

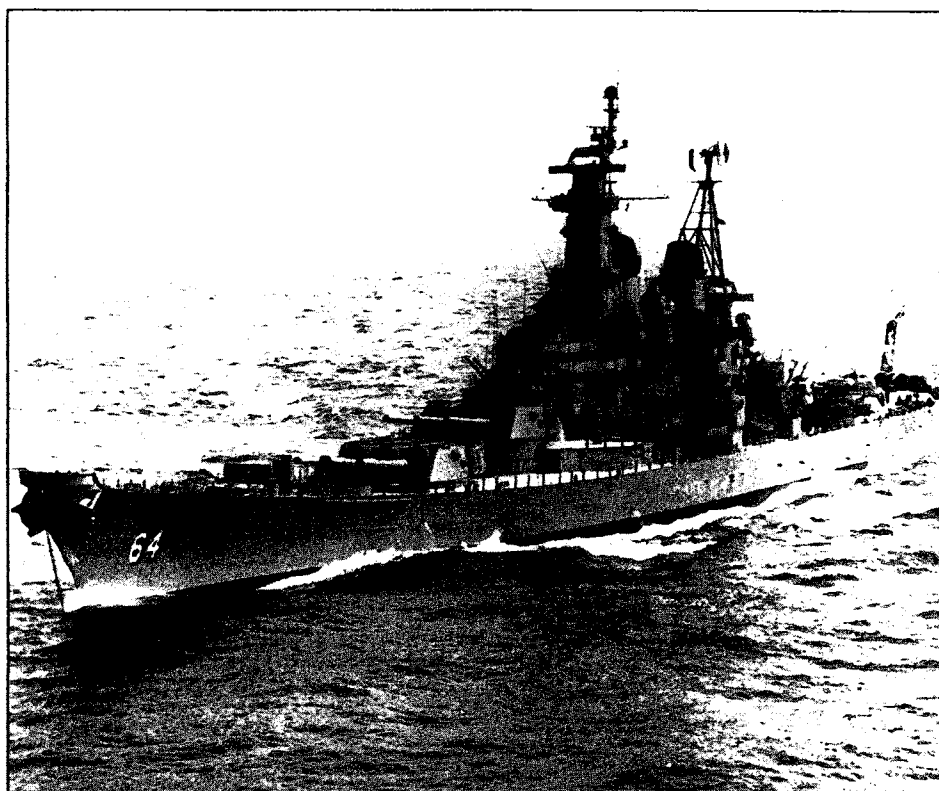
By H. Nicholas Muller III and
Richard H. Zeitlin
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

In 1987, Wisconsin Governor Tommy G. Thompson sponsored the establishment of a special commission to promote the state's involvement with its namesake ship, following the Navy's announcement that the World War II era battleship U.S.S. *Wisconsin* would be returned to service after nearly thirty years of inactivity. The Governor's Commission proceeded to launch a public history experience which brought historical information and materials to people throughout the state, reaching perhaps as much as twenty-five percent of the population in one way or another. Playing the leading role in the operations of the Governor's Commission, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin guided activities of cooperating agencies such as the Wisconsin Department of Veterans' Affairs, as well as interested private corporations, labor unions, veterans' groups, and U.S. Navy personnel in a year and a half of commemorative activities, all of which focused attention on history.

The programmatic activities associated with the recommissioning of U.S.S. *Wisconsin* offered historians a unique opportunity to highlight several of the twentieth century's major events, and, in retrospect, suggest that public celebrations—like this—provide a means by

Recommissioning stirs public interest in history

Battleship Wisconsin Returned To Service After 30-Year Hiatus



Port bow view of the USS *Wisconsin* (BB-64) underway off Korea. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy)

which general interest in history can be engaged. Recommissioning activities also focused and sustained debate on issues such as national military strategy and defense spending, particularly as they related to the changing and controversial role played by the dreadnought in naval history. The reincarnation of the vintage World War II battleship, in other words, encouraged local and broadly based historical programs which viewed the current event from the perspective of the development and historical purpose of battleships.

There have been two battleships named for Wisconsin. One dated from the

earliest period of American armored sea going capital ship construction at the time of the Spanish American War. It sailed with the Great White Fleet and served as a training vessel during World War I, before being scrapped in accordance with the terms of the international arms limitations agreements following the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922. The second ship, authorized by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in anticipation of American involvement in World War II, slid down the ways in Philadelphia in 1943, on the second anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Along with its sisters *Iowa*, *Missouri*, and *New Jersey*, *Wisconsin*

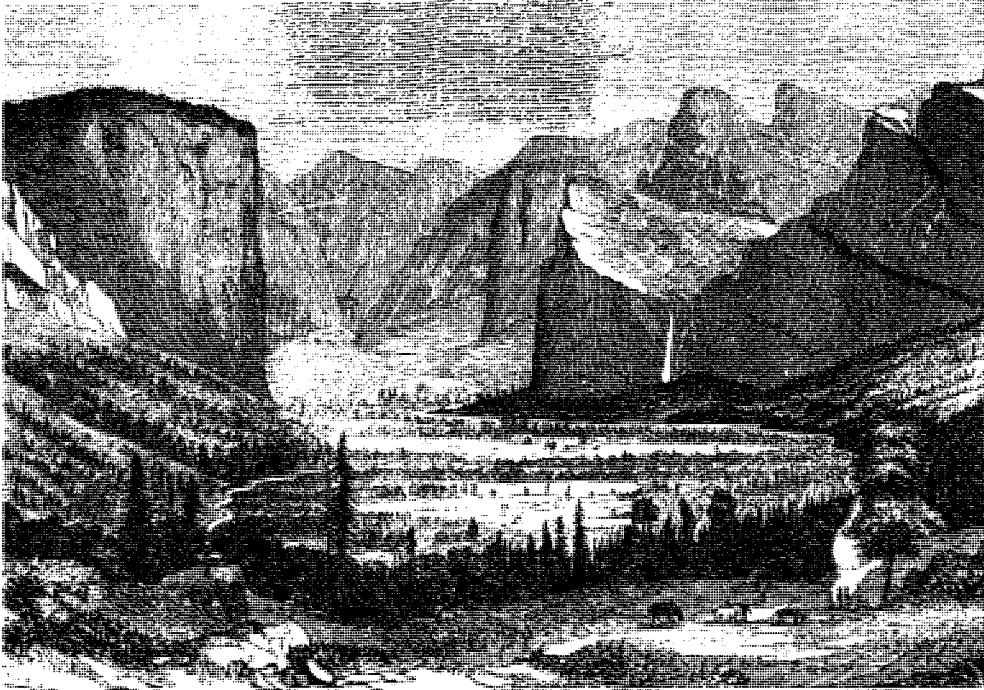
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Theodore Karamanski, Chair
David Kyvig, Vice-chair
Barbara Howe, Past-chair
Michael Schene, Secretary-treasurer
Wayne Anderson, Executive Secretary

An attempt to examine the overall needs of the NPS in research and resource management

National Parks Service Study Presented



By Barbara J. Howe
West Virginia University
and Victoria Wyatt
The Burke Museum
University of Washington

On March 19, 1989, the National Parks and Conservation Association's Commission on Research and Resource Management Policy in the National Park System presented its report entitled *National Parks: From Vignettes to a Global View* to the public at a conference in Washington, DC. *Public History News* has included several stories on the progress of this commission's work, including an announcement of the availability of the report in the last issue. We would like to explain the basic features of the report here in more detail and then add a few comments about our experiences on the commission.

