

California *History Action*

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Expanding the Borders of California History CCPH to Meet in San Diego October 16-18

CCPH will hold its 23rd Annual Conference in San Diego on October 16 - 18, 2003 at the lovely and convenient Marriott Mission Valley Hotel. In keeping with the location, this year's meeting theme is "Expanding the Borders of California's History."

All members and interested individuals are invited to join us for what is sure to be yet another enlightening and entertaining meeting. But why not consider doing more than attending this year? How about being a part of the conference, too? Each year conference attendees come away with new information and ideas about the work of doing public history and about what it means to be a public historian in California. And the reason they do is a direct result of the contributions of the people who each year present papers and participate in panels. Our conferences would be nothing if not for these contributions. For this we thank our members, and invite all of you to consider submitting a paper or session proposal. You'll be giving back to your profession by keeping your colleagues informed (and you'll be greatly improving your chances of having your employer pick up the tab for attending).



The conference will be held at the Marriott Mission Valley Hotel in San Diego

Suggested topics for sessions and papers include the California/Mexico border, archives of the Californias, tourism and history, transportation, urbanization and the environment, new trends in Public History, the military and aerospace industries, San Diego, and Baja California.



The Marriot Mission Valley Hotel's lovely pool and waterfall

Anyone wishing to submit a proposal for a paper or session on these or other relevant subjects, please send a brief (less than 150 words) abstract of the paper or session panel, with a short CV for each participant. Also indicate any audio/visual needs for the presentations. Send proposals by May 2 to: c/o James Newland, CCPH Conference Program Committee, 8885 Rio San Diego Drive #270, San Diego CA 92108. Questions? Email James Newland at jnewland@parks.ca.gov. ■



CCPH Board Meets in Sacramento

- **Date and Location:** February 8 at CSU Sacramento.
- **Minutes:** The minutes from the October 27, 2002, meeting were reviewed and approved.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Madeline Lanz presented the *Third Quarter Income Statement, 2002 Conference Income/Expense Report*, and the *Balance Sheet*. The board discussed a few questions they had about the conference report, which is not yet finalized as we are awaiting a request to be submitted for the grant from the Office of Historic Preservation, and approved the Treasurer's report.
- **Conferences:** Jim Newland announced that the 2003 Conference will be held in San Diego, October 16, 17, and 18, at the Marriot Mission Valley Hotel. The theme will be "Expanding the Borders of Public History." This theme covers tourism and history, the border and environment, the Military Naval Training Center, technology, urbanization, transportation, San Diego, and Tijuana. Tour ideas include La Jolla, the UCSD Civic Collaborative, Balboa Park, the Gaslamp District, Mission San Diego, Old Town San Diego, Tijuana, Tecate, and the NTC. Pam Conners reported on plans for the 2004 conference, which will be held in Eureka. Pam informed the board that she has set-up a meeting in Eureka with Suzanne Guerra, who had expressed interest in local arrangements. David Byrd brought to the board's attention that the Society for Historic Archaeology is holding their 2007 conference in Sacramento, and suggests a CCPH presence there, since the conference is a national event and attracts anywhere from 1,200 to 1,500 people.
- **Legislative Action Committee:** After a brief discussion of the Awards and History Museum Roundtables Committees, which will report back at the next meeting, the board took up consideration of member Mike Magliari's *Legislative Monitor Proposal*, which had been introduced to the board at their previous meeting. (See article on next page.) The board agreed the important issue of legislative advocacy needs to be addressed. David Byrd agreed to explore the restructuring of the Legislative Action Committee, with the assistance of Jenan Saunders, and report back on his progress at a future board meeting. The board also agreed that CCPH should respond to Mike Magliari, thanking him for his proposal and for reinvigorating our interest in legislative advocacy, but declining his proposal at this time.
- **Membership Committee:** Monte Kim, the new membership chair, is planning on getting the membership renewal mailing out in March (see reminder on page 16). A new membership roster should be available for distribution at the conference.
- **Mini-Grants Committee:** Jenan Saunders informed the board that the application availability had been announced and quite a few had been sent out. At the last meeting it was suggested that the board look into increasing the amount budgeted for the mini-grants program. The board asked Jenan Saunders to talk to Ellen about this issue and report back at their next meeting.
- **Nominations Committee:** Jim Newland requested nominations for Vice President/President-elect for next year, and he will contact those on the Board whose term is ending.
- **Publications Committee:** Following a brief discussion on the role of the Public Sector CRM Committee, Jenan Saunders reported that, as the board had suggested, extra copies of *CHA* were printed of the Winter 2002 issue and are available for distribution at conferences, workshops, etc. Extra copies of all future newsletters will also be printed for such purposes. On the issue of the Standards and Professional Register, Leslie Fryman suggested we reexamine CCPH's appeal to historians and archeologists and the importance of a strategy to motivate professionals to want to be on the Register.
- **Executive Committee Actions:** The committee had taken one action since the last board meeting, sending a letter commenting on the distribution of Proposition 40 grant funds to Secretary of the Resources Agency Mary Nichols (see article on page 11). Jenan Saunders distributed copies of the text of the letter to the board members. Jenan discussed her participation in the stakeholder input process the Resources Agency had conducted regarding this funding and CCPH's participation in it, which is what prompted the letter. This process is ongoing.
- **Other:** Jenan Saunders brought up that CCPH is required by our agreement with CSU Sacramento to put together a program each year on campus. Capital Campus Public History Program Director Chris Castaneda has asked that CCPH sponsor the costs of having a scholar from UCSB visit CSUS to discuss his or her work and the joint Public History program. The board considered this request and determined that such an expense would be difficult to justify, as it doesn't appear to directly serve CCPH's interests, being rather more of a promotion for the joint Public History PhD program. David Byrd suggested that, even though the joint Public History PhD program is worthwhile, CCPH could put together a one-day "history careers" event much like one that was held in 2001, utilizing the Phi Alpha Theta organization. Jenan agreed to help with such an event. ■

Next board meeting:
June 7,
San Diego

California History Action

Volume 21, Number 1
Spring 2003
ISSN 0882-357X

Published quarterly
by the
California Council for the
Promotion of History

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Calling All Members: Our Legislative Action Committee Needs Your Help!

by Jenan Saunders

A hot topic of discussion at the past two board meetings has been CCPH's legislative advocacy efforts, and the fact that our organization has been having a difficult time keeping up with and impacting legislation of interest to public historians. Frankly, in today's reality, with the hundreds of bills and resolutions being introduced at both the state and federal levels, the job of informing our membership about, not to mention advocating for or against, new legislation is more than any one person, or even two or three people, can manage. Last year things came to a head with a large number of high profile bills coming up in the California legislature that needed and deserved attention from both our membership and us as an organization. Although we did our best to keep you informed through continuing articles in this newsletter, we as an organization could and should have done more. Member Mike Magliari saw this and brought this important issue to the attention of the board through his proposal to fund a legislative monitor position at CSU Chico. After lengthy discussion at two board meetings, and for a variety of reasons, the board decided not to move to this step yet, instead deciding to give the idea that the important task of legislative advocacy can be managed by our board, and more importantly our members, another chance.

