

Clearly Heard Forever

J. P. Harrington Database Project Newsletter

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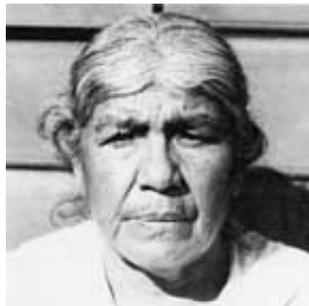
Harrington in the San Jose Mercury News

Thank you to Lisa Krieger of the San Jose *Mercury News* for her article about the Harrington Project: *Preserving California's Native Languages: Database Team Deciphers a Million Pages of Notes*. As of this writing, it can be found at: http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_7799104?source=email

***Ascención: A Dramatic Ethno-Historical Cantata*, February 24, 2008**

The world premiere of *Ascención: A Dramatic Ethno-Historical Cantata* will be held in the Music Department Concert Hall at California State University, Fresno on February 24 at 3 pm. Featured are mezzo-soprano Helene Joseph-Weil, composer Benjamin Boone, pianist Hatem Nadim, and the voices of the Fresno State Choirs, with Dr. Anna Hamre, director.

This groundbreaking work honors the life of Ascención Solórsano de Cervantes (pictured right). Born in 1854, she was known as "The Saint of Gilroy" for her compassionate care of the poor, the sick, and dying. She was the last of the Amah-Mutsun (San Juan) to retain full fluency in her language (see "Continuing a Family Tradition" in *Clearly Heard Forever* #6, September 24).



Helene Joseph-Weil, long-time friend of and collaborator with the J. P. Harrington Project, is professor of music at California State University Fresno. A Metropolitan Opera Auditions winner, she has had an extensive and diverse solo performing career.

She has based the libretto directly on *The San Juan Report*, Harrington's extensive chronicles of Ascención Solórsano's oral history, and 20 years of

research, including interviews with several of Ascención's descendants.

Tickets are \$10 (faculty, seniors, students \$7), available on-line at <http://www.csufresno.edu/music/CurrentEvents.html>, or at the Music Department's Box Office: M-F 11 am-1 pm.

Harrington's Materials at the National Anthropological Archives (NAA)

In the previous Newsletter you saw photographs of Harrington's archived field notes. We wrote: "After working for so many years from microfilm copies of the notes, and perhaps imagining them in a dark and dusty warehouse, we can now see from Lisa's photographs that they have been cataloged and stored in a state of the art facility, with controlled temperature and humidity."

Victor Golla sent this email:

Lisa was not entirely wrong to imagine them housed in a dark and dusty warehouse. Before the move to Silver Hill in the 90s, when the NAA was still lodged in the Natural History Museum on the Mall, things were a lot more retro. . . And when I first visited DC in the early 60s, when the BAE [Bureau of American Ethnology] still occupied its original space in one of the towers of the old Smithsonian "castle" accessible only by a creaky open-cage elevator, dusty and dark were entirely appropriate adjectives.

J. P. Harrington Notes Currently Being Coded or Checked

California languages: Achomawi/Atsugewi; Coast Yuki; Chimariko; Chocheño/Mutsun/Rumsen; Chumashan Ineseño; Esselen; Gabrielino; Kato; Kitanemuk; Luiseño/Juaneño; Mutsun; Northern and Central Pomo; Salinan; Serrano; Shasta/Karuk; Tubatulabal; Wikchamni; Wintu; Yana.
Other languages: S.W. Oregon Athabascan; Coos; Quiche; Nicola; Paiute; Shoshone; Ute.

Language Programs

The Harrington Project is currently working with a number of California Native communities who are engaged in heritage language programs. As Harrington's notes on various languages have been transcribed and checked, we make them available to communities in a variety of formats: printed copy, electronic .pdf file, or as a database file (tab-delimited text file, .xls, etc.).

In a few cases communities have requested notes that have been transcribed and checked, but that we have not had the opportunity to thoroughly recheck. Knowing that until next fall we are seriously understaffed here, we have offered a few of these communities draft copies of the notes they have requested. Unfortunately, even these requests seem to be taking longer to respond to than we would like. We ask for your patience.

The second most enthusiastic responses to the opportunity to view these files have come from folks who do searches for certain words that none of the current speakers remember, but that they know once existed. Sometimes, not always, Harrington got the words down.

What are the most enthusiastic responses to reading the notes? The reactions from those who recognize the names of their own family members, and read early descriptions of the parts of California they are familiar with. Many areas have been changed dramatically—not just by shopping centers and housing tracts, but by hills leveled and streams rerouted or sent underground.

Training for the Gabrielino Community in San Pedro, March 15, 2008

The only training Lisa Woodward and I are scheduling this spring is for the Gabrielino community in March. We anticipate working on several languages at that time.

Newsletter Copies

If you would like to read back issues of *Clearly Heard Forever*, they are available on-line at: <http://nas.ucdavis.edu/NALC/JPH.html>

If you wish to be added to the Newsletter mailing list, or if you currently are on it, but wish to be dropped from the list, please email Martha Macri: <mjmacri@ucdavis.edu>.

General Project Information

John Peabody Harrington (1884–1961), hired in 1915 by the Bureau of American Ethnology as a research ethnologist, devoted nearly half a century to field work on Native American languages. The men and women he interviewed were often among the last remaining speakers of their languages.

The J. P. Harrington Database Project, is administered through the Native American Language Center at UC Davis, with funding from the National Science Foundation (awards BCS01-11487, BCS04-18584, and BCS06-42463), bridge funding from the Office of Research, UC Davis, and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

Principal investigators: Martha Macri, Victor Golla, Lisa Woodward; Senior Personnel: Kathryn Klar, Shirley K. Silver, Sheri Tatsch, Georgie Waugh; Researchers: Margaret Cayward, Iris Flannery, Michael Grofe, Jacob Gutierrez, Pam Munro, numerous community volunteers.

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Newsletter title: Harrington frequently wrote "ch." next to a word or phrase to indicate that he had asked the speaker to repeat it, so it could be "clearly heard." If he had asked the speaker to repeat it slowly several times, and was absolutely certain of the accuracy of his phonetic transcription, he would write "ch. forever."

Martha Macri, Newsletter Editor