



*Meier and Frank Co. delivery truck, Portland, circa 1905, from the Meier and Frank collection, Mss 2866, Oregon Historical Society Research Library*

---

**The Meier & Frank Collection (Profile on Page 17)**

---

## *President's Message*

Seasons Greetings, comrades!

I hope your holidays are warm and filled with good times with friends and family. Celebrations and observances may differ, but the desire to celebrate peace and love is universal.

Northwest Archivists has a new mentoring program. Donna McCrea deserves special recognition for her hard work in designing and promoting this necessary program. She exemplifies the spirit of so many of our members – people who want positive change and are willing to work to make it happen.

Mentoring is one of those things that looks simple at first glance. How hard can it be for a seasoned vet to tell some young rube just how the world works and what needs to happen to insure a long and successful career? But mentoring programs often struggle and fail. Is it because the mentors don't know what they're talking about? Because the protégés don't listen?

Or is it because we forget that mentoring is about relationships, not about knowledge? We have all learned a variety of things about our profession from any number of people. But the lessons that really stick come from people we connect with. My mentors, some of whom are reading these very words, have several things in common.

First, they gave their help without thought of reward. They mentored because they wanted to help a colleague and to strengthen a profession. Sometimes this was in a formal situation – say a boss or a formal mentor. But it was also situations where established colleagues took the time to open themselves to a newcomer. I truly believe I owe my professional career to the selfless help of a number of people who didn't have to do a thing.

*(Continued on page 26)*

### **EASY ACCESS**

Published quarterly by the Northwest Archivists, Inc.

#### *Editor*

John Bolcer  
University of Washington  
<jdbolcer@u.washington.edu>

#### *Assistant Editor*

Tiah Edmunson-Morton  
Oregon State University  
<Tiah.Edmunson-morton@oregonstate.edu>

### **NWA OFFICERS**

#### *President*

Terry Baxter  
Multnomah County Records Program

#### *Vice President*

Trevor Bond  
Washington State University

#### *Secretary*

Anne Frantilla  
Seattle Municipal Archives

#### *Treasurer*

Erika Castaño  
Oregon State University

### **BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

#### *Alaska Representative*

Wendi Lyons  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

#### *Idaho Representative*

Nathan Bender  
University of Idaho

#### *Montana Representative*

Donna McCrea  
University of Montana

#### *Oregon Representative*

Brian D. Brown  
City of Portland

#### *Washington Representative*

Ruth Steele  
Western Washington University

### **MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR:**

Ellie Arguimbau  
Montana Historical Society  
earguimbau@mt.gov

**Webpage:** [www.lib.washington.edu/nwa](http://www.lib.washington.edu/nwa)



## Nearby History

—Darby Langdon

Secondary research, through history interpreted for us on the pages of a book, is an interesting and convenient way to grasp the three dimensional complexity of past events and characters. Primary research, by comparison, is a scavenger hunt. A letter here, a clue there, going from archive to archive to create a structure of evidence from which, in the end, we may or may not get closer to understanding true events.

Two years ago, I didn't know this. Although an admirer of historians, I had no idea what it meant to produce a history. History, for me, had always come from secondary sources. Primary research, as far as I was concerned, was something performed in laboratories for the purpose of curing disease.

Then, in 2006, spurred by my curiosity about events which occurred after World War II in Pueblo, Colorado, I decided to take the *Nearby History* course at the Museum of History and Industry in Seattle. The two classes in the course were taught by historian Lorraine McConaghy. In the first class, Lorraine painstakingly explained the distinction between history read in books and history discovered through primary research. For six weeks, Lorraine bombarded us with information about where to find discoverable history. Archivists, curators, and librarians visited our classroom week after week and shared the secrets of the vast amount of records, letters, manuscripts, diaries, maps, and photographs available in and around the Seattle area. I was immediately intimidated. It was obvious my Colorado project was overwhelmingly massive and too far away geographically to take advantage of the various resources introduced in Lorraine's class.

There was only one place to begin and that was at a chopping block with a large machete. I needed a manageable project around which I could focus an

investigation using the resources about which I had been learning. I chopped my project down and re-oriented it locally around the development of the Seattle School District in the period between 1945 and 2005. But even with a more concise project definition, I still couldn't quite figure out how to put my toe in the archival waters. Surely this type of research required a true scholar, not an armchair web surfer.

Lorraine, in all her wisdom, was very encouraging and gave me two excellent pieces of advice: one—Read Bryce Nelson's book, *Good Schools*, about the Seattle School District under Frank Cooper's stewardship from 1901 to 1930; two—Pay a visit to Eleanor Toews, Archivist at the Seattle School District Archives.

I started with *Good Schools*, from which I learned that Nelson did a great deal of his research at the Seattle Public Schools Archives and, in fact, included Eleanor in his acknowledgements for her outstanding help with his project. I wasn't sure the acknowledgement encouraged me or intimidated me more. But, finally, with great trepidation and no more excuses for procrastination, I made my first archival visit to Eleanor Toews at the Seattle School District on February 16, 2006.

My fears proved unfounded. Eleanor initiated me into the mysteries of history with white gloves, pencils only, and boundless suggestions and ideas for pursuit. Eleanor's sense of history, her ability to spot a picture, a piano, a year book and recognize its value, is excellent and the archives have benefited from that. I often wondered if Eleanor preserved things in her home as meticulously as she did at the Schools Archives. Eleanor spoiled me and I began to expect the same level of professionalism at all school districts and institutions of

*(Continued on page 4)*



*(Continued from page 3) Nearby History:*

higher education. I found later that this expectation was overly optimistic. Ultimately, though, I was to discover that I didn't have to be a scholar to mine archival treasures but rather I had to have the right question. And I still didn't.

I meandered from idea to idea. Eleanor patiently helped me hunt down data around each idea to its dead end. I stumbled aimlessly through the second class of the *Nearby History* series and ended up producing a bomb of a paper which compared a study written for the School District in 1915 by Anna Yeomans Reed and a Gates Foundation Study done in 2006. Lorraine, being the consummate professional, encouraged me to develop a different, even more focused, question by taking a closer look at Anna Yeomans Reed herself.

Again, she was right! Under my nose, I had two gripping opportunities, one was Anna and the other was what I was about to learn about the addictive qualities of primary research once the right question is asked. My question: Who was Anna Yeomans Reed, born just after the Civil War and died a year after the end of World War II?

From that point on, after the Schools Archives where I first discovered Anna, I began to find bit after tantalizing bit from her life. At Special Collections at the University of Washington, I have found her letters to Henry Suzzallo, President of the University, and Austin Griffiths, Seattle City Councilman; an eighth grade Lewis & Clark primer she wrote for the Woman's Century Club; and the study she did of the Chehalis Training School and the Monroe Reformatory for the governor of Washington. The Microfiche Section at the Suzzallo Library at the University had the letters she had written to her uncle, Grover Cleveland, when he was in the White House. The University of Wisconsin lent me her PhD thesis about the Hawaiian Revolution in 1893. At the Northwest Museum of Art and Culture in Spokane, I found startling letters of confi-

dence and betrayal from Anna to Governor Hay, and at the State Archives I found additional letters to and from Governor Hay. At New York University, where she was a professor for sixteen years, I found her letters to Chancellor Brown and a letter from the Chancellor to Henry Suzzallo when he was at the Carnegie Corporation, asking for a grant to support some of Anna's work. Even small archives, like those at the Woman's Century Club and the Rainier Chapter of the DAR yielded information about her participation in the early twentieth century club culture.

Her personal papers have disappeared or are under the nose of a librarian somewhere waiting to be discovered. So, I am piecing Anna's life together from articles, obituaries, Who's Whos, letters, a ship's manifest, and government records. It's my scavenger hunt, each discovery is yet another clue, each relationship I uncover tells me more about her character which leads to more questions.

I have become a convert, a believer in the primary sources of history. A voyeur into the past who loves the touch and feel of the bits and pieces left behind. Who, in a box and file of the Governor's letters, can recognize Anna's handwriting amongst thousands of letters of complaint, supplication, hope, and despair. Who can see her name pop from a typed page and know a treasure has been found, a theory confirmed, and a new one postulated. As when I was a child, I hope the scavenger hunt is never over.



## Wonderful Wikis and Archives SATs: How Eight Archivists Studied for the Certified Archivist Exam

—Russell D. James, CA & Tiah Edmunson-Morton, CA

In the spring of 2007, a group of eight archivists formed a study group for the certified archivist (CA) examination. After twenty-two weeks of study, seven of the eight participants passed the examination and became certified archivists. Beyond the 87% success rate, why is this notable? Because with the communication and collaboration possibilities of web 2.0 tools, a group scattered throughout the country and from a wide array of repository types was able to come together for discussion, support, and study. This article is a discussion of how we used a wiki to manage the lengthy reading list provided by the Academy of Certified Archivists.

