



NEWSLETTER

Oral History Excluded from IRB Review

By Donald A. Ritchie
Oral History Association and
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American Historical Assn.

The U.S. Office for Human Research Protection (OHRP), part of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), working in conjunction with the American Historical Association and the Oral History Association, has determined that oral history interviewing projects in general **do not involve the type of research defined by HHS regulations and are therefore excluded from Institutional Review Board oversight.**

At the October 2003 meeting of the Oral History Association in Bethesda, Md., George Pospisil of the OHRP's Division of Education and Development, explained the OHRP decision regarding the application of the "Common Rule" (45 CFR part 46), which sets regulations governing research involving human subjects.

These federal regulations define research as "a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge."

The type of research encompassed by the regulations involves standard questionnaires with a large sample of individuals who often remain anonymous, not the open-ended interviews with identifiable

individuals who give their interviews with "informed consent" that characterizes oral history. Only those oral history projects that conform to the regulatory definition of research will now need to submit their research protocols for IRB review.

Page 3 of this **Newsletter** contains the complete text of a policy statement that was developed by the Oral History Association and the American Historical Association in consultation with the Office of Human Research Protection. This policy applies to oral history that takes place within an institution that has filed a multiple project assurance with OHRP.

As one of the 17 federal agencies that have signed on to the Common Rule, the Department of Health and Human Services deals most directly with the type of clinical research that the federal regulations were originally intended to cover, and its concurrence with the policy statement should set the way for a uniform interpretation by other federal agencies.

Oral historians should make this statement available to department chairs, directors of graduate study, deans and other officers concerned with institutional compliance with federal regulations.

Editor's Note: Ritchie and Shope are both past presidents of the OHA. Please turn to page 3 to review the new policy statement.

Endowment Fund Posts Record

The Oral History Association's Endowment Fund is at a record-high level of \$117,000, Executive Secretary Madelyn Campbell reported at the 2003 annual meeting.

In addition, the association's operating fund has a balance of \$68,216, she reported. Income from the endowment helps support scholarships for meeting attendees and other OHA initiatives, such as plans for an expanded pamphlet series.

Recent donors to the endowment include: Mim Eisenberg; Sherna Gluck; Shirley Stephenson, in memory of her husband, Air Force Lt. Col. A.A. "Steve" Stephenson; and Ron Grele.

Please send your tax-deductible, year-end contributions to the endowment at: OHA, P.O. Box 1773, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA 17013.

Note Next Copy Deadline

Articles and photos for the next OHA Newsletter are due March 1, 2004. Please send to: Editor Mary Kay Quinlan, 7524 S. 35th St., Lincoln, NE 68516, or e-mail: ohaeditor@aol.com.



From Your President

By Rose Diaz
OHA President

My family and I spent the month since returning from the OHA meeting in Bethesda, Md., reminiscing about the wonderful time we had, the new friends we made and the many opportunities offered to experience the Washington metro region in new and diverse ways. By all accounts, most other conference attendees had similar experiences and found the meeting well worth their time and money. Again, many thanks to the great team of folks put together by Program Chair Roger Horowitz and the Local Arrangements Co-Chairs Dave Winkler and Renee Braden. A special note of gratitude to the members of our regional affiliate--OHMAR--who co-sponsored the meeting and worked tirelessly to ensure that this event was a success, down to the final minutes. It was a grand occasion.

One of the ideas that continually intrigues me, both as a member of OHA and as an oral historian, is the variety of oral history projects embedded in every community throughout this country. At this meeting, the Community Showcase provided us with opportunities to interact with model regional and national projects that shared their expertise with us. The examples from classroom projects, museum and municipal arts exhibits, family history, youth centers, photo and sound projects, historical societies and veterans projects clearly reflected the work, processes and products discussed in the many panel sessions, plenaries, roundtable discussions and workshops. Attendees not only heard about projects but experienced them through diverse community involvement that illuminated how such projects enrich individual community history and life. A

special note of thanks to Elaine Eff from the Maryland Historical Trust, who coordinated a very successful showcase.

I look forward to future program committees recruiting more community groups and individuals to participate in creative program initiatives. Further, I challenge our membership to sustain involvement with history groups in your local areas. As oral history professionals, what sets us apart is the celebration of and the meaning we bring to community projects. These connections, networks and contacts certainly drew me into the field and they are what sustain my participation at local, regional and national levels.

At the meeting those of us grappling with institutional review boards at our institutions were a jubilant bunch with the special announcement and presentation regarding IRBs by George Pospisil, public health analyst in the Division of Education and Development at the Office of Human Research Protections. The interpretation that oral history interviewing, in most cases, does not meet the "regulatory definition of research" as defined by the Department of Health and Human Services thus exempts institutions from applying IRB standards to oral history research. A very special thanks to Linda Shope and Don Ritchie for spearheading the discussions with the OHRP and for leading the many groups that championed our cause over the years.

Art Hansen and I were also quite busy in meetings and discussions with various OHA constituencies and committees. In the coming months, Art and I will be working together to streamline the committee process. We will be reviewing the active standing committees: education, endowment, international, membership, diversity, publications and the state and regional forum. Please let me know if you want to volunteer on a committee. Every bit of volunteer activity helps our growth. Your expertise, time and energies keep the organization lively and balanced. I can be reached at

rosediaz@unm.edu or at 505-277-3507 (work). I look forward to working with Art on this project and thank him for his continued interest in the committee process. You'll be hearing more from us in the coming year, so don't be shy. You're only a short message or phone call away.

For those of you in the Pacific Coast region, please contact co-chairs Lu Ann Jones (joneslu@mail.edu) or Kathy Nasstrom (nasstromk@usfc.edu) to offer your assistance and talents as they plan our 2004 annual meeting in Portland, Ore. A special need is for volunteers to the local arrangements committee, headed by Laurie Mercier (mercier@vancouver.wsu.edu). The annual meetings are very labor and resource intensive so any assistance is greatly appreciated. These meetings are our community event and there are plenty of tasks--large and small--that help to build our organization and links to each other.

I look forward to a great year as your president and thank you for the vote of confidence in my abilities to lead the association. You also couldn't ask for better leadership in our vice presidents, Kim Lacy Rogers and Rebecca Sharpless. And there is lots of organizational continuity among the OHA Council as members Charlie Hardy and Mehmed Ali are joined by Celia Alvarez and Mary Larson. With your assistance, we look to the new members of the nominating committee, Todd Moye, Lu Ann Jones and Mary Ann Villarreal, to assist us in seeking the next generation of OHA leadership. Feel free to contact any of your elected leaders with comments, recommendations and questions.