That's where you come in . . . At the last board meeting (see article on previous page) I introduced an idea for an expanded Legislative Action Committee, made up of many members, who can help dissipate the work of this invaluable committee and

thereby alleviate its burden being placed on only one or two people. For this to work, however, it requires your help. Committee chair David Byrd and I are looking for individuals working in the various fields of public history who would be willing to join the committee. Your main role is to be CCPH's eyes and ears and to channel information about new legislation to David and me. As their time permits, committee members may also monitor legislation, write brief articles for the newsletter and for posting on the CCPH listserve, and write text for legislative support or opposition letters to be submitted by CCPH. The Administrative Assistant at CSUS will monitor legislation, report on such monitoring to the committee chairs, and format postings from the listserve for placement on the CCPH website, so member always have an online location with up-to-date information. Chairs will post information on the CCPH listserve, submit articles for printing in the newsletter, and write support or opposition letters for submittal by CCPH. It sounds good on paper, but will only work if a few of us, or more, are willing to step forward and give a little of our time. As an organization, we have an opportunity to make a difference (yes, I know it's cliché, but it's true). So won't you please help your colleagues, your board, and your CCPH? If you're interested in joining the committee, even just a little interested, send me at email at californiahistoryaction@hotmail.com. We look forward to working with you. ■

CCPH Welcomes Nicole Benamati As Our New Administrative Assistant

My name is Nicole Benamati, and I am honored to be CCPH's new administrative assistant. I am a graduating senior, on the road to receiving a B.A. in History from CSUS. I plan on entering the Public History Program here at Sac State next year. My interest in history began as a freshman in high school. I knew then that I wanted to study history. I entered CSUS as a history major, but then was given what turned out to be bad advice to change my major to a field that would "make me a lot of money," so I did. I became an Interior Design and Multimedia Communications major. Now, I am back, after a short break, to fulfill a promise to myself to graduate college and to study what I enjoy most--history. My goal now is to work on an M.A. in public history. I'm still not quite sure what avenue of public history I want to go down, whether as an archivist, curator, or other related field. I volunteered every Friday of the Fall 2002 semester at the National Archives and Records Administration in San Bruno. There I worked with Joseph Sanchez on the Immigration and Naturalization Services "A List," preserving the files of Chinese immigration in the post-Chinese Exclusion Act era. I also volunteer at Diamond Creek Elementary School in Roseville, California, helping teachers with, and assisting students in, the computer lab. I am one class short of obtaining my Webmaster's Certification from CSUS, but my focus is now elsewhere. I enjoy my volunteer time, which has been invaluable in giving me experience in teaching and archiving environments.

I was born May 9, 1979 in Sacramento, California and grew up in Sacramento and in Los Angeles (from 1991-1994). I took geology and quilting in GATE at Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary School in North Highlands, California. At Center High School in Antelope, California, I participated in student council, basketball, and softball through my junior year. I participate in half-marathon runs now in a search for better health and wellness. I also enjoy exerting my creative side, and as a hobby I sew pillows, drapes, quilts, and more. I scrapbook my photos and memories, and I like taking on creative home improvements.

Although it's only been a little over two months, I enjoy working with CCPH and working with its variety of history professionals. This is a great experience.

-- Nicole Benamati

Spring 2003

National Archives AAD System Now Operational

from the National Coalition for History's *Washington Update*

On 12 February 2003, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) released the Access to Archival Databases (AAD) System to the public. AAD provides researchers with online access to over 50 million historical electronic records organized in over 350 databases that were created by some 20 Federal agencies. The long-term plan calls for the program to be expanded to over 500 databases.

The AAD System is the first publicly accessible application developed under the auspices of the Electronic Records Archives (ERA) Program. The ERA program seeks to address the challenges of preserving and increasing the variety and volume of government records that have been created and stored in electronic form.

AAD enables researchers to search, retrieve, print out, and download records. Researchers will need to determine in advance the series and file units of interest before initiating their research. To access the System, visit www.archives.gov/aad/. ■

Inaugural Listings Announced for National Recording Registry

from the National Coalition for History's *Washington Update*

On 27 January 2003, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington announced the first annual selection of 50 recordings to be placed on the National

Recording Registry. According to the legislation establishing the register--the National Recording Preservation Act of 2000--each year the Librarian is to select recordings that are "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant." The list is similar to the National Film Registry that was created for movies in 1989.

Nominations for the registry were garnered from members of the public (mostly through the Library's website) and from the National Recording Preservation Board, an advisory

group composed of leaders in the fields of music, recorded sound, and preservation. To be eligible for the listing, a recording has to be at least 10 years old. Other recordings will be added to the list later.

According to Billington, "The challenge of reviewing more than 100 years of the history of recorded sound in America and selecting only 50 significant recordings for the inaugural recording registry was formidable." The Librarian stated that the registry is not to be another Grammy Awards or 'best of' list. It seeks to "to celebrate the richness and variety of our audio legacy and to underscore our responsibility to assure the long-term preservation of that legacy so that it may be appreciated and studied by generations to come."

Included on the list are some of Thomas Edison's early sound recordings, President Franklin Roosevelt's fireside chats, Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, a speech by Booker T. Washington, a vivid description of the crash of the Hindenburg, and Orson Welles's infamous "War of the Worlds" broadcast that terrified the nation in 1938. Also included are poetry readings by T.S. Eliot and W.H. Auden. Musical selections include a recording of John Philip Sousa's march "The Stars and Stripes Forever," Kate Smith singing "God Bless America," as well as works and/or performances by Enrico Caruso, Bing Crosby, Scott Joplin, George Gershwin, Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, Frank Sinatra, and "The Message," a 1982 hit by Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, a pivotal group in the early days of rap.

The Library of Congress' collections include some 2.6 million sound recordings. More information on using this collection, as well as access to an electronic catalog of recordings and digitized selections, is available at www.loc.gov/rr/record. ■

New Oral History Transcripts Now Online

The California State Archives State Government Oral History Program is pleased to announce the availability of three new transcripts completed in 2002:

- ◆ Interview with Gary K. Hart, California State Assemblymember, 1974-1982 and California State Senator, 1983-1994;
- ◆ Interview with John Robert "Bob" Connelly, California State Legislature Staff Member, 1960-1964 and 1967-1996;
- ◆ Interview with Marilyn Ryan, California State Assemblymember, 1976-1982.

More information about the program and individual transcripts can be found at www.ss.ca.gov/archives/level3_ohguide1.html. If you have questions, please contact the program administrators: Stephanie Hamashi at shamashi@ss.ca.gov and Rebecca Wendt at rwendt@ss.ca.gov.

Autry Museum of Western Heritage and the Southwest Museum Establish the Autry National Center of the American West

from the American Association for State and Local History's *Dispatch* (February 2003)

The Southwest Museum and the Autry Museum of Western Heritage have signed a definitive memorandum of understanding to merge through the establishment of the Autry National Center of the American West. The new Center will consist of the Southwest Museum, the Autry Museum, and the Institute for the Study of the American West. The estimated cost of this endeavor is \$100 million, to be raised by the Center.

Addressing the new needs of the Center and the interests of the communities neighboring both museums, the six-month due-diligence process contemplates a redesign of the Autry Museum's exhibition space and the potential restoration of the Southwest Museum's historic buildings. Because this restoration is a key element of the master plan, museum architect Brenda Levin, whose work includes the Wiltern Theater, Los Angeles City Hall, the Boone Gallery at the Huntington Library, and the University Art Museum at the University of California, Santa Barbara, will produce a comprehensive facilities report to make recommendations on the rehabilitation of the buildings. The plan also recommends that both institutions continue normal operations during their physical reconfiguration. Special consideration will be given to their ongoing projects.

Structurally, three members of the Southwest's Board of Trustees will join the Autry National Center's Board. Administrative staff will be centralized, and the Southwest and Autry museums will function independently with their own curators, volunteers, and docents. The two museums will each manage their own budgets as well as their own exhibition and collection initiatives.

