



# NEWSLETTER

## San Diego Meeting Theme: Internationalization of Everyday Life

By Jane Collings  
University of California,  
Los Angeles

The 2002 Oral History Association conference, scheduled for Oct. 23-27 in San Diego, Calif., will include a diverse array of papers on the wide range of ways that oral history is responding to and documenting globalization in all its aspects.

Papers deal with the cultural, artistic, social, political and economic effects of the internationalization of everyday life. With participants arriving from a diverse mix of countries and communities and representing many different political persuasions, the

upcoming conference promises to be a site of scintillating discussion.

In addition to a highly promising series of panel presentations, the conference is shaping up to take full advantage of its fascinating locale. Preliminary plans for tours include visits to: Barrio Logan and Chicano Park; Mission San Luis Rey and Balboa Park, home to 85 performing arts and international cultural organizations; and to Oldtown San Diego, in exploration of the cultural roots of this border city.

San Diego itself also promises to be an exciting city to explore on your own. From the more well known attractions such as the San Diego Wild Animal Park and the San Diego

Zoo, to the Victorian-style Hotel del Coronado and Gaslamp Historical Quarter, to the attractions of the city's architecture, people, food, theater, weather and proximity to outdoor activities like hiking and swimming, San Diego offers something for every kind of interest. The conference hotel is located on a convenient trolley line and getting around the city is easy.

We hope OHA members and interested friends will take full advantage of this great opportunity to discover San Diego and to debate and discuss together the ways in which oral history is documenting and exploring the internationalization of everyday life.

### *Newsletter Features Varied Projects*

Oral history is always about people, like the young boys to the right on a tuna clipper in 1928 on California's Terminal Island Japanese fishing village. Their story is part of the Long Beach-area oral history work featured in this issue of the OHA **Newsletter** along with pieces about two other, very different oral history projects.

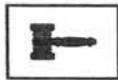
Countless such efforts are underway around the country and the world, and in response to reader requests, the **Newsletter** would like to feature many more such stories.

To submit similar reports and photos about your projects, please e-mail the editor at: [ohaeditor@aol.com](mailto:ohaeditor@aol.com).

The next OHA **Newsletter** copy deadline is July 1 for the summer issue, mailed to members Aug. 1.



*Photo: California State University, Long Beach*



## From Your President

By **Mary Marshall Clark**  
**OHA President**

The maturity of organizations and the movements that inform them are too often marked by the passing of their founders. On a Sunday morning in late January, Elizabeth B. Mason died after a brief illness in the presence of her friends in Sharon, Conn., where she had lived since her retirement from the Columbia University Oral History Research Office. Elizabeth B. Mason, known as Betty Mason to her wide circle of friends and associates, raised the standards of the world of oral history through her pivotal role at Columbia University and in her years of service to the Oral History Association. While an obituary appears on page 3, many of you who knew Betty will have your own distinctive memories of her. A year that I am sure many will recall was her time as president of OHA, when she crossed the United States by train, attempting to visit as many oral history programs and regional associations as possible to strengthen the association from "the ground up."

Those she taught will remember that she deeply respected the individual strengths each oral historian brought to his or her task while simultaneously holding them to standards of excellence. She built the reputation of the Columbia office, and the world of oral history in general, through her encyclopedic knowledge of individual interviews and programs around the country and the globe.

I am delighted to report that during its recent meeting the OHA Council voted to name the OHA project awards for Elizabeth B. Mason. If you wish to make a donation in Betty's name, I encourage you to designate a gift to the endowment, a percentage of which will be designated as a modest cash award for the project awards, similar to the endowment gift designated for the Martha

Ross Teaching Award. Also I encourage you to give to the general endowment fund. Betty would appreciate that, particularly because our endowment giving was not as high in 2001 as it has been in the past.

If you wish to record your memories of Betty in a permanent way, please write or e-mail the Oral History Research Office. We will place them in a book containing Betty's oral history donated to the collection in Betty's honor and share them with her friends and family. Or, you can send your taped reminiscences. We will also read selections at a memorial service being planned in Betty's honor in May. Write: Oral History Research Office, Box 20, Butler Library, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027. E-mail: [oralhist@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:oralhist@libraries.cul.columbia.edu).

As I reported to you after our meeting in October, the OHA has increasingly become involved with important national initiatives. The Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress recently notified us that we will receive \$50,000 to launch a veterans oral history project. The American Folklore Society has received a similar sum. We will work with the folklorists to explore ways to train volunteers to conduct interviews with veterans around the country. The Council has appointed a task force to develop models for educating volunteers. To find out more, please write the OHA.

On another national initiative, here's a brief update on Sept. 11 documentation projects emerging around the country. Oral historians from Washington to New York to regions in the Midwest and on the West Coast are interviewing eyewitnesses, survivors, rescue workers and many others who suffered in the aftermath of the attacks or were indirectly affected by the catastrophe. As the director of one of those projects, the September 11, 2001, Memory and Narrative Oral History Project at Columbia University, I have been overwhelmed by the sincerity of volunteers as well as paid interviewers in documenting what

can only be described as massive and collective trauma and a unique historical event.

