



FALL MEETING AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Saturday, November 16, 1985



OHMAR will hold its fall meeting in the Center for the Study of Youth Development, Catholic University, Washington, D.C. We shall honor recent professional achievement and consider future professional improvement.

Registration, accompanied by coffee and conversation, will begin at 9:30. A welcome from the Anthropology Department which with the History Department is sponsoring the meeting with OHMAR, will open the program at 10:00. The Forrest C. Pogue Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Oral History will be presented to Alice Hoffman, professor of labor studies and director of the oral history program at Penn State University. She will speak on oral history and historiography, based on her reflections after 20 years. Ronald Marzello, retiring executive secretary of the Oral History Association, will receive a certificate of merit. A business meeting to elect next year's officers of OHMAR will conclude the morning.

Because of current interest among oral historians in the field methods of anthropologists, who also gather and interpret oral evidence in the course of their research, the afternoon will be devoted to a panel discussion, beginning at 1:30, in which two anthropologists and one anthropologist-oral historian team will draw on their experience to discuss such questions as:

How did you obtain and interpret oral information?

How did you see yourself as a part of the creative process of data gathering and interpretation?

They will search with us for answers to the challenge of David Henige, author of Oral Historiography, who asserts that oral historians should be more self-conscious and self-critical about their working concepts and methods, as anthropologists have long tried to be.

Participating anthropologists will be Michael Agar, author of Professional Stranger, Michael Kenny, author of Spanish Tapestry, and Jasper Ingersoll, who is currently working with his wife, Fern, on a book to be entitled The Drama of Development: Struggle for Well-Being in Village Thailand. Fred Steilow, whose research has used both ethnography and oral history, will moderate the panel and the discussion following.

Although not in any way required, reading of chapters by Peter Friedlander, Charles Joyner, and Sidney Mintz in Oral History: An Interdisciplinary Anthology will bring up ideas that will make the discussion more meaningful.

Registration fee for current OHMAR members, students, and retired persons will be \$3 and for others \$5. New OHMAR memberships will be available at this time for \$5 (usually \$8).

Brown bag lunches can be brought and eaten on the lawn, or lunch can be purchased at a campus cafeteria a short distance from the Center. Reservations for an early informal dinner at a Washington restaurant can be made at the registration desk before the morning session.



voluntarily submitted to this control and it leads to positive changes sought by the client, it is a benign form of manipulation. For oral historians I'm not certain the problem is similarly resolvable. Clearly the goal of an oral history interview is not the inducement of positive change in the interviewee. We rather glibly assume that the goal is the simple gathering of information, but this assumption sidesteps entirely the sociology of the encounter itself. Jeremy Brecher raises this issue in his review of Cynthia Cockburn's Brothers: Male Dominance and Technological Change (1983) in the International Journal of Oral History (November, 1984). Noting Cockburn's basically critical evaluation of her interviewees' ideology of gender, he then asks: "What is the nature of our implied contract with our informants, and what limits should that contract place on the way we present time? What are the ethical implications of interviewing people who, if they really understood what we were going to do with the material, would probably not cooperate? On the other hand, what distortions do we introduce into public understanding when we seem to endorse uncritically the images our informants wish to present of themselves?" What indeed? These too are issues for us to ponder.

#### GUIDE TO NEW JERSEY FOLKLORE COLLECTIONS PUBLISHED

"Folklife Resources in New Jersey," a comprehensive guide to the collections, has been published by the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress and the New Jersey Historical Commission. It describes the folk culture collections of 172 museums, historical societies, and other institutions.

The publication is the result of a survey carried out by Peter T. Bartis, folklife researcher at the American Folklife Center, David S. Cohen, coordinator of the Historical Commission's Folklife and Ethnic History Programs, and Gregory Dowd, a doctoral candidate in history at Princeton University.

"Folklife Resources in New Jersey" is available at \$2.00 plus \$1.10 for postage and handling. Make checks payable to Treasurer, State of New Jersey, and order from the New Jersey Historical Commission, Department of State, 113 W. State Street, CN 305, Trenton, NJ 08625.

#### STATE HISTORICAL COMMISSION GRANT FUNDS INCREASE BY \$100,000

A \$100,000 increase in the New Jersey Historical Commission's grant-in-aid funds this year dramatically improves the Commission's ability to assist local historical activities.

Governor Kean recommended the increase, and the legislature approved the additional funds in the annual budget. The Commission's total grant funds this year will be \$200,000. In addition, about \$20,000 is available for grants from the Commission's Afro-American History Program. The Commission is a division of the Department of State.

The Commission's grant programs and application deadlines follow:

Public Programs - Up to \$4,000 to nonprofit organizations for programs that bring the history of New Jersey to a broad general public. November 15.

Local History Research - Up to \$2,000 to nonprofit organizations for original research and writing on New Jersey History. November 15.

