



VOL. XXIV, NO. 4

SUMMER 1991

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is a great honor--and a great challenge--to be the new president of the Western Association of Women Historians. I look forward to the next two years and to working with all of you.

Our organization is in very good shape, thanks to the energy and efficiency of our outgoing officers. I want especially to thank Betsy Perry for her fine work as president and especially for making the position of president-elect painless for me during a time when I was deeply immersed in historical activities at the international level. Betsy has proved herself an able administrator as well as a fine scholar. We are greatly in her debt. Heartfelt thanks, Betsy, from all of us.

I wish also to thank the other continuing and retiring elected officers. Marguerite (Peggy) Renner, previously our capable treasurer, will be president-elect. Congratulations! Karen Blair, formerly chair of the Sierra Prize Committee, has been elected treasurer. Alison Klairmont Lingo will continue as membership secretary, and I am delighted that she has agreed to do so. Sherry Katz is "retiring" as graduate student representative (and as a graduate student!), to be succeeded by Regina Lark, of California State University, Northridge. Sherry has done a terrific job of organizing the graduate student network, and we wish her well as she moves out into the post-graduate world. Thanks, Sherry!

Susan Wladaver-Morgan will continue as *Networker* editor, an inspiration to us all, with her timely, meticulous, and effectively presented publications; we appreciate your good work. Next year's conference coordinator will be Nancy Page Fernandez, from CSU, Northridge, and our conference program chair will be Edith Gelles, of Stanford. We are deeply indebted to this year's coordinator, Valerie Sherer Mathes, who did such a good job of pulling together the arrangements at Asilomar, and to Janet Farrell Brodie, who took over the program committee and organized a terrific scholarly conference for us. Many thanks to Susan, Valerie, and Janet for your work for

WAWH! Susan Puz is retiring as publicity chair, and we thank you, Susan, for your efforts too.

Without the work of our prize committees and graduate fellowship committee, our prizes would go begging. Many thanks to Karen Blair, Barbara Corrado Pope, and Carole Srole, and to your committee members, for the time-consuming and invaluable work in selecting our winners! The new prize and fellowship committee chairs and members will be appointed this summer.

In addition, I wish to thank the past presidents who have continued to serve us in an advisory capacity for their expertise, in particular Penny Kanner for her ongoing work as WAWH liaison with other historical organizations.

The nominating committee, Sarah Stage (chair), Susan Groag Bell, and Jess Flemion, did a fine job of establishing a slate for the 1991-1993 term. Thank you all for your conscientious and creative assistance.

During my presidency of WAWH, I will be particularly interested in promoting two initiatives in addition to continuing the programs already underway.

(1) The first initiative is to encourage comparative historical analysis among our members, especially at our annual meeting. This might take the form of either individual or collective efforts to examine an historically important issue in more than one country or region, working cross-culturally to reach deeper insights.

(2) The second is to establish WAWH's interest in and concern with the California History-Social Science Framework for grades K-12, in which history has been designated as central. The importance of this California framework for educational reform reaches far beyond the borders of this state. To make our presence felt, as a constituency of concerned historians, we established a Standing Committee of the Association at our annual meeting. The committee will be

constituted this summer, drawing on the talent and expertise that is available in our group. Our intention is to put together an expert committee that **cannot be ignored** by state officials, textbook publishers, trainers of teachers, or the community of educators in primary and secondary schools.

More information will be forthcoming in future newsletters about these new initiatives. In the interim, I would especially welcome hearing from WAWH members interested in helping with either initiative or wishing to take a more active role (or suggesting others who might) in various ongoing aspects of our associational activities.

Karen

HERE'S TO THE WINNERS!

The annual WAWH prizes were announced at the presidential dinner at Asilomar. The winners are:

The Sierra Prize for best book, to Mary Elizabeth Perry, for Gender and Disorder in Early Modern Seville (Princeton University Press, 1990).

The Judith Lee Ridge Prize for best article, to Margaret DeLacy, for "Puerperal Fever in Eighteenth-Century Britain," Bulletin of the History of Medicine, 63 (1989).

The Graduate Student Fellowship, to Anne Marie Poole from UCLA, for her dissertation on Saint-Simonian women.

