Plan to “Rendezvous in the Redwoods” with CCPH
September 23-25 in Eureka

Mark your calendars now for this year’s CCPH conference, which will take place in Eureka, September 23-25, at the Red Lion Hotel. With the theme “Rendezvous in the Redwoods: Exploring California’s Regional Histories,” the conference is slated to have a wide variety of sessions and topics sure to please every interest. The conference theme was specifically chosen to not just focus on the history of the Eureka region, but on the issue of regional history and regional identity throughout California. Among many other presenters whose presence we’re currently finalizing, California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman has agreed to speak to conference attendees on Friday. Confirmed session/paper topics include Regional Voices in the 1960s and ’70s; the Klamath-Trinity Unified School District’s Indian Education Program; Progressive Era Activism; Photographers of Northern California’s Indians; Overland Routes to the North Coast; Promotion, Memory, and Creation of the American West (this paper comes to us all the way from Warsaw, Poland, via George Washington University); History of the Monterey Bay Canneries; Chicano/Mexican History in California; and so much more.

No visit to the Eureka area is complete without seeing a company town or two. Pictured above are some of Scotia’s historic homes.

You won’t want to miss any of the conference offerings, but plan to make time for a meal, preferably breakfast, at the renowned Samoa Cookhouse.

(continued on page 3)
CCPH News

CCPH Board Meeting Summaries

The past two CCPH board meetings, which took place October 26, 2003, in San Diego and February 7, 2004, in Sacramento, involved much discussion of conferences and finances, but also saw the board taking action to strengthen and improve CCPH as an organization serving public historians.

The fall meeting, which was somewhat truncated due to the spreading fires that weekend in the San Diego area, began with adoption of the minutes of the June meeting and the Treasurer’s Report for the 02/03 fiscal year, which showed CCPH’s net income for the year to be slightly under $7,000. A discussion of the 2003 conference then took place, with all the directors commenting on the interesting sessions and speakers and thanking Jim Newland and the conference committee for their work. The board made a decision to form a new standing conference committee to develop conference planning advice and serve as a resource to each year’s specific conference committee. Planning for the 2004 conference in Eureka was then discussed and ideas put forward regarding possible themes. The board briefly discussed the location they had chosen at their last meeting for the 2005 conference—Visalia. The committee reports that followed were greatly abbreviated due to concerns about road and airport closures, but the board did vote to advocate for the hiring of professionally qualified staff for the new California Cultural and Historical Endowment. The board closed the meeting by supporting a proposition to explore the promotion of CCPH through a CD of some sort and to support the development of a new California History Plan by California State Parks.

The board’s February meeting took place at the offices of Jones & Stokes Associates, where a number of board members work. The board first approved the minutes from the previous meeting and then reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, which they approved, as well as a more detailed financial report on the 2003 conference. They also approved CCPH taking a position on two pieces of legislation new to the board (see articles on pages 7 and 12). The board then spent some time discussing membership and an upcoming membership drive. In relation to other committees, it was announced that Meta Bunse has agreed to take over as Mini-Grants Committee chair from Ellen Calomiris and that the position of chair of the Public Sector CRM Committee is now vacant (any readers interested in serving as chair of this important committee should contact Jenan Saunders at californiahistoryaction@hotmail.com). In relation to conferences, the 2003 conference was discussed for a short time, and then the 2004 conference in more detail. At this time, the board made the decision, based on scheduling conflicts for the conference committee, to move the conference dates forward by one week, to September 23-25. The 2005 conference was discussed only briefly because Scott Hudlow had not yet reported on his work in finding a committee chair. In relation to new business, the board decided to form a new Website Committee, with Mark Bowen volunteering to be chair, and the board discussed the filling of the now vacant position of chief of the State Archives and Golden State Museum (see article on page 6). As its final order of business, the board directed the president to look into bringing CCPH’s archives, which are now housed in part at the Sacramento Archives and Museum Collections Center and in part at the California State Archives, to the CSU Sacramento Archives. The next board meeting will take place June 5 in the Visalia/Fresno area.

Meet the New CCPH Administrative Assistant:
Heather McCummins

Let me introduce myself. My name is Heather McCummins, and I am the new administrative assistant for CCPH. I am a first-year graduate student in CSU Sacramento’s Capital Campus Public History Program. I received my bachelor degree from Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington, but I am a native Californian. In fact, I grew up in Lompoc, California, where my father is a ranger at La Purisima Mission State Historic Park. My goal after graduate school is to become an interpreter, either in museums or state parks. Throughout college I have undertaken a number of internships in archives, museums, and state parks so that I can gain as much knowledge as I can about public history. I was excited when I was chosen as the new administrative assistant because it is a great opportunity to be involved in public history in California. I look forward to meeting and working with you in the year ahead.

California History Action

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California History Action
The conference will kick off in grand style with a reception in Eureka's beautifully restored Carnegie library building, which now houses the Morris Graves Museum of Art, operated by the Humboldt Arts Council. (For more information on this fabulous historical resource, see the feature story on pages 10 and 11.) We’re hoping to further indulge your senses once you’re in the museum by sponsoring a special exhibit on the work of photographer, and historical photograph specialist, Peter Palmquist.

In addition to the opening reception, great sessions, and our annual awards luncheon and banquet, CCPH will offer walking tours and day trips to area locales of historical interest, thanks in large part to a wonderfully enthusiastic local conference committee. Have you been itching to get a guided tour of the historic homes of Eureka, complete with a “This Old House” restoration workshop? Or how about strolling through the company towns of Samoa, Scotia, or Falk? Or would a day-long excursion to some of the area’s most famous landmarks, as well as Native American village sites, be just your cup of tea? Well, we’re working on just such unique opportunities to enliven your trip to the North Coast. In addition, local travel and tourism college students are creating specialized itineraries for conference goers driving to Eureka from the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento regions, with suggested stops at attractions that are chosen with an eye toward the interests of public historians.

The call for papers for the conference closed on April 15 (although, if you’ve got an idea for a session that we just shouldn’t pass up, please contact conference program chair Leslie Fryman at lfryman@jsanet.com), and we’ll be finalizing the program in May. We anticipate that registration materials for the conference will be mailed to CCPH members in June or July, and they will be available on our website as well (www.csus.edu/org/ccph). If you have questions about the conference (or maybe you’d like to help the conference committee), please contact conference committee chair Pam Conners at pconners@fs.fed.us. Watch the July issue of this newsletter for more tidbits to entice you to attend—although how much enticement do you need to spend what’s sure to be a lovely fall weekend in one of California’s most picturesque settings, sharing time with your public history colleagues and just generally having a great time? We hope to see you there!
Dr. Knox Mellon Retires as SHPO . . .

California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman announced the retirement of Dr. Knox Mellon, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), effective March 31, 2004, after a distinguished career with the California Office of Historic Preservation. Dr. Mellon served as SHPO from 1977 to 1984 and was appointed to the position a second time in November 2000 by Governor Gray Davis. The SHPO serves as chief administrative officer of the Office of Historic Preservation in Sacramento and as Executive Secretary of the State Historical Resources Commission. Dr. Mellon, a well-respected and long-time CCPH member, stated he plans to return to private consulting practice upon his retirement.