Finally, I welcome the new members to the OHA and hope to meet each of you at future regional and national meetings. You are the future of the association and we especially welcome your comments and suggestions. Show us how to make the OHA an organization that will retain your interest and membership, and help with your professional growth and development. Now, let's go to work!

Statement Outlines Oral History Interview Policy

Application of the Department of Health and Human Services Regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects at 45 CFR Part 46, Subpart A to Oral History Interviewing

Most oral history interviewing projects are not subject to the requirements of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regulations for the protection of human subjects at 45 CFR part 46, subpart A, and can be excluded from institutional review board (IRB) oversight because they do not involve research as defined by the HHS regulations. HHS regulations at 45 CFR 46.102(D) define research as "a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge." The Oral History Association defines oral history as "a method of gathering and preserving historical information through recorded interviews with participants in past events and ways of life."

It is primarily on the grounds that oral history interviews, in general, are not designed to contribute to "generalizable knowledge" that they are not subject to the requirements of the HHS regulations at 45 CFR part 46 and, therefore, can be excluded

from IRB review.

Although the HHS regulations do not define "generalizable knowledge," it is reasonable to assume that the term does not simply mean knowledge that lends itself to generalizations, which characterizes every form of scholarly inquiry and human communication. While historians reach for meaning that goes beyond the specific subject of their inquiry, unlike researchers in the biomedical and behavioral sciences they do not reach for generalizable principles of historical or social development, nor do they seek underlying principles or laws of nature that have predictive value and can be applied to other circumstances for the purpose of controlling outcomes.

Historians explain a particular past; they do not create general explanations about all that has happened in the past, nor do they predict the future.

Moreover, oral history narrators are not anonymous individuals, selected as part of a random sample

for the purposes of a survey. Nor are they asked to respond to a standard questionnaire administered to a broad swath of the population. Those interviewed are specific individuals selected because of their often unique relationship to the topic at hand. Open-ended questions are tailored to the experiences of the individual narrator. Although interviews are guided by professional protocols, the way any individual interview unfolds simply cannot be predicted. An interview gives a unique perspective on the topic at hand; a series of interviews offers up not similar "generalizable" information but a variety of particular perspectives on the topic.

For these reasons, then, oral history interviewing, in general, does not meet the regulatory definition of research as articulated in 45 CFR part 46. The Office for Human Research Protections concurs with this policy statement, and it is essential that such an interpretation be made available to the many IRBs currently grappling with issues of human subject research.

Nominating Committee Seeks Names for OHA Council, Vice President

Calling all OHA members!

The Nominating Committee is seeking recommendations of OHA members interested in serving as an OHA Council member or as first vice president.

Please send your suggestions by e-mail to Nominating Committee Chair Jessica Wiederhorn at jw712@columbia.edu by Dec. 31. The list of nominees will appear in the April 2004 OHA Newsletter.



OHA leaders. Back row: Past President Art Hansen; Lu Ann Jones, Nominating Committee; Vice Pres. Kim Lacy Rogers; Mary Larson, Council. Front row: Exec. Secretary Madelyn Campbell; Mehmed Ali, Council; President Rose Diaz; Charles Hardy, Council; 1st VP Rebecca Sharpless. Not pictured: Celia Alvarez, Council, and Mary Ann Villarreal and Todd Moye, Nominating Committee.

Panel Reviews Legal Challenges Oral Historians Face

The United States is the world's most litigious society, but little case law has evolved relating to oral history, probably because of the bonds of trust that characterize the oral history process, former OHA president Richard Candida-Smith told a Sunday plenary session at the OHA conference.

Candida-Smith, who directs the oral history program at the University of California, Berkeley, Ronald Grele, former director of Columbia University's oral history office and a past OHA president, and Elizabeth Millwood of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill described their programs' experiences with legal issues.

With past president John Neuenschwander, author of the OHA pamphlet **Oral History and the Law**, the project administrators offered words of caution about avoiding legal entanglements.

Millwood said that while the Chapel Hill oral history program has never been involved in litigation in its 30-year history, and while the university general counsel recognizes oral history as "generally not a high risk venture," her staff thoroughly reviewed its practices and found several areas for improvement.

Millwood said the review highlighted a need for improved training so interviewers, transcribers and editors were more conscious of defamation concerns. Future use language also needed clarification, among other changes.

Grele traced the evolution of legal issues at Columbia University's oral history office, noting that when the office was established in 1948, legal releases gave almost all rights to interviewees. People who gave interviews were considered authors, he noted, and were sometimes called "oral authors."

While the interviews were made available to legitimate researchers, some releases gave interviewees--and their heirs--the right to approve access.

"The burdens on the office were enormous," he said.

Columbia's legal release forms now vest all copyright and literary rights with the university and license the interviewees to do whatever they want with the interviews, but they cannot pass that right on to their heirs or executors. Interviewees also may close an interview, but only to an ascertainable date, he said.

Candida-Smith said attorneys advised the Berkeley oral history office that it was undermining its own copyright claims by asking interviewees for permission to put interviews on a Web site.

The program's three-sentence release is "very broad," Candida-Smith said. "Even though we have the legal right to, I'd not want to put an interview on the Web without an interviewee agreeing."

Now, instead of asking permission, the office sends a courtesy notification that an interview will go on the Web unless the interviewee has a problem with it, he said. Out of 1,000 letters sent, fewer than 10 people have asked for restrictions, and only one person changed his mind and asked that the interview be removed from the Web, he said.

Candida-Smith said several complaints, including one pending in court, have raised issues of libel, defamation and invasion of privacy.

"We have 2,000 interviews on our shelves, all of which are ticking time bombs," Candida-Smith said.

He said his production staff took a journalism class on libel and defamation issues and is expected to flag potential problems.

And attorneys have advised them that when legally questionable comments arise in an interview, the interviewer should ask: "How do you know this? Is this your opinion?" The person's answers would help establish the context in the event of future claims.

Probably more difficult to defend than libel or defamation claims are

potential claims that an interview resulted in economic damage to someone, which is at issue in the pending California case, Candida-Smith said.

Commenting on the program directors' presentations, Neuenschwander stressed: "My whole message has always been preventative law."

The presentations, he said, illustrate the importance of anticipating--and avoiding--potential legal problems.

Neuenschwander highlighted the importance of assuring that future use language in legal release forms is broad enough to cover any future use of the material.

He also noted that a solution to copyright issues is to put everything in the public domain and eliminate copyright concerns altogether.

Oral history programs increasingly deal with contemporary issues, he noted, and that may be a source for more types of legal complaints.

