



NEWSLETTER

Durham Focuses on Transformations

More than 500 people who share an interest in oral history focused on transformations--in society and in oral history practice--at the annual conference of the Oral History Association, Oct. 11-13, 2000, in Durham, N.C.

With sessions ranging from an examination of electronic publishing to a presentation about the changing nature of rodeos, the conference carried out its theme, "At the Crossroads: Transforming Community Locally and Globally."

Several featured speakers highlighted the theme of transformations:

+ Leon Fink, a history professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, described his work with the Guatemalan Mayan immigrant workers and their struggle for union recognition at a poultry-processing plant in Morganton, N.C.

The town, Fink said, with an African-American population in 1990 of less than 7 percent, likes to see itself as a dynamic community embracing social and economic change. It embraced Hmong refugees from Southeast Asia in the 1970s, but change "snuck up" on Morganton when the local poultry plant recruited Guatemalan refugees--largely young,

single men who spoke a foreign language, were Catholic in an overwhelmingly non-Catholic state and who were also distinctive because of their communal spirit, a sharp contrast to the individualism local people prized as the key to American culture.

"How communities receive strangers is a recurring theme" in American culture, Fink said.

+ Ellen Stein and Carol Stack, authors of "Tales of Luck and Pluck, With Fries," described their study of inner-city youth in Oakland, Calif., who work in fast-food restaurants.

(Continued on page 5)

Editor's Note:

Copy deadline for the next issue of the OHA **Newsletter** is April 1.

State and regional oral history groups are encouraged to report on their spring activities.

We also welcome contributions on oral history projects or issues of interest to oral historians. Photos are welcome and will be returned.

Mail materials to: Mary Kay Quinlan, 7524 S. 35th St., Lincoln, NE 68516; fax to: 402-420-1770; or e-mail: OHAEditor@aol.com. Please do NOT send items as attachments to an e-mail message.

Oral History As Evidence

By John A. Neuenschwander
Carthage College

Although there has been no significant increase in the number of court cases involving oral historians in recent years, there has been a definite upturn in the number of cases in which oral history has played an evidentiary role. This article will review how courts treat oral history evidence and what role such evidence has played in four recent cases.

In the eyes of both state and federal courts, a transcript or tape of an oral history interview is hearsay. While

there are numerous exceptions to the rule of evidence that bars hearsay testimony, none of these exceptions usually applies to the out-of-court statements that are made by a narrator in the course of an oral history interview.

The primary means by which oral history does make it into court as evidence is through the opinion testimony of expert witnesses. Rule 703 of the Federal Rules of Evidence provides that an expert witness may rely upon inadmissible evidence, "if of a type reasonably relied upon by experts in the particular field in forming opinions and inferences upon a subject...."

While rules of evidence in the 50 states vary somewhat from the Federal

(Continued on page 4)



From Your President

**By Cliff Kuhn
OHA President**

As we get farther from the Durham meeting and as I enter the Oral History Association presidency, I continue to be tremendously impressed by the dedication, commitment and passion shown by so many people in the field. This to me is one of the strengths of the Association--the active involvement of countless members.

By any measure, the Durham conference was a success. More than 510 people attended the meeting, from approximately 20 different countries. Program co-chairs Alicia Rouverol and Mary Murphy and their committee put together a stimulating, innovative program that significantly advanced the OHA and the practice of oral history.

Beth Millwood, Cathy Abernathy and the other members of the local arrangements committee paid extraordinary attention to the details of putting on a conference, and set a new standard for southern hospitality. Thanks to money generated by the OHA Endowment and a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council, an unprecedented number of conference participants received scholarships or other forms of subvention. Conference evaluations have been overwhelmingly positive.

And, last but not least, the budget projections for the meeting were met, ensuring that the OHA is in reasonably good financial shape as we move into the new century.

The 2001 meeting, to be held in St. Louis, also promises to be great. The conference's exciting and timely theme, "Bearing Witness: Documenting Memories of Struggle and Resistance," offers an opportunity to reflect upon and extend the role of oral history in important realms. OHA Vice-President Mary Marshall Clark, program co-chairs Leslie Brown, Anne Valk and Jessica Wiederhorn along with their committee, and

Jacquelyn Dace and the local arrangements committee have been working very hard to develop another outstanding program.

As the OHA annual meetings become larger and more complex, it seems appropriate to address anew the annual meeting and its place within the Association. Toward that end, I have resurrected the Annual Meeting Task Force, chaired by Linda Shopes. The task force will examine all aspects of the annual meeting and will offer specific suggestions to Council and the OHA membership. Your input in this process is welcome.

One priority of mine over the next year is to see that OHA, as the national professional organization in the field, works with other organizations, agencies, individuals and constituencies to advance sound oral history practice. In conjunction with the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians and other groups, OHA has been in continuing discussions with the National Institutes of Health about Institutional Review Boards and oral history and human subject risk more generally.

In addition, OHA will be involved from the outset in a recently approved Veterans Oral History Project, to be conducted under the auspices of the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress. Such collaboration is essential for the continued health of the organization.

It is also crucial that we keep abreast of and critically evaluate the burgeoning practice of oral history in new media. Toward that end, I'd like to encourage OHA members and others to take advantage of H-Oralhist. Under the supervision of Jeff Charnley and others, H-Oralhist has boomed over the past year. In addition to being a discussion forum on the theory and practice of oral history, H-Oralhist can be used as an organizing vehicle, for recruitment and outreach and in numerous other ways. Continuing the new media "thread," this year, the OHA Council and the Publications Committee will be exploring the electronic publication of OHA materials. Part of this discussion will be in conjunction with the scheduled

third-year review of OHA's relationship with the University of California Press. Again, your input is welcome.