The Center will draw on the resources of both the Autry and the Southwest museums to preserve and expand their unparalleled collections, thus securing for many future generations the advancement of the public's knowledge and interest in the history of the individuals and cultures of the American West. Through high-profile and traveling exhibitions, public programs, publications, new scholarship, and outreach efforts, the Center will engage increased audiences at the local, national, and international levels. The Center will strive to provide leadership in the academic community by committing well-recognized scholars to research projects, publications, seminars, workshops, and symposia. As an institution whose main goal is education, the Center plans to partner with more school districts and with community-based organizations to expand its field trip programs. ■

IMLS Releases Study of Museum Education

from the National Coalition for History's *Washington Update*

A new study by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) found that museums bring unique object-based and visual learning opportunities to school partnerships helping schools to meet their learning objectives. Following up on a similar study conducted in 1995, the new study, entitled "True Needs, True Partners 2002," found that American museums commit more than 18 million instructional hours every year to programs targeted to school children in grades K-12. Nearly 70% of museums now offer such programs and 71% work with local curriculum specialists to tailor educational programs to support school curriculum standards. Also, new technologies bring museum resources into the lives of school children: 72% of museums now use websites for educational programming, 58% communicate with teachers via email, and 24% have direct email communication with students. For the study, visit www.imls.gov/pubs/pdf/m-ssurvey.pdf. ■

Disappearing History Term Paper Follow-Up

Dear Editor,

While a facile reading of your reprint of Jeff Jacoby's Op/ed article "The Disappearing History Term Paper" might lead some readers to be 'shocked' by the state of history education, a few minutes of more thorough reading would reveal the obviously weak argument proffered by Mr. Jacoby. The author falsely compares short personal essays on the meaning of history for a commercial textbook company contest to much longer historical research papers submitted to a serious journal. The Prentice Hall essay contest require "students to define what history means to them personally--to explain its relevance to their own lives." (For more information, visit www.phschool.com/curriculum_support/what_history_means/pdf/entry_form.pdf.) I believe most High School students and teachers would find the weakness of this fallacious comparison obvious if not insulting. Although the observations on the decline in the quality of high school research papers may have merit, Mr. Jacoby offers no other evidence outside of this one overgeneralized and false comparison. Had you done a "little research" of your own, you would have found that the essay contest does not require any historical research as much as it

requires personal reflection on the meaning of history in the students lives. I am sure that even you would agree with the admirable need for students to explore the personal meaning of history if they are expected to spend even a modest portion of their lives mired in the difficult pursuit of historical research and study. While Mr. Jacoby may find the students personal essays "flabby, trite, and somewhat dull," the same could easily be said of his analysis. Even more than the contest's personal essays, his article and your reprinting "reflects no real intellectual effort." The article is evidence more of the poor quality of critical reasoning found in most op/ed journalism today. Sadly this typical self-serving, hit piece was reprinted by a publication that I think would cast a more critical eye over such material. The article is hardly fair or worthy of the space it was provided in the prior two publications [*History Matters!* and *California History Action*]. In my opinion, the continued reprinting of this article exposes a greater need for education in critical thinking than any failure in high school history education.

Sincerely,

Taylor Horton, Archivist

While the editor admits that this article was not researched before reprinting and was considered significant due to its previous printing in the National Council for History Education's *History Matters!*, the article reprinted below from the National Coalition for History's *Washington Update*, Vol. 8, #48, December 4, 2002, in conjunction with the letter above, seems a fitting follow up . . .

History Research Papers "On Life Support"

from the National Coalition for History's *Washington Update*

A recent study conducted by the University of Connecticut Center for Survey Research and Analysis for the *Concord Review* states that the history research paper is a dying breed and "quick-hit" essays are rapidly taking its place in high school curriculums.

The *Concord Review*, a journal that publishes the exemplary essays by high school students of history from 33 countries, reports that of the 400 teachers polled nationwide for their study, 81% never assign 20-page papers and 62% never attempt a 15-page paper assignment. Rather, instructors are opting for less rigorous summaries or opinion essays on assigned readings. As a result, the number of students completing high school without completing a major history-based writing project is on the rise.

Teachers attribute the high school research paper's pending demise to a number of factors varying from student disinterest and lack of effort to teacher shortness of time. With the Internet now readily accessible to students, plagiarism is on the rise: a whopping 82% surveyed indicated that plagiarism happens "sometimes" or "very often" with research papers or other long written assignments. In response, teachers are assigning more work that invites more opinion and less research. The survey found that 59% prefer summary writing and 61% of teachers favor opinion essays because plagiarism is less problematic. *Concord Review* publisher Will Fitzgugh says,

"Not only are kids not writing serious history papers, but they're not reading a nonfiction book."

Due to the limited nine-month school year, the survey found that 31% of teachers did not want to assign lengthy projects because it would detract from other instruction. 29% noted that it takes 30 minutes to an hour to grade each paper, and with teachers averaging 80 students each, they simply lack the time and the energy. Half the teachers surveyed acknowledged that it is "very difficult" to find time to grade student assignments let alone evaluate a research paper.

However, the study notes that in the absence of such challenging work projects, students miss out in the acquisition of long-term benefits and skills gained by engaging in the research paper process at an earlier age: strategic investigation, outlining, and cognitive reading and writing skills. Consequently, students are moving on to universities "ill prepared," without these instrumental skills. Colleges and universities are responding by offering basic research, writing, and grammar courses, which are now being required for a significant proportion of incoming college freshmen. According to Princeton University lecturer in politics Bradford Wilson, "As a result, resources are spent on adding courses to teach a skill that should have been taught at the high school level."

For the full article "History Research Paper Study" tap into the *Concord Review* webpage at www.tcr.org. ■

AHA Launches Study of History MA Degree

from the National Coalition for History's *Washington Update*

The American Historical Association's (AHA) Committee on Graduate Education (CGE) has received a grant of \$50,000 from the Ford Foundation to study the multiple roles of the master's degree in history education. This grant will allow the committee to continue its ongoing investigation of graduate training for historians, which until now has focused primarily on doctoral education. Philip Katz will continue as research director for the AHA study of master's degrees; he and Thomas Bender of New York University will serve as principal investigators of the project.

According to Katz, "We aim to promote heightened awareness of the master's degree as a lively component of graduate education for historians, not just an attenuated version of the PhD, as many still consider it, but a vital degree in its own right, and the gateway to careers that shape the public's larger understanding of history."

The master's degree--which has long been considered marginalized, especially in the humanities--has recently come under serious reevaluation. In many quarters (the Public History arena for example), the master's degree is recognized as a valuable degree in its own right, with important possibilities for the future, whether intellectually, as an agent of opportunity, or as a vehicle for more diverse employment options. Nevertheless, in other quarters, the value of the history MA is questioned. What exactly should an MA in history be? is the central question the CGE hopes to answer in the months ahead.

The AHA's investigation will address five broad issues of particular concern to historians: the definition and function(s) of a master's degree in history; the intellectual content and standards of mastery appropriate to the degree; the occupational opportunities provided by a master's degree in history, especially for bringing new (or under-represented) groups into the profession; the role of master's degree programs in promoting interdisciplinary studies; and the MA's role and function in the preparation of history teachers. At the conclusion of the project, a report to the historical profession will summarize the data collected, present a typology of master's degree programs, and offer preliminary guidelines for the content of a master's degree in history. For more on the project, visit www.theaha.org/perspectives/issues/2003/0302/0302aha1.cfm. ■

Legislation Introduced In Both Houses --

The American History And Civics Education Act

from the National Coalition for History's *Washington Update*

On 4 March 2003, in his maiden speech on the floor of the United States Senate, freshman Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) introduced "The American History and Civics Education Act" (S 504), legislation, according to Alexander's floor statement, designed "to put American history and civics back in its rightful place in our schools so our children can grow up learning what it means to be an American." A companion bill was introduced in the House (HR 1078) by Rep. Roger Wicker (R-MS).

Modeled after a program Alexander initiated in Tennessee when he was governor in 1984, the measure authorizes up to twelve "Presidential Academies for Teachers of American History and Civics" and up to twelve "Congressional Academies for Students of American History and Civics." These would function as residential academies for two-week teacher and four-week student summer institutes that would seek to "inspire better teaching and more learning of the key events, persons, and ideas that shape the institutions and democratic heritage of the United States." With a \$25-million authorization for what the Senator envisions as a four-year pilot program, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) would be the entity to administer and award two-year grants to eligible institutions after subjecting applications to a peer review process.

