

PUBLIC HISTORY NEWS



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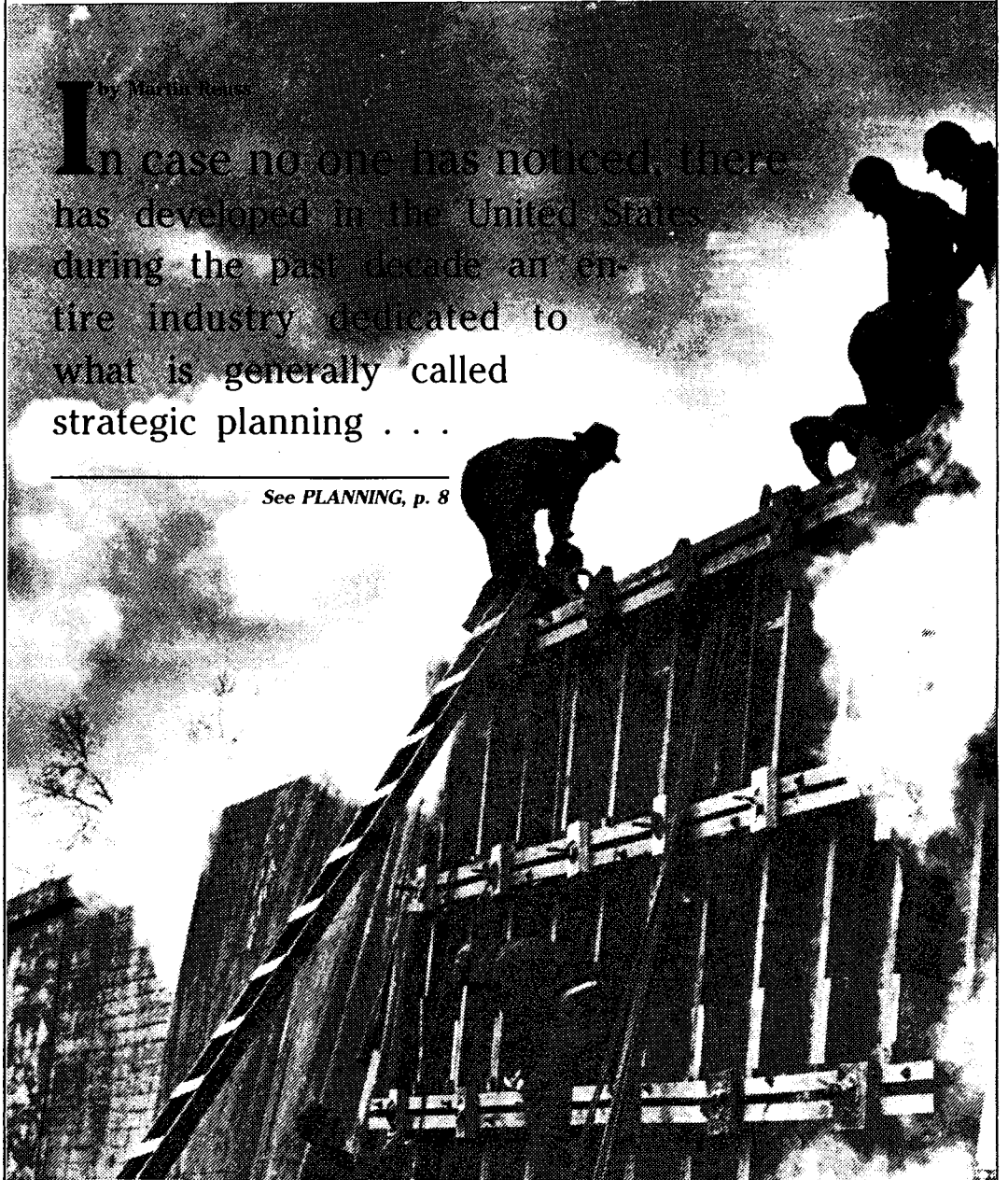
A Quarterly Publication of the National Council on Public History in cooperation with the School of Social Sciences and Public Affairs and the History Department, Boise State University.

Michael Scardaville, Chair
Arnita Jones, Vice Chair
Anne Kaplan, Secretary
Al Hurtado, Treasurer

Historians and Strategic Planning

In case no one has noticed, there has developed in the United States during the past decade an entire industry dedicated to what is generally called strategic planning . . .

See *PLANNING*, p. 8



An historical approach to strategic planning can dramatize the problem and indicate solutions. Pictured: building Ohio River floodwalls. Inset: downtown Huntington, West Virginia, 1937. (Huntington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

Senate Historical Office Plans for Bicentennial

by Daniel Greer

On July 16, 1987, Congress will meet outside the seat of government for its first time. The Philadelphia meeting will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the the "Great Compromise" that settled the Constitutional Convention's controversy over representation in the House.

This special session is one example, according to Richard A. Baker, Senate Historian, of how corporate funds earmarked for the celebration can be channeled into activities germane to the Constitution, instead of blowing the money on fireworks. The Senate Historical Office has been planning for the event since 1982, when a bicentennial advisory panel proposed a series of projects and publications to bring in the third century of the United States Constitution. Baker said, "We are thinking about establishing a private foundation that would support long-range scholarly projects related to the history of Congress."

