

United States senator. Milward's sons have also been deeply involved in Wyoming and national politics. Alan served in the Wyoming State Legislature and the U.S. Senate. Most recently he was a member of the Iraq Study Group. Peter K. Simpson, also a Wyoming legislator, later became a vice president for institutional advancement at the University of Wyoming. Colin Simpson, the third generation of his family in Wyoming politics, is a member of the Wyoming House of Representatives.



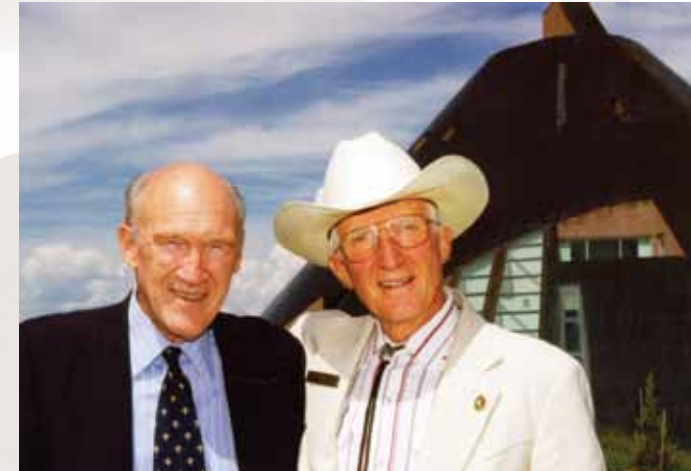
Leslie Waggener (left) conducting an oral history interview with UW Associate Professor of History Phil Roberts.



Workers capping an oil well. American Heritage Center collections.



## ALAN K. SIMPSON INSTITUTE for WESTERN POLITICS and LEADERSHIP

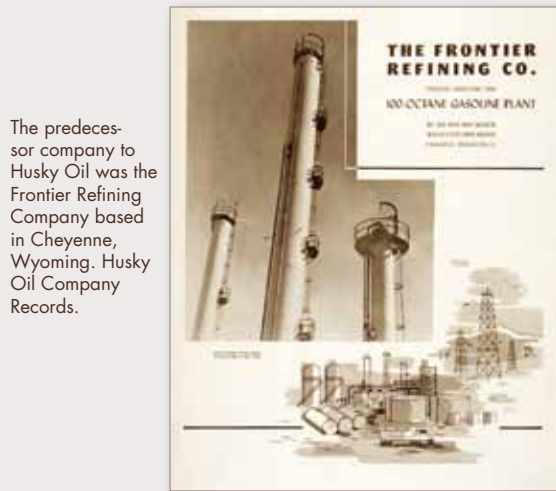


Alan K. Simpson (left) and Peter K. Simpson

*"Working with the American Heritage Center to preserve my and my father's papers has been a most rewarding experience. It is vitally important for the good people of Wyoming to have access to the papers of the public officials who work for them."*  
-- Alan K. Simpson

The Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership is a dynamic program of the University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center that seeks to document political, economic and other aspects of leadership in the West, particularly the Rocky Mountain West. Since its beginnings in 2000, the Institute has acquired the personal papers, organizational records, and oral histories of individuals and organizations prominent in political and economic leadership in the West.

Promotion of innovative, interdisciplinary research by students, faculty and scholars on the unique characteristics of Western leadership is key to the Institute's vision. Public programs offered by the Institute advance dialog on leadership issues affecting the politics and economy of the West.



The predecessor company to Husky Oil was the Frontier Refining Company based in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Husky Oil Company Records.



Reelection campaign poster for the first woman governor in the United States, Wyoming Governor Nellie Tayloe Ross, 1926. Nellie Tayloe Ross Papers.



Ralph Dietler (far right), a pioneer in the crude oil purchasing sector of the petroleum industry, in conversation with industry colleagues, ca. 1930s. Ralph O. Dietler Papers.



An early logo used by Taco John's International, Inc., 1976-1979. Taco John's International, Inc., Records.

