

COPH Documents First Fifty Years of University History

By Sharon Pellegrino



It's hard to believe that almost fifty years have passed since CSUF, then Orange County State College, opened its doors. Since that time the campus continues to grow beyond expectations in both physical and enrollment growth, as well as its \$400 million plus financial impact on local communities and counties.

The 2007 fall semester will open a year-long celebration of 50 years of CSUF campus history. As part of this celebration

COPH is producing a book of those first fifty years. The book will be a photo journey through time using oral histories to relate the visions of the early founders through those of the current administration, including future aspirations.

What you may not know is why and when southern California was chosen by the state as a desirable place to build the campus and the tremendous battle that preceded the decision as local cities battled over where the construction should take place. The

book will reveal archived papers, photos, and news stories documenting what really was a turning point in the county's history and future.

Besides the obvious, the book will also reveal some interesting tidbits that are little known. For instance, did you know that in 1958-59, the first classes offered were held in leased quarters at Sunny Hills High School while



President Langsdorf at construction site circa 1960

administrators and professors occupied shared offices in leased quarters at Fullerton Union High School, a

building condemned by an earlier earthquake (proving that the safety of students always comes first)? Did you know that the replica of Michelangelo's *David*, located east of the library, is representative of the many historical fallen and broken monuments worldwide and is made of white Carrara marble said to be from the same quarry that Michelangelo used?

One of the questions that I am constantly asked is, "Who would be interested in such a book?"

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New Japanese American Exhibit Opens at Arboretum

By Stephanie George



I've had a new appreciation for Sisyphus lately. Not that I have too much empathy for a guy who engaged in trickery and unspeakable behaviors his entire life, but I can appreciate how he must have felt, pushing that boulder up the steep hill for what probably seemed like eternity. (Oh, right....it was.) The difference is, however, that on February 10, (and, unlike our mythological king), we **will** reach the summit. The first exhibit at the Orange County Agricultural and Nikkei Heritage Museum, curated by the Center for Oral and Public History, will be open.

Sowing Dreams, Cultivating Lives: Nikkei Farmers in Pre-World War II is also yet another role COPH has undertaken in exercising its full mission with regard to public history. This exhibition is the culmination of many months of planning, designing, and finally, implementation. Research has been conducted in various locations around California, including our own oral history archives. Artifacts and photographs have been

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COPH Staff:

- Art Hansen, Director
- Natalie Fousekis and Cora Granata, Associate Directors
- Stephanie George, Collections Curator
- Sharon Pellegrino, Systems Librarian
- Kathy Frazee, Administrative Support Coordinator
- Suzanne Walter, Tapes into Type Coordinator
- Kira Gentry, Editor

Director's Report

Turning Tapes Into Type

By Art Hansen



Back in 1975, when I became the Oral History Program's second director by

succeeding its innovative and energetic founding director, Gary Shumway, I was confronted with the perennial challenge of raising funds to help finance the program's extensive operation. One step that I took in this regard was to initiate four technical processing services within OHP aimed at assisting, for a nominal cost, those programs within the then-surgingly American oral history movement interested in converting their tape-recorded audio interviews into archival-quality volumes for on-site reference by staff and researchers as well as for commercial public sale.

The first of these services was Tapes Into Type, which created transcripts from reel-to-reel and cassette tape recordings. The second service, Final Type, transformed edited and proofed transcripts into polished typescripts, while the third service, Tape-Dex, indexed these typescripts for the purpose of efficient information retrieval, and the fourth service, Bind n' Sign, preserved fully processed typescripts, replete with illustrations, by binding them in embossed covers.

Thirty years after these services were launched, the first and the last of them remain intact today, and both continue to supply COPH's coffers with greatly needed operating expense monies. But whereas Bind n' Sign has been coordinated by a long parade of successive student assistants, Tapes Into Type has been blessed in having its coordination done by only four—all exceptionally talented and dedicated—individuals: Nita Busby, Debbie Gill, Garnette Long, and Suzanne Walter. Because these women have labored on behalf of the Oral History Program / Center for Oral and Public History on

largely an anonymous basis, I would like here to provide them with a public face and extend to them a note of our profound gratitude.

