

## FORWARD

This issue of the Canadian Oral History Association Journal presents the proceedings of the 1983 annual conference which took place in Vancouver at the University of British Columbia. More than one speaker remarked that COHA was returning to its place of origin, for it was in 1974 at nearby Simon Fraser University that COHA was founded and its first conference held. The 1983 conference thus was an occasion to review our progress over the past nine years. These proceedings show solid accomplishments in the field of oral history and, I think, a sense of confidence about its place in research and in Canadian culture. It was a compact two-day conference that covered a surprising range of subject areas, both vintage oral history topics and relatively new ones. I think that in all the sessions there was the sparkle of fresh insights, so while we said that oral history had reached a level of maturity we saw there was always new ground to explore and to communicate to each other.

The conference suffered because COHA did not receive its usual conference grants and, as a result, few members from eastern Canada could afford to attend. There are, therefore, no French-speaking sessions to report on, which is regrettable because COHA is a bilingual association. For those who did attend and participate at their own expense we owe the success of the conference. One other regret is that no photographs were taken: they could have embellished and personalized these proceedings. We hope to remedy both of these shortcomings at our upcoming conference in Winnipeg in October. (For details see page 62.)

These proceedings are based upon transcripts of the recorded talks. As COHA members are experienced in oral history they will be understanding that the following pages do not always consist of correct, taut prose. I edited for accuracy and readability, not strict grammar. I also had to reduce the length of the talks in order to fit the proceedings into a standard sized Journal. Many anecdotes, personal references and tangents were removed so long as their removal did not detract from the meaning and tone of each talk. Question periods have not been included either even though they provided thoughtful counterparts to the prepared talks. However, the complete transcripts and tapes are available at the Sound & Moving Image Division of the Provincial Archives of British Columbia. Transcription was undertaken by the kindly Hansard Service and by the equally kind Elizabeth Mayer of Victoria, B.C.

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