



AHC Hosted the Wyoming History Day Competition

The 2003 Wyoming History Day contest was held on the University of Wyoming campus on April 28.

Nearly three hundred students from around the state competed in the contest which is affiliated with National History Day, coordinated by the American Heritage Center (AHC), and cosponsored by the Wyoming State Historical Society and Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources.



Celeste Dobbin, Janine Pfefferle, and Katie Stearns presented "Riveting Through Responsibilities: Working Women of WWII".

The annual theme for the competition was "Rights and Responsibilities in History." Students in grades six through twelve entered by writing a paper, constructing an exhibit, producing a documentary, or performing an original historical play. A wide range of topics was explored by the students, including the Scopes Trial, the World War II Japanese internment camp at Heart Mountain, Wyoming, the Vietnam War, and the Great Irish Famine.

Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal and AHC Director Mark Greene congratulated all of the first and second place winners who will now compete at the National History Day contest to be held at the University of Maryland from June 16 to June 19. AHC Associate Director Rick Ewig will lead a group of seventy students, parents, and teachers to the national contest. While there, the group will also visit with members of Wyoming's congressional delegation, tour the Smithsonian museums, and see many of the other sites in the Washington, D.C. area.

Wyoming History Day is one of the major outreach programs of the AHC. Through the program AHC faculty and staff are able to instruct teachers how to use primary sources in their classroom teaching as well as enhance the critical thinking skills of Wyoming's students. Some students have already started thinking about entries for next year's contest, the theme being "Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange in History." ▲



Mary Colton's exhibit was "Women's Suffrage in Wyoming".



From the Director



Mark Greene

It is a pleasure to share with you two recent examples of the AHC's still growing national reputation and visibility. In December, the Exploratorium, a science museum based in San Francisco, named the AHC's virtual collection of legendary motion picture director Fritz Lang as one of its "Ten Cool Sites" for December 2002-January 2003 (http://www.exploratorium.edu/learning_studio/sciencesites.html). As a Cool Site, the AHC joins the Smithsonian Institution, the Field Museum, Encyclopedia Britannica, and the National Museum of Natural History, among other renowned institutions.

Associate Archivist Mark Shelstad of the AHC designed and created the Web site, but the Lang Digital Collection is a collaborative effort between the AHC, the University of Wyoming's American Studies Program, and the UW's Ellbogen Center for Teaching and Learning. The digital collection contains a biography of Lang, a guide to his papers, digital versions of twenty silent home movies Lang shot on 16mm film from 1938 to 1953 as he toured the American Southwest, a classroom lesson plan, and links to other Internet sites about Fritz Lang.

On January 27 PBS premiered a new episode of its award-winning American Experience series on the building of *The Transcontinental Railroad*. Featured in the program were photographs and letters from AHC collections, and on-camera interviews with two UW faculty—Associate Professor of History Phil Roberts, and Assistant Archivist and Manager of Reference Services Carol Bowers. Carol is an authority on women in the West and has published an article on prostitution in end-of-track towns along the transcontinental railroad. AHC historical collections have been used for major documentaries before—photos, letters, diaries, and other material have been used for Ken Burns' 1996 documentary series *The West*, to name just one example.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find an account of the AHC's most recent step into the limelight for an upcoming History Channel documentary. These awards and television appearances are simply the most visible testament to the AHC's tremendous collections and talented, knowledgeable faculty and staff.

Much less visibly, all of us at the AHC will be engaged in the months ahead on developing a new five-year strategic plan, as part of the university's larger academic planning effort. Every academic unit's plan will be guided by the university's overarching vision, articulated in *Moving Forward III*, which recognizes the AHC as one of the university's areas of distinction. That document and the planning schedule are accessible on the Academic Affairs web page at <http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/AcadAffairs/>. Comments from our friends are always welcome. There will be much more about our planning efforts in an upcoming issue of *Heritage Highlights*.

Last, but not least, in this issue we introduce Joseph Hunter, who joined us at the beginning of May as our new Development Officer. All units of the university are joined in the "Campaign for Distinction," in which the university's goal is \$125 million—the AHC's goal is \$7 million, to improve our programs and expand our storage capacity. Both UW and the AHC are well past 50 per cent of the goal, with approximately half the campaign yet to run. Joseph will play an important role in ensuring that the AHC has the resources necessary to remain one of the best repositories in the nation not only for collecting and preserving historical material, but also for exciting students, scholars, and the general public about history. ▲

-- Mark Greene



Joseph Hunter is New AHC Development Officer

Joseph Hunter began his new duties as the Development Officer for the AHC on May 1. He joins the staff after spending two years as the Director of Marketing and Development at Cathedral Home for Children, a nonprofit organization in Laramie that serves troubled youth. During his time there, the Cathedral Home enjoyed two record-breaking years in fundraising and conducted a successful capital campaign, which raised \$1.4 million to build a new wing for the home's education center. He began his position with Cathedral Home upon moving to Wyoming more than two years ago.

