

## Wyoming Wilderness History Project Papers Donated to AHC



The Wyoming Wilderness Association recently donated the papers of its Wyoming Wilderness History Project to the American Heritage Center (AHC). The project, led by Leila Bruno, the association's director, documented the history of wilderness preservation in the state by exploring the roles played by Wyoming citizens in the passage of the National Wilderness Act in 1964 and the Wyoming Wilderness Act twenty years later.

Thirty-two independent Wyoming writers conducted oral history interviews of Wyoming ranchers, outfitters, miners, teachers, and others from their local communities who worked during the 1960s and 1980s to protect some of Wyoming's wilderness. The 1964 act designated 1.3 million acres in the state as wilderness. An additional 1.1 million acres became wilderness because of the passage of the Wyoming act signed into law on October 30, 1984.

Besides the collection of materials now at the AHC, the project also resulted in the publication of the book, *Ahead of Their Time: Wyoming Voices for Wilderness*, edited by

Ruth Kent (third from right) and her friends enjoyed a ride in the Big Horn Mountains during the 1930s. Kent, originally from New York, taught school and served as principal for various schools in Sheridan, Wyoming. She served in the Big Horn Chapter of the Izaak Walton League and in 1958 testified in favor of the National Wilderness Act. Photo courtesy Wyoming Wilderness History Project Papers, American Heritage Center.

*continued Page 5*

## From the Director



Mark Greene

As I write this column, it is Election Day, a day that archivists view somewhat differently from our fellow citizens. Why? Because every Election Day brings surprises, specifically instances of incumbents losing seats unexpectedly. Archivists pay keen attention to these instances because an incumbent who didn't expect to lose will be, within a month of the election, a frenzied donor looking for a repository to house his or her papers. Elected officials are not typical donors of papers. For one thing, their set of papers are massive—U.S. Senators generate as much as 200 cubic feet (or electronic equivalent) per year in office, or thousands of feet for anyone serving more than one term. U.S. House members, and state elected officials, generate less material per year, but still far, far more than most types of donors. And every year some of the unexpected defeats lead to stressful surprises for repositories that were not expecting to acquire such a huge collection; many of these repositories around the nation have never confronted a congressional collection before.

The AHC is fortunate in not having to dread election surprises. We have long and deep experience with the collections of elected and other public officials (such as ambassadors), going back to our earliest days. Our expertise has allowed us to acquire and successfully manage the papers of virtually all of Wyoming's delegation to Washington, D.C., from the territorial period to the present. One of the important lessons we learned long ago was to be in contact with the members of Wyoming's congressional delegation from the time they first take the oath of office, working with their staffs to identify historically valuable material, and beginning the process of negotiating donor agreements. This makes it likely that, even in the event of a surprise loss, the member's papers will be taken care of calmly and thoughtfully rather than frantically.

Because many of Wyoming's politicians have had wide reputations, with substantial influence on issues and legislation of national and international importance, the public affairs collections at the AHC draw researchers from around the globe. They also draw a growing number of inquiries from archivists around the country seeking advice and counsel in wrestling with their own congressional collections. Last year, the Congressional

We regretfully neglected to recognize the following important and generous gifts in our 2003 Annual Report:  
**Hon. Peter Illoway** (\$250) and  
**Kenneth and Virginia Bohnenblust** (\$50).

## C O N T E N T S

HERITAGE  
HIGHLIGHTS  
Fall 2004

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- 1 Wyoming Wilderness History Project Papers Donated to AHC/ **Cover** Story
- 2 From the Director / **Mark Greene**
- 4 Richard Leferink Papers Describe Early Western Air Service/ **Rita Burleson**
- 5 AHC Audio Collections To Be Available on the Web
- 5 AHC Faculty and Staff Present at National, Regional Conferences
- 6 The Toppan Library "Remedies from Rare Books"
- 8 Photo from the Archives



Papers Roundtable of the Society of American Archivists invited AHC faculty member **Kim Winters** to be one of nine archivists nationwide to contribute to the creation of guidelines to help repositories with their first congressional collection and to help donors in working with those repositories. In 2001 our capability and leadership in this area was both recognized and incalculably strengthened when Julie Michel created the Alan K. Simpson Institute of Western Politics and Leadership here at the AHC, by endowing the professional position that Kim now holds.

