



HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS

November 2010 Newsletter from the
American Heritage Center

Pinedale Oral History Project

Recently the American Heritage Center's Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership received a nearly \$10,000 grant from the Wyoming Humanities Council for its project "Wyoming's Recent Energy Boom: An Oral History Program." Simpson archivist Leslie Waggener is serving as the project's director.

The project, currently underway, is exploring the social, environmental, and economic impacts of the natural gas boom in Sublette County. Boom and bust is a recurring theme in the history of Wyoming, and even this latest boom has experienced a slight downturn since 2008.

Besides studying the economic impacts on the towns of Pinedale and Big Piney, the project also will look at the friction that exists between the desire to maintain Wyoming's open spaces as pristine and the desire to support and encourage energy development. Viewpoints from various sides of this issue will be sought including the stories of employees of the Bureau of Land Management who have a somewhat dichotomous relationship with the energy industry, energy developers who see a need to help their nation build its natural gas resources, ranchers who have benefitted from or been impaired by the boom, and local environmentally-minded citizens who worry about air and water quality in their area.

Others who will be interviewed included local law enforcement officials, government officials, school officials, longtime county residents, community service officials, and various business owners. The audio interviews and transcripts will be placed in the AHC and an online exhibit will be prepared for the AHC's website. Also, the project will sponsor two panel discussions about the results of the interviews. One will be held in Pinedale and the other at the University of Wyoming.

All of the interviews will be conducted during the fall. Leslie Waggener, Ann Noble, Pinedale historian, Kim Winters, who conducted the interviews for the Simpson Family Oral History Project, and Rick Ewig are the interviewers for the project. ■



The EnCana Workforce Facility, also known as a mancamp, holds nearly 300 workers. EnCana contracts with Arctic Catering, an Alaskan firm which manages similar camps in several other states, to manage this camp located in the gas fields south of Pinedale. Photo: Rick Walters.



From the Director

Mark Greene

Now that the excitement of our award from the Society of American Archivists (SAA) has largely passed, it's time for us to return to doing what we do best, and that is improving the AHC's programs and activities in ways that help change our profession. To cite one of the letters written in support of our award nomination—this one from an ex-SAA

president, SAA Fellow, and high-placed administrator at an Ivy League University—“There are many things that distinguish the AHC,” among them that the Center “approaches each issue [of archives administration] anew, and asks whether the way things have been done is necessarily the way it should be done.... After rigorous and thoughtful analysis, it adopts a new paradigm, tests that idea, and shares the results with the rest of the world through conferences and publications.”

Let me provide a few new examples.

Our processing department is working toward a project to convert our catalog records (already available on the web through our own site and through the WorldCat international database) to a different format, one that will permit them to be searched and found using Google, Yahoo! or other general search engines. This will make our collections even easier for researchers to locate.

In addition, Matt Francis of our processing department has recently begun cataloging items in our Toppan Rare Books Library. The AHC's decision to have the Toppan curator, Anne Marie Lane, give priority to teaching undergraduates, and her great success in interesting more and more professors to bring more and more classes to the library, has meant that not all accessions to the library could be cataloged. This will now change, and in a few years all of Toppan's rare books will be discoverable through the online catalogs. We have also received a major grant to the National Historic Publications and Records Commission, to better organize and describe some 2000 cubic feet of manuscript collections related to the Great Depression, both nationally and in Wyoming. The grant will permit hiring two processors for two years, and will start in earnest in November.

The AHC's digital programs department, under the leadership of Ben Goldman, who has only been with us since last year, has become one of a small handful of archives across the country to adopt a new—faster and more efficient—approach to digitizing its original material for access on the web. This permits us to make more material accessible more quickly and with the same limited resources. In addition to a new approach

we have also benefited from a major upgrade to our scanning equipment, thanks to a five-figure gift from an anonymous donor. Tied to our advances in digitization is the renovation of the software that makes this material accessible (<http://digitalcollections.uwyo.edu/luna>); through Ben's dedicated efforts the user interface has been dramatically improved, so even if you visited the site previously, I urge you to explore it again.