I'd like to acknowledge four individuals who have played key roles in the history of the OHA and in the furthering of oral history. This past year saw the retirement of three key individuals in the field: Willa Baum of the UC Berkeley Regional Oral History Office; Dale Treleven of the UCLA Oral History Program and Ron Grele of the Columbia University Oral History Research Office. Through their writings, administration of major programs and leadership positions in the field, all three have made lasting contributions to oral history.

Last but not least, I'd like to thank my predecessor, Laurie Mercier. Laurie played an enormous role in making the 1999 Anchorage meeting a success against considerable odds and has been a highly conscientious, stabilizing force as president. The OHA is in stronger shape as a result of her tenure.

Executive Secretary's Status Report

By Madelyn Campbell

It has been 18 months since the OHA executive secretary's office moved to Dickinson College, and it appears that this new relationship is working quite well. The college has provided excellent computer, printing and mailing services, as well as adequate space. Dickinson has agreed to simplify our Web address to: www.dickinson.edu/oha

The revised version of the OHA **Evaluation Guidelines** is available on the Web site for you to download the distribute to anyone who is interested. You may also wish to read the minutes of our most recent Council and business meetings.

Finally, I'd like to remind you it is time to renew your OHA membership. Your continued support makes it possible to continue educating and supporting individuals and institutions interested in oral history and its preservation.

At the Crossroads: Oral History in the 21st Century

By Donald Ritchie
U.S. Senate Historical Office

Are audio cassettes the "old world" of oral history?

Paul Thompson mused about this and wondered whether oral historians were ready to "leap into the new world of digital information technology."

Thompson, a professor at the University of Essex, offered his speculations during the closing plenary of the Oral History Association's annual meeting in Durham, N.C.

Key participants of the conference gathered on a panel to assess the many issues raised during the meeting and to focus on the future of oral history in the 21st century.

Reflecting the conference's theme of transforming community locally and globally, panel chair Alicia Rouverol of the Southern Oral History Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, asked the panelists how oral history narratives helped in understanding the impact of globalization on communities and what new directions in oral history oral historians should be thinking about.

The panelists linked the issues of oral history and globalization with the remarkable potential of world-wide information dissemination through the Internet. Thompson, who spoke of the difficulty in using oral history to study globalization because there were so many forces at work that we do not readily see, talked of the transient nature of local stories in "this moving world."

He suggested that the new information technology could permit the construction of core sets of interviews in similar but widely separate communities, such as between coal miners in Poland and in West Virginia, and help those communities relate to each other.

Dora Schwarzstein of the Universidad de Buenos Aires similarly noted the advantages of a world-scale history, as opposed to the prevailing microhistories, to expand research and

knowledge beyond national and continental boundaries. She spoke of the mix of traditions and technology in oral history, but also cautioned that while new technology would enable us to gain new knowledge, that knowledge would likely remain widely separated by cultures, peoples and countries.

Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, director of the Southern Oral History Program, asserted that "history changes the historian," because dealing with individuals and communities affects one's subjectivity and politics.

She evoked the power of oral history not only to get to the particular but to get away from a flattening similarity in society and to show a variety of ideas of what kinds of social supports and benefits that people need and want.

"I'm a person of the book," Hall conceded, but she emphasized that oral historians will need to do more to harness and use the new information technologies currently washing over us. She described how the Southern Oral History Program had been using CD-ROMs to build greater accessibility to its multi-media documentation.

From the audience, Willa Baum of the Regional Oral History Office at Berkeley posed a question that had run through the meeting: whether the new technology would replace candid oral history with a form of public performance.

Hall shared her concern, but cited "the amazing power of performance," and asked the audience to think of the many different ways oral history material can be embodied and used.

Thompson agreed there was a real danger that the type of medium would affect the type of person interviewed and the type of responses collected. It seemed possible that the digital revolution would make oral history "a different animal," but the panelists agreed that "we need all these different animals" to get people to read and use our interviews.

In seeking to attract a new generation of oral historians from

among today's students, they encouraged practitioners to be prepared to "jump into the Web with both feet."

Election Results In

Oral History Association members elected a new first vice president, two Council members and three nominating committee members in election results announced at the OHA annual meeting.

Elected first vice president was Arthur Hansen of California State University, Fullerton. Elected to Council were: Rina Benmayor, California State University, Monterey Bay and Linda Wood, South Kingstown High School, R.I.

Elected to the nominating committee were: Rose Diaz, University of New Mexico; Kathy Nasstrom, University of San Francisco and Rebecca Sharpless, Baylor University.

Silent Auction, Gifts Boost Endowment Fund

The OHA silent auction at the Durham annual meeting netted \$1,125, almost enough to push the OHA Endowment Fund past the \$100,000 mark. In a year-end appeal, President Cliff Kuhn and past president Laurie Mercier asked members to consider making tax-deductible gifts to boost the principal above \$100,000, increasing the OHA's ability to undertake special projects and support scholarships to increase diversity at the annual meeting.

OHA thanks donors who recently made contributions in memory of Lila Johnson Goff. They were: John Wickman, Elizabeth Mason, the Stephenson Family Trust and Michaelyn Chou.

Other recent contributions to the Endowment Fund also came from: Elinor Sinnette, Lu Ann Jones, Charles Crawford and Elizabeth Mason.

