CCPH Expands, and Crosses, Borders at its 2003 Annual Conference

Adapted from submissions by Sharon Sekhorn, Dottie Shank, and Barbra Shotel

Held at the Marriott Mission Valley in San Diego, the CCPH 2003 conference rose to the challenge of the conference’s theme—“Expanding the Borders of California’s History”—with sessions and events that asked participants to do just that, both figuratively and literally. With sessions ranging from “Race, Place, and Community in the West” to “Expanding the Borders of Interpretive Exhibits,” speakers and participants alike were asked to contemplate how history informs contemporary political debate and how the learning of history goes well beyond reading textbooks—that public art, for example, can provide didactic experiences in history that also encourage local and cultural pride.

The conference opened on Thursday, October 23, with an informal reception where participants casually mingled and discussed issues facing them or problems they were having, as well as just catching up with colleagues not seen in far too long. Conversations focused on everything from latest projects and endeavors to creative funding ideas, from opinions on the best museums in California to new jobs, new spouses, and new children.

Friday’s plenary session, “Promoting History Through the Arts,” served as a perfect introduction to the “meat” of the conference—the exploration, and expanding, of borders, with all their literal and literary meanings. Dr. Richard Griswold del Castillo, well known for his book on the Treaty of Guadelupe Hidalgo, served as session moderator. He opened by discussing how the arts speak to people in a different, and complementary, way from traditional or academic history, how they speak to the soul.

Castillo first introduced Dr. Jorge Huerta, a professor from UC San Diego who is an authority on contemporary Chicano theater and its history. Huerta spoke of his personal experiences as a historian, educator, and theater professional, even recounting how as a child he was referred to as “the Melodramatic Mexican.” He also provided a brief overview of the history of Chicano theater, tracing its roots from the Aztec and Mayan cultures, through the influence of ideas brought by Spaniards, and, ultimately, to the founding of the Teatro de Campesino in 1965 and the initial improvisations, or “actos,” about problems and struggles to which the audience could easily relate. Huerta brought up issues related to producing theater about historic subjects, such as the fact that the audience will often not realize that (continued on next page)
some messages being conveyed in a production about a historic event continue to relate to the present day and are not just a thing of the past.

Following Huerta was Dr. Paul Espinoza, a filmmaker and founder of Espinoza Productions, which specializes in documentary films about the U.S.-Mexican border region. Espinoza explained how, after going to Hollywood to study the “natives” as part of his Ph.D. studies in Anthropology at Stanford University, he ended up “going native,” coming to the opinion that it is important to use independent media as a countervail to what the public is getting from mainstream media, to present alternative stories. Espinoza went on to talk in more detail about three of his film projects, the challenges they posed and rewards they offered. He discussed such issues as the difficulties posed by trying to interpret an event that has multiple and conflicting accounts, the use of dramatizations to visually represent a story with little archival visual materials available, and the value of oral histories to help personalize a story.

After this intriguing and entertaining plenary panel, conference goers were well prepared to dive into a day full of tantalizing break out sessions. Participants had to make some tough decisions in choosing between the two sessions offered in each time slot. For more information on some of the day’s sessions, see the session summaries on pages 2 and 6.

Friday’s award luncheon was educational, amusing, and uplifting, as usual. To read more about the 2003 award winners—Fred Lewis, Mary Helmich, Chuck Wilson, Mitch Stone, and Judy Triem—and about the event’s entertaining speaker, see the article on page 7. CCPH also acknowledged the seven students and new professionals who were awarded stipends to attend this year’s conference—Dottie Shank, Sharon Sekhorn, Barbra Shotel, Aida Gabaldon, Gail Erwin, Lisa M. Bratton, and Tanya Rathburn. These stipends were made possible through a generous grant from the California Office of Historic Preservation.

And, just when conference goers thought the day couldn’t be improved upon, the evening’s banquet speaker, Harry W. Crosby, delighted attendees with a talk that intermingled discussion of his experiences in writing about the history of the de Anza expedition from Loreto to San Diego in 1769 with a recounting of that history itself. Despite the lateness of the hour and the fullness of the bellies in the crowd, Crosby’s enthusiasm for, and obvious knowledge of, this part of California’s history was contagious and gripping. Crosby discussed his latest book, *A Gateway to Alta California: The Expedition to San Diego, 1769*, and his interest in this story, which has gotten surprisingly little attention in published histories. Crosby explained his view that California history is a cohesive process that encompasses both Alta and Baja California, and that one story cannot be told without the other. He discussed the development of presidios and missions in Baja California and how they differed from those in the north, predominantly because of the differences between how the Spanish government dealt with the Jesuit missionaries of the mid-1700s and their Franciscan brethren who were brought onto the scene when Spain, for a variety of reasons, decided to replace the Jesuits.

Saturday provided an adventure that built perfectly on the issues and insights gleaned through Friday’s events and sessions. Conference participants piled onto busses at a bright and early 7:45 AM, eager for an experience unlike any other, and in this they were not disappointed—first by bus to the border just south of San Diego, then crossing the border on foot, just as vendors were setting up their wares and businesses were opening doors in anticipation of the large Saturday crowds who would soon be teeming the streets of downtown Tijuana. But CCPHers were spared the hustle and bustle of the crowds and instead enjoyed a remarkably quiet, but quickly awakening, Tijuana. Maria Castillo-Curry, from El Collegio de la Frontera Norte, served as an enthusiastic guide on a whirlwind tour of the downtown area, which ended at the Tijuana Station.

(continued on page 4)
Conference Sessions Serve to Enhance and Expand Border Theme

Expanding the Borders of Interpretive Exhibits
This panel provided a window into the relevance of promoting local history and the challenges faced by museum administrators and interpreters. Moderated by Karen Beery, this panel featured Mick Calarco Executive Director of the Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park; Anne Marie Tipton, interpreter for California State Parks; and Carlos Alberto Garcia Cortes, Director of Museo de Las Californias, a private museum primarily focused on local history from the prehistoric period to the mid 1940s in Tijuana, Mexico. Central to each presentation was the theme of meeting contemporary visitor expectations. For example, Calarco discussed the expansion of ranch offerings to interest a wider cross-spectrum of the population, from including exhibits on Carrillo’s colorful Hollywood background, to demonstrations in ranching techniques, to tours highlighting the various architectural styles on the ranch. Tipton urged a model of historic interpretation that welcomes visitors and outsiders into the experience of doing historical interpretation in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park’s 2002 “Living History” program, which welcomed actors and local people into the events, literally making the past come alive for those participating in it.

Finally, Garcia Cortes, with the aid of translator Maria Castillo-Curry, discussed his museum’s transition from one that formerly focused broadly on national Mexican identity to one reflecting the demands of the local population and focused on local history. Some visitors actually brought in artifacts from their families both to determine what the items were and to loan them to the museum. All presentations explored the imperative, most eloquently expressed by Calarco, “For historic resources to succeed, I have to make people feel something about the place.” As the panelists demonstrated, this imperative can be successfully answered in many different ways.