Neuenschwander, who tracks legal issues involving oral history for the **OHA Newsletter**, urged OHA members to send him information about such issues in which they may be involved.

Rosses Praised by OHA For Years of Support

The OHA annual meeting approved by acclamation a proposal by past president Tom Charlton of Baylor University that the association send greetings to past president Martha Ross and her husband and long-time OHA supporter, Don Ross, expressing great appreciation for their contributions to OHA through the years and extending best wishes for their future health.

Many OHA members expressed regret that the Rosses were unable to attend the 2003 conference and wished them well.

Teacher, Books, Non-print Media Named Winners

The Oral History Association's awards for books, non-print media and pre-collegiate teaching were presented at the Saturday night awards banquet and highlighted a wide array of exemplary oral history work.

+ The Martha Ross Teaching Award went to Michael Barker and Elizabeth Hoffman of Johanna Perrin Middle School in Fairport, N.Y.

The teachers created a year-long, eighth-grade oral history project in which, among other activities, students share their own memories of Sept. 11, 2001, interview World War II veterans, research World War II history and role play an interview with a selected historical person.

Hoffman, who accepted the award, said in an interview that the project succeeded in part because of support from her school principal, a former social studies teacher.

Her advice for other teachers considering an oral history project: "Have patience and stick with it."

+The Non-print Media Award was shared by Chris Simon, for a documentary film titled "Down an Old Road: The Poetic Life of Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel," and "Under One Sky," a collaborative exhibit by the Nevada State Museum, members of several Nevada Indian communities and the University of Nevada Oral History Program.

+ The Book Award was shared by Catherine Fosl, author of "Subversive Southerner: Anne Braden and the Struggle for Racial Justice in the Cold War South" and Matt Garcia, author of "A World of Its Own: Race, Labor and Citrus in the Making of Greater Los Angeles."



OHA President Rose Diaz, left, greets Elizabeth Hoffman, right, and her husband, Ellis, of Fairport, N.Y. Elizabeth Hoffman and her colleague, Michael Barker, won the OHA's Martha Ross Teaching Award.

Deadlines Set For 2004 Awards

April 1, 2004, is the deadline to submit nominations for the four Oral History Association awards to be presented at the 2004 OHA conference in Portland, Ore.

Here are the committees that will consider the award nominations:

+ **Kim Lady Smith** of the Kentucky Oral History Commission will chair the committee for the Elizabeth B. Mason Project Award for projects with a budget of less than \$6,000. Kristine Navarro of the University of Texas at El Paso and Lois E. Myers of Baylor University also serve on the committee.

+ **Phil Cantelon** of History Associates Inc., Rockville, Md., will chair the committee for the Elizabeth B. Mason Project Award for projects with a budget more than \$6,000. Albert S. Broussard of Texas A&M University and Shelley Bookspan of Santa Barbara, Calif., also serve on the committee.

+ **Glenn Ruggles** of the Michigan Oral History Association, will chair the Post-Secondary Teaching Award committee. Jake Podber of Southern Illinois University and Erin McCarthy of Columbia College Chicago join him on the committee.

+ **Rosemary Crockett** of the Tuskegee Airmen Wives Tell Their Stories oral history project, will chair the Article Award committee. Sam Nelson of Ridgewater College and Ann McCleary of the State University of West Georgia also serve on that committee.

Nominations for awards should be sent directly to the committee members listed above.

Please check the OHA Web site at: www.dickinson.edu/oha for complete details on award criteria and mailing addresses for each of the committee members.

Military Historians Describe Challenges Of Interviews Documenting Pentagon Crash

The 980-foot, northwest side of the Pentagon is whole again.

There's no sign that a 100-ton passenger jet hijacked by terrorists slammed into the second floor at 529 mph, killing 184 men and women--on the plane and in the world's largest office building.

There's no sign of the fire that took a day-and-a-half to get under control, but which flared periodically for days after the Sept. 11, 2001, horror, as pockets of jet fuel still trapped in the rubble ignited.

But some things have changed.

The tour bus carrying 20 Oral History Association conference attendees was searched by a K-9 team before being escorted into the Pentagon's south parking lot for an up-close look at a place where history happened.

Narrated by Randy Papadopoulos of the Naval Historical Center, the tour followed American Airlines Flight 77's path down Columbia Pike in Arlington, Va., where it clipped two light poles and hit a taxi and a Saturn before disintegrating after ramming the 60-year-old Pentagon.

While the building has been made whole, the terrorist attack forever changed lives.

Papadopoulos and a panel of Army and Navy oral historians, meeting at the Women in Military Service Memorial after the Pentagon tour, described the process and the problems associated with conducting more than 1,000 oral history interviews in the months that followed the terrorist attack.

Those interviews constitute the raw material for a book Papadopoulos is writing, tentatively called "One Long and Tragic Day: The Attack on the Pentagon."

The panelists included:

+ Stephen Lofgren, head of oral history at the U.S. Army Center of Military History, which collected some 800 oral histories related to the

Pentagon attack;

+ Kathleen Wright, a senior chief petty officer in the Navy Reserve, called to active duty to conduct interviews;

+ Navy Reserve Captains Gary Hall and Michael McDaniel, who participated in collecting some 250 interviews and

+ Navy Cmdr. Karen Loftus, who coordinated the oral history efforts at the Navy Annex.

Loftus highlighted the difficulties interviewers faced in dealing with people who have experienced tragedy.

"You have to emotionally prepare yourself for what you're going to hear," she said. "You have to be there for the person you're talking to....Being there, being quiet, letting them emote."

She cried, too, at times, but the interviewees didn't seem to mind, she said.

McDaniel said establishing trust with interviewees was the key, and respecting an interviewee's need for silence often was critical.

"Let the silence speak for itself," he said.

McDaniel said he often watched interviewees get to a place in their story where they encountered an emotional door they had to open.

"They ask with their eyes if it's OK to open that door," he said. And many would do so.

Papadopoulos recalled interviewing a Navy captain who broke down and cried.

"All I could do was watch and hope I wasn't being disrespectful," he said. "We don't normally see men or women in the mid-40s breaking down in tears."

Loftus said interviews at Dover Air Force Base, the military mortuary in Delaware, were "very graphic and very disturbing."

The oral historians were the first people who had talked to the

interviewees in Dover, Hall said.

Emotion-laden interviews were further complicated by the fact that the interviewers also were witnesses to the events they were trying to document, Papadopoulos said.

Wright recalled watching the Pentagon burn from her civilian job in a nearby office building at the end of the 14th Street Bridge, which links Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia.