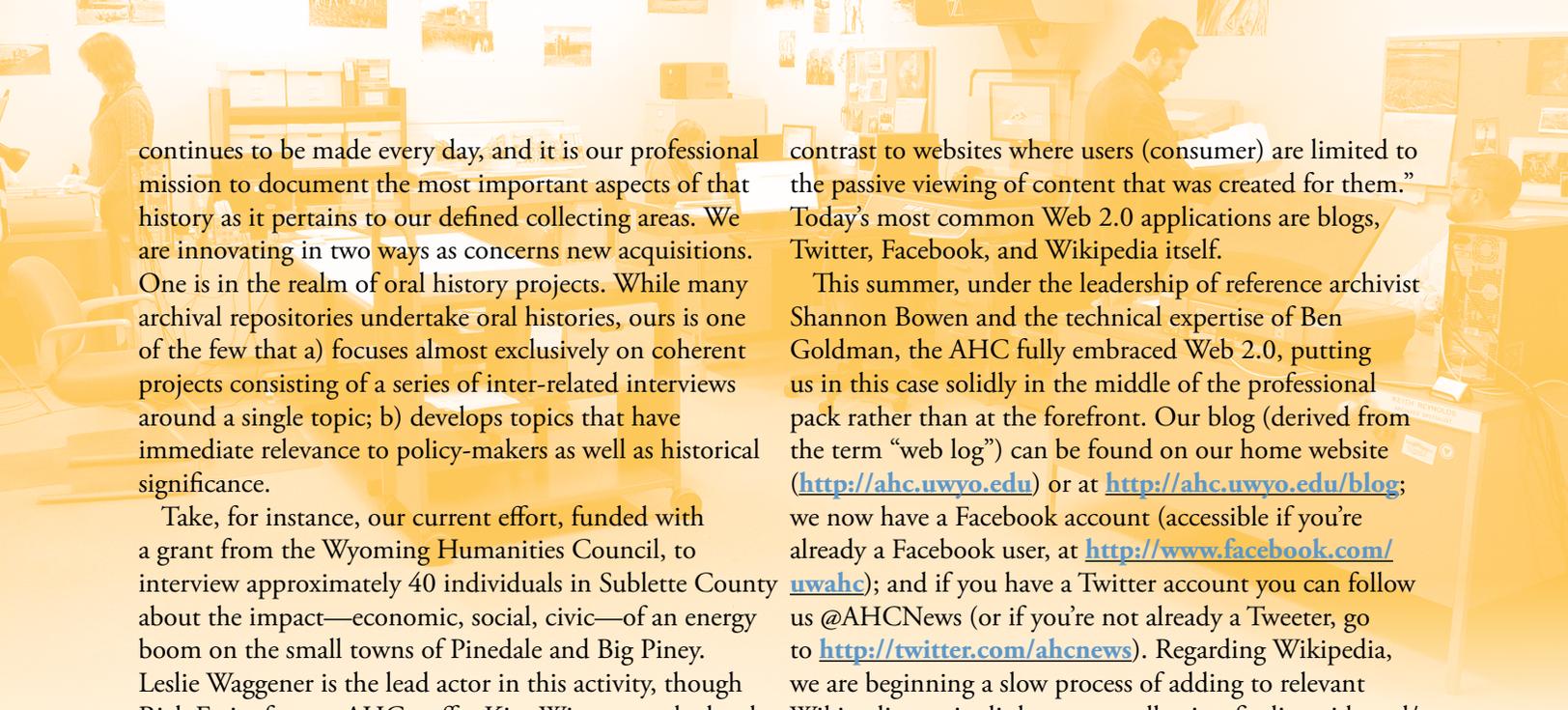
Equally important in the long run is the department's work, in collaboration with processing, with the AHC's Simpson Institute, and with our university archives, to accession, catalog, make accessible, and preserve long-term historical records that are now “born digital”—that is, records created on computers that have never been printed to paper. One of the most significant and complex sets of such records are created now by Congressional offices, and Ben has been contributing to a task force of the Society of American Archivists' Congressional Papers Roundtable to make recommendations for our profession on how best to handle such material.