Archives of the Californias
Moderated by Chuck Wilson, of UCLA Special Collections, this session explored issues related to collections dealing with California history and the cross-border nature of many archives in the Golden State. Joseph McBray of the UCSD Mandeville Special Collections Library spoke first, describing the Baja California holdings of his institution. His excitement about, and enthusiasm for, the work he does was evident in his talk, and that feeling quickly infused his audience. His discussion of archives and their obvious value to historians led neatly into that of Blaine Lamb of the California State Archives. Lamb discussed the “Records of the Other California” held by the state archives, such as, for example, extensive land grant maps. He reminded the audience that 92 years ago businessmen from the Chamber of Commerce took the same trip the conference goers would be taking on Saturday, but on a gas driven handcar. His vivid descriptions and slides helped the audience envision a border region far different from that of today. Lastly, Carol Hann, from Imperial Valley College, discussed her institution’s archival holdings on the history of the Imperial and Mexicali Valleys. Using an unusual collection of antique postcards, she explained the history of these two areas and discussed the large amounts of archival resources available. All three speakers, as well as the session moderator, served to weave a story that reinforced the conference’s theme and clearly conveyed the fact that California’s varied archival holdings do cross many borders.

Erasing the Borders of Native California
Nancy Mendez of California State Parks moderated this unique and thought-provoking session. Mendez first introduced William Pink, Executive Secretary of the Native American Heritage Commission and member of the Pala tribe. Pink used exquisite slides of plants and flowers (as well as rock art) to highlight his discussion of how plants and art help us define cultural and geographical boundaries and can help maintain connections to the past. He explained how native cultures evolved around natural boundaries, not political ones, and therefore how difficult it can be to now try to establish borders for native groups. However, Pink discussed, such borders can begin to be determined by such things as establishing the ranges of plants used by different tribes and where they left rock art. He reminded the audience that the extensive trade that took place makes this difficult, however. Following Pink was Dr. Wendy Teeter, Curator of Archaeology at UCLA’s Fowler Museum of Cultural History.

Note from the Editor
Those of you who pride yourselves on paying particular attention to detail may realize this issue of California History Action is coming to you a month later than usual—and that we, as a result, have skipped over Volume 21, Number 4 and leapt right to Volume 22, Number 1. Well, this volunteer editor has decided to exercise her prerogative—I’ve changed the months of publication for the newsletter from March, June, September, and December to January, April, July, and October. Thus, each newsletter year will now kick off in January with the Winter issue, which will be the Number 1 issue of each volume. Just wanted to include this little item to clear up any confusion you detail-oriented folks might have encountered with this issue. Thank you for your understanding, and your readership.
—Jenan Saunders, Editor

(continued on page 6)
From there, participants left by bus to arrive at the departure point for the next leg of the journey—a train ride on the historic Ferrocarriles Tijuana y Tecate, a portion of the San Diego & Arizona Railway, now operated by the Ferrocarriles Peninsulares del Noroeste in conjunction with the Carrizo Gorge Railway. Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO), a local history and preservation group in San Diego, donated the snacks and drinks that kept everyone well fed during the trip. The train traveled through a good bit of Tijuana before entering more open territory and then climbing into the mountainous area east of the coast. Participants had opportunities to chat with those individuals working on developing the rail line as a tour route and to hear about the trials and tribulations associated with trying to reopen and operate a historic rail line. A few Mexican youth training to be hosts were also on board the two retired Amtrak cars that housed the travelers, and conference goers enjoyed asking questions and learning about the scenery through which they were passing, taking the opportunity to practice their Spanish just as the young men were working on their English.

Being a mixed passenger and freight train (something unheard of in the U.S. where it is illegal) the train made two stops to pick up cars of railroad ties and then two tankers of cornstarch (all bound for Tecate as well). Later one of the cars with the railroad ties later developed a hot box (problem with the bearings) that required a stop in what seemed quite like the proverbial middle-of-nowhere to wait while it cooled.

Unfortunately, the unexpected stop delayed the group’s arrival in Tecate, so conference goers had to forego their scheduled tour of the brewery for which the town itself is so well known. But there did seem to be hops in the air as the group circled the exterior of Tecate’s recently restored Prairie-style train station and took in its quaint and unassuming nature. It was then off to a nearby community center for an abbreviated session on “Cross-Border Collaboration Projects.” The session delivered just what it claimed as the four speakers discussed both general issues related to cross-border collaboration and specific projects currently taking place. Kristin Miller Aliotti, Director of the Governor’s Office of California-Mexico Affairs, focused on her experiences working on collaborative projects and the important issues to address for success in such endeavors, such as diplomacy, equality, patience, and preparation. Following Aliotti, Dr. Julia Bendimez then discussed the Camino Real Misionero de las Californias, a heritage corridor encompassing all the missions. Bendimez talked about the extensive archaeological excavations undertaken at the mission sites in Baja California, which only has 2 of its 18 missions remaining. She emphasized how the cross-border nature of the corridor helped in getting much needed attention from Mexico City focused on the issue of Baja’s historic missions. Maria Castillo-Curry and Richard Borstadt rounded out the session by talking about the monumental efforts that went into the regeneration of the rail line on which conference attendees had just ridden and about plans for its future. After lunch in Tecate, and the purchase of a few keepsakes from vendors set up in the town’s plaza, the now weary travelers boarded a bus and headed back to Otay, to once again walk across the border (it beats waiting in the line of vehicles trying to get through), this time in the gathering twilight.

After such a long day, it was quite astonishing that so many folks then came to the capper of the conference—a dessert reception feature fresh fruit and a sundae bar (a testament to the appeal of ice cream). Those non-locals who were able to leave on flights early Sunday morning just missed the shutting down of the airport due to the fires that had begun on Saturday and raged all through the night. But none of the conference goers will ever forget the thick brown blanket of clouds that greeted them upon arising Sunday morning, the sun a dark red ball of fire mimicking those burning down below. It wasn’t until conference goers got home, however, (or found hotel rooms to wait for the airport to reopen) and turned on their televisions that the true magnitude of the fires, both north and south of the border, became clear, emphasizing with an unexpected poignancy the central theme of the weekend—that political borders, and many others, really are simply artificial constructs. It remains the responsibility of public historians to seek out ways to expand and reshape the various physical and psychological borders that are encountered so often in the work of doing public history.

CCPH Now Inviting Applications for Mini-Grants Program

CCPH is gearing up for another successful year of our mini-grant program. Typical mini-grants awarded by CCPH are from $200 to $500, although grants can range up to $750. To be considered for an award, applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, March 12, 2004. Awards will be announced by June 20, 2004, and checks will be mailed after July 1. Details about the program and this year’s application are available at our website (www.csus.edu/org/ccph) or contact Mini-grant Committee Chair, Ellen Calomiris at Ellen_Calomiris@longbeach.gov with any questions.
CCPH Recognizes Outstanding Contributions to Public History with 2003 Annual Awards

CCPH once again this year presented awards to a prestigious group of individuals. The presentation took place, as usual, during the annual conference, this time in San Diego. The awards luncheon was well attended, and those savoring the fine food also had the opportunity to enjoy the event’s featured speaker, Fred Lewis. Lewis, a well-known television host and community leader in the San Diego area, entertained the crowd with stories of the heroes, and some villains, in San Diego history. Discussing his show, “The Heart of San Diego,” that collected these stories, and others, from close to 500 individuals, Lewis described his experiences being the interviewer for these video oral histories. He enthralled the audience with just a few of the stories from these interviews, including Ray Kroc’s decision to purchase the Padres and Admiral Stockdale’s flight over the destroyer in the Gulf of Tonkin the night it was sunk.

