It's getting close ... the CCPH annual conference is coming, that event which each year helps those of us in the public history fields in California truly mark the arrival of fall. The conference's program and activities are shaping up to be a wonderfully diverse mixture of topics, ideas, and experiences. Whether your interests lie in the direction of the literature of the Central Valley or the writing of biography, the banning of Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath" at the Kern County Free Library or Hollywood's depiction of the American West, the many speakers, papers and sessions planned for the conference will please the most discerning conference-goer. And whether your feet are itching to head up the Sierra to Sequoia National Park or deeper into the great valley to visit Allensworth State Historic Park (replete with ten newly reconstructed buildings), or you just want to stay nearby and experience Visalia's historic downtown, including seeing a feature film in the beautifully restored Fox Theater, conference activities will surely get you out and about. Conference staples like the opening reception, to be held in the Tulare Historical Museum, awards luncheon (get those nominations in by August 15!), and annual banquet will create ample opportunities to catch up with old friends (admit it—how many of them do you really only get a chance to see during the conference?) and meet some new ones. More and more the life of a public historian in California, and across the nation, is about leveraging our resources to get more from less, by creating that synergy we find and maximize through opportunities like those presented at the CCPH annual conference. Registration packets will be mailed out to all CCPH members in mid-August. Student/new professional stipends will once again be available on a competitive basis—for information on how to apply, visit our website. For updates about the conference, visit www.csus.edu/org/ccph. See you in Visalia!
Dr. Robert S. Martin Completes Term as Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services

Dr. Robert S. Martin has completed his four-year term as Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). During his tenure, IMLS awarded 4,704 grants to America's museums and libraries totaling more than $899 million. Since Dr. Martin assumed the directorship of IMLS, the agency's budget has increased from $232 million to $280 million. In addition, in 2003 President George W. Bush signed the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003, reauthorizing the agency through 2009.

Under Dr. Martin's leadership, IMLS launched a new multi-million dollar grant program (over $22 million in FY 2005) to recruit and educate the next generation of librarians. In 2004 Dr. Martin made the inaugural grants for “Museums for America,” the agency's largest grant program for museums. IMLS has continued and strengthened its commitment to research during Dr. Martin's tenure. True Needs, True Partners, a 2001 study of museums' work with schools, found that America's museums spend more than $1 billion annually and provide more than 18 million instructional hours every year on K-12 education. In 2002 IMLS published the first-ever report on how museums and libraries bolster K-12 education and lifelong learning in communities across the nation. The report, "Charting the Landscape, Mapping New Paths: Museums, Libraries, and K-12 Learning" is based on a workshop held in 2004 in which over 70 participants examined K-12 collaborations among their organizations.

Three key findings include the need to "redefine education as a lifetime endeavor," to "understand the changing nature of professional roles," and to "move beyond anecdotal evidence to show what works." For the report, visit www.imls.gov/pubs/pdf/Charting_the_Landscape.pdf or write imlsinfo@imls.gov to request a hard-copy of the report.

IMLS Issues Report on Museum/Library Collaboration

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has released a report on how museums and libraries bolster K-12 education and lifelong learning in communities across the nation. The report, "Charting the Landscape, Mapping New Paths: Museums, Libraries, and K-12 Learning" is based on a workshop held in 2004 in which over 70 participants examined K-12 collaborations among their organizations. Three key findings include the need to "redefine education as a lifetime endeavor," to "understand the changing nature of professional roles," and to "move beyond anecdotal evidence to show what works." For the report, visit www.imls.gov/pubs/pdf/Charting_the_Landscape.pdf or write imlsinfo@imls.gov to request a hard-copy of the report.

We the People Bookshelf Awards

This week the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) announced that a second group of 500 school and local libraries throughout the country will receive free copies of 15 classic books from the “We the People Bookshelf,” with four also offered in Spanish. The theme of this year’s bookshelf is “freedom”—last year’s theme was “courage.” As part of the award, libraries will hold programs or events to raise awareness of these classic books and engage young readers.

According to NEH Chair Bruce Cole, “The Endowment’s ‘We the People Bookshelf’ enables younger readers to examine this important concept from many perspectives. This year’s bookshelf tells the stories of freedom sought, freedom denied, freedom lived.”

The new awards are part of the Endowment’s “We the People” initiative, which supports projects that strengthen the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture. The awards will go to neighborhood and public school libraries as well as libraries at private schools, charter schools, and home school cooperatives throughout the United States. Each library will receive a set of the 15 books, posters, bookmarks, and other promotional materials from NEH through the American Library Association, which is working in partnership with NEH on this initiative.

The books that will be distributed include (among others) Paul Revere’s Rider by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, To Be a Slave by Julius Lester, Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury, and The Miracle at Philadelphia by Catherine Drinker Bowen. A complete list of the 500 school and public libraries to receive books can be found at www.neh.gov/pdf/bookshelf6-2005.pdf.

California History Action

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California History Action
Travel and Tourism Commission Resources
from the California Association for Museums’ Enews

The California Travel and Tourism Commission (CTTC) offers online marketing guides and other programs to assist tourism-related businesses, including museums, reach California’s residents and visitors. Three of CTTC’s initiatives of interest to museums are outlined below. For more information, visit www.visitcalifornia.com or contact the California Travel and Tourism Commission at 916 444-6798.

Offer Wizard is an online database of discounts and other offers for California attractions from the Visit California website and the “Best of California” television site at www.tboc.tv. To add information, visit www.offerwizard.com, click on “Business Registration,” and then fill out the information to be displayed. A web administrator will verify the information and then post it on the site.

Organization administrators can log onto www.culturecalifornia.com, click “Add an Event,” select “New Partner,” and then fill out the online application form. New participants are updated at the end of each month. This website is also promoted through Smithsonian magazine.

The CTTC also releases “What's New,” a seasonal guide of upcoming California attractions to the tourism press. Topics include exhibitions, museums, tours, galleries and standard tourism interests like restaurants and hotels. Submissions for the fall issue can be sent to Karen Lau at klau@crtc1.com or by fax at 916 444-0410.
On June 9 Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) and Representative Thomas Petri (R-WI) introduced legislation (S 1209 and HR 2858 respectively) designed “to establish and strengthen post-secondary programs and courses in the subjects of traditional American history, free institutions, and Western civilization.” The legislation, which is identical in both the House and Senate introduced versions, seeks to authorize an appropriation of $140 million for FY 2006 and “such sums as may be necessary for each of the succeeding five fiscal years.”

In his floor statement introducing his legislation, Senator Gregg stated, “College students’ lack of historical literacy is quite startling… We cannot hope to preserve our democracy without taking action to remedy our students’ historical literacy. … I believe the time has come for Congress to do something to promote the teaching and study of traditional American history at the post-secondary level.”

Last Congress, Senator Gregg, as Chair of the Senate Education Committee introduced similar legislation and was well positioned to aggressively advance his bill. But Gregg’s bill sparked criticism from some historical groups because of its overly narrow focus on “traditional American history” when clearly the demonstrated need was for federal funding for a broader-based history curriculum at the post-secondary level—a curriculum covering not just “traditional” American history but also ancient history and the history of Western civilization, as well as comparative world history.

