



# NEWSLETTER

## OHA Meeting in San Diego Takes Global View

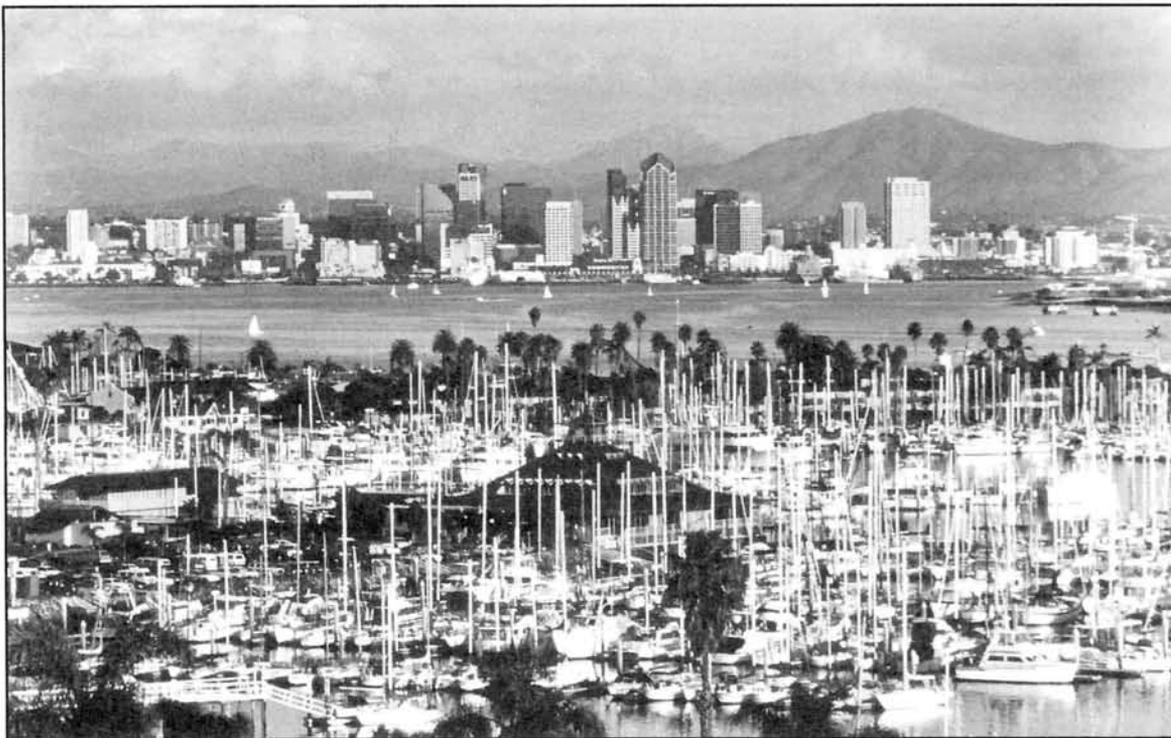
Distinguished historians. Award-winning filmmakers. Thought-provoking panel discussions. Skill-building workshops. Eye-opening tours. And a chance to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

That's what's on tap at the 2002 Oral History Association annual conference scheduled for Oct. 23-27 in San Diego, Calif., at the DoubleTree Hotel San Diego Mission Valley. Call the hotel soon at 619-297-5466 for conference-rate reservations.

With the theme "Global Linkages: The Internationalization of Everyday Life," this 36th annual OHA meeting features a wide array of presenters from the American Southwest and around the world. Panel topics include: oral history and Sept. 11, oral history in schools and local historical societies, German and Japanese-American perspectives on World War II, immigrants in small Midwestern towns, presidential oral histories, Vietnam and Cold War themes, theoretical and methodo-

logical issues and dozens of other topics. The program also includes a presidential reception at the San Diego Historical Society featuring a Latina feminist reading and a breakfast for newcomers, sponsored by the Southwest Oral History Association.

Details about featured speakers, workshops and tours are on page 5 of this **Newsletter**. For complete program details and conference registration information, see the OHA Web site: [www.dickinson.edu/oha](http://www.dickinson.edu/oha).



*San Diego's dramatic skyline beckons OHA members. Photo: Joanne DiBona, San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau*



## From Your President

By Mary Marshall Clark  
OHA President

I hope you are all planning your trip to attend the annual meeting in San Diego, Calif., beginning Wednesday, Oct. 23. The theme of the meeting, "Global Linkages: The Internationalization of Everyday Life," has been beautifully explored in the dynamic program organized by Teresa Barnett and Jane Collings. The implicit larger theme of globalization is touched on directly through sessions on economic and political presentations such as "Labor, Ecology and Economics: Oral Histories of the Oil Industry," "Global Forces, Local Identities" and "The Currency of Globalization."

But the focus of the conference is wide-ranging, shedding a broad spotlight on the creative cultural, social and economic initiatives of local peoples who represent the extremely diverse and robust cultures of the region and their storytelling traditions. Drawing from indigenous communities as well as recent immigrant communities, the program co-chairs have demonstrated the vitality of local and regional cultures and the dynamic ways in which "internationalization" has brought them into contact with each other.

Examples of panels and workshops like "War, Land and Relocation: Presenting Japanese American and American Indian Narratives," "Indigenous American Lives" and "Oral Histories of Immigrant Somali, Mexican and Hmong Women" demonstrate the fact that oral history is a form of communication that transcends cultural boundaries even while culture is the subject of discussion. The conference as a whole is a celebration of our growth as a culturally and ethnically diverse association, as well as the talents of its organizers. It is also a tribute to OHA Vice President Art Hansen's

social vision and enduring commitment to political change. A great contribution to the program has also been made by the Diversity Committee, as it is sponsoring seven sessions as well as a workshop.