. . . and Wayne Donaldson is Sworn In

Milford “Wayne” Donaldson was sworn in as State Historic Preservation Officer on April 9, 2004. Donaldson served as president of Architect Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, since 1978, specializing in historic renovation and preservation and adaptive reuse of existing structures. He was previously an instructor of architecture at Southwestern Community College, from 1976 to 1984. Donaldson was also an associate architect for Moser Drew Watson, AIA, from 1972 to 1978, and an instructor in architecture at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, from 1969 to 1970. He is affiliated with several historical and preservation organizations including the Historic State Capitol Commission, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Building Standards Commission, and the State Historical Resources Commission. Donaldson holds a Bachelor of Science in architecture and a Bachelor of Science in engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. He received a master of science in architecture from University of Strathclyde, Scotland, and a master of arts in history from University of California, San Diego. Donaldson, 60, is a resident of San Diego.

New Chief for State Parks’ Cultural Resources Division

Walter Gray has chosen to return to the Department of Parks and Recreation after spending the past six years serving as the State Archivist and chief of the Golden State Museum (which, by the way, recently had its name changed to the California State History Museum). Gray now serves as the Chief of California State Parks’ Cultural Resources Division. Ending his hiatus at the State Archives, Gray will add to the 21 years he has already worked for State Parks in various capacities, most notably as the Director of the California State Railroad Museum. He brings to his new position a wealth of knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm for California’s cultural heritage and will surely be a strong advocate for the proper management of the many significant historical and cultural resources owned by State Parks.

Preserve America Grant Program To Include History Component from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

On January 15, 2004, Mrs. Laura Bush announced that a portion of the president’s proposed budget for FY 2005 will include $10 million in “Preserve America” grants to assist communities in preserving their cultural and natural resources. The grants will seek to assist states, Indian tribes, and communities that can demonstrate sustainable uses of their historic and cultural sites as well as foster economic and educational opportunities related to heritage tourism. “Preserve America” is a White House initiative designed in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Department of Commerce. Hill insiders report that the proposed $10 million earmarked for the initiative will not include any “new monies,” rather, the funds will be made available from existing programs. For additional information on the initiative, visit www.PreserveAmerica.gov.

As part of the “Preserve America” initiative announcement, Mrs. Bush discussed two related education efforts that will also be launched to enhance the teaching of history in classrooms. First, in partnership with the History Channel’s “Save Our History” program, the administration will support the creation of a history education manual that will provide teachers with lesson plans and ideas on how to get students involved with the preservation of historical sites in their communities. Second, in partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the administration will honor outstanding teachers of American history with a new “Preserve America History Teacher of the Year” award. State winners will receive $1,000 and a core archive of history materials for their school. The national winner will be selected from the group of state finalists. For more details on the Teacher of the Year program, visit www.gilderlehrman.org/awards.html.
New Web Site Tracks Proposition 40 Bond-Funded Projects

The Resources Agency, working through the Department of Parks and Recreation, has created a public web site through which all departments administering Proposition 40 funds will report their project award information. This web site has been designed so members of the public can easily obtain information in a single location about Proposition 40-funded projects in their community. The information can be accessed by city, county, or zip code, as well as through more refined searches, including the use of key words. For any questions regarding the information about projects or allocations administered by California State Parks' Office of Grants and Local Services, contact 916 653-7423 or localservices@parks.ca.gov. Technical questions about the web site should be directed to Edward Wiebe, DPR Proposition 40 IT Project Manager, at 916 651-7679 or ewiebe@parks.ca.gov. General questions or comments regarding the web site should be directed to Elaine Berghausen, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bonds and Grants, at 916 653-5656 or elaine@resources.ca.gov. To view the site, visit 4050bonds.resources.ca.gov.

L.A. Cultural Affairs Department Saved from Budget Ax

After news had leaked out that the City of Los Angeles' Cultural Affairs Department could be cut due to budget constraints, Mayor James K. Hahn decided in mid-March to preserve the agency and maintain its grants and educational programs. The announcement of the proposed cut mobilized arts and culture supporters, and it appears their voices were heard. Although the department is better known for its arts programs, it also manages or funds a number of cultural and historical programs. Los Angeles' Cultural Heritage Commission, which advises the City Council and Planning Commission about proposals for new city landmarks and about proposed projects involving designated properties, is a part of the department. The department also has some involvement with a number of historical monuments, such as Watts Towers and Frank Lloyd Wright's Hollyhock House. The department annually spends $11.8 million, barely a blip on the radar screen for a city with a $5 billion operating budget. Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa praised Hahn's decision and pointed out that the department already is the most underfunded of any big city in the nation. In making the decision to retain the agency, Hahn announced that the department will be "refocused," including a mandate to increase tourism to the city by promoting cultural attractions. The agency already does some work promoting tourism, but that role will now be made more active and significant. The trick will be to find the balance between bringing in the outside world to experience Los Angeles' cultural and historical heritage and nurturing the development of arts and educational programs at the neighborhood level.

California State Parks to Develop New California History Plan

The first update to California State Parks' California History Plan in almost 30 years is underway. Director Ruth Coleman initiated the planning process, calling for an analysis of cultural resource gaps that may exist in the State Park System. The California History Plan will address some statewide issues and guide the System's future acquisition and development programs. The Plan is being developed primarily by State Parks' Planning Division and Cultural Resource Division, which is now under the leadership of Walter Gray (see article on previous page). Staff from these two divisions are working closely with the department's Interpretation and Education and Field Services Divisions and also with the Office of Historic Preservation, State Parks' Southern Service Center, and the California State Railroad Museum. Expertise in interpretation, archaeology, history, and historic preservation is being brought to bear on the thorny issue of how to ensure that the richness of our State's written, oral, and material history is collected, preserved, and presented in a meaningful way to all Californians and visitors. A draft Conceptual Framework has been developed that transcends specific sites, dates, and cultural chronologies. Instead, it connects Californians in multiple, interwoven ways to their shared cultural heritage through overlapping themes, including Understanding Cultural Identity, Living in Communities, Governing, Supporting Society, Interacting with the Environment, Changing Economies, Recognizing Invention and Innovation, and Exploring Intellectual and Cultural Ideas. Feedback on the draft Conceptual Framework has been garnered through workshops with a group of academic historians (which included Dick Orsi, one of CCPH's longtime board members) and with other state and federal agencies (which included Pam Conners, another CCPH board member, who was representing the U.S. Forest Service). The completed California History Plan will direct the interpretation and management of current State Park resources and may also be valuable to national, state, and local cultural resource managers within California. The development of the plan will be inclusive, seeking the advice and expertise of a wide variety of cultural resource professionals and will take place over the next year. For questions about the plan, contact Walter Gray, Chief of California State Parks' Cultural Resources Division, at wgray@parks.ca.gov.

Spring 2004
State Librarian of California, Dr. Kevin Starr, Retires

Effective April 1, 2004, Dr. Kevin Starr retired as State Librarian of California after ten years of service at the California State Library. Commenting on his tenure at the library, Starr said, “For the past decade, it has been my honor and privilege to serve the people of California through librarianship. In the ten years that I've been State Librarian, I've tried to increase the visibility of the California State Library and the public libraries of California, as these institutions serve the people and the heritage of our great state.” Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has named Starr “State Librarian Emeritus,” saying in an official proclamation, “Your commitment to our state has earned you the respect and deep appreciation of your students, colleagues, and fellow Californians. Therefore, it is my distinct honor to bestow on you the title of State Librarian Emeritus.”

About his plans for the future, Starr says he will teach full-time at the University of Southern California's Department of History. Starr reports “three books under contract, one of which will complete my Americans and the California Dream series.”

There has been no word to date as to who might be named by Schwarzenegger as the next State Librarian.