### The Exam

While the exam is designed to provide a professional certification for practicing archivists, which means the practical experience we acquire going to work every day is a means of “study,” it also tests knowledge of current archival literature and accepted principles and practices. The certification handbook recommends that you familiarize yourself with material from over sixty books and the last five years of at least four archival journals. This is a lot of material for any one person to handle! To manage the sheer mass of information, our study group divided up the book list and created a schedule for posting notes on our readings; we used a wiki as the tool for managing these files.

### Notes Management

The Academy of Certified Archivists divides the reading list into “domains” of study. Our group followed this format and used the wiki to create separate pages for each domain. Each member picked a domain. It was intended to be a space for exploring the larger concepts and overarching themes from the reading list, personal experiences, and other sources of information; however, these pages were

used less than the pages created to host the reading notes.

The notes on these pages were invaluable. Each reading was listed under its due date and a page was linked from the main schedule. At the beginning of each week, the member assigned to a specific book for that week would post notes on the wiki for everyone to read; both detailed and summarized notes were created for each reading. These notes were used by the group as a basis for facilitating discussion about the readings in the chat room later that week. Because it was a wiki, the pages could be modified by the original author as well as other members of the group who had read that particular reading themselves, providing both a wealth of perspectives and a system for review.

### Information Overload

All in all, the combined notes totaled over 600 pages of text! Again, while fewer than the total pages of the reading list, this is still a lot of material to digest. From a realistic and practical standpoint, weren't the number of notes pages created just as burdensome as if each member had to read all sixty books?

One member wrote a 200+ question sample test of multiple choice questions taken directly from the notes on the wiki. Though few of these questions appeared on the test in even a semblance of their practice test state, the mere exercise of taking a multiple choice exam provided many with a means of evaluating their progress *and* of getting back into “ScanTron” mode.

Turning to a different web 2.0 tool, another member placed the readings from each domain into a separate Google Docs document, in a password-protected area, that could be accessed by the group.

*(Continued on page 6)*



*(Continued from page 5) Wonderful Wikis:*

Each person had an opportunity to go to these pages and refresh their own knowledge of the domain in a more manageable format. Some used this method as a tool in order to study only those readings they needed assistance with, while others could use it as a general study review for all the material. It should be noted that this could have also been done on our wiki, rather than in a Google Doc, by creating a separate set of pages to house the summaries.

### Wiki Worries

Some opponents say that wikis are not safe from intrusion by others; however, in our experience, there was not a single instance where a person outside the group modified any of the pages or notes. Others say that the content of a wiki page is user-defined and user-added, thereby reducing its accuracy and authority. One only has to think of the anxious debate over Wikipedia and the Encyclopedia Britannica to see an example of this criticism.

However, we used the wiki to become experts on the material we read; if someone found an error by one group member, we were free (and encouraged) to correct it.

Overall, the group's use of the wiki was a positive experience for all. We were able to collaboratively study for the CA exam by having each person read only a select few books, take notes on the books, and then put the notes up for the group's use. At the same time, because it is a public wiki, these notes have created an amazing summary of the major professional texts for the larger community.

The wiki, coupled with the chat room created for the study group, proved to be an effective means for sharing information *and* prevented myopia among the members. Perhaps the greatest value comes with the act of eight people coming together to collaborate, share, and support each other through the arduous path through the Archives SAT...

## Contracting Archives: The Mazamas Case Study

—Sharon Howe

Contracting is one way to provide archival services to smaller institutions that cannot afford to hire professional staff. Both institutions and archivists often have questions about the benefits and costs of archival work done under contract. Contracted services can range from short-term projects to long-term arrangements. This is a case study of a long-term contract between Sharon Howe, archivist, and the Mazamas, the oldest mountaineering organization in the Pacific Northwest, with headquarters in Portland, Oregon.

The Mazamas was founded in 1894 atop Mt. Hood. Since then, they have continued to require a verified climb of a glaciated peak to qualify for membership. Also characteristic of the Mazamas since 1894 is dependence on an elected volunteer council for leadership and volunteer service on committees that carry out the work of the organization, includ-

ing Library (now Library and Historical Collections) and Research committees. Only during the past few decades have paid staff provided some support. The Mazamas maintained leased clubrooms until earlier this year, when they completed renovation of a building in southeast Portland as the Mazamas Mountaineering Center. The Mazamas also have operated a lodge on Mt. Hood since 1923.

In addition to mountaineering, the Mazamas emphasize research and education. From the beginning, its membership included scientists and well-educated amateurs who carried out research projects, including glacier surveys that today contribute to investigations of global warming. Beginning in 1935, the Mazamas financed aerial glacier surveys of Mt. Hood and other Cascade peaks, and

*(Continued on page 7)*



(Continued from page 6) *Contracting Archives:*

members carried out ground surveys. Some of the photographs are now available internationally through a joint project with Portland State University ([www.glaciers.us](http://www.glaciers.us)). Many studies being done in the field are benefitting from use of the Mazamas' collections and funding from the Research Committee.



A Mazamas Research Committee member surveys Eliot Glacier on Mount Hood, circa 1927. The surveyor is believed to be Earl Marshall. From Paul Thiess Collection, VM2000.023.  
—*Photo courtesy of the Mazamas*

Mountaineering seems to draw professional photographers like lichen to rocks, if the Mazamas' outstanding visual materials collection is any indication. The most famous of those represented is Edward S. Curtis, who joined the Mazamas in the 1890s along with other climbers from the Seattle area. (The Seattle Mountaineers spun off from the Mazamas in 1907.) Other collections include manuscripts, oral histories, Mazamas institutional records and publications, maps, rare books, a circulating collection of books and videos, and a mu-

seum collection that document more than a century of mountaineering.

#### *The contract begins*

Soon after I started work at the Images Division of the Oregon Historical Society (OHS) Research Library in 1997, the chair of the Mazamas Library Committee contacted OHS seeking professional help to complete processing of photographic collections. I viewed their collections and facilities and provided a résumé. In 1998, we signed a contract to provide services for up to eight hours a week for 18 months. At the same time, they hired a part-time librarian, Bob Lockerby, a long-time Mazama who had been cataloging the books as a volunteer in addition to his work as assistant library director at Portland State.

My first look at the main collections storage area—a locked L-shaped walk-in closet—revealed both the best and the worst. Jeff Thomas, an expert on mountaineering history had begun working on the photographs collection as a volunteer in the 1980s. The Library Committee hired him in 1991, when they were first provided funds to process the photographs. Relying on advice from OHS staff and conservation services from Portland Art Museum staff, Jeff and a few volunteers arranged and briefly described the best of the photograph collection. These were conserved in museum quality mats and cases. Jeff and the volunteers also had processed some other materials into archival folders and boxes and stored them on metal shelving. Much of the floor area, however, was occupied by a large recent donation that had arrived in boxes, ranging from metal ammunition cases to a wooden crate, and the shelves held many unprocessed collections in various boxes and stacks. In addition, many of the institutional records and publications were stored in cardboard boxes in the basement, where museum collections also were located.

The primary needs that I identified in my work with the Mazamas will seem familiar to any archivist:

(Continued on page 8)



*(Continued from page 7) Contracting Archives:*

security, environmental controls, processing space, volunteer training, records and collection management, and computerization. Without professional expertise, these issues can seem overwhelming; however, getting started even in a small way can lead to future progress and influence the institution's leaders to seek more resources to continue addressing the needs.

*Security.* Although the collection storage closet was locked, there were few limits on access and no control system in place when items were removed. As a result, valuable materials had disappeared. Security was addressed by changing the locks, limiting access, and instituting a check-out system by authorized personnel.

*Environment.* Environmental issues required more time and resources to resolve. The closet occupied an outside corner wall on the second and top floor of an un-insulated concrete block, flat-roofed structure that was completed in 1931 as Paramount Pictures' Northwest distribution center. The Mazamas clubrooms were heated only during business hours and were not air conditioned, resulting in significant swings in temperature and humidity. At times during the winter, materials felt slightly damp to the touch. Dealing with environmental problems was accomplished in phases, culminating in completion of environmentally-controlled facilities in the new Mazamas Mountaineering Center.

In 1999, some processing space and three vaults once used for film storage became available on the first floor, and the Mazamas Council agreed to fund these spaces. Most important were the vaults, all located on inside walls, where temperature and humidity fluctuations were reduced to acceptable levels. The shelves that once held reels of motion picture film proved the perfect size and spacing to hold document cases. Volunteers added shelving for oversize materials at the end of the Visual Materials vault. Another vault held the rare book collection and Mazamas publications. The third vault

stored the Mazamas' organizational archives and manuscript collections.

*Processing space.* Initially, processing took place in a meeting room that had the advantage of large tables and the disadvantages of shared use. Supplies were stored in a locked cabinet, and all work-in-progress had to be returned to the closet at the end of the day. The new dedicated office/processing space that was added in 1999 provided computer connections and modular tables. A locked room adjoining the processing area provided space for flat files of oversized materials, as well as shelving for incoming collections, work in progress, and supplies.