The legislation also authorizes the creation of what is termed as "a national alliance of American history and civics teachers." Federal funds would be authorized to connect these individuals via the internet. The alliance would "facilitate sharing and best

practices," said Alexander, and is modeled after an alliance the Senator helped initiate in the 1980s to put geography back into the American school curriculum.

Part of Alexander's floor statement attributed a decline in emphasis on American values and principles to greater attention being placed in schools on what he termed "so-called reforms" during the 1960s and 1970s--multiculturalism and diversity. Alexander stated, "During this time, many of our national leaders contributed to this drift toward agnostic Americanism . . . These leaders celebrated multiculturalism and bilingualism and diversity at a time when there should have been more emphasis on a common culture and learning English in unity." These comments immediately struck a raw nerve in the Civil Rights community. Some leaders found the Senator's words unsettling at a time when minorities chafe over racially insensitive remarks by former Senator Majority leader Trent Lott (R-MS). "To criticize multiculturalism and bilingualism sounds very nationalistic and betrays the fact that Lamar Alexander did not grow up in a multicultural society," said Nashville attorney and activist Fred Ramos. Speaking to reporters, Alexander bristled at the association of his comment with Lott's remark and stated, "unity is more important than diversity."

In March, S 504 was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and HR 1078 was referred to the House Subcommittee on Education Reform. ■

President Issues Executive Order Launching “Preserve America” Initiative

from the National Coalition for History's *Washington Update*

On 3 March 2003, President Bush signed an Executive Order (EO) entitled “Preserve America,” stating that, “It is the policy of the federal government to provide leadership in preserving America’s heritage by actively advancing the protection, enhancement, and contemporary use of the historic properties owned by the federal government, and by promoting intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships for the preservation and use of historic properties.” That same day the President’s wife, Laura Bush, formally announced the new “Preserve America” program in a speech before some 1,700 representatives of the National Association of Counties during their annual legislative conference in Washington D.C.

Executive Order 13287 was crafted with a number of objectives in mind. First, it provides a philosophical umbrella for federal agency historic preservation efforts. It sends a clear statement from the White House to all agency heads of their ongoing historic preservation responsibilities under Sections 110 and 111 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and other federal preservation laws. To that end, the EO requires all federal agencies to examine their policies and to ensure that their actions “encourage, support, and foster public-private initiatives and investment in the use, reuse, and rehabilitation of historic properties to the extent that such support is not inconsistent with other provisions of law.”

Rather than delegate historic preservation responsibilities to lower ranking officials in the federal bureaucracy, agency heads are directed to “designate a senior policy level official” who will have oversight responsibility for agency historic preservation programs. According to the EO, “This senior official shall be an assistant, deputy assistant secretary, or the equivalent.” To assist agencies in meeting the other requirements of the EO, the National Park Service, working in consultation with the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP), is to develop and to make available to agency heads education, training, and historic property awareness materials.

Second, the EO lays out the Bush administration’s framework for improving stewardship, planning, and accountability in federal agency historic preservation programs. A central thrust of the EO mandates an assessment of the current use of all federal historic properties. When appropriate, the EO directs agen-

cies to consider making such properties available to non-federal entities to advance local community and economic objectives, provided they are “consistent with agency missions.” To this end, by September 2004, all federal agencies must have inventoried their historic properties and evaluated their potential for “community economic development,” including such uses as heritage tourism and public-private partnerships. In these assessments, agencies must examine opportunities for enhanced “public benefit from, and access to Federally owned historic properties.”

Third, the EO also seeks to promote historic preservation through heritage tourism. The EO directs agencies to work with the Advisory Council, state governments, Indian tribes, and local communities to promote the use of historic properties for heritage tourism purposes, thus ensuring long-term “productive use” of such properties.

Historic preservationists have been expecting this EO for some time. An initial draft of the EO was developed late in the Clinton administration as part of the Democratic president’s “stewardship” initiative. With the election of President Bush, however, the EO was reevaluated by the ACHP, modified, and then sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for internal review. Insiders report the draft EO was crafted in coordination with the Department of Commerce, the National Park Service, and other federal agencies.

Because the EO is so new and its ramifications have not entirely been fleshed out by preservationists, it has yet to attract much praise or criticism within the non-federal preservation community. Privately, some preservationists express the opinion that the EO has “great potential” for state and local preservation interests, and there is a general recognition of new “partnership opportunities” in the future. Some express reservations, fearing that the “devil may be in the details.” For example, given the tremendous controversy generated several decades ago over the National Park Service’s modest and not entirely successful foray into the historic leasing program, preservationists will be watching with keen eyes to see whether federal agency missions are impacted by what is expected to be a broad push toward privatization and more “productive use” of federal historic properties.

(continued on next page)

New Federal Bill Promotes Historic Preservation by General Services Administration

from the National Coalition for History's *Washington Update*

Historians and historical preservation advocates celebrate a victory with President Bush's signature on the "Public Building, Property, and Works Act" (P.L. 107-217), which became law on August 21, 2002. The measure reinforces the importance of preserving historic buildings and federal monuments by amending Title 40 of the United States Code, authorizing and enabling the General Service Administration (GSA) to take additional measures to ensure the conservation and preservation of private and public historic landmarks.

In short, the new law promotes the authorization of new historical monuments and makes it easier to create historic monuments and more difficult to destroy existing ones. Under this measure, the GSA will exercise greater jurisdiction in determining which landmarks and buildings are considered "political subdivisions or instrumentality of the State." The GSA is now empowered to convert any "surplus real and related personal property that is suitable and desirable for the use of historic monuments for the benefit of the public" and such property may be used for "revenue-producing activity" provided the activities are compatible with the promotion for historic monument purposes.

In addition, the Act dictates that the GSA must submit an annual report to the President and Congress each January, reporting how it has "protected and enhanced" the significance of historic monuments and efforts it will embark upon in the upcoming fiscal year "related to historic preservation." ■

CCPH thanks the National Coalition for History for many of the government news and legislative items reprinted in this newsletter. The full text of archived Washington Updates can be found online at www.h-net.msu.edu/~ncc

Society for American Archaeology Develops Two New Brochures

Two new brochures are available from the Society for American Archaeology (SAA). *The Path to Becoming an Archaeologist* focuses on making archaeology a career, and *Experience Archaeology* explains how individuals can become responsibly involved in archaeology. You can order quantities of up to 100 brochures from the SAA office at the following rates: 1 to 10 copies - Free; 11 to 50 copies - \$5 to cover shipping; 51 to 100 copies - \$.25 per brochure over 50 and \$5 for shipping. Because most of us work with people interested in history, consider ordering some of the *Experience Archaeology* brochures to pass out to your co-workers. And those of us who work with students interested in the preservation/archaeology field, be it in high schools, colleges, or professional internships, should order some of the *Path to Becoming an Archaeologist* brochures to distribute. Who knows, you might help create a future archaeologist! For more information, visit www.saa.org. ■

Preserve American EO

(continued from previous page)

A second concern is funding and administrative infrastructure. While the Veterans Administration (VA), for example, may be able to compile a huge catalog of historic properties under its jurisdiction with relative ease thus meeting the technical requirements of the EO's inventory mandate, whether the VA will have sufficient staff and funding to manage other new responsibilities required by the EO is questionable. Most federal agencies are strapped for funds now, and this EO is perceived by some agency insiders as yet another "unfunded federal mandate." In this vein, some preservationists view the EO as a useful philosophical framework but see little infrastructure for carrying out the program. ■

Federal Agency Professionals Subjected To A-76 Outsourcing Assessments

from the National Coalition for History's *Washington Update*

In an effort to identify as many as 850,000 federal jobs that could eventually be performed by private-sector employees, the Bush administration is examining about 1,700 full-time jobs in the National Park Service, including archeologists and others, as potential candidates for replacement by private-sector employees. NPS director Fran Mainella has expressed a long-term goal to maintain a uniformed presence in the parks as a "public face" for visitors, and as a consequence park ranger and positions declared "inherently governmental" are spared, at least for now. But many other employees--maintenance workers, architects/engineers, administrative workers such as secretaries, fee collectors, and some scientists (this year only archeologists are singled out)--may ultimately find their positions privatized.

