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Michael Angrosino
University of South Florida

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Project on the Oral History of the SAS

by Michael Angrosino

This year the SAS is commemorating the 30th anniversary of its founding, and several sessions of the recent meetings in Baton Rouge were dedicated to retrospectives on our three decades. An additional anniversary event has been the collection of an oral history of the SAS. Michael Angrosino of the University of South Florida, a longtime member of the Society and currently its Proceedings Editor, received a grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation to conduct the oral history project. Wenner-Gren has a very strong interest in documenting the history of anthropology, and the SAS oral history materials will find a permanent home in the Foundation's New York office, alongside similar materials from other anthropological institutions.

Angrosino and two of his graduate students, Geoffrey Mohlman and Jennifer Paul, taped interviews with a dozen past and current officers during the Baton Rouge meetings, and they made arrangements to obtain the narratives of others who were not in attendance. They also recorded a round table discussion of past Presidents and other interested parties, as well as the Keynote Address by Charles Hudson of the University of Georgia. Both of those ses-

sions will be included with the oral history materials in the archive.

The project aims to document the personal, rather than the "official" side of the history of the SAS. Interviews also deal with the evolution of the discipline of anthropology in the South, and the changes in the South itself which the SAS has both witnessed and analyzed. The SAS has long been one of the most consistently active and successful of the regional anthropological societies. The project aims to present the "emic" story of the rise of a discipline long marginalized in a region that itself has traditionally been considered marginal to the US academic mainstream.

Indexed tapes will be archived with Wenner-Gren ca. September 1, 1996. A copy of the indexed taped record will also be presented to the SAS, perhaps to form the nucleus of an official archive for the Society.

Watch the Newsletter for updates on the project. Contact Mike Angrosino (c/o Dept. Of Anthropology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620; 813-974-0786; e-mail: angrosin@luna.cas.usf.edu) if you have any suggestions or comments.