The Senate Historical Office was established with Baker at its helm in 1975 at the behest of Senate leaders Mike Mansfield (D-MT) and William Scott (R-VA) because the rapid turnover rate among senators was creating fragmentation of the body. Baker said they directed him "to do something in terms of records and institutional memory." Today the six member staff operates as



Senate Historian Richard A. Baker will speak on the "Varieties of History in the Federal Government" at the Public History Workshop, April 23, at the Capitol Hyatt. The workshop also includes tours of historical agencies; information on contracting, internships, and government publications; and a group discussion on the use of history in the study of decision-making. Workshop registration is \$50 for members of NCPH or SHFG; \$75 for the public.

a resource center for the Senate, the press, scholars and the public. The office assists researchers, maintains a register of former members' files, collects

biographical data and photographs, and edits and writes for each of the floor leaders, William Byrd (D-WV) and Robert Dole (R-KS). Baker said Byrd's Senate oration series of the past seven years is about to be issued in two separate volumes as "the first extensive published history of the Senate." Dole's "Bicentennial Minutes" on the development and significance of the institution will continue through the 100th Congress before they are published.

The office also counsels senators about maintenance of their files. Advice on records management for individual senators "is not simply a matter of going to a defeated or retiring senator and saying 'we know where you can get boxes.' Rather," Baker said, his office meets "with all the incoming senators, even before they are sworn in . . . to make a pitch for developing a sound program of records management that will have several benefits." It could help them get re-elected, but, according to Baker, "it will also accomplish the task of sorting out that ten to fifteen percent of the volume of their records that have any historical value at all." Effective records management promotes office efficiency, especially when staff changes occur. "Particularly," explained Baker, "with automated records and the widespread use of word processing systems, we are very concerned that permanently valuable records are not destroyed." □



Signing the Constitution. (Architect of the Capitol)

What Do They Do?

- Implementation of plans for U.S. Constitution Bicentennial.
- *Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress 1789-1989*, revised and updated edition.
- A guide to 2,300 cubic feet of Senate records in the National Archives (to be published in 1988).
- Historical Series of Senate Foreign Relations Committee (Volume XVI—1964—currently under declassification).
- Bibliography of works by and about senators (now with more than 2,250 citations).
- Senate election, expulsion and censure cases (a revised volume will be published in 1987).
- Senate photographic collection, with images of all former senators.

COUNCIL UPDATE

Input Welcome

by Barbara Howe, Executive Secretary

The Executive Committee is still interested in receiving proposals for the secretariat's home after June 1, 1987. Any institution wishing to take over this responsibility should contact me, Mike Scardaville, or Arnita Jones.

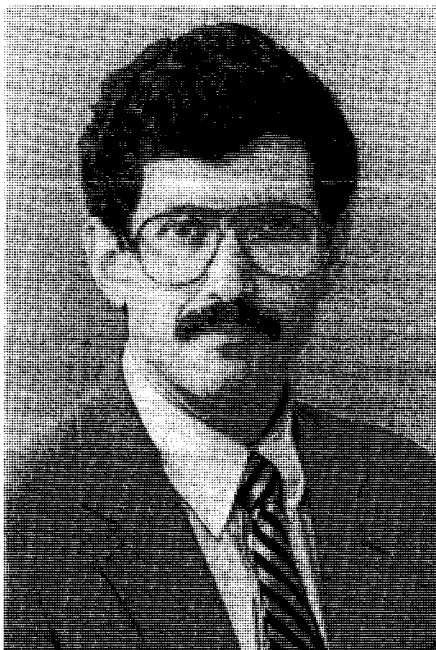
Much of our work this winter has been sending out mailings—ballots to all our members, programs for the annual meeting to members of the Society for History in the Federal Government and the NCPH, flyers announcing the meeting to people on assorted mailing lists in the D.C. area—we literally shipped out thousands of pieces of mail in about a two-week period and trust that it eventually got to you.

In that same vein, we will soon be shipping out the first of our files to the University of Colorado-Boulder, to establish our archives there. Board member's materials are welcome contributions.

Plans are underway for our 1988 early March meeting in Denver, Colorado, and we are beginning to talk about the 1989 meeting. If you have ideas, contributions, etc., for 1988, please send them to Brit Storey at 7264 West Otero Avenue, Littleton, CO 80123. We'd like to try "something different" for this meeting (besides adding skiing to the rationale for coming) and will welcome your input. Because this meeting is earlier than usual, please watch for an earlier-than-usual call for sessions. □



The National Council on Public History promotes the application of historical scholarship outside the university in government, business, historical societies, preservation organizations, archives, libraries, professional associations, and public interest groups. For details contact NCPH Chair Michael Scardaville, History Department, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208 (803) 777-7611 or Vice Chair Arnita Jones, 5313 Hempstead Rd., Louisville, KY 40207 (502) 896-8186. For membership information contact Executive Secretary Barbara Howe, History Department, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506 (304) 293-2421. For change of address write UC Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley CA 94720. Copy for *Public History News* should be sent to Todd Shallat, History Department, Boise State University, 1910 University Dr., Boise, ID 83725 (208) 385-3701. The summer deadline is June 1.



Michael Scardaville, outgoing Chair.

Year in Review

by Michael C. Scardaville, Chair

I would like to take this opportunity as outgoing Chair to review the work of the Council in the past year. Our energies since the New York meeting last spring have been directed at strengthening the structure of the organization as well as developing a variety of complementary programs and activities. The challenge for us has been to build upon the work of others who were instrumental in reinvigorating the journal and expanding the membership. With the help of the hard working Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and members who are willing to donate their talents, the Council has been able to make progress in a number of areas.

