

SOUND BITES from TOHA Board of Directors

Spring/Summer 2005

Texas Oral History Association One Bear Place #97271 Waco TX 76798-7271



TOHA Board of Directors 2003-2005

Shelly Henley Kelly
Neumann Library
Univ of Houston Clear Lake
2700 Bay Area Blvd
Houston TX 77058
Phone 281/283-3936
Kellysh@cl.uh.edu

Robert Mangrum
112 Broken Arrow Street
Early TX 76802-2531
Howard Payne University
Phone 915/649-8706
mangrum@hputx.edu

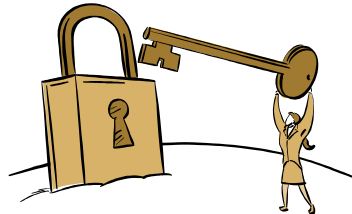
Gerald Saxon
3409 Sheffield
Arlington TX 76013-1129
UT-Arlington
Phone 817/272-5318
saxon@uta.edu

Thad Sitton
207 East Thirty-Ninth Street
Austin TX 78751-5030
Phone 512/459-4530

Jo Ann Stiles
4150 Crow Road Apt. 3
Beaumont TX 77706-7022
Phone 409/899-3281
stilesjk@hal.lamar.edu

Diane L. Ware
BCM Archives, 177A
One Baylor Plaza
Houston TX 77030-3498
Phone 713/798-4501
dware@bcm.tmc.edu

Rebecca Wright
InDyne, Inc.
NASA JSC Oral History Project
17047 El Camino Real Ste. 217
Houston TX 77058
Phone 281-990-0007
rebecca.a.wright1@jsc.nasa.gov



*Oral History:
Key to
Understanding*

What do Irish wall murals, *The Washington Post*, Ernie Pyle, political ads and cartoons, Navajo code talkers, the March on Washington, protest songs, and Tokyo Rose have in common with Vietnam-era POWs? All of these topics were subjects of interviews conducted by junior and senior high students for their 2005 Texas History Day projects. The year's theme, featuring communications in history, inspired young men and women across Texas to talk to people about the role of communications in their lives.

On May 7, in Austin, four TOHA judges viewed more than twenty video and computer-based documentaries with oral history content and chose seven projects for special recognition. See the article on page 6 for announcements of the 2005 TOHA Texas History Day winners. You will be inspired and amazed by the students' creativity in using interview materials to unlock historical understanding.



Texas History Day, 2005, TOHA Judges

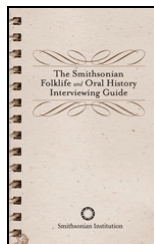
L-R: Bruce Ashcroft, Robert Hines, Peter J. Myers, and Lois E. Myers

Once again, TOHA enjoyed recognizing the excellent work of our state's talented young historians.

As the number of entries for the TOHA award grows each year, the need for more judges is becoming urgent. Consider investing a day to meet and encourage tomorrow's oral historians. The next Texas History Day comes on April 28-29, 2006, and will be held at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin.

Volunteer by contacting Lois Myers at 254-710-6285 or e-mail lois_myers@baylor.edu.

For your Summer Reading list . . .

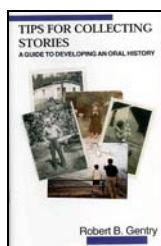


The Smithsonian Folklife and Oral History Interviewing Guide

by Marjorie Hunt. Washington, DC:
Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, 2003

From Smithsonian Institute comes a valuable aid which includes suggestions for interviewing and provides sample questions. The guide also contains an oral history glossary and bibliography, including a list of Internet sites, and provides sample forms for oral history projects.

You may download this useful online guide from <http://www.folklife.si.edu/index.html>. On the home page, from the top menu choose Explore, then Educator Resources, and on the next page, choose Interview Guide.



Tips for Collecting Stories: A Guide to Developing an Oral History

by Robert Gentry
Eau Clair, WI: Rhiannon Press, 2004

This affordable manual shares practical suggestions for family and community oral history work based on what author Robert Gentry learned from his own experiences. It will appeal especially to genealogists and local history organizations.

Learn more about *Tips for Collecting Stories* from http://www.writecorner.com/oral_history.htm. Order this helpful book by sending a check or money order

(no cash) for \$7.95 (includes \$1.95 shipping and handling) to Robert B. Gentry, PO Box 16369, Jacksonville FL 32245.



