

NEWSLETTER

Multicultural Magic Featured in Anchorage

The power and magic of *story* in history energized the 1999 Oral History Association's annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska.

With multicultural, multilingual and multigenerational presenters and performers, the October conference showcased the breadth and impact of oral history as a tool for exploring the layers of meaning in disparate yet overlapping cultures, giving life to the words of storyteller Robert Sam: "When one culture meets another culture, the sum of the two...should be greater."

More than 400 people from a dozen nations shared accounts of their oral history work, bound together by a

conviction that exploring links to the past creates meaning for today and tomorrow. Here is a sampling from the more than 60 conference sessions:

+ Featured speaker Julie Cruikshank, anthropology professor at the University of British Columbia, told a luncheon audience about living and working in the Yukon in the 1970s to mid-'80s and recording experiences of elders spanning more than a century.

What oral history teaches is not facts as much as the social processes and larger issues of life experiences, she said. The stories elders tell may have roots in ancient narratives, but they connect with today's realities.

Cruikshank quoted one of her older women informants as saying: "I have no money to leave to my children; my stories are my wealth."

+ Featured presenter Robert Sam, a traditional Tlingit storyteller from Sitka, Alaska, enthralled an evening audience at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art with the story of his life and his people.

Tlingit storytelling had almost disappeared until the 1970s, Sam said, when elders saw a need to revive their culture and heritage as a way to reach the young Tlingits lost to alcohol, drugs and a high suicide rate. The Tlingit culture, language, heritage (Continued on page 4)

Endowment Fund Balance for OHA Reported Healthy

By Madelyn Campbell
OHA Executive Secretary

An important part of the financial stability of the Oral History Association lies in the Endowment Fund.

Due to the generous and continuing support of many long-time members and to the successful silent auctions at annual meetings, the fund has grown to \$88,139.05 as of Sept. 30, 1999.

About 75 percent of the funds are

being held in the Baylor University Credit Union in certificates of deposit and interest-bearing accounts. The remainder has been invested in a Vanguard Growth and Income Fund.

The Endowment Fund was established as an emergency reserve fund and a way to finance special projects. Contributions frequently are made in recognition of living and deceased members.

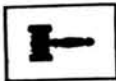
Gifts to the endowment can be sent to the association at any time. Send your contributions to: Dickinson College, P.O. Box 1773, Carlisle, PA 17013. Remember that all contributions are tax deductible.

The OHA thanks recent endowment donors Michaelyn P. Chou and Terry and Janice Birdwhistell.

Editor's Note:

Copy deadline for the next issue of the OHA **Newsletter** is April 1. Information about state and regional oral history groups' spring activities is especially encouraged, as are contributions on oral history projects or issues of interest to oral historians.

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. And please note that the above fax telephone number is different from the number listed in the Directory.



From Your President

By Laurie Mercier
OHA President

I am in the fortunate position to announce early in my presidential term that the OHA History Association is in good financial shape. For newcomers to the association, this may not seem like headline news. But those of you who have been reading this column through much of the association's history, know that finances have been a perpetual problem. But the OHA will enter the millennium with a healthy bank balance, which will help advance the organization's goals. Here's why:

First, we owe thanks to the prudent management by my predecessors Linda Shopes and Howard Green and former executive secretary Rebecca Sharpless and the steps that they and OHA councils took to insure solvency.

The new Membership, Dues and Benefits Task Force, Annual Meeting Task Force and Finance Committee were created to analyze and make suggestions to improve membership services, revenue sources and general fiscal affairs. The Membership and Benefits Task Force recently completed its work under the able direction of Michael Gordon, and its conclusions will be featured in the next **OHA Newsletter**.

Second, initial start-up costs in the arrangement with University of California Press to manage OHA memberships and print the **Oral History Review** have been offset by income growth in 1999. UCP has smoothed out the kinks in its database, which should alleviate some past problems with OHA mailings, and it is moving forward with an innovative membership campaign. Based on recommendations by UCP, the ad hoc long-range planning committee and the finance committee, the council voted to raise membership dues at its 1999 mid-winter meeting.

The relocation of the executive office from Baylor University to Dickinson College in late spring might

have presented administrative and financial headaches for the association. But Baylor and Rebecca Sharpless donated time and valuable services long after they expected the transition to be completed. Madelyn Campbell, who began her tenure at our busiest time of year, bravely decided to handle conference registration rather than farming it out to an Anchorage contractor. She also shopped astutely for the program designer and printer.

Others in this column have emphasized the importance of the annual meeting in making or breaking the OHA annual budget. The meeting consumes an enormous amount of the executive secretary's time and the labors of many OHA volunteers. The association has always believed this expense justified since the meeting brings together oral history veterans and new practitioners, provides time for committees and those with shared interests to meet and generate new projects and showcases important oral history work. Profits from the meetings sustain the executive office, publications and other activities; losses can severely curtail OHA projects and stymie planning.

Happily, the 1999 conference in Anchorage turned a healthy profit. As vice president and coordinator of the meeting, I was nervous about getting enough people to Alaska to break even. But program co-chairs Sue Armitage and Bill Schneider put together an exciting program that attracted more than 400 people. The strong attendance, along with generous donations of money, volunteer time, publicity and facilities by a variety of organizations listed elsewhere in the **Newsletter** made it a profitable meeting. The Hilton Anchorage also provided a very reasonable audio-visual contract, saving thousands of dollars over previous meeting equipment expenses.