There is nothing new about efforts to downsize and out-source federal jobs. Past administrations have also attempted to reduce the federal workforce through the "A-76 process"--a procedure where a cost-benefit analysis is performed comparing the costs to deliver services by federal employees to costs of doing the same tasks through private sector sources. The operative theory behind A-76 staffing assessments is that any position that is not considered "inherently governmental" can be performed equally as well by private-sector contract workers. The efforts have produced mixed results.

In the past, however, previous administrations have not targeted the professional ranks of architects, engineers, and archeologists. But according to an NPS spokesperson, archeologists were selected this year because "there are a lot of them" and their positions are not "inherently governmental."

Some NPS officials note that the cost of performing the assessments alone is probably several hundred thousand dollars to a million or more--money the parks desperately could use for more pressing concerns. Critics fear that outsourcing of the Park Service's entire corps of scientists, archeologists, and historians

to private companies that are not steeped in the Park Service culture of resource protection would undermine protection and preservation of the nation's archeological, paleontological, and historical treasures.

In early February, NCH reported they were beginning to hear reports of various history positions in agencies such as the Department of the Army also being scrutinized under the outsourcing effort. Echoing protests by federal employee unions, on 5 February 2003, in a letter to Office of Management and Budget Director Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) and thirty-four other Senate Democrats expressed their concerns over the administration's outsourcing effort. The bureau, however, continues to defend the effort as a way to increase government efficiency through competition.

In late February, new information came out on a history office being targeted for outsourcing--the Department of the Army's Center for Military History (CMH). According to an Army spokesperson, in theory, outsourcing "would free up military manpower for core functions and the global war on terrorism" and thereby use manpower as efficiently as possible "before making it necessary to request additional tax-payer resources."

In a sweeping decision issued 21 February, Dr. John Anderson of the Army's Manpower and Reserve Affairs denied the Center of Military History's request for an exemption from the contracting scheme. According to Anderson who has a doctorate in philosophy and law, "Military history is not a core competency, not required by statute nor inherently governmental, and there is no basis for military performance of the function."

Insiders see little hope that Anderson will reverse the recommendations of his staff on this issue. Ultimately, the decision memo will be passed to the Executive Oversight Committee of the Non-Core Competency Working Group for endorsement before being forwarded to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Reginald Brown, who is expected to weigh in with the Oversight Committee recommendation. Secretary of the Army Thomas White has delegated the ultimate authority for this decision to Brown,

Individuals and organizations wishing to express their views on outsourcing "professional" positions should write to their representatives in Congress (see box to left) and, in relation to NPS employees, to Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton (exsec@ios.doi.gov) and NPS Director Fran Mainella (Fran_Minella@nps.gov). ■

Contacting your Representatives

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| California State Assembly | www.assembly.ca.gov |
| California State Senate | www.senate.ca.gov |
| U.S. House of Representatives | www.house.gov |
| U.S. Senate | www.senate.gov |
| Governor Gray Davis | www.ca.gov |
| President George W. Bush | www.whitehouse.gov |

Tracking Legislation

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| California Legislation | www.leginfo.ca.gov |
| Federal Legislation | thomas.loc.gov |

The Ongoing Saga of SB 1247 and AB 716

Readers of this newsletter will hopefully remember the articles about SB 1247 and AB 716 printed throughout last year. In its various permutations, this legislation sought to create a new California Cultural and Historical Endowment, or as earlier language in SB 1247 termed it, a California Trust for Historic Preservation. AB 716, which originally had more of a museum focus, was amended to take over from SB 1247 the task of creating an endowment, to be housed in the California State Library. One of the most controversial aspects of SB 1247 was not directly included in the revised AB 716—the moving of the Office of Historic Preservation from the Department of Parks and Recreation to the State Library. AB 716, as it was amended, merely directs the endowment to explore this option, which means future legislation would be needed to make such a move. AB 716 passed, and was signed by Governor Davis, in the early fall 2002. In his signing statement, the governor spoke to the importance of such an endowment, but removed the \$128 million the legislation had earmarked from Proposition 40 bond funding for the new entity, thereby giving it no funding. However important the endowment may be, many in the historical community couldn't help but wonder if the governor signed this legislation not so much because of the endowment but rather to fund various "pork" types of projects specified in the bill as well.

The signing statement also directed the Resources Agency to hold a series of stakeholder meetings with members of the historical and cultural communities to help in formulating "an effective, efficient, and respected process for disbursing Proposition 40 monies." CCPH was invited to be a part of this stakeholder input process, which is still ongoing. At our first meeting, the group discussed how misconceptions were behind much of the support for this legislation. Unfortunately,

many members of the cultural community have the perception, largely based on grant distribution in the past and not on current trends, that grants are being given only to "white bread" projects. Another concern motivating support for the legislation was the mistaken thinking that grant applicants to the California Heritage Fund, which is distributed by the Office of Historic Preservation, must compete with state parks projects. Additionally, many organizations don't understand the nature of bond funding, in that, because it requires the State to take on long-term debt, it can only be used for projects with long-term and direct impacts, not such things as project planning and festivals.

At this point, the Resources Agency is using the stakeholder input process to develop a recommendation to the governor as to how Proposition 40 funds should be distributed. CCPH submitted a letter to the agency recommending the Department of Parks and Recreation's Office of Grants and Local Services and Office of Historic Preservation administer funds, which should, ideally, all be directed toward competitive grants. The letter additionally endorsed the idea of a committee to advise in the process, and supported attempts to make grants available for projects being brought forward by archives and museums that deal with historical collections and interpretation but not necessarily in the context of historical buildings and cultural sites. For this reason, the CCPH letter suggested such a committee must include members of the archival and museum communities, in addition to historic preservationists. We'll be putting the text of the entire letter, as well as future letters submitted on the behalf of CCPH, on our website (www.csus.edu/org/ccph). Watch the website and this newsletter for future developments. ■

Funding for California Missions On the Table

California's missions have been the subject of new funding legislation at both the federal and state levels. In Congress, most members of California's delegation are sponsoring a bill (HR 1446) that would provide \$10 million in Interior Department grants to finance restoration and preservation of the historic missions in California. The overall program is slated to cost \$50 million, with the remaining \$40 million to come from the State and private donors. The San Francisco-based California Missions Foundation pushed lawmakers to draft the proposal, pointing out that all 21 missions need work just to keep them open. The foundation board has a long list of items needing repair and replacement at the missions, 19 of which are owned by the Catholic Church or the Franciscan friars. The other two missions, at Santa Cruz and Sonoma, are owned and operated by California State Parks.

At the State level, Senators Bruce McPherson (D-15th) and Dede Alpert (D-39th) introduced SB 987 on February 21. The bill seeks to appropriate \$10 million from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (better known as Proposition 40) to the Department of Parks and Recreation for allocation as a grant to the California Missions Foundation. The bill would require these moneys to be used to support the efforts of the foundation to restore and repair the California missions and to preserve the artworks and artifacts associated with them. The bill appears non-controversial on the surface—most members of the history community would gladly support funding for the mission system. However, what this bill would in essence do is take \$10 million that should otherwise have been distributed as competitive grants and skirt the competitive process to earmark it for not only one purpose but one organization.