The Columbia project has collected more than 350 interviews, but is one of many New York-based Sept. 11 documentation projects. Other institutions conducting oral histories include the Red Cross, the U.S. Senate Historical Office, the Firefighters' Association, the National Park Service, local museums and nonprofit groups and private companies directly affected by the events. Taken together, these projects demonstrate the public's awareness of the unique potential of oral history to allow people to judge the importance of a national historic event for themselves. In many cases, the oral history interview has provided a unique alternative to journalistic venues where the opportunity to discuss the impact of the experience in depth is constrained by the need to publish a story immediately.

Finally, I hope you'll attend this year's annual meeting at the Doubletree San Diego Mission Valley. The Council recently met to look over the hotel and review the proposed program for 2003. I can happily report that the Doubletree is a capacious and lovely hotel, set in a beautiful section of San Diego close to a downtown trolley and not far from places like the San Diego Zoo.

The 2003 program chairs, Teresa Barnett and Jane Collings, have prepared a rich program, drawing upon the diverse cultural resources of southern California and neighboring states. The local arrangements and program committees have delightful surprises in store, which I have promised to keep secret. Vice President Art Hanson will delight you further with a smoothly run and elegantly produced meeting.

On a personal note, I thank each of you for continuing to build the association in small and big ways. Without the hard work and vision each of you brings to the practice of oral history, we would not have achieved the respect and visibility we now enjoy. It is a great pleasure to serve as your president.

# Deaths Reported of Two Long-time Oral History Leaders

## Elizabeth Branch Mason 1919-2002

Elizabeth Branch Mason, who served for more than 25 years as the assistant director of the Columbia University Oral History Research Office and was one of the founders of the Oral History Association, died Jan. 22, 2002, in Sharon, Conn., after a brief illness. She was 83.

Mrs. Mason served in a variety of OHA leadership positions, including the OHA presidency in 1981-82.

At Columbia's Oral History Research Office, Mrs. Mason served three generations of scholars. Her wide knowledge of the collection of thousands of interviews made her an important resource for locating and interpreting the office's holdings. She also was a mentor and friend to hundreds of scholars who sought her advice on how to organize and administer oral history programs, urging them to devise their own programs rather than imitate the Columbia office.

Mrs. Mason was born Jan. 1, 1919, the daughter of Hilarion and Ella Augusta Branch. Her father had extensive business interests in Latin America, and she spent her early years in Mexico and South America.

She received her B.A. from Mount Holyoke College in 1940 and an M.A. in U.S. history at Columbia in 1941.

During World War II she served with the Office of Naval Intelligence in Washington, D.C., where she met her husband, John T. Mason Jr., an Episcopal priest who ministered to parishes in New York, New Jersey and Maine. Mrs. Mason served on the executive council of the Episcopal Church of New York City from 1961-67.

Mrs. Mason joined Columbia's Oral History Research Office in 1959 and served as acting director from 1980 to 1982, retiring in 1984. She was one of the last links between the

office and its founder, Allan Nevins. Mrs. Mason was a lecturer at the University of Maine, Columbia, Barnard College and Mount Holyoke. After her retirement, she continued to serve as a consultant in oral history.

## A Memory of Betty Mason By Martha Ross

Knowing Betty Mason was one of the great and rewarding experiences in my oral history career. I was fortunate indeed to be one of those who admired her and benefited from her friendship and wise counsel. She was one of the most elegant persons I've ever known, as well as remarkably generous with her vast store of oral history information.

As one of my first oral history advisers, she came from New York City at her own expense to speak to my small class at the George Washington University in the early 1970s.

In 1980, when OHA met in Durango, Colo., Betty and I shared one of the ski resort's well-appointed condos. She exulted in the fact that it was the first time SHE had ever been the tallest person in the room! This situation resulted in an interesting incident, I think unique in both our experience.

One evening Betty stayed out later than I, and when I was ready to retire, I discovered that I was NOT tall enough to pull down my bed-in-the-wall. I finally pulled over a chair, climbed up and got the bed down... only to find that the chair was now wedged tight between the lowered bed and the bathroom door! All of my efforts to free it were unsuccessful, so I finally gave up and went to sleep.

Some time later, Betty and Mary Belle Starr came in to find me sound asleep and the chair wedged against the bathroom door. WHAT had happened? they wondered. Had there been an intruder? Had I been threatened? The next morning I

cleared up their questions, and we all had a great laugh.

Betty was a wonderful, generous and inspiring person, who enriched the lives of all she met. And I am endlessly thankful that I was one of those so blessed.

## James W. Hammack 1938-2001

By Terry L. Birdwhistell  
University of Kentucky

A former Oral History Association president, James W. Hammack, died July 26, 2001, at his home in Murray, Ky., following a lengthy illness. He was 63.

He retired June 30, 2001, as professor and chair of the department of history at Murray State University. He had served at the university for 33 years and as department chair since 1992.

Hammack received his B.S. degree in 1961 and his M.A. degree in 1962 from Memphis State University. In 1974 he received a Ph.D. in history from the University of Kentucky. Hammack directed the Forrest C. Pogue Oral History Institute at Murray State University. He served as president of the OHA in 1980-81 and was an adviser to the Kentucky Oral History Commission.