As everyone who has worked on an annual meeting knows, most of the work is carried out by volunteers and many costs are absorbed by institutions. My own employer, for example, donated many hours of long-distance phone calls and student labor.

Based on this good economic news, in 2000 the OHA will revive

some of its stalled projects, implement some of the task force recommendations and continue plans to keep the OHA on solid financial ground while expanding services and activities.

The work of the OHA depends on the volunteer labors, commitment, ideas and talents of many people. If you are new to the association, please let me or one of the council members listed below know how you would like to contribute to our work.

One dedicated OHA member, Bruce Stave, has recently left his position as editor of the **Review**. We thank Bruce for the tremendous service he has offered the past three years in bringing out the journal in timely fashion, facilitating the transition to UCP and shaping special issues and soliciting articles that have advanced oral history scholarship. We welcome Andy Dunar as the new **Review** editor. [See page 12.]

I also want to welcome Mary Marshall Clark as the recently elected first vice president and Tom King as the new council member. Mary Marshall will serve as council liaison to the international and nominating committees. Tom is the liaison to the education committee. Kim Lacy Rogers has retired from the council but will continue to contribute her wisdom and enthusiasm as chair of the revitalized publications committee. Alva Moore Stevenson continues her term as council member and as liaison to the diversity committee, as do Jim Fogerty and Lu Ann Jones, liaisons to the publications and state and regional committees, respectively. Vice President Cliff Kuhn is planning the 2000 meeting in Durham, N.C., and heading the annual meeting task force. We look forward to hearing your suggestions for taking the OHA into the 21st century.

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Awards Go to Oral History Book, Nonprint Media, Teacher

Jazz musicians, Appalachian music and storytelling and teaching local history in Rhode Island were the topics for the 1999 Oral History Association awards for exemplary use of oral history in a book, nonprint medium and precollegiate teaching.

The awards, presented at the Oct. 9, 1999, banquet in Anchorage went to:

+ Central Avenue Sounds for its book "Jazz in Los Angeles," published by the University of California Press;

+ Charles Hardy and Alessandro Portelli for their documentary "I Can Almost See the Lights of Home--A Field Trip to Harlan County, Kentucky;"

+ Linda Wood, librarian at South Kingston High School, Kingston, R.I., for precollegiate teaching that uses oral history.

The Central Avenue Sounds Committee, which produced "Jazz in Los Angeles," based the book on interviews collected through the UCLA Oral History Program's Central Avenue Sounds Project.

That project was designed to collect and preserve recollections of African-American jazz and blues artists who were raised near and played on Los Angeles' Central Avenue from the late-1920s on.

Dale Treleven, who heads UCLA's oral history program and who accepted the award for the group, said the committee, which included some who were subjects of the book, took the interview transcripts and shaped a book that "put jazz history in its cultural context."

"The work was a real labor of love" for everyone involved, he said.

The nonprint media award went to Hardy and Portelli for their project that explores concepts of space, form and time in Appalachia. Hardy cited the long traditions of storytelling and music of the people in Harlan County for enriching the project.

Hardy and Portelli also prepared an "essay in sound" about the work, which is in Volume 2 of the Journal of Multi-Media History, an Internet publication that can be found at: <http://www.albany.edu/jmmh>

Wood was recognized for her exemplary use of oral history in teaching projects that delve into aspects of Rhode Island history such as the homefront during the Second World War. The students produce a newspaper and Web pages based on their work.

April 1 Deadline Set For 2000 OHA Awards

The Oral History Association invites nominations for its 2000 awards for an outstanding article or essay involving oral history, postsecondary teacher making exemplary use of oral history and for outstanding oral history projects in two categories--one for a project with a budget of less than \$6,000 and one with a budget of more than \$6,000.

April 1 is the deadline for all three award categories.

The awards, which are honorific, will be presented at the 2000 annual meeting in Durham, N.C. Winners receive framed certificates, one-year memberships in OHA and registration to the annual meeting.

Articles published between April 1, 1998, and March 31, 2000, are eligible for the article award. The award committee is chaired by Andor Skotnes and includes Jane Collings and Alphine Jefferson.

Postsecondary educators involved in undergraduate, graduate, continuing or professional education are eligible for the teaching award. That award

committee is chaired by Jon Hunter and includes Rina Benmayor and John Wolford.

Projects completed between April 1, 1998, and March 31, 2000, are eligible for the two project award categories. Projects may be affiliated with libraries, archives, colleges and universities, museums and historical organizations, community groups and others, including academic scholars and independent researchers.

The project award committee is

chaired by Lois E. Myers and includes Jacqueline K. Dace and Sandy Polishuk.

For details on eligibility and instructions for submitting nominations, please visit the OHA Web site at: <http://www.dickinson.edu/organization/s/oha>

You also may contact the OHA executive secretary at Dickinson College, P.O. Box 1773, Carlisle, PA 17013. Phone: 717-245-1036.



Marking the end of the 1999 OHA annual meeting in Anchorage are, seated, Ruth Edmonds Hill, left, and Linda Shopes, elected to the Nominating Committee, and, standing from left, President Laurie Mercier, Council member Alva Moore Stevenson, Executive Secretary Madelyn Campbell and Council member James Fogerty. Other officers not pictured are: President-Elect Cliff Kuhn, First Vice President Mary Marshall Clark, Council members Tom King and Lu Ann Jones and Nominating Committee member Sherna Berger Gluck.

An Anchorage Notebook...

(Continued from page 1)
and dance were missing from young peoples' lives, he said, so elders "began to open up the boxes of treasures and pass down the heritage."

