

THE MARIA ROGERS

# Oral History Program

JUNE 2001

## NEWS FROM THE JUNE ORAL HISTORY MEETING . . . . .



Attending the June Oral History meeting were Anne Dyni, Wendy Hall, Jill Quick, Barbara Dolder, Ann Bramhall, Susan Becker, June Howard, Roland Wolcott, Jewell Wolcott, June Holmes, Joanna Sampson, Tiffany Carlson, Guy Errickson, and Nicky Lee.

### New Interviews

Anne recorded a lecture that Wayne Arner gave to the Lafayette Historical Society about the life of his great-grandfather, Joseph Simpson, owner of the Simpson Mine in Lafayette. The recording will become part of the Oral History collection.

Nicky completed an interview with Virginia Shoemaker, the originator of the Learning to Read Program in Boulder.

Susan registered two new interviews in May and completed processing for one interview, which now is available to the public for viewing or listening (see box).

### Oral History News You Can Use

Looking for interesting oral history interviews to listen to? Susan and Barbara have been developing a database of some of our most interesting interviews, organized by subject. Ask Mary Jo for a copy of the database. Eventually, the information in this database will become a series of handouts for the public.

Anne Dyni's book about Erie is now being sold at the Erie Town Hall. It also can be purchased directly from Anne. The cost is \$6.

We got a start on making a tape of memories of Jim Cox after the last Oral History Meeting. If you couldn't join us then, you've got another chance at the July meeting, when we will provide the opportunity for people to add memories to the tape.

We will have a table at the September Oral History Celebration that will display and sell books written by our members. See Wendy to make arrangements.

The Carnegie Library has acquired two new books about creating oral histories: *How to Tape Instant Oral Biographies* by Bill Zimmerman and *To Our Children's Children: Preserving Family Histories for Generations to Come* by Bob Green and D.G. Fulford. The first of these books contains an interesting starter list of questions to ask. The second book contains thirty chapters of question lists, with titles such as "Childhood/Neighborhood," "Elementary School," "Politics and History," "Every Day Life," and even "Ve-

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Celebration Countdown: 1001 in 2001.** Just three months to go till our celebration of the Oral History Program. The festivities will take place September 9, from 2-5 pm at Carnegie Library.

(Meetings take place the first Saturday of each month)

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Saturday**  
**July 7**  
**9:00 a.m.**

## NEW ADDITION TO THE COLLECTION

The following interview was added to the collection in May.

**OH 1010V:** Wayne Arner talks with Wendy Hall about two historic photos of the Simpson Mine in Lafayette, which was owned by his great-grandfather, Joseph Simpson. (video)

Please stop in at the Carnegie Library during our regular hours to listen to or view the above interview or any of our 1,000-plus other interviews.

hicles." Feel free to stop by and use either of these books to help you think of and organize questions for your next interview.

### **Oral History Miscellany**

Anne Dyni moderated a panel last month at the dedication of the Lohr-MacIntosh Agricultural Center about what it was like to grow up in rural Boulder County. The panel was taped, and Channel 8 has donated a copy to the Carnegie Library.

Joanna suggested that it would be valuable to try to do Oral History interviews at the time that the city buys land for Open Space to document the history of each piece of land. We also discussed the possibility of hosting a meeting with heads of government agencies, churches, and organizations such as the Colorado Mountain Club to inform them

about the Oral History Program and the potential for documenting their histories through interviews. Wendy asked Joanna to draw up a list of potential organizations to include and their contacts.

Guy will conduct a camera training session for new volunteers in June.

Barbara has created a mailing list of all of the interviewees since 1990 to use in sending out invitations to the "1001 in 2001 Celebration."

Several people met during the evening in May to work out the next steps for understanding, editing and updating the digital archive of Oral History interviews. Working on this project are: Jeff Skala, John Gress, Ken Morris, Edie Bell, Susan Becker and Wendy Hall. When we are ready to put new information into the

archive, Fred Fead and Barbara Dolder are planning to help with the updating.

Dorothy Ciarlo is arranging for sound clips from six of her Rocky Flats interviews to be used in the "virtual Rocky Flats Museum" being planned for the web. In May, Dorothy and Susan worked together to locate those clips and transfer them from their original tapes (both audio and video) to a digital tape that the developers of the museum could use. This use represents an exciting possibility for a way to get the information in the Oral History interviews out to the public.

Watch for the summer edition of the *Boulder Magazine*, which contains an article about the Carnegie Library and the Oral History Program.

## **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](http://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](mailto:hallw@boulder.lib.co.us)  
Mary Jo (volunteer coordinator): [reitsemam@boulder.lib.co.us](mailto:reitsemam@boulder.lib.co.us)  
Susan (archivist): [Lextra@earthlink.net](mailto:Lextra@earthlink.net)