



Northwest Oral History Association

NOHA Newsletter Spring 2007

Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project: an Online Video Oral History Collection

By James Gregory and Trevor Griffey

President's Message

By Bradley Williams

What is your destiny? Have you ever asked yourself that question? Was it preordained that you would become an oral historian? If you are like me, the answer is "no." I came to oral history by happenstance. I was simply in the right place at the right time. While interning at the State Historical Society of Iowa, I was asked to interview a Winnebago woman as part of a larger project on Native Americans in the state. So, with a little instruction from staff and my own background reading, I conducted my first oral history interview. It opened my eyes to a fascinating method of doing history and certainly broadened my horizon.

Whatever brought you into the field of oral history; you can expand your horizons and contemplate your destiny at the 60th annual Pacific Northwest History Conference to be held April 19-21, 2007, at the La Quinta Hotel in Tacoma. The theme this year is "Land of Destiny: Promise and Reality in Pacific Northwest History." As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, the program is full of interesting presentations, including sessions featuring NOHA members Troy Reeves, Kathy Hodges, Anne Kilgannon, and Sherry Boswell. Anne and Sherry also served on the Program Committee and both are due NOHA's thanks for all their efforts in assembling such a rich array of sessions.

Is it your destiny to take a more active role in your Northwest Oral History Association? Do

(Continued on page 2)

The Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project is a public history website featuring more than seventy online videotaped oral histories with veterans of local civil rights movements. Based at the University of Washington, intended for use in classrooms as well as by scholars, the project provides the most complete set of resources about civil rights struggles for any city outside the South.

Seattle, like other western cities, has a long history of multiracial political activism. African Americans joined with Chinese Americans, Filipino Americans, Japanese Americans, Jews, and Native Americans in contesting racial segregation. The project details these efforts while also exploring the relationship between civil rights and labor struggles throughout the 20th century.

The project features dozens of articles, hundreds of photographs and documents, several short films and slide shows, in addition to the oral histories with activists from Seattle's many civil rights movements.

The oral histories are presented in streaming video, not as complete interviews but broken up into captioned excerpts averaging 2-5 minutes. This format makes it easy to scan content and has proved popular with teachers and online users.

Dozens of activists from several generations, and a variety of communities, tell their stories in these interviews. You can hear from Vivian Caver, Rev. John Adams, Ivan King, Charles Johnson and others active in the Urban League, NAACP, and student groups in the 1940s and 50s; Betty Lou Valentine, Joan Singler, Rev. Samuel McKinney

(Continued on page 4)

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

you know someone who would make a good leader for NOHA? Nominations for NOHA officers are now being accepted by Kathy Hodges, Chair of the Nominating Committee. Kathy.Hodges@ishs.idaho.gov. Please submit the name of your nominee to her before the NOHA business meeting on Friday, April 20, at the PNHC. Self-nominations are welcome and encouraged. NOHA officers are President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Volunteers for committees are also welcome.

I look forward to seeing you in Tacoma!



NOHA will have an information table at the Pacific Northwest History Conference. Please stop by and check out what's new or leave your newsletters, brochures, or project information for display.



NATURAL PRESS

5944 NE Sandy Blvd
Portland, OR 97213
(503) 288-8489

The Northwest Oral History Association (NOHA) is a non-profit corporation established to serve as a regional communications network for anyone interested in oral history and to help promote oral history projects.

NOHA's focus is Pacific Northwest history, including Alaska, California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

Membership in NOHA is open to any individual or institution interested in supporting NOHA's objectives. Dues are \$15 per year for individuals, \$20 per year for institutions, and may be sent to the treasurer at the address below. Benefits of membership include a newsletter published twice a year and an invitation to our annual conference.

The contents of the NOHA newsletter may be duplicated for non-profit purposes provided the source is duly credited.