The report is an attempt to examine the overall needs of the NPS in research and resource management policy, reacting to the "vignettes of primitive America" concept put forth in the Leopold Report in 1963 and to the heightened awareness of our parks as endangered species—an awareness that can be attributed in part to the Yellowstone fires of 1988. We recognize

that the NPS is already moving in the direction of some of our goals—our purpose is to applaud that progress and urge more.

Our report is based on four basic tasks that the National Park Service must undertake if it is to properly manage its resources for the 21st century. First, we feel it must develop and use the concept of ecosystem management, recognizing that park resources comprise an organic system that does not end at park boundaries. While some NPS historians were critical of this idea when it was discussed at an April 1989 workshop in St. Louis, fearing that it weighed too heavily on the side of natural resources, the commission members felt very strongly that our definition of ecosystem management, emphasizing the relationship among the natural and cultural resources of the system, recognized that an ecosystem encompasses past and present human activities. This concept of blending natural and cultural resources as part of our heritage is well understood in Europe and Canada but it is not as well known in the U.S. As the two historians on the commission, we quickly learned that we were the only ones not immediately comfortable with the term "ecosystem management." However, the concept behind the term—the recognition that resources do not exist in a

vacuum and must be cared for and interpreted in relation to their larger geographic and social setting—is one with which we are very comfortable. Commission members feel very strongly that the National Park System "is a magnificent and uniquely American gift to the American people and to the world" and that units of this system "must become premier examples of the integration of natural and cultural values and systems," as there are few other places where this can occur.

Second, the NPS must implement a research program that protects its resources and educates the public. We feel that the only way to accomplish this is to have Congress give the NPS a specifically mandated research mission with a budget that allocates 35 percent for "an independent and credible professional program and the necessary intellectual freedom of investigators to pursue and report on research topics" without constraints from line management. The research undertaken at all levels must encompass the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities wherever possible. Social science research is to include more than archaeology; it must include research about visitors to the national parks themselves for, in a society where minorities are becoming the majority, the NPS must reach out beyond its traditional supporters if it is to survive.

Research cannot be done in isolation. Because the boundaries of the national parks are often artificial, research questions must go beyond the legislated boundaries to include the habitat of specific animals, wherever they may migrate for food, and the urban context of a site like Independence Hall. The NPS can never own all the land that affects its units, but it must know what does affect those units. Similarly, the NPS cannot be expected to have all the available expertise "in house" that is needed to address its research needs. Cooperative research, undertaken with universities or other units of government, is important and must be done to the highest professional standards by qualified researchers. As historians, we can encourage students to do theses or dissertations that relate to park needs or can undertake that research ourselves. NPS personnel can provide many suggestions for topics. At the same

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“What are you going to do with a history degree if you don’t want to teach?”—

A Historians Life at the National Register

By Beth Grosvenor Boland
National Register of Historic Places

“What are you going to do with a history degree if you don’t want to teach?” is a question I heard often when I was a student. Even then the question surprised me. Surely museums, historical societies, and the National Park Service, among others, employed historians. What also would have surprised me, however, is the degree to which many of the jobs in what now often is called the “public history” sphere require skills normally associated with the teaching profession. In fact, as a historian at the National Register of Historic Places, I variously assume the roles of teacher, student, policy analyst, critic, investigator, archivist/records manager, and others, as well as—perhaps even more than—that of traditional historian.

Although comprising only a part of the job, the traditional skills learned and revered by historians nevertheless are essential at the National Register. Among them, critical analysis, a knowledge of the use of source materials, and writing are the most often employed, with opportunities for primary research being more limited, but still important at times. Added to these must be ability to link knowledge and insight about the past to tangible resources, to “read” the historic character of those resources, and to work effectively with others in cooperative projects.

Many people are surprised to learn that the National Park Service concerns itself with the fate of historic properties that it does not own or plan to own, or at the very least, over which it does not have some jurisdiction. Yet since the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the NPS has administered an active and influential “external” program to encourage, support, and assist the preservation of resources “significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture,” regardless of ownership. Recognizing and documenting such resources so that they may be considered for further preservation efforts is the role of the National Register within the larger Federal program. The basic purpose of the National Register is to build an accurate and reliable record of historically significant resources (or properties) throughout the United States. Documentation in



the National Register files includes an explanation of each property’s importance in representing significant themes in our past. In addition, documentation describes the appearance and condition of a registered property’s historic character, and a base-point from which to monitor later changes. Information from these files is available for consultation to a variety of users: to planners in Federal, state, and local agencies who must consider historic resources as they weigh competing needs and allocate limited resources, to preservationists pursuing appropriate treatments for historic properties, to researchers studying particular historical topics or types of historic resources, and to the NPS itself in assessing important preservation issues.

Given the primary role of the National Register, the principal responsibility of the 11 historians, architectural historians, and archeologists on the National Register staff is to ensure that properties listed or determined eligible for listing in the Register meet the established criteria for significance and integrity, and are documented adequately. In addition to our individually-assigned projects in support of the overall National Register program, six of us are assigned areas of the country for which we serve as the principal National Register liai-

son. Currently, my area encompasses 10 states in the Midwest, Plains, and the Southwest. For the State Historic Preservation Offices, Federal agencies, organizations, and individuals in these states, I review nominations and other forms of documentation about properties; monitor adherence to National Register standards for identifying, evaluating, and documenting historic resources; offer advice and guidance on a variety of preservation issues; and conduct workshops on the National Register.