In meetings with Gregg’s staff in October 2003, representatives of the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, and the National Coalition for History advanced for the senator’s consideration certain suggested changes to the bill. They included a more expansive definition of both “traditional American history” (including as part of the definition some dimension of state and local history and social history) and “western civilization,” and also recommended “world or comparative history” be included in the legislation. Gregg’s most recent legislative initiative merely corrects grammatical errors in the old bill but continues its narrow focus. The NCH once again hopes to coordinate a meeting with Congressional staff to advance much needed revisions to these well-meaning but flawed legislative initiatives.

**Senate Hearing: “U.S. History: Our Worst Subject”**

On June 30 the Senate Subcommittee on Education and Early Childhood Development of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions conducted a hearing on “The American History Achievement Act,” legislation (S 860) introduced by Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA). The legislation seeks to authorize a 10-state pilot study to provide a state-by-state comparison of U.S. history and civics test data for 8th and 12 grades administered through the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP). During the hearing that was chaired by Alexander, NAEP officials announced that beginning in 2006 the U.S. history NAEP test would begin to be administered every four years. Furthermore, in response to criticism from historian David McCullough about the impact of the president’s “No Child Left Behind” initiative on the teaching of history, Senator Kennedy promised that when the “No Child Left Behind” legislation comes up for reauthorization, history will be added as a core element in the initiative’s teaching mission.

Panelists who testified included historian David McCullough; Executive Director of the National Assessment Governing Board Charles Smith; Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies Director Stephanie Norby; and Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals Field Representative James Parisi. In his thoughtful remarks, McCullough told the senators that one of the central problems in the teaching of history is that teachers who possess degrees in education rarely possess the needed subject matter expertise to teach specific subjects such as history. He stated that history majors make the best history teachers because they are able to communicate a love of history to students. McCullough also stated that, with some notable exceptions, history texts are often written in a style far too boring to interest students; he called for a renewed effort to emphasize the “literature of history.” McCullough then returned to a familiar theme that he often raises in his appearances before congressional committees—that it is important for teachers to focus on narrative history to reach students. McCullough minced no words when he pointed out the detrimental impact that the “No Child Left Behind” initiative, with its emphasis on math and English testing, is having on the teaching of history. Finally, he called on the committee to explore ways that school teachers can benefit from the superb educational opportunities that exist at the historic sites and places administered by the National Park Service. In what perhaps was the most important news item to emerge out of the hearing, Charles E. Smith of the National Assessment Governing Board announced that during the May 19-21 meeting of his board of governors a new history testing schedule was adopted. He said that beginning in 2006, the NAEP U.S. history exam would be conducted every four years. Smith also stated that as embodied in the legislation under consideration by the committee the objective of conducting history assessments in at least ten geographically diverse states was “a reasonable goal” provided “a sufficient and timely appropriation” was forthcoming. For the written testimony of the witnesses, visit help.senate.gov/calendars/all.html and use the appropriate hearing link.
California’s Focus is on Two of 2005’s 11 Most Endangered Places

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has announced its 11 Most Endangered Places for 2005, and two of them involve properties in California—Los Angeles’ Ennis-Brown House and the National Landscape Conservation System, which includes dozens of national monuments, conservation and wilderness areas, historic trails, and rivers in the western states, embracing an incredible array of historic sites ranging from Native American pueblos to traces of frontier-era migration routes.

Ennis-Brown House

The grandest of Frank Lloyd Wright’s “textile block” houses, the 1924 Ennis-Brown House combined the famed architect’s longstanding interest in the sculptural qualities of concrete and his quest to design innovative buildings. Built of concrete blocks that incorporate material excavated at the building site, the house truly blends with its setting—but its unique design is so eye-catching that it has served as a backdrop for many fashion shoots and films, including 1974’s Day of the Locust and 1982’s Blade Runner. Designed in 1923 for Charles and Mabel Ennis, the Ennis-Brown House is the last of the four Wright-designed textile block houses built in Southern California in the 1920s. Wright designed an interlocking system of identical pre-cast concrete blocks that were stacked dry without mortar joints. The textile block system created a single building component that could integrate structure, ornament, and inner and outer walls.

But time has not been kind to the landmark. A previous owner applied a sealant to the walls, trapping water inside that has rusted steel reinforcing bars and caused the blocks to crack and spall. In 1994, the Northridge earthquake led to the partial collapse of the south retaining wall, the chauffeur’s quarters and the structural support for the dining room. Last year’s record rains caused additional damage. Estimates of stabilization costs run as high as $5 million, and full restoration costs are well over $15 million.

Today, the unsafe site is off-limits to visitors—and unless repairs are undertaken soon, this great house will be visible only on magazine pages and movie screens.

National Landscape Conservation System

Encompassing 26 million acres in 12 western states, the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) is managed by the Federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Designated in 2000 by the Department of the Interior, the system offers a unique means to enjoy and study historic and cultural resources in their original context. These resources date from several thousand years ago, such as Lowry Pueblo in Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, to historic sites and trails from the 16th–20th century eras, such as the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail in New Mexico and the Oregon Trail. The system was established to conserve, protect, and restore natural and cultural landscapes that offer visitors a chance to see the west through the eyes of the first Americans, as well as the explorers and homesteaders.

However, BLM’s ability to provide the protection the NLCS needs is seriously hampered by chronic understaffing and underfunding. As a result, fragile resources are being threatened or destroyed, often before they can be studied or even inventoried. Unless BLM gets the funding and staffing it needs for the National Landscape Conservation System, irreplaceable treasures will continue to be lost or destroyed, and important chapters in America’s story will be erased. There is a need to boost public and congressional recognition of the NLCS in order to attract more and varied partnerships with the BLM; and it is critical that BLM receives funding and staffing to protect the system’s cultural resources.

Historic Preservation: A Guide to Resources

Historic Preservation, developed by Head Librarian Elizabeth Byrne of UC Berkeley’s College of Environmental Design, is a guide to strategies and resources for students and others beginning research on the conservation, preservation or restoration of historic buildings, landscapes, or cities, with an emphasis on California and the Bay Area. Categories of the site include: Research Methods; Reference Sources; History and Philosophy; Legal and Political Environment; Social and Cultural Aspects; Economic Aspects; Documentation and Interpretation; Handbooks and Manuals; Archives, Associations and Organizations; Architecture; Landscape Architecture; and Planning. Related guides will also be helpful, including: Vernacular Architecture and Landscape Architecture, San Francisco Bay Area Architects and Architecture, Finding Information on Buildings and Places, History of the U.S. Cultural Environment, Finding Local Information, Finding General Plans, and American Communities. To view the guide, visit www.lib.berkeley.edu/ENVI/historicpreservation.html.
National Park Service Responds to Congressional Inquiries about NPS Reorganization
from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

On June 8 the National Park Service responded to congressional inquiries relating to the effort “to realign certain functional responsibilities of the Washington headquarters office.” The response was addressed to Norman Dicks (D-WA), Ranking Minority member of the House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, of the U.S. House of Representatives, with copies going to other House and Senate appropriations committee members.

According to the memo obtained by the National Coalition for History, the realignment of the Cultural Resources Division is part of what an NPS spokesperson described as a larger “consolidation of business practices” that is to take effect within 30 days of the receipt of the letter by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations—July 8.

