



FROM THE CHAIR

Lauren Kata, Independent Archivist and Oral Historian



Happy 2008, colleagues! I am both excited and privileged to be working with the Oral History Section as Chair for the 2007-2008 term. Already, we have much to report. Not only did this new term begin with a

fantastic gathering in Chicago, but also, with proposed changes to federal government policy regarding oral history research, as well as recent news of a significant oral history legal ruling.

With a successful meeting in Chicago, featuring incredible workshops, presentations and engaging audiences, once again we archivists who focus on and are interested in oral history shared many accomplishments. One especially notable accomplishment from the annual meeting was the success of Session 101 - "Free Speech, Free Spirit:

The Studs Terkel Center for Oral History," an OH-Section-endorsed program featuring legendary oral historian and author Studs Terkel as a panelist. The session was filled to capacity with over 100 attendees, who were likely lured to hear the 95-year-old "Father of Oral History" speak his mind. He was definitely well received. The session was also notable in featuring ALA Past President Michael Gorman, who called for a renewed collaboration between librarians and archivists in working toward long term digital preservation issues. Congratulations and thanks to panelists and those involved in putting together the session. Kudos also to Fred Calabretta, whose OH-Section-endorsed workshop "Using Oral Histories: Publications, Exhibits, Internet" received much positive feedback.

Our 2007 OH Section meeting took place Friday, August 31, and was productive, well-attended and thought provoking. 60 attendees elected a new

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Vice-Chair/Chair Elect - Al Stein - as well as two new Steering Committee members - Jennifer Eidson and Bonnie Gurewitsch. Outgoing Chair Debbie Whalen also announced the updating of the OH Section description in the SAA Council Handbook. The description now includes language from the purpose stated in our bylaws: "Persons interested in the administration and use of oral history interviews in the archival setting. Includes those who conduct oral history interviews and those who teach oral history methodology." Our main program included presentations by Mark Cave from the Historic New Orleans Collection and Stephen Sloan from the University of Southern Mississippi, who discussed oral history documenting of Gulf Coast hurricane aftermaths, both Katrina and Camille. This was followed by presentations on the interviewer/interviewee relationship and context issues with doing oral history, given by Nancy Freeman of the National Wildlife Research Center and Janet Bishop of Colorado State University. Special thanks to our program participants, and all those who volunteered their service to the Section.

In December, those who deal with oral history in colleges and universities were once again called to revisit issues surrounding oral history and Institutional Review Boards (IRBs). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), whose OHRP office oversees policy regulations related to the protection of human subjects in research, requested written comments on a proposed amendment to these policies, specifically, the categories of research that may be reviewed by an IRB through an expedited review procedure. In November 2006, the Chronicle of Higher Education sponsored an online colloquy on oral history and IRB, which provides an interesting overview of the debate regarding the issue, as well as personal experiences - positive and negative - from those who have dealt with IRBs first hand. The transcript of that colloquy may be found online here: <http://chronicle.com/live/2006/11/townsend/>.

The OH Section Steering Committee submitted recommendations to SAA Council via SAA President Mark Greene on December 17, as the deadline for submitting comments to HHS was December 26. He indicated that Council will also visit the issue during their February meeting.

For ongoing news and commentary about institutional review board oversight of the humanities and social sciences, including analysis of comments received by OHRP, refer to Professor Zachary Shrag's blog: <http://institutionalreviewblog.blogspot.com/>.

Finally, also in December, SAA reported on an important legal ruling regarding defamation and oral history. In the case of Hebrew Academy of San Francisco v. Goldman, the California Supreme Court reversed an earlier opinion concerning oral histories found in the Bancroft Library at University of California, Berkeley. More information about the details of the case and its impact may be found on the SAA website www.archivists.org, but one important outcome is that the case raises "the possibility that for at least one year, oral history programs may have to take editorial responsibility for the statements that are included in oral histories."

Our goal for 2008 is to produce 4 newsletters, in February, May, August and November. Please consider sending us your project updates, news items, announcements, essays, Q&As or other types of articles. Communicating with each other is also possible using the SAA Oral History Section listserv/forum. Click this link to log into the SAA Oral History Section Discussion List forum with your email address and your Society of American Archivists password at: <http://forums.archivists.org/read/?forum=oralhistory>.

