From Vision to Verity:
The Mayborn Museum Complex Oral History Project

An MST Professional Project by Steven Sielaff
The Pillars of Progress
Introduction
The Setting

- No prior attempt to gather Mayborn Museum Complex (MMC) history
- Majority of potential primary sources = memories of individuals
- Approaching 10-year anniversary of MMC
- Personal interest/experience in creating institutional histories
What is the MMC?

Consists of three entities:

- Strecker Museum (Primary Focus)
- Youth Cultural Center/Ollie Mae Moen Discovery Center (1982/1994)
- Bill and Vara Daniel Historic Village (1986/1991)
What is Oral History?

- "The collection and study of historical information using recordings or transcriptions of planned interviews"
- Early professional US origins post-WWII
- Increase in use with social justice/advancement projects of 1960s-70’s
- Ubiquity gained through technological advancements and professional organizations
  - Oral History Association (OHA) – 1966
  - Baylor University Institute for Oral History (BUIOH) – 1970
  - Texas Oral History Association (TOHA) - 1982
The Process
Project Scope

- Initial time frame: Development, Construction and Early Operation of the MMC
- 4-5 primary interviewees targeted
- Due to delays and increase in historical scope, secondary interviews included throughout
- Final Tally: 9 interviews total spanning 1983-2004
Preparation

- Initial meetings with Dr. Caston
- Inclusion meetings with Dr. Sloan
- Research – Into the Archives!
- Recording Equipment
Interview Process

- Initial contact from Dr. Caston/Dr. Sloan or Lois Myers, Associate Director of BUIOH
- Secondary contact from Steven Sielaff
- Scheduling of time/place
- Preparatory materials: timelines and topic lists
Mayborn Museum Complex Development Timeline

1983
- Summer – Calvin Smith Named Associate Director, Dr. Bryce C. Brown
- September – Calvin Smith Named Director, David Lintz Associate Director
- Strecker Museum assumes operation of Youth Cultural Center (YCC)

1984
- Announcement of Waco Mammoth Site
- MST program now grants BA/BS degrees

1985
- Cooper Foundation funds long-range plan of “New World” – Full site development
- Historic Village/ $300k Endowment gifted by George W. Bush Mother’s Fund

1986
- Meadows Foundation funds Cambridge 7 Associates
- C. Gwin Morris is hired as a development consultant to serve as BBMPC liaison with Calvin Smith on the Strecker project
- Historic Village moved

1986-88
- Morris and Smith work with John and Robert Strecker on the Strecker project

1988
- Pioneer Heritage Days now scheduled annually
- Morris moves to Waco

1989
- May – First meeting of Strecker Museum Committee
- September – Strecker Museum is approved

Charlton Mayborn Interview Topics

Strecker Museum as a student – what was it like?
When did the Strecker project first appear on your radar?
Support in general amongst the Waco/Baylor Community – everyone on board?
General understanding of what the museum and/or complex will be?
Professional shift from BUOH Director to VP/Vice Provost roles (1993)
Prioritization of Strecker project in the early years among the Baylor Admin
President Reynolds’ influence on the project throughout
President Sloan’s view and influence on the project
When did you feel the museum was actually going to happen?
Ceremonial Groundbreaking (2001)
Operational & Staffing challenges – working with Director of Ops Dr. Ellie Caston
Professional shift to Texas Collection Directorship (2003)
Dedication of the complex – feelings and meaning for Baylor/Waco (2004)
The Interview

- Familiar, yet quiet place
- Two hour window with a break after one hour
- Deed of Gift agreements
Larry Smith

Assistant VP of Gift Planning - Baylor University

On the naming conventions used for the museum...
Jill Barrow
Director - Ollie Mae Moen Discovery Center

On the comradere of the combined MMC staff during the move-in period. . .
Calvin Smith
Director - Strecker Museum Complex

On the mythical background of the Sue Mayborn Rotunda...
John & Marie Chiles
(with Calvin Smith)

Founding Members: Strecker Associates

On the confidence of the Strecker Associates that a new museum was in their future...
C. Gwin Morris
VP of University Relations - Baylor University

On selling the dream, even when details are sparse...
Donald Schmeltekopf

Provost - Baylor University

On the importance of local community engagement...
Ellie Caston I
Director of Operations - Strecker Museum Complex

On the difficulties of staffing a brand new facility. . .
Ellie Caston II
Director - Mayborn Museum Complex

On the dedication of the staff in the final push to the grand opening. . .
Tom Charlton

VP of Academic Affairs - Baylor University

On the effectiveness of Calvin Smith in keeping the Strecker alive...
The Pillars of Progress
In Progress...
Immediate Results

- Audio files for future multimedia use

- Overall timeline of events

- Timestamped Abstracts
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Summer – Calvin Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Announcement of V MST program now</td>
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<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Cooper Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Meadows Fund</td>
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<td>1986-88</td>
<td>Morris and Strecker pri</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>Pioneer Hill</td>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>May – F Sep</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Morris, Smith and John Chiles Discovery Center takes shape</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>April – Historic Village Dedication</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>November – F&amp;S Partner</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>April – Texas Association Fall – Debut of MST M Jill Barrow named Director</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>New Strecker Museum Strecker Centennial M.D. Anderson Foundation YCC – Ollie Mae</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Robert Sloan su</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>New Strecker</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>February – “Phased” funding plan Fall – Dr. Eliza Castan hired as Director October – Anding gift – $1m</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>“Quiet” Campaign Phase</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>January – Actual Groundbreaking - Construction Begins - $23m cost now July – Buzz report by Harrison Price (expectations of budget and visitation) September – Directorship Change 2 weeks thereafter to make construction changes (exhibits become offices/storage) Exhibit budget from $5.7m to $3.1m May – Calvin Smith retires Summer – Hiring begins September – Strecker closes for Move December – OMM closes for Move Staff/MST moves into building after closures Spring Semester – MST classes in Mayborn May – Dedication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interview Abstract</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Interviewee:</strong></td>
<td>Ellie Caston</td>
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<td><strong>Interviewer:</strong></td>
<td>Steven Sileff</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project:</strong></td>
<td>Baylor University</td>
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<td><strong>Subproject:</strong></td>
<td>Mayborn Museum History</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Interview date:</strong></td>
<td>February 22, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong></td>
<td>Waco, Texas</td>
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<td><strong>Recording medium and duration:</strong></td>
<td>digital; 1.35 hr.</td>
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**Abstract**

