

**"Catching Stories: The Oral
History Tradition at Oregon
State University."**



Collections at the Center

Exhibit Curators:
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OSU Special Collections and Archives
Research Center
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The SCARC Oral History Program

- Very active since 2011
- ~1,000 total interviews
 - 400+ conducted since 2011 (all born digital)
- Thirty-six archival collections
 - Thirteen collections available online...in various ways
- 20 cubic feet of physical space:
 - 828 audio cassettes, a bunch of paper transcripts, small bits of other random stuff (CDs, DVDs, reel-to-reel tapes, SoundScriber Discs)
- 2+ TB of born digital content (video .mts files; audio .wav files; various access derivatives; born-digital transcripts)
- Three principal faculty members contributing pieces of their time
 - Adding Honors College colloquium - Winter term 2018
 - Oral history training workshop available: Wed. February 15th, 4:00-6:00



Modest Beginnings for Oral History at OSU: 1970s

- Oregon Pioneers (OH 1)
 - 1975; Journalism student project for the bicentennial
 - 31 audio cassettes
- Robert Ingalls Interview (OH 2)
 - 1977 dissertation project; 2 audio cassettes
- History of OSU (OH 3)
 - Dissertation project (1956) and **Ilona Fry** (1980; 4 interviews)
 - 20+ reel-to-reel tapes and audio cassettes



“I believe that the oral history project is of great potential value to OSU in adding to knowledge about the university’s research contributions over the years, as well as to future historians (though like the WPA projects of the 1930s, their value may not be fully recognized for some time).”

-Lucy Skjelstand, Horner Museum Director, October 3, 1979

(Scrambling for money)

HORNER MUSEUM

Propelling Oral History from 1979-1991

- Massive uptick in activity; mostly one person
- 500+ audio cassettes
- Broad interests in:
 - University history (OH 10)
 - Natural resources economy of Oregon (OH 10)
 - Native American cultures (OH 10)
- Contract projects:
 - CH2M Hill (OH 19)
 - Paul Jensen (OH 22)
 - Benton County Courthouse (OH 23)
 - OSU Microbiology Department (OH 24)



Royal Jackson (and Jennifer Lee)



- OSU Forestry Professor (1970-2004)
- Interested in forest history, nature-based tourism, and protected area management
- Used oral history extensively in his research:
 - Soap Creek Valley (OH 6)
 - Basques of Harney County (OH 4)
 - Descendents of the Battle of Little Bighorn (OH 20)
 - James Cant Ranch (John Day Valley, OR) (OH 25)
 - CCC work at Camp Arboretum/Mac Forest (MSS JacksonR)
 - Emergence of tourism in Central Oregon (MSS JacksonR)
 - Nature-based tourism in Costa Rica (MSS JacksonR)



1992-2011



Well, not entirely...

- Oregon Emergency Farm Labor Service, 1992 (OH 8)
 - 8 audio cassettes; transfer from Anthropology Department
- OSU Alumni, 2005 (OH 13)
 - 11 interviews (with three people) born digital! Coordinated by University Archives
 - **First project involved University Archives since Ilona Fry in 1980**
- OSU Extension, 2007-2009 (OH 14)
 - 16 interviews born digital. Centennial project paid for by Extension Service and conducted by outside contractor in coordination with University Archives
- Nuclear Science at OSU, 2009 (OH 16)
 - 12 interviews born digital and published as a blog. Created to celebrate 50th anniversary of Nuclear Engineering and Radiation Health Physics Department. **Collaboration of the OSU History Department and the University Archives**
- Voices of OSU, 2004 to present (OH 9)
 - Catch-all collection for student oral history projects deposited with SCARC.



HISTORY OF SCIENCE

One-half of the re-emergence of Oral History at OSU

- A trip to Ohio, 2011
- A trip to Hawaii, 2012
- And lots of trips to the 3rd floor of the Valley Library





The Oregon State University Sesquicentennial Oral History Project:

- Three Oral Historians
- Eleven other interviewers
- Eleven student assistants and volunteers; Seven Executive Committee members
- One very large project



OSU's 150TH

OH 150: By the Numbers

- 233 interviews born digital (mostly video)
- 335 hours of content (just shy of two full weeks)
- 2.78 million words transcribed
- 1.72 TB born digital
 - 1 Heisman Trophy winner
 - 2 National Medal of Science recipients
 - 3 OSU Presidents
 - 4 Members of the OSU Board of Trustees