The letter states that “the purpose of this realignment is to improve our ability to carry out the broad mission responsibilities of the NPS,” and to that end, “we seek to improve efficiency by balancing responsibilities among top managers and consolidating similar functions under common leadership.” The most significant aspect to the realignment is the consolidation of park operations to a single deputy director and park support services under another deputy director. The memo declares that “there are no added costs associated with the realignment” and that the number of Senior Executive Service slots remains “unchanged.”

Several NPS inside sources familiar with the memo’s contents questioned the rationale advanced in the letter justifying the reorganization, specifically as it relates to the Cultural Resources Division. According to these insiders, the realignment justifications are based on “service-wide management objectives and do not address the specifics relating to the Cultural Resources division.”

Of the nine justifications advanced to Congress, only one directly addresses the “proposed” changes to the Cultural Resources Division. According to the letter to Congress, “efficiency, effectiveness and accountability” will be achieved in the Cultural Resources Division “by organizing fourteen divisions among three Assistant Associate Directors.”

According to some analysts the NPS letter fails to adequately address concerns raised by some within the cultural resources community regarding the reorganization (specifically, the removal of Carol Shull as Keeper of the National Register). Recent press reports also note that the reorganization consolidates a “great deal of power into the hands of Stephen P. Martin,” the recently appointed deputy director who replaced Durand “Randy” Jones just four months ago. But other observers note the reorganization basically returns the NPS to an organizational structure that existed well over a decade ago, prior to the Bush administration taking office.

If nothing else, the reorganization suggests a reversal in the management trend popular with the Reagan and other past Republican administrations in which decision-making power and authority vested more at the field and regional level than in a centralized Washington office. Instead, the new organizational structure more closely adheres to a corporate model that consolidates power and authority in the hands of a few at the top. Clearly, the NPS is now adhering more closely to the corporate model that seems to better typify the government-wide management style of the Bush administration.

Senate Acts on NEH Budget
from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

On June 29, by a vote of 94 to 0, the United States Senate approved its version of the FY 2006 appropriations bill for the Department of Interior and Related Agencies, which includes funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Supporters of the NEH were able to beat back a proposed amendment by Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) designed to cut funding for both the NEH and NEA by $5 million each. The senator proposed transferring these funds to the Bureau of Land Management to help fight wildfires. Thanks in part to over 700 communications to senators from NEH/NEA supporters, in the end Coburn withdrew his amendment and the Senate approved a figure of $143.1 million for the NEH ($5 million higher than last year’s appropriation). This is the same level that was recommended by the House for the NEH in FY 2006.

Now that the funding levels have been set by both the House and Senate, several matters still need to be resolved when managers meet in conference to address the outstanding aspects of the Interior appropriations bill. The key issue of concern for the NEH is whether the $5 million increase for the agency will be earmarked for the history-based “We the People” program as recommended by the House, or not be earmarked for any particular NEH program as recommended by the Senate. The conference has yet to be scheduled and probably will take place in the early fall.

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
California Cultural and Historical Endowment Begins Disbursing Grants

The California Cultural and Historical Endowment (CCHE) has begun disbursing its first grants, using funds set aside from the Proposition 40 bond moneys. At its May 18 board meeting, the CCHE approved funding for 13 of the 33 projects for which the board had reserved funding in December 2004. At the May meeting, the board approved funding for the following projects: California Museum for History, Women, and the Arts – $375,000; City of Santa Monica – $113,241; Imperial Valley College Desert Museum Society – $244,642; City of Watsonville – $300,074; Bay Area Electric Railroad Association – $310,520; Monterey County Redevelopment Agency – $380,060; Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association – $499,500; Angels Flight Railway Foundation – $996,350; City of Brentwood – $819,839; Knight Foundry Corporation – $50,000; San Diego Natural History Museum – $2,887,500; Cesar E. Chavez Foundation – $2,200,000. These 13 applicants were selected from 276 total grant applications received by the CCHE. Although the CCHE press release about these grants did not contain specifics about what projects are being funded by the moneys identified above, some of the applicants did distribute their own information. Thus, we can tell readers that the City of Santa Monica will be conserving and installing the historic Stanton MacDonald-Wright murals recently returned to the city by the Smithsonian Institution; the Bay Area Electric Railroad Association will use its grant to support construction costs for the Western Railway Museum’s newest and largest facility, the Loring C. Jensen Memorial Car House; the Knight Foundry Corporation will be conducting environmental studies and needed mitigation at the Knight Foundry site in Sutter Creek; and the Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association will construct a library/archives within a to-be-restored railway depot in Goffs, California.

At their July 7 board meeting, the discussion of grants to award from the first round of applications was continued, with the focus being on the Autry National Center of the American West, Brava! For Women in the Arts, Madera County Resource Management Agency, Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, Oakland Redevelopment Agency, and Discovery Science Center. Information about decisions made at this meeting has not yet been released as we go to press.

House Committee Recommends $7.5 Million for NHPRC

from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

On June 21 the House Appropriations Committee voted a Transportation/Treasury appropriation bill out of committee that allot a total of $7.5 million for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)—$5.5 million in grants and $2 million for administrative support. This is significantly more than the president’s FY 2006 budget proposal which zeroes out all monies for the NHPRC, but less than the figure advanced by the archives and history communities—$8 million for grants and $2 million for program support.

During the nearly day-long meeting of the House Appropriations Committee, partisan disagreements over various transportation-related issues dominated the proceedings. Republicans stated that the various funding bills under consideration were “fiscally responsible” and that they eliminated “duplicate and ineffective” programs. Democrats argued that an inadequate budget allocation made it virtually impossible for the committee to report out a responsible bill. While members disagreed over AMTRAK funding and other transportation support measures, there was no disagreement about the need to continue funding for the NHPRC.

The recent action by the House Appropriations Committee on the FY 2006 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill is also of interest to historians and archivists. While funding details are sketchy, the bill that passed June 16 would provide $2.87 billion for the operations of the House and related congressional agencies, including the Library of Congress, the GAO, the Government Printing Office and the maintenance and security of the Capitol grounds. The figure represents a 1.7 percent increase over last year’s funding level.

The Legislative Branch funding bill provides a total of $543 million for the Library of Congress—a $2 million decrease from FY 2005. The embattled Government Printing Office would get $123 million—an increase of about $3 million over last year. The Office of the Superintendent of Documents also posts a slight increase this year of $1.384 million; that figure is still some $500,000 below the president’s request.
California History Action

Legislation

California Clean Water, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2006

The State Legislature is currently considering a new parks bond that would authorize $3.865 billion for “the acquisition, development, improvement, preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of agricultural, coastal, cultural, forest, historical, park, recreational, and water resources in the state.” The bill (SB 153) was introduced by Wesley Chesbro (D-02) and Kevin Murray (D-26) on February 8. The bill allocates funding as follows: $1.74 billion for neighborhood, community, and regional parks and recreational areas; $1.3 billion for state parks and wildlife protection; and $825 million for water quality and coastal protection. The bill further breaks down these amounts and at this point has relatively few allocations for specific projects. The bill identifies $100 million to be made available to the California Cultural and Historical Endowment (see article on page 7). The bill passed out of the Senate by a vote of 23 to 12 on June 2, and was been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on July 7. It is not known at this time if the bond, if passed and signed, would appear on the ballot for the primary election in 2006 or later that fall.