Considerable attention was paid to Council publications this year. The first full year of the new contract governing *The Public Historian* saw an invigorated Editorial Board which, under the able direction of David Kyvig, prepared a comprehensive set of editorial guidelines for the journal. The commencement of annual awards for the best article in the journal represents an on-going commitment on the part of the Council and was able to encourage the further development of major publication. The departure of G. Wesley Johnson, Brigham Young University, and subsequent appointment of Carroll Pursell of University of California, Santa Barbara, as jour-

See YEAR, p. 11

Building Bridges

By Arnita Jones, Vice-Chair

As the National Council on Public History begins its tenth year, it is fitting that we hold our annual meeting in conjunction with the Society for History in the Federal Government. For me personally, as I complete a three-year term on the Society's council, and begin my year of service as NCPH's chair, the joint meeting fulfills a long standing wish to encourage a closer relationship between the two groups.

Organized in 1979, the SHFG has closely paralleled, and usually complemented, the work of NCPH. The Society's membership draws from historians employed in the civil service, both in Washington and throughout the United States, as well as federal contractors and others keenly interested in the history and documentary records of our national government. By taking the lead in representing the concerns and interests of federal historical offices, the Society has made a major contribution to the future of historical research and to professional standards for historians, frequently through its support of the National Coordinating Committee's activities and through other means, the NCPH has joined in these efforts as well. In short we have much in common, a condition which the 1987 joint meeting should make abundantly clear.

Looking to the future, there may be other opportunities for cooperation be-

See BRIDGES, p. 5



Arnita Jones, incoming Chair.

A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities is enabling the North Carolina Humanities Committee to introduce recent research in the social history of the state to general audiences in libraries, museums, and community colleges.

Exploring North Carolina's Social History

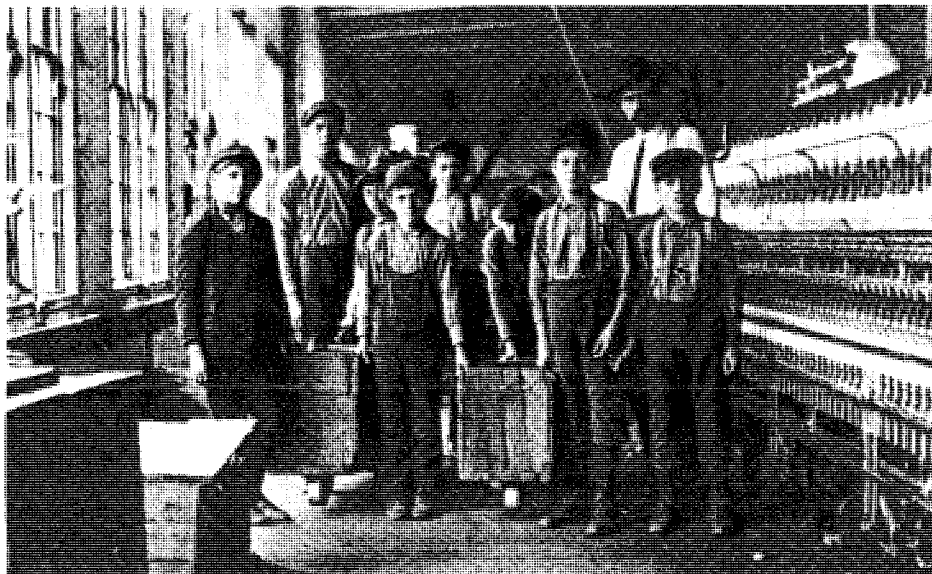
Lecturers in the program are Peter Wood (Duke University), Harry Watson (UNC-Chapel Hill), Paul Escott (UNC-Charlotte), Jacquelyn Hall (UNC-Chapel Hill), and David Goldfield (UNC-Charlotte). Their talks will address issues concerning contacts between Native Americans and Europeans in the colonial period; independence and freedom as experienced in the early national period following the American Revolution; the consequences of the Civil War in political and social life; industrialization and life in mill villages; and the making of modern North Carolina in the 20th century.

Each lecture will be given in five communities throughout the state: Charlotte, High Point, Elizabeth City, Waynesville, and Fayetteville. Local scholars from these communities will conduct study groups and lead tours of historic sites that illustrate issues in the lectures and readings. The programs began in September, 1986 and will continue through November, 1987.

The NEH grant was one of ten awards made in 1986 to state humanities councils as part of an exemplary awards competition. The Office of Continuing Education at UNC-Charlotte will serve as co-sponsor and state coordinator for the project.

The program, called "The Way We Lived in North Carolina," consists of a comprehensive ten-week series of presentations by prominent historians, reading and discussions in study groups, and guided visits to historic places. Its purpose is to help contemporary North Carolinians understand the development of their state's distinctive social and cultural life. Participants in the study groups are reading an award-winning five-volume text, called *The Way We Lived in North Carolina*, which integrates the study of social history with an examination of historic and architectural landmarks and sites.

Since 1983, with the sponsorship of summer social studies teaching institutes, the North Carolina Humanities Council has directed one or two programs a year, seeking support from the NEH and, increasingly, private sources. Crippled federal programs have made funding scarce. Yet, despite the reduction of federal support for humanities activities, the popularity of "The Way We Lived" offers hope. This kind of program suggests that state council can rise to the challenge and carry on the important work of expanding the public's appreciation of history and humanities research. □



Doffers and their superintendent at the Catawba Cotton Mill, Newton, N.C. Doffers removed full bobbins of thread from the spinning frames. (Lewis Hine, ca. 1908, Library of Congress)



Legislative Report

by Page Putnam Miller

National Endowment for the Humanities—In public statements during the recent NEH Council meeting and a Congressional hearing before the House Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, Lynne Cheney, who assumed the duties of Chairman of NEH almost a year ago, has taken the opportunity to highlight several NEH programs. She is particularly supportive of the Bicentennial Bookshelf, a program initiated this past September which is designed to encourage reading and discussion of the U.S. Constitution. The program provides \$500 matching grants to public libraries for the purpose of primary source material and reference books on the U.S. Constitution. Thus far 848 public libraries have participated in this program. Cheney is also devoting special attention to a study on the state of humanities education in elementary and secondary schools. In the 1985 reauthorization legislation for the NEH, Congress required NEH to conduct this study which is to include an examination of "the current and future availability of qualified instructional personnel." A third NEH program that Cheney is emphasizing is the U.S. Newspaper Program. This project is establishing a central bibliographic record of the 250,000 American newspaper titles published since 1690 and is microfilming those which are more historically important and which are endangered. To date twenty-seven states are involved in this long-range project. NEH is currently encouraging the remaining twenty-three states to join this effort.

