

ANNUAL REPORT, 1999-2000

President's Report

by Michael J. Devine

The summer issue of the newsletter will serve as our organization's annual report and my comments here preface the more detailed information on this past year's activities provided elsewhere in this publication.

Our membership can feel good about the overall health of the organization. Our budget is in the black, we have added to our endowment fund, and our membership numbers look strong. Particularly encouraging is the increase in institutional membership, a solid indication that our journal, *The Public Historian*, is highly regarded in this country and abroad.

Much of the work of the NCPH leadership this past year focused on planning for the future. Under the chairmanship of our immediate past president, Dwight Pitcaithley, a new document, Plan 2005, was drafted at a retreat in Tempe hosted by the Department of History at Arizona State University. The NCPH Board of Directors subsequently adopted this plan at its spring meeting in St. Louis. The plan, which sets an ambitious course, calls for a continued and concerted effort to build the membership base by seeking to add diversity to the individual membership categories and, at the same time, expanding the institutional, sponsor, and patron memberships. With greater revenue generated through membership and sponsors, Plan 2005 outlines the enhancement of member services and plots a strategy to build a full-time staff in the NCPH Executive Offices—including a full-time secretary in 2001 and a full-time executive director in 2004. In addition, the plan places a renewed emphasis on advocacy. During the planning process, I was fascinated to see just how much we have all become dependent on communication by e-mail, web sites, and list servers and to note just five years ago

such things were not even on the radar screen for NCPH planners.

This year's annual meeting in St. Louis, held in cooperation with the Organization of American Historians and the Missouri Conference on History, deserves special mention. The NCPH supported the decision of OAH leadership to move the conference sessions out of the Adams Mark Hotel to protest the hotel management's policies of racial discrimination. Despite some inconvenience and net revenues from the meeting less than anticipated in our budget projections, it seems that the meeting was overall a programmatic success (aside from any public statement made on racial matters). The OAH staff is to be commended for its hard work in difficult circumstances. During this past year, there has been considerable discussion about the value of occasionally meeting jointly with the OAH. (We have another meeting scheduled with OAH in Washington, DC in 2002.) It is the consensus among NCPH leadership that occasional joint meetings are beneficial to both organizations, and that the problems of meeting jointly are far outweighed by the mutual benefits.

At this time, I would like to thank all of those who made my year as NCPH president a most enjoyable and rewarding experience. In addition to all the members of the NCPH Board, the chairs and committee members, I would like to extend a special thanks to Dwight Pitcaithley for chairing the long-range planning committee and to president-elect Alan Newell for his support on many tasks and assignments. Also, I am grateful to NCPH Executive Director David Vanderstel and those at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis who have provided the essential logistical support necessary to keep the NCPH in operation.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Andrew Gulliford has been named Professor of Southwest Studies and History and the Director of the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. He will be opening the Center in a new \$8 million building. Gulliford was part of the public history program at Middle Tennessee State University for 10 years.

Rachel Maines, an independent scholar employed as a technical processor in the Nestle Library in Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration, is the recipient of two awards for her recent book on the history of female sexuality, *The Technology of Orgasm: "Hysteria", The Vibrator, and Women's Sexual Satisfaction* (Johns Hopkins, 1999). She received the Herbert Feis Prize from the American Historical Association, an award recognizing the work of public historians or independent scholars. Maines' book also garnered the American Foundation for Gender and Genital Medicine and Science's 2001 biennial award for an outstanding book on a sexological subject.

Bruce Noble has left his position as Chief of Interpretation & CRM at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park to become superintendent of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Skagway, Alaska.

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Alan S. Newell, President
Patrick O'Bannon, Vice-President
Michael J. Devine, Past-President
Sharon Babaian, Secretary-Treasurer
David C. Vanderstel, Executive Director



by Alan S. Newell

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

For much of the last ten years that I have been involved in the National Council on Public History, I have heard members raise the issue of “deliverables.” What does NCPH provide in the way of services to its members? How does membership in this organization advance the field of public history or my professional life? With finite resources and a wide range of professional organizations competing for my allegiance, why should I maintain my membership in NCPH? These are legitimate questions and the officers and board members of NCPH need to regularly reflect on them and to validate the worth of this organization.

In the brief time that I’ve served as your president, I’ve discovered that much of what occurs at NCPH daily is unseen by the membership. I’m not naive enough to believe that my discovery is a revelation to you or that the routine business of most professional societies is not similarly obscure to their constituencies. But, it does trouble me that there is not more effort made to inform our members of the issues that the officers, executive committee and board, as well as the committees, have before them. It seems to me that by periodically explaining “what we are doing” we may begin to justify your continued participation in and loyalty to NCPH.

I’ll begin by emphasizing what I wrote in the spring 2000 newsletter about the importance of NCPH committees. Only by encouraging a vigorous and responsive committee structure can the organization generate fresh ideas and youthful enthusiasm to implement them. I began working on committee appointments weeks before the annual meeting and was fortunate to meet with a number of past and future committee chairs while in St. Louis. With two exceptions, committee assignments and charges reached the desks of committee chairs in late May. These charges have been narrowed from previous years to two or three principal tasks for the coming year. Assignments dovetail between committees and are designed to accomplish one or more specific tasks of the recently adopted Plan 2005.

There is not space to list all committee

assignments, but I do want to highlight a few. One of NCPH’s major problems in expanding its individual membership is transitioning student members to full members. If we could convince even 20% of our student public historians to retain membership in NCPH, we would add significantly to the membership rolls and our income. I’ve asked two recent public history graduates who successfully made that transition—Dee Harris and Amy Wilson—to co-chair the Membership Committee this year and to make this issue a focus of their work.

The number of NCPH awards has expanded during the past few years as a result of the success of our endowment campaign and the targeted efforts of specific members. We now offer an annual Student Project Award, two New Professional Travel Awards, and the G. Wesley Johnson Award. We will begin granting the Michael C. Robinson Award this year for accomplishments in public policy history, and we will continue with our most prestigious Robert Kelley Award. I’ve asked NCPH stalwart Jim Gardner to oversee the coordination of these awards this year and to recommend procedures for streamlining the work of this most important committee.

Other committees also have very specific goals. Pat Mooney-Melvin’s Curriculum and Training Committee will revamp our “Careers in Public History Workshop” for the Ottawa meeting and will explore the development of draft guidelines for public history programs. Long Range Planning will once again tackle the seemingly unsolvable problems with our annual meeting “workshop policy.” And, I’ve asked Jason Gart to work with an expanded Consultants’ Committee to develop a proposal for a “Contracting Handbook for Historical Consultants.” Finally, Bob Weyeneth, who sits on *The Public Historian* Editorial Board and now chairs our Publications and Electronic Communications Committee, will oversee the revision of the *Careers for Students in History* booklet and work with *TPH* and UC Press to provide digitized versions of *TPH* indexes online. This issue of *Public History News* includes the names of committee members and chairs. I encourage you to contact them if you have comments or insights about their work in the coming year.

NCPH has been active in two other areas in recent months, both related to exploring ways in which new scholarship can reshape

interpretation at historic sites. Many of you may have seen the notice of travel scholarships available for the “Fur Trade Workshop” sponsored jointly by the National Park Service, Parks Canada, and NCPH in Grand Portage, Minnesota this September. The NCPH Endowment has funded four \$500 scholarships for students and new professionals to attend this two-day event. Ted Karamanski reports that we will be making all four awards to historians, at least two of whom have tribal affiliations in the US or Canada. Our support of public symposia and workshops also has prompted NCPH to submit a planning grant application to the National Endowment for the Humanities. If awarded, the grant will be used to plan a symposium of journalists, historians, and park managers to explore ways in which history is represented in and can inform contemporary social and cultural issues at historic sites and museums. This is the first such grant to be sponsored by NCPH and thanks goes to the History and the National Parks Collaboration Committee, especially to chair Bob Weible and Laura Feller, for their diligent work in completing the application process.

Finally, it is important to note that NCPH is seeking to continue its interest and participation in historical advocacy that our immediate Past-President Mike Devine emphasized during his tenure. On behalf of the organization, I recently commented on the National Park Service’s recent report to Congress “Interpretation at Civil War Sites.” Furthermore, in an effort to provide more continuity to our efforts in advocacy, I’ve appointed Mike to a three-year term as NCPH representative to the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History (NCC). With his passion for and strong commitment to public history, I’m confident that NCC’s new chair Bruce Craig can count on the sound advice and support of NCPH in the coming year.

So, if it seems as if little happens at NCPH between annual meetings, be assured that this is not the case. We are doing a lot and, with your active support and involvement in NCPH committees, we can accomplish great things in the coming years. Please take the time to contact officers, board and committee members and let us know how we can better serve public historians and the cause of public history.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OTTAWA IN APRIL 2001!

by Rebecca Conard, program co-chair

The historic Chateau Laurier in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada will be the site of the 2001 NCPH annual conference, 18-22 April. The conference theme, "Belonging: Public Historians and Place", struck a responsive chord and presenters will themselves be coming to Ottawa from many different places around the globe. Sessions will address a stimulating mix of broad topical areas including place and community identity, place and group identity, theater and historical interpretation, history and the construction of heritage, contested environments, material culture, indigenous rights movements, plurality and diversity in national narratives, and a vast array of cultural landscapes.

Conferees will find history at every turn, but to help them find their way, guided walking tours will be scheduled on Thursday. For those seeking an extended look at the region's past, the Program and Local Arrangements Committees are planning an afternoon of combined session-tours. A session on cultural tourism will include tours of one or more major sites in the Ottawa vicinity. Issues in the preservation of historic industrial sites will be discussed in combination with a tour of Hull and the Chaudiere complex along the Ottawa River, where logging, paper and power installations have left an indelible mark on the landscape. Cultural landscapes will be the theme of a session at Central Experimental Farm, home of the Canada Agriculture Museum. Gatineau Park, an area once dominated by resource-based industries but now a major recreational area, will be the site of an environmental history session. Aspects of Cold War history will be discussed at Carp Bunker, an elaborate installation built in the 1950s to house the Canadian national government in the event of nuclear war and now a locally run museum.

Pulling it all together in the keynote address will be noted historical geographer R. Cole Harris. Dr. Harris is well known in Canadian historical circles for his work as editor of volume one of *The Historical Atlas of Canada*, a monumental three-volume work documenting Canada's prehistory and history. In addition, he has published works on French settlements in North America and

He, along with the dining room furniture purchased for the hotel, went down with the Titanic in April of that year. Before his death, however, the controversial entrepreneur convinced a reluctant Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, to allow the hotel to be named after him. In 1920, the Chateau played a prominent role in the debut of radio broadcasting in North



First Nations displacement and resettlement in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. His knowledge of Canada from coast to coast and his understanding of Canadian history and society make him especially well suited to address the conference on this year's theme.

The central meeting place for the conference will be the Chateau Laurier, built by Charles M. Hayes, president of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada. Hayes was the creative force behind the building of this elegant structure, but he did not live to see it opened in 1912.

America and today is home to one of the oldest, continuously operating radio stations in the country. Situated on the cliffs above the Rideau Canal and the Ottawa River, the Chateau Laurier is a short walk away from Parliament Hill and many other historic buildings, monuments, and sites, including Byward Market, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the National Archives of Canada, and the Canada Science and Technology Museum.

Next April, all public historians belong in a very special place: Ottawa. See you there!

2000 NCPH AWARD WINNERS

HRA New Professional Award

Michael Kelleher

As recipient of the National Council on Public History's HRA New Professional Award, I was given the opportunity to attend the 2000 annual meeting in St. Louis. An NCPH member since 1998, this was the first national meeting I attended, in part to understand where my current professional work falls within the field of public history.

