

HISTORY EDUCATION AND THE PUBLIC AUDIENCE

by Christine Compston and Jane McPhetres Johnson

Suppose we were to create a model for history education in the 21st century. What would that model look like? It might well include good literature as well as collections of primary documents, classic texts along with recent monographs, photographs, maps, and other forms of material culture. Classes might consist of a diverse group of learners; students and their mentors, working adults representing a wide spectrum of interests and experiences, senior citizens willing to share lessons from the past but equally concerned about the present, engaged in meaningful discussions extending over a period of several weeks. As a matter of fact, this is a description of many of the humanities programs that have been available in New England and other parts of the country since the reading-and-discussion model was created by Pat Bates at the Rutland (Vermont) Free Public Library about 20 years ago.

With major funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the six state humanities councils, the New England Foundation for the Humanities (NEFH) has enabled citizens and scholars throughout New England to achieve something like an ideal civic dialogue on topics ranging from the African-American work experience to the Supreme Court decision-making process, from early explorations to

changing demographics. These programs, usually sponsored by local libraries, are geared toward a general public and regularly draw participants from across the generations, representing all educational levels, a wide variety of ethnic, racial, and religious groups, and blue collar workers as well as professionals. Though not specifically designed with either students or teachers in mind, the programs regularly attract both.

The educational value of these public programs lies not only in the content, assigned readings and scholar-led discussions, but also in the audience. Those who attend reading-and-discussion series bring much more to the conversation than ability to reiterate what the book says. Life experiences provide depth and texture; they shape perspectives, reinforce lessons, and raise questions, creating an environment for learning that is often richer than what exists in the traditional classroom. Students not only learn from those with more experience and insight, but they also have real life examples of adults whose commitment to education goes beyond the conventional. Perhaps even more important, young adults find themselves in a forum in which their ideas, opinions, and observations are listened to and respected, in turn, by people whom they have come to respect.

For example, high school students and history teachers attended *Deciding Justice*, a six-part series that examined factors that have influenced judicial decisions in cases involving the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment. Three or four students from a New Hampshire high school, along with their teacher, came to one session, the topic of which coincided with what they were studying in school. The students made good contributions to the discussion; in fact their knowledge of the cases and their understanding of the judicial process impressed the adult participants. In turn, the adults impressed the

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

• **David Kyvig**, professor of History at the University of Akron in Ohio, has received several awards for his most recent book, *Explicit and Authentic Acts: Amending the U.S. Constitution 1776-1995*, published by the Uni-



versity Press of Kansas. He received the prestigious Bancroft Prize given by Columbia University for outstanding books in the fields of American history, biography or diplomacy. Kyvig also received the Henry Adams Prize from the Society for History in the Federal Government and the Ohio Academy of History Book Award. Kyvig's book is a comprehensive examination of the history of amending the Constitution of the United States. NCPH extends its congratulations to Kyvig for receiving these distinguished awards.

• **Rodger E. Stroup** of Columbia, S.C. has been selected as the new director of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Stroup previously served as Director of Collections and Interpretation at the South Carolina State Museum.

• **Andrew Gulliford**, director of the Public History & Historic Preservation Graduate Program at Middle Tennessee State University, has served as the Wayne N. Aspinall Visiting Chair of History and Public Policy at Mesa State College, Grand Junction, Colorado, for five weeks in Spring 1997.

New Members

Cathy Croghan Alzner, *Tualatin, OR*
American Irish Historical Society,
New York, NY

Linda Barnickel, *Madison, WI*

Robert C. Bartleson, *Drummond Island, MI*

Jeannette Bastian, *St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands*

Volume 17, Number 3 Spring 1997

A Quarterly Publication of the **National Council on Public History** in cooperation with the Department of History, Indiana University at Indianapolis.

Diane Britton, President

Janelle Warren-Findley, Vice-president

Jeffrey P. Brown, Past-president

Marianne Babal, Secretary-treasurer

David G. Vanderstel, Executive Director

➤ See History Education page 2

➤ See Members page 9

► History Education from front page

students by their commitment to read lengthy and difficult texts, to spend two hours every other week meeting at the local library, and to discuss controversial issues in a thoughtful, non-confrontational manner. The teacher later commented on how important this example had been for his pupils.

A teacher in Vermont and another in Connecticut heard about the program ahead of time and arranged for their classes to join the adult participants. The Vermont class met independently on alternate weeks, discussing the upcoming readings over a potluck supper. At another Connecticut site, Professor Wayne Swanson, a local scholar, led a discussion of his own book, *The Christ Child Goes to Court*, which traces the Supreme Court decision in which the ACLU challenged the publicly sponsored nativity scene in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. A local rabbi and his young son were among the participants at that session.

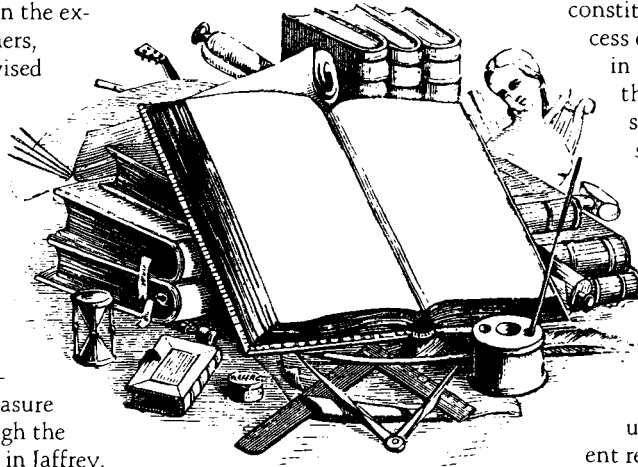
Making a Living: The Work Experience of African Americans in New England, which was co-sponsored by the Museum of Afro-American History, also drew both teachers and students. This project, which consisted of a low-security panel exhibit, an anthology of readings, a thirty minute video, and scholar-led discussions, was presented in 28 libraries, historical societies, and community centers across New England in 1995-96. In some cases, teachers themselves developed teaching strate-

gies based on the exhibit; in others, scholars devised ways to engage students. In Cambridge, Massachusetts, for example, the local scholar led first and second graders on a "treasure hunt" through the exhibit, and in Jaffrey, New Hampshire, a fifth-grade teacher wrote a two-page study guide for his students. In sites as diverse as Presque Isle, Maine, and Boston, Massachusetts, the exhibit was held over in order to enable local school groups to see it.

