

Providence Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
June 29, 2005

Present: Commission Members: Kaye Lyn Harris, Adrian Gale, Karl Seethaler, Marie Olsen, Keith Watkins, Jay Hicken

Visitor: Lisa Duskin-Goede, Craig Larocco
Minutes taken by Brenda Nelson

Motion to approve minutes of May 31, 2005 – K. Harris. Second – A. Gale
All in favor.

Item 1. Discussion on oral histories of long time Providence City residents.

Lisa Duskin-Goede introduced herself to the Commission and expressed an interest in contracting to do the oral interviews. She graduated in December with a Masters Degree in American Studies. Her internship was a study of historic barns of the region. She is currently doing another barn study for Southern Idaho.

L. Goede explained that there are two types of interviews. A *topical* interview is where important topics are pulled out of the interview. The other type is a *word for word* interview, where the interviewer lists all the content straight without looking for any topics.

L. Goede asked what the goal of the project is. The interview helps to create the end product, but you have to identify what you want the end product to be. USU Special Collections would like a copy of whatever interviews are done to archive. L. Goede felt that it is important for the interviewer to do their own transcription. They understand their notes, and can go back and go over things that aren't clear.

L. Goede was asked if she ever added questions other than those outlined to ask. She replied that she never turns down an experience or story. One comment may lead to a different question. It is important to know some of the history of the area, the types of work people did, etc.

Another Commission member asked if she ever used photography. L. Goede answered that she sometimes does videography. She always includes a picture of the person interviewed.

J. Hicken asked if she added her own dialogue, or was it strictly the person's comments.

L. Goede replied that she adds field notes. She can add these as a summary and that can be archived along with the project. Need to identify the funding available.

L. Goede was asked if she is employed by a company. She is a private consultant. The question was asked of what she would charge for her interviews. L. Goede said that a topical interview could take 2-4 hours and the transcription could take 6-8 hours. A word for word interviews can take 30 hours. Field notes, preliminary research etc. could add another 8 hours. L. Goede charges \$25/hr.

M. Olsen asked if L. Goede had interviewed individuals together in a group. L. Goede replied that she had but it is hard to keep all the comments straight from each other. She follows the set of standards adhered to be the American Folklore Association.

The American Folklore Association have a set of standards to adhere to.

Rachel Giani is another student who is acquainted with Lisa and has also asked to be considered for the interviews. J. Hicken figured each interview may take about 24 hours – or about \$600 per person. There might be ways to reduce the costs.

With a group, it gets done faster, but it does not necessarily reduce the costs because it takes longer to transcribe. Interviewing a married couple is also difficult to transcribe, but it does work.

The Commission could make up some of the interview questions. This would provide a guideline. J. Hicken asked, “What is our goal?” Is it to project the flavor of the City or do a personal history. It is good to use a theme and then add personal experiences to it. The Providence Quarry has played a remarkable role in our City. Providence Lake is another interesting topic. What highlights do you want to bring out. Perhaps predominant occupations. Can the information be added to the next edition of the history book? Personal histories are interesting but we need to focus on the history of the City.

Craig Larocco is also interested in doing the interviewing. He did an interview of Levaun Zollinger, an elderly resident who lived in his neighborhood. He has also done an interview of other residents: Burke Gunnell and Dee Robinette. These interviews have been added to the USU archives.

C. Larocco gave a little background of how he became interested in storytelling and journalism. He became intrigued with his newspaper assignments which led to completing a degree in folklore studies.

C. Larocco feels it is important to know the people and gain their confidence before you interview them. Key words, names or places can spark interest and add to the interview. Research is critical to know what questions to ask.

C. Larocco stated that he tapes the interview. He has done some videotaping. He transcribes the interview word for word. He doesn’t add thoughts or embellishment. He has no problem using a list of prepared questions.

When asked how much time an interview would take, C. Larocco said an average interview is about 2 hours. Transcription takes 3-4 hours each hour of interviewing. Counting background research, he thought each subject would be 10 hours. He would be agreeable to having another person do the transcription. He charges \$20/hr for interviewing and transcription, the upfront research would be a little less.

C. Larocco likes using a video camera. He usually adds a picture of the person.

Following the discussion with the two candidates, members of the Commission discussed what they would like to see happen with the finished product. Perhaps each one could do a couple of interviews. The main issue is what is to be done with the information when the interviews are completed.

Commissioners decided to meet again on July 27, 2005 and make a final decision.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.