At present, I am a historian and preservation planner with Building Conservation Associates (BCA) in New York. BCA is primarily involved in architectural preservation projects such as the restoration of Radio City Music Hall and the former New York Customs House that now serves as a branch of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. BCA also carries out planning projects such as the preparation of preservation master plans for Rockefeller Center and the General Motors Technical Center in Detroit, an International Style corporate campus designed by the architect Eero Saarinen. As a historian, my role is to provide historical material on buildings and architects and find architectural drawings and historic photographs that may be scattered through a number of archives and libraries. I prepare reports on the design and construction of buildings, subsequent alterations and their

use over time. As a planner, I determine the significance of buildings and work with architects and conservators on the manner in which they will be restored and the degree they can be altered. I also deal with government review of projects and programs such as the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit.

Having worked for HABS/HAER and as a consultant to the National Park Service and Museum of New Mexico, I consider myself a public historian. However, the field in which I presently work, architectural preservation, or conservation, seems somewhat removed from much of what falls under the broad category of public history. I am not referring to the preservation of protected historic structures and sites that are interpreted for the public, but the preservation and restoration of structures that continue to be used as homes, businesses and public buildings. The public appears to appreciate the presence of old buildings and understands that structures are a physical record of the past. (When one is involved in the preservation of modern architecture this becomes problematic as the public often finds it ugly.) But, I find myself asking if this can truly be considered public history when little is done to help the lay person understand the significance of these structures as part of the built environment. Furthermore, decisions regarding what buildings are landmarked and

the manner in which they are preserved and restored are often based upon architectural considerations rather than larger issues of history. For example, in New York City there is no historic district encompassing the truly historic tenements of the Lower East Side, but all manner of high-style architecture is landmarked. Many of the professionals I work with are concerned almost exclusively with bricks and mortar and have little need for historical context other than who designed a building and when it was constructed. They belong to organizations such as the Association for Preservation Technology and the American Institute of Architects; they are unaware of NCPH.

Being surrounded by bricks and mortar preservationists, it was refreshing to attend the NCPH annual meeting with a diverse group of public historians. Among those I met, there were no historians from firms such as mine and I often had to explain the kind of work I am involved in. This resulted in a number of engaging conversations on public history and preservation's place within it. I also attended several sessions that furthered my understanding of issues within public history. The only session devoted to architectural preservation was "Cold War Battlefield: The Built Environment of Science and Technology in the Twentieth Century," where a panel

Membership Application -

15% Introductory Offer for New Members

I would like to become a member of the National Council on Public History and receive a 2000 calendar year subscription to *The Public Historian* and *Public History News* as a part of my new membership.

- Individual \$41.65 (regular, \$49.00)
 Student (with copy of ID) \$19.55 (regular, \$23.00)
 Institution \$72.25 (regular, \$85.00)

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Canada residents add 7% GST (#R122058662).

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City/State/Country/Zip _____

Mail to: University of California Press, Journals Division
2000 Center St., Suite 303 Berkeley, CA 94704-1223,
Email: journals@ucpress.ucop.edu

Payment Options

- Check enclosed (Payable to the UC Regents)
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Account # _____

Signature _____

Special memberships are also available

- Sponsor \$200.00 Patron \$400.00

Please direct inquiries and payments for these memberships to:
The NCPH Executive Offices, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202

Payments to NCPH are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. However, they may be deductible under other provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.
NCPH tax number: 52-1210-174.

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of government historians discussed their evaluation of large complexes of buildings to determine what structures should be preserved. This is particularly relevant to my work on the GM Technical Center, a 600-acre campus containing sixty different structures.

Attending the NCPH annual meeting reinforced my belief that architectural preservation needs to expand its appreciation of the contextual issues that are part of a building's history and make this a more important component in determining significance and how to preserve and restore. Preservationists also need to place greater value upon helping the public understand the history of the built environment. As an active member of NCPH, I hope to help advance preservation in this direction while conveying some of the significant theories and practices I encounter to the wider field of public history.

Student Project Award

Susan Asbury and Kathy Hilliard The Kiplin Hall Conservation Plan

Over the past ten years, the Public History Program at the University of South Carolina has developed a close relationship with Kiplin Hall, a seventeenth-century estate in North Yorkshire, England. The estate, now operated by a charitable trust as a historic site, has served as a field school for graduate students interested in historic preservation, archives, and museum studies. In the spring of 1999, the Trust contracted with Professor Constance Schulz and a group of current students and recent graduates to prepare a conservation plan for the estate. Mandated by England's Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) as a requirement to receive grant funding, the planning process involves a thorough examination of issues related to the management, preservation, and interpretation of the site; the completed plan provides a set of professional guidelines for the operation of Kiplin Hall.

As students of public history, we embraced the Kiplin project as a means of extending our studies outside of the classroom in a significant and challenging manner. Initially, our task seemed rather daunting; HLF guidelines required that we provide a history of the site with regard to changes in proprietorship, building and land usage, and following the establishment of the Kiplin Hall Charitable Trust, management and preservation practices. Based on this history, the guidelines also required an intense scrutiny of the estate's vulnerabilities and the presentation of proposals to mitigate them.

In May 1999, we traveled to North Yorkshire with fellow Kiplin team members, Constance Schulz, Kristen Davidson, Mary Lehman, John Sherrer, and Marta Thacker to gather research necessary to complete the plan. We supplemented the historical research conducted by USC students over the previous ten years with oral interviews with former and current trustees and wardens; examination of thirty years of trustee minutes and documents; visits to the county planning office; and a reexamination of a portion of the estate's archives. Furthermore, we placed Kiplin's history within local, regional and national contexts through an examination of secondary literature dealing with material culture and social history.

Our trip and subsequent team meetings also involved a detailed analysis of the estate's current condition with regard to professional historic site administration, preservation, and interpretation. We met with officials from HLF and English Heritage as well as staff from local and regional museums and historic sites and discussed the restoration of the main Hall with architects and a decorative historian. Finally, our own detailed observations of the site, coupled with the team's combined work experience in historic preservation and planning, curatorial, registration, and conservation departments in museums and archival conservation and processing, allowed us to convey to the trustees both immediate and long-term problems with the site and to suggest practical means of alleviating them.

After our six months of research, writing, and revising, the Kiplin Hall Charitable Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund approved the conservation plan. Our work with Kiplin Hall has confirmed that public history deals primarily with the concept of balance. As in most works of public history, we found that, in addition to historical accuracy, we had to consider financial concerns, visitor interests, collections care, building and landscape preservation, and the overall vision of the estate's trustees in order to produce a comprehensive yet usable plan for the estate. In order for Kiplin Hall to reach its potential as an educational and entertaining historical resource for visitors throughout England and the world, a meaningful balance has to be struck among all of these factors. We feel that the approved conservation plan will provide the

framework needed to make this balance possible.

We are honored to have received this year's NCPH Student Project Award for our work on the Kiplin Hall project. Thanks to a generous travel stipend, we were given the opportunity to attend the joint meeting of NCPH and OAH in St. Louis. We attended sessions in which the complicated nature of public history was explored and, more importantly, met a community of professionals dedicated to historical scholarship and its manifestation in the public realm. Our experience with the Kiplin Hall project has deepened our appreciation for the work that public historians do; our experience in St. Louis has confirmed that this work is important and though complex, ultimately rewarding.

G. Wesley Johnson Award

Charlene Mires of Villanova University for her article "In the Shadow of Independence Hall: Vernacular Activities and the Meanings of Historic Places." *The Public Historian*, Spring 1999.

► *Members continued from pg. 1*

Robert R. Weyeneth, associate professor of history and co-director of the public history program at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, has published a new book, *Historic Preservation for a Living City: Historic Charleston Foundation, 1947-1997*.

NEW MEMBERS

Nedda Allbray, Brooklyn, NY
Emily Bingham, Louisville, KY
John Bushrow, Edwardsville, IL
Robyn Christensen, Jamaica Plain, MA
James Cotless, Yosemite National Park, CA
John Daly, Springfield, IL
Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
Lee Formwalt, Bloomington, IN
Indiana University of Pennsylvania,
Indiana, PA
Jim Jenks, Moraga, CA
D. Kennedy, Seattle, WA
Jerry Lawson, Fort Wayne, IN
John Lodi, Murfreesboro, TN
Marjorie McLellan, Middletown, OH
Paul Oelkug, Carrollton, TX
Nancy Perlman, Baltimore, MD
Kathleen Remillard, Harwich, MA
Bay Stevens, Tijeras, NM
John Wolford, St. Louis, MO
University of Illinois, Chicago, IL

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



by David G. Vanderstel

Annual Report to the Members

The days preceding the arrival of the year 2000 produced a great deal of public retrospection as well as an outpouring of optimism for the future. It is questionable, however, whether that brief "look to the past" was simply a passing fad or whether it will indeed help to shape the course of our society and world in the years to come. During the past year, NCPH marked its own milestone—twenty years of existence as a professional association. The organization held its own celebration of sorts in 1999, recalling past accomplishments at its Lowell meeting, discussing the state of the public history field in the special summer 1999 issue of *The Public Historian*, and marking the beginning of our third decade of existence. The year also brought new plans for the future as Council leaders revisited the long-range plan adopted in 1995 and discussed ways of building on past accomplishments to move NCPH forward in the coming years. All in all, the year proved to be most productive, one marked by numerous accomplishments, continued growth, and increased optimism about public history and the role of NCPH within the historical profession.

STAFF. Over the years, NCPH has been fortunate to have had dedicated individuals work in its Executive Offices. During the 1999-2000 academic year, Mary F. Taylor served as the graduate intern. She oversaw the production of the quarterly newsletter and began work on the update of the *Guide to Graduate Programs*. Mary deserves special recognition for providing assistance well beyond the demands of her position during the four-month absence of an NCPH administrative assistant.

After administrative assistant Kelly Barnes departed in August, Gayle Rhynearnson, a junior psychology major, joined the staff as Assistant to the Executive Director in December. Gayle assumed most of the responsibilities of the administrative assistant and has been very active in

maintaining the NCPH web page.

I wish to extend my personal appreciation and the thanks of the entire organization to Gayle, Mary, and Kelly.

In an effort to provide greater staff support and stability for the Executive Offices, the NCPH Board, at its spring meeting, approved expenditures to make the administrative assistant a full-time position. Adding to the funds already contributed by the Department of History and the School of Liberal Arts, NCPH should be able to attract an experienced person to manage office operations, thereby improving our ability to meet the growing demands of the organization.

FINANCES. The financial status of NCPH remains good, though we face particular challenges for "growing" our streams of revenue in the years to come. For the second consecutive year, the NCPH Board authorized an independent audit of our financial records. The final report concluded that the organization was in good shape and provided useful suggestions to improve institutional record-keeping.

Income. Revenue from the University of California Press, which constitutes approximately 40 percent of our annual income, did well during the year 1999-2000, especially with a strong first quarter return of \$13,225.09. Final figures for the year, however, will not be available until later this summer, and a financial report will be included in the fall newsletter.

In December 1999, NCPH received the final payment for the spring 1999 meeting in Lowell. Proceeds from the conference totaled \$13,691.57 (based on total revenue of \$41,745 and total expenses of \$28,053). Once again, conference returns exceeded expectations. Gray Fitzsimons and his Local Arrangements Committee are to be commended for the excellent job in managing the annual meeting and making it a profitable experience in more ways than one.

Final figures from the joint annual meeting with OAH in St. Louis are not yet available. Early indications are, however, that NCPH did not reach its expected goal of \$10,000 profit from the meeting, due to the assorted relocation costs.

Expenses. Most expenses continue to be well below projections, due in part to close monitoring of the budget and increased electronic processing of records and

correspondence. In the absence of an administrative assistant, I secured approval from the Executive Committee to contract with the accounting firm that handles our taxes and audits to produce our monthly financial statements.

MEMBERSHIP. The end-of-volume issue of *Public History News* went to 1,472 members, a decrease of some 7 percent from 1,577 at the same time in 1998. Tom White, UC Press marketing manager, noted that this included a 15 percent decrease in individuals and a 16 percent decrease in students, although there was a 5 percent increase in institutional members. White also noted that the renewal rate from 1998 to 1999 was 80 percent, an all-time high for *TPH* and NCPH. The key challenges facing NCPH are the retention of members and encouraging students to transition to regular members upon the completion of their studies.