A teacher in Worcester, Massachusetts, described his participation in the reading-and-discussion series as "one of the most interesting activities I have undertaken relating to my professional career." Seventy educators attended the workshops offered at the African Meeting House in Boston, and teachers who participated in reading-and-discussion programs at public libraries in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island received continuing education credits.

Family Scrapbooks: Films, Stories, and Conversations Looking at Different Traditions explored the variety of cultural heritages in New England but also emphasized the common features of ethnic groups in the northeast. Each program was administered jointly by the public library and a local agency serving seniors. A program held in Newport, New Hampshire, reported on the interaction between senior citizens and a group of sixth-grade students: "These four sessions were . . . invaluable in deepening cultural understanding, especially in the readings we did about Native American and Chinese American experiences in the United States. The senior citizens and the young people helped enrich each other's perspectives on the readings under discussion by articulating how observers at the opposite ends of the chronological spectrum view and interpret things."

The New England Council for the Humanities, which developed and administered the above programs, was established a dozen years ago as a consortium of the six state humanities councils in the region. Its original programming initiative, *New England and the Constitution*, examined events and issues in the region during the era of debate over the adoption of a federal



constitution. The success of this program in 1985-86 led to the creation of a sequel, *The Constitution at 200*, which explored the creation of the Constitution, the social history of the times, and the historical figures involved, using three different reading-and-discussion themes.

Subsequent history programs offered by NEFH have included *Encounter in Norumbega: The Hidden Story of Early New England Maps*, which consisted of a reading and discussion series about the mutual impact of European and indigenous American cultures and an exhibit of 16th and 17th century maps selected to illuminate the political, social, and ecological changes in New England during the age of exploration and early settlement; *Yankees and Strangers: The New England Town from 1636 to 1992*, a reading and discussion series that explored the relationship between image and reality as well as the symbolic power of the image of the New England town; *Encompassing Columbus*, a series that approached the quincentennial by looking at the Italian Renaissance world that had given birth to Columbus; and *'The Civil War: A Second Look*, a three-part project that built on Ken Burns' television series: a reading-and-discussion series, a conference concerned with interpreting history through media, and a published collection of letters written by New England soldiers. Typically, a NEFH public program is offered at between 30 and 40 libraries during a two-year grant period, enlisting the support of dozens of historians and providing challenging academic programs to thousands of local residents, including local teachers.

The model used by NEFH is far from unique; the American Library Association and many state humanities councils develop and administer similar programs annually. Throughout the country, academic historians become public historians through their involvement with these programs. They develop exhibits, select readings, and lead discussion groups. And in the process, they further the goal of improving history education in the United States.

Christine Compston served as project director for "Deciding Justice." Jane McPhetres Johnson is project director with the New England Foundation for the Humanities.



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 President Diane Britton, Department of History, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606; Vice-President, Jannelle Warren-Findley, Department of History, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287; or David G. Vanderstel, 327 Cavanaugh Hall-IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140; (317) 274-2716; E-mail: ncp@indycms.iupui.edu.

For change of address, write UC Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94720.

Submissions to Public History News should be sent to David G. Vanderstel, Editor, at the address above.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



by Diane Britton

Approximately two hundred NCPH members converged in Albany during the first weekend of May for an annual meeting which focused on the theme "Public History and Public Memory." The local arrangements committee, chaired by Ivan Steen, arranged a series of special events to highlight attractions in the Albany area. Program committee members also deserve special recognition for organizing an excellent series of sessions and panels. Members of the Board of Directors discussed several topics pertinent to the organization and profession. Specifically, it voted to reincorporate NCPH from Washington, D.C. to Indiana -- a decision supported by the membership during the annual business meeting. An updated set of bylaws will be available at a later date. The Endowment Committee kicked off its giving campaign at the meeting resulting in individual pledges and gifts that moved NCPH over \$22,000 towards the \$200,000 goal. This is a great start for this major undertaking to ensure NCPH's long term financial stability and its ability to serve its varied constituencies and I encourage all members to make a commitment to the endowment fund. Remember that a stronger NCPH means a more powerful voice for the concerns of professional historians. A full report of committee and board activities will appear in the summer newsletter.

Friday night's banquet honored Page Putnam Miller as the initial winner of the Robert Kelley Memorial Award. The award recognizes distinguished and outstanding achievements for having made significant inroads in making history relevant to individual lives of ordinary people outside of academia. The selection com-

mittee noted Dr. Miller's long-term contributions to the public history movement as director of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History, exemplary scholarly contributions to public history, and meritorious service to the NCPH. In addition, they pointed out that "Page's outstanding achievements and long record of distinguished service as an advocate of history have been invaluable for maintaining federal support of history and have helped to raise the standards of history and professional historical practice throughout the United States."

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the officers, board members, executive office staff, and the many members of NCPH who have helped to make my presidential year a productive one. As a volunteer organization, we are dependent on the efforts of committed individuals. Collegiality is a hallmark of NCPH and that is apparent in the conduct of board and committee business. I am pleased to acknowledge the contributions of those people whose terms of service have ended this year including Jeffrey Brown as past president, Marianne Babal as secretary treasurer, retiring board members D. Lorne McWatters, Jo Blatti, and Michael Devine, outgoing editorial board members James Banner, Bruce Craig, and Donn Neal, and former nominating committee members Beverly Bastian, Glenda Riley, and Beth Boland. These individuals, as well as the committee chairpersons and members, deserve a special thanks for the time and effort spent doing the work of NCPH. The organization faces many challenges that require the attention of all of its members and I have appreciated the opportunity to work with you. Finally I wish to extend a special thanks to Joyce Haibe, former NCPH secretary, and to wish her the best of luck in her new position at IUPUI.