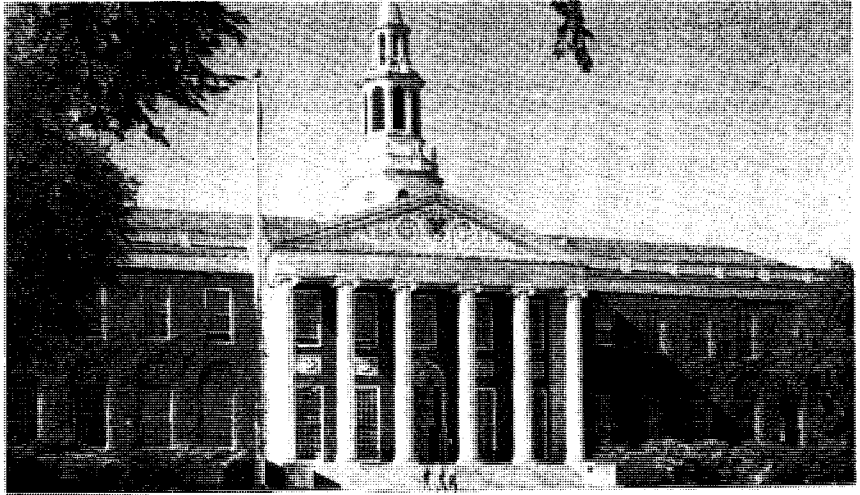
Federal Depository Libraries Face Crisis—Fourteen hundred libraries participate in the Depository Library Program and serve as an effective way of ensuring that there are collections of government documents geographically dispersed throughout the country. Last fall the head of the Government Printing Office announced that due to budgetary restraints, a large portion of the material previously sent to depository libraries in a paper format would now be available only in microfiche. The material for the depository libraries targeted for the shift to microfiche included the frequently used *Federal Register* and the *Congressional Record*. There has been a strong negative reaction from the depository community to the particular material targeted, to the short notice given, and to the lack of con-

See CRISIS, p. 12

Business is the Historian's Enterprise at Harvard's Baker Library

Harvard's Baker Library serves the graduate school of business administration with an historical archives of great value to scholars. Founded in 1927, the library began as a repository for the Business Historical Society and its corporate sponsors—J.P. Morgan, Herbert Hoover, Allan Forbes, and others. The idea was to establish a research facility of international character, an archive that would promote effective leadership by permitting the study of corporate decision-making and management science. Today the library has narrowed the focus to foreign trade, railroads, textiles, fishing, and farming.

"Baker's collections are regularly drawn on by students of business, economic, and labor history, women's and ethnic studies, industrial archaeology, international relations,



Baker Library, Graduate School of Business Administration, Harvard University.

and urban geography," according to Florence Bartoshesky Lathrop, Curator of Manuscripts and Archives. "Growing out of the school's larger commitment to training general

managers and supporting business research, the Baker collection has become a model for similar preservation efforts at other repositories as well as for businesses themselves."

State Archives Seek Help from Historians, Community

Preservation Needs

Preservation Needs in State Archives, a report from the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administration (NAGARA), has several issues and implications for public historians.

It is the most thorough investigation of its kind, focusing particularly on preservation programs and needs. The report flags the danger of our archival record: "The paper on which most of our documentary heritage is written is

deteriorating at an alarming rate while some newer recording media are even more transitory." The causes and scope of this problem are fully discussed in the report, and recommendations for nationwide action are called for.

Public historians can contribute mightily to the solution of this major problem in several ways. Bruce Dearstyne, Principal Archivist for the New York State Archives, suggests discussing the report and its recommendations at local, regional and national conferences, emphasizing the validity and implementa-

tion of the recommendations.

Next, inform the news media, professional associations and citizens about the needs of *their* state archives. Work with your state archivist to strengthen programs and meet preservation needs.

Finally, help define the appropriate role of the federal government in assisting the states in meeting state archival preservation needs. Begin by reading the report. A limited number of copies are available from the NAGARA Executive Secretariat, New York State Archives, 10A75 Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230. □

• Bridges

(continued from p. 3)

tween NCPH and SHFG. One—the Intergovernmental Personnel Act—we will begin to explore at the Washington meeting. Another round table relates the National Council's continuing efforts to strengthen its ties with the archival community, many of whom are also members of the SHFG. This session relates to our efforts to collect and eventually disseminate better information on the growing number of corporate archives across the country. Look for these sessions at conference registration.

These initiatives are just the beginning, and there remains much to be done. In the coming year I shall welcome, indeed actively solicit, other ideas from our members on how NCPH can better serve the cause of professional historians and public history work. □



Curriculum Resources

Public History Education in America: A Guide

A comprehensive review of course offerings, internships, and degree requirements. Available for \$7.50 to members, \$9 to non-members.

History Goes Public

A slide-tape presentation showing opportunities in public history—ideal for classroom and seminar use. \$35 rental, \$100 purchase.

Send inquiries and checks payable to NCPH; attn: Barbara Howe, Executive Secretary, History Department, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26505 (303) 293-2421.