During the year, the Membership Committee, working in conjunction with Tom White and the NCPH Executive Offices, identified several organizations that possessed a public history orientation and whose members would bring increased diversity to the Council. A mass mailing of over 7,000 "invitations to join NCPH" went to target lists, including the Society of Black Archivists, the National Association of Chicano Studies, the Society of American Archivists, the Vernacular Architecture Forum, among other groups.

Finally, I would like to thank Tom White, who left UC Press earlier this spring, for his excellent work in marketing and membership development for NCPH over the past few years. It was a pleasure to work with him and I wish him well in his new job.

PATRONS AND SPONSORS. The role of patrons and sponsors in the life of NCPH is an important one. These institutions and agencies provide funds beyond the regular membership level to support our programs and members' services, subsidize publications, and sustain our general operations. Through their generosity, they have demonstrated the importance and value of public history and affirmed their support of NCPH's mission. As we seek to expand our base of patrons and sponsors, I would like to encourage all institutional members, including government agencies, historical

societies and museums, consulting companies, and especially public history programs, to become members of NCPH at the patron or sponsor level at the time of the next membership renewal.

I am also pleased to announce that The History Channel has become what the NCPH Board calls a "Super Patron" by contributing \$10,000 to the operations of the organization for each of the next two years. Through the generosity of Libby Haight O'Connell, Historian and Director of Community Marketing for A&E Television Networks/The History Channel and the hard work of Dwight Pitcaithley and Jim Horton, NCPH will benefit from this support as it works to promote public history and to reach its diverse audiences. Many thanks to The History Channel!

H-PUBLIC. In the fall of 1999, the NCPH Executive Offices launched H-PUBLIC, the new public history discussion list that is part of the H-NET community. Since its inception, there has been a steady growth in subscribers—over 880, or nearly twice the number previously subscribed to PUBLIST. This list provides the latest information on awards, conferences and workshops, opportunities for professional development, internships, and jobs. Discussions have ranged from issues pertaining to curriculum development and preservation, professional standards and the controversy surrounding the Adams Mark Hotel and the relocation of the NCPH/OAH annual meeting. As we become more dependent upon our electronic communications to stay abreast of the latest news and developments, I encourage you to send notices and public history news along to me so I can forward them to H-PUBLIC.

ANNUAL MEETINGS UPDATE. Approximately 170 NCPH members attended the spring meeting in St. Louis, comprising about 10 percent of the total conference attendance. NCPH sponsored several tours, sessions, workshops on the Underground Railroad and Careers in Public History, and a highly successful endowment fundraiser.

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, planning for the 2001 annual meeting in Ottawa, Canada, is in the capable hands of Local Arrangements chair Sharon Babaian and Program co-chairs Rebecca Conard and David Neufeld. Though more than eight

months away, the program is nearly in place with sessions identified, the keynote speaker contacted, hotel contracts signed, and numerous tours arranged. Given their accomplishments thus far, these committees have organized our annual meeting the farthest in advance of any previous meeting, thereby setting a new standard for conference planning. They are to be commended for their hard work.

NCPH will be meeting again with OAH in 2002, this time in Washington, DC. Leaders from both organizations have met and discussed plans for that conference and will be drafting a letter of agreement soon.

NCPH and IUPUI. I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to Dean Herman Saatkamp of the School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI for his continued support of the NCPH Executive Offices. For ten years, NCPH has received substantial support from the university in the form of office space, half salary for the Executive Director, the 20-hour per week administrative assistant, office furniture and computer equipment, and sundry operational expenses. The Department of History also co-sponsors NCPH by providing a graduate intern annually. Thanks also go to department chair Philip Scarpino and public history program coordinator Elizabeth Brand Monroe for their continued support and guidance.

OTHER PERSONAL ACTIVITIES. In the other half of my professional life, I continue work with The Polis Center at IUPUI with my principal focus being the study of religion in urban culture. For that project, I have completed secondary curriculum materials pertaining to the role of religion in American history and will be returning to some earlier work on the history of urban congregations in Indianapolis. I also continue my teaching, including an introduction to history/public history.

I have written two articles for forthcoming publications—one on the "state of public history in Indiana" for a volume to be published by the Indiana Historical Society next year; and another dealing with my personal research on Edmund Hovey for *Vermont History*.

CONCLUSIONS. Not only does August bring about the heat of summer here in Indiana, but it also brings the

anniversary of my tenure as the Executive Director of NCPH. For six years, I have been fortunate to work with officers, board members, committee chairs, and other individuals who have volunteered their time to NCPH because they are committed to the field of public history. Over those years, I have watched the organization grow in membership, revenue (the annual budget was \$28,000 when I began in August 1994; today, it exceeds \$60,000), visibility, and respect within the historical profession. NCPH also has adopted its second long-range plan, one that sets ambitious (and doable) goals for the future, including increased membership, greater visibility and advocacy for historical issues, and a full-time staff.

It has been an honor to serve as your director over these past six years. As always, I welcome and value your comments and advice. Most importantly, I look for your continued assistance as we work to achieve the goals established in our new long range plan, to promote public history within the historical profession, and to nurture a stronger appreciation for the study and use of history among a wider public audience.



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 Alan S. Newell, Historical Research Associates, Inc., PO Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086; or David G. Vanderstel, NCPH, Cavanaugh 327, IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140; (317) 274-2716; E-mail: ncph@iupui.edu.

For change of address, write UC Press, 2000 Center St., Suite 303, Berkeley, CA 94704-1223.

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

NCC WASHINGTON UPDATE



by **Bruce Craig**
**Director of the National
Coordinating Committee
for the Promotion of History**
<rbcraig3@juno.com>

*[Editor's Note: The following are excerpts
of recent NCC Updates.]*

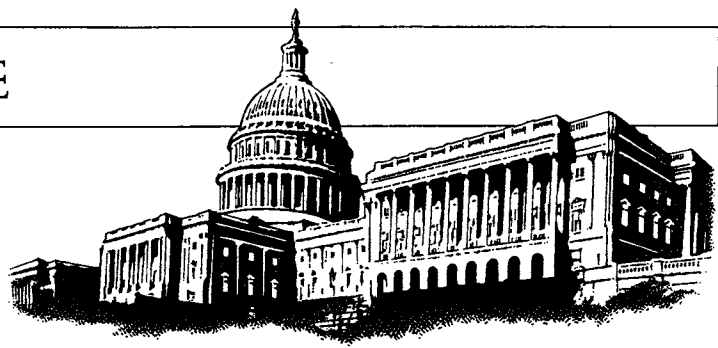
Resolution Decries Sad State of American History Education — On 27 June Senators Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), Slade Gorton (R-WA) together with Representatives Thomas E. Petri (R-WI) and George Miller (D-CA) unveiled a Congressional concurrent resolution (no number assigned as of this writing) designed to draw attention to what Congressman Petri characterized as “the troubling historical illiteracy of our next generation of leaders.” Based on findings contained in “Losing America’s Memory: Historical Illiteracy in the 21st Century,” a report recently released by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), the resolution expresses “the sense of Congress regarding the importance and value of United States history.” It calls upon boards of trustees, college administrators, and state officials to strengthen American history requirements in the nation’s schools, colleges, and universities. According to the ACTA report, at 78% of the institutions surveyed, students are not required to take any history at all and that it is now possible for students to graduate from 100% of the top colleges without taking a single course in American history. Senator Lieberman stated that the concurrent resolution is designed to “call attention to this national problem and hopefully begin mobilizing a national response” in order to “rebuild our historical literacy.”

Report on Interpretation of Slavery in Civil War Parks — In response to language in the FY-2000 Interior

Appropriations Bill, the National Park Service has submitted to Congress a 56-page report assessing the educational information conveyed at Civil War sites. Of particular concern to Representative Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-IL) and other members of Congress was that Civil War battle sites were not always being placed in the proper historical context and that far too many battlefields were “missing vital information about the role that the institution of slavery played in causing the American Civil War.”

The report reflects the summary findings of a general conference of NPS battlefield managers “Holding the High Ground” held in August 1998 in Nashville, TN. It also includes the findings of a cursory survey of the current conditions of interpretive programs, media, and exhibits at 28 Civil War sites. The report recommended that “Battlefield interpretation must establish the site’s particular place in the continuum of war; illuminate the social, economic, and cultural issues that caused or were affected by the war; illustrate the breadth of human experience during the period, and establish the relevance of the war to people today.”

Based on the survey of battlefields units, the report demonstrates that a number of exhibits and film have been in place since the 1960s and 1970s (some date to the 1930s) and their content lacks current scholarship. The report informs Congress that any “major change in the presentation of programs and the replacement of media will require funding.” Finally, the report identifies accomplishments to date and lays out a series of action items designed to improve interpretation at Civil War sites including: updating exhibits and publications; supporting collaborative efforts between the parks and educational institutions; and initiating new Internet based educational programs.



Update on Declassification of Nazi and Japanese War Crimes Records —

In order to conform with the provisions of the Nazi War Crime Disclosure Act of 1998, President Clinton issued Executive Order 13110 in January 1999, establishing the Nazi War Criminal Records Interagency Working Group (IWG). The order charged this group with locating, identifying, inventorying, recommending for declassification and making available all classified Nazi war criminal records as well as records relating to war crimes by “any government which was an ally of the Nazi government of Germany” subject to specified restrictions. For the past year the IWG has focused primarily on Nazi war criminals, war crimes, persecution, and looting, and to date some 1.5 million pages of documents have been declassified.

In May, Dr. Michael Kurtz, Assistant Archivist at the National Archives and Chair of the IWG, announced that the group will take steps to begin the second phase of implementation of the Disclosure Act by initiating an examination of records related to Japanese war crimes, war criminals, persecutions, and looting. To assist the IWG in determining how best to approach the initiative, the IWG has appointed historian Linda Goetz Holmes, an expert of Japanese crimes of World War II, to its Historical Advisory Panel. This panel recommends measures to improve the effectiveness of the Act by aiding understanding of the historical circumstances and context in which the records were created. Additional information about the IWG and the Historical Advisory Panel is available at the IWG website at www.nara.gov/iwg

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OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Alan S. Newell – President
Historical Research Associates, Inc.
PO Box 7086
Missoula, MT 59807-7086
(406)721-1958; fax 721-1964
e-mail: anewell@hrassoc.com

Patrick O' Bannon – Vice-President
HRA Gray & Pape, LLC.
1318 Main Street
Cincinnati, OH 45210
(513) 287-7700, fax 287-7703
e-mail: pobannon@hragp.com

**Sharon Babaian – Secretary-
Treasurer**
National Museum of Science and
Technology
PO Box 9724, Station T
Ottawa, ONT Canada K1G 5A3
(613) 996-0769, fax 990-3636
e-mail: sbabaian@nmstc.ca

Michael J. Devine – Past-President
American Heritage Center
University of Wyoming
PO Box 3924
Laramie, WY 82071-3924
(307)766-4114, fax 766-5511
e-mail: mjdevine@uwyo.edu

Laura Feller, Board Representative
National Park Service
NRHE 2280
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20002
(202)343-9528; fax 343-1244
e-mail: laura_feller@nps.gov

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND EDITOR, *PUBLIC HISTORY NEWS*

David G. Vanderstel
327 Cavanaugh Hall – IUPUI
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140
(317)274-2718; fax 274-2347
e-mail: dvanders@iupui.edu

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cindy Brandimarte (elected 2000)
Department of History
Southwest Texas State University
San Marcos, TX 78666
e-mail: cindybrand@aol.com

Christopher Clarke (elected 1998)
110 Greystone Lane #9
Rochester, NY 14618
(716)473-4025
e-mail: clarkescs@aol.com

