

NOHANZ

Newsletter

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MARCH 2004

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:

Linda Evans

Executive Committee:

Rachel Baskerville Morley

Maureen Birchfield

Emma Dewhurst

Lesley Hall

Gillian Headifen

Megan Hutching

Alison Laurie

Rachael Selby

Anne Thorpe

Distance members of committee:

Marie Burgess

Jacqui Foley

Helen Frizzell

Anna Green

Ruth Greenaway

Bruce Ralston

www.oralhistory.org.nz

Newsletter: The NOHANZ Executive has agreed to take responsibility for seeking material for the newsletter over the next year. Expect to hear from us as we seek news and views from around the country about what is happening, courses that are being offered, reports on projects in progress or completed. Email contact is Rachael Selby at R.A.Selby@massey.ac.nz who is looking forward to receiving your contributions.

NOHANZ news

Meet your executive committee members:

At the 2003 AGM, members elected Linda Evans as the President, Megan Hutching as Secretary and Rachel Morley as Treasurer. The executive committee is composed of a group of members who are based in and around Wellington and who regularly attend meetings held every second month and a second group who are distance committee members. This second group are people located throughout the country and who support the association and the Wellington-based group by sending articles for the newsletter, acting as liaison people for the association, contributing to the journal, organizing regional gatherings and providing a link to the Wellington-based group. We asked each member to send a brief introduction.

Linda Evans (President) has worked in the Oral History Centre at the Alexander Turnbull Library since 1995. Initially she was the Oral History Librarian and then was appointed Curator in 1997. The Curator manages the Centre, including the oral history recording programme and other acquisitions to the collection; provides training, information and advice to oral historians; ensures the oral history collection is accessible to researchers and preserved for the future. She is a qualified librarian and took up oral history because of her interest in community history and involvement in Wellington Access Radio. A recent oral history project was for the exhibition: 'Outlines: lesbian and gay liberation in the 1970s' in the National Library Gallery. Linda has been president of NOHANZ since 1999. She is particularly interested in promoting skills and standards for those carrying out oral history projects and for librarians and archivists working with oral history collections as well as promoting connections among all those interested in working with oral history.

Megan Hutching (Secretary)

I work in the History Group at the Ministry for Culture & Heritage in Wellington as an oral historian. My job covers administering the Awards in Oral History, giving advice and training about oral history and recording interviews and producing books based on oral history that relate to the history of government

activity. At the moment I am working on a book about the North African campaign of World War II.

Rachel Morley (Treasurer)

From December 2003, Rachel Morley has come back to enjoy living in Wellington as a Senior Lecturer in Accounting at Victoria University, after five years at the University of Auckland. She was treasurer of NOHANZ prior to 1999, known then as Baskerville. Her current major research project is: 'Why did the survivors survive: an examination of the differential survival of the Big 8 names in NZ.' This is based on a survey and oral history interviews with 40 partners from the Big 8. Immediate projects spinning off from this data include

- a study of the change in class mobility into the profession when full-time university study was introduced in the 1960s (presented at last year's NOHANZ conference)
- a study of income allocation models in partnerships
- a replication of Sullivan's (2002) study of whether or not mergers between the Big 8 in the USA reduced competitiveness in the market for audit services
- the development of a Website in order to report back to survey participants and interviewees. Further views on particular research questions will be sought from participants when this website is launched later this year

Her teaching interests include financial accounting and reporting at all undergraduate levels, qualitative research methods, ethics, triple bottom line reporting, and superannuation scheme reporting, lobbying and standard setting.

Maureen Birchfield

Maureen's interest in oral history began in the 1980s when she recorded interviews with her mother for *She Dared to Speak - Connie Birchfield's Story*, UOP, 1998. She had further oral history experience in a Society for Research on Women study group, which resulted in *Listen To the Teacher - an oral history of women who taught in New Zealand, 1924-1945*, SROW, 1986. More recently, she coordinated the Women's Electoral Lobby Oral History Project, *WEL Women Who Made a Difference*,

completed last year and reported in the last NOHANZ Newsletter. Currently, Maureen is researching an authorised biography of Elsie Locke - and making good use of her tape recorder.