Recording Oral History: A Guide for the Humanities and Social Sciences

Second Edition, by Valerie Raleigh Yow
Walnut Creek CA: AltaMira Press, 2005

The first edition of this book is a classic text for both new and experienced oral historians. The second edition expands upon interviewing technique and explores memory, narrative, and interpretation. With a rich appendix of sample forms and whole chapters devoted to community and family history, this book is essential for oral historians.

You may find *Recording Oral History*, 2d edition, through all the major book stores, including their online ordering services.



You may now download in booklet form the popular "Introduction to Oral History" from Baylor University Institute for Oral History's Workshop on the Web. Particularly useful for beginners, this free booklet carries readers from what oral history is through interviewing tips to what to do with the tape after the interview.

Access this booklet as well as advanced oral history training materials from Workshop on the Web, http://www.baylor.edu/oral_history/index.php?id=23566.



London's Voices: Sharing Oral History

by Annette Day, Chandan Mahal,
Catherine Speight, and Frazer Swift.
London: Museum of London, 2004

British oral historians have long engaged oral history as a way to involve people in gathering the stories of their own communities. This guide from the Museum of London evolved from experiences gleaned during a three-year oral history partnership between the museum and several community groups and individuals representing the diversity of London's people. The primary project goal was "to place oral history in everyday life, put it online, and produce exhibitions at community venues." Ultimately, the museum will have created "a detailed and lasting picture of what it was like to be a Londoner in the 20th and 21st centuries."

Lots of great ideas for community oral history are available on the London's Voices Web site at http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/frames.shtml?http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/MoLsite/template/s/mol_home.asp.

At the outset of planning an oral history project, organizers must think ahead to the desired outcomes. How will they share what they learn with others? How will they involve members of the community in collecting their own history? This downloadable booklet is the place for project organizers to discover ways to enlist community participation and build relationships with other organizations.

The guide also provides practical suggestions for putting oral histories online, including ethics and copyright issues and ways to build interactivity into the Web site. The London's Voices project created online exhibits of women's memories of home, workplace, and community; recollections of VE Day; stories of cinema and theatre going in London; viewpoints on living in London; a local history of Lewisham; and "Voices Online," which provides full access to the oral history interviews.

Also included in the guide is a section on designing museum exhibits that using oral history in sound displays and listening environments. The museum highlighted the London's Voices project itself in one exhibit and the feminine viewpoints of the project in a separate exhibit titled "Women Talk." Also, a touring exhibit focused on "Holidays of a Lifetime."

When planning programming for making oral history public, organizers often think only of bringing the community to the program, rather than taking the

program out into the community. To achieve its goal of carrying oral history into everyday community settings, the Museum of London utilized three innovative outreach techniques situated in a popular East End shopping center. "Memory Bags" given to shoppers to carry home their goods and collectible "Postcards to London" displayed extracts from the oral history interviews, and people who might never visit the museum could "hear" the voices of their community's history. Evaluations of these techniques indicated they successfully motivated people to visit the museum and inquire about the oral history project. "Colour Contacts" attracted attention by sharing personal memories through performances staged in the mall, including a soundtrack, live dancers, and a drummer.

Even more creative is Graeme Miller's way of sharing the oral histories of Londoners through "LINKED," which is a "soundscape . . . that stretches along the route of the M11 Link Road in east London." What does *soundscape* mean? In this case, it means that "concealed along a three-mile route, 20 transmitters continually broadcast hidden voices, recorded testimonies and rekindled memories of those who once lived and worked where the motorway now runs."

To access this important source of ideas for community projects, visit the London Voices Web site at http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/frames.shtml?http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/MoLsite/template/s/mol_home.asp.



Dialogue with the Past: Engaging Students and Meeting Standards through Oral History

by Glenn Whitman
Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2004

Glenn Whitman, history teacher at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Maryland, and a popular presenter during annual meetings of the Oral History Association, has completed an indispensable manual for teachers who supervise student oral history projects. Whitman applies all the best oral history practices to the classroom setting and includes sample forms, worksheets, interview logs, and information on meeting academic standards. Donate a copy of this book to your favorite teacher or buy a copy for a nearby school library. It's that good!