Our most obvious means of upholding National Register standards is through reviewing applications submitted to the National Park Service. In that capacity, I review state and Federal nominations and nomination appeals for listing properties in the National Register, requests for determinations about the eligibility of properties for listing, applications for certifications of the significance of properties for owners wanting tax credits for rehabilitation work, and documentation in support of boundaries for National Historic Landmarks. I ask, “Does this represent a significant aspect of our history? Is there sufficient evidence to support that significance within

COUNCIL UPDATE

From the Chair—

NCPH Membership Drive Heats Up in the Summer

By Ted Karamanski
Loyola University of Chicago

It sometimes seems as if the summer is public history's busy season. Cultural resource management contracts become more prevalent as warm weather improves conditions for fieldwork. SHPOs become swamped with projects to be reviewed for section 106 clearance and historic sites gear-up for crowds of tourists by hiring seasonal staff. The start of summer has been busy for NCPH as well. Membership development and advocacy have been important items on the organization's agenda since the April annual meeting.

The campaign to increase individual membership in NCPH has begun. The strategy is to utilize existing members in the various states to identify specific individuals who will then be personally solicited for NCPH membership. Anyone who knows of public historians working in their area who may not be members of NCPH please contact me or Wayne Anderson. We are currently in the process of contacting membership coordinators in each state. Membership solicitation packets have been put together so that we can follow-up on personal communications with brochures and samples of NCPH publications.

Currently NCPH's individual membership base is not representative of the large number of public historians in the United States and Canada. We have, for example, only eight individual members in the state of Texas. Surely there are more professionally active public historians in such a large and populous state. Nor is Texas an exception. There are states which have established public history education programs and leading state historical societies which can muster only four or five members. Clearly as an organization we have been lax in membership development. The most encouraging thing is that we are so underrepresented in some areas that the task of identifying likely members is relatively easy, particularly if we have your help.

Membership development is crucial because of the important role NCPH plays in public history advocacy. Recently,

NCPH commented on the report of the National Parks and Conservation Commission's report on the future of research in the National Park Service. Barbara Howe, past-chair of NCPH, coauthored the report. In our official endorsement of the report's findings, NCPH specifically cited the need to encourage the professional development of researchers working for the Park Service, as well as the importance of drawing upon consultants to carry-out specialized projects. The report also calls for greater Park Service involvement in public education by utilizing natural and cultural park resources to teach traditional as well as adult audiences.

In May NCPH was invited to participate in the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) meeting. The forum was the first of a series of examinations by NCSHPO of important issues facing historic preservation in the United States. The June 1989 forum focused on the National Register of Historic Places and sparked the most searching review of the register since it was created more than two decades ago. NCPH presented a written brief on its view of the purpose and usefulness of the register.

The thrust of NCPH's response was to counter the claim that the register was an outmoded idea whose time had past and to suggest how the register could be made more useful in the 1990s. Our brief also argued that it was the intent of the public officials who created the register to place historical values (including archeology and historical architecture) at the heart of the preservation system. Over time local boosterism, economic incentives, and design considerations have tended to take precedence over historical significance statements. NCPH called for a high standard of historical documentation to ensure that nominations are not exercises in sophistry—full of vague references to cultural and economic trends but offering little in the way of substantiated linkages between specific sites and general history. NCPH endorsed the emphasis upon historical contexts expressed in the revised register guidelines. Contexts challenge the advocates of an historic site to consider the relationship of their property to the larger pattern of state or national history. Such an approach sup-

ports the increasingly important task of thematic and regional cultural resource planning.

NCPH's own planning is continuing for the 1990 annual meeting in San Diego. The Local Arrangements Committee has secured the historic Horton-Grand Hotel for the center of our activities. It is located in the "Gaslamp" historic district of the city and is a short walk or trolley ride from shopping or the harbor. The conference will utilize the historic district as well as the entire beautiful San Diego Bay area. The workshop will be held at the Point Loma Lighthouse. Tours will include boat excursions through the harbor and a visit to a local brewery. Reserve March 7-10 on your calendar for what promises to be a wonderful meeting. ■



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 Ted Karamanski, History Dept., Loyola Univ., 6525 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL 60626; (312) 508-2221; Vice-chair David Kyvig, History Dept., Univ. of Akron, Akron, OH 44325; or Executive Secretary Wayne Anderson, History Dept., 403 Richards Hall, Northeastern Univ., Boston, MA 02115; (617) 437-2677.

Submissions to *Public History News* should be sent to Wayne Anderson, Editor, at the address above.

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

COUNCIL UPDATE

—National Register

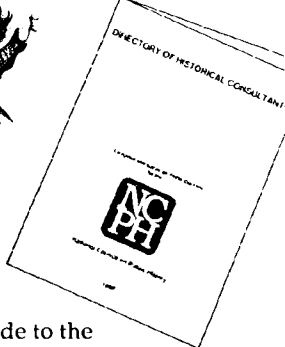
1992 Annual Meeting: Site Proposals Sought

The NCPH Site Selection Committee requests proposals to host the 1992 Annual Meeting. Site proposals should include a list of sponsoring organizations and a statement on the meeting facilities and accommodations, including an estimate of room rates.

The 1992 meeting will be the eleventh national conference on public history. Individuals or institutions interested in preparing a proposal should contact:

Dr. David E. Kyvig
Department of History
University of Akron
Akron, Ohio 44325
(216) 375-7006

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From the Editor—

Why Are You Getting the Summer Newsletter in the Fall?

Because your editor was hospitalized in mid-June, for the acute stage of an illness that began in December, and has had to spend the time since then convalescing.

How did you get this issue at all? Because my experienced and remarkably loyal staff and colleagues enthusiastically rose to the challenge of completing the work I had started.

My extraordinarily able staff assistant, Jo Madden, assumed the leadership, at the expense of much scarce personal time. Our graphic artist, Jack Boyce, contributed well beyond the call of duty. Between them they realized my vision for the issue.

Graduate students Dianne Frederickson, Debby Hanselman, and Steve Perry provided essential editorial services on their summer vacation time. And we had an outstanding list of contributors.

This is my prize issue to date, and it will always be my sentimental favorite. All involved have much to be proud of, and they have my most sincere gratitude.

My thanks also for your own patience and understanding. And yes, there will be a Fall issue!

—Wayne Anderson

The Public Historian Seeks Book Reviewers

I am interested in reviewing books for *The Public Historian*. My field(s) of experience is(are):

Name _____

Address _____

Phone () _____

Public History Position or Affiliation _____

(Please enclose a vita or resume if available. Vitae have proven helpful in better matching reviewers to books.)

Randolph Bergstrom, Book Review Editor
The Public Historian, Department of History
University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106

an appropriate context? If so, what features define the property's historic character, and does it retain enough of that character, despite alterations over time, to convey its important associations or qualities? Are the boundaries appropriate?"