Additional highlights of the program include dynamic workshops such as "The Diversity Workshop: Learning from Boyle Heights: Planning Oral History Projects in Diverse Communities" and "The Enchanted Tapestry: Artistic and Nonverbal Approaches to Collecting and Expressing Oral Histories." These workshops, among others, illustrate oral history not only as a tool for social analysis and social change, but its role in the arts and other creative media.

The tours that are offered will allow us to explore the beauty and charm of the region. Altogether, the program represents a wonderful opportunity to explore the global dimensions of oral history as a way of making sense of the local, regional and international connections that exist among communities as well as individuals in this era.

The connection between local and global stories and the role of oral history in creating international contexts for sharing and analyzing interviews was also apparent at the June 24-27 meeting of the International Oral History Association in Pietermaritzburg, in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The theme of the meeting, "The Power of Oral History: Memory, Healing and Development," reflects the continued active use of oral history as testimony as well as an analytic tool in the wake of political and social revolutions. As you will see on page 6 of this **Newsletter**, many OHA members attended, and we hope that they will share their reflections on this important conference with us in San Diego as well as in other forums. Conference proceedings can be ordered through the International Oral History Association.

Also, on page 12 of this issue, you will read about the new OHA partnership with the American Folklore Society to work on the

Veterans History Project (VHP) sponsored by the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center. The project was officially launched on board the Intrepid Museum on June 6. I was there along with my wide-eyed son and hundreds of others who witnessed an interview conducted with a Navajo code-talker.

The mission of the project is to conduct as many interviews with veterans as possible, including interviews with women at war and at home. The role of OHA in the project is to organize training workshops in which volunteers will be taught how to conduct oral history interviews with veterans. The VHP has provided an excellent manual for those who are willing to offer workshops.

Those of us who have been involved in the negotiation of the contract for this important project are pleased by the sensitivity of the VHP to the importance of serious and thoughtful training. Accordingly, some workshop leaders may choose to work in partnership to explore the full range of academic, psychological and social issues that come up when interviewing veterans and survivors. Wherever possible, the VHP also has encouraged us to include trainers who are familiar with video procedures. The interviews will be donated to the Library of Congress as a permanent collection. I encourage each of you to become involved with this important project in some way and to use our listserve as well as regional association meetings as forums for public discussion and dialogue on this project and others it may inspire.

I look forward to seeing all of you in San Diego for what promises to be a satisfying experience on so many levels. We owe many thanks to the program committee, the local arrangements committee and all who have been involved directly and indirectly. I would also like to offer a word of special thanks to Madelyn Campbell, our executive secretary, whose continued excellence has helped us move forward as an association with confidence and direction.

# Ed. Committee Surveys Non-Credit Oral History Training

By Troy Reeves  
OHA Education Committee

Using the H-Oralhist listserve, the Oral History Association Education Committee has sought to compile information about non-credit oral history educational opportunities outside the academic world and share that information with OHA members.

Only a relative handful of groups and individuals responded to the committee's request for information, but the replies seem to fall into three categories: **workshops**, **lectures** or **internships**. Some respondents described offerings in several categories, such as **Geneva Kebler Wiskemann** of the **Michigan Oral History Association**, who noted that her organization conducts a variety of conferences, seminars, classroom sessions and workshops.

Three types of **workshops** generally were described.

The first is a multi-day affair. Either taught over a weekend or one day a week for consecutive weeks, these workshops offer interested individuals the most in-depth opportunity to learn about oral history. **Jeff Friedman** of the **LEGACY Oral History Project**, **Elizabeth Wright** of **History in Progress** and **Andy Verhoff** of the **Ohio Historical Society** all shared information about multi-day workshops.

Such programs cover myriad aspects of the craft, including project planning, interviewing techniques, legal and ethical issues and processing or post-interview procedures, such as indexing, transcribing and preserving the recordings.

Multiple sessions allow participants to ponder the previous session's lessons, coming up with questions or comments to further explore the topics. This type of meeting also can allow the instructor to require a reading list and the time to discuss required readings. Along

with these two benefits, this type of workshop could allow participants to conduct an oral history interview either in session or outside the session, providing a chance for the participant, instructor and other attendees to critique the effort. Through a many-hour, multi-session approach, this workshop style comes closest to mirroring semester-long academic oral history classes.

The second type of workshop is an all-day practicum. **Nancy Davis Bray** of **Georgia College and State University**, **Darlene Richardson** of the **Virginia Museum of Transportation, Inc.** and **Trish Walker** of the **State Library of South Australia** all described day-long workshops that touch on the same points as the longer seminars, but in less detail. Because they meet only once, they cannot offer the opportunities for reflection as the first type described. They can, however, offer their patrons a mock interview during the day, and they furnish the attendees with quality information about the oral history process.

The third type of workshop is a half-day session. This meeting--practiced by the staff at the **Idaho Oral History Center**--can only offer an overview of the practice of oral history, including aspects of the pre-interview, interview and post-interview stages, without providing much depth for participants. This gathering could still allow the instructor to focus on specifics, such as legal and ethical questions, but the more time spent on a particular topic means less time spent on another worthwhile topic, such as storage and preservation of recordings. A half-day session could bring more people to the practice of oral history, because an individual could schedule a half day of time more easily than a full day or multiple days.