The power of the ancient stories and their messages for modern life cannot be overstated, he said, adding: "Grandparents, turn off that television. Turn off that Walkman. Turn off that computer and tell stories to your grandchildren. I guarantee they will listen. They love stories."

+Carol Ford, oral historian, writer, actor, director and teacher, recounted her experiences driving throughout the Kenai Peninsula to talk to people--native and immigrant alike--about what place means to them.

The white, immigrant culture is based on a concept where time is linear and place is two-dimensional, she said, while the native people came from a culture where society was based on place and time was based on seasons. The challenge, she said, is to listen to the messages of the land and its people.

+ Vera Metcalf of Nome, told a session on oral history in Alaska Native communities that in a society based on oral tradition, each individual is linked to the past. "What I learned," she said, "wasn't found in a book."

Gabriel Myomick, a Yupik (Eskimo) from St. Michael, described the impact of the Alaskan gold rush on the tiny village. "The Eskimos didn't know what gold looked like," he said. "It was of no value" to a people who lived off the land and used furs to trade for cooking pots, tea and tobacco.

Kenneth Frank of Arctic Village in the Brooks Range works as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor, teaching



With their unique blend of Yup'ik (Eskimo) dances and songs derived from their African-American and Yup'ik ancestry, the Pamyua performers created a magical evening of a capella harmony and humor at the OHA awards banquet.

Photo by Terre McCanna

games, stories and the use of traditional tools to children. Information from elders about native traditions--from the stories of place names to ceremonies for making snowshoes--must be passed to the children, he said. "That's how we help each other get strong."

Herbert Anangazuk of Anchorage and Wales, Alaska, who has collected and translated elders' stories, told the audience that "many people are rushing so fast to keep up with change that they have no time for their elders." But survival, he said, "rests on our ability to share the knowledge" of the past and listen to the wisdom of the land and the sea.

+ Carlos Vasquez of the National Hispanic Cultural Center of New Mexico told a session on Afro-Mexicans sponsored by the OHA Diversity Committee that Americans look too much at race. The key issue, he said, is culture, not race. "We've got to dig further than just color."

Spain itself, he noted, is an amalgamation of cultures, having been home to Greeks, Romans, Phoenicians, Visigoths, Arabs, Jews. "Each of these people deeply etched their mark on what came to be known

as Spanish culture," he said.

Sagrario Cruz Carretero of the University of Veracruz, Mexico, traced African slave traditions that remain in witchcraft, magic, songs, elf myths and funerary rites in parts of Mexico today.

"It is forbidden for me to say there is racism in my country," she said. "But we have a black Mexico and we have to be proud of it.... We say everybody in Mexico has a black grandmother in the closet."

Diversity Committee Adds New Members

**By Dawn Hinton
Diversity Committee Chair**

The OHA Diversity Committee voted to increase the size of the committee from four to six members, each serving three-year terms. Here are the members and the years their terms expire at the annual fall meetings: Nilsa Olivero and Alphine Jefferson, 2002; Andor Skotnes and Jeff Friedman, 2001; Warren Nishimoto, Anna Schein and Chair Dawn Hinton, 2000.

Thank you, thank you, thank you...

The 1999 Anchorage meeting was a success because of the generous donations of volunteer time, money, publicity and facilities. Contributors included: Alaska Humanities Forum, Northwest Oral History Association, Anchorage Museum of History and Art, Alaska Historical Society, Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau, Alaska Native Heritage Center, Hilton Anchorage, Museums Alaska, National Park Service, New Jersey Historical Commission, Washington State University, University of Alaska Anchorage and Fairbanks, Dickinson College, Teresa Barnett, Maeve Doolittle and Rebecca Sharpless, Baylor University.

Special thanks also to local arrangements chair Patricia Partnow and Sharon Abbott, Jo Antonson, Diane Brenner, Amy Craver, Dianne Gudgel-Holmes, Steve Haycox, Suzi Jones, Rachel Mason, Craig Mishler, Laurie Mercier, Patrick Murphy, Lyle Perrigo, Sue Pope, Terri Schorzman and Julie Spratt.

The program committee, headed by Susan Armitage and William Schneider, included: Dorothy Cordova, Roger Horowitz, Linda Johnson, Nilsa Olivero, Ingrid Johnson, Karen Olson and Linda Morton-Keithley.

Oral Historians Asked About Institutional Review Boards

An interdisciplinary panel convened by the American Association of University Professors is conducting a survey on how college Institutional Review Boards operate, particularly in their screening of oral history projects.

The panel is interested in learning more about how IRBs operate in practice and about the actual experiences of faculty members with their campus IRBs, either in terms of their service on such bodies or as a result of having had their research reviewed by them. To that end, the panel would be grateful for information on the following matters (all information will be treated as confidential):

1. Have you ever served on an IRB? If so, at what institution and what years were you on the board? What were the circumstances that led to your appointment? What introduction or orientation, if any,

were you provided to carry out your duties as a member of the IRB?

Did the IRB review only federally funded research or did it review all research involving data collected on human subjects? Was student research reviewed? Were there occasions when you or other members of the IRB were unfamiliar with the research methods under review and found it difficult to reach a decision?

Were you released from other duties (for example, through a reduction in your teaching load) while you worked on the IRB? Compared to other committee assignments, was your work on the IRB time-consuming? Was it in any other way especially taxing? Overall, did the IRB seem to operate fairly? Did it seem to operate efficiently?