When the Mazamas began the search for a building that would better suit their expanding needs, the Library and Historical Collections Committee worked with staff and Council to ensure that consideration was given to adequate, environmentally controlled space for archival, library, and museum collections use, processing, and storage. Once a building was identified for purchase, I worked with the committee to prepare a needs assessment, which was provided to the architect, and I joined committee representatives in meeting with the architect to discuss space and design requirements. Jeff Thomas described the outcome as, "The glass was 95 percent full." The library, archives, and museum now has a reading room and circulating library, office and processing rooms, and secure storage space, complete with cold storage for nitrate negatives. Work is still needed to expand exhibit spaces.

*Volunteer training.* Barbara Marquam, Library Committee chair at the time I was hired, proved to be an excellent volunteer recruiter and coordinator, so I had many people to instruct on the main points of handling and inventorying photograph collections. Instruction and supervision of volunteers remained a major part of my duties with the Mazamas, extending into all aspects of the work, from remodeling spaces to cataloging collections. The

*(Continued on page 9)*



(Continued from page 8) *Contracting Archives:*

major areas of training included preservation, arrangement, and description.



The workroom in the new Mazamas Mountaineering Center provides modular tables and computer stations adjacent to the secured stacks (door at rear). From left are: Barbara Marquam (at computer) and Alice Davis, who have been involved with the project since 1998, and newer volunteers, Jessica Palfreyman and Kellye Just (at computer).

*Records management.* Although I was contracted to work with photographs initially, I soon discovered many more needs as I surveyed the scattered areas in the Mazamas clubrooms that held archival, library, and museum materials. With the cooperation and agreement of the committee, Librarian Bob Lockerby, Museum Curator Vera Dafoe, and Executive Director Keith Mischke, I worked with Sandra Suttie, a talented volunteer. She led a collaborative process that arrived at a collections policy, records management plan, and appraisal guidelines that served as a starting point for collection development and identification of institutional archives. We also inaugurated an accession system and created retroactive accession records from correspondence and other documentation.

Once my 18-month contract was completed, the Library Committee obtained funding from the Mazamas Council to continue my services, with a goal

of arranging, describing, and preserving all institutional archives and historical archival collections. Donations to the collections continued to flow in as we worked on the backlog. Once institutional records were inventoried and assembled in one place, I trained and assisted Barbara in doing a functional analysis. From this analysis, we derived record groups and series that reflect the organization and operation of the Mazamas for more than a century.

*Computerization.* At the beginning of my contract, the Mazamas budgeted for new computer equipment and eventually installed a networked system to serve the library, archives, and museum collections. PastPerfect soon became available, and after investigating its features, functionality, and affordability, I recommended that the Mazamas purchase the package because it had modules to serve all the needs of their relatively small but varied collections: an accession system that could also document loans; archives catalog; individual visual images catalog; library catalog; museum objects catalog; and a digital image management system.

PastPerfect proved to be a good, if not perfect, choice for the Mazamas. The easy learning curve makes it possible for volunteers to use the database with relatively limited training. The system is modular but allows access to collections across modules. The library, archives, and photograph modules include subject heading fields that facilitate browse searches. Librarian Lockerby already had created a word processed Mazamas-specific thesaurus, which we incorporated into PastPerfect and built upon. The digital image management module allows easy connection of digital images to appropriate records and can automate creation of technical and administrative metadata. We also found it relatively easy to import data from other programs. One of the features the Mazamas have found particularly useful is the biographical data that can be entered and then accessed from creator fields and personal name headings.

(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 9) *Contracting Archives:*

*Lessons from contract work with the Mazamas:* Institutions which contract with qualified archivists for short-term or long-term projects can expect to benefit from collections that are arranged, described, and preserved to higher standards; new opportunities to make collections accessible; volunteers who are better trained to carry on the work; and recruitment of new volunteers. In the space of a decade, the Mazamas have enjoyed all of these benefits. They have completed processing, preservation, and at least basic cataloging of all historical archival collections and approximately 60 percent of their institutional archives. They have achieved environmentally-controlled storage and the means to make their important collections on the history of mountaineering available to a wider audience. Even the Mazamas' recent capital campaign benefited from donors who gave generously based on their interest in the historical collections.

Beyond extra income, archivists who do contract work can benefit from using their expertise in different settings, increase their own skills and knowledge as they do problem solving, make new friends, and attain the satisfaction of helping to preserve and make available archival materials that might otherwise deteriorate away in obscurity. I have benefited in all these ways and many more from my long-term and continuing association with

the Mazamas.

*Sharon Howe left the Oregon Historical Society in 2005 to take a position with the Washington State Archives Central Region Branch in Ellensburg, but she continues to consult with the Mazamas long-distance as needed. She is past-president of Northwest Archivists.*

*Helpful hints:*

For institutions:

- Be clear about what you want to accomplish.
- Be honest about the resources you have to devote to the work, including money, facilities, supplies, and volunteer time and skills.
- Be willing to seek more resources as needs are identified.

For archivists:

- Make certain that your knowledge and skills suit the needs of the institution.
- Look for creative and practical ways to meet needs at a level that makes sense for the institution.

Expect to balance your contract rate between your requirements and the limits of the institution's resources. It is difficult to determine a recommended rate across the board, but remember that you must cover income taxes and other costs out-of-pocket.

## **The Unlikely Acquisition of one the Rarest Books of the Twentieth Century**

—Trevor James Bond, Washington State University Libraries

One of the great joys of my job is the time I spend in the rare books vault in Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections. The rare books vault is a romantic way to describe two large, secure, climate controlled rooms located on the ground floor of the Terrell Library, but it's fitting given the treasures held within. I've been aware of our twenty-eight volume set of Frederick Hill Meserve's *Historical Portraits* for years, it's a terrific source for locating photographs of leading Americans of the Civil War

era and the collection's individual slip cases and elaborate gilt tooled crimson Moroccan spines cry out "open me." In addition to the beauty of the *Historical Portraits*, the set is exceedingly rare. Only seven copies were ever produced; none has been in private hands since 1934. In addition to the set here in Pullman, the others are held by the New York Historical Society, the New York State Library in Albany, the Lincoln Memorial University, Harvard,

*(Continued on page 11)*



(Continued from page 10) *Unlikely Acquisition:*

Indiana University, and the Chicago Historical Society.

Frederick Hill Meserve began collecting photographs from the Civil War to illustrate his father's military memoir. At the time there was not much interest or value placed on 19<sup>th</sup> century photographs. In 1902, Meserve seized the opportunity to purchase more than 15,000 Mathew Brady glass negatives. Brady had died in 1896 having lost his great collection of negatives to settle debts. The Brady negatives had been acquired by E. & H. T. Anthony & Co. When Meserve visited the Anthony & Co. warehouse in Hoboken where the Brady

negatives were stored, he found scores broken on the floor. Among the clutter of broken glass, he saw an unbroken negative and held it up the light—the image was a portrait of President Lincoln dated February, 1864.

In 1913, Meserve decided to share his collection by privately printing the *Historical Portraits*. Each 28 volume set contains over 8,000 actual photographs (prints made from cartes-de-visite negatives). To produce these volumes Meserve would spend his evenings after days spent as a New York City textile executive, pasting the prints onto preprinted sheets.

One of the most striking things about WSU's copy of the *Historical Portraits* is the note in pencil on the verso of the title page:

Meserve v. 1-4, v. 7-8, v. 27-28  
Library request of Dr. Holland 2-29-45  
v. 5-6, v. 9-10  
gift of Dr. Holland  
\$195.00 per volume.

This little inscription is a bombshell. It tells us the provenance of the purchase and, what is most startling, the price per volume. During the 1940s, the State College of Washington (WSC) Library could buy any number of books for a few dollars. Why did we buy such a lavish set of books? This purchase also ran counter to the inclinations of W.W. Foote, the WSC Librarian, who was concerned above all else in increasing the size of the library collection by counting "pieces" which included anything that could be had for free, such as brochures, railroad time tables, and state government documents from Iowa. Indeed, in 1943 and 1944 the Library accessioned 27,637 volumes, but total accessions were 532,637 (this larger figure accounts for vast numbers of "pieces"). Unfortunately Foote's collecting policies caused major problems: the cataloging staff nearly quit and the inflated numbers made it appear that WSC had a larger collection than Cornell, though WSC's acquisitions

(Continued on page 12)



(Continued from page 11) *Unlikely Acquisition:*  
budget was extremely low.

During the 1940s and prior to the construction of the Holland Library, the lack of space for library collections was so acute that library materials were crammed into basements and attics across campus. I'm certain that if Foote had had his druthers he would have used the \$5,000 to buy several thousand books, instead of the 28 volumes of the *Historical Portraits*. Why then does WSU have a copy of the *Historical Portraits*?