For nominations and determinations of eligibility, my decisions generally are final on behalf of the Keeper of the National Register; for other reviews, my comments generally are advisory in nature. Frequently, I discuss unclear cases with other reviewers, and the staff sometimes meets as a group to evaluate difficult properties. If the case for significance is made and the property I am reviewing for listing or eligibility is adequately documented, I accept the documentation. If I have questions or see problems, I return the documentation to the nominating authority with my comments. These comments include an opinion on eligibility or the reasons that I cannot yet make a judgment, and an explanation of the information needed before I can reach a decision. Although we rely heavily upon the expertise of the State Historic Preservation Offices for knowledge of the history and resources of their states, on very rare occasions, a reviewer may conduct additional research or make an on-site inspection of a property.

Neither I nor the National Register staff collectively can be knowledgeable about all areas of the country or all important aspects of the Nation's history. However, we can use our knowledge and skills as historians to assess the use of evidence, recognize credible arguments based on a critical analysis of sources, and determine if the evaluation of a property's significance and integrity is consistent with the national criteria. Also, access to the collective expertise in each state on their important historical themes, characteristic types of resources, and specific preservation problems provides us with a valuable national perspective to share.

While the most direct way in which I help ensure that properties given National Register recognition meet our criteria and standards is through the review of individual nominations and other types of documentation discussed above, it is probably not the most important way. Providing information and advice on identifying, evaluating, and documenting historic resources through review comments, over the telephone, in publishing guidance, in meetings, and by visiting state offices has always been an important part of my job, but these activities have increased in recent years. Reviewing properties and providing guidance are interdependent, of course. It

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CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Getting Folks Together in the Project Area—

CRM's Meeting of Disciplines

By Kenneth N. Owens
California State University, Sacramento

Among precocious children who get interested in the distant past, nature and culture begin to segregate two primary types. A few are absorbed by reading. They mostly stay indoors, keep their rooms tidy, stop at the library after school, enjoy new clothes, and wear glasses by the time they are fourteen. They become historians.

A few others, equally engaged by earlier times, are fascinated by the appearance and feel of objects. They like to go places to look at things. They track dirt across carpets, linger in museums, try to avoid dress-up occasions, and start collections of stuff that other kids throw away. They become archeologists.

This process of self-selection, which usually begins well before puberty adds its hormonal incitements, appears the same from generation to generation. It implies no distinctions in intelligence or good sense; nor does it seem at all related to enlightened parental guidance. (Truly enlightened parents, of course, direct their progeny toward rewarding, emotionally fulfilling careers as rock-and-roll drummers or anesthesiologists.)

Who can explain the reason for this separation? Perhaps it has something to do with dominance of right brain motor skills or left brain verbal skills. (The cerebral types in experimental physiology have yet to sort out the evidence on this point.) Perhaps it relates to prenatal influences or the conjunction of the planets. Perhaps, like bad coffee at a diner, it just happens—a part of nature's wondrous order.

Whatever the root causes, historians and archeologists instinctively recognize in practitioners of the other discipline an antipodal personality and style. Seldom do graduate students in these two fields hang around together. Arkky girls don't hang around histty boys. Or, if they do, precious few relationships get to the soul-mate stage. Weeks on the dig are simply not compatible with months in the archives, even if both parties crave Willie Nelson ballads, Tex-Mex barbeques, Dos Equis, and safe sex.

Divergent in perceptions and concerns, dissimilar in humors, and disparate

in intellectual conditioning, historians and archeologists are poorly prepared to work together. Personal variations become, by an incremental process over decades of career experience, a fertile basis of understanding and conflict between the two principal disciplines that are engaged in cultural resources management studies.

A few years ago, when some historians and historical organizations awoke from their profession's long sleep and began to question archeology's dominance in the CRM field, they were often startled to see—and to meet, face to wooly face—the people who had preempted their claims to expertise as interpreters of the past. Cultural shock was one result. A personal element inevitably entered, albeit usually unconsciously, into the controversies that swirled about issues regarding historians' entitlements and their discipline's proper role in CRM studies.

In most quarters, the controversies and the cultural shock are moderated by this time. Fortunately, historians and archeologists have begun to prove that they can learn from each other, and that they can honor the expertise of their professional counterparts in the other field without sacrificing their own identity. (Rumor has it, that Liz Claiborne blouses and silk rep ties are seen these days in SAA meetings, and that a Yale history graduate wore a silver turquoise watchband to the OAH/NCPH conference in St. Louis.)

One of the beneficial consequences of this newfound spirit of cooperation has been the movement of more historians from the archives into the field, to examine carefully the sites and take hold of the artifacts that supply material documentation for CRM projects. Archeological methods and archeological insights, a new generation of historians has begun to appreciate, greatly improve the effectiveness of historical study. Out in the project area, historians (prompted by archeologist mentors) can learn to see as well as to read.

The NCPH, with its strong interest in CRM, is an organization well suited to assist in the process of reconciliation, mutual education, and increasing cooperation between archeology and history. A sister organization out here in the West, the California Committee for the Promotion of History, has from the beginning sought to emu-



On the dig: applied archeology in action. (Photo by Kenneth N. Owens)

late SOPA and other archeological professional groups in effective professional advocacy. Archeologists, stylishly outfitted in penny loafers, sit side-by-side with historians wearing Birkenstocks on the CCPH board of directors. As a consequence, some believe, the organization has attained an added hybrid vigor.

The CCPH experience may provide a model for increased participation by archeologists in the affairs of the NCPH. And, lest some of my historian colleagues think this too radical a notion, let me offer a comforting thought. Today's daughters will still be more likely to marry computer programmers. ■

HISTORY AND THE CENSUS

By David M. Pemberton
Census History Staff

History at the Census Bureau

The 1990 decennial will be one of the most complex peacetime operations in U.S. government history. As far as most people are concerned, it will begin next winter with a barrage of advertising encouraging all inhabitants of the United States to fill in the questionnaire they receive and return it to the Census Bureau as instructed. Early in March 1990, thousands of enumerators will begin delivering census questionnaires to the first 11 million housing units in parts of the South and Midwest and will start collecting census information from the inhabitants of some 200,000 addresses in selected urban housing projects and boarded-up buildings where people might be living. On March 23, 1990, an even more extensive questionnaire delivery operation will take place when the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) delivers census forms to 88.3 million addresses. The USPS will also distribute about 6.5 million unaddressed forms to housing units located in very remote and sparsely settled sections of the West and Northeast.

Special procedures have been devised to obtain information from individuals not living in households but aboard ships in inland or coastal waters, or in military barracks, college dormitories, nursing homes, prisons, jails, and other group quarters. The Census Bureau will also try to enumerate the nation's homeless population. Beginning at 6:00 p.m. on March 20, specially trained teams of census takers will go to previously identified shelters for the homeless and collect census information from the residents. Between 2:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. on March 21, other enumerators will try to administer questionnaires to those sleeping on sidewalks, under bridges, and in parks and similar areas. Then, from 4:00 a.m. to 6:30 a.m., enumerators will position themselves outside abandoned-looking buildings where homeless people sometimes stay and try to collect census information about the inhabitants from all persons leaving the buildings.