2. Has your research ever been reviewed by an IRB? If so, what

institution were you at when the review (or reviews) took place? How long did the review (or reviews) take--days, weeks, longer? Were the members of the IRB familiar with research standards and practices in your field of study?

Have you ever been asked to alter your research project in some way? If so, what was your response to the request? Was the research eventually approved? Did you find that your research benefitted from having your research reviewed by the IRB? Overall, did the IRB seem to operate fairly? Did it seem to operate efficiently?

Please send your responses to the OHA's representative on this panel, Don Ritchie, at U.S. Senate Historical Office, Washington, D.C. 20510. Fax: 202-224-5329. E-mail: Don_Ritchie@sec.senate.gov

Exec. Secretary's Notes

By Madelyn Campbell

It has been a busy seven months, and I've had my plate full establishing our new administrative office on the Dickinson College campus. Much of the start-up efforts have been completed and we are almost fully functional. The fall was spent handling all the administrative tasks involved in the annual meeting registration, but despite the hard work, I enjoyed the challenge and the rewards that came from a successful meeting in Anchorage in October.

Because I am new to oral history, many of the questions directed to this office can better be answered by the experts. I will continue to try to forward your questions to those who can help. I encourage you to use your membership directory as a resource and contact those whom you feel can be of assistance.

If you are not already a member of H-ORALHIST, our discussion list, then by all means take the time to sign

up. Instructions for doing so are on page 12 of this **Newsletter** and also can be found on our Web site, under Links to Other Sites, also listed on page 12.

I am excited to be a part of this great organization. Working with members of the council, myriad volunteers and lots of folks just interested in the promotion of oral history has been a joy. Stay in touch and feel free to let us know how we can be of service.

Wanted: Book Reviewers

If you would like to review books for the **Oral History Review**, please send a note to Book Review Editor Valerie Yow at 12 Davie Circle, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Include your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address, as well as a brief description of your interests.

You will receive the book, of course, and everybody's heartfelt thanks.

Membership Renewals Due Now for 2000

Now is the time to renew your OHA membership for 2000, or consider joining, if you are not already a member. Enroll online at <http://www.ucpress.edu/journals/orderform.html>, the Web site of the University of California Press, which handles OHA membership payments and publishes the **Oral History Review**.

Membership rates for 2000 are: \$60 for individual regular members; \$35 for students with ID; \$75 for contributing members; \$500 for life members; \$75 for institutional regular members and \$120 for sponsoring institution members. Add \$15 for membership outside North America for air freight delivery of the **Review**.

Make your U.S. check or international money order payable to UC Regents and send to University of California Press Journals, 2000 Center St., Ste. 303, Berkeley, CA 94714-1223.

BULLETIN BOARD

International Meeting Set for Istanbul

By Anne Ritchie
National Gallery of Art

Plan to attend the International Oral History Association's XIth Conference in Istanbul, Turkey, June 15-19. The theme of the meeting is "Crossroads of History." Participants from around the world will address topics such as: Remembering the 20th Century, Imagining the 21st Century, Virtual Oral History; the New Media and the Word; Crossroads of Continents; Remembering Conflicts; Community Projects; Methodological and Ethical Issues.

The conference will feature plenary sessions with simultaneous translation and concurrent sessions in English, Spanish and Turkish. The opening and closing plenary sessions will be held at the Albert Long Conference Center of the Bogazici University, located on one of the most attractive water landscapes in the region.

Workshops and panels will take place at the Imperial Mint, within the grounds of Topkapi Palace Museum, the legendary home of the Ottoman sultans. Conference fees include cocktails and dinner receptions at the opening and closing ceremonies, three lunches, transportation between conference venues and copies of the conference proceedings.

For further information contact: Gunhan Danisman, Department of History, Bogazici University, Bebek, 80815, Istanbul, Turkey. Or e-mail him at danisman@boun.edu.tr

The conference Web site is located at www.IOHA11.boun.edu.tr

For IOHA membership information, contact Alexander Von Plat, International Oral History Association, c/o Institut für Geschichte und Biographie der Fernuniversität Hagen, Liebigstr. 11, D-58511 Lundscheid, Germany. Or e-mail Alexander.vonPlato@Femuni-Hagen.de

Bilingual IOHA Bulletin Seeks Contributions

By Alistair Thomson
University of Sussex

We are looking for short, reflective written contributions about making oral histories in different media.

For the 2000 issue of "Word and Silences," the annual Bulletin of the International Oral History Association, the thematic section will focus on making oral histories in different media. We are looking for short (no more than 500 words) reflective accounts about innovative ways you have used oral history interviews to make some form of historical product. The final product might have been a book, an exhibition, a film, a radio program, a mixed media installation, a play, a CD-ROM, a Web site or something else.

Tell us what you made from the oral history interviews, how you did it, what were the issues or concerns in production and what you felt about the outcome and about using this medium for the presentation of oral history research. References, if necessary, should remain in the body of the text, not in footnotes.

For English language text, please e-mail your contribution in the e-mail message and as an attachment to Alistair Thomson at a.s.thomson@sussex.ac.uk.

Spanish language text should be e-mailed to Graciela de Garay at g.garay@institutomora@edu.mx

If you are bilingual, you would save us much translation work if you could send a copy in English and Spanish.

Contributions must be received by Feb. 1. As many as possible will be included, with a view to covering different media and different countries. "Words and Silences" will be published before the international oral history conference in June. IOHA members receive the bilingual bulletin.