Regardless of the depth or breadth of the endeavor, the workshop stands as the best opportunity to give people

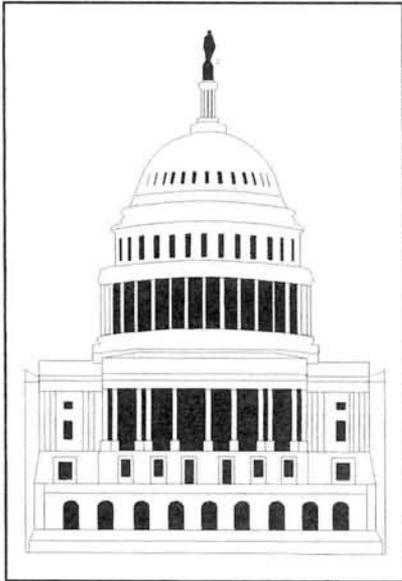
the tools to begin conducting oral histories.

In addition to oral history workshops, the **lecture** offers another opportunity to learn about oral history. **Linda Shopes** of the **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission**, **Cathy Ogden** of the **Greenwich Library Oral History Project** and **Anne Schaetzke** of the **Rochester Public Library** reported that they offer 45- to 90-minute presentations about some aspect of oral history, including incorporating oral history into a family history, using oral history in research or offering a brief overview about its practice.

This type of appearance can reach a larger audience, because most people can spend an hour of time more readily than four, eight or more hours, but it cannot prepare participants to jump into interviewing. It can stimulate attendees to learn more about oral history and could encourage them to sign up for a longer workshop.

Finally, **Charles Price** of the **City University of New York Graduate School** and **Kelly Feltault** of **Cultural Crossings** described oral history **internship** or volunteer opportunities. This type of educational opportunity may award high school or college credit, but is different from oral history in an academic setting because a trained oral historian in the public history field--not necessarily a professor--is the intern's supervisor. Interns or volunteers learn about various aspects of oral history mainly through hands-on experience, either by planning and implementing their own projects or working to process previously donated or in-house created interviews.

The Education Committee received insufficient responses to create a directory of oral history training programs, but hopes this is a start toward that goal.



## Washington Update

By Bruce Craig  
National Coordinating Committee  
for the Promotion of History

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

### House Appropriations Committee Takes Smithsonian to Task

Members of the House Appropriations Committee at a hearing on the Smithsonian Institution's 2003 budget proposal recently took Smithsonian officials to task for the high salaries being paid to top officials, singling out the \$588,000 annual salary paid to Smithsonian Secretary Lawrence Small, well in excess of the salary paid to the president.

The committee also called upon the Smithsonian's Board of Regents to reconsider the decision to drop the name of aviation pioneer and one-time Smithsonian Secretary Samuel

P. Langley from the movie theater at the National Air and Space Museum. While the theater has borne Langley's name since 1981, the current administration at the Smithsonian agreed to rename it for a major donor, the Lockheed Martin Corp. Lockheed Martin donated \$10 million for the Air and Space Museum Annex at Dulles International Airport in Northern Virginia, in return for having the heavily-visited theater on the National Mall named for the corporation.

Another agreement that has brought criticism seeks to rename the Hall of Transportation at the National Museum of American History for the General Motors Corp. in appreciation for a \$10 million contribution toward the museum's renovation.

The Appropriations Committee called on the Smithsonian Board of Regents to review top officials' salaries and to review all agreements with major donors.

### Flight 93 Memorial Bill Gets Hearing, NPS Support

Breaking with its usual position that new national park areas not be established until a sufficient interval of time has passed to allow for historical judgment, the National Park Service recently testified in favor of a bill proposed by Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., to establish a Flight 93 National Memorial.

The memorial at Shanksville, Pa., would commemorate the passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93 who apparently prevented a planned Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the Nation's Capital by causing the plane to crash in a remote field in rural Pennsylvania.

NPS Special Assistant P. Daniel Smith told a House subcommittee that the events of Sept. 11 are so clearly important to contemporary America that "some kind of national recognition is appropriate now."

Smith said the crash site should be designated as a national memorial.

"Establishing a permanent

memorial would serve as a meaningful way to honor those who sacrificed their lives on Sept. 11 and would provide an appropriately respectful setting for family members and other visitors."

Investigators believe United Airlines Flight 93 was hijacked like three other Sept. 11 flights, which slammed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and was on its way to Washington to destroy yet another target, possibly the White House or Capitol, when the passengers and crew managed to stop the attack and crash the plane, killing all on board.

### Cold War Theme Study Gets Senate Hearing

A Senate subcommittee recently heard testimony on a bill sponsored by Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., to require the National Park Service to conduct a theme study to identify sites and resources to commemorate and interpret the Cold War. The study would assess such Cold War sites for potential national park, national historical landmark and other appropriate designations.

The House has already passed a similar measure sponsored by Rep. Joel Hefley, R-Colo.

The National Park Service told the Senate subcommittee it favored conducting a theme study, but objected to a provision of the House-passed bill requiring a feasibility study of establishing a "central repository for Cold War artifacts and information."

That provision is strongly backed by Gary Powers Jr., son of the famed American spy plane pilot Francis Gary Powers, who was shot down over the former Soviet Union in 1960. Powers Jr. is leading a private effort to create a Cold War Museum in Lorton, Va.

The bill is considered non-controversial.

# Speakers, Workshops, Tours Set for San Diego

## Featured Speakers

The Friday, Oct. 25 luncheon and an afternoon plenary session will feature several distinguished speakers:

+ George Lipsitz, professor of ethnic studies at the University of California, San Diego, will speak at the Friday luncheon. Lipsitz, the author of numerous critically acclaimed books, has written on a wide variety of issues related to race and cultural theory.

