

Heritage Highlights

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Native Americans as Ecologists Topic of 2001 Symposium

Environmental practices of Native Americans will be the focus for the American Heritage Center's tenth annual history symposium titled *Re-figuring the Ecological Indian*. The September 19-21 symposium will bring together diverse presentations and presenters and offer broad and informative discussions on Indian ecological practices. Topics range from the archaeological record to contemporary issues, such as commercial fishing and the controversy over storage of nuclear waste in Indian country, from depictions of Indians as environmentalists to discussions of traditional ecological knowledge and its contemporary applications.

The title of the symposium is drawn from Brown University anthropologist Shepard Krech, III's book, *The Ecological Indian: Myth and History*, that studies the ecological practices of several American Indian societies. Professor Krech's research was supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and has received considerable attention, both for its analysis of the lifeways of historical Indians, and for its discussion of the broader implications, for Indians and non-Indians, of depicting native peoples as "environmentalists." Some of the presenters will give direct responses to Krech's work. Krech will be the keynote speaker at a luncheon on Friday, September 21.

A panel discussion on why Chief Washakie was recently chosen by the citizens of Wyoming to represent the state in Statuary Hall in the nation's Capitol and what Washakie symbolizes

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Navajo girl holding ears of corn, 1939, from A Pictorial Review of the Navajo Experiment Station, Mexican Springs, New Mexico, United States Department of Agriculture Collection, American Heritage Center.

From the Director

In February, the AHC served as the host site for the annual University of Wyoming Legislators Day. State of Wyoming legislators and their families learned how faculty research strengthens the state's economy and were briefed on UW's capital campaign. They also received a special tour of the Toppan Rare Books Library—an exceptional example of how private endowment funds have changed the lives of the students and faculty at UW.

They learned that the Toppan endowment fund is invested to produce a dependable stream of income that provides for the long-term support of the rare books program. Home to UW's rare books collection, the Frederick and Clara Toppan Library at the American Heritage Center is the result of the generous gifts from UW alumna Clara Toppan. This special library provides an environmentally correct and secure setting for researchers to use books that are too valuable to circulate. These rare books enrich the lives and learning experiences of UW students, Wyoming residents, and scholars from around the country and are accessible because of a generous donor's vision.

We know that private gifts create distinction in our work and programs. As we enter the 21st century, we have intensified our commitment to

service and to the collection of significant historical materials. To honor that commitment, we have created an Endowment for Acquisition and Access. This \$2 million endowment will provide the long-term support needed to make our historical treasures accessible to researchers on the Web and in our reading room. It will also help maintain the Center's reputation as one of the nation's leading institutions for the study of the American West.

In March the Wyoming legislature appropriated \$30 million for an Endowment Challenge Program. The program is designed to stimulate private gifts for endowment and will "match" gifts of \$50,000 or more. As a result of this program gifts made to support the AHC Endowment for Acquisition and Access are eligible to be matched by state funds—effectively doubling the gift.

We are fortunate to have the state of Wyoming working with us as we build our endowment. I look forward to working with you, our friends, donors, and researchers. Together, we can build an endowment that will make the materials in one of our nation's premier university manuscript repositories more accessible to researchers both on the Web and in our reading room. ■

— Rick Ewig, Interim Director

UW Lab School Students Visit AHC



Reference Manager Carol Bowers shares AHC documents from the Colonial era with UW Lab School students.

Fourth grade students from the UW Laboratory School visited the AHC in February. The students, who were studying the American Colonial and Revolutionary eras, toured the AHC and examined an exhibit of primary documents from the colonial era. Several students wore period costumes they had created for their class. In the Toppan Library students learned the history of a horn book and examined copies of McGuffey's Reader. The students were most interested in a book of letters transcribed by a member of George Washington's staff and a land deed and letter dating back to the 1600s. ■

The AHC Celebrates Women's History Month with Archives and Old Lace

Archives and Old Lace, a two-day celebration of Women's History month, featured presentations, dramatic readings, music, special exhibits, a spinning demonstration, and a Victorian tea. Clarine Dunder, Artist in Residence for the Albany County schools, demonstrated spinning. Judy Knight and Wendy Ware of the Wyoming Quilt Project gave a historic overview of quilts and quilt documentation illustrated by slides and quilts from AHC collections. Professor Sonya Meyer of the department of family and consumer sciences gave a presentation on the history of lingerie with examples from the department's historic clothing collection. A Victorian Tea followed the presentations with refreshments made from recipes from the Toppan Rare Books Library. A highlight of the tea was the appearance of the "Ladies of the High Plains," a group of women who enjoy making and modeling Victorian era clothing.

