History Action

From Adobe Bricks to Adobe® Bytes: Historical Transformations in California

CCPH to Meet in San Jose
October 26-28, 2006

San Jose, the epicenter of the Silicon Valley, is a fitting venue for the 2006 annual CCPH conference, which explores the changing character of California through time. From Adobe Bricks to Adobe® Bytes: Historical Transformations in California interprets its theme broadly to include transforming circumstances, events, groups and individuals from all periods both before and after European contact. Topics that probe the issues, methods, and outcomes of public history practice in California and the western U.S. have been especially encouraged by the conference program committee.

To promote participation by students and new professionals, CCPH once again will offer conference stipends. Information on stipends will appear in the conference registration packet, to be mailed to all CCPH members in late June, and also will be posted on the CCPH website at www.csus.edu/org/ccph.

Please plan to join with your colleagues statewide in a stimulating weekend of shared inquiry into the ever-changing character of California. And, although the April 15 deadline for the conference’s call for papers has passed, if you have an idea for a paper or session, please don’t hesitate to contact ccph@csus.edu to discuss your thoughts.

Historic Hotel Sainte Claire To Host CCPH
from Santa Clara County: California’s Historic Silicon Valley
A National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary

Today a Larkspur Hotel, the Hotel Sainte Claire is a hexagonal six-story building, dominating a corner lot at a busy downtown San Jose intersection. The significance of the Sainte Claire Hotel is twofold. First, its history is an integral part of the history of San Jose and remains to this day among the city’s most recognized architectural landmarks. Secondly, the Sainte Claire was designed by the prominent San Francisco architectural firm of Weeks and Day, which also designed several of the great hotels in San Francisco, including the Mark Hopkins and St. Francis. Weeks and Day were well noted for both their school and hotel designs in California. Interior similarities exist between San Jose’s Sainte Claire and the Hotel Sainte Claire, circa 1930

The Hotel Sainte Claire, circa 1930
(continued on page 5)
Important Notices

No, it’s not déjà vu, you have heard (or read) the following two notices before. But some things bear repeating, and reminding, so we want to let you know about two CCPH news items that require your assistance.

Board Elections Coming Up
First, this year’s board elections are fast approaching. And with that in mind, anyone who would like to run for the board is being asked to contact Nominations Committee Chair Jim Newland (at jnewland@parks.ca.gov). Or perhaps you aren’t ready to run yet, but you know of a colleague that would be great to have on the board. Why not talk to that person and suggest they throw their hat in the ring? Being on the board is a great opportunity not only to meet and get to know some fabulous members of the public history community, but also to help shape the future of CCPH. Perhaps most especially because CCPH is an almost entirely volunteer managed organization (our only staff is a 10-hour-per-week graduate student position as our administrative assistant), the board is truly the backbone of the work that CCPH does. And we need you!

Awards Nominations Due August 15
Second, please remember that nominations for this year’s CCPH awards are due by August 15, 2006. The nomination form is available on our website (www.csus.edu/org/ccph) and is now available as a form-fill Word document, as well as a print-and-fill PDF file. There are three categories of awards: The Certificate of Meritorious Performance and Promise is given to an individual, organization, or agency accomplishing an outstanding contribution to the promotion of history. The Award of Distinction is granted to an individual, organization, or agency accomplishing long-term outstanding contributions, lifetime achievements, or dedication of career duties to promote history. The James C. Williams Award for Outstanding Service is a special commendation given to an individual, organization, or agency member of CCPH demonstrating professional excellence and long-term commitment to this organization.

Past Award Winners
2005: Gaynell Wald - Certificate of Meritorious Performance; Gary Kurutz - Award of Distinction; Chris Brewer - Award of Distinction  
2004: Klamath-Trinity School District’s Indian Education Program - Certificate of Meritorious Performance; Peter Palmquist - Award of Distinction; Hans Kreutzburg - Award of Distinction  
2003: Fred Lewis - Certificate of Meritorious Performance; Mary Helmich - Certificate of Meritorious Performance; Judy Triem - Award of Distinction; Mitch Stone - Award of Distinction; Chuck Wilson - James C. Williams Award  
2002: Victoria Kastner - Certificate of Meritorious Performance; Howard S. “Dick” Miller - Award of Distinction; Robert Pavlik - James C. Williams Award  
2001: JRP Hist. Consulting Services - Certificate of Meritorious Performance; Raymond G. Starr - Award of Distinction; Ellen Calomiris - James C. Williams Award  
2000: Michael Bennett - James C. Williams Award; Richard Orsi - Award of Distinction; Peter Blodgett - Certificate of Meritorious Performance  
1999: Teena Stern - James C. Williams Award; Michael McCone - Award of Distinction; Lawrence deGraaf - Certificate of Meritorious Performance  
1997: Mary Louise Days - Award of Distinction  
1996: Barbara McDonnell - Presidential Citation; Donna Pozzi - Award of Distinction  
1995: Dr. Kenneth Owens - Award of Distinction  
1994: Dr. Robert V. Hine - Award of Distinction; Malcolm Margolin - Award of Distinction; Dr. James Williams - Award of Distinction  
1993: Dr. Robert Kelley - Lifetime Achievement  
1992: Robert L. Hoover - Award of Distinction; Craig Bates and Martha Lee - Certificate of Merit; Lawrence Riveroll - Certificate of Meritorious Performance  
1991: Nadine Applegate Halthaway - Lifetime Service; Rebecca Conrad - Special Commendation; Harold Kirker - Special Commendation  
1990: Knox Mellon - Lifetime Service; Shirley Sargent - Certificate of Merit; Santa Susana Mtn Park Assoc. - Certificate of Merit
Children’s Museum in Old Sacramento?

