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MAY 1986

This is the first issue of UPDATE, which will appear irregularly four times a year, as needed, containing time-dated material and in-house communications-- a direct line from the Board and committee chairs to members. A first order of business is the problem of communication, since we do not have an office or secretarial staff and it takes time to forward mail. For speedier, more effective service, please use the following addresses and phone numbers:

-- General Institute business
Joanne Lafler, 43 Abbott Drive, Oakland, CA 94611 415-547-1791
-- Dues or financial information; new names for mailing-list
Deborah Frangquist, 874 Alvarado, San Francisco, CA 94114 415-648-4026
-- Suggestions for or questions about programs
Nancy McCauley, P.O. Box 158, Saratoga, CA 95071 408-741-3429
-- Suggestions for new members; questions about membership
Agnes F. Peterson, 362 Yerba Buena, Los Altos, CA 94022 415-948-4312
-- General queries about grants
Georgia Wright, 105 Vicente Rd., Berkeley, CA 94705 415-549-1922
(From the Peninsula and South Bay, call Agnes Peterson)
-- Newsletter
Monica Clyde, 1940 Cortereal, Oakland, CA 94611 415-339-3385
-- Membership news for Newsletter
Kathleen Casey, 1130 Delaware St., Berkeley, CA 94702 415-524-3962

EVENTS OF INTEREST IN EARLY JUNE

On Thursday, June 5, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Labor Archives and Research Center, San Francisco State University, 480 Winston Avenue, San Francisco, there will be a special program on P.H. McCarthy, former mayor of San Francisco and a labor leader in the early 1900s. Panel discussion, exhibit, refreshments-- free and open to the public. For further information, contact Lynn Bonfield, Director, 415-564-4010.

At the San Francisco City Hall Rotunda, 400 Van Ness Avenue, Polk Street entrance, there will be an exhibition of photographs from the Black Women Oral History project by the photographer Judith Sedwick. Titled "Women of Courage," the exhibition, co-sponsored by the San Francisco African American Historical and Cultural Society, the San Francisco Chapter of The Links, Inc., and The Radcliffe Clubs of San Francisco and the Peninsula, will be on view from June 9-27.

JUNE 15 DEADLINE FOR HERBERT FEIS AWARD

The Herbert Feis Award for Nonacademically-Affliliated Historians, presented awarded annually by the Rockefeller Foundation, carries a cash award of $1000. Works submitted for the award may be 1) a book, article or series of articles of seminal importance in any field or era of history, or 2) an in-house publication which is shown to have had a major impact on the policy of the employing and circulating organization or on the formation of policy generally. Individuals outside academe for a minimum of three years prior to the award year are eligible. Works published, or issued in-house, between June 1, 1985 and June 1, 1986, are eligible for submission. A copy of each entry must be sent to each members of the committee no later than June 15, 1986. Committee members: Frank Vandiver (chair), Office of the President, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843; Harold P. Anderson, Wells Fargo History Department, 475 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94144; Suellen Hoy, North Carolina Division of Archives & History, 109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27611; Nicholas C. Burckel, Washington University Libraries, Campus Box 1061, St. Louis, MO 63130; Romana M. Danysh, U.S. Army Center of Military History, Washington, DC 20314. Each entry must be clearly labelled "Herbert Feis Award."

HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU MORE EFFECTIVELY?

An ambitious schedule of activities has been planned for this year, but the membership and program committees would still like to have suggestions, especially from our less active members, both near and far, for ways in we can serve you more effectively. What kinds of meetings, workshops, public programs, etc. would be helpful and/or interesting? Would you attend more meetings if they were held nearer to where you live, and, if so, would you be willing to host an informal gathering of members in your area as a first step? No new "mini courses" have been scheduled for this year; suggestions are welcome. (Please note that we have not saddled you, and us, with another questionnaire. You may frame your suggestions to Nancy McCauley in any form you wish.)

THROUGH YOUR WORKS WILL WE BE KNOWN--

Please remember to use your Institute affiliation when attending or presenting papers at conferences, or publishing articles, books and reviews. If the Institute is not your primary affiliation it may be a bit cumbersome to append the Institute name to your badge or to your published work, but you can still think of creative ways of identifying us with your work, thereby bringing us to the attention of potential collea

FEELING GUILTY?

As of this writing, only 44 questionnaires for the 1986 Membership Roster Index, which were sent out with the membership meeting packet in early February, have been completed and returned. We have already begun to compile the index, but unless we hear from more of you it will not be a useful tool for putting members of similar interests in touch with one another, or for contacting members quickly when job and grant opportunities arise. If you need another copy of the questionnaire, contact Agnes F. Peterson.

Note: All members who have paid their dues should have received the annual roster. If there has been a slip-up, please check first with Deborah Frangquist to make sure that your dues were received and duly recorded.

OLD BUSINESS

All members are entitled to an allotment of Institute letterhead paper and envelopes each year, free of charge. Some members picked up their "portion" at the annual meeting in February. If you were not able to do so, please contact Joanne Lafler, Keeper of the Stash.

Some of you who plan research trips to libraries and archives outside your local area may wish to have a letter of introduction attesting to your membership in the Institute and the worthiness of your project. Again, please contact Joanne Lafler. In connection with this, we would like to hear from you about any bureaucratic obstacles you encounter in the conduct of your research. If you're stranded on a doorstep in Prague, Singapore or San Marino, California, we may not be able to help you at the moment, but we can take steps to see that our members are better treated in the future.

The Institute for Historical Study
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