ORAL HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

A Place for Homeless Voices: The Role of Oral History in Ending Homelessness

A panel report from Alan H. Stein and Daniel Kerr focusing on session #82 at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Oral History Association

Submitted by Alan Stein

Homelessness is recognized as a pervasive problem and certainly oral history has played a part in documenting the nation's homeless epidemic, which has been described as an emerging crisis ever since the federal government made massive cuts to housing programs in the late 1970s and early 1980s. From 1996 to 2002, using audio, video, and radio interviews, the Cleveland Homeless Oral History Project (CHOHP) developed a collaborative analysis of homelessness from the bottom up. Designed to overcome problems with traditional academic research on homelessness, CHOHP shared research with those living on the streets and in the shelters in Cleveland, Ohio, involving homeless people in the process of analysis. (See: *The Oral History Review*, Winter-Spring 2003 v30 i1 p27(19).)

Oakland Program Chair Norma Smith, who with Elizabeth Chur, and Amanda Gardner organized a session at the Portland conference entitled "Homeless Voices, Home Truths: Stories from the Streets and the Long Road Home," broke new ground for members who attended that session on Oct. 2, 2004 by inclusion of narrators with prospective researchers who interview homeless people (see OHA Newsletter, Winter, 2003, Pp. 12-13). The overlapping principles at work in Oakland (as in Portland) were to 1) bring social-justice oriented researchers together with the communities they research; 2) to recognize the authority of the community; 3) to hear the voices and to engage with the narrators themselves.

Representatives from the Bay Area's homeless community participated in the panel, exploring the realities of homelessness with a resonance placed, first and foremost, on human dignity. "Tiny" a.k.a. Lisa Gray-Garcia, co-editor of POOR Magazine and Laurie McElroy from Poor News Network talked about working more from an alternative media standpoint than an oral history one. Both speakers were very charismatic and performance-oriented,

and demonstrated a scene in personal story telling. Instead of "a shared authority" (explored in depth at Portland) this panel of eloquent "poverty scholars" shifted the focus back to the narrator-as-author, calling upon their own interviewing skills to document their social history. In this scenario power sharing is the norm, the narrator is the authority, and the storyteller creates a product for media publication.

At the core of POOR's innovative programming and curriculum (for low and no-income youth and adults) is the Race, Poverty, and Media Justice Institute, offering programs in digital media, creative writing, and on-line/print media production. The Poor News Network produces monthly broadcasts on KPFA, Pacifica Radio, and an online magazine (www.poormagazine.org).

Is there a democratic process by which unhoused people select POOR Magazine to be the mediators between themselves and academics? Academics do need to be more self-critical when engaging in this research and to think carefully about what ends their research will be put to. In the words of Tiny: "academics don't need the conduit of scholarship to integrate our books and articles in a curriculum – we're not one kind of tribe."

How does oral history with the unhoused benefit the unhoused? On the critical side, most people who are unhoused don't have the same desire to be "authors." Most homeless people are primarily interested in improving their working and living conditions--they don't care if some academic article in a journal they never heard of has their name. To that end "poverty scholarship" is the exception, not the norm.

Joining the panel from Western Michigan University was Vincent Lyon-Callo, an activist ethnographer, who discussed inequality and poverty, and neoliberal governance in homeless programs. Genevieve (Gunny) Nelson, Cofounder of Sisters Of The Road discussed her work with the Portland-based café and shelter. Nelson, who co-founded Sisters in 1979, won the 2005 National Caring Award, given by the Caring Institute in Washington, D.C. She acknowledged "it is absolutely crucial to create systems that teach self reliance instead of dependence; and ensure that the men and women experiencing the calamities of

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ORAL HISTORY SPOTLIGHT (continued)

poverty and homelessness are full participants at the tables where public policy is being decided."

The Sisters' programs consist of hot meals/barter program, workforce development, and research projects, including "Voices from the Street: Truths about Homelessness from Sisters of the Road," by Jessica P. Morrell, with a moving foreword by Genny Nelson. Begun in the fall of 2001, they completed 600 one-to-one interviews - an average of two hours each (see: <http://www.sistersoftheroad.org>).