+ Michael Frisch, who teaches history and American studies at SUNY Buffalo and is a past editor of the **Oral History Review**, will participate in a plenary session Friday afternoon on using interviews in documentary films.

+ Paul Espinosa, also a plenary session speaker, is an award-winning independent film producer, writer and director based in San Diego.

+ Haskell Wexler, also joining the plenary session panel, is an award-winning cinematographer whose work has earned him five Academy Award nominations and two Oscars for Best Cinematography.

+ Garrett Scott, rounding out the plenary session panel, created the film "Cul de Sac: A Suburban War Story," based on a 1995 rampage through Claremont, Calif., by an unemployed plumber who stole a tank and ran amok through his neighborhood. That and other films by the plenary speakers will be shown at the conference.

+ Marcos Martinez, a world-traveling performer, director and teacher, will entertain conference-goers after the Saturday night awards dinner with his one-man show "Holy Dirt."

## Workshops

Beginning and advanced workshops covering an array of oral history techniques are scheduled:

+ Getting Started with Oral History: An Introductory Workshop, set for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 23.

+ Field Recording Aural Histories in the Digital Age, an advanced workshop set for 9 a.m. to noon, Oct. 23.

+ Oral History and the Law, an advanced workshop scheduled for 2 to 5 p.m., Oct. 23.

+ Writing oral history is set for 8:30 a.m. to noon Oct. 24.

+ A diversity workshop about planning oral histories in diverse communities is scheduled for 1:30 to 5 p.m. Oct. 24.

+ A workshop exploring artistic and nonverbal approaches to collecting and expressing oral histories is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to noon on Oct. 25.

+ An education workshop focusing on oral history in middle schools and at the university level will be held Oct. 26 from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Workshop fees vary and advanced registration is required for most of them.

## Tours

Conference attendees can choose from five tours scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 26: across the Mexican border; behind the scenes at the San Diego Zoo; Cupa Cultural Center and historic missions; San Diego Bay and military tour; Chicano Park and Barrio Logan.

Costs of the tours vary and advanced registration is required. Details are on the registration forms sent recently to all OHA members. Full program and registration information also is on the OHA Web site: [www.dickinson.edu/oha](http://www.dickinson.edu/oha).

## Raffle

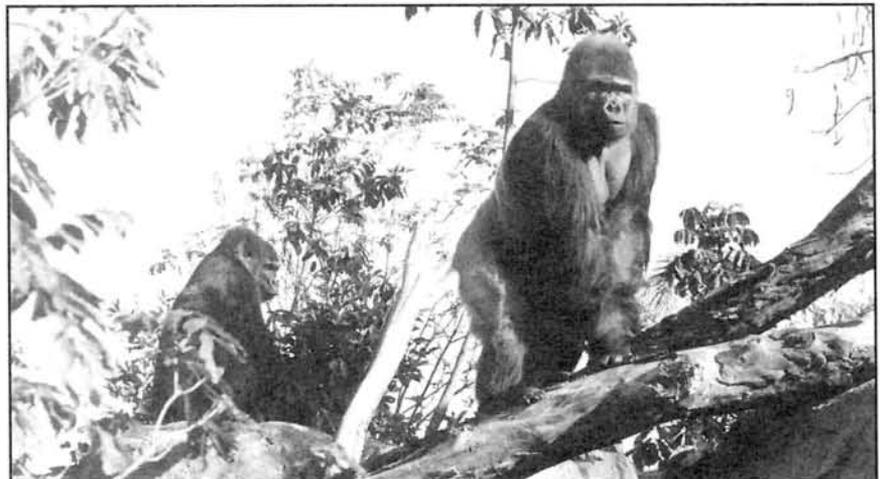
For the first time this year, OHA conference attendees will be able to participate in a raffle to win an exciting array of items that will be on display. Raffle tickets will cost \$1 and can be placed in draw boxes accompanying each item. Drawings will be held at the Friday luncheon and Saturday awards banquet.

All raffle proceeds benefit the OHA Endowment Fund.

## OHA Appreciates Endowment Donors

Special thanks to the following members who recently contributed to the OHA Endowment Fund, which helps support special projects: **Adina Back, Ann Francis, Dale Treleven and Eriko Yamamoto**, a new life member.

Send your tax deductible contributions to the OHA Endowment Fund, c/o Madelyn Campbell, Dickinson College, P.O. Box 1773, Carlisle, PA 17013-2896.



*Two gorillas at the San Diego Zoo greet visitors to their African rainforest habitat.  
Photo: Georgeann Irvine, Zoological Society of San Diego  
San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau*

# Oral Historians from 30 Nations Gather For Meeting in Post-Apartheid South Africa

By Donald A. Ritchie  
U.S. Senate Historical Office

One very cold night in 1893, in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, a lawyer from India was thrown off a train on which he held a first-class ticket, after a white passenger objected to sharing accommodations with him. He waited shivering in the darkened station overnight, wondering whether to go on to Pretoria without minding the insult or to stay and fight for his rights.

It was a small event with enormous international consequences because it set the passenger, M. K. Gandhi, on his course towards non-violent resistance to racism and colonialism. For the next century, the government of South Africa had no intention of commemorating that incident, but the new post-apartheid government has now erected a statue of Gandhi in the center of Pietermaritzburg. The train station still stands, unchanged from Gandhi's time except for several plaques recently installed to commemorate the beginning of his struggle.