OSU's 150TH

OH 150: By the Numbers

Interviews With:

- 108 alumni from every decade beginning in the 1930s
- 47 current faculty and 51 emeritus faculty (from every college)
- 10 current staff and 12 retired staff
- 6 current undergraduates and 4 current graduate students
- 15 OSU Distinguished Professors (and counting)
- Faculty from ECampus, both branch campuses, and numerous Extension/Experiment Stations
- All three co-chairs of the Campaign for OSU
- Representatives of Sea Grant, Space Grant and Sun Grant



OSU's 150TH

Travel to:

- Washington, D.C.; Houston, TX; Norman, OK; Denver, CO; Saratoga, CA; Longview, WA
- Pendleton, Hood River, Sutherlin, Klamath Falls, Bend, Alsea, Newport and many locations up and down the Willamette Valley



OSU's 150TH

OH 150: By the Numbers

Topical Strengths (N>10)

- Athletics (30)
- Entrepreneurship (16)
- Environmental Sustainability (16)
- International Studies (20)
- Journalism (16)
- Military (31)
- Multiculturalism (47)
- Oceanography (14)
- Public Service (29)
- Women - Advancement of (27)
- [Web Portal](#)



The Oral History Metadata Synchronizer



Lee Hedgmon Oral History Interview, June 9, 2016

Oregon State University
Tiah Edmunson-Morton, Interviewer | OH35-hedgmon-lee-20160609
Oregon Hops and Brewing Archives Oral History Collection I



0:00 / 1:52:09

0:22 - Growing up and Education in Portland, Oregon

16:28 - Experiences with Youth Activism

26:36 - Involvement in the Portland Queer Community

33:38 - Working Experience with Job Corps

40:30 - Undergraduate Study at Portland State University

43:18 - Community Involvement during College / Lesbian Avengers

47:53 - Pursuing Academia at the University of Minnesota / Midwestern Beer Culture

58:35 - Life in Minneapolis

64:23 - Home brewing in Minneapolis / Returning to Portland

72:47 - Graduate School Research/Teaching

78:47 - Gender, Race and the Brewing Community

85:03 - Transition into Brewing Professionally

96:56 - Impact of the Pink Boots Society / Community Inclusion

105:52 - Take-away Messages from Being in the Brewing Community

TRANSCRIPT INDEX

Search this index

Keyword

Search



CULTURAL COMMUNITIES

Oregon Multicultural Archives OSU Queer Archives

Oral History Collections ~ just to name a few!

- OMA Oral History Collection (OH 18)
- Oregon Native American Language Sound Recordings (OH 12)
- IRCO Asian Family Center in Portland (OH 30)
- Oregon African American Railroad Porters (OH 29)
- OSU Cultural Centers (OH 21)



CULTURAL COMMUNITIES

Oregon Multicultural Archives OSU Queer Archives

Oral History Projects ~ OSU Courses and Community Collaborations

- OSQA (OH 34) ~ Student Thesis and HST 368 collaboration
- Latinos en Oregón (OH 32) ~ partnerships with organizations of the Latino/a communities in central Oregon, Yamhill County, and the town of Canby

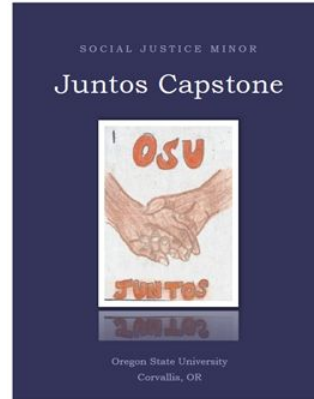


CULTURAL COMMUNITIES

Oregon Multicultural Archives OSU Queer Archives

OSU Student Arts Based Project

- Use of the Latinos en Oregón (OH 32) oral history collection
- Nitché Verdugo, ethnic studies major / social justice minor, and community activist, senior capstone project
- Creation of a *lotería* set based on the themes she heard in the interviews



OREGON AGRICULTURE

Oregon Hops & Brewing Archives

Saving the history of
hops and brewing in
Oregon.



OREGON AGRICULTURE

Oregon Hops & Brewing Archives

- 40 interviews to date
- Different interviewers + co-interviewing
- Collecting from existing creators
- Documenting the variety of those involved in the industries
- Please, no commercials
- I know this is “just business for you...”





About the “Catching Stories” Exhibit



Q & A

As oral historians we've asked a lot of questions, so please, ask us your questions!