Nita Busby was an ideal person to pioneer Tapes Into Type back in the days when an IBM Selectric typewriter featuring spherical font elements and lift-off tape represented the cutting-edge in office print technology.



Nita Busby

Boasting an undergraduate degree in English, an M.A. in Library Science, and coursework in oral history from Cal State Fullerton, she had worked as both a freelance editor and the thesis clerk for the CSUF Graduate Studies office before tackling her coordinating duties for the first oral history transcription service in the U.S. Among the transcriptionists Busby hired to work for Tapes Into Type was her step-daughter, Tess Dick, the wife of Phil Dick, arguably the twentieth century's finest science fiction writer. One notable OHP contract for which Busby oversaw the transcription was that with the Bureau of Land Management on recreation in the California desert.

Although Nita Busby was a "hard act to follow," OHP was blessed to secure, in the early 1980s, the services of Debbie Gill to succeed her as the coordinator for Tapes Into Type. With a B.A. in History earned from CSUF, Gill came to her job at OHP by way of a strong recommendation by her then-brother-in-law, Professor David Pivar of the CSUF Department of History. After nearly a decade of distinguished service and undertaking graduate studies in social work at Long Beach State University, Gill



Debbie Gill

resigned her position with Tapes Into Type to become a medical social worker. It was Gill who moved OHP's transcription service into the computer age. Although she employed this new technology to support a plentitude of grant and contract projects requiring transcribing, the largest and longest lasting of these involved the oral historical documentation of the U.S.

Navy's Chaplain Corps.

Next in line, beginning in 1990 when Mike Onorato was directing the OHP, as the coordinator for Tapes Into Type was Garnette Long, better known as "Gary." She had been doing transcribing for the OHP going back to the early 1970s when employed as a CSUF History Department secretary. It



Garnette "Gary" Long

was Long who conceived of the slogan for Tapes Into Type, "the benchmark for all oral history transcribing services." The number of projects that she handled in her capacity as the service's coordinator was legion, but perhaps the most taxing and traumatic for her was the transcribing she did for CalTrans about the experiences of their workers in the wake of the Loma Prieta earthquake that had rocked the San Francisco Bay Area on October 17, 1989. Instead of hiring other transcriptionists, Long (who earned a B.A. degree in French at CSUF) preferred to rely almost exclusively on herself.

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Online Access to *Voices*

The Center for Oral and Public History's semi-annual newsletter is available on the internet. This is an effort to make the most of our limited funds.

If you would still prefer to get a paper copy of the newsletter, please call or write and let us know.

Otherwise, in the future you will receive a notice in the mail when the newsletter is posted on the COPH website.

Thank you for your cooperation and support. ☘

CSUF Fiftieth Anniversary Update: Work Progresses on Digital Library

By Lorene Broersma,
Research Associate



The Center for Oral and Public History is building a good collection of historical documents and photographs in its new digital archive of University history and

soon this catalog will be available as an online exhibit to help commemorate Cal State Fullerton's Fiftieth Anniversary. Visitors to the site will be able to enjoy



Elephant race at Orange County State College (now California State University, Fullerton) circa 1980

Fullerton was known as Orange State College, and visits from Governor Reagan

in 1970 and President Reagan in 1988. Also available for viewing are campus scenes of student anti-war demonstrations in 1970 as well as student protest documents from that era.

The Titan Student Union recently celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. For COPH's digital archive, the TSU generously provided photographs tracing its development from the days when it was known as the University Center to the present.

Currently, material from different departments in six university divisions and one campus organization are featured in the digital archive.