The contrasts between then and the post-apartheid era in South Africa have highlighted the deficiency of the old records and the need for a new history. That made Pietermaritzburg an appropriate venue for the 12th meeting of the International Oral History Association. About 200 delegates from 30 nations met on the campus of the University of Natal from June 24-27. It was the association's first gathering on the continent of Africa. A financial contribution from the Oral History Association helped underwrite the participation of several African oral historians at the conference.

Philippe Denis and James Worthington of the School of Theology at the University of Natal organized an outstanding program

around the theme of "The Power of Oral History: Memory, Healing and Development." The conference opened with a plenary session on African identity, during which presenters from several African nations spoke of the inadequacy of written documentation and traditional archives at a time of sweeping change, which has accelerated the need--and even the demand--for oral history. The democratic impulses of oral history have convinced many, in the words of one speaker, that it was "time to hand the mike to the people." Several presenters described projects that are training people in their communities, especially younger people, to collect interviews themselves.

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*"...time to hand the mike to the people."*

Speaker at international oral history meeting

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A notable strength of the program was its emphasis on oral history and religion--a key component of people's core values and identities too often neglected in professional meetings. Presenters discussed how religious history has generally reflected the lives and thinking of the clergy, who often wrote that history. Papers at one session ranged from the Seminole Indians in Florida, to African Catholics in Zimbabwe, women's role in religion in South Africa and Swedish Lutherans. Despite their diversity, they collectively reinforced the notion that there is much more to be learned from oral histories of religion as an everyday experience of the people, not simply of religious leaders.

A number of presentations focused on health issues and the

therapeutic value of oral history. With the AIDS crisis having left a staggering number of orphans in South Africa, oral historians at the University of Natal established the Memory Box Project, in which ailing parents record their life stories. For each family interviewed, the project created a box that could be decorated with photos and drawings and that would contain the recorded family stories to help the child cope with the loss of parents, retain their family identities and develop resilience.

Another commonality that emerged was the ability of oral history to confound rather than confirm researchers' assumptions. Those interviewed constantly confront interviewers with unexpected viewpoints. A researcher who assumed that return migrants--those who immigrated to a new nation, failed and returned home--would harbor bitter disappointments, encountered unexpectedly positive memories about youthful adventures, regardless of the outcome.

Other studies interviewed immigrants from a common homeland--Portugal--and found striking differences between those who settled in Portugese-speaking Brazil as opposed to non-Portugese-speaking countries. The interviews established the profoundly dissimilar reaction of different generations within the immigrant families in these varied surroundings.

The recurring theme of migration also included the migration of data from one technology to another. For all the talk of social and political revolution, delegates found the digital revolution most perplexing, since it threatens so many customary ways of operating. Several presenters offered models for digitizing oral history collections and for incorporating oral history into university Web sites and course

offerings. Although digitizing may seem intimidating, the Internet is clearly helping to draw the global community of oral historians closer together.

One caution of globalization concerns the inequality of resources among different regions. Delegates were reminded not to define oral history in such a way that it privileges those who can afford the most sophisticated equipment. But it was encouraging to learn that all 54 nations in Africa now have access to the Web.

One startling presentation dealt with a transcriber's perspective on oral history, describing an experiment in which four well-qualified transcribers produced four very different transcripts of the same recording. There again the Internet may improve the process. As more projects provide online access to both sound and video recordings, it will be more necessary for transcripts to hew closely to the spoken word, with less editorial intervention and less need to duplicate non-verbal cues in print.

Presenters made clear that much oral history remains to be done, especially in South Africa, where memory is such a critical component of healing and reconciliation. A major project is now underway in partnership between the University of Natal and the University of

Connecticut to interview the leadership of the African National Congress. At Robben Island, a prison camp in the harbor outside Cape Town, where Nelson Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years of incarceration, former political prisoners are conducting oral histories with other former prisoners.

The University of Cape Town also has recently launched a Centre for Popular Memory. These projects reflect a new awakening of oral history consciousness among government officials as well as among academic colleagues who previously neglected oral sources.

The shift in that direction may be made even more amply clear in 2004 when the IOHA meets in Rome--an ancient city that is just discovering its more recent past.

Alessandro Portelli will chair the forthcoming meeting in Rome. The IOHA's newly elected leadership includes: Janis Wilton of Australia as president, Gerard Necochea of Mexico and Rina Benmayor of the California State University at Monterey Bay as vice presidents, and Calinda Lee of the University College, University of Maryland as a council member, along with other council members from Brazil, Germany, Nigeria, Spain, Turkey, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

## Second Edition Of "Heroes" Published in Texas

The University of North Texas Oral History Program recently published the second edition of "Heroes: Oral History Interviews With World War II Veterans," edited by Christopher N. Koontz and Ronald E. Marcello. The new finding aid for the collection's several hundred interviews with World War II veterans includes selected excerpts, which, the editors said, are aimed at encouraging professional historians and the general public to make use of the transcripts.

"Heroes," for example, quotes Leslie Le Fan, U.S. Marine Corps, on his experiences at Pearl Harbor: "Today I can still smell the fresh pine plywood of these coffins laying side-by-side [at Oahu Cemetery], and the memory comes back of the day at Pearl Harbor when you'd see the blood and oil seeping out of those boxes, knowing that yesterday at this time these were live human beings. What was foremost in our minds right then was: 'Those Japs are not going to get away with this.'"

In another interview about Pearl Harbor, Warren G. Harding, U.S. Navy band member on the USS California, recalled: "I still have the trombone today, and I haven't played it in almost thirty years. But it's in my bedroom and it's on a stand. And I shine it every December 7th. Things like that will get you emotionally."