BULLETIN

JOBS/FELLOWSHIPS

•John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library needs a director. Annual salary starts at \$53,830. Applicants must have graduate degree in American history or equivalent. For more information please contact Office of Personnel Management, 10 Causeway St., Boston, MA 02222-1031. Closing date will be when position is filled.

•The History Division, U.S. Department of Energy, seeks a professional historian. Ph.D. preferred, M.A.s considered. Write to Dr. Terrence R. Fehner, Chair, Search Committee, History Division, MA-295, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20545.

•San Jose State University will hire a tenure-track public historian to teach graduates and undergraduates, write, and direct community research. Salary: \$25,812-/\$31,044. Send letters and vitae to Chair, Search Committee, Department of History, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA 95192; or call (408) 277-2595. Deadline for application is April 30.

•The NASA History Program invites proposals to research and write a book-length history of NASA's Johnson Space Center. Qualifications include Ph.D. in history, successful research and publications. Submit proposals by September 1, 1987 to Dr. Sylvia Fries, LBH/History Office, NASA, Washington, DC 20546.

AWARDS

•The Arkansas Women's History Institute takes great pleasure in announcing the 1987 Susie Pryor Award competition for the best unpublished essay or article in Arkansas Women's History. The Award carries a \$1000 prize. Contact Patricia Mooney Melvin, History Department, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, AR 72204. Application deadline is February 15, 1988.

•The Abel Wolman Award supports historical publications on water resources, transportation, solid waste, planning, engineering, administration, public buildings and grounds, and public works equipment. Contact Howard Rosen, Public Works Historical Society, 1313 East 60th St., Chicago, IL 60637.

•Dr. Trudy Huskamp Peterson has been appointed Assistant Archivist for the National Archives by Acting Archivist Frank G. Burke. Peterson, published in the fields of archives and agricultural history, has been a Fulbright lecturer in American studies at the University of Oulu, Finland.



•West Virginia University has granted Barbara J. Howe and Emory L. Kemp an outstanding research award for *Public History: An Introduction*. NCPH commends West Virginia University for appreciating the public side of historical research.

MEETINGS

•The International Symposium on Newspaper Preservation and Access will be held August 12-15 in London, England. For further information contact Valerie J. Nurcombe, Information Consultant, 8 Kingfisher Drive, Over, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 1PF, U.K. Telephone 0606 558242/-782511 Fax 061 941 6124.

•The National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators will hold its annual meeting in Atlanta, July 22-25. Write Bruce Dearstyne, New York State Archives, 10A75 Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230.

•The American Association for State and Local History will meet in Raleigh, North Carolina, October 4-7. Session proposals should be sent to the chair of the Program Committee, Rowena Stewart, director of the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum, 7th and Arch Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

•The Eighth Annual Lowell Conference on Industrial History will be held the last week in October. The theme is "Immigration, Ethnicity, and the Industrial Revolution." Contact Robert Weible, Lowell National Historical Park, 169 Merrimack St., Lowell, MA 01852.

•The Society of American Archivists will meet in New York City at the Grand Hyatt Hotel September 2-6 for their annual meeting. Proposed topics include Archival Education in Public History Programs and Archives and the Public Policy Process. For more information contact Nicholas C. Burckel, Washington University Libraries, Campus Box 1061, St. Louis, MO 63130.

PROGRAMS

•Public Works Historical Society is offering three sessions on the history of planning for their annual meeting of the American Planning Association in New York City from April 26-29, 1987. The sessions include "Historians and the Planning Process," "Making Public Works Policy," and "Real Estate Development and Public Works." Contact Public Works Historical Society, 1313 E. 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637 (312) 667-2200.

•"Liberty: Rights and Responsibilities in History" is the theme of History Day to be held June 8-9 at the University of Maryland—College Park. Volunteers should contact Dr. Lois Scharf, National History Day, 11201 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44106 (216) 421-8803.

•Internships are being offered at Tillers Small Farm Program. They concentrate much of their efforts on appropriating the best from historical practices which they modify for use today in America and developing countries. Internship periods run from mid-March to December. Contact Richard Roosenberg, Tillers Small Farm Program, 7000 N. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007 (616) 381-0727.



The Strong Museum will host a symposium entitled "American Play: 1820-1914" on Friday and Saturday, November 6 and 7. Contact: Mary Ann Meyer, Public Information Coordinator, One Manhattan Square, Rochester, NY 14607. (Smithsonian Art Institute, U.S. Department of Labor)

CANADA

•Post-Doctoral fellowships in Military history are being offered through the Department of National Defence in Canada. The fellowship is \$12,000 annually. Applicants must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants. Write Scholarship Administration Services, Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, 151 Slater Street, Ottawa, Canada K1P5N1.

NOTES

•NCPH is compiling a directory of continuing educational programs in public history. Write Michael Wade, History Department, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608.

•Garland Publishers are calling for contributors for *An Encyclopedic Handbook of American Women's History*. Send inquiries to Dr. Angela Howard Zophy, Editor, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Kenosha, WI 53141.

•The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the GSA training center will conduct seven two-day workshops on federal projects and historic preservation law between late April and August, 1987. San Francisco, New York, Albuquerque, Kansas City, Denver, Seattle and Washington, D.C., are training locations. For information call the GSA Training Center at (703) 557-0986, or ACHP's Shauna Holmes at (202) 786-0503.

•"Going to the Source: An Introduction to Research in the Archives," is a four-day, lecture-workshop in the research uses of primary sources sponsored by the National Archives, May 26-29 in Washington D.C. Contact Elsie Freeman, Chief, Education Branch, National Archives, Washington, DC 20408 (202) 523-3298.