Documenting and writing a detailed account of these data-collection efforts, and the planning, testing, and support operations that precede and accompany them and the data-processing and publication programs that follow, are among the primary tasks of the Census History Staff. A medium-sized historical office by U.S. government standards, it consists of a supervisory historian, three specialized historians, one part-time social scientist, one informa-



The computer room at Census Bureau headquarters in Suitland, Maryland. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Census Bureau)

tion-management specialist, a paraprofessional, and a part-time clerk. The office has four basic functions:

- to write administrative histories of major Census Bureau programs (such as the 1990 census) and other agency activities
- to produce specialized brochures and publications that draw on the staff's knowledge and expertise
- to assist researchers, reporters, and members of the public with census-related questions
- to provide historical and administrative support for other parts of the agency

With regard to the writing of administrative histories, each working historian is responsible for documenting and producing a history of one census or group of censuses. One handles the history of the 1990 Census of Population and Housing; another deals with the agricultural census (taken every 5 years in years ending in 2 and 7); and the third handles the series of economic censuses taken concurrently with the agricultural census. Each historian collects a mass of documents from which to write. (The documentation for the 1990 census currently fills three and a half large bookcases and a pair of five-drawer filing cabinets; this material represents only a fraction of the material used to plan the census.) To supplement these records, the historian asks for further documentation from the part of the bureau responsible for that project or operation. Although the agency takes roughly 250 surveys each year, the history office has little opportunity to document them.

Much of the official documentation the historian uses as raw material has been prepared by people who think, speak, and

write in statistical jargon. The historian's task is not to reproduce that but to paraphrase, summarize, and make the story intelligible to the generally educated reader. This can be difficult since the Census Bureau statisticians who review the work inevitably try to replace carefully crafted sentences with the statistical jargon the historians worked so hard to eliminate.

Congress, other federal agencies, the Office of Management and Budget, the bureau's public advisory committees, and a variety of data users at all levels of the public and private sectors influence what statistics the Census Bureau collects and how. The historians not only must pay attention to all of these forces. They must also track legislation and litigation that affect bureau programs. Official statistics often mean gains or losses of legislative seats and revenue; for example, the 1980 Census of Population and Housing alone engendered over 50 civil suits calling for redress. Procession through the judicial system sometimes takes years, but the cases—even if decided in the bureau's favor—often lead to changes in census-taking procedures designed to avoid future litigation. Census historians must be alert to all such developments.

Each year, the Census History Staff assists dozens of researchers by answering questions relating to the types of information contained in past censuses, the methods used to collect and process census data, and the steps required to gain access to historical census records. The 50 or 60 academic and policy researchers the history staff helps each year pale beside the hundreds of genealogists with whom they discuss census-related issues and the several thousand

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Edited by Joanne Madden and Stephen Perry, Northeastern University

•JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

The American Association for State and Local History seeks a director with management, development, and communications skills to lead the membership organization headquartered in Nashville, TN. Salary negotiable. Deadline: *October 15, 1989*. Request application from Pamela J. Bennett, Chair, AASLH Search Committee, Indiana Historical Bureau, 140 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2296. EOE

The Commonwealth Center for the Study of American Culture invites applications for the following fellowships: Postdoctoral Fellow, 2 year term, 1990-92; Senior Fellow for the Study of American Culture, one year or one semester 1990-91; Senior Fellow in Early American Studies, one year or one semester 1990-91; and Senior Fellow in American Legal History and Culture, one year or one semester 1990-91. Contact: Fellowships, CCSAC, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Deadline: *December 1, 1989*. AA/EOE

(For job-advertising rates, contact Public History News at 617-437-2677.)

•OPPORTUNITIES

The Center for Historic Preservation is now accepting nominations for the 1990 Historic Preservation Book Prize. Contact: Dr. Carter L. Hudgins, CHP, Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, VA 22401-5358.

The New York State Archives and Records Administration seeks to fill various public record analyst positions. For more info on available opportunities: Robert W. Arnold, III or Bruce W. Dearstyne, SARA, 10A63 Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230; (518) 474-6926.

The Route 50 Research Project seeks information on the genesis of Route 50 from the various states through which it passes. Contact: Carol Talpers, Director, Route 50 Research Project, PO Box 5037, Berkeley, CA 94705.

•MEETINGS AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

The Society of American Archivists is holding its 53rd Annual Meeting *October 25-29, 1989* at the Clarion Hotel, St. Louis, MO. Contact: Georgeann Palmer, SAA, 600 S. Franklin, Suite 504, Chicago, ILL 60605; (312) 922-0140.

The Society of American Archivists is soliciting papers and panels for its 54th Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA, *August 30-September 3, 1990*. Proposal deadline: *November 1, 1989*. Contact: Brenda Banks, GA Dept. Archives and History, 330 South Capital SE, Atlanta, GA 30334.

The California Committee for the Promotion of History will hold its annual conference in rural Mendocino County on *October 27-29, 1989*. For more info: Dan Taylor, Mendocino County Museum; (707) 459-2736 or Jim Williams, California History Center; (408) 996-4712.

The Society for Industrial Archeology will hold its annual meeting *May 31 to June 3, 1990* in Philadelphia, PA. Paper proposals welcome. Deadline: *December 1, 1989*. Contact: Carter Litchfield, Program Chair, Olearius Editions, Drawer H, Kemblesville, PA 19347; (215) 255-4335.

The Oral History Association will hold its 25th Annual Meeting *October 8-11, 1990* in Cambridge, MA. Proposals welcome. Deadline: *December 31, 1989*. Contact: Richard Sweterlitsch, Dept. of English, 221 Old Mill, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405-0114.

•EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Hagley Museum and Library announces the availability of fellowships for 1990-91. For more info: Executive Administrator; Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society; Hagley Museum and Library; PO Box 3630; Wilmington, DE 19807; (302) 658-2400.

The Council for International Exchange for Scholars invites proposals for the 1990-91 Fulbright Scholar-In-Residence Program. Deadline: *November 1, 1989*. For more info: Council for Intl Exchange of Scholars, 3400 Intl Dr NW, Suite M-500, Washington, DC 20008-3097; (202) 686-7866.

The National Historical Publications

and Records Commission is offering two fellowships in archival administration. Deadline: *February 1, 1990*. Interested applicants contact: Laurie A. Baty, NHPRC, National Archives Building, Washington, DC 20408; (202) 523-5386.