Oral History Plays Evidentiary Role in Recent Court Cases



(Continued from page 1)

Rules of Evidence, there are provisions in most state codes for similar reliance by experts on hearsay evidence such as oral history.

While under Rule 703 a trial judge has the authority to exclude an expert's testimony if the court determines that the hearsay evidence upon which he or she is basing his opinion is not the type of evidence that can be "reasonably relied upon," such authority is rarely exercised.

In litigation involving Native American land or tribal rights claims, for example, oral tradition is usually seen as a type of hearsay that can be "reasonably relied upon" by an expert in offering an opinion on the authenticity of such claims. As the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit noted recently in Crees vs. Flores, 157 F.3d 1223 (9th Cir. 1999), "were it otherwise, the history and culture of a society that relies on oral history tradition could be brought before the fact finder only with the greatest of difficulty and probably with less reliability."

Oral history evidence can come into play even more directly in court proceedings where the hearsay objection is waived and the oral history testimony is used to provide background or to help assess damages. This is precisely what happened in Mochizuki vs U.S., 43 Fed. Cl., 97 (1999). Grace Shimizu, the coordinator of the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project, was allowed to testify before the Federal Claims Court

that was considering the settlement offer to internees for their suffering and losses during World War II. Drawing upon more than 50 interviews with Japanese Latin Americans who were interned in the United States or Panama for the purpose of hostage exchange, Shimizu detailed the suffering, humiliation and property loss that they had endured. Ultimately, the Federal Claims Court approved the settlement.

A less direct appearance of oral history testimony occurred in an Illinois case contesting land use by the University of Illinois. In Maxwell Street Historic Preservation Coalition vs. University of Illinois, 2000 WL 1141439 (N.E. Ill., 2000), the coalition sought an injunction to stop the University of Illinois from demolishing certain buildings adjacent to its South Campus in Chicago.

Before this lawsuit, the Preservation Coalition had endeavored to have the Maxwell Street area designated an historic district by the National Register of Historic Places. To bolster their chances, the coalition utilized evidence drawn from oral history interviews to demonstrate that the area had been a seedbed for nationally known blues musicians. The court noted that the National Register officials had determined that while this creative musical outpouring had indeed occurred, it was actually street-based and not associated with any buildings per se. The request for an injunction was denied.

The use of oral history interviews to help in the environmental assessment of suspected pollution sites is a research approach often used by all interested parties. In Chiacchia vs. Lycott Environmental Research, Inc., WL.1146824, (Mass. Super., 1995), a developer sued the environmental investigation/cleanup firm for malpractice after a 25-acre plot of land could not be developed due to ground pollution.

The property was on the National Register of Historic Places because of a mill that had been built there in

1835. In reviewing the limited investigation that the defendant firm had undertaken, the court noted that "the mill's significance to the Town over the last century and three quarters would make it part of the Town's oral history. The court infers that there was extensive information about this particular site readily available to the defendant firm either through formal research or by merely asking around the Town, had Lycott sought to uncover it." The developer who sued was awarded \$1.4 million in damages.

The last case to be reviewed here, Crees vs. Flores, is a case in which the Yakima Indian Nation filed suit against Washington State officials to prevent them from collecting truck license and overweight permit fees from Yakima drivers who hauled timber from tribal lands for outside purchasers.

Because the Yakima maintained that an 1855 treaty exempted them from such fees, the court battle was largely fought between experts.

One of the experts for the State of Washington was a history professor from Central Washington University who had written a biography of Isaac J. Stevens, the territorial governor of Washington at the time the treaty was signed. The chief expert for the Yakima was William Yallup, a tribal member who was well versed in Yakima history and culture.

After losing at the trial level, the State of Washington appealed. One of its major issues on appeal was the decision of the trial court to give more credence to Yallup's testimony than the experts for the state. Attorneys for the state questioned the trustworthiness of oral tradition as the primary basis for an expert's testimony. They cited ample precedents for their position that when there are dueling experts, the ones who rely on oral tradition to formulate an opinion are in general less reliable than the experts who do not.

The Ninth Circuit, however, upheld the district court decision to

(Continued on page 5)

Two Editors Added To H-Oralhist

By Jeff Charnley
Michigan State University

Two new editors have joined H-Oralhist, the Oral History Association's electronic discussion list.

Mary Larson of the University of Nevada, Reno is assistant director of the oral history program there and combines many years of work in oral history with expertise in new media technologies.

Kathryn Blakeman of Baylor University is an experienced editor who has worked for several years at Baylor's Oral History Institute under Rebecca Sharpless.

Their addition brings the number of discussion list editors to four, with Gene Preuss of Texas Tech and Jeff Charnley of Michigan State University continuing for two-year terms.

In the past several years, the discussion list has grown to more than 1,200 subscribers around the world.

(Continued from page 4)
rely more heavily on Yallup's testimony as well as the judgment in favor of the Yakima.

As the number of oral history interviews being conducted continues to grow and the subject matter of such interviews becomes more and more diverse, there may well be an increasing number of litigants on both the state and federal levels who will seek to utilize oral history evidence to bolster their cases. If this does come to pass, an increasing number of oral history programs will have to respond to requests or subpoenas from attorneys wishing to make evidentiary use of oral history materials.

Editor's note: John A. Neuenschwander, a past OHA president, teaches history at Carthage College and is a municipal judge in Kenosha, Wis. He is a frequent contributor on legal topics and is the author of the OHA pamphlet "Oral History and the Law." To obtain copies of the pamphlet, use the order form on page 11 of this Newsletter.