Keeping in Touch: Member News

David Todd reports from Austin that the **Conservation History Association of Texas** continues to conduct videotaped interviews and compile and check archival materials and educational documentaries about the environmental movement in Texas. The association is exploring future radio broadcasts on the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's "Passport to Texas" program and designing and building a digital repository for long-term access and preservation. David welcomes any leads or suggestions from oral history friends and colleagues. Contact the association at 512-416-0400 or e-mail David Todd at dtodd@wt.org. Learn more at the association's Web page: <http://www.texaslegacy.org>.

After more than twenty years, the gathering of community and local oral history interviews in Hidalgo County continues apace, reports **Robert Norton**, from McAllen. Over the years, an impressive collection of audio and videotaped interviews, accompanied by transcripts, photographs, information sheets, and release agreements, has been deposited in the Rio Grande Historical Collection at the University of Texas, Pan American, in Edinburg. Robert, whose own oral history work accounts for about 150 of the several hundred interviews deposited so far, speaks for many of us when he says of the longstanding project, "If there is a regret, it is that we have not done more, both in recruiting more interviewers and doing more interviews."

Amy E. Dase, of **Prewitt and Associates, Inc.**, in Austin, announces publication of **Thad Sitton's** *Harder than Hardscrabble: Oral Recollections of the Farming Life from the Edge of the Texas Hill Country* by University of Texas Press in early 2004. Sponsored by U.S. Army Fort Hood's cultural resources management section of its department of public works, Prewitt and Associates historians conducted the interviews with and collected historic photographs from former residents of the land that in 1942 became Camp Hood, known today as Fort Hood. Audio cassettes were transcribed and published in a two-volume set, "*Just Like Yesterday: Recollections of Life on the Fort Hood Lands*". The cassettes and images are permanently housed in the Texas Collection at Baylor University. Sitton's book drew on these interviews and images to compile stories that vividly describe the hardships and joys of Central Texas rural life in the 1920s and 1930s. Dase and Sitton, with colleague Sandy L. Hannum, also prepared a traveling exhibit corresponding with the book.

In addition, Amy tells us that **Prewitt and Associates, Inc.**, historians now are working on an oral history project for Camp Maxey, Army National Guard, that will document life on the land before the installation was established in 1942 near Paris. Interviews of several informants that resided on the land that became Camp Maxey have taken place and photographs are being gathered. The materials will eventually be permanently housed in the oral history collection at Texas A&M-Commerce.

Judith Linsley, education coordinator for **McFaddin-Ward House**, informs us that researchers at this beautiful house museum near downtown Beaumont are using oral interviews to interpret the museum's third floor. The interview tapes, already transcribed, indexed, and archived, record the memories of domestic employees of the McFaddin family, as well as family members themselves.

On successive weekends in early April, **Dr. Bobby Johnson** premiered a two-act play, "A Texas Tragedy: The New London School Explosion," at the Lamp-Lite Theatre in Nacogdoches. Bobby wrote the play from interviews collected during years of oral history research on the March 18, 1937, gas explosion that took the lives of almost three hundred of the five hundred students and teachers in the New London school that day.

It's Your Turn!

Send your stories to TOHA, One Baylor Place #97271,
Waco TX 76798-7271, or e-mail lois_myers@baylor.edu

TOHA Congratulates . . .



Lois Myers, Diane Ware, Jo Ann Stiles, and Gerald Saxon



Thomas L. Charlton, Jo Ann Stiles

April 16, 2005, Gladys City Spindletop Boomtown Museum, Beaumont, Texas

. . . Jo Ann Stiles.

On April 16, 2005, in Beaumont, Texas, TOHA recognized Jo Ann Stiles with the fifth Thomas L. Charlton Lifetime Achievement Award. Following a luncheon set for twenty-four of Jo Ann's friends, colleagues, and fellow TOHA members, Lifetime Achievement Award committee co-chair Gerald Saxon read the proclamation highlighting Jo Ann's service to oral history and TOHA president Diane Ware presented the honoree an engraved crystal vase and lifetime membership certificate. Congratulations, Jo Ann, on a well-deserved honor!

