

University prof gets India Fulbright award

By JAS SAUND
Of the Emerald

Two years ago History Prof. Edwin Bingham applied for a Fulbright grant to teach in Spain; he didn't get it. This year he wanted to teach in Taiwan but was offered a one-year teaching assignment in India instead, an offer he says he could not refuse.

The switch from Taiwan to India came as a welcome surprise, because Bingham has been fascinated by India ever since he was a kid.

"When I applied for the grant two years ago, what I wanted to do was to get out of this country where I have been living all my life and go to a country with a culture strikingly different from my own," he said.

Bingham, 58, will teach American history to undergraduate and graduate students at the state University of Mysore in southern India.

"I will be...using American literature, American music, American drama and political theory to some extent in order to give the Indian students a better idea of what is happening to American society," Bingham said.

Bingham says that he does not know much about the current political situation in India. "I have tried to do some reading since I knew that I will be going there, but mostly it has been in history rather than in present political situation."

Bingham was a pacifist when World War II began. "There were six of us, but in the end all of us except one joined the U.S. Armed Forces," Bingham said.

A lone dissenter was sent to a conscientious objector camp in Waldport, Oregon where he lost an eye in a logging accident, according to Bingham.

"He went back to Los Angeles after the war was over and got a job working for the city park department, he lost his job after it was discovered that he had been a pacifist during the war," Bingham said. "After that I lost touch with him."

Meanwhile Bingham served in the U.S. Air Force intelligence as a private.

He wanted to be a writer when he was young, but he felt that he didn't have enough talent to make it as a free-lancer. So he became a history student instead and obtained a bachelor and a master of arts degrees from Occidental College in Los Angeles and a doctorate from the University of California at Los Angeles. He has served on the University faculty since 1949.

Growing up in southern California was a good experience according to Bingham.

"Southern California in my day was open and it was exciting; it was easy in spite of the depression. My father managed to keep a job, not the same one and then my mother went to work too; so I really did not feel the impact of the depression," he said.

"Those were the days of beaches and dances. Frank Sinatra was just beginning his singing career when I was in high school; Tommy Dorsey, Jimmy Dorsey, Cab Callaway -- all that wonderful period when music was civilized, in my view," he reflected.

Bingham thinks southern California is decaying. "It is simply over-crowded, and it is money hungry and money mad. In those days, there was a space for young people to grow," he said. "If you have to go 40 miles to get elbow room at the beach, there is something wrong."

Bingham is the author of a book entitled "Charles F. Lumis, Editor of the Southwest," and co-author of a book entitled "The Frontier Experience: Readings in the Trans-Mississippi West."