Laura Feller (elected 1998)
National Park Service
NRHE 2280
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20002
(202)343-9528, fax 343-1244
e-mail: laura_feller@nps.gov

Barbara Franco (elected 1998)
Historical Society of Washington, DC
1307 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202)785-2068, fax 887-5785
e-mail: bfranco@hswdc.org

Andrew Gulliford (elected 1999)
Director, Center of Southwest Studies
Fort Lewis College
1000 Rim Drive
Durango, CO 81301-3999
(970) 247-7494, fax 247-7422
e-mail: agulliford@compuserve.com

Victoria Harden (elected 1999)
4503 Avamere St.
Bethesda, MD 20814-3930
(301)496-6610
e-mail: vharden@helix.nih.gov

Marie Tyler McGraw (elected 2000)
4383 Embassy Park Drive NW
Washington, DC 20016
e-mail: marie_tyler_mcgraw@nps.gov

David Neufeld (elected 1999)
Parks Canada
#205 300 Main Street
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2B5
CANADA
(867)667-3913
e-mail: dneufeld@yknet.yk.ca

Judith Wellman (elected 2000)
SUNY - Oswego
History Department
Oswego, NY 13126
e-mail: wellman@oswego.edu

THE PUBLIC HISTORIAN

Shelley Bookspan – Editor
Department of History
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106
(805)893-3667, fax 893-7522
e-mail: sbookspan@itcrp.com

Lindsey Reed – Managing Editor
Department of History
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106
(805)893-3667, fax 893-7522
e-mail: lreed@ltsc.ucsb.edu

EDITORIAL BOARD

Martin Blatt
(2000-2002)
National Park Service
Boston National Historical Park
Charlestown Navy Yard
Boston, MA 02129
(617)242-5648, fax 241-8650
e-mail: :marty_blat@nps.gov

Kathi Ann Brown (1999-2001)
Milestones Historical Consultants
2608 Jefferson Park Circle
Charlottesville, VA 22903
(804)923-8720; fax 923-8721
e-mail: KathiBrown@aol.com

Cary Carson (1995-2000)
The Colonial Williamsburg
Foundation
PO Box C
Williamsburg, VA 23185
(757)229-1000 x7346; fax 220-0779
e-mail: ccarson@widomaker.com

Rebecca Conard (1999-2001)
Department of History
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
(615)898-2432; fax 898-5882
e-mail: rconard@mtsu.edu

James Gardner (1995-2000)
National Museum of American History
NMAH Room 4605
14th Street & Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20560-0638
(202)357-1963; fax 633-8192
e-mail: gardnerj@nmah.si.edu

Barbara J. Howe (1997-2002)
Department of History
PO Box 6303
West Virginia University
Morgantown, WV 26506-6303
(304)293-2421, ext. 5227; fax 293-6858
e-mail: bhowe@wvu.edu

Betty Koed (2000-2002)
US Senate Historical Office
201 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-7108
(202)224-0753; Fax 224-5329
e-mail: betty_koed@sec.senate.gov

Roger Launius (1998-2000)
NASA History Division
NASA Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546
(202)358-0383; fax 358-2866
e-mail: roger.launius@hq.nasa.gov

Paul Mattingly (1999-2001)
Department of History
New York University
50 Washington Square South KJCC
New York, NY 10012
(212) 998-8631; fax 995-4017
e-mail: phm2@is2.nyu.edu

Patricia Mooney-Melvin (1997-2002)
Department of History
Loyola University of Chicago
6525 North Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60626
(773)508-2238; fax 508-2153
e-mail: pmooney@luc.edu

Antonio Rios-Bustamante (2000-2002)
Department of History
University of Wyoming
Laramie, Wyoming 82071
e-mail: RiosBusa@uwoyo.edu

Eric Sandweiss (1999-2000)
Missouri Historical Society
PO Box 11940
St. Louis, MO 63112-0040
(314)746-4561
e-mail: sesandw@jinx.umsl.edu

Robert L. Spude (1998-2000)
National Park Service
PO Box 728
Santa Fe, NM 87504
(505)988-6770; fax 988-6876
e-mail: bob_spude@nps.gov

Donald L. Stevens, Jr. (1999-2001)
National Park Service
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, NE 68102-2571
(402)221-3915
e-mail: don_stevens@nps.gov

Robert R. Weyeneth (1999-2001)
Department of History
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208
(803)777-6398
e-mail: weyeneth@sc.edu

Gerry Herman, special editor, film/media
Department of History
Northeastern University
Boston, MA 02115
(617)373-2660; 373-2661
e-mail: gherman@lynx.neu.edu

AWARDS COMMITTEE

James Gardner, chair
4000 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, #228
Washington, DC 20016-5108
(202)363-3420, fax 785-3948
e-mail: gardnerj@nmah.si.edu

Eileen M. Eagan (appointed 1998)
Department of History
University of Southern Maine
PO Box 9300
Portland, ME 04104-9300
(202)780-4141
e-mail: eagan@usm.maine.edu

Fritz Hamer (appointed 1999)
South Carolina State Museum
PO Box 100107
Columbia, SC 29202
(803)898-4942

Howard S. (Dick) Miller (appointed 1999)
205 Kern Ave.
Morro Bay, CA 93442
(805)772-5790, fax 772-6088
e-mail: slomiller@aol.com

Patricia Mooney-Melvin (appointed 1999)
Department of History
Loyola University of Chicago
6525 North Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60626
(773)508-2238, fax 508-2153
e-mail: pmooney@luc.edu

Marie Tyler McGraw (appointed 2000) (Board Representative)
4383 Embassy Park Drive NW
Washington, DC 20016
e-mail: marie_tyler_mcgraw@nps.gov

Anne Valk (appointed 1999)
Box 1454 Historical Studies
Southern Illinois University
Edwardsville, IL 62026
e-mail: avalk@siue.edu

CONSULTANTS WORKING GROUP COMMITTEE

Jason Gart, (chair, 1998)
History International, Inc.
135 North Center St.
PO Box 331
Mesa, Arizona 85211-0331
(480) 325-1721
e-mail: jason.gart@askahistorian.com

Lee Anderson/Kathy Penningroth (appointed 2000)
A&P Historical Resources
806 Fifth Street #110
Coralville, Iowa 52241
(319) 358-6566, fax 358-9992
e-mail: APHistRes@aol.com

Robert Carriker (appointed 2000)
History and Geography
PO Box 42531
Lafayette, LA 70504-2287
e-mail: carriker@louisiana.edu

Christopher Clarke (appointed 1999)
110 Greystone Lane #9
Rochester, NY 14618
(716)473-4025
e-mail: clarkecsc@aol.com

Andrew Schmidt (appointed 2000)
106 Group
370 Selby Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651)290-0977; fax 290-0979
e-mail: andrewschmidt@106group.com

CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Committee appointments pending

CURRICULUM AND TRAINING

Patricia Mooney-Melvin, chair
(appointed 2000)
Department of History
Loyola University of Chicago
6525 North Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60626
(773)508-2238; fax 508-2153
e-mail: pmooney@luc.edu

Cindy Brandimarte (Board
Representative)
808 Westlake Dr.
Austin, TX 78708
(512)245-3043 or 329-5509
e-mail: cindybrand@aol.com

Thomas Charlton (appointed 2000)
Baylor University
2915 Sanger Ave.
Waco, Texas 76707
(817) 752-4300
e-mail: thomas_charlton@baylor.edu

Andrew Gulliford
(Board Representative)
Director, Center of Southwest Studies
Fort Lewis College
1000 Rim Drive
Durango, CO 81301-3999
(970) 247-7456
e-mail: agulliford@compuserve.com

Theodore Karamanski
(appointed 1998)
Department of History
Loyola University of Chicago
6525 North Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60626
(773)508-2684; fax 508-2153
e-mail: tkarama@wpo.it.luc.edu

John Krugler (appointed 1997)
Department of History
Marquette University
Milwaukee, WI 53233
(414)288-7056
e-mail: John.Krugler@marquette.edu

Jay Price (appointed 2000)
Department of History
304 Fiske Hall
Wichita State University
Wichita, Kansas 67260-0045
e-mail: jprice@twsu.edu

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Marianne Babal, chair (appt. 1995)
History Department
Mac 0101-026
Wells Fargo Bank
San Francisco, CA 94163
(415)396-7904, fax 391-8644
e-mail: babal@slip.net

Barbara Franco (Board Representative)
Historical Society of Washington, DC
1307 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202)785-2068; fax 887-5785
e-mail: bfranco@hswdc.org

Martha Norkunas (appointed 1998)
12401 Adelphi Ct.
Austin, TX 78727-5301
e-mail: m.norkunas@mail.utexas.edu

Virginia Stewart (appointed 1999)
University of North Carolina-
Wilmington
601 S. College Road
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403
e-mail: stewartv@uncwil.edu

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Sharon Babaian-Secretary-Treasurer
National Museum of Science and
Technology
PO Box 9724
Ottawa Terminal
Ottawa K1A 0N3 Canada
(613) 996-0769, fax 990-3636
e-mail: sbabaian@nmstc.ca

Timothy Crimmins (appointed 1999)
Office of Associate Provosts
1016 One Park Place Building
Georgia State University
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404)651-2575; fax 651-1233
e-mail: histjc@gsusgi2.gsu.edu

Patrick O' Bannon (appointed 1999)
HRA Gray & Pape, LLC
1318 Main Street
Cincinnati, OH 45210
(513) 287-7700; fax 287-7703
e-mail: pobannon@hrapg.com

Dwight Pitcaithley, (appointed 2000)
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Suite NC400
Washington, DC 20040
(202)343-8167; fax 343-1244
e-mail: dwight_pitcaithley@nps.gov

David G. Vanderstel, ex-officio
327 Cavanaugh Hall – IUPUI
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140
(317)274-2718; fax 274-2347
e-mail: dvanders@iupui.edu

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NATIONAL PARKS
COLLABORATION
COMMITTEE (AD HOC)**

Robert Weible, chair
(re-appointed 1999)
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum
Commission
Box 1026
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026
(717)783-9867
e-mail: rweible@phmc.state.pa.us

Jeffery Brown (appointed 1999)
Department of History
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, NM 88003
(505)646-2003
e-mail: jbrown@nmsu.edu

Karen Byrne (appointed 2000)
National Park Service
505 N. Roosevelt Blvd. #B204
Falls Church, VA 22044
(703) 532-8254
e-mail: karen_byrne@nps.gov

Bruce Craig (appointed 1999)
National Coordinating Committee
400 A Street SE
Washington, DC 20003
e-mail: rbcraig3@juno.com

Laura Feller (Board Representative)
(appointed 1999)
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW (NC 400)
Washington, DC 20002
(202)343-9528, fax 343-1244
e-mail: laura_feller@nps.gov

Larry Gall (appointed 1999)
215 Highland Ave.
Arlington, MA 02476-7847
(617)643-2014

David Glassberg (appointed 1999)
Department of History
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003
(413)544-4252
e-mail: glassberg@history.umass.edu

Andrew Gulliford (appointed 2000)
Director, Center of Southwest Studies
Fort Lewis College
1000 Rim Drive
Durango, CO 81301-3999
(970) 247-7456
e-mail: agulliford@compuserve.com

Randall M. Miller (appointed 2000)
St. Joseph's University
244 Sagamore Rd.
Havertown, PA 19083
(610) 853-1370
e-mail: miller@sju.edu

Dwight Pitcaithley (appointed 1999)
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Suite NC400
Washington, DC 20240
(202)343-8167; fax 343-1244
e-mail: dwight_pitcaithley@nps.gov

**LONG RANGE PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

Michael J. Devine, chair
American Heritage Center
University of Wyoming
Laramie, WY 82071
(307)766-4114; fax 766-5511
e-mail: mjdevine@uwyo.edu

Jeffery Brown (appointed 1999)
Department of History
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, NM 88003
(505)646-2003
e-mail: jbrown@nmsu.edu