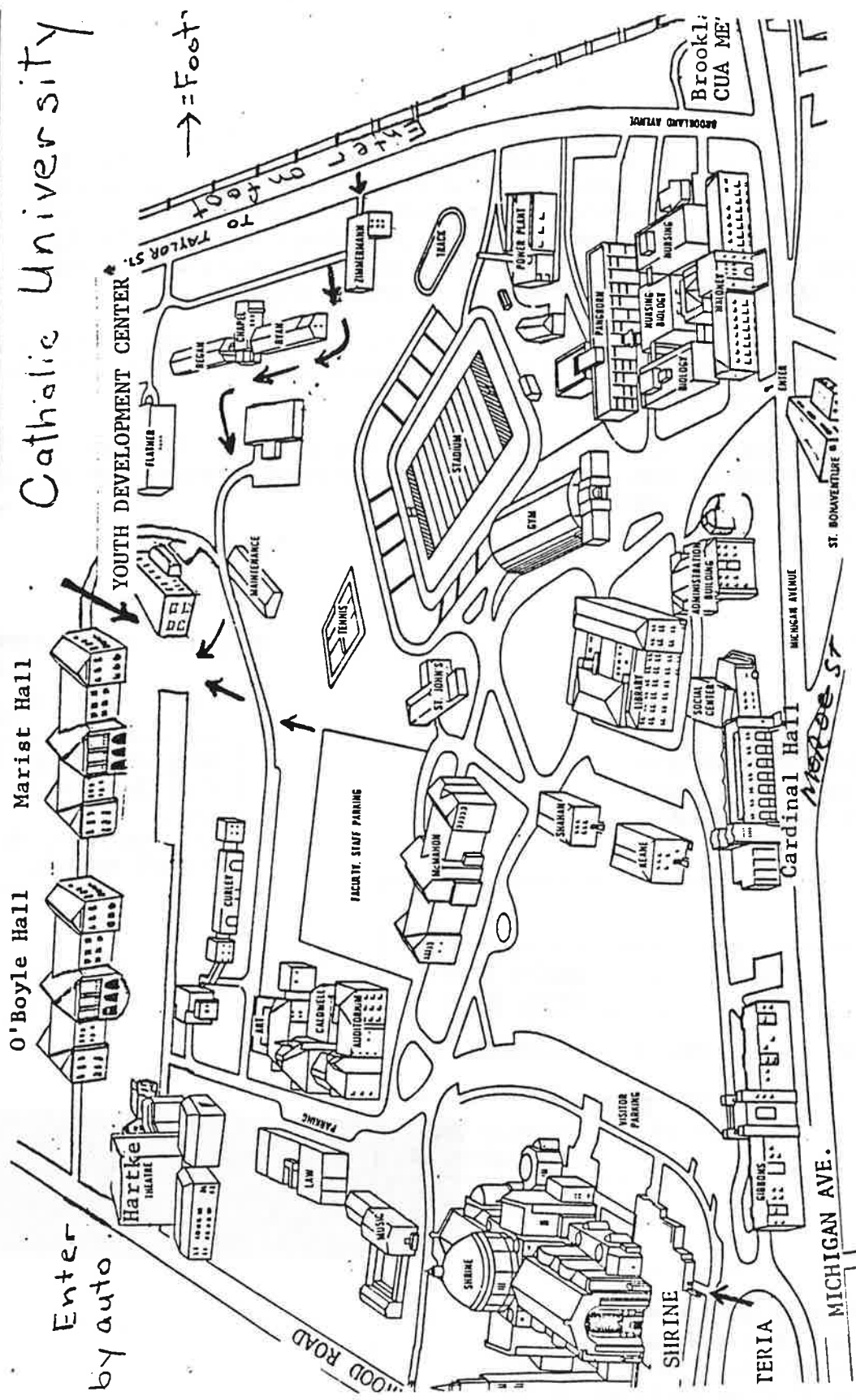
Historical Publication - Up to \$6,000 for the publication of works about the history of New Jersey. November 15.

Research in New Jersey History - Up to \$2,000 to individual scholars for original research and writing on New Jersey history. April 15.

Teaching Projects in New Jersey History - Up to \$1,000 to teachers, administrators or school or college librarians at any instructional level, public or private, for classroom projects dealing with the history of New Jersey. April 15.

Conservation of Historical Collections - Up to \$4,000 to nonprofit organizations for conserving library, museum, and archival collections relating to the history of the state that are accessible to the public. April 15.

Catholic University



Catholic University is located three miles north of the U.S. Capitol. The Metro subway station is Brookland, the second stop north of Union Station on the Red Line to Silver Spring; walk to the left as you come off the escalator from the metro platform. Or, from the Capitol, drive north on North Capitol Street; turn right on Michigan Avenue; continue several blocks until reaching a huge domed church on the left; turn left on Harwood Road; drive almost to the top of the hill and turn right, into the campus, at a sign marked "O'Boyle Hall, Marist Hall, Center for the Study of Youth Development"; the Center for the Study of Youth Development is the third building on your right. Park along the road running behind O'Boyle, Marist, and the Youth Development Center, or along Harwood Road.