

COPH Takes A Holiday

By Stephanie George



It was a trip we had been planning for nearly six months, so the excitement of heading to Ventura County was palpable. As we left Orange County and its early morning traffic and miles of suburban housing, we talked about the Agri-Express Tour, offered by Fillmore and Western Railway, and how their experience in developing heritage tours might translate into something similar for the Center for Oral and Public History.

Turning off the 101, we were immediately transported to what much of Orange County looked like fifty years ago. Grove after grove of citrus trees punctuated by small cisterns, fields full of laborers, and fruit stands at nearly every intersection were all we saw for several miles. A

powerful fragrance of oranges and lemons filled the air as we turned into the Limoneira Company in Santa Paula, the starting point of our field trip.

This tour, a cooperative effort among several businesses in the Heritage Valley, began with a short walk through Limoneira's production and processing plants. There, people and machines shared the effort of selecting, grading, and boxing citrus that would be sent around the world. I couldn't help but think about the last of the packing houses in Orange County. The noise, the temperature, and the repetitive motion of weighing and moving boxes full of oranges brought to life some of the same stories told by Placentia's packing house workers held in our collections.

After a narrated motor coach ride through their vast citrus, avocado, pistachio, and cherry orchards, we headed for Giessinger Winery in Fillmore before climbing aboard the train for a delicious lunch prepared with locally-grown ingredients. After dining, a guest speaker provided a description of his life as a strawberry grower in



COPH staff enjoying lunch

the Valley – quite fitting as we concluded our meal with strawberry shortcake. An earlier train derailment caused a slight delay in our departure, but we eventually pulled out of the station and headed toward Piru through fields of lettuce, strawberries, artichokes, and several vegetables unidentifiable to us city slickers.

We stopped for a short respite at a honey stand and sampled their varieties — including cactus — before arriving in Piru and boarding another motor coach.

Docents at Rancho Camulos told us about the current 1800 acre ranch, carved out of the former Rancho San Francisco established more than 150 years ago. Once a self-contained ranch, it's now a commercial citrus operation in addition to a non-profit museum containing more than

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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

The Front Desk

By Art Hansen



When you first walk into the office of our Center for Oral and Public History

you will meet, occupying the front desk, a person of great significance to our operation and someone clearly destined for a bright future. Ever since our Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tom Klammer, and our History Department Chair, Bill Haddad, in their joint wisdom opted a few years ago to assign COPH a regularly funded graduate assistant position, we have been blessed with a string of remarkable young scholars who have endowed the chair at the front desk with their presence. Individually and collectively these people have made a substantial contribution to COPH, and I want to use this opportunity to tell you about them, and to thank them.

The first of this group was Cheryl Amarasuriya Eberly. Born and raised in Malaysia, she was nurtured by its profound multicultural heritage and early on developed a special insight into the nature of ethnic diversity and



Cheryl Eberly

religious pluralism. While completing her M.A. in history at CSUF, Cheryl drew upon her heritage, insight, and acquired knowledge to co-edit a book (with M. Megan Tanaka) in the COPH-sponsored Weglyn Multicultural Publication Series: *Behind the Orange Curtain: Religious Pluralism in a Southern California County*. Thereafter Cheryl earned a second advanced degree, receiving a master's in library and information science from San José State University, while teaching world history courses at Hope University. Cheryl is currently the Curator of the Local History Collection at the Santa Ana Public Library.

Succeeding Cheryl in COPH's front desk was Trangdai Tranguyen. After moving to the U.S. from her native Vietnam at age nineteen, Trangdai completed her B.A. (with four majors, in two of which she was



Trangdai Tranguyen

named Outstanding Student) and M.A. (in history) at CSUF. While employed as COPH's graduate assistant, she authored several published articles, delivered a rich variety of professional conference papers, and upon completing her graduate degree was accorded the Outstanding Graduate Student Award. On the strength of her achievements, Trangdai was named a Fulbright Scholar and spent a postgraduate year in Sweden studying the Vietnamese migration and settlement experience in that northern European country. Trangdai is presently starting the second of her five-year doctoral fellowship at Stanford University in the field of social anthropology.

The next graduate assistant to occupy the front desk at COPH was Miguel Garcia. A Mexican American student from the Los Angeles suburb of South Gate, he spent only one year, instead of the usual two, as COPH's graduate assistant. Yet within this short interval he



Miguel Garcia

compiled an outstanding record. In addition to co-editing (with Charlene Riggins) the latest book in COPH's Weglyn Multicultural Publication Series: *Forgotten Patriots: Voices of World War II Mexican American Veterans of Southern California*, Miguel was recently announced as one of the

recipients in the fiercely competitive Pre-Doctoral Program sponsored by the California State University system, and this coming year will complete his M.A. in history with an emphasis upon military history and oral and public history.

