacky ride.

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Things to remember.....

+ Vote for OHA candidates when you receive your mail ballot

+ Make reservations for the 2005 OHA conference in Portland, Ore., Sept. 29-Oct. 3

+ Send stories and photos to the *OHA Newsletter* by the Nov. 1 copy deadline. Ideas welcome any time. Contact Mary Kay Quinlan, editor, at: ohaeditor@aol.com

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