Our work with K-12 students has already garnered attention from our professional peers, not only because we do so much of it but because we do it so enthusiastically (as we noticed this year at the SAA annual conference, some repositories still view working with large numbers of pre-college and undergraduate students as something both novel and nerve wracking). Evidence of both the quality and enthusiasm of our work is reflected in the Wyoming State Historical Society's presentation to our Associate Director Rick Ewig of the Henryetta Berry Memorial Award, given to an individual or organization in recognition of their years of promoting Wyoming history among young people.

Early this fall, we reached yet another milestone in our outreach to Wyoming public schools by holding our first ever video-conference event over the state's K-12 video network. The program was a panel presentation and more about the Black 14 incident at the University of Wyoming (UW) in 1969, planned by Simpson Institute Archivist Leslie Waggener and History Day Coordinator Dick Kean. The “Black 14” refers to 14 African-American players being removed from the UW football team for requesting to wear black armbands in protest of the racial policies of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at an upcoming game with Brigham Young University. Six schools from across Wyoming participated in an interactive and energetic program.

As internationally appreciated as our current collections are, we would be shirking our responsibility to our researchers if we did not continue to seek out, acquire, and accession new collections as well. History, of course,





continues to be made every day, and it is our professional mission to document the most important aspects of that history as it pertains to our defined collecting areas. We are innovating in two ways as concerns new acquisitions. One is in the realm of oral history projects. While many archival repositories undertake oral histories, ours is one of the few that a) focuses almost exclusively on coherent projects consisting of a series of inter-related interviews around a single topic; b) develops topics that have immediate relevance to policy-makers as well as historical significance.

Take, for instance, our current effort, funded with a grant from the Wyoming Humanities Council, to interview approximately 40 individuals in Sublette County about the impact—economic, social, civic—of an energy boom on the small towns of Pinedale and Big Piney. Leslie Waggener is the lead actor in this activity, though Rick Ewig, former AHC staffer Kim Winters, and a local historian will also be doing interviews. This project almost immediately garnered the attention of the Wyoming governor's office, which is currently engaged in planning studies to mitigate the impact of an impending energy boom in the Niobrara play, which will affect portions of five other counties in the state. What we learn about the effects in Sublette County will, it seems, help the citizens of Laramie, Platte, Converse, Niobrara, and Goshen counties. Who says history isn't relevant?

In addition, we have implemented an unusual approach to acquiring new collections of papers and born-digital primary sources. Because the AHC does not have the resources to employ a dedicated acquisitions archivist (a relatively rare type of position in our profession to begin with), we have instead chosen to have each of our professional archivists devote 5% of his/her time to developing leads, making contacts, examining collections, negotiating deeds of gift, and overseeing transfer of the materials to the Center. Each archivist is assigned one or more topical areas from our collecting policy. Processing archivist Matt Francis, for example, is responsible for journalism and creative writing. Using this relatively small amount of his time to great advantage, he has already acquired a commitment to donate his collection from best-selling Wyoming author of Western detective fiction C. J. Box.

Admittedly, not everything we do at the AHC is at the leading edge of professional practice. In a few areas we decide to take a more measured approach, in part because it's simply not possible to innovate in every area at once! One example of letting others take the lead has been in the arena of Web 2.0 applications. Web 2.0, or "social media" applications, are defined this way in Wikipedia: "A Web 2.0 site gives its users the free choice to interact or collaborate with each other...as creators (prosumer) of user-generated content in a virtual community, in

contrast to websites where users (consumer) are limited to the passive viewing of content that was created for them." Today's most common Web 2.0 applications are blogs, Twitter, Facebook, and Wikipedia itself.