. . . Baylor University Institute for Oral History

In 2005 the Institute for Oral History celebrates its Thirty-fifth Anniversary. In addition to serving as host for TOHA since the organization's beginnings in 1982, BUIOH maintains an active role in the Oral History Association. Director **Rebecca Sharpless** is OHA's president-elect this year and Senior Editor **Elinor Mazé** is on the editorial board of for H-Oralhist. To learn more about the Institute's history, mission, projects, research grants, and publications; to catch up on current Institute news or research Baylor's collection of oral memoirs; or to learn both beginning and advanced oral history methods, visit the Institute's newly revised Web site at http://www.baylor.edu/oral_history.

. . . Sound Historian: Journal of the Texas Oral History Association

The entire run of the TOHA journal is being abstracted by ABC-CLIO for inclusion in the online databases, HISTORICAL ABSTRACTS and AMERICA: HISTORY AND LIFE. People around the world will be able to find articles from the journal that match their interests. See related story, page 7.

TOHA remembers . . .

. . . Betty Jean Orbeck of Midland, TOHA member during the mid 1980s, who passed away December 29, 2004. Archivist at Midland's Petroleum Museum for twenty-five years, from 1976 to 2001, Betty was well known and respected for researching and writing Permian Basin history, particularly accounts of the petroleum and cattle industries and the military history of the region.

. . . Dorothy Blodgett, of Austin, a TOHA member since 2001, who passed away February 27, 2005. An authority on the Texas governor's mansion and many of its occupants, Dorothy had a broad career, including teacher, journalist, promoter, consultant, and certified yoga instructor.



A Program Devoted Entirely to Texas Women

... is theme for the next TOHA program meeting. Vice President Rebecca Wright has planned a session highlighting oral history projects that reveal the important and diverse roles of women in Texas life and culture. Save the dates March 2-4, 2006, to join us in Austin for this special presentation and plan to take advantage of the other remarkable programs of the annual meeting of the Texas State Historical Association. Watch for specific time and place and registration information in January 2006.



TOHA Awards: Texas History Day 2005

Winner of the TOHA medal for senior high documentary was John Laue, of Cinco Ranch High School, Katy, for his entry, **“Welcome to the Hanoi Hilton: We Will Communicate!”** For his video production, John researched creative ways Americans imprisoned in North Vietnamese prison camps communicated with one another. The major primary sources for the ten-minute documentary were videotaped interviews conducted by the student with retired naval, air force, and marine officers who were survivors of long periods of detention and torture. The interviews led John to conclude that “forbidden communications unified POWs, providing personal strength and military cohesion to persevere against the enemy.”

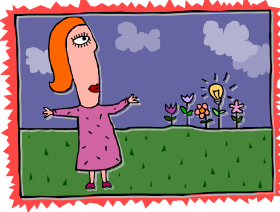
TOHA awarded honorable mention to two senior high group documentary projects. Ernesto Reyes and Austin Glamser, both of Eisenhower High School, Houston, received honorable mention for **“Understanding the Irish Question.”** The video project explored the meanings of wall murals displayed throughout the streets of North Ireland to depict the various sides of the complex “Irish question”—loyalist versus republican, Protestant versus Catholic. The students corresponded with politicians and clergy members from both sides of the issue and conducted telephone interviews with an officer of the Democratic Unionist Party, a Bogside loyalist reconciliation muralist, and a press secretary for the Belfast Northern Ireland Office.

A second honorable mention was awarded to Bryan Prihoda, Richard Thompson, Jeromey Thornton, and Byoung Kang, from Baytown’s Ross Ster-

ling High School. Their documentary, titled **“Communication and the First Amendment: Unlocking Watergate through the Freedom of the Press,”** focused on the role of *Washington Post* reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein in alerting the nation to political corruption within its highest office. In addition to studying the Woodward and Bernstein papers archived at the Harry Ransom Center, the students conducted an e-mail interview with Bob Woodward himself. To include an opposing viewpoint, they called up G. Gordon Liddy on the telephone and interviewed him. Based on their research, the students concluded, “Through written communication with the American public, Woodward, Bernstein, and *The Washington Post* provided a key to recognizing, unlocking, and understanding the scandal that ended a presidency and led to indictment and conviction of more than forty government officials. As a result, a more confident and aggressive press was born, leading to investigative reporting that tests the First Amendment daily.”