Emma Dewson

Emma Dewson is researcher/editor for the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography. Her work involves researching for the online DNZB, liaising with institutions to obtain new resources such as images and sound files, and doing research for the online Encyclopedia of New Zealand project. Emma is interested in the history of rural women in New Zealand and the ways oral history can be used to tell their stories.

Jacqui Foley

I have been working as an oral historian for twelve years and undertook my training with Helen Frizzell in Dunedin. I live at Tokarahi, near Oamaru. I was lucky to have been part of a pilot training scheme that Helen ran which extended over a two year period. Since then I have undertaken four of my own projects funded by the Australian Sesquicentennial Gift Trust. I was also involved in the Shear History Project. I carry out freelance private interviews as well as some abstracting. I am presently working on the second stage of a project based in the historic area of Oamaru and hope to have this completed by the end of April. This stage is made up of audio interviews with a video component. While my interest remains very much centred around audio, I hope to use film more in the future as a complementary component. I continue to feel as passionate and excited about oral history as when I started!

Helen Frizzell

Oral Historian Helen Frizzell works with individuals and groups to celebrate people's lives and their unique identities through projects which value their memories and life stories. Helen explores the potential for oral history to improve the quality of older people's lives. She has presented material from projects through a variety of media including the People's Choice Exhibition (1997) the play 'My Place' (1998) the St Andrews Totara 2001-02 Calendar and the Iona 50th Exhibition (2004). Now researching oral history projects for a variety of organisations and offering

supervision for community projects in addition to public workshops, Helen also works with artist Janet de Wagt on reminiscence arts programmes. Helen has worked for Presbyterian Support Otago for 18 years and was a Winston Churchill Fellow in 1994.

Ruth Greenaway

My interest in oral history stems from my studies in New Zealand and Pacific history. I respect the oral traditions of many cultures in passing stories down through the generations. I value the way in which this gives strength and identity for a community and for the individual. I first learnt about interviewing and utilising oral history within research and historical writing when I was studying history at Victoria University. Since then I have travelled overseas, studied theatre and the art of storytelling and more recently I have been working in areas of community development. I like having opportunities to combine all these aspects into my work and my own personal interests. I am at a stage now where I hope to write my stories; of people in my own life. I can begin to draw on all the skills and insights I have gained from storytelling and oral history for this.

Currently I am working as a freelance oral historian and researcher. I am commissioned to do projects for families, looking at the stories of older relatives and presenting this back in a form suitable for the whole family, that is drawing on personal writings, interviews and photographs. I also work with community groups, most recently having written a history of the Christchurch Environment Centre; 30 years of stories from 1973-2003. For the past ten months I have been working with the Christchurch branch of the Peace Foundation on a project recording the stories of people from Christchurch about their involvement in the peace movement. My business name is *Tapestries*. The idea behind this was that of weaving the strands of our lives together through stories.

Gillian Headifen

Gillian Headifen became interested in oral history as a student of Women's Studies at Victoria University. She undertook three oral history projects as part of her degree programme, two being at Honours level. Gillian is a currently studying for the Masters of

Library and Information Studies and her research paper is a selective annotated bibliography of New Zealand publications which have used oral histories to inform the content of the publication. Gillian works as a Library Assistant at the Oral History Centre, Alexander Turnbull Library and her duties include assisting researchers and oral historians with training information and hiring of equipment for oral history recordings.

Lesley Hall

Lesley Hall has taught oral history (with Alison Laurie) for twelve years at the Victoria University of Wellington. As an enthusiast and practitioner of oral history she has recorded stories on a variety of topics, the latest being her doctoral research with members of (and others close to) the Communist Party of New Zealand. The latter led to an interest in the ethics of oral history, specifically issues of confidentiality. Her current project is assisting the Royal Society, Wellington Branch to record oral histories of local scientists.