HR 1446 was referred to the House Committee on Resources in late March. SB 987 is scheduled for a hearing before the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee April 8, 2003. ■

In Memoriam

The American historical community lost a very special person in early February. Professor Clark Davis, 37, of the history department at Cal State Fullerton died after sustaining a heart attack at the entrance to the Huntington Library, where he was a longtime scholar in residence. A fine historian, gifted teacher, and superb academic citizen across a multitude of communities, Clark touched thousands of people's lives with his irrepressible good nature, good humor, and unfailing human decency. He will be sorely missed by so many people. Our hearts go out to his wife Cheryl Koos, a modern European historian at Cal State, Los Angeles, who is expecting their first child.



Clark Davis, Cal State Fullerton professor

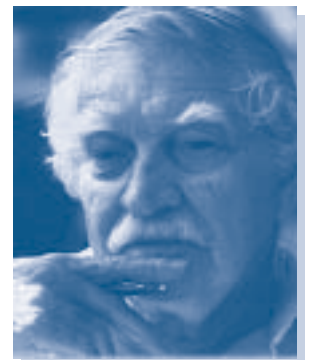
Clark's contributions to California and American history are impressive. A short and incomplete list includes two books in print, *Company Men: White-Collar Life and Corporate Cultures in Los Angeles, 1892-1941* and *The Human Tradition in California*, co-edited with David Iglar; and two in progress at the time of his death, one on 20th century Los Angeles and

another focused on occupational success in modern America. He also authored numerous articles and reviews in scholarly and popular publications including the *Pacific Historical Review*, *Enterprise and Society*, *Journal of Multi-Media History*, *Labor History*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *Westways*. Recently Clark began service as the book review editor for the *Southern California Quarterly*. And for many years he was one of the convenors of the Los Angeles History Research Group, sponsored by the Huntington Library, a position where his warm and generous spirit helped forge the bonds of collegueship and friendship that exist between members of the group.

Bill Deverell, Cal Tech
Denise Spooner, co-editor H-California

In mid-December, the historical community lost one of its pioneers. Dee Brown, who opened the eyes of the country to the historical mistreatment of Native Americans in his well-known book *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, died at his home in Little Rock, Arkansas at the age of 94.

Brown was born in Bienville Parish, Louisiana in 1908. His family moved back to Arkansas, their home state, when he was five. After spending some years in Ouachita County, the family moved to Little Rock, where Brown graduated from Little Rock Central High School. Having studied printing in school, he found a job at the *Harrison Times*, where he printed Christmas cards and sold ad space. He later became a reporter. In 1927 Brown graduated from Arkansas State Teachers College at Conway, which is now the University of Central Arkansas.



Dee Brown, 1908-2003



The release of this book in 1972 changed the thinking of many about the history of the American West

Brown served as a librarian for most of his working career. After working at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Beltsville Research Center in Maryland, and the University of Illinois, he retired in 1972, not long after the publication of his now well-known international bestseller, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*. He went on to write 28 other books, but will always be best remembered for his historical account of the westward expansion of the United States from the Native American perspective, which sold over 1 million copies and has been translated into 20 languages. As CCPH member Bob Pavlik stated so well, "I read this book in 1972, and it rocked my world." Although the passing of Brown is a sad occasion, it's ensured that many more budding historians will also have their "worlds rocked" by this work, which remains essential reading for students of the American West. ■

Reviews

- **Edward Abbey: A Life.** By James M. Cahalan. Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 2001. xv + 360 pages; photographs, notes, bibliography, index; hardcover, \$27.95; paperback, \$16.95.
- **Adventures with Ed: A Portrait of Abbey.** By Jack Loeffler. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2002. 308 pages; photographs, bibliographic essay, index; hardcover, \$24.95.

I have long been a fan of Edward Abbey's writings. Beginning with *Desert Solitaire* and continuing on through *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, *The Journey Home*, *Black Sun*, *Fire on the Mountain* and other titles, I eagerly read and re-read his works, and quoted from them extensively when I was teaching environmental education. I found his writings (especially his non-fiction) to be lucid, intelligent, thoughtful, and powerful. He simply made sense to me.

He also wrote about places that I had been, and a lot of places that I had never seen, but fueled a desire to go see them. The list continues to grow.

It was a shock to learn of his death, back in 1989. Like most of his fans, I had no idea he was ill (how would I have known?) and collected several obituaries and articles about him. He was young, 62, and it was a loss for the literary community as well as environmentalists across the country who admired his viewpoints, opinions, and shared his love of all things wild. Turns out, Ed Abbey was wild in more ways than one.

He hailed from western Pennsylvania, the northern Appalachians, where the winters are cold and the summers can be oppressive with heat, humidity, and insects. It was on a solo trip across the United States

when he was still in high school that he became enamored of the Southwest, especially the red rock country near the four corners region. Following a stint in the Army, where he served as an MP in post-World War II Italy, he enrolled in college, first at Indiana [PA] State Teacher's College near his hometown, and then at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Abbey excelled at writing, making excellent marks in English and Philosophy. He went on to graduate school, eventually completing an M.A. degree in Philosophy, studying and writing about anarchy, a theme that would later emerge in his writings.

While he was working on his novels he worked at several low paying jobs in Washington, D.C., New York City, and New Jersey, but he kept returning to the Southwest. Landing a job as a ranger at Arches National Park launched him on a seasonal career with NPS and the US Forest Service, working for sixteen seasons across the country, from Death Valley throughout Arizona, Utah and New Mexico, Montana and as far east as Everglades National Park. It gave him the opportunity to explore these lands of enchantment, meet kindred spirits, and write some of his best works. Abbey even spent a season living in Half Moon Bay, south of San Francisco (a city he loved) and studied with the venerable Wallace Stegner at Stanford University.

Abbey not only wrote about wild places, he eagerly explored them. He took careful, copious notes, which later were reworked into his books. He traveled far afield, into Mexico, north to Alaska, and south to Australia on commission for *National Geographic* magazine.

These two works show the rigors of life as an author and artist, as well as free spirit who cherished freedom above all

else. It did not come easy, or without a toll: on his family, his wives (he was married five times), and his friends. He wore out several pickup trucks, dozens of hiking boots, and perhaps even an FBI agent or two, who were busy compiling a dossier on the firebrand environmentalist who coined the phrase "monkey wrenching" and who even engaged in a few extracurricular activities (such as burning billboards) himself.

Cahalan, a professor of English at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (the former state college that Abbey attended), has written a very credible, objective, and well-researched biography. There are many myths that Cahalan dispatches, creating a character much more complex and difficult than is revealed in Abbey's writings. For example, Cahalan strives to revise the notion that Abbey was a misogynist, citing his many personal and professional relationships with women. Well, that may be true (it still seems open to interpretation) but one would never mistake Abbey for a feminist. The biographer pulls no punches, and some ardent fans of "Cactus Ed" may well squirm at some of the information contained within the covers of this book. Some of it is unflattering, and parts are downright upsetting. A writer's public persona and a writer's private life are two very different things, and while one might be able to discern from the published works something of the author's character, it is from his journal entries, letters and interviews with family and friends that the fuller picture emerges. And it ain't always pretty.

Of course, Abbey never claimed to be anything that he was not. He stated, in print, that he was not a naturalist, for example, but a lover of unfenced country, the open range. He was uncomfortable with his following, the legions of readers who sought out his approval, his friendship. He loved solitude, his lonely fire lookouts, canyon country and desert, where he could think, write, hike, explore, and ponder.

Jack Loeffler was a close friend of Abbey's, and his account is more subjective and kind to his subject. I read it after finishing Cahalan's book, and it's a good thing, because I was left with a bad feeling about Abbey. Loeffler starts out writing a biography, which, while not bad, contained some musings and interpretations on Abbey's motives that I found to be questionable. After all, it's sometimes hard for us to understand our own reasons for doing things, let alone someone else divining our deepest feelings. It's when Loeffler begins to recount his many travels and exploits with his old friend that the book becomes a pleasure to read. They laugh and joke and philosophize like any two men who share common interests and enjoy each other's company. It's the best part of the book.

