

SOUND BITES from TOHA Board of Directors

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Fall 2003

TOHA Board of Directors 2003-2005

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Keeping Current: Association News

JOIN US IN NACOGDOCHES, SEPTEMBER 27!

An "Oral History Smorgasbord" is the theme of TOHA's session for the Fall 2003 meeting of the East Texas Historical Association. Tai Kreidler has coordinated a variety of oral history research into a pleasing buffet to satisfy the tastes of any oral historian. Lois E. Myers will chair the session, which begins at 10:45 a.m. on Saturday morning, September 27th, at the Fredonia Hotel in Nacogdoches. Presenters are Gene Preuss, of Houston's Southwest Museum Services, speaking on, "The Present and the Past: East Texas Museums and Oral History"; Hollie Humphries, University of Texas, Austin, "Voices that Speak to Regionalism in the Art of West Texas"; and Ann Hodges, University of Texas, Arlington, "Tejano Voices: 20th-Century Accounts of the Mexican American in Texas." Details on the meeting and additional program information are available at the East Texas Historical Association web site, <http://leonardo.sfasu.edu/etha> or from Dr. Archie P. McDonald, ETHA executive director, Tel: 936-468-2407. Hotel information is available at <http://www.fredoniahotel.com> or Tel. 936-564-1234 or 1-800-594-5323.

LOOKING FORWARD: 2004 TOHA PROGRAM MEETING

Make plans to be part of TOHA's joint session with Texas State Historical Association at TSHA's 108th annual meeting, March 4-6, 2004, at the Renaissance Austin Hotel. Planned and chaired by Gerald Saxon, the program is titled, "Texas Freedman Colonies: A First Appraisal." Veteran oral historians Thad Sitton, Michelle Mears, and Jim Conrad will share research from oral histories among these vital Texas communities. Look for additional information about this meeting as it becomes available next January.

TOHA ELECTION 2003

At right is the newly elected 2003-2005 TOHA Board. The Board will meet soon to elect a president and vice-president. Your board would like to hear from you. Please contact these folks with your ideas and suggestions for TOHA.

Sound Bites is published by the Texas Oral History Association, PO Box 97271, Waco TX 76798-7271 and is available through membership in TOHA. For information, contact Lois E. Myers at lois_myers@baylor.edu or at 254-710-6285.

2003 Lifetime Achievement Award

The TOHA Board of Directors is pleased to present its 2003 Thomas L. Charlton Lifetime Achievement Award to Ronald E. Marcello in recognition of his work in promoting, serving, and teaching oral historians from 1968 to the present. A formal presentation of the award is being planned.

Ronald E. Marcello is an oral history pioneer in Texas whose career as a history professor and director of an oral history program at a major state university has touched the lives of thousands of people and helped to launch, guide, and provide counsel to countless oral history projects in and outside of the Lone Star State. Marcello has devoted his professional life to teaching history, gathering the recollections of individuals who have shaped and/or witnessed the events of our past, and ensuring that these recollections are preserved and made available to researchers.

Marcello came to North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas) in Denton in 1967 as an instructor of history. By the next year, he was appointed director of the Oral History Program on campus, a program that was in its early stages of development. Shortly after his appointment, Marcello enrolled in the UCLA summer institute for oral history to learn more about the methods and practices of oral history. In 1969, he received his Ph.D. from Duke University and began devoting a significant amount of his time to building the North Texas Oral History Program.

Marcello's work with the program has focused on four basic areas. First, he has worked closely with the university's Oral History Committee to establish an efficiently run and highly productive program. As director, Marcello reports to the committee, drafts budgets, supervises the personnel who process the tapes and prepare transcripts, ensures that the program adheres to the highest professional standards, raises funds, and helps determine the focus of the projects undertaken by the program. Second, he has conducted many of the interviews that have been added to the North Texas program since the late 1960s and supervised the processing (transcribing, auditing, describing, and cataloging) of 1,411 volumes (through 2001) and some 100,366 pages of transcript.

Third, he has taught thousands of individuals the techniques and methods of oral history, including graduate students at North Texas and avocational researchers who have attended one of the thirty-one workshops he has conducted across the country. Last, he has served the profession in a number of capacities, including advisor or consultant for twenty-five oral history projects sponsored by institutions as varied as the Lewisville Public Library and the Library of Congress, Executive Secretary of the Oral History Association from 1976-1986 and President of the association in 1988-1989, and member of the Executive Board of the Texas Oral History Association in 1983-1985.

Marcello has also published widely in the field of oral history. He has incorporated many of the interviews that have been conducted for the North Texas program into his research, producing ten journal articles, three monographs, six encyclopedia entries, two catalogs/finding aids for the program, and numerous other publications. Marcello has received numerous awards and distinctions, including the Certificate of Appreciation from the Texas Pearl Harbor Survivors Association in 1974 for his work in interviewing survivors of the surprise attack; the Certificate of Appreciation from the National Pearl Harbor Survivors Association in 1975; the Professional Service Award from the Mid-Atlantic Oral History Association in 1985; and, in 1992, the H. Bailey Carroll Award given by the Texas State Historical Association for the best article in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* for his work "Lone Star POWs: Texas National Guardsmen and the Building of the Burma-Thailand Railroad, 1942-1944," an article largely based on oral history.

Marcello has presented eighteen papers on oral history to historical societies in the U.S., served as commentator or discussant on twenty-six panels at professional organizations, and made sixty speeches about oral history at colleges, churches, fraternal groups, historical associations, and other local organizations. In short, Marcello has been a tireless promoter of oral history, a devoted teacher and university program director, a hard working interviewer, an award winning scholar who has mined the interviews in his publications, and an individual who has served the profession on both the national and state level.