There are two reasons. Since the early 1940s, the WSC Library had developed a Lincoln collection and secondly, and more importantly, President Holland wanted it. In 1941, the Library acquired a major collection of Lincolniana that had been developed by C. P. Bissett, a Seattle businessman. After Bissett's death in 1931, appraisers of his estate set a value on the collection of \$20,000. Bissett's heirs were unable to find a buyer until Mrs. A. W. Witherspoon of Spokane, bought the collection for \$4,000 and presented it to the WSC Library. Unfortunately, the cornerstone of this collection, a manuscript by Lincoln, has recently been identified as a forgery.

It's clear from the correspondence in President Holland's papers that he ordered the set and then went about raising the money for it. In 1938, President Holland had created the Friends of the Library, the first such organization for an academic library in the West. With support from two alumni, President Holland ordered facsimiles of a portrait of Lincoln and his Gettysburg address and, through the Friends of the Library, sent them to 204 banks in Washington State. In all, the gifts totaled more than \$9,000. Even before it was clear that this effort would succeed, in a letter to Ralph Newman of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, President Holland wrote "Librarian Foote has been authorized to send a check to you for \$140 to be used to pay for the leather for the binding of the twenty-eight volumes of the Meserve collection of photographs... As I

stated in an earlier letter, I am quite sure we can take care of the purchase of six or eight volumes, and I have every reason to believe we can receive additional gifts in order that we may purchase the entire set."

To ensure that the Library received the entire set, President Holland personally purchased four of the volumes and donated them to the Library. By 1944, the year of his retirement, President Holland had contributed \$2,110 (almost twice as much as the next largest donor) to the Friends of the Library, along with several fine books including an illustrated edition of Hyginus' *Poetica Astronomica* published in 1488. Reading W.W. Foote's annual report and budget request for 1946 to the new President Wilson Compton, we can glimpse Foote's feelings about the purchase: "Meserve Lincoln Collection ... \$2,000. This is not a legitimate Library expenditure but commitments were made by the former administration. This account should be paid through a general college fund when bills are submitted."

Today we may empathize with Foote's position -- why devote limited library resources for such an extravagant purchase? -- yet feel grateful for the efforts of President Holland (and other generous donors), who have splurged and thereby helped develop collections that make the WSU Libraries distinctive.

### **NWA Board Meeting Minutes October 25, 2007**

The Board of Northwest Archivists, Inc., met by conference call at 9 a.m. on October 25, 2007. The meeting was called to order by President Terry Baxter. Those present were: Ellie Arguimbau, Sharon Howe, John Bolcer, Trevor Bond, Ruth Steele, Linda Long, Nathan Bender, Erika Castaño, Wendi Lyons, Anne Frantilla, and Gina Rappaport.

1. Minutes for July 30, 2007, were approved.

(Continued on page 13)



(Continued from page 12) NWA Board Minutes:

## 2. Reports:

a) Membership Report (Arguimbau): The database includes 210 members, but 50 have not renewed. Arguimbau will check the procedures manual about renewals, and Castaño will look into electronic payment systems.

b) Publications Committee (Bolcer)  
The last *Easy Access* went out mid-October and will be available on the website soon. The assistance of Tiah Edmunson-Morton as Assistant Editor was noted and appreciated by John and several members of the Board. The Board also commented that there was good content in this past issue.

c) Directory Project Committee (Long/Bolcer)  
Long reported that State representatives were very helpful in reviewing lists of repositories for their states. The database is almost complete. Bolcer will assist with the creation of user IDs and creation of the survey. Long will use student help for database support.

d) Local Arrangements / Program Committee (Rappaport)  
Gina Rappaport reported for Arlene Schmuland of the Local Arrangements Committee. A draft schedule was prepared so that rooms could be reserved. The ARMA portion will be Thursday all day. Payment for each conference has not been worked out yet; the cost will most likely be more to go to both conferences. Session proposal forms were sent out, and Rappaport urged everyone to put together session proposals and to encourage colleagues to do the same. The Board asked the Local Arrangements Committee to come to the Board with a cost proposal. A blog will be promoted more as a way of encouraging attendance and program proposals.

## e) Advocacy Committee (Howe)

Howe addressed the issues of news releases, and there was a discussion of policy on taking a position on issues as opposed to general "boosterism." Howe will draft a policy and procedure. She reminded the Board to encourage members to submit any issues that could benefit from NWA Advocacy to her for committee consideration.

## f) Mentoring Committee (Donna McCrea)

Board discussed McCrea's committee report, as she could not be at the meeting. Some members were not able to open the report. The report stated that Elizabeth Nielson has agreed to chair the committee, and Donna McCrea will be program coordinator if no one steps forward. The Committee will meet in early November. A trial round of participants will be solicited in November. Contact McCrea directly with any questions.

## g) Outreach Committee (Baxter for Brian Brown)

Baxter reported for Brown. Brown is recruiting for committee members; please let him know if you can suggest interested participants. Since it is a new committee, the suggestion was made that a message be sent to the membership asking for participants. Bolcer noted that the committee page on the website is out of date; with an updated page, Bolcer will note where new members are needed.

## 3. 2009 Meeting (Baxter)

Baxter reported on a meeting with Layne Sawyer, local arrangements chair; Tiah Edmunson-Morten, program chair; and Kyle Jansen and Curry Gill of the Oregon Heritage Commission. Edmunson-Morten is working on a wiki. The proposed dates are mid-April, either 8-11 or 15-18. The conference will be merged between the two groups (one

(Continued on page 14)



(Continued from page 13) NWA Board Minutes:

registration) but with content to appeal to both. The Heritage Commission will handle hotel and food contracts. Registration costs will be kept in line and online. Interest was expressed by the planning committee in coordinating the conference with other groups, such as tribal archivists, local history groups, the Pacific Northwest Historians, and Oral Historians. The Board expressed support for involvement of other groups. Contact Sawyer or Edmunson-Morten with questions, comments, or ideas.

#### 4. 2010 Meeting (Bolcer)

Bolcer reported that Southwest Archivists are not interested in doing a joint meeting in 2010, but the Society of Hawaii Archivists are very interested. The Society of California Archivists, Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists, and Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists are interested as well. The BC archivists are interested in attending; they are unsure if they would like to help coordinate and plan the conference.

#### 5. Non-Profit Status (Howe)

Howe reported NWA qualified as a 501c3 non-profit, with requirements of an application, one-time fee, and annual reporting requirements. Frantilla and Castaño requested time to look over the requirements and will report back to Howe. The Board agreed to hold this topic over until the next meeting.

#### 6. Three-Year Treasurer's Report (Castaño/Frantilla)

A three-year financial report was prepared to give the Board a sense of income and expenses. Frantilla and Castaño will work on Treasurer procedures for the manual. The Board discussed the idea of a minimum balance as a reserve. The three-year summary will be continued, as the Board found it useful. The current balance is \$15,823. There is concern about expenses exceeding income over the next five years. Ideas for additional income include soliciting more advertisements in *Easy Access* or

asking organizations to underwrite the costs of awards such as Archives Month.

#### 7. Partnership for the American Historical Record (Howe)

Howe reported on her exploration of the Partnership for the American Historical Record, which is an attempt to provide more stable funding for archives from the federal level. NHPRC funding has been an annual battle and does not result in either a lot of funding or funding spread around to many different states. The SHRAB model of funding was found to be useful. Howe talked with Jerry Handfield at Washington State Archives who explained the formula for re-grants would be based on size and population in states, which would guarantee that all states would receive some funding. Placement of fund disbursement had not yet been decided, and it is not clear if it would supplement or replace NHPRC funding. COSA, NAGARA, and SAA support the Partnership. Bender offered his assistance in exploring NWA's position and the best way to convey information to the membership. The Board will discuss the Partnership at the next meeting, as members wanted more time to look into the proposal.

#### 8. Response to Archives Month Promotional Materials (Baxter)

Issue regarding SAA Archives Month promotional materials arose from several different places because the graphic materials (poster) excluded the West Coast, Hawaii and Alaska. Baxter is looking for ways to communicate respectfully to SAA about perceived East Coast bias. Baxter suggested sending a letter making them aware of the omission, in partnership with other archival organizations. California and Hawaii archivists would like to send a joint letter. The letter could include the issue of inclusiveness and should have a positive spin. The Board gave approval for Baxter to draft a letter for approval and get signatures from the California and Hawaii archival organizations.

(Continued on page 15)



(Continued from page 14) NWA Board Minutes:

#### 9. Native American Protocols (Baxter)

Baxter reported on conversations with Karen Underhill and Richard Pearce-Moses about protocols as a session proposal that would rotate through conferences in various states. Underhill is working on putting together a list of people willing to serve on a panel on protocols. The Board discussed whether or not NWA wants to commit to shepherding the presentation of protocols for five years at NWA meetings, acknowledging that the format of presentation may change. The Board agreed the presentation could take different formats in different years and agreed it was a good idea.