Updates to Federal Legislation

The last issue of this newsletter discussed a number of federal bills related to history and historic preservation. To date there have been no changes to the status of almost all of those bills, aside from movement on one of them. Federal funding for the restoration of the Angel Island Immigration Station (S 262 and HR 606) has seen a little progress. On the senate version of this bill, hearings were held in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on April 28. The house version passed that body on May 23 and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. This restoration project is also being considered for grant funding by the California Cultural and Historical Endowment.

House Appropriators Act on Education Bill

The House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over education and library programs, has issued recommendations for FY2006 and it doesn’t bode well for the Education Department’s “Teaching American History” (TAH) initiative.

The subcommittee’s recommendation included a cut of just over $69 million for the TAH program, thus funding the program at only $50 million. The president had urged more than $119 million for the TAH initiative, the same amount that the program was funded at in FY 2005. If the funding level recommended by the House stands and is embraced by the Senate (not very likely considering the program’s prime sponsor is Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-WV) who is the Ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Committee), the net effect will be tighter competition for hundreds of excellent teacher education programs that are supported with funds channeled by the Education Department to local education agencies (LEAs). Nevertheless, representatives of member organizations of the National Coalition for History (NCH) met with Congressional appropriators to determine what if any action is needed by the history community to ensure the continuation of the flow of federal dollars into the initiative.

In other related actions, the subcommittee recommended an overall funding level of just under $250 million, a four percent increase, for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). For the museum side of the program, there is almost $36 million of which $1 million is for the support of programs associated with the African American History and Culture Act. The subcommittee also recommended the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) receive $212.65 million, an increase of almost $7 million over last year, but $8.675 million below President Bush’s budget request. Within that total is $165.5 million for Grants to State Library Agencies, $24 million for Librarians for the 21st Century program, $12.5 million for National Leadership Grants for libraries, and $3.5 million for Improving Library Service to Native Americans.

The subcommittee’s recommendations now head to the full House Appropriations Committee for consideration.

Contacting your Representatives

California State Assembly www.assembly.ca.gov
California State Senate www.senate.ca.gov
U.S. Senate www.senate.gov
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger www.ca.gov
President George W. Bush www.whitehouse.gov

Tracking Legislation

California Legislation www.leginfo.ca.gov
Federal Legislation thomas.loc.gov
Historian and Preservationist Edna Kimbro Passes at Age 57

After a six-year battle with ovarian cancer, historian and architectural conservator Edna Kimbro died in her sleep the morning of June 26 at her Watsonville home. She had marked her 57th birthday the night before. Kimbro’s fierce campaigns on behalf of local historic properties resulted in the creation of Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park in the 1980s and the preservation of the Castro Adobe (Rancho San Andreas) in 2002. In addition, the Monterey native—and UC Santa Cruz’s first art history graduate—consulted on behalf of the State Parks System to help restore and preserve dozens of adobe structures in Central California. Kimbro was recognized nationally as among the foremost experts on adobe construction and preservation. “We really relied on her to find ways to make preservation happen,” said Kimbro’s longtime friend and fellow Santa Cruz County historian, Ross Gibson. “Edna worked magic.”

Kimbro’s passion for adobe structures, passed on to her by her mother—an antiques collector and California history buff—was stoked when she came across a house on North Branciforte Drive in Santa Cruz. The adobe was the last remaining building from an early civilian Spanish settlement. She and husband Joe Kimbro bought the termite-infested property in the late 1970s, preserved it to the best of their financial abilities, and lived there for about 10 years. Then they took on an even bigger project. In July 1998 the Kimbros—Edna, Joe and sons David and Joey—moved into a 150-year-old adobe home in Watsonville. Several months later, Edna Kimbro went on a United Nations grant excursion to Europe to study the latest techniques in earthquake-resistant preservation of old mud brick-based buildings. She was one of only two Americans selected to attend the conference. Shortly after she returned home, the Loma Prieta earthquake struck, severely damaging her beloved Castro Adobe. The damage left the building uninhabitable, and the California missions expert embarked on a mission of her own: to convince state administrators to buy the badly damaged adobe house and adjacent property for a park. “It seemed so hopeless at one time,” said Capitola Museum Director Carolyn Swift. “Now, because of Edna, there’s this state park in Watsonville.” The Getty Conservation Institute was scheduled to publish Kimbro’s nearly completed book on the decorative arts and conservation of California missions and will publish the book posthumously. “She will be irreplaceable,” colleague and friend Charlene Duval said, “as a person and as a scholar.”

History Channel “Save Our History” Grant Program
from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

Based on its success among history organizations and schools in 2004-2005, the History Channel, in collaboration with the American Association for State and Local History and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, has announced its 2005-2006 “Save Our History Grant Program.” Last year the History Channel awarded $250,000 in grants to 29 local history organizations in 27 states across the country. This year awards totaling $250,000 in grants will once again be distributed to support history education and historic preservation with an emphasis on local history organizations that design and execute local history education and preservation projects in collaboration with local schools or youth groups.

History organizations will be able to apply for grants of up to $10,000 to help fund unique, hands-on student projects created to teach students about important aspects of their local history and to actively engage them in the preservation of significant and potentially endangered pieces of their local heritage. If you have questions on how to get started, a Save Our History representative will be happy to provide guidance and support; please send an email to info@saveourhistory.com. The grant application, due by October 21, 2005, can be found at www.saveourhistory.com.

US Dept of Education Grant Policies
from the California Association for Museums’ Enews

The U.S. Department of Education is transitioning to Grants.gov, a website that allows individuals and organizations to find and apply for grants from all grant-making agencies electronically. If you are planning to apply for federal grants, please make sure to review the new policies and procedures information at www.grants.gov or call the Grants.gov Help Desk at 800 518-GRANTS.

2006 IMLS Grant Guide Available
from the California Association for Museums’ Enews

A PDF (372KB) of the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) guide to grant opportunities and award programs for FY 2006 is now available at www.imls.gov/pubs/pdf/2006_Grant_Opportunities.pdf. The next grant deadlines are October 1, 2005, for Conservation Project Support grants and November 1, 2005, for the Museums for America program. For general information, visit www.imls.gov.
History of the Fox: The Glory of Yesteryear

by Donna Orozco

The Fox Theatre tells a lot about the community of Visalia. Opened in 1930 in the early days of “talking pictures,” the theater was the grand showplace in town for over 40 years. Going to the Fox was an unforgettable experience. It let you leave the streets of Visalia behind to enter the garden court of an East Indian temple resplendent with wall murals, green trees, and of course, the unforgettable twinkling stars above.

The Fox first made headlines in the Visalia Times-Delta when on January 5, 1929, a front page story announced that a grand new theater would be built for Fox West Coast Theaters, the largest chain of motion picture theaters in the country. Fox built hundreds of theaters to promote their films, six of them in California. Movies gained respectability through association with elaborate movie palaces, and the Fox is typical of the “atmospheric” style of theater—designed with elaborate motif so grand that the movie goer could escape from the realities of the Great Depression into romance and fantasy before the feature even began.

The theater was to be built on the west edge of town, at Main and Encina Streets, and work soon began to raze the garage and small residence that occupied the site. As construction got underway, “talking pictures” debuted in town at the old Visalia Theatre, and the Fox Corporation promised that their grand new theater would be an all-talky movie house. Fox contracted with Western Electric to provide the highest quality sound and much of the projection equipment.