•The Coalition for Advanced Preservation Technology is dedicated to seeing Congress establish "an institution to coordinate research, disseminate information, and provide training about new technologies." Historians concerned about the erosion of the nation's cultural heritage should contact Kathy Reinburg, Coalition for Advanced Preservation Technology, 2000 P St., NW, Suite 305, Washington, DC 20036 (202) 833-8846.

•"History and Material Culture" is the theme of a three-day workshop sponsored by the Salem Institute on the Study of Local History, August 3-5. Contact Local History Institute, Division of Graduate and Continuing Education, Salem State College, Salem, MA 01970.

•A Preservation Field School offered through the University of South Carolina in cooperation with the University of Charleston will be held June 8-27 in Charleston, South Carolina. Charleston will serve as an on-site introduction to the preservation process, focusing on research, management, and economics of preservation. Contact Dr. Michael C. Scardaville, Director, Applied History Program, Department of History, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208 (803) 777-7611.

•A conference on "Passages: Rites and Celebrations in the Rural Midwest" is calling for papers. Sponsored by The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and Norskedalen, the conference will feature public and personal events that mark transitions in the lives of individuals and communities. The conference will be held October 30-31, 1987 at Norskedalen. Send abstracts (250 words max.) to Robert Swartz, Norskedalen, P.O. Box 225, Coon Valley, WI 54623.

•Research studies offered by the National Park Service are available on microfiche accompanied by *The Cultural Resources Management Bibliography*. Over 5,500 reports are classified into three subject areas: history (including oral history), architecture and landscape (including interiors and artifacts), and archaeology and ethnology. The reports are also organized by region. Write Chadwyck-Healy Inc., 1101 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 (703) 683-4890.

•*History: Reviews of New Books* offers bimonthly issues of reviews of new publications within three to twelve months after publication. Each review is a critique of the book itself rather than an exposition of the reviewer's opinions. For more information please write *History: Reviews of New Books*, 4000 Albemarle St., NW, Washington DC 20016.

•The Society for American City and Regional Planning History has been established to promote planning history through teaching, research and publication. The society will meet in Columbus next September. Contact The Society for American City and Regional Planning History, 3655 Darbyshire Dr., Columbus, OH 43220-1416 (614) 876-2170.

• Planning

(continued from p. 1)

Small businesses, large corporations, and public agencies are all using it. Strategic planning is a means of identifying shifting social and economic trends that may affect operations, gathering intelligence on what the competition is doing, and seeking ways to obtain or maintain a corporate advantage. To provide guidance and insight, historical analysis is very much a tool of strategic planning. Public historians have a potential role that they are only beginning to exploit.

About a year and a half ago I was asked to become a member of the newly-formed Strategic Planning Integration Group of the Corps of Engineers. In typical bureaucratic fashion, the group quickly became known as the SPIG. It reported to a major general who, in turn, reported to the Chief of Engineers, Lieutenant General E. G. Heiberg III. Faced with revolutionary changes in the administration of civil works and potentially dramatic organizational changes in the Department of Army, Heiberg determined that it was time to plan ahead, but in a way consistent with the Corps' historical role and mission. The SPIG was asked to prepare a blueprint for the future for the Corps' leadership to consider.

The SPIG's membership has generally numbered around fifteen members who come from many parts of the headquarters. They have taken their charge seriously, dividing their assignment into discrete parts. One important decision was to identify and analyze the cultural values of the agency before addressing its future. Implicit in this decision was the belief that no strategic planning would be successful if it ignored the organizational values that shaped the Corps' structure, attitudes, and purpose. This meant looking at the past. I prepared papers on the historical purpose of the Corps, on traditional missions, and, perhaps most interestingly, on characteristic values of the Corps as seen through its history. These papers and others were meant to provide some sense of the way in which the Corps' organizational culture evolved. Writing them was both challenging and exciting.

Still, it would be misleading to suggest that my contributions always carried the day. Clearly, there were some members of the SPIG who had their own idea of what the Corps valued. However, on the whole, I believe SPIG members appreciated the historical perspective. One unintended, but increasingly important, consequence of my efforts was to force members to think more precisely

CRM Process: Historian's Role Increasing?

by Stanley Hordes

The critical, yet difficult issue of how to enhance the role of the historian in the federal Cultural Resource Management process will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the NCPH in Washington, D.C.

For several years historians have expressed concern over their low numbers in key CRM positions within the federal structure, positions traditionally held exclusively by archeologists. The NCPH CRM Committee has been investigating this issue, and has discovered that while no specific *legislative mandate* exists to include historians in the CRM process, at least two sets of published federal guidelines and standards call for the participation of historians in appropriate projects.



Photo courtesy of John Milner Associates, Architects.

about the words they were using. Words such as "professional" and "engineer" or even "value" and "culture" change in meaning over time. It was important that members understood the different ways they were using the English language and to what extent the Corps' own rhetoric resulted from myth-making and illusions.

The SPIG is still in operation, and, as we turn to the question of future missions, I continue to use history to show the factors that have either stimulated or hindered growth. In all this, I have found my knowledge of the present Corps organization indispensable. Indeed, a historian's value to strategic planning depends on keeping abreast of current policies and procedures and being able to work with and understand some of the principal decision-makers. Strategic planning is no activity for a shrinking violet or an ivy-bound

"Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines" (*Federal Register*, Vol. 48, No. 190) call for "archival research", "use of historical sources", relation "of archeological documentation to other types of documentation or other treatments", and the integration of historical research with archeological documentation. "Guidelines for Historic and Archeological Resource Management; Federal Agency Responsibilities Under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act" states that "All historic preservation processes should be developed and implemented by or under the supervision of qualified professionals in appropriate historic preservation disciplines [italics mine]."