Transformation Is Focus of Meeting In Durham

(Continued from page 1)

The scholars' study of an inner-city community about evenly divided among African Americans, Latinos and Asians, mostly Vietnamese, found the youths obsessed with education as the route to success, but unwilling or unable to participate in school.

Stein said community colleges and proprietary trade schools exploit inner-city youth through the loan-based financial aid system that seems to offer them hope but in fact only gets them in debt.

+ The Kitchen Sisters, Davia Nelson and Nikki Silva, delighted a luncheon audience with excerpts from their award-winning radio documentary series "Lost and Found Sound."

"Recorded sound has changed and shaped the last hundred years," Silva said. Nelson added:

"There would be no 'Lost and Found Sound' without the contributions of oral historians and other collectors and archivists."

The Kitchen Sisters' stories are largely about transformations, like the story of the Vietnamese immigrant who named herself Shirley, so she would be happy, like the girl she saw on television, Shirley Temple.

Or the story about discovering a cache of reel-to-reel tapes in the Mohave Desert that contained the 500-song creation cycle of the Mohave people, which eventually was instrumental in establishing their right to land where a nuclear waste dump had been proposed.

Oral historians at Durham also continued to mold their responses to the proliferation of electronic technology and to legal issues that may arise in an increasingly litigious society.

Chuck Bolton of the University of Southern Mississippi said his program has put much of its collection on the Internet because the school's "somewhat off the beaten path" location in Hattiesburg, Miss., means

the collection isn't as accessible as the Internet can make it. Specific projects funded by the Mississippi legislature, he said, direct that the Internet be used to publicize the work.

Susan McCormick of the State University of New York at Albany said the driving force for her oral history program's focus on Web site development has been creating resources to use for teaching.

But problems abound with fluctuating standards for the new technology. "It's kind of like when all the railroad trains ran on different gauges," she said.

Dale Treleven of the University of California, Los Angeles injected a note of caution. He recalled a project in Wisconsin 20 years ago in which he asked a farmer how he decided to buy a piece of new equipment.

The farmer told him: "You don't want to be the first, but you don't want to be the last."

"Maybe that's where some of my caution comes from," Treleven said.

The "overriding principle" should be informed consent from interviewees, with due concern that they not be exploited, he said.

The "worst outcome," Treleven added, would be "thoughtless distribution of our interviewees' words."

That "could sabotage the trust that we have to have to create and preserve any meaningful historical record of the past," he said.

Beyond the legal and ethical aspects of informed consent, Treleven said oral historians have a moral responsibility to share with interviewees any remuneration derived from profit-making uses of the material.

At his session on oral history and the law, John A. Neuenschwander of Carthage College reminded oral historians to make sure their legal release agreements adequately cover all possible future uses of the materials.

Legal cases involving oral history have not been a "fruitful field" for lawyers trying to make money, Neuenschwander said, and that can remain so if oral historians plan thoroughly to prevent legal problems from occurring.

OHA Marks Retirements of Three Long-time Leaders

Dale Treleven chuckled at the memory of reading the minutes from the first national oral history colloquium in 1966 at Lake Arrowhead, Calif.

"There was a discussion of these new cassette recorders and whether they should be used or not," he recalled.

"Cassette tape was crappy in those days," Ron Grele interjected.

"We decided not to use them, but at that point the other recorders disappeared," Willa Baum remembered.

Baum, Grele and Treleven, all retiring as leaders of three of the world's most prominent oral history programs, compared notes about their careers and about the past and future of oral history at an informal interview during the Durham OHA meeting.

Baum, who retired last year after more than 45 years of service at the Regional Oral History Office at the University of California-Berkeley, said that when she started, "it was our idea that we could catch the meat of anybody in two interviews."

But the collection is now home to some 1,700 oral histories, ranging from one to 40 interviews each.

While the ROHO collection focuses on California and Western history, the Columbia University program Grele headed until retiring in the fall is more disparate.

Grele said that when he went to Columbia in 1982, "my idea was I was going to impose some kind of discipline" on the collection.

"Louis [Starr, his predecessor] would just take everything," Grele said, describing it as "a kind of vacuum cleaner approach" to building an oral history collection.

But before long, Grele said, "I realized the joy of the collection was its variety, the catholicity of it."

"What I really had always criticized Louis for turns out to be one of the strengths of the collection for the researcher," he said.

Grele said he worked to expand the collection in areas in which it was weak, such as women's history and



Retiring oral history leaders, from left, Dale Treleven, Willa Baum and Ron Grele were recognized at the OHA meeting in Durham, N.C., for their lifetime achievements. A resolution proposed by past president Don Ritchie hailed their work and declared: "Oral historians never retire, they just have more time to interview."

African-American history. And he particularly sought to make Columbia the center of the international oral history movement, editing the international group's journal and sponsoring an international oral history conference.

The Columbia collection includes some 7,000 interviews with 675,000 pages of transcripts.

Grele went to Columbia from the University of California at Los Angeles, whose oral history program was then taken over by Treleven, who moved to California after an oral history career in Wisconsin.

Baum, Grele and Treleven agreed the strengths of their collections relate in part to being housed in major university libraries. But Baum and Grele lamented the amount of time they spent raising money.

Treleven said the UCLA oral history program was fortunate to be awarded permanent funding as a separate line in the library's budget.

"That's so important," he said. "It's allowed the program to grow."

"Amen," Baum said.

"We don't have that," Grele added.

The UCLA collection has tripled in the past 18 years to more than 800 interviews.