In addition to being the event’s speaker, Lewis was also an award recipient—CCPH granted him a Certificate of Meritorious Performance Award for his work on “The Heart of San Diego.” The nomination application for Mr. Lewis aptly describes his contributions: “His distinctive voice, years in local television and radio media, along with a first-hand knowledge of San Diego history, have made the show an invaluable chronicle of the region’s storied history.”

CCPH also presented a Certificate of Meritorious Performance Award to Mary Helmich, a long time member. Ms. Helmich has worked for California State Parks in their Interpretation and Education Division for over 10 years. Her contributions to the parks department are numerous and significant, including pulling together a magnificent celebration of California’s statehood in 2000, in spite of the failure of other agencies to make good on the promise of a sesquicentennial to remember.

CCPH gave this award to Ms. Helmich, however, for a specific project—the “Picturing Mexican California, 1821-1846” project. What began as an idea for a series of binders produced in very limited numbers was so well received by state parks staff that the only way to meet the demand was to make it digital. As the nomination application for this award describes, “The final product of Mary’s labor has been designed as a reference on California’s Mexican Republic Period and includes more than 450 graphics that are organized in an easy-to-use three CD set.”

Judy Triem and Mitch Stone, who together form the consulting firm San Buenaventura Research Associates, were next presented with the Award of Distinction. Both served on the CCPH Steering Committee in the 1990s and chaired the Membership Committee. Mr. Stone was also CCPH’s first webmaster, and has been a promoter of the use and application of computers in historical research and cultural resource management. Together the duo organized the very successful and popular 1997 CCPH annual conference, held in Ventura. The nomination application for Triem and Stone correctly concludes that they “have contributed much to this organization over the years, as well as making major contributions to the practice of public history in California . . . and deserve recognition of their longstanding contributions to CCPH.”

Lastly, to round out the afternoon event, Chuck Wilson received the James C. Williams Award for Outstanding Service. Mr. Wilson has long been an active member of CCPH and has served on the board of directors longer than anyone else, where he remains committed to the organization’s long-term viability. In addition to his work as a board member, Wilson is chair of the Standards and Professional Register Committee and has organized three CCPH annual conferences. Perhaps the nomination for this awards sums it up best when it states, “As a professional historian, archivist, and oral historian, Chuck has served the citizens of the State of California for many years, first at the California State Archives, then as a private consultant, and for the past several years at UCLA. Chuck Wilson embodies the qualities of a person who has exhibited an outstanding long term commitment to this organization and to the practice and promotion of history.”

And so the festivities came to a close. The crowd moved on to enjoy a satisfying afternoon of program sessions. Yet, it can surely be said that many among them left that luncheon just a little more enthused about the work of public history, a little more aware of the positive impact public historians can have on our communities, and a little more motivated to one day be standing on the other side of that podium, thanking CCPH for the recognition such successful hard work deserves.

Now, don’t you know someone deserving of such recognition? We all do. Just think on it for five minutes, and you’re likely to come up with at least one name, if not two or three, or more. So why not take a few minutes more and nominate someone for a CCPH award? The award application (and information about the criteria for each award as well as a listing of past award winners) can be found on the CCPH website at www.csus.edu/org/ccph.
(continued from page 3)

Teeter discussed her experiences using the requirements of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) to create relationships with a variety of native groups, to break down barriers and open communication regarding the objects in her museum’s collections. She described her outreach efforts to the California Indian community, such as taking materials from their collections to events and providing other opportunities to allow access to items that had previously been inaccessible to these groups. Teeter also uses these meetings as a forum to educate Indian groups about curation and archival techniques, interpretation and planning and their importance in protecting historical objects well into the future. The last speaker of the session was Michael Wilken, Director of Research and International Affairs at the Instituto de Culturas Nativas de Baja California. Wilken spoke about his institution’s efforts to create collaborative projects that promote the shared heritage of native groups both north and south of the border. He explained how such projects can do much to emphasize similarities rather than differences and open avenues of communication about present day issues, as well as those dealing with the past. This session served to support and expand on the conference’s theme perfectly in that these speakers complemented one another in their examination of the ways native groups also interact, and wrestle, with border issues.

Southern California in 100 Years of Aviation History
Tom Sprague of the San Diego Aerospace Museum moderated this entertaining and informative session. He first introduced William Schoneberger, a well-known Southern California aviation historian and author. Schoneberger discussed the vast contributions Southern California has made to the development of the aviation and aerospace industries, describing how flight went from 10 miles per hour to more than three times the speed of sound (in the atmosphere) within a relatively short period of time, thanks in large part to California’s aviation pioneers. Schoneberger admitted that condensing more than 100 years of history into 20 minutes was a daunting task, but he carried it out admirably and served to set the scene for the sessions’ two remaining speakers. Following Sprague was Dr. Judson Grenier, of CSU Dominguez Hills, who spoke on the Air Meet of 1910. Grenier’s enthusiasm for this topic and wonderful visuals brought home to the audience the true magnitude of the United States’ first air show (second in the world) and its historical significance in spurring public interest in flight and inspiring future aviation leaders. He described how the meet was both an economic phenomenon and a social one, drawing over 225,000 people during the ten-day period. The session’s final speaker was Alexander Bevil, of California State Parks. Bevil discussed a relatively unknown story he uncovered while working in the mountainous area of Cuyamaca State Park. In December of 1922 a military plane crashed in the area that has since become the park, sparking the largest, up to that time, combined Army/Navy search utilizing aircraft. After a rancher finally discovered the crash site in the spring of 1923, a memorial was erected at the spot, where it remained to the present day (although it sadly was greatly damaged by the fires that began as the conference was ending). In the end, this session helped participants see that California’s role in aviation history forms a large part of how this industry was able to challenge and expand another type of border—that imposed on us by the sheer force of gravity.

Fiesta del Río Binational Conference
Want to continue expanding the borders of your experience? Then plan to take part in the Fiest del Río Binational Conference. With sessions on history, archaeology, geology, and ecology, the conference will truly be the place “where nature and nations meet.” The conference will take place May 13, 2004, at Southwestern College in Chula Vista, California, in the Student Union East. It will trace the relationship between humans and the natural environments of the Tijuana River Estuary, and highlight how this historical ecology can guide current conservation efforts. For more information, contact Anne Marie Tipton, 619 575-3613, amtipton@parks.ca.gov.
The CCPH election results are in. Paul Spitzzeri, from the Workman-Temple Homestead Museum in the City of Industry, has been elected as Vice-President/President-elect. Paul will serve as VP for the next two years and then become CCPH president in January 2006. Current board member Leslie Fryman, of Jones & Stokes Associates in Sacramento, will serve out the remainder of Paul’s term through December 2005. The following individuals have been elected for to the CCPH board with terms to expire in December 2006: Karen Beery, of Carlsbad, from California State Parks; Susan Douglass-Yates, of Claremont, who is with the UCLA Oral History Program; Rick Moss from the African-American Museum and Library of Oakland; Richard Orsi, professor emeritus at CSU Hayward; and Chuck Wilson, of Riverside, from UCLA Special Collections. Congratulations, and a hearty thank you, to the 2003 slate of CCPH candidates.