Abbey, ultimately, is hard to characterize. Even after reading these two books and knowing something about his writing, I am still left with more questions, still do not feel able to say, I know this person.

Perhaps that's how Cactus Ed would have wanted it.

Robert Pavlik is a Senior Environmental Planner with the California Department of Transportation. He lives in San Luis Obispo.



Exploring the Highest Sierra. By James G. Moore. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000. 427 pages; hardcover, \$65.00; paperback, \$24.95.

Sierra East: Edge of the Great Basin. Edited by Genny Smith. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000. 197 pages; hardcover, \$48.00.

Missing in the Minarets: The Search for Walter A. Starr, Jr. By William Alsup. Yosemite National Park: Yosemite Association, 2001. 215 pages; hardcover, \$24.95.

There's one word that describes the High Sierra, that land above 8,000 feet--breathtaking. It's a condition many of us have experienced after driving to the high country from Los Angeles or the Bay Area (or beyond), stepping out of the car, and beginning to hike. It's not just the lack of oxygen that induces feelings of lightheadedness, awe, and inspiration. It's the sheer grandeur, the combination of ice, rock, water, and sky that leaves one grasping for adjectives while gasping for air.

The three books highlighted here are packed with information and beautifully produced, deserving of their respective subjects, all related to the high country. James G. Moore's *Exploring the Highest Sierra* is a thorough explanation of that part of the range in the vicinity of Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park. Moore, a retired geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey knows this country firsthand, having traversed the rugged territory in 1947 with his brother and fellow geologist, George. James went on to earn a Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins and returned to California to enjoy a long and fruitful career.

The book begins with the early explorations of the High Sierra. Moore details the first geological and railroad surveys, and discusses the exploits of Clarence King, John Muir, and Josiah Whitney. Other chapters cover mapping and place names, mountain orogeny and mineralogy, glaciers and glaciation, and landslides. The book is comprehensive, well written and researched, and copiously illustrated. Moore deftly covers a series of complex and technical subjects, making them accessible and interesting to the motivated reader. There is a geologic roads and trails guide, a glossary of terms, and an extensive list of references. It is a wealth of information at a very reasonable price.



Genny Smith's *Sierra East* is another title in the University of California's Natural History Guide Series. Smith, a longtime author and Eastern Sierra expert, has assembled a stellar cast of authors who contributed chapters on geology, weather and climate, plant communities, native fishes, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Smith contributes chapters on "Discovering the Eastern Sierra" and the "Wonders and Secrets at the Edge of the Great Basin." All of the chapters include some combination of line drawings, black and white photos, maps, charts, and graphs. There is a collection of color photos that depict the region's plants, insects, and landforms. I found the chapters on weather, fishes, and water made for fascinating reading. There is so much to this book (as there is to the entire region) that a reader can return, again and again, and learn new things.

The third volume in this discussion straddles the Sierran crest, and is a compelling story of danger, drama, and daring. *Missing in the Minarets* is the story of the disappearance--and discovery--of Walter A. Starr, Jr. An energetic attorney from a prominent San Francisco Bay area family, Starr was a dedicated lover of the Sierra. He devoted his weekends and holidays to compiling a guide to the High Sierra and the John Muir Trail, covering enormous amounts of mileage in explosive fashion. Failing to meet his father following a weeklong trip, one of the largest search operations in Sierra Nevada history was launched by government officials, Sierra Club members, and private individuals. Sierra Club President Francis Farquhar searched the jagged country from the sky via biplane, and scores of hikers and climbers, from Boy Scouts to elite climbers Jules Eichorn and Glen Dawson, scoured many miles of peaks, talus, and trails. It was legendary mountaineer Norman Clyde who persevered, locating the young man's broken body on Michael's Minaret. Author William Alsup tells this compelling tale with clarity, accuracy, and a level of detail commensurate with his profession as a trial attorney and U.S. Federal Court judge. The book is amply illustrated with contemporary and historical photographs, many never before published. The photographs that Alsup reproduced from Starr's camera, showing the last views that the young man snapped on his final journey to the mountains, are particularly beautiful and meaningful. This detailed and readable account is the definitive record of this tragic event.

The works of these three authors show us that there still is a world of exploration and discovery to be had in this great mountain region, increasing our understanding and appreciation of the natural sciences, while recounting the dramatic history of the High Sierra.

Robert Pavlik is a Senior Environmental Planner with the California Department of Transportation. He lives in San Luis Obispo.
Spring 2003



Membership Renewals Are In the Mail

Membership renewals were mailed out at the end of March. If you haven't received yours by the time you get this newsletter, please contact the CCPH office (ccph@csus.edu or 916 278-4296) to have another copy mailed or faxed to you. We've recently revamped our database so we can better report to you about our members' interests and types of employment. So please make sure you return your membership renewal form so we can have up-to-date information. If you're a new member (joined after August 1, 2002) or renewed as part of your conference registration, we went ahead and sent you a renewal as well, so you can make sure your contact, interest, and employer information is accurate, even though you obviously don't need to send any funds since you've already renewed. (That goes for the select organizations who get this newsletter as complimentary members as well.) And, although we know that times are tough all around, we've added two new items to the membership renewal form this year, in case you'd like to make an extra donation toward the mini-grants fund or the scholarships/awards fund. Please return your membership renewal form today and continue your support of CCPH's work on behalf of public historians throughout California. If you have any questions about your renewal, contact the CCPH office (again, it's ccph@csus.edu or 916 278-4296). Thank you for your membership. ■

Disaster Recovery Yellow Pages

Based on nearly two decades of disaster planning experience, the Disaster Recovery Yellow Pages by The Systems Audit Group is a 350-page, comprehensive sourcebook designed to help users locate scores of crucial but hard-to-find recovery services throughout the United States and Canada. It contains over 3,000 vendors and covers over 270 categories such as drying and dehumidification of paper and microfilm records, smoke odor counteracting services, trauma counselors, salvage, emergency rental of POS and other computer equipment, etc. In addition, The Disaster Recovery Yellow Pages also includes an alphabetical listing of companies for ease in locating a vendor without knowing an address and includes a tutorial on areas which are frequently overlooked--even by experienced users--when preparing their disaster recovery plans, as well as hints on "getting started" and preparing a disaster plan. The Systems Audit Group, Inc., has worked with leaders in the Disaster Recovery field to develop this comprehensive sourcebook, as well as using the experiences gained in working with over 100 organizations and institutions to prepare comprehensive recovery plans for the resumption of their operations following a disaster. These organizations have ranged from banks and insurance companies to manufacturers, retailers, colleges, and other organizations. The Disaster Recovery Yellow Pages comes in a three-ring binder, for ease in adding sources that individual users have gathered that are unique to their own circumstances. The price is \$98 per copy, plus \$3 for shipping and handling. Regular updates are available. To obtain a free brochure, or to order The Disaster Recovery Yellow Pages, contact The Systems Audit Group, Inc., 25 Ellison Road, Newton MA 02459; 617 332-3496; 617 332-4358 fax; DRYP@Disaster-Help.com; www.DISASTER-HELP.com. ■

The Coalition for Western Women's History Announces the Irene Ledesma Prize for 2003

For graduate student research in western women's history - Deadline for submission, May 1, 2003

The \$1,000. prize supports travel to collections or other research expenses related to the histories of women and gender in the American West. Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate program. The prize honors the memory of Irene Ledesma whose contributions to Chicana and working-class history were ended by her untimely death in 1997. The CWWH will award the prize at the women's history breakfast during the 43rd Annual Western Historical Association conference in Fort Worth, Texas, October 8-11, 2003.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- How well the applicant stated her/his research question and the significance of the overall project.
- How the applicant demonstrates her/his knowledge of the primary source materials related to the proposal.
- How the applicant framed her/his project in terms of the broader theoretical/historiographic issues significant to their topic.
- How well the proposal addressed issues of gender and/or women's history in the U.S. West.

