

**WOMEN'S STUDIES ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**COPH OHP\_207**



Center for Oral and Public History  
California State University, Fullerton

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## Women's Studies Oral History Project

From Lynn Finger's abstract about her thesis: From academic professionals to volunteers:  
Divergent paths of women historians

Interviews of twenty women academic historians, public historians, and history volunteers, were collected for this study to identify the external and internal forces which create the career-oriented historian and those which create the casual or "amateur" historian. This project emphasizes the necessity of studying professional women with their semi- or non-professional counterparts to gain a full understanding of how women choose and identify with their careers; it also suggests that a woman's ability to identify strongly with her career is affected not only by her education, professional recognition, achievements within her field, and reinforcement from family or colleagues, but most importantly, by her mentoring she receives. While male mentors deeply affect the career identities of many women, women without such mentors choose alternate career paths and develop skills of "self-mentoring" to create career identities which combine the facets of their lives as mothers, scholars and breadwinners.

### **O.H. #2173**

BRODIE, Janet Farrell (b. 1947)

Interviewer: Lynn Finger

Date: August 25, 1986

Status: Final typed, 30 pp.

Tape length: 60 min.

An American Studies lecturer at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, discusses women and the necessary balance between a family and a professional career, the feminist movement, and affirmative action.

### **O.H. #2168**

GARLOCK, Brooke (b. 1952)

Interviewer: Lynn Finger

Date: June 30, 1986

Status: Final typed, 25 pp.

Tape length: 60 min.

Executive Director, Pasadena Oral History Project, Assistant Director, Pasadena Historical Society, Director, Madison Heights Neighborhood Association, former schoolteacher, and author of *Talking About Pasadena: Selections From Oral Histories*, discusses her duties as director of the Pasadena Oral History Project, the project organization, interviewing techniques, and selection of interviewees and interviewers.

### **O.H. #2167**

KIRSCH, Mildred (b. 1939)

Interviewer: Lynn Finger

Date: June 25, 1986

Status: Final typed, 27 pp.

Tape length: 60 min.

A resident of Pasadena, California, relates her experiences as a docent for the Pasadena Historical Society, docent school and training, and duties of the docent. Discusses the history of the Pasadena Historical Museum and Archives since 1977, and the Southern California Docent Group.

**O.H. #2170**

LOTHROP, Gloria Ricci (b. 1934)

Interviewer: Lynn Finger

Date: July 1, 1986

Status: Final typed, 27 pp.

Tape length: 60 min.

A professor of history at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and author of various works relating to women in California history and the western frontier describes her experiences as a women's historian and consultant to *Time-Life*, Columbia Pictures, and KCET television network on women in the West; as a local historian, a Los Angeles historian, and women in different ethnic groups. Discusses the difficulties and problems of being a woman and a professional in the field of history.

**O.H. #2165**

MELANSON, Priscilla G. (b. 1961)

Interviewer: Lynn Finger

Date: June 6, 1986

Status: Final typed, 30 pp.

Tape length: 60 min.

Assistant Program Director at the Discovery Museum of Orange County, Santa Ana, California, describes her duties, her involvement in establishing a Victorian herb garden and living history Museum, women in the history profession, academic historians as opposed to public historians, and docent training and their duties.

**O.H. #2171**

MERIWETHER, Margaret (b. 1921)

Interviewer: Lynn Finger

Date: August 11, 1986

Status: Final typed, 33 pp.

Tape length: 2 hr.

A longtime docent for the Gamble House in Pasadena, California, comments on her work with the Urban Conservation Department, Pasadena Public Library, the Orange Grove Reconstruction project, history and work for the preservation of the Pasadena flagstaff at the corner of Colorado and Orange Grove, and work on the Green House and Green Library in Pasadena.

**O.H. #2172**

MIRANDA, Gloria (b. 1947)  
Interviewer: Lynn Finger  
Date: August 18, 1986  
Status: Final typed, 27 pp.  
Tape length: 60 man.

Consultant, author, and associate professor of Chicano studies and history at Los Angeles Valley College, Los Angeles, California, details the ethnic bias facing Chicana women and the struggles women face in the doctorate program. Discussion includes her work as a professional in the academic world and Chicana women and their role in breaking from traditional roles.

**O.H. #2166**

SCHECHTER, Sue (b. 1930)  
Interviewer: Lynn Finger  
Date: June 20, 1986  
Status: Final typed, 29 pp.  
Tape length: 60 min.

A resident of La Canada-Flintridge, California, working for the Pasadena Historical Society in a part-time and then as full-time administrator describes the beginnings of the Pasadena Historical Society, establishing regulations on the historical society's information on Avery House, fund raising, docent training, volunteers, housing, and problems in organizing the society.

**O.H. #2169**

SCHEID, Ann (b. 1940)  
Interviewer: Lynn Finger  
Date: June 30, 1986  
Status: Final typed, 25 pp.  
Tape length: 60 min.

A resident of Altadena, California, employed by the Urban Conservation Department, Pasadena, California, describes various objectives and workings of the department; her book, *Pasadena: Crown of the Valley* women in architecture; experiences in Sweden while working for the Foreign Service, and the Swedish social system in regards to women.

**O.H. #2164**

SIMOLKE, Daria (b. 1955)  
Interviewer: Lynn Finger  
Date: June 5, 1986  
Status: Final typed, 35 pp.  
Tape length: 60 min.

An historian who worked as a museum educator from 1977-1980, for the Ventura County Historical Museum, then as a historical costume consultant for the Renaissance Faire in Agoura, California, for five years, from 1981-1986, comments on her first job at the Ventura Museum,

training in architecture at the A.K. Smiley Library in Redlands, California, working on a Historical Site Survey in Redlands, Proposition 13 and its effect on museum educators.

## Other “Women’s Studies”

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### **O.H. #1768a**

JONES, Hazel (1915-1989)  
Interviewer: Nancy Hunsaker  
Date: February 27, 1975  
Status: Transcribed, 27 pp.  
Tape length: 60 min.

A vice president at California State University, Fullerton, recalls growing up in the rural farming area of Cedaredge, Colorado; college days at Gunnison, Colorado; early teaching experiences; the Depression; her decision to apply for and accept a teaching position at the Japanese American War Relocation Center, Manzanar, California. Details her experiences as associate dean and dean at California State University, Fullerton, with emphasis on the student riots of the 1970s.

### **O.H. #2154b**

OAKS, Priscilla (1925-1987)  
Interviewer: Terry Kirker  
Date: November 20, 1974  
Status: Completed 1975, 5 pp.  
Tape length: 60 min.  
Bound in *Harvest*, 1975, xiii, 381 pp.

A native of Boston, Massachusetts area recalls childhood interest in literature and poetry, her education at Radcliffe College, and working as a writer after marriage.

### **O.H. #2154c**

OAKS, Priscilla (1925-1987)  
Interviewer: Ruth Priess  
Date: November 25, 1974  
Status: Completed 1975, 9 pp.  
Tape length: 60 min.  
Bound in *Harvest*, 1975, xiii, 381 pp.

Oaks describes her unwillingness to accept the role of woman as defined by Judaism, members of her family and circle of friends in the 1950s. Comments on her struggle to succeed as a writer and later as an educator concerned with the rights of women and minorities.