Staff member Ronda Frazier spoke on June Knight Buehler, an actress and dancer in Hollywood films of the 1930s, using film,

photographs and original clothing from Buehler's collection. AHC Processing Manager D. C. Thompson spoke on the trials and tribulations of Wyomingite Amalia Post and women's rights in the 1870s. Both presentations were based on research in AHC collections. The presentations were followed by a reading of western women's poetry by Melanie Francis, student archivist, and Dr. Kristine Utterback of the history department. D. C. Thompson provided musical accompaniment for the readings. The two-day celebration concluded with a concert by the UW music department featuring music by women composers.

A photographic exhibit, *Wyoming Women Writers*, prepared by Photo Archivist Leslie Shores was on exhibit in the Loggia. Vintage cookbooks from the Toppan Collection, as well as an extensive presentation of books by and about women, were on display for the event.

The AHC holds many collections pertaining to women's history that are available to researchers and may be accessed by contacting or visiting the AHC reference department. ■



Left: Clarine Dunder gives a spinning demonstration during Archives and Old Lace.

Right: Ladies of the High Plains visit the AHC.

Aviator William M. Bowlin's Papers Available for Research



A young William M. Bowlin on deck with a husky. Bowlin Collection, American Heritage Center.

It was during his 1935 flight to the South Pole as co-pilot for Richard Byrd that William M. Bowlin earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism. At a critical moment, under hazardous arctic conditions, he flew high enough to take a crucial navigational sight. Afterwards, he controlled his plane despite an extremely dangerous accumulation of ice on the wings. Bowlin's Distinguished

Flying Cross was unusual in that it was awarded for heroism in peacetime.

A career Navy officer of more than 30 years, Bowlin enlisted as a seaman in 1918, and quickly achieved the rating of naval mechanic while on the cruiser *U.S.S. Trenton*. Bowlin was also assigned to a variety of airfields on the east coast and in 1927 achieved a permanent rating as an enlisted pilot. His flight logs show that he flew utility and cargo planes, although he had experience with almost every other type including bombers, fighters, seaplanes, and even air ships.

During World War II, Bowlin flew supplies to the Pacific Theatre including Guadalcanal and the Solomons. He was promoted to lieutenant commander shortly before he retired in 1949. He died in 1973.

The Bowlin collection contains his full service record and official photographs. His complete collection of flight logs shows the types of aircraft he flew, including seaplanes, cargo planes, dive-bombers, torpedo bombers, and fighters. Correspondence from Admiral Byrd and a map of his Little America Headquarters for the 1935 South Pole Expedition are also included. In addition to surface features, the map includes the extensive connecting supply tunnels under the ice. The photographs on Bowlin's pilot and mechanic licenses show a proud and competent sailor and naval officer. ■

American West Students Use AHC Collections

Students in the History of the American West class have been using AHC collections throughout the semester to complete research papers on topics pertaining to the 19th and 20th century American West. For many students, this is the first time they have experienced primary document research. They have developed sophisticated research skills that will be of benefit to them not only in history, but in many other subject areas as well.

Many students have commented that it is exciting it is to work with historic documents and to read about historic events in the words of those who actually experienced those events. As a result of their research in American Heritage Center collections, students develop a greater understanding of the ways in which agriculture, conservation, mining, politics and world affairs, popular culture, ranching, the transportation industry, and ethnic diversity influence life and identity in the American West. ■

AHC Collections Highlighted in *Annals of Wyoming*

The collections and faculty of the American Heritage Center are featured in the summer 2000 issue of *Annals of Wyoming: The Wyoming History Journal*. Three members of the Center's faculty contributed articles for the issue.