Lorne McWatters (appointed 2000)
Department of History
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
e-mail: damcwatters@mtsu.edu

Philip V. Scarpino (appointed 1999)
Department of History
IUPUI
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140
(317)274-5983
e-mail: pscarpin@iupui.edu

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Dee Harris, co-chair (appointed 2000)
Smoky Hill Museum
211 W. Iron
PO Box 101
Salina, KS 67402-0101
(785) 826-7460; fax 826-7414
e-mail: dee.harris@salina.org

Amy Wilson, co-chair
407 Laurentian Place, Apt. #1
Elmira, NY 46250-3900
(317)576-9835
e-mail: amyhelen@aol.com

Rose Diaz (appointed 2000)
Center for Southwest Research
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131
(505)255-6811; fax 277-6019
e-mail: rosediaz@unm.edu

Laura Feller (Board Representative)
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, NRHE 2280
Washington, DC 20002
(202)343-9528; fax 343-1244
e-mail: laura_feller@nps.gov

Victoria Harden (Board
Representative)
4503 Avamere St.
Bethesda, MD 20814-3930
(301)496-6610
e-mail: vharden@helix.nih.gov

Patrick O' Bannon-Vice-President
HRA Gray & Pape, LLC
1318 Main Street
Cincinnati, OH 45210
(513) 287-7700; fax 287-7703
e-mail: pobannon@hragp.com

Connie Schulz (appointed 1999)
Department of History
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208
(803)777-4854
e-mail: schulz@sc.edu

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Martha Norkunas, chair
(elected 1998)
12401 Adelphi Ct.
Austin, Texas 78727-5301
(512)495-4533; fax 495-4575
e-mail: m.norkunas@mail.utexas.edu

James Delgado (elected 2000)
Vancouver Maritime Museum
1905 Ogden Ave.
Vancouver PQ V6J 1A3 Canada

Anne Millbrooke (elected 1999)
PO Box 1845
Nome, AK 99762
(907)443-5581
e-mail: anne27m@yahoo.com

Lindsey Reed (elected 1998)
Department of History
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106
(805)893-3667; fax 893-7522
e-mail: lreed@ltsc.ucsb.edu

Vivien Rose (elected 2000)
Women's Rights National
Historical Park
National Park Service
136 Fall Street
Seneca Falls, NY 13148
(315) 568-0007
e-mail: vivien_rose@nps.gov

**PRE-COLLEGIATE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Rick Ewig (appointed 1999), chair
American Heritage Center
Centennial Complex
P.O. Box 3924
Laramie, WY 82071-3924
(307)766-4114, Fax 766-5511
e-mail: rewig@uwyo.edu

Christopher Clarke (Board
Representative) (appointed 1999)
110 Greystone Lane #9
Rochester, NY
(716)473-4025
e-mail: clarkescs@aol.com

Lynne Getz (appointed 1999)
Department of History
Appalachian State University
Boone, NC 28608
(704)262-6010
e-mail: getzlm@appstate.edu

Cathy Gorn (appointed 1998)
Executive Director
National History Day
0121 Caroline Hall
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
(301)314-9739; fax 314-9767

James Percoco
West Springfield High School
6100 Rolling Road
Springfield, VA 22152
(703)451-6403
e-mail: jim4gina@aol.com

**PUBLICATIONS AND
ELECTRONIC
COMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE**

Robert Weyeneth, chair (appointed
2000)
Department of History
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208
(803)777-6398
e-mail: weyeneth@sc.edu

Beth Boland (appointed 1998)
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service, WASO
1849 C Street, Suite NC400
Washington, DC 20020
(202)343-9545; fax 343-1836
e-mail: beth_boland@nps.gov

Kathy Borkowski (appointed 2000)
The Pleasant Company
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562-2554
(608)836-4848; fax 836-1999
e-mail:
kathy_borkowski@pleasantco.com

Douglas W. Dodd (appointed 2000)
6901-B KlamathWay
Bakersfield, CA 93309-5411
(661)837-0868
e-mail: ddodd@csubak.edu

Harry Klinkhamer (appointed 2000)
Illinois State Historical Society
1945 S. Lincoln Avenue
Springfield, IL 62704
(217)525-2781
e-mail: harmoni@gateway.com

Roger Launius (appointed 1998)
NASA Headquarters
History Office
Washington, DC 20546
(202)358-0383; fax 358-2983
e-mail: rlaunius@hq.nasa.gov

Paige Roberts (appointed 1998)
Executive Director
Immigrant City Archives
6 Essex Street
Lawrence, MA 10840
e-mail: proberts@nh.ultranet.com

**ROBERT KELLEY
MEMORIAL AWARD
COMMITTEE (2001)**

Committee appointments pending

**2001 ANNUAL MEETING
LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS
COMMITTEE**

Sharon Babaian, chair
National Museum of Science
& Technology
PO Box 9724, Ottawa Terminal
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 5A2
CANADA
(613)991-3029; fax 990-3636
e-mail: sbabaian@nmstc.ca

William Beahen
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
1200 Vanier Parkway
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R2
(613) 993-8370; fax 993-1310
e-mail: William.Beahen@
rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Gweneth Claughton

David Neufeld (Board)
Parks Canada
#205 300 Main Street
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2B5
CANADA
(867)667-3913
e-mail: dneufeld@yknet.yk.ca

2001 ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Rebecca Conard, co-chair
Department of History
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
(615)898-2536
e-mail: rconard@mtsu.edu

David Neufeld, co-chair
Parks Canada
#205 300 Main Street
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2B5
CANADA
(867)667-3913
e-mail: dave_neufeld@pch.gc.ca

Robert Carriker
History & Geography
PO Box 4253
Lafayette, LA 70504-2287
e-mail: carriker@louisiana.edu

Paula Hamilton
Faculty of Humanities
University of Technology, Sydney
PO Box 123 Broadway
NSW 2007 Australia

Robert Weible
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum
Commission
PO Box 1026
Harrisburg, PA 17108
(717)783-9867
e-mail: rweible@phmc.state.pa.us

NCPH AWARDS

NEW PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL AWARDS

The National Council on Public History will award two \$400 travel grants for new professionals to attend the annual meeting in Ottawa, Canada, 18-22 April 2001. The award recipients will attend the NCPH meeting and write a short article for the newsletter about his or her conference experience.

Eligibility: To be eligible for consideration, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

1. The applicant must be a member of NCPH.
2. He or she must have been a practicing public historian for no more than three years.
3. He or she must have no institutional travel support.

To Apply:

1. Each applicant must submit a letter explaining how attendance at the annual meeting will benefit him or her professionally. Please send a letter of application and a c.v. to:
NCPH Executive Offices
c/o Indiana University - Purdue University at Indianapolis
425 University Boulevard - Cavanaugh 327
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-5140
Phone: 317/274-2716
Fax: 317/274-2347
Email: ncp@iupui.edu
2. **Deadline for submissions is 15 January 2001.** The winner will be notified by mid February 2001.

NEW STUDENT PROJECT AWARD

The National Council on Public History invites nominations for the NCPH Student Project Award. The goal of the award is to recognize and reward the contribution of student projects to the field of public history and to encourage student participation in NCPH. The winning project will receive a \$500 travel award to enable one or more students from the project to register for and attend the NCPH annual meeting in Ottawa, Canada, 18-22 April 2001. *Public History News* will publish a short article in the summer issue 2001 submitted by the winning student or students about their project and conference experience.

Eligibility: To be eligible for consideration, a project must meet the following criteria:

1. The project must be the work of one or more full-time students pursuing Masters or Doctorate degrees and have been completed within the two academic years preceding the submission deadline.
2. The project must have been undertaken primarily as part of academic course work and subsequently been recognized as a contribution to public history outside of the classroom. (Examples: a classroom assignment in exhibit design that was accepted by a local museum or business for public display; an oral history project accepted into an established oral history collection; an historic preservation context study

► See Student Project Award page 16.

► *Student Project Award continued from page 15*

accepted by the state historic preservation office as a working document.)

3. The academic institution or faculty member sponsoring the nomination must be a member of NCPH.

To Apply: Candidates should submit the following:

1. A two-page written description of the project prepared by the student or students, which lists the project participants and describes the methodology employed. Please include no more than three examples of supporting materials (photos, videotapes, audiotapes, booklets, or pamphlets). If the project is a written document, include a copy. Please submit three copies of all written material. Materials will not be returned.
2. A letter from the faculty member who initially directed the project. The letter should be submitted directly to the selection committee and explain the faculty member's role in the project, the project's relevance to the student(s) course work, any classroom guidelines for the project, his/her evaluation of the project, and its contribution as a piece of public history. The faculty member must also verify the applicant's status as a full-time student at the time the project was undertaken.
3. A letter from the agency, historical society, archive, or other organization which accepted the project. This letter should identify the relationship between the organization and the student(s) responsible for the project and be sent directly to the committee chair. The letter should include an evaluation of the project's usefulness and the qualities that make it a work of professional public history.
4. Please send completed application packets to:

NCPH Executive Offices
c/o Indiana University - Purdue University at Indianapolis
425 University Boulevard - Cavanaugh 327
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-5140
Phone: 317/274-2716
Fax: 317/274-2347
Email: ncph@iupui.edu

5. **Deadline for submissions is 15 January 2001.** Nominees will be notified of the winning project by mid February 2001.

MICHAEL C. ROBINSON PRIZE FOR HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

The National Council on Public History invites applications and nominations for the first biennial Michael C. Robinson Prize for Historical Analysis. Dr. Robinson was a pioneering public

works historian who tirelessly promoted historical research as a component of policy formation. He was associate editor (with Suellen Hoy) of the American Public Works Association's bicentennial *History of Public Works in the United States*, and wrote *Water for the West: The Bureau of Reclamation, 1902-1977*. Robinson served as research coordinator for the Public Works Historical Society, as the first historian of the Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Commission/Lower Mississippi Valley Division, and until his death in 1998 was the Division's Chief of Public Affairs.

The Robinson Prize, a \$500 cash award and a certificate, rewards historical studies that contribute directly to the formation of public policy. An individual may submit an application based on his or her own study or may nominate the work of another historian with the nominee's permission. Funded by Dr. Robinson's friends and admirers and administered by the NCPH, the prize will be awarded every other year beginning in 2001.

Eligibility: To be eligible for consideration, an applicant or nominee must meet the following criteria:

1. The applicant/nominee must be a historian employed in a public agency or a contractor for a public agency at the time the study was prepared.
2. The study must have been prepared for use at some level of government, from municipal to national, and must have been completed within two years preceding the year in which the prize is awarded.
3. The applicant must show that the study directly contributed to public policy formation.

Award Criteria: Applications will be judged on the basis of professionalism, clarity, and impact on policy. Evidence of the latter might include 1) that the study was requested as an integral part of a policy-making process or 2) that the study was completed during the period of policy formation and demonstrably influenced its content. The Selection Committee strongly recommends that the application include a letter from the head of the applicant/nominee's office attesting to the study's impact on policy.

To Apply:

1. The applicant must submit three (3) copies of an application letter and supporting documents (including copies of the study) to:

NCPH Executive Offices
c/o Indiana University - Purdue University at Indianapolis
425 University Boulevard - Cavanaugh 327
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-5140
Phone: 317/274-2716
Fax: 317/274-2347
Email: ncph@iupui.edu

2. **Deadline for submissions is 15 January 2001.** The 2001 recipient will be announced at the annual NCPH conference in Ottawa.

CONSULTANT'S CORNER

The NCPH Consultants' Committee is dedicated to promoting the interests of NCPH members who provide historical services as consultants or contractors. The committee wishes to highlight professional accomplishments among contract historians, contract firms, and other independent researchers. Forward news of finished projects, contract awards, contract report publications, ongoing oral history projects, or anything else that might be of interest to practicing historians. E-mail items to Jason Gart, Consultants' Committee, at jason.gart@askahistorian.com. Please be sure to include your full name and address.

