

CENTER FOR  
ORAL & PUBLIC  
HISTORY

CAL STATE  
FULLERTON

HISTORY  
DEPARTMENT

SCHOOL OF  
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CENTER FOR ORAL & PUBLIC HISTORY  
**COPH**  
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# Voices

Volume 4, Issue 1

Fall 2007

## CSUF Fiftieth Anniversary Update: Digital Library

By Lorene Broersma, Research Associate



As the opening celebration for Cal State Fullerton's Golden Anniversary approaches, I have had the opportunity to reflect on how much there is to learn about the University. The many

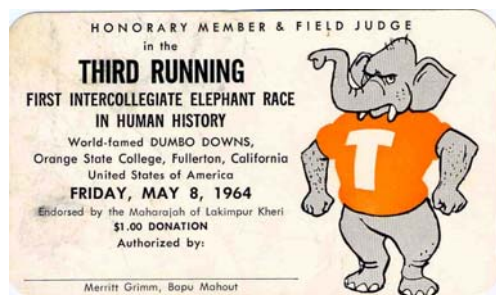
photographs and documents that the various departments and individuals have contributed for the historical documentation project are being added to the digital collection of university history. Visitors to this digital exhibit can view such photos as President Langsdorf watching the ground breaking for the new Orange County State College campus, the construction of

McCarthy Hall, the University's first building, and the ground breaking of the new Steven G. Mihaylo Hall for the College of Business and Economics. For people who missed earlier anniversaries, there are documents and photos from the 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. From

...the digital library will provide the opportunity to view a portion of the vibrant Cal State Fullerton story.

1967 is an Associated Women Students' Handbook with a suggested dress code for women students attending class, athletic events, or "coke dates;" it even de-

scribes more formal occasions where gloves might be proper accessories. This handbook from 1967 can be contrasted with the demands for a Political Action Laboratory from striking students who occupied the Music and Drama Building for eight days in 1970. The striking students stated they needed the building as headquarters for their "various activities such as marches, lectures, leaf-letting, and guerilla theatre..." With items such as these, the digital library will provide the opportunity to view a portion of the vibrant Cal State Fullerton story. ☘



Memorabilia from the 1964 elephant race.

Courtesy of CSUF alumna, Carlos Leija.

**Congratulations to Dr. Art Hansen who, on April 7, 2007, was the recipient of the Association for Asian American Studies Lifetime Achievement Award.**

### Fall '07 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. ☘

### 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

### Former Director's Deferred Dream Materializes

By Art Hansen



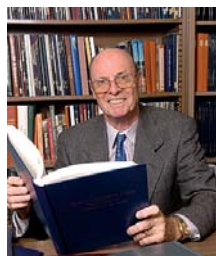
With the fiftieth anniversary commemoration on hand for the 2007-2008 academic year, former Oral History Program (OHP) Director Larry de Graaf is a regular presence around the Center for Oral and Public History (COPH). He has taken a leading part in documenting the historical experience of California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) for the commemoration. This is natural enough given that as a charter member of CSUF and its Department of History, Dr. de Graaf unquestionably knows the campus history better than any other person. He demonstrated this twenty-five years ago when he was the moving spirit in compiling CSUF's twenty-fifth anniversary, as well during the university's fortieth anniversary.

Professor Emeritus de Graaf also served as a pioneer for the OHP, the predecessor to COPH, laying much of the groundwork for its establishment in the early and mid-1960s. Later that same decade, as a modern U.S. political historian, he helped shape the makeup of the OHP's acclaimed Richard Nixon project. Additionally, as a specialist in

California African American history, de Graaf was the founding director of OHP's Black History Project.

In 1979 when de Graaf took on the role of OHP's director, a post he held until 1985, he was one of the leaders in the new public history movement. This movement was designed to provide much needed employment for historians outside the classroom as editors, museologists, archivists, historical preservationists, public policy analysts, and oral historians. Accordingly, he determined that the OHP would serve as an excellent staging ground for launching a public history operation at CSUF whose keystone activity would be oral documentation.

Dr. de Graaf's vision translated itself into several concrete projects of immediate and lasting significance: 1) the Brea Project, centered on a transforming north Orange County city, which included an oral history project, a



Dr. Larry de Graaf

museum exhibit, the Brea Historical Society's rejuvenation, the amassing of key Brea archival records, and the production of master's theses relating to Brea's history, society, and culture; 2) OHP's participation in the ongoing California state government oral history project; 3) the CSUF University History Project; 4) the California State University System Oral History Project; and 5) the publication of a comprehensive collection catalog for OHP.