New California State Archivist Now Being Sought

The Secretary of State's office is currently working to fill the position of Chief of the California State Archives and History Museum. Secretary of State Kevin Shelley is responsible for selecting a new chief for the State Archives and the recently renamed California State History Museum. The minimum qualifications for the position are “five years of increasingly responsible administrative experience in a major archival and museum program, with at least three of the five years in a supervisory or management capacity,” and “possession of the equivalent of a Master's Degree in Public or Museum Administration, History, Political Science, or a related field (additional qualifying experience can be substituted for the required education on a year-for-year basis).” It is CCPH's sincere belief that this very important position be filled by an individual who exceeds these minimum qualifications and that the required educational experience not be substituted for. CCPH has submitted a letter to Kevin Shelley stating this opinion. The examinations that allowed for candidates to get on a qualifying list closed in mid-April. Interviews should be scheduled within the next month or so, and the position most likely will be filled sometime in June or July. Look for an update in the July issue of this newsletter.

State Archives’ Oral History Program Loses All Funding

It’s a sad state of affairs when a society as rich and complex as ours chooses to turn its back on the collection of materials that will serve to tell its history for researchers both now and well into the future, but that’s what has come about in relation to the California State Archives’ Oral History Program. The program offers a unique opportunity to capture interviews with policy makers from throughout California just as they’re leaving office, when the memories are fresh but, at the same time, they are able to reflect on their service with some perspective. The program is managed by the State Archives, but the interviews are actually conducted and transcribed under contract with four universities that have established oral history programs—UC Los Angeles, CSU Sacramento, UC Berkeley, and CSU Fullerton. The three-year contracts now in place are due to expire at the end of June 2004, and, unfortunately, there is now no money to continue the program. In fiscal year 02/03, the Secretary of State’s office made the decision to redirect the program’s funding internally and used the money for other functions. In the 03/04 fiscal year the Secretary of State’s office then decided to “give back” the funding for the program when they were directed to cut General Fund expenses by the Department of Finance. And, because the Secretary of State’s office then chose not to even include the program in its funding request to the Department of Finance for the 04/05 fiscal year, the program now isn’t even on the table. It’s unknown whether the public history community in California can change this unfortunate situation, but action often does get results and, in this case, seems well worth the effort. With this in mind, CCPH will be contacting the governor’s office and legislative leadership (it appears appeals to the Secretary of State’s office will be futile) to advocate for continued funding for the program, even if at lower levels. For more information on the program, visit www.ss.ca.gov/archives/level3_ohguide2.html.

Census of the Archival Profession in Progress

A comprehensive survey of the archival profession was recently mailed to U.S. archivists. Be on the lookout so that you are counted in this unprecedented effort to gather baseline data about the archival profession. The goal of A*CENSUS (Archival Census and Education Needs Survey in the U.S.) is to define the universe of archivists currently in the workforce, determine the knowledge and skills they need to do their jobs now and in the future, and provide graduate and continuing education programs with data to support recruitment and training of new archivists. The census mailing list consists primarily of membership lists gathered from U.S. archival associations. If you have not yet received the census survey and would like to participate, contact the census project manager at acensus@archivists.org. A comprehensive final report will be developed later in the year, and the data gathered will be shared broadly with participating organizations and interested individuals in the Spring of 2005. For more information, contact acensus@archivists.org or visit www.archivists.org.
New Bill Seeks to Make Public Restricted State Archives Records

Assembly Member John Laird (D-27th) is carrying a bill (AB 2719) sponsored by the Secretary of State that would establish a maximum period of restriction for records held by the California State Archives. There is presently no time limit or expiration on restrictions to public access for many records held by the State Archives. As a result, these records remain restricted forever. Historical researchers, genealogists, health and epidemiological researchers, and others are regularly thwarted in their attempts to gain access to records of importance to their research inquiries, even when the records they wish to use are 100 or more years old. While it is reasonable and appropriate to restrict some types of records for a limited period of time, there appears to be no compelling public interest served by restricting these records forever. This bill would provide that any item in the custody of the State Archives, irrespective of its origin or the manner in which it was deposited with the State Archives, and notwithstanding any condition or circumstance at the time the item was deposited with the State Archives, shall be accessible to the public no later than 75 years after the item was created. It is important for the bill’s author and other members of both houses of the legislature to hear what the public thinks about this subject, and to get a sense of the extent to which people support or oppose the measure under consideration. CCPH has taken a position in support of this legislation, which unanimously passed out of the Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization on April 12 and has been referred to the Committee on Appropriations, with recommendation that it be placed on their consent calendar.

State Parks Bill Opposed by CCPH Dies in Committee

SB 235, discussed at some length in two of last year’s issues of this newsletter, died without ever making it out of the Senate’s Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee. CCPH had opposed this bill due to its intent to allow for very non-traditional uses of state parks located in what it defined as urban areas—areas that, based on the language in the bill, could have encompassed huge portions of California. These non-traditional uses, such as basketball, soccer, and baseball, could have seriously undermined the management and interpretation of historical and natural resources throughout the state park system because the bill contained no provisions for additional funding to California State Parks.

Two Funding Bills Die in State Legislature

Two bills that CCPH had been following died in the legislature without a vote. SB 987, which was discussed in past issues of this newsletter, sought to provide an unspecified amount of funding to the California Missions Foundation for the purpose of funding restoration and repair projects. CCPH opposed this bill because it would have utilized Proposition 40 bond funding that might otherwise be distributed through competitive grants and because it would have earmarked a potentially large amount of money for just one type of religious property (the majority of the missions are still owned by the Catholic Church) without consideration of the restoration needs of other types of religious properties. AB 1170, which was discussed in the Fall 2003 issue of this newsletter, also sought to appropriate funding from the Proposition 40 bond funds for a specific project, in this case to the City of Martinez to create a John Muir Festival Center. CCPH did not take a position on this bill. Both bills died on February 2 without ever making it out of their respective houses’ Appropriations Committees.

Bill to Create New Commission on African-American History

AB 59, which was introduced in late 2002 by Assembly Member Mervyn Dymally (D-52nd), seeks to create a new entity called the California Commission for the Preservation of African-American History, Culture, and Institutions. The commission would be housed in the California African-American Museum in Los Angeles and would consist of 11 members, serving without compensation, who would be appointed by the governor (seven members), speaker of the Assembly (two members), and Senate Rules Committee (two members). The commission would be responsible for conducting public hearings to “identify the contributions of African-Americans to California history and culture.” The bill language also requires the commission to “chronicle the activities of African-Americans who have made significant contributions to the history and culture of California in all fields of endeavor,” and to “identify institutions and places of significance in the contributions of African-Americans to the history and culture of California and provide for the placement of an appropriate marker at these sites.” The bill, which has a number of co-authors in both the Assembly and the Senate, passed out of the Assembly unanimously in June 2003, but has been stalled in the Senate Appropriations Committee since August. At their February meeting the CCPH board voted to support this legislation.
Bush Budget Proposal May Be In Serious Trouble
from the National Coalition for History's Washington Update

In mid-February the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) issued the first authoritative broad-brush look at President Bush's $2.4 trillion federal government FY 2005 budget proposal. According to the CBO estimate, if enacted, the Bush budget would produce deficits far in excess to the numbers projected by the administration. The CBO estimates that the deficit would run about $2.75 trillion over the next decade—some $737 billion more than the White House had projected when its plan was presented to Congress. Included in the CBO projection is a deficit of $478 billion this fiscal year and a $356 billion deficit in FY 2005.

