History Action

Expanding, and Crossing, the Borders of California's History

Mark Your Calendars for October 16-18, 2003

Punch Your Ticket to Ride with CCPH as we Travel the Historic "Iron Road of the Californias" for this once-in-a-lifetime conference experience!

All Aboard for the California Council for the Promotion of History’s 23rd Annual Conference at the Marriott Mission Valley Hotel in sunny San Diego. The Mission Valley Marriott will be the headquarters for what promises to be one of the most unique opportunities in CCPH’s storied conference history.

In addition, the Mission Valley Marriott is centrally located for access to San Diego's many attractions and historical sites, such as Old Town and downtown's historic Gaslamp Quarter—which are just a short "trolley-ride" away. Other fascinating and famed attractions such as Balboa Park and the world famous San Diego Zoo, Sea World and Mission Bay Park, Mission San Diego, and beautiful La Jolla are just short drives away.

The CCPH Conference program will feature intriguing sessions and panel discussions that illustrate how the borders of California’s history are being expanded through scholarship, media, and interpretation. A few of the session subjects to be presented include the archives of the Californias; aviation history; Southern California’s historic overland trails; race, place, and community in the West, and the cutting edge of interpretive programming.

The opening plenary session panel will feature presentations of how public history is coming together with public art to illustrate California’s social and labor history through the use of evocative media and the visual and performing arts.

CCPH will hold its traditional dinner banquet on Friday evening. Harry W. Crosby, educator, photographer, and renown historian and scholar of Baja California will be the keynote speaker, discussing how the history of the two Californias are directly linked. Mr. Crosby’s latest book, Gateway to California: The expedition to San Diego, 1769, will be featured.

CCPH Crosses La Frontera...

In addition to traditional, high-quality conference activities such as dynamic sessions, the Awards Luncheon, and Friday Night Banquet and keynote address, this year’s conference will take to the road—the Iron Road that is—to not only expand, but cross, the borders of the Californias history. Saturday’s program will include a trip to beautiful and historic Baja California.

Buses will take conference participants to Tijuana, B.C., where a short architectural tour of Old Tijuana will illustrate how history and preservation are breathing new life into one of the most rapidly urbanizing areas in North America. Attendees will then board the

The conference program includes a journey, by rail, to the picturesque border town of Tecate

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A newsletter for history advocacy published by the California Council for the Promotion of History
Bridging the Past, Present, and Future
CCPH Conference 2003 (continued from previous page)

vintage trains of the Carrizo Gorge Railway to ride the Iron Road of the Californias, the F.C. Tijuana y Tecate section of the historic San Diego and Arizona Railroad. One of the few bi-national railroads in North America, the SD&A was also known as the “Impossible Railroad” for its unique engineering and construction history.

Conference attendees will be treated to a 1-1/2 hour historically interpreted ride through the Baja California countryside to the quaint, and small, Californias border town of Tecate. Here, after lunch, an intriguing panel session will focus on the cross-border partnerships currently underway between individuals, institutions, and agencies from both of the Californias. Time will also be allowed for sight-seeing and shopping in Tecate before returning to San Diego by bus.

The Saturday tour program will be included in the full conference registration price, and tickets will be available for non-conference attending friends and family. Programs will be mailed in early August to CCPH members and past conference participants. We plan to again offer student/new professional stipends. Interested students should contact board member Monte Kim at montek@prodigy.net.

Hope to see you all there, so don’t miss the train!

CCPH Board Meets in San Diego

The CCPH board held its second meeting of 2003 in San Diego on Saturday, June 7. Eleven board members and three visitors were in attendance. After preliminary introductions and a discussion regarding the need for a procedural binder for the CCPH office, which vice-president Jenan Saunders will work on, the board spent the bulk of the meeting discussing the organization’s budget for the next fiscal year and the 2003 conference planning.

The board adopted a budget somewhat in line with previous years, with a few exceptions. First, it was decided that CCPH should cover the travel expenses incurred by the student administrative assistant in attending board meetings outside of Sacramento; thus, $450 was added to the Board Expense line item in the budget for this. Second, the board chose to increase the amount expended for the mini-grants program, in response to a large increase in applications received this year. Further details on the budget will be released in the next issue of California History Action.

Jim Newland and his conference committee members in attendance—Karen Beery, Nancy Mendez, and Alex Bevil—gave a report on the planning for the conference to be held in San Diego in mid-October. The board discussed at length the issue of having program sessions only on Friday and then a field trip on Saturday, finally deciding that the field trip would be a great idea as long as it is included in the cost of registration, it has program offerings as part of the trip, and those who don’t want to participate are given other ideas for things to do that day. Pam Conners then presented to the board her committee’s preliminary ideas regarding the 2004 conference to be held in Eureka. An enthusiastic group of local residents are helping with the local arrangements, and it’s shaping up to be a great gathering.

The board spent some time discussing the CCPH award at California History Day and ideas for generating more interest in California history topics at the event. It was decided to continue giving the award, with consideration to undertaking changes in the future, and to work on ways to promote students choosing local and California history topics in the future, such as preparing a suggested topics and resources list in line with each year’s history day theme. The Legislative Action Committee presented the board with information about a number of California bills and suggestions for positions to be taken by the organization. See pages 6-7 of this newsletter for details on those bills and the positions taken by CCPH.