Up in the box office tower, the famous Fox Theatre clock was installed. The three-way clock was the largest of its kind ever constructed at the time. Its face measured over six feet in diameter and was rimmed in neon so it lit up the sky in all directions at night. Only trouble was, it apparently never kept very good time. Management eventually spent hundreds of dollars trying to get the intricate mechanism to work properly.

A year after construction began, the theater was almost complete. The new theater had cost $225,000 to build and had every convenience—including the best heating and cooling system. Patrons were assured that the auditorium would be constantly filled with pure, fresh air which was washed by passing through a screen of water.

Finally, on February 27, 1930, at 6:30 p.m., the Fox Theatre opened. Huge spotlights shone their beams skyward to announce the opening. The streets were blocked for some distance by onlookers and patrons waiting their turn to attend one of the two movie showings. The opening night billing was typical of movie houses of the day—an all-talking western, plus a newsreel, a Mickey Mouse cartoon and a Laurel and Hardy comedy.

As patrons entered the theater, they were awestruck by the beautiful foyer with its Oriental atmosphere of subdued richness, crowded with baskets of flowers sent by many business firms of the city. The décor was elaborate in every detail. Softly carpeted stairways led up to the balcony. Beautifully woven tapestries lined the walls. Elaborate mirrors, mosaic vases, fountains, plaques, and chandeliers completed the effect.

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Inside the huge auditorium, all 1,300 seats were filled. The audience was surrounded by a garden court of an East Indian ruler with blue sky and stars above and towering temples at either side of the stage. From the depths of the orchestra pit came rich organ music, the pipes hidden behind the ornate carvings.

In the early days, live acts were a part of the entertainment. Local residents remember watching singers, dancers, roller skaters, impressionists, magicians and hypnotists, as well as concerts, both amateur and professional.

The Saturday afternoon Kiddie Klub featuring young talent was a great attraction for children, and the Fox proved a long-term babysitter when you consider there was generally a newsreel, a serial, a cartoon or two, plus a double feature to keep the younger set enthralled. Uniformed usherettes with flashlights in hand helped patrons to their seats and were supposed to keep children out of the balcony. There was no concession stand in the early days. Eventually a portable candy case was installed, which gave way to today’s more traditional concession stand.

The magic lasted into the ‘70s, but television changed the movie industry. The big movie houses were being replaced by multiplex theaters. In 1976 the Fox was divided into three theaters, and that division brought the end of an era. The Fox continued to show first-run movies for 20 more years, until November 1996 when the opening of a 12-plex at the Sequoia Mall brought the closing of the theater after 66 years.

But immediately after the theater was closed, the Friends of the Fox was formed. Their goal was to acquire the building, restore it to its original glory and make it a performing arts venue. It took three years of struggle and fundraising, but finally on November 20, 1999, the Fox reopened, beautifully restored as it had looked nearly 70 years before.

Want to experience this magical moviehouse for yourself? Then join CCPH in Visalia, October 27-29, 2005, for our annual conference. A highlight of the conference will be the showing of the 1939 classic western Stagecoach, directed by the renown John Ford and featuring a very young John Wayne. This landmark 1939 Western began the legendary relationship between John Ford and John Wayne, and became the standard for all subsequent Westerns. It solidified Ford as a major director and established Wayne as a charismatic screen presence. Seen today, Stagecoach still impresses as the first mature instance of a Western that is both mythic and poetic. The story about a cross-section of troubled passengers unraveling under the strain of Indian attack contains all of Ford’s incomparable storytelling trademarks—particularly swift action and social introspection—underscored by the painterly landscape of Monument Valley. And what an ensemble of actors: Thomas Mitchell (who won a Best Supporting Actor Oscar as the drunken doctor), Claire Trevor, Donald Meek, Andy Devine, and the magical John Carradine. Due to the film’s striking use of chiaroscuro lighting and low ceilings, Orson Welles watched Stagecoach over and over while preparing for Citizen Kane.

- Pursists may dismiss historical “picture books” as mere adjuncts to the historical record, yet Arcadia Publishing’s Images of America series has proved again that visual resources provide detailed and unique insight into local history. Three of Arcadia’s most recent publications include photographic time capsules of Placer County gold rush camps and the East Bay community of early Hayward, as well as a history of Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield.

  - Archivist/historian Carmel Barry-Schweyer and museum curator Alycia S. Alvarez collected select items from the Placer County Department of Museums’ photographic holdings to illustrate the impact of “gold fever” on what eventually became Placer County. As with previous Images of America publications, the authors provide informative and concise explanations of each photograph, and when possible, indicate in the captions additional primary sources, such as census, early local newspaper articles, diaries and letters, used to support their research. Barry-Schweyer and Alvarez show the evolution of get-rich-quick gold and silver mining camps into settled communities, or their eventual neglect and demise. Placer Mining Camps introduces readers to the impact of mining on the social and physical landscape, including photos of Chinese miners and the erosion created by hydraulic mining practices. Placer Mining Camps provides additional visual evidence to the already voluminous catalog of publications regarding California’s Gold Rush history.

  - Situated at the natural confluence of waterways between San Francisco Bay and inland valley farmlands, Hayward appeared destined to become the major conduit of human traffic between these two regions. In Early Hayward California State University East Bay (formerly CSU Hayward) history professor Robert Phelps, with the assistance of the Hayward Area Historical Society, details settlement of the area, focusing on the period between 1868 to 1940. As a result Phelps illustrates how Hayward exemplified urban development in California. The photographs show how Hayward’s particular geography enabled this originally agricultural community to grow into a thriving small city with a diverse population. Phelps cleverly ends his visual journey through the city’s growth with an image of a rickety, well-traversed bridge taken on the eve of World War II. This particular photo signified early Hayward’s historical role as a “bridge” between an increasingly industrial and commercial San Francisco Bay Area and the state’s agricultural heartland.

  - In Travis Air Force Base, military historian Diana Stuart Newlin constructs a chronological montage of the base’s strategic beginnings as a west coast air base during World War II and its subsequent importance to the post-war defense industry. Newlin, currently the base’s deputy museum curator, published Travis Air Force Base a year before the most recent Congressional review on base closures. Her book would provide a convincing argument for keeping Travis AFB open based on historical significance alone and it should be required reading for future Congressional defense budget committees. Newlin’s choice of visual materials show the adaptability and strategic value of Travis during WWII, the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, the Cold War and subsequent peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts across the globe. Unfortunately, she fails to include items which would have illustrated the enormous economic and social impact exerted by the base on the local communities in surrounding Solano County. Absent an emphasis on historical ties with the outlying community, the book’s appeal may be limited to military history enthusiasts and former base residents.

  - Again, Arcadia should be commended for its role in encouraging research devoted to local history. These latest contributions to the Images of America series, despite potentially limited appeal to specific audiences, nevertheless provide valuable additions to the historical record.