MEET THE NEW NCPH VICE-PRESIDENT

NCPH members elected Dwight Pitcaithley of the National Park Service to be the vice-president/president elect for 1997-1998. Pitcaithley has been a historian with the NPS for twenty years and, since 1995, has served as its Chief Historian. A Western historian by training with a Ph.D. in history from Texas Tech University, he has spent his career researching, writing, and speaking on public history and historic preservation while working in Santa Fe, Boston, and Washington, D.C. His service to the profession includes the Public History Committee of the OAH; Historic Preservation and Display Committee for the Society for History in the Federal Government; the Board of Directors of NCPH; and the Editorial Board for *The Public Historian*. He was a member of the History

Committee, Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Foundation, and the Board of Advisors, New England Heritage Center, Bentley College. Since 1993, he has been an adjunct professor at George Mason University where he teaches a graduate course in historic preservation.

Having observed first-hand the profound changes in the public history movement over the past two decades, Pitcaithley noted that "the current high level of interest in all aspects of American history provides public historians with abundant opportunities to engage the public in thoughtful discussions of historical issues and methods." He also argued that "we must continue to discuss complexity and controversy if we are to encourage critical thinking and reasoning in our students and our publics."



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

by David G. Vanderstel



A key element of public history is public involvement. That entails bringing broader and more diverse audiences into the study of history, engaging them in conversations about the meaning of history, and explaining and demonstrating the usefulness and meaningfulness of history in contemporary life. This often proves to be a challenge for those historians unaccustomed to dealing with individuals and groups outside their classrooms or even their circle of peers.

But, as the field of public history matures, we are witnessing an increasing number of innovative projects that are reaching out to include more people in the study and appreciation of the past.

At our recent annual meeting in Albany, I had the opportunity to chair a session entitled "Practicing Public History in the Community." It involved several case studies of individuals involving the public in their research and establishing working relationships between academics and other members of the surrounding community. A public history graduate student discussed the emergence of a Native American community in the Southwest and how the residents are using the knowledge of the past to deal with contemporary problems and to shape public policy. A professor from Baltimore described how she took her class into an impoverished area of the city to study its history and its people, established relationships with residents and community leaders, and worked towards making local history understandable to inform policy debates affecting the community. An archaeology graduate student explained his effort to make his archaeological project a living classroom by developing curriculum materials, planning programs, involving the public in the digs, and thereby building a greater interest in and appreciation for the past.

Each presentation focused on a community-based project, one

that sought not only to study a unique community or site but also to involve the public in "doing history," preserving the stories of the past, and learning how to use history in dealing with everyday life in the late 20th century. Each project illustrated a particular success of bringing scholars and the public together on common ground. Most importantly, these projects demonstrated a dialogue or a public conversation in which both researchers and their respective audiences combined to learn from each other.

At The Polis Center here at IUPUI, for which I serve as the Senior Research Associate, we are involved in ongoing studies of Indianapolis past and present. Through all of our projects, and especially our current initiative on Religion and Urban Culture, we seek to nurture public inquiry and civic conversation about issues affecting the creation and re-creation of urban community in one American city. We have brought together members of the academy, leaders from the city's religious, political, and business institutions, neighborhood and community development associations, students, and the general public to participate in common discussions and activities that create a civic arena for public teaching and public learning. We share what we learn with academic and public audiences through a variety of means, ranging from scholarly presentations to community-based workshops and conversations. Our goal is to create what we have come to call a "community of inquiry." In pursuing this end, we have established some very rich and rewarding relationships with institutions and individuals and demonstrated that the university can be an interested and involved member of the larger community.

I hope that we all have that common goal of seeking to build a "community of inquiry" in whatever we do as public historians. Not only do such initiatives advance the cause of our discipline and field of specialization, but they can also prove to be personally rewarding for researcher and community member alike.

NCPH ASSISTANT GRADUATES, TAKES NEW POSITION

Joyce Haibe, the administrative assistant to the Executive Director of NCPH, recently graduated from IUPUI with her B.A. in art history and history. She also was appointed to a fulltime position as departmental secretary for the Geography Department at IUPUI. Joyce, who had worked for NCPH half-time since early 1994, was instrumental in maintaining the

smooth daily operations of the organization. In addition to her regular responsibilities, she oversaw the PUBLHIST discussion list and the NCPH webpage and assisted with the quarterly newsletter *Public History News*. NCPH extends its thanks to Joyce for her years of service to the organization, and we all wish her well in her new position.

NEW NCPH OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

This past winter, NCPH members elected new officers and board members to serve the organization. New officers include: Dwight Pitcaithley, National Park Service, vice-president/president elect; and Elizabeth Brand Monroe, IUPUI, secretary-treasurer. New members of the board

include: Rose Diaz, Arizona State University; Katherine Corbett, Missouri Historical Society; and Martin Blatt, Boston National Historical Park. Elected to terms on the nominating committee were: Lisa Mighetto, Historical Research Associates; and James Gardner, Washington, D.C.

NCPH ACQUIRES EXHIBIT EQUIPMENT

If you attended the NCPH annual meeting in Albany and visited the exhibit area, you had an opportunity to see the new exhibit equipment recently acquired by the Executive Offices. Last year, the Board of Directors approved this purchase in its ongoing efforts to promote NCPH activities and membership at national, state, and local meetings. The equipment will be made available, upon approval of the Executive Director, for use at professional meetings and conferences where it is believed that NCPH should be present and visible. The Board also agreed that the display should be used solely for the purpose of promoting NCPH and not for the advancement of individual institutions and/or programs in public history. If you are interested in using this equipment for NCPH, please contact the Executive Offices at (317) 274-2716 for more details.

NCC UPDATE



by **Page Putnam Miller**,
*Director of the National
Coordinating Committee for
the Promotion of History*

*[Editor's Note: We provide
here edited excerpts of NCC
Updates from past months.]*

• **Senate Hearing on Declassification** -- On May 7, Senator Fred Thompson (R-TN), chair of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, held a hearing to consider the recent report of the Congressionally mandated Commission on Protecting and Reducing Government Secrecy, chaired by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY). The unanimous report, the result of a two year investigation, sharply criticized existing practices that involve excessive secrecy. Congressional panel members emphasized that secrecy is an essential component of US foreign policy but that only information that is necessary to prevent a threat to the US should be classified. All members concurred with the Commission's recommendation calling for the enactment of a statute to establish the principles on which federal classification and declassification programs should be based. National security information policy is currently established by executive order; however, the report makes the case that a law would improve the functioning and implementation of the classification and declassification system.