Winning TOHA’s award for the junior high division was **“Vote for Me! Political Commercials as a Reflection of History,”** a Power Point documentary created by Christina Phan and Bianca Bamgbade from Holub Middle School, Houston. The students gathered memories of the influence of television commercials upon the 1964 presidential election campaign. They focused especially upon Lyndon Johnson’s “Daisy Girl” commercial, which appealed to antiwar sentiment by depicting Barry Goldwater as pro war. (continued on page 7).

Here's a good idea . . .



Donate Sound Historian to your favorite library.

Why is this a good idea?

- Abstracts of articles in *Sound Historian* will soon be available for worldwide distribution through the online databases **HISTORICAL ABSTRACTS** and **AMERICA: HISTORY AND LIFE**.
- *When researchers discover articles in Sound Historian that they want to read in full, where will they go to find the journal?* Whole parts of Texas and our neighboring states are missing out on *Sound Historian*.
- Libraries can subscribe to the TOHA journal for only \$5.00 per issue, yet only a few take advantage of this great bargain.
- Help TOHA spread the word about oral history and help make the journal accessible by placing copies in libraries near you!
- Right now a subscription is only \$5.00 per year and a full set of all nine back issues is available for only \$45.00.

To find out if your library carries *Sound Historian* or to order a subscription or back issues, contact Lois Myers at 254-710-6285 or e-mail her at lois_myers@baylor.edu

Texas History Day (continued from page 6)

Receiving honorable mention in the junior high division were three outstanding group documentaries. Representing Sartartia Middle School in Sugarland were students Mary Ellen Knewton, Katie Honeycutt, and Peri Tehven, with a project titled “**A Voice without Words.**” Their research centered upon political cartoons and posters of the World War II era and they videotaped interviews with a pair of grandparents to capture their personal recollections.

Matthew White and Scott Villanueva, sixth graders at St. Matthews Catholic School in San Antonio, with the help of their parents, traveled to Arizona to interview three Navajo code talkers, who during World War II created and used an indecipherable code to help bring an end to the war with Japan. Their video documentary, titled “**Navajo Code Talkers: Their**

Language, Their Weapon,” closed with one interviewee’s singing a song he had composed while working as a code talker in Iwo Jima.

The final junior honorable mention award went to Nolan Mills, Logan Mills, and Seth Grubb, of La Vernia Junior High School, La Vernia, for their documentary titled “**Tokyo Rose, The Legend behind Enemy Airwaves: A Product of Communication and Miscommunication.**” Focusing on the story of Iva Toguri, a woman broadcaster wrongly accused of being Tokyo Rose, whose radio taunts sought to demoralize American troops in the South Pacific during World War II. Besides interviewing veterans who remembered Tokyo Rose broadcasts, the students talked to a reporter who had uncovered Iva Toguri’s tragic story and helped to ultimately secure her pardon.



Mark your calendar . . .

***NOW or
ANYTIME***

Submit an article to the editorial board of *Sound Historian*. For instructions, see inside cover of the journal or visit the TOHA homepage at <http://www3.baylor.edu/TOHA/>

***November 2-6,
2005***

“Voices of Dissent, Voices of Hope”
Oral History Association annual program meeting in Providence, Rhode Island

March 2-4, 2006

“A Program Devoted Entirely to Texas Women”
TOHA annual program meeting with Texas State Historical Association, in Austin

***April 28-29,
2006***

Texas History Day, Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, Austin. Volunteer to judge!

***October 25-29,
2006***

Oral History Association annual meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas. Plan to attend!



August in Vermont—and oral history, too!



TOHA member **Charles T. Morrissey**, oral history consultant for the Baylor College of Medicine and Howard Hughes Medical Institute, is again conducting his famous summer oral history workshop in Vermont. Since 1975, Charlie, the innovator of the two-sentence format for composing oral history questions, has taught this annual workshop and influenced the careers of hundreds of oral historians. The 2005 workshop will be held on the campus of Vermont College in Montpelier, August 8-12. Enrollment is limited to twenty people. Tuition is \$350 if you sign up before June 15; \$395, later. Tuition covers personalized instruction and individual consultation for your oral history project. Lodging, including breakfast and lunch, is available in college dorms on campus for \$180. Off-campus lodging is also available. To learn more and to request registration information, telephone Maureen Schake, conference coordinator for Union Institute & University, Vermont College, at 802-828-8764 or e-mail her at maureen.schake@tui.edu.