Sadly, one of the most important discussions by some of the panelists was the prevalence of hate crimes and violence against homeless people that has risen, as well as negative stereotypes reinforced by the media. Recently in California the Attorney General assessed the extent of crimes against the homeless in a study indicating that crime in general was very prevalent in the homeless community; however, expanding the definition of hate crime to include homelessness was not adopted (see: <http://ag.ca.gov/cjsc/pubs.php#hate>).

Shortly after the formal session, Vivian Hain (who was taping the session) continued the discussion and told us that she had been the victim of a hate crime and was working with legislators on key issues, laws and policies that affect low-income families. Her daughter is Jasmine Hain (the homeless teenage author) who recently had gone with the Alameda County Foodbank and Second Harvest to speak to Congress about poverty in the United States. She was one of nine children chosen for that, and spoke about her experience:

"I want to be a spokesperson for the youth that are going through the issues that I'm going through, and I don't just want to be a spokesperson, I want to be a leader. I want everyone to also speak for himself or herself telling their story. I'm not going to have people "modeling" my story, as everyone else's story, and stereotyping. No, I want people to share their stories; I want you to share their stories - of the digital divide, of poverty, of homelessness, of hunger. I don't just want my story to show."

READING LIST

POOR Press Publications: created by the students of the Digital Resistance Class at POOR Magazine

"My Life x 4: A Homeless Kid in America," by Jasmine Hain

"El Viaje de Una Madre Immigrante," (The Journey of One Immigrant Mother), by Ingrid Deleon

"Gangs, Drugs and Denial: A Disabled Latino Immigrant Struggling in the U.S.A.," by Angel Garcia.

"Voices from the Street: Truths about Homelessness from Sisters of the Road," by Jessica P. Morrell, foreword by Genevieve Nelson, Sisters of the Road, May 2007. The book has close to 120,000 words, with sixteen chapters and 25 photographs. After being transcribed and coded using over 150 categories and themes, 515 of these interviews are useable for analysis (see: <http://www.sistersoftheroad.org>).

"Dying for a Home: Homeless Activists Speak Out," by Cathy Crowe. Between the Lines, Toronto, 2007.

"Stranger to the System: Life Portraits of a New York City Homeless Community," collected by Jim Flynn, illustrated by Nelson Hall. Curbside Press, New York, 2002.

"Homeless Not Helpless," an anthology edited by Barbara Paschke and David Volpendesta. Canterbury Press, 1991.

WEBSITES:

Sisters of the Road: www.sistersoftheroad.org

POOR Magazine: www.poormagazine.org

www.myspace.com/poormagazine

Between the Lines: www.btlbooks.com

ORAL HISTORY CALENDAR

Oral History Programs in our Public Libraries: Presenting and Preserving our Local Heritage

The New Jersey Library Association, History and Preservation Section, is sponsoring a program on oral history at the NJLA Annual Conference on Wednesday, April 30th, 2008, at 3:30PM, at the Ocean Place Resort in Long Branch, New Jersey.

This is a special two-part program that focuses on the planning and execution of successful oral history projects at the public library level.

Speakers - Part One:

Joe Da Rold, Director, Plainfield Public Library

Michael Brigham, Project Coordinator, StoryCorps

Part Two:

Cheryl C. Turkington, Assistant Archivist, Morristown and Morris Township Library, North Jersey History Center

Bob Golon, Assistant Library Director, Plainfield Public Library

Donald A. Ritchie, in his book *Doing Oral History: A Practical Guide* explains that, "Oral history collects memories and personal commentaries of historical significance through recorded interviews."

Part one of this session focuses on the successful collaboration between the Plainfield Public Library and StoryCorps, using a new approach to oral history to document the personal histories of the local African-American and Latino communities. Part two focuses on planning tools and technical issues that must be considered by the library to assure a successful oral history interview project.

For further information, contact Bob Golon:
bob.golon@plfdpl.info

Advanced Oral History Project Management

May 21, 2008, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., Kyle Morrow Room, Fondren Library, Rice University, Houston, TX

Instructors: Dr. Jennifer Ross-Nazzal, Rebecca Wright and Sandra Johnson

Staff of the NASA Johnson Space Center History Office will present a half-day workshop aimed at mid-level archivists discussing the management of an oral history project. The instructors will go beyond the basics, focusing less on getting out into the field to conduct interviews, and more about what needs to happen in the office from a project management perspective.