A reading of The Pacific Slope ultimately comes down to a few major conclusions. First, that Earl Pomery’s gifts as a skillful historian are abundantly evident in the organization, use of source material, exposition of themes and their linkages, and readable prose that mark the book, even if, as Elliott West’s astute foreword points out, there are some important components absent, including a fuller evocation of the history of ethnic minorities and an interpretation of the West’s leading role in the emergence of environmentalism. Second, that there was an inherently faulty editorial decision made in the assumption that there is a “Pacific Slope” in which the states of California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, and Nevada constitute a common geographic region. Third, even if we bypass the second point (and it is hard to see how Idaho, Nevada, and Utah could be considered “Pacific” states), a careful reading of the book reveals that the story Pomery tells is absorbingly is essentially one where there is a noted hierarchy of geographical importance, dominated by coastal urban centers in three states. Still, the work has much to offer in understanding general trends in the Far Western states through the 1950s.

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A successful local history is hard to come by. More specifically, a local history that shares, as noted by the front flap of Altadena, “the big story seen through the lens of one small community” is especially rare. Although many authors attempt to write local histories, too often the end results rely heavily on myth or are incomplete as the author never connects the importance of the studied community to a broader, more contextual history. In Altadena: Between Wilderness and City, Michelle Zack has written an impressive local history that not only contributes to California history but also to American cultural history. Zack’s work takes the direction that Constance McLaughlin Green studied community to a broader, more contextual history. In her 1940 essay, “The Value of Local History,” Green called for local histories to broaden their studies towards the exploration of labor conditions, working class culture, nondominant groups, environmental influences, and the differences and similarities found in a geographic area. In Altadena, Michelle Zack meets the standards Green set by writing a work that shares the story of a small, unincorporated town situated between the somewhat encroaching city of Pasadena to the south and the wilderness of the Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains to the north. Zack notes the patterns and trends in the history of Altadena and relates it to the broader context of regional, state, national and even world history.

Beginning by describing the geographic region that surrounds Altadena, Zack takes the reader through a chronological account of Altadena’s history from prehistory to the present. Along the way Zack captures the stories of many residents of Altadena, sometimes presented in their own words, and spends time questioning early settlers’ motives, writing of Altadena’s architecture, recounting the period when Altadena was a gathering place for intellectuals, and describing Altadena’s fight to prevent annexation by Pasadena. In addition, Zack shares the stories of nondominant groups, looks at the effects of the geographical location of the town, and discusses the polarization of east and west Altadena. Through a thorough study of each of these areas and many others, Zack’s work sets new standards for local history.

Zack’s work would have benefited from the inclusion of a map showing Altadena’s relation to other cities in Southern California, especially for those who are unfamiliar with the region. In addition, a serious shortcoming of Zack’s work is the decision to forego footnotes or endnotes (as the Altadena Historical Society wanted a popular history book). The book, therefore, refers to the sources before quoted material in the text, but too often these references are lacking in the detail needed to find the cited source. In addition, considering that the text dispensed with in-text citations, the author should have better organized the bibliography rather than opting for simply a listing in alphabetical order. Despite this shortcoming, Zack did draw on an impressive list of sources. One of the highlights of the work is Zack’s inclusion of dozens of stunning photographs, including rarely seen photographs by Julius Schulman. The photographs are of exceptional quality and truly bring the story of Altadena to life as they complement the proficient text.

The weaving together of beautifully reproduced photographs and articulate text results in not only “urban history at its best,” as noted by Dr. Kevin Starr, but also local history at its best. Zack’s work details more than the development of Altadena; it provides a history of Southern California through a new lens. Zack’s style, undoubtedly benefiting from her experience as a writer and journalist, is eloquent, concise and confident. Simply, the text is written beautifully and the delivery a model of perfect pace. Zach truly writes with the reader in mind, many times posing and answering the same questions readers might ask. Occasionally, when information becomes overwhelming, she steps back to remind the reader where the story once was in relation to where it is now. Not only does this book supply a history for Altadenans, but it provides a new source of California history, California architectural history, and urban history. Anyone, regardless of their field of study, can and will benefit from reading this book.

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As he moves chronologically, essentially starting from the earliest American and European settlement in the 1830s and 1840s (only a few introductory pages perfunctorily touch on native peoples and the Spanish and Mexican eras), Pomeroy uses a broad brush to survey major developments in the region. These include the great western migration of immigrants, the Gold Rush, the emerging agricultural importance of the region, urbanization and the control of cities of their hinterlands, Progressivism and political movements, the connection between the Pacific Slope and the international scene in early trade and through immigration from Asia and Mexico, the post-World War II boom, tourism, and, importantly, what made the Western states integral to a new pattern of American cultural and economic development. Yet, while he sketches solid summaries of major events and movements in the West, he draws from a wide variety of academic and popular sources that show a deep understanding of the subjects he covers and the literature associated with them. As West indicated in the foreword, one can get past the few shortcomings of the book (understanding, perhaps, that the 1965 publication of the work just predated the fuller emphasis on ethnic and environmental history done by younger historians in the emerging “New Social History” field) by appreciating the strengths that are evident in the book.

Concerning the second and third points, Pomeroy writes in his preface that Idaho and Nevada “are adjuncts of their neighbors,” specifically Utah and California and that Utah “appears here partly because it had to appear somewhere” in the regional (continued on next page)
A muckraker, a term popularized in a 1906 speech by Theodore Roosevelt, is defined as one who seeks out and publicizes evidence of corruption and scandal, especially among powerful or well-known people or institutions. Upton Sinclair graciously embodied muckraker status and revealed in his lifelong Socialist ideals, stating that “on my heart you will find two words, burned in by the acid of pain: Social Justice!”

Lauren Coodley, Professor of Psychology and History at Napa Valley College, wrote her MA thesis (Towards a Re-Interpretation of Upton Sinclair, Sonoma State University, 1996) on Upton Sinclair and has spent the past decade researching his life in California. In 1956 the Huntington Library rejected the Sinclair Archives for political reasons, thus much of Coodley’s research was performed at the Lilly Library, in Indiana, where the materials reside. In this work she has deftly edited and introduced a glimpse at the broad array of writings by Sinclair, who was already a famous writer and activist when he moved to California in 1915.

Sinclair is most well-known for his novel The Jungle (1906), which exposed the conditions of the U.S. meatpacking industry and ultimately prompted the reform of food inspection legislation. The spectrum of his interests, however, varies widely. Coodley introduces the reader to Sinclair’s writings on his own life; health, diet, and alternative medicine; environmentalism; woman’s rights; labor; oil discovery and its effect on the economy and modes of transportation; film and popular culture; industry and big business; poverty; and, yes, politics.

Sinclair was a prolific writer. Indeed, in his humorous, self-deprecating article discussing diet, Sinclair suggests the reason he continually searched for the ideal diet was so he would have the strength and health to continue his “major vice, the habit of overworking.” He began writing dime novels by the age of 15 and published more than 100 novels in his lifetime. He won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1943. Despite his workaholic nature, Sinclair was an avid tennis player and upheld an impressive social life with friends such as Henry Ford, Charlie Chaplin, Albert Einstein, Margaret Sanger, and George Bernard Shaw.

Sinclair dropped his Socialist status and gained the Democratic nomination to run for governor of California in 1934, the midst of the Great Depression. This nomination was stimulated by End Poverty in California (EPIC), Sinclair’s plan to combat the effects of the Depression (one in seven Californians was unemployed at the time). The “radical” candidacy was met with major opposition from the likes of William Randolph Hearst and Louis B. Mayer. A formidable attack in the media called Sinclair a communist, a crackpot, and even a capitalist. Despite the opposition, Sinclair nearly won the election, receiving 37% of the vote; the Republican candidate garnered 48%.

