The book is designed to assist educators in the development of programs and projects on local history. Each chapter contains a mosaic of information on structures and spaces from which educators may pick and choose in order to develop local history curricula. *Public Places* will also prove beneficial in the development of guides and surveys exploring the history and development of a community. At the same time, the author has written a book of interest to the general reader.

The author points out that spaces and structures were built or designed with specific purposes in mind. Although those purposes may have changed over time, the historical significance remains unchanged. Danzer reminds the reader that spaces and structure, together with individuals and events, make up the design of local communities. This theme runs throughout the book as the author uses studies in architecture, urban planning, geography, sociology, and history to make his point.

Each chapter introduces the reader to the use of primary materials in researching a community. Danzer details the information to be obtained from speeches, promotional pamphlets, maps, postcard views, and annual reports, materials available at most local historical societies or libraries. At the end of each chapter Danzer suggests avenues of interpretation for the information presented. These suggestions help the reader develop ideas for a range of projects and research opportunities. Also included is an annotated bibliography of related articles and books to enable readers and educators to pursue a particular subject.

The appendixes offer additional suggestions for interpreting the relationship between structures and spaces and the people who have used them, for studying the people themselves and the changes or continuity in a community over time. Finally Danzer includes instructions for designing an exhibit, an oral report, a slide presentation, and a walking tour.

Through the information and suggestions in *Public Places*, the author enables the reader to develop a concept of how a community can be studied by creating an understanding of its evolution, its interactions, and its character. This in turn helps the reader to understand better the history and development of the community as a whole.

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Oral History for the Local Historical Society. By Willa K. Baum. Third edition. (Nashville, Tenn.: American Association for State and Local History, 1987. Pp. xii, 68. Illustrations, figures, bibliography. Paperbound, $9.75.)

Oral historians, whether experienced or novice, have used Willa K. Baum's *Oral History for the Local Historical Society* as a basic text for the past twenty years. They will welcome this revised third

edition with its updates on equipment and methods. Although the titles and the text refer specifically to work being done by a local historical society, the material contained here is universal. Any person or organization planning an oral history project, whether interviewing three, three hundred, or three thousand people, would benefit from reading this volume. As in the first two editions, the book is small and concise. There are absolutely no wasted words; there are no chapters which can be skimmed.

Baum walks her readers through the process of planning an oral history project, contacting and interviewing narrators, processing the tape, and preserving all materials for research. She discusses legal questions, giving examples of necessary documents. She suggests possible uses of the newly acquired material and includes a well-chosen bibliography for further reading.

Most of all, however, she concentrates on the interview itself, since all oral history stems from this act of recording an interview with a narrator who has a story to tell. Her advice has the ring of truth arrived at through experience. The beginner will be well advised to read and re-read this portion of the book before attempting a first interview. In oral history, as in other fields, it is difficult to keep up with technological changes. Already some parts of the discussion on equipment may be outdated, but the basic advice as to how to use equipment in the interviewing situation is invaluable.

The author offers both sides of the question of whether to transcribe taped interviews but suggests that the local project should begin by planning to record only, with transcription as a possibility later. Opinions on this matter differ. This reader feels that transcribing the interviews is a basic part of the oral history process; this is a very minor quarrel with a very major work.

Oral history lends itself well to research in any environment, including the diverse conditions in Indiana. Any group planning a project where some attempt will be made to probe the memories of older inhabitants, or to study speech patterns, or to obtain an informal "man in the street" view of past events will be well-advised to consider taping interviews. Indiana has a rich oral tradition, which combined with the distinctive Hoosier dialect, preserves memories and history in a special way. Any group planning to use oral history techniques as part of its research should read very carefully *Oral History for the Local Historical Society*. Further reading might supplement and add to their knowledge, but the basics are all included in Baum's book, a classic in the literature of oral history.

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