One of the most visible results of the establishment of the Simpson Institute has been our ability to do more than our traditional work with the papers of public officials. Massive as they are, these collections do not capture the whole story of someone's life and career. Just consider how much of importance in your family or your work is not written down or recorded—telephone calls (and now instant messaging) and good old-fashioned face-to-face conversations account for many important moments in history, but are not part of the documentary record. To supplement that record, archivists have for more than fifty years conducted oral history interviews. Simpson Institute archivist **Kim Winters**—with additional funding support from Carl Williams—is conducting a far-reaching oral history project focused on Governor and U.S. Senator Milward Simpson and his family. Concurrently, AHC associate director **Rick Ewig** is working with members of the university's history faculty on a series of interviews of former US Ambassador to Guatemala Thomas F. Stroock.

Oral histories are not solely useful for political history, of course, and Rick is also working with a well-known regional business on oral histories of its two founders. And it is emblematic of the AHC's depth as a repository that these oral history projects are running at the same time that associate archivist **Mark Shelstad** not only succeeded with colleagues in Colorado in securing a federal grant to digitize hundreds of hours of our existing oral history material for access on the web (see related story in this issue), he is taking a leading role in developing national standards for the preservation of digital audio. Some of these new interviews will also feed nicely into the Teaching American History grant in which the AHC's excellent reference staff is so heavily involved (please see last issue), introducing K-12 teachers to primary sources useful in the classroom. Such interconnections are possible, in large part, because so many members of the AHC faculty and staff are not only active in, but also leaders of their profession at the national level.

I'd like to end this column by noting another attribute of our faculty and staff—passionate dedication to the AHC's mission to preserve historical material and most importantly to put that material in the hands of students and others who want to learn about the American past. It is because of this commitment to undergraduate research that the faculty and staff of the Center have joined together to sponsor a new award, the AHC Undergraduate Research Using Primary Sources Award (quite a mouthful, I know). The award seeks to further encourage and reward excellence by undergraduates in the use of the materials at the Center through providing a \$500 check each semester to the best undergraduate project (research paper, web site, exhibit, etc.) based substantially on material at the AHC.

This award is being fully funded by voluntary donations from AHC faculty and staff—more than half of the full-time employees at the AHC are involved in this effort. There is not another unit or department at the university that even approaches this level of extraordinary commitment by its faculty and staff to its mission. I am privileged to work with an exceptional group of colleagues, who combine professional excellence with remarkable dedication and conviction.



## Richard Leferink Papers Describe Early Western Air Service

In 1931, Wyoming's windy plains and high mountains presented a challenge Casper resident and ace flyer Richard Leferink felt compelled to overcome. He learned flying in the army during the fighting of World War I. Afterwards, barn storming, mail



Richard Leferink by one of his planes, ca. 1920s. Photo is from the scrapbook in his collection.

carrying, and cargo hauling seemed to be the only flying opportunities open to him. Even when the cargo he flew was payroll in gold coin to Tampico miners from financial centers in Mexico City, Leferink looked for wider skies. From time to time, in emergency situations, he carried passengers from small Wyoming towns to Denver, reuniting loved ones or saving lives. What came next for the Wyoming pilot seemed only natural. He started his own air service. With a plane and two mail routes that extended from Denver, Colorado, to Billings, Montana, Leferink began Wyoming Air Service. As his success continued, he added planes, pilots, mail routes, and passengers. He flew out of the Wyoming cities of Casper, Cheyenne, and Sheridan; Colorado cities of Denver and Pueblo; Montana cities of Billings and Great Falls. He flew to Huron, South Dakota; Scottsbluff, Nebraska; and even as far as Alberta, Canada, carrying people and mail. By 1941, Leferink's homegrown Wyoming Air Service was one of seventeen domestic airlines in the United States.


With the advent of World War II, America needed as many planes, pilots, hangers, and air service equipment as could be spared for national defense. The war interrupted domestic commercial flying services and commercial aviation production. In 1944, Leferink sold his company, known then as Inland Air Lines to reflect its growth beyond Wyoming's boundaries, to Western Air Lines of Denver, Colorado, with the promise that Western would continue flying passenger service to Wyoming.