Alison Laurie

Dr Alison J. Laurie is a Senior Lecturer in Gender and Women's Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. She is a feminist and lesbian activist, writer broadcaster, and oral historian. She has completed several oral history projects, including on pre-1970 women who lived as lesbians. She initiated the first undergraduate and postgraduate oral history courses at Victoria University in the late 1980s, in addition to supervising several theses based on the use oral history. This year she will teach the first on-line oral history courses offered by a New Zealand university. She has contributed articles on oral history to a range of publications. Other publications include the edited *Lesbian Studies in Aotearoa/New Zealand*, (Harrington Park Press, 2001), and her co-authored (with Julie Glamuzina) *Parker and Hulme, a lesbian view* (New Women's Press, 1991, Firebrand, 1995)

Rachael Selby

Rachael Selby, Ngāti Raukawa, lives in Otaki. She is a kaiāwhina at Te Wananga-o-Raukawa and a senior lecturer at Massey University. With Anne Thorpe, she completed an Otaki Oral History Project, interviewing women and men in Otaki who have lived there since the Second World War. This is in the Oral History Centre at the Alexander Turnbull

Library. She has been Project Leader of the Hokio and Mangapouri Streams oral history project, deposited at the Turnbull Library in March. Rachael attended the International Oral History Association Conference in South Africa in 2002 and will be attending the IOHA Conference in Rome in June 2004.

Anne Thorpe

Anne Thorpe lives in Otaki where she is president of the Otaki Historical Society and is chair of a Trust set up to develop a local museum based in a historic bank building in Otaki. She was a researcher for the Otaki Oral History Project, interviewing people who had lived in Otaki since the Second World War. Anne is involved in promoting oral history in the community.

Oral history in New Zealand

• **New Oral History Librarian**

Many NOHANZ members will already have come in contact with the new Oral History Librarian Kristin Garbett who has now worked in the Alexander Turnbull Library for just over six months. Kristin is responsible for research enquiries and processes new acquisitions to the oral history collection as well as assisting with the other work of the Oral History Centre.

Kristin comes to the Centre from the Open Polytechnic Library in Lower Hutt where she held several positions, most recently as a Reference Librarian. As the Oral History Librarian, Kristin says "I am looking forward to playing a key role in providing quality access to the wonderful treasures held in the oral history collection". You can contact her by email kristin.garbett@natlib.govt.nz or atl@natlib.govt.nz or phone 04-474-000 ext 8818.

Linda Evans, Curator, Oral History Centre

• **Shear History Trust presents 'Life in the Sheds' oral history collection**

I was privileged to receive, on behalf of the Alexander Turnbull Library Oral History Centre, a collection of recorded interviews presented by Linda Tankersley of the Shear History Trust. The presentation was made as part of the Saturday night programme of the Golden

Shears competition at the Sports Stadium in Masterton on Saturday 6 March, the night of the 2004 Golden Shears finals. The collection *Life in the Sheds* is the second oral history project undertaken by the Shear History Trust and records the experiences and memories of people in the wool industry in New Zealand. Men and women shearers, blade shearers, pressers, wool-handlers, cooks, farmers, farmer's wives, contractors and Wool Board instructors.

The Trust's first interviews were recorded during 1997 – 2000 for the *Past champions oral history project: The Shear History Trust Golden Shears Open Champions*. Interviewed were greats from Ivan Bowen in 1961 to David Fagan in 2003. David Fagan of Te Kuiti, won the Open Champion title from Edsel Forde in 1990, held it until 2001, lost it to John Kirkpatrick in 2002, regained it in 2003. Fagan stormed in to win with an ear-bursting roar from the crowd to remain Golden Shear Open Champion 2004. It was brilliant seeing this shearing machine in action.

Oral histories provide information on a broad field of subjects. Interviewees of oral history projects leave behind a legacy not only for their families but also for future generations of various cultures, occupations, faiths, sports and many other aspects of life in this global society.

