

en Gate International Exposition; the bus never showed up so the boy blew the whole \$10 on ice cream for all his friends at Willits Creamery.

relations between the community and others nearby, how the people sort themselves out socially and community dynamics, or how

photograph of a horseless carriage outing to the woods, for example, might inspire a vintage picnic ex-

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Helping to Make Life Worth Living

Humanities Council Has Contributed to Culture for 10 Years

By BEVERLY BEYETTE,
Times Staff Writer

Preparing a history of the California Council for the Humanities as it marks its 10th year, Executive Director James Quay noted that an eighth-grade participant in a council project had provided him with the best definition he has yet heard: "The humanities are the study of the things you look forward to living for."

The Congress, in establishing the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1964, was a bit wordier, defining the humanities as "history, philosophy, languages, literature, linguistics, archaeology, jurisprudence, history and criticism of the arts, ethics, comparative religion, and those aspects of the social sciences employing historical or philosophical approaches."

Specific Projects

DD Dr. Walter Capps, professor of religious studies at UC Santa Barbara and chairman of both the California Council and the national Federation of Humanities Councils, admits that he still stumbles over definitions, preferring to talk about specific projects, explaining without apology of the humanities: "It's really miscellany, I think."

But Capps has no hesitation in talking about why the council, a government-funded organization whose decisions are made by private citizens, is important in its role as benefactor to grant-seekers ranging from the World Without War Council of Northern California to the Grand Jurors Assn. of Los Angeles:

"It's important because it stimulates discussion within the communities about issues that are vital to the health of a democratic society . . . it encourages people to come to terms with the histories and heritages of local communities and of ethnic groups. That's really the purpose, to disseminate the humanities in the community and provide public access to the intellectual traditions of our society."

Said Quay, "We've been mistaken for the humane society, for humanitarianism, secular humanism. . . ."



LARRY BESSEL / Los Angeles Times



Associated Press

Walter Capps of UC Santa Barbara and Andrea Van de Kamp of Los Angeles are chair and vice chair of the humanities council.

The council will celebrate its 10 years of contributions to California's history and cultural life at a banquet Thursday night in the Huntington Library, San Marino. Honorees will be Robert O. Anderson, chairman of the board of Atlantic Richfield Co. and a long-time participant in civic, educational and cultural affairs, and Maxine Hong Kingston, the California writer whose first book, "The Woman Warrior," the story of her Chinese-American girlhood, won the National Book Critics' Circle award as best nonfiction work of 1976.

Humanities Lecture

Art Seidenbaum, Opinion editor of the Los Angeles Times and a member of the California Council for the Humanities from 1977-81, will deliver the 1985 California Humanities Lecture. This lecture series was inaugurated in 1983 to honor supporters of the humanities.

The banquet will be an occasion, partly, for reminiscing. Some will remember the council's first meeting, on May 28, 1975, when five humanities scholars, five academic administrators, a labor leader, a

writer and a museum board member met in the office of the president, University of San Francisco, to sift through 466 grant proposals. These were the first applications submitted to the fledgling council.

Eight hours later, the decisions had been made: The council had made 10 grants, totaling nearly \$90,000. Within the next decade, 800 projects would receive grants. This year, to date, the council has awarded 46 grants with \$310,000 outright in federal funds and another \$230,000 pledged in matching funds.

Recent grants have gone to such diverse applicants as the Asian-American Studies Center, UCLA, for a conference to study the historical background of the mass internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II and to Open Channel of Santa Cruz County for production of a documentary film, "Miss or Myth?," focusing on the 1985 Miss California and counter-culture "Myth California" pageants to examine the role of beauty pageants in contemporary society.

The council has funded a film, to

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Inside View

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BRIDGE: Alfred Sheinwold column. Page 6.

DEAR ABBY: When son appears she goes into hiving. Page 2.

Jack Smith is on vacation.

Motorcycle Club outing in downtown Bakersfield, circa 1915, that inspired her to start asking: "How many photographers had these (wide angle) cameras? Are any of the young people in the picture still alive? Where can I find one of these motorcycles?"