#### 10. Other Business

The Board discussed how to incorporate e-mail votes done between meetings and agreed to report them in the next meeting's minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

### NWA Nominations Due Feb. 15

The Nominating Committee has issued a call for some dedicated and creative members in our midst to step forward into leadership positions. For 2008-2009, NWA members will elect a Vice-President/President-Elect, Secretary, and State Representatives for Idaho, Montana, and Oregon.

Nominations are due by Feb. 15, 2008. Nominate your colleagues or volunteer yourself by using the form in this issue of *Easy Access*. Send nominations to the Nominating Committee chair and Past President, Sharon Howe, at the Washington State Archives Central Branch, 400 E. University Way, MS 7547, Ellensburg, WA 98926 or contact her at [howe@cwu.edu](mailto:howe@cwu.edu) or by phone, 509-963-2136. The form is also available on the NWA website.

(Continued on page 26)

**existing media assets via Inventory, cataloguing, and rights management**

**Exploit**

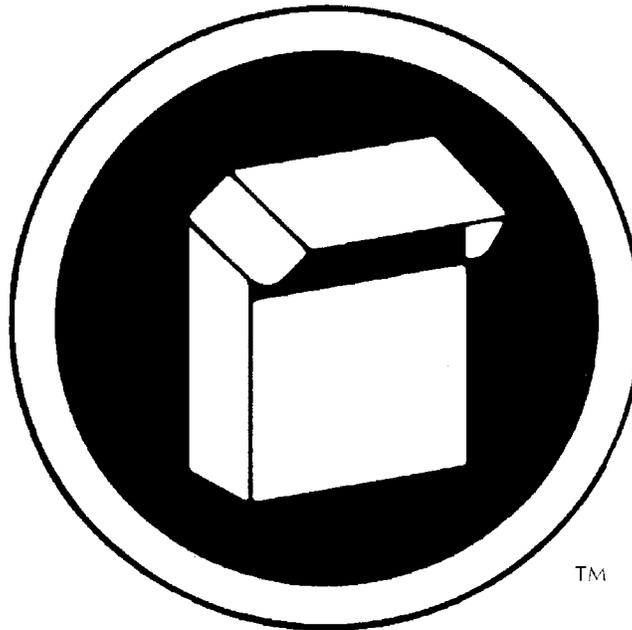
Audiovisual Preservation Specialists  
[www.summitdaymedia.com](http://www.summitdaymedia.com)  
 (907) 248-4336

**Protect**  
 your valuable media-historic, cultural, or corporate

WORKING WITH: NANA REGIONAL CORP., THE PRATT MUSEUM, BAKER JENNINGS FILMS, THE ALASKA STATE LIBRARY, THE NICK BEGICH SCHOLARSHIP INTERN FUND, THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES (PHILADELPHIA)...



# Setting the Standard for Archival Storage Products Since 1945



**CALL FOR OUR FREE CATALOG**

Phone: 800/634-0491 Fax: 800/947-8814

E-mail: [hollingercorp@erols.com](mailto:hollingercorp@erols.com) [www.hollingercorp.com](http://www.hollingercorp.com)

## **THE HOLLINGER CORPORATION**

**Two Manufacturing and Shipping Locations**

- Hollinger East: Fredericksburg, Virginia
- Hollinger West: Sparks, Nevada



---

# NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST

---

## Assistant Editor's Note

Hello NW repositories!

I hope this was a happy, healthy, and productive fall for you all. Based on the submissions I received for this issue of the News from the Northwest, it was!

In the interest of preserving the space for the reporting, I'll keep this note short. The featured collection this time comes from the Oregon Historical Society Research Library in Portland: the Library has received the Meier and Frank Company collection. The once notable, even celebrated, department store was sold to the May Department Stores Co. of St. Louis in 1966. Then, in fall of 2006, the May Company merged with Cincinnati-based Federated Department Stores, and Meier & Frank became a Macy's. You can read about the sale in the Portland Tribune article by following this link: [www.portlandtribune.com/news/story.php?story\\_id=28661](http://www.portlandtribune.com/news/story.php?story_id=28661). For many of us who grew up in Oregon, Meier & Frank was a destination for shopping, but also for Santaland. Since the mid-1950s, the children's monorail, holiday model railroad layout, and the Jolly Red Elf himself (Santa Claus) attracted hordes of bundled up holiday shoppers. For a YouTube video of the monorail in action, visit this link: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=iyCmkE2jVZc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iyCmkE2jVZc).

Don't forget to visit our blog "What Happened Here? News from the NW Archivists" for more details, information, and my own tangentially related research on many of the topics and collections featured in the News for this issue. When you see a word or phrase in **bold**, you can find out more about it at <http://newnwanews.blogspot.com/>.

Finally, if you know of a great gem at a repository, think of something you'd like to know more about, or have changes and suggestions for this column, contact me at [tiah.edmunson-morton@oregonstate.edu](mailto:tiah.edmunson-morton@oregonstate.edu). Have a great winter!

---

## Featured Collection

### ***Oregon Historical Society Research Library***

Coinciding with the re-opening of Macy's at Meier and Frank Square in downtown Portland, the Oregon Historical Society has received a large collection of photographs, scrapbooks, papers, catalogs, and other records documenting the original Meier & Frank Company.

As most Portlanders know, Meier & Frank was the city's premier department store from the late 1800s to 2006. The business originated in 1857, when Aaron Meier opened a small mercantile establishment on SW Front and Yamhill Street. Sigmund Frank became a partner in the enterprise in 1873. The store expanded rapidly as the city grew, and in 1898 Meier & Frank moved to a **large new five-**

**story building at SW Fifth Avenue and Morrison Street;** between 1909 and 1915, this original structure was replaced with the complex that now fills the entire block. Even greater expansion took place beginning in the 1950s, as branches were opened in Salem (1955), Portland's Lloyd Center (1960), Eugene (1969), Vancouver, Washington (1977), and elsewhere throughout the region. Unfortunately, by the mid 1960s the store faced heavy competition from nation-wide chains, and the firm was sold to the May Company (later Robinsons-May). With the merger of Robinsons-May with Macy's in the 2000s, the Meier & Frank name was superseded by the Macy's trademark.

The Meier & Frank collection (Mss 2866) includes company records, scrapbooks, merchandise cata-

*(Continued on page 18)*



## NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST . . . *Alaska*

*(Continued from page 17) Featured Collection:*

logs, and many photographs. Among the photos is a set of images by the well-known Walter Boychuk studio of the downtown store's interior, remodeled in the "art deco" style in 1932. Many of these de-



sign features were preserved in the building's recent remodel. Also included is a valuable handwritten ledger of Congregation Beth Israel from 1904, which contains the names of the leading members of Portland's Jewish community at the time. The entire collection is a rich resource for the history of merchandising, advertising, design, and the growth of Portland.

For more information, contact the Oregon Historical Society Research Library at [libreference@ohs.org](mailto:libreference@ohs.org) or 503-306-5240.

### **Alaska's Digital Archives**

The Alaska Virtual Library and Digital Archives project is a collaborative effort by the Rasmuson Library at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the Consortium Library at the University of Alaska Anchorage, and the Alaska State Library in Juneau. The goal is to support the instructional and research needs of Alaskans and others interested in Alaska history and culture. Initially, the project was focused on scanning, indexing, and placing 5,000 historical images into an online, searchable database;

however, subsequent project phases have involved adding oral histories, maps, documents, film clips and three dimensional objects. Currently, the collection includes over 10,000 items. To learn more, visit them virtually at <http://vilda.alaska.edu/index.php>

### **Alaska Native Language Center Archive (Fairbanks)**

The Alaska Native Language Center Archive at the University of Alaska Fairbanks contains more than 15,000 documents and 5,000 recordings in and on Alaska Native languages and related languages. The Archive covers everything written on or in the Native languages of Alaska, from the earliest documentation to the most recent educational materials. Materials include lexicons (wordlists beginning in the 1770s to modern comprehensive dictionaries), specialized lexical work (studies of kinship terms or place names), grammatical and dialectological work, comparative work in Athabaskan-Eyak-Tlingit and Eskimo-Aleut linguistics, textual materials (traditional stories and missionary texts), and pedagogical materials for bilingual programs.

To learn more about the Language Center, go to their website at <http://www.uaf.edu/anlc/> or visit the Wikipedia page at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska\\_Native\\_Language\\_Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska_Native_Language_Center).

### **Alaska State Library Historical Collections (Juneau)**

*New Arrivals:*

#### **Frederica De Laguna Photograph Collection**

The first installment of the Frederica De Laguna Photograph Collection, ca. 1930-1935 (ASL-PCA-350) arrived at its permanent home in the Historical Collections of the Alaska State Library. The collection documents Dr. De Laguna's anthropological

*(Continued on page 19)*



## NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST . . . *Idaho*

*(Continued from page 18) Alaska State Library:*

research in Alaska between 1930 and 1978. Freddy, as she was generally known, was one of the last students of Franz Boas under whom she earned a doctorate in anthropology from Columbia University in 1933. She worked with many Alaskan communities, most notably Yakutat which was the subject of her 1972 masterwork *Under Mount Saint Elias: The History and Culture of the Yakutat Tlingit*.