This summer, under the leadership of reference archivist Shannon Bowen and the technical expertise of Ben Goldman, the AHC fully embraced Web 2.0, putting us in this case solidly in the middle of the professional pack rather than at the forefront. Our blog (derived from the term "web log") can be found on our home website (<http://ahc.uwyo.edu>) or at <http://ahc.uwyo.edu/blog>; we now have a Facebook account (accessible if you're already a Facebook user, at <http://www.facebook.com/uwahc>); and if you have a Twitter account you can follow us @AHCNews (or if you're not already a Tweeter, go to <http://twitter.com/ahcnews>). Regarding Wikipedia, we are beginning a slow process of adding to relevant Wikipedia entries links to our collection finding aids and/or digitized collections (see, for example, see the "external links" at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buffalo_Bill_Dam). In months and years to come the AHC will probably adopt additional Web 2.0 applications; I will be certain to keep you apprised as we do.

Whether the AHC is breaking new ground in a particular area or instead taking advantage of others' experience in some different area, this is a repository consistently moving forward and getting better. As I believe I have said before, I often find myself moving rapidly back and forth between the position of leader ("hey, I have an idea, let's do this differently") and cheerleader ("hey, you've got a great idea, go with it"), because our faculty and staff are as likely to be pushing the AHC forward as I am. And regardless of who has taken the lead, one of my most consistent roles is as manager and developer of resources—establishing priorities but also trying my best to ensure we have sufficient funds and personnel to accomplish everything we have the talent and drive to accomplish.

Not an easy task, to be sure, but much more gratifying than watching, as I frequently have, other institutions scramble at the end of a fiscal year to quickly spend money they could not figure out how to use during the year. At the Center the much more likely problem is not to let the initiatives outrun the funds by the end of 12 months. Fortunately our success in competing for grant funds, along with the consistent generosity of our annual fund supporters and occasional endowment creators means we can usually match creativity with wherewithal. Either shortly before or shortly after you receive this newsletter you will receive a letter from me with our annual giving request. I hope you will be able to support us again this year—we depend on your help to be one of the best repositories in the nation. *Thank you!* ■



Freedom of Expression

Mark Greene

In the past decade, UW has hosted a wide variety of controversial speakers — Dick Cheney, Angela Davis, Salman Rushdie, George McGovern, and others — without unusual public reaction. But the university recently faced unexpectedly intense public opposition to a faculty member's invitation to Professor William Ayers to deliver a lecture. Ayers, now a distinguished professor of educational reform at the University of Chicago, had in the 1960s been a founding member of the Weather Underground. The so-called "Weathermen" were a radical group that bombed government buildings to protest the Vietnam War. Ayers was charged with conspiracy to bomb government buildings, but the charges were later dropped.

Public opposition to Ayers' speaking engagement at UW eventually led the faculty member to withdraw the invitation. A student and student group reissued the invitation to have Ayers speak on campus. UW President Tom Buchanan, citing safety concerns, placed all university-owned buildings and property off-limits to Ayers; a Federal judge, convinced that the core issue was prior restraint of free speech rather than campus safety, required UW to open its campus facilities to Ayers, who spoke without incident on April 28.

After the immediate turmoil had passed, UW provost Myron Allen wanted the UW community to have an opportunity to reflect on a much broader level on the broader questions raised during the controversy, questions that have arisen repeatedly for decades at universities across the nation. As the myriad complex questions at issue were summarized for the subsequent symposium flyer: Can and should colleges be venues for outside speakers regardless of background, personal history, philosophy? Who can and should speak on campus? What are the political realities? What are the educational imperatives? What are the legal and constitutional parameters? It is a testament to Allen's trust of and esteem in the AHC that he turned to the Center as a credible, neutral unit with the qualifications, expertise, and energy to create a successful event.

Thus AHC Simpson Institute Archivist, Leslie Waggener, with occasional assists from director Mark Greene, developed a slate of national experts on the topic of free expression on campus (from which the provost chose four of unquestioned stature), arranged with the speakers and interested UW academic departments to have the visitors speak informally to and



Panelists for the Freedom of Expression symposium included, left to right: Prof. Kenneth Lasson, University of Baltimore; Dr. Robert O'Neill, Director of the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression; UW President Tom Buchanan, and UW Provost Myron Allen.

interact with students in American Studies, English, Law, and Political Science, and made arrangements to ensure the event was recorded—and that within 24 hours the complete program was available worldwide.