As a sign of what federal agencies may confront this year, even before the CBO projection was released, House legislative-branch appropriators unexpectedly canceled four budget hearings (including those for the Architect of the Capitol and the Library of Congress), claiming the requests of congressional agencies submitted to the appropriations subcommittee for consideration were “outrageously high.” The subcommittee ordered each legislative branch agency to reduce its budget request. Reportedly, some agencies were requesting upwards of a 40 percent increase. In directing the agencies to bring new proposals forward, appropriators called to the agencies’ attention that the president’s budget calls for a less than 1 percent increase in non-defense spending. The appropriators’ request does not bode well for such agencies as the Library of Congress, that initially asked Congress for a 7.4 percent increase.

Hill insiders report that Republican legislators who are confronting ever-widening deficit forecasts, are very worried about the long-term budgetary ramifications if the president’s proposed tax cuts are implemented. They are particularly cognizant of the possible effects on voters in the upcoming November elections. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan’s recent statement that Congress should begin cutting Social Security benefits also has elevated concerns, especially by vulnerable Republicans who face Democratic challenges in key contested races. Though they are not likely to overtly rebuff the President, key Republican Congressional leaders have already abandoned the president’s FY 2004 budget proposal and are prepared to cut agency budgets and slash the projected deficit, consistent, of course, with decisions deemed “prudent” for an election year. The possible net impact for history and archives finding—the programs of greatest interest to our communities may not fare as well as they have in the recent past.

NPS Historians’ Jobs Probably Secure—Not Subject To Outsourcing
from the National Coalition for History's Washington Update

Some 200 federal historians employed by the National Park Service (NPS) appear to have won a modest victory in the Bush administration’s ongoing effort to “outsource” federal jobs. An NPS advisory group has accepted a recommended classification revision that groups all job-series 170 historians as “core to mission.” If the recommendation is approved by the NPS Director and also passes muster with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), historians, like park rangers and some of their cultural resource-related colleagues (archivists, for example), would not be forced to compete with private sector contract employees in order to keep their jobs.

Prior to the reclassification, only a handful of historians with supervisory duties and a few others with unique job responsibilities were deemed exempt from A-76 assessment review. Although historians are now deemed “core to mission,” some may still find their positions included in what the bureau terms “pre-assessments”—internal, area-specific personnel review studies designed to maximize efficiency of human resources. As a result of those studies, some historians could find their workloads reduced, expanded, or shifted to other operational units and areas. The bottom line, though, is that it will not be possible for Bush administration officials to replace NPS historians with private sector contractors on a wholesale basis as some would have liked.

Contracting for historical services from private sector sources has been an important function of many NPS history professionals’ regular job duties for years. Park administrative histories, historic resource studies, and other special history-based assessments often have been prepared by a host of highly competent contractors under the supervision of NPS regional and park historians. These activities are expected to continue, if not increase, in coming years. Critics of the NPS’ A-76 outsourcing initiative had feared, however, that to save money some NPS superintendents and central office managers would like to see far more cultural resource work performed by outside contractors and would use the government’s outsourcing initiative to accomplish this task.

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
The California Cultural and Historical Endowment board has named Diane Matsuda as the Executive Officer of the Endowment. As Executive Officer, Matsuda will work with the board, the Governor, the Secretary of Resources, the State Librarian, and the Legislature in overseeing the $122 million program that is funded by Proposition 40 bond monies. Matsuda will advise the board in developing and implementing the Endowment as an entity in state government, and she will develop other funding sources for programs that support living cultural heritage projects in communities throughout California, which generally cannot be funded by bond monies. Matsuda says the California Cultural and Historical Endowment marks “the beginning of a new era.” The Endowment will, according to Matsuda, “highlight the life and experience of communities and neighborhoods whose faces, stories, and important contributions to California have not been recognized by the larger community.”

Since 1999, Matsuda has been Director of the California State Library’s California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP), a grant program whose focus is the infringement of Japanese Americans’ civil liberties during World War II. Matsuda has developed policies and procedures that have distributed CCLPEP’s grant funds to Californians of diverse educational, socio-economic, and ethnic backgrounds. She has also successfully aided in the development of legislation (SB 307) to preserve California’s last three remaining Japan towns and has helped Japan town communities effectively utilize and implement monies secured by Proposition 40 funding. A native San Franciscan, Diane Matsuda earned her J.D. from Hastings College of the Law in 1989. Before joining the California State Library as CCLEP Program Manager, Matsuda was International Coordinator for the California International Relations Foundation in Sacramento and Staff Attorney for Nihonmachi Legal Outreach in San Francisco.

Matsuda’s experience in historic preservation through her work with Japan towns in California is a welcome addition to the Endowment, whose board members are almost exclusively associated with the arts community. The three members appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger are James Swinden of Laguna Beach, vice-president of the Irvine Museum, which specializes in California impressionist paintings; Suzanne Deal Booth of Los Angeles, who has been associated with the Rice University Art Gallery and the Getty Conservation Institute and is currently on the board of directors of the Los Angeles Conservancy; and Robert V. “Bobby” McDonald of Anaheim Hills, whose background was unable to be researched. The two members appointed by the Assembly are Georgette Imura of Sacramento, who was president of the Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project and served as chair of Asian Pacific Islanders for Responsible Media and Speech; and Cynthia Campoyo-Brophy of Los Angeles, who is founder and executive director of The HeArt Project, which works with youth in Los Angeles, and who was public relations manager for the Museum of Contemporary Art.

The Endowment board also includes the State Librarian, who serves as its chair (and who could very well not be a historian, due to Dr. Kevin Starr’s retirement from that position—see article on page 6); the Secretary of the Resources Agency, who is being represented by Walter Gray, chief of California State Parks’ Cultural Resources Division; and the director of the Department of Finance, who is being represented by Bob Campbell. Two members of the Senate and two members of the Assembly also participate in the Endowment’s activities—at this time those are Senators John Burton and Richard Alarcon and Assembly Members Marco Firebaugh and Jerome Horton.

The Endowment next will begin the process of filling its ten staff positions. Their work will mostly likely begin with initial information being provided to the public about what the grant funds the Endowment will be distributing can and cannot be used for (there appears to be some confusion about the limitations placed on the types of projects that can be funded with these bond funds—most specifically that they must be used for capital projects and must have a 50% match). Over the next few months, the Endowment will also be holding a series of public meetings as it seeks to put in place guidelines for how it will administer its grant program (the Endowment was exempted from having to go through the formal rulemaking process to create regulations for its grants by legislation in both the Proposition 40 bill and in the bill that created the Endowment). As of yet, the issue of moving the Office of Historic Preservation to the State Library has not been addressed and would still require the passage of additional legislation in order to take place.

Much remains to be seen in terms of the future work of the Endowment. With the large number of legislators that will term out at the end of this year, we may see a change in the makeup of the Endowment board in relation to the appointments made by the Assembly and the Senate. The individual members of the Assembly and Senate assigned to work with the Endowment will also see some change. Additionally, with the recommendations of the California Performance Review team still forthcoming, major changes to the structure of all State agencies may very well be in the works, and that could affect the Endowment and its placement within the bureaucratic structure of the State. For more information on the Endowment, keep an eye on its web site at www.library.ca.gov/CCHE/index.cfm, and watch future issues of this newsletter for further news.
From Private to Public Library

The year was 1878. Eureka, founded nearly three decades earlier, was a bustling seaport, yet no longer a Gold Rush supply base. Its 5,000 pioneering citizens worked hard at dairy and timber industries in this uniquely isolated rural community. There were five churches, ten public and three private schools, and at least fifteen fraternal societies—but as yet, no library.