Topics to be covered will include:

- Setting up the project: mission, purpose, people, organization
- Training interviewers and volunteers
- Selecting appropriate recording equipment for the project
- Identifying and contacting interviewees
- Managing paperwork and task management
- Preservation and access, and the latest trends in capturing and storing audio
- Outreach, what to do with the interviews, end-products of the project

Cost: \$50

For further information, contact Mat Darby:
msdarby@mail.utexas.edu

ORAL HISTORY CALENDAR (continued)

Roundtable: An Era of Challenges and Opportunities for the Next Generation of Oral History Education

Southwest Oral History Association (SOHA)
Conference – April 18-20 2008 in Tempe, Arizona
www.southwestoralhistory.org.

The roundtable will engage the audience in a discussion of contemporary issues which face oral history educators in classrooms throughout the United States. Applications of the issues discussed will relate to K-12 as well as college/university oral history programs.

The main discussion strands will include:

- (1) The ways that oral history experiences promote the development of historical empathy and building cultural bridges;
- (2) The role of Teaching American History Grants and the importance of networking;
- (3) The use of innovative strategies which integrate standards and impact the development of community based products;
- (4) The value of emerging technologies (examples: video conferencing, website development and use, etc.) to connect discourse communities;
- (5) The importance of building educational partnerships with historical organizations and the community to produce historically significant products;
- (6) The locations of resources and funding for oral history educators.

Moderator & Presenter: Dr. Laura M. Wendling

As Director of the Consortium of Oral History Educators, and a professor of education, Dr. Wendling will share her perspectives on teaching diversity, historical empathy and building cultural bridges through an oral history experience. Dr. Wendling will also present an overview of the Congressionally funded Teaching American History Grants. Dr. Wendling will explore the

financial and the curricular benefits of integrating oral history education into these exceptional teacher training programs.

Presenter: Dr. Barry A. Lanman

As the first chair of the Oral History Association's Committee on Teaching, a founding member of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region and past director of the Consortium of Oral History Educators, Dr. Lanman will give a long-term perspective of the ways in which oral history education is rapidly advancing as a result of curriculum development, the integration of standards and emerging technology. A discussion of the recent national video conference in Oakland, California and the instructional implications of sharing "best practices" through connections such as Internet 2 will be summarized.

Presenter: Alan H. Stein

As an archivist, librarian and an educator, Alan H. Stein will use his multi-disciplinary experiences and perspectives to explore the building of educational partnerships with historical organizations and the community to produce historically significant products. From his extensive work with various Studs Terkel programs in Chicago and Hurricane Katrina oral history projects, Mr. Stein will share his ideas about the challenges and opportunities presented by natural disasters. He will also talk on how to select and obtain the best resources for educationally related oral history projects. Specific sources of funding (e.g. the Oral History Association's Emerging Crisis Fund) will also be presented.

Interactive Discussion Session

Approximately one-third of the session time will be devoted to a discussion session which will elicit relevant questions and responses from the panelists as well as the experts attending the roundtable. This directed dialogue and exchange will be a major focus of the session.

ORAL HISTORY CALENDAR (continued)

Telling Their Stories: Producing Web-Based Digital Video Interviews

5-Day Intensive Educator Workshop

Sunday – Thursday, July 27 – July 31, 2008

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The Center for Innovative Teaching

The Urban School of San Francisco



Warren Dunn with Jonah, Jacqueline, and Alison, participating in the 2007 Telling Their Stories Workshop

Photo by Howard Levin

More photos at: <http://www.tellingstories.org/about/photos.html>

Who Should Attend: This workshop is designed for middle school through college teachers who want to implement a student oral history/interviewing internet-based project.

Note: this workshop has filled the past 2 years.

Instructor: Howard Levin, Director of Technology, The Urban School of San Francisco

Cost: \$650 (see registration page www.urbanschool.org/page.cfm?p=97 for early discounts)

This hands-on workshop explores the production and web publishing of digital video interviews. The publishing of student-conducted interviews has efficacy far beyond oral history.