Treleven, noting that he has always been interested in the long-term preservation of sound recordings, said

his earliest goal at UCLA was to upgrade the recording quality. "We still make preservation masters on open-reel tapes," he said.

The UCLA collection also took on topics in which Treleven was interested, such as the McCarthy-era blacklist of Hollywood writers and a project on African American leaders in the arts, architecture and music.

Baum, who has attended every OHA meeting since the Arrowhead conference, and Grele and Treleven, both past OHA presidents, agreed technological change has been a constant in oral history. But all three urged caution in the rush to put oral histories on the Internet.

"We cannot afford to have our interviewees exploited," Treleven said, and Web distribution magnifies the risk that will happen.

"I think it will destroy oral history's candidness," Baum said.

Grele said there's an important difference between an interview three researchers a year come to use and one that 20 million people can look at.

"I'm retiring just at the right moment" he said. Dealing with the issues of new technology are "for somebody else to do," he said. "I'm too old to retool."

Baum agreed. "The technological is overtaking the historical, and I'm glad I'm not a part of it."

Session Focus: Realizing Dollar Value of Collections

By Janie Weaver
School of Information Sciences
University of Pittsburgh

At the Durham conference roundtable session, "Culture, Art and Commerce: Realizing the Dollar Value of Collections," moderator James Fogerty, archivist at the Minnesota Historical Society, and presenters Philip Mooney, Coca-Cola Co. archivist, and Ellen Gartrell, archivist at the John W. Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising and Marketing History at Duke University, discussed the ways in which profit and nonprofit organizations have similar concerns about collections management.

In fact, for many archivists and preservationists, regardless of their institutional setting, "collections management" is synonymous with "assets management." And one of the essential activities of sound archival management is the continued re-evaluation of use and access policies.

One of the most glaring problems of older use policies, for instance, has been the lack of a sliding fee scale for the reproduction of images and written or spoken text. Until recently, most repositories charged the same fee (usually minimal) for reproduction, without considering certain essential aspects of the use or user. Thus, nonprofit institutions were subsidizing film production companies, major presses and others who stood to make a considerable profit from the sale of their product.

Fogerty and Gartrell argued that creating a sliding fee scale is a responsible action that allows nonprofits to share in profit generation while continuing to allow individuals and small organizations access to reproductions for minimal fees.

Presenters raised questions about access, use and legal or ethical issues involved in the use of collections for moneymaking purposes. For a major corporation like Coca-Cola, it is not surprising that the archives participates in commercial ventures. In fact, external licensing activities

generate \$26 million annually for Coca-Cola, with \$9 million of that coming from archival materials.

Mooney noted, however, that while many people thought materials could be used "for whatever they want," in fact, archivists make sure materials are used appropriately and within existing rights.

Access to some materials has been expedited by placing high-resolution copies on Coca-Cola's intranet (in-house) site and allowing users to go over the firewall for retrieval, saving staff time. Mooney noted that the difference between Coca-Cola's archives and nonprofit repositories is scale. He said he knew of instances when college and university archives had missed out on the opportunity to increase funds by reproducing taped interviews, photographs and film footage of famous games.

Gartrell discussed the merits of establishing a sliding fee scale, with fees based on the size of the organization and how it intends to use materials. Many institutions have been slow to adopt such policies, but few managers of nonprofits relish the idea of subsidizing large corporate concerns.

Gartrell also raised the issue of nonprofits showing a "return on investment." Would traditional collecting policies (collecting for research value) be joined by a new standard--licensing opportunities? Some collections, according to Gartrell, attract grant funding because of the ways in which they can be made available to a larger audience. Grant funding allowed archivists at her center to create the Web site "Ad*Access," making available more than 7,000 print advertisements from 1911 to 1955 "for study, research and teaching."

Fogerty described the increasingly difficult scenario of repositories asking donors for money and then allowing the use of valuable images for less than market value. He added that market value should determine fees, not an antiques roadshow or eBay mentality.

Because the mission of historical societies typically has been to collect, preserve and make collections available to researchers, they are not equipped to market. For the Minnesota Historical Society, contracting with Corbis Corp. to market photographs has become a true "cash cow," Fogerty said, generating income well beyond predictions.

In this instance, Corbis selects and digitizes archival photographs, which the firm determines to have the greatest commercial value. MHS receives a royalty for every use. Contracts have a "one time use fee" clause so fees can be obtained for further use. While MHS has to approve each use, it does not receive detailed information about the use, similar to the process for approving quotations for a book.

Technically, MHS could deny permission if it thought the use was inappropriate, but Fogerty said the society is not interested in censorship.

Because Corbis has a nonexclusive license to MHS photographs, MHS also can mount images on its Visual Resources Database and clients can buy a copy directly from the historical society.

Mooney and Fogerty strongly recommended that nonprofits outsource reproduction and marketing to a third party. Corporations like Corbis have the expertise and resources to manage marketing in ways that nonprofits do not. Film and video collections are particularly sought by film and television production companies. With the proliferation of cable, channels like The History Channel, A&E and VH1 join PBS in seeking film or video footage.

Fogerty said that oral histories also attract commercial notice. In fact, because of the way MHS conducts oral histories--filming background (farm scenes, etc.) that further documents the person or event, thus giving greater dimension to "talking head" shots and audiotapes--clients have been interested in the background footage.

(Continued on page 8)

CD-ROM Reveals Foreign Affairs Details

By Charles Stuart Kennedy
Association for Diplomatic
Studies and Training

"Frontline Diplomacy: The U.S. Foreign Affairs Oral History Collection" is available as a CD-ROM with 893 transcripts of interviews with career and non-career American diplomats from World War II to the present.