Later that day, the "Government Secrecy Act of 1997" was introduced in the Senate and the House. The bills include a balancing test whereby the benefit from public disclosure of information will be weighed against the need for initial or continued protection of information. Considerable authority for classification decisions would remain with agency heads; many other aspects of the legislation conform to the current policies of Executive Order 12958. Unlike the executive order, which set 25 years as the target for all but the most sensitive information to be declassified, the bills adopt a 30 year time frame. The bill also provides for the creation of a National Declassification Center to be established within an existing agency to coordinate and oversee policies and practices.

• **Amendments to Historic Preservation Act Introduced in House** -- On

May 1, Joel Hefley (R-CO), chair of the House Resources Committee, introduced H.R. 1522, a bill to amend the National Historic Preservation Act. The main purpose of the bill is to extend the authorization of the Historic Preservation Fund; but, it also includes several other provisions, some involving the shifting of responsibilities from the Department of Interior to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

• **Recent NEH Grant Awards Underscore Significant Reductions for Research and Education** — In 1995, before experiencing a 36% budget cut, NEH provided \$28 million for education related grants and \$23.5 million for research. Responding to the sharp budget reductions, NEH merged its education and research programs into one division with total funding in 1997 of \$21.58 million. While some rearranging of programs among divisions makes exact comparisons between 1995 and 1997 levels difficult, it is clear that programs have experienced a very large cut that is approaching 50%. In early April, applicants to the NEH Collaborative and Institution Based Research Program received letters on the most recent round of funding decisions. Of the 223 applications received by this program, only 44 received funding. The results were bleak for the ongoing historical documentary editions. At least 10 previously funded NEH projects were not renewed: the papers of Robert Morris, the Ratification of the Constitution, the First Federal Congress, Andrew Johnson, James K. Polk, War Department, Margaret Sanger, Emma Goldman, Henry Laurens, and Nathanael Greene. Most had been recommended for funding by the peer view panel and received strong ratings. Of the 44 projects that just received funding, there were 31 documentary editions projects, 2 conferences, 4 archeological projects, 3 collaborative research projects, and 4 translations. Of the 31 documentary editions projects, 15 were in U.S. history. The remaining 16 were in literature, philosophy, non-U.S. history, and ancient texts.

• **Sheldon Hackney To Leave NEH In August After Completion of His Four Year Term** — On April 21 Sheldon Hackney announced that he will return to teach history at the University of Pennsylvania when he completes his four year term as Chair of NEH in August. He emphasized that his decision had "nothing to do with the endowment or its future," but

that it was based on "what I need to do with my own life and what my family needs." During Hackney's tenure the NEH experienced a 36% cut in its budget. Many credit Hackney with providing able leadership through this difficult period and with making NEH nonpolitical and nonideological. One of Hackney's major initiatives was the National Conversation on American Pluralism and Identity which has involved 3 million Americans in thinking about what values hold our nation together.

• **Court Denies Access to Correspondence Between Former Presidents and the Archives and Justice Department on Electronic Records Issue** — On April 22 the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia reversed the May 24, 1996 decision of Judge Charles R. Richey in the case of Public Citizen v. US Department of Justice and the National Archives and Records Administration (No. 95-02095-CRR). Judge Richey had rejected the government's efforts to withhold correspondence between the National Archives and the Department of Justice with former President Reagan's and Bush's attorneys concerning the fate of their electronic records. In this case Public Citizen requested through the Freedom of Information Act access to correspondence pertaining to a January 20, 1993 memorandum of agreement between the National Archives and former President George Bush concerning the possession, custody, control, and ownership of electronic records created by the Executive Office of the President. In the case of the American Historical Association v. the U.S. Archivist, the Court ruled that this agreement was not constitutional. While Judge Richey had ruled in favor of access to the FOIA requests, the Court of Appeals has denied access, asserting that under the Presidential Records Act this correspondence is privileged interagency communication. Not only does this ruling mean that the plaintiffs will be unable to gain access to the correspondence pertaining to the agreement between President Bush and Archivist Don Wilson, but it also may make it more difficult for citizens to gain information on the government's negotiations with the Nixon estate regarding the value and the future location of the Nixon Presidential recordings and papers.



Announcements

• The article, "Letters from the Field: John Sylvanus Loud and the Pine Ridge Campaign of 1890-1891" by Fred and Patricia L. Erisman, has won the Spur Award in the category of Best Western Short Nonfiction for 1996 by Western Writers of America. It appeared in the Spring 1996 (Vol. 26, No. 1) issue of *South Dakota History*, the magazine of the **South Dakota State Historical Society**. John Loud was a captain in the Ninth United States Cavalry assigned to the Pine Ridge Agency in 1890. According to the Erismans, Loud, in letters to his family, "offers modern readers a glimpse of life in the frontier army that gives new dimensions to matters military, political, and personal."

• **Baylor University** has announced that it will offer new undergraduate and graduate minors in its Department of Museum Studies. These new programs will allow both bachelor and master's degree students to pursue academic minors focusing on museum professional training. The new minors require undergraduate students to take 18 semester hours of museum studies courses and graduate students to take nine semester hours of museum studies courses. The minors will provide students with insights into the mission, management, operation, and future of museums. For more information, contact Dr. T. Lindsey Baker, assistant professor and director of academic programs and graduate studies in the Department of Museum Studies at (817)755-1233.

• **The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** has announced the release of a new generation of community planning software that will help citizens analyze and participate in decisions that affect the ways local governments use local, state and federal resources. The software has been developed in collaboration with Caliper Corporation of Newton, Massachusetts. Conceived by HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) under the name Community Planning Software Plus (CPS+),

the package is a special edition of Caliper's Maptitude Geographic Information System (GIS) for Windows. The new software does everything that the first generation of software (CPS) did, but is much easier to use for persons not proficient with computers and is compatible with any database management or word processing system on the market. HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo has called the new software a "home run," adding that it is part of "a future where no one is left behind and everyone has access to technology which allows them to reach as high as their talents and hard work will take them." Inquiries concerning the uses and applications of the software may be addressed to Dick Burk at (202)708-2096, Richard_Burk@hud.gov

• **The Historical Society of Pennsylvania** announced that it will close to the public from November 27, 1997 to April 13, 1998, inclusive, for building renovations. For more information, contact the Society at (215)732-6200 or email: hsprr@aol.com

Awards, Fellowships, and Internships

• **The Coordinating Council for Women in History and the Berkshire Conference on Women Historians** announce the eighth annual competition for two \$500 Graduate Student Awards to assist in dissertation work. Applicants must be women graduate students in US institutions, but may be in any field of history. Deadline for submission of applications is **September 15, 1997**. For applications, contact Professor Janice M. Leone, Award Committee, Department of History, Middle Tennessee State University, Box 23, Murfreesboro, TN, 37132.

• **The American Antiquarian Society (AAS)** is now accepting applications for fellowships for historical research by creative and performing artists, writers, film makers and journalists. The program, funded by a grant from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, is designed to enhance the ways in which history is communicated to the American people.



Fellowships will be provided to people whose research objectives are to produce works dealing with pre-twentieth century American history designed for the general public rather than for the academic/educational communities. The fellowships may support research projects on virtually any subject within the general area of American history and culture before 1877. At least three fellowships will be awarded for residence of from four to eight weeks at AAS in Worcester, Massachusetts, for any time between January 1 and December 31, 1998. The stipend will be \$1200 per month, plus a travel expense allowance. For information about applying, contact John B. Hench, vice-president for Academic and Public Programs, American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609-1634; phone (508)752-5813 or (508)755-5221; e-mail cmm@mwa.org. Application deadline is **October 6, 1997**. Applicants will be notified on or about December 1, 1997.

Calls for Papers

• **The Oral History Association** invites proposals for papers and presentations for its 1998 annual meeting, to be held October 15-18 in Buffalo, New York. The theme of the meeting is "Crossing the Boundary, Crossing the Line: Oral History on the Border." Proposals that relate to mediations among diverse communities; class, ethnic, racial, and gender perspectives; interdisciplinary approaches; transnational issues; migration and immigration; transgressions; new frontiers in technology; lesbian and gay history; relationships in interviewing; marginality; oral history and received historical wisdom; shifting borders in oral history; and ethical and legal boundaries are especially encouraged. Proposals on other topics are also welcomed.

Applicants must submit four copies of the following: a one-page description of the issues and questions the session will address and one-page abstract of each presentation; the name of the convenor; suggested commentator(s); and short vitae,



including institutional affiliation, mailing address, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses for each presenter. Individual proposals should include a title, one-page abstract of the presentation, and a short vita of the presenter. For more information or to submit proposals, contact: Debra Bernhardt, Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives, 70 Washington Square South, New York, New York 10012; phone (212)998-2640; fax (212)995-4070; e-mail (queries only) bernhardt@elmer1.bobst.nyu.edu or Cliff Kuhn, Department of History, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA 30303; phone (404)651-3255; fax (404)651-1745; e-mail hiscmk@panther.gsu.edu. **Deadline is December 15, 1997.**

• **Cornell University** is making an open call for paper from faculty, students, and independent scholars for "Constructing Identity: Between Architecture and Culture", October 24-25. The conference will address political, social and historical issues of identity in architecture and culture, including issues of exclusion and inclusion, inheritance and imposition, alterity and difference, and production and meaning in architecture and society. Applicants must submit a two page, 500 word abstract by the **July 1, 1997 deadline** with title, name and address, phone number and e-mail address, and affiliation, to: HAUS 143 E. Sibley Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. E-mail inquiries may be sent to haus@cornell.edu.

• Submissions on the relationship of architectural signing to Ethnic-American communities are sought for the **Society of Architectural Historians'** 51st Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, California, April 15-19, 1998. The meeting's theme, "Architecture as Sign in Ethnic-American Communities," refers to the pressure Ethnic-American communities have been under to assimilate into their surrounding environment to survive, but are often also expected to look exotic or identify themselves through their architecture. Session paper proposals should raise and generate questions about identity, sign, and community as they relate to the built environment. Proposals should be submitted in the form of 250 word abstracts and a full range of methodologies and theoretical approaches will be welcome. **Deadline is September 3, 1997.** To submit proposals or for more information, contact Lynne Horiuchi, 370 Wurster Hall, University of

California, Berkeley, California, 94720 by mail; by phone or fax at (510)547-7638; or by e-mail at tleavesoak@aol.com.

• The next Biennial **Australian Historical Association** conference will be held July 5-10, 1998 at the University of Sydney. The convenors are currently seeking offers of papers to be delivered at the conference. The conference will incorporate a wide range of themes and subject matter. The goal is to promote discussion, across eras and areas, about the theory and practice of history at the present time.

The AHA particularly encourages papers which consider the implications for the profession of recent theoretical developments in related fields, and of history-making in different forms by the wider community. Specialist papers on gender, postcolonialism and memory are welcomed. Specific themes such as the history of medicine and the role of the historian in the public culture will be developed at a later stage.

Forward offers of papers with 100 word abstract by **November 28, 1997**, to Dr. Penny Russell AHA Convenor, Department of History, University of Sydney, NSW 2006 by mail; email Penelope.Russell@history.su.edu.au.

• **The Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR)** announces a call for papers for the 20th annual meeting of the Society, scheduled for July 16-19, 1998, at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. The theme of the meeting will be "The Invention of American Nationalism(s)." In addition to papers dealing with political culture, national identity and nationalism, the program committee invites papers dealing with the special place the Harpers Ferry holds in the history of American technology and abolitionism, as well as the way in which the history of the site illustrates the problem of presenting the antebellum era to later generations. Proposals should be sent to: Jack Rakove, Program Chair, Department of History, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-2024; fax (415)725-0597; email: rackove@leland.stanford.edu Proposals should include a brief (one page) prospectus for each paper and a c.v. for all participants. Deadline is **January 15, 1998.**



Conferences, Institutes, Seminars and Workshops

• **The Conservation of Outdoor and Indoor Sculpture and Monuments** is the theme for the sculpture preservation conference to be held at Brookgreen Gardens, Murrell's Inlet, South Carolina, August 21-23, 1997. Current issues and research in sculpture conservation, including assessment, treatment and maintenance, and strategies for conservation, will be explored in this practical, hands-on conference led by professional conservators surrounded by an outstanding collection of sculpture. Conservation needs of museum curators, public arts programs, SHPO's, university art history, studio and conservation programs and SOS (Save Our Sculpture!) projects will also be addressed.