D.C. Thompson, manager of the Center's arrangement and description area, authored an article titled "Amalia and Annie: Women's Opportunities in Cheyenne in the 1870s." Using the letters of Amalia Post and her niece, Annie Kilbourne, from the Morton E. Post Family Papers, Thompson examined the lives of the two women. Amalia was one of the first women to serve on a jury in Cheyenne in 1871 and she became a successful businesswoman. Annie, young and single, preferred the social scene the town and territory provided at the time.

The two other articles use diaries to relate Wyoming experiences during the early 1900s. Ginny Kilander, an archivist in the Center's reference area, wrote "A Harvard Cook in the Wyoming Badlands: The 1908 Diary of Alcott Farrar Elwell." Elwell, a Harvard student, served as a cook with a U.S. Geological Survey team assigned to the coal fields near Buffalo, Wyoming, and kept a diary detailing his experiences during the summer of 1908. The second article, "Journal of a Trip in Wyoming Following and Marking Trails,"



August 9, 1915, Grace Hebard and Col. H. G. Nickerson place a monument at the site of Fort Bonneville, near Daniel, Wyoming. Hebard Collection, American Heritage Center.

edited by Rick Ewig, the Center's interim director, uses the journal of Grace Raymond Hebard, Wyoming historian and University of Wyoming faculty member, to recount her trip around the state in 1915 marking various historic sites. ■

Shepard Krech to Serve as George A. Rentschler Distinguished Visiting Lecturer

Brown University anthropologist Shepard Krech, III will serve as the 2001 Rentschler Lecturer on September 20-21. Krech will give the keynote address at the Center's annual history symposium, *Re-figuring the Ecological Indian* and also speak to anthropology, history, and Indian studies classes.

In his keynote address titled "*Beyond The Ecological Indian*," Krech will discuss the implications for history of North American indigenous peoples and their relationship to the land. According to Krech, the two objectives of his book were to

spawn detailed analyses of the complex historical relationships between North American Indians and their environments and rekindle debate on the fit between the image of North American Indians as ecologists and conservationists, and North American Indian behavior. The avalanche of reaction, in over sixty reviews and Internet, radio, and class and seminar discussions indicates that the debate is keen. Krech will talk

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Shepard Krech, III

New Archivist for Simpson Institute



Kim Winters

Kim Winters was recently hired to serve as archivist for the Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership. Winters came to UW from Great Britain in 1997, earning a master's degree in American Studies in 1999. She holds a bachelor's degree in American studies and Literature from Liverpool John Moores University in Great Britain. A faculty member at the AHC, she has taught classes for both the UW American studies and the women's studies programs.

AHC Interim Director Rick Ewig says, "Kim's enthusiasm for and knowledge of Wyoming's history, along with her exceptional work in the archives, makes her uniquely qualified for this new position. We are very pleased she has decided to serve as the Simpson Institute's first archivist."

The Simpson Institute was created last year when Julienne Michel, a UW benefactor and personal friend of former U.S. Sen. Alan K. Simpson and his wife, Ann, contributed \$500,000 to the University of Wyoming as "seed" money and

pledged a \$1million estate gift to endow the institute's permanent operations.

The Simpson Institute will focus on Western leadership—political, economic, social, and cultural to provide a wide range of programs, including publications, symposia, and lectures based on the Western history collections of the AHC.

The cornerstone of the institute will be the papers of the three Simpsons who have served Wyoming during much of the 20th century. Milward, the father, was governor and U.S. senator. His son, Alan, served in the Wyoming legislature and then the U.S. senate. Son Peter K., also a Wyoming legislator, later served UW as vice president for institutional advancement.

Among other Wyoming political leaders whose papers are in the AHC are territorial governor and U.S. Sen. Francis E. Warren; Vice President Richard Cheney; Gov. Clifford Hansen; Gov. Nellie Tayloe Ross, America's first woman governor; Gov. Mike Sullivan; Secretary of State Thyra Thomson; and U.S. Sen. Malcolm Wallop. ■

District Contests for Wyoming History Day

Adozen volunteers from the AHC and the UW history department traveled to Hanna in April to serve as judges for the District 5 Wyoming History Day Contest. Throughout the month students across Wyoming competed at the district level for the chance to advance to the state competition.