Warm congratulations to all.

WORDS FROM OUR FOUNDING MOTHERS

Those who attended the conference at Asilomar were most fortunate to hear talks by not one but two of the founding mothers of WAWH--Grace H. Larsen and Mary Ann Mason. Both gave us great reason to proud of the organization and the tradition to which we belong by virtue of being women historians.

Grace Larsen, emerita of Holy Names College, gave the Founders' Memorial Lecture, in honor of Rena Vassar. She reminisced about her childhood and how she came to become a historian. Along her way, she encountered both strong encouragement and occasional discrimination, but by and large was sustained by her excitement about the questions of history and by her supportive colleagues and husband. She spent a decade as a researcher and writer when teaching jobs for women grew scarce, but eventually returned to teaching at Holy Names College, which is run by a Catholic teaching order; she describes the college as "one of the most cordial and loving environments in which I have ever worked." Now retired, she continues her active research on women in agriculture, reflecting the background of her childhood.

Mary Ann Mason, both a historian and a lawyer, now teaches family law in the school of social welfare at Berkeley. She spoke at the President's Dinner on the topic "Everything I Ever Needed to Know I Learned at the First Meeting of WAWH." Both reminiscence and advice, her talk centered on the following points:

1. "Women Share Best." We share ideas, strategies, insider knowledge, and food. That sharing can make all the difference, and we need to do even more of it.

2. "Women Historians Can Have Babies Too." This is a liberating lesson, even if "having it all" promises more than the phrase can deliver. One thing we have learned over the past 20 years is that we need collective action to create career tracks that take child-rearing into account and have to help each other to make such changes happen.

3. "Women Historians Can Study Women in History, But They Don't Have To." Women's history is an exciting field because it has been so little explored, but history has other destinations too. Let's not forget them.

4. Take Time to Smell the Seaweed. Let us remember the word "Western" in our organization's name and the special relationship to the land that it implies, for in unknown ways, this affects how we think about everything, including history.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

The second annual Graduate Women's Feminist Conference will take place in Berkeley, October 5, 6, and 7, 1991, on the topic "Boundaries in Question: Dialogues in Theory and Practice: Feminisms Across the Disciplines." Please submit paper or panel proposals by **September 6, 1991**, to Boundaries in Question, c/o Francoise Verges, 1437 Walnut St., Berkeley, CA 94709. (Papers should be 8-10 pages; panels should consist of 3-4 papers).

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin and the Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison, announce a conference on "Reworking American Labor History: Race, Gender, and Class," to be held April 9-11, 1992, in Madison. Proposals for papers or entire sessions are requested by **September 15, 1991**. For information, contact R. David Myers, Library Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State St., Madison, WI 53706; (608) 262-9586.

The fourth national conference on the history of American rural and farm women will take place June 19-22, 1992, at UC Davis. It will bring together scholars, farm women, extension workers, organizers, and policy analysts to share and evaluate past research and current work, as well as to propose an agenda for future activities from a multicultural perspective. The program committee welcomes proposals for workshops, papers, and other presentations in interdisciplinary areas, including: family/kinship; land tenure and environment; life cycle; work; technology; public policy; material culture; oral history; health; child care; and community life. Interested persons should submit a brief description of the presentation to Joan

Jensen, Dept. of History, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM 88003 by October 1, 1991.

The International Conference on the History of Marriage will be held at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, May 13-16, 1992. Proposals are invited for individual papers or complete sessions; comparative sessions are especially welcome. Proposals should include title and abstract of paper(s), together with a very brief c.v. of the participant(s); they should be sent to Roderick Phillips, Dept. of History, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada K1S 5B6. Deadline for submissions is October 1, 1991.

The Groupe de Recherches et d'Etudes Nord-Americaines will meet March 20-22, 1992, in Aix en Provence, France. The topic will be "Voices and Language in the United States." Papers may be presented in either English or French. Send proposals by October 1, 1991, to Serge Ricard, GRENA Chairman, Centre des Lettres et Sciences Humaines, 29 avenue Robert Schuman, 13621 Aix en Provence, France.

