

Clearly Heard Forever

J. P. Harrington Database Project Newsletter

Number 13

June 2008

47 Descendants of Ascención Solórsano

On February 24, 2008, 47 descendants and other relatives of Ascención Solórsano de Cervantes came to Fresno State University to attend the premier of *Ascención: A Dramatic Ethno-Historical Cantata*.

The words were those of Ascención, the voice was that of mezzo-soprano Helene Joseph-Weil (pictured right; see *Clearly Heard Forever* 12, February 2008).



Ascención, born in 1854, was one of the last fluent speakers of the Amah-Mutsun language. She worked tirelessly with Harrington throughout the last summer of her life to record for her children and grandchildren her language and wisdom. But it was because of the efforts of a performing artist that these words were heard, in some cases for the first time, by the great-grandchildren for whom they were intended.

Helene brought Ascención's words to life, and fulfilled her deepest wish, that they would reach her children far into the future. There is a lesson here. Ascención's words were stored for decades as written words. But their purpose was only fulfilled when they were sung and spoken to a grateful audience. Thank you to Helene Joseph-Weil for bringing Ascención's efforts to fruition. This project was pleased to have facilitated Helene's work with Harrington's notes.

Breath of Life / Silent No More

The biannual Breath of Life workshop for California Indian languages will be held at the University of California at Berkeley June 8–15. It is hosted by the Advocates for Indigenous California

Language Survival (AICLS) and the Survey of California and Other Indian Languages. Martha Macri will be doing a presentation on the Harrington Project. Harrington's notes and sound recordings are always a welcome resource at this gathering.

From the NAA Website: Harrington's Recordings of California Indian Languages Now Online

<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/whatsnew.htm>

Over 180 historic sound recordings of endangered native California Indian languages recorded by John Peabody Harrington and his associates between 1912 and 1941 are now available online in SIRIS, the Smithsonian's online public access catalog, and in the Rosetta Project language portal. The languages represented in the recordings include Cahuilla, Chimariko, Chumash, Ohlone (Costanoan), Juaneño, Luiseño, Miwok, Salinan, Tolowa, and Tubatulabal. To search for online sound recordings go to:

<http://siris-collections.si.edu/search/results.jsp?q=Sound+recordings>

The digitization was supported by the Rosetta Project (Long Now Foundation) with funding from the Christensen Fund. See resources available from their website at

<http://rosettaproject.org/>

Cataloging in the National Anthropological Archives was supported by a grant from the Smithsonian Women's Committee.

J. P. Harrington Notes Currently Being Prepared for Distribution

As we enter this phase of the project, a number of languages have been transcribed and checked. Some of these transcribed materials have been checked and rechecked. A few of the files are still considered drafts, but have been requested by various communities and scholars. Paper copies are generally distributed to tribal groups. Following review for culturally sensitive materials by

representatives of local communities, several of these will be available online at the project website as .pdf files. They can also be requested as flat database files (tab-delimited .txt files) from either of the project coordinators. We are currently preparing draft reports for the following languages (Note: the first number is the volume and the second number is the reel; most Northern and Central California languages are volume 2, Southern California languages are volume 3; some languages are recorded on multiple reels, and some reels contain notes on more than one language):

Cahuilla reels 3:107, 3:114; Coast Miwok reel 2:5; Fernandeño reel 3:106; Luiseño 3:115; Plains Miwok reel 8:1; Salinan reel 2:85; Southeast Pomo reel 5.

J. P. Harrington Notes Currently Being Coded or Checked

California languages: Achomawi/Atsugewi; Cahuilla, 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 Athabaskan; Coos; Quiche; Nicola; Paiute; Shoshone; Ute.

Training for Chumash and Gabrielino Community Members, March 15, 2008

A training for volunteers working on Gabrielino and Chumashan languages took place at the home of Jacob Guterrez in San Pedro, CA.

Language Is Life Presentation and Training, April 5, 2008

Martha Macri and Robin Thomas presented the work of the J. P. Harrington Project, and followed it by an afternoon training at the *Language Is Life* conference held at the Marin Headlands Institute.

Newsletter Copies

Back issues of *Clearly Heard Forever* 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, Georgie Waugh; Researchers: Iris Flannery, Jaclyn Goodwin, Jacob Gutierrez, Janferie Stone, Matthew Vestuto, other community volunteers.

Information and Contacts:

Native American Language Center
Department of Native American Studies
University of California
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616

<http://nas.ucdavis.edu/NALC/JPH.html>

Northern California coordinator:

Martha J. Macri
Rumsey Rancheria Endowed Chair in
California Indian Studies
mjmacri@ucdavis.edu
(530) 754-8361
(530) 752-7086

Southern California coordinator:

Lisa L. Woodward
Pechanga Cultural Center
lwoodward@verizon.net
(951) 514-7406

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, Lisa Woodward, Newsletter Editors