I also visited the Wool Textile Exhibition at the Art Museum – fantastic! Woollen garments made in what appeared to be delicate lace, mohair and felt. All with different textures from soft and silky to chunky and light.

The Shear History Trust is establishing a National Shearing Museum known as Shear Discovery New Zealand. It will be located in a historic two-storied woolshed donated by the Oldfield family of Glendonald Station, Bideford. The Dixon Street site is shared with Aratoi Wairarapa Art and History Museum and the Jubilee Fire Engine Exhibition, all closer than a stone's throw to the sports stadium where the Golden Shears are held.

Taina Tangaere McGregor, Oral Historian, Maori, Alexander Turnbull Library



l to r: Judy Cundy and Linda Tankersley of the Shear History Trust, and Taina McGregor of the Oral History Centre at the Masterton Sports Stadium for the 'Life in the Sheds' presentation, 6 Mar 2004

● Gathering the evidence

The most common remark people make is "Oh, but Te Anau is so young, surely there's not much there to build a history upon?" The general perception seems to be that since the township wasn't founded until after explorer and conservationist, Richard Henry, built his timber shack on the edge of Lake Te Anau in 1883 then not much could have happened in such a short span of time as only 120 years.

And it's true to say that 120 years is only a blink of time compared with the age of the region's geology. But the Te Anau Basin is an area which has seen many people come and go, including those who played an important part in shaping its contours: the grazing pastures, the walking tracks, the first hotels and shops, and the well-known Milford Road on the way to one of New Zealand's leading tourist attractions, Milford Sound.

The Fiordland Museum Trust embarked on a major heritage research project in November last year, following much debate and planning of its outline. Titled,

In the Wake of the Pioneers, the project aims to gather previously undocumented information about the social history of this south western part of New Zealand. The principal method is by collecting oral recordings from people living here. As with the first European settlers many of the contributors have been pioneers in their own way, particularly those involved in the early deer culling contracts or fledgling tourism ventures.

Following essential advice and support from Helen Frizzell in Dunedin, and a review of some oral history manuals, the project got underway. I have to agree that the initial preliminary interview is a vital ingredient to ensure good preparation for the actual recordings. It allows the participant to feel more relaxed and confident about the interview being recorded and feeds me important background information with which to ask appropriate questions. In addition, I'm constantly aware that each contributor is granting me time and an insight into how he/she ticks. These are gifts, so pace and skill in being able to both listen and lead the interviews are techniques I'm hopefully polishing. We all know that few seconds pause: in broadcasting it's called 'dead air' and to be avoided at all costs. Yet in oral

history recordings, it's an important part of the ebb and flow of the recorded conversation. On listening back over the interview, in that pause you can almost hear a person's thoughts being created.

With the post-recording work I am discovering limitless bounds of patience coming from somewhere unknown. First and second drafts of the abstracts, scanning photos, checking details and documents, ensuring each participant is happy with the contents of the profile; all of this takes time but it is worth it in the end as I hope the results will show.

As the stories unfold, they can sometimes be so engrossing that it feels almost as if I'd been there too. The thrill of the chase as a hunter in the 1950s stalking the unexplored hills of Monowai, or 'stooking' on a hot summer's day during the fescue harvests of the 1940s; there is a rich, untold history here which, like a large patchwork quilt, is slowly being pieced together.

**Morag Forrester, Heritage Researcher,
Fiordland Museum Trust**

● **Words from Waimate**

Little did I think that attending an oral history training weekend, run by Helen Frizzell in Alexandra, some eight years ago would give me such an interesting time in my retirement. Keeping the grey cells working – it certainly does – sometimes I feel I am reliving these bygone days while I listen to these residents and their wonderful memories, first in Clyde and now in Waimate.

This year Waimate is holding its 150th celebrations. In addition, the Waimate Historical Society is celebrating their fiftieth anniversary. As Oral Historian to the Society, I have been collecting recordings from fifty residents of the town for six years and have heard many interesting life stories. We have these all stored in our temperature regulated archives, tapes, files and thanks to two dedicated helpers, the transcripts of nearly all these people.