So on September 13, Professor Philippa Strum, Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; Professor Joan DelFatorre, Professor of English and Legal Studies at the University of Delaware; Professor Robert M. O'Neil, who served as President of the University of Virginia and as President of the University of Wisconsin System and became Founding Director of the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression in Charlottesville; and Professor Kenneth Lahson, professor of law at the University of Baltimore is author of eleven books, most recently, *TREMBLING IN THE IVORY TOWER: Excesses in the Pursuit of Truth and Tenure*, all spoke at UW's Freedom of Expression Symposium.

Comments both inside and outside the University community were uniformly positive, from individuals who had supported Ayers as a speaker and those who had opposed him. The symposium received extensive media coverage inside Wyoming. While the media reports failed to note the central role of the AHC in creating the event, the UW community was well aware. Our success in this effort represents an interesting and important evolution of the AHC's image and role at the university. Clearly, our faculty's wide range of expertise, broad perception of the Center as a relatively neutral and objective venue, and more broadly a growing acceptance of the sometimes amorphous ideal that history has important lessons for today—all these played a role in the AHC's having a role in this important symposium. ■



Black 14 Incident Discussed

The American Heritage Center's Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership recently sponsored a panel discussion about the Black 14 incident which occurred at the University of Wyoming during the fall of 1969. The discussion was broadcast to schools across the state by the Wyoming Equality Network (WEN) Video Conferencing system operated by the Wyoming Department of Education.

During October 1969, fourteen African American Wyoming Cowboy football players were kicked off the team by Coach Lloyd Eaton because they wanted to wear black armbands in the game against Brigham Young University. The players wanted to protest the Church of Latter-day Saints policy that African Americans could not become priests. Eaton's action, supported by the university president, led to a student protest and national press coverage.

The five members of the panel included Mel Hamilton, one of the Black 14; Phil White, in 1969 the editor of the student newspaper *The Branding Iron*; Kevin McKinney, a student in the UW Athletics Department at the time; Kathy Karpan, a UW student in 1969; and Jerry Parkinson, currently on the faculty of the UW College of Law who discussed the legal issues involved in the incident. Phil Roberts from the UW



Kathy Karpan, Mel Hamilton, and Phil White discussed the 1969 Black 14 incident with Wyoming public school students via the Wyoming Equality Network.

History Department moderated the discussion. Students in schools in Riverton, Afton, Dubois, Wheatland, Casper, and Douglas participated in the WEN broadcast and asked many questions of the five panelists.

WEN is an extensive wide area network connecting every school in the state of Wyoming. Its goal is to provide a quality video conferencing for distance education and virtual field trips. Leslie Waggener, the Simpson archivist at the AHC, suggested the use of the WEN Video Conferencing system for the panel discussion and coordinated the successful event. ■

AHC Receives SAA Award

At its annual meeting in Washington D.C. in August, the Society of American Archivists presented its Distinguished Service Award to the American Heritage Center. The award is the most prestigious honor that can be bestowed on an institution by the nation's primary organization dedicated to ensuring the identification, preservation, and use of records of historical value.

According to the letter written to AHC Director Mark Greene by the chair of the subcommittee which selected the AHC for the



Director Mark Greene received for the AHC SAA's Distinguished Service Award from Heidi Abbey from Penn State University, the incoming chair of the Distinguished Service Award subcommittee of SAA Awards Committee.

award, the SAA "was thoroughly impressed by the range and depth of the AHC's contributions both to its own constituencies and the archives profession generally."