General Information: Idaho Oral History Center; 450 N. 4th St.; Boise, ID 83702-6027; (208) 334-3863; kathy.hodges@ishs.state.id.us

Membership: Howard Robinson, 1732 SE 47th Avenue, Portland, OR 97215; frontdoor@elderhistories.com

Newsletter: Janice Dilg; 2603 NE 11th Avenue; Portland, OR 97212; 503-735-5911; dilg@teleport.com

NOHA website located at: www.his.state.mt.us/finduse/noha.asp

NOHA Workshop

Telling Stories, Practicing Oral History

By Kathy Hodges, Idaho Oral Historian

NOHA will again sponsor an introductory oral history workshop at the Pacific Northwest History Conference. Kathy Hodges, Idaho Oral Historian, will offer a full day of introductory training for interviewers and community historians wishing to learn more about the practice of oral history. The lives of ordinary people can contain romantic moments, frightening incidents, sad tales, breathtaking escapes, and sudden twists of fate. Are you thinking of interviewing your grandmother? Would you like to save community stories for future generations?

Kathy will lead a discussion about memory, story, and history and explain the basics of recording and preserving oral narratives, using examples from the 2500-plus interviews in the Idaho State Historical Society's collection. The workshop will cover setting up a project, publicity, finding narrators, legal aspects of oral history, interviewing techniques, equipment, transcribing, and archiving the final result.

The practical details: The workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m. and last until approximately 4:30. Lunch is on your own. The registration fee is only \$50. Included in the \$50 fee are handouts, a one-year membership in NOHA (value \$15), and a copy

(Continued on page 4)

Speaking Out! Voices of Seattle's Black Community

By Anne Kilgannon, Washington State Oral History Program

The Museum of History & Industry and the Black Heritage Society of Washington State have collaborated to develop and present a readers theater, largely built from oral history collections throughout the state and richly illustrated with historic photographs. *Speaking Out! Voices of Seattle's Black Community* was performed at the museum on February 11, 2007 to mark Black History Month, and drew an audience of more than 300. The script was researched and written by Lorraine McConaghy, MOHAI historian, with the BHS Oral History Committee. The script drew from collections held by the Black Heritage Society, MOHAI, Eastside Heritage Center and Washington State Legislative Oral History Project, as well as published anthologies. BHS and MOHAI hope to continue to refine the script, adding more music and more youthful voices, for presentation as an annual Black History Month event. McConaghy will be presenting a panel on the exhibit and programmatic uses of readers' theater scripts at this year's American Association of Museums conference.

New Oral Historian in Idaho

The Idaho State Historical Society recently selected Kathy Hodges as Idaho's new oral historian to replace Troy Reeves, who transferred up to the position of Idaho State Historian. Kathy moved to Idaho in 1978 from northern California, where she grew up. She has worked for the Idaho State Historical Society off and on since the late 1980s, in a number of different capacities, including freelance consultant and reference specialist. She has interviewed a variety of people, including Vietnamese refugees, Mexican American community activists, prison guards, librarians, and her own parents.

Ellen Haffner continues as the office specialist in Idaho's two-person oral history office. Kathy and Ellen together are currently setting up a system for digitizing the earliest analog tapes in the ISHS' collections. Expect more stories about their adventures in the digital world in a future issue of the newsletter.



Oral History Projects at the IOHC: Updates

By Troy Reeves, Idaho State Historian

The current ISHS oral historian, Kathy Hodges, asked me to comment on two oral history projects envisioned and, primarily, implemented on my watch. The following is

an overview of the Idaho State Capitol and Proposition One oral history projects.

In 1994, Proposition One (Prop One) attempted to codify state policy towards homosexuality. During the debate surrounding this ballot issue, the Idaho progressive movement came to call this proposition the "anti-gay initiative." My vision for conducting interviews with the key players' involved in Prop One began in the summer of 1994. When I heard about the ballot measure, I figured the proposition would be a "slam dunk." I, and many others, assumed that the large bloc of voters from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) in eastern Idaho would vote strongly in favor of it. In fact, the proposition failed passage by 3,073 votes, and lost in most eastern Idaho counties. The creation of the proposition, the intensely emotional arguments for and against its provisions, and its surprising defeat provoked my curiosity.

Once I became Oral Historian in 1999, I proposed a project covering Prop One. However, I did not get to implement the project until late November 2004. At that point, I envisioned taking a year to interview the key activists and volunteers on both sides of the issue. As with most oral history projects, I ended up with more than I planned for—roughly sixty-five hours of interviews with nineteen narrators—and I conducted my final interview in November 2006, not 2005 as planned.

(Continued on page 11)

Seattle Civil Rights

(Continued from page 1)

and others who made CORE and the Central Area Civil Rights Committee effective in the early 1960s.