Dr. Ellie Caston was Director of Operations of the Streecker Museum Complex (SMC) at Baylor University (1997-2003) and is currently Director of the Mayborn Museum Complex (MMC) & Senior Lecturer of Museum Studies at Baylor University (2003-CURRENT); early relationship with Calvin Smith (11:00); Texas Association of Museums (TAM) annual meeting in 1993 (12:00); interest in teaching Museum Studies at Baylor (14:00); hired as Director of Operations/Assistant Professor in Museum Studies in 1997 (16:30); state of SMC at hire (12:00); continuing operations and community services (13:00); Tom Anding stock donation for New Streecker Museum development (15:30); Harry and Anna James gift to Discovery Campaign (19:30); “Day Two” planning for opening of new complex (21:00); “Backyard Monsters” fundraising exhibit backed by Junior League of Waco (25:00); Waco community relations with the SMC (27:00); staffing status of the SMC in 1999 (28:00); move of the Ollie Mae Noon (OMN) Discovery Center from Waco High to Nabisco building (31:00); input for overall design of the new museum (34:00); President/Chancellor Herbert Reynolds’ influence on fundraising (36:00); creating new organizational chart for future museum staffing (38:00); philosophical change in museum service affecting staffing plans (48:00); Mayborn Foundation gift (49:00); naming conventions for the new Mayborn Museum Complex (51:30); ceremonial groundbreaking on January 2001 (54:00); Impact of MMC on Museum Studies program (60:00); Bryce C. Brown's tenure as Streecker Museum Director (61:00); benefits of a university museum program (71:00); change to designated staff for museum and faculty for museum studies program (75:00); Baylor’s Vision 2012 impact on tenure status (77:30).
Interview Processing

Baylor University Institute for Oral History
Memoir Processing Flowchart

Set up interview:
  - Record interview:
    - Turn in labeled recording, contract, interview data form, word list to BUOH office
    - Create preservation and access copies of audio recording WAV files
    - Create record of interview in Filemaker Pro work control database
  - Transcribe recording:
    - Audit-check transcript
    - Edit transcript lightly
    - Write abstract of interview
    - Create entry in CONTENTdm with metadata & abstract
  - Mail draft transcript and audio recording to interviewee for review

Corrected transcript returned by interviewee?
  - yes
    - Edit draft transcript with interviewee's corrections, if any
    - Add draft transcript to CONTENTdm entry
    - Final edit transcript, with or without interviewee's corrections.
    - Convert from draft to final format.
    - Index if 100 pages or longer
    - Replace draft with final transcript in CONTENTdm
    - Print & bind copy of transcript for interviewee or her(s)
    - Present bound copy of memoir to interviewee
  - no
    - Send reminder letter and wait specified time.
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The Pillars of Progress
What’s Next?
Bound Memoirs

Copy for Interviewee + MMC

Perfect for MST library inclusion

Equivalent online transcripts on ContentDM
Lecture

Based on overall timeline, supplemented with audio and visuals

Prezi public for easy website link

Introductory nature for future students/employees/volunteers
It Took More Than a (Historic) Village:
The Development and Construction of the Mayborn Museum Complex
1983 - 2004
Oral History Kiosk

- Perfect for 10’th Anniversary Celebration of MMC (5/2014)
- Interchangeable panels/audio for future use
- Educational tool for future public history/oral history/MST students
These recordings from the museum's archives are small segments from a few of the thousands of stories of the men and women who fought and served during World War II. Personal accounts provide a glimpse into history, and insight into the impact that the war had on their lives.

These oral histories are invaluable personal accounts that preserve the knowledge of the veterans and will enrich the lives of future generations.

**Memphis, Texas goes to war**
Tiny Sturdevant
(1:59)

**Travel during the war**
Walter Simms
(1:00)

**Victory Gardens**
Helen Neal
(1:15)

**The reasons for rationing**
Cliff Vanderpool
(2:30)

**The worst messages came from the War Department**
Walter Simms
(2:30)

**A&M told me to report to my draft board**
Herman Phillips
(2:07)
Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS)

Don Schmeilkopf
Western Reserve History
Donor Gift Interview

1:03 - TVing the Strocker with Calvin Smith
3:47 - Status of Strocker Museum and Department of Museum Studies
5:39 - Priority of new museum amongst Strocker Administration
6:17 - Importance of Western Foundation gift
8:04 - Relationship of Gov. Bill Daniel and President Herb Reynolds
10:06 - Faculty plans in the Gov. Bill and Vera Daniel Historic Village
12:37 - Community donations driving interest in new museum
14:01 - Baylor decides to support the Olle Hagedon Discovery Center
17:45 - Major donations create increase in interest among Baylor Administration
18:55 - Chancellor Hey Ikai's leadership in fundraising
22:42 - Design plans for the Hey Ikai Library
26:32 - Use of the library for faculty functions

UK

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Questions?
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