In February, Methodist Episcopal pastor, Rev. Dr. Haswell, called a meeting to establish a private library and reading room. The fifty people who attended were encouraged to join members of Dr. Haswell’s congregation who were pledging their support of $1 each per month. They adopted a constitution for the Eureka Library Association, which was to be located in the Jones Building at Third and F Streets. In May, this became the Eureka Free Public Library as a result of changes in the state tax law enabling municipalities to tax for such public amenities. Because this group was organized and already in existence, the Eureka Free Public Library became the first public library in the State of California. The library had 541 books on the shelves, and in eleven months there were over 4,500 borrowings, 3,200 of which were novels. Eureka had citizens hungry for the diversions of reading!

Industrial Age Philanthropy Lends a Hand

By the turn of the century, Eureka had grown to 7,500 self-reliant citizens who lived in this scenic seaport. In 1901, the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce asked steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, who was making his fortune available to communities across the country for libraries, to assist in improving the library facilities. In reply, Mr. Carnegie’s secretary wrote from Scotland that if Eureka could provide a suitable site and pledge $2,000 a year in support of the library, Mr. Carnegie would give $20,000 to erect a Free Public Library Building. In addition to Carnegie’s donation, the citizens of Eureka raised $8,125 towards construction costs.

The craftsmen and the materials for this beautiful 10,000-square-foot classical revival style building were all local. The magnificent redwood pillars surrounding the atrium are rumored to be cut from one or two redwoods. The gallery floors are each of different woods because many materials were donations from local mills. The semi-circular rotunda is a particularly challenging construction form that demonstrates the skill of the Carnegie Building’s craftsmen.

In 1904, the Carnegie Free Library was opened at Seventh and F Streets in Eureka. Its Greek pediment columns, mosaic tile flooring and high ceilings in the rotunda and atrium add to the elegance of form and peaceful space Eureka used as a library from 1904 until 1972. In 1986 the building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Community Growth Fuels Changes

With the growth of the community, the library grew as well. As the Eureka City Library merged into the Humboldt County Library system in 1972, the book collection in the Carnegie was moved to a new location. The building
Eureka’s Carnegie Free Library Building Celebrates 100 Years of Community Spirit
(continued from previous page)

then housed the Humboldt Historical Society offices and the library administrative offices until 1995, when even those offices outgrew the space. It was at that time that some visionary members of the Humboldt Arts Council had a dream to create a regional art center and museum where all the arts in this exceptionally creative community could flourish. The Carnegie, then slated for the wrecker’s ball, seemed an ideal location, full of meaning through long use by the community and an idealistic symbol of beauty in which to house new treasures. With perhaps more enthusiasm and energy than concept of the magnitude of their undertaking, enterprising board members rallied the community to create the Carnegie Capital Campaign Committee. Led by Sally Arnot, Floyd Bettiga, and Robert Yarber, the Committee was dedicated to raising enough money to retrofit the building and create new spaces for visual art galleries, a performing art venue, and classrooms for youth art programs.

Vision and Collaboration Pay Off for the Community

In four years of collaborative effort with individuals and businesses, the Carnegie Capital Campaign Committee raised over $1.5 million to renovate the building. For over a year the meticulous and detailed restoration continued along with the fundraising efforts. In January 2000, the doors of the newly named Morris Graves Museum of Art proudly opened to a community that had rallied a second time to ensure an investment in its cultural future.

Located on Seventh Street, in the heart of the Cultural Arts Resource District of Eureka Main Street’s Business Improvement District, the Morris Graves Museum of Art has helped spearhead the revitalization of the historic F Street Corridor. The museum has become an important component of building the image of the North Coast as a cultural destination for tourists. It also contributes to ensuring the North Coast remains a desirable place to live—a gathering spot for community events and an important symbol of what the community can do for itself.

Today, the Morris Graves Museum of Art, a program of the Humboldt Arts Council, brings over twenty-five exhibits annually to the community, which feature hundreds of local and national artists. There are live performances of music, spoken word, and dance programs presented throughout the year and one free event per month at the community’s First Saturday Arts Alive! art walk. The museum’s permanent collection, valued at over a million dollars, is housed here in a state-of-the-art collection room. Six galleries are temperature-controlled for preservation and conservation of the artwork. The former parking lot is now a wonderful Sculpture Garden. Art classes for youngsters are held in the downstairs Youth Classroom. Thousands of residents and visitors come to the museum monthly to enjoy the changing exhibits and to celebrate their own creative and determined community spirit. If you’re going to be in the area, please plan to join us on Saturday, October 2, 2004, for the Carnegie Centennial Celebration—a festive party with music, birthday cake, and marching bands to celebrate this beautiful historic building in the heart of Eureka.
SAA Develops Museum Archives Resources from the American Association for State and Local History’s Dispatch

The Society of American Archivists is pleased to make members of the museum archives community aware of two important developments.

At the 2003 meeting of SAA in Los Angeles, their council approved the “Museum Archives Guidelines.” This document serves to guide museum archival programs, both large and small. The document offers useful advice in the establishment, development, and maintenance of repositories of records that allow a museum to run, make it useful to researchers and visitors, and preserve the history of the institution and its resources. Thorough, yet concise, this document provides fundamental procedural guidance necessary to professional archivists working within a museum setting. The guidelines are available online at www.archivists.org/governance/guidelines/museum_guidelines.asp.

A great deal more exhaustive is the forthcoming publication, Museum Archives: An Introduction (2nd edition), edited by Deborah Wythe (Society of American Archivists, Spring 2004). Experienced archivists working in a museum for the first time, museum staff members given responsibility for archival collections, librarians seeking to establish a museum archives program, registrars, and image managers will all find relevant information in this volume. Planned and written by a team of experienced museum archivists from SAA’s Museum Archives Section, it provides a detailed discussion of museum records and record keeping, and addresses the archival fundamentals with clear explanations of theory and “how to,” always keeping in mind the museum context. Examples and case studies are provided throughout the volume, along with images drawn from museum archives collections. An extensive “Resource Guide” provides access to published and web-based bibliographic resources, as well as contact lists for professional organizations, sources for continuing education, information about funding sources, a list of vendors, and sample policies, procedures, and forms. For more information, visit www.archivists.org.

On October 30, 2003, the American Association of Museums (AAM) brought together representatives of eighteen museum service organizations and funding agencies to discuss the needs of small museums. Representatives identified a variety of needs including the creation of an on-line clearinghouse to help small museums find products, services, funding, and professional education. Representatives also suggested the need to advocate better on behalf of the needs of small museums to foundations and governmental funding agencies. To support these types of activities, the coalition plans to apply for funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

New Coalition to Address Needs of Small Museums from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

The Gustine Museum is the type of facility that could benefit from a new coalition seeking to serve the needs of small museums.

New Bill Seeks to Create Specialized License Plate for Fans of Museums

SB 1133, introduced in mid-January by Senator Wesley Chesbro (D-2nd), seeks to authorize a new special interest license plate, this one about museums. The bill language calls for the plate to feature the image of Snoopy, the logo of the Charles M. Schulz Museum, and the words “Visit a Museum Today!” Funds from the sales of the license plate will be made available to the California Association of Museums “for the purpose of assisting California’s museums in the enhancement of their public services.” At their February meeting, the CCPH board voted to support this legislation. As of this writing the legislation is awaiting assignment to a specific Assembly committee. However, the bill may be moot due to a recent federal court ruling that found the Legislature does not have the unrestrained right to determine which organizations can benefit from legislation authorizing special interest license plates. But, in yet another twist, AB 477, which has passed out of the Assembly and is now being considered by the Senate, is a bill that would establish a neutral-standards process for the special interest plates by authorizing the Department of Motor Vehicles to administer the program and take the Legislature out of the decision-making process. Under the provisions of AB 477, applicants for a special interest plate would be required to have 7,500 drivers committed to buying a plate as part of the process.