There are also more than a dozen interviews with veterans of the Black Panther Party, part of a section of the project that brings together photos, documents, congressional hearings testimony, dig-itized newspaper articles as well as the interviews to tell the story of that organization.

One special section is titled the "Chicano/a Movement in Washington State History Project," with nine interviews and other materials from veterans of the student-based and farm worker-based Chicano campaigns of the 1960s and 1970s.

Another section centers on Asian American civil rights and labor movements. Velma Veloria, Bob Santos, Al Sugiyama, Ron Chew, Sharon Maeda, David Della, Cindy Domingo, and others, discuss the struggles of 60s era activists, while Fred and Dorothy Cordova and Phil Hayasaka speak for the older generation.

There are interviews with urban Indian activists Randy Lewis, Ramona Bennett, Lawney Reyes, Jeanne Raymond, Blair Paul, and Willard Bill, along with articles, photos, and documents about the American Indian Women's Service League, the United Indians of All Tribes, and the historic 1970 takeover of Fort Lawton.

Important political figures are also featured. Former mayor Wes Uhlman describes his interactions with the Black Panthers. Ex-governor Mike Lowry details his role supporting the 1970s Japanese American movement campaign to obtain redress for World War II internment. One popular interview is with King County Councilman Larry Gossett who narrates, in wonderful detail, the origins of the Black Student Union at UW in 1968, and the extraordinary activism of BSU members in the years following.

The Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project shows how academic historians can produce history that makes a difference. Taught in dozens of schools and colleges by teachers who are looking for ways to introduce the local dimensions of segregation and civil rights history, the project

has also been the subject of considerable press and public attention.

Last spring the project even helped change state law. One of the highlights is a database of racially restrictive covenants and deed restrictions that served for several generations as an important instrument of residential segregation. Although no longer enforceable, restrictive covenants remain part of the legal property descriptions in many neighborhoods in the city and in its suburbs. With more than 400 racial covenants documented, our database is the most extensive collection in the country. The database first attracted press attention, then the attention of the state legislature, which passed a law making it easier for homeowners' associations to remove segregationist language from association contracts.

The project is a potential model for the way it brings together students, faculty, and community groups. Much of the research has been done by UW students. Nearly 100 undergraduate and graduate students have contributed to the project, either through organized classes or independent studies sponsored by faculty members in History, Labor Studies, and American Ethnic Studies. Community groups have contributed documents, photographs, and helped facilitate interviews. Because so much work has been done by volunteers, the costs have been modest. Funding has come from University sources and local grants.

For information about the Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project please visit the main website: www.civilrights.washington.edu or contact us at civilr@u.washington.edu



Telling Stories

(Continued from page 2)

of *A Field Notebook for Oral History, 4th edition*, published by the Idaho Oral History Center (value \$8). Such a deal! Any proceeds from the workshop go to NOHA, to be used in its ongoing efforts to support oral history activities throughout the northwest region.

Land of Destiny:

Promise and Reality in Pacific Northwest History

Courtesy Special Collections, Washington State Historical Society



60th Annual Pacific Northwest History Conference
in conjunction with the annual meeting of the
Northwest Oral History Association

April 19-21, 2007

La Quinta Hotel
1425 E. 27th St., Tacoma, Washington

For the 60th time, historians, scholars from related fields, teachers, students, history enthusiasts, and the general public gather at the Pacific Northwest History Conference and the associated meeting of the Northwest Oral History Association to consider interpretations of the region's past.

Permanent Sponsor
Washington State Historical Society
Co-Sponsors
Northwest Oral History Association
Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society

Program Committee
Chair, Michael Allen, *University of Washington, Tacoma*
Katrine Barber, *Portland State University & Center for Columbia River History*
Sharon Boswell, *Washington State Oral History Program*
Terrence Cole, *University of Alaska, Fairbanks*
Anne Kilgannon, *Washington State Oral History Program*
Beth Kraig, *Pacific Lutheran University*
Kevin Marsh, *Idaho State University*
Liping Zhu, *Eastern Washington University*
Lauren Danner, *Washington State Historical Society*

Thursday, April 19 - Workshops

9:00am – 4:30pm (with break for lunch)

Telling Stories, Practicing Oral History

Kathy Hodges, Idaho Oral Historian, will offer a full day of introductory training for interviewers and community historians wishing to learn more about the practice of oral history. The workshop will cover setting up a project, publicity, finding narrators, legal aspects of oral history, interviewing techniques, equipment, transcribing, and archiving the final result. The registration fee is \$50. Included in the fee are hand-outs, a one-year membership in NOHA (value \$15), and a copy of *A Field Notebook for Oral History*, 4th edition, published by the Idaho Oral History Center (value \$8).