Commission director and former OHA president Kim Lady Smith recalled: "The 1970s were a time of rapid growth in oral history activities in Kentucky, and Jim Hammack provided much needed guidance and direction to those efforts. His involvement in the OHA inspired many of us to become active members of the national association and his support of professional standards was reflected in the work of those he counseled. His contribution to the development of oral history programs in Kentucky and nationally helped define the oral history profession as it is known today."

# Pace, Performance, Pitch--and Even Poetry: The CSULB Virtual Oral/Aural History Project

By Sherna Berger Gluck  
California State University,  
Long Beach

I recall the moment when it clicked. It was seeing and hearing a demonstration of the CD prepared for the 50th anniversary of Columbia University's Oral History Research Office. The ease with which you could find the snippets of narrators' interviews was mind boggling. Here, at last, was just what I needed to push me further in my quest to digitize and make accessible our oral history collections at California State University, Long Beach.

The potential of the World Wide Web has captured the imagination of so many of us oral history practitioners and others in both the academic and non-academic world. Indeed all three of us who contributed to the **Oral History Review** roundtable on oral history in the new millennium (v. 26/2, 1999) focused on it. Many oral history programs already have launched Web sites. Some are only posting their finding aids; others have mounted transcripts of some of their holdings; still others have incorporated at least some excerpts from their sound recordings on their sites.

But I was looking to push the envelope further--to figure out how to use the emerging new technology to bring the orality of our interviews to many more people than those who could visit our library's archive and listen to them. It was a natural step for us. For both substantive and practical reasons, most of our 1,000-plus hours of interviews were never transcribed; users listened to the interviews with the aid of a summary broken into three-minute time segments. As a result, instead of working with a mediated text, they were able to tap into the full richness of the orality of the interview, with its meaning derived not merely from the

words uttered, but from all the nuances of pace, pitch, and performance--and even listen to what sometimes sounded like poetry. But it was a cumbersome process to work with the analog tape, and on-site access was even more limiting.

New technology seemed to offer the solution, enabling users to more readily target and locate the portions of taped interviews in which they are interested. Furthermore, the digital space provided by the World Wide Web makes the oral/aural history accessible to an unlimited audience at the same time that it also promotes a more active research and learning process--one that is becoming increasingly familiar to the new generation of students and scholars. Indeed, as Louis Starr foretold in 1977, in a comment on the tape vs. transcript debate, the new generation is more attuned to aurality.

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## *What did it mean--could we even comprehend what it meant?--to have a life history on the Internet?*

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Despite my enthusiasm, I had grave reservations, mainly because of my ethical concerns. What did it mean--could we even comprehend what it meant?--to have a life history on the Internet, to make it available for millions of people around the world? Would I want my own life history out there? Not in my own lifetime! And certainly not without my knowledge or permission. I tried to apply the same principle to this question that I use in talking to students about the ethics of oral history: don't ask someone a question that you yourself wouldn't want to answer.

My concern about the ethical dilemma was allayed somewhat as a result of the e-mail deliberations among those of us who were mem-

bers of the OHA Ad Hoc Committee on New Technology and the subsequent discussions at the Buffalo meeting when the **Evaluation Guidelines** were revised. Although it seemed like a daunting task, surely I could make good faith efforts to contact surviving narrators. My experience since then confirms that not only is it possible, it is an exciting and rewarding experience.

So, Buffalo was the turning point, opening the door to both potential technological and ethical solutions. Seizing this opportunity, and with initial funding from the College of Liberal Arts and the University Library, we dipped our toes into the water. We started with the software developed by the InterClipper folks that had been demonstrated first in Buffalo and then again in Alaska, and began to process some of the interviews with suffragists and Long Beach community builders.

Our initial prototype site was launched with these interviews in the spring of 2000. By then, however, it became apparent that the InterClipper software did not suit our needs, and after long discussions, our technical staff began to design a different procedure for the project--a procedure that has continued to be refined over the past 1-1/2 years.

Briefly, the interview is broken down into organic time segments, which are summarized and for which keywords (descriptors) are assigned. This enables the users to select what they want to hear either by reading the interview summaries and selecting the appropriate segments, or by entering a search term, which will display all the relevant segments. This is the power of the new technology at its best. In addition to processing the original audio recordings for delivery over the Internet in streaming audio, we are also making audio CD copies of all

the analog tapes, which will serve as an interim preservation medium. (For more methodology details, see the technical note on page 6.)

Developing our site has been a long and sometimes frustrating, but ultimately rewarding, process, particularly as we come up with new ideas about how to make it more appealing and easier to navigate. For example, photographs of the narrator, when available, as well as topical photographs are being added.

Now we are almost there and are greatly indebted not only to our own technical staff, who have been patient and creative, but to the InterClipper team who were so helpful and supportive in our initial clumsy forays. By May 1, thanks to a grant from the Haynes Foundation, we will have our perfected, full-blown site up and running, with the first 300-plus hours of Los Angeles Basin oral histories from the labor, Long Beach area and women's history collections available online.

For a preview, you can go to [www.csulb.edu/voaha](http://www.csulb.edu/voaha) and listen to 150 hours of interviews and see some photographs of former residents of the Japanese fishing village on Terminal Island (1907-1942). You will also find interviews with women who were involved in the suffrage struggle or who were reformers and radicals or became professionals and entrepreneurs in the early 20th century.