2003 Board and Officer Election Results

At the CCPH board meeting of June 7, 2003, the board approved an unbalanced budget for the 03/04 fiscal year. In other words, the board approved a budget with a planned deficit (see budget table at right). As part of the motion to approve this budget, the board directed that information about the decision be published in California History Action, so that our members may be aware of the reasoning behind this decision.

As you might imagine, the board had a lengthy discussion about this budget prior to its approval, including understandable concern expressed on the parts of many board members. On the one hand, the board determined we had no choice but to be realistic about our projected income figures (any optimism that might have allowed us to increase our projected income amounts really was unfounded, especially in light of the current budget/economic situation in California). At the same time, we felt it important to continue funding our programs at least at current levels. For the Mini-Grants Program, it was our decision to increase funding. We experienced a greatly increased number of applications last year, and we anticipate as a great a response, if not greater, this year. After all, when times are tough economically, those organizations that apply for our mini-grants need them even more. The board also determined that it is inappropriate for CCPH to ask the student assistant, who serves as the Recording Secretary, to assume the cost of traveling to attend board meetings, and thus funds were added to the Board Expense line item to cover these costs. Other factors that led to development of the final budget included the need to increase some expenses to cover inflationary costs and for a needed upgrade to the CCPH office computer.

It is important for CCPH members to be aware, however, that this budget is only a projected budget at this time. It may well end up that CCPH does not have a deficit this fiscal year because income turns out to be higher than we conservatively estimated or our expenses are not as great as expected. Conversely, if membership dues and conference income do not reach our estimates, the deficit may be greater than projected. I will plan to include a follow up to this article in the either the Summer or Fall issue of the newsletter (depending on when the information is available) to let you know how this fiscal year turns out for CCPH.

CCPH has, in more abundant years in the past, set aside a relatively comfortable amount of savings to alleviate the impact of difficult economic times. It is the board's opinion that the reason for such savings, aside from emergency situations of course, is to allow us as an organization to sustain programs even during years with low income. A year or two of low income amounts is not something that should make or break us as an organization, but rather something we can "ride out" through the use of savings.

However, situations such as this also point to the fact that CCPH must explore ways to keep our income in line with our expenses whenever possible. As you can see from the budget table included here, our two principal means of raising income are through the CCPH conference and membership dues. Spurred by this year's budget, we will be undertaking a membership drive in mid-2004. However, you as a CCPH member can also help. Please plan to attend this year’s conference in Eureka (see article on page 10). And talk about CCPH with your colleagues who aren't members (we always have extra copies of the newsletter available for you to distribute to such people—just contact the office at ccph@csus.edu). Finally, on a more personal note, may I just say that I'm excited to be beginning my term as the CCPH President. Let's make 2004 a great year for CCPH (and for history in California)!

--Jenan Saunders

CCPH News

03/04 FY Budget

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Congressional Wrap-up

adapted from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

The first session of the 108th Congress is now history. Apart from the appropriation bills that funded several history/archive programs at record high levels, in the realm of authorizing legislation the session was rather lackluster.

Several bills were introduced this year that reflect growing concern among members of Congress about the state of history education in the United States—Senator Lamar Alexander’s (R-TN) “American History and Civics Education Act of 2003” (S 504) and Senator Judd Gregg’ (R-NH) “Higher Education for Freedom Act” (S 1515) are but two. However, given the current partisan tensions existing within the Senate and House, final action on these bills has yet to materialize. Other heritage-related bills were merely relegated to the proverbial “dustbin” of committees (i.e., Senator DeWine’s presidential sites grants program bill, S 1748). The administration also advanced several bills designed to gut historic preservation laws—the effort to amend the 4-f historic preservation provision in the “Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century” (S 1072) for example. Nevertheless, nine history/archive-related bills of some importance become public law this session.

Of particular interest to the archival and museum community is the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003 (PL 108-81) and the Smithsonian Facilities Authorization Act (PL 108-72). The Museum and Library Services Act extends the authorization of appropriations for library and history museum grant programs and also provides greater access to library services through the development of electronic networks. The Smithsonian Facilities Authorization Act will provide for additional space and resources for nationally significant collections held in trust by the Smithsonian Institution.

Memorial sites in Washington, D.C. were given special attention this session. Congress enacted legislation (PL 108-126) providing for the construction of a visitor’s center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. That law also amended the Commemorative Works Act by establishing new guidelines for future memorials slated for construction on the National Mall in Washington D.C. A new law (PL 108-59) also authorized the continued work of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission in its plans for the rededication of the Lincoln Memorial.

Two pieces of legislation regarding African-American history were enacted. Planning for the construction of a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Washington, D.C., can now move forward (PL 108-125). Perhaps the most significant history-related accomplishment of this Congress, however, is enactment of legislation (HR 3491) to establish within the Smithsonian Institution the National Museum of African American History and Culture. This legislation is the culmination of a 15-year effort by the principal sponsor of the bill—civil rights leader, Rep. John Lewis (D-GA). Since 1988 Lewis has introduced legislation creating the museum, but for one reason or another his bills failed in the House or Senate—politics makes for strange bedfellows. Because public opinion polls suggested low popularity of Republicans within the African-American community, the Republican leadership took direct action to boost support within this community. Consequently, under orders from their leaders and the White House, rank and file Republican congressmen enthusiastically embraced various funding and legislative proposals designed to benefit the African-American community, including Lewis’ long-ignored bill. Republicans have reason to be proud for enacting this legislation that repeatedly failed for partisan reasons when the Democrats controlled Congress.

On November 21, 2003, the Senate passed legislation (S 1741) to provide a site for the proposed National Women’s History Museum in the District of Columbia. Introduced by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and 17 co-sponsors, the Act provides for renovations and a leasing agreement for the Pavilion Annex of the Old Post Office Building in Washington, D.C., to the National Women’s History Museum, a nonpartisan, nonprofit institution designed to research and present the history of women’s contributions to American culture. The bill has been advanced to the House for consideration.

On November 24, 2003, the Senate passed legislation (S 452), a long-awaited bill authorizing $300,000 for a study of sites and resources associated with the Cold War. The Secretary of Interior is to provide recommendations for commemorating and interpreting such sites and cost estimates for carrying out those recommendations. The bill also directs the National Park Service to research and publish an interpretive handbook on the Cold War. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Resources where similar legislation (HR 114) introduced by Rep. Joel Hefley (R-CO) has been pending for some time.

House managers and Senate conferees of the Transportation, Treasury, and Independent Agencies Appropriations subcommittee met for six hours on November 12 to resolve outstanding issues relating to the FY-2004 budget for several governmental agencies, including the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). At 11:15 pm members passed a conference report that recommends restoration of funding for the Electronic Archives Project ($35.9 million) and full funding—$10 million—for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). This figure represents the highest unrestricted figure in the history of the commission. The agreed to measure also pegs NARA’s general operating budget at $256.7 million. This figure is about $1.5 million less that the president’s request but some $8.4 million over the FY 2003 enacted level.
Recently Introduced Federal Legislation
adapted from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

On October 1, 2003, Representative George Radanovich (R-CA) introduced legislation (HR 3223) to amend the National Historic Preservation Act in order to reauthorize and improve the operations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Among other provisions, the bill seeks to add additional members to the Advisory Council (including a governor member), increase the number of representatives needed to constitute a quorum, and grant the council a new authority to “solicit” donations. A separate section in the legislation is designed to improve the effectiveness of the grant assistance program. The bill was referred to the House Resources Committee for consideration.