Holocaust Museum Has Interview Guide

By Amy Rubin
U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Oral History Department has published a 140-page booklet of interview guidelines that provides comprehensive guidance on the many aspects of research, conducting and processing oral history interviews.

Created for the oral history department's own interviews, the guide often refers to public resources available at the museum in Washington, D.C. But it also provides general advice applicable to a wide variety of oral history projects, particularly those with dealing with the Holocaust or genocide studies. The guide has been used, for example, in documenting the Cambodian, Rwandan and Bosnian genocides. Teachers also have used the publication to help prepare students to conduct interviews.

To receive a free copy, send your request to: Amy Rubin, Oral History Department, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126. Fax: 202-314-7888. E-mail: oralhistory@ushmm.org

Please include your name, organization/school (if a teacher, include grade level), mailing address, telephone, fax, e-mail and a brief statement on how you intend to use it.

NASA Publishes New Book

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces publication of "Before This Decade is Out...": Personal Reflections on the Apollo Program." Edited by Glen Swanson, the oral history collection includes interviews with NASA Administrator James Webb, top managers like Werhner von Braun and astronauts Harrison Schmitt and Charlie Duke. To order, call the NASA Information Center at 202-358-0000.

Oral Historians Showcase Work on Variety of Web Sites

Delaware Finding Aid Online

The University of Delaware Special Collections houses the Delaware oral history collection, created by the university's history department. It is comprised of interviews conducted between 1966 and 1978 by history students. Of the 294 tapes produced, 188 have been transcribed.

A variety of Delawareans were interviewed, with emphasis on documenting: educators, immigrants, journalism, politics, the University of Delaware, Delaware in the Depression and the 1940s relocation of Long Island and New Jersey potato farmers to Delaware. The online finding aid includes a subject index and alphabetical index of interviewees and brief information about each. The Web address is:
<http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/findaids/deloral2.htm>

Senate Historical Collection Online

The Senate Historical Office recently began online publication of its oral history series.

Since 1976, the office has conducted oral history interviews with former senators and retired members of the Senate staff. Both biographical and institutional in scope, these interviews include personal recollections of careers within the Senate and discussions of how Congress has changed over the years.

With the online publication of a 1989 interview with Sen. George A. Smathers, D-Fla., the historical office is initiating project that eventually will provide online access to its complete oral history series. Smathers served in the House and Senate from 1947 to 1969 and witnessed the political evolution of the South and the Senate on civil rights legislation.

For information, click on "Oral History Project" at the Senate Historical Office home page:
http://www.senate.gov/learning/learn_history.html

New Billy Graham Exhibit On Web

"As This Is Our First Broadcast...": Percy and Ruth Crawford and the Birth of Televangelism," the latest virtual exhibit of the Billy Graham Center Archives, is now available online. It includes photos, transcripts, newspaper accounts, video clips and oral history interviews. See it at:
<http://www.wheaton.edu/bgc/archives/crawford.htm>

University of Nevada Updates Site

The University of Nevada Oral History Program (UNOHP) has updated its Web site to include news from the program, a searchable collection catalog and information on publications and videos. Highlighted are the program's newest releases: "Tah Gum," a 23-minute video on the Washoe pine-nut harvest in the Virginia and Pine Nut mountain ranges, and a book entitled "Sonny's Story: A Journalist's Memoir" by Rollan Melton, who wrote the autobiography based on a series of oral history interviews the UNOHP conducted with him.

For information, visit the site:
<http://www.unr.edu/artsci/oralhist/ohweb/oralhist.htm>

Journalism Historians Post Guide

The American Journalism Historians Association (AJHA) has posted an extensive new guide to oral histories that deal with journalism history on its Web site:
<http://www.ajha.org>

The guide is an enlarged and updated edition of a 62-page monograph, "Oral Histories Relating to Journalism History," published by AJHA in 1996. The new Web edition, prepared by James D. Startt, research professor at Valparaiso University and past president of AJHA, contains a variety of information, including sections on national, regional and local oral history collections and oral histories at presidential libraries and archives that pertain to journalism. The AJHA, whose 350 members primarily include postsecondary journalism educators, also plans to

conduct oral history interviews with leading journalism historians and to make transcripts of the interviews available for research.

Quilts, Quilters Star on Web

The National Digital Library Program and the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress announce the release of an online presentation "Quilts and Quiltmaking in America."

It includes 181 segments from interviews with quiltmakers and 410 graphic images from the Blue Ridge Parkway Folklife Project and the Lands' End All-American Quilt Contest Collection.

Audio material in the Blue Ridge collection has been transcribed to enhance its usefulness to researchers who may be hearing-impaired, unfamiliar with the regional dialect, use English as a second language or need clarification of quilt-related vocabulary or local place names.

Learn about the quilts at:
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/qlthtml/qlthome.html>

Naval Oral Histories Online

The Naval Historical Center's Web page is adding information about various oral history collections within the center's Operational Archives Branch and other repositories holding Navy-related oral histories.

The center's Web site also is placing online its popular how-to-do-it manual, the "Guide for Naval Oral History." Visit the site at:
<http://www.history.navy.mil>

Oral History in China

Learn about oral history in China at a home page created by history student Yang Xiangyin at Jilin University, Changchun, in northeastern China. Yang credits numerous OHA members with helping him learn about oral history. The site is: <http://oralhistory.netfirms.com>

Do you have an oral history Web site to share? Let the editor know at: OHAEditor@aol.com

STATE AND REGIONAL REPORT



Oral History Education Teleconference Planned

By Barry Lanman
Assn. of Oral History Educators

The Association of Oral History Educators (AOHE) and Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR) are cosponsoring a conference on "Oral History and the 21st Century Classroom." The conference is planned for November 2000. While the main site of the conference will be Baltimore, Md., the session will be teleconferenced across the country and will provide live, interactive discussions on a variety of educational issues concerning all levels of instruction.