~ Gerald Saxon

Keeping in Touch: Member News

Did you see the article highlighting oral history in the July 2003 issue of *Texas Highways*? Titled "The Sound of Memories," the article by Gene Fowler points readers to TOHA to learn more about oral history. The article includes quotations from TOHA members **Thomas L. Charlton**, **Lincoln King**, and **Thad Sitton** and from the collection of TOHA institutional member **Institute of Oral History at University of Texas El Paso**.

New TOHA member **Jason P. Theriot** has recently published his first book, which is the first volume of a three-book series. The book is titled *To Honor Our Veterans: An Oral History of World War II Veterans from the Bayou Country. Volume 1: The Pacific War*. Jason, a twenty-something journalist with Fox Sports Net in Houston, has collected interviews with over sixty men and women who served in the military during World War II who were from his native community, Iberia Parish, Louisiana, and the surrounding area. For more information, contact Jason at 931 West 41st Street, Houston TX 77018 or e-mail him at jpriot@hotmail.com.

Jo Ann Stiles, co-author with Ellen Rienstra and Judith L. Linsley, of *Giant Under the Hill: A History of the Spindletop Oil Discovery at Beaumont, Texas, in 1901* (Texas State Historical Association, August 2002) is currently interviewing Texas-born character actor L. Q. Jones, who has appeared in more than 120 movies and hundreds of television shows.

Charles A. Rodenberger is working with Cross Plains Public Library on a community oral history project. The first interviewee for the project was Jack Scott, a newspaper owner and writer who later became a land man in the oil business. Charles and friends recorded five hours with Scott over several sessions just before he suffered a stroke and died. The Library project is recorded on digital recording equipment and stored on CD's. Charles reports, however, "We have not been pleased with the quality of the equipment and are searching for better." TOHA members with ideas on digital recording might want to contact Charles at crodenberg@aol.com.

Story Circle Network announces that its second National Women's Memoir Conference, "Stories from the Heart," will be held in Austin February 6-8, 2004. Learn more about the conference on the organization's web site, available at <http://www.storycircle.org/Conference>.

The **University of Texas at Arlington Libraries** invites you to view their Tejano Voices web site, which allows access to digitized oral history interviews with Mexican American public figures in Texas. Conducted by Jose Angel Gutierrez, UTA professor, the interviews focus on the personal stories and struggles of Tejano leaders and reflect the post-World War II struggle of Tejanos to end racial segregation and gain access to political power. Funded through the TexTreasures program of the Texas State Library and Archives provided cataloguing for 77 interviews, and UTA Libraries holds 81 more interviews awaiting cataloguing and digitizing. Visit the web site at <http://libraries.uta.edu/tejanovoices/>.

In October, look for the new book, *Rock beneath the Sand: Country Churches in Texas* (Texas A&M University Press, 2003). With photographs by Clark Baker and text by **Lois E. Myers** and **Rebecca Sharpless**, the work is the outcome of an oral history and documentary photography project of the Baylor Institute for Oral History.

It's Your Turn

- Tell us about you and your work so that we can share it with TOHA members.
- Nominate yourself or other people doing oral history well for our awards.
- Write an article about your work for Sound Historian.
- Visit TOHA's Web site at <http://www3.baylor.edu/TOHA> for criteria for TOHA awards, for information on upcoming meetings, for instructions on submitting journal articles, and for links to oral history sites around the world.

Keeping Current: More Association News

TOHA AWARDS EXCELLENCE AT TEXAS HISTORY DAY

On May 10, in Austin, Shelly Kelly and JoAnn Stiles viewed candidates for the TOHA Award among student entries in the twenty-third annual Texas History Day. Nearly 900 junior high and high school students participated in the event, which is sponsored by Texas State Historical Association and the Center for American History at UT-Austin and is affiliated with National History Day. Students displayed outcomes of their historical research in performances, media documentaries, exhibits, or papers. Students demonstrating effective use of oral history methods in their research are eligible for TOHA's Oral History Award, which is one of eight special awards judged during the event.

TOHA presented certificates and medals to the following winners of the 2003 Oral History Award: Paul Goetze, Clarendon Middle School, junior division, individual performance, "R&R Cartoons" and Stephanie Clark, Cypress-Fairbanks High School, senior division, individual performance, "The Bay of Pigs 'Failure'." TOHA also presented an honorable mention award to a senior division group documentary, "The Dream Lives On: Right to Control and Responsibility to Maintain the Panama Canal," created by Brian Prihoda, Jeremy Thornton, and Richard Thomason, Baytown, Ross Sterling High School.

SOUND HISTORIAN

With Volume 7 of *Sound Historian* sent out in the summer of 2003, the editors are busy at work on Volume 8. This special issue highlights the oral history research of faculty and students in the Department of History at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville.

Articles for future issues of the journal are *urgently* needed. Send your inquiries and submissions to Dr. Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Jr., Department of History, Midwestern State University, 3410 Taft Blvd., Wichita Falls TX 76308-2099. E-mail: ken.hendrickson@mwsu.edu. Phone: 940-397-4150.

Back issues of the journal are abundant. At only five dollars each, eight journal issues published since 1993 would make a great donation to your local or university library's Texana collection. Please contact the TOHA office for back issues.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ALWAYS WELCOME

A quick glance at the mailing label on this newsletter will show you the last year you renewed your TOHA membership. Renew now for 2003 to receive your 2003 membership directory. Annual dues are still \$10 for individuals and \$25 for institutions. Remember, you can renew for multiple years, too. For \$30, an individual becomes a sponsoring member and helps support the TOHA journal, *Sound Historian*. Institutions become sponsoring members for \$100. TOHA also welcomes life members, at \$500. To keep your membership current, send your dues to TOHA, PO Box 97271, Waco TX 76798-7271.

