

NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL COUNCIL on PUBLIC HISTORY

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Seventh Annual Meeting at Phoenix HOSTED BY ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

NCPH's seventh conference will be held at the Phoenix Hyatt Regency April 25-27 in conjunction with meetings of the Southwest Oral History Association, Public Works Historical Society, and Coordinating Committee for History in Arizona. Arizona State University is hosting the meeting as part of the University's centennial celebration.

Meeting Highlights. The Council's annual meeting opens Wednesday evening, April 24, with NCPH Chair Jack Holl hosting a preconference reception for early arrivals. This reception is the occasion for a joint welcoming by the boards of the Public Works Historical Society and NCPH.

Formal conference panels begin Thursday afternoon at 3:00, following a keynote message by NCPH Chair Holl at 1:30. An opening reception and Mexican buffet will be held that evening at Heritage Square, two blocks from the Hyatt at the Lath House. The Square is Phoenix's effort to preserve a small piece of the former downtown residential setting. Houses on the Square will be open during the reception. The Rosson House will provide tours, and exhibits will be displayed at the Stevens House (maintained by Arizona State University) and the Silva House (maintained by Salt River Project).

Friday afternoon sessions at Tempe will give participants a chance to see firsthand evidence of the struggle by a city founded during Arizona's territorial period to develop and modernize its original core while trying to maintain some links to its past. One session in particular, as well as a short walking tour conducted by an architectural historian, will highlight the on going preservation debate. Dinner will be at Monti's, a structure as old as Tempe and the birthplace of Arizona's former long time Senator, Carl Hayden. The operating flour mill across from the restaurant continues to be managed by its founding Hayden family.

Friday evening, conference participants have the opportunity to see a rough cut of the new documentary film *Still Waters*, and hear a discussion by those who have guided the film's production from its inception.

Saturday's panels cover a wide range of public history topics. Of special interest are the Phoenix walking tour by a historical architect and a session on public history projects in the secondary school. Students from Foothill High School in California as well as faculty and a television producer will discuss and show a video project done for television.

Two panels incorporate reports on projects from several public history programs: Thursday's panel on Legislative Research and Friday's panel on Internships. Students are included on several other panels as well.

Meeting in conjunction with NCPH is the **Southwest Oral History Association**. SOHA is sponsoring a Friday morning hands-on workshop in addition to a variety of panels on Saturday. SOHA's registration/information table will provide information about workshop and panel participants and SOHA activities.

The Board of Trustees of the **Public Works Historical Society** is meeting in Phoenix just prior to the opening of the NCPH conference. In cosponsorship with NCPH, the PWHS provided three conference panels—The Historian's Contribution to Emergency Management; Educating the Public: Museums and Public Works; and Public Works History: Publications for Young People.

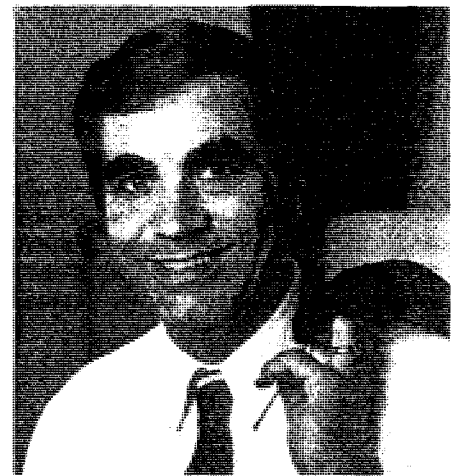
Happy Birthday. Anniversaries in the public history field (and important in the Council's history) are being marked by the April NCPH meeting. Public and applied history programs at Carnegie-Mellon University, the University of California at Santa Barbara, and the University of South Carolina are now ten years old. So also are the Public Works Historical Society and the North Carolina Institute of Applied History of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History.

BRUCE VENTO BANQUET SPEAKER Chair of National Parks Subcommittee

The Honorable Bruce Vento (D-Minnesota) will speak at the annual NCPH banquet. The banquet caps a full day of sessions, and is the closing event of the seventh NCPH conference.

Vento, first elected to Congress in 1976, is serving his fifth term. A native of St. Paul, he holds degrees from the University of Minnesota and Wisconsin State University, and has done graduate work at the University of Minnesota. Vento began his career as an educator and taught science for more than ten years. Before his election to the House, he served three terms in the Minnesota legislature.