9:00am – 11:30am

Researching Washington Women's History:

Strategies and Perspectives

With the centennial of Washington women's suffrage fast approaching, new ways to research women's history are a timely topic. Panelists will discuss sources and strategies for conducting research on women in Washington, including the new, interactive Women's History Consortium website, library and digital resources, and archival information.

The registration fee is \$30.

Shanna Stevenson, *Washington State Historical Society*

Kevin Hanken, *Washington State Historical Society*

Lynette Miller, *Washington State Historical Society*

David Hastings, *Washington State Archives*

Lanny Weaver, *Washington State Archives*

5:30 – 7:00pm Reception

Washington State History Museum

Welcome: David Nicandri

7:00 – 8:30pm *From Wharf Rats to the Lords of the Docks: The Life and Times of Harry Bridges* – a free public program in the Museum Auditorium

Friday, April 20

7:30-8:45am Breakfast plenary:

Michael Sullivan, *Artifacts, Inc.*

"The State of the City of Destiny"

9:00-10:30am

Breakout 1A: Land Use Values and Public Places

Chair: Kevin Marsh, *Idaho State University*

Erica Lyn Jensen, *Oregon State University*, " 'Hysterical Preservationists' and 'Gouge-and-run Bulldozer Boys':

The Land-use Controversy in Idaho's White Cloud Mountains"

Aaron Schab, *University of Idaho*, "Amateur Enthusiasm and the Preservation of America's 'Worthless' Landscapes: Idaho's Craters of the Moon National Monument"

Dan Karalus, *University of Idaho*, "The Dworshak Dam Debate: Where Localism and Nationalism Meet"

Breakout 1B: The West: A Land of Promise and Harsh Realities

Chair: Robert McCoy, *Washington State University*

Jacquelyn Dumin, *Washington State University*, "A Region Coming-Of-Age: The 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition as Seen Through Newspapers"

Cara Kaser, *Washington State University*, "'We had time enough so we could build a church in there': Religious Settlement and Church Design in Latah County, Idaho, 1870-1920"

George Means, *Washington State University*, "The Peoples Party vs. The People: The Expulsion of Seattle's Chinese "

Breakout 1C: Northwest Indian People: Varied Destinies

Chair: Melissa Parr, *Washington State Historical Society*

Roxanne Easley, *Central Washington University*,

"Demographic Borderlands: People Of Mixed Heritage In The Russian American Company And The Hudson's Bay Company, 1670-1870"

Roberta Ulrich, *Beaverton, Oregon*, "Promise None Rely On"

Drew Crooks, *Lacey Museum*, "Quiemuth: A Look at the Life and Tragic Death of the Nisqually Indian Leader"

10:40am-12:10 pm

Breakout 2A: Twentieth Century Northwest Destinies: Three Perspectives

Chair: Terrence Cole, *University of Alaska, Fairbanks*

Rolland L. Dewing, *Chadron State College (NE)*, "Room to Grow: The Pacific Northwest Faces the Great Depression"
Lindsay Thompson, *Washington State University*, "In the Shadow of Nuclear War: Montana's Reactions to the Cuban Missile Crisis"

Troy Reeves, *Idaho State Historical Society*, "The Story of Idaho's Prop One (1994), or Why this "slam-dunk" amendment did not pass? (A Story in Three Acts)"

Breakout 2B: Government and the Shaping of 19th Century Northwest Destiny

Chair: Dave Nicandri, *Washington State Historical Society*

Kathryn Eigen, *University of California, Berkeley*,

"Regulating the Future: Federal Legislation and the Development of Oregon and Washington, 1846-1889"

Mary C. Greenfield, *Yale University*, "Building the

Border: Trade, Tariffs and Illegitimate Capitalism in the Pacific Northwest, 1846-1900"