The International Conference of the Columbus Quincentenary invites papers concerning Columbus and his world, Renaissance discovery, North American Indians, and other topics. The deadline is October 1, 1991. For information, contact Tim Morgan, Program Chair, Columbus Quincentenary Conference, Newport College, Newport News, CVA 23606-2998; (804) 594-7158.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

The National Council for the Social Studies seeks nominations for the Annual Exemplary Dissertation Award. Dissertations completed between June 15, 1989 and June 15, 1991, in areas related to social studies education are eligible. The recipient will receive a certificate of merit, \$250, and recognition at the annual meeting in November 1991. Deadline for abstract submissions is July 15, 1991. For information, contact Terrie L. Epstein, School of Education, Campion 318, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167-3813.

The Travel to Collections program of the National Endowment for the Humanities provides grants of \$750 to assist American scholars to meet the costs of long-distance travel to research collections. Deadlines are July 15, 1991 and January 15, 1992. For application materials, contact the Travel to Collections Program, Division of Fellowships and Seminars, Room 316, NEH, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506; (202) 786-0463.

The Irish American Cultural Institute offers the Irish Research Funds Program to support study of Irish-American history, literature, and life. Grants, range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Contact the Irish American Cultural Institute, 2115 Summit Ave., University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN 55105; (612) 647-5678. Deadline is August 1, 1991.

The National Endowment for the Humanities Reference Materials program supports projects that organize essential resources for scholarship and improve access to information and collections. Awards are offered in two categories: Tools and Access. Tools awards are for dictionaries, historical or linguistic atlases, encyclopedias, concordances, *catalogues raisonnés*, grammars, descriptive catalogs, and databases. Access awards are for archival arrangement and description projects, bibliographies, bibliographical databases, records surveys, cataloging projects for print, graphic, film, sound, and artifact collections, indexes, and guides to documentation. Deadline for both categories is September 1, 1991 for projects starting after July 1, 1992. For information, contact Reference Materials, Room 318, NEH, Washington, DC 20506.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) offers two fellowships in archival administration for 1992-1993. The stipend is \$35,000, with a benefit payment of \$7,000. The Commission is also accepting applications from state archives and college and university archives and special collections units interested in serving as host institutions for the two fellowships to be selected. Host application deadline is September 1, 1991. Individual applications are due March 1, 1992. For more information, contact Laurie A. Baty at (202) 501-5610.

The Gerald Ford Foundation awards grants of up to \$2,000 in support of research in collections of the Gerald Ford Library. The application deadline is September 15, 1991. For information, contact David Horrocks, Gerald Ford Library, 1000 Beal Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109; (313) 668-2218.

The Ohio State University Press offers the Helen Hooven Santmyer Prize of \$2500 for the best book-length manuscript, in any discipline, on the contributions of women, their lives, experiences, and social roles. The deadline is October 1, 1991. Send 1 copy of the manuscript, cover letter, and c.v. to Charlotte Dihoff, Helen Hooven Santmyer Prize Committee, 180 Pressey Hall, 1070 Carmack Road, Columbus, OH 43210-1002.

U.S. university and college faculty and secondary and elementary school teachers interested in teaching abroad during the 1992-1993 academic year may apply for the Fullbright Teacher Exchange Program sponsored by the United States Information Agency. The deadline is October 15, 1991. For information and application packets, contact Fullbright Teacher Exchange Program, 600 Maryland Ave., S.W., Room 142, Washington, DC 20024; (202) 382-8586.

PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

The Survey Research Center of the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan will hold its Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques at ISR, during **Summer 1991**. For information on specific workshops,

contact Duane F. Alwin, Survey Research Center, The Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248; (313) 764-6595.

The National Women's History Project will hold a conference titled "A Woman's Place is...in the Curriculum," August 5-8, 1991, in Santa Rosa, California. For information, contact Bonnie Eisenberg at the National Women's History Project, 7738 Bell Road, Windsor, CA 95492; (707) 838-6000.

The Coalition for Western Women's History, in conjunction with the Center for Great Plains Studies, will hold a conference at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, August 7-9, 1991, on the topic "Suspect Terrain: Surveying the Women's West." For further information, contact Paula Petrik, Dept. of History, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469 (207) 581-1907; or Kathleen Underwood, Dept. of History, Box 19529, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington TX 76019 (817) 273-2861.