After his tenure of directorial service with OHP, de Graaf deepened his involvement in public history and launched a public history emphasis with the History Department's graduate studies program. This led to a parade of graduate history students taking course work in public history, doing internships (primarily in the field of historic house management), and producing M.A. projects on a variety of public historical topics, most of which he himself inspired and guided.

When COPH came into existence in 2003, it institutionalized Larry de Graaf's dream for public history to secure a prominent presence within the History Department and on the CSUF campus. Unfortunately, this institutional development occurred simultaneously with de Graaf's retirement. This meant that COPH lost its only true public historian. While its old-guard faculty leaders (Gary Shumway, Harry Jeffrey, and myself) and its newly hired faculty leaders (Natalie Fousekis and Cora Granata) were accomplished oral historians, none of them were bona fide public historians. Although public history classes at the undergraduate and graduate levels were still taught and public historical internships and master's projects continued to be enacted, they were not anchored by professionals who had been educated, trained, and seasoned in the public history field.

Thankfully, the History Department exercised the collective wisdom to "grow COPH" by recruiting for a new faculty position for a public historian during the 2006-2007 academic year. When the search committee for this position, headed by Natalie Fousekis

*(continued on page 7)*

## Your Support Means so Much

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Please make check payable to CSUF ASC—COPH, and send to Center for Oral and Public History, Cal State Fullerton, P.O. Box 6846, Fullerton CA 92834-6846.



# El Toro Marine Air Station Oral History Project

**“...this project exemplifies the corporation’s desire to preserve and honor the memories of the men and women who served at El Toro as the base is transformed into the Great Park.”**

### **We’re Still Looking for**

**Narrators:** If you were stationed at or have significant memories of the El Toro Marine Air Station and would like to participate in the Oral History Project please call (714) 278-8415 or send your contact information to [coph-eltoro@fullerton.edu](mailto:coph-eltoro@fullerton.edu). More information about the project can be found on the COPH website.

“El Toro, I just loved El Toro because this is where I was the happiest in my life,” former Marine Corporal Faye Shumway recalled in an interview with Kira Gentry. She continued, “those two years were so special. I guess it is a, a page of my life that I don’t want to give up. Neither do the girls that were there.” Shumway’s words reflect the views of many former Marines stationed at the El Toro Marine Air Station during World War II and the Korean War. Her story is just one of many uncovered by the COPH student research team conducting interviews with those who lived or worked at the base during the 1940s and 1950s. While many stories of El Toro are upbeat, these interviews also reveal the cost and sacrifice of war – both through the descriptions by those who witnessed the horrors and returned safely as well as their recollections of those who went to the Pacific theatre or Korea, but never came home. These memories have historical value, but they also resonate in 2007 with men and women going abroad to fight a very different war, in a very different era.

In January the Center for Oral and Public History, with funding from the Orange County Great Park Corporation (OCGP), launched the El Toro Marine Air Station Oral History Project. The first phase, being completed this summer, will record seventy-five oral histories with those who were stationed at or have significant memories of El Toro during the World War II and Korean War eras. In

April the OCGP approved funding for an additional 175 interviews with members of the community, veterans, and civilian employees on the base during these transformative eras. Ultimately, OCGP and COPH envision a multi-year and multi-phase project that will include interviews with those stationed at the base and who lived in the surrounding communities during the Cold War, the Vietnam War, and Desert Storm.

This collaborative effort reflects the core values of both the OCGP and COPH. For OCGP, the oral history project exemplifies the corporation’s desire to preserve and honor the memories of the men and women who served at El Toro as the base is transformed into the Great Park. For COPH, while this project will record the stories and memories of the base, it also serves as a collective history of the region itself. When the US military broke ground for the base on the former Irvine Ranch lima bean fields in 1942, Orange County’s population was less than 150,000. When the base closed in 1999, the County had undergone a fifty-six year transformation and housed over 2.9 million residents.

(continued on page 5)



View from the runway at the former El Toro Marine Air Station

## Inside Look: A Researchers Perspective



El Toro Oral History Project Research Team

As the eight enthusiastic researchers crowded around a conference table in January 2007 and listened to Dr. Fousekis outline the El Toro Marine Air Station Oral History Project, no one could have predicted the dedication this project requires or the deep sense of accomplishment and pride team members feel as participants.