As we busily perfected our methodology, the ethical issue still loomed large. I was not too concerned about the legal question. Our very simple agreements gave us rights to the interviews for research and educational use, and we had made no agreements about the rights of heirs. But there was still the ethical issue--the need to make that good faith effort to obtain permission for this unanticipated use.

The first step was to verify if the narrators were still alive. I started with the Terminal Island narrators, both because the *Niseis* were not as old at the time they were interviewed in the 1970s and because I thought I could tap into the social community

that survived their internment. Not only did I directly contact several of them or their families, who also provided photographs, but they were solidly behind the project. Only one of them took me up on my offer to come over with a laptop and demonstrate the Web site. In fact, my visit convinced me that I should do another interview with him to fill out the brief one done in 1973 by an Asian American studies student.

Locating narrators included in the other series required more detective work. The Social Security Death Index was a good starting place, both to figure out if someone was alive or to ascertain date of death for entry into the database. Even if they were dead, I was interested in trying to locate photographs. In one case, I contacted the daughter of a narrator, whom I knew; in another, the retirement community where the narrator lived when she was interviewed; and in yet another, the Methodist Church where the narrator had been active.

So far, it seems that good faith efforts might not be that difficult to make after all. Even in a metropolitan area like Los Angeles, people are attached to communities through which they might be located. It also turns out that my initial trepidations about launching people's narratives online for the world to hear were groundless. I have met no resistance so far, not even hesitation, and instead have been rewarded with the

appreciation of the families and associates of many of the deceased narrators, cooperation from the living ones and tremendous gratitude from researchers and teachers who understand the enormous resource the Virtual Oral/Aural History Archive represents.

Tapping into the potential of the new technology both for returning to orality/aurality and for exponentially expanding access to our oral histories through the Internet is exciting. Although it is not without financial cost, this still amounts to less than transcribing and editing an oral history interview. Perhaps our experience both will inspire some of the rest of you and help pave the way to launch your own ventures.

*Editor's Note: The CSULB Virtual Oral/Aural History Project is a collaborative effort by the College of Liberal Arts, the University Library and the Information Technology Division. Sherna Berger Gluck and Kaye Briegel are the co-directors; Shannon Crucil is the research associate/editor; Dave Bradley, Walter Gajewski and Nancy Rayner are the technical team; and Susan Luevano, the women's studies and multicultural librarian.*

*Gluck directs the Oral History Program at CSULB and chaired the OHA Ad Hoc Committee on New Technology, 1997-98.*



*Japanese fishing village on Terminal Island, Calif., c. mid-1920s.*

*Photo: San Pedro Historical Society*

# Brief Note on CSULB Project Methodology and Procedures

By Sherna Berger Gluck  
California State University,  
Long Beach

The oral history recordings for the Virtual Oral/Aural History Archive are digitized (presently, they are first converted to .wav files), copied to audio CDs as an interim medium for preservation and converted into Real Media (.rm) files for streaming over the Internet at all possible speeds.

Using FileMaker Pro, the research associate/editor reviews the recordings and enters a synopsis and pre-established search terms for each organic segment of the interview, as defined by the nature of the conversation. Start and end times for each of the organic segments are stored in the database, enabling eventual end researchers to access only the

portions relating to specific topics if they desire. Alternatively they can hear each side of the oral history tapes without unnecessary breaks in the audio streaming.

After the segment synopses and keywords are reviewed by one of the project directors, the information is gathered via Web pages and input into a database using ORACLE as the data base management system. (Note: Until May 1, the Web pages will be loaded using FileMaker Pro.) The audio segments and photographs, when they are available, are delivered using the SMIL (Synchronized Multimedia Integration Language) format. This provides a high degree of flexibility and the ability to detect the connection speed of the user and provide each with a bandwidth appropriate presentation, as well as

enabling users to determine how much of the digitized interview they wish to review.

Although the end users will be able to listen to the oral history in streamed sound, they will not be able to download the sound files. Rather, they will have to acquire permission from the university archives, identifying themselves and indicating how they will use the recording. Once granted, for a small handling fee, a CD will be pressed of the material they request. Although the original intention was to have a mirror image of the sound files that were downloadable after permission was granted, this would double the storage space required. Additionally, the size of the files is simply too large for most people to download to their computers.

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## OHA News Notes

### Executive Secretary's Report By Madelyn Campbell

It's time to start thinking about our next annual meeting in San Diego. For those of you who like to plan ahead, you can make your reservations now at our conference hotel, the DoubleTree Hotel San Diego Mission Valley. Call 1-619-297-5466. Be sure to ask for our special conference rate of \$139 single/double. You can visit the hotel's Web site at: [www.doubletreesandiego.com](http://www.doubletreesandiego.com). Take a look and consider extending your stay a few extra days to enjoy the sun, the beaches and perhaps a quick trip to Mexico.

Program chairs Teresa Barnett and Jane Collings hope to have the full program and registration details available on our Web site in early June. The printed program should arrive in August, but you are encouraged to register early using the registration form that will be

available at our Web site in June. Workshops and tours fill up quickly, so early registration can help prevent disappointment.