Covering U.S. relations with almost every country in the world, subjects range from epic events to the tedium of everyday life abroad. The interviews are surprisingly frank and give a side to the workings of diplomacy that does not appear from reading the official records. For information, check the association's Web site: www.adst.org

(Continued from page 7)

He also said it was essential to "do the filming right, not cheaply," using Beta SP so that production companies can easily use tapes.

Another instance involving the commercial use of an oral history, however, "gave pause," according to Fogerty. MHS had a request to use a sound bite from an interview for a product advertisement. Because the request involved licensing the right to use someone's voice and words, MHS had considerable concern.

MHS searched for the interviewee and his family (he was dead and without heirs), consulted legal counsel and required a rough cut of the script and the final product to determine permission.

Fogerty said MHS was satisfied that the use was not inappropriate and, consequently, the material was handled as any other item from a collection would be.

Panelists concluded that institutions need to make sure they know the rights associated with the materials they hold and need to get as many rights as possible conveyed to the institution at the time of the gift in the form of use and indemnification agreements.

Jobs, Fellowships, Internships Open

Columbia University Seeks Oral History Office Director

Columbia University seeks a person with extensive experience in oral history who has the vision to lead Columbia's premier oral history program into the 21st century.

The office is an administrative unit of the Columbia University Libraries within the Rare Book and Manuscript Division. The position has primary responsibility for planning and directing the activities of the oral history program and for fundraising in support of the office.

The director will plan and administer the activities of the Oral History Office, continue existing programs and set new directions for the Oral History Program by exploring interdisciplinary initiatives and innovative formats. The director also will interact with the university faculty to provide enrichment to academic programs and research.

For specific job requirements or other information about the position, contact Joseph Knox, 519 Butler Library, 535 W. 114th St., MC 1104, New York, NY 10027. You may also e-mail Knox at: jk690@columbia.edu

Resumes will be reviewed until the position is filled.

UCLA Library Seeks Oral History Director

The Department of Special Collections in the University of California Los Angeles' Charles E. Young Research Library is seeking a director for its oral history program.

The director is responsible for all administrative and research aspects of the program. The director also is expected to lecture in campus classes and may teach history courses that integrate oral history methodology and theory.

In addition, the director presents campus and community workshops in oral history practices, organizes seminars and conferences to advance oral history research and participates

actively in national and regional oral history, history and archives professional organizations.

For a complete description of the job requirements, see the UCLA library Web site: www.library.ucla.edu/admin/staffserv/openposn.htm

Candidates applying by Feb. 15, 2001, will be given first consideration.

Buffalo Internship Available

The State University of New York at Buffalo library internship/residency program offers an historically underrepresented individual (African American, Hispanic American or Native American) an opportunity to pursue a career in academic librarianship. The program is part of the School of Information Studies.

To request an application, call or write Donna King at 716-645-2412 or kingd@acsu.buffalo.edu

The application deadline is April 1, 2001.

Military History Fellowships

Jan. 15 is the application deadline for dissertation fellowships offered by the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

The Center offers two annual fellowships that carry a \$9,000 stipend each to support scholarly research and writing among civilian graduate students preparing dissertations in the history of war on land.

In addition to the stipend, fellowship winners have access to the Center's facilities and technical expertise.

For information, call the U.S. Army Center of Military History at Fort Lesley J. McNair, 202-685-2709 or see the Center's Web site at: www.army.mil/cmh-pg

Draft IRB Report Online

Oral historians concerned about how university institutional review boards deal with social science research should review and comment on a draft report by the American Association of University Professors. It's online at: www.aaup.org

MEETINGS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, OPPORTUNITIES

OHA Next in St. Louis

The 2001 annual meeting of the Oral History Association is scheduled for Oct. 17-21 in St. Louis. Program chairs are Leslie Brown, Anne Valk and Jessica Wiederhorn. The local arrangements committee is headed by Jackie Dace and John Wolford.

IOHA Meet Set For South Africa

The XIIth conference of the International Oral History Association, in collaboration with the Faculty of Human Sciences of the University of Natal, is set for June 24-27, 2002, in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

The conference theme is "The Power of Oral History: Memory, Healing and Development." Proposals for papers, workshops or panels are due July 1, 2001. For details on submitting proposals, see the conference Web site at: www.hs.unp.ac.za/ioha2002/

Canberra Is Site For OHAA 2001

"Voices of a 20th Century Nation" is the theme of the Oral History Association of Australia's national conference in Canberra, Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2001. For details about the meeting in Australia's capital, visit the Web at: www.geocities.com/oha_australia/

New Zealand Meeting Focuses on Community

The National Oral History Association of New Zealand will examine "Communities and Oral History" at its conference June 2-3, 2001, in Wellington, New Zealand. The deadline for abstracts or workshop outlines is Feb. 15, 2001. For information, contact Megan Hutching at: megan.hutching@mch.govt.nz or Linda Evans at: linda.evans@natlib.govt.nz

Baylor Conference On Storytelling's Future

The Baylor University English Department and Institute for Oral History are co-sponsoring a conference on "Storytelling in the Millennium" in Waco, Texas, Feb. 9-10, 2001. For information, contact Rebecca Munro at: narrative2001@baylor.edu

Book Contributions Invited

The Routledge Studies in Memory and Narrative invite contributions for a book on gender and transnational families, to be edited by Selma Leydesdorff at the University of Amsterdam and Mary Chamberlain at Oxford Brookes University.