Joseph moved to Wyoming from Washington, D.C., where he was the Director of Development for the Sante Group Companies, the largest community-based mental healthcare organization in Maryland. Prior to that, he held a fundraising position at Virginia Tech, where he also earned his two graduate degrees. Joseph has also done professional fundraising for several organizations around the U.S. and has logged many years of volunteer fundraising service to various nonprofit groups.

Joseph's wife, Sarah, is a Wyoming native and a fifth generation Wyomingite. She is also an alumna of the University of Wyoming. Many members of their family are also alumni of the university.

When not hard at work, Joseph enjoys exercising, fishing, golf, reading, and watching sports. He is a member of the Cowboy Joe Club and a big fan of UW Athletics.

Joseph has high aspirations in his new role at the AHC. In his words, "It is very easy to respect the work of the AHC. It is an extremely important part of the university and is key in advancing UW's commitment to research. Its collections and faculty are certainly something our state and our alumni can be very proud of." In the months to come, Joseph hopes to get many more of UW's alumni and friends involved with the AHC. "These are certainly exciting times for the University of Wyoming. And these are exciting times at the AHC as well, which present the chance to match donor's philanthropic interests with opportunities to impact the AHC in reaching a new level of excellence." ▲



Joseph Hunter, AHC Development Officer

Planning Underway for AHC's 12th Annual Symposium

The Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership at the AHC will sponsor the AHC's 12th annual symposium. Titled "Battle for Federal Judges," the conference will be held on the University of Wyoming campus on February 16, 2004. While still in the planning stages, former Senator Alan K. Simpson will speak at the event and it is anticipated other nationally notable speakers will participate. More information about the symposium will be available soon. ▲



Milward Simpson Papers Opened for Research



Milward Simpson. Photo from the Simpson Collection, American Heritage Center.

During May, processing was completed on the Milward L. Simpson Papers and the collection is now open for research use. Simpson was born on November 12, 1897, in Jackson, Wyoming, to parents William Lee and Margaret Burnett Simpson. Milward's father was an attorney in Lander, Wyoming. Margaret Simpson was the daughter of Finn G. Burnett, official farmer to the Shoshone Agency. The Simpson family later moved to Meeteetse, Wyoming, and then to Cody, Wyoming.

Milward attended Cody High School and graduated in 1916. He enrolled at the University of Wyoming and earned a B.A. degree in political science in 1921. During his time at the university, Simpson was an accomplished

athlete, serving concurrently as the captain of the football, basketball, and baseball teams. After his undergraduate work, he enrolled in Harvard Law School and took over his father's law practice in 1924.

During the 1920s Simpson served one term in the Wyoming legislature. In 1929 he married Lorna Kooi and they had two sons: Peter Kooi Simpson and Alan Kooi Simpson. Milward served one term as Wyoming's governor from 1955 to 1959 and in 1962 was elected to the U.S. Senate. He retired from full-time politics in 1967 in part because of his health. Milward died in 1993 at the age of 95 and three years later he was inducted into the University of Wyoming Athletics Hall of Fame.

The Milward L. Simpson Papers provide hundreds of topics for scholarly research due to his important leadership role in many Wyoming issues including ranching, grazing rights, the development of Yellowstone National Park, and the Shoshone irrigation project. The collection contains correspondence, legal documents, financial records, speeches, photographs, political papers, and newspaper clippings related to his life and career. ▲

New Oral History Project at the Alan K. Simpson Institute

Through the generosity of Denver businessman Carl Williams, the Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership, a program of the AHC, began an oral history program in March. Williams, a longtime friend of the AHC and a graduate of the UW Law School, has fully funded the program.

Kim Winters, Simpson archivist, has begun work on the oral history project that will detail the professional and private lives of former Wyoming governor and United States Senator Milward L. Simpson and his wife Lorna, former U.S. Senator Alan K. Simpson and his wife Ann, and former Wyoming legislator Peter K. Simpson and his wife Lynne. Interviewees for the project will include former administrative assistants of Milward and those close to him during his time in political office, as well as friends and colleagues of the Simpson family. ▲



UW School of Nursing Records Opened for Research

The University of Wyoming Archives has recently opened to researchers a collection which documents the university's support in providing nursing education to support rural health services. The university has been involved in nursing education since 1918, when it began offering a three-year program in science courses for the Iverson Memorial Hospital's student nurses. The program ended in 1931 because the Wyoming Board of Nursing made arrangements for a pre-nursing curriculum.