Leferink's papers are one of many collections which document the history of U.S. aviation, one of the AHC's major collecting areas. His collection consists of a scrapbook of newspaper clippings, correspondence, and photographs he kept throughout his flying career. It begins with his entry into World War I and stops once he sold the company. The scrapbook contains many news stories of Leferink and his buddies working air shows, doing stunt flying, and giving air rides at county fairs across the country. Clippings document how the company started and quickly expanded, while photographs show the people involved, from pilots and stewardesses, to passengers and civic boosters wanting air service in their communities. Leferink's collection provides a view of a seldom discussed period in Wyoming history from a pilot who was a pioneer in air service in the West.



## Wyoming Wilderness History *continued from page 1*

Broughton Coburn and Leila Bruno. The book contains biographies of those interviewed for the project. According to Bruno: “This is a living history. These stories have been invisible to us until now, and they tell us how our neighbors won—or lost—the wildest places in Wyoming.”


The project’s papers fit in the AHC’s collecting area of Conservation/Environmentalism. The materials will soon be available for research in the AHC’s reading room. 

## AHC Audio Collections To Be Available on the Web

**T**he Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) recently awarded a grant to dramatically increase public and scholarly access to information found in the AHC’s historical audio collections. The grant will assist the AHC and other participating repositories to create digital audio files and accompanying descriptions. At least two hundred audio recordings will be accessible through online catalogs and exhibits.

The AHC materials selected for conversion focus on Wyoming pioneer oral history interviews with other audio materials reflecting the AHC’s collecting areas. The recordings consist of 97 audio cassette tapes, 16 reel-to-reel tapes, and 247 Sound Scriber discs, a technology used during the 1940s and 1950s. In all, 572 hours of recordings will be made available.

The largest collection of tapes consists of 150 hours of interviews recorded by Big Horn rancher and business owner Robert Helvey with Wyoming and Montana pioneers. The interviewees discussed a wide range of issues, including settlement and livestock operations; and the 1892 Johnson County War, which some historians have called the most “infamous” event in Wyoming’s history.

Also to be converted are interviews with Michael Maltese, cartoon story editor for Warner Brothers, who developed characters Pepe Le Pew, Road Runner, Wiley Coyote, and Yosemite Sam, and interviews with Victor Gruen, who designed the first fully enclosed shopping center. Other Wyoming topics include Tom Horn, a range detective who was hanged in Cheyenne in 1903 for the murder of a thirteen-year-old boy; the recovery efforts of a 1955 United Air Lines crash in the Snowy Range mountains west of Laramie; and various interviews with Wyoming legislators and governors. **Mark Shelstad**, the AHC’s Information Manager, is leading our efforts to digitize the audio materials and other items in order to make them accessible online. 

## AHC Faculty and Staff Present at National, Regional Conferences

**T**his summer and fall, AHC faculty and staff have taught professional workshops, chaired conference sessions, and delivered papers at regional and national conferences. In August, several AHC faculty were visible at the Society of American Archivists national meeting in Boston: Associate Archivist **Carol Bowers** (Reference) chaired a session she had proposed and orchestrated, on the use of primary sources in K-12 curricula; Assistant Archivist **Leslie Shores** (Reference), chaired a session on the use and

*continued Page 7*



## The Toppan Library “Remedies from Rare Books”

The AHC Rare Books Curator **Anne Marie Lane** has initiated a regular column in *Teaching the History & Social Aspects of Pharmacy*, the online newsletter of the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy. Professor Greg Higby, School of Pharmacy, University of Wisconsin, Madison, oversees this newsletter, and Professor Michael Montaigne, at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, Boston, serves as editor. Lane’s participation began with an article in the Spring 2003 issue, under encouragement by then U.W. Pharmacy School Chair, Professor Paul Ranelli. The article discussed visits by the “Societal Issues in Pharmacy” classes to the Toppan Library for presentations about older “books about healing.” In addition to this article, Lane tried an experiment with a column that gives old-fashioned remedies, taken from selected Toppan Library books.



