

THE MARIA ROGERS Oral History Program

APRIL 2001



NEWS FROM THE APRIL MEETING

Attending the April Oral History meeting were Mary Jo Reitsema, Anne Bramhall, Susan Becker, Lise Cordsen, Mary Reilly-McNellan, June Holmes, June Howard, Jewel Wolcott, Roland Wolcott, Wendy Hall, and Dorothy Ciarlo.

- Mary will interview Estelle Cole in April. Ms. Cole was chairperson of the Landmarks Board for many years. Mary also has plans to interview Steve Bradley, who was coach of the CU ski team in the 1940s.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Headstone Preservation.

Interested in volunteering to work on the preservation of headstones at historic Columbia Cemetery? There will be an information meeting for interested volunteers on April 25 at 7:15 pm in the Iris Center Auditorium (just north of the North Boulder Rec Center on Broadway). Training will take place the first 3 Saturdays in May.

1001 in 2001. Hold this date! September 9, from 2-5 pm at Carnegie Library there will be a celebration of the Oral History Program, which now has more than 1,000 interviews in its collection.

(Meetings take place the first Saturday of each month)

NEXT MEETING:
Saturday
May 5
9:00 a.m.

New Interviews

Susan registered three new interviews in March and completed processing for four interviews, which now are available to the public for viewing or listening (see box for details).

Volunteers interviewed the following people in March:

- June Howard interviewed Marcelee Gralapp, director of the Boulder Public Library.
- Nicky interviewed Elfriede Gamow.
- Lise Cordsen completed her first interview, an interview with Boulder native Gordon Wickstrom
- Wendy also completed her first oral history interview about an old Carnegie photo of the Simpson Mine. She talked with Wayne Arner, whose grandfather owned the mine in Lafayette.

Planned Interviews

The following interviews are in the works:

- Nicky is working on setting up interviews with Virginia and Francis Shoemaker.
- Lise hopes to interview Gordon Wickstrom again, to continue mining his wealth of memories and information. She also plans to interview Betty Wickstrom, Gordon's wife.

Oral History & the Public

Mary Jo and Wendy have put together a display of photos and quotes at the Meadows Library in the Meadows Shopping Center that showcases the Oral History Program. It will be up throughout April. In August, the display will be moved to the main library and

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTION

Interviews added to the collection in March and available to the public include:

OH 0973: Barbara Shanahan recounts the history of the Shanahan family, including the family's arrival in the Boulder area in 1862 and homesteading in the area. Interviewed by Wilda Swift. (audio cassette)

OH 1001-V: Dr. Gilbert White, discusses the Institute of Behavioral Science, the Natural Hazards Center, and floodplain development issues in Boulder. Interviewed by Jon Raese. (video)

OH 1006-V: Dorothy Ciarlo interviews **Glenda Conder** about working for Rocky Flats from 1978-1995. She was one of the first women to be hired as a chemical operator. She also describes her experience of being inappropriately hospitalized by a Rocky Flats psychologist and the union grievance that resulted. (video)

OH 1007-V: June Howard interviews Boulder Public Library Director **Marcelee Gralapp** who describes the growth of the library from one small building in 1959 to today's extensive library system. (digital audio)

expanded as a lead-in to our big celebration of the Oral History Program. A date has been set for the celebration, which will include a reception at the Carnegie Library: mark your calendars for September 9, from 2:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon.

Susan and Barbara are continuing to choose interviews to highlight on the "Interesting Interviews" handouts, which should be ready to distribute at the upcoming celebration.

The handout about the Oral History Program has been completed. Volunteers can present it to interviewees to help them understand the program.

Wendy has had an article published in the Winter 2000 edition of *Colorado Libraries* entitled "Oral History Fast Forward: From Audiocassette to Digital Archive."

This and That

June's interview with Marcelee Gralapp is chock full of fascinating information about the growth of the Boulder Library system. We will be listening to parts of the interview at our May meeting.

Nicky sends her thanks to Ann Bramhall for "mentoring" her through her exemplary interviewing style. Nicky listened to Ann's interview with Virginia Patterson and says, "I learned a lot from Ann about interviewing in an informal, casual, conversational style."

Nicky also offers this tip: if possible, try to allow yourself 15 to 30 minutes to set up your equipment before meeting with your interviewee. (If you are meeting your interviewee at his or her house, you might explain that you need some time to set

up equipment before beginning the interview.)

Dorothy is continuing to experience useful spin-offs from her involvement with the Rocky Flats interviews. In March, she spoke to a CU environmental studies class about the interviews and played clips from the tapes. Clips from the Rocky Flats oral history interviews also will be used in the Virtual Rocky Flats Museum.

If you want to get in touch with Mary Jo, her usual hours at Carnegie are M, 1-9; T, 11-5; and W, 9-3.

We all send "Get Well Soon" wishes to Jim Cox, who is recovering from surgery.

You now can read current and back issues of the Oral History newsletter on the web (address listed below.)

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ORAL HISTORY? INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

If you would like to know more about the Oral History Program, call Mary Jo Reitsema at 303-441-3110

The Oral History Program has volunteer opportunities for people who would like to interview, people who would like to film interviews, and people interested in entering interviews into our new computerized digital archive system. Training is provided in all areas.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Catherine Childs, volunteer coordinator for the library, at 303-441-3114.

LOCATION

Maria Rogers Oral History Program
Carnegie Branch Library
1125 Pine St.
Boulder, CO 80302

MORE INFORMATION ON THE ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM:

www.boulder.lib.co.us/branch/carnegiemariarogers.html

PHONE

Carnegie Library: 303-441-3110
Oral History Voice Mail: 303-441-1981

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Wendy (program coordinator): hallw@boulder.lib.co.us
Mary Jo (volunteer coordinator): reitsemam@boulder.lib.co.us
Susan (archivist): Lextra@earthlink.net