To apply submit three copies of the following: a vita, a brief description of the research project (not exceeding three pages, double-spaced), including an explanation of how the prize funds would support the research, and a letter of support from the student's major advisor by May 1, 2003, to: Antonia Castañeda, Chair, Irene Ledesma Prize Committee, History Department - St. Mary's University, One Camino Santa Maria, San Antonio TX 78228-8503. For more information contact Professor Castañeda at acastaneda@stmarytx.edu or (210) 436-3608. ■

Conferences and Other Educational Opportunities

The 28th Annual **California Preservation Conference: A Blueprint for Preservation** will be held April 24-27 in Santa Barbara. For more information on the conference, visit www.californiapreservation.org.

The **National Council on Public History's** annual meeting will be held in Houston, Texas, April 24-27, with the theme of *Beyond Boundaries: Diversity, Identity, and Public History*. For more information, visit www.ncph.org and click on "Annual Meetings."

The 13th Annual **California Studies Conference** will take place April 24-26 at the University of California at Davis. The conference theme is *California Stories: Origins, New Starts, Coming of Age*. For more information, visit www-geography.berkeley.edu:16080/ProjectResources/californiastudies.html.

The **American Association of Museums** will hold its Annual Meeting and MuseumExpo in Portland, Oregon, May 18-22. For more information, visit www.aam-us.org.

The California Preservation Foundation will hold three one-day workshops in Sacramento in June. The first day is devoted to **Local Government Training** for representatives from California's Certified Local Governments (June 18), the second day to **Design Review** (June 19), and the third workshop to **The Secretary of the Interior's Standards** (June 20). For more information, visit www.californiapreservation.org.

The **California Association of Museums** will hold its annual conference July 16-18 in Glendale. The conference theme is *Creativity: Using Change to Energize Your Museum* and will take account the complex environment in which museum professionals and their institutions find themselves, offering new ideas to energize them in the midst of change. Sessions will explore innovative ways to increase revenue, alternative marketing techniques, unique partnerships and collaborations, as well as the timeless topics of managing collections and museum administration. For more information, visit www.calmuseums.net

The **American Association for State and Local History** will hold its 2003 Annual Meeting September 17-20 in Providence, Rhode Island. The theme of the meeting, *Responses to Change*, is timely given the economic, social, and political changes we are seeing all around us. Sessions to be presented include models for responding to the multitude of changes historical organizations are confronting; examples of innovative partnerships; examples of lessons learned, both successful or unsuccessful; illustrations of best practices in addressing museum education, collections management, museum administration, technology, revenue generation, tourism, and staff/volunteer recruitment, retention and reward; and current scholarship. For more information, visit www.aaslh.org.

University of California Santa Barbara's First Annual Graduate Student Conference, entitled *Women and Conflict: Historical Perspectives*, will be held October 11-12

Spring 2003

on the campus of this lovely coastal university. The program committee has invited interdisciplinary paper proposals in women or gender studies that address the conference theme. Studies of conflict could include domestic, political, social, cultural, trans-regional, and ideological themes. For more information, visit www.uweb.ucsb.edu/~ae0/conf.html.

The **Oral History Association** will hold its 2003 annual meeting October 8-12 in Bethesda, Maryland. The meeting theme is *Creating Communities: Cultures, Neighborhoods, Institutions*. The conference will be held in the Washington, D.C. area, a place where people of many different races and ethnic backgrounds live and work. OHA has invited presenters to take up the challenge of how oral history can illuminate the ways people weave the cultural mosaic of our society by creating communities in diverse settings and locales. For more information, visit www.dickinson.edu/oha.

The **Western History Association** will hold its annual conference October 8-11 in Fort Worth, Texas. The conference theme will be *The Boundless West: Imagery and Popular Culture of the American West*. Conference events will include keynote presentations, papers presented on a variety of topics, and various entertainment and tour opportunities. For more information, visit www.unm.edu/~wha.

The **National Association for Interpretation** will hold its **2003 National Interpreters Workshop** at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Reno, Nevada, November 8-12. The Workshop will feature more than 100 sessions in 12 different tracks. Keynote Speakers include: Grace

Fleming, who also goes by her Japanese name, Megumi, a bilingual storyteller who will be presenting a luncheon storytelling keynote on the Japanese-American internment camp experience; Cathy Luchetti, author of *Children of the West*, *Women of the West*, *Home on the Range: A Culinary History of the American West*, and *I Do: Courtship, Love and Marriage on the American Frontier*, will give an overview of "pioneer life" in the West; Shelton Johnson is an interpretive ranger at Yosemite National Park and will be speaking on "Buffalo Soldiers of the Sierra Nevada: Discovering Untold Stories." For more information, visit www.interpnet.com. ■

Don't forget, the **California Council for the Promotion of History** will hold its annual conference October 16-18 in beautiful San Diego with the theme *Expanding the Borders of California History*. Suggested topics for sessions and papers include the California/Mexico border, archives of the Californias, tourism and history, transportation, urbanization and the environment, new trends in Public History, the military and aerospace industries, San Diego and Baja California. Anyone wishing to submit a proposal for a paper or session on these or other relevant subjects, please send a brief (less than 150 words) abstract of the paper or session panels, with a short CV for each participant. Also indicate any audio/visual needs for the presentations. Send proposals by May 2nd, 2003 to: c/o James Newland, CCPH Conference Program Committee, 8885 Rio San Diego Drive #270, San Diego CA 92108; jnewland@parks.ca.gov. For updates on conference information, visit www.csus.edu/org/ccph.

CCPH Liaisons

The following is a list of CCPH liaisons with state and national heritage organizations. This list of representatives has been established so that liaisons can supply important information to the CCPH membership and so members will have an appropriate contact should the need arise. Are you a member of a state or national association and want to serve as a CCPH liaison? Contact us at ccph@csus.edu or 916 278-4296.

American Association of Museums (AAM)

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American Assoc. for State and Local History (AASLH)

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California Mission Studies Association (CMSA)

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Northwest Oral History Association (NOHA)

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Society for California Archaeology (SCA)

Steve Mikesell, smike@ohp.parks.ca.gov, 916 757-2521

Society of California Archivists (SCA)

Patricia Johnson, pjohnson@cityofsacramento.org

Southwest Oral History Association (SOHA)

Susan Douglass Yates, douglass@library.ucla.edu

Southwest Mission Research Center (SMRC)

Linn McLaurin, 619 435-7394

Western History Association (WHA)

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California History Action is the official publication of the California Council for the Promotion of History. Its purpose is to disseminate news to the membership. The organization's numerous committee chairs provide much of the information herein. It is the responsibility of the general membership to provide input to the newsletter. This sharing of information is critical to the well-being of the organization.

Issues will be produced quarterly in March, June, September, and December. Deadlines are the first of the month of publication. This late deadline is designed to

provide information to the membership in the most timely manner. Material must be received prior to the deadline to be printed in the current issue and should be submitted directly to the editor at the address below.

It is preferred that articles and other material be submitted electronically by email (either in the text of the message or as an attachment). However, typewritten printed material is also accepted via fax or mail.

Views expressed herein are solely those of their authors. Their publication does not constitute an endorsement by CCPH.

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All members receive issues of *California History Action*, the CCPH newsletter for history advocacy, notices of CCPH conferences and workshops, and other CCPH publications. Corporate and Institutional members also receive membership rates for two individuals at conferences and other events. Annual dues are due January 1; those received from new members after August 1 will be credited to the next year.

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Spring 2003

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