In late February Assembly Member Dave Jones (D-9th) introduced AB 2782 that would authorize the Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into an agreement with a nonprofit organization to build and develop a children’s museum in the 1849 scene site in Old Sacramento State Historic Park. There is currently a non-profit organization, with a 12-member board, that is the group promoting the bill. This is the organization’s second attempt to find a location for the museum, after failing to secure the rights to restore and use the historic Beaux-Arts style PG&E power plant just north of Old Sacramento. While a worthwhile idea in general, the development of a children’s museum in this location could be contrary to the general plan for this park and interfere with the department’s ability to use this area to interpret the gold rush period. Unfortunately, most visitors to Old Sacramento are not aware that what they are seeing and experiencing now is not indicative of the gold rush period but rather represents a later time period. As funds are available in the future, California State Parks hopes to use the 1849 scene, which is currently a sloping grassy area, to reconstruct a scene that would help to show visitors what Sacramento really looked like during the gold rush. The bill was passed out of the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife on April 25 and has now been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Old Town San Diego Acquisitions Proposed

Assembly Member Juan Vargas (D-79th) introduced AB 2081 in mid-February that would require the Department of Parks and Recreation to expand the boundaries of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park by acquiring specified surplus land and buildings from the Department of Transportation and by acquiring the Presidio Golf Course and the Carrillo Adobe from the City of San Diego. As most readers are probably aware, acquisitions to state parks usually occur through an administrative process rather than through legislation, so this bill is somewhat out of the ordinary. However, the parcel it identifies would be assets to the park and allow the Department of Parks and Recreation to better interpret the important history the park represents. The bill was unanimously voted out of the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on April and has been re-referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee with a recommendation that it be placed on the committee’s consent calendar. CCPH has not yet taken a position on this bill.

California Heritage Corridor Act

In February Assembly Member Fran Pavley (D-41st) introduced AB 2625 to establish a California Heritage Corridor Committee in the Department of Transportation “to determine street and highway routes that qualify to be designated as heritage corridors.” The act would define heritage corridors as “physical or conceptual routes of cultural or historical significance within California” and specifies these would be completely separate from the definitions in the Public Resources Code that established the State Recreational Trails and State Heritage Network programs administered by the Department of Parks and Recreation. The bill establishes the membership of the committee and outlines its duties. It requires the Department of Transportation to provide administrative and staff support to the committee. The bill also establishes a California Heritage Corridor Fund in the State Treasury and authorizes the committee to establish fees to cover the processing of applications and to collect revenues from sponsorships, grants, and other sources. The committee would be charged with developing a roadside sign for the purpose of identifying the routes designated as heritage corridors. The Department of Transportation would be required to install and maintain the signs along state highways at the request of the committee.

The language in the bill is worthwhile to quote directly because it provides insight into the reason for its introduction. It states, “Heritage corridors within California will encourage travelers to explore California, resulting in increased travel spending and greater understanding and appreciation of California’s history and culture . . . California heritage corridors are intended to help travelers ‘connect the dots’ of California’s history and culture, providing appealing reasons to discover them. By consolidating historic and cultural locations by their common thread, travelers will be motivated to visit what fascinates them about California’s past and its people. This approach is fundamentally different than the designation of individual sites as historically significant because it weaves places together by their common interests, expands identification to culturally significant locations, and thereby encourages discovery of people, places, and creations.” Interestingly, the bill also specifies that “heritage corridors will not be limited to historic places, events, trails, or roads, as California’s heritage includes its cultures, industries, resources, arts, products, literature, philosophies, and achievements, among other concepts.” Perhaps most importantly for cultural resource management professionals, the bill states, “This act is nonregulatory. Nothing in this act shall restrict property or development rights. The sole purpose of this act is to commemorate California’s heritage.” On April 25 it was passed out of the Assembly Transportation Committee and re-referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. CCPH has not yet taken a position on this bill.
Library Leaders Issue Guidelines to Reshape Libraries for Baby Boomers
from the Institute of Museum and Library Services' Primary Source newsletter

As the first baby boomers turn 60, public libraries are preparing to offer creative alternatives to retirement to a generation well known for its idealism and activism. A new report from Americans for Libraries Council and the Institute of Museum and Library Services describes this demographic revolution and offers guidance and examples of model programs to public libraries interested in connecting these active older adults to new opportunities for learning, work, and community service. Read more at www.imls.gov/news/2006/041206.shtm.

Nancy Zimmelman Named State Archivist

California Secretary of State Bruce McPherson has named Nancy Zimmelman as Chief of the Archives Division. This position heads the division within the Office of Secretary of State containing the California State Archives and serves as the State Archivist.

Ms. Zimmelman has been an archivist with the California State Archives since 1987. She has been the Legislative Records Archivist, directing the California Legislative Archives Program, and the archivist responsible for care and research use of the Los Angeles Police Department files of the investigation of the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy.

Since 1992 Ms. Zimmelman has been Administrator of the Western Archives Institute, a two-week training program providing an introduction to basic archives management theory and practice. She was Project Director for the 2003 Western Archives Institute-Institute for Native American and Tribal Archivists and is currently a member of the California Indian Heritage Center Advisory Group on Libraries, Research and Archives.

Among her professional affiliations, Ms. Zimmelman is a member of the Academy of Certified Archivists, the Society of American Archivists, the Society of California Archivists, and the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators. She has made presentations at numerous professional conferences. She was a Special Consultant for the A*CENSUS project as the author of the report on continuing education needs for the archival profession.

Ms. Zimmelman has a Master of Arts degree in history with a Graduate Certificate in Archival Administration from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. She received advanced training in archives administration through a fellowship funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Ms. Zimmelman may be contacted at nzimmelm@ss.ca.gov.