Because of a severe shortage of qualified nurses in the state of Wyoming following World War II, the state legislature in 1951 passed a bill supporting nursing education. The legislation stipulated that the first two years of courses would be offered in various parts of the state and the final two years at the university. Graduates would be eligible for a licensure after the third year and a baccalaureate degree after the fourth year. The school obtained accreditation in 1956 with eight full-time faculty members. Currently the School of Nursing offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, RN/BSN Completion Program, and a Master's of Science degree.

The School of Nursing records, thirteen cubic feet of material dating from 1919 to 2000, contain grants, history, minutes, and reports relating to the curriculum, accreditation, and long-distance and continuing education. The records also document a pilot project for recruiting and retaining American Indian nursing students, substance abuse prevention for pregnant women, and the school's relationship with the Western Council on Higher Education for Nursing. The materials are now open to the public and scholars for research. ▲



First nursing class of UW receiving their caps, 1951.

Researchers Question Authenticity of Western Adventurer

Frank T. Hopkins, the subject of a forthcoming movie depicting him as a frontiersman of the American West and one of the world's preeminent endurance horse riders, may have been a fraud, according to evidence revealed by researchers at the AHC.

A film crew for the History Channel recently visited the AHC for a documentary exploring an example of accepted "history" that has been based on what now appears to be "tall tales," according to AHC Associate Director Rick Ewig.

Two researchers for the Long Rider's Guild, CuCullhaine and Basha O'Reilly, studied a collection of materials at the AHC they say played an important role in their committed effort to set the historical record straight. The AHC provided the "smoking gun" that allowed them to "make the final breakthrough," said Basha O'Reilly. The documentary is tentatively titled "The Legend of Frank T. Hopkins," and will air this fall.



The O'Reillys researched in the Robert Easton papers while being filmed by the History Channel production crew.

Continued on page 7



Recipients Named for AHC Teaching and Research Grants

The AHC recently awarded six grants to University of Wyoming faculty and students. The Teaching and Research Grants are funded by UW's Vice President for Academic Affairs and are given annually to encourage the use of AHC materials in university classrooms and for special research projects.

Dr. Carol Bryant, Secondary Social Studies Education—*Using Primary Documents to Develop Teaching Units*. The goals of the project are to have pre-service teachers use the primary resources of the AHC in the areas of the American West, the world wars, and modern culture to develop instructional units which will be used in their future classrooms. The National Council for Social Studies strongly supports the use of primary sources in the classroom and such use is also referenced in the Wyoming Social Studies Standards.

Dr. Michael Harkin, Anthropology —*Teaching Archival Research Methods for Ethnohistory*. The purpose of the grant is to incorporate the use of AHC primary materials in the class Field Methods in Cultural Anthropology. With the grant monies a graduate student with archival research experience will be hired as a teaching assistant to aid in the integration of archival research methods into the course structure.

Dr. Amanda Rees, Geography and Recreation—*“Be Our Guest”: Dude Ranching in Wyoming*. The grant will be used for the course titled “Tourism and Recreation” (G&R 4420, Spring 2003). The class is designed to utilize archival collections at the AHC relating to dude ranching in Wyoming. Students will be required to write a proposal for research funding to complete the work of the class, uncover the history and experiences of Wyoming dude ranching, and develop materials for a website articulating that history and those experiences.

Michael Lange, Music Performance Major—*Jazz from the Archives* (Beginning in May 2003 and ending during the Fall 2003 semester). Michael will research collections of the AHC containing unpublished music by many jazz musicians. Three of the collections are Buck Clayton, Harry James, and Bob Russell (Duke Ellington's lyricist). Michael will transcribe, write out instrumental parts, and arrange the pieces. During the fall semester Michael will lead a jazz combo and perform the music at the AHC in a concert titled “Jazz from the Archives.”

Evelina Vardanyan, graduate student in the Department of Music—*American Vaudeville and Beatrice Kay*. Evelina will research the papers of performer Beatrice Kay, held by the AHC, in order to study Kay's role in the history of American Vaudeville. Not only does vaudeville tell us much about America's popular culture during the early twentieth century, but it also informs us about the country's tastes, values, and habits of that era. Kay had a long and fruitful career in the entertainment industry in vaudeville and as an actress and singer.