The issue of mini-grants was discussed, as well as questions posed to the board by the Mini-Grants Committee regarding whether or not CCPH should be limiting grant eligibility to small organizations or projects in order to increase the impact of the grants. It was decided that the committee should come back with recommendations in this regard for the board to consider, and at this time the grants program will remain the same, albeit with an increase in funding as discussed in relation to the 2003-2004 budget.

Jim Newland announced that he is recruiting for someone to run for Vice-President/President-elect next year. He will also be talking to outgoing board members to see who is interested in running for the board again.

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Mark September 30 through October 2 on your 2004 calendars. Eureka, on California’s North Coast, will be the site of our annual conference on those dates.

Plans are beginning to gel, thanks to an enthusiastic and committed group of North Coasters in charge of local arrangements. The conference theme will be interwoven with this rugged, gorgeous, iconic, and unpredictable environment. Conference goers will be treated to a sneak peak “behind the redwood curtain” and to fresh investigations and insights into the intersection of people and place.

Most of CCPH’s membership is in Central and Southern California and, even with modern transportation systems, the North Coast remains relatively isolated. Although accessible by air, only one major carrier has regular flights to the Eureka/Arcata Airport (in McKinleyville, 15 miles north of Eureka), and fares are therefore uncompetitive. So why not plan to make getting there half your fun? And if you think you might be interested in taking a group bus from Sacramento to Eureka that incorporates history along the route, please contact Pam Conners at pconners@fs.fed.us.

Look to this same space in future newsletters for the call for papers, conference content development, and sample itineraries for driving tours from Sacramento and the Bay Area. And for now, just mark those calendars.

Board members Leslie Fryman and Pam Conners want to expressly thank Marnie Atkins, Edie Butler, Laura Chapman, Jessie Faulkner, Sue Greene, Suzanne Guerra, Leslie Heald, Alyson Hunter, Matina Kilkenny, Mary Ann McCulloch, Jan Werren, Karin Anderson, Jennifer Bell, Bill Hole, Don Leonard, Delores McBroome, PhD, Gayle Olsen-Raymer, Kay Sennott-Hofweber, Sheila Steinberg, PhD, Alex Stillman, Don Tuttle, Julie Vaissade-Elcock, Ken Wilson, the local arrangements volunteers who met in Arcata on May 27 to help get the ball rolling.

The Parks Online Resource for Teachers and Students (PORTS) project of institutional member California State Parks’ Interpretation and Education Division was honored in March by the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) with an On the Road to a Gigabit Award. The PORTS project was selected for the award for the innovative way they are using technology to bring state parks to students living in urban areas where distance or economic and social barriers may otherwise prevent them from experiencing the values of parks directly. Congratulations to division chief, and CCPH member, Donna Pozzi, and project coordinator, Joe von Herrmann.

The Executive Committee announced that it had taken only one action since the previous board meeting, and that was to sign on to the National Council for History’s statement on the looting of Iraqi antiquities. Information on this will be distributed over the CCPH listserv and placed on the website.

Toward the end of the meeting, the board discussed changing the term of the student administrative assistant at CSU Sacramento from January through December to June through May. It is hoped this will help with recruitment for the position, as well as give the person coming into the position time to become familiar with the organization before the annual conference in the fall and the membership renewal mailing in January.
Government News

Legislation Seeks to Change IRS Donation Rules
from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

Legislation (H.R. 806 - Artists Contribution to American Heritage Act and S. 287 - the Artist Museum Partnership Act, part of the larger CARE Act) was introduced earlier in the year in both the House and the Senate. If enacted, the legislation would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enable artists, writers (including historians and other scholars) and others to obtain a tax deduction equal to “fair market value” for charitable contributions of literary, musical, artistic, or scholarly compositions created by the donor. The legislation is strongly supported by the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) and other museum organizations.

Both the House and Senate versions revise the existing Internal Revenue Service regulations governing donation policy. Current policy does not allow an author, for example, to donate research notes and manuscript versions of published works to an institution and obtain a meaningful tax deduction; typically they may deduct only the cost of their raw materials. The new legislation would allow donations of the “fair market value” of their works, provided the contributed works were created at least 18 months prior to the date of donation. Contributions must also be formally appraised and a written appraisal would need to be attached to the donor’s tax return. The creator must also deduct the entire amount the year the gift is made; the deduction can be taken only for income earned as an artist or writer (not for instance for income for waiting tables), and the donor must be a professional.

The new donation requirements also provide some new guidelines for institutions receiving such donations. For example, the donors work must be related to the purpose of the institution that accepts the gift.

The House version currently has 55 cosponsors, and is pending in the House Committee on Ways and Means. The Senate version has 21 cosponsors, and was referred to the Senate Finance Committee and passed as part of the CARE Act. Individuals interested in this legislation are being urged by museum organizations to contact their representatives in the House and urge them to co-sponsor the legislation.

New Procedures Expedite Private Sector Competition for Federal Positions
from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

On May 29 Office of Management and Budget Director Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., announced a new Bush administration policy designed to speed up the process of assessment and open some 435,000 federal positions to private sector competition. The administration has yet to specify what type of positions would fall under the expedited review procedures, but they most likely would include property maintenance, computer related and security guard work, and other types of positions that are often routinely performed in and by the private sector.

According to Daniels, under the old system, competition assessments designed to decide whether a particular government task could best be more economically performed by federal employees or by private contractors often lasted three to four years.

Under the new procedures, these competitions will be completed in one year, although that deadline could be routinely extended by an additional six months. Other new procedures create a “streamlined” competition process; where assessments involve 65 or fewer federal jobs, positions could be contracted out in as few as 90 days.