"More than Glorified Housekeeping: Rethinking Women and Home Economics in the 20th Century" will be held at Cornell University, October 4-5, 1991. For information, contact Joan Jacobs Brumberg, Human Development and Family Studies, G95 Martha Van Rensselaer Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation announce the National Preservation Conference, October 16-20, 1991, in San Francisco. For information, write to The National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

A conference on the American home front during World War II will be at Indiana University, October 18-20, 1991. For information, contact James H. Madison, Dept. of History, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405; (812) 855-6447.

GRAD NEWS

Regina Lark, our new graduate student representative, sends the following news:

First, I would like to thank the members of WAWH for electing me grad student representative. Sherry Katz (our former representative) and I spoke in Asilomar about graduate students and their participation in the organization.

It is my goal as the student rep. to provide graduate students with news and information about scholarships, fellowships, and grants. I will also be in contact with History departments at major universities and request a volunteer from each campus to act as a liaison between WAWH and her campus.

Part of the reason for WAWH's success is that for 22 years, women historians have met, shared ideas, discussed works-in-progress, encouraged each other in future projects, and consumed many meals together. I think that grad students too need to take advantage of this kind of "networking" and meet between conferences to learn more about one another.

So, that is precisely what we are going to do at the regional level. In October, the California State University, Northridge, women graduate students will host a discussion and potluck. We plan to read Elizabeth Fox-Genovese's *Feminism Without Illusions* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990), which will be the topic of our discussion. I will gladly send information to anyone who would like to attend the "soiree." If you are interested, call me with your name, address, phone number, and the best time for you to meet. We are thinking of gathering the second weekend of October, either a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. I can be reached all day, every day, at (818) 885-3566, or evenings at (818) 713-1706.

Here is some information about prizes and grants available to grad students:

A new OAH prize, the Lerner-Scott Prize, was approved at the OAH business meeting on April 13, 1991. The prize will be awarded annually for the best doctoral dissertation in U.S. women's history. Named for Gerda Lerner and Anne Firor Scott, both pioneers in women's history and presidents of the Organization of American Historians, the prize was funded by a challenge grant to the OAH Committee on the Status of Women in the Historical Profession. More information on applying for this prize will appear in future issues of the Networker.

The American Italian Historical Association is offering a scholarship of \$500 to any graduate student whose work focuses on the Italian-American experience. Interested students should send, in quintuplicate, a proposal, resume, and brief statement of purpose as to how the award will be used to L.J. Iorizzo, AIHA Scholarship Committee, History Dept., SUNYCO, Oswego, NY 13126. The deadline is September 13, 1991.

For the second year, the Coordinating Committee on Women in the Historical Profession and the Conference Group on Women's History are sponsoring a \$500 graduate student award to assist in the completion of thesis work. Applicants must be female graduate student historians in U.S. institutions, but their subjects need not be limited to women's history as a field. Applicants must also have passed to ABD status at the time of the application. Deadline is October 15, 1991; winners will be announced (and the check mailed) January 15, 1992, with a formal presentation of the award at the AHA meetings. For information and application forms, please contact Sharon L. Sievers, Dept. of History, Cal State, Long Beach, Long Beach, CA 90840; (213) 985-4465 or 4431.

UNDERGRAD PRIZE AT UCLA

The Mary Ritter Beard Prize, for the outstanding paper in women's history by an undergraduate, was awarded this year to Jayne Devens for her senior honors thesis, "The Education of Margaret Fuller." The comparable graduate-level prize, named for Mary Wollstonecraft and based on a university-wide competition, will be announced this fall. Both prizes were established in 1985 and were endowed by Penny Kanner, who encourages scholars at other schools to set up similar prizes to encourage outstanding students.

IN PERFORMANCE

The Asilomar meeting opened with a program devoted to performances of the arts related to history. "Transformations: Women Artists in New Contexts," was chaired by playwright Jean Marie Ackermann and featured a workshop performance of her new musical work Trifles, based on a play by Susan Glaspell. As of June 1, this play is available for readings or productions; judging from this mini-premiere, it will entertain both special and general audiences. For information, call or write to Jean Marie Ackermann, Box 424, Pacific Grove, CA 93950; (408) 649-8215.