Stephen T. Moore, *Central Washington University*, "Cross Border Crusades: From Temperance to Prohibition in Washington and British Columbia"

Breakout 2C: Ethnicity, Work, and Sports

Chair: Katherine Aiken, *University of Idaho*

Jesse Clark McAbee, *Cowlitz River Valley Historical Society*, "Tall Timber: Japanese Community, Experience and Destiny in Washington's Lumber Industry"

Amy Essington, *Claremont Graduate University*, "Integration in Northwest Baseball: The Portland Beavers and Seattle Rainiers"

Michael S. Brown, *Washington State University*, "Intra-ethnic Politics and the Emasculation of Filipino Labor Union Politics: The 1947 Founding of the Seafood Workers Union"

12:15-1:30 pm Lunch plenary:

Jack Nisbet

"*The Legacy of David Thompson*"

1:40 – 3:10 pm

Breakout 3A: National Parks Conservation Association: A Laboratory for Public Historians

Chair: Kelly Courkamp, *National Parks Conservation Association, Fort Collins, Colorado*

Amanda Van Lanen, *Washington State University*, "Cultural Resource Assessments in the Public History Seminar"

Amy Canfield, *Washington State University*, "Interpreting Varied Histories: A Cultural Resource Assessment of Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail"

Marc Entze, *Washington State University*, "'WalMarts' of the Early West: Fort Union Trading Post and Western Expansion"

Breakout 3B: Engendering the Promise: New Interpretations of Women's Lives in the West

Chair: Laura Woodworth-Ney, *Idaho State University*

Katy Fry, *Washington State University*, "Polly Bemis Retold: The Truth Behind Idaho's Most Celebrated Woman"

Amy Canfield, *Washington State University*, "The Cult of Domesticity Meets the Reservation: Adaptation, Assimilation, and Resistance at Fort Hall"

Lee Ann Hall, *Washington State University*, "Making Plutonium and Maintaining Gender: WACs, Wives, Workers and Other Adventurous Women of Wartime Hanford"

Breakout 3C: The Limits of Growth and Development

Chair: John Findlay, *University of Washington*

Carl Abbott and Joy Margheim, *Portland State University*, "Imagining Portland's Urban Growth Boundary"

Bob H. Reinhardt, *University of California, Davis*, "The Promises and Disappointments of Water Management during the 1977 and 2001 Droughts in Oregon's North Santiam Canyon"

Matthew Stadler, *Portland, Oregon*, "Sprawl Before Cities, 1780 – 1850"

3:20– 4:50pm

Breakout 4A: Developing and Marketing Cultural Symbols

Chair: Judy Austin, Boise, Idaho

Irene Martin, *Skamokawa, Washington*, "Salmon Packers on the Columbia"

Susan Larrabee, *University of Alaska, Fairbanks*, "Northward Ho! The Frontier Thesis and the Alaskan Highway"

Kathy McKay, *Vancouver, BC*, "Icons in Aspic—Visions of the Pacific Northwest through Salmon Can Labels"

Stephen Fielding, *Simon Fraser University*, "Performing Italy in Canada: Identity Expression, Government Grants, Local Conditions and the Italian Festival in Vancouver, Trail, B.C."

Breakout 4B: Voices of Change: Shaping Native Destiny through Words and Deeds

Chair: Coll Thrush, *University of British Columbia*

Nathan Roberts, *University of Washington*, "A Puyallup Intermediary: Negotiating Physical and Cultural Space Between The Puyallup Reservation And the City of Destiny"

John W. Heaton, *University of Alaska, Fairbanks*, "Saving Lt. Allen, Or How the Tanana Helped Build a Modern Alaska"

Robert E. Walls, *University of South Carolina*, "Racial Destinies, Spirits of Place, and the Power of Public Stories for Coast Salish in the Twentieth Century"

Breakout 4C: Apple Irrigators, Hops Pickers, and Grain Trains: An Agricultural Trilogy in Washington

Chair: Robert McCoy, *Washington State University*

Amanda Van Lanen, *Washington State University*, "'It was time when the promoter promoted': Real Estate Speculation and the Development of Wenatchee, Washington, 1888-1900"

Patrick King, *Washington State University*, "The Hop Industry and Migrant Labor in the Pacific Northwest, 1880-1940"

Marc Entze, *Washington State University*, "From Progressive Independence to State Subsidies: Railroads and the Transportation of Eastern Washington Wheat in the Twentieth Century"

5:00-6:30: NOHA Business Meeting

6:00 – 8:30 pm

Reception/Dinner plenary: Lisa Mighetto

The Romance of Salmon: Female Images in the Pacific Northwest Fishing Industry.