The new expedited process also eliminates what was previously known as the “direct conversion” provision. Under this provision, 10 or fewer positions at an agency could be turned over to a private contractor without federal employees being given a chance to compete to keep their positions. Under the new streamlined competition procedures, federal employees will lose a built-in 10% cost advantage that effectively required private contractors bidding on a job to propose performing a specific task for at least 10% less than the cost of performing the job with federal employees.

Officials of federal employees labor unions denounced the changes. “Given this tremendous discretion, they will exercise this discretion in a way that favors contractors and pushes the work right out the [government agency] door,” said Jacqueline Simon, public policy director for the American Federation of Government Employees. Skeptics also consider the new procedures as yet another step in the administration’s ongoing effort to contract out not just routine-oriented positions but “professional” positions as well, such as archeologists, historians, and archivists. Some 1,708 federal positions in the National Park Service, for example, including dozens of professional positions are currently being assessed for contracting out this fiscal year. A Bush administration effort to contract out dozens of historian positions at the Center for Military History was thwarted earlier in the year.

Administration officials denied that the new program’s goal was to farm-out government workers’ jobs to private companies. “We are indifferent as to who wins the competition” for government work, Daniels said at a news conference. “It need not result in any changes in federal employment. We’ll just have to see what a more wide-open system brings.”
Stockton’s Little Manila Named to National Trust’s Most Endangered List

At the end of May, the National Trust for Historic Preservation announced its 11 Most Endangered Historic Places for 2003. Although the list did include one category of properties that are found throughout California—urban places of worship—the only other California property on the well-known list is one that has garnered quite a bit of interest in the last few months—Little Manila in Stockton. Not much remains of this once-vibrant neighborhood that was at one time home to the largest population of Filipinos outside the Philippines itself, one that was for years considered the center of Philippine-American culture nationwide. Until the 1960s, Stockton’s Main Street was the line that divided Filipinos from the rest of the city—they were forbidden from venturing north of the street. As a result, Little Manila was born. Redevelopment in the 1960s wiped out much of the buildings in the community, followed by more “neighborhood revitalization” in later decades. Only three buildings now remain to tell the story here: A boarded-up hotel, an abandoned dance hall, and a former union lodge. Ironically, only five days after the Trust’s announcement of Little Manila’s listing, the City of Stockton voted to place the area in a redevelopment zone and announced a request for proposals for development of the area (the request doesn’t emphasize saving the historic structures). At this time, the City appears to be leaning toward the construction of a suburban-style Asian Pacific mall. They’ve given the Little Manila Foundation, the organization leading the fight to save the three remaining historic buildings in the neighborhood, until October 3 to submit an alternative development proposal. For more information about Little Manila, visit www.littlemania.net.

Advisory Council Re-Authorization Hearing

On June 3 the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands conducted an oversight hearing on the re-authorization of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Most of the hearing focused on private property protection issues, brought to the forefront by a property here in California. The Subcommittee heard from Mr. Robert Bisno, owner of the Lincoln Place apartment complex in Los Angeles who objected to actions by a tenants association seeking to designate his complex as a historical resource. Bisno requested of the subcommittee that the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) be amended to include a stronger “owner consent” provision.

According to Bisno, the tenants association was merely using the historic preservation designation as an attempt to block his proposed redevelopment project, which would require the tenants to move. To that end, the tenants sought a determination from the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places to declare the building eligible for listing. This request came about because although the California State Historical Resources Commission supported the designation, Mr. Bisno, as the property owner, objected to the being listed on the National Register. The Keeper returned the designation application without a finding of eligibility due to the finding. Mr. Bisno asked the Subcommittee to reword the “loophole” in the National Historic Preservation Act to disallow the inclusion of sites on the National Register without the consent of the property owner.

National Park Service Acting Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Mr. deTeel Patterson Tiller, reminded the Subcommittee “in cases where a property has been listed or determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register, a private property owner is under no obligation to protect the historic property and it can be torn down by its owner without federal government intervention.”

However, Mr. Tiller was somewhat in error in this testimony in relation to California law, because under state law a property determined eligible for listing on the National Register is automatically listed on the California Register of Historical Resources, and therefore is considered a significant resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA also considers significant any property that meets the criteria for the California Register, and therefore even in the absence of any National Register finding of eligibility a property could be considered significant under CEQA. However, in the absence of a formal finding of eligibility, the decision as to what is or is not a significant historical resource under CEQA rests with the lead agency—in this case the City of Los Angeles—and often lead agencies will interpret eligibility criteria along much more strict lines than either the State Historical Resources Commission or the Keeper of the National Register.

Ranking Member Donna Christian-Christensen (D-VI) mentioned that over the last ten years, 167 sites were found eligible without the owner’s consent, and she urged the Subcommittee to keep the numbers in perspective (over 1.2 million places are currently listed on the National Register). Chairman Radanovich appreciated this observation, and voiced his hesitancy to amend the law for fear of impacting the vast majority of sites not affected by the loophole.