•NOTES

The Association for the Bibliography of History, reminds scholars of the National Registry for the Bibliography of History, which lists bibliographical projects in progress. For info: Thomas T. Helde, Director, NRBH, Dept. of History, Georgetown University, Washington, DC 20057.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania seeks artifacts and information for an exhibit on the Works Progress Administration and other New Deal agencies. Contact: Christine Yanick, Education Dept., The State Museum, Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026.

•TRANSITIONS

Robert Weible has been named new chief of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Division of History.

Jean Butenhoff Lee has been named as director of the Institute of Early American History and Culture at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA.

Dr. Jeffrey L. Sturchio has joined Merck & Co., Inc. in Rahway, NJ, as Corporate Archivist.

John N. Pearce has been appointed to the newly-created post of Director of Planning and Programs at the James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library in Fredericksburg, VA.

•PUBLICATIONS

CSU, Fullerton, UC-Irvine, and the Historical and Cultural Foundation announce the new *Journal of Orange County Studies*. Subscriptions: JOCS, Dept of History, CSUF, Fullerton, CA 92634.

The National Register of Historic Places announces the publication of *National Register of Historic Places 1966-1988*, available from American Association for State and Local History, 172 Second North, Nashville, TN 37201.

Acadia University announces the publication of a new research bibliography, *The Development of Parks and Playgrounds in Selected Canadian Prairie Cities: 1880-1930*. For order info: Susan E. Markham, School of Recreation and Physical Education, Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia BOP 1X0. ■

—National Parks Study

time, we would urge that researchers in the NPS be encouraged to publish their work widely and present their findings at professional conferences.

Third, we feel that the NPS must adopt "professional standards for recruitment, promotion, and continued education and development of the people who manage the National Park System." Management decisions are becoming increasingly complex, and this demands a high degree of professionalization. Professionalization includes guidance for NPS employees, appropriate career ladders, and appropriate educational credentials.

Fourth, we feel that the NPS must educate "the American and international publics about natural and cultural systems and the ways in which they change." This is "a primary outward goal of the NPS" because education is the tool that links the units of the NPS, with their various resources, and illuminates what is happening to both natural and cultural resources inside and outside the system. With the environmental and demographic changes the world faces in coming decades, it is essential to provide the public with information on which to make informed choices about their physical and social environments. Education must go beyond the traditional visitors and work with other educational institutions to reach out to those underrepresented in park constituencies, i.e. minorities, single-parent households, the handicapped, and the economically disadvantaged.

Our conclusion aptly sums up our thoughts about our national parks: "As we begin to comprehend the interconnectedness of our environment, we realize that if our parks are damaged, so are we. It is now time to act— not just for our parks, but for us—all of us."

What was it like to be one of the historians on this commission? We thought a few reflections on our experience might be valuable to those having the good fortune to participate in other such interdisciplinary activities. First and foremost, this was a deliberately interdisciplinary endeavor. The 17 members of the commission represented a wide range of disciplines that the NPS needs to worry about, from oceanographic engineering to ethnohistory. Our particular concerns were social history and the role of the NPS in historic preservation (Howe) and ethnohistory (Wyatt). All of us had some experience with the NPS, as former employees,

contractors, "friends of the parks," etc. But, all of us also had a great deal to learn about the parks—What's a CPSU? What is the fire management policy? The commission was sponsored by the National Parks and Conservation Association, a non-profit organization, with funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Laurel Foundation. Dr. John C. Gordon, Dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, chaired the the commission.

We all agreed to give a year to putting together the report, but what it was we were to put together was not altogether clear when we first gathered in Washington, DC, in April 1988 to meet each other and the NPS liaison team headed by Carol Aten, Chief, Office of Policy. Barry Mackintosh and Kate Stevenson were the historians on that team. Our mandate was to examine everything we felt relevant in the NPS research and resource management program and come up with our collective best ideas of how to improve the system. We knew that then-NPS director William Penn Mott, Jr. was interested in the input of such a commission. We also knew that we were in no position to force our views on the NPS.

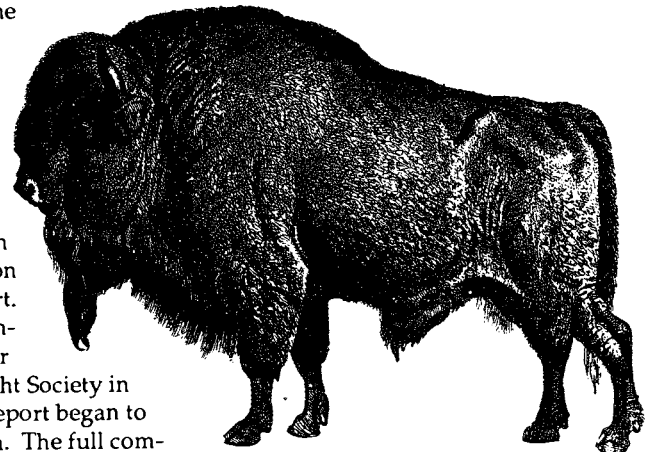
We formed small task forces in which we talked about various aspects of the research program and the parks themselves—the values and purposes of the parks, the organization of the research program now, etc. Those groups held their own meetings through the spring and summer, with some commission members attending the NPS superintendents' meeting in June at Yellowstone. In addition, we made individual contacts with the NPS staff at over 50 parks around the country.

We reconvened as a full commission at Sequoia National Park in mid-August, after some members had a chance to meet with the staff at Golden Gate National Recreation Area or attend the meeting of the Ecological Society of America. There, we drafted the final report, deciding on the basic concept of ecosystem management that we would use in the report. Then the writing stage began in earnest in the fall, as three of us took on the task of writing the report. With this draft, several members attended the November meeting of the George Wright Society in Arizona. Reactions to the report began to drift in, and revisions began. The full com-

mission met again in January in Leesburg, VA, and finalized the four major points of the report. We boldly decided we were writing from "we the people" to "we the people"—Congress and the American public were our audience, not professional colleagues in the NPS—because NPS needs public support. Then the final round of revisions began before the report was presented in March.

Throughout, those of us in the "cultural caucus" were concerned that cultural resources would receive equal billing with natural resources and that we all recognized the fact that "cultural parks" like Independence Hall have natural resources while "natural parks" like Yellowstone have cultural resources. Other commission members were very responsive to these concerns. Indeed, the commission's philosophy was that "parks have resources that must be managed." With this attitude, we tried to develop suggestions that affect both natural and cultural resources, such as the importance of professional management and education.