The original three-year contract between Dickinson College and OHA will expire in June, but we are happy to report that both parties have been very satisfied with the arrangement and plan to renew the agreement for another three years. Dickinson is renovating a new location for our office, which will share space with Dickinson's Community Studies Center.

### Membership Directory

The Oral History Association prints its membership directory in even-numbered years. So this summer we will be compiling the directory from the membership information collected by the University of California Press.

To improve the accuracy of the information currently on file,

UCPress will mail to members in April a letter documenting what is on file. Please take time to review your information and mail your corrections to UCPress by June 1.

### OHA Endowment Fund

The Oral History Association extends sincere thanks to the following recent contributors to the OHA Endowment Fund:

Samuel Hand, Mim Eisenberg, Vida Prince, Laurie Mercier, Dale Treleven, Madelyn Campbell, Mary Kay Quinlan and Mehmed Ali.

Tax deductible contributions help support OHA special projects.

Thanks also go to the following contributors to the Ross Fund, which supports the OHA award for precollegiate teaching:

Roger S. Horowitz Trust, Jasper Ingersoll, Eleanor Shodell, Shirley Stephenson, Deborah Gardner, Frederick Jessup, Mame Warren and Richard Williams.

## Yale Project Preserves Oral History of American Music

It all started in the late 1960s, when 60 interviews were recorded with family, friends, neighbors and musical associates of Charles Ives, legendary American composer. The results: a book, five-record package and film documentary--and the seeds of what has grown to a collection of some 900 recorded oral history interviews at Yale University that document American music in the 20th century.

In addition to the Ives series of interviews, the Oral History American Music collection at the Yale School of Music includes:

+ 300 interviews with composers, performers and other significant musicians in its "Major Figures in American Music" collection, including Eubie Blake, Nadia Boulanger and Aaron Copland. The collection also includes interviews with emerging young musical talents, with the plan to track their unfolding careers.

+ 75 interviews with students, performers, colleagues and friends of Paul Hindemith, the celebrated German composer who fled from Germany to the United States during World War II. The interviews add an important dimension to the Hindemith papers and manuscripts at the Yale Music Library.

+ nearly 100 interviews with and about Duke Ellington, another one of America's greatest composers.

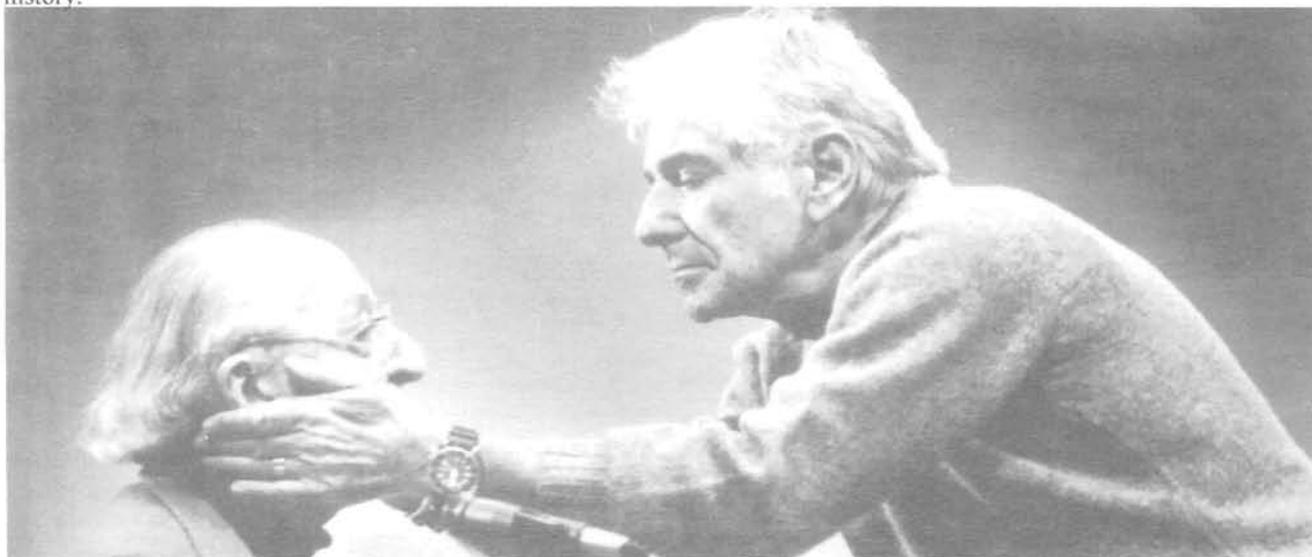
+ more than 100 interviews tracing the history of Steinway & Sons, through its years as a family piano business until its acquisition by CBS in 1972. Interviews include Steinway family members, piano technicians, factory workers and concert pianists.

The Yale project recently published "Voices of America's Musical Century," derived from the collection. The book and compact disks present 20th century American music in the voices of those who made musical history.

*Editor's Note: Thanks to Susan Hawkshaw, assistant director of the Yale Oral History American Music Project, and her project staff for providing information and photos for this article. For more information, visit the Web site: [www.yale.edu/oham/](http://www.yale.edu/oham/)*



*The last photo of composer Charles Ives outside his home in West Redding, Conn., c. 1953. Photo: Janet Roberts*



*Two giants of American music, Aaron Copland, left, and Leonard Bernstein, 1985. Photo: Yale University School of Music*

# STATE AND REGIONAL REPORT



## New England Historians Go "On the Road"

By Mehmed Ali  
New England Association  
of Oral History

The annual conference of the New England Association of Oral History has been held in Connecticut for several years but now is beginning to rotate around the region. And in the spirit of going "on the road," the conference's first stop is Jack Kerouac's hometown of Lowell, Mass.