The full testimony from the hearing visit resourcescommittee.house.gov/108cong/parks/2003jun03/agenda.htm.
Recreation and parks districts, Urban parks (SB 235)

This bill was introduced by Senator Gil Cedillo (D-22nd) on February 14. According to the Legislative Counsel’s Digest, it “would require exceptions to those state park improvement purposes when a state park is located in an urban area.” Current law, in the Public Resources Code, specifies the types of recreation activities that can be provided in state parks and states that “improvements that do not directly enhance the public’s enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resource . . . shall not be undertaken within state parks.” This bill would change that language to say “may not be undertaken” except “in a state park located within an urban area with a population of more than 500,000 residents.” The bill goes on to include in the list of approved improvements soccer fields, baseball fields, and basketball courts. By way of background, it is important to note that residents of many urban areas of California over the past few years have successfully lobbied the State Legislature to acquire land to be managed by California State Parks (CSP). For various reasons, these residents have had difficulty getting local park districts to acquire and manage such land, so they’ve come to see their only option as the State. There is also some apparent prestige associated with having a state park in a neighborhood. However, what most of these urban areas want are places to play organized sports. There are a number of problematic issues associated with this bill. First, basketball, baseball, and soccer (or any organized team sports for that matter) are recreation activities that CSP has never undertaken and does not have expertise in, believing they are more naturally within the purview of local park districts. Therefore, to plan for these added types of recreation, CSP will have to hire or contract for such expertise. And the management of these types of recreation is incredibly time-consuming, requiring staff resources to work with the constituent groups who would use these recreation resources. But, since the bill provides for no additional funding, that money will have to be taken from the department’s current budget, cutting into increasingly scarce funds for natural and cultural resource management and other types of recreation. Additionally, this bill does not define what it means by an “urban area with a population of more than 500,000 residents.” This nebulous language could mean many state parks will be open to challenges by residents to create opportunities for soccer, basketball, and baseball.

Finally, one has to wonder why the bill language confines itself to only these three types of sports, and what will happen when the volleyball, lacrosse, football, rugby, etc. enthusiasts decide they deserve a piece of state parks as well. On April 24 the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife where it was scheduled for a hearing on April 30. That hearing was postponed and no new date has yet been set. On June 7 the CCPH board voted to oppose this measure. CSP carries out its responsibilities on a very limited budget. Adding to its load will only jeopardize the management of natural and cultural resources. These types of recreation are better left as the purview of local parks agencies.

California Cultural and Historical Endowment (AB 1149)

This bill was introduced on February 21 by Assembly Member Marco Antonio Firebaugh (D-50). It builds on the legislation passed last year that created within the California State Library a California Cultural and Historical Endowment. According to the Legislative Counsel’s Digest, “This bill would appropriate $128,415,000 from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhoods, and Coastal Protection Fund to the California State Library.” Although the Endowment can distribute such funds as grants to other agencies and organizations, it’s not clear from the bill language if this will be the case for this appropriation. However, because the legislation passed last year directed the Endowment to “undertake a comprehensive survey of the state of cultural and historical preservation, accessibility, and interpretation in California, and report to the Governor and the Legislature,” it may be that these funds would be used for such purposes. In reading the bill language and the relevant sections of the Government Code, it does appear that the Endowment would have to expend all but 5% (over $6 million, which can be used for “associated programmatic costs”) of these funds as specified in Government Code, Section 16727. This limits funds to the costs of construction or acquisition of capital assets, meaning tangible physical property with an expected useful life of 15 years or more. However, in order to release these funds as grants, which this bill does not specifically require, the Endowment will need to be appointed, staff hired, hearings held, and regulations approved. Therefore, if the Endowment is the granting agency, these funds most likely wouldn’t be available as grants for at least 18 months (and probably more like 2-3 years). Additionally, with money now being appropriated to fund the endowment (last year’s legislation created the entity, but didn’t fund it), there may be movement to study the issue of moving the California Office of Historic Preservation from the Department of Parks and Recreation to the State Library. This issue was discussed in the legislation passed last year, but only as a suggestion for study. It would still require additional legislation to carry out such a move. The bill was passed out of the Assembly on June 2, by a vote of 50 to 30. It’s now in the Senate and has been assigned to the Committee on Appropriations. On June 7 the CCPH board passed a motion to oppose this legislation. There is a dire need for these funds to be put back in the economy through competitive grants as soon as possible, and using the Endowment as the vehicle for distribution is not conducive to this. As CCPH stated in a letter to Secretary for Resources Mary Nichols last October, the agency most equipped to distribute these funds as competitive grants is the Office of Historic Preservation/Department of Parks and Recreation, with the consultation of an advisory committee representing the cultural, historical, archival, and museum/park constituencies.
State Park System-State Reserves (AB 1476)

This bill was introduced by Assembly Member Ed Chavez (D-57th) on February 21. It seeks to add cultural resources to the types of resources that can lead to a unit of the California State Park System being designated a State Reserve. According to the Legislative Counsel’s Digest, “Under existing law, state reserves consist of areas embracing outstanding natural or scenic characteristics of statewide significance. This bill would also designate, as state reserves, areas containing outstanding cultural resources of statewide significance . . . The bill would require, within state cultural reserves, the highest level of resource protection be sought, and that management actions be consistent with the preservation of cultural resources.” The bill language, which seeks to amend the Public Resources Code, identifies State cultural reserves as “areas selected and managed for the purpose of preserving and protecting the integrity of places that contain historic or prehistoric structures, villages, or settlements, archaeological features, ruins, artifacts, inscriptions made by humans, burial grounds, landscapes, hunting or gathering sites, or similar evidence of past human lives or cultures.” The bill was passed out of the Assembly Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media on April 29 by a vote of 15 to 3. It has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations where it has not to date been scheduled for a hearing. On May 27 the bill was passed out of Assembly on a vote of 73-3. The bill was passed out of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife on June 30 and was referred to the Committee on Appropriations. On June 7 the CCHP board voted to support this legislation on the simple basis that there is no reason cultural resources should be treated differently from natural resources in terms of being designated as state reserves deserving of the protections this classification confers.