Later, trapped in a traffic standstill near the Pentagon's south parking lot, she saw thousands of people being evacuated and remembered saying to herself: "This is surreal. This is not happening."

The logistics of managing a project of such a magnitude proved particularly challenging, Lofgren said, because it required coordination of numerous and diverse historical offices, including the Army's surgeon general, chaplains and Corps of Engineers.

Wright likened the effort to unraveling "a big ball of yarn."

"What surprised me...was how the web of the story continued," she said. "One person would lead us to four more."

The military officers and enlisted people who were interviewed all did so voluntarily, and the interviews generally reflect their willingness to participate.

"You threw out one or two questions and the person took over," Lofgren said. "The information just flowed out."

Papadopoulos said that while more than 40 interviewers were involved, "it is a remarkably consistent product."

The interviews are currently considered "for official use only," but they are expected eventually to be publicly available.

Franco Outlines City Museum's Development

Ask Barbara Franco, who spearheaded creation of the City Museum of Washington, D.C., what museum-goers want, and she'll tell you:

"They want to hear history in the words of those who experienced it."

As president of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., Franco has been instrumental in transforming a once-elite, white, selective historical organization into the sponsor of a city-wide, inclusive museum that reflects a Washington, D.C., where "real people" live.

"We no longer need to accept a single narrative or be limited to a single place" to tell the city's story, she said, describing several neighborhood projects that have sparked new collections and exhibits.

Franco said museum-goers are willing to confront controversies if multiple perspectives are represented and if the exhibit information is mediated as little as possible by curators.

In many of the exhibits, text labels reflect specific viewpoints of actual individuals rather than interpretations by curators, she said.

Franco said the museum offers multiple perspectives and multiple stories. "Visitors are at different levels of comfort with complexity," she said.

The City Museum, housed in a renovated Carnegie Library in downtown Washington, D.C., was host to the OHA President's Reception on the Thursday evening of the conference.



Barbara Franco

Daniel Receives OHMAR's Pogue Award

Pete Daniel, a self-described Carolina boy who "never got around to taking voice lessons to sound like Walter Cronkite," shared highlights from his career as a historian at the Friday noon Pogue Award luncheon.

Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region presented Daniel the award named in honor of Forrest C. Pogue, 1971 president of the Oral History Association and a World War II combat oral historian who pioneered the oral history movement.

Daniel recalled growing up on stories. "But lacking the storyteller's art, I learned to listen and to hear."

Daniel said that it was not until after the civil rights movement and the invasion of television into the rural South that "I realized we all talked funny."

Daniel, a leading scholar of rural Southern life, is a curator at the National Museum of American History.

The historian noted that most of the interviews he's conducted on the history of stock car racing and rock and roll have involved people with working-class backgrounds.

The interviewees, he said, are not formally educated but are highly articulate.

"Almost everybody, it seems, has a story," Daniel said. People may say they don't, but when you ask them, they have plenty to say.

Daniel's advice to oral historians? "It is important to listen as though this was the most intriguing story you've ever heard."



Pete Daniel

From a Reporter's Notebook...

Rayna Green, chair of the Smithsonian Institution's division of cultural history and co-curator of "Julia Child's Kitchen," gave the OHA audience a raw video footage look at an interview with Julia Child, which documented the tools of her trade.

"I think good rolling pins are awfully important," Child said on the video. "This is a nice one with tapered ends....This is a nice one if you're doing a lot of puff pastry work."

Green said the interview was taped by the same camera crew that had filmed her televised cooking program for 15 years. She was comfortable with the crew and displayed complete professionalism in the Smithsonian's effort to document her kitchen.

"We had no idea we'd be able to do an exhibit" that recreates her kitchen in a Museum of American History exhibit hall, Green said.

"Julia turns out to be the best curator of all," Green said. "She had been dying for years to talk about all this stuff."

Like the "great big German potato ricer."

"It looks kind of German, doesn't it?" Child said, smiling into the camera and demonstrating its use--complete with sound effects.

Paula Johnson, curator for the Smithsonian's new "America on the Move" exhibit, described the challenges of putting the museum's "VLOs"--very large objects--into historical perspective.

The VLOs include historic steam locomotives, automobiles, school buses and a Chicago Transit Authority car--all given context by voices of people who tell how transportation played a role in how people have lived, worked and played, Johnson said.

She said the voices were often derived from informal, unrecorded interviews, not oral histories. In other cases, actors recorded scripts derived from oral history interviews.

She described the new 26,000 square foot exhibit--four years in the making--not as a story of technological progress but "a story of moments in time."

Rob Perks of the British Library National Sound Archive, described a Web-based project that aims to document changing dialects and accents by comparing recordings from collections created 50 years apart.

The first, Perks said, was a survey of English dialects that began in 1950 using open-reel recordings and unstructured interviews to capture disappearing ways of speaking after World War II, particularly focusing on speech patterns of "NORMS"--nonmobile older rural males.

The second collection is the Millennium Memory Bank, a 1998-99 joint project of BBC Local Radio and the British Library Sound Archive. That project recorded 5,429 interviews with people ranging in age from 5 to 107 years old and attempted to provide a snapshot of Britain at the end of the millennium, Perks said.

The vast collection, which is ultimately expected to be online, allows users to compare ways of speaking between communities and within the same community over time.

The collection raises several points of debate for oral historians, Perks said, including ethical issues associated with mounting large amounts of original, personal data on the World Wide Web.

He suggested that oral historians need to decide what constitutes informed consent. They need to consider the context in which data is presented. They need to ask: How do you change your mind about having your words and voice available for all to hear?



Oral histories were transformed into a story quilt at the Charlotte, N.C., Wilmore Community Garden. June Blotnick, left, director of Cultivating Common Ground, and Gabriel Cumming, University of North Carolina, display the quilt at the OHA Newcomers Breakfast.

Documenting Sept. 11, 2001: Two Years Later

Two years and hundreds of interviews after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, oral historians from Columbia University and from projects across the nation described the multi-layered images emerging from efforts to document the tragedy.

At a Friday morning conference session, panelists recounted the evolution of the Columbia University Oral History Research Office's project to interview survivors, family members, people displaced from jobs and homes, eye witnesses, rescuers and members of ethnic communities who otherwise were not among the upscale financial district workers affected by the attack on the World Trade Center.

Columbia's Jessica Wiederhorn said the unprecedented oral history effort has resulted in interviews with people from 34 countries of origin other than the United States and has succeeded in "giving voice to the voiceless."

Robert Smith, a sociologist who has worked with Latino immigrants at the City University of New York, said the focus on immigrant voices is particularly important in an immigrant city, where the newcomers "carry the American dream."