AOHE and OHMAR are planning the largest forum on oral history in education to date through this use of technology. If your region, school or university would like to participate in the teleconference, contact Barry A. Lanman at: AOHELANMAN@aol.com

OHMAR Announces New Officers, Board

By Elaine Eff
OHMAR President

Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR) announces the following officers and board members for 2000: President Elaine Eff, Maryland Historical Trust; Vice President Mame Warren, Johns Hopkins University; Secretary Roger Horowitz, Hagley Museum and Library; Treasurer Phyllis Palmer, George Washington University; at-

large board members Charles Hardy, West Chester University, and Glenn Whitman, St. Andrew's Episcopal School. Lynne Humphries-Russ has been named to the new position of membership secretary.

OHMAR's spring meeting, jointly sponsored with the Mid-Atlantic Folklife Association, will be held April 7-8 at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. Collaborative methods and projects in archives and radio in both disciplines will be explored. Field trips include Latino and Vietnamese communities, their foods and culture. Contact Kelly Feltault at kellruss@juno.com or 301-587-1540.

OHMAR's fall meeting was held at Archives II in College Park, Md., and focused on "Visualizing Oral History." It featured the Emmy Award-winning film "Nobody's Business" (Milestone Films, 1996) and its gifted filmmaker, Alan Berliner, as well as state-of-the-Web presentations and workshops featuring the latest technology.

SOHA Meeting Set For Long Beach

By Susan Douglass Yates
SOHA President

The Southwest Oral History Association will hold its annual meeting April 28-30 in Long Beach, Calif., at the WestCoast Hotel.

The conference theme is "Waves of Memory: Capturing Meaning in Oral History." Program session and roundtable topics will focus on a wide variety of oral history projects, including those being carried out in Southern California as well as those in other parts of the region.

The program also will include such topics as oral history methodology, capturing community history, preserving family history and more. In addition, there will be all-day introductory as well as half-day advanced workshops.

For more information, contact Susan Douglass Yates, UCLA Oral History Program, A253 Bunche Hall,

Box 951575, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1575. Phone: 310-825-7524. Fax: 310-206-2796. E-mail: douglass@library.ucla.edu

In other SOHA news, applications for mini-grants intended to encourage and support oral history in the Southwest will be accepted until Jan 15. Mini-grants may be used for equipment, tapes, transcription, editing, translating, publishing or other expenses related to a new or existing oral history project.

Students, teachers, independent oral historians, libraries, schools, historical societies, museums and other non-profit organizations are encouraged to apply.

For information on how to apply, contact Barbara Hall, SOHA scholarships and grants chair, at valhalla5@earthlink.net or call her at 310-247-3036, ext. 218.

UTEP Seeks Interviews On Mexican Immigrants

The Institute of Oral History at the University of Texas at El Paso has begun a multi-year project to collect and document through oral history the experience of immigration from Mexico into the United States, focusing on immigration through El Paso.

The institute is looking for interviews related to the Mexican Revolution, work on the railroads and work in agriculture, mining or the garment industry. Tapes and transcripts may be in either English or Spanish.

The institute holds more than 1,000 interviews, including one of the largest U.S. collections of interviews in Spanish and the largest collection of translated Spanish interviews. More than half of the institute's interviewees are Spanish surnamed.

For more information, contact Margo McBane, director, Institute of Oral History, University of Texas at El Paso. E-mail: margom@miners.utep.edu

New Sound Historian Available from TOHA

The Texas Oral History Association (TOHA) recently released the fifth issue of its scholarly journal *Sound Historian*. Edited by Kenneth E. Hendrickson Jr. at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, the new edition includes the following articles:

+ "Bad Roads and Good Memories: An Oral History of the East End, Delta County Texas, 1918-1940," by Merry Ressler;

+ "Bittersweet Balance: Oral History and the Company Town of Sugar Land, Texas, in the Segregated South," by Diane L. Ware;

+ "Within Those Walls: The African American School and Community in Lubbock and New Braunfels, Texas," by Gene B. Preuss.

Book reviews also are a part of each issue.

Current and back issues of *Sound Historian* are available individually for \$5 each and may be ordered from TOHA, Baylor University, P.O. Box 92721, Waco, TX 76798-7271.

Address inquiries or manuscripts to Hendrickson at: Department of History, Midwestern State University, 3410 Taft Blvd., Wichita Falls, TX 76308-2099.

NOHA Names Officers

Officers of the Northwest Oral History Association are:

President Jodie Foley of the Montana Historical Society, Vice President Kathleen Hodges of the Idaho State Historical Society, Secretary Marjorie Edens of the Southern Oregon Historical Society, Treasurer Linda Morton-Keithley from the Idaho Historical Society.

Jessie Embry of Brigham Young University will serve one year as newsletter editor.

OHA Member, Singer In Current Biography

The August 1999 issue of *Current Biography*, the widely-used biographical reference series, contains a profile of Bernice Johnson Reagon. An OHA member, Reagon is professor of history at American University, curator emerita at the Smithsonian Institution and a member of the vocalists Sweet Honey and the Rock.