Saturday, April 21

7:30 – 8:45am

Breakfast plenary:

**James Gregory, Department of History,
University of Washington**

"Teaching Seattle about its Civil Rights History: How a Public History Project Changed the Law, Changed School Curricula, and More"

9:00 – 10:30am

Breakout 5A: Reconsidering Region and Religion

Chair: Dale E. Soden, *Whitworth College*
G. Thomas Edwards, *Whitman College*, "The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Oregon, 1835-1842"
Eckard Toy, *Parkdale, Oregon*, "Billy and "Ma" Sunday in Oregon's Hood River Valley, 1909-1935"

Breakout 5B: Activism To Create A New Destiny

Chair: Sharon Boswell, *Washington State Oral History Program*
Terence Cole, *University of Alaska, Fairbanks*, "Breaking Stories and Making News: C.W. Snedden and the Creation of Modern Alaska"
Susan Platt, *Seattle, Washington*, "James W. Washington, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement in Seattle"
Vera Parham, *University of California, Riverside*, "Native American Activism and Protest: Fort Lawton Occupation"

Breakout 5C: Using Oral History to Explore Washington's Land Use Destiny: A Roundtable Discussion

Chair: Janet Rogerson, *Growth Management Services, CTED*
Panelists:
Anne Kilgannon, *Washington State Oral History Program*,
Rita R. Robison, *Senior Planner, CTED*

10:40am – 12:10pm

Breakout 6A: Exploration, Discovery, Expansion, and World View: Myth and Reality

Chair: Diana DiStefano, *Pacific Lutheran University*
Dave Nicandri, *Washington State Historical Society*, "Myth and Reality in the Promised Land: Lewis and Clark's Starving Time on the Lolo Trail"
Jim Rogers, *Polson High School/Salish-Kootenai College*, "A Negative Discovery: Samuel Black and the Exploration of Northern British Columbia, 1824"
Forrest Pass, *University of Western Ontario*, "Canada's Pacific Destiny? Eastern Perceptions of British Columbia, 1858-1871"
Greg Nobles, *Georgia Institute of Technology*, "Audubon's Western Woodpeckers: Specious Species and Expansionist Science in the Pacific Northwest"

Breakout 6B: Three Historians: Will work for Cash—A Roundtable Discussion About Ethics and Professionalism

Chair: Troy Reeves, *Idaho State Historical Society*
Panelists:
Katherine Aiken, *University of Idaho*
Kevin Marsh, *Idaho State University*
Laura Woodworth-Ney, *Idaho State University*

Breakout 6C: Cities of Destiny: Urban Opportunities and Limits at the Turn of the Century

Chair: Patty McNamee, *NARA - Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle*
Marjorie Ann Reeves, *United Daughters of the Confederacy*, "Confederate Immigrants and the Building of Communities"
Margie Lee, *Portland, Oregon*, "Peter P. Lee: The Man Behind Bellingham's Park"
Patricia Nicola, *Seattle, Washington*, "Seattle's 1894 Indian Inheritance Rights Trial"

12:15 – 1:45pm

Lunch plenary: Awards presentation and performance: "Speaking Out" Readers Theater

Museum of History and Industry and Black Heritage Society of Washington State.

Conference Hotel

La Quinta Inns and Suites
1425 E. 27th St.
Tacoma, WA 98421-2200

Reservations should be made no later than April 6, after which the room block will be released by the hotel.

Call 1-253-383-0145 and ask for the PNW History Conference room block.

Rooms are \$96.00 per night, plus tax.

Special Accommodations & More Information

The conference site is wheelchair accessible. Parking for people with disabilities is available. This program is available in large print for low-vision readers. If you would like materials in alternative format, want to request accommodations for people with disabilities, or have any special needs, please contact Mark Vessey prior to the conference.