Army veteran Martin Chambers was a prisoner of war on the Burma-Thailand Death Railway. He recalled: "When I came back, my granddaddy asked me: 'How was it [being a POW]?' And I told him, 'Papa, other than not seeing your folks, it was just like East Texas. The Japs worked the hell out of you and starved you to death.'"

For information about "Heroes," call Marcello at 940-565-2288.



*Railway station in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, where Indian lawyer M. K. Gandhi began his world-changing struggle of non-violent resistance to racism and colonialism.*

**Photo: Donald A. Ritchie**

# STATE AND REGIONAL REPORT



## TOHA Presents Awards To Texas Historians

By Lois E. Myers  
Texas Oral History Association

The Texas Oral History Association is pleased to announce presentation of the following awards in 2002:

+ Thomas L. Charlton Lifetime Achievement Award: James H. Conrad. As University Archivist for Texas A&M University at Commerce, since 1976 Conrad has collected and preserved oral history interviews with East Texans from all walks of life.

+ Mary Faye Barnes Award for Excellence for Community History Projects: Homero S. Vera, Premont, Texas, El Mesteno magazine; Johnson Space Center Oral History Project, Houston, Texas; Kathleen Hudson, Kerrville, Texas, Texas Musicians and Songwriters Project.

+ W. Stewart Caffey Award for Excellence for Precollegiate Teaching: Lincoln King, Gary, Texas, Loblolly magazine.

## SOHA Meets in L.A., Plans for OHA

By Susan Douglass Yates  
Southwest Oral History Association

The Southwest Oral History Association held its annual conference in downtown Los Angeles April 19-21. Taking the theme "From Adobes to High Rises:

Memory in Time and Place," the sessions took place at El Pueblo Historic Monument de Los Angeles.

The program successfully represented oral history activities of the Southwest, including presentations such as "The Vietnamese Community in Southern California," "Enhancing the Classroom through Oral History," "Nevada Oral History Challenges and Solutions" and "Building the Future, Keeping the Past in Leupp, Arizona."

Those who attended were able to enjoy a private tour of El Pueblo as well as a session and tour at the Japanese American National Museum.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the James V. Mink Award. This year's recipient was Gayle Morrison, author of "Sky is Falling: An Oral History of the CIA's Evacuation of the Hmong from Laos," published in 1999.

Once again SOHA was able to provide scholarships to help individuals attend the conference.

This year's winners were:

- + Nancy E. Shockley of Las Cruces, N.M.,
- + Ruth Lang of Fresno, Calif.,
- + Jane Victoria Hassan of Phoenix, Ariz., and
- + Marthat Mejia-Pedroza of Los Angeles.

Each scholarship covered conference registration, Saturday's luncheon and a cash award to help with travel and accommodations.

While SOHA is already gearing up for the 2003 annual meeting to be held in Las Vegas, our immediate focus is the upcoming OHA conference in San Diego. SOHA is providing a scholarship fund of \$500, which will be available to assist SOHA members to attend. SOHA also will be sponsoring the Newcomer's Breakfast, to be held Friday, Oct. 25, from 7 to 8 a.m.

## Researcher Seeks Help With Basque Studies

University of Nevada, Reno graduate student Pedro J. Oiarzabal is researching the participation of Basque Americans in World War II and the Korean War and is specifically interested in the so-called Basque code-talkers, who used the Basque language in intelligence or communications services during the Pacific campaign.

Oiarzabal said he would like to contact World War II or Korean War veterans or their relatives who might have been involved, but is having difficulty tracking down such information. If you can help, call him at 775-784-4854 or e-mail him at: [pjo@unr.edu](mailto:pjo@unr.edu).

## Tsunami Survivors Interviewed in Hawaii

The Pacific Tsunami Museum in Hilo, Hawaii, and the Center for Oral History at the University of Hawaii at Manoa have teamed to conduct videotaped oral history interviews with people who witnessed and survived the 1946 tsunami on the Hawaiian islands of Maui and Molokai. With funding from the Hawaii Council for the Humanities, the interviews are part of a systematic effort in Hawaii and throughout the Pacific to document the social history of tsunamis.

On April 1, 1946, a tsunami, or tidal wave, killed 159 people throughout the Hawaiian island chain, caused \$25 million in property damage and left hundreds homeless. It is regarded as the most destructive natural disaster in the history of modern Hawaii. From 1900 to 1965, distant earthquakes produced more than a dozen significant tsunamis in Hawaii, but no Pacific-wide tidal wave has affected the state since then. For more information, see: [www.tsunami.org](http://www.tsunami.org).

# BULLETIN BOARD

## **Australian Oral Historians To Celebrate 25th Anniversary**

The Oral History Association of Australia invites proposals for its 25th anniversary conference Sept. 4-7, 2003, at the Rose and Crown Hotel in Guildford, Western Australia, near the port city of Perth.

With its theme "From All Quarters," the conference will focus on inclusivity, with delegates and presenters from all geographic areas, presentations on all aspect of oral history and participants at all levels of expertise.

For more information or to send proposals, e-mail Margaret Hamilton at: [guy12mar@ellenbrook.net](mailto:guy12mar@ellenbrook.net) or Jan McCahon at: [emailjan@iprimus.com.au](mailto:emailjan@iprimus.com.au).

Deadline: Aug. 30, 2002.