Trained in oral history and hand picked by Dr. Fousekis, the team was anxious to get started. Weeks were spent in preparation as reading assignments were discussed and debated, brainstorming sessions produced interview questions, microfilmed editions of the *Santa Ana Register* were painstakingly checked for any mention of El Toro, and a visit to the base brought the project to life. Then it was time to start interviewing. Confronted with the challenge of finding narrators, phone calls were made, various military organizations were contacted, and slowly the list of narrators grew. Finally the project got the boost it needed when an article titled "Oral history

project to record veterans' El Toro memories" was published in the *Orange County Register*. "Get your pencil ready. There are sixteen new voice mails on the El Toro line," Dr. Fousekis told her grad assistant only hours after the piece appeared.

Each researcher was assigned nine potential narrators and the process began. As the first all digital project at the Center, the team readily accepted the challenge and mastered the new technology thanks to the help and patience of the staff at COPH. As the spring semester ended so did the weekly team meetings, however a Yahoo group site and message board keeps researchers in touch and provides a place for discussion, encouragement, and help with the challenges of conducting oral history interviews. ☘

**Narrator Art Rawlings recalled a turkey farm located along the flight path of the planes; so many turkeys committed suicide because of the noise the farm sued the El Toro Marine Air Station!**



Aerial view of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station taken in 1944

## Interview Excerpts

Then and Now: William Greenhouse at El Toro with friend and fellow project narrator, Artie Shaw.



L-R: Greenhouse and Shaw, circa 1940s



L-R: Shaw & Greenhouse, 2007

"I was in the Marine Corps five years and I never rode in a bus, the whole time. We rode in state trucks with two-by-twelve's across for seats. Like when we left El Toro to go Overseas, they had a truckload of men and a truckload of sea bags. Your sea bag would be on the truck behind you... When I first got to El Toro, I thought it was the most beautiful place in the world, being raised in Texas and the Dust Bowl in the Depression. And then going down below the equator in the New Hebrides and getting malaria and dysentery and infections and all this kind of stuff. And then I come here and see all these beautiful orange trees and I thought, Boy! This is the place." - William Greenhouse (Interviewed by Maria Carrillo)

(continued from page 3)

These interviews will help scholars recover the history of Orange County, its people, and the dramatic changes that occurred during the last half of the twentieth century. Tales of officers housed at the Hotel Laguna, Marines hitchhiking to Los Angeles to go dancing, and overpowering smells of orange groves and Eucalyptus trees will emerge among macro-level studies of the impact of America's militarization on the region and the community, the struggle for housing both on and off military bases after World War II, and the changing demographics of the County.

The El Toro Project also represents a milestone for COPH. It is the Center's first digital oral history project. With future funding, digital audio and video clips as well as portions of the transcripts will be available and searchable by the public on the web. Moreover, copies of the entire interview will be available to researchers at the Center for Oral and Public History and at the future Orange County Great Park. ☞

**Following his retirement, Major Billy Hall recounted settling, "in the shadow of the flagpole" of El Toro... It seems that many wanted to live in the shadow of El Toro, for it was El Toro that helped build Orange County.**



Faye Shumway with her dog tags and uniform cap, May 11, 2007



Inside cover to a USMC yearbook ca. 1940

## Interview Excerpts



Corporal Faye Shumway  
Camp Lejeune, 1944

*And I was so full of emotion and America and the Marines and being able to relieve a man to go to the front lines—that's what it was all about. We weren't allowed to go overseas; if we had been I would have been right on the front line too. But our slogan was, "Relieve a man for the front line." And so I came home and I'll never forget getting off in my little hometown, my little hometown only had ninety-five population. All my friends, a lot of my high school friends, were waiting at the little tiny bus station and we had a juke box in there and I'll never forget what it was playing when I stepped off the bus. There was an old country song called "Pistol Packin' Momma." It was playing that song as I got off the bus and I had this great big banner around my arm that said, "I'm a Marine."*

*So graduation day came. The parade field was ready, we were in our dress greens, the red tassels on our hat was just perfect. We had all lost weight; we looked great after six weeks. We all had waist lines. Our legs looked nice. The parade field, the Marines were playing, the band was playing. The generals were all sitting up in the grandstands. And we marched by and when our sergeant said, "Eyes right." We looked towards the General and saluted us. And I break up, it was so emotional. It was so terrific to know that I was a real honest-to-goodness true American Marine. And after that, in a couple of days, the sergeant came in and she had tears in her eyes. She said, "You are leaving me, you are going to California." We screamed, we yelled, we hugged each others necks; we were so happy. We were—we all wanted to go to California anyway. And I knew my mother and father would just be devastated, I was going to be gone so far. But on the other hand they were happy for me. And I, I was so excited! So in a couple more days we had our sea bags packed and we were put on a troop train. Would you believe it took seven days for that train to come to California because of the boys that were going to be sent overseas to fight the war, they take precedent over our troop train because we were just going to California to El Toro.* -Faye Shumway (Interviewed by Kira A. Gentry)