Contact Mark Vessey at 360-586-0219, Mvessey@wshs.wa.gov, or Heritage Resource Center, 211 21st Ave, S.W., Olympia, WA 98501.

Conference Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

SELECT REGISTRATION OPTIONS:

Thursday Reception (please check if attending, no fee) _____

Registration Fee - \$65 (\$75 at the door) \$ _____

Students/Schoolteachers Fee - \$30 \$ _____

Workshop A - \$50 \$ _____

Workshop B - \$30 \$ _____

SUBTOTAL \$ _____

SELECT MEAL OPTIONS (All meals are buffets with vegetarian options.):

All Meals - \$85 \$ 85.00

OR—

Individual Meals:

Friday Breakfast - \$13 \$ _____

Friday Lunch - \$19 \$ _____

Friday Dinner - \$27 \$ _____

Saturday Breakfast - \$15 \$ _____

Saturday Lunch - \$17 \$ _____

SUBTOTAL \$ _____

GRANDTOTAL \$ _____

SELECT PAYMENT OPTION:

Payment by credit card:

Please call Mark Vessey at 360/586-0219 or provide the following:

Card type:

Mastercard

VISA

Discover

American Express

Card number:

V-code:

Name of card holder:

Expiration date:

Payment by check:

Make payable to Washington State Historical Society.

Mail form and check to:

Heritage Resource Center

211 21st Avenue SW

Olympia, WA 98501.

PLEASE MAIL BY APRIL 16.

Smells Like Money: the Story of Bellingham's Georgia Pacific Plant

By David Albright

Directing and editing "Smells Like Money: The Story of Bellingham's Georgia Pacific Plant" was a rewarding learning experience. I could not have imagined the laborious process of piecing together 70 years of history, and I certainly didn't expect the final product to be of historical value to the residents of Bellingham.

The documentary is based on oral history interviews I conducted with six former employees of the GP Pulp Mill in Bellingham, Washington. I knew very little about the history of the mill, but I knew that there had been some controversy about environmental concerns, and that the mill closed shortly afterwards. I expected environmental issues to be the main focus of the film when I started work on it as part of an oral history course.

Initially, I toyed with the idea of interviewing some of the community members who protested the plant's environmental impact. I envisioned the GP employees talking about "those hippy environmentalists," juxtaposed with clips of community members accusing the plant of not caring about the environment. Maybe I would even get an interviewee who really didn't care at all about the environment, and wasn't afraid to say so. I was hoping for irrational arguments about how the environment doesn't matter and all that does matter is profit. I knew that wasn't necessarily the consensus among GP workers, but I had to make this documentary entertaining somehow!

I did get some sound bites that I could have used to make the film a mudslinging contest between GP employees and environmentalists, but when I looked at the interviews as a whole, I realized that these men were offering completely rational justifications for beliefs that were, at least on the surface, different from my own. This realization showed me the value of oral history.

Looking at the parts of the interviews that related to the environment, I could have made the documentary I had originally expected to make, but what would that have accomplished? Making a film like that would have re-enforced what the community already believes about the

plant and the issues surrounding it. Based on my research, I found that many members of the public think that anyone who looks favorably on the plant must be blindly pro-business, without consideration for its unintended consequences. This is the mindset with which I entered this project, but after making the film my attitude changed completely.

To the men I interviewed, the mill was not just a source of income, but a source of stability, friendships, and moral support. They saw the plant as a place that provided a valuable service to the community, that tried to have as little impact on the environment as it could while still maintaining its economic viability. Knowing that the plant represented all of those things to these men, I can understand why they feel the way they do about it, and look past some of its flaws. To them, the good the plant did for them, for the community, and for their co-workers, outweighs any negative impact that it had on the environment or the visual aesthetics of the city.

Hearing the perspective of the employees was insightful, because I wanted to make sure that the film was an accurate representation of what they said. I included recurring themes that came up in multiple interviews. The most prevalent was theme was "like a family" used to describe the atmosphere of the mill, and the pride they felt in their work. I made sure that I represented their attitudes as accurately as I represented the facts.

I didn't want to make a film that judged their views as right or wrong, nor did I want to make a film that reduced their opinions to a sound bite played in opposition to a contrasting viewpoint. I wanted to use this film to demonstrate that if you really listen to the full story of opposing perspectives, you may be surprised to find that you share many of their underlying values, and what leads you both to your differing viewpoints is likely as much a product of your different life experiences as it is a product of your values. That is what I learned from filming these interviews, and I can only hope that at least a sliver of that comes through in the film.