In order to establish a national memorial for those who died in the attacks of September 11, Representative Christopher Shay (R-CT) introduced legislation (HR 3471) that directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the World Trade Center site in Lower Manhattan, New York to evaluate the historical and cultural significance of the site and to assess the feasibility of establishing the area surrounding the footprints of the World Trade Center as part of the National Park System. To be completed within six months after enactment, this study would result in a report discussing the findings of the study and the recommendations of the Secretary to be given to the appropriate congressional committees. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands for action.

On November 7, Representative Adam Putnam (R-FL) introduced legislation (HR 3478) seeking to improve the efficiency of NARA operations. The legislation provides for the extension of records retention periods, and grants the Archivist of the United States greater latitude in authorizing the use of cooperative agreements with local governments and educational institutions to carry out NARA programs, for the collection of fees for public use of NARA services and facilities. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Government Reform for action. On November 20 the bill was reported out by the Committee and advanced to the floor for action.

On October 15, 2003, Representative Xavier Becerra (D-CA) together with 28 co-sponsors, introduced the “Commission to Establish the National Museum of the American Latino Act of 2003” (HR 3292), legislation to establish a 23-member commission that would develop a plan of action for the creation of a national museum focusing on the history and contribution of the Latino population in the United States. Included on the commission would be an individual with “experience in the study and teaching of Latino culture and history at the post-secondary level.” The bill was referred to the House Resources Committee for consideration.

SAFETEA Legislation Headed for Senate Floor
from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

Historic preservation advocates are delighted at the decision reached in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee not to revise the Section 4(f) provision of a $225 billion federal transportation law in pending legislation (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act) popularly known as SAFETEA (S 1072). When considering a six-year reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), the Bush administration had advanced language that would have eviscerated a provision in the 1966 Department of Transportation Act that mandates “all possible planning to minimize harm” and provides that a federal highway project cannot destroy any park or historic area if there is a “prudent and feasible alternative.”

The 4(f) provision has successfully been invoked by preservationists to block and force mitigative action in dozens of highway projects from California to Florida that potentially could destroy important historic sites. For example, the provision has been used to save San Francisco’s Fisherman’s Wharf in California from destruction; it has also prevented the paving-over of parts of the French Quarter in New Orleans.

The SAFETEA legislation was crafted by the Bush administration to “streamline” the process of road construction. The administration hoped to remove the Section 4(f) provision, and substitute it with new language granting agencies within the Department of Transportation the authority to decide which sites are historic. Though such agencies would still have to consult with communities on the significance of sites, communities would have lacked any legal basis upon which to base their challenges to transportation agency decisions.

Friends of historic places are not out of the woods yet. In upcoming weeks and months SAFETEA is to be advanced to the Senate floor where administration supporters may make another run at modifying the 4(f) provision. Also, the measure faces an uncertain future in the House of Representatives. For more information on Section 4(f) and its role in historic preservation, visit www.nationaltrust.org/issues/transportation/4(f)_overview.html.

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

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

WASHINGTON UPDATE

Winter 2004
Humboldt County was already multi-cultural when Euro-Americans arrived in the spring of 1850. The indigenous people occupied specific territories, spoke languages of several different stocks, and had similar but different social and cultural structures. The Wiyot, Yurok, Hupa, Karok, Chilula, Whilkut, and the southern Athabascans, including the Mattole and Nongatl practiced lifeways carefully prescribed by cultural and religious mores. Humboldt’s Indian communities made and continue to make significant contributions to the history and development of the county.

Ocean exploration of the northern coast of California included Spanish, Russian and British ships, with the first recorded Humboldt landing at Trinidad by the Spanish in 1775. The first entrance to Humboldt Bay was in 1806 by an American with Aleut hunters, all in the employ of the Russian-American Company out of Sitka. But it wasn’t until rediscovery by land by the Gregg-Wood Party in December 1849, that the region’s history was forever defined. Spring 1850 brought the first ships to Humboldt and Trinidad bays, where men, generally from the States, disembarked on their way to the gold mining districts on the Klamath, Salmon and Trinity rivers. First settled as a point of arrival and as a supply center for these interior mines, Eureka, Union (Arcata), and Trinidad were hubs of activity. But as the excitement and rush for gold subsided, the prospects for economic well-being, if not wealth, shifted to the region’s premiere resources - big trees, salmon, and land.

This redirection resulted in the arrival of new groups of people from foreign shores and different cultures and, very importantly, the settlement of the county. The Chinese came first to mine on the Klamath and Salmon rivers, work in the fish canneries on lower Eel River, and later to build railroads. They were forcibly expelled in 1885. Americans and later Italians fished commercially on lower Eel River, the Italians acting as the buyers for San Francisco firms. Canadian “Blue Noses” from the maritime provinces, particularly Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, came to work in Humboldt’s woods. William Carson, of Carson Mansion fame, developed logging and milling operations around the bay and recruited workers from his home in New Brunswick. Operations on Washington and Jacoby creeks created a community of Canadian woodsmen that came to be known as Bayside. Some of their descendants are still there, as well as the houses they built along Old Arcata and Graham roads.

With the establishment of dairying operations in the latter part of the 19th century, Swiss-Italian immigrants came to work for others on the bottom lands of Mad and Eel rivers, in the Orick valley, and on the coastal plains around the lagoons.

But it didn’t take long before industry and ingenuity made these dairyman owners of both land and cows. Many residents of the Ferndale and Loleta area trace their ancestry to these immigrants of a century ago. The
Portuguese, who came to Humboldt County from the Azores, also found work on dairy ranches, but the timber industry provided employment for many.

People of Slavic origins came at the turn-of-the-century to work in Humboldt County’s woods and mills. The homes of James Malvich, Joseph Maronich, Nick Dubrovich, Cosmo Stiglich, and others remain within a few blocks of each other in East Arcata, where these families enjoyed the social activities of a Croatian society. The French found homes in Blue Lake and Arcata, published newspapers, developed townsites, and opened French restaurants. The interior prairies of the Bald Hills, Kneeland, Showers Pass, Bridgeville and the headwaters of the Van Duzen, Mad and North Fork Eel rivers were settled by Americans who ran cattle and sheep operations.

Up to and through the Second World War, this demographic and occupational structure prevailed. People came and went, of course, but the population and work remained fairly stable. The natural resources of the North Coast continued to provide livelihoods for most of Humboldt County’s people. Large timber companies, such as Hammond, Northern Redwood Lumber Co., Pacific Lumber Company, and Dolbeer and Carson kept people employed. The close of the war, however, forever changed that stability. A new Doug fir/plywood industry brought woods and mill workers from Oregon and Washington. Gypo loggers and seat-of-the-pants mills appeared overnight. Workers from Arkansas and Oklahoma found ready work. On the peninsula, Manila became a settlement of these folks, many of whom brought home the scrap wood from the mill at Samoa to build their houses. In 1947, Arcata was a lumber boom town with 30 mills in operation and more to come. Railroad shipments of lumber broke records year after year.