Currently the *Secretary's Standards* outline the minimum professional qualifications for historians as a graduate degree in history or closely related field, or a bachelor's degree, plus either two years experience in the field or a substantial contribution to the field.

It is apparent that those who favor an increased role for historians in the federal CRM process can look to the existing federal standards and guidelines and find some comfort. The CRM Committee meeting will be devoted to discussing how best to use these and other tools to achieve the end of greater participation of historians in this process.

Interested visitors, in addition to members of the CRM Committee, are invited to attend the meeting and discuss these issues. The meeting will be held on Friday, April 24, at 8 PM in the Hyatt Regency. □

academician.

The Corps is probably not unusual in using history as one of its guides to the future. Indeed, an axiom of strategic planning is that an organization ignores its history at its peril. However, it may be true that more often than not public and private organizations rely on armchair historians rather than on professionals for advice. More public historians are needed who are not afraid of applying their knowledge of the past to current cultural attitudes and values. It is possible they may find that they can serve as effective links to the future as well as to the past.

Martin Reuss is senior civil works historian for the Army Corps of Engineers. The views expressed in this essay are his and do not reflect those of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of the Army, or the Department of Defense. □

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Debra Newman's *Black History: A Guide to Civilian Records* is now available from the National Archives Trust Fund Board. Pictured: Martin Luther King, Jr.

Howe, Storey, Smith Win Council Elections



Barbara Howe, incoming Vice-Chair

The returns are in. Barbara J. Howe, Brit Storey and Karen Smith have been elected to the NCPH Executive Committee.

Howe, our new Vice-Chair, will succeed Arnita Jones as NCPH Chair in April 1988. She earned an M.A. at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a Ph.D. at Temple University. Currently she is an associate professor of history at the University of West Virginia, where she coordinates the public history program. Howe has served the Council as Executive Secretary, Secretary, Board Member, Executive Committee Member, Program Committee Co-Chair, and editor of the *Teaching Public History Newsletter*. A specialist in historic preservation and cultural resource management, she co-edited the award-winning *Public History: An Introduction* (1986) and wrote two chapters for the book. Her book, *Houses and Homes: Exploring Their History*, is forthcoming from the American Association of State and Local History.

The Council has chosen Brit Allen Storey as its new Secretary. Storey received his Ph.D. in American history from the University of Kentucky in 1968 while teaching at Auburn University in Alabama. He has served as Deputy State Historian, Acting State Historian, and Research Historian for the State Historical Society of Colorado. Since 1974 he has been on the Denver staff of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Our new treasurer, Karen Smith, was among the first public history Ph.D.s, receiving her doctorate from the UC

Santa Barbara program. A student of quantitative history, oral history, and quantitative methods, she is the author of the newly released *The Magnificent Experiment: The Building of the Salt River Reclamation Project 1890-1917*. At present she is the manager of archives for the Salt River project in Phoenix.

W. Elliot Brownlee, H. Nicholas Muller, III, and Wayne Rasmussen were elected to the Council's Board of Directors. Brownlee, currently the History Chair at UC Santa Barbara, helped to organize NCPH and served as its Chair in 1981. A Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, he is the widely acclaimed author of numerous publications in economic and social history, notably *Dynamics of Ascent: A History of the American Economy* (1974); *Progressivism and Economic Growth: The Wisconsin Income Tax, 1911-1929* (1974); *Women in the American Economy, 1675-1929* (1976), and *The Essentials of American History* (1976).

Board member Muller directs the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Having earned the Ph.D. at Rochester University in 1968, he joined the history faculty at the University of Vermont. He has served as president of Colby-Sawyer College and University Council, president of the Vermont Archaeological Society, and editor of *Vermont History*. His publications include *A State of Nature: Readings on Vermont History*; *Science, Technology, and Culture* (1974), and parts of the forthcoming *History of Vermont*.

Wayne D. Rasmussen, also elected to the Board, grew up on a cattle ranch in south-central Montana. Graduating from the University of Montana in 1937, he began a distinguished federal career as a records manager with the Department of Agriculture. Promoted to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, he then earned a Ph.D. in history at George

Historian programs in the military will be cut significantly as Congress begins reductions called for by Gramm-Rudman. More than one-half of the nearly 600 federal historians are employed by the military. The Air Force, with 210 historians, faces a \$1 million budget reduction while the Army, with 120 historians, will lose \$800,000 this fiscal year.

Gramm-Rudman Cuts Hurt Historians

Some historians are concerned that historical background may not continue to be available to government leaders as they confront problems. That was the case during World War II when President Franklin Roosevelt, frustrated by the inadequate records from World War I, established the first historical office of the Army. Since then federal historians and archivists have worked ardently to save, restore and utilize important documents from all periods of our past.

In addition to military matters, many of today's federal historians work with other government agencies to determine what documents have significance and should be saved, such as Senate records in the period immediately following an election. Cuts mandated by Congress may have serious implications on the ability of federal historians to satisfy government needs. □

Washington University. His books include *The Department of Agriculture* (1972) and *Agriculture in the United States: A Documentary History*, 4 vols. (1975).

Federal historian Martin Reuss, a Duke Ph.D., has been elected to the nominating committee. Reuss is the senior civil works historian for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He specializes in water resource issues and strategic planning. Principal editor of the Corps' environmental history series, he is the author of *Shaping Environmental Awareness: The United States Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board*. □

Denver '88 . . .



"Our Nation's Heritage: Preserving and Interpreting America's Past" will be the theme of next year's NCPH conference in Denver.

Send proposals for papers, workshops, exhibits, and sessions to Brit Storey, NCPH Program Committee, 7264 West Otero Ave., Littleton, CO 80123.