Smith said Latino immigrants, many of whom were undocumented aliens, identified with the victims of the World Trade Center attacks. "One guy told me: 'At that time I became a New Yorker,'" he said.

But over time, that feeling gave way to resentment and feelings of exclusion, he said, citing an example of a federal emergency aid worker from the Midwest who criticized a Dominican woman who had been in the United States for 30 years but could not speak English.

Ann Cvetkovich of the University of Texas, who has been working on the Columbia project in New York, said she is "worried about the way in which the memory of Sept. 11 is being marshaled in the interest of nationalism and patriotism."

The sheer size of the Columbia project and its focus on otherwise undocumented people reinforces "the bedrock principle that everyone has a story to tell," she said.

But the volume of material being amassed creates new challenges for using it in public education, she said. Transcripts of the interviews often lose the emotional impact, but that component could be retrieved if the oral histories form the basis for lyric poetry and theater, she suggested.

Wiederhorn said that the second wave of interviews in the Columbia project reflects interviewers' struggles to choose questions to ask.

Mary Marshall Clark, who directs the Columbia oral history office, noted that some of the interviewees haven't wanted to be interviewed again in the second phase of the project. She said she plans to propose extending the project for three to five years. Some of the World Trade Center survivors "need time *not* to talk about it," she said.

Laurie Mercier of Washington State University, Vancouver described her efforts to engage a summer school oral history class in post-9/11 interviews with peace activists in Portland, Ore., who demonstrated against the prospect of war in the weeks following the terrorist attacks.

Mercier said her students wanted to interview firefighters from Portland and Vancouver who had been sent to New York. Even tenured faculty challenged the project, she said.

Mercier arranged for Clark to talk with her students by conference call about the importance of assuring that the antiwar perspective was included in the historical record.

"My students disbeliefed you," Mercier told Clark.

"It was unimaginable to them that anyone could oppose the United States going to war in Afghanistan," Mercier said.

What surprised her the most,

however, was the resistance from antiwar activists themselves. They worried that the interviews might be used to portray them as traitors, she said.

Mercier lamented that the process wasn't a "transformative experience" for her students.

Smith suggested that the transformative value of oral history interviews tends to be overrated. "People won't change unless they're ready to be transformed," he said.

"There's no way you know how I feel. Your office didn't just fly into a building."

—Flight attendant, after Sept. 11, 2001

Independent oral historian Karen Harper, a flight attendant who has interviewed fellow airline workers whose lives have been dramatically affected by the terrorist attacks, recounted how a fellow flight attendant's supervisor told her after the terrorist attack, "I know just how you feel."

She replied: "There's no way you know how I feel. Your office didn't just fly into a building."

Harper described the perspective of flight attendants who took their jobs in the early days of the women's movement as a way to escape small towns, reinvent themselves and explore the world, rather than being stuck in the traditional definition of women's roles.

The terrorist attacks changed their jobs in an important way, she said.

"I was suddenly so proud. It reminded me it was a security job and the courage it takes every time you get on," she said. Until 9/11, most flight attendant training focused on keeping terrorists off planes and complying with hijackers' requests.

Now, she said, flight attendants have to look at every passenger as a potential terrorist rather than a potential friend. "Everyone had to decide whether we had the courage to get on the plane again."

Oral History Index Offers Access to Collections

By Stephen Rhind-Tutt, President
Alexander Street Press

Early this year, Alexander Street Press embarked on an ambitious initiative to create an online index to English-language oral histories from around the world and dubbed it Oral History Online.

Our goals are simple: to provide scholars, students and lay people a quick way to find oral histories specific to their needs and to give users click-through access to interviews if they are available on the Internet.

Background

As we developed an index called North American Immigrant Letters, Diaries and Oral Histories, which was launched in 2002, the need for a general index to oral histories was made all too clear.

This landmark collection contains some 100,000 pages dealing with all aspects of immigration and, as oral history is a preeminent source for information about immigrants, the index inspired both our editors and librarian customers to conceive of Oral History Online.

In our discussions, librarians outlined a number of concerns about existing ways of handling this material:

- * It is not possible to identify easily what oral histories are available.
- * Existing search engines on the Internet yield too many results to be useful and often point to materials of doubtful provenance.
- * Even where oral histories are posted on the Web, citations lack page numbers and other information that would make citing them possible.
- * Cataloging for oral histories is often missing or inconsistent.
- * Some of the best and most important interviews are inaccessible.

This--to put it mildly--is a sad state of affairs. Oral histories offer access to voices that are heard virtually nowhere else. For minorities and the generally

disenfranchised they are one of the main modes of expression. If this material cannot be accessed, these groups are silenced.

At the same time, both librarians and scholars recognize the growing importance of audio and video for students. And students at all levels now expect to be able to access more than the simple text. Even more importantly, there is a growing recognition of the importance of personal narrative in disciplines of history, psychology, sociology and literature.

Oral History Online responds to these needs. So far, the project has identified approximately 3,200 collections with more than 330,000 interviews. More than 300,000 pages of transcribed material have been found on the Internet, along with 600 or so video files and 1,600 audio files.

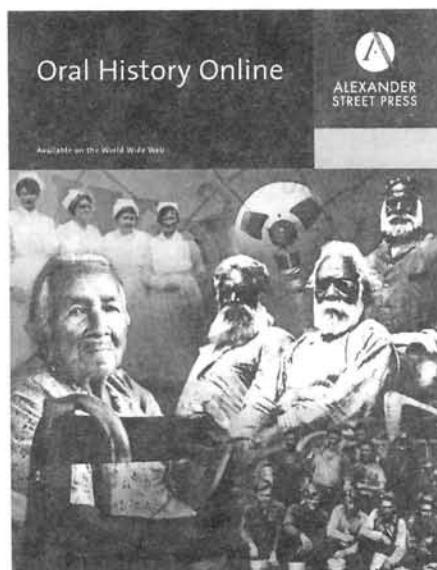
Selection

Producing an index of this kind requires both attention to detail and adherence to editorial principles. At our office in Alexandria, Va., we have a team of librarians who are selecting, reading and indexing material for inclusion.

Our goal is to balance the interests of our customers with the wishes of narrators and their interviewers. Some histories have been posted on the Internet without the permission of the copyright holders.

Still others are editorially suspect or tampered with. Finally, there are materials that should not be published for ethical reasons. Even where permission has been secured, the nature of the material may dictate that it remain private. We are sensitive to these issues.

For collections from North America, we will look for evidence that the OHA collection guidelines have been followed. In other cases, we will be looking to our editorial advisers and local associations for assistance.