Timber dominated the economic and political life of the county well into the 1970s, but times were changing. College students, back-to-the-land refugees, and environmentalists brought a new perspective to resource use. What had once been a totally resource-extractive economy became a more diverse economy which included education, health and social services, resource protection and restoration, and government. And new groups of immigrants arrived, notably Hispanic workers and their families and refugees from countries impacted by the Vietnam War.

An incomparable natural environment and a diversity of people and cultures have created a history for Humboldt County as rich as any in California.

Plan to see the north coast, and experience this truly unique region of California, September 29-October 2, 2004, at the CCPH 2004 annual conference. We hope to see you there.
California State Parks Announces Fee Increase

California State Parks announced that in the midst of the state’s continuing budget shortfall, fees will be raised beginning July 1, 2004. The purpose of the increase is to offset budget cuts, provide for a minimum level of ongoing maintenance, and most importantly, to keep the parks open and operating for millions of visitors. In some cases, fees will be increased only slightly. In other cases, at the state’s most popular campgrounds and at prime locations during high-demand, peak times of the year, parking or camping fees will increase by a greater amount. In order to provide for affordability and access for people of all income levels, the increase is being structured in a way that allows for choices to be made through a sliding range of fees at parks throughout the system. “After repeated budget reductions, we have reached the point where there is no other choice,” said State Parks Director Ruth Coleman. “This is a reasonable solution to help get the State through hard budget times. This plan keeps the system open and operating, while also keeping it as affordable as possible for all Californians.”

Since the beginning of the budget deficit problem, virtually all departments of State government have undergone continued budget cuts. State Parks’ budget was reduced by $4.8 million in 2001-2002, another $15 million in 2002-2003, a total of nearly $20 million. To meet the requirements of those reductions, State Parks reorganized its middle and upper management and consolidated 23 statewide park districts down to 18. As its share for the upcoming 2004-2005 budget, State Parks must reduce its operating budget by an additional $15 million. Because most of the State Parks’ budget goes to wages and benefits, cuts alone would require the layoff of an additional 250 permanent and 800 seasonal employees. Personnel reductions of that magnitude, on top of previous reductions of 200 personnel, would require the closure of more than 100 State Parks because there would not be sufficient personnel to operate those parks. By raising fees, the $15 million budget reduction will be offset by the added fee revenue. In addition to recapturing the $15 million budget reduction, the fee increase will provide for an additional $3 million, a total of $18 million. Of the additional $3 million, $1 million will be used to hire the seasonal personnel required to staff the kiosks and entrance stations. The added $2 million is a minimal amount needed to handle the most critical public safety and maintenance issues throughout the system.

California’s State Park System includes 277 parks with more than 15,000 camp sites, 280 miles of coastline and more than 3,000 miles of trails, making it the largest State Park system in the lower 48 states. In addition, it has the highest number of visitors of any State Park system in the entire nation, with more than 85 million visitors yearly, an increase of more than 34 percent in four years. The new fee structure is posted on the California State Parks web site, at www.parks.ca.gov, under Reservations and Fees.

Federal Highway Administration Action Acts to Stop 710 Freeway Project

from the National Trust for Historic Preservation

On December 30, 2003, the National Trust for Historic Preservation was notified that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has withdrawn its support for the 710 Freeway Extension in Southern California. The 710 Freeway Extension would have destroyed nearly 1,000 homes and impacted six historic districts, displaced approximately 4,000 people, and caused environmental destruction throughout the communities in the freeway corridor. The threat of the proposed freeway lead the National Trust to list South Pasadena and neighboring communities on America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list from 1989-1993.

Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, said, “This highway would have cut through the heart of South Pasadena and caused irreparable damage to the six historic districts in its path. We and our California partners have actively opposed this highway project for 15 years. If it weren’t for section 4(f) of the national transportation act, which is currently threatened in Congress, this highway would have been built years ago and caused enormous harm in the corridor. Section 4(f) helps keep our nation’s historic places from unnecessary highway construction.”

“This decision is the stake in the heart of 710 that we’ve been hoping for. We applaud this action, which virtually assures that the 710 extension will never be built and that the communities in the corridor will be preserved intact.”

The National Trust, the City of Pasadena, and members of the community protected the neighborhoods by using Section 4(f), the most important piece of federal preservation legislation, to stop the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) from bulldozing through the corridor. Currently this legislation is under attack in Congress. Legislative proposals to weaken section 4(f) would be a devastating blow to efforts to protect America’s heritage from being demolished to make way for highways in areas such as South Pasadena.
Yosemite is under siege.

This time the threat is from a California Congressman who seeks to negate the public’s wishes and desires in order to placate his small town constituency. This trend—to set aside the will of the majority for the benefit of the minority—has marked the past few years in national politics. The fad has percolated down to the local level, and the perpetrators seem emboldened to continue to push the boundaries of fairness and equal representation.

The dramatic flood of 1997 gave impetus and opportunity to finally approving and implementing a plan that would restore Yosemite Valley to a more natural, less crowded and pleasing place. The Yosemite Valley Plan was approved in 2000 after a decade of debate, public meetings, numerous planning sessions, and comprehensive study of several alternatives. The National Park Service reviewed and responded to more than ten thousand comments, crafting a plan that is balanced and reasonable.

Following the approval of the Environmental Impact Statement, Representative Leroy Radanovich (R-Mariposa), who has since been appointed Chair of the House Subcommittee on National Parks, decided that the years of effort and thousands of public comments didn’t matter, especially when a small number of his constituents from Mariposa County demanded that the plan be re-written in a fashion more to their liking (never mind that the park belongs to the nation, not the neighborhood).

Of particular interest to historians is Radanovich’s effort to punish the Sierra Club by demanding the removal of the club’s LeConte Memorial Lodge, built in Yosemite Valley in 1903. The lodge is a National Historic Landmark (NHL), listed in 1978. Radanovich is holding history hostage. He is threatening to move (read: destroy) a NHL for purely political purposes.

LeConte Memorial Lodge is commemorated to the memory of Joseph LeConte, a founding member of the Sierra Club and a popular professor at the University of California. The lodge is a small, Gothic-style chateau built from Sierran granite that houses a library and exhibits, and is open to the public during the summer months. It hunkers in the shadow of Glacier Point, and is a beautiful yet unobtrusive structure. Nineteen-year-old Ansel Adams was one of the lodge’s early caretakers.

The House Resources Committee, on a partisan vote of 21-20, have recently approved Radanovich’s plan to add more campsites to the Valley (removed due to the flood and agreed upon in the Plan) and, most egregiously, to remove the lodge.

This is a terrible idea and it must be defeated. This is an issue that transcends partisanship. When we begin to decide the fate of our most important historical landmarks in a capricious and backhanded manner, we are in danger of dismantling a system of historical recognition and protection that has the overwhelming support of the nation. Reason and rationality must once again reign. Republicans and Democrats alike need to voice their opposition to the needless and wanton destruction of a National Historic Landmark for the purpose of tormenting a national environmental organization. If this folly is allowed to continue, our history and our monuments will forever be in jeopardy.