There are stories of people from all walks of life including those who worked in our hospital before it closed in 1996. These are all accessible to members of the public who are doing legitimate research I am now working on making these as user friendly as possible, listing where they can find details on, farming, shops, schools.

I realise that these records are going to be used far more in the distant future than now but I am always trying to find a way to keep the public aware and interested in the project with newspaper articles and talks to groups. In the last two years I have been recording soldiers who served in the 1939-45 war and with the celebrations coming I decided to compile a book using these memories.

The soldier and the nurse, is now at the printers and will be on sale in April. To assist us with this we received grants from The Waimate District Council and the South Canterbury Returned Services Association. I have used extracts from extensive recordings I made of these two people - Eric Batchelor DCM and Bar, and Irene Olorenshaw MBE. They both served in North Africa and Italy, had excellent memories and the added interest of being very different personalities. Their thoughts, feelings and observations on war certainly make you think. I have used photos from their private collections and the book is illustrated by Eric's grand daughter Erica. The book is short, 56 pages, and, I hope, to the point. I felt in the format I was using it was going to make it an easy read for all ages. Obviously the older generation is going to empathise with their thoughts but my hope is that younger people will read it and feel that they can go on and read in more depth books about this part of our history.

The book is \$10 and can be ordered from wtemus@xtra.co.nz. Sadly Irene Olorenshaw who was Matron of Oamaru Hospital for many years has died but Eric will autograph all copies ordered before the release date in April. Thank you Helen, your enthusiasm for oral history has certainly enriched my retirement years.

Joyce Cooper

● **List of books based on oral history**

Gillian Headifen, a NOHANZ Committee member and library assistant at the Oral History Centre, Alexander Turnbull Library is compiling an annotated bibliography of print publications whose content has been informed by New Zealand oral history projects. This project is part of Gillian's Master of Library and Information Studies and, when completed, the bibliography will be available on the NOHANZ web site.

Gillian is looking for a wide range of books, booklets and articles (excluding newspapers) based on oral history. She is also recording where the interviews / projects have been archived. All suggestions will be appreciated. Send details to gillian.headifen@natlib.govt.nz

Oral history around the world

Voices from the Days of Slavery: Former Slaves Tell Their Stories

The Library of Congress's American Folklife Center is pleased to announce the release of a new online collection: Voices from the Days of Slavery: Former Slaves Tell Their Stories, available on the Library's American Memory Web site: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/vfshtml>.

Voices from the Days of Slavery features audio recordings made of people who had experienced slavery first-hand, providing the unique opportunity to listen to them describe their lives in their own voices. These interviews conducted between 1932 and 1975, capture the recollections of twenty-three identifiable ex-slaves, people born between 1823 and the early 1860s. Several of those interviewed were centenarians, the oldest being 130 at the time of the interview. The almost seven hours of recordings were made in nine Southern states and provide an important glimpse of what life was like for slaves and then newly freed persons. The former slaves discuss how they felt about slavery, slaveholders, how slaves were coerced, their families, and, of course, freedom. As part of their testimony, several of the ex-slaves sing songs, many of which were learned during the time of their enslavement.

This presentation complements other American Memory collections, most notably Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938 <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html>, which contains transcripts of over 2,300 interviews with ex-slaves. However, unlike the written transcripts, which sometimes represented collectors' interpretations rather than verbatim

reproductions, these recordings present the actual interview and thereby provide the unique experience of hearing the ex-slaves' voices with their various inflections and regional dialects. In addition to the recordings and transcripts, Voices from the Days of Slavery: Former Slaves Tell Their Stories also includes biographies of many of the interviewees, a special presentation called Faces and Voices from the Collection, and a Related Resources section.

The American Folklife Center was created by Congress in 1976 and placed at the Library of Congress to 'preserve and present American folklife' through programs of research, documentation, archival presentation, reference service, live performance, exhibition, public programs, and training. The Center includes the Archive of Folk Culture, which was established in 1928 and is now one of the largest collections of ethnographic material from the United States and around the world.