Technology and Digitization at America's Libraries and Museums on the Rise
from the Institute of Museum and Library Services' Primary Source newsletter

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has published new research into the use of technology and digitization at the nation’s museums and libraries. Status of Technology and Digitization is a follow-up study to first-ever research conducted on the subject in 2001. The second study delves deeper and discovers more about how and why our cultural institutions use technology and undertake digitization projects. Read more at www.imls.gov/news/2006/041206b.shtm.

A note from California: Disappointingly for historians and history lovers, grant requests for funding for digitization projects from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant program are down this year. The California State Library is the agency that disburses LSTA grant program funds, federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Can it be that historians have become complacent when it comes to securing funding for digitization projects? Can it be that such projects are no longer “sexy” enough, not “cutting edge” enough? How sad that we’ve come so far so quickly with technology that the simple act of scanning the thousands of documents, and photographs, and maps, and newspapers (and on, and on) that are treasured within the confines of our state’s libraries is somehow blasé (hmmm, maybe if they can be viewed on one of those new video iPods?). And yet it’s just this type of project that is truly a win-win for public historians—digitization not only helps us in our chosen profession, it also preserves archival documents from overhandling, and makes those documents much more readily accessible by the general public (guess that’s a win-win-win). Perhaps the low number of LSTA applications for digitization projects this year is indicative of our libraries having plenty of funding from other sources... and if you buy that, I’ve got a bridge over here you’ve just got to see.
Preserve America Grants Announced
from the California Association of Museum’s Enews

On March 9 Laura Bush announced the first round of Preserve America Grants totaling nearly $3.5 million. This new program provides funds on a matching basis to assist Preserve America communities with marketing, planning, and educational efforts associated with protection and appropriate use of community heritage. The City of Monterey was the only recipient in California, with a grant of $100,000. The Preserve America program recognizes and designates communities that protect and celebrate their heritage, use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs.

Since the program began, 295 communities have been designated as Preserve America Communities. Some of the benefits of designation include official notification of designation to state tourism offices and visitors bureaus, enhanced community visibility, and access to grant funds. For additional information, see www.preserveamerica.gov/index.html. The Preserve America communities in California are Fresno, Santa Monica, Monterey, Redlands, and Santa Ana.

and the Mark Hopkins in San Francisco. Especially notable are the coffered lobby ceilings designed by the firm for both buildings.

The northwest corner is truncated and recessed, forming the corner entrance, which faces the intersection of South Market and San Carlos Streets. North and west elevations meet the truncated corner at a 120-degree angle, thus framing the entrance. Tawny brick sheaths the steel and concrete frame on floors two through six, and rusticated buff colored stone faces the ground level. The three part vertical composition includes the arcaded ground level, a shaft of four stories, and the six floors distinguished by paired windows set in arched frames. Denticular stringcourses separate the first and second floors, the third and fourth floors and the fifth and sixth floors. Detailing is basically derived from the Renaissance Revival tradition, though there are several references to French and Spanish architecture.

The hotel lobby remains the most intact interior space within the building. The Patio Room, once the hallmark of the hotel, has been covered over, modernized and combined with the Empire Room. Originally, the open patio room was framed by a Corinthian arcade. A small formal garden and fountain room, the Spartan Room on the second floor has also been modernized. Ceilings in the lobby, Spartan and Empire rooms were handpainted, but alterations over the years have obliterated the original work. Wood details in the guest rooms and the ornate hand-carved wood doors leading to the retail areas are intact. Many of the rooms have original bathroom fixtures. The hotel was financed by noted realtor and developer T. S. Montgomery, a prominent citizen of San Jose largely responsible for much of the commercial development in the downtown. In addition to financing such an ambitious project, Montgomery donated to the city a parcel of land across from the hotel for the new civic auditorium, which stands today. The Hotel Sainte Claire enjoyed the status of being the premiere grand hotel in the entire south peninsula region, and the reputation of having the most elegant accommodations between San Francisco and Los Angeles. For more information, visit www.thesainteclaire.com.

The National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places, in cooperation with the City of Santa Clara, the California Office of Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), invite you to explore Santa Clara County: California’s Historic Silicon Valley. Located south of the San Francisco Bay between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo or Mount Hamilton Range, the history of Santa Clara County is rich with stories of Spanish and Mexican settlement, the romance of the Gold-Rush era, the pastoral beauty of abundant orchards, of post-war suburbanization, the race to the moon, and the invention of the silicon chip. This itinerary highlights 28 places listed in the National Register of Historic Places that illustrate how this fertile valley blossomed from a series of small agricultural towns linked by the Southern Pacific railroad into the center of the technology revolution that brought immense growth and prosperity in the 20th century.
2007 IMLS Grant Information
from the Institute of Museum and Library Services' Primary Source newsletter

The 2007 guide provides a succinct overview of the Institute of Museum and Library Services grant and award programs, useful tips and tools you can use to develop competitive applications, and staff contact information for each program. Visit www.imls.gov/pdf/2007_Grant_Opportunities.pdf to view the guide.

Beginning with the 2007 grant cycle, all applicants for the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian program, the 21st Century Museum Professionals program, and the National Leadership Grants program will be required to apply online through Grants.gov. Applicants for all other discretionary grant programs will have the choice of obtaining the grant applications from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the mail (or from their website) and mailing in the completed applications, or filling out and submitting applications online through Grants.gov. Read more at www.imls.gov/grantsgov.