The award, created by SAA in 1964 and revised in 1993, "recognizes an archival institution, education program, nonprofit organization, or governmental organization that has given outstanding service to its public and has made an exemplary contribution the archival profession." ■



AHC Embraces Web 2.0

Shannon Maier

The American Heritage Center recently launched its first web 2.0 campaign to coincide with the start of the fall 2010 semester at the University of Wyoming. “Web 2.0” typically refers to internet applications that allow for conversation and information-sharing over the content supplied. In the past, web pages were static, and the content delivered was consumed passively by users. With the advent of web 2.0, many web sites have become community spaces where experts and the lay public can engage in an open dialogue over topics of interest, and new utilities have been developed specifically for the purpose of facilitating that interaction. Among those utilities, the AHC chose to use a blog, Twitter, Facebook, and Wikipedia to communicate with its users in new ways.

Web logs, or “blogs,” are collections of brief essays posted online. These essays typically follow one subject or a related group of subjects. In most cases, the writer of a blog will enable comments so that readers can share their perspectives, expertise, and even sometimes links to their own work. The AHC’s blog, at americanheritagecenter.wordpress.com, functions as an information clearinghouse for AHC news and events. Posts are contributed by all members of our staff and offer readers a snapshot of what goes on at the Center on a daily basis. The AHC’s Twitter feed, at twitter.com/AHCnews/, is a digest of the kinds of content discussed at length in the blog. Posts to this site must contain no more than 160 characters, so updates usually link to other AHC- related online tools.

According to the Pew Research Center’s Internet and American Life project (www.pewinternet.org), web 2.0 technologies, particularly social networking utilities, are nearly ubiquitous among teens and young adults. Pew found that 73% of online teens use social network sites, and 72% of young adults online use them. Further, 40% of adults 30 and over who use the internet participate in social network sites. As the largest social network with more than 250 million users, Facebook was a logical choice for the AHC to meet its undergraduate constituents in a venue they frequent already. Since its creation in late August, the AHC’s Facebook profile has accumulated more than 100 “fans,” many of whom are University of Wyoming students. It can be found at www.facebook.com/UWAHC/.

Wikipedia (www.wikipedia.org) is an online encyclopedia that is decried regularly among information professionals for its lack of scholarly rigor. As an “information commons,” Wikipedia allows users to create and edit entries at will. Its accuracy is dependent upon the expertise of the people who engage with it. Because so many students and others use Wikipedia as an introduction to their research on many topics, the AHC decided to get involved in the editing of entries. Now, archivists are adding links to AHC inventories and digitized material on Wikipedia as part of their regular work in arrangement and description, reference,

American Heritage Center (AHC) News
your source for information about the University of Wyoming's manuscripts repository, rare books library, and university archives

Home About AHC web site UW digital collections UW Libraries catalog AHC on Twitter AHC on Facebook

Wyoming Pioneers' Oral Histories Available Online

Posted on October 12, 2010 by abcadmin

The collection contains interviews with people who were early residents of Wyoming. Interviews were conducted between 1947 and 1955 by employees of the American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming. Topics include life in Laramie, Hanna, Douglas, and other towns; politics and government; ranching; Camp Fire Girls; crime; Yellowstone Park; Buffalo Bill's Wild West show; University of Wyoming; Tom Horn; a World War II war bride; mining; and the Johnson County War. The collection also includes some interviews with American Indians from Fort Washakie and citizens of the Oglala Nation.

Recordings of many of the interviews are linked to the collection inventory [here](#).

Posted in [American Indian history](#), [Wyoming history](#), [newly digitized collections](#), [newly processed collections](#), [oral histories](#), [resources](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Black 14 Films at AHC and Online

Posted on October 12, 2010 by abcadmin

In October 1969, fourteen Black college football players were dismissed from the University of Wyoming football team because they wanted to wear armbands when playing against Brigham Young University to protest the alleged racial policies of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in promoting members to the priesthood. Sympathetic protests took place in Wyoming.

The collection contains a silent, 2:18 minute film which portrays protesters, some with black armbands, staging demonstrations at the University of Wyoming. The film was found in a vault of the Wyoming governor's office in 1979. Additionally the collection contains a DVD of the 40th Anniversary Black 14 Panel Discussion, which included Mel Hamilton, John Griffin, Clinton Isaac Jr., Charles Graves, Kevin McKinney, and Ryan Thorburn.

