

the Encyclopedia also has been enhanced by the addition of numerous tables, maps, and bibliographies. Some one-hundred statistical tables are scattered throughout, while another twenty-three tables of selected census data compiled between 1850 and 1976 have been appended. The eighty-seven maps especially commissioned for the book clearly illustrate the regional origins of the various ethnic groups. Each ethnic group entry concludes with a short annotated bibliography composed, according to editorial policy, of non-technical books likely to be found in medium-sized public or academic libraries—another sensible decision.

All-in-all, the *Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups* is an intelligent, useful reference work which should prove to be a real find for historians, librarians, social services personnel, and those interested in the ethnic component of American life. Though its cost may prohibit its purchase by smaller libraries, the Encyclopedia should be found in the collections of all academic and mid-sized public libraries.

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## Book Notices

*From Memory to History: Using Oral Sources in Local History Research*, by Barbara Allen and Lynwood Montell. (Nashville: American Association for State & Local History, 1981. pp. xii, 176, appendices, bibliography, index, \$12.50 cloth.)

AASLH has previously published books dealing with oral history methodology and techniques (Willa Baum's works *Oral History for the Local Historical Society* in 1969 and her work, *Transcribing and Editing Oral History* in 1977). Now they have carried on with the publication of this work. It is one thing to be able to effectively gather oral history and to properly transcribe the tapes, but it is another thing to properly interpret the information and validate its historicity—*From Memory to History* does this. The book tells how oral history differs from formal, written history; suggests ways to test for his-

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torical accuracy, recognizing folkloristic elements or personal and group bias; and gives suggestions for incorporating oral history materials into written manuscripts. An absolute "must" for every oral historian.

*Access to the Past: Museum Programs and Handicapped Visitors*, by Alice P. Kenny. (Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1980. pp. x, 131, illustrations, appendix, bibliography, index, \$7.95 paper.)

This book should be a valuable guide for anyone interested in making their facilities and programs accessible to disabled persons as required by Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The bibliography is extremely useful and this work should be widely read by all directors and administrators of historical and cultural agencies.

*Local Government Records: An Introduction to Their Management, Preservation, and Use*, by H. G. Jones. (Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1980. pp. xxi, 208, illustrations, appendix, index, \$6.95 paper.)

This is a monumental work and one deserving much attention. The author describes the chaotic state of records preservation and use in the nation's 81,000 local governmental jurisdictions. He discusses the establishment of records management programs, the principles of records appraisal, and the disposition of unnecessary items. He also seeks to foster renewed interest in and research of local records by the general public and scholars. This is a classic in its field and one book which will long remain an authority on records management.

*The Women Who Made the West*, by the Western Writers of America. (New York: Doubleday & Company, 1980. pp. 252, illustrations, bibliography, index, \$10.95 cloth.)

Eighteen sketches of historic women of the Old West are written by eighteen modern writers who employ a wide variety of sources and styles. The sketches are not about well-known figures in the western expansion of our nation, but they do concern some very extraordinary

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