California Missions (SB 987)

This bill was introduced by Senators Dede Alpert (D-39th) and Bruce McPherson (R-15th) on February 21. It originally sought to appropriate $10 million from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40 bond funds) to the Department of Parks and Recreation for allocation as a grant to the California Missions Foundation, a non-profit private organization. The bill would require these funds be used to restore and repair the California missions and to preserve the artworks and artifacts associated with them. Amendments made to the bill on April 22 took out reference to any specific dollar amount, instead leaving a blank line in the bill language in reference to the amount to be appropriated. Three looming issues that arise in relation to this bill are the legislature’s choosing to appropriate money directly from a fund that would otherwise be distributed as competitive grants, earmarking that money for use by a private organization, and specifying its use for properties that are (aside from three missions owned and operated by California State Parks) owned by the Catholic Church, a religious organization. On May 5 the bill was placed on the Senate Appropriations Committee’s suspense file. All large appropriations bills are automatically placed on this suspense file to be considered and prioritized as a group. Our assumption is that, although this bill doesn’t specify an appropriation amount at this time, it was placed on this file so an amount could be added when all appropriations bills are considered together. On June 6 the legislation had its first hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee. It is now being held in committee and under suspension, pending budget discussions. On June 7 the CCHP board moved to oppose this legislation on the basis that there is no reason cultural resources should be treated differently from natural resources in terms of being designated as state reserves deserving of the protections this classification confers.

Official State Tallship (AB 965)

This bill was introduced on February 20 by Assembly Member Christine Kehoe (D-76th). It seeks to add Section 423.5 to the Government Code to designate the Californian as the state’s official tallship. Existing law establishes certain state symbols, including the poppy as the official state flower and the California redwood as the official state tree. For those of you who remember, last year we had a mini-controversy over the designation of Bodie as the state’s official ghost town (the folks in Calico took umbrage at this and we instead have Bodie designated as the state’s official gold rush ghost town, leaving open the door for silver at some point in the future). The bill language explains that the Californian is a re-creation of the Revenue Cutter Lawrence, which operated along the California coastline from 1849 until it wrecked off Point Lobos near Monterey in 1851. The Californian was built in 1984 and was recently acquired by the San Diego Maritime Museum, which will operate it as an “educational vessel and historic asset to promote and encourage an appreciation of the maritime heritage and coastal resources of the State of California.” The bill was passed unanimously out of the Assembly on April 24, was passed unanimously by the Senate on July 10, and enrolled and sent to the Governor on July 14. On June 7 the CCHP board voted to support this bill.

The Californian may soon be our official state tallship
Battle Brewing Over NEH Funding
from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

The House of Representatives appropriations subcommittee that recommends spending levels for the humanities and arts endowments agreed to set the FY 2004 budget for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) at $137 million, about 10% short of the Bush administration request of $153 million. For the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the subcommittee recommended an overall increase from the $124.9 million level the House of Representatives appropriations subcommittee that recommends spending levels for the humanities and arts endowments agreed to set the FY 2004 budget for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) at $137 million, about 10% short of the Bush administration request of $153 million. For the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the subcommittee recommended an overall increase from the $124.9 million level that the NEH received in FY 2003, endowment officials had hoped to realize a $25 million increase in FY 2004, of which virtually all the new funds would have financed history-related grants under the “We the People” program. Because the House is controlled by Republicans, the fact that the subcommittee did not honor the Bush administration’s full request was not lost on Democratic Representative Norm Dicks (D-WA), a long-time strong supporter of both the humanities and arts endowments. Dicks and the Ranking Minority member Rep. David Obey (D-WI) may try to raise the NEH funding level. In order to be successful in raising the NEH funding level, however, supporters of an NEH increase would need to identify a funding “offset” somewhere else in the Interior budget and then raid that funding source. One possible item in the proposed Interior bill is the “Clean Coal” project, which in the past has been suggested as an offset source for endowment increases.

Some supporters of the NEH are urging interested parties to send e-mails and place telephone calls to their Congressional representatives (particularly those serving on the full House Appropriations Committee), asking them to fund the NEH at the administration’s recommended level of $153 million.

In an interesting and detailed narrative, John Kessell tells the very human story of all ethnic groups involved in the Spanish conquest and settlement of the area that later became the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. All major events cited in any textbook covering this aspect of history are present, but told more through the experiences of less well known Spanish, French, American, and Native American characters than from the point of view of the “heroes” we usually hear about.

Initial Spanish sojourns into the area were generally isolated forays of exploration and conquest with minimal attempt at settlement. An initially minor figure in the Columbus expeditions, Ponce de Leon, took Spaniards to the North American mainland at Florida. In this chronicle, sailors, priests, and soldiers accompanied de Leon, and their perspectives are presented whenever the historical record allows. Even his beloved dog, “Becerillo,” has a place in the narrative.

Spanish incursion into the southwest from Florida followed some attempts to settle sites along the Gulf of Mexico. The forays of Cabeza de Vaca, Hernando de Soto, and Coronado are seen through the eyes of the common people that accompanied them and the Indians they contacted.