The Gustine Museum is the type of facility that could benefit from a new coalition seeking to serve the needs of small museums.
Historian Daniel Boorstin Dies at 89
from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

On February 28, 2004, the prize-winning and best-selling author/historian, past director of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of History and Technology, and one-time Librarian of Congress died of pneumonia in Washington, D.C. He was 89.

In a writing career that spanned 50 years, Boorstin wrote two-dozen books including a 1974 Pulitzer Prize winner, The Democratic Experience—the third volume of his trilogy “The Americans.”

Boorstin was born in Atlanta and attended Harvard University and Oxford University’s Balliol College as a Rhodes scholar. He received his doctorate from Yale University Law School. For a period in the 1930s, Boorstin was a member of the American Communist Party. His “youthful folly” got him in trouble with the House Un-American Activities Committee; in 1953 he gave HUAC the names of fellow party members. In 1969 Boorstin left the University of Chicago (where he had taught for 25 years) and came to Washington to take the helm of the Smithsonian’s history and technology museum. In 1975 he became Librarian of Congress where he served until his retirement in 1987.

Boorstin left his mark on the Library in his effort to make it “a serious but not always solemn place.” During his term as Librarian, he established the Center for the Book to encourage reading and literacy. In addition, he spearheaded what became a 10-year project to completely renovate the Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library, restoring the Library’s main building to its 1897 majesty. Boorstin was also a long-time member of several professional history organizations and a founding donor of the National History Center.

Archives Groups Issue “Statement” about eBay
from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

Over the last couple of years, more and more stolen and illegally obtained historic artifacts and manuscripts have shown up on various Internet auction sites. One of the largest and most popular of these sites is eBay.com. Here one can find historic objects for sale ranging from Bill Clinton’s boyhood home to presidential autographs, manuscript material, and even booty from sunken Spanish galleons. Just last week, eBay officials discovered that a chunk of the Statue of Liberty was up for sale on their site. Apparently the seller’s father had swiped a piece of Lady Liberty when he was working as part of the team contracted by the National Park Service (NPS) to give the monument a facelift in 1986. Officials at eBay quickly took the sale and notified the NPS; the seller agreed to return the artifact to the NPS.

Manuscript material and public records, some of which are stolen from state archives, are also increasingly showing up on eBay. In the last two years documents believed to have been stolen from state archives in Rhode Island, Maine, Delaware, and Tennessee have been spotted. The growing magnitude of the problem led the governing bodies of the Society of American Archivists (SAA), the Council of State Historical Records Coordinators (COSHRC), and the National Association of Government Archivists and Records Administrators (NAGARA) to try to do something about it. A joint ad-hoc committee met in January 2003. It was agreed there was a need to communicate with eBay regarding the sale of historical public records. The results of their work—a “Statement Regarding the Sale of Historical Public Records on E-Bay”—has now been posted at www.coshrc.org/issues/publ-rec-auctions.htm. The statement declares that historical records of government agencies “should remain where they are available for public inspection,” and that their disappearance into private hands deprives the public of access to important details concerning our collective history. “To protect the integrity of the public record” the groups “respectfully request eBay’s assistance in alerting its users to the ramifications of the sale of historical public records.”

To meet this goal, the three organizations suggest that eBay alert users to the ramifications of the sale of illegally obtained historical public records and direct customers to a site (still yet to be developed) that would help train people in how to distinguish between the kinds of records that can and should not be sold. The site would also provide eBay users with access to expert advice to answer questions relating to questionable documents. It would also offer direct links to relevant National Archives and Records Administration sites, including those that excerpt relevant federal and state legislation relating to the illegal possession of our nation’s documentary heritage. The drafters of the statement report that eBay has been cooperative when stolen historical records have come to their attention. There is every reason to believe that the statement will continue to advance that cooperative relationship.
Reviews


In her historical overview in Art/Women/California: Parallels and Intersections, 1950-2000, Whitney Chadwick asks, “If California’s social and political history and its art history are categories that demand rethinking, so also does the category ‘women artists’—for how is it possible to generalize about the experience of women who have, in many cases, located their social, political, and cultural identity in a recognition of difference?” (p. 20) This comprehensive survey of post-World War II women artists, the companion book to an exhibit at San Jose State University, does not try to make such generalizations. In both structure and content, editors Diana Burgess Fuller and Daniela Salvioni, along with twenty distinguished contributors, have respected the diversity of social and cultural backgrounds as well as artistic practices that have characterized the women who converge for the first time in the pages of this book. While at times an agonizingly theory-laden reflection of the embittered and alienated postmodern self and frustratingly apt to take place—California—for granted, this volume will be of great use to the public historian.

The book is divided into five sections. Whitney Chadwick and Angela Davis, respectively, paint with broad brush strokes the historical and political landscape on which the subsequent essays build their analyses. “Parallels,” the second section, includes five essays that examine the specific history and significance of women artists from each of the five major ethnic groups that make up the California population: Caucasian, African American, American Indian, Asian American, and Chicana. The third section, “Ley Lines,” grapples with differences and unresolved issues that have characterized the California women’s art scene throughout the second half of the 20th century, issues ranging from feminist politics and theory to the particular difficulties African American women have faced in gaining public recognition. Seven snapshots about specific themes and practices artists have employed to expand the boundaries of artistic expression follow. Land, photography, film, video, and technology are all subjects of inquiry in this fourth section of the book. Alлуquere Rosanne Stone closes the survey by looking to the future of the socially and politically constructed—and therefore infinitely mutable—category of “women,” or “womyn,” as she puts it. Scattered throughout these essays and interviews is an impressive collection of photos, illustrations, and reproductions of artwork California women have created over the last fifty years.

As comprehensive as this survey purports itself to be, a few notable gaps detract from the overall quality of its contents. Apart from several references to Judy Chicago and the women’s studio she founded at California State University, Fresno, the loci of this book are really San Francisco and Los Angeles. More frustrating is the tendency of the contributors to take place for granted; though given equal billing with art and women in the title of the survey, the state of California—its politics, cities, people, topography, or geography—barely registers in the analysis. Perhaps most misleading is the book’s claim to present art that spans the entire second half of the twentieth century. Yes, many of the artists surveyed continue to practice, and yes, the book includes artwork from all five decades, but the politics of the artists surveyed were almost invariably shaped by the tumultuous decades of the 1960s and 1970s. Have no artists worthy of scholarly critique been born since 1965?

Despite these weaknesses, Art/Women/California will be of significant use to public historians. The one theme that binds all of the artists and essays presented in this volume is the link between art and politics. Be it Chicana muralist, Judith Baca, and the hundreds of disadvantaged or troubled youth she coordinated to paint The Great Wall of Los Angeles, the architects of Womanhouse in Los Angeles, or any number of filmmakers and photographers, these women have all appealed to the general public to participate in their work, thereby uniting artistic expression with politics and efforts toward social change.

Karen McNeill is a Bancroft Fellow and Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of History at the University of California, Berkeley.