Technical Details

To see how Oral History Online will work, please visit the guided tour on our Web site at: <http://alexanderstreet.com>. The project aims to allow users to conduct a search according to a number of criteria and then click through to a collection, transcript, audio file or video file at various repositories around the world.

We will index on several levels, depending on what the repositories make available to us. For some collections, the index will simply indicate the repository name and the approximate size of the collection. For others, the index will include interviewer details. And for still others, the index will include full details on each interview and links to audio and video files.

Users will be able to search for collections by more than 12 fields, including time period, name, subject and place of interview. This will make it possible for them to search with a high level of specificity. For example, users may retrieve all interviews from the 1980s that discuss the New Deal, written by narrators born in Oklahoma.

Free Directory of Collections

Our intention is to make the entire directory of collections we've

identified available to the general public as a free service. On launch early in January, we expect to have about 2,500 collections listed on our Web site.

If you'd like to see whether we've identified your collection already--and check that we have the correct information--please go to the Alexander Street Web site. If you don't find your collection there, or you have information to correct, please use the online form to update us.

If your collection isn't registered with us, please consider registering today. There is no cost to you, and registering will generate a good deal of attention for the materials in your possession.

There are three ways that you can let us know what you have:

- 1) Complete the online registration at: www.alexanderstreet.com/orhi
- 2) Send us your catalog
- 3) E-mail our editor, Laura Gosling, at gosling@alexanderstreet.com

If you have more detailed, interview-level records, please send those as well. We can accept them in a wide range of formats, including general MARC and comma-delimited. The more records we have, the more opportunities there are for users to learn about your collections.

How to Get the Index

We expect to launch the full Oral History Online database early in 2004. It will include both collection-level and interview-level records, along with links to accompanying transcripts, audio files and video files.

The index will be sold as an Internet subscription service to libraries and individuals around the world. Prices are expected to range from \$250 for a small library or individual to approximately \$2,000 for large institutions.

Our aim is to produce a resource that oral historians around the world will come to rely on, so please feel free to send us your comments and feedback as the collection develops.

Oral History In Classrooms

By Barbara W. Sommer
BWS Associates

Glenn Whitman, Ken Woodard and Roy Barber, along with students Mara Waldhorn, Jeremy Brown and Anna Palladino, discussed the use of oral history in the classroom in the session "Linking Curriculum and Community in the Pre-collegiate Classroom" at the recent annual meeting in Bethesda, Md.

They defined the contributions oral history can make through a classroom project, including expanded knowledge on the part of students, use of innovative teaching methods in the classroom, an opportunity for people to tell their first-hand stories and the expansion of the boundaries of the school into the community. They also presented information about a classroom project Internet site and the development of project products such as video documentaries and musical theater.

Whitman, history department chair at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Md., said that classroom oral history projects often fall into three categories: national projects such as National History Day or Veterans History Project, collaborative projects such as those with a link to a college, university or historical organization, or school projects such as life histories or projects focusing on a specific event or way of life. He noted that any of the three types may be successfully integrated into the classroom. All use students as oral historians, all empower students to collect new information and learn from it, all involve use of analytical thinking skills, all may be used with all students, including those often described as "at risk," and all may be integrated across disciplines and grade levels.

Whitman illustrated how an oral history project uses almost every

fundamental learning and teaching area.

Whitman quoted several of his students' responses to oral history:

+ "There is no textbook answer when dealing with oral history....In analyzing it, we are forced to independently define and justify our own standards of historical significance. Learning how to do this is learning how to think."

+ "In the case of my project, examining the role of women in the 1950s, my interview totally contradicted my research....What I learned was that her story had never been told. I told her story."

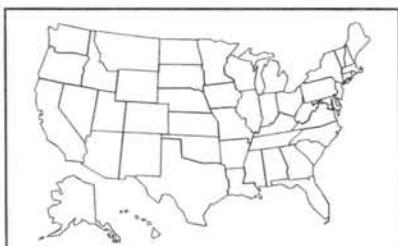
Whitman's classroom projects are accessioned into the school archives and put on the Internet at www.DoingOralHistory.org as a virtual archive. Bound copies of the interviews are given to the interviewees at an annual celebration.

Woodard, social studies chair at the Connelly School of the Holy Child in Bethesda, Md., uses oral history as an element in an annual classroom video production project. He found using oral history increases the students' depth of knowledge and comfort level with the subject matter and that it helps connect the school and students to the broader community. Both Whitman and Woodard discussed grade-level testing to meet state and national standards and college entrance exams, and both said their students do very well on these tests.

Anna Palladino, a student in one of Woodard's advanced placement classes, said the project represented work that was "above and beyond anything else in the history classes." The project, she said, made history personal. "It had a face and a voice and tears and things you wouldn't get out of a line in a textbook."

The session ended with Roy Barber singing three songs from plays he has written using voices from oral history interviews for the lyrics. Called "Musical Theater as Oral History," Barber explores social conflict by bringing oral history to the stage.

STATE AND REGIONAL REPORT



SOHA Calls for Papers For Spring 2004 Meet

The Southwest Oral History Association invites proposals for panels, roundtables, papers and presentations for its annual meeting in San Diego, Calif., April 30-May 2, 2004.

The theme of the meeting is "Crossing Borders: Negotiating Oral History Theory and Practice in a Digital World."

One-page proposals of approximately 200 words should include a title, names of participants and titles of their presentations, equipment needs, contact information and a one-page vita for each participant. Panelists must register for the conference.

Submit three copies of proposed sessions by Dec. 30 to: Melanie I. Sturgeon, Arizona State Archives, 1700 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

Idaho Narrators Now Online

By Troy Reeves
Idaho Oral History Center

The Idaho Oral History Center, a division of the Idaho State Historical Society, is pleased to announce that a list of interviews conducted by, processed by or donated to the center between 1998 and 2003 is now on the society's Web site. You can search the list at:
www.idahohistory.net/oralhistory_narrators2003.html

This new update has allowed us to put a list of narrators online for a majority of the interviews in our collection, conducted between 1969 and 2003.

The oral history center would appreciate your comments and welcomes any questions. Reach Troy Reeves at 208-334-3863 or at treeves@ishs.state.id.us.

Rome to Host 2004 International Meeting Of Oral Historians

The XIIth International Oral History Conference is scheduled for June 23-26, 2004, in collaboration with the City of Rome. The conference theme is "Memory and Globalization." It will address a wide array of issues including: politics, gender, religion, music, health and healing, theory and methodology, terrorism, migration, poverty, labor, social movements and the transmission and preservation of memory.