The collection arrived in the care of Marie-Françoise Guédon, professor of religious studies at the University of Ottawa. Dr. Guédon, who is the director of Canadian Centre for InterCulture Research & Training, University of Ottawa, was a student of Dr. De Laguna, and assisted in her Alaskan field work in 1968.

### **Jim Ruotsala Papers and Photographs**

The Historical Collections recently processed and made available the first accession of Jim Ruotsala's papers and photographs, 1934-2004 (ASL-MS-231 and ASL-PCA-469.) These two collections create a strong resource for Alaska aviation and maritime history. James "Jim" A. Ruotsala (1934-2007) was a third-generation Douglas and Juneau resident and considered one of Alaska's foremost aviation historians. Materials in the collection include images, letters, pamphlets, clippings and records primarily related to aviation history and maritime activity in Alaska, particularly the Southeast region.

### Training and Outreach

#### **More Product Less Process Workshop**

In June, Alaska State Historical Collections organized a one-day More Product Less Process (MPLP) workshop, presented by Mark Greene, American Heritage Center, Univ. of Wyoming, and funded by NHPRC/ASHRAB. The MPLP philosophy encourages archivists and collections processors to work towards a brief record description with minimal

level processing as a means to increase the ratio of publicly available materials over processing backlog. The workshop was well attended by a diverse gathering of Alaskan archivists, librarians, and paraprofessionals.

### Staff News

#### **New Position**

Damon Stuebner has joined the Historical Collections in a new permanent Library Assistant position. Damon is an experienced photojournalist and videographer. His primary responsibilities in his new capacity include creation of digital surrogates for documents, photographs, and audio/visual materials for inclusion in Alaska's Digital Archives. The new position reflects the extent to which the Historical Collections has incorporated the Digital Archives into the daily operations of reference service, reproduction of archival materials and document delivery.

### **Owyhee County Historical Society (Murphy)**

#### Expansion at the Julia J. Hyslop Research Center and Helen Nettleton Library

The Owyhee Museum in Murphy, Idaho is in the midst of an aggressive expansion program to develop their **Library and Archival collection**, with the goal of becoming "the finest and most complete repository and research center for the history and prehistory of the **Owyhee County region**." They are actively acquiring materials from regional historians and authors to strengthen the collection. Recently, they received the collections of two prolific regional historians and authors, Mildretta Adams and Julia Conway Welch; both women were excellent researchers and writers. With a passion to document local history, each produced multiple volumes of some of the best local and regional histories.



## NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST . . . *Montana*

### Montana Historical Society Research Center (Helena)

#### Recently Processed at the MHS:

The **Montana Public Service Commission's** railroad annual reports (1907-1981) are now processed and available for searching on NWDA. All railroads owning, operating, or having any rail line in Montana were required to file annual reports; additionally, the companies were required to report any accident, including time, place, names of injured and killed persons, and the value of property destroyed. The reports include a vast amount of data on the history, financing, corporate ownership, track mileage, freight shipment statistics, and other nationwide information of railroads doing business in Montana. Companies reporting range from the tiny Gilmore and Pittsburgh Railroad to the huge Burlington Northern.

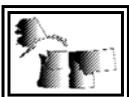
Another new addition to the NWDA is the finding aid for the **Montana Federation of Labor and AFL-CIO collection**. In addition to membership records that date to the 1890s, the real strength of the collection is in the correspondence and subject file. The correspondence records the dialog between the state Federation and various **New Deal** government agencies in the 1930s concerning wages and working conditions of public works employees around the state. A large subject file concerns the "Right-To-Work" issue of the 1950s. There was also a surprise gem discovered in the processing phase: an unidentified 16-inch record. When the Historical Society had it transferred to CD, they discovered it was a radio debate between *People's Voice* editor **Harry Billings** and *Alert Magazine* publisher Ed Gibbons, concerning the Montana American Legion's efforts to convince the state legislature to set up an un-American activities committee.

### Rocky Mountain College Archives (Billings)

#### Open House

The Paul M. Adams Memorial Library, located on the Rocky Mountain College campus in Billings, Montana, held an open house in the Archives on Friday, October 19, 2007 to celebrate Archives Month. Festivities included a tree planting to honor the memory of longtime Rocky Mountain College library employee and volunteer Berta Morrison, tours of the Archives, and a dual book signing by two former college presidents celebrating the publication of their books. **Dr. Arthur DeRosier, Jr.**, who passed away on November 15<sup>th</sup>, signed *William Dunbar: Scientific Pioneer of the Old Southwest*, a study of Dunbar's fascinating, varied life and career. Dr. Lawrence F. Small, Sr.'s *Pathways to the Present: The History of Rocky Mountain College* is the second of two volumes on the history of the college, and included a chapter by DeRosier. Approximately fifty people attended the events. Thanks to the generous \$100 grant received from Northwest Archivists, Inc., the Paul M. Adams Memorial Library was able to provide refreshments for the festivities, as well as provide attendees with an informational brochure about the archives.

The Rocky Mountain College Archives serves as the final repository for the historical records of Rocky Mountain College and its predecessor schools. Archival collections include a book collection, college publications and records, personal and professional papers, an extensive photograph collection, and scrapbooks and memorabilia. For more information, visit their website at <http://library.rocky.edu/Archives/archome.htm>.



# NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST . . . *Oregon*

## Oregon Historical Society Research Library (Portland)

### Recently Received

In addition to the Meier & Frank Collection profiled earlier in this issue, OHS also received an extensive photograph collection from the family of Peter Kerr, a prominent Portland grain merchant who came to Oregon from Scotland in the 1880s. In the 1920s the Kerr family built a mansion, Elk Rock, in the Dunthorpe area, south of Portland. The estate was eventually acquired by the Episcopal Diocese and its spectacular botanical gardens – known as the Bishop's Close – are now open to the public.

The Kerr collection contains a massive photographic record of the family and its many activities and travels. Included are several original autochrome images (one of the earliest color processes) and some of the earliest Kodak “brownie” snapshots from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The collection also contains the detailed diaries of Peter Kerr from the 1870s to the 1890s, and these provide a rare insight into Portland social life and business. Processing of the collection has been made possible by a generous grant from descendants of the Kerr family.

## Oregon State University Archives (Corvallis)

### Four New & Noteworthy Finding Aids Now Available

This fall, Elizabeth Nielsen created several new collection level finding aids for collections that have been lingering without finding aids in the OSU Archives' holdings for many years. Four noteworthy additions to the online collection are the varied and extensive papers of F.A. Gilfillan, the records of the statewide Keep Oregon Green Association, the minutes of the Village Improve-

ment Society, and class notes for a rural sociology course taken at Oregon Agricultural College in 1923.

### *F.A. Gilfillan Papers, 1909-1984*

The F.A. Gilfillan Papers document **Gilfillan's career as an Oregon State College** student, professor, and administrator. Gilfillan's career at Oregon State University spanned over 60 years as a student (B.S. Pharmacy, 1918), Professor of Chemistry (1927- 1939), and Dean of Science (1939-1962). He was also officially appointed as Acting President of Oregon State College in September 1941 after the resignation of President Ballard; however, he had been serving as chair of the Administrative Council and carrying out the president's campus duties since October 1940. He led the University through the uncertain months of the beginning of World War II until A.L. Strand's arrival in October 1942.

A native of Oklahoma, Gilfillan earned a B.S. degree in Pharmacy from Oregon Agricultural College in 1918. After **serving in the Army chemical warfare department**, he attended Yale University and earned a doctoral degree in chemistry. He retired as Dean of Science in 1962, but continued his close ties with Oregon State University by teaching German for six years. He remained in Corvallis until his death in 1983.

This collection contains materials pertaining to his student years at Oregon Agricultural College and Yale University, his activities to promote science teaching, and his interests in languages and rare books and manuscripts. The formats vary as much as the content: papers include correspondence, notepads, scrapbooks and photograph albums, photographs, sound recordings, ephemera, and other assorted artifacts.

*(Continued on page 22)*



## NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST . . . *Oregon*

(Continued from page 21) Oregon State University:

### **Keep Oregon Green Association Records, 1945-1957**

Founded in 1941 to as a means to protect landowners' resources, this collection documents **the program to promote statewide fire prevention education and disseminate information**. The Keep Oregon Green Association Records consist of the minutes as well as annual, financial, and activities reports assembled by Paul M. Dunn, Dean of the **Oregon State College School of Forestry**.