Deadline for proposals, which must be in English, is Feb. 16, 2001. For more information, contact Chamberlain at: mchamberlain@brookes.ac.uk

Women/Gender Network Solicits Papers for Meeting

The Women/Gender Network of the Social Science History Association is soliciting papers and panels for the SSHA annual meeting in Chicago Nov. 15-18, 2001. The conference theme is "Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches to Social Science History." Deadline for proposals is Feb. 1, 2001. For information, contact Patricia Turner at: prt2@lehigh.edu

Morrissey Workshop Set For San Francisco

The seventh annual Charles T. Morrissey Oral History Workshop is planned for March 2-4, 2001, at the Fort Mason Center in San Francisco. The workshop serves both as an introduction to oral history and a refresher course for more experienced practitioners. Participants learn about all phases of the oral history process and will learn to navigate ethical dilemmas, calm transcription traumas, master project management and create fundraising strategies.

Morrissey is a past president of the OHA, has directed numerous oral

history projects and has taught oral history seminars for more than two decades.

Please register by Feb. 9, 2001. For information contact Gail Kurtz at 510-525-7050 or by e-mail at: gdkurtz@home.com. Or call Elizabeth Wright at 415-928-3417 or by e-mail at: hipeaw@sirius.com

Book Available On Romanian Americans

"Ethnic Vision: A Romanian American Inheritance" by Joanne Bock examines how Romanian Americans have maintained strong ties to their homeland and traditional culture through the preservation of their folk art heritage.

Bock, an OHA member, used interviews with American craftsmen of Romanian descent to document the creation of folk arts traced to specific villages in Romania.

Iron Range Village History Describes Community

"It's Gone; Did You Notice?" by Barbara Milkovich uses oral history to express community values and social characteristics and to serve as a guide to other documentary evidence about the history of the village of Franklin, Minn., a small community outside Virginia, Minn., on the Mesabi Iron Range.

The author skillfully combines the information collected in the oral history interviews with the results of thorough research in other primary and secondary sources to develop a well-written community history with a specific focus on the Shaw Location, a miners' village within the Franklin community.

Technical Leaflet Available

The Summer 2000 issue of *History News*, the magazine of the American Association for State and Local History, includes an eight-page technical leaflet called "A Guide to Oral History Interviews" by OHA members Barbara W. Sommer and Mary Kay Quinlan.

STATE AND REGIONAL REPORT



OHMAR Plans Tribute For 25th Anniversary

By Stan Schuchman
Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region

OHMAR is one of the oldest regional oral history organizations in the United States. In recognition of its first meeting at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., on April 6, 1976, OHMAR will celebrate its 25th anniversary at its spring conference, April 6, 2001.

Conference co-chairs Pam Henson, Don Ritchie and Linda Shopes announced the theme "Setting Standards in Oral History--Measuring up to Martha" to commemorate the achievement of OHMAR and to recognize the contributions of its founding members, including the much-loved Martha Ross.

The conference will take place at the Maryland Hall of Creative Arts in Annapolis, Md. Keynote Alfredteen Harrison of Jackson State University will speak on "Oral History and Civil Rights." Other sessions will feature a group interview with the founders of OHMAR, as well as "Looking Back, Looking Forward," an examination of the achievements of oral history and its future directions. For more details, contact: OHMAR, P.O. Box 201, Ellicott City, MD 21041-0201.

At its Nov. 4, 2000 fall conference, OHMAR elected new officers for two-year terms: President Donita M. Moorhus (Va.), Vice President Roger Horowitz (Del.), Secretary Rosemary Crockett (D.C.), Treasurer Kelly Feltault (Md.), At-Large Board Member Deborah Gardner (N.Y.) and nominating

committee members Regina Akers (Md.) and Cindy Swanson (Md.).

The fall conference, "Educating the Next Generation of Oral Historians," was jointly sponsored with the Association of Oral History Educators (AOHE) and took place at the new library and teleconference center at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County campus. Elizabeth Clark-Lewis of Howard University received the Forrest C. Pogue Award for outstanding and continuing contributions to oral history. Toby Daspit, co-author of "Talking Gumbo: An Oral History Manual for Secondary School Teachers," received AOHE's Betty Key Oral History Educator Award.

OHMAR board member Glenn Whitman and AOHE President Barry Lanman organized the conference, which included presentations by teachers and students and a first-time teleconference that linked teachers and oral historians at UMBC, Brown and Utah State universities. For details about the fall conference check: www.geocities.com/aohe.anman/

Bay Area Historians Start Online Group

By Nancy MacKay
Bay Area Oral Historians

The San Francisco Bay Area Oral Historians are now running an online discussion group. Not to compete with H-Oralhist, our list primarily serves the San Francisco Bay area and beyond with announcements, discussions and themes of a regional nature. Everyone is welcome to participate.

To join the list, send a message to: bayoh@mindspring.com. In the message, state your full name. That's it. To post an announcement, send message to: bayoh@mindspring.com.

For more information, contact list manager Nancy MacKay at: dancing@mindspring.com.

TOHA Gives Award For Lifetime Work To Tom Charlton

By Lois E. Myers
Texas Oral History Association

Thomas L. Charlton, Baylor University's vice provost for research and professor of history, received the first Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Oral History Association on Aug. 26, 2000, for his outstanding contributions to oral history in Texas.