## **Buffalo Stories Published In Montana**

The story of how Montana's Salish Indians drew on the buffalo to sustain them and enrich their spirituality--and ultimately helped save the life-giving animal from extinction--is told in "I Will Be Meat for My Salish," a new book published jointly by the Salish Kootenai College Press and the Montana Historical Society Press.

The book draws in part on interviews collected in the 1920s and 1930s to illuminate Salish culture. Many of the interviews on the Flathead Indian Reservation were part of the Montana Writers Project, a Works Progress Administration effort to employ writers during the Great Depression.

For information, call the Montana Historical Society at 800-243-9900.

## **Fulbright Program Offers New Short-Term Grants**

The Fulbright Scholar Program, known for its 55-year tradition of sending U.S. faculty and professionals abroad, is accepting applications for its new Fulbright Senior Specialists Program, which

offers short-term grants of two to six weeks for academics and professionals who find it difficult to arrange to be overseas for extended periods.

Some 120 grantees have already gone to 52 countries, and another 680 have been approved to be on a roster and are eligible to be requested by overseas higher educational institutions that need their help. Scholars in more than a dozen fields are welcome to apply. They include: anthropology, business, journalism or communications, economics, education, environmental science, information technology, law, library science, political science, public administration, sociology and various U.S. studies fields, such as fine arts and humanities.

Senior Specialists Scholar applications are available online at: [www.cies.org](http://www.cies.org). Applications are reviewed continuously. For more information, call the Council for International Exchange of Scholars: 202-686-4026.

## **Society of Woman Geographers' Web Site Spans 20th Century**

For a potpourri of oral history interviews with notable women scholars and adventurers who have made their mark in geographic studies in the 20th century, check out the Society of Woman Geographers' Web site: [www.iswg.org](http://www.iswg.org).

Society founders in 1925 were adamant, by the way, that the name was "woman" geographers, as an attributive noun modifying "geographers," not "women" geographers.

By whatever name, the Web site includes detailed abstracts of oral history interviews, conducted since 1993, with several dozen members of the organization whose careers span much of the 20th century.

They include an Iditarod racer, cave explorer (speleologist), paleontologists, photographers, journalists, anthropologists--

including Margaret Mead--and Antarctic pioneers. For more information about access to the full transcripts, call the SWG headquarters in Washington, D.C., at 202-546-9228 or e-mail: [SWG HQ@aol.com](mailto:SWG HQ@aol.com).

## **Virginia Museum Video Features Famous Black Pilot**

The Virginia Museum of Transportation in Roanoke, Va., recently released "Chauncey Spencer--A Place in the Sky."

The video includes excerpts from a 2001 oral history interview with Spencer, a native of Lynchburg, Va., and the son of Harlem Renaissance poet Anne Spencer, along with World War II film footage and rare family photographs.

For information, call the museum at 540-342-5670.

## **Rural School Advocates Promote Oral History**

The Rural School and Community Trust, a nonprofit rural education advocacy group, has released "Tell Us How It Was: Stories of Rural Elders Preserved by Rural Youth."

The loose-leaf format book includes information about planning and carrying out classroom oral history projects as well as excerpts from oral history interviews conducted by middle school students in rural communities around the nation, from Alabama to northern California and Wisconsin to south Texas.

The Rural School and Community Trust sponsors place-based educational efforts in which rural communities themselves become the textbook, curriculum and laboratory for students to learn essential academic skills.

For information about the organization or the publication, see the Rural Trust's Web site: [www.ruraledu.org](http://www.ruraledu.org) or call 202-955-7177.

# Call for Papers

## "Creating Communities: Cultures, Neighborhoods, Institutions"

**Oral History Association Annual Meeting  
Bethesda, Md.--Washington, D.C., Metro Area  
Oct. 8-12, 2003**

The Oral History Association invites proposals for papers and presentations for its 2003 annual meeting to be held Oct. 8-12, 2003, at the Hyatt Regency, Bethesda, Md. The meeting theme is "Creating Communities: Cultures, Neighborhoods, Institutions." The conference will be held in the Washington, D.C., area, a place where people of many races and ethnic backgrounds live and work. We invite presenters to take up the challenge of how oral history can illuminate the ways people weave the cultural mosaic of our society by creating communities in diverse settings and locales.

Paper topics may deal with the diversity of community life, the social, political and economic forces that affect the creation and continuity of community and the forms in which individuals have created communities. What is the lasting influence of the community to its members? How have communities changed to protect cultural identity while bringing inclusion and diversity to the history of community building? Through what means have individuals constituted communities through informal networks as well as within and through formal institutions? How have these communities mobilized to affect the worlds around them? Finally, as oral history practitioners, how do we reflect the meaning in oral history and give it back to the communities that partner in such projects?

The program committee invites proposals from oral history practitioners in a wide variety of disciplines and settings and encourages them to think about "community" in its largest sense. We are interested in grass-roots history that gives voice to and empowers communities; folklore and folklife projects that preserve, protect and enhance cultural continuity; explorations of racial and ethnic communities that consider both internal formation and engagement with American polity and society; political and diplomatic history that locates its subjects within communities; labor and business studies that trace the communities constructed within and without these arenas; and oral history of the military that considers the social life of this institution.

We encourage submissions from academic and community scholars working in a variety of institutional and community programs. We seek contributions from

museums, historical societies, archives and libraries, community groups, teachers, media/technology professionals and independent consultants. The program committee solicits the representation of oral history community work through traditional academic methods and classroom or community programs. We further encourage field representation in the areas of film, drama, radio, television, exhibits and electronic technology. We are especially interested in the communities surrounding the mid-Atlantic states, but welcome papers dealing with community history and regional representation throughout the United States and international communities.