For more information visit www.NWFilmSchool.com/Money, or email David at albrigd2@cc.wvu.edu.

Idaho Projects

(Continued from page 3)

Part of the reason for the extended time frame for Prop One stems from the second oral history, the Idaho State Capitol Oral History Project. Our former executive director, Steve Guerber, convinced our state Capitol Commission to make the Idaho State Historical Society the lead agency in the celebration of the Idaho State Capitol's 100th birthday in July 2005. He asked ISHS staffers for suggestions on how to document the Capitol's history, and I pitched the idea of an oral history project to record recollections of long time employees who worked at the Capitol to those with distinct memories of visiting the building. This approach helped sway the Commission to not only let the ISHS lead the celebration, but also to provide money to help support commemorative activities.

With funding, the Idaho Oral History Center began conducting interviews at the Capitol on its "birthday," July 5, 2005. I've reported here previously about my work with students from Boise's RiverStone Community School and their role interviewing interested individuals. During 2006, the Idaho Legislature approved plans to renovate and restore the Capitol, prompting a second phase for the Idaho State Capitol Oral History Project. This past summer, the oral history program and RiverStone students again conducted more interviews and received more typed and written stories.

When I concluded the last interview in November 2006, the project contained sixty hours of interviews with fifty-two narrators, and dozens of mini-memoirs about the Capitol. Current ISHS oral historian, Kathy Hodges, and the oral history office manager, Ellen Haffner, will work with an outside web consultant and ISHS webmaster Chris Brady to post information about the Capitol and Prop One projects later this spring.

Both Hodges and I will attend the 2007 Pacific Northwest History Conference in April, and will update NOHA members at the conference. If you are interested in finding out more about Prop One, I will give a detailed overview of the project at one of the conference's panel sessions. How's that for a teaser?!

Resources

Grindstones, Boomsticks, Tattletales & Nips

By *Sandy Carter*

This oral history DVD chronicles the people and stories of Crown Zellerbach International, West Linn, Oregon Division from 1928 to 1986. This first edition contains segments from oral history interviews with seventeen workers who tell the story of their work at the pulp and papermaking facility located at Willamette Falls.

For more details or to order go to www.willamettefalls.org, or contact executive director *Sandy Carter* at Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation, (503) 650-9570.

Oral History for the Family Historian: A Basic Guide, by Linda Barnickel.

This seventy-page publication published by the Oral History Association provides practical guidance to the novice who wishes to conduct a family oral history interview. It is designed to help the interviewer/researcher avoid common mistakes by effectively planning, conducting, and preserving a family oral history interview. It contains an extensive list of sample questions, a legal release form, and other resources.

Pamphlet, 2006. Paper. 70 pages. \$15.00

To order: http://omega.dickinson.edu/organizations/oha/pub_ps.html

From the Editor

- The submission deadline for the fall issue of the NOHA newsletter is August 24, 2007
- Please inform the editor of important new publications to mention in the newsletter.
- Contact the editor of the NOHA newsletter if you would like to review a book or DVD.

NOHA Annual Business Meeting

The 2007 NOHA Business Meeting will be held from 5:00-6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 20th at the Pacific Northwest History Conference held in the La Quinta Hotel. Among the issues to be discussed will be election of officers, reports from all officers and committees. Please plan to attend.

NOHA Officer Nominations

Nominations for NOHA officers are now being accepted by Kathy Hodges, Chair of the Nominating Committee Kathy.Hodges@ishs.idaho.gov. **Please submit the name of your nominee to her before the NOHA business meeting on Friday, April 20, at the PNHC.** Self-nominations are welcome and encouraged. NOHA officers are President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Volunteers for committees also welcome.



Northwest Oral History Association
c/o Janice Dilg
2603 NE 11th Ave
Portland, OR 97212-4135

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Conferences



2007 Oral History Association Annual Meeting October 24-28, 2007

*The Revolutionary Ideal: Transforming
Community through Oral History*

For details & registration information go to:
<http://alpha.dickinson.edu/oha/>

STAMP