Carl E. Kramer, vice president and chief historian of **Kramer Associates, Inc.**, in Jeffersonville, IN, has been selected to prepare the history of the F. B. Purnell Sausage Company in Simpsonville, KY. Purnell is a major producer of sausage and related products in the Midwest and South and is a primary supplier for the Cracker Barrel restaurant chain. Kramer is currently at work on a history of Bales Motor Company in Jeffersonville, one of metropolitan Louisville's largest automobile dealers. He is also conducting an oral history project documenting the administration of Louisville (KY) Mayor David L. Armstrong. Kramer conducted a similar project for Armstrong's administration as Jefferson County judge/executive from 1990-1998.

History Associates Incorporated of Rockville, MD, launched a new International Division to market historical research and archival services to overseas clients. The firm currently has several projects involving research in Germany and Great Britain and plans to extend into other countries over the next two years. ~ HAI co-founder Robert C. Williams delivered a public lecture 26 February at Washington University titled "Liberty and Freedom in Transatlantic Republicanism from 1830 to 1870." The talk was part of commemorative activities celebrating the 20th anniversary of the university's Master of Liberal Arts Program, which Dr. Williams designed and directed. Williams is currently a professor of history at Davidson College. ~ HAI's Brian W. Martin, Gabriele G. Carey, Ken D. Durr, and James H. Lide participated in the 16-19 March meeting of the American Society for Environmental History in Tacoma, WA. On a panel titled "Using the Sea as a Sink: Ocean Outfall Sewers in Los Angeles County, California," Dr. Martin, Vice President for Litigation Research, presented a paper titled

"Building an Ocean Outfall Sewer System: The Politics, Finances, and Engineering of the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts"; Dr. Carey, Senior Historian and Archivist, presented a paper titled "Surface Water Sewers: Use of Surface Drainages as Aseptic Industrial Sewers in the Los Angeles Region." Dr. Durr, Senior Historian, and Dr. Lide, Director of the International Division, presented a paper they co-wrote titled "Recycling by Another Name: World War II and the 'New Industrial Philosophy,'" about how corporate leadership and materials used during World War II anticipated recycling efforts by thirty years. ~ Dr. Carey, who directs HAI's West Coast office, is also working on three new projects: developing a records management program for the city of Santa Barbara; developing a records and archives assessment plan for the county of Santa Clara; and assessing the historical records needs of the California State Historical Records Advisory Board. ~ An article by HAI Archivist Aaron D. Purcell titled "Abstractions of Justice: The Library of Congress's Great Manuscripts Robbery, 1896-1897" was published in the Fall 1999 issue of the *American Archivist*. A second article by Purcell, "Pursuing Peace: Arthur Morgan and Ohio's League to Enforce Peace, 1915-1920," was published in the Winter/Spring 2000 issue of *Ohio History*. ~ Paul D. Lagasse, Deputy Director for Information Resource Management Services, wrote a book review about Anne Millbrooke's Aviation History that appeared on H-Net in January.

Tracy Smith is coordinating the upcoming Pioneering Orange County History Conference 2000 at Cal State Fullerton, 3-5 November 2000. Workshops and tours of area historical sites bookend a weekend filled with history. The main event is Saturday when plenary speakers examine pioneering aspects that have developed and shaped Orange County. Citrus and agriculture, the aerospace industry, and the high tech/computer industry will all be examined. Smith is also the treasurer for the Southwest Oral History Association and presented a paper at that organization's April meeting on the history of the Santa Ana River.

Kathy Penningroth and **Lee Anderson** of **A & P Historical Resources** in Coralville, IA, recently finished a book-length project for the United States Pharmacopoeial Convention of Rockville, MD. Established in 1820, the Convention publishes the *United States Pharmacopeia/National Formulary*, a compendium of public drug standards recognized in federal

law since 1906. The book, their second for this client, marks the centennial of the Convention's Board of Trustees. Anderson attended the USP's April 2000 quinquennial meeting in Washington, DC, as an honorary Convention member.

Valerie A. Metzler, Archivist/Historian in Altoona, PA, completed the establishment of an archives for Gwin, Dobson & Foremean, Inc., an Altoona-based engineering firm. Metzler is also working on the archives for the Centre County Historical Society and the Huntingdon County Historical Society. Metzler will start the archives and prepare a centennial history of the Spruce Creek Rod & Gun Club in June.

askahistorian.com, Inc., an Internet content provider allowing users to ask questions of professional historians, was officially launched at the spring 2000 joint meeting of the Organization of American Historians and the NCPH. The new Internet site, www.askahistorian.com, will draw on the talents of professional historians who will answer inquiries from a wide variety of users including attorneys, journalists, business executives, government officials, librarians, and anyone else seeking historical information. Services will range from answering simple queries to providing in-depth research and analysis. Historians are needed immediately in all periods and content areas of history. Employee compensation will include payment for services rendered and a comprehensive stock participation program based on experience and qualifications. A select number of internationally-renowned scholars are also being recruited to serve on a six- to eight-month rotating executive council and advisory board. Suggestions and recommendations should be forwarded to Executive Director Raymond W. Smock, former Historian of the U.S. House of Representatives, at raymond.smock@askahistorian.com.

David G. Vanderstel, NCPH Executive Director, is assisting the Indiana World War Memorial Commission in planning a major publication project that will tell the history of the state's assorted war monuments and memorials. The first volume will focus on the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, erected to commemorate the state's Civil War veterans and which has since become the symbol of Indianapolis; it will be produced as part of the Monument's centennial celebration in 2002.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Elizabeth Brand Monroe

The Secretary's report will be brief. For the sixth time I've just taken eight hours of minutes. The Treasurer's report will be a bit longer (but not eight hours).

This is an unusual organization in that it routinely spends a good deal less than it budgets to spend. Much of the credit goes to the Executive Offices for economies in printing, production, and mailing costs. Credit also goes to board and committee members whose institutions subvent NCPH committee expenses. In addition, increased use of email has reduced the long distance telephone bill to 1/10 of what it once was. All of which is to the good. However, there is one serious cloud on the horizon—the probable loss for the coming year of one of our major income streams—namely the proceeds for the annual meeting in St. Louis. We had predicted, based on our meeting with OAH in 1995, that we would net about \$10,000. I am pretty sure we will net substantially less than that, and possibly net zero because of the costs of relocating sessions. We have also had a significant decrease in our anticipated sponsorship revenue.

I think most of the shortfall will be offset by our usual conservative spending, plus we have a new donor, whose contribution of \$10,000 is so significant to our budget that we have designated them as a "super patron." As a result of this windfall I believe we may actually finish the year making a few thousand dollars.

To begin the new fiscal year on a positive note I'll ask all of you who believe NCPH provides you with a professional home and the primary journal and conference where you meet like-minded professionals to go back to your institutions and insist that they become sponsors or patrons. The cost next year will be \$250 for sponsors, \$500 for patrons, money very well spent. I won't pretend that you can tell your administrators that you will receive a long list of goodies. That's not the point. The benefits are to the profession at large. You'll be contributing indirectly to the quality of *The Public Historian* and the annual conference. You'll be supporting the new Robinson Award, the Kelley Award, the New Professional Award, the Student Project Award, and the

NCPH Endowment, which currently stands at over \$100,000.

I now step down after three years as Secretary-Treasurer. I wish to thank the three presidents with whom I have worked: Janelle Warren-Findley, Dwight Pithcaithley, and Michael Devine, as well as David Vanderstel and his staff, especially Kelly Barnes for her excellent bookkeeping skills. And I happily turn over the responsibility of taking all those minutes to my successor, Sharon Babaian.

Advocacy Committee

Michael J. Devine, chair

This past year, the NCPH Board re-established the Advocacy Committee and an increased emphasis on advocacy is now called for in the new NCPH long range plan.

The following have agreed to serve on the committee: Nick Muller, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation; David Kyvig, Northern Illinois University; Heather Huyck, National Park Service; and James Gardner, Smithsonian Institution.

The agenda for the committee will be to: (1) explore ways to advance the field of public history with the general public, elected leaders and the academic community; (2) plan and develop strategies, programs, and activities to enhance the discipline of public history in academic history departments at the undergraduate and graduate levels; (3) seek ways to bring about a greater awareness of employment and career opportunities outside the academy; encourage the development of sound public history programs. (4) monitor developments affecting public historians and public history programs (museums, historical organizations, SHPO's, etc.) at the state and local levels; (5) advise the NCPH Board in developments and policy matters related to the issues of public funding of history programs, employment opportunities, the training of public historians and the building of a public awareness for the importance of professionalism in public history institutions; (6) maintain liaisons with other professional organizations, such as AHA, OAH, AASLH, SAA, and the Society of Historians in the Federal Government, as well as the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History; and (7) re-submit an application for NCPH membership in the American

Council of Learned Societies.

As President of NCPH, I attended the winter meeting of the NCC where it was suggested that NCPH appoint a representative to serve a three year term, thus enabling NCPH to hold a seat on the NCPH policy board.

Awards Committee

Katherine T. Corbett, chair

The Awards Committee oversaw the selection of recipients for two annual NCPH awards: the NCPH Student Project Award and the New Professional Travel Award. Recipients attended the annual conference in St. Louis and have prepared short articles about their conference experience for the summer newsletter.

The judging committee for the Student Project Award selected Susan Asbury and Kathleen Hilliard, students of Professor Constance B. Schulz in the University of South Carolina public history program, to receive the \$500 travel award for their public history project, "Kiplin Hall Conservation Plan." Recent graduates of the program, John Sherer, Mary Lehman, Kristen Davidson, and Martha Thacker also worked on the project. David Glassberg chaired the judging committee, which included Pat Mooney-Melvin and Jane Wehrey, the 1999 award recipient.

The New Professional Award had twice as many applications as last year: two. Rose Diaz and last year's recipient Douglas Dodd served as the selection committee. They awarded the \$500 travel grant to Michael Kelleher, an architectural and preservation planner with a commercial historic preservation firm in New York City. We wish to recognize Historical Research Associates, Inc. for providing funding for this award.

Committee member Dick Miller drafted a proposal for the biennial NCPH Michael C. Robinson Prize for Historical Analysis to recognize outstanding work in historical studies that contribute to the formation of public policy. The NCPH Board approved the proposal and the first award will be given in Ottawa in 2001.

The committee does not have a proposal or recommendation for an award that recognizes a significant contribution in public history and suggests that this charge be carried over into the next year.

Consultants' Committee

Jason H. Gart, chair

The 1999-2000 year marked continued changes for the Consultants' Committee. Charged with promoting the interests of NCPH members who provide historical services as consultants, contractors, or independent historians, the committee is continuing its goal of increasing awareness and interest via new, low cost initiatives.

The Consultants' Committee is continuing its support and sponsorship of sessions and workshops at NCPH annual meetings. In March 2000, the committee organized a roundtable session for the joint meeting of the OAH/NCPH. The session, "Patent/Product History: Sources for Public Historians," looked at a relatively new application of public history consisting of client-sponsored research in intellectual property, corporate and strategic planning, and product development. Included on the panel were James W. Davie, US Patent and Trademark Office; Timothy Lee Wherry, Pennsylvania State University, Altoona; Robert M. McMath, New Products Showcase & Learning Center, Inc.; Jason H. Gart, History International, Inc.; Gregory P. Ames, St. Louis Mercantile Library; and Carolyn C. Cooper, Yale University.

The Consultants' Committee also is committed to two important initiatives. The first objective is to develop a proposal for a "Contracting Handbook for Consultants." Working closely with the Publications and Electronic Communications Committee, the handbook will provide basic information on the contracting field and serve as a valuable resource for all public history professionals. Secondly, the Consultants' Committee wants to explore ways to increase relationships between historical consultants in the US and abroad. The committee would like to thank the NCPH Board of Directors and the Executive Offices for their continued support and assistance as the Consultants' Committee works to increase its visibility and constituency.