For details on submission requirements and a Proposal Cover Sheet, which should accompany each submission, see the OHA Web site: [www.dickinson.edu/oha](http://www.dickinson.edu/oha)

Proposals must be postmarked by Dec. 31, 2002, and must be submitted by mail or fax. No e-mail attachments will be accepted.

Submit proposals to:

Rose T. Diaz  
OHA Program Committee  
UNM General Library--Political Archive  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-1466  
FAX: 505-277-3284

If street address is needed use:

1642 University Ave. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106

For additional information, contact:

Roger Horowitz, OHA Program Chair  
Hagley Museum and Library  
Wilmington, DE 19807  
302-658-2400, Ext. 244  
rh@UDel.Edu

**Proposal deadline: Dec. 31, 2002**

# Idaho Oral Historians Interview Smokejumpers, Support Staff

By Troy Reeves  
Idaho Oral History Center

In October 1999 the Idaho Oral History Center, a division of the Idaho State Historical Society, began interviewing four former smokejumpers. While the project initially focused on individuals who jumped from the McCall, Idaho, camp during the 1940s, it expanded to include not only smokejumpers of the 1950s to the 1990s but also other forest firefighters and support personnel.

By the project's conclusion in March 2002, the history center had recorded the stories, memories and opinions of 30 men and women who helped suppress blazes in the forests not only of Idaho but also forests throughout the western United States. We called this endeavor our "Smokejumping and Forest Firefighting Oral History Project."

The project's narrators talked about various aspects of forestry and forest firefighting. Some of the topics included: prescribed burning, aerial retardant drops, the "10 a.m. policy," troubles faced by the U.S. Forest Service regarding fire management and the importance of lookouts. Along with these issues, the men and women described specific forest fires throughout the past 50 years--blazes that burned sections of the Boise, Nez Perce, Payette, Salmon, Challis and Sawtooth National Forests, as well as other national forests in Idaho and other states.

These 30 narrators merely scratch the surface of the thousands of men and women in Idaho and throughout the western states who have fought fire during the summers. For example, we only interviewed two women and did not meet with

firefighters outside the U.S. Forest Service.

We offer this collection to give the public an opportunity to hear and read the smokejumpers' stories. We hope that it stimulates others to conduct oral history interviews with other men and women who have served our country by battling the flames, and we would gladly provide any advice and support to anyone interested in interviewing more forest firefighters.

The Idaho State Historical Society Web site includes basic information about each narrator, links to an index and brief sound clips. See it at: <http://www2.state.id.us/ishs/smokejumper.html>

For more information about the project, call Troy Reeves at 208-334-3863 or e-mail: [treeves@ishs.state.id.us](mailto:treeves@ishs.state.id.us)

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## OHA Pamphlet Order Form

Add to your professional reference library the Oral History Association's pamphlets. OHA members get a 10 percent discount for orders of 10 or more copies. Clip and mail this coupon, with your check made out to OHA, to:  
Oral History Assn., Dickinson College, Box 1773, Carlisle, PA 17013.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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2nd ed., John Neuenschwander, 1993,  
\$8.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Oral History Projects in Your Classroom,  
Linda Wood, 2001, \$15.00 pages only, \$20.00  
including three-ring binder
- \_\_\_\_\_ Using Oral History in Community History  
Projects, Laurie Mercier and Madeline  
Buckendorf, 1992, \$8.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Oral History Evaluation Guidelines, \$5.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Order total
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# OHA, Folklorists Offer Training for Veterans History Project

The Oral History Association and the American Folklore Society have entered into agreements as national training partners with the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center.

OHA and AFS will manage workshops for community-based groups aimed at teaching interviewing skills. As national training partners for the veterans project, OHA and AFS will coordinate workshop scheduling, offerings and leaders.

The Veterans History Project is an ongoing initiative established by Congress to:

- honor American veterans;
- engage veterans, military, historical, educational and civic organizations as partners to identify, interview and collect documents from war veterans and those who served in support of them; and
- create repositories of these oral histories and documents at the Library of Congress and elsewhere throughout the country.

OHA members with the

experience and interest necessary to serve as effective workshop leaders are invited to send letters of application to Madelyn Campbell, Executive Secretary, Oral History Association, Dickinson College, P.O. Box 1773, Carlisle, PA 17013. Your letter should describe your experience in leading oral history workshops and should include a copy of your resume and the names of two references familiar with your work. Also, please indicate the geographic area within which you are available to conduct workshops. If you have speaking knowledge of languages other than English, please indicate that, too.

When the Veterans History Project receives requests from community groups for workshops, OHA and AFS will be notified and will, in turn, put local oral historians or folklorists in touch with those groups to make workshop arrangements.

Workshops are expected to last about three hours and will use instructional materials developed by

the Veterans History Project as a basic text and guide. The materials are available on the Veterans History Project Web site:

[www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/)

Within these guidelines, workshop leaders may use their own best judgment and previous workshop experiences to design appropriate workshop programs.

Workshop sponsors might include veterans' organizations, congressional offices, libraries, museums, historical societies, schools, other official Veterans History Project partners or local chapters of the American Association of Retired Persons, which is the founding corporate sponsor of the Veterans History Project.

Workshop leaders will be paid \$450 per workshop as an honorarium to cover preparation time, workshop presentation time and local travel expenses.

Questions? Please call OHA Council member Charles Hardy at 610-436-3329 or e-mail him at: [chardy@wcupa.edu](mailto:chardy@wcupa.edu).

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

**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](mailto:journals@ucop.edu)

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

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

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