Using The Urban School's award-winning project, Telling Their Stories: Oral History Archives Project as an example, participants will learn and practice production techniques, including interview preparation, creating and using a mobile studio, and post-production leading to a public website, complete with digital video and full transcription.

New This Year: Participants in small groups will conduct interviews at the homes of a local elders drawn from the current topics of Holocaust survivors, camp liberators, and Japanese American relocation camp internees. Participants will complete all stages of production, from preparation to interview to publication. In true "Authentic Doing" style, this interview will be added to the Telling Their Stories website (www.tellingstories.org), providing a lasting contribution to oral history scholarship.

Note: Some prior reading in preparation for the interview will be provided. Participants will also be expected to complete some proofing tasks from their homes on a flexible schedule during the weeks following the workshop.

Educators attending this workshop will be invited to join the existing Telling Their Stories: Oral History Archives Project. Telling Their Stories will offer ongoing technical support and curriculum advice, as well as host new interviews conducted by schools from around the country. Interested participants/schools can therefore focus attention on the curricular needs and basic interview techniques and leave the more technical aspects of web publishing to Telling Their Stories.

Topics Include:

- Interview techniques and materials
- Scaling and adapting to local and grade-level needs
- Topic development and research
- Developing a mobile studio, (lighting, sound and recording)
- Transcription procedures
- Simple movie editing using QuickTime Pro
- Processing systems: moving from tape to the web
- Classroom/project management practices

More information and Registration:

www.urbanschool.org/page.cfm?p=97

Howard Levin

hlevin@urbanschool.org

ORAL HISTORY NEWS

University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS) Archives to Digitize the UIS Oral History Collection

Submitted by Thomas J. Wood

The University of Illinois at Springfield Archives has been awarded a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant for Digital Imaging from the Illinois State Library. The purpose of the \$20,300 grant is to digitize taped audio interviews from the UIS Oral History Collection in order to make them more easily accessible to historical researchers and the general public. The project will also aid in the preservation of the audio interviews by making surrogate use copies available at the Illinois Digital Archives (IDA: <http://www.idaillinois.org>), and also in digital storage at the UIS Archives.

The digitized files made from the tapes will be uploaded to IDA and associated with the oral history abstracts and digitized transcripts already available there. The transcripts were digitized using funds from an earlier LSTA grant in 2004, and are also available at the UIS Archives website: <http://www.uis.edu/archives/contents.htm>.

The UIS Oral History Collection was largely created by the Sangamon State University Oral History Office, which operated under the direction of Professor of History Cullom Davis in 1971-1991. The transcribed memoirs, and collateral files making up the Office's collection were transferred to the University Archives in Brookens Library in 1990-91.

In the twenty years of its existence, the Oral History Office collected the memoirs of an impressive array of people including: coal miners; members of the African-American, Italian-American, Jewish, and other ethnic communities in and around Springfield; Illinois legislators and politicians; farm families; WWII conscientious objectors and prisoners of war; members of Springfield churches and clubs; teachers in rural one room schools; and many others.

Students in UIS oral history classes and volunteers have added a number of titles to the collection since 1991. It now comprises approximately 1200 memoirs and over 3000 hours of audiotape. The collection is a vital record of life in Illinois and beyond from the late 19th century to the present, and preserves the memories of a diverse selection of individuals whose

life experiences might not otherwise have been recorded.

For more information, contact Thomas Wood at wood@uis.edu.

Documenting Political Lives Through Oral History: A Program of South Carolina Political Collections

Submitted by Herbert J. Hartsook

Since its formation in 1991, South Carolina Political Collections at the University of South Carolina has used oral history to supplement its major collections. Often, donors of collections are interviewed to ensure that their careers are documented as fully as possible. Staff, family, and associates are also good candidates for interviews. In addition to interviews related to specific collections, SCPC is engaged in a major oral history project documenting the rise of the Republican Party in South Carolina. Typical interviews require two to eight hours. All interviews are transcribed and edited.