As the profile explains, Reagon sang with the SNCC Freedom Singers in the early 1960s, and after that group disbanded, she organized the Harambee Singers. She collected and performed material drawn from African-American culture. "I was trying to put my music in a socio-political context," Reagon said.

She tried to persuade the Atlanta school board to adopt a social studies program for teaching oral traditions, but was turned down.

"I realized I could sing, I could produce festivals, I could work real well with audiences, but the minute I met the establishment structure, I would be turned around," she said. "So I went back to school, because I felt that wherever black people are, this material [oral history] should be, and that the oral process should be allowed right along with the written process."

Reagon moved to Washington, D.C., where she did her doctoral work in history at Howard University, studying oral culture and the musical traditions of the civil rights movement. The profile notes that because the school did not then have an oral history program, she completed a number of interdisciplinary and independent studies.

For the complete biographical profile, see "Reagon, Bernice Johnson," *Current Biography*, 60 (August 1999), 33-37.

***OHA Endowment Fund
welcomes contributions any
time!***

OHA Members Contribute to Journal

The September 1999 issue of the *Journal of American History* carries its annual oral history section, edited by OHA members Michael Gordon and Lu Ann Jones.

The issue includes articles by Kathryn L. Nasstrom on life stories and the civil rights movement, Jack Dougherty on oral history and new scholarship in education history and Tracy E. K'Meyer on oral history and the meaning of faith in religious history.

Morrissey Workshop Set for March 3-5

OHA past president Charles Morrissey will present his sixth annual spring oral history workshop in San Francisco March 3-5. The workshop covers project planning, fund raising, interviewing techniques, transcription tips, equipment information and more.

For information and registration details, contact Elizabeth A. Wright, History in Progress, 1336 Green St., # 2, San Francisco, CA 94109-1944. Phone: 415-928-3417. Fax: 415-921-0298. E-mail: hipeaw@sirius.com

Silent Auction Again Aids Endowment Fund

OHA thanks 1999 silent auction organizers Terri Schorzman and Rachel Mason and everyone who contributed items, the sale of which added several hundred dollars to the Endowment Fund.

Items donated included a children's book, birdhouse, Idaho products basket, a courting candle, a carved bear, transcription services, a bottle of past president Ron Marcello's favorite bourbon and more.

Thanks to all who contributed time and money.

Michaelyn and Martha's Excellent Anchorage Adventure: Two Little Ladies Left at the Lunch Stop

Editor's Note: Worried dinner conversation at the OHA conference awards banquet centered on what mishap might have befallen "two older ladies, one who walked with a cane," as one of my tablemates reported, when a tour bus went on without them. The incident is believed to mark the first time state police have been summoned to look for missing oral historians. Here's the report from past OHA president Martha Ross, prepared in consultation with Michaelyn Chou.

That October afternoon in Anchorage, Michaelyn Chou and I were the first passengers to board the first of two OHA tour buses bound for the Portage Glacier, with a lunch stop "at the world-class Alyeska Princess Hotel," according to the OHA conference program, "or at any of a number of bakeries and small restaurants." Seated in the front seats opposite the bus driver/commentator, we enjoyed the passing views of Anchorage, its suburbs and then the countryside, the lady driver/guide providing a stream of interesting historical, geographical and cultural information as we rode along.

At some point, the driver announced that, rather than taking us to Portage Glacier after lunch, she would take us instead to a gold mine. Weather conditions at the glacier were unfavorable for viewing, she said, and at the gold mine we could pan for gold.

About an hour into the trip, we pulled into a gravel parking lot and were directed to disembark for lunch at a small wooden "bake shop" attached to what might have been an old barracks or ancient apartment building. At 3 p.m. we were to return to the bus, which would be located at the same spot where we were being let off. Michaelyn and I dutifully made our way up the gravel hill and into the sandwich shop, which was already filled with OHA "tourists" as well as locals ordering and enjoying the

sandwiches offered for sale.

At the appointed time, Michaelyn and I, the last OHA folks in the dining room, left to rejoin our tour, making our way back down the hillside to the spot where we had left the bus. To our surprise, no bus was waiting for us! Had we forgotten where the bus would be waiting? Michaelyn, the more agile, went farther down the hill to see if the bus might be waiting somewhere nearby. However, neither bus--not a single bus--was in sight!

We looked at each other in dismay. "Martha," Michaelyn said, "WHAT are we going to do?" Experienced traveler that I've been since my earliest years, I replied, "We're going back into the sandwich shop and see if we can find someone willing to drive us back to Anchorage, for a price!"

As we turned to go back up the hill, we noticed a small silver Toyota pulling into the parking area to turn around. We both looked expectantly at the young couple in the car; Michaelyn waved, and I--with my cane--started towards the car. The young lady in the passenger seat lowered her window. "Do you have a problem?" she asked. "We certainly do!" I responded. "Our tour bus has gone off and left us! We wonder--would you be willing to drive us back to Anchorage? We'll be happy to pay..."

No problem, was their reply: "Get in! We're going back to Anchorage ourselves." So in we got, piling into the back seat and introducing ourselves while the young man drove back along the road on which our bus had brought us.

The driver, Danny Abell, turned out to be a native of the area, visiting his parents with his wife, Valerie, from their Minnesota home in a suburb of Minneapolis. In response to their questions, we talked about oral history (and our Minnesota friends), and--in response to ours--he told us about growing up in this magnificent land, hunting, fishing and watching the seasons change. We learned about the

flora, the fauna, the vegetation, the terrain and the climate. As we neared the main road, he asked, "If you had remained on the bus tour, where were they going to take you?"