The conference is scheduled for April 27 at the Lowell National Historical Park, which is co-sponsoring the day's events along with the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. The conference will be held at the National Park's historic Boott Mills Museum. Participants will be able to take trolley rides and tours during the day.

The theme of this year's conference is "Oral History at Work: Preserving Stories of Labor and Community." Keynote speakers for the conference will be OHA President Mary Marshall Clark and James Green, author of "Taking History to Heart."

How collecting oral histories of workers contributes to community awareness will be the subsequent topic for a panel discussion moderated by NEAOH President Mehmed Ali. The conference also will have a special labor music presentation and an afternoon workshop on how to create a successful oral history project from start to finish.

For more information on the conference please contact NEAOH Executive Secretary Martha McCormick at 860-486-5245 or by e-mail at: [cohadm01@uconnvm.uconn.edu](mailto:cohadm01@uconnvm.uconn.edu).

## Atlanta Roundtable Meets on 1st Fridays

By Cliff Kuhn  
Atlanta Oral History Roundtable

Building upon the Oral History Association meeting in St. Louis, where a dozen people from metropolitan Atlanta were in attendance, an Atlanta Oral History Roundtable is off the ground.

The roundtable meets the first Friday of every month. For more information, contact: Todd Moye, Tuskegee Airmen Oral History Project, 404-562-3117, ext. 649; Clarissa Myrick-Harris, Morris Brown College, 404-505-8196; or Cliff Kuhn, Georgia State University, 404-463-9204.

## SOHA to Meet in L.A.

Members of the Southwest Oral History Association will hold their annual conference April 19-21 at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument in downtown Los Angeles. Program plans call for a private tour of El Pueblo, an introductory oral history workshop, a tour of the Japanese American National Museum and a variety of panel presentations.

## Hardy Wins Award

OHA Council member Charles Hardy was named 2001 winner of the Forrest C. Pogue Award, presented by Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region, for his work in oral history. He is a history professor at West Chester University, West Chester, Pa.

## Appalachian Studies Institute Receives Betty Key Award

By Barry A. Lanman  
Association of Oral History  
Educators

The Association of Oral History Educators initiated the Betty Key Oral History Educator Award two years ago to honor the ways in which Betty Key inspired and supported the use of oral history in the classroom.

This year's recipient is the Institute for Appalachian Studies in Cumberland, Md. The institute, in partnership with Allegheny High School, has developed and implemented innovative instructional curricula and student oral history projects for almost a decade. The institute and high school have published four award-winning publications about various themes relating to Cumberland.

AOHE also presented an honorable mention to Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez at the University of Texas at Austin School of Journalism for developing and implementing an innovative instructional program called "narrative journalism," which focuses on U.S. Latino and Latina World War II oral history.

To learn more about the Betty Key Award, please contact Barry A. Lanman at: [AOHELanman@aol.com](mailto:AOHELanman@aol.com) or visit the AOHE Web site at: [www.geocities.com/aohelanman/](http://www.geocities.com/aohelanman/)

## NOHA, Archivists Plan Joint Sessions

The Northwest Oral History Association will meet with the Northwest Archivists, Inc., at Oregon State University in Corvallis, April 24-26. NOHA will sponsor a full-day oral history workshop on April 24 and a 90-minute oral history panel on April 25.

# Kentucky Documentary Traces Civil Rights Movement in State

By Kim Lady Smith  
Kentucky Oral History  
Commission

"Living the Story: The Civil Rights Movement in Kentucky," a video documentary produced by the Kentucky Oral History Commission of the Kentucky Historical Society, premiered on Kentucky Educational Television (KET) Jan. 21, 2002, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. While many Kentuckians watched the broadcast at home, more than 1,500 gathered at community centers across the state to view the film and take part in discussions on civil rights and race relations.

"Living the Story" presents the stories of 15 women and men who recall life in a segregated society and their personal and collective struggles to achieve social justice. It is based on more than 175 interviews from the Civil Rights Movement in Kentucky Oral History Project by project director Betsy Brinson and Tracy K'Meyer from the University of Louisville.

Initiated in 1998 to collect and transcribe a variety of interviews covering the period from 1930 to 1975, the project's goals included the development of educational resources and activities based on the collection. A symposium held in February 2000 brought public attention to the project, and work began on the documentary in the fall of 2001. A companion publication and CD are scheduled for completion in 2003.

The video, produced and directed by Arthur Rouse and Joan Brannon of Lexington, Ky., targeted 11th grade students as the primary audience. Executive producer Betsy Brinson assembled a statewide advisory committee of historians and scholars as well as a teen focus group. Working with the Kentucky Department of Education and KET, the Oral History Commission developed study units for students from kindergarten through high

school and raised sufficient funds to provide each Kentucky high school with a copy of the video.