For information, contact program organizer Alessandro Portelli at: info@ioha2004.it.

International Journal Seeks Contributions

Words and Silences, the journal of the International Oral History Association, invites contributions for its 2004 issue on any of the following themes:

- + Healing the past, rewriting the future: oral history as legal evidence;
- + The most frustrating interview;
- + Collections and archives.

Contributions may be in English, Spanish or both languages. For detailed information about article length and topics, contact: wordsandsilences@inah.gob.mx

The deadline for contributions is Feb. 1, 2004.

MOHA Contributes Awards to History Day

The Michigan Oral History Association has announced that it will contribute awards for the best use of oral history in Michigan National History Day projects. The awards will recognize competitors who exhibit the use of recommended methods for recording oral interviews for a history day project.

The theme of the 2004 National History Day competition is "Exploration, Encounter and Exchange in History." State finalists compete in National History at College Park, Md., June 13-17, 2004.

Hershey Archives Gets New, Larger Home

The Hershey Community Archives is scheduled to move in December to larger quarters in downtown Hershey, Pa.'s, historic M. S. Hershey Consolidated School building.

The 6,300 square foot location more than doubles the size of its current location and allows ample space for the extensive collections, which include manuscripts, photographs, maps and more than 300 oral history interviews, among other materials. OHA member Pamela Whitenack is the archives director.

Sam Hand Honored By Patrick Leahy

Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy paid tribute to Samuel B. Hand, history professor emeritus at the University of Vermont and 1986 OHA president, in a recent statement in the Congressional Record. Leahy called Hand a "scholar with a passion for history." Hand received a lifetime achievement award from the Center for Research on Vermont.

The Changing Current of Oral History

Former OHA president Donald A. Ritchie delivered a keynote address about oral history's digital revolution, at the September meeting of the Association for State and Local History in Providence, R.I. He built his theme, "The Changing Current of Oral History," on the experience of the U.S. Congress, which in the 1890s hired Thomas Edison to wire the Capitol for electrical lighting.

The problem was that Edison believed in direct rather than alternating current, and as a result, the Capitol operated on direct current until 1960, long after the technology had grown outmoded.

Ritchie warned that oral historians also may risk early obsolescence by getting out too far in advance of any new technology.

Ritchie noted that during the past decade the digital revolution has had a profound impact on oral history, and that like any revolution, it offers some astonishing opportunities while also posing some troubling problems.

"Tape" can no longer be used as a synonym for recording, since

recordings are now as likely to be made electronically without tape.

A new generation of oral historians has embraced the newest types of digital recorders and transcribers, while older, more established oral historians continue to cling to the analog tape recorders that have served so well for so long, and in which they have a considerable investment in equipment. The type of analog cassette tape that oral historians have used for the past 40 years has stood up remarkably well, Ritchie said.

Archivists also remain dubious about the long-term preservation of flimsy CDs and other forms of digital recordings.

Yet the time is fast approaching when purchasing an audio cassette may be as difficult as buying a 33 1/3-RPM record album. As the public's music-buying taste has turned to compact disks, audio tape has been kept alive largely by books-on-tape, and now even they are being recorded on disk. Oral historians do not constitute a large enough market

and must make do with what everyone else is buying.

Among the many advantages of digital recording, Ritchie cited the creation of easily searchable collections, improved digital videotaping and great ability to make audio and video recordings and transcripts available on CDs and the Internet.

"New technology tends to pose vexing questions that encourages us, wisely, to wait until the technology has proven itself," he concluded.

"The Capitol worked with Thomas Edison and got direct current for the next 60 years. Many folks bought Beta Max before VHS overwhelmed the videocassette market, and others are holding onto their VCRs even as DVDs proliferate.

"Change can be troublesome, and many problems with digital equipment remain to be worked out, but the digital revolution is rapidly making things easier for us to do oral history and use it in exhibits, publications, films, and other venues," Ritchie said.

OHA Executive Secretary's Report

By Madelyn Campbell

The Oral History Association's recent annual meeting in Bethesda, Md., was both programmatically and financially successful.

I would like to thank the members of the program and local arrangements committees for their generous contribution of time, creativity and follow-through. Without the willingness of volunteers, the OHA would not be able to provide such stimulating opportunities for colleagues to meet, discuss and learn from each other.

If you have never attended a meeting, you might consider treating yourself to something very special. Our next meeting in Portland, Ore.,

Sept. 29-Oct. 3, 2004, will certainly be worth the trip.

OHA depends on its membership base, which provides a large percentage of the annual budget. Renewal notices will be arriving shortly from the University of California Press, and I encourage all of you to renew your membership for 2004.

We can increase our membership most effectively by recruiting friends, colleagues or institutions. Please take a moment to think of someone who might be interested in joining. I frequently receive calls from people who are excited to find out that an organization such as our does, in fact, exist. I hope you will find some time to tell folks about OHA and boost our overall membership for 2004.

Also, please remember the OHA Endowment Fund in your year-end charitable contributions. Your contributions make it possible to support important outreach efforts for the association and improve services to members.

Finally, I would like to remind members that OHA will be publishing its biennial membership directory. Please notify the University of California Press of any address, telephone or e-mail changes. You can call Sheryle Hodapp at 510-643-0953 with any changes.

*Mark your calendars now!
The 2004 annual meeting is
set for Sept. 29-Oct. 3 in
Portland, Ore.*

Call for Papers

“Telling Stories: Narratives of Our Own Times”

Oral History Association Annual Meeting Portland, Ore. Sept. 29-Oct. 3, 2004

The Oral History Association invites proposals for papers and presentations for its 2004 annual meeting scheduled for Sept. 29-Oct. 3 at the Hilton & Executive Tower in Portland, Ore.

“Telling Stories,” the conference theme, invokes both the practice of oral history and the unique ability of oral history to capture stories that are especially revealing and meaningful. The present historical moment lends a special urgency to this call. The enormity and significance of recent events urge us to record and interpret the “narratives of our own times,” not only the cataclysmic events at the turn of the 21st century, but also the sweep of the 20th century that lies within living memory.

While recent events suggest histories of conflict, change and rupture, the practice of oral history offers the possibility of bridging differences, finding commonalities and tracing continuity. Turning lives into stories can help individuals and communities negotiate wrenching social and economic changes and undermine hierarchies of power and dominance.

Among the topics for which we invite proposals are:

- + globalization, new forms of labor and the changing nature of work, education and knowledge;
- + migrations: local, regional, national and international;
- + farm labor, culture and agriculture;
- + corporate behavior and misbehavior and the responsibility of business to civic and public life.