Subsequent discussion seemed favorable to the idea of having such performance sessions as a feature of future WAWH conferences, so if you have ideas about artistic presentations built around a historical theme, send it along to Edith Gelles, our program chair or to the Networker.

SPREADING THE WORD

We are always looking for means to reach people who might be interested in joining WAWH. At the Asilomar conference, someone suggested providing those attending other conferences with extra copies of the Networker, to give to friends or to make available along with other handout materials. We usually have plenty of copies at the PCB and the AHA, but it would really help to know who was planning to go to which conferences when. If you are willing to lug a dozen or so extra Networkers along with you, please send your name, address, and name and date of conference to Susan Wladaver-Morgan, 2513 NE Skidmore St., Portland, OR 97211; (503) 282-9470. Please send this information by September 1 (Fall issue), December 1 (Winter), March 1 (Spring), and June 1 (Summer); your packet of Networkers should arrive within 2 or 3 weeks.

TAKING A STAND

At the business meeting of our Asilomar conference, the WAWH decided to take a stand on an issue of importance to all of us -- the new social studies curriculum being prepared for grades K-12 for the California public schools. The question initially came up in reference to the decision by the California State Board of Education to mandate the use of textbooks by

the Houghton-Mifflin Publishing Co. These textbooks are seriously deficient in their presentation of information about women.

Jean Wilkinson and Lyn Reese proposed that WAWH establish a task force dedicated to the monitoring and evaluation of social science textbooks, K-12, with the objective of improving the gender balance in the texts. In the discussion that followed, participants concluded that the problem involved more than textbooks, that in fact it involved teacher training, accreditation, and implementation in the schools. Therefore, it was agreed that WAWH should set up a standing committee to look into these questions and to take appropriate action, in order to make our voices heard as women, as historians, and, yes, as taxpayers too.

Taking a stand can pay off. An article by Lyn Reese, printed in Sunburst, was used by the Commission for Sex Equity of the LA School District to demand that Houghton-Mifflin include supplements on women's history as a condition for purchasing the books. Here, edited for length, is her article:

This summer (1990) four members of the Gender/Social Justice Committee reviewed that state-adopted 6th and 7th grade world history texts. To our distress, we discovered that the texts often ignored the California State Framework Guideline which states, "In studying each ancient society students should examine the role of women."

Gender imbalance is one problem. In the 6th grade text, there are 152 illustrations of males and only 35 of females; 44 quotes by men, none by women. In both the 6th and 7th grade texts, there are some chapters in which no mention or illustration of women is given, such as those that discuss the Mongol, Ottoman, Mughal, Congo, Songhai, and Babylonian empires.

Some problems are more subtle. Where illustrations of women exist, they often are not utilized as a way to discuss the variety of women's roles. Example: In the chapter on Sub-Saharan Africa, Queen Nzinga is shown with no textual information on her rule and her resistance to the Portuguese conquest -- the reason why she is venerated as a national heroine in Angola.

Of greater concern is the omission of key concepts in women's history. For example, the section on prehistory focuses on the hunt from the perspective of the male, ignoring the importance of women's gathering, which provided 70 to 90% of the group's required food. Ignored too is any analytical look at beliefs and values as they pertain to women. Thus the western beliefs that women are passive, potentially evil, and incapable of reason are never explained, although these attitudes sharply restricted the spheres of female activity from the late Middle Ages into the 20th century.

Given the exciting scholarship of the past 20 years, it is easy to meet the criteria of both ethnic and gender parity. These findings make it possible to document the wide variety of roles of women and minorities in all periods of history. We feel that the minimal, fragmentary and sometimes inaccurate presentation of women in texts can be rectified if scholars in the field of women's history are consulted.

The new committee has its work cut out for it, and it needs the input of WAWH members. What issues deserve top priority? What tactics have the best chance for success? What resources do we need? What pitfalls should we strive to avoid?

You can help by volunteering to serve on the committee, providing information, and making suggestions. Another option is to use the Networker as a forum in which we can work together to figure out ways to insure a more balanced presentation of history for a new generation of children.

MEMBER NEWS

Cynthia Brantley has received a UC Davis Humanities Institute Research Fellowship for the spring of 1992.