Recent Posts

- Wyoming Pioneers' Oral Histories Available Online
- Black 14 Films at AHC and Online
- Papers of African American Educator and Legislator, Harriet "Liz" Byrd at AHC
- Upcoming Majewski Lecture at AHC
- Sam Knight - The Great Geologist

Archives

- October 2010
- September 2010
- August 2010

Categories

- African American history
- American Indian history
- awards
- environmental history
- events
- exhibits
- grants
- mining history
- newly cataloged collections
- newly digitized collections
- newly processed collections
- oral histories
- rare books
- resources
- undergraduate students
- University of Wyoming
- women's history
- Wyoming history

Meta

- Register
- Log in
- Entries RSS

(continued on page 7)



The Extraordinary Tom Stroock

Laura Baxter

Ambassador Thomas Stroock has done extraordinary things. Back in 1949, he moved from New York City to Wyoming to work for Stanolind Oil Company and married his college sweetheart Marta. When Stanolind wanted to transfer him out of state, he said no and gambled at starting his own business.

Tom took a chance and ran for his first public office in 1960 and was elected to the Natrona County School Board. This began a long career of devotion to public service, which culminated in him being appointed U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala from 1989-92. After his retirement, rather than resting on his laurels, he continued to give back in other ways, including traveling to Laramie to teach UW students.

Wyoming mourned Tom's passing on December 13, 2009, but even in death, he continues to do extraordinary things. Through thoughtful estate planning, Tom left his life's work to the American Heritage Center in the form of his business and public affairs library and papers. In addition, Tom made a significant cash gift in his estate to the AHC to endow a fund for the purpose of curating, organizing, and maintaining his papers. The Thomas Stroock archive contains material related to his political career and his term as ambassador, including the Wyoming State Senate, the Republican Party, and the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala.

AHC associate director Rick Ewig also worked with Tom and members of the UW faculty on an oral history project that chronicles Tom's ambassadorial career. His papers and the oral histories are part of the Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership.

Then Tom went the extra mile and established



Photo courtesy Margaret Stroock.

an endowment—the AHC Endowment for Acquisition and Access—to support a curator to organize the archives and make them available to the public. Such financial support is vital to the ongoing preservation and availability of archival material.

The AHC has a strict policy never to require financial gifts in order to accept and property care for an archive. However, many repositories across the nation are doing just that. Recently, the archive of a renowned composer was eventually returned to Vienna because no one in the U.S. was willing to fund its placement, and a famous jazz museum whose papers were at a west-coast university was required to donate \$1 million for maintenance in order for his archive to continue. Tom's establishing an endowment shows incredible foresight.

As in life, Tom is still doing extraordinary things, and his public service, honesty, and good-natured humor will be tremendously missed.

For more information about including AHC in your long-term plans, contact Tracy R. Richardson, UW Foundation Director of Planned Giving, at 307-766-3934 or via email at trichar6@uwyo.edu ■

Web 2.0 (continued from page 6)

and digitization. It is the Center's hope that these links will help potential researchers find reliable sources of information to corroborate or disprove what they find in Wikipedia entries.

Web 2.0 is helping the AHC to reach users, and particularly young users, in a manner to which they are accustomed. Tools like the blog, Facebook profile, Twitter feed, and Wikipedia are reaching out to potential researchers where they are, using formats and platforms that are familiar and a regular part of their daily lives. By increasing its web presence, the AHC hopes to grow its patronage and better educate those who already know about and use the Center. ■



American Heritage Center

Department 3924, 1000 E. University Avenue

Laramie, Wyoming 82071

307-766-4114

e-mail: ahc@uwyo.eduWeb: <http://ahc.uwyo.edu>Blog: <http://ahc.uwyo.edu/blog>Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/AHCnews>