We also invite proposals for presentations that reflect on the process of oral history:

- + how oral history reveals the connections between seemingly unrelated populations and processes;
- + the role of emotion in oral history, including humor and irony, pain and trauma;
- + the theoretical and methodological issues involved in recording an oral history of events as they unfold.

The conference location in the Pacific Northwest and on the Pacific Rim offers an opportunity to examine issues of particular regional significance, including:

- + the histories, cultures and struggles of the region's native peoples;
- + local and regional industries, from logging to high tech to wine making;
- + land, water and the environment;
- + local and regional variations on protest movements, including environmentalism;
- + regional developments in art, music and culture;
- + the connections between the United States and Asia.

Proposals from a wide variety of disciplines and settings are encouraged as are formats other than conventional conference presentations.

For details on submission requirements and a proposal cover sheet, see the OHA Web site: www.dickinson.edu/oha. Proposals must be postmarked by Jan. 15, 2004, and may be submitted by mail or fax. No e-mail attachments will be accepted.

Submit proposals to the OHA office at: Dickinson College, P.O. Box 1773, Carlisle, PA 17013. For UPS or FedEx delivery add: Holland Union Building, College and Louther Streets.

Direct any queries to the program co-chairs:

Lu Ann Jones
Department of History
Brewster A-315
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Phone: 252-328-1025 E-mail: joneslu@mail.ecu.edu

Kathryn Nasstrom
Department of History
University of San Francisco
2130 Fulton St.
San Francisco, CA 94117-1080
Phone: 415-422-6074 E-mail: nasstromk@usfca.edu

Proposal deadline: Jan 15, 2004

Documenting Combat: Interviewing Under Fire

If a high school oral historian one day asks Maj. David Crist of the Marine Corps Historical Center or Col. Richard Stewart of the Center of Military History or Cmdr. Dan Struble of the Naval Academy Foundation what they did in the wars in Afghanistan or Iraq, the student will get an eye-opening tour of life as a combat historian:

+ helicoptering into Northern Afghanistan with Special Operations forces, carrying a rucksack full of recording gear;

+ going for months without hot meals or other creature comforts;

+ hitchhiking by helicopter and surveillance planes among some of the 150 ships of the 5th Fleet, operating in millions of square miles of ocean to document support operations for the war in

Afghanistan;

+ providing an immediate outlet for raw emotions of the soldiers involved in after-action oral history interviews.

Speaking at an OHA conference session on documenting combat, Crist recalled a young platoon sergeant who was very upset because one of the men killed when a helicopter was shot down was new to his unit.

"He couldn't remember his [the newcomer's] face," Crist recalled. "That really upset him."

Crist said reporters "embedded" with military units "sometimes had better access than I did."

In fact, Stewart said, the oral historians often had to persuade soldiers they sought to interview that "we aren't journalists... We're not interested in a quick turnaround."

The point of combat oral history interviews is to preserve the information they gather for future uses.

"Oral history is the only way to collect emotions in the field," Stewart said.

Crist, who has spent most of the past two years in the field, is one of

17 historians deployed by Special Forces since September 2001. They have collected some 2,000 oral histories, maintained journals, collected maps and other documentary information related to field planning and talked to as many people as they could.

The aim, Crist said, is to "preserve what's happened yesterday while the unit is focused on today and tomorrow."

As much as the combat oral historians tried to do, it often never seemed to be enough.

Struble lamented not having time to process and make use of the information being collected or to write about what they learned. "You're seeing more of the war from more perspectives than anyone out there," he said.

But the interviews, Stewart said, illustrate what oral history does best. "What are the emotions involved?" he asked. "That's when you get down to the essence of what happened."

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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Oral History and the Law
3rd ed., John Neuenschwander, 2002,
\$15.00

Oral History Projects in Your Classroom,
Linda Wood, 2001, \$15.00 pages only
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Using Oral History in Community History Projects, Laurie Mercier and Madeline Buckendorf, 1992, \$8.00

Oral History Evaluation Guidelines, \$5.00

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TOTAL ENCLOSED

2004 OHA Meeting Set for Portland, Ore.

By Kathryn Nasstrom
OHA Conference Co-Chair

The program for the next Oral History Association conference, set for Sept. 29-Oct. 3, 2004, is taking shape. Here's a taste of what's on tap:

+ Acclaimed performer and educator Awele Makeba will join us both in performance and teaching a performance-oriented workshop. In "Rage Is Not a 1-Day Thing!" Makeba uses ethnographic theater to examine the untaught history of the Montgomery bus boycott, a cornerstone of American mythology. The play is based on oral histories, interviews, court transcripts, memoirs and biographies. The story is told primarily through the voice of 15-year-old Claudette Colvin, who refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Ala., bus nine months before Rosa Parks' arrest for the same act.

+ Mike Honey, who holds the Harry Bridges Endowed Chair of Labor Studies at the University of Washington, will speak on "The

Power of Remembering: Race, Labor and Oral History" using slides, oral histories and songs--which he tells us are "themselves a form of oral history."

+ Linda Tamura, professor of education at Willamette University, will bring the voices of Japanese-American World War II veterans to life in "War Stories." These young men from a small, rural community served in highly decorated units of the armed forces while their families were interned in government concentration camps. By the time the war was over, locals had removed the names of these veterans from a community war memorial and waged a campaign to discourage their families from returning home. The program will feature video segments, readings from the stories and Tamura's own commentary.

+ Alessandro Portelli's most recent book, "The Order Has Been Given," will be the focus of a plenary session, featuring Portelli in conversation with noted scholars in history and memory studies:

Jacquelyn Hall, David Blight and Edward Linenthal. OHA members are encouraged to read the book in advance to enlarge the conversation that will take place.

The conference hotel is located in the middle of beautiful downtown Portland, Ore., within walking distance of excellent restaurants, the Portland Art Museum, the Oregon Historical Society, historic Old Town, the Chinese Gardens, the Willamette River walkway, galleries, shops, brew pubs and world-famous Powell's Bookstore. Public transportation is available for excursions to parks, gardens and neighborhood districts.

The local arrangements committee has some exciting tours planned, including architectural and radical history walking tours, visits to Indian cultural centers, the Oregon coast and the historic McMenamin's brew pubs. Plan to arrive early or stay late to visit nearby Mount St. Helen's, the Columbia River Gorge, Oregon wine country, Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood and the Oregon coast.

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Address membership, change of address, subscription and delivery inquiries to: University of California Press, Journals, 2000 Center St., Suite 303, Berkeley, CA 94704-1223. Phone: 510-643-7154. Fax: 510-642-9917. E-mail: journals@ucop.edu

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