### **Florence L. Kohlhagen Notebook, 1923**

The Florence L. Kohlhagen Notebook consists of class notes of the **Rural Sociology** course taken by Kohlhagen at Oregon Agricultural College in 1923. Taught by Hector Macpherson, the course addressed the evolution of rural institutions; the rural

community, family, and education; rural societies and associations (including churches); rural systems of transportation and communication; the dependence of national welfare upon the rural community; and the role of agriculture.

### **Village Improvement Society Minutes, 1904-1911**

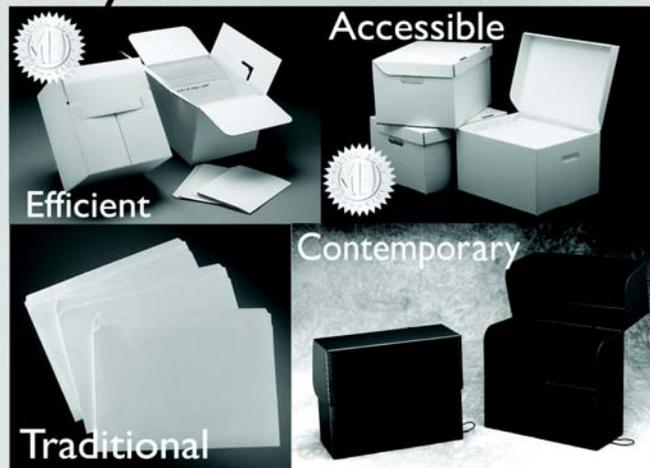
The Village Improvement Society Minutes document the activities of this civic organization, which promoted the planting of trees, development of parks, and general beautification of **Corvallis at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century**. Organizations such as the Village Improvement Society were echoed on a national level in the **City Beautiful Movement**, a Progressive reform movement in North American architecture and urban planning that flourished in the 1890s and 1900s. In order to coun-

(Continued on page 23)

## METAL EDGE, INC.

### Archival Storage Materials

"Everyone has different needs"



Because archives needs differ in many ways, from storage space to shelving size, we can develop unique products to better accommodate your requirements. Call us with your request today!

THE QUALITY SOURCE  
[metaledgeinc.com](http://metaledgeinc.com)



EASY ACCESS Newsletter of the Northwest Archivists, Inc.

## NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST . . . *Washington*

*(Continued from page 22) Oregon State University:*

teract the perceived moral decay of impoverished urban environments, the City Beautiful Movement focused on improving the aesthetics of a city.

### Recently Received

#### **C. B. Mitchell University Theatre Scrapbooks (MSS), 1920-1952.**

These four scrapbooks, compiled by Speech Department professor C. B. Mitchell, document over 30 years of theatre productions by the Speech Department and the OSC Mask & Dagger Club. Primarily comprised of photographs, the scrapbooks also contain playbills and programs. Most of the photographs depict finished stage sets with actors in complete dress; however, there are also images showing the theatre culture backstage, such as set construction, the use of lighting equipment, the process of applying makeup, the setting up of outdoor productions, and the logistics of taking a play "on the road" to Portland. Coming to campus in 1920, Charles B. Mitchell established the Department of Speech and served as the director of the college Debating Team for many years. In his 32 years as professor and department head at OSC, Mitchell also helped to develop the Theatre Department and KOAC, the first college program in radio broadcasting in the Northwest. He died in 1955.

#### **Ross, Charles R., Papers (MSS), 1936-2001.**

This accession consists of articles, editorials, Extension bulletins, and reports written by OSU Extension Forestry Specialist Charles R. Ross. Primarily relating to forest resources, cultivation, and harvesting, the topics addressed in Ross' writings also address population growth, the geography and culture of the South Appalachian Mountains, timber marketing, and land conservation. Charles Ross came to Oregon State College in 1946 to fill the post of Farm Forestry Specialist for the Extension Service. Previously, he worked as an Extension Forester in South Carolina and Alabama. In addition to authoring the popular Extension publication

"Trees to Know in Oregon," Ross worked extensively with youth in 4-H programs. An avid conservationist, Ross helped to preserve Corvallis-area natural spaces for use as public parks. Awarded emeritus status in 1970, Ross died in 2006.

### **Washington State Archives Month: "Waters of Washington" Featured in Archives Month Activities**

In October, Governor Christine Gregoire issued a proclamation officially designating October as Washington's Archives Month and archives, museums, historical societies, and libraries around the state held special events. Secretary of State Sam Reed encouraged Washingtonians to celebrate their rich documented heritage at a range of events throughout the state. In the official state press release, Reed explained that the theme "Waters of Washington" asked residents to "[d]iscover and celebrate our unique society, culture and treasured history by taking part in local events offered across the state." He also asked people to "[l]earn more about Washington's vast bodies of water and how they shape and influence our state today."

This celebration provided an opportunity to spotlight the many valuable archival collections in repositories throughout the state and encouraged people to explore repositories. "Archives Month inspires citizens with records of enduring value to properly preserve those materials for posterity," remarked State Archivist Jerry Handfield. "In addition, many of our records document the importance of water in our everyday lives: water rights, tidelands, fishing, ferries, energy, rivers, recreation, mapping, and water quality. We depend on Washington waters and our archives."

The larger statewide celebration was coordinated

*(Continued on page 24)*



## NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST . . . *Washington*

*(Continued from page 23) Washington State Archives Month:*

by a committee of representatives from archival and manuscript repositories throughout the state with support from the Washington State Archives, the Washington State Historical Records Advisory Board, and the Heritage Resource Center.

Among the accomplishments of the coordinating committee were a poster, a website at [www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/archivesmonth](http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/archivesmonth), and presentation of three free "Basics of Archives" workshops that drew nearly 90 participants and lengthy waiting lists. Plans are in the works to present more of these workshops around the state in the future. The website features tips on planning Archives Month activities and a guide to collections at institutions around the state that are related to the "Waters of Washington" theme, as well as a calendar of Archives Month events, posters available to download, the Governor's proclamation, and information for the public about archives and their value.

Planning already is underway for the 2008 Archives Month celebration in Washington. At a meeting in Seattle on October 23, the Coordinating Committee selected a theme focused around "Home." Sub-committees were created to work on Education, Promotion/Public Relations, and the website. Northwest Archivists members contributed heavily to the success of the 2007 celebration, and the Coordinating Committee is recruiting more participants for 2008. Please contact Sharon Howe, [howe@cwu.edu](mailto:howe@cwu.edu), to volunteer. Information about Washington Archives Month 2008 will be posted to the website as it becomes available.

### Seattle Municipal Archives (Seattle)

*New Online Exhibit: "Pike Place Market Centennial"*

"Pike Place Market Centennial" is the name of a

new online exhibit available on the Seattle Municipal Archives website. It depicts the **Market's first hundred years**, including its founding and development, farmers and shoppers, and the citizen initiative that saved it from urban renewal in the 1970s.

Focusing on the relationship of the Market with City government and its citizens at the time the Market was opened, the exhibit incorporates documents and audio material not used in previous narratives of the Market. For instance, in one of the first annual reports by the market inspector, he reported, "Compliments of the highest order have been paid the Public Market in general by visitors to the City from the East" (Public Market Annual Report, December 1909, Health Department Annual Reports 1802-G6, Seattle Municipal Archives).

Privatization of the Market, disputes among farmers, and the debate surrounding its rehabilitation are also addressed in the exhibit. Audio material from City Council hearings on the Pike Plaza Urban Renewal Project are presented, giving listeners an idea of the issues and heated arguments surrounding the rehabilitation ideas relating to the Market.

To see the exhibit for yourself, visit the site at <http://www.seattle.gov/CityArchives/Exhibits/PPM/default.htm>

### *Website Redesign*

The Seattle Municipal Archives website has been revamped and enhanced! Additions include a "Teaching and Learning" section on the "Research Tips & Tools" page, featuring "Archives 101" and "Classroom Projects" portals that provide answers to questions about archives, archival practices, and related issues, as well as projects that encourage the use of primary sources in the classroom. The "Local History Resources" link from the Archives'

*(Continued on page 25)*



## NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST . . . *Washington*

*(Continued from page 24) Seattle Municipal Archives:*

main page provides a list of links to local resources for researchers, with succinct descriptions of individual repositories.

Visit the new site at <http://www.seattle.gov/cityarchives/>.

### Washington State Preservation Grant

The Municipal Archives received a Washington State Preservation grant for an audio preservation project entitled "Right and Resolute Action: Preserving Audio Documenting Seattle's Public and Civic Discourse." The project will preserve 375 hours of open reel audio tape documenting public interaction with the Seattle City Council on the social, economic, and political issues of the 1960s and 1970s. The audio will be migrated to both digital format master and access media and to analog preservation copies as needed; it will then be cataloged and indexed in the Archives audio database. The audio materials are a unique resource that serves to enrich and complement other materials in the Archives; the voices on these recordings add another dimension to textual and photographic records on the same topic.