Any department or organization that has not yet contributed to this catalog is encouraged to participate. Contributing to the digital archive at the Center for Oral and Public History enables every university department or organization to become part of this exciting milestone event. If your department has documents, records, or photographs that chronicle

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any activity or event, or if your department has not returned its historical documentation survey, please contact the CSUF Fiftieth Anniversary Historical Documentation Project at csuf50th@fullerton.edu. Don't let your department be left out of this unique exhibit. ☿

First Fifty Years

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My answer is an astounding, "You for one!" And I say that because most likely if you have been a part of this campus or lived in one of the communities surrounding it, it is a part of your history as well. My M.A. project at CSUF was a website for the 40th anniversary. It was during that time I realized that very few people who worked on the campus, let alone the students, knew much about its history. This book intends to fill in the blanks, bring us up to the present and envision the future. It will be available sometime in the fall of 2007. Be sure to watch for an update in our next newsletter! ☿

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The Center for Oral and Public History provides a valuable contribution to the cultural life of Southern California. Please accept my gift to support its work.

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Rediscovering Encyclopedia Lots

By Kathleen Frazee

Thanks to the Orange County Pioneer Council's Oral History Project, one of the best bargains on record just came to light again. Jim Kettler brought the familiar photo of oil wells along the coastline at Huntington Beach to the office and referred to the picture as the "encyclopedia lots." A little check on Google explained the reference.

Seems that in 1904 early efforts by a group of Los Angeles businessmen to develop the area around Huntington Beach started off well, but ten years later much land was still unused. A salesman working for the *Americana* (encyclopedia) bought land, complete with underlying mineral rights, from the Huntington Beach Company to subdivide into small lots and give away as premiums with the purchase of each set of books. "The land developers were delighted to be rid of the surplus land which was unsuitable for housing . . . Their relief probably turned to dismay when oil was discovered on the property in 1920. The discovery well, near Goldenwest and Clay Streets, was modest. The second, however, was a mighty gusher, blowing in at 2,000 barrels of oil per day." What a bargain! ☞



Photo courtesy of James Kettler

Photo of the Huntington Beach shoreline complete with "encyclopedia lots."

Turning Tapes Into Type

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One exception to that rule, however, was her farming out work to the one individual whose transcribing competency she implicitly trusted: her successor as coordinator for Tapes Into Type.

Suzanne Walter, COPH's current Tapes Into Type coordinator, assumed her position shortly after the turn of the new century. By the time of her employment she had completed an M.A. degree in American Studies and had matriculated into a second M.A. program at



Suzanne
Walter

CSUF in History, with an emphasis upon municipal incorporation in Orange County, while ably heading up the docent force at the Richard Nixon Birthplace Site in Yorba Linda. During her tenure as coordinator, she has moved Tapes Into Type within the digital age, added to its volume of business, and enhanced its reputation for excellence. Two of her most demanding projects have been associated with the development out of oral histories of two constructed autobiographies by COPH Research Associate Dr. JoAn Kunselman

of two highly successful southern Californians, one an innovative real estate developer from the immediate post-World War II period to the present and the other a businessman-turned-music philanthropist. Because the latter of these projects contained privileged information, it was necessary for Walter, along with other COPH personnel involved in the project, to sign, upon its completion, a statement of non-disclosure and to destroy all related tapes, transcripts, and notes in her possession.

Whether required as a contractual provision or not, all four of the coordinators of Tapes Into Type have exercised confidentiality and discretion in discharging their duties. In addition, they have demonstrated intelligence and broad learning, dedication and energy, and great skill at translating a stream of spoken words into coherent, properly punctuated sentences and cohesive paragraphs. Moreover, they have exhibited the quality that best exemplifies oral history transcription when done by conscientious and ethical practitioners: they have selflessly entered into the worlds of the narrators and the interviewers on the tapes that they have typed and made every effort to transmit them precisely to posterity. ☞



Nita Busby using original, "cutting edge" Tapes Into Type equipment!

Spring '06 Hours of Operation

The Center for Oral and Public History has added new hours:

Monday 9:00am-5:00pm

Tuesday 9:00am-6:30pm

Wednesday 9:00am-5:00pm*

Thursday 9:00am-6:30pm

Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

Saturday and Sunday-closed.