In 1906 Roosevelt went on to say, “There are, in the body politic, economic and social, many and grave evils, and there is urgent necessity for the sternest war upon them. There should be relentless exposure of and attack upon every evil man whether politician or businessman, every evil practice, whether in politics, in business, or in social life” (Theodore Roosevelt, An Autobiography, 1913). Roosevelt essentially told, and Coodley reminds us, that Upton Sinclair was necessary; not only as a muckraker but also as an activist with an un adulterated desire to promote the public interest.

It is “incomplete to think about California in the twentieth century without turning to Upton Sinclair’s work,” Coodley states in her introduction. Sinclair’s impressive body of work and exhaustive life as a social activist serve as a model for the numerous muckrakers that define today’s socio-political society, that define today’s California.

Paul Atwood, Archivist for the Water Resources Center Archives at the University of California, Berkeley.
**Gunfight at Mussel Slough: Evolution of a Western Myth.** Terry Beers, editor. 328 pp.; 14 b/w images; 6x9, paperback, $19.95.

_Gunfight at Mussel Slough_, an anthology of fiction intelligently conceived and edited by Santa Clara University literary historian Terry Beers, is an important work that sheds much-needed light on one of the most well known, but abysmally understood, events of California history. The infamous “Battle of Mussel Slough,” a May 1880 lethal shootout between rival claimants to portions of the federal land grant of the Southern Pacific Railroad in the Tulare Basin, has provided grist for poetry, fiction, songs, cartoons, museum exhibits, civic commemorations, and reformist anti-corporate tracts, all mostly informed by popular myth that has grown up around the event. The great majority of historians (right down to authors of a new 2005 college text history of California) have shared, and indeed have embellished and perpetuated, the legend. In simplified form, the famous “Octopus myth” has it that the ubiquitous and all-powerful Big Four of the Southern Pacific Railroad, through fraud and deceit, wangled a federal grant of public land to subsidize construction of their southern transcontinental railroad from San Jose across the Colorado River and to points east. Before it built the line and actually received title to the land in the Mussel Slough district, so the story goes, the railroad lured farmers into settling the land by promising that when it became available, it would be sold to those settlers at low government-land prices. After the company belatedly built its line through the area and received the titles, mythmakers continue, the evil railroad characteristically raised land prices to ruinously high levels. Finally, when settlers heroically refused to pay and organized to defend themselves, the company tried to evict them by sending agents and marshals, who massacred those trying to defend their homes.

Abundant primary railroad, government, and personal manuscripts in federal, state, and private and public archives and libraries demonstrate that there are so many distortions, half-truths, and outright falsehoods embedded in the traditional myth that it would be futile to attempt to rebut them in this short review. Suffice it to say that the legend bears practically no resemblance to the actual event, or its causes, and that the storytellers, most regretfully historians, have let popular emotion and political ideology overcome sound analysis of evidence.

What Beers has done in _Gunfight at Mussel Slough_ that is so valuable is to assemble, analyze, and categorize around key story themes, selections from the major novels—by Frank Norris (The Octopus), Josiah Royce, and others—as well as the poems and other contemporary popular documents that were all-important in shaping the myth. Beers accompanies his selections with an insightful introduction and annotations that place the writings into historical context and illustrate how creators of popular culture, working from their own limited, highly ideological agendas, employed drama, oversimplification, and sheer fabrication to overcome truth in creating public memory about the Battle of Mussel Slough. As he sums it up in a concluding section, “In the end it is the novelists who most effectively embedded the event in our collective memory. And even if the details were just plain wrong—or perhaps skillfully embellished—the truth that prevails lives in novels more than history books.” (p. 259) In general, Beers adopts an objective stance and offers excellent commentary on the literary selections and the history that they purported to tell. Particularly impressive, and essential to a full understanding of the Mussel Slough event, is Beers’ presentation of the railroad’s own perspectives on its complicated conflicts with the claimants to its lands, which virtually no writers of fiction or history have ever bothered to attempt.

Interestingly, for all his evenhandedness, the myth sometimes seduces even Beers. Throughout _Gunfight at Mussel Slough_ he demonstrates over and over again how the land claimants, aided later by the fiction-makers, manipulated popular American agrarian imagery in order to clothe their case in a “moral clarity” that allowed them to pose as honest settlers and homebuilders beset by an evil corporate monster. In reality, however, the great majority of those fighting the railroad over land were not honest farm-buyers at all, but squatter/speculators—many of them absentee town-dwellers and real estate operators—uninterested in purchasing the land at any price, but hoping, like predecessors on all American frontiers, to take advantage of supposed legal ambiguities to seize property belonging to others and, by defeating the railroad’s land title, to get something for nothing. Yet Beers himself sometimes lapses into the false imagery in describing the railroad’s opponents. At the book’s beginning, for example, he introduces them as “wholesome California farmers fighting for their homes,” and he subsequently often refers to them in his commentary as “settlers,” “pioneers,” and “family farmers,” all positively loaded identities in American western mythology, and therefore misleading in this context. This is not so much a criticism, however, as it is a vivid testimony to the enduring power of the Mussel Slough myth: that even one who so successfully dismantles it is nevertheless unable to free himself entirely from its terminology and categories. This is only a slight blemish, though, in an otherwise fine book.

Finally, in offering _Gunfight at Mussel Slough_ on their long list of unusual and important works in California studies, Heyday Books and its creative proprietor, Malcolm Margolin, are to be praised for yet again demonstrating their invaluable service to the elevation of the state’s culture.

Los Angeles Aqueduct Photographs Now Online

The Water Resources Center Archives (WRCA) at the University of California, Berkeley, is pleased to announce the completion of the Los Angeles Aqueduct Photograph Digitization Project. For this project, WRCA digitized 806 images from the Joseph B. Lippincott Collection that document the building of the Los Angeles Aqueduct from the Owens Valley to Los Angeles.

The construction of the aqueduct is of primary importance to the history of California. The tremendous engineering accomplishment not only secured a destiny of growth for Los Angeles, it also set the stage for future water development throughout the state. The ramifications of this aqueduct, and of later projects for which it was a model, continue to profoundly affect the environment and, indeed, almost every aspect of modern life in California. Making these unique images available on the web greatly facilitates access and enhances existing tools for the study of socio-environmental history.

The digitization project was funded by a Library Services and Technology Act grant. The images can be viewed from the J.B. Lippincott finding aid, hosted on the Online Archive of California at findaid.oac.cdlib.org/find Aid/ark:/13030/tf3h4nb0ks.

Julia Morgan Archives at CalPoly Receives NEH Grant

The Special Collections Department of the Robert E. Kennedy Library, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, has been awarded $249,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to arrange, describe, and create electronic finding aids for their architectural archives on California architect Julia Morgan (1872-1957). Original architectural plans, drawings, sketches, photographs, transparencies, personal papers, journals, project files, and correspondence from Morgan’s life and career are part of the project. A principal goal of the project is to catalog the collections at Cal Poly to make them fully accessible to researchers. Cal Poly’s award comes from the NEH division that supports projects to preserve and create intellectual access to collections that are considered highly important for research, education, and public programming in the humanities. For more information, visit www.lib.calpoly.edu/spec_coll/morgan/index.html.