Late in 2007, SCPC began to make its edited transcripts available in electronic format on its web site <http://www.sc.edu/library/scpc/>. SCPC should have at least fifty interviews on the site by the end of 2009. The first transcripts placed on the web include major interviews conducted by the University's McKissick Museum with powerful state senator Rembert Dennis (1915-1992), and by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History with governor Robert E. McNair (1923-2007). The other interviews feature Charlie Boineau (1923-2005), the first Republican elected to the South Carolina General Assembly since Reconstruction; Watson Dorn and Steve Griffith recalling the 1950 congressional campaign of William Jennings Bryan Dorn (1916-2005); Martha Edens, former Republican National Committeewoman; Marshall Parker (b.1922), former state senator; Tom Pope (1913-1999), prominent Newberry attorney and Speaker of the SC House; Ted Riley (1900-1994), Democratic Party Chairman; Dan Ross (b.1923), state Republican Party chairman; and John West (1922-2004), Governor and Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

For information, contact Herbert Hartsook at: Herb@gwm.sc.edu.

ORAL HISTORY NEWS (continued)

OH Milestones at the Billy Graham Center Archives

Submitted by Bob Shuster

This year is a minor anniversary for the Billy Graham Center Archives of Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois (<http://www.wheaton.edu/bgc/archives/>). It marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Archives' first oral history interview, taped on May 16, 1978. The archivist trundled a Wollensak into Chicago to the Gold Coast apartment of Andrew Wyzenbeek. Mr. Wyzenbeek, who had immigrated to the United States with his family in 1907, described, among other events, attending a meeting lead by evangelist Billy Sunday in the early years of the 20th century. The staff of the archives have since recorded about 100 hours of interviews with over 300 people, most of whom have been missionaries, evangelists, chaplains or individuals otherwise involved in evangelism. For many years, the staff has been making transcripts of these interviews available on the web. Starting last year, they have also begun making available on the web complete audio files of some of the earliest interviews. Mr. Wyzenbeek's interview was the first (<http://www.wheaton.edu/bgc/archives/GUIDES/040.htm#8>). Links to the various online audio resources of the BGC Archives can be found at: <http://www.wheaton.edu/bgc/archives/oralhist.html> It is the staff's intention to add a few more interview audio files every year.



Students in the Reading Room using the BGC Archives oral history tapes and transcripts.

This year marked another BGC Archives oral history milestone. Besides the interviews the archivists have done themselves, they also have a

collection of oral history interviews done by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association about Billy Graham and the BGEA. This oral history program was started by Dr. Lois Ferm of the BGEA staff in 1970 and she continued it for more than three decades, doing almost all the interviews herself. She conducted her final interviews in 2004 at the time of the Heart of America Crusade in Kansas City, and the project was wrapped up a year later. During the intervening thirty-five years, Ferm and several associates taped sessions with over fifteen hundred individuals. The products of that interviewing make up most of Collection 141 at the Billy Graham Center Archives, consisting mainly of edited interview transcripts and the original audio recordings. The last audio tapes and transcript of the oral history project have just been processed and described.

These interviews tell many stories by those who contributed their leadership, prayer and other resources to Billy Graham's evangelistic meetings. The primary focus of the project was mass evangelism campaigns conducted by the BGEA, including many personal accounts of conversion and the planning of a campaign (held in a city, sometimes extending over weeks or even months). The interviews cover numerous other subjects related to the meetings, such as the social implications or impact of a crusade (as the evangelistic campaign was usually called), the involvement of the community in the event, growing emphasis on multi-cultural participation, specialized ministries, the religious environment of communities, and the cooperation among churches. While the primary group interviewed were those providing leadership for an executive committee or subcommittee, interviewees also include BGEA associate evangelists and other team members, relatives of Mr. Graham, and international Evangelical leaders. Also among those interviewed were national evangelists at the Amsterdam '83, '86 and 2000 conferences, offering a grassroots glimpse into practice and the life of the church in many countries. Most of the interviews are with people involved in meetings in the United States, but there are also many dozens of interviews about evangelism events in Europe, South America, Africa, Asia, and Australia, as well as the Caribbean and Pacific islands. You can visit the online guide to explore the extent of the collection at: www.wheaton.edu/bgc/archives/GUIDES/141.htm.