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nal editor marks an important transition. The Council, indeed the historical profession, owes a considerable debt to Wes for all that he has done to fund and enhance public history. Wes' almost decade tenure as editor has established a solid foundation for the movement.

Other Council publications received attention this year as well. The newsletter, *Public History News*, has blossomed under the energetic editorship of Todd Shallat of Boise State University. With the assistance of Pat Melvin, chair of the newsletter committee, the Council has developed editorial guidelines for this expanding publication. The Council also started to prepare a directory of professional development opportunities as well as directory of historical consultants. Those publications should be completed within the calendar year.

Work also commenced on a long term grant funding project. The Council submitted a NEH grant proposal to plan a series of workshops on the use of history in public policy formulation. Regardless of the outcome from the Endowment, the Council, through Marty Melosi, project director, continued to develop and implement his concepts. Under the direction of Vice-Chair, Arnita Jones, the Council also is in the initial stages of pur-

sing a multi-year project to prepare a guide to research holdings and corporate archives.

The Council took a more active role in advocacy this past year. Not only did the board speak against appointment John Agresto as Archivist of the United States, the Council and its members gave full support to Page Putnam Miller of NCC and her diligent effort to represent the historical profession on that issue. In addition, the Council has taken a more active position in cultural resources management. As Chair, I was delighted to represent the Council at the quarterly meeting of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Offices last December. The Council CRM Committee, under the direction of Stan Hordes, is developing strategy to ensure that public historians are fully represented at subsequent meetings of this and other preservation organizations.

One final aspect of our work over this past year has been a systematic effort to foster and strengthen ties with other historical organizations. The Council appreciates the hard work of its own Program Committee in developing plans for the joint annual conference and workshop pursuits with the Society for History in the Federal Government. We

hope that countless hours of meetings and discussions will generate closer bonds between the members of the two public historical organizations. A closer relationship also is envisioned with the Society of American Archivists. Building on a special archives issue in *The Public Historian*, the SAA has incorporated public history sessions into its New York program next September. Another beneficial relationship of the Council has been with the University of California Press. A new working agreement with the Press has considerably strengthened the financial posture of our organization, a critical step toward support of our expanding activities.

All this, however, could not have been accomplished without the members of the Council, and for that I am grateful. It has been a year of promise, a time when the Council could move beyond structural changes and think about long-term needs and concerns. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been so generous with their time and abilities. Only through the involvement of its membership can the Council continue to develop into an organization that actively supports the use of history throughout society. □

Walking Through the Steps of the RFPs

by Shelley Bookspan

To bid or not to bid. That is often the question for historians in the business of landing contracts. As more and more word-of-mouth, non-competitive business rolls into a well-reputed consulting firm, however, the answer is increasingly no. The Request for Proposal, or RFP, process by which government agencies solicit bids for consulting work offers competitors an equal chance for a contract, but it is costly, time-consuming, and cumbersome for the bidder. The RFP itself can be a major problem. The language of the request can be confusing, and the number of required submittals staggering. Barring omniscience, developing a bottom-line bid can be problematical. It requires providing the best plan to fulfill the request while balancing realistic cost estimates with the often-unknown factors of the agency's expectations and budget. There is certainly no guarantee of a contract award for all of that useful precontract work, either.

Government agencies could improve their response rates and attract well-established firms by streamlining the

RFP process. I believe this would be best accomplished, oddly enough, by breaking the current process into two steps: the proposal step and, then, the contract negotiations. Rather than agencies sending an intimidating pile of forms, contract clauses, and partially designed plans hither and yon as part of the RFP, all they would initially need to provide are a clear statement of the problem, the project's time-frame, and the maximum acceptable bid. In return, the proposers would write a tentative plan and send it along with a qualifications statement and a minimum bid. Next, the agencies would rate these proposals for their responsiveness and conceptual integrity and offer to negotiate a contract with the highest rated firm. During those negotiations, the parties would work out such contract details as final plans and costs, payment schedules, attendance at public hearings, and insurance requirements. In the event of failed negotiations, the agency would contact the firm rated second for its proposal, and so on. This two-step process would retain uniformity and reduce both paperwork and guesswork all around. □

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• Crisis

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sultation with the depository libraries. Due to a strong outpouring of opposition, the plan is now on hold.

Vento Releases GAO Report Critical of the National Park Service—Congressman Bruce Vento, the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, released in February a General Accounting Office report that has found many park units lack completed or updated resource management plans and that little headway has been made in solving many of the park's resource protection problems. Vento expressed deep concern that the professional resource managers hands were being tied, noting the GAO found that although parks have proposed projects to address known resource problems, many projects have not been funded. To receive a copy of this report titled, "Parks and Recreation: Limited Progress Made in Documenting and Mitigating Threats to the Parks," and numbered GAO/RCED-87-36, write: U.S. General Accounting Office, P. O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. The first five copies of each report are free. Additional copies are \$2.00 each.

See Council election results, p. 10

White House Forwards Names of Nominees for NEH Council to the Senate—On March 3 the White House Personnel Office forwarded the names of five people to serve on the National Council on the Humanities to the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources for an approval process that is usually pro forma. The nominees for six-year terms on the twenty-six member Council which advises the Chairman of NEH on policies, programs, and grant applications are: Paul J. Olscamp, the President of Bowling Green State University and a former professor of Philosophy; Anne Paolucci, a recognized playwright, poet, and scholar, is a Professor of Literature at St. Johns University in New York; Jean Smith, the wife of William French Smith, has served on museum boards and on the White House Fellows Board; John Shelton Reed, Professor of Sociology at the University of North Carolina; and Charles Moser, Professor of Slavic languages at George Washington University. □

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