A trailblazer in Texas oral history, Charlton is a graduate of Baylor University and holds master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Texas. He was founder and director of the Baylor University Institute for Oral History, now in its 30th year. During his 23 years as director, the program earned a national reputation for excellence in oral history interviewing and memoir processing. Charlton interviewed more than 150 persons for the collection and established a summer research faculty program that provides stipends for Baylor faculty to conduct oral history research in topics related to their fields.

The Texas historian has taught graduate oral history seminars, directed dozens of theses, conducted oral history workshops as part of the Texas Sesquicentennial Celebration and has been active in numerous Texas historic preservation efforts.

A founding member of the Texas Oral History Association, Charlton also has been active for more than 25 years in the Oral History Association, having served as president, **Newsletter** editor and member or chair of numerous committees.

Whether in a conference room with one person or lecturing in an auditorium containing hundreds, Charlton inspires, educates and motivates Texas historians on the virtues and techniques of oral history.

SOHA Plans Look At Prickly Issues

The Southwest Oral History Association will examine "Prickly Issues in Oral History" at its annual meeting set for May 3-6 at the Fiesta Inn in Tempe, Ariz.

Conference planners invited participants to focus on "prickly issues" that arise when doing oral history and to discuss solutions. For details about the conference, contact SOHA President Karen S. Harper at: 562-439-9856, or by e-mail at: ksharper@compuserve.com.

OHAM Reports Kids' Heritage Garden Project

Children in Wright County, Minn., 4-H Clubs gathered information on flowers, vegetables and other plants grown in the county before 1950 for a county historical society project, according to the newsletter of the Oral History Association of Minnesota.

The 4-H members collected pictures of early gardens and information on county gardeners and gardening methods to incorporate in their own heritage gardens.

OHA Awards For Project, Article Given in Durham

The Oral History Association recognized outstanding oral history projects and outstanding articles making use of oral history at its annual awards banquet in Durham, N.C.

For projects with a budget of less than \$6,000, the award went to a project about the Lanconing Silk Mill in Allegany County, Md., sponsored by the Allegany High School, Cumberland, Md.. Students of high school teachers Dan Whetzel and Mike Lewis researched the history of daily work life at a local silk mill, which closed its doors in 1957, through archival records and oral history interviews with former employees.

For projects with a budget of more than \$6,000, the OHA recognized Nancy Wachowich of the University of British Columbia for her project chronicling the life histories of three generations of Inuit women.

An honorable mention also was awarded to the Countdown to Millennium Oral History Collection

Project, sponsored by Sandra Sleight-Brennan of the Ohio University School of Telecommunications.

The project awards committee included Lois E. Myers, Jacqueline Dace and Sandy Polishuk.

Also recognized at the awards banquet was Andrew Wiese for his article "The Other Suburbanites: African American Suburbanization in the North before 1950," which appeared in the Journal of American History, March 1999.

Honorable mentions went to:

+ Jacquelyn Dowd Hall for "'You Must Remember This': Autobiography as Social Critique," published in the Journal of American History, September 1998; and

+ Ann Short Chirhart for "'Gardens of Education': Beulah Rucker and African-American Culture in the Twentieth Century Georgia Upcountry," published in the Georgia Historical Quarterly, Winter 1998.

Andor Skotnes, Alphine Jefferson and Jane Collins were the article award judges.

April 1 is the deadline for the 2001 awards for outstanding book, precollegiate teacher and nonprint use of oral history. Visit the OHA Website for details: www.dickinson.edu/oha

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., Dickinson College, Box 1773, Carlisle, PA 17013.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Country _____

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, 2nd ed., by John A. Neuenschwander, 1993	\$8.00	_____
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:

www.dickinson.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
firstname lastname, affiliation

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.

Congress OKs Oral Histories Of Veterans

The Library of Congress' American Folklife Center announced on Veterans' Day it would launch a program to collect and preserve the stories of personal experiences of America's war veterans and make selections available to the public over the Internet.

The Veterans' Oral History Project encourages war veterans, their families, veterans groups, communities and students to record the memories of veterans' time in service.

Legislation establishing the Veterans' Oral History Project was sponsored by Reps. Ron Kind, D-Wis., and Amo Houghton, R-N.Y., and Sens. Max Cleland, D-Ga., and Chuck Hagel, R-Neb. President Clinton signed it into law Oct. 27, 2000.

More than 19 million war veterans are living in the United States today,

including 3,400 from World War I and 6 million from World War II. But almost 1,500 veterans die every day.

"The American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress will preserve these folk histories of our everyday war heroes from every corner of the nation and offer selections from their stories back to the American people over the Internet," Center Director Peggy Bulger said in a press release.

Guidelines to assist the public in conducting local interviews will be available on the American Folklife Center's Web site:

www.loc.gov/folklife

The Library of Congress said it would create a network of partnerships throughout the United States to encourage affiliated organizations, community groups and individuals to collect these recollections and firsthand accounts.

"Collecting the oral histories of American veterans is a critical task in preserving our history and an urgent need as we enter the 21st century," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington.

The Oral History Association Newsletter (ISSN:0474-3253) is published three times yearly by the Oral History Association for its members and subscribers. **Copy deadlines are: Dec. 1, April 1 and July 1.**

Address membership, change of address, subscription and delivery inquiries to: Oral History Association, P.O. Box 1773, Carlisle, PA 17013.

Editor: Mary Kay Quinlan, 7524 S. 35th St., Lincoln, NE 68516.

Copyright 2001 Oral History Association, Incorporated

Oral History Association Newsletter
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jefferson City, Mo.
PERMIT NO. 210