*Appointments can be made for those who need to use the center after 5pm. Call 714-278-3580 to make arrangements. ☞

Eyewitness To War: COPH Narrator Shares Story of Life in WWII Germany

On December 4, 2006 the European Studies Society hosted their first speaker event in their Eyewitness to War Series featuring COPH narrator Ingrid Shutkin. Her interview

was conducted as part of Dr. Cora Granata's fall 2005 Modern European History class, and Shutkin graciously agreed to share her memories of life in Germany during World War II and as a refugee fleeing the Soviet advance with the CSUF campus and surrounding community.



Ingrid Shutkin

The Nazis' war of aggression that brought World War II to Europe unleashed a brutal total war in which civilians, such as Ms. Shutkin and her family, suffered in unprecedented numbers. The Soviet Union's death toll was the highest of all participating nations, and in 1944, as the Soviet Union began its victorious advance toward Berlin, its troops were primed to exact revenge. Consequently, millions of ethnic Germans living in Eastern Europe were forced to flee. Particularly targeted were women and children. In the end, at least 10 million ethnic Germans led or were forcibly expelled from Eastern Europe. Most ended up in what would become postwar West Germany, while many, including Ingrid Shutkin, eventually came to the United States.

Caught in the midst of the cross-fire Ms. Shutkin lived in Tilsit, East Prussia, today known as Sovetsk, Kaliningrad, along the former Soviet border. In November 1944, the war's atrocities forced Ingrid and her family to evacuate their home. Attendees, many of whom had to stand due to the large turnout, were privy to a firsthand account of these events in an exciting and oftentimes emotional session, chronicling one individual's fascinating story of hardship and survival. ☞

Former Graduate Assistant Makes Her Mark

By Gisela Shimabukuro

The most exciting thing about being a graduate student Cal State Fullerton was earning my Master's degree. However, the most challenging was finding a job. Working as a graduate assistant at the Center for Oral and Public History has taught me the methodology and importance of oral history. The experience and training I received at COPH helped me land a job at the Go For Broke National Education Center.

I was first hired as a Program Associate and assisted in the Hanashi Oral History Program, which allows Go For Broke to preserve and share the legacy of the World War II Japanese American veterans. These men bravely fought for



Gisela (back row, second from right) with some of WWII Japanese American veterans interviewed in Denver, CO.

the United States Army while many of their families were incarcerated in camps following the attack on Pearl Harbor. I now work as the Resource Center Coordinator and am responsible for research inquiries, archives, and our collection of over 700 oral histories. ☞

Sowing Dreams, Cultivating Lives

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secured and the space is filled with sections dedicated to the Issei generation farming experience, including immigration, family, organizations, and farming. But this hasn't been the single

effort of the Center. A great number of lessons have been learned through this process; perhaps the most important was developing a team of people who have the skills and commitment to seeing each and every task completed. And, while research, writing, and the concepts for the exhibit are those I'll take responsibility for, countless hours have been dedicated by students from several different



Hard working interns



Furrows to be featured in the exhibit

departments in executing those ideas, all overseen by Carlota Haider, the exhibition designer.

This is all fairly new to us -- and to the Arboretum as well. It's been challenging, too, learning to engage in public history in ways beyond our comfort zone. We're looking forward to opening *Sowing Dreams, Cultivating Lives* and will celebrate the opportunity we've had to tell another story of Orange County history. And, on February 10, I may feel a touch of sadness for Sisyphus, who never could relish the fruits of his labor. ☞

CENTER FOR
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CAL STATE FULLERTON
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Old Friends

In September 2006, four of the leaders for COPH's predecessor organization, the Oral History Program, gathered for a dinner at the Wild Artichoke restaurant in Yorba Linda to honor the retirement of the OHP's founding director, Gary Shumway (center, back row). Flanking him are a former OHP director, Larry de Graaf (left), and the founding director of the OHP's Richard Nixon Project, Harry Jeffrey (right). Pictured in the front row are Shirley Stephenson, the longtime associate director and archivist of the OHP, and Art Hansen, another OHP former director and COPH's current director. The proceedings of this festive event were not recorded for posterity.

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