Julie Charlip will be doing her dissertation research in Nicaragua until the end of 1991.

Nupur Chaudhuri has coedited with Peg Strobel a special issue of Women's Studies International Forum (vol. 13: April 1990), entitled "Western Women and Imperialism." She also joined the Women's History Review Board as of February 1991.

Willi Coleman has been elected Far West Regional Director of the National Association of Black Women Historians. She has two recent publications as well: "Black Women and Segregated Public Transportation: Ninety Years of Resistance," in Darlene Clark Hine, ed., Black Women in United States History From Colonial Times to the Present, vol. 5, and "Traveling Black Women: Spreading the Anti-Slavery Message Beyond Hearth & Home," in Frances Richardson Keller, ed., Views of Women in Western Civilization.

Riane Eisler's new book The Partnership Way: New Tools for Living and Learning, coauthored with her husband, psychologist David Loye, serves as a practical sequel to her earlier The Chalice and the Blade.

Amelia Fry's full biography of Alice Paul is due out in 1993; she has also served as a consultant for a PBS documentary, "Alice Paul: Crusader for Equality," which will air this year.

Jo Burr Margadant's book, Madame le Professeur: Women Educators in the Third Republic (Princeton University Press 1990), won the Davis Pinkney Book award from the Society for French Historical Studies in March 1991.

Gerda W. Ray delivered a paper, "Political Surveillance by the New York State Police, 1940-1975," at the 1991 meeting of the Organization of American Historians.

Kathleen Sheldon has two recent publications: "A Report on a 'Delicate Problem' Concerning Female Garment Workers in Beira, Mozambique," Signs 16:3 (1991); and "Sewing Clothes and Sorting Cashew Nuts: Factories, Families, and Women in Beira, Mozambique," Women's Studies International Forum 14 (1991)

Joan Waugh has won a Woodrow Wilson Women's Studies Research Grant for her dissertation, "Unsentimental Reformer: Josephine Shaw Lowell and the Rise and Fall of the Scientific Charity Movement." She is completing her Ph.D. at UCLA.

NEW MEMBERS

The WAWH warmly welcomes these new members:

Carol F. Cini, graduate student at San Francisco State, in US and women's history;

Polly Kaufman, lecturer in women's history at University of Massachusetts, Boston;

Barbara Loomis, assistant professor at San Francisco State, studying US social, religious, and women's history;

Margo McBane, ABD at UCLA, studying women's labor and agricultural history and history of the West;

Jo Burr Margadant, assistant professor at Santa Clara University, studying modern French history and European women's history;

Mary Ann Mason, professor of law and social welfare at UC Berkeley, studying women and law, children and law, and especially child custody;

Erin Morton, graduate student at Cal State Northridge, studying 20th-century US history, and history of women, the South, and the West;

Melanie Peacock, instructor of ancient history at De Anza College;

Donna Schuele, ABD at UC Berkeley in the jurisprudence and social policy program, studying women's and family legal history;

Nancy J. Taniguchi, assistant professor at Cal State, Stanislaus, studying mining, land law, and women, especially in late 19th- and 20th-century American West.

MORE DEADLINES

If you have professional news or other announcements that you would like to appear in the Networker, please send them to Susan Wladaver-Morgan, 2513 NE Skidmore St., Portland, OR 97211, by the 1st of March, June, September, or December for the Spring, Summer, Fall, or Winter issues, respectively. Thank you.

NEWS FOR THE NETWORKER

PLEASE CLIP AND SEND TO:

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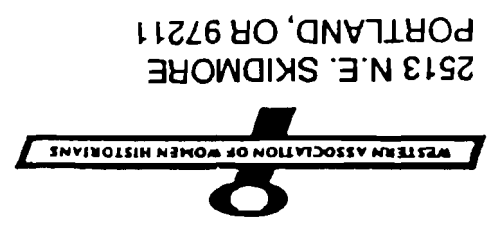
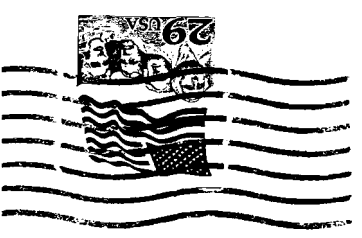
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