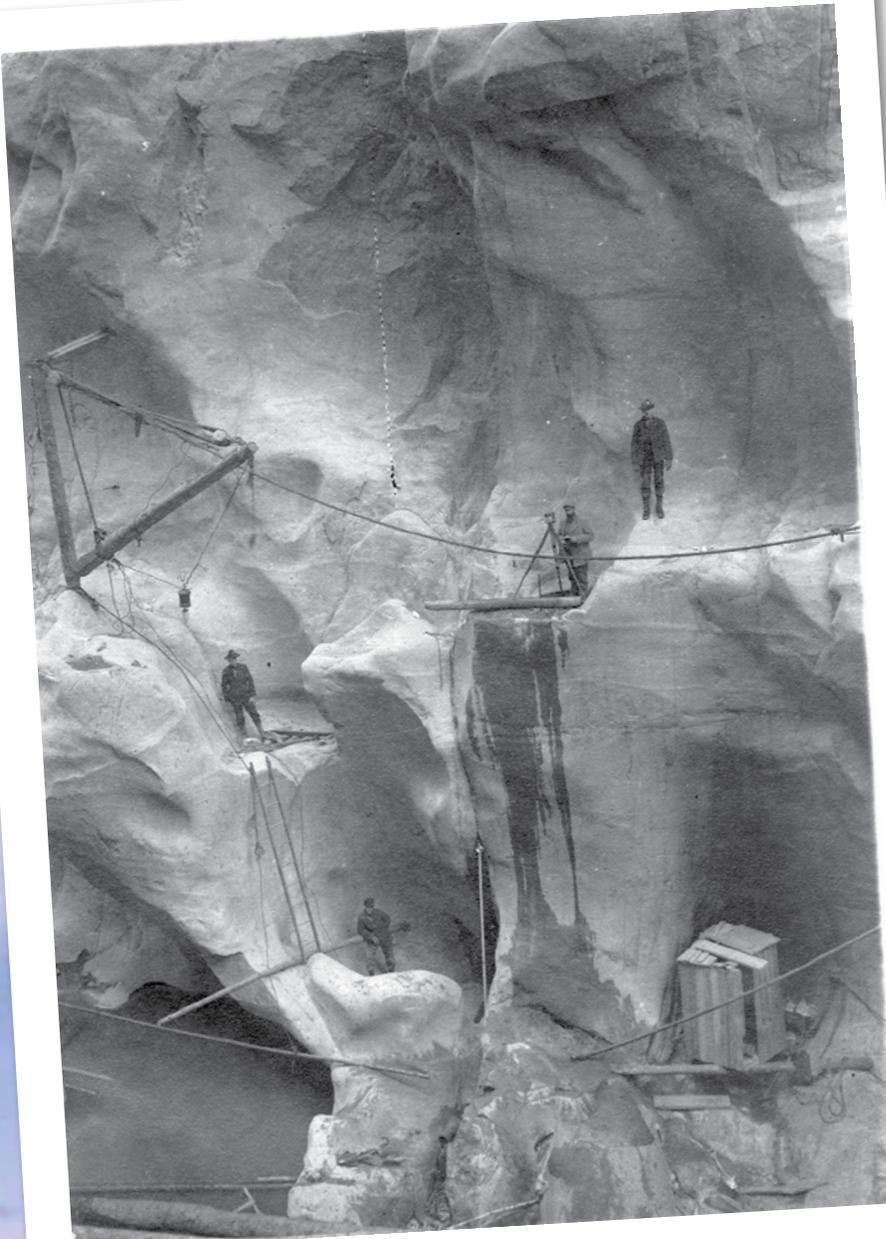
Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

University of Wyoming

Permit No. 1

**PHOTO** from the
ARCHIVES

Workers constructing the Shoshone Dam near Cody, Wyoming, in 1908 took time to pose for a photograph. The dam, now called the Buffalo Bill Dam, was completed in 1910 and at the time was the tallest dam in the world. This photo is one of 40 in the Buffalo Bill Dam Construction Photograph Album.