It is impossible to individually thank all the NCPH people who contributed to this report, as reviewers, participants in the March conference, NPS employees who shared their expertise, etc. Suffice to say that we appreciated your help. We would now also appreciate your help in implementing the report by publicizing its contents, gathering endorsements from professional organizations, helping to lobby Congress when needed, etc. If you are able to help, please contact Dave Simon at the National Parks and Conservation Association, 1015 31st St. N.W., Washington, DC 20007, or call 202-944-8530. The NCPH Board of Directors voted to endorse the report at its meeting in April 1989, and we appreciate this vote of confidence in our work. ■



WASHINGTON UPDATE

—Census



By Page Putnam Miller
Director, National Coordinating
Committee for the Pro-
motion of History

FY'90 Appropriations

The Administration's budget calls for \$122.6 million for the National Archives and zero funding for the National Historical Publication and Records Commission's (NHPRC) grants program. In contrast, the NCC, in testimony before the appropriations subcommittees, is advocating \$150 million appropriation for FY'90 for the National Archives which would include \$8 million, the authorized funding level established last year by Congress, for the NHPRC grants program and an additional \$20 million for the National Archives.

Congress passed a \$1.7 trillion budget resolution for FY'90 which establishes budget ceilings for the various functions of government. Following the Memorial Day recess the House appropriations subcommittees will begin "mark up" of the appropriation bills which will include specific amounts for individual federal programs and agencies. Mark up by the Senate appropriations subcommittees will follow as soon as the House passes the appropriations bills. Members of both the Senate and the House subcommittees in earlier hearings addressed questions, based on NCC information, to the Archivist and the Deputy Archivist. The NCC report, "Developing a Premier National Institution: A Report From the User Community to the National Archives," and the NCC's "Fact Sheets" on the FY'90 budget for the NHPRC and NARA have played a part in the dialogue. Now we hope they will play a part in the appropriations decision. Many organizations and individuals in the historical and archival profession have written letters about the FY'90 budget. Despite the tight budget situation, we remain optimistic.

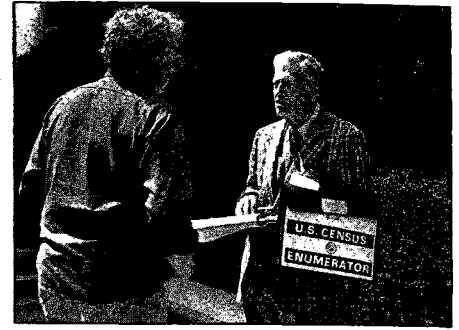
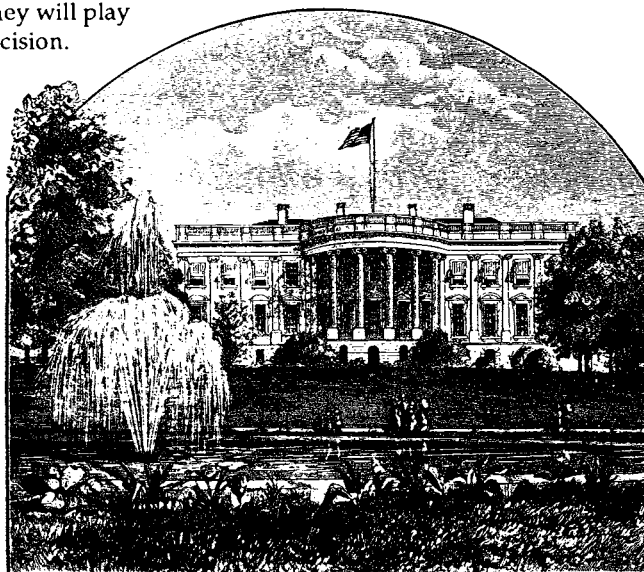
Archives II

The National Archives reached a decision on a basic concept for the location of records following the completion of Archives II, the new archival research facility that will be opening in 1994

in College Park, Maryland. Legislative and judicial branch records of the Federal Government will remain downtown as well as the textual records relating to genealogical researchers, including land patent application files and records of the War Relocation Authority. In addition, the holdings of the downtown building will include old Army records, (cut off roughly at World War I), all Navy records, and American Indian-related records. Modern military and other civilian records, including those of the State Department, will be located in Archives II. Non-textual records will also be located in Archives II.

Legislation Introduced to Strengthen Authority of the U.S. Archivist

On May 16 Representative Robert Wise (D-WV), chair of the House Subcommittee on Government Information of the Committee on Government Operations, introduced H.R. 2381, the Information Policy Act of 1989. Two sections of the bill are of particular interest to archivists and historians. Section 6 calls for the head of each agency to publish in the Federal Register a description of the existence and character of each system of records maintained by the agency. And, Section 7 states: "The Archivist shall have final authority in the Executive branch to determine what constitutes a record...and may issue such rules, regulations, and guidelines as may be necessary for such purpose." The legislation has been referred to the House Committee on Government Operations for consideration. ■



A "dress rehearsal" for the 1990 census. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Census Bureau)

people they advise on the application process for obtaining official census transcripts. Until the early 1940s, the United States did not have a uniform system of birth registration. After a birth certificate, the next best record is a census transcript—a typewritten copy of certain information from old census records. Each month, the history staff receives 500 to 600 requests for help from people who do not have birth certificates or who need proof of their relationship, residence, occupation, etc., for decades long since past. Staff members explain the situations and help them apply for census searches, or direct them to other likely record sources.

Finally, census historians participate in miscellaneous historical projects and administrative activities. Some write articles or give speeches on historical aspects of census-taking in the United States over the past 200 years. Another prepared a booklet on the history of congressional apportionment in connection with the bicentennial celebration. Census historians have also written a series of 22 booklets describing various Census Bureau activities and products, including population statistics, housing statistics, census geography, foreign trade statistics, uses of small-area data, and the history of U.S. census-taking. As the repository of the agency's institutional memory, the Census History Staff occasionally provides historical background on current policy issues and reviews a wide range of publications for historical accuracy. Finally, the office runs a small oral history program.

When you receive your census form next March, take a moment and consider that what the U.S. census is really about is the distribution of political power among the states and, more recently, the distribution of federal funds. How well the Census Bureau does its job affects all Americans. You might also recall that a census historian is hard at work preparing an account of the census-taking process and that the product of this research will be available in the mid-1990s. ■

—U.S.S. *Wisconsin*

was the ultimate battleship in terms of performance characteristics. The vessels were faster, heavier, better protected, and more heavily armed than all other American ships. They were constructed to very exacting standards of quality and naval planners expected the new battleships to have decisive effects on the outcome of the Pacific war. Unfortunately for sea power theorists riveted to the armored heavy warship concept, battleships were eclipsed during World War II by aircraft and aircraft carriers. The expensive gun ships played only supportive parts in the dramatic naval campaigns of the war, rather than occupying the central stage as had been envisioned. The battleships were something of a disappointment.