The Legacy Resource Management Program (Legacy Program) of the Department of Defense announces a Request for Proposals (RFP) for FY 2006 for projects to protect, enhance, and sustain cultural and natural resources while supporting military readiness. The Legacy Program was established by Congress in 1991 to provide financial assistance to Department of Defense (DoD) efforts to preserve the nation’s natural and cultural heritage. Stewardship initiatives assist the DoD in safeguarding its irreplaceable resources for future generations. Through partnerships, the program strives to access the knowledge and talents of individuals outside of DoD. For more information on the program, visit the Legacy website at www.dodlegacy.org. The FY 2006 RFP is available on the Legacy website at www.dodlegacy.org/legacy/intro/guidelines.aspx. Proposals are due by September 30, 2005.

Public History, Public Historians, and the American Historical Association

The report of the American Historical Association’s Task Force on Public History, accepted by the Council at its January, 2004 meeting, is now available on-line at www.historians.org/governance/tpfh/TFPHReport.htm. The report suggests ways for the AHA to address the interests and concerns of public historians within the Association and the profession, as well as ways of building a closer relationship between public historians and their academic colleagues. The report outlines an ambitious public history agenda for the AHA. AHA staff, divisions, and committees have already begun implementing some of the task force’s suggestions, and will carefully consider each recommendation in the context of available resources and other AHA priorities.

Digital Library Toolkit Survey

Do you have a digital video or moving image collection that you’d like to make available via the web? Simmons College and Northeast Historic Film have received a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to create a collection of template files, documentation and tutorials to enable libraries, museums and other organizations with limited resources to easily make their moving image collections available via the web. Information about the Open Video Digital Library Toolkit is available at www.open-video-toolkit.org. In order to ensure that the Toolkit is designed to effectively serve the organizations that need it most, they are conducting a survey of potential implementers of the Toolkit. To learn more about the Open Video Digital Library Toolkit and complete the survey, visit www.open-video-toolkit.org/studies/user_survey/.

The American Association for State and Local History will hold its annual conference **September 21-24, 2005**, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. AASLH has chosen the theme “History’s Mysteries” for this year’s meeting. For more information, visit [www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org).

The National Trust for Historic Preservation’s National Preservation Conference will take place **September 27-October 2, 2005**, in Portland, Oregon. With the theme, “Sustain America: Vision, Economics, and Preservation,” the conference will highlight preservation endeavors specific to the northwest, share cutting-edge ideas and tactics for adaptive use, infill, and mixed-use projects, and allow attendees to engage with peers in roundtable discussions. For more information, visit [www.nthpconference.org](http://www.nthpconference.org).

The preliminary program is now available to for the Western Museums Association conference in Pasadena and Los Angeles. “A Rose by Any Other Name: Integrity, Mission, Authenticity,” **September 28-October 2, 2005**. CAM is sponsoring two events at the WMA conference: a preconference workshop on fundraising, “Fundraising Strategies: A Grab-bag of Ideas and Tools” and a breakfast on legislative advocacy, “Governor Schwarzenegger, the State Capitol, and Museums.” Additional information can be found at [www.westmuse.org](http://www.westmuse.org).

45th annual Western History Association conference will take place **October 12-15, 2005**, in Scottsdale, Arizona, with the theme, “Western Traditions and Transitions: Cultural Diversity and Demographic Change.” Unique and informative presentations and a variety of additional activities to showcase the conference location make these annual gatherings a vital and cultural experience. For more information, visit [www.csus.edu/org/ccph](http://www.csus.edu/org/ccph).

The California Council for the Promotion of History will hold its annual conference **October 27-29, 2005**, in Visalia, California. With the theme “Telling the Stories: From History to Myth,” the conference will include stimulating panel sessions, a variety of tour options, and special events that are sure to please. For more information, visit [www.csus.edu/org/ccph](http://www.csus.edu/org/ccph).

The Oral History Association will hold its annual meeting **November 2-6, 2005**, at the Providence Marriott, in Providence, Rhode Island. With the theme “Voices of Dissent, Voices of Hope,” and in keeping with the historic role of the city of Providence in welcoming religious dissenters, the annual meeting will focus special attention on oral history work with persons who have sought freedom of expression, freedom from coercion, and freedom of conscience. For more information, visit [www.dickinson.edu/oha](http://www.dickinson.edu/oha).

The 38th annual conference of the American Italian Historical Association will be held in Los Angeles, **November 3-6, 2005**, the first time the association has held its conference in southern California. Taking place at the Doubletree Hotel Westwood, the conference has the theme “Speaking Memory: Oral History, Oral Culture and Italians in America.” For more information, visit [www.aiha.fau.edu](http://www.aiha.fau.edu) or contact conference chair Luisa Del Giudice at 310 474-1698 or luisadg@humnet.ucla.edu.

The National Interpreter’s Workshop will take place **November 8-12, 2005**, in Mobile, Alabama. Coordinated by the National Association for Interpretation, the workshop will feature the slogan, “Full Speed Ahead,” and will seek to reflect the energy NAI has gained recently and the momentum it builds as it passes its 50th anniversary. More information will be forthcoming at [www.interpnet.com](http://www.interpnet.com).

California Mission Studies Association will hold its 23rd Annual Conference on California Missions and Other Hispanic Sites in San Diego, **February 17-19, 2006**. CMSA extends a special invitation to elementary school teachers. All meetings will be in the California Room of the St. Francis Center on the grounds of Mission San Diego de Alcalá. For more information, visit [www.ca-missions.org](http://www.ca-missions.org).


Plan now for the 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Society of California Archivists. It will be held **April 27-29, 2006**, at the historic Stanford Court Hotel in San Francisco. For more information, visit [www.calarchives.org](http://www.calarchives.org).

In 2006, the American Association of Museums celebrates its centennial an opportunity to look ahead to the future and the challenges that await us over the next 100 years. Its annual meeting and museum expo will be held **April 27-May 1, 2006**, with the theme “A Centennial of Ideas: Exploring Tomorrow’s Museums.” For more information, visit [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org).

San Juan, Puerto Rico will host the National Association for Interpretation’s first international conference, Interpreting World Heritage, **May 1-5, 2006**. About 150 to 300 delegates involved in heritage interpretation from 30 to 40 nations will come together in an effort to create opportunities for professional development for attendees and establish a network for professional associations and individuals. For more information, visit [www.interpnet.com](http://www.interpnet.com).

The Western Museums Association will hold its 2006 Annual Meeting in Boise, Idaho, **October 11-15, 2006**. The meeting will focus on the theme, “Frontier Without Limits: High Desert Rendezvous.” In the early 1800s, trappers, Native Americans, merchants, missionaries, and explorers would gather to trade, exchange information, and kick up their heels. In Boise the WMA will create its own extraordinary confluence of cultures, specialties, institutions, and resources. For more information, visit [www.westmuse.org](http://www.westmuse.org).
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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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Admit it . . . you know someone deserving of a CCPH award. Make 2005 the year you take the time to submit that long-deserved nomination. They’re due August 15! For more information, visit www.csus.edu/org/ccph.

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

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Summer 2005
Welcome New Members

Debbie Bahn, Acton
Amy Carson, Sacramento
Julia Cheney, San Carlos
Barbara Smith Eychaner, Carmichael
April Farnham, West Sacramento
Karen Mehring, Folsom
Steven Melvin, Sacramento

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