As a member of the House of Representatives, Vento chairs the National Parks and Recreation Subcommittee, the second largest subcommittee of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. This subcommittee, like the committee itself, handles legislation of great importance to historians. He also serves on the Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee and the Select Committee on Aging. Vento is a member of the Environmental Studies Conference, Congressional Arts Caucus, Ad Hoc Congressional Committee on Irish Affairs, and Democratic Study Group.



Bruce Vento

ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORTS

The NCPH board will discuss the report from the Ethics Committee at the April board meeting. Committee members are Ted Karamanski (Chair), Stanley Hordes, Albert Hurtado, Roy Lopata, and Michael Scardaville.

Ethics is not an issue that is likely to produce a consensus among any group of professionals, let alone among colleagues as independent as historians. The guidelines do not reflect the unanimous sentiments of the NCPH Ethics Committee, nor do we expect that they will engender universal approbation from the membership of the Council. But the committee has greatly benefited from discussion of this issue and seeks further comments from practicing public and academic historians.

Debate over thorny issues such as freedom of information and the Abraham case has made the NCPH's concern over professional ethics (which began in 1982) appear very topical. Sections of this code (drafted before the details of the Abraham case became known) do apply to the issue, in particular Sections I, B and III, A. The Ethics Committee does not view this current document as the final word on the subject but as a vehicle to promote awareness of the ethics issue.

In addressing ourselves to this task, we found it easier to agree on what did not belong in a historical code of ethics than on what did. We agreed that the code should not seek to redefine the provisions of existing codes that already cover subfields of public history. Archivists and museum curators, for example, are often public historians, but their specific concerns are better addressed by the Society of American Archivists and the American Museum Association. Nor do we foresee any apparatus to certify historians or to police enforcement of ethical behavior. What we directed ourselves to was strictly the establishment of rather general guidelines grouped into five areas: sources, clients, colleagues, community, and the canons of history.

The *Newsletter* of the National Council on Public History is published four times each year. Coeditors of the *NCPH Newsletter* are Beth Luey and Noel Stowe of Arizona State University. Steven M. Bailey was editorial assistant for this issue. Copy for the next *Newsletter* should be sent to NCPH Newsletter, Department of History, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506.

National Council on Public History ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE HISTORIAN

I. Historian's Relationship to Sources

- A. Historians work for the preservation, care, and accessibility of the historic record. The unity and integrity of historical record collections are the basis for interpreting the past.
- B. Historians owe to their sources accurate reportage of all information relevant to the subject at hand.
- C. Historians favor free and open access to all archival collections.

II. Historians' Relationship to Clients (Employers)

- A. Historians owe their employers the historical truth insofar as it can be determined from available sources.
- B. Historians at all times respect the confidentiality of clients, employers, and students. Information gained through a professional relationship must be held inviolate, except when required by law, court, or administrative order.
- C. Historians seek to perform professional quality work in accordance with their employment agreements or research contracts.

III. Historians' Relationship with Colleagues

- A. Historians share knowledge and experience with other historians through professional activities and assist the professional growth of others with less training or experience.
- B. Historians handle all matters of personnel, including hiring, promoting, pay adjustments and discipline, on the basis of merit without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, physical handicap, age, or marital status.
- C. When applying for employment or awards, historians submit applications and letters of recommendation which are accurate as to all pertinent details of education, experience, and accomplishment.
- D. Historians give appropriate credit for work done by others.

IV. Historians' Relationship with the Community

- A. Historians serve as advocates to protect the community's historical resources.
- B. Historians work to promote a greater awareness of and appreciation for history in schools, business, voluntary organizations, and the community at large.
- C. Historians represent historical research to the public in a responsible manner and should serve as advocates of economic or political interests only when such a position is consistent with objective historical truth.

V. Historians' Responsibility to the Canons of History

- A. Historians are dedicated to truth. Flagrant manifestations of prejudice, distortions of data, or the use of deliberately misleading interpretations are anathema.
- B. Historians represent the past in all of its complexity.

NCPH NEWS

by **Barbara J. Howe**
Executive Secretary

The National Council on Public History's primary project has been a survey of all departments of history to determine which schools have public history programs or at least offer courses in public history. The surveys were sent to all schools on the institutional mailing list of the American Historical Association in October. We are now updating the list of schools with programs, and will soon compile information about each school and program. The preliminary list, however, will provide more up-to-date information to answer one of our most frequent inquiries—which schools offer public history programs? NCPH intends to prepare a directory during 1985 and make it available for about \$5.00.

As a result of the survey, the executive secretary received approximately 50 requests for our syllabus exchange packets; this has continued to be one of NCPH's most popular services. Anyone interested in contributing syllabi to the exchange should send them to Barbara Howe at West Virginia University, Department of History, Morgantown, WV 26506. This is a free service provided by NCPH.

Now that the 1985 annual meeting in Phoenix is almost here, planning has gone forward for the 1986 meeting in New York, in conjunction with the Organization of American Historians' convention. Deborah Gardner and Daniel Walkowitz cochair the program committee. Preliminary plans for our 1987 meeting in Washington, D.C., should also be announced soon; Pat Hara-han is chairing the planning committee for that meeting which is being held with the Society for History in the Federal Government.

For several years, members of the board of directors have been discussing the idea of a code of ethics for historians, and several directors have drafted guidelines for consideration. At its December board meeting, the directors decided to publish that code in this issue of the newsletter before making a final decision at the April board meeting.

The executive committee and directors have been spending much time on discussions related to the future of *The Public Historian*. A draft agreement has been prepared to clarify our relationship with the University of California at Santa Barbara. An ad hoc committee chaired by Richard Kirkendall has been directed to consider options related to the publication of a journal for NCPH. That committee will report to the board in April. The draft agreement

with UCSB has been circulated to all board members.

At its December meeting, the board discussed a number of other items that will be reported more fully as work proceeds. These include the possibility of a Canadian affiliate of NCPH as well as a computer network for public history programs. Robert Pomeroy has been developing a proposal to establish a computer network. The executive committee is particularly interested in supporting Pomeroy's plans; members interested in the planning and grant writing stage should contact the executive secretary. The board also passed a number of bylaw revisions, mostly housekeeping items, and learned that the long-range planning committee will be reporting at the April board meeting.

NCPH signed an official agreement with West Virginia University to establish a secretariat at WVU. This agreement will continue until May 31, 1987, with WVU providing office space and secretarial support. This arrangement allows NCPH to respond more effectively to requests from members and from persons seeking information on public history.

CAREERS CHART

Over 42,000 charts have been distributed since they became available in April 1984 from the National Center for the Study of History. Work is underway on a Canadian version, a historical preservation chart, and a chart for archivists. Ideas for these new versions are welcome, and may be sent to Robert Pomeroy, 3914 Harrison Street, NW, Washington, DC 20015. Charts may be ordered through the Career Project, National Center for the Study of History at the same address.

1985 LOWELL CONFERENCE

The sixth annual Lowell Conference on Industrial History will be held in Lowell, November 1-3, 1985. The conference will focus on the ways in which social and economic history, urban history, and the history of technology have been presented by various media (including museums and historic sites, literature, film, television, history textbooks, and more), and how the public has in turn come to understand its industrial past. For information contact Robert Weible, Lowell National Historical Park, 169 Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA 01852, (617) 459-1027.

FULBRIGHTS FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS

The Fulbright Scholar Program is making a concerted effort to recruit lecturers for its awards from a broader cohort of scholars, including those who do not have full-time tenure-track positions or formal affiliation with a college or university.

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars has announced the opening of competition for the 1986-87 Fulbright Scholar Awards in research and university lecturing abroad. Awards include 300 grants in research and 700 grants in university lecturing for periods ranging from three months to a full academic year.

Benefits include round-trip travel for the grantee and, for full-year awards, one dependent; maintenance allowance to cover living costs of grantee and family; tuition allowance, in many countries, for school-age children; and book and baggage allowances.

Competition for Fulbright Awards is particularly competitive in many countries of Western Europe, but a large number of awards are available in the developing countries of Africa, Northeast and Southeast Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa.

Basic eligibility requirements for a Fulbright lecturing award are U.S. citizenship, Ph.D., college or university teaching experience, and, in some cases, knowledge of the host country language. Although certain countries require some language facility, university lecturing is generally conducted in English.

For information contact Council for International Exchange of Scholars, Eleven Dupont Cir., NW, Washington, DC 20036-1257, (202) 939-5401.

COWDREY WINS AHA FEIS AWARD

In 1984 the American Historical Association announced the first annual Herbert Feis Award for the best book by an independent scholar. Albert E. Cowdrey won the award for his book *This Land, This South: An Environmental History* published by the University Press of Kentucky.

Cowdrey is Chief, Special History Branch, of the U.S. Army Center of Military History. His book broadens the definition of history, focusing on the interaction between human beings and their geographic place.