## Student Reflections

"I'm a proud Marine. Proud of those that went before me, proud of our history and heritage. My passion for history started in the Marine Corps. To now work on the El Toro project where I can capture a part of Marine Corps history is a blessing."  
-Brenda Arreola, undergraduate student

"As a person without any prior knowledge of the Marine Corps, the El Toro Oral History Project has been a real learning experience. Having the opportunity to meet such an amazing group of people whose lives intertwined with the history of the base is a true honor and I am grateful to be a part of it." - Maria Carrillo, graduate student

"This project is a way for me to connect my family background (my grandfather was in the Royal Air Force during WWII) and my new sense of self as an Orange County resident. It also is important for us to paint a larger picture; to how El Toro interacted with community, politics, economy, and global issues." – Sarah Davison, undergraduate student

Working on this project has helped me understand that whether I believe in war or not, it is extremely important to support our people in uniform. They are normal people who risk their lives for what they believe in. Once a war begins and our government becomes involved, somebody has to be there fighting or running things from military bases. I do not know if I would ever be courageous enough to do that or strong enough to accept my child being in the battlefield. But these women, men, and their families all endured the reality of war. Some lost family members, others returned physically disabled, but all were empowered with their experiences whether in battlefield or not. Aside from giving tribute to these men, women and their families, this project will help researchers and community members to see these marines as regular people who sacrificed so much in the name of patriotism and liberty." – Maria Hernandez-Figueroa, graduate student

With each individual story, this project captures a moment in a person's lifetime, ensuring the world does not forget his or her contribution and sacrifice. The individual experience is priceless, and whether seen through the eyes of military personnel, their families, or local farmers, this project preserves a part of history that could easily be forgotten. El Toro could be just another closed base lost in the annals of time, but through this project, we are insuring its legacy will live forever.  
- Kira Gentry, graduate student

"Having grown up in Irvine the El Toro Marine Base was always a part of my childhood - I never missed an Air Show! My hope is that future generations will understand that the "Great Park" was once home to hundreds of thousands of our nation's bravest men and women." - Rob Miller, graduate student

"As MCAS El Toro and the men and women who served there disappear from Orange County's sight and memory, I'm glad to be a part of a team that will counteract that trend by preserving the history of the people and base that shaped Orange County. Growing up in Aliso Viejo, I had constant exposure to the Marine Corps in the form of the planes overhead and pilots next door. El Toro is the reason why I decided to be a Marine and I feel it is a duty to ensure that the memory of the base and its Marines lives on." – Juan Silva, undergraduate student

"We are recording the histories of the survivors; what about those who came back in wooden boxes, were buried on the ocean floor, or worse yet their bodies so torn apart that not enough remained to bury? My hope now is that the people at the Great Park will also include some memorial to the war dead as well as those still living. Undoubtedly, they too like many of our narrators had great stories to tell, were gracious and loving people, and served their country with pride and enthusiasm." - Janet Tanner, graduate student ☘



**"When I asked him about how he wanted El Toro to be remembered, he looked at me, said, 'People need to know what it [El Toro] meant to those who didn't come back.'" - Lt. Col. Jesse Lewis, interviewed by Sarah Davison**



*As part of their assignment, CSUF students were led on a guided tour of the former marine base by Lt. Col. Bill Kogerman.*

## Things To Consider When Purchasing Recording Equipment

By Sharon Owen Pellegrino

### Equipment

- Consumer grade portable cassette decks are fairly easy to purchase and affordable as of 2007; professional equipment remains beyond most people's budget and is difficult to find. Digital equipment is available in a huge price range depending on need and budget.
- Analog equipment runs on batteries or electrical cord. Digital equipment runs on batteries, electrical cord and or charged through plug or computer.
- Manufacturers of reel-to-reel and cassette professional equipment for playback and mastering are not expected to be around in 5 years. Most have already stopped production of quality cassette machines. Prices will soar (they are already in the thou-

sands of dollars).