Cultural Resources Management Committee

Bruce Craig, chair

With the infusion of several new members, the Cultural Resources Management Committee initiated a

reassessment of its current activities and projects. For some time the Committee has been working on a bibliography focusing on CRM subject areas. In addition, several members of the Committee have expressed considerable interest in exploring the role that programmatic agreements between agencies and various governmental and non-governmental agencies could have in facilitating good cultural resource management practices. The Committee used the joint NCPH/OAH meeting in March to begin focusing its energies along these lines.

Curriculum and Training Committee

Jon Hunner, chair

The Curriculum and Training Committee planned and organized a variety of sessions and activities at the annual meeting in St. Louis. One panel addressed the development of public history programs; poster sessions allowed public historians to discuss their projects. The annual "Careers in Public History" workshop, utilizing the local public history resources of St. Louis, attracted many students. The committee also sponsored a daylong curriculum retreat for public history educators.

Endowment Committee

Marianne Babal, chair

The committee assisted in monitoring the status of the NCPH Endowment Fund and provided advice for investments. During the year, the fund, totaling over \$100,000, was divided among several Vanguard accounts to capitalize on the changing interest rates. The committee also coordinated another successful fundraising event at the annual meeting. "The Essence of St. Louis: Beer and Jazz" attracted nearly 100 members and friends of NCPH to the Morgan Street Brewery for an evening of hors d'oeuvres, micro brews, and great jazz, the proceeds of which will be added to the growing endowment fund.

History and the National Parks Collaboration Committee

Robert Weible, chair

The History and the National Parks Collaboration Committee submitted an NEH planning grant application to support a

symposium for journalists, historians, and historic site and museum staff. The symposium, tentatively titled "Contested Places: From the Civil War to the Cold War," would take place in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and encourage the history and journalism professions to work more closely together to present better understanding of current public issues. The National Park Service and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission have committed in-kind support to the program. If funded, program planning would continue in fall 2000.

The Committee also will be evaluating a workshop cosponsored by NCPH, the National Park Service, and Parks Canada entitled "Old Sites, New Stories: An International Workshop on the History, Interpretation, and Management of Fur Trade History Sites." The workshop is scheduled for 21-22 September 2000 at the Grand Portage National Monument in Minnesota.

Long Range Planning Committee

Dwight Pitcaithley, chair

The Long Range Planning Committee held a retreat 13-14 January 2000 in Tempe, Arizona to evaluate and revise Plan 2000. Committee members reviewed the progress made by NCPH over the past five years and projected growth for the future. Highlights of the new plan include a steady rate of growth in members, expanding the NCPH web site, strengthening the organization's financial base, and making the Executive Director a fulltime position by 2004-2005. The NCPH Board of Directors unanimously approved Plan 2005 at its spring meeting, thereby adopting the document that will be the road map by which NCPH will manage itself over the next several years.

Membership Committee,

James Gardner, chair

The committee worked with Tom White of UC Press and David Vanderstel of NCPH to redesign the membership brochure and to develop a membership profile form that may be used to gather information about NCPH members and their interests. In addition, we worked with UC Press to identify target mailing lists from which to recruit new members for NCPH. Total paid members at

the end of 1999 was 1,504. Of the paid members expiring in 1998, 80% renewed for 1999; this rate of renewal marked an all time high for NCPH. The committee will continue to seek ways of maintaining a high renewal rate and attracting new members to NCPH.

Nominating Committee

Lindsey Reed, chair

Committee members James Gardner, Lisa Mighetto, Anne Millbrooke, Martha Norkunas, and Lindsey Reed successfully prepared a slate of candidates for the fall ballot based upon suggestions of previous board members and officers and a review of the NCPH membership list. Two concerns outlined by the 1998 nominating chair Lisa Mighetto, however, continued to be concerns shared by most of the 1999 committee. First, some members of the committee felt that it was not wise for an organization of our size to run two candidates for vice president. Candidates for this office are people with proven dedication to the organization and exceptional leadership qualities. If NCPH would entrust the selection of a single candidate to the nominating committee, as some history organizations do, we would not sacrifice half of that select group of candidates who qualify for our top leadership position. Second, most members of the committee felt candidates for board and nominating committee positions should not be paired. The committee passed along its concerns to the Board for consideration.

Ottawa 2001 Local Arrangements Committee

Sharon Babaian, chair

The committee has made substantial progress in planning for the 2001 annual meeting. Members include representatives from national institutions such as Parks Canada, the National Archives, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the National Museum of Science and Technology, as well as local and provincial governments and departments of history.

Following are some highlights of our work to date. We have finalized the contract with the Chateau Laurier, our conference hotel. The committee is exploring the

production and translation of the conference program. In addition to a variety of local tours, we are working on combined session-tours that will focus on environmental history, interpreting the Cold War, cultural tourism, cultural landscapes/agricultural history and industrial heritage/urban history. The committee also has invited R. Cole Harris, a distinguished historical geographer who is noted for his work on pre-Confederation Canada, to give the keynote address. Finally, we are exploring options for an opening reception and for the annual NCPH Endowment fundraiser.

Ottawa 2001 Program Committee

Rebecca Conard, co-chair

The 2001 NCPH meeting will be held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, April 18-22, at the Chateau Laurier Hotel, a baronial railway hotel and Canadian national historic site. The Program Committee received numerous proposals for papers and sessions by its mid February 2000 deadline and met twice during the 2000 annual meeting to review proposals and to coordinate scheduling and logistical details with the Local Arrangements Committee. Letters of notification were sent at the end of June to all individuals who submitted proposals.

Publications and Electronic Communications Committee

Roger Launius and Paige Roberts, co-chairs

There were two key accomplishments during the year. In the fall of 1999, the NCPH Executive Offices closed down PUBLHIST, the official NCPH listserv for several years, and launched H-PUBLIC, a new public history discussion list hosted by H-NET. As a result of this move, H-PUBLIC has received more exposure within the historical community and subscriptions to the list have more than doubled over the PUBLHIST list to 880. Second, President Michael Devine and Executive Director David Vanderstel worked with the American Historical Association to draft an "invitation for proposals" to prepare a new version of the highly successful pamphlet, *Careers for Students of History*, originally released in 1988. NCPH and AHA selected the proposal submitted by Constance Schulz and

the public history program at the University of South Carolina to prepare the new volume. Recently retired NCC director Page Putnam Miller will participate in the development of the work.

Robert Kelley Award Committee

Donald A. Ritchie, acting chair

The Robert Kelley Award was established to perpetuate Kelley's legacy by honoring distinguished and outstanding achievements by individuals and institutions involved in public history. The first three recipients were Page Putnam Miller, the American Social History Project, and Otis L. Graham, Jr.

Due to procedural difficulties with the current rules, the Kelley Award Committee was unable to reach a decision and recommended against making an award this year. In so doing, we did not specifically reject any of this year's applicants and suggested that they be encouraged to resubmit their nominations in the future. Because of the problems we encountered, we requested the NCPH Board to reconsider the rules under which the committee operates.

A significant question raised by this year's committee was whether it should judge the award recipient against the entire field of public history, or simply against the other nominations received during that year. NCPH President Alan Newell has charged the Awards Committee to revisit the award guidelines and to make recommendations to the Board.

We sincerely regret our inability to make an award this year, but we believe that if the committee is to uphold the standards that the award was designed to recognize, some additional flexibility of operation is essential.

NCPH AND OAH - THE ST. LOUIS CONFERENCE AND FUTURE JOINT MEETINGS

by Marty Blatt

Public History News, Spring 2000, included comments on the St. Louis conference by both incoming and outgoing presidents and the executive director. I was pleased to read Alan Newell's observation that the OAH board, faced with a difficult situation, "succeeded in hosting a productive and rewarding meeting." However, I found both Michael Devine's column and a reference in David Vanderstel's statement disturbing. Devine's overall tone regarding the OAH was negative. He said that we live in an era when "discrimination issues appear far less clear cut than in the 1960s." The charges against Adam's Mark stemmed from a spring break episode in Daytona Beach, Florida, where black guests were placed in a segregated room block, required to pay cash, and forced to wear wrist bands like hospital patients in order to be identified as hotel guests. I am totally mystified as to how Devine could characterize these circumstances as not clear cut. They seem blatant and horrible. Devine doubts that the OAH action had any impact on Adam's Mark.

Vanderstel posits that we historians were "preaching to the choir" about racism. If you consider the OAH action in isolation from other developments, then you might reach such conclusions. However, the OAH was one of several organizations that acted against Adam's Mark. The largest group to act against the hotel chain was the Episcopal Church of America, which cancelled its contract with the Denver Adam's Mark. My own organization, the National Park Service, cancelled its contract with Adam's Mark St. Louis for a major fall gathering. The cumulative impact moved Adam's Mark, just a week and a half before the conference, to announce a settlement with the Justice Department for \$8 million dollars while admitting no wrongdoing. However, as OAH President David Montgomery derisively and triumphantly pointed out in St. Louis, \$8 million dollars "confesses a lot of sins."

Devine declares that beyond the specific St. Louis case is the broader question of "whether professional organizations should place their financial health in jeopardy every time there are allegations of wrongdoing against a service provider..." In the future, the

OAH will, appropriately, take into account the reputation and civil rights record of a hotel under consideration and more extensively consult OAH members, historians, and others in local communities. Devine is correct that historical organizations exist "primarily to fulfill a specific professional mission..."

However, part of that mission involves the broadest possible dissemination of our scholarship, much of which has focused in recent decades on the development of a fuller narrative history of African Americans and the struggle against the deep roots of racism in this nation. Are we to work on this scholarship, craft public history programs based upon it, and then ignore the actions of Adam's Mark? This would make us the worst sort of hypocrites and isolate us from precisely the broader audiences we wish to reach with our history and public history.

Certainly action such as was taken in St. Louis should not be taken without careful deliberation and thought, which is precisely how the OAH proceeded. The circumstances of St. Louis were unusual and are not likely to reappear with regularity. The course that the OAH chose served the interests of OAH and NCPH members by providing a fine conference setting while allowing us to take a principled stand against racism. The St. Louis meeting served to reinvigorate the OAH and to forge closer ties between scholars and the community. At the "Make Racism History," [a wonderful slogan coined by Kathy Corbett] rally, the most riveting speaker was James Buford, Chief Executive Officer of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis. He said that he did not have a key to the city but that the OAH had won the key to the hearts of African Americans in St. Louis and he thanked us historians.

Both the OAH and the NCPH faced financial risk in St. Louis, but it is important to note that the risk to the institutional well-being of the OAH was much greater. However, the risk we faced was not done frivolously and it was done for very important reasons. OAH Executive Board member Jim Horton commented, "Although I hope that we never face this situation again, it was a

moving experience to observe friends and colleagues working in unison to get it so right." [For a fuller discussion of my views of the St. Louis meeting, see "Make Racism History", *Radical Historians Newsletter*, Number 82, June 2000].