If author David Valley is not on the payroll of the California Nations Indian Gaming Association, he certainly ought to be. Despite his assurance that “This book is not intended to promote gambling” (p. xi), Jackpot Trail is really just a 173-page advertisement for the powerful casino tribes of San Diego, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. That would not be a problem had Valley stuck to his original purpose, which was simply to provide “a comprehensive and factual guidebook” for tourists and recreational gamblers. However, under the influence of publisher Diana Lindsay, “the initial concept for the book . . . was expanded to give historic information about the tribes engaged in gaming and to describe the events which led up to the establishment of casinos” (p. ix). As a result, Valley’s opening 30-page “history” of the Chumash, Kumeyaay, Cupeno, Serrano, Cahuilla, Luiseno, Chemehuevi, and Quechan Indians is superficial in the extreme. So too are the subsequent one-page “histories” that accompany each of the otherwise detailed descriptions of the twenty-two casinos that now line the “Jackpot Trail.” Indeed, Valley’s histories are shallow to the point of pointlessness if, as Lindsay puts it, his purpose is to “both educate and enrich the reader’s experience beyond the neon and glitz of the casino environment” (p. viii). Unfortunately, the real goal of history here seems to be political, not educational. Valley’s slender “histories” offer little more than repetitious assertions of the well known fact that California Indians suffered terribly under Spanish, Mexican, and American rule. Like so many who shill for the casino tribes, Valley exploits this tragic history in order to portray Native Americans as victims, and thereby enlist public support for Indian gaming. The unstated

It certainly is a difficult task to take a well-known name or idea and attempt to alter the prevailing image it conjures up. The now-residentless Gold-Rush-era town of Bodie, California is no exception. For those who are even vaguely familiar with this particular state park, the name Bodie brings to mind possibly the most perfect example of a rambunctious, danger-ridden town in the Old West. Marguerite Sprague has taken it upon herself to tackle this image of Bodie in her recent book Bodie’s Gold: Tall Tales and True History From a California Ghost Town. A tricky accomplishment? Certainly. But Sprague’s effort can be called no less than that: a difficult but well-earned accomplishment.

Bodie’s Gold, full of picturesque photographs and engaging interviews with former Bodie citizens, manages quite gradually to burst the bubble/stereotype of what Bodie was, turning it into a thriving, breathing town with more than just gold mines and gunfights. The author’s choice to focus not on bland facts but rather on the actual people who lived in Bodie makes all the difference. Sprague utilizes the personal anecdotes of the “Bodieites”—in relation to childhood life, mining work, and impressions of other townspeople—to paint a more in-depth, reader-accessible picture of this wild frontier town.

Sprague’s writing style is patient and easy-going, and she seems to address the reader in conversation rather than dictate what should be gleaned from the book. It is clear Sprague is not so much presenting historical facts as she is telling a story that is important to her. She punctuates her monologue with welcome snippets of humor. One particular quote concerning the federal census in California—“Census takers, who had fewer job prerequisites than a mannequin”—has a definite joking smirk behind it.

Keeping Sprague’s conversational writing style in mind, however, at times the writing seems haphazard; facts and paragraphs do not transition well or do not lend themselves easily to inter-connection within the text. At these points, it almost seems as if Sprague is speeding along, having forgotten the reader in her excitement to put down all of her thoughts. Certainly the author does not forget her reader for long, however, at times the writing seems haphazard; facts and paragraphs do not transition well or do not lend themselves easily to inter-connection within the text. At these points, it almost seems as if Sprague is speeding along, having forgotten the reader in her excitement to put down all of her thoughts. Certainly the author does not forget her reader for long, swinging back quickly to regale us with another enthralling tidbit of information. However, there is sometimes the sense that the reader is expected to be walking through Bodie while reading, with the book acting as a tour guide.

Sprague sticks to her guns, making the people her top priority, and the reader is easily pulled into the world of Bodie, with its many facets and, well, normalcy. The anecdotes and family stories of the members of Bodie society are usually very well-placed and effective in conveying what it meant to be a Bodie citizen, and the stories serve to expand upon the facts Sprague gives, offering a nice contrast to the mundane historical statistical information. Sprague’s additional use of appendices to augment these stories offers the reader the chance to bulk up on information about various subjects such as Bodie’s mining practices, the Kuzedika Indians, and the geology of the area.

Sprague’s final section, a discussion on what Bodie has now become, deftly toes the very line that separates the tourists from the Bodieites. The reader is invited to see Bodie from both points of view, and ends up witnessing the hybridization of a town and a tourist spot. A place people still consider to be their home slowly becomes the hunting ground of thrill-seekers, and not without a lot of sadness and confusion. Sprague effectively saves the best for last: that Bodie the ghost town is in fact a forced ghost town, with living people still attempting to make their way back to their familial homes.

Sprague does not necessarily set out to completely demolish the view of Bodie as a town full of death and lawlessness, of abandonment and neglect. Instead she attempts to change it, to deepen it, to add life, personality, and the inescapable presence of living, breathing people with their own stories and perceptions. She allows us to see Bodie from the inside out; the town becomes a close-knit, integrated community full of human beings, not statistics. The reader is left with a clear view of what this town was, and what it meant, to those who lived there and to those who simply passed through.

Grete Brewer-Bakken is a student majoring in Literature/Creative Writing at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Valley’s disinterest in genuine history is glaringly exposed by his near total neglect of the rich and extensive scholarly literature devoted to the Southern California tribes. The essential works of Florence Shipek, Katharine Luomala, and Robert Heizer are each cited but once! Missing completely are numerous other books, articles, and dissertations that merit consideration, including those written by Jack Forbes, James Sandos, Lowell Bean, Emily Rader, Steven Karr, Joel Hyer, Richard Carrico, Valerie Sherer Mathes, and George Harwood Phillips. Combined with his overt political bias, Valley’s woefully inadequate research results in a steady succession of omissions, distortions, and half-truths, all designed to make the modern casino era look like the Golden Age of California Indian history. That over half of California’s 107 tribes remain mired in poverty is just one of many troubling facts that Valley’s readers will never learn. In his gushing enthusiasm for gambling, Valley never gets off the Jackpot Trail long enough to visit any of the numerous and unfortunate “have not” tribes that cannot, for various reasons, take advantage of the Indian gaming bonanza. Instead, they must remain content with the few revenue-sharing crumbs that Governor Gray Davis managed to pry loose from the super-rich casino bands, who rake in anywhere from four to six billion dollars each year.

But why be a wet blanket and worry about the poor when there is so much fun to be had on the booming reservations of the new casino elite? And why fret over Valley’s sloppy scholarship? While this book will obviously disappoint serious and somber readers, the more light-hearted and fun-loving will positively thrill to Valley’s wide-eyed and gleeful descriptions of progressive slot payoffs and all-you-can-eat buffets. Indeed, for those on the hunt for loose slots, “top name entertainment,” and “$5 Lobster Wednesdays,” Jackpot Trail must, in all fairness, be rated “essential reading.”

Michael Magliari is an associate professor of history at California State University, Chico.
Bulletin Board

Web Site of Interest
bancroft.berkeley.edu/info/audiolectures.html

The Bancroft Library is pleased to present a series of seven lectures of California history, first recorded before a live audience in its Edward H. Heller Reading Room on the University of California, Berkeley, campus and broadcast on KQED FM. These one-hour lectures include a 10-minute question-and-answer period with the audience, moderated by Dr. Charles Faulhaber, Director of The Bancroft Library. In announcing the broadcasts on KQED FM, Ms. Jo Anne Wallace, Vice President and General Manager of KQED Public Radio, stated, “We are delighted to be joining with an esteemed institution like The Bancroft Library to demonstrate that history can be exciting. We believe our KQED listeners will find these talks both extremely interesting and highly educational.” Dr. Faulhaber added, “We hope the programs will stimulate interest in and support of The Bancroft Library, which contains indispensable resources for understanding the history of California and western North America. These programs will help us develop the public’s understanding of the depth of resources at the Bancroft. We hope this will be the first in a long series of interesting and informative Bancroft programs with KQED Public Radio.”