The next period of Spanish expansion into the area is characterized by increasing settlement. Settlement proceeded with times of relative peace punctuated by long wars with Indians. War with the Chicimeca Indians lasted 40 years, and a Pueblo Indian uprising in 1680 resulted in a sixteen-year war with temporary loss of Spanish control over the New Mexico colony. Later, Commanches became the major power on the southern plains, and survival for established towns and missions depended on successfully fighting off Commanche attempts to destroy them.

Even as Franciscans and military authorities were re-establishing Spanish control over the New Mexico colony, other forces were at work expanding settlement elsewhere. Padre Eusebio Kino successfully established several Jesuit missions in the area of northwest Mexico and modern southern Arizona known as Pimeria Alta. In addition, several Franciscan missions were established in east Texas to offset French colonization in the lower Mississippi Valley.

Visitor General Jose de Galvez set about developing northern Mexico and California as a personal quest. He replaced the Jesuits who had maintained control of Pimeria Alta with Franciscans, and waged war on the Seri Indians in that area, bringing them into subjugation. Galvez also promoted development of the California missions and settlement of the California coastal area, and sent exploratory voyages north along the coast.

Realizing how tenuous their control of northern New Spain was, the Spanish were constantly anxious about intrusion by other Western powers. Voyages by French and English explorers provided a source of concern and sometimes conflict for the protective Spaniards. After achieving independence, Americans began to probe further west, unsettling the Spanish even further. When the French sold Louisiana to the United States, apprehensions increased immeasurably. At least four expeditions were sent to apprehend Lewis and Clark, but none were able to find them. Additional American incursions into Texas and California created increasing apprehension for Spanish officials, an apprehension relieved only by Mexican independence, which made the problem Mexico’s, the point at which this book ends.

Kessell has captured the full scope of Spain's experience in the Southwest, setting it clearly in context with relevant world events of the time. His use of sources that reveal experiences through the eyes of less significant officers, priests, soldiers, and the Indians they encountered gives this history a unique richness of detail. His narrative style makes the story both interesting and readable (once the reader gets used to the multiplicity of complex Spanish names). Yet the author has done a marvelous job of using a narrative style without apparently going beyond the scope of the historical record. Spain in the Southwest is an excellent resource for the historian interested in this subject.

Gary Brown is a Graduate Student in the Capital Campus Public History Program at CSU Sacramento.
Historians often say there is a need to study the past in order to understand the present and to move forward into the future. It is this need to look at the past that explains the interest and proliferation of local histories. The writing of local and regional history is usually relegated to historical and genealogical societies and non-academic historians. In the introduction to Rethinking Home the author states, “Local history is a mission that belongs to committed and passionate amateurs.” This commitment and passion drive local historians to collect, research, and write about what they know best—their homes. Generally, their views of home are based on past events and experiences; the present and its impact on the future does not hold much interest. For them, the history of facts is more important than academic theory. Using this narrow approach, history becomes more static and interpretive possibilities are limited.

Joseph A. Amato in his book Rethinking Home offers a fresh perspective for writing local history. He believes that local history should go beyond the people, dates, and events that shape the place we call home. Amato puts forth new alternatives and themes in order to move our perception of “home” to broader levels of interpretation. The main question to be answered is, how does “home” fit into a broader context of the world at large?

Amato, a Professor of Rural and Regional Studies at Southwest State University in Marshall, Minnesota and founder of the Society of Local and Regional History, has spent his academic career creating and practicing innovative ways to “rethink” the history of place.

Although the research for this book is centered in southwest rural Minnesota, Amato’s approaches to writing local history could apply to any locale. He explores very diverse topics such as the history of cleanliness, sound, anger, the clandestine, and the environment. Amato also examines social, demographic, and cultural aspects of this rural locale.

One of the main themes in the book is the importance of understanding a local population’s interaction with their natural and created environment. Questions asked include: What was the impact by the community upon the natural environment? and What did they create or invent in order to make their community viable?

By expanding the view of a given place, it is possible to show the relationship of local history to the history of the region, the country, and, in some cases, the world. Amato encourages the use of case studies, which can incorporate topics and themes to interpret the history in a given locale. Amato believes that broader local history studies may provide a basis for making future environmental or economic decisions for a region.

Throughout the book, Amato praises local historians for their role in providing a sense of place or history for communities. At the same time, he introduces the arguments given by professional/academic historians, many of whom view local historians as “narrowly focused fact gatherers and eccentric storytellers.” Amato goes on to defend the role of local historians in collecting and preserving primary and secondary documents. Often, these documents are the basis for academic studies of a community or region.

In Rethinking Home, Amato, who is an academically trained historian and a prolific writer of local history brings a fresh perspective to writing local history. He does not underestimate the importance of the role of local historians. He recognizes their dedication, enthusiasm, and passion for their subject. Because the author hopes to reach local historians with his message, the book is written as an interesting and detailed case study of a Minnesota community, utilizing topics and themes appropriate for the region. By understanding Amato’s approach to local history, other topics and themes could be researched for any locale. For anyone researching and writing local history, this is a book to include on your reading list.
In this work, Chavez, a University of Texas at El Paso associate professor, presents a laudable project—an analysis of radical organizations in Los Angeles during the period of the Chicano movement's fullest flowering, these being the Brown Berets, the Chicano Moratorium Committee, the La Raza Unida Party, and the Centro de Acción Social Autónomo (CASA).

Chavez posits that the groups and “the Chicano movement embraced nationalist and Marxist-Leninist ideas that gained popularity as a result of the social, economic, and political conditions in which ethnic Mexicans lived.” Moreover, Chavez identifies a Mexican “protonationalism” that influenced the movement, through a concept championed by literary critic Raymond Williams called “residual culture.” The idea is that Chicano activists absorbed some modicum of revolutionary politics from Mexico and antecedent Mexican-American activism and built upon them to form their own brand of radicalism. Additionally, Chavez argues that “Chicano nationalism, though unique, can also be looked upon as a truly American phenomenon that at times encompasses the tenets of American liberalism.”

Chapters on each group examine their origins and political and ideological philosophies, details their projects, and assesses their successes and failures. Certainly, each succeeded in attracting some degree of public attention, from community supporters to the media to the watchful eyes of local law enforcement and the FBI. General goals and some activities were laudable in Chavez’ view, such as the role the Brown Berets played during the student-led Blowouts of 1968 and their opening of a free medical clinic the following year; the large antivwar protests fomented by the Chicano Moratorium Committee; the initial attempts of the La Raza Unida Party to develop a third-party challenge to the Republicans and Democrats; and the efforts of the Centro de Acción Social Autónomo (CASA) in their defense of Los Tres, three men convicted of a shooting fracas with an undercover federal drug agent they thought was dealing in their housing project. Yet, Chavez clearly and articulately addresses the shortcomings of each group, particularly with respect to their rigid ideologies, which prevented them from reaching out for the support of the larger community.

Chavez deserves praise for his pioneering work, and his book is a starting point for the analysis of recent Mexican American political history in Los Angeles. There are, however, some concerns to consider in Mi Raza Primero! First, while Chavez argues that the groups achieved popularity among Mexican Americans through their nationalist and Marxist-Leninist ideas, his conclusion that their ideological fervor alienated them from the mass of Mexican Americans belies this. Further, what is unexplained is how Chicano insurgents, so enamored of Marxist-Leninist ideas, residually connected with Mexican revolutionary politics, and bent on asserting Chicano nationalism, could also have embraced classic American liberalism. Finally, while Chavez, in the afterword, discusses recent electoral politics as a move away from the grassroots activism emblematic of the groups covered in this book, one wonders how he would view this development with respect to his core concept of “residual culture.”

Despite these and other misgivings, it is recommended that anyone interested in radical ethnic American politics, Chicano history, or the history of Los Angeles and California, read Mi Raza Primero! with the proviso that Ernesto Chavez has begun a dialogue on an aspect of history that deserves and needs further exploration.

Paul Spitzzeri is Collections Manager at the Homestead Museum in City of Industry, and a CCPH board member.
Job and Internship Opportunities

For graduate students in history, library science, or other fields considering a career in archives. Up to two positions are available September 2003 (subject to funding) at 20 hours a week maximum. Must be enrolled as a graduate student. Application deadline is August 15, 2003. The Graduate Student Archives Intern Program at the California State Archives provides a structured training program for its interns, which includes explanation and hands-on experience in all stages of archival work from reference to processing. In exchange, interns must commit to 20 hours a week of work and a year commitment. Interns are paid according to the state schedule for student interns (currently $10.47 an hour to start.) Prospective interns must submit a formal application, after reviewing the program materials. In addition, applicants who have not visited the California State Archives are encouraged to contact the intern coordinator to arrange for a tour. A team at the archives will evaluate application materials and selected applicants will be asked to an interview. For information and application materials contact Lucy Barber, Archivist and Intern Coordinator, 1020 “O” St, Sacramento CA 95818, lbarber@ss.ca.gov, 916 651-8419.

The NASA Ames Research Center near San Jose is planning to revitalize its history office, and it has contracted with a business historian to help identify a pool of possible archivists and/or public historians to work in this office. The job would most likely start on 1 October, and go for a year with a strong likelihood of being extended. It can be either half-time or full-time. It will be a contract position with a likely salary of $40k. The office will be on-Center, so citizenship and perhaps a low-level clearance will be required. Their job would be to administer the whole of the history office, answer research queries, find materials, update indices, some processing. Self-sufficiency is key. They would prefer someone trained as an archivist, but are open to someone trained as a public historian. A description of what’s already been done (and mothballed) is at www.stanford.edu/~bugos/ames.htm. If interested, contact Glenn E. Bugos, The Prologue Group, 188 King St, Redwood City CA 94062-1940; 650 599-5033 phone; 650 367-1220 fax; www.prologuegroup.com.

American Memory: The Chinese in California, 1850-1925
http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/award99/cubhtml/cichome.html

Drawn from the collections of the University of California Berkeley and the California Historical Society, this addition to American Memory presents about 8,000 digitized items that document the Chinese in California from 1850 to 1925. Like other American Memory collections, both searching and browsing options are available. One nice feature is the Topical Overview section, where users can read short essays on a variety of themes, from “Chinese and Westward Expansion” to “Sentiment Concerning the Chinese: Images from Periodicals.” All topical essays have galleries of associated pictures, such as approximately 300 architectural photographs of San Francisco’s Chinatown and 565 pictures of Chinese American communities outside of San Francisco. Another highlight of the collection is over 100 photographs by Arnold Genthe, many of them portraits of Chinatown’s children.

ARMA/SAA Issue Joint Statement
from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

The Association of Records Managers and Administrators, International (ARMA International) and the Society of American Archivists (SAA) have announced the adoption of the ARMA/SAA Joint Statement of Purpose which formally recognizes the common goals shared by both organizations. Developed by the ARMA/SAA Joint Committee, this statement acknowledges a commitment to ongoing cooperation and collaboration in a number of areas including standards development, public policy, information sharing, and professional development. The statement, in its entirety, is available at www.archivists.org/statements/saa-arma.asp.
Conferences and Other Educational Opportunities

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.

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 Northern California Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (NCCSAH) announces the second installment of its two-part 2003 program—Campus Architecture, which will take place Saturday, October 11 at Stanford University. Paul Turner, Professor of Art History at Stanford, will give a lecture on the history of the design and planning of the Stanford campus, followed by a campus tour. Professor Turner is the author of Campus: An American Planning Tradition. For more information, email Bridget Maley, NCCSAH Newsletter Editor, bridge@argsf.com.

The California Indian Conference and Gathering, hosted by Cabrillo College and co-sponsored by UC Santa Cruz, CSU at Monterey Bay, and the City of Watsonville, will be held October 10-12 at Cabrillo College, Watsonville Center, in Watsonville. With the theme Gathering the Past, Weaving the Future! the event is intended to facilitate the exchange of views and information among academics, educators, California Indians, students, tribal nations, native organizations, and community members. Any topic focusing on California Natives is welcome. Past topics have included dance, storytelling, native languages, histories, law, political and social issues, repatriation, economic development, arts, and traditions. Anyone interested in giving a paper, presentation, or organizing a session, panel, or presentation should send an abstract of 150 words by August 1 to Rob Edwards at Anthropology Department, Cabrillo College, 6500 Soquel Dr, Aptos CA 95003; (831) 479-6294; email: redwards@cabrillo.edu. Abstracts after that date will be considered only if space is available on the program. Please be sure to include an email address, phone number, and mailing address. Please state if you are available to present any of the 3 days or only particular days. Inquiries are welcome. Conference pre-registration is $20 general and $10 for elders and student.

University of California Santa Barbara’s First Annual Graduate Student Conference, entitled Women and Conflict: Historical Perspectives, will be held October 11-12 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 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. For more information, visit www.interpnet.com.

Common Ground
A Great Publication, and It’s Free!

The Spring 2003 issue of Common Ground: Preserving Our Nation’s Heritage, marks a new beginning for this quarterly cultural resources publication of the National Park Service. The magazine’s focus is being widened beyond archeology and ethnography to “offer a multidisciplinary look at all aspects of cultural resource management and historic preservation.” National Park Service Director Fran Mainella states in his foreword to the latest issue that the magazine “will continue to provide readers with quality articles on initiatives, approaches, and projects—and the people behind them. Innovation, creativity, and collaboration will be celebrated and the highest standards of excellence encouraged.” Subscriptions to Common Ground are free. To subscribe, simply visit www.cr.nps.gov/CommonGround and click on “update your subscription.” Or, by mail, write to Common Ground, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW (2251), Washington DC 20240-0001; 202 371-5102 fax. If you already get Common Ground, you must re-subscribe.
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)
  Open
  American Assoc. for State and Local History (AASLH)
  Mike Bennett, michaelbennett@sanjoaquinhistory.org
  California Association of Museums (CAM)
  Carola Rupert Enriquez, 805 861-2132
  California Historical Society (CHS)
  Dick Orsi, rorsi@csuhayward.edu
  California Mission Studies Association (CMSA)
  Linn McLaurin, 619 435-7394
  California Preservation Foundation (CPF)
  Anthea Hartig, 909 683-1573
  Conference of California Historical Societies (CCHS)
  Nan Hauser Cotton, 916 644-2610
  National Council for Public History (NCPH)
  David Byrd, DSBRD93@peoplepc.com
  Northwest Oral History Association (NOHA)
  Alan Stein, 916 447-7073
  Society for California Archaeology (SCA)
  Steve Mikesell, smike@oph.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.ucsd.edu
  Southwest Mission Research Center (SMRC)
  Linn McLaurin, 619 435-7394
  Western History Association (WHA)
  Ken Owens, owensk@csus.edu
  Western Museums Association (WMA)
  Rebecca Carruthers

If you would like to receive the text of this publication via email in large print, please send us an email message at ccph@csus.edu.

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California History Action Editorial Information

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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Join the California Council for the Promotion of History

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.

Name_____________________ Affiliation__________________ Position_________________

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Membership Categories: _____ Patron/Corporate $100 _____ Colleague $50

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All dues and contributions are tax-deductible. Send this form and payment to CCPH, CSU Sacramento, Department of History, 6000 J St, Sacramento CA 95819-6059. For further information contact 916 278-4295, ccph@csus.edu, www.csus.edu/ org/ccph.

Summer 2003
Pat Someone on the Back . . . In a Big Way

Hey folks, it’s that time of year again—CCPH awards nomination time! We all know people who deserve to be recognized for the work they do in the fields of public history, so why not pick one and nominate him or her for a CCPH award? Information on the awards given by CCPH and criteria for each, as well as the nomination form, are available on our website at www.csus.edu/org/ccph. Nominations are due to our new Awards Committee Chair Donna Harris by August 15. For more information, visit the CCPH website or email Donna at harrisdl@earthlink.net.

Welcome New Members

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Stephen C Bryne, San Anselmo
Randall J Bunn, Quartz Hill
Kimberly Johnston-Dodds, Sacramento
Franklin Maggi, San Jose

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