**Digitalis Purpurea or Common Fox-Glove, one of the medicinal plants mentioned in Dr. William Woodville’s book *Medical Botany*, published in 1792. Courtesy the Toppan Rare Books Library.**

The first column (Spring 2003, pp.9-10) focused on *The Accomplish’d Ladies Delight in Preserving, Physick, Beautifying and Cookery*, written by Hannah Wooley, and published in London in 1685. This is a good example of the “domestic physician” book genre. Remedies in the “Physick” chapter include the following two. (Note, seventeenth century spelling and capitalization are retained.) “For the pleurisie: Take the round Balls of Horse-dung and boyl them in a pint of White-wine till half be consumed, then strain it out, and sweeten it

with a little sugar, let the Patient drink of this, and then lye warm.” Another is “An excellent salve: Take half a pound of Bees-wax, a pint of Sallet-Oyl, three ounces of Red Lead, boyl all together in a new earthen Pipkin, keeping it stirring all the while till it grows of a darkish Colour, then keep it for use, or make Sear-cloaths of it while it is hot. It is most approved against any pain. Sore, Scald, Cut, Burn; to strengthen the Back, or remove any old Ach whatsoever.”

With positive feedback from the newsletter readership, Professor Montaigne encouraged Lane to continue her column. “Remedies from Rare Books II” (Fall, 2003, pp.4-7) studied both the internal and external uses of beer through the ages for health purposes. The following examples can be found in Gervaise Markham’s *The English HouseWife, Containing the inward and outward Vertues which ought to be in a Compleat Woman*, published in London in 1668. One of the internal examples is “For the flux: Take the Stags pizzel dried and grated, and give it in a drink, either in Beer, Ale, or Wine, and it is most sovereign for any Flux whatsoever.” An external use is “For swelled Legs: Take Mallows and seeth them in the dregs of good Ale or Milk, and make a plaister thereof, and apply it to the place swelled.”

The latest installment, “Remedies from Rare Books IV (Fall 2004, pp.5-15) is an article length study called “FOR COUGHS, HOARSENESS, AND SORE THROATS: drops, lozenges, troches, pastilles, syrups, candies, pills, powders, drinks, gargles, & ‘a spoonful of sugar.” It starts off with an 1837 quote from one of the authors, Elias Smith,



who observes in his *American Physician and Family Assistant*: “It is a common thing for people to say they have a very bad cold, and indeed I never knew them to have a good one.” Another author, Horace Everett, gives thirteen recipes to make “medicated lozenges” in his pamphlet *The Practical Adviser, or Compendium of Recipes for the Use of Druggists, Apothecaries, Perfumers, Confectioners, Patent Medicine Factors, and Dealers in Toilet and Fancy Articles* (New York, 1844). One example is for “Cough Lozenges: Pulv. Ipecac, Opium and Squills, each 1 drachm; White Sugar, 3 oz.; Musilage of Gum Tragacanth, sufficient to make a mass. Roll it out and cut with a lozenge cutter.”


The upcoming column, for Spring 2005, will be about Native American traditional remedies, as documented in seventeenth through nineteenth century exploration books. These columns, in a national online pharmacy newsletter, are just one more example of the ways that AHC materials can be used to reach different audiences. 




Illustration of St. John's Wort from Woodville's *Medical Botany*.



The title page of the book *The Accomplish'd Ladies Delight in Preserving, Physick, Beautifying and Cookery* published in 1685. Courtesy the Toppan Rare Books Library.

## AHC Faculty and Staff Present continued from page 5

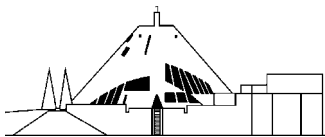
preservation of scrapbooks; Associate Archivist **Mark Shelstad** (Digital Programs) presented a paper. At the Midwest Archives Conference in October, the largest of the several regional organizations in the country, **Mark Greene** presented a paper on “Triggers of Social Memory” and **Mark Shelstad** gave one on “The Web and Its Impact on Archival Work”; Collections Manager **Bill Hopkins** was invited to share his expertise by teaching a workshop to archivists from 12 states on accessioning. In addition, Rare Books Curator **Anne Marie Lane** accepted appointment to the Racial and Ethnic Diversity Committee of the prestigious Association of College and Research Libraries, and Associate Archivist **Mark Shelstad** was appointed to the editorial board of the peer-reviewed journal *Archival Issues*. 





Muriel Valentine served as a nurse during World War I and also operated a soup kitchen. This photo, taken during July 1918 in France, shows several women giving refreshments to American and French soldiers as well as some refugees. The Muriel Valentine Collection contains more than five hundred photos of France before, during, and after the war.

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