But Rupert's thinking didn't stop there. She was mentioning the collective fascination that Bakersfield has always had with the automobile, the fact that old-timers can still tell you what happened to the first one in town, how it plunged off the Grapevine and its parts were recovered and recycled. . . .

Robert Z. Melnick, a professor of landscape architecture at the University of Oregon, suggested that "rural landscapes have been forgotten" by the preservation movement, which has been more intent

roads, canals, ditches, bridges. Melnick said it is a mistake to ignore change; rather, he said, the challenge to preservationists is to "protect" rather than to "preserve."

"One of the worst things happening" in the preservation movement today, he said, is the "bell jar" syndrome—"Put everything in a bell jar, suck all the air out of it and preserve it."

(Later, as an example he cited Colonial Williamsburg. There, he said, all of the buildings were returned to their first period, thus "denying the layers of history." Still, Melnick said, "I'm against Williamsburg changing. It's now 60 years old. In its own right it's sort of gained a sense of history so people can say, 'Look what they did in the early part of the 20th

project for it is they stand, for example, the uses to which a structure put through the years significant than the town from which it was built cultural landscape to photo of a great-grandnick spoke of "conversion we all have a history to societal history

Citing a typical small town as an example, that it is those who have that town who understand the relationship between the cafe two doors down banker and customer who "I get very tired of the major battles" (to save historical landmarks), Melnick rather, he wants to see things that are reminding everyday life styles of who lived in the community

Christopher L. Yip, professor of design and planning at the University of Colorado, observed "there's a tendency for us to see ourselves as timeless placeless." He said that not to history as "somewhere before their grandparents, which everything is so blurry.

History and Place

The challenge, Yip said, to reconnect history with. For example, he said, to each year visit Lookout 1 near Golden, Colo., the burial Buffalo Bill (William Cody died in 1917, yet for most visitors Buffalo Bill is a name goes "no further back in time Disneyland."

Yip, whose topic was "Ethnicity and the Rural Landscape: The Case of the Chinese in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta," spoke of diversity as "an important element in the cultural landscape" in California, dating from the late 19th Century when Chinese immigrants brought in agricultural labor

Soon, he said, the small towns had developed "ethnic enclaves" that functioned as community and social centers for these immigrants. His slides illustrated that, largely because the Chinese in California looked on this temporary home, the major immigrants were male and planned to retire to China and a son here to work.

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be broadcast on PBS stations, on the cultural impact of rhythm and blues music, a weekend with Shakespeare for 20 secondary school teachers, a conference on "Children of Interracial Families" and a three-day colloquium to bring together scholars of Ezra Pound.

Walter Capps, who will remain as chairman through February, will have served five years (his term was extended to assure his eligibility as president of the national federation of councils) but the established term is four years. Members serve without compensation, meeting quarterly.

"There is no such thing as a typical humanities project," director Quay said. The pursuit of community in California continues to be an underlying theme with the council—the uniqueness of those communities, the shaping of the traditional disciplines.

Recently, the council funded a social history of Los Angeles, 11 lectures sponsored by Beyond Baroque in Venice and designed to dispel some of the myths perpetuated by real estate agents and tour leaders. A council-funded series of radio broadcasts, scheduled to be heard in Los Angeles in 1986, will explore Spanish-English bilingualism.

The council is independent, non-partisan and nonpolitical. Its funding is from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which has received \$140 million for 1985-86 to divide among 50 state councils and those in Puerto Rico, Washington and the Virgin Islands. In addition, the California council receives contributions from private and corporate foundations and individuals.

As an ongoing project, the council funds California Times, a radio program that examines public and social issues from the humanities perspective. Its audience is estimated at 200,000 on 44 public and commercial radio stations statewide. Headquartered in San Francisco, the council has a second office in Los Angeles.

The challenge to the council is to make explicit the connection between the humanities disciplines and the lives of Californians.

Quay added: "Everybody is searching for a key and sometimes it's half a block down the street. The council's trying to move the lights around a little bit so the out-of-school public gets to enjoy them.

"There are some people who think once you leave school, that's really it. The council exists to disprove that."