### American Heritage Center

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**For questions not relating to donations of collections, contact our Reference Department**  
307-766-3756





## Programs

### Oral History

- The Milward Simpson Family Oral History Program focuses on the history of the prominent Simpson family and is supported through the generosity of Denver businessman Carl Williams.
- The Wyoming Energy Oral History Program records the experiences of those who advanced Wyoming's latest energy boom in the early 21st century, and those who have been impacted by that boom.

### Symposium and Other Public Programming

- The Simpson Symposium focuses on current issues affecting the West and the nation.
- Sponsorship of regional and national speakers providing lectures on current topics of interest to the West.

### K-12 Programming

- Teacher workshops and other programs that promote civics in the classroom.
- Simpson Institute Award presented at Wyoming History Day for the best junior and senior division entries pertaining to political history and leadership. An award of \$250 is given to each winning entry.

## Collections

Among the collections related to political leadership in the Institute are:

- Milward L. Simpson, U.S. Senator, 1963-1967. Wyoming Governor, 1955-1959.
- Thomas F. Stroock, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala, 1989-1992. Wyoming Legislator, 1967-1969, 1971-1975, 1979-1989.
- Alan K. Simpson, U.S. Senator, 1979-1997. Wyoming Legislator, 1961-1977.
- Peter K. Simpson, Wyoming Legislator, 1981-1985.
- James G. Watt, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, 1981-1983.
- Craig Thomas, U.S. Senator 1995-2007. U.S. Congressman, 1989-1995; Wyoming Legislator, 1981-1989.
- Nellie Tayloe Ross, Wyoming Governor, 1925-1927.
- Teno Roncalio, U.S. Congressman, 1965-1967, 1971-1979.
- Gale McGee, U. S. Senator, 1959-1977.
- Malcolm Wallop, U.S. Senator, 1977-1995. Wyoming Legislator, 1969-1977.
- Harriett Elizabeth Byrd, Wyoming Legislator, 1981-1993.
- Francis E. Warren, U.S. Senator, 1890-1893, 1895-1929. Wyoming Governor, 1885-1886, 1889-1890.

- Joseph C. O'Mahoney, U.S. Senator, 1934-1953, 1955-1961.
- John B. Kendrick, U.S. Senator, 1917-1933. Wyoming Governor, 1915-1917.
- Thyra Thomson, Wyoming Secretary of State, 1962-1986.

The Institute also houses collections of prominent institutional and business leaders from the region and nationally including:

- Wyoming Mining Association.
- Husky Oil Company.
- Anaconda Mining Company.
- Wyoming Stock Growers Association.
- Wyoming Hereford Ranch.
- Green Mountain Sheep Company.
- Taco John's International, Inc.
- Manufacturers Aircraft Association.
- Warwick M. Downing.
- Cortlandt S. Dietler.
- Ralph O. Dietler.
- National Cattlemen's Beef Association.
- Homestake Mining Company.
- Ethyl Corporation.
- National Woolgrower's Association.

## American Heritage Center Information

Established in 1945, the American Heritage Center (AHC) is the University of Wyoming's repository of manuscript and special collections, rare books, and the UW Archives. The AHC is widely acknowledged by the University community, by the people of Wyoming, and by scholars worldwide as one of the nation's finest special collections repositories.



Julienne Michel, Alan K. Simpson, and Ann Schroll Simpson at the American Heritage Center.

## The Simpson Family

The Simpson family has served Wyoming throughout the 20th century. William "Billy" Simpson (1868-1940) was a leading attorney in Cody. His son, Milward (1897-1993), served Wyoming as governor and

Photos at top:

L to R: Peter Simpson, James Watt, University of Wyoming Professor Gregg Cawley, and Alan Simpson share a laugh during a question and answer session at the 2005 Symposium.

Wyoming Hereford Ranch, Cheyenne, Wyoming. American Heritage Center collections.

Wyoming State Senator Liz Byrd (left) looks over the shoulder of Governor Mike Sullivan as he signs a bill in 1990 to establish Wyoming Equality Day. Harriett Byrd Papers.

Alan Simpson with his wife, Ann, and their sons, Colin (far right) and William, including William's wife, Debbie, and their children, 1995.