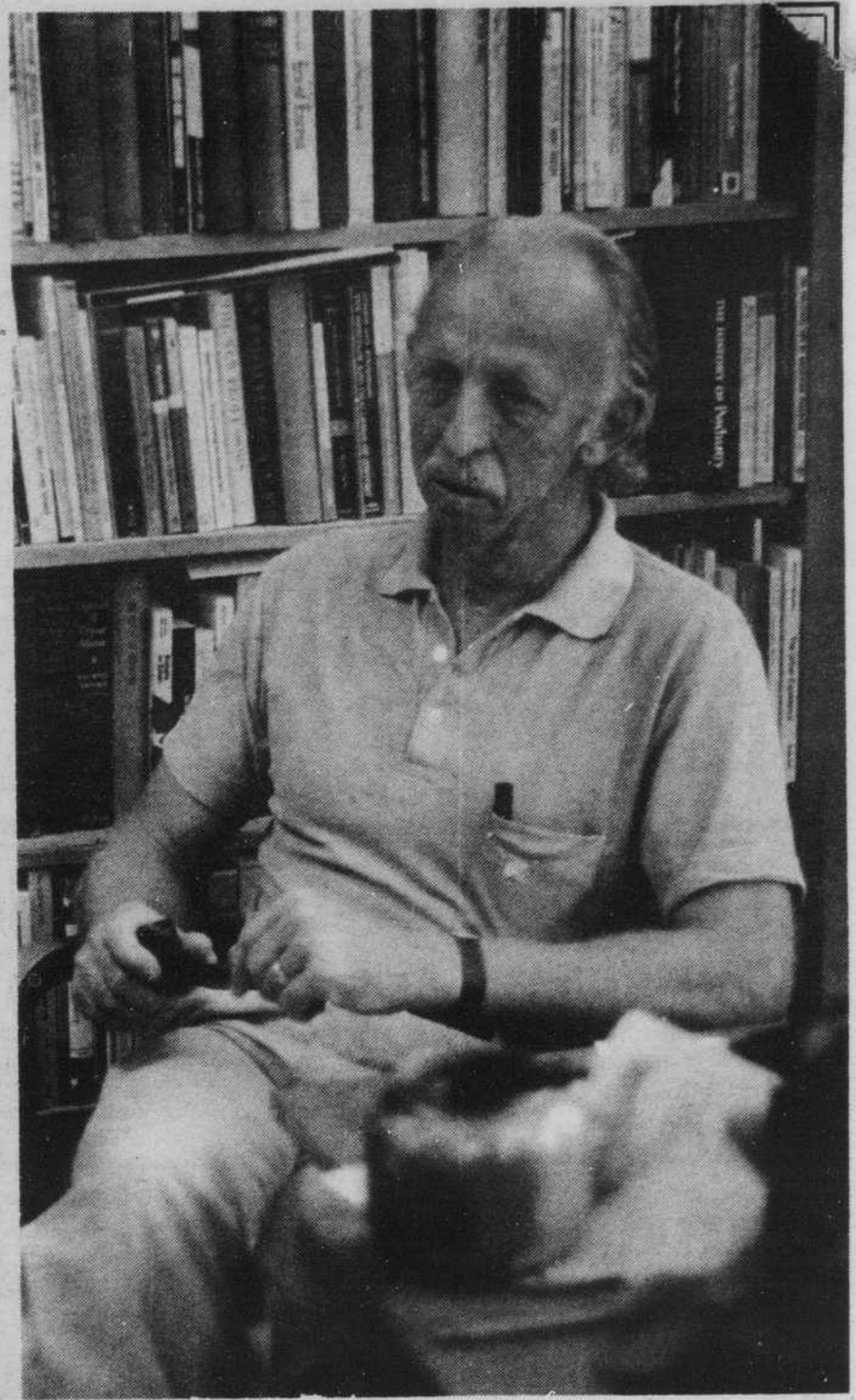


Photo by Mary M. Massie

Fulbright winner Edwin Bingham

Easter Seals album seeking volunteers

Around Christmas time, a locally produced record album will hit record stores around this area. All the profits from its sales will be used for Easter Seals projects in Lane County.

The producers are hoping to hold the purchase cost down to a dollar and a penny, says project coordinator John Sharkey of Diamond Minds Productions.

"We're trying to do as much of the work in Lane county as we

can," he adds. "The main theme of this album is trying to help each other. We're hoping to make between a penny and a dime on each album for Easter Seals."

Sharkey says the project needs volunteers for every aspect of the album's production, from cover artwork to printing. And it's not too late for local recording artists and songwriters to submit tapes.

"We're going to be paying royalties for these original tunes," he says. All music and artwork for the

record must be about some aspect of Lane county, he stresses.

The project is based on similar efforts started by Sharkey and others in California. He says the idea of recording a local album has produced good results for Easter Seals, and provided a break for amateur and professional musicians at the same time.

Artists are especially needed, Sharkey says, and he hopes to "piece out" calligraphy work for the liner notes.

Persons submitting tapes are encouraged to record at the highest quality possible, as the original recording may be used for the soundtrack. "Every tape will be listened to by at least three people," Sharkey adds.

Sharkey says the talent judges will include radio program directors from the major Eugene stations.

Persons interested in contributing their time and talents to some

phase of the album's creation are encouraged to contact Sharkey at 344-5530. All tapes, artwork and photographs must be submitted by August 31, to Sharkey at 3366 Donald St., Eugene.



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