Certificate in Professional Program Development and Grant Communication

The Grant Institute: Certificate in Professional Program Development and Grant Communication will be held at the University of California, San Francisco, in the Laurel Heights Conference Center, June 19 - 23, 2006. Interested development professionals, researchers, faculty, and graduate students should register as soon as possible, as demand means that seats will fill up quickly. All participants will receive certification in professional grant writing from the Institute, as well as 3.5 CEU units. For more information call (888) 824-4424 or visit www.thegrantinstitute.com.

The Certificate in Professional Program Development and Grant Communication is a five-day intensive and interactive experience in which participants will be led through the program development, grant writing, and funding acquisition processes through the completion of four courses. The Grant Institute is not a seminar. Participants will actively engage in exercises and activities designed to strengthen their mastery of grant acquisition. Through the completion of varying assignments, students will leave The Grant Institute with a real grant proposal outline complete with quality research, solid content, and expert review. The Grant Institute focuses on combining the fundamentals of grant proposal writing with expert knowledge of communication principles such as Strategic Research, Persuasion, Argumentation, and Framing.

The Grant Institute trainers and consultants do not merely lecture participants, but act as personal consultants and coaches dedicated to encouraging participants to succeed beyond their own expectations. While The Grant Institute uses collaboration and small groups for many exercises, each participant will work on their organization’s project. Participants are not overwhelmed with negativity or discouragement, but will be given the highest level of expertise to generate confidence in pursuing any funding project.

At The Grant Institute, participants don’t just learn to write grant proposals from top to bottom. Participants become specialists in our unique area of expertise: Grant Communication. Simply put, this is not your grandfather’s grantwriting workshop. Their graduates are strategic, innovative, and confident. Whether you are new to professional grantwriting, or an experienced professional, you will not want to miss The Grant Institute. $997.00 tuition includes all materials and certificates.

Arts Resource Guide on Transportation Enhancement Projects
from the California Association of Museum’s Enews

Americans for the Arts has published a new resource guide for local arts organizations to consider how to tap into federally funded, state directed transportation enhancement projects. The Transportation Resource Guide provides arts examples and includes newly reauthorized Transportation Enhancement Program guidelines that can assist organizations. For more information about the Transportation Enhancement Program, visit www.artsactionfund.org/pdf/congress/transportation_brief.pdf.
New African American History and Culture Grant Program
from the Institute of Museum and Library Services’ Primary Source newsletter

The Institute of Museum and Library Services will award $842,000 in grants to strengthen African American museum operations, care of collections, and personnel; advance the study of African American history, art and culture; encourage collaborations among museums, historical societies, and educational institutions; and enhance educational programming. Applications for the grants are due July 15, 2006. Draft guidelines are available at www.imls.gov/applicants/grants/AfricanAmerican.shtm. Check back at this site for the final guidelines and grant application.

 Getty Foundation Museum Conservation Survey and Treatment Grants
from the California Association of Museum’s Enews

The Getty Foundation offers Museum Conservation Grants to assist institutions in caring for their permanent collections. Survey Grants assist museums in identifying the conservation requirements of art collections. Treatment Grants support the conservation treatment of works of art of outstanding artistic significance. There are no specific closing dates; grants range from $25,000 to $250,000. For additional information, visit www.getty.edu/grants/conservation/.

NEH Preservation Assistance Grants for Small and Mid-Sized Institutions
from the California Association of Museum’s Enews

The National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grants help small and mid size institutions, such as libraries, museums, and historical societies, archival repositories, town and county records offices, and colleges, improve their ability to preserve and care for their humanities collections. These may include special collections of books and journals, archives and manuscripts, prints and photographs, moving images, sound recordings, architectural and cartographic records, decorative and fine arts, textiles, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, furniture, and historical objects. Applicants must draw on the knowledge of consultants whose preservation skills and experiences are related to the types of collections and the nature of the activities that are the focus of their projects. Grants of up to $5,000 will be awarded. These grants do not require an applicant to provide cost sharing; however, if eligible expenses are just over $5,000, an applicant can cover the difference and show this as cost sharing in the project’s budget. The deadline to apply is May 15, 2006. See www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/pag.html for additional information.

The History Channel Announces Launch of the 2006-2007 Save Our History Grant Program

This year, the History Channel will award $250,000 in grants of up to $10,000 to fund partnerships between history organizations and schools or youth groups on projects that teach students about their local history and actively engage them in its preservation. History museums, historical societies, preservation organizations, historic sites, libraries, archives, government agencies, and other historical organizations are all eligible to apply. For guidelines and criteria, and to apply, visit www.saveourhistory.com/pres_org/index.html. The deadline for submitting an application for the 2006-2007 grant cycle is Friday, June 2, 2006. Funded projects can be implemented at any time during the 2006-2007 school year.

The History Channel created the Save Our History initiative to support local history education and historic preservation in communities across the country. Since launching the grant program in 2004, the History Channel has awarded $500,000 in grants to 55 historical organizations nationwide. To read project descriptions of previous Save Our History Grant recipients, visit www.saveourhistory.com/pres_org/index.html. Apply for a Save Our History grant and help inspire the youth in your community today to become the preservationists and historians of tomorrow!
In Memoriam: Alan Temko

In January 2006 Allan Temko, the Pulitzer Prize-winning architecture critic for the San Francisco Chronicle passed away. He was 81. It can arguably be said that Temko’s critiques of San Francisco’s buildings helped shape the city’s skyline. Temko apparently died of congestive heart failure at Orinda Convalescent Hospital. Calling himself an “activist critic,” Temko influenced the design of shopping centers, office buildings, bridges, and BART stations throughout the Bay Area. Landscape architect Lawrence Halprin was quoted as saying, “Without question, he had more effect on people’s interest in architecture and design in the Bay Area than anybody else.”