As of this July, there is a new occupant of COPH's front desk, Kira Gentry, who was highly recommended by COPH Associate Director Cora Granata to fill the vacant graduate assistantship



Kira Gentry

post. An undergraduate major in Radio-Television-Film at CSUF, with a history minor, Kira interned at a film studio and is interested in the relationship between history and film. For a modern European history class she took with Professor Granata last year, Kira and her classmates conducted interviews with Europeans who experienced World War II, and Kira later transcribed some of these interviews. Not surprisingly, Kira graduated with her BA summa cum laude. In the words of Professor Granata, Kira is "fantastic, very responsible, smart, and motivated." Welcome to COPH's front desk, Kira; you are sure to enrich an already rich tradition. ☘

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. ☘

COPH Takes a Holiday — (continued from page one)

15 buildings. Chatting with the docents gave us the opportunity to discuss the commitment to managing a non-profit museum and the critical role well-informed docents play. Before returning to Limoneira, we stopped at a multi-generational family farm roadside stand. There the diversity of fruits and vegetables was astonishing, and we all left with quite a selection of “farm fresh” items for our ride home the following day.

What proved paramount to our field trip was our discussion with Diane Newman in Santa Paula, the public relations representative with the Filmore and Western Railway. She spent another two hours with us, walking us through what it took to launch such an ambitious undertaking. It gave us plenty to think about with regard to partners, audience, staff time, and marketing.

The following day, after spending the morning at the California Oil Museum in Santa

Paula, we gathered our belongings and headed back home. On the road, we observed how the chaparral on the hills was quickly replaced with buildings and overpasses.

In less than a few generations, agrarian life in Orange County has become little more than a memory for most people. However, our field trip to Ventura County may have provided a method for keeping that memory alive. ☼

Preserving the Past: One Generation At A Time

By Kathleen Frazee

The Orange County Pioneer Council continues its significant efforts to record the history of early Orange County. With encouragement from Bonnie Christeson, Jim Kettler and his two brothers, Jack and William, recorded their family history punctuated with memories of growing up in Huntington Beach. Carol and Ray Carney are gathering his recollections and soon will hand off the transcript to the COPH staff for final processing.

The Council established a new policy this year, too, when they decided to hire an experienced interviewer to conduct an interview for them. After the death of two of their members who regularly conducted interviews and the loss of others due to pressing schedules and health issues, the Council realized they needed help. Special donations made to the project enabled them to hire a COPH associate, Clay Spencer, just before he left to work in the Peace Corps. His interview with Peggy Muckenthaler Albert is currently being processed by Eileen DeCair, a Council member and COPH associate.

As the “younger generation” adds their reminiscences to the substantial collection gathered by council volunteers over the last twenty-five years, another phase of the county’s history is being preserved. It’s sometimes hard to realize that our own lifetime can be considered historically significant, but without these individual memories being recorded, the complete picture of the county’s growth and change cannot be seen.

If all goes as planned, these interviews will be ready to present at the next Annual Meeting in April 2007. Individuals may come to the Center’s reading room and enjoy all of the Council’s interview transcripts and photographs during our regular business hours. Just phone ahead to make sure there is no meeting that will call the staff away on the day you plan to come. ☼



Field Trip Scrapbook

“The Ethnic Straight Jacket”

By Cora Granata



Using extensive oral history interviews she conducted in Germany in 1999 and 2002, Cora Granata published an article in May 2006 in the *German Studies Review*. The article examines the period from 1952 to 1964, when communist leaders of the German Democratic Republic championed the culture and language of the Sorbs, a Slavic-speaking minority in East Germany. Ironically, the state’s promotion of bilingual education in German and Sorbian met with grassroots opposition from Sorbs and non-Sorbs alike. By emphasizing Sorb cultural difference from other Germans, the state’s efforts to promote Sorb identity unintentionally fueled ethnic German nationalism. This opposition, largely neglected by existing scholarship, led the state to reverse its bilingual education policies.

Based on oral histories and sources she mined from regional East German archives, Granata’s article demonstrates the power of popular ethnic sentiments to shape state policy in the East German dictatorship. Article citation: “The Ethnic Straight Jacket: Bilingual Education and



Grassroots Agency in the Soviet Occupied Zone and German Democratic Republic, 1945-1964,” *German Studies Review* 29, no. 2 (May 2006), 331-346. ☼

COPH Compiles Digital Library in Honor of University Anniversary

By Lorene Broersma,
Research Associate



In 2007, California State University, Fullerton will begin celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary. The Center for Oral and Public History is helping the University prepare for this milestone event by building a digital library of University history. Many departments across campus have already submitted surveys of their historical records; and other departments have stated their inventories will be completed in the near future. The Civil Engineering department has contributed several CDs of pictures from the 2005

American Society for Civil Engineers competition hosted by Cal State Fullerton's student chapter of ASCE. The pictures are of event contests such as concrete canoes, steel bridges, and seismic design. Even though this competition is



*Cal State Fullerton Titan Thunder
2005 Civil Engineers Competition*

recent history, it will provide future researchers an interesting glimpse into the history of the Civil Engineering department. The Engineering department also provided the COPH with the names of two CSUF alumni who won the concrete canoe event in the 1978 ASCE competition.