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ORAL HISTORY NEWS (continued)

You may also stop by the Archives Manuscript Reading Room at Wheaton College (Wheaton, Illinois, USA) to review some of the transcripts that can be delivered for your use there. The tapes and transcripts cannot be copied with BGEA permission. The more recent ones have restrictions on listening to/reading them. These listening/reading restrictions, which are described in the guide, have varying time limits, but all expire by December 31, 2019 and the vast majority of them have expired.

For further information e-mail bgcarc@wheaton.edu or call 630-752-5910.

Shenandoah Valley Oral History Project Website

Submitted by Daniel Kerr



Julia Patterson, ca. 1950, from her personal collection.
Photographer unknown.

I am pleased to announce the official launching of the Shenandoah Valley Oral History Project website. Using oral history as their tool, participants in the project have sought to document the lives of people throughout the Valley whose stories have largely gone untold. Since the fall of 2005, James Madison University students have interviewed poultry farmers and processing workers, labor, civil rights and community activists, environmentalists, Native Americans, Latino immigrants, ex-offenders, homeless people, gays and bisexuals.

Initiated by the JMU History Department, the project seeks to bridge the gap between the university and the surrounding community. While students gather interviews and learn from neighborhood residents, the website seeks to provide narrators as well as a broad-based audience with ready access to these materials.

Over fifty interviews are now posted online. All interviews include complete digital recordings and most have full transcripts, interview guides and background journals. Among other areas, the website provides an in-depth look at the region's poultry industry from the perspective of growers and processing workers. It should be of special interest to oral history educators as well as researchers interested in immigration, labor, agricultural, and environmental history.

For more information:

<http://publichistory.jmu.edu/SVOHP/>

Daniel Kerr: kerrdx@jmu.edu

Atomic Research Oral Histories in the Iowa State University Library, University Archives

Submitted by Michele Christian

Susan Futrell, writer and oral historian, is conducting a project that will identify and collect oral histories from scientists and former employees of the Ames Laboratory at Iowa State University. The project aims to capture and highlight Iowa State University's role in the Manhattan Project and the early years of the Ames Laboratory. Interviewees include Ruth Stevens, Karl Gschneidner, and the family of Harley A. Wilhelm. As Futrell completes the oral histories, she is depositing the audio CD's and completed paperwork in the Iowa State University Archives. The project is still in process and the University Archives is beginning to transcribe the interviews. We hope to have excerpts of the interviews available on the Archives' website in the near future.

For questions regarding the oral histories in the University Archives, contact Michele Christian at 515-294-4216 or michelec@iastate.edu.



Oral History Section

www.archivists.org/saagroups/oralhist/index.asp



**SOCIETY OF
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New leadership assumes office at the close of the annual meeting of the section.

The Oral History Section of the Society of American Archivists is composed of members of the Society and others who are interested in or are actively engaged in conducting oral history interviews and/or teach oral history methodology. The Oral History Section provides a forum for news, for discussion of issues and developments, and for establishing and maintaining communication and cooperation with other professional organizations.

Alan Stein Wins the SAA Spotlight Award!

<http://www.archivists.org/recognition/chicago2007-awards.asp#spotlight>

This year ALAN H. STEIN received the Spotlight Award for his "efforts to promote greater public awareness of the role of archivists and (their) role in cultural preservation." Established in 2005, the Spotlight Award recognizes an individual who works for the good of the profession and archival collections, work that would not typically receive public notice. Stein is currently a librarian specialist with the Consortium of Oral History Educators, having lost his previous position as head of the Louisiana Division and City Archives Collection at the New Orleans Public Library following Hurricane Katrina. The displacement took him to the Arne Nixon Center at the Henry Madden Library at California State University, Fresno. The selection committee noted, "His foresight in disaster planning played a significant role in preparing the New Orleans Public Library (Louisiana Division) for pending disaster. Though displaced himself, Alan has continued to focus attention on the need for disaster preparedness by historical and cultural institutions." Stein recently co-authored "Oral History, Folklore and Katrina" with Dr. Gene B. Preuss for the Routledge Press anthology *There Is No Such Thing as a Natural Disaster: Race, Class and Hurricane Katrina*.



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