Temko was especially known for his vivid phrases, which seemed to stick with their targets. He was the first to pin the name “the jukebox” on San Francisco’s Marriott Hotel. And he described the well-known Vaillancourt Fountain on the Embarcadero as resembling something “deposited by a concrete dog with square intestines.”

Born in 1924 in New York City, Temko grew up in New Jersey and attended New York’s Columbia University. His studies were interrupted by service as a Naval officer during World War II. But after finishing his undergraduate work at Columbia, he attended graduate school at UC Berkeley, which is where he met his future wife, Elizabeth. The Temkos lived in Paris, where Allan taught at the Sorbonne and wrote his first book, “Notre Dame of Paris.” The Temkos returned to the Bay Area in 1955, where Allan taught journalism at UC Berkeley and wrote for publications such as Harper’s. He was said to be the inspiration for the character Roland Major in Jack Kerouac’s “On the Road.”

Temko became the Chronicle’s architecture critic in 1961, and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in criticism in 1990. He retired three years later. Temko is survived by his daughter, son, brother, and two grandchildren.

California Historical Society Has New Executive Director

An announcement was recently made that David Crosson, Executive Director of History San José and President of the American Association for State and Local History has been hired as the new Executive Director of the California Historical Society. Stephen Becker, the retiring Executive Director, after 33 years, and President of the California Association of Museums, will be continuing with the society in a consulting role. The San Francisco-based California Historical Society has major art, manuscript, and library collections. It also publishes a quarterly magazine and books.

Publication of Interest:
The Public Historian

CCPH members might be particularly interested in the Winter 2006 issue of The Public Historian (volume 28, number 1). This special issue explores the theme “Public History as Reflective Practice,” and it touches on the important and timely issue of professional ethics confronting public historians working outside of academia. CCPH vice-president, Howard S. (Dick) Miller is co-author of the lead essay (with Katharine T. Corbett), “A Shared Inquiry into Shared Inquiry,” in which they frame the debate and question some of its premises.

Two Faculty Salaries Reports Released

According to a survey by the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources, faculty salaries rose an average of 3.4 percent in 2005. By comparison, in 2004 salaries rose an average of 3.2 percent. Law professors continue to lead the list with an average annual salary of $136,634. New assistant professors of history earn about $45,723, assistant professors earn $47,994, associate professors $59,470, and full professors $80,706. Professors of English, library science, and other liberal arts and sciences and humanities fields in general tend to earn less than historians. Those in business, computer and information sciences, engineering, and physical sciences tend to earn more. To view the full report, visit cupaahr.org.

Additionally, the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) has released its report that shows, for the second year in a row, that faculty pay has failed to keep pace with the nation’s inflation rate. While inflation rose at an average of 3.5 percent in 2005, average academic salaries for professors are up 3.1 percent. And, when adjusted for inflation, over the last 20 years faculty salaries have increased just over .25 percent. For more information, visit www.aaup.org.
March 25, 2006, the very day I finished reading *Workin’ Man Blues*, Buck Owens died. He died just a few hours after a Friday night performance at his Crystal Palace nightclub on Buck Owens Boulevard in his adopted home town, Bakersfield. Fans by the thousands made the pilgrimage to bid farewell to Buck, streaming by his open casket on the Crystal Palace’s dimmed dance floor.

For many, the homage was hard to fathom. What was the magnetism that both pulled scores of truckers toward Bakersfield just so they could pay their respects, and compelled the *San Francisco Chronicle* to report Buck’s wake on its front page? Had I not just closed the cover on Haslam’s book, I would have counted myself among those for whom the phenomenon was an utter mystery.

From the first page to the last, I thought Haslam was writing for me; that is the gift of talented authors—to deeply engage their readers. Haslam’s decade-by-decade history of the relationship between California and country music is interlaced with deeper stories about quintessential performers of each era: the Crockett Family, Gene Autry, Bob Wills, Spade Cooley, Rose and the Maddox Brothers, Buck Owens, Merle Haggard, and Dwight Yoakam. Haslam’s history is also layered by beautifully written interludes that reveal his intimate relationship with this music.

In a broad-brushed sense, *Workin’ Man Blues: Country Music in California* is autobiographical. Haslam grew up in Oildale during the 1940s: a place and time where Okie music held sway. Merle Haggard—a rough-and-tumble kid from Oklahoma—was one of his school mates. Compared with Oildalers, Bakersfielders perceived themselves as more sophisticated in their tastes, particularly looking down their collective nose at Okie music. So when he was sent to school there, the adolescent Haslam had to sublimate his enthusiasm for it to avoid being tagged as a hick. As he related, only Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins could lure him “out of the closet” with their “irresistible version of country music.”

Out of the closet, indeed. Haslam’s mature and thoughtful book blows the walls off such constricted spaces and opts for open, expansive territory; territory big enough to accommodate even the “soft focused ruralism” characteristic of so many Nashville productions on Top 40 play lists alongside the unpolished, raw longings voiced by country music artists whose works get out through much smaller, rough-edged regional venues.

California, Haslam points out, has not produced a large crop of native-born country music stars. But as a place that seems to attract restless souls seeking to reinvent themselves, the state has become the adopted home of many country musicians, like Buck Owens.

If we are coming out of the closet, after reading *Workin’ Man Blues*, I felt the tug to honor Buck Owens’ passing. But still a little too self-conscious to make the trip to what is affectionately called “Buckersfield,” I downloaded his classic “Cryin’ Time,” cranked-up the volume, and sang along. If there is such a thing as the metaphysics of country music, I think I felt it then—part of that conundrum of counter cultural and national community created by country music—as I listened and sang with new understanding. Thanks Buck; thanks Gerald.

Pamela A. Conners is a historian with Stanislaus National Forest.

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*I Workin’ Man Blues: Country Music in California*.


I came across this book by happenstance. Browsing in my local bookstore, I was struck by the convergence of intriguing topics: the North Cascades, fire lookouts, and Beat Generation writers. What could be better? John Suiter spent several years exploring the magnificently wild mountain range of northern Washington, photographing the scenery as well as the steel and wood structures that once housed a network of fire spotters, the first line defense in the U.S. Forest Service’s ardent effort to suppress a naturally occurring event. He read the letters and journals of Snyder, Kerouac and Whalen, and compiled a marvelous history of their time in the mountains as well as the West Coast literary centers of Seattle, Portland, and San Francisco. He offers detailed accounts of how these artists met, how they came to work as firewatchers, and how that experience changed them and influenced their writings.

The author describes the now famous poetry reading at the Six Gallery in 1955, where Alan Ginsberg premiered “Howl” and where the others (Whalen, Snyder, Michael McClure, and Philip Lamantia) gained literary recognition. He places the event within the context of their complicated personal relationships and in the shadow of Hozomeen, the brooding peak that inspired and

(continued on next page)
Experience the California Coast: A Guide to Beaches and Parks in Northern California (counties included: Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin). Compiled by the California Coastal Commission. Berkeley: UC Press, 2005. 320 pp; 315 color illustrations, 9 b/w photographs, 1 line illustration, 47 maps; 6” x 9”, $24.95.

The spectacular shoreline between San Francisco and the Oregon border, although stunning, is not merely a location to be appreciated visually. Activities—including rigorous hikes, light walks, backpacking, camping, geology, history, wetlands, birding, cycling, whale watching, biology, boating, fishing, surfing, kayaking, picnicking, diving, or simply enjoying peace and quiet—are abundant and widely accessible. Intriguing newcomers and reinvigorating the knowledgeable, Experience the California Coast exposes travelers and locals alike to some 350 beaches, parks, and hiking trails to the northern California shoreline, and is the first volume of a promising new set of coastal guidebooks in production by the California Coastal Commission.

The California Coastal Commission is charged with conserving, enhancing, and making available to the public the beaches, access ways, and resources of the coast. As part of their core mission of caring for and restoring environmental and human-based resources of the California coast and ocean, the Commission aims to enhance knowledge of and access to these resources by way of public education.

Beginning in Del Norte County, the guide leads readers south to Marin. Each group of entries is accompanied by a map and chart that summarize key facilities and characteristics. For example, a quick glance at the chart for Fern Canyon (northern Humboldt County) suggests a trail, wildlife viewing, facilities for disabled, restrooms, parking, and that a fee may be involved. The user is also able to quickly absorb that there is no visitor center or campground at this specific location, but that these options are available at nearby parks and campgrounds. The full description of Fern Canyon broadens the reader’s perspective, providing directions and a description of the trail, wildlife, and available facilities. Note that although most sites and trails are publicly owned and controlled, some commercial recreational outfitters and campgrounds are included for the convenience of the reader.

Want to know more about Steep Ravine Beach, where to find elephant seals or pickleweed, or locations for sea kayaking? A detailed index provides quick access to locations, flora and fauna, wildlife, and physical activities. Not all characteristics, hike and bike campsites for example, are summarized in the index or the chart keys, but most users will easily find information about their activity of interest. The glossary is also a useful tool for brief definitions of many scientific terms.

Interspersed among the descriptions of each county, park, and trail are stimulating articles on various environmental aspects, such as: Rivers and Streams, Redwoods, Bays and Estuaries, Pygmy Forest, Geology, San Andreas Fault, Caring for the Coast, and Protecting Coastal Resources. Environmental context and concerns, as well as local history, are expressed throughout the guide. Visitors will not only discover points of interest, they will also feel a closer connection to, and responsibility for, the incredible natural resources of this area.

Whether out on a brief jaunt or on an extended road trip, Experience the California Coast will introduce travelers to the numerous and diverse resources provided by the center of the continent’s Pacific coast.

Paul Atwood is the archivist for the Water Resources Center Archives at the University of California, Berkeley.

(continued from previous page)

Informed the trio’s poetic sensibilities. Suiter writes about the Forest Service men who Snyder, in particular, befriended. I appreciate this inclusion in the book, because these blue collar, deep woods workers rarely gain any notice of their existence beyond their immediate families and friends. There are poets with double bitted axes and cork soled boots. I found the account of Gary Snyder’s blacklisting during the ‘50s particularly intriguing and chilling, an ominous precursor of assaults on civil liberties in our own times. The author provides a detailed epilogue that traces the various poets’ paths: Whalen to the San Francisco Zen Center; Snyder to Japan and eventually to Kitkitdizze, his northern California ranch; and Kerouac to an early grave. In addition, Suiter chronicles the history of the Wilderness Act of 1964, the creation of North Cascades National Park in 1968, and the unfortunate demise of many of the forest service fire lookouts.

Poets on the Peaks is heavily illustrated with Suiter’s marvelous black and white photographs depicting the peaks and valleys of the North Cascades, as well as the remaining fire lookouts on Desolation and Sourdough mountains. He includes a handful of vintage images, and they show how little the region has changed during a time when the world has changed so much. There is an excellent bibliography and 54 pages of detailed notes (titled annotations in the book). A map would have been a nice addition to this volume.

John Muir admonished us to “Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.” Thanks to John Suiter’s graceful and beautiful book, we now know how well three poets heeded his call.

Bob Pavlik is an environmental planner and historian with the California Department of Transportation in San Luis Obispo.

Professor Cleland’s volume is a classic. Heavily utilizing archives, he has painted a vivid and well-documented picture of these turbulent decades in Southern California. His fluid style is engaging and conveys a sense of the frontier drama that typified the era. The book is a great read.

But concurrently the story he tells, as is so often the case with archive-based research covering a period of decades or more, seems to neglect the daily lives of the average person. Focused on the prominent citizens, economic crises, significant transitions in lifestyle, bandits and crime, power and property, it is sometimes difficult to remember the thousands of farmers and cow hands or vaqueros. It is hard to get a real feel for their lives and daily concerns. It is not that Professor Cleland ignores these souls, but rather, simply, that more detail and a better sense of the romance and the daily lives of these people would have been helpful in conveying a more complete sense of the life and times.

Still, no one can fault what Professor Cleland does present; it is solid, engaging, and remarkable for what it tells about early California—a hinterland, really, largely a mere part of the supply chain for San Francisco and the gold fields. Most of the book is about a mini-global economy with all the influences of changing demand, markets, products, attempted adaptation, transportation, and corruption. A delightful story about a dynamic and exciting time.

Daniel O. Holmes is a geographer and librarian providing consulting services and research on environmental and library issues. He is on the board of the Orinda Historical Society and is a forth generation Californian.


In San Diego: California's Cornerstone, Iris Engstrand takes on the daunting task of covering all of San Diego's history, from its earliest peopling to 2005. The book unfolds in largely chronological fashion, with the exception of the first chapter, “The Land and Its People,” covering local geography and Native American history from prehistory to the present. The native peoples would certainly have been better served by incorporating their history into the main narrative, rather than segregating them, particularly since the book lends itself to such inclusion. Each chapter abounds with sub-headings that mark the break to a new topic, sometimes eased with transitional sentences, but often not. The result is a very choppy read with no apparent unifying theme. One exception to this statement is Chapter Two, “Old and New World Backgrounds,” which reveals the author’s extensive expertise in colonial Spanish history, all of it prior to the settlement of San Diego. Similar national historical context (largely political) is found in the 26-page timeline at the end of the narrative, which is followed by a map of the metropolitan area, a glossary of place names, a selected bibliography and index. The book also sports numerous photographs (although no list of illustrations is provided), most of them featuring the built environment, some with portrait insets. Selected photographs fill obvious lacunae, such as the frontispiece of early surfers, a sport otherwise ignored in the text, although major league teams, the San Diego Sockers, and America’s Cup yachting get some ink in the final chapters.

San Diego boosters will delight in the tone of this work. While problems are occasionally mentioned, the presentation is unfailingly upbeat. For example, the reader learns that nineteenth century newspapers were politically partisan, and notes the demise of San Diego’s only paper in 1860. “More than eight years passed before another paper…began publication.” (81) These years happen to encompass the Civil War, which is not mentioned, and there is no further explanation. At least the author does not shy away from modern controversies, such as the commercial development of Mission Valley (170–72), but she shows less sensitivity to problems across the border. “The residents and recent migrants to the Tijuana area were soon to take advantage of the employment opportunities there, especially in the maquiladoras—tax-exempt export manufacturing and assembly plants.” (199) This reference to “employment opportunities” glosses over a host of labor and environmental abuses for which maquiladoras have become notorious.

The work also suffers from a sense of imbalance. Entire groups are virtually ignored. For example, the presence of Chinese (a word not found in the index) is represented only by the family of Ah Quin, pictured on page 111. The text offers no explanation of who he was, nor what his significance may have been. Yet the author devotes considerable space to the Whaley House (pages 82-84), particularly its alleged ghosts. Many other paragraphs are laden with virtual lists of names, such as the one discussing the growth of but a single TV channel, KFMB, in which ten individuals are mentioned (180).

In short, this book will serve as an excellent reference for those wishing to look up certain facts of San Diego history, particularly those emphasizing its growth and the activities of its most avid promoters (most of whom came from the white middle class). It is not a gripping read, but it is a useful, if limited, tool—a utilitarian skeleton that deserves more fleshing out in other works.

Nancy J. Taniguchi is a professor of history at California State University, Stanislaus.

Spring 2006
New Distance Learning Course Available

The National Park Service’s Ethnography Program has developed a new distance learning course, “African American Heritage and Ethnography.” The course is designed for public history professionals who want to learn more about African American cultural heritage, heritage preservation, and research associated with this area of history. For more information, visit www.cr.nps.gov/ethnography/aah/aaheritage/index.htm.

Irvine Foundation Offers Evaluation Resources

With rising interest in nonprofit effectiveness, and increased public scrutiny of the sector, foundations are looking to evaluation to achieve greater organizational impact and promote accountability. The James Irvine Foundation uses evaluation in order to be as responsible, accountable, and effective a grantmaker as possible. They believe the quality of their work is enhanced by learning from their own experience as well as from that of others. To share their findings with colleagues, and to help contribute to the knowledge base and dialogue in the field, they have launched a new Evaluation section, www.irvine.org/evaluation/overview.shtml, on their website to include comprehensive information about the goals and principles that guide evaluation at Irvine, including their policies and guidelines, the design, process, findings, products, and evaluators of evaluations of current and former programs, an overview of how Irvine assesses its progress toward its institutional goals and priorities, and evaluation tools and resources available for nonprofits and other foundations. The new resource, which is easily accessed from the “Evaluation” button at the top of every page, will continue to grow, and will serve as a key vehicle for sharing what they learn from their work. They invite you to visit often, and to explore and share what you find of value with colleagues. For more information about the James Irvine Foundation, visit their website at www.irvine.org/ or call 415 777-2244.

NARA Films to be Digitized

Google, Inc. has begun the process of digitizing films from the National Archives and now offers them as part of an effort to expand its online video service offerings. Films being digitized include World War II newsreels, the Apollo 11 moon landing, and over 100 other film clips. NARA hopes to have additional films available online in the future. To view the clips, visit video.google.com/nara.html.

Changes to Herbert Feis Award Criteria

The American Historical Association’s Herbert Feis Award has been broadened to now encompass distinguished contributions to public history in the last ten years. This is a change from the award’s previous criteria, which limited it to recognizing only books produced by historians working outside academia. For more information, visit www.historians.org/prizes/index.cfm?PrizeAbbrev=FEIS.

Website of Interest

freedominfo.org

The website Freedominfo.org has been completely redesigned and revamped. First launched in 2002, the website bills itself as “the online network of freedom of information advocates.” The new site now includes a country-by-country listing that gives users information about freedom of information laws in over 60 countries. It also gives researchers and others tools to stay informed on changes to and progress in right to information laws.
Conferences and Other Educational Opportunities

The American Association for State and Local History will hold its annual conference September 13-16, 2006, in Phoenix, Arizona. The conference will have the theme “History’s Enduring Voices,” focusing on history makers in our communities and in our field. For more information, visit www.aaslh.org.

The Studio for Southern California History is now accepting proposals from scholars for its symposium to take place in Los Angeles September 15, 2006, in conjunction with its inaugural exhibition “Work in Southern California: A Retrospective,” which will illuminate the breadth of experience of labor and industry in the greater Los Angeles area, opening new avenues for understanding the meaning and sheer variety of the work that has built, sustained, and occupied the unique and diverse population of this storied and often misunderstood region. Proposals should be submitted in a panel format with multiple presenters or individually. Formal presentations may be given as interactive sessions or panel discussions. These sessions will be approximately 60 minutes in length and based on the theme of history, work and Southern California both broadly and specifically. Paper presentations will be limited to 20 minutes in length. Submissions are due by June 1. For more information, visit www.socalstudio.org or contact symposium@socalstudio.org.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation will hold its annual conference October 5-11, 2006, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The conference will have the theme, “Making History Work!” For more information, visit www.nthpconference.org.

The 45th annual conference of the Western History Association will take place October 11-14, 2006, in St. Louis, Missouri. The conference will have the theme, “Western Traditions and Transitions: Cultural Diversity and Demographic Change” and will be held at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at Union Station. For more information, visit www.unm.edu/~wha.

The Western Museums Association will hold its 2006 Annual Meeting in Boise, Idaho, October 11-16, 2006. The meeting, which will take place at the Grove Hotel, will focus on the theme “Frontier Without Limits: High Desert Rendezvous.” For more information, visit www.westmuse.org.

The Oral History Association will hold its annual meeting in Little Rock, Arizona, October 25-29, 2006. The meeting will have the theme “Generational Links: Confronting the Past, Understanding the Present, Planning the Future.” For more information, visit www.dickinson.edu/organizations/oha.

The California Council for the Promotion of History will be holding its annual conference in San Jose, October 26-28, 2006. For more information, visit www.csus.edu/org/ccph where additional details about the conference will be placed as they become available.

The National Preservation Conference will take place October 31 to November 5, 2006, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The conference will have the theme “Making Preservation Work.” For more information, visit www.nationaltrust.org.

The National Interpreters Workshop will take place November 7-11, 2006, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. With the theme “Sharing Stories Along the Way,” the workshop will feature keynote speaker, Richard Louv, whose most recent book is “Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder.” For more information, visit www.interpnet.com.

The California Association of Museums will hold its next conference in Long Beach, California, February 21-23, 2007. Long Beach’s waterfront will be the backdrop for a notable conference with the newly expanded Museum of Latin American Art, the Aquarium of the Pacific, and other Long Beach museums hosting evening events. The conference will take place at the Coast Long Beach Hotel. The Call for Session and Workshop Proposals is now available. CAM invites proposals from the field that present strategies and ideas for strengthening the future of museums, their programs, collections, and communities. See www.calmuseums.org/cam2007/callforproposals2.html for the guidelines and submission instructions. The deadline for submissions is June 2.

The Program Committee for the 47th annual conference of the Western History Association invites proposals for panels and papers for “Crossroads of the West: Meetings and Exchanges, Old and New,” which will take place October 3-6, 2007, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The program committee especially welcomes papers and panels that explore new interpretations of the western cultural experience, considering issues of ethnicity, race, gender, and the environment. Sessions may follow a traditional scholarly conference format, but innovative sessions focusing upon art, film, music, or objects of material culture are also encouraged. In addition, sessions on teaching western history, and/or teaching the history of ethnic groups whose presence enriches this region are also welcome. Submissions may be for an entire session, a panel discussion, or an individual paper. When submitting an entire session, include an abstract that outlines the purpose of the session, and designate one panelist or participant as the contact person. Each paper proposal, whether individual or part of a session, should include a one-page abstract and a one page c.v. including the address, phone, and email address for each participant. The committee will ensure that all listed individuals have agreed to participate. Send all program submission materials to L. G. Moses, Department of History, LSW 501, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078-3054 (mos7538@okstate.edu or lgmoses@cox.net). Submissions should be postmarked by August 31, 2006.
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, dbyrdfk@parks.ca.gov

Society for California Archaeology (SCA)
Steve Mikesell, smike@parks.ca.gov, 916 757-2521

Society of California Archivists (SCA)
Patricia Johnson, pjohnson@cityofsacramento.org

Southwest Oral History Association (SOHA)
Susan Douglass Yates, syates@coh.org

Southwest Mission Research Center (SMRC)
Linn McLaurin, 619 435-7284

Western History Association (WHA)
Ken Owens, owensks@csus.edu

Western Museums Association (WMA)
Rebecca Carruthers, rcarr@parks.ca.gov

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

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

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Spring 2006
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