### **Washington State Archives (Olympia)**

#### Washington State Heritage Center Fundraising Study Begins

In 2012, the Washington State Heritage Center will become the permanent home of the Washington State Archives, the Washington State Library, and the State Capital Museum. The Heritage Center will be a unique experience in education, entertainment, events, research services, and interactive exhibits, reaching beyond traditional borders to tell the untold stories of our great state. The stateliness of the site location, the Washington State Capitol Campus, will further complement the visitor experience. Already a destination for more than

500,000 travelers from across the nation, the Capitol Campus expects an increase in tourism.

Planning for the new facility is proceeding rapidly. The Collins Group, a Seattle-based fundraising counsel resource, will be working with the Heritage Center development team to determine a campaign plan to raise upwards of \$30 million. Private funding support will be necessary to complete public aspects of the Heritage Center which include a museum, K-12 curriculum center, public reading room, and meeting spaces. A 20-week study will determine private funding availability in Washington State.

#### Local Records Management Grants Presented

A record number of grant applications, totaling \$3.4 million in requests, were carefully and painstakingly reviewed by the Archives Oversight Committee (AOC). With \$900,000 to award, members spent many hours of analysis and discussion over the priorities before their recommendations were made and submitted to Secretary of State Sam Reed for final approval. Since nearly all of the proposals were worthy, the AOC recommended that the State Archives request an additional \$1.5 million in the 2008 Supplemental Budget. The Office of the Secretary of State is currently preparing a decision package, which will be submitted to the Governor and Legislature in January. The Washington State Archives Local Records Grant Program, administered by the Office of the Secretary of State, provides financial assistance to local government officials to support records management and preservation efforts, particularly for records of permanent retention.

#### Washington State Archives Announces New Deputy State Archivist

Rochelle Klopfenstein was recently named Deputy State Archivist, effective November 1. Prior to joining the State Archives, she served for two years

*(Continued on page 26)*



*(Continued from page 2) President's Message:*

Second, they maintained the connection long after any formal relationship existed. Mentoring creates a bond that endures. And it's funny. Even though many of my mentors are now colleagues and friends, I still see them in their mentor role. And they remain integral to my professional and personal life – I seek their counsel and companionship regularly.

And finally, their example led me to mentor as well. And what I've learned is that mentoring is not as one-sided as I thought when I was receiving all of the help and advice my mentors were giving me. I have learned as much or more from people I've mentored than I've ever passed on. It continues to amaze me that an old dog *can* learn new tricks. Like Mohammad Ali said: "A man who views the world the same at fifty as he did at twenty has wasted thirty years of his life."

While we may not all become part of a formal mentoring program, we can still make a difference in each others' lives. We should open ourselves up to those opportunities to build relationships – looking to both learn and teach. In this season of giving, I can't think of a better gift to give or to get.

—Terry Baxter

*(Continued from page 15) NWA Nominations:*

NWA depends upon good leaders to serve its membership and the profession creatively as needs and circumstances change. The rewards of service include the satisfaction of creating new programs, expanding membership, and making new friends among colleagues in our region. To avoid being crass, we won't mention that service also looks good on a résumé and counts toward certification.

## Archivist's Calendar

- Jan. 4, 2008** NWA 2008 session proposals due
- Feb. 15, 2008** NWA nominations due
- March 1, 2008** NWA scholarship applications due
- March 3, 2008** *Easy Access* deadline for submissions
- March 26-29, 2008** Association for Recorded Sound Collections annual meeting, Palo Alto, CA
- April 30-May 3, 2008** Society of California Archivists annual meeting, Monterey, CA
- May 8-10, 2008** Conference of Intermountain Archivists Spring meeting, Cedar City, UT
- May 21-24, 2008** Society of Southwest Archivists, annual meeting, Houston, TX
- May 28-31, 2008** Northwest Archivists annual meeting Anchorage, AK
- Aug. 23-31, 2008** Society of American Archivists annual meeting, San Francisco, CA

*(Continued from page 25) Washington State Archives:*

as Budget Assistant to the Governor in the Office of Financial Management. In that position, she worked with several state agencies, including the Office of the Secretary of State, Liquor Control Board, Lieutenant Governor's Office, and the Department of Information Services. Klopfenstein has served on several boards and committees, including the State Records Committee, the Small Agency Initiative Tech Pool, the Procurement Management Work Group, and the Priorities of Government Decision Team.

As Deputy State Archivist, Klopfenstein will manage the planning, performance, and productivity of the division sub-programs, including the State Records Center, Records Management, Imaging Ser-

*(Continued on page 27)*



(Continued from page 26) *Washington State Archives:*

vices, the Statewide Regional Branches, Digital Archives, and other ancillary support and outreach programs. Klopfenstein replaces Val Wood, who was named Director of the Corporations Division in the Office of the Secretary of State in September. Klopfenstein holds a BA degree in Business Administration and a Masters in Finance from Washington State University.

### Washington's Original State Constitution on Display

As part of the celebration of the 220<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution in September, Secretary of State Reed displayed the original 1889 Washington State Constitution to the public at the Legislative Building in Olympia, WA. The public had the rare opportunity to view the volume, a vital piece of Washington State history; it is typically locked in the vaults of the State Archives for preservation and security. In addition to the constitution, the handwritten Journal of the 1889 Washington State Constitutional Convention was also featured at the event.

### **Seattle Public Schools Archives (Seattle)**

#### Awarded NWA Archives Month Grant

This October, staff at Seattle Public Schools Archives was proud to participate in National Archives Month and we are very appreciative of the grant we received from Northwest Archivists.

To celebrate Archives Month, we produced a stunning sepia-toned poster highlighting our collection with a photo capturing a scene of one of Seattle's classroom settings in the 1950's. The poster was distributed to all schools in the District and to administrative offices at the District headquarters. It was very well received with continuing requests for additional copies.

We also created a bookmark with a photo of one of Seattle's historic school buildings. The bookmarks arrived just in time for our participation in the

"Waters of Washington" exhibit at the University of Washington's Suzzallo Library on October 17<sup>th</sup> to celebrate National Archives Month. Our booth was very popular partly because of the enticing bookmarks! People who had never heard about the Seattle Public Schools Archives visited the booth to pick up a bookmark and were surprised and pleased to find out about our existence.

The poster and bookmark not only generated awareness of the School District's Archives to employees and the public, but also were instrumental visual aids that succeeded in promoting National Archives Month throughout the city of Seattle.

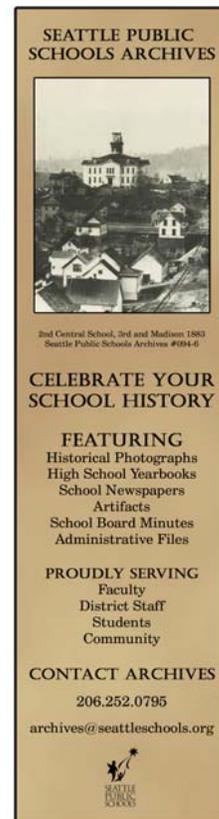
Thank you Northwest Archivists!

#### Recently Processed

### **Gus Angelos Collection**

Constantine "Gus" Angelos was an education writer for the *Seattle Times* between 1965 and 1995. Upon his retirement, Angelos donated 13 cf. of records to the Seattle Public School's archives. His files were in generally good order, organized alphabetically by subject and in chronological order, and consisting of background material used in writing hundreds of education articles. Angelos wrote about every aspect of education—from the mundane to the controversial.

This collection is unique for several reasons. It is the only collection in the archives from a newspaper reporter; it represents an interesting slice of Seattle Public Schools history; and it is an educational time capsule that contains reports, legal briefs, books, pamphlets, brochures and other ephemera that reflect how education has changed over time.



**Join NWA:** Membership benefits include the exchange of information among colleagues, an annual conference, *Easy Access* published four times a year, and a membership directory.

To join send this form, along with \$15, checks payable to Northwest Archivists, Inc., to Ellie Arguimbau, The Montana Historical Society, PO Box 201201, Helena, MT 59620-1201. For more information, contact Ellie at 406-444-4774 or e-mail her at [earguimbau@mt.gov](mailto:earguimbau@mt.gov).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

a. Work address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Home address \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please circle address, a. or b., you prefer for newsletter and other mailings)*

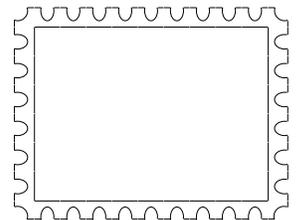
Work phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_



***EASY ACCESS***

**Northwest Archivists, Inc.  
c/o John Bolcer, Editor  
University of Washington Libraries  
Box 352900  
Seattle, WA 98195-2900**




---

***Inside This Issue***

- ⇒ *An experience with Nearby History*
  - ⇒ *Archival contracting case study*
  - ⇒ *Story of an unlikely acquisition*
  - ⇒ *Group study via Wiki*
-