American Memory is a gateway to rich primary source materials relating to the history and culture of the United States. The site offers more than 8 million digital items from more than 120 historical collections.

Please submit any questions you may have using the American Memory web form at:

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/asklib/ask-memory2.html>

Laura Gottesman, Digital Reference Specialist, The Library of Congress

Visit the website at

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/vfshtml>

Notices

● **NOHANZ annual general meeting**

The annual general meeting of NOHANZ will be held on Tuesday 8 June 2004 in the lower ground floor meeting room, National Library, cnr Aitken and Molesworth Sts, Wellington at 5:15 p.m.

Agenda

- Apologies
- Confirmation of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, 20 July 03

- Matters arising
- Financial report
- Election of officers
 - President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - appointment of committee
- General business

N.B. A report of the last annual general meeting were published in the September 2003 NOHANZ newsletter.

● 'History Talks'

NOHANZ is please to announce another series of popular lunchtime oral history talks, show-casing recent projects.

Lower Ground Floor Meeting Room.
National Library of New Zealand,
Corner Molesworth and Aitken Streets,
Wellington.
12.10 – 1.00 p.m.

23 April: Rachael Selby, Pataka Moore and Caleb Royal, Te Wananga-o-Raukawa and Massey University
'The most versatile food: Eels, eels and more eels' - a presentation illustrated with oral histories from Otaki and Levin

30 April: Lesley Hall, Victoria University of Wellington
'Better Red than Wed'
Lesley will use her oral histories with women who were members of the NZ Communist Party

7 May: Jonathan Kennett, Cycle Historian
'On your Bike - A History of Cycling'
Using slides and extracts from oral histories Jonathan will speak about his research on cycling in New Zealand

14 May: Alison Laurie, Victoria University of Wellington
'Speaking the unspoken'
A talk illustrated with Alison's oral histories from women who lived as lesbians before 1970 and the start of the women's and gay liberation movements

● Oral history workshops *The Essentials of Oral History Research*

Day One: Introduction to Oral History
Saturday, 1 May 2004, 8.45am-4.30pm

How to plan an oral history project, choose the best equipment, achieve clear audio recordings, select informants, follow ethical procedures, develop questioning techniques, process oral history and make the material available for use. Bring a tape recorder if you have one you intend to use for recording. Exercises to be completed before Day Two will be discussed.
Fee: \$150 (\$110) Limit 14

Day Two: Taping Seriously

Saturday, 26 June 2004, 8.45 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Taping Seriously builds on *Day One: Introduction to Oral History*, reviewing work completed and covering in more detail interview techniques, equipment standards, project planning and ethical and legal issues. Some experience in recording or processing oral history is necessary. Completion of an earlier *Essentials* course or a recent equivalent introductory course is required.
Fee: \$150 (\$110) Limit: 14.

(\$110: Reduced fees are for community services cardholders or full-time students)

For further information concerning registration or funding, contact the Oral History Centre,
04-474 3162 or atl@natlib.govt.nz

New Plymouth

In late March and early April Mary Donald ran workshops in Auckland and New Plymouth. One was an introduction to oral history recording; the second developed skills in interview planning and methods of creating interviews to archival standard. This workshop was directed at people working on specific projects or within institutions.

Mary is interested in taking these courses to other venues.

Contact: Mary Donald
[mary.don@xtra.co.nz]

Review

Linda P. Wood, 'Oral History Projects in Your Classroom', Oral History Association, Carlisle, PA, 2001.

