



Hal Rothman the 2004 Bernard L. Majewski Fellow

Hal K. Rothman, professor and chair of the History Department at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, has been selected to serve as the 2004 Bernard L. Majewski Fellow. Dr. Rothman presently serves as the editor of the journal *Environmental History*, and has published numerous articles and books, which include *the New Urban Park: Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Civic Environmentalism*, *Neon Metropolis: How Las Vegas Started the Twenty-First Century*, *Greening of a Nation? Environmentalism in the U.S. Since 1945*, and *Devil's Bargains: Tourism in the Twentieth Century American West*. Throughout his career he has won numerous awards, including the prestigious Harry Reid Silver State Research Award presented by UNLV earlier this year.

Rothman's research at the American Heritage Center (AHC) will center on the relationship between American conservation and resource extractive industries. He will investigate the close relationship between resource companies and the conservation movement which existed from 1900 past the end of World War II. This relationship was especially prominent in the National Park Service. Some of the collections held by the AHC that Rothman will research are Arthur E. Demaray, Conrad L. Wirth, Devereaux Butcher, and Newton B. Drury, among many others. His research, to be conducted at the AHC during the summer and fall, will be used for a book to be published by the University of Arizona press and will represent a major