More than 100 students in grades six through twelve, representing schools in Hanna, Laramie, Rock River, and Baggs presented their interpretation of this year's theme, "Frontiers in History." Among the wide variety of topics presented were "Buffalo Soldiers to the Rescue," "Walt Disney: Frontiers in Animation," "Petticoat Prisoners of Wyoming," "The Highlander School; Frontier for Social Justice," and "Ida B. Wells-Barnett: A Civil Rights Journalist and Her Crusade for Justice."

Students competed as individuals or groups in one of four categories: papers, exhibits, documentaries, and performances.

According to Marianne Kamp, first time judge and UW history professor, she was "impressed by the students' poise and command of their topics." Kamp was particularly encouraged to see how much work they put into their projects and "how creative and thorough they were in doing their research."

Students who place first, second, or third in any of the seven district contests advanced to the state competition held on April 30 in Laramie. Wyoming History day is coordinated by the American Heritage Center and supported by the Wyoming State Historical Society and the State Department of Parks and Cultural Resources. ■

AHC Notes

In April, Reference Archivist **Carol Bowers** spoke to the Laramie Lyceum on using primary sources for research and recreation and to the annual conference of Wyoming Women's Clubs on "Laramie's Soiled Doves and the Economics of Prostitution."

Nellie Tayloe Ross, America's first woman governor, was the subject of two talks given by Interim Director **Rick Ewig** who spoke at the Homesteaders' Museum in Powell, in January and the Bureau of Land Management in Cheyenne in March. Ewig also spoke to the Retired Teachers' Association in Laramie on the history of the Union Pacific Railroad. In January, Ewig along with Victoria Murphy, Wyoming History Day coordinator, traveled to Big Piney to give a teacher's workshop on using primary resources in the classroom.

Assistant Archivist **Carl Hallberg** recently coordinated the annual meeting of the Wyoming Association of Professional Historians. Noted

Korean historian, Dr. James I. Matray, professor of history at New Mexico State University, gave the keynote address titled *Exposing the Myths of the Korean War*.

Rare Books Curator **Anne Marie Lane** attended the American Library Association's January meeting in Washington D. C., where she served as co-chair of the Rare Books Security Committee.

Information Manager **Mark Shelstad** was appointed to the Society of American Archivists Publications Board that coordinates and monitors the Society's publications and selects its editorial staff.

The AHC recently loaned materials signed by such literary figures as Louis L'amour and Dee Brown from the Eugene Moran Collection for an exhibit in the William Robertson Coe Library on campus. The exhibit on display through the spring is curated by UW Library Development Coordinator Skye Heeren and titled, "The Wyoming Literary Map." ■

Native Americans as Ecologists Topic *(Continued from page 1)*

today will "kick off" the symposium on Wednesday evening. Dave McGary, sculptor of the Washakie statue will have some of his work on display in the UW Art Museum during the symposium.

The symposium is co-sponsored by the UW

American Indian Studies Program and is partially funded by the American Heritage Center Associates. All sessions are free and open to the public. For more information contact Sally Sutherland, AHC, PO Box 3924, Laramie, WY 82071; 307-766-4295; sallys@uwyo.edu. ■

Shepard Krech *(Continued from page 5)*

about why the debate has been so intense and why the book has been pilloried and praised.

Currently Krech is serving as a MacArthur Foundation Fellow at the National Humanities Center. He is a professor of anthropology and director of the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology at Brown University. Krech has degrees from Yale and Oxford and received a Ph.D. from

Harvard University. His keynote address will be given on Friday, September 21 in the UW Art Museum Galleries, Centennial Complex.

The George A. Rentschler Distinguished Visiting Lecturer series is made possible by an endowment established by Frederick B. Rentschler and his mother, the late Rita Rentschler Cushman. ■



Cheyenne Frontier Days Print

The fourth in a series of ten prints from the American Heritage Center celebrating the history of Cheyenne Frontier Days is being offered beginning the last full week in July. This year's image is from a 1934 poster from the Robert D. Hanesworth Collection. Reservations for the print can be made by contacting Vicki Schuster at 307-766-5066 or vlschust@uwyo.edu by June 10, 2001. ■

◀ 1934 Poster (*American Heritage Center collection*)

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