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On October 20, 2003, by unanimous voice vote, the House of Representatives approved the California Missions Preservation Act (HR 1446), legislation designed to support the efforts of the California Missions Foundation to restore and repair California Spanish colonial-era missions, including their artworks and artifacts. The legislation authorizes a federal match of $10 million for various historic preservation projects. The measure has been sent to the Senate where companion legislation (S 1306) has been introduced; the House bill is now pending action on the Senate Legislative Calendar.
Martin Ridge, noted historian of the American West, passed away on September 22 after a long illness. He had enjoyed a distinguished career as teacher and published scholar, as editor of a national journal of historical scholarship, and as director of research and acting director at the Huntington Library.

Born in Chicago, Martin graduated from Chicago State University in 1943 and served in the U.S. Maritime Service during World War II before earning his M.A. and Ph.D. in history at Northwestern University. He took his doctorate under the guidance of Ray Billington. Martin taught at Westminster College (PA), San Diego State University, Indiana University, and Caltech over a 40 year period, 1955-1995. He joined the Huntington Library as a senior research associate in 1977 and retired as the library’s director of research in 1992.

Martin served a president of the Western History Association, the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, and the Historical Society of Southern California. Before coming to the Huntington Library he edited the Journal of American History for 11 years, establishing high standards of excellence for that journal. He published a number of books, articles, and reviews, including maintaining Billington’s textbook, Westward Expansion. As impressive as his professional accomplishments are, Martin Ridge is one of those individuals who is more important for who he is than for what he wrote or taught or edited. He possessed the kind of innate dignity that made it unnecessary for him to insist upon himself. He carried with him a clearly defined sense of citizenship, democracy, and respect for all people regardless of class, color, or capability.

He was first of a all good citizen, finding respect and honor in his contributions to history and to society. He was fond of quoting Pericles, the great Athenian. He inherited a tradition of honest labor, community involvement, and a willingness to work for change and progress. Like his mentor Billington, he did not readily accept injustice of any kind. He had great faith in political, economic, and social democracy. Martin was a servant leader nationally within the history profession, as he moved deftly across lines of division to provide an attractive sensibility that avoided the self-conscious theorizing of intellectual fashion. In his own writing he constructed his interpretations with great care, investing them with sound reasoning and sensible qualifications.

In his scholarship as in his personal contact with students, colleagues, and friends, Martin treated individuals with respect, inviting them to become his intellectual companions. He was special to so many people because he freely gave his time, energy, and counsel to all: the highly accomplished as well as those struggling as scholars. You left him sensing that you had been in the presence of an authentic human being, and believing that you had received special treatment—and indeed, you had.

Martin was effective in his serving others because he was a man “with a wisdom about himself," as one writer expressed the tribute, “that comes only to the great of heart.” He knew “how to value himself and what he did without mistaking himself for something more than one man among many.” Yet in the words of the ancient Maori saying, “a true man is not hid among the many.” And so it was with Martin Ridge because of his honesty, his keen insight, his practical wisdom, his range of knowledge, and his moral sincerity. One is tempted to say of Martin that in whatever direction we might choose to go, we usually met him on his way back. And when we did, he was constantly reminding us that the experience of history is something to be treasured.

--Tom Andrews, Executive Director, HSSC

A*CENSUS Group Begins Deliberations
adapted from the National Coalition for History's Washington Update

The working group charged with developing and conducting a comprehensive nationwide census of the archival profession, A*CENSUS (Archival Census and Education Needs Survey in the U.S.) began deliberations about the scope and nature of this unprecedented collaborative effort during its first meeting in Chicago in November 2003. Funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), A*CENSUS seeks 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 baseline data to support recruitment and training of new archivists. According to Society of American Archivists (SAA) president Timothy Ericson, the ground-breaking effort “will help to shape the individual and collective interests of the archival community.”

A broad range of archival interests are represented within the working group, including graduate archival education programs, continuing education programs, and many national and regional organizations. The goal of A*CENSUS is to survey everyone in the United States who works with archival materials through a census. The project will seek active participation from all archival associations in the U.S., as well as many organizations serving closely allied fields whose members bear significant responsibility for historical records, including librarians, local historians, records managers, and museum curators. Current plans call for the census to be conducted through a survey form that will be distributed during the spring of 2004. A preliminary report is to be available by the August 2004 annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists.

*The World Rushed In: The California Gold Rush Experience* is the first-hand account of William Swain (1821-1904), a schoolmaster and farmer from Youngstown, New York, and his experiences as part of the California Gold Rush phenomenon. On April 11, 1949, lured by gold rush stories and John C. Frémont’s published accounts of his own western travels, 27-year old Swain decided to head west, leaving his new bride and ten-month old daughter in the care of his brother and mother. He made his first diary entry that very day and religiously kept up the task throughout his expedition while also writing letters to his family. After seven months of hard traveling with a group of miners-to-be from Michigan, known as the Wolverine Rangers, Swain endured more than one near-death experience (from illness and the elements) before reaching Lassen’s Ranch in the Sacramento Valley on November 8, 1949. Once in California, Swain continued to document his trials in the northern mines, primarily along the Feather and Yuba Rivers, from the fall of 1949 through the summer of 1950. Finally, weary, discouraged, and without much gold dust to show for his efforts, Swain left for home from San Francisco in November 1850 and returned to Youngstown in January 1851 via the Isthmus of Panama. An educated and eloquent man, William Swain’s writings provide vivid descriptions of his travels by horseback, wagon, foot, and boat.

The format of *World* feels somewhat disjointed at first, but settles into a rhythm as it progresses. The book is divided into chapters that cover different legs of Swain’s expedition. Each chapter begins with an overview of Swain’s actions within the greater historical scope of the gold rush. The second section of the chapter reprints Swain’s diary entries and his letters home to Youngstown. To make the narrative more complete, Holliday skillfully intersperses accounts from other gold rush diaries and letters. Holliday selected these “fill-in” passages from accounts written at or about the same time Swain would have had similar experiences, thus keeping them in the context of Swain’s journeys. Finally, each chapter ends with letters written to Swain by his family during the given time period. These letters give the reader an insight into the lives of those he left behind—their anticipations and hopes of a financially successful journey alternating with fears for Swain’s physical and moral well-being.

Over twenty years after its initial release, *The World Rushed In* continues to be one of the most important published works on the early years of the California Gold Rush. Holliday’s use of other travelers’ and miners’ narratives adds a level of thoroughness and complexity that cannot be found in the straight publishing of first-hand accounts; his extensive research into primary source materials is evidenced throughout the book. This 2002 reprinted edition features a foreword by noted historian Howard R. Lamar, who praises Holliday’s “impeccable, exhaustive editing” of “one of the most popular gold-rush diaries ever published.” This edition also includes a new preface by Holliday in which he elaborates on his research and editing methods of the original edition. Although it stands alone as an engaging work of nonfiction, *World*’s thorough index makes it a must-have addition to the reference library of any student of California or American history.

**About the Author:** As a Yale undergraduate, J.S. Holliday came across the 100-year old gold rush diary of William Swain in 1948. This discovery prompted thirty years of research into hundreds of period diaries and letters. Holliday earned his Ph.D. from Berkeley in the Western History program, and held positions at the Huntington Library, Bancroft Library, San Francisco State University, Oakland Museum of California, and California Historical Society. After the publication of *World*, Holliday continued to research and write about the Gold Rush, and in 1999 he published—*Rush for Riches: Gold Fever and the Making of California*—which focuses on the history of the California Gold Rush from the 1860s–70s and the struggle over water between miners and farmers.