The lectures that can be listened to include:
- The California Mission as Symbol and Myth, by James J. Rawls
- Like America Only More So: The Origins and Power of California’s Image, by J.S. Holliday
- Heaven on the Half-shell: Mark Twain in California, by Robert Hirst
- California’s Greatest Thirst: A Glance at the Contentious History of California’s Water, by James J. Rawls
- An Entrepreneurial Genius: Henry J. Kaiser, by J.S. Holliday
- Kick out the Southern Pacific, by James J. Rawls

“History Detectives” Seeking Mysteries to Solve

The new national PBS series “History Detectives” seeks story suggestions from around the country. Ideal stories focus on physical objects—buildings, homes, artifacts, industrial relics—that have a connection to important American history and have a question, curiosity, or mystery surrounding them. In the show, the hosts then investigate the items while discussing the relevant event or historical period. If you have or know someone who has some such item or can suggest other avenues for inquiry, please contact Ross Tuttle at rosst@liontv.org. For more information about the show, visit www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/.

NPS Invites Review of New History Web Site

Over the past several years, the Park History Division of the National Park Service has been building a web site devoted to the history of the National Park Service as a federal agency and of the 388 parks that constitute the National Park System. While they have received advice from many quarters during its construction and understand anecdotally that many people use it in their public history classes, the site has been never submitted to a comprehensive review by its users. The National Park Service believes that it is now time to hold that review and would greatly appreciate hearing from public historians regarding the content and design and navigability of the NPS history web site, which can be found at www.cr.nps.gov/history. Any and all comments will be greatly appreciated. Please send your thoughts to harry_butowsky@nps.gov.

Advertising

California History Action accepts advertising for heritage-related services and products. (Bulletin Board items are listed free of charge, but may be edited for length.) Contact the CHA editor for a copy of our new Advertising Policy.
Conferences and Other Educational Opportunities

The Western Association of Women Historians will hold its annual conference May 21-23, 2004, at the University of California at Santa Barbara. For more information about the conference or the call for papers, visit www.wawah.org or email Shirley J. Yee at sjyee@u.washington.edu.

The California Association of Museums will be holding its annual conference on July 21-23, 2004, in the Napa Valley/Santa Rosa area. The conference theme will be “Nobody Does It Better: California Success Stories.” For more information as it becomes available, visit www.calmuseums.net.

The Society of American Archivists will hold its 68th annual meeting, August 2-8, 2004, at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel in Boston. For more information, visit www.archivists.org.

The Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association will meet August 5-8, 2004, in downtown San Jose, at the Fairmont Hotel. For more information, contact co-chairs Elliott R. Barkan at ebarkan@csusb.edu or Patty Seleski at pseleski@csusm.edu.

The American Association for State and Local History will hold its annual meeting, September 17-20, 2004, at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence. Among the many session topics are: Publishing Regional History in a Climate of Change; Museum Governance in the 21st Century; Filling the Gap: The Interim Director; The Future of Presidential Sites and Libraries; Digitization as an Exhibit Tool. For more information, visit www.aaslh.org.

The National Preservation Conference will be held September 28-October 3, 2004, in Louisville, Kentucky. Louisville, a city known for its diverse historic neighborhoods, beautiful landscapes, and vital commercial areas, is a perfect location to explore the theme, “Restore America: Communities at a Crossroads.” For more information, visit www.nationaltrust.org.

The Oral History Association will hold its annual meeting September 29-October 3, 2004, at the Hilton & Executive Tower in Portland, Oregon. “Telling Stories,” the conference theme, invokes both the practice of oral history and the unique ability of oral history to capture stories that are especially revealing and meaningful. If you have questions, contact one of the conference’s co-chairs: Lu Ann Jones at joneslu@mail.ecu.edu or Kathryn Nasstrom at nasstromk@usfca.edu or visit www.dickinson.edu/organizations/oha.

The annual meeting of the Western Museums Association will be held in the Tacoma/Seattle area October 6-10, 2004. The conference theme is “Strong Winds, Big Sails: Charting Your Future.” Sessions will include creative ideas and best practices that you, in the field, are excited to share with your colleagues. Hands-on, how-to workshops will be combined with thought-provoking sessions to stimulate how you plan for your organization’s future and perhaps your own career. For more information, visit www.wstmuse.org.

The 44th annual conference of the Western History Association will take place October 13-16, 2004, in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the Riviera Hotel and Casino. The conference theme of “Representing the West in Image and Record” will explore the American West, with a special emphasis on the Hispanic West. The meeting of 2004 will recognize the role played by Las Vegas during the early days of exploration as the site of grasses and a water supply for travelers in an otherwise desert landscape. For more information, visit www.unm.edu/~wha.

The Northern California Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians will hold its fall meeting October 22-24, 2004, in Fresno, California. On the first day of the meeting, there will be a reception at City Hall followed by a catered dinner at the Santa Fe Railroad Depot. Saturday’s events include paper presentations and tours and an evening reception at Fresno’s underground gardens. The final day of the meeting will be filled with several choices of walking tours. For more information, contact Karana Hattersley-Drayton, at the City of Fresno, karana.hattersley-drayton@ci.fresno.ca.us.

The Seminar for Historical Administration, long considered the most senior of America’s museum professional development programs, is back in business with the goal of developing and strengthening leadership within the history community. The 45th Seminar will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana from October 30-November 20, 2004, at the state-of-the-art classroom at the Indiana Historical Society’s headquarters in downtown Indianapolis. The seminar provides an intensive three-week residential experience taught by more than thirty faculty members. For more information about the program visit www.aaslh.org/histadmin.htm.

The annual National Interpreter’s Workshop, by the National Association for Interpretation, will take place November 13-16, 2004, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The theme of the workshop is “An Interpreter’s Voyage.” Enjoy our week-long scavenger hunt, The Great Race to Grand Rapids, with prizes awarded to teams with the highest score. Explore western Michigan’s museums, geological history and investigate the automobile industry of Michigan. And of course, no adventure to the “Wolverine State” is complete without a trip to Lake Michigan. Your souvenirs from the workshop journey will include new skills and knowledge gleaned from keynotes and concurrent sessions to outfit you for your own Interpreter’s Voyage. For more information, visit www.interpnet.com/niw2004/index.htm or email Tim Krynak, one of the conference co-chairs, at tjk@clevelandmetroparks.com.
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 ccpph@csus.edu or 916 278-4296.

- American Association of Museums (AAM)
- American Assec. for State and Local History (AASLH)
- California Association of Museums (CAM)
- California Historical Society (CHS)
- California Mission Studies Association (CMSA)
- California Preservation Foundation (CPF)
- Conference of California Historical Societies (CCHS)
- National Council on Public History (NCPH)
- Northwest Oral History Association (NOHA)
- Society for California Archaeology (SCA)
- Society of California Archivists (SCA)
- Society of California Historical Societies (CCHS)
- Southwest Oral History Association (SOHA)
- Southwest Mission Research Center (SMRC)
- Western History Association (WHA)
- Western Museums Association (WMA)

CCPH encourages the reprinting of articles published in this newsletter. To do so, use the credit line—Reprinted from California History Action, the newsletter of the California Council for the Promotion of History. To inquire about using photographs, contact the CHA editor.

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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 January, April, July, and October. 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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Membership renewals are due
May 1st.
Renew on time to ensure inclusion in
the membership directory.

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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.

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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.

Spring 2004
Welcome New Members

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Sacramento

California Supreme Court Historical Society
Woodland Hills

Lanterman Historical Museum Foundation
La Canada

Vicki Rorke
Rancho Cordova

Leann Taagepera
Benicia

Blythe Wilson
Sacramento

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