Andrew Grace, graduate student in the American Studies Program—*Documentary film project about the Little Bighorn National Monument*. During 1991 President George Bush signed into law a bill which renamed the Custer Battlefield National Monument as the Little Bighorn National Monument. The bill also called for “the design, construction, and maintenance of a memorial and monument to recognize the Indians who fought, on either side, to preserve their land and culture in the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25-26, 1876.” The memorial will be unveiled this summer. Andrew will research the collections of the AHC dealing with the famous battle, including the books in the Toppan Rare Book Library, in preparing to film a documentary about the dedication of the memorial. ▲



AHC Celebrated Women's History Month

The AHC hosted a special event, “WACs, WAFs, WASPS ‘N WAVES: Women in the 1940s,” to celebrate Women’s History Month. The all-day event, held on March 29, opened with a session titled “Remembering the War Years,” featuring Amy Lawrence, a journalist assigned to Casper Air Base; Beryl Wausen, a Navy wife who witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor; Frances Livingston, who sold war bonds and worked in a west coast aircraft factory; Margaret Mains, an accomplished dancer and University of Wyoming faculty member; and Loretta Trick, a pilot who served in the WASPS. The panel members shared their wartime experiences and participated in a lively discussion with the audience.



“Remembering the War Years” was a session during the AHC’s Women’s History month event. Participants were (left to right) Margaret Mains, Loretta Trick, Frances Livingston, Amy Lawrence, and Beryl Wausen.

The opening session was followed by a “Canteen Lunch,” with 1940s music from the AHC collections performed by the Michael Lange Jazz Quintet. UW cadets from the ROTC program were special guests at the luncheon and member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority served as hostesses.

During the afternoon, students of the UW Department of Family and Consumer Sciences treated event participants to a fashion show featuring 1940s styles and a discussion of wartime influences on fashion. A presentation on redefining women’s roles in postwar America was given by Krys Park, American Studies graduate student. The celebration concluded with a screening of the film *Ball of Fire*, starring Barbara Stanwyck. Dr. Robert Torrey, UW associate professor of English, provided an exciting introduction to the movie. Ms. Stanwyck’s papers, including her Oscar for lifetime achievement, are in the collections of the AHC. ▲

Researchers *(continued from Page 5)*

Earlier this year, the O’Reillys learned of a major motion picture being produced based on Hopkins’ life. Hopkins, who died in 1951, is cited in several books as an endurance rider, a frontiersman, U.S. cavalry dispatch rider, slayer of outlaws, and great friend of Buffalo Bill Cody. The researchers pursued the story in locations where Hopkins claimed to have won marathon horse races, including Europe and the Middle East, as well as Wyoming. They came to UW to review Hopkins’ annotated scrapbooks, articles, and letters in the Robert Easton papers. Easton, who had planned to write a book about Hopkins, received the materials from Hopkins’ wife, Gertrude.

Hopkins life, as documented in the Easton papers, is filled with many inconsistencies. One of them, according to Ewig, was that Hopkins claimed to have been born at Fort Laramie in 1865 and later was a dispatch rider between Forts D.A. Russell and Phil Kearny. The army abandoned Fort Kearny, which was located along the Bozeman Trail, in 1868, meaning Hopkins would have been two or three years old when he rode between the two forts carrying important dispatches. ▲



AHC Notes

Associate Archivist **Mark Shelstad** attended the spring meeting of the Midwest Archives Conference in April, where he chaired a session on international archival descriptive standards. In February he served as a consultant to the Converse County Library System in Douglas and Glenrock, Wyoming, for the preservation and access of their local history materials.

Mark Greene, AHC Director, taught a day-long workshop on Advanced Appraisal for the joint meeting of the Society of California Archivists and the Northwest Archivists, in Sacramento, California.

Anne Marie Lane, the AHC's Curator of Rare Books, attended the national meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, of the Association of College and Research Libraries. She participated in two panels at the conference and discussed the many outreach activities of the AHC. In January Anne Marie attended the mid-winter meeting of the American Library Association and served as acting chair of the Curators and Conservators Discussion Group.

Kim Winters, the Simpson Institute Archivist, in January appeared on Wyoming Public Television's program "Wyoming Signatures" and talked about 19th century fur trapper Richard Leigh. She also presented her AHC Speaker's Bureau program about Leigh in January at the Wyoming State Museum.

Photo Archivist **Leslie Shores** presented her AHC Speaker's Bureau program about Charles Belden in February at the Wyoming State Museum.

Judy Bangerter, Administration Office Assistant, retired April 30. She had worked at the AHC for 9 years and a reception was held in the Centennial Complex Restaurant. ▲

Corrections to AHC 2002 Annual Report

Lifetime members Raymond B. and Debby M. Hunkins; Jerry J. and Ann T. Palen; Virginia Keith; Jacqueline B. Dugan; and Marlene E. Brodrick were inadvertently omitted from the AHC 2002 Annual Report Membership list. Their ongoing support has been integral to our program and we respectfully regret this omission. ▲

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