The surveys have revealed many interesting documents of departmental history, and the COPH has borrowed many of the records for scanning. So far, scanning of departmental photographs and documents has produced over two dozen CDs of records. Among the scanned documents are records from the Kinesiology Department provided by Dr. Kathy Koser, the Department Chair. Kinesiology records included a 30-page history of the Athletic Department and physical education programs at Cal State Fullerton written by Dr. Elmer Johnson, the Director of Athletics in 1964. These scanned images are currently being imported into the digital library database.

To help manage the growing collection of the University's historical documents, the COPH has acquired the PastPerfect Museum Software Program for the digital library. This program provides cataloging capabilities and collection management for archival records and



CSUF concrete canoe team in action

digital images. Once up and fully running, PastPerfect will enable researchers to use different search methods for examining the CSUF 50th Anniversary Collection. Search methods will include keyword, people, search term, subject, and query command. PastPerfect also translates the records into a Dublin Core metadata record for describing digital material. Because it has a standardized set of elements, Dublin Core is used as an information exchange format on the Internet. This will enable the COPH to present the proud history of California State University Fullerton to the world. ☞

From the Cal State Fullerton Fiftieth Anniversary Collection:

Interesting facts about CSUF from "Twenty Five Years in the Department of HEPER" written by Dr. Elmer Johnson

From the Did you know...?

Back in the early 1960s, the athletic department was formally known as The Department of Health Education, Physical Education, and Recreation or (HEPER).

During the period of 1960—1965 all basketball practices and home games were held in the Fullerton Junior College Gymnasium.

In December 1965 Fullerton scheduled a Freshman Basketball game with the UCLA freshman basketball team. UCLA players in this game included Kenny Heitz, Lynn Shackelford, Lucius Allen, and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. It was played before a sold-out crowd and was the inaugural game played at Titan Gym. ☞

Workshop Teaches the Art of Oral History

On August 19 the Pioneer Room Friends Society hosted an oral history workshop given by Kathy Frazee and Sharon Pellegrino at the Escondido Public Library.

In a span of five hours Kathy and Sharon taught participants the art of interviewing parents, friends, neighbors, civic leaders, and town characters for the historical record. Because so many worthy citizens move away or die before their stories have been recorded for posterity, it is recommended that every community club, ethnic heritage group, church, historical society, and even families should select someone to learn the skills required to record the stories of its members. Thanks to Kathy and Sharon twenty-five more people have now acquired the expertise necessary to preserve the past for generations to come. ☞

California Stories Uncovered: Online Exhibit Opens Documenting Early Female Settlers in Orange County

By Sharon Owen Pelligrino

The *California Stories Uncovered* exhibit will debut Wednesday, September 20 near the new Orange County Agriculture and Nikkei Heritage Museum. The event will be held between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Attendees are strongly encouraged to bring photos and stories from their personal collections to share and enhance this phenomenal exhibit. (all photos will be scanned for archival purposes and returned)



Early Orange County settler at an Ostrich Farm

The exhibit will feature stories that will offer the unique perspective of women whose strength and perseverance were essential to the establishment of families and communities in Orange County's rural areas as well as in its towns and near its beaches. These stories are important because they provide rare descriptions of what Orange County was like during its early formation, supply names and locations of people and places long forgotten, and

recount detailed descriptions of what life was like for women during the counties agricultural era.

This project has also created an online interactive multimedia exhibit site that tells the stories of several ethnically diverse women who resided in Orange County, California from 1870-1970, through their own unique perspectives about their day-to-day lives and the challenges and hardships they faced through a century of the county's agricultural heritage. Collectively their stories will bring to light the many different reasons these women and their families came to Orange County, the difficulties they faced, and the ways in which they endured.



Female workers at a local packing house



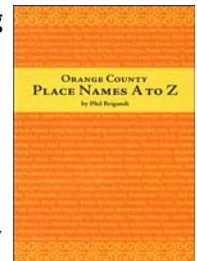
Orange County Place Names A to Z

By Phil Brigandi

"Orange County's place names take us through the history of California's second largest county, from Indian villages to modern master-planned communities."

Author Phil Brigandi is a History Department alumni and has contributed a number of interviews to COPH. He has been heavily involved in Orange County history since 1975 and is currently the county archivist.

His book provides an excellent resource for someone seeking a quick-at-a-glance reference guide where you can find an abundance of information ranging from bios on city founders to background on street names and everything in between. "Here in over 500 alphabetical listings are hundreds of these interesting glimpses into Orange County's colorful past." ☞



Added Hours of Operation

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

- Monday** 8:00am-5:00pm*
- Tuesday** 8:00am-6:30pm
- Wednesday** 8:00am-5:00pm
- Thursday** 8:00am-5:00pm
- Friday** 8:00am-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. ☞

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They're Wearing What???



Here is a photo that was donated to the 50th Anniversary project by the Kinesiology Department. Can anyone identify this? Believe it or not this is a photograph of the HEPER faculty wearing Gay '90's athletic costumes taken circa 1964. Do you have any fun memories to share about the department or recognize anyone in this photo? Let us know! csuf50th@fullerton.edu