### Software

- Digital software allows editing and fast transfers to multiple formats, increases accessibility and use through the internet and the variety of compressed formats, and is user friendly for a variety of project applications.
- Analog tapes must be digitized in real time before using with software.

### User Friendly

- Both digital and analog equipment are easy to use once trained. Digital units are light and small and do not break as easily because of no moving parts inside. Cassette units are heavier and contain a lot of moving parts including



the head that can easily be damaged. This produces dropouts if not properly dealt with.

### Misc

- Digital recorder prices will continue to go down, many units have both internal memory and expandable external memory. USB connection allows fast digital transfer rate to computer.
- Analog tapes will continue to increase in cost, stability of manufacturers and their products is unknown but expected to decrease and become extinct within a few years. Major suppliers are based in China, Korea and Russia. Continued production in these countries are dependant on government support which can be suspended at any time.

*Article to be continued in the next issue*

**(Directors Report—continued from page 2)**

discovered that it could not decide between two outstanding finalists for the tenure-track position, it recommended that both of them be hired. This recommendation was unanimously approved by the History Department and then, with the combined support of its chair, Bill Haddad, and the dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tom Klammer, the action was taken to hire both Dr. Benjamin Cawthra and Dr.

Raymond Rast.

Between finishing his master's degree and doing his doctoral work at Washington University, Ben Cawthra worked for nine years as a museum professional at the distinguished Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis, where he curated a major innovative exhibition on the life and work of noted jazz musician Miles Davis. He also served as the book editor for the Missouri Historical Society Press. His doctoral dissertation, "Blue Notes in Black and White: Photography, Race, and the Image of Jazz, 1936-1965," grew out of his mu-



*Dr. Ben Cawthra*

seum curatorial experience. It integrates visual culture and gender studies with social, cultural, and political history by assessing the representation of the music in photojournalism, album covers, and fine art photography. Dr. Cawthra has taught a wide variety of classes, including public history and African American history and culture, and was awarded Washington University's highest teaching award for graduate students.

As for Ray Rast, he followed up his undergraduate history major at Yale University by taking his M.A. degree at the University of New Mexico, where he produced a thesis on the topic of "Museumizing the West: Myth, Tourism, and Preservation in Taos, New Mexico, 1945-1984." He then matriculated in the doctoral history program at the University of Washington, which was culminated by his 2006 dissertation: "Tourist Town: Tourism and the Emergence of Modern San Francisco, 1869-1915." While a doctoral student, Ray Rast received the 2002 Student Project Award from the National Council on Public History for the



*Dr. Ray Rast*

National Historic Landmark nomination he prepared for the Japanese American site on Bainbridge Island, Washington. A year earlier, he was given the first prize for a completed project in preservation by the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Washington for the same nomination. Dr. Rast is drawing upon his Mexican American heritage in a current public history work focused on César Chávez and the Farmworker Movement in the American West. During the academic year 2006-2007, he was a visiting assistant professor of history at the College of Wooster, in Ohio, teaching courses in U.S. urban history and public history.

Ben Cawthra and Ray Rast are the missing pieces that are needed to complete COPH's institutional mosaic and the History Department's mission to serve not merely its students' scholarly needs, but also to prepare them to deliver their historical knowledge and skills to the society at large. In so doing, they will help fulfill the promissory note floated by Larry de Graaf throughout his long and distinguished relationship with CSUF, the History Department, and OHP-COPH. ☼

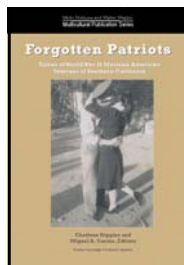
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## *Forgotten Patriots*

Book editors  
Charlene M. Riggins and  
Miguel Garcia hosted a series  
of book signings featuring  
narrators from the newest  
edition in the Michi Nishiura  
and Walter Weglyn Multicultural Publication  
Series. *Forgotten Patriots: Voices of World War  
II Mexican American Veterans of Southern  
California* is a much needed tribute to a well  
deserving ethnic minority, Mexican  
Americans. This book chronicles the  
experiences of people that have been  
marginalized in the history books. These men  
and women share emotions, anecdotes, insights, hopes, and experiences of their communities and  
the impact of World War II on them and their families.



left to right - Joe Lopez, Virginia Benavidez, Charlene Riggins, David Fuentes, Miguel Garcia (back), and William Sanchez.

To purchase your copy please give us a call or visit our on line bookstore.

## *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 web site.

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