Recent Publications

by Steven M. Bailey

Historic Structure Reports for Ten Buildings: Administrative, Physical History and Analysis Sections, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Skagway, Alaska (Denver: U.S. National Park Service, 1983). These reports, prepared by project archaeologist Catherine H. Blee, historian Robert L. Spude, and historical architect Paul C. Cloyd, detail how ten commercial and residential buildings in the Skagway Historic District have been or will be restored to their original conditions or will receive appropriate modern rehabilitation. The buildings include offices, goods and services establishments, saloons, and private homes, all of which were constructed during the Klondike Gold Rush era of the 1880s through the 1910s.

The report for each structure contains four sections: (1) the administrative record and the ultimate determination of the extent of renovation needed; (2) a physical history and analysis, including an archaeological synopsis and proposed treatment with cost estimate; (3) a photographic record; and (4) drawings of recommended renovations and restorations. Appendices cover enabling legislation, the national survey of historic sites and buildings within the Skagway Historic District, and task directives.

The entire document runs 485 pages and is extensive in detail and scope, with many period photographs used to show the intended restorations.

The Constitution and the Community: A Resource for Planning Humanities-Based Programs on the United States Constitution is now available from the National Federation of State Humanities Councils. The *Resource* was published with the assistance of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of its special initiative on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution. It includes a description of projects related to the Constitution that have been undertaken with National Endowment for the Humanities or State Humanities Council funding; a brief list of suggested project ideas; an annotated list of films; a list of approximately 300 scholars willing to assist in the development and preservation of projects; an annotated bibliography; and a list of organizations with possible interest in the development of Constitution-related projects. A complimentary copy of the *Resource* may be obtained from the National Federation of State Humanities Councils, 12 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

Documenting America, a report recently issued by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) and the National Association of State Archives and Records Administrators (NASARA), analyzes the nation's historical records programs and their needs and reveals that many programs are underdeveloped and lack adequate resources. The study contains recommendations for long-term improvement.

Documenting America: Assessing the Condition of Historical Records in the States (72 pages, Atlanta, 1984), edited by Lisa B. Weber, summarizes the findings and recommendations of historical records assessment and report projects completed in nearly two dozen states in 1982-83 with NHPRC grants. These projects, carried out by State Historical Records Advisory Boards, analyzed the condition of historical records programming in four areas: state government records, local government records, historical records repositories, and statewide functions and needs. The projects were intended to profile conditions and to provide a basis for establishment of statewide priorities, statewide planning, and the allocation of resources.

For more information on *Documenting America*, and on activities of the National Association of State Archives and Records Administrators, contact NASARA Executive Director Bruce W. Dearstyne at New York State Archives, Room 10A75, Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230. For more information on Assessment and Reporting projects now in progress and on the programs of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, contact the Commission's Executive Director, National Archives Building, Washington, DC 20408.

Cornwall: The People and Culture of an Industrial Camelot, 1890-1980, written and edited by Carl Oblinger, Associate Historian, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, is the second publication to

result from oral history studies of the effect of industrialization in three Pennsylvania communities and was conducted by historians of the commission. Oblinger's essay traces the changes in the pattern of life in the borough with the introduction of new technology in iron mining by the Bethlehem Steel Company. The book contains excerpts from the interviews on which the study was based. The first book in the series was *Anthracite People: Families, Unions, and Work, 1900-1940*, a study of hard coal and Nanticoke by John Bodnar. The last will be *Monessen and Its People: A Brief History of an Industrial Boom Town and Steel Company, 1898-1980*, by Matthew Magda. The titles cost \$3.50 each and are available from the commission, Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108. Pennsylvania orders should add sales tax. All orders should add \$1.50 for postage and handling.

The National Park Service in the Northeast: A Cultural Resource Management Bibliography, Cultural Resources Management Study No. 9, compiled by Dwight T. Pitcaithley, Regional Historian, National Park Service, North Atlantic Region, Boston, Massachusetts. This bibliography covers reports and studies on more than 700 historic structures in the thirty-eight sites embraced by the North Atlantic Region of the National Park Service. The work is the first in the CRM series to cover an entire region.

Arrangement is by national park, historic site, and monument. Each entry identifies the author, title, date of publication, name of the structure and its location, inclusive drawings and photographs, and other information for the researcher's convenience. A glossary and an organizational code index provide quick reference to the reports. Copies may be obtained for \$7.00 from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22151.

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