Alan Newell identified in his column an important issue—the question of how often we should meet with an organization as large as the OAH. It is my understanding that this will be a topic at the fall NCPH board meeting. In my last meeting as a board member in St. Louis, I was stunned by one colleague who said that he never wants to meet with the OAH and that he has cancelled his OAH membership because it does him no good. This seemed to me to be remarkably foolish and parochial. I am proud to be a member of both OAH and NCPH. I can well understand the feeling of several NCPH members that we need to meet often enough on our own or with groups sized similar to ours so that we do not lose our own identity and can maintain the intimacy we necessarily lose in joint meetings with the OAH. However, if we retreat from convening with the OAH on a regular basis, I would submit that we will lose much more than we will gain. Let's look at this from a very pragmatic basis — we have a major commitment to increase our membership. What better audience do we have of potential recruits than the OAH membership, several of whom are very interested and often engaged in public history? For no other reason than self-promotion and growing our ranks, therefore, we should want to continue meeting regularly with the OAH. Further, the OAH has shown an increasing commitment to the field of public history in any number of ways, whether it is their active committees on public history and the National Park Service, their sponsorship of public history symposia and programs across the country, the clear dedication to public history on the part of OAH staff, the *OAH Magazine of History*, and much more. Is the OAH fully committed to public history? Of course not. But instead

➤ See *St. Louis Conference* page 23.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Noted oral historian Charles T. Morrissey will be a guest speaker at the annual conference of the **Association of Personal Historians**, 3-6 November 2000 in Dallas, TX. Morrissey, former president of the Oral History Association, will open the conference with a talk about "Professional Guidelines." The conference will include a series of workshops tailored to the personal history professional with tracks appropriate for beginners and those with more experience. The Association, founded in 1994, is dedicated to providing a professional alliance for individuals and businesses that assist people in preserving their life stories and memories. For more information, contact APH President, Bob Joyce, phone (714)545-5435; e-mail: hawthorneh@aol.com; or visit the APH website at: www.personalhistorians.org

The annual meeting of the **National Council on History Education (NCHE)** will be held 27-28 October 2000 at the Sacramento Convention Center. Visit the NCHE website at <www.history.org/nche> for more information.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND INTERNSHIPS

The **Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars** announces its 2001-2002 fellowship competition. The center annually awards approximately 21 academic-year residential fellowships to scholars and practitioners with outstanding project proposals in the social sciences and humanities on national and/or international issues and topics that intersect with questions of public policy. Fellows work from offices at the Wilson Center in Washington, DC where they interact with policymakers and with Wilson Center staff who are working on similar issues. Fellows are generally in residence for an entire US academic year (September through May) although a few fellowships are shorter, with a minimum of four months. **Deadline for applications is 1 October 2000.** For more information and applications, contact the Center by email at fellowships@wwic.si.edu; telephone (202) 691-4170; fax (202) 691-4001; or by writing to: Scholar Selection and Services Office, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, One Woodrow

Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20004-3027. Applications may also be found on the web at: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/>

The **John Nicholas Brown Center** is accepting applications for its Research Fellowship Program. It supports scholarship (research and writing) in American topics. Areas of specialization include but are not limited to history, the history of architecture and art, urban planning, literature, religion, material culture studies, music and historic preservation. Preference is given to scholars working with Rhode Island materials or requiring access to New England resources. Open to advanced graduate students, junior or senior faculty, independent scholars, and humanities professionals. The award includes access to Brown University Resources and a stipend of up to \$2,000 for a term of residence between one and six months during one of our two award cycles each year: January through June, July through December. Application deadlines are: **1 November 2000** for residence between January and June; **15 April 2001** for residence between July and December. To request an application, contact: Joyce M. Botelho, Director, The John Nicholas Brown Center, Box 1880, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912. Phone: (401) 272-0357 Fax: (401) 272-1930. Joyce_Botelho@Brown.edu

BOOKNOTES

Historic Preservation for a Living City: Historic Charleston Foundation, 1947-1997 256 pages, ISBN 1-57003-353-6, \$24.95. With this book **Robert R. Weyeneth** charts the changing philosophy of the American preservation movement during the last half-century. Weyeneth traces Historic Charleston Foundation's pathbreaking approach to preservation, from the organization's establishment by a handful of Charlestonians to its current wide-ranging concern with the conservation of rural spaces in the surrounding region. He argues that Historic Charleston Foundation has been a leader in broadening the field of historic preservation from its purely educational focus, concerned primarily with the establishment and operation of house museums, to its current scope as a form of

urban and environmental planning. For more information, contact: Gretchen Sauer at (803) 777-2217, or e-mail gsauer@sc.edu.

CALL FOR PAPERS/PROPOSALS

The **American Association for History and Computing** is soliciting panel and paper proposals for its 2001 Annual Meeting to be held in Indianapolis, IN, **30 January to 5 February 2001**. The conference theme is "Moving Clio into the New Millennium: Interaction, Visualization, Digitization, and Collaboration." University and college instructors, K-12 teachers, librarians, publishers, editors, archivists, interpreters, students, software developers, and all other history professionals are encouraged to participate. Opportunities for interdisciplinary exchange will be provided, and panel and paper proposals on any topics relating to the use of digital technologies in history are encouraged. Papers will be considered for publication in the *Journal of the American Association of History and Computing* and in a volume of essays selected from conference sessions. All proposals must include a 200-word abstract for each paper along with a brief vita for each participant; include name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address for each participant. Additional information about the conference and Indianapolis can be found on the associations web site: <http://www.theaahc.org> or by contacting Executive Director Dennis Trinkle at Trinkle@theaahc.org Deadline for submissions: **15 September 2000**.

The **First Flight Centennial Commission**, North Carolina's official agency to plan and coordinate the commemoration of the Wright brothers' first flight on 13 December 1903, invites the submission of proposals for sessions and individual papers that might be presented during its international symposium on the history of flight, 22-25 October 2001, at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C. The Commission has established five major themes for the symposium: (1) "North Carolina and the Outer Banks" circa 1900-11 while the Wrights tested various craft there; (2) "Innovation in Flight" from the

Wrights to the present; (3) "Civil Aviation and Policy" from 1903 forward; (4) "Warfare and Flight" from 1903 forward; and (5) "Flight in Human Imagination," including art, music, literature and other aesthetic realms. Other topics beyond these general themes in the history of flight (including rocketry and space) are also invited for individual non-theme sessions. The Commission also welcomes session or presentation proposals using innovative methods of presentation, exhibitry, live demonstrations, and rare film for a concurrent film festival on flight. The symposium will include internationally known speakers, entertainment, and tours to local centers of interest. Session and individual proposals (including speakers, affiliations, session titles, and brief one or two sentence descriptions) should be submitted (if in hard copy) to: Dr. Larry E. Tise, Symposium Director, First Flight Centennial Commission, 4635 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4635 no later than **15 October 2000**. E-mail inquiries and submissions (but not as attachments) may be directed to Tise at ltise@ibm.net. Non-program inquiries about the symposium and other activities of the Commission should be directed to the mailing address above or to phone 919.733.2003 or fax 919.715.8959.

The journal *Material History Review* (Fall 2001), a publication of the National Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa, Canada, is seeking paper submissions for a special issue that will be devoted to material aspects of popular culture. Contributors are invited to focus on the meaning of objects in popular culture; how those meanings are created, contested, and change over time; and how an understanding of this process can expand our capacity for interpreting these important sources of evidence about cultural history. Interested researchers are encouraged to submit a 250-word abstract no later than 15 November 2000 to the guest editor: Christopher S. Clarke, Ph.D., Exhibition Developer and Consulting Historian, 110 Greystone Lane #9, Rochester, NY 14618 USA; (716)473-4025; fax (716)271-3583; e-mail: clarkecc@aol.com Preliminary papers must be submitted by **31 January 2001**,

and will be subject to peer review. Final submissions are due by 2 April 2001.

INTERNET RESOURCES

"America's Library," located at www.americaslibrary.gov, is a new, easy-to-use and entertaining Web site designed especially for children and their families. The site was created to provide an entertaining educational experience that draws on the unparalleled American historical collections of the Library of Congress. Through the use of stories, richly embellished with photographs, maps, prints, manuscripts, and audio and video recordings from the Library's collections, "America's Library" invites users to learn about the past through extraordinary materials, many of which have never been seen by the public. Interactive elements such as a "Scavenger Hunt" and "Send a Postcard" will encourage exploration of the site, and animated "teasers" on the main home page will delight users of all ages. Questions invite children to talk to their family and friends about what they have learned.

The chaos, violence and passion that rocked the US during two of its most pivotal political events can be relived through two new Web sites launched by the **Chicago Historical Society**. Located at <http://www.chicagohistory.org>, "The Dramas of Haymarket" takes one inside a crucial event that tore Chicago apart and ignited a response worldwide that continues to this day. "Wet with Blood" merges forensic science and historical analysis to investigate whether hundreds of artifacts attributed to Abraham Lincoln's assassination are real.

Fort Smith National Historic Site announces the addition of a Federal Court Employee Database to its web site <http://www.nps.gov/fosm/ctdbase/>. The database includes names and positions of those who served the Federal District Court for the Western District of Arkansas during the years 1872-1896. The park has a limited amount of additional research material on many of the names listed. Research requests or questions can be sent to the park through the web site.

Kenneth Berg and the **Motorsports Education Foundation**, a non-profit society, announce a new web site at:

<http://www.racerken.com/> and a new email address at bergk@racerken.com. The site supports a non-profit project to fund research, development, and implementation of safety, medical, and other technologies of benefit to the motoring public and the automotive/motorsports world. We offer membership and partnership for everyone who has ever had, or is going to have, an automotive experience...from students not yet old enough to drive on up to professional race drivers and everybody in-between.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The **University of Tennessee's Center for the Study of War and Society** and the City of Pigeon Forge are sponsoring a veterans' celebration, *Celebrate Freedom!* Events include a military history book fair 10-12 November 2000, and scholarly symposiums 9, 10, 20, and 21 November 2000, with authors and scholars such as Stephen E. Ambrose, Samuel Hynes, John W. Chambers, Judy Barrett Litoff, and D'Ann Campbell. For details, contact: G. Kurt Piehler, Center for the Study of War and Society, 220 Hoskins Library, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0411. E-mail: gpiehler@utk.edu.

► *The St. Louis Conference continued from pg 21.*

of pulling back, we in the NCPH should continue and deepen our spirited and productive interchange with the OAH. In that manner, we will promote the best practices in American history and public history while at the same time help NCPH to grow. For these reasons, I would strongly urge that we commit to a schedule of meeting jointly every third year with the OAH. We should work with the OAH to ensure that joint conference themes have been defined and joint program committees have been selected so that the interests of both organizations are truly reflected. The OAH and NCPH have much important work to do together in the future. I look forward to the challenge of this collaboration.

Marty Blatt has worked for the National Park Service for the last decade and has served in elected positions in the Organization of American Historians and the National Council on Public History.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD POSITIONS

by Martha Norkunas, Nominating Committee Chair

This year the Nominating Committee, in consultation with NCPH President Alan Newell and NCPH Executive Director David Vanderstel, has decided to take a slightly different approach to the nominating process. In the past the Committee has identified names of NCPH members (and even non-members) to run for various offices. By way of this article, we would like to broaden the process and invite any interested parties to contact the Nominating Committee and notify us of your interest in running for a particular position. Or, you may wish to recommend a colleague who you believe would be a good candidate for an NCPH office or committee.

Upon reviewing suggested nominees and consulting the current NCPH membership list, the Nominating Committee will identify potential candidates for each position and invite them to allow their names to stand on the ballot. A list of candidates will be

prepared by mid September and each person will be asked to prepare written statements for the NCPH fall newsletter. Ballots will be mailed to NCPH members in late November with a requested return date of early February 2001; the election will be called by mid February. Newly elected officers and board members are strongly encouraged to attend the spring board meeting as non-voting participants; they will assume office at the end of the annual meeting.

This year, we are seeking candidates for the office of Vice President/President Elect; the Board of Directors (three positions open, each for a three year term); and the Nominating Committee (two positions open, each for a three year term).

If you are interested in running for one of those positions or wish to recommend someone as a candidate, send a note via email or conventional mail to any member of the Nominating Committee. Due to

summer schedules, please be advised that you may not receive confirmation of your note until mid August. Thanks for your interest in this process.

Martha Norkunas, Chair, Nominating Committee, 12401 Adelphi Ct., Austin, TX 78727
m.norkunas@mail.utexas.edu

Lindsey Reed, Department of History, University of California Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106
lreed@ltsc.ucsb.edu

Vivien Rose, P.O. Box 483, Seneca Falls, NY 13148 vivien_rose@nps.gov

Anne Millbrooke, P.O. Box 1845, Nome, Alaska 99762 anne@nome.net

James Delgado, 1905 Ogden Ave, Vancouver, BC, Canada

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Editor: David G. Vanderstel
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