Brookgreen Gardens, the oldest public sculpture garden in America, has the largest permanent collection of outdoor American figurative sculpture in the world. The collection of 560 works by 240 artists includes such well-known artists as Charles Parks, Daniel Chester French, Carl Milles, August Saint-Gaudens, Arna Hyatt Huntington. The collection continues to grow with the addition of historical and contemporary art. Brookgreen also features a major indoor exhibition, "American Masters" which showcases foremost American sculptors of the last 150 years.

The workshop is sponsored by the SEMC (Southeastern Museums Conference), SOS!, North Carolina Museums Council (NCMC), South Carolina Federation of Museums (NCMC), South Carolina Federation of Museums (SCFM), Brookgreen Gardens and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training.

Registration fees are \$90.00 for delegates and \$50.00 for students. Scholarship awards are available on a competitive basis. Contact Sarah Luster at NCPTT for inquiries and/or registration information at (318)357-6421; or e-mail

lusters@alpha.nsula.edu; or NSU Box 5682, Natchitoches, LA 71497-5682.

• **The Museum of the Mountain Man** and its parent organization, the **Sublette County Historical Society**, will host the 1997 Fur Trade Symposium in Pinedale, Wyoming September 11-13, 1997. "The Fur Trade Era: The Influence of the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade on the Development of the American West" is a symposium designed to examine the significance of the Fur Trade in the Rocky Mountains and Upper Missouri River on the economic, cultural and social development of the peoples and geographic area involved. The primary focus of the Symposium will be the concept of enterprise as an organizing principle in understanding the Mountain Men. In addition to a presentation of academic papers, plans include a pre-conference trek to historic sites of the Fur Trade Era, a demonstration "Trappers' Camp", which will be given by personnel from the National Park Service, and a special culinary presentation on American Bison offered by renowned food historian Sam Arnold of The Fort Restaurant in Colorado. Robert Utley, noted author of *Western Americana*, will give the keynote address. The Fur Trade Symposium is funded in part with a grant from the Wyoming Council for the Humanities. For more information, contact: Museum of the Mountain Men, Box 909, Pinedale, WY 82941; or call (307)367-4101 Fax: (307)367-6768

• New to the field? Working in a small to mid-sized history organization and wondering how to involve your community? Join the **American Association for State and Local History**, the **Southern Indiana Historical Society**, and **Historic New Harmony** for *Making History With Your Community*, the only national history workshop in the country to focus on small and emerging history agencies. Scheduled for October 22-25, 1997, in New Harmony, Indiana, the workshop features hands-on sessions focused on essential information about starting and operating an historical agency, as well as developing long-term relationships within the agency's community. All sessions and materials are tailored to new professionals and those working in small to mid-sized organizations. Fee for the workshop is \$200.00, which includes all meals and workshop materials. For more information, contact AASLH (615)255-2971 or e-mail: aashl@nashville.net.

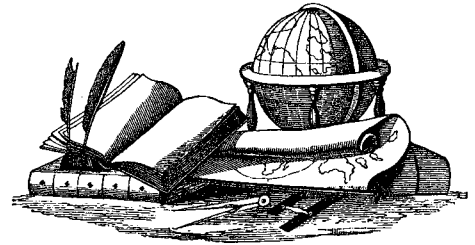
• **The Society for Industrial Archaeology** will hold its 1997 Fall Tour in Alexandria, Louisiana, on October 2-5. Sites on the tour include a turn-of-the-century sawmill, plywood and paper mills, locks and dams, and other industries. The event is hosted by the Louisiana Forestry Association, and sponsored by the Rapides Parish Cooperative Extension Service and The National Center for Preservation Technology & Training. For more information, contact Dr. Lauren B. Sickels-Taves, P.O. Box 597, Natchitoches, LA 71458; phone (318)352-5747; fax: (318)352-6619; email: taves@cp-tel.net

Exhibits

• **The University Libraries**, University of Texas at Arlington, announces the exhibition entitled "Windows in Time: The Photographic History of Fort Worth." The exhibition includes photographic images, both historic and contemporary, reflecting the growth and development of Fort Worth from its early days as a Victorian outpost on the prairie to the city's emergence as a mid-twentieth century business and financial center. It is currently on display on the sixth floor of the Central Library at the University of Texas at Arlington and will run through August 15, 1997. For further information, contact Jerry L. Stafford, Special Collections Division, (817)272-3393; fax (817)272-3360; e-mail stafford@library.uta.edu.

• Ever wonder why riding a Western-style saddle can hurt? Under all the finely tooled leather is a hard wooden frame. This frame, known to saddle makers as a "saddletree" is the subject of a recently opened exhibit at the **Kentucky Horse Park's International Museum of the Horse** in Lexington, Kentucky. The exhibit, entitled "Saddletrees Have No Leaves," showcases some of the wide variety of saddletrees once crafted at the Ben Schroeder Saddle Tree Company in Madison, Indiana. It will run through March 1998. For information, contact the Kentucky Horse Park, International Museum of the Horse, 4089 Iron Works Pike, Lexington, KY 40511, or phone (606)259-4247.

For more information about the Schroeder Saddletree Factory, contact Historic Madison, Inc., 500 West Street, Madison, IN 47250 c/o Schroeder Saddletree Project Director, phone (812) 265-2967.



Internet News

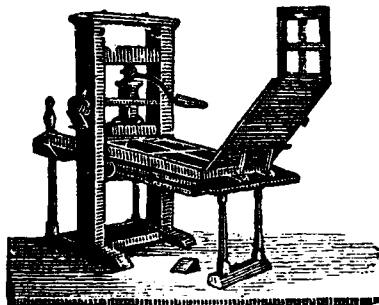
• **H-Grad**, the H-Net list specifically for graduate students, has extensively updated its website <http://h-net.msu.edu/~grad> to include information on getting into graduate schools, advice on being a successful graduate student, teaching tips, employment guides and many other useful links. You do not need to be a member of H-Grad to utilize the majority of the information and we welcome visitors from all stages of graduate education (applicants, current students, faculty members, administrators). Currently enrolled graduate students who wish to join H-Grad to participate in ongoing discussions regarding the many aspects of graduate school--teaching, finding an advisor, creating a committee, juggling school and family, negotiating the AHA--will find information at our website about subscribing.