U.S.S. *Wisconsin* proved to be the last battleship built by the United States. The huge ship remained at sea until Japan surrendered. It served briefly during the Korea conflict before being relegated to reserve status in 1958.

For historical programming purposes, the periodization occupied by both ships named for *Wisconsin* coincided with the rise of the United States to a position of unparalleled world influence, and, in some respects, battleships epitomized that rise to globalism. The varied programs of the Governor's Commission traced the American experience from 1898 to 1945 by means of the state's namesake ships. The programs reached deeply into the memories of *Wisconsin* citizens, invoking a torrent of public interest.

The manner in which both World Wars affected *Wisconsin*, the home front during the Second World War, and how military events affected the lives of veterans and other citizens were among the topics emphasized by traveling exhibits, slide/lectures, a major museum gallery display, as well as by a well researched and illustrated booklet, all produced to commemorate the battleship's reappearance. Indeed, controversial aspects of the recommissioning decision itself such as why battleships—a deficient weapons system during 1941-1945—are deemed necessary today, questions concerning their vulnerability in the missile age, and what might be the mission of such anachronisms, seemed mainly to heighten public interest and stimulate attendance at the historical programs.

The State Historical Society, with its director serving as a member of the executive committee of the Governor's Commis-



Wrestling the 900 lb solid bronze badger that once sailed aboard the first USS Wisconsin into The State Historical Society of Wisconsin's exhibit. (Photo courtesy of State Historical Society of Wisconsin)

sion, created and dispatched three eight panel portable exhibits around the state to county fairs, hotels, service clubs, civic organizations, schools, and other public places. More than 100,000 people had access to it. The Society opened its major exhibit, "The Last Battleship," in the summer of 1988, two months prior to the recommissioning of U.S.S. *Wisconsin* at the Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

Accompanied by an evocative poster and the appearance of the booklet, the exhibit included a 1,500 pound bronze badger which had sailed around the world with the Great White Fleet attached to the bridge of the first U.S.S. *Wisconsin* as a gift from the state. The bronze badger had languished in the garden of the superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy after 1922, when a state trucking firm and cooperating members of a teamster local hauled it back to Madison for display at the state museum as a public service.

The task of documenting and personalizing the history of the namesake ships put the State Historical Society in contact with

hundreds of veterans who brought their memories and memorabilia out of the attic. With these materials, items from Society collections, and objects from the battleship no longer wanted by the Navy, members of the Governor's Commission crisscrossed *Wisconsin* with video tapes and lecture programs. The hoopla attracted considerable attention from the media. Full color features appeared in every major newspaper in the state and hours of television and radio coverage were devoted to the subject. The Governor and the Commission presided over ceremonies presenting the reactivated ship with a new bell, returning the battleship's state donated silver service (valued at \$500,000), and inducted an eighty-man unit of *Wisconsin* youth to serve aboard the ship, carried out fund raisers, and hosted a formal ball. These events rested on a platform of history which went beyond the supports of nostalgia and patriotism, although they also included dollops of the latter.

On a sunny October morning in Pascagoula, Mississippi, the renovated ship came to life. Ten thousand people, perhaps half from *Wisconsin*, cheered at an emotional dockside service when the battleship returned to active duty. Events on the Mississippi Gulf Coast dominated the newspapers and televisions of *Wisconsin*ites at home.

The U.S.S. *Wisconsin* program was very successful. Months after the ship went to sea, the history booklet and the poster retain their strong sales popularity. The blue cap with the ship's insignia is almost as prominent throughout the Badger State as those worn by the Milwaukee Brewers and their fans. Members of the legislature gave the governor a bill making the Commission permanent. The traveling exhibit continues to make appearances, and a ten foot model of the ship is scheduled to appear at the State Fair.

Even the explosion aboard the U.S.S. *Iowa*, with its tragic loss of life, has served to keep public interest in the state's namesake ship vital. Radio programs highlighting questions and controversies reviewed the incident. The ship and its recommissioning captured the interest and attention of a state and brought history programs to wide new audiences. ■

—National Register

is important that the National Register staff review specific properties to keep abreast of current issues and needs in the preservation world and produce useful and timely guidance, and it is equally important that we provide clear explanations and interpretations of the standards we expect applicants to meet when they evaluate and document resources.

In the past few years, the ratio between the time spent reviewing and that spent providing assistance in meeting National Register criteria and standards has shifted dramatically. Changing from reviewing 100 percent of the nominations submitted to a smaller percentage based on the past performance of each state and Federal agency enabled us to devote more time to developing written guidance on Register standards, conducting workshops, and evaluating the overall state and Federal programs that produce nominations. Also, as the field of those participating in the National Register programs has continued to expand in recent years, we have found it increasingly important to target guidance not only to state and Federal preservationists, but to myriad others as well, including local governments, consultants, businesses and private individuals, whose knowledge of history, historiography, historic preservation, and the National

Register vary tremendously.

Decisions to publish guidance on a particular topic may stem from the need to articulate specific policies that have evolved over time, a desire to study a type of resource attracting widespread attention from preservationists, or to resolve controversy. Methods and sources used to prepare written guidance vary, too. In preparing guidance on surveying and evaluating post offices, I read a number of histories of postal services and Federal construction programs, and also conducted primary research in the archives and libraries of the U.S. Postal Service, the National Archives, and the General Services Administration, in order to include a general historical context and an initial bibliography in the publication. I also examined the National Register's files for post offices evaluated as significant and assembled general information on applying National Register criteria, in order to recommend a methodology for evaluation. For a bulletin explaining the National Register's policies on applying the criterion concerning significant persons, I conducted an extensive examination of National Register nominations—both accepted and returned, reviewers' comments on those nominations, policy letters, and formal written guidance materials from which to distill both policy explanations and illustrative examples. Both publications were distributed in draft for peer review and comments before completion of

the final manuscript.

Another way the National Register spreads information on its policies and standards is through workshops. Most are organized for State Historic Preservation Offices and Federal agencies, but I also participate in workshops arranged by state offices in my region for their review boards, consultants, and others. I have prepared lectures, slide shows, discussion topics, and participatory exercises on conducting surveys, applying National Register criteria for evaluation, selecting and justifying appropriate areas and periods of significance, defining historic character and assessing integrity, evaluating unusual kinds of resources, and related topics.

Now that we no longer review every nomination we receive, one of the ways that the National Register staff helps protect the quality of the national program is by participating in periodic evaluations of state preservation programs. One of my on-going special projects has been to assist in the formulation of procedures used to evaluate portions of the state programs relating to surveys and National Register activities, and also to develop and refine procedures for conducting nomination audits used in each of these evaluations. When these program evaluations occur every few years, each reviewer, including myself, participates in the ones for the states with which we work. ■

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