We are most appreciative of the gift from Linda Shopes during her visit last year, of the Oral History Association publication by Linda P. Wood *Oral History Projects in Your Classroom*. This publication is one of the US Practices in Oral History series, and is a comprehensive guide to producing oral history projects in schools, intended for "all teachers and all students". There are suggestions for the use of oral history in the science and health education classroom as well as in the history, social studies and English classrooms. Wood points out that "oral history projects can be used to enhance interdisciplinary team teaching and to integrate writing, communications, and technology across the curriculum" (p.19). Selected classroom projects are discussed as models, with an introduction to oral history, and full project guidelines. She explains that the support of the students' families is "critical for maintaining administrative and community support", suggesting that students have a part in selecting topics, and that parents are sent a letter describing the project, learning objectives, tasks involved and assessment process (p.21). She discusses funding possibilities, the scope and length of projects, background research, selection of narrators, ethics, interview questions, equipment, management issues, preservation, and assessment as well as providing handouts, including sample letters to parents and narrators. This guide is a treasure-trove of information for the use of oral history in schools. Though intended for the primary and secondary classroom, I consider that it will also be useful for my own tertiary level courses at Victoria University, and helpful for community projects. Highly recommended.

(N.B. there is a short video to accompany the book.)

Alison Laurie

Conferences

- **Southwest Oral History Association (USA), Annual Conference** San Diego, California
29 April – 1 May 2004

'Crossing Borders: Negotiating Oral History Theory and Practice in a Digital World'

Please join us for professional advancement, camaraderie, sea air, and sunshine

We provide a Thursday Walking Tour of San Diego's Balboa Park, Friday Reception at the San Diego Museum of History, Beginning and Advanced Workshops on Friday, sessions on Saturday, a business meeting and fascinating creative plenary sessions on Sunday morning.

Conference fees are:

Members: \$85, Non-members \$105 by April 16.

Students: \$30, Workshops \$35

Hotel is:

Quality Inn Downtown Harbour View, great location, great prices. Single \$89, Double \$99 reserved by March 29. 1-800-404-6835.

View the program at our web site or send your address to

Ksharper01@cs.com

SOHA: <http://soha.fullerton.edu>

- **'Using the War: Changing memories of World War Two'**

Oral History Society with King's College, London

Friday 1 - Sunday 3 July 2005

King's College, London

This international oral history conference marks the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. It seeks to address the war's consequences and legacy in the memories of participants and for successive generations. The conference is organized with two major themes which reflect the ways in which the War continues in many countries to play a part in historical consciousness and everyday life.

Remembering, Forgetting and Silence

The conference will explore how different individuals who lived through the war choose to remember or choose to forget their experiences. What are reasons for this? What are the relationships of individual memories to dominant historical discourses?

In exploring this we also want to uncover the costs and rewards of remembering

the war in relation to a range of perspectives from the psychological (trauma) to the economic (pensions). Within this we are interested in encouraging papers, presentations, posters and displays that explore the changing nature of these perspectives.

We also want to invite papers that address the issues of intergenerational communication of memories of war. What impact does remembering and forgetting have on the individuals themselves and their families and other potential audiences? What does it mean for those (and their families) whose war experiences are hidden from history? Or, how are those who cannot talk about their experiences recalled by others?

A final strand within this theme is mythic memories, including the adoption of 'war identities'.

Using memories of war

Another major theme of the conference will be the ways in which memories of the conflict have been used in the production and use of history. This includes the use of social memory in establishing and maintaining (or not preserving) memorialisation and in the commemoration of the conflict. Does this

have a particular resonance for displaced peoples? Our second theme also includes the ways in which oral history and reminiscence have been employed by the media and in education to publicly represent the War both in histories and in the ways this representation has been used to 'frame' and 'benchmark' the memories of subsequent conflicts. Has the use of memories changed media and education representations of the War? Similarly, we are calling for papers that consider how reconciliation events and battlefield tourism has shaped memories of war.

In considering how memories of war are used, we would also want to invite the participation of those who have utilized these memories in reminiscence as a therapeutic intervention. For example, does remembering the War always promote wellbeing?

Anyone interested in participating should submit a 250 word abstract to Belinda Waterman, University of Essex, belinda@essex.ac.uk by 30 June 2004 (we will be responding to potential participants in September).

Graham Smith (on behalf of the organising committee)
<http://www.oralhistory.or>