• **The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)** is making it easier than ever for people to find and use documents from its collections. The Electronic Access Project, funded through the support of Senator Bob Kerry of Nebraska, will enable anyone, anywhere, with a computer connected to the Internet to search descriptions of NARA's nationwide holdings and view digital copies of its most popular documents.

The project, still in the development phase, will eventually result in a virtual card catalog of all NARA holdings nationwide, including those in the Presidential libraries and regional archives. In addition, copies of more than 100,000 of NARA's most popular and significant manuscripts, photographs, sound recordings, maps, drawings and other documents will be digitized and available for researchers to

view online. Users will be able to search the descriptions in the system by title subject, date, or other keywords.

A prototype of the catalog can be accessed through NARA's home page on the Internet at <http://www.nara.gov/nara/nail.html>. For more information contact Susan Cooper or Guiliana Bullard of the public affairs staff at (301)713-6000.



Publications

- The **NASA History Office** announces the publication of *Aiming at Targets: The Autobiography of Robert C. Seamans, Jr.* Dr. Seamans served as NASA's Deputy Administrator for much of the Apollo program during the 1960s and continued his distinguished career in Federal service as Secretary of the Air Force and head of the Energy Research and Development Agency in the 1970s. The hardcover book is available for \$25 from the Government Printing Office (GPO) at (202)512-1800. Refer to stock number 033-000-01175-0.

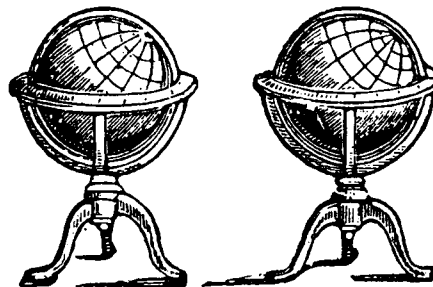
- The **University of Michigan** announces the publication of "Electronic Records Research and Development." This report presents findings from a 1996 conference that was cosponsored by the University and the Bentley Historical Library, and funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commissions (NHPRC). Copies of the report are available in both hard copy and electronically. The web version is available at <http://www.si.umich.edu/e-recs>. Free hard copies may be obtained by writing to: Electronic Records Report, Bentley Historical Library, 1150 Beal Avenue, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2113.

► Members from front page

Kimberly Beach, *Rome, NY*
Joseph Bedford, *Atlantic Highlands, NJ*
Brian Coffey, *Evanston, IL*
Melanie Cooper, *Aberdeen, NJ*
Danmarks Paedagogiske Bibliotek,
Kobenhavn, Denmark
Ronald R. Davidson, *Tonawanda, NY*
J. F. Donnelly, *San Antonio, TX*
Patrick C. Dougherty, *Upper Darby, PA*
Deborah G. Douglas, *Hampton, VA*
Narcisa M. Espinoza, *Tempe, AZ*
Marcia Goldstein, *Denver, CO*
Paul Herman, *San Francisco, CA*
Danielle Hogan, *Morgantown, WV*
Andrea Hough, *Houston, TX*
Balthasar Janacek, *San Antonio, TX*
Linda Jeffrey, *Toledo, OH*
Donna Kenny, *Florence, MA*
Shelley M. Kilgore, *Spokane, WA*
Emily Kimling, *Chandler, AZ*

Alan M. Kraut, *Bethesda, MD*
Rhoda Lewin, *Minneapolis, MN*
Ann McCleary, *Weyers Cave, VA*
Richard T. McCulley, *Washington, DC*
Madeleine Metzler, *Evanston, IL*
Navajo Nation Historic Preservation, *Window Rock, AZ*
Leah M. Osgood, *Greene, NY*
Dennis Preisler, *Tempe, AZ*
Hans Christian Rasmussen, *Lake Charles, LA*
Nancy Marie Robertson, *Brooklyn, NY*
Elaine G. Rosa, *Noblesville, IN*
Shawna Saaty, *Cupertino, CA*
Schenectady Museum, *Schenectady, NY*
Leta S. Schoen, *Houston, TX*
Ken Silver, *Boston, MA*
Jon E. Taylor, *Independence, MO*
Teresa Wallace, *Gardner, MA*
Psyche Williams, *Hyattsville, MD*
Heather A. Woolridge, *Kalamazoo, MI*
Alice Wygant, *Galveston, TX*

Visit the NCPH Website at
www.iupui.edu/it/neph/neph.html



*If you have a webpage,
please link NCPH to your site
so more can learn about the Council
and its activities.*

THE HISTORY NEWS SERVICE

by James M. Banner, Jr., and Joyce Appleby

In recent years, many have called for historians to reach out to a larger public. Historians have responded to these calls in many ways such as film-making, consultancies, public programming, and standard-setting. In 1996, we undertook to add yet another engagement with the public by establishing, with many others, the History News Service.

The History News Service (or HNS) is an informal syndicate of historians who are seeking to improve the public's understanding of current events by setting these events in their historical contexts. Independent of existing professional societies (although it received a welcome initial boost from the AHA), HNS has begun its work by soliciting "op-ed" pieces from historians and distributing the texts to newspapers around the country. HNS also refers working journalists and editors to historians. In the future, it hopes to improve formal links between news outlets and the historical profession.

The project is based upon three convictions. First, in an era of rapid change, citizens bombarded with unconnected facts, opinions, and claims often lack exposure to knowledge of the origins and past history of what is taking place around them and thus to knowledge of the significance of daily events. Second, the complexity of daily events around the world often leaves journalists and editors, who must write under the twin pressures of deadlines and immediate public concerns, perplexed about the origins and larger significance of the breaking news they must cover. And third, while some journalists and editors are individually concerned about the historical meaning of breaking events and have developed circles of historians to whom they turn for assistance, in general the links between the print and electronic press on the one hand and professional historians on the other are weak. HNS has been designed to try to remedy these problems.

Since nothing quite like it has been attempted before, HNS has had to start, as it were, from scratch. And only time will tell whether the initiative will work. Yet the early signs are promising. It is not too much to say that the initial response to a request for expressions of interest, published in the May 1996 issue of *AHA Perspectives*, yielded an unanticipated flow of

responses. From them, we have drawn two conclusions. Many historians share our conviction that greater efforts are needed to bring historical knowledge to bear on citizens' present concerns. In addition, many historians have long and quietly been involved in undertaking on their own precisely what HNS is endeavoring on a larger scale. In fact, the profession already contains many unsung heroes of the journalistic arts, those who frequently and often regularly have been publishing pieces in local and regional newspapers, in the major and national dailies, and on established news wires without note or recognition from other historians. We are trying to take inspiration, as well as to learn, from them, and many of them are already involved in HNS's work.

How is HNS presently organized and how does it work? A steering committee of fourteen people, both historians and journalists, some of whom are or have been both, directs its affairs. Its members have taken responsibility for recruiting those who might write pieces in specific fields, for editing submitted pieces, and for distributing edited texts. All correspondence and transmission of texts takes place by e-mail; and in fact it is impossible to conceive of the project's having been assembled so quickly and without any outside funding without the availability of e-mail links. Each submission is reviewed by one of us, always to make sure that it in fact offers historical contextualization of some issue and is not simply a partisan or ideological polemic and also so that we can offer some general observations to strengthen the piece if we believe that it does not yet warrant transmission for editing. When acceptable to us—and we must add here emphatically that we apply no ideological tests, and, as far as we can tell, those who have submitted texts to date span the ideological and political spectrum—a piece is then transmitted for editing to an editor who provides editorial suggestions and, to the extent possible, undertakes some fact-checking. Once the editor and writer agree on the text, it is sent forward for distribution to the press.

At present, HNS distributes its material—only op-ed articles (that is, those roughly 800-words long) and not feature-length pieces—to roughly 25 regional, daily American newspapers, all of which

have expressed an interest in receiving texts. (We hope eventually to add Canadian papers, and of course Canadian historians are fully welcome to contribute.) Also, HNS distributes its pieces on a non-exclusive basis; that is, a piece may appear in more than one newspaper market in the same form at the same time. Each HNS writer, who retains full rights to submitted texts, is identified as "a writer for the History News Service" and receives full and sole credit, as well as any honoraria, for the work. HNS has no members, only writers who are historians; and they write for HNS neither because of possession of a doctorate nor membership in the academy, but instead because they have the ability and desire to use their historical knowledge for the illumination of current events. Articles may concern subjects in all, not just American, fields. All those who express interest in working with HNS are put on an e-mail server list and receive occasional messages from us.

For the foreseeable future, HNS will test the journalistic waters in these modest ways. It hopes to enlist as participants not only those who wish to write for the general public but those who have the experience to undertake the often unrewarding work of editing and those who might assume responsibility for thinking up story ideas in particular fields and recruiting others to write about them.

We have much to learn, especially about journalism, as we proceed. Thus, we look upon this endeavor as educational in the dual sense that all participants will be learning how best to achieve HNS's goals and that HNS may help create, through guidelines and editing, a group of historians who, perhaps now lacking experience in op-ed writing, will become masters of the craft.

Those who wish to participate should feel free to contact one or both of us at our e-mail addresses—James Banner via jbanner@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu and Joyce Appleby via appleby@history.ucla.edu

Guidelines for writing op-ed pieces, as well as sample texts with explanatory comments, may be found at the HNS website: h-net2.msu.edu/~hns

James M. Banner, Jr. is an independent historian in Washington, D.C. Joyce Appleby, professor of history at UCLA, is president of the American Historical Association. They are co-directors of the History News Service.

NCPH PUBLICATIONS:

A Guide to Graduate Programs in Public History.

Contains detailed information on more than fifty programs in the U.S. and Canada.

Members \$12.00; Non-members \$15.00

A Collection of Public History Course Syllabi.

A compilation of 67 syllabi from 21 colleges and universities.

Members \$30.00; Non-members \$35.00

Careers for Students of History

A comprehensive guide to the diverse career options open to historians in the academic, public and private sectors.

Members \$5.00; Non-members \$6.00

"Public History Today"

A 33-minute professional-quality video examines the varieties and excitement of public history. Suitable for students at the high school and college levels and for groups with an interest in public history.

Prices listed below

NCPH ORDER FORM

"Public History Today" Video

Indicate choice

- One-half inch VHS cassette, \$50.00
- Three-quarter inch U-Matic video cassette, \$50.00
- Rental, \$35.00

Qty **Cost**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

NCPH PUBLICATIONS

A Guide to Graduate Programs in Public History.

A Collection of Public History Course Syllabi

Careers for Students of History

Total

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Name _____

Organization _____

Department _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NCPH member: Yes No

Make check or money order payable to the National Council on Public History.

Mail to: National Council on Public History
 327 Cavanaugh Hall
 425 University Boulevard
 Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140

Federal Tax ID# 52-1210-174

1998 Call for Papers

The Program Committee of the **National Council on Public History** invites submissions of papers, sessions, workshops, media presentations and other informational formats for the 1998 meeting in Austin, Texas April 15-19, 1998.

Although the committee welcomes proposals on any subject, the themes of the meeting include the international practice of public history, the ways in which the practice of public history includes multicultural perspectives, and the interactions of various disciplines in public practice. Individual proposals and fully organized sessions are both welcome; the Program Committee reserves the right, however, to reorganize proposals to fit the program.

Deadline for proposals is September 12, 1997.

Detailed instructions for the submission of proposals can be obtained from program co-chairs Carl Phagan and Kris Mitchell by mail at Batelle Complex, P.O. Box 30020, Building 12-2B, Amarillo, Texas 79120-0020; or by e-mail at KMITCHEL1@pantex.com. The information will also be posted shortly on the NCPH web page at <http://www.iupui.edu/it/ncph/ncph.html>.

Public History News

327 Cavanaugh Hall-IUPUI
425 University Blvd
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140

ISSN 08912610

Editor: David G. Vanderstel
Editorial Assistant: Sean Gallaway
Layout & Typesetting: Michelle Gradek

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S.
POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #4245
Indianapolis, IN