*Melissa McGann is the archivist at the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center in Santa Rosa.*

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The release of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations papers (1953-54) allows a fresh appraisal of that dark time in the not distant past. A new book examining the poetry and literature of post-war Los Angeles opens yet another door to explore an era of tyranny and oppression in a free land. The timing of its release, while coincidental, takes on even greater meaning in relation to events in Washington and elsewhere regarding the sanctity of our personal freedoms.

Editor Estelle Gershgoren Novak weaves a complex tapestry of poetry, narrative, and essays together into an absorbing (if uneven) text. The volume is amply illustrated with original art from the two Los Angeles literary journals, *The California Quarterly* and *Coastlines*, where the poets shared their craft and from which these selections were drawn. The contrast between the bullying, bellicose McCarthy and the L.A. poets is striking. Whereas the junior Senator from Wisconsin took great delight in pulverizing artists, writers, and actors who dared to express an opposing viewpoint, the subjects of this study engaged in spirited debate in their hometown periodicals about their chosen art form. They battled and bickered in an open forum, yet found common ground in their hatred of oppression and injustice. They soon enough became the targets of government investigation, feared and reviled for their free expression of ideas.

The Hollywood witch-hunts by the HUAC are well known; this work reveals an important poetic movement and recovers some worthwhile writers whose livelihoods also were truncated, but whose creativity remained vital and vibrant. They should not be forgotten. Novak does their story a service by recalling their existence and sharing their art with the rest of us.

*Bob Pavlik is an Environmental Planner and Historian with the California Department of Transportation in San Luis Obispo.*
The History Section of the American Library Association has designed a new web site that helps students locate and evaluate primary sources on the web. The great site includes practical information for students as well as links to many primary source sites. Sections on the site include, among others: What are primary sources; Finding primary sources on the web; and Citing web sites. Under the section entitled Evaluating primary source web sites are addressed: Who is responsible for this web site; Is there a clear purpose or reason for this site; Determining the origin of the document; What do others say about the web site; Is the content clearly explained, organized, and accessible; What is the format for the documents; and Is there a fee for use. Although designed for students, the site also may have particular value for public historians who had little to no experience conducting research via the internet during their education.
Conferences and Other Educational Opportunities


The 2004 California Parks Conference will be held March 8-11, 2004, in Anaheim. The variety of sessions offered at the conference reflect the breadth and depth of the parks professions. For those of you who can extend your stay, on Thursday there will be several 8-hour certification trainings as well. If you have any questions, contact Amy Lethbridge at lethbr@smmc.ca.gov or Frank Padilla at fpadilla@parks.ca.gov.

The Western Jewish Studies Association will hold its 10th annual conference March 28-29, 2004, at the Hilton Hotel in San Diego’s Gaslamp Quarter. For more information, contact Lawrence Baron, Department of History, San Diego State University, San Diego CA 92182; 619 583-8842 phone; 619 594-5338 fax; lbaron@mail.sdsu.edu.

The joint conference of the National Council on Public History and the American Society for Environmental History will take place March 31-April 4, 2004, in Vancouver, British Columbia. The conference theme will be “Cultural Places and Natural Spaces: Memory, History, and Landscape.” For more information, visit www.ncph.org.

The Society of California Archivists will hold its annual general meeting April 22-24, 2004, at the Hilton Hotel in Costa Mesa. Details are forthcoming. For more information, visit www.calarchivists.org.

The Economic and Business Historical Society announces its 29th annual conference at the Anaheim Sheraton Hotel, Anaheim, California, April 22-24, 2004. For more information, visit www.ebhsoc.org.

The California Preservation Foundation will hold its 29th annual conference at the Presidio in San Francisco, April 28-May 1, 2004. The conference theme will be Building Bridges. For more information, visit www.californiapreservation.org.

The Southwest Oral History Association will hold its annual conference in San Diego, April 30-May 2, 2004. The conference theme is “Crossing Borders: Negotiating Oral History Theory and Practice in a Digital World.” The call for papers invited topics addressing the significant relationships between theory and practice; interpretation of conflicting accounts; narrator selection; legal and ethical issues; community projects; public policy; and so forth. For more information, visit soha.fullerton.edu.

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.wawh.org or email Shirley J. Yee at sjyee@u.washington.edu.

The California Association of Museums will be holding its annual conference on to be determined dates in July 2004. The conference will take place in the Napa Valley/Santa Rosa area. For more information as it becomes available, visit www.calmuseums.net.

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 Elliot R. Barkan at ebarkan@csusb.edu or Patty Seleski at pseleski@csusb.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 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: LuAnn Jones at joneslu@mail.eccu.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.westa.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 graves and a water supply for travelers in an otherwise desert landscape. For more information, visit www.unm.edu/~wha.

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 2, 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 National Council on Public History invites proposals for sessions, papers, panels, roundtables, poster sessions, and workshops for its 2005 Annual Meeting to be held April 14-17, 2005, in Kansas City, Missouri. The theme for this conference will be “Defining Regions: Public Historians and the Culture and Meaning of Region.” The Program Committee seeks proposals for presentations that explore the many ways in which region informs the work of public historians and the many ways in which public history contributes to our understanding of regional history and identity. The Committee is also interested in exploring how definitions of region shape and are shaped by our different cultural, linguistic and national identities. The Program Committee strongly encourages the submission of complete session proposals (including panels and roundtables), but will accept individual papers for consideration as well. Individuals interested in volunteering to serve as session chairs or commentators are welcome to apply by sending in their name and contact information. Proposals must be submitted by e-mail to each of the committee members listed below by February 15, 2004. For a full list of submission requirements and committee members email, contact conference chair, Andy Ambrose at ambrose@atlantahistorycenter.com. Information may also soon be posted at www.ncph.org.
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 ccp@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 on Public History (NCPH)
  David Byrd, dbyrdsanet.com
- Northwest Oral History Association (NOHA)
  Alan Stein, 916 447-7073
- Society for California Archaeology (SCA)
  Steve Mikesell, smike@ohp.parks.ca.gov, 916 757-2521
- Society of California Archivists (SCA)
  Patricia Johnson, pjohnson@cityofsacramento.org
- Southwest Oral History Association (SOHA)
  Susan Douglass-Yates, douglasslibrary.edu
- Southwest Mission Research Center (SMRC)
  Linn McLaurin, 619 435-7394
- Western History Association (WHA)
  Ken Owens, owens@csus.edu
- Western Museums Association (WMA)
  Rebecca Carruthers, rcarr@parks.ca.gov

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

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 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
____ Institutional $40  ____ Individual $30  ____ Student $15

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.
Winter 2004

CCPH membership renewals will be mailed in March. So watch your mailbox!

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.
Congratulations to the 2003 CCPH Award Winners:
Fred Lewis - Certificate of Meritorious Performance
Mary Helmich - Certificate of Meritorious Performance
Mitch Stone & Judy Triem - Award of Distinction
Chuck Wilson - James C. Williams Award for Outstanding Service

And to the conference stipend recipients:
Lisa M. Bratton
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To: