CCPH Gathers in Visalia to “Tell the Stories”

Leave it to CCPH and its members to see the appeal and feel the draw from what many would feel is an area of the state that wouldn’t attract a crowd of historians. But attract a crowd it did! Visalia played host to the CCPH conference October 27-29, 2005, and what a great hostess she was. Coming to the southern San Joaquin Valley from all parts of California and beyond, CCPHers met in the heart of Visalia to explore the murky waters where history and myth meet—the conference theme was “Telling the Stories: From History to Myth.”

The conference kicked off with an opening reception at the Tulare Historical Museum, which was a bit of a drive from the conference hotel, but proved to be worth it for those who attended. The museum was kind enough to open its exhibits to us, at an hour when ordinarily all the staff would have gone home, and even had local historian Derryl Dumermuth available to sign copies of his books and provide tours of the museum. On Friday morning, Malcolm Margolin of the Heyday Institute, kicked off the conference on a literary note by moderating a thoroughly interesting and entertaining plenary session with a number of authors who talked about their craft and how they dealt with the intersection of history and story telling in their books and in their work. The speakers included Gerald Haslam (author of Haslam’s Valley and Working Man’s Blues), Aris Janigian (author of Bloodvine), Darlene Franco (a language preservation activist with the Yokuts tribe), and Janet Nichols Lynch (author of Peace is a Four-Letter Word).

The break out sessions that followed kept conference attendees on their toes trying to make those tough decisions between two equally inviting competing sessions in each time slot. The breadth and depth of these sessions was definitely up to CCPH’s high standards and there seemed to be something for just about any interest throughout the course of the two full days of sessions (thanks for this go to our able conference program chair, Meta Bunse). Of course, what also made decisions so difficult was the draw of the tours offered during the conference. Many attendees took advantage of the very low price being asked for the walking tour of downtown Visalia led by local historian Terry Ommen (so many that we had to schedule a second tour on Saturday for the “overflow” crowd) and the tour of Visalia’s wonderfully restored Fox Theater. (CCPH was pleased to donate half of the proceeds for these tours to the Tulare County Historical Society and the Friends of the Fox Theater, respectively.) Although the half-day tour on Saturday to Allensworth State Historic Park didn’t draw a large crowd (and who could blame those who chose not to go when there were such interesting offerings in that same time period in the break out sessions), those who did make the journey to this remote park found the trip to be thoroughly

continued on page 8
State of the Council

On behalf of the board and committee chairs of CCPH, I would like to wish all of our members a Happy New Year with best wishes for personal and professional success in 2006!

I would also like to extend my sincerest appreciation and thanks to Jenan Saunders, who served as CCPH President in 2004 and 2005 in addition to editing California History Action. Jenan’s leadership and commitment to the organization specifically and to public history in general has been extraordinary and she has done much to strengthen CCPH in the last two years.

With a dedicated Board of Directors, CCPH will continue to do its very best to serve as an advocate and a resource for California’s public historians. Two of our endeavors, this newsletter and our annual conferences, are indicative of our ability to fulfill our mission. After great conferences in Eureka in 2004 and Visalia in 2005, we are looking forward to presenting more of the same in our next two locales: San Jose this October and the San Gabriel Valley, near Los Angeles, in 2007. And, under Jenan’s editorial excellence, California History Action will continue to keep members apprised of news, legislation, programs, and other activities taking place in California’s public history realm.

We also hope to continue our advocacy and resource-providing efforts through enhancements to our website. Though we’re still very much in the early stages of the project, our general intention is to enlist CCPH members to serve as resource for their areas of the state to, for example, assist students at all levels in conducting research for classroom projects and papers, helping college students in exploring career options in public history, and consulting with colleagues in best practices in public history-related professions. Naturally, there are many organization’s mission and add to the tangible list of benefits CCPH offers. We’ll be keeping you informed regularly as the project progresses.

Finally, let me thank all of you for your continued support of CCPH. Our membership has grown over the last few years, we’ve held some excellent conferences, our newsletter continues to be well-received, and we’re hopeful many of you will be able to serve as resource providers in this new project we’re working on. If you have any questions about the organization and our programs and direction, please don’t hesitate to call or e-mail the CCPH office.

Paul Spitzerri, President

The Results Are In!

CCPH has had four new directors join the board as a result of last year’s election. Ballots were mailed to our more than 300 members, and 67 were returned. Elected to the board for three-year terms (through December 2008) are Patricia Ambacher, Chris Brewer, Heather McCummins, Tory Swim, and returning board member Leslie Fryman. The board would like our membership to know that although the envelopes used for the election carried a California State Parks return address block, no State funds were used for the reproduction and mailing of the ballots.

CCPH Mini-Grants Announcements

Three very interesting projects were awarded CCPH Mini-Grants in 2005:

- The Fort Ross Interpretive Association was awarded $500 for production of four wayside panels providing historical information about Fort Ross State Historic Park. The panels will include reproductions of original images and first-hand accounts of the settlement of the fort.
- The Museum of the San Ramon Valley was awarded $750 for an exhibit to coincide with the Danville Eugene O’Neill Festival and a new PBS special on the writer. The exhibit will focus on the 1937-1944 time period, when O’Neill and his family lived in the Danville house that is now a museum.
- The Santa Monica Conservancy was awarded $750 for a project to publish descriptions and photographs of local historical landmarks on the organization’s website. The group plans to post more than 60 individual landmarks, 45 contributors to designated historic districts, and, eventually, about 200 not yet designated historic buildings and district contributors.

Because we’re a little late in getting this announcement in the newsletter, this is also a great opportunity to remind you that the deadline for this year’s mini-grants is just around the corner. Applications are due March 15. Information about the program and the application form can be found on our website at www.csus.edu/org/ccph.
CCPH Awards Presented to Three Distinguished Individuals

The CCPH awards presentation during the 2005 conference was once again a most stimulating and enthusiastic affair, with three very deserving individuals selected to receive awards. The awards luncheon was, as usual, very well attended, and CCPH was excited to be able to invite the student and new professional stipend recipients to attend at no charge so that they could be recognized as well as gain from the inspirational stories of the award recipients. (The student/new professional stipend recipients were Debbie Bahn, Barbara Eychaner, Laura Gallegos, Nathan Hallam, Stephen Melvin, Ty Smith, and Tory Swim from CSU Sacramento; Stephanie George from CSU Fullerton; Aideen Aisha Rahimi from St. Mary’s College; and Whitney Hopkins from the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society.) Below is a little information about each award recipient (although the author admits that these summaries don’t even begin to do these individuals justice).

Gary Kurutz. Special Collections Librarian for the California State Library, was given the CCPH Award of Distinction for devoting his professional and personal life to collecting and preserving the precious historical resources that illustrate California’s rich and diverse heritage. Kurutz, an author, historian, civil servant, and librarian, has long made history accessible to all, and the fullness of the California State Library’s California History Section, and his published works testify to this. By collecting the best primary sources and research materials on Californiana over the past 25 years, Kurutz has made the California History Section evolve into one of the best research repositories in the State. And his dedication is ongoing. In addition to managing the resources of the California State Library’s history collection, Kurutz regularly gives energetic and marvelously anecdotal tours of that collection. He frequently travels throughout the state promoting California history. And he continues to publish books, many of which tell the stories of the California State Library’s greatest treasures. Gary Kurutz embodies the best qualities of both the scholarly world and the public world and is highly deserving of this prestigious award.

Chris Brewer, recipient of 2005’s second CCPH Award of Distinction, has been a longtime and dedicated historian working in the southern San Joaquin Valley since the 1970s. During his career, he has served as a consultant, editor and publisher, museum board director, and Caltrans architectural historian. Chris is generous with his time, his talents and his resources. He has published numerous books and authored eight books, five of which are under his imprint, Bear State Books. Having been a member of CCPH since 1989, Brewer also served on the CCPH board and edited the California History Action newsletter for two years in the early 1990s. His long-term, outstanding contributions to the public history field have made him a recognized authority on the history of the vast San Joaquin Valley, as is evidenced by his numerous speaking engagements and his involvement with the Great Valley Center. Chris is also warm, gregarious and funny, and, because he enjoys sharing his knowledge with others, he has been a guide and mentor to many. Chris Brewer’s commitment to public history and his enthusiasm for telling the stories of the southern San Joaquin Valley make him a worthy recipient of this award.

Gaynel Wald, who received the CCPH Award of Meritorious Performance, makes history come alive to hundreds of school age children in the greater Folsom Area. Due to her vast experience in educational tours, she was given the task to develop the “Traveling Trunk program” for schools. The goal was to create an interactive education outreach program for grades 3 to 5 that involved living history and artifacts and supported California curriculum requirements. Wald’s “Tales and Trails” program portrayed Nancy Kelsey and her overland journey to California in the 1840s. She then developed “Mission Moments” to offer a look at the Spanish exploration and the mission system. Mission history is a requirement of 4th grade students, and for many northern California schools, visiting a mission is not possible. Wald also launched Folsom Foundations, a program that explores the early settlers and development of the Folsom area. The goal was to bring the Folsom History Museum to the schools. Today, these three engaging programs are being booked at least six months in advance, and Gaynel is averaging 60 presentations a school year. The outreach programs, which have also been modified to present before senior, history, and other adult organizations, have revitalized and generated increased awareness for the Folsom History Museum.

Congratulations go out to the 2005 CCPH award winners. For information on how to submit an award nomination, visit the CCPH website at www.csus.edu/org/ccph.
Microsoft to Digitize 100,000 Books
from the National Coalition for History's Washington Update

The Microsoft Corporation’s MSN Search division has reached an agreement with the British Library to scan 100,000 books from its vast collection and make them available for reading at no charge on the Internet. This agreement is the latest venture into a fiercely competitive battle among leading computer and Internet companies over digitizing books online.

Danielle Tiedt, who heads content for Microsoft’s MSN Search unit, says there is a market for consumers who are interested in reading selections from reference works, cookbooks, and books on travel. She emphasized that Microsoft would seek permission from publishers before scanning any books that are protected by copyright laws. With this move, she hopes that the company will avoid the legal problems that are currently being faced by Google (see article to left). However, books which were published in the United States before 1923 are generally considered out-of-copyright and in the public domain.

In terms of generating a profit from this project, Microsoft intends to test business models that would include online advertising as well as the sharing of revenue with authors, publishers, and retailers from the sale of books. The scanning of the books from the British Library will cost approximately $2.5 million.

Publishers Sue Google To Stop Book Scanning
from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

On 18 October the Association of American Publishers and several of its members filed a copyright-infringement lawsuit against GOOGLE. The suit follows on the heels of a class action lawsuit brought by the 8,000 member Authors Guild which also alleged that GOOGLE’s library project violated copyright law. The publishers allege that the search engine’s project is infringing copyright to “further its own commercial purposes.” GOOGLE denounced the lawsuit as “shortsighted” and countered that the company’s project falls under the copyright law’s fair-use provision. The matter will now be settled in court.

Library of Congress Advances Plan to Create a World Digital Library and Initiates Audiovisual Materials Migration Project
from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

The Library of Congress is launching a campaign to create the World Digital Library, an online collection of rare books, manuscripts, posters, and other materials that would be freely available for viewing to Internet users. Because the goal is to bring materials together online from the United States and Europe, the Islamic world, Africa, and Asia, this appears to be the most ambitious effort ever undertaken in the realm of digital access.

According to Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, “We are aiming for a cooperative undertaking in which each culture can articulate its own cultural identity within a shared global undertaking.” He added that he envisions the initiative as a public-private partnership. Billington stated that already Google Inc. has become the first corporate contributor with a $3 million donation toward the project. The money will be used to develop the details of the project and to pay for global outreach.

In addition to announcing the initiative, in a speech delivered to the newly established U.S. Commission for UNESCO, Billington proposed that “The time may be right for our country’s delegations to consider introducing to the world body a proposal for the cooperative building of a World Digital Library.” Billington argues, “An American partnership in promoting such a project for UNESCO would show how we are helping other people recover distinctive elements of their cultures through a shared enterprise that may also help them discover more about the experience of our own and other free cultures.”

The Library of Congress has contracted in order to purchase the System for the Automated Migration of Media Archives (SAMMA) for the purpose of migrating its massive collection of audiovisual material in preparation for its move to the National Audio Visual Conservation Center in Culpeper, Virginia. During the next few years, SAMMA will be used to digitize and migrate many of the hundreds of thousands of recordings in its collection. Upon completion of this project, projected sometime in 2007, the National Audio Visual Conservation Center of the Library of Congress will be the first centralized facility in America especially planned and created for the acquisition, cataloging, storage, and preservation of the country’s collections of audio and visual recordings.

Library of Congress Advances Plan to
Create a World Digital Library and
Initiates Audiovisual Materials Migration Project
New Historical Records Grant Opportunity
from the California Association of Museums’ Enews

The California Historical Records Advisory Board (CHRAB) was recently awarded $100,000 in funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) for the implementation of a regrant project. The CHRAB, which serves as the statewide coordinator for historical records planning, will use the award to fund projects for smaller local governments and historical record repositories (including nonprofit organizations) that focus on the management and preservation of local historical collections. The two-year project will begin in March 2006. The typical regrant will average about $8,000-$10,000. For additional information about the project, contact Laren Metzer, Acting State Coordinator, at 916-653-3834 or lmetzer@ss.ca.gov.

History Coalition Gets NARA Grant to Monitor and Help Recover Documents
from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

The National Coalition for History (NCH) has signed a memorandum of understanding and received a $20,000 grant from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for the support of a pilot project to systematically search manuscript auction and sales Internet websites, listings, and print catalogs to identify missing or stolen federal, state, local, and international government records. Once identified, these documents are brought to the attention of NARA officials (if the document appears to be a federal record) or referred to officials at other appropriate repositories (i.e., state or other governmental archives), which in turn decide whether to seek recovery through donation, replevin, or other legal means.

According to Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States, “I am pleased that the National Archives is partnering with the National Coalition for History on this critical issue. It is imperative that the entire historical and archival community remain vigilant in identifying and reclaiming materials that have been stolen from our nation’s repositories. This agreement is a step forward in helping the National Archives recover unique historical documents that we hold in trust for our citizens.”

In fact, the history coalition has informally and rather haphazardly monitored such sites over the last three years, but until now has not had the staff or resources to systematically monitor the sale of documents and other manuscript materials. As part of this initiative, already history coalition contract staff have looked at 7800 items and brought nearly 150 items that appear to be federal, state, and foreign government archival documents from over two dozen websites and auction catalogs to the attention of NARA, State Department, Homeland Security, and state officials. This is not to say that all the items identified have gone missing or are stolen. Many documents that at first appear to be from governmental archival holdings turn out to have been legitimately acquired, or are not part of NARA’s scope of collections, and are legally being offered for sale by manuscript, autograph, and document dealers and collectors.

Other actions that the National Archives has taken to protect and recover historical records besides the NCH/NARA partnership include: launching the “Recover Lost and Stolen Documents” web page (www.archives.gov/research/recover/), which provides instructions to researchers and the general public on what to do if they suspect an item has been stolen; the site also lists missing records. NARA has also hosted a meeting of international institutions to discuss issues of document security; placed additional security controls in National Archives research rooms nationwide; published a pamphlet to educate the public about how to identify Federal documents and is giving public recognition to individuals who help the National Archives recover alienated documents.

Copyright Roundtables Scheduled
from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

A committee appointed by the Library of Congress will hold two public roundtables in March 2006 in Los Angeles and in Washington, D.C. to gather insights and opinions on how to revise copyright exceptions for libraries and archives (Section 108 of the Copyright Act). The committee consists of independent experts from the commercial and not-for-profit sectors. The roundtables, which are free and open to the public, will be held Wednesday, March 8 in Los Angeles and on Thursday, March 16 in Washington, D.C. The committee is charged to re-examine the exceptions and limitations applicable to libraries and archives under the Copyright Act, specifically in light of the changes produced by the widespread use of digital technologies since the last significant study in 1988. Specifically, the group is studying how Section 108 of the Copyright Act (titled Limitations on Exclusive Rights: Reproduction by Libraries and Archives) may need to be amended to address the relevant issues and concerns of libraries and archives, as well as creators and other copyright holders. Information on how to participate in the roundtables will be published in the Federal Register later this month and made available on the Section 108 Study Group website at www.loc.gov/section108 where additional information is available about the roundtable and the scheduled meetings.
May Museum Celebrations
from the California Association of Museums’ Enews

Have you discussed or begun planning your events for California Museum Month, International Museum Day, or the Year of the Museum? Now is the time to begin considering how your organization will take advantage of these commemorations to promote the programs and services you provide your community. The California Association of Museums (CAM) encourages all museums to join our public relations campaign to promote the value of museums across the state. California Museum Month will take place in May 2006 and the International Museum Day, organized by the International Council of Museums, will be on May 18, 2006 (for more information, visit palimpsest.stanford.edu/icom/imd.html). In addition, the American Association of Museums is spearheading a nationwide Year of the Museum commemoration (see www.aam-us.org/sp/yom/). Perhaps your institution could collaborate with other museums in your area to present programs, offer free or discounted admission days, and/or jointly promote the behind-the-scenes work you do with schools or in the area of research. CAM will be sending a press kit in a couple months to all their institutional members to assist in the public relations efforts pertaining to California Museum Month, which will include some findings from the California museums survey conducted last year. Contact our office at 831-471-9970 or cam@calmuseums.org for additional information.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Grants

The National Park Service’s (NPS) National NAGPRA Program invites proposals for FY2006 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) grants. NAGPRA is a Federal law passed in 1990 that provides a process for museums and Federal agencies to return certain Native American cultural items—human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony—to lineal descendants, culturally affiliated Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations. Fiscal Year 2006 NAGPRA grant guidelines and proposal forms are available online. Consultation/documentation grant proposals must be postmarked by March 1, 2006. They encourage proposals for consultations on culturally unidentifiable Native American human remains and associated funerary objects. Funding is available subject to congressional appropriation. To find out what other kinds of activities they fund, download grants guidelines, and review the application form, visit www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/grants. For more information, call Michelle Joan Wilkinson, Grants Coordinator, at 202 354-2203, email Michelle_J_Wilkinson@contractor.nps.gov or NAGPRA_Grants@nps.gov.

History is Slipping Away Says Report
from the National Coalition for History's Washington Update

On December 6 Heritage Preservation, a Washington-based nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving our nation’s heritage, in partnership with a federal agency—the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)—released a study documenting the condition of America’s cultural heritage. The “Heritage Health Index” report suggests that poor environmental controls, inadequate staffing, improper storage, and poor planning for emergencies such as floods threaten many historical collections. The report includes data compiled from more than 3,000 historical institutions, including historical societies, government archives, museums, libraries, universities, and scientific organizations. The study details the preservation needs of an estimated 4.8 billion items, including books, works of art, scientific specimens, manuscripts, photographs, film, recordings, and digital materials. Of the holdings that were documented, approximately 820 million, or 17 percent, were determined to be in urgent need of preservation. In addition, the report indicates that one-third of the institutions surveyed acknowledge that they lack adequate knowledge of the condition of their collections; 65 percent of collecting institutions have experienced damage to collections due to improper storage; 80 percent of U.S. collecting institutions do not have emergency collections plans with staff trained to carry them out; and a total of 190 million objects are in need of conservation treatment.

continued on page 12
House Narrowly Passes Education Bill
from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

By a narrow vote of 215 to 213 on the evening of December 14, 2005, the House of Representatives passed the FY 2006 spending bill for health, human service and education programs. The conference report the House approved (Conf. Rept. 109-337) is almost identical to a version that was rejected by the House last month. In the revised conference report, the House did not make any changes to higher-education programs that were in the earlier bill. The maximum Pell Grant award is set at $4,050, the same level as the previous three years.

Of greatest interest to the history community is the provision that sets aside approximately $121 million for the “Teaching American History” initiative, including a new provision that authorizes up to 3 percent of the total for “national activities.” The bill now goes to the Senate for action.

History Groups Request State History Assessment
from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

Several major history organizations have sent a letter to Education Secretary Margaret Spellings requesting that she find within her department’s discretionary budget the funds necessary to initiate a state by state assessment of student’s performance on history tests. The letter, signed by representatives of the American Historical Association, National Coalition for History, National Council for History Education, National Council for the Social Studies, Organization of American Historians, and the Society of American Historians urges the secretary, “to find the requisite funds in the FY 2006 budget authorization for the Department of Education to carry out provisions of Senate bill 860 (S 860).”

The referenced legislation was introduced last year by Senators Lamar Alexander (Chair of the Education and Early Childhood Development Subcommittee) and Ted Kennedy (the Ranking Minority member for the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee). At first, congressional funding to implement the measure seemed assured, but the specific funding for implementation was struck down at the last moment by House and Senate managers. Reportedly, they eliminated the funding from the conference report that appropriates funding for the Education department in FY 2006 budget in order to lessen the projected budget deficit. The conferees did, however, reference the legislation in the Department of Education conference report for Public Law 109-149 and urged the secretary to begin work on the assessment using other departmental funds.

In hearings conducted in June 2005 by the Senate Education and Early Childhood Development Subcommittee on this measure, the Executive Director of the National Assessment Governing Board, Dr. Charles Smith, stated that American History is our students “worst subject” in public schools. During that hearing, noted historian David McCullough also expressed his personal concern that the ignorance America’s children display about their nation’s past presents the most dangerous threat to America’s future.

The letter from the historical associations states: “In our collective view, this year state accountability in U.S. History must be made a departmental priority... we urge that you carefully scrutinize the budget Congress authorized your department for FY 2006 and find the necessary funds to begin work on the first state-wide comparison of the 2006 N.A.E.P. U.S. History assessment.” No response to the letter has yet been received from the Secretary’s office.

“Around The Horn” History Resolution

The California Maritime Center (CMC) is planning its 2006 sail to the capital from Monterey to pick up the “Around The Horn” history resolution when it is passed by the State Legislature. According to CMC director Riccardo Gaudino, once the resolution passed by the California Legislature is onboard, the fun is set to begin. The courier ship, dispatched in 2005 by Monterey Mayor Dan Albert, is to return to be greeted by mayors at ports along the way. Each community is to host a special “maritime” history celebration, with funds provided by generous sponsors. Events being planned by the Around The Horn history task force for the return voyage are a Gold Rush Day pancake breakfast at Santa Cruz, a fireboat salute by a San Francisco fireboat at the Golden Gate, and a Landing of Pirates on the Capitola Beach. The courier ship was on the front page of papers last year, pictured with its gigantic 20 x 35 ft California bear flag as it passed under the Golden Gate Bridge on the U.N. World Environmental Day weekend. “Last year we dropped off the local resolutions from communities asking for the State to recognize the Around The Horn maritime transportation route as the cornerstone of California’s economic and cultural origins. This year, we pick up the Legislature’s resolution. From here, we can build on this historical framework of geography, climate, botany, transportation, and cultural settlement,” says CMC director Riccardo Gaudino. Cities that passed the maritime transportation resolution include Half Moon Bay, Monterey, Santa Cruz, Capitola, San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz, Sausalito, Eureka, Fort Bragg, Petaluma, and Stockton and Contra Costa County. For more information about the California Maritime Center, contact Riccardo Gaudino at 831 915-7837.
House Approves Funding to Preserve Japanese Internment Camps

In mid-November the House of Representatives passed HR 1492, which would set aside funding for the preservation of World War II Japanese internment camps and assembly centers. One of the bill’s chief sponsors is Representative Bill Thomas (R-Bakersfield) who participated in the House’s debate on the bill, which was brief but poignant. The funds would be given as grants to non-profit organizations and government agencies, who would have to come up with a 75 percent match for the grants. The bill authorizes up to $38 million for the grant program, however National Park Service officials, the agency that would be responsible for administering the grant program, noted that if the bill passes the Senate, Congress would still need to come up with the funding through the appropriations process. In the Senate, identical legislation (S 1719) has been introduced by Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI). HR 1492 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Governor Appoints New SHRC Members

On November 11 Governor Schwarzenegger announced the appointments of six individuals to the State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC) to fill vacancies and replace commissioners whose terms of service had expired. The newly appointed commissioners are Trish Fernandez of Placerville, Donn Grenda of Redlands, Fernando Guerra of Los Angeles, Rick Moss of Alameda (who is also a CCPH board member), Julianne Polanco of San Francisco, and Richard Shek of Carmichael. Luis G. Hoyos, AIA, is the SHRC chairperson; and Claire Bogaard and Carol Novey continue to serve as members. The State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC) is a nine-member state review board, appointed by the Governor, with responsibilities for the identification, registration, and preservation of California’s cultural heritage. The SHRC meets at least four times per year in various locations around the state to give citizens an opportunity to participate in the public hearings.

The President’s Budget—What To Expect

Early in February President Bush will advance to Congress a proposed budget for operations of the federal government for FY 2007. Though agency officials are generally keeping silent (as they are expected to until the budget is officially released), agency and Hill insiders have been spreading the news of what to expect. Specific numbers are hard to nail down, but what we are hearing isn’t good.

Recently, Treasury Secretary John W. Snow officially announced that his goal is to make the President look good on his 2004 campaign vow to cut the budget deficit in half by 2009. With a budget deficit of $319 billion in 2005, Snow’s Treasury, the Office of Management and Budget, and the White House are all looking for ways to cut the projected deficit by upward of $160 billion. The situation is worse than that as economists are forecasting a deficit in 2006 of $400 billion, so the White House may be looking for $200 billion!

Some believe it is virtually impossible to keep the federal government running with a budget that makes such deep cuts. Nevertheless, agency heads, when they make their annual visits to OMB examiners, are being asked to do their part in reducing growth in government spending. Some were sent back to make adjustments to their initial submissions to the White House. Many agencies will be lucky to see their budgets come in at last year’s authorized levels; most domestic agencies can expect massive reductions and zeroes out of specific programs deemed “non-essential.” Bottom line, what the president is expected to offer in his budget is an across-the-board “call for sacrifices.” Congress of course can and probably will ignore the President’s budget as they have in recent years. Time will tell.

continued from cover

enjoyable and worthwhile. The small size of the group made it possible for them to have a delightfully interactive tour, led by two of the rangers at the park— who seemed quite interested in learning as much as they could from the historians they were leading around the park (and, of course, those on the tour happily obliged). The conference ended with the showing of the 1939 classic film Stagecoach in Visalia’s Fox Theater. Those in attendance may have spent as much time gazing around at the theater’s magnificent Indian-inspired interior as they did the movie, but such was the intent of those unmatched movie palaces of the early 20th century.

CCPH would, last but not least, like to thank those who sponsored this year’s conference. JRP Historical Consulting donated funding to be used towards the hors d’oeuvres at the opening reception and for one of our student/new professional stipends. A grant from the Office of Historic Preservation was used for additional stipends, to pay for the rental of the Tulare Historical Museum, and to partially fund the cost of sponsoring the film at the Fox Theater. And the Heyday Institute and Bear State Books came through with enough free books for conference attendees to make any historian’s jaw drop (the anthology California Uncovered: Stories for the 21st Century edited by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, William E. Justice, and James Quay; the 1883 History of Kern County, with Illustrations, Descriptive of its Scenery, Farms, Residences, Public Buildings . . . by Wallace W. Elliott; and the 1926 History of Tulare County, vol. 1 by Kathleen Edwards Small) as well as donating books for a conference raffle.
For Miroslava Chavez-Garcia, writing *Negotiating Conquest: Gender and Power in California, 1770s to 1880s* was a labor of love. Motivated by the life history of her paternal grandmother in Aguascalientes, Mexico, Chavez-Garcia was inspired to research and write this superb academic work. The author explores archival sources which have previously received little study in order to uncover the story of Mexican and Native women in the Spanish, Mexican and early American eras of California. Confirming the conclusions of Antonia I. Castaneda (*Presidarias y pobladoras: Spanish-Mexican Women in Frontier Monterey, Alta California, 1770-1821*) and Virginia Mayo Bouvier (*Women and the Conquest of California, 1542-1840: Codes of Silence*), Chavez-Garcia begins her work where Castaneda and Bouvier’s study of women in colonial California ended.

Chavez-Garcia’s book begins by examining women during Spain’s imposed Catholic, colonial rule and extends into the Mexican period, illustrating how “women found ways to challenge patriarchs, thereby preparing Californianas (California women), *mexicanas*, and *indigenas* (native women) for the even more profound changes in the aftermath of the American conquest” (xvi). The second half of her book is devoted to studying the impact of the U.S. conquest in 1848 and the effect its impending Euro-American, Protestant, and capitalist rule had on women, their status, their family and the patriarchal tradition. The resulting new government introduced new tools, such as the right to divorce, which women used to further challenge the tradition of patriarchal authority. The author demonstrates and examines the destructive effects of the quick emergence of the American capitalist economy: the undermining of women’s economic status, the impoverishment of the Mexican population, the decline of the Native American population, the migration of Spanish-speaking men in pursuit of work resulting in the abandonment of Mexican women, and these women’s resulting decision to “take up with men other than their spouses, who would support them and their children” (xxi). Chavez-Garcia proceeds to show that under American common law women gained the right to divorce, an option which had been forbidden by Mexican and church law, and were provided the ability to recover personal or shared community property and gain custody of their children, which had also been difficult to obtain during the Mexican period. Perhaps most important, Chavez-Garcia argues that many women took advantage of these new options and, therefore, became agents of cultural change as “they shaped norms pertaining to the family, marriage, and sexuality, and challenged the precepts of the Catholic Church. In divorcing their spouses and in remarrying or remaining single, they introduced ideas and set in motion practices relating to women’s equal role in marriage and the family and their entitlement to marital happiness and fulfillment—notions that would lay the groundwork for and influence future *mexicanas* as they forged a better life for themselves and their families” (122).

Meticulously researched, this work incorporates information and stories culled from various archival sources which have received little attention until now. Chavez-Garcia narrates and presents numerous court cases to support her arguments and bring these women to life. With excellent transitions and superb conclusive endings for each chapter, the author always engages and steadily navigates the reader through one hundred years of history. At times, the author’s incorporation of all these primary sources can be overwhelming, and one is left wishing that the author had spent more time discussing at length the conclusions she drew from the sources. The author has included extensive notes and an admirable bibliography that can be a resource, in itself, for other historians. Sources that Chavez-Garcia turned to include court cases at the federal, county and local levels, city council records, private collections, baptismal and marriage records, census reports, novels, newspapers, memoirs, letters and scrapbooks. She also has a glossary, although somewhat hidden, at the end of her work which is of great benefit since she often incorporates Spanish terminology, although always providing the English translation when first using the term. Even so, at times her integration of Spanish terminology, such as *mestiza*, *indigena*, *gentile*, and *gente de razon*, can be confusing for the unfamiliar reader. Nevertheless, Chavez-Garcia’s work is of the highest standard and is cohesive, engaging, provoking, convincing, and, as best put by Virginia M. Bouvier, will “be a classic for generations to come.”

Tory Swim is a graduate student in the CSU Sacramento Capital Campus Public History Program.
Reviews


These two slender volumes are rewarding indeed. Part of the *Images of America* series published by Arcadia Publishing, the two volumes are part of Arcadia’s constellation of over 3,000 similarly formatted books for sites and themes across the nation. In their respective 128 pages, they each include about 100 fascinating photographs, most of which would be new even to the long-time local resident.

These local histories, prepared by local authors, engender much of the spirit of place that old photographs can convey: industry, livelihoods, buildings, transportation, dress, lifestyles, celebrations, sports, etc. Unlike most early contemporary local histories, which were based on the subscriptions of the well-to-do and thus often distorted the importance of the subscribers, these books represent a more balanced view, but of course appropriately skewed by the availability of good quality images. Fortunately, Arcadia Publishing seems to have made the best of each image, providing high quality printing and apparently using image processing to enhance details in shadow or reduce glare. A very pleasant result!

The authors have succeeded in their efforts to make these volumes intriguing and a bit enchanting. Jeffrey Wayne Maulhardt, the author of Oxnard 1867-1940, is a fifth generation Oxnard native who has several books on Oxnard to his credit. As such, his volume reflects a sound understanding of the local issues of importance and provides the key images. He has mixed not only photographs, but letters, cartoons, posters, public records, and maps to make Oxnard’s story come alive. His brief introduction, in keeping with the spirit of the series, provides a condensed overview of the history of the city. The image captions are detailed and informative.

Marti Aiello, director/curator and past president of the Pittsburg Historical Society, provides more text than the Oxnard volume, but still provides an abundance of images. Particularly interesting are the fishing and mining sections, which reflect a dynamic past totally different from the present.

As a geographer, I would advocate a wider use of maps in this series, especially maps showing the contemporary locations of some of the photographs—making it easy to do a local place-by-place comparison tour. But given the value delivered by $19.99 price tag, the omission is acceptable.

All in all, I applaud the series and these particular volumes which will help to stimulate local interest and make history and the sense of place come alive for the readers. Given that so many Americans are new in their communities and/or do not stay for an extended period, the opportunity to become connected locally and appreciate the past of one’s community is not great. The books of this series take a significant step in that direction because they are easy to peruse, include small as well as large communities, and tell about time-obscured themes as they pertain to local places. Review readers would be rewarded by visiting the Arcadia website (www.arcadiapublishing.com) to see and listen to their very brief introduction and to play with their live maps—click and see the local histories for the region of interest to you. You may even want to author one!

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.

California has always been a hot bed of diversity. The first Californians may have walked into a pristine wilderness 13,000 years ago, but they were soon followed by waves of newcomers, each distinct. Invited to write a book about the archaeology of the state for the general public by the Executive Board of the Society for California Archaeology, Brian Fagan nevertheless admits that this was one of the toughest archaeological writing projects he had ever undertaken—and he has written many, from textbooks to monographs to classic histories. Though a professor of archaeology at UC Santa Barbara, he does not consider himself a California archaeologist. With an expertise in the broader issues of North American archaeology, however, he is well qualified to interpret California prehistory.

In trying to make sense of a "meaningless goulash of projectile points, bead styles, and other obfuscations," a "confusing jumble of stone artifacts, animal bones, seashells and shell beads, and the occasional bone artifact," Fagan found at best an incomplete jigsaw puzzle that may never be fully constructed into a coherent and accurate picture of the past. Excavations of sites by both trained and amateur archaeologists began in the late 19th century, and much of the early physical records of the first Californians were either shipped out of state to the Smithsonian Institution and other museums, contained in private collections, or destroyed under the plow or bulldozer as the land became more settled. Fagan found himself sitting through a myriad of site reports and monographs that rarely connected the dry artifact with extrapolations on human behavior. By necessity he relied on published reports for his compilation, but many of the most current site records are inaccessible and unpublished as part of a growing body of research conducted for management of private and public cultural resources.

Fagan skillfully organizes his narrative into five sections: a general overview and timeline of California prehistory; settlement of the coast and mainland circa 11,200 to 2500 B.C.; the "web of interconnectedness," marked by common technology, art, and belief systems throughout ancient California circa 2500 to 1500 B.C.; the individual geographical areas as prehistoric California became more heavily populated, circa 1500 B.C. to A.D. 1542; and finally a brief summary of the European advent and its effect on the original native Californians. Fagan contrasts the bare facts of what has been discovered, the bones and the beads, with short, imaginative vignettes as illustration of his own hypotheses of how it might have been by the seashores and lakes thousands of years ago.

He makes lavish use of graphics throughout this compilation, thereby not only adding emphasis and interest to the story, but also providing breaks from the long narrative. These include not only bylines on such subjects as navigation over open water, common trade beads of ancient California, and methods of dating California's past, but also maps of tribal territories, obsidian sources, the general locale of major sites, and principal language groups. Illustrations of such topics as projectile points show the technological development over time as well as identify various groups and trends that moved through ancient California. Photographs of archaeological digs and artifacts add a sense of reality. An extensive list of reference materials is incorporated into the notes at the end of the book.

Fagan freely admits that the conclusions he reaches in his study of California archaeology are his own. For instance, some archaeologists hypothesize that the first settlement in California occurred via a coastal route, since evidence of the earliest archaeological sites was found on the northern Channel Islands of southern California. Fagan debates this theory by pointing out the lack of large seafaring vessels utilized by the historic native peoples encountered by the first Europeans to set foot in California. He presents what is known of California climatology and geology, and the likelihood of less productive Pacific waters around 11,000 B.C. He builds a case based on solid scientific facts that, though the first Californians took advantage of the bays and estuaries where fish, sea mammals, and waterfowl were most abundant, they were more likely opportunists who migrated eastward from the Great Plains and adapted to the land's resources as they encountered them.

Though written for the general public, this book is a valuable addition to the libraries of those historians with a special interest in California history, or those without an archaeological background who are working in the area of cultural resource management. It is almost overwhelming in its wealth of material. Fagan carries the reader along with his writing style, alternating in tone from rational and factual to imaginative and conversational. The discussion of opposing theories is sometimes overly long and drifts from the narrative into archaeological debate. The organization of the book can be disorienting as Fagan switches between locales that are not quite parallel along the same time-line, so that the reader moves forward and backward repeatedly. This is a minor inconvenience, however, and does not overshadow the importance of the book as a valuable reference tool.

Gail Erwin is a graduate of the Public History Program at CSU-Sacramento and is an environmental technician and cultural resource specialist for Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review and Assessment.
What’s New in California, a quarterly round-up release, is generated by the California Travel and Tourism Commission (CTTC) and reaches 3,000 consumer and travel trade media worldwide and is posted on www.visitcalifornia.com. It is a popular source for the media for story ideas. The deadlines for 2006 submissions for What’s New In California are as follows: April 14, 2006 for the Summer 2006 edition, July 14, 2006 for the Fall 2006 edition, and October 13, 2006 for the Winter 2006/2007 edition. Appropriate items for consideration include new exhibits, unusual tours, museums, major renovations, etc. All items submitted should be new or have a projected opening date. Press release format submissions are preferred, and both press and public contact information should always be provided. Please note: What’s New In California typically does NOT include events. Press releases should be submitted to Karen Lau, Marketing Communications Assistant, at klau@cttc1.com or fax them to 916 444-0410.

National Film Preservation Foundation Grant Program
from the California Association of Museums’ Enews

The National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF) has announced the expansion of its federal grant program in 2006. NFPF offers three types of federal cash grants supporting the preservation and access of historically and culturally significant American orphan films. The NFPF offers basic preservation grants ranging from $1,000 to $15,000, matching grants for larger-scale preservation, and access grants ranging from $3,000 to $15,000. The registration deadline for grants is February 3, 2006; completed applications are due March 10. See www.filmpreservation.org/ for additional information.

Partnership for a Nation of Learners Technical Assistance Audio Conferences
from the California Association of Museums’ Enews

In its first year of funding, the Partnership for a Nation of Learners’ competitive grant program awarded $1.4 million to build and strengthen working relationships among libraries, museums, and public broadcasting licensees that enhance their roles within their communities. The deadline for the program’s second year of funding is March 1, 2006. Applicants for the 2006 PNL Community Collaboration Grant may participate in one of two technical assistance audioconference calls scheduled for January 9, 2006 2:00-3:00 PM ET and February 8, 2006 2:00-3:00 PM ET. The phone number for the calls is (866) 814-8482. For grant details, go to the PNL Web site at: www.partnershipforlearners.org/.

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

While the survey was conducted with anonymity to encourage the widest participation by institutions, the report highlights a few specific cases. For example, Joshua Fox, curator of the Soldiers and Sailors National Military Museum and Memorial in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, estimated that it would cost $5,000 to $15,000 to repair each of his institution’s battle flags, a sum that the museum cannot afford. He said, “Our organization here struggles just to keep the doors open most of the time, let alone pay for these flags.”

The report documents that the greatest threats to historical collections are environmental control hazards, which include inconsistent temperatures and high humidity levels. These can lead to mold, severe drying, and general deterioration. Ultraviolet rays are also a threat, as buildings with poor controls can cause documents and textiles to fade. Pollutants in the air can also cause harmful chemical reactions.

Heritage Preservation hopes that this report will help institutions assess the state of their collections and their needs relative to those of other organizations across the country and to convince government agencies, private foundations, and governing boards of various institutions that they need to direct money not simply toward the acquisition of artifacts for their collections, but toward the preservation of artifacts that they already have. A 20-page summary of The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America’s Collections is available at www.heritagepreservation.org/HHI/HHIsummary.pdf. For additional information, visit www.heritagepreservation.org/.

The Southwest Oral History Association will hold its annual meeting April 20-23, 2006, in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the Sheraton Old Town. The conference, which takes place as Albuquerque is celebrating its 300th anniversary, will have the theme “With Voices Raised: Twenty-Five Years of Oral History in the Southwest.” For more information, visit soah.fullerton.edu.

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.calarchivists.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.

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.interpret.com.

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. Paper and session proposals are due by November 18, 2005. For more information, visit www.aaslh.org.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation will hold an 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 11-16, 2006, in Scottsdale, Arizona. The conference will have the theme, “Western Traditions and Transitions: Cultural Diversity and Demographic Change.” For more information, visit www.unm.edu/~wha.

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.” For more information, visit www.wstmuse.org.

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.

NHPRC Editing Institute from the National Coalition for History’s Washington Update

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission is accepting applications through March 15 for its 34th Annual “Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents” that will be held June 19-24, 2006 in Madison, Wisconsin. The intensive seminar seeks to expose participants to state-of-the-art modern documentary editing techniques. No tuition is charged and housing is provided at no cost. For additional information, visit www.archives.gov/nhprc/partners/editing-institute.html.

IMLS’ Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Grant Program from the California Association of Museums’ Enews

The Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services program enables Native American tribes and organizations that primarily serve Native Hawaiians to benefit their communities and audiences through strengthened museum services in the areas of programming, professional development, and enhancement of museum services. Grants are intended to support activities in museums and museum-related organizations, such as cultural centers, however, eligible applicants are federally recognized tribes and groups that primarily serve Native Hawaiians. Museums may partner with tribes or Native Hawaiian groups on these grants (this includes tribal museums), but they cannot be the primary applicant. The Institute for Museum and Library Services first offered this program last year and funded forty-five projects supporting a variety of museum activities including collections care, staff training, exhibition development, public programming, website development, and self-studies. There are two major changes to the program this year: 1) the deadline has been moved to April 1st and 2) the award amount has been increased to $50,000 maximum. Peer reviewers are needed with a background in the subject matter and museum experience. For additional information, visit www.imls.gov/grants/museum/mus_ntams.htm or contact Sandra M. Narva, Senior Program Officer, at 202 653-4634 or snarva@imls.gov.
California History Action Editorial Information

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

Issues will be produced quarterly in January, April, July, and October. Deadlines are the first of the month of publication. This late deadline is designed to provide information to the membership in the most timely manner. Material must be received prior to the deadline to be printed in the current issue and should be submitted directly to the editor at the address below.

It is preferred that articles and other material be submitted electronically by email (either in the text of the message or as an attachment). However, typewritten material is also accepted via fax or mail.

Views expressed herein are solely those of their authors. Their publication does not constitute an endorsement by CCPH.

Jenan Saunders, Editor
1640 37th St, Sacramento CA 95816
phone: 916 456-4115
email: californiahistoryaction@hotmail.com
Join the California Council for the Promotion of History

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

Name_____________________  Affiliation__________________  Position_________________
Address________________________  City__________________   State_____  Zip_________
Phone (h)_________________  (w)_____________________  Email_____________________

Areas of Historical Interest ______________________________________________________

Membership Categories:  ____ Patron $100  ____ Colleague/Corporate $50
  ____ Institutional $40  ____ Individual $30  ____ Student $15

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

Winter 2006
Join CCPH in San Jose this October 26-28 for our 2006 Annual Conference.

Programs and special events are currently being planned.

If you’re interested in helping with conference planning, contact Leslie Masunaga at lmasunaga@juno.com.