The response to "Living the Story" exceeded all expectations. The preview screening at the Kentucky History Center, with more than 200 people attending, became a true celebration of the courage and commitment of those featured in the video. Media interest in the video was extraordinary with several television and radio interviews as well as feature stories in the state's major newspapers. The response from educators has been excellent, with many schools immediately incorporating the film into lesson plans for Black History Month.

It was, however, the viewing parties throughout the state that generated the most unexpected excitement in communities and far exceeded our expectations. Local sponsors promoted the events, created partnerships with a variety of civic and human rights organizations and established panels of community members who could address the local implications of race relations and civil rights.

Attendance at 16 public viewing parties ranged from a dozen to 300 with many more attending parties at private residences. All reported that the audience engaged in thoughtful and spirited discussions that continued for more than an hour after the end of the broadcast.

Questions postsecondary students posed to community and political elders generated some of the most meaningful dialogue. Community leaders considered the video an opportunity to bring African Americans and white leaders together to explore race relations in their communities. In at least two communities that hosted viewing parties, recent racial tensions made the discussion more poignant.

While we always understood the need for the video for classroom instruction, we underestimated the

impact of the documentary in communities and on college campuses. Comments on evaluation forms indicate that the general public had little understanding of the history of race relations in Kentucky and thus lacked perspective on civil rights issues today.

Since the Jan. 21 broadcast, widespread interest in the video has continued. Churches, synagogues, public libraries and other groups continue to request it, and several colleges and universities have made it required viewing for diversity classes.

Many factors made "Living the Story" a success: the timeliness of the topic, the broadcast on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, the power of the stories, the dedication of staff and commission members and the quality of the production. As oral historians, we are pleased to enjoy an immediate public response to the value of our interviews as not only a historical record but as a tool to generate social discourse.

For more information, visit the Kentucky Oral History Commission's Web site at: [www.kyorahistory.org](http://www.kyorahistory.org).



*More than 10,000 people joined Martin Luther King Jr. in a 1964 march on the Kentucky capitol in Frankfort to call for passage of civil rights legislation.*

**Photo: Louisville Courier-Journal**

# BULLETIN BOARD

## **International Oral History Conference Set in South Africa**

The International Oral History Association has posted information about travel, lodging and registration for its upcoming meeting in South Africa, June 24-27. The conference will be held in collaboration with the Faculty of Human Sciences of the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, Kwazi-Zululand. Its theme will be "The Power of Oral History: Memory, Healing and Development." For more information, see the Web site: [www.hs.unp.ac.za/ioha2002](http://www.hs.unp.ac.za/ioha2002).

## **Columbia Summer Institute Planned for July 8-19**

May 1 is the application deadline for this year's Summer Institute on Oral History at the Columbia University Oral History Research Office. Scheduled for July 8-19, the institute's theme this year is "Oral History in Contemporary Contexts: Documenting Narratives of War, Conflict and Displacement in the Era of Globalization."

For information about registration and accommodations at Columbia, visit the university's Web site at: [www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/data/indiv/oral/summer02prog.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/data/indiv/oral/summer02prog.html)

## **Baylor Institute Offers Fellowships**

Applications are due May 15 for a \$3,000 fellowship for scholars wishing to use oral history materials in The Texas Collection at Baylor University, Waco, Texas. The fellow is expected to spend at least two weeks at Baylor. The university's oral history collection is strongest in the areas of Central Texas history and religion in the Southwest. The Guide to the Collection is at: [www.baylor.edu/~Oral\\_History/Guide\\_welcome.html](http://www.baylor.edu/~Oral_History/Guide_welcome.html)  
For more information about the fellowship, e-mail: [Rebecca\\_Sharpless@baylor.edu](mailto:Rebecca_Sharpless@baylor.edu)

## **Nevada Adds Master Index To Oral History Web Site**

The University of Nevada Oral History Program has added a Master Index to its Web site, which covers the oral history program's entire collection of completed oral histories from 1965 to the present. More than 70,000 pages of transcripts have been indexed. Subjects in the collection include mining and ranching, the Casino gaming industry, politics and government, Great Basin Indians and experiences of various ethnic groups in the development of the West. The Web site is: [www.unr.edu/artsci/oralhist/ohweb/oralhist.htm](http://www.unr.edu/artsci/oralhist/ohweb/oralhist.htm). To order transcripts, e-mail the office at: [ohp@unr.nevada.edu](mailto:ohp@unr.nevada.edu) or call: 775-784-6932.

## **Idaho State Historical Society Revises Field Notebook**

"A Field Notebook for Oral History," originally published in 1980 by the Idaho Oral History Center, a division of the Idaho State Historical Society, has been revised and reprinted for a third time. The 100-page volume includes an updated bibliography, sample forms and letters and addresses for professional oral history organizations.

The publication includes sections on pre-interview, interview, post-interview and special topics, such as oral history in education. For more information, e-mail Troy Reeves at: [treeves@ishs.state.id.us](mailto:treeves@ishs.state.id.us).

## **Papers Invited for Conference On Rural Women's Issues**

The Rural Women's Studies Association and the Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums invite proposals for a conference scheduled in Las Cruces, N.M., Feb. 20-23, 2003. Proposals are due May 24 on any aspect of the lives of rural and farm women, particularly those that make connections between rural women's history and present-day

social concerns. Activists are especially welcome.