"To the glacier," we responded, "although the driver said weather conditions weren't good there, so they were going to take us to a gold mine instead."

"Well," said our host, "I can take you to the glacier"--and proceeded to do just that.

Some miles farther, at the end of the road, across an expanse of water loomed the Portage Glacier, only its "feet" visible beneath the overhanging clouds. The uniquely startling crystal blue of the glacial ice glistened not only in the glacier itself but also in several great ice chunks that had calved off from it and floated nearby in the bay.

Sure enough, as we approached this area, the weather completely changed, from bright warm sunshine to a cold gray drizzle. Only one other car had stopped in the observation area, with only a couple of people taking in the magnificent sight.

*...the setting sun
illuminated a marvelous
massif on the far horizon,
clear and sparkling, as
though it were only a few
miles away...*

After a few minutes, our host retraced our route back to the city, giving us more information as we drove along. As we approached Anchorage, he exclaimed, "Look! There's Mount McKinley!" Sure enough, the setting sun illuminated a marvelous massif on the far horizon, clear and sparkling, as though it were only a few miles away. Whether it was actually Denali or the closer Chugach Mountains east of Anchorage, their sunlit brilliance against the darkening sky was spectacular.

Within minutes, we were pulling into the Hilton Anchorage's driveway. With profuse thanks tumbling from our lips as we got out of their car, it occurred to us to ask the Hilton's doorman to take Michaelyn's camera and snap a commemorative picture of the four of us beside the sturdy Toyota. I asked for and got their names and address in Minnesota, and we parted, with many thanks for our delightful afternoon together.

A few minutes after returning to my room, I heard a sharp knock at the door. I opened it to find a well-dressed young man standing there, accompanied by a policeman in full uniform, complete with badge and gun. The young man spoke. "Are you Martha Ross?" he asked. "Yes, I am," I replied. "Are you all right?" the policeman asked. "Yes, of course," I said, smiling. "Someone," the policeman went on, "reported you missing!"

"Well," I explained, "our tour bus left us behind at the lunch stop. So we asked a young couple to drive us back to Anchorage, which they did. Can you come in?" The policeman,

smiling, said he had to return to duty, but at my insistence, the young man-- head of the hotel's security office-- came in and listened to my full account of our adventure. He agreed with me that our MISadventure had turned into a fine experience after all.

It wasn't until later in the evening that we learned what had happened. Unknown to us, some of our party had asked to take an optional hike rather than visit the gold mine. The driver agreed, letting those people off the bus and telling them she would return to pick them up after the others had been to the mine. It wasn't until the hikers were reunited with the rest of the group that someone realized two people weren't in either group, but were, in fact, missing.

The state police were summoned, four people with whom Michaelyn and I had shared a table at lunch were identified and, with various other folks who knew us, described what we looked like and what we were wearing (getting at least some of the details entirely wrong). The investigation proceeded for some time, with details of the recent tragedies in Yosemite National Park fresh in people's minds. Everyone in that group was

considerably delayed in getting back to the hotel.

Did they really think someone with a cane opted to go on a hike?

The person who had originally checked us onto the bus called my room on her return, assuring me that she had informed every one of the OHA crowd in the sandwich shop of the change of plans to permit the hike and the return of the bus to retrieve the hikers. I had to counter, "You did NOT tell us! Neither Michaelyn nor I heard anything about any change of plan. And we were at the pick-up spot at the required time, but there was no bus!" (Did they really think someone with a cane opted to go on a hike?)

We both apologize for the inconvenience our improvisation caused other tour passengers, not to mention the state police and any others who might have been involved in a search for our battered and bruised bodies in the Alaskan bush. But by taking care of ourselves after what we perceived as the tour's abandonment, we ended up having the BEST TIME of all!

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.

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Address _____

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

Pamphlet	Price	Quantity
Oral History and the Law, 2nd ed., by John A. Neuenchwander, 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	_____
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Reach OHA Online

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

<http://www.dickinson.edu/organizations/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:

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

Andrew Dunar Named Editor Of *Review*

Andrew Dunar, history department chair at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, has been named editor of the **Oral History Review**.

He succeeds Bruce Stave, professor of history and director of the Center for Oral History at the University of Connecticut, who has edited the **Review** since 1996.

Dunar has been at the University of Alabama in Huntsville for 15 years. He teaches 20th century American history. Dunar earned his B.A. from Northwestern University, his M.A. from the University of California at Los Angeles and his Ph.D. from the University of Southern California.

Dunar is co-author of several books dealing with major events in 20th century American history. He wrote "Building Hoover Dam" with

Dennis McBride and, more recently, "Power to Explore: History of the Marshall Space Flight Center 1960-1990" with Stephen Waring.

Dunar's current scholarly work is an oral history of "The Farm," a hippie commune in Summertown, Tenn., about 40 miles from Nashville.

The new **Review** editorial assistant working with Dunar is Barbara Wright, a native of Westchester, N.Y., and a graduate of the University of Alabama.

Plan Now for Durham

Mark your calendars now for the 2000 Oral History Association conference Oct. 11-15 at the Durham, N.C., Marriott Hotel.

The conference theme is "At the Crossroads: Transforming Community Locally and Globally." The Durham Marriott is in the heart of downtown Durham, two miles from Duke University, seven miles from Research Triangle Park and 20 minutes from the Raleigh-Durham airport.

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