Conference planners also encourage creative presentations, such as historical studies of foods combined with demonstrations or formal papers on historical clothing combined with a fashion show. For more information, contact Jeanette Keith at: [keith@bloomu.edu](mailto:keith@bloomu.edu), Steven D. Reschly at: [sdr@truman.edu](mailto:sdr@truman.edu), or Brock Cheney at: [bcheney@littleton.gov.org](mailto:bcheney@littleton.gov.org).

## **Scholars Invited to Apply For Fulbright Grants**

Some 800 U.S. academics and professionals will go to 140 countries next year to lecture or do research as Fulbright scholars. For a chance to be one of them, apply by: May 1 for Fulbright Distinguished Chair awards in Europe, Canada and Russia; Aug. 1 for traditional Fulbright lecturing and research grants worldwide and Nov. 1 for the summer (2003) German Studies Seminar and for spring/summer seminars in Germany, Korea and Japan.

Opportunities are available for professionals from business, government, the arts, journalism, science and the law as well as for college and university faculty and administrators. Most Fulbright lecturing assignments are in English.

Applications are available from the Council for International Exchange of Scholars at 202-686-7877 or online at: [www.cies.org](http://www.cies.org).

## **Columbia Names Wiederhorn New Associate Director**

Jessica Wiederhorn, who served more than five years at the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, has joined the Columbia University's Oral History Research Office as its associate director. Wiederhorn was co-chair of the Oral History Association's 2001 conference in St. Louis.

## Richard Smith Takes Post at Berkeley

Former OHA president Richard Candida Smith joined the Berkeley faculty in July 2001 as professor of history and director of the Bancroft Library's Regional Oral History Office.

"I plan to build on ROHO's outstanding record by making the oral history program the nucleus for a new Center for Living History," Candida Smith said, adding that the center would combine research, classroom education, collection development and dissemination.

He noted in that in the United States alone, more than a million oral histories have been gathered, and they potentially provide one of the most important sources of information about the history of the nation during the 20th century.

Candida Smith went to Berkeley from the University of Michigan, where was a professor of history and director of the Program in American Culture.

## Houseplant, Anyone?

Looking for a hardy house-plant?

When staff members returned to the Hart Senate Office Building in January after a 99-day absence for anthrax cleanup, former OHA president Donald A. Ritchie, associate Senate historian, was quoted in the Christian Science Monitor commenting on his surviving split leaf philodendron as having been neglected for so long it probably didn't notice the assault from decontaminating chemicals.

The hardy plant was an office-warming gift in 1982 from Martha Ross, another OHA past president.

The thriving philodendron offered a measure of reassurance about returning to the once-contaminated building, Ritchie said. "If it could survive, so could we."

## Classroom Guide Now Available

"Oral History Projects In Your Classroom" by Linda P. Wood, is the latest in the Oral History Association's pamphlet series, which aims to provide specialized information for oral history practitioners.

Wood received the OHA Pre-Collegiate Teaching Award in 1999 and was project director for numerous classroom oral history projects.

As a high school library media specialist for more than 25 years, Wood worked with classroom English teachers to preserve Rhode Islanders' memories about significant historical events. Those projects serve as cornerstones for the 80-page how-to manual, which also includes 14 reproducible handouts for teachers and project examples from around the country.

Use the order form below to get your copy, or to order other OHA pamphlets.

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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.

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## 2003 Slate Presented

By **Kathy Nasstrom** and **Rose Diaz**  
OHA Nominating Committee

The OHA Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following candidates for first vice president at one Council seat.

For first vice president: **Kim Lacy Rogers**, Dickinson College.  
For one Council seat:  
**Horacio Roque Ramirez**,

University of California Los Angeles, or **Mehmed Ali**, National Park Service, Lowell, Mass.

OHA members also will elect members to the Nominating Committee. Three two-year positions are to be filled. Members will vote for one person from each of three places.

Place 1: **Jeff Charnley**, Michigan State University, or **David Marshall**, Texas Tech University.

Place 2: **Maria Eva Flores**, Our Lay of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas, or **Jessica Wiederhorn**, Columbia University.

Place 3: **Jeff Friedman**, LEGACY Dance Oral History Project, Riverside/San Francisco, Calif., or **Jan Dodson Barnhart**, University of New Mexico.

The OHA election will be by mail ballot sent this summer to each OHA member in good standing. Biographical information and statements from each of the nominees will be included with the ballots.

The Nominating Committee and Council will accept additional nominations for officers, Council members and Nominating Committee members in the manner described in the OHA bylaws. (See section 9, paragraph 2, on page 61 of the 2000 **Membership Directory**.)

A petition signed by 20 or more OHA members in good standing may be submitted for each nomination, stating the particular office for which the nomination is made.

A petition nominating a first vice president or Council member must be in the hands of the Nominating Committee by June 15. (Send to Kathy Nasstrom, University of San Francisco, History Department, 2130 Fulton St., San Francisco, CA 94117.

A petition nominating a candidate for the Nominating Committee must be sent to the OHA Council by June 15. (Send to Rose Diaz, 3408-D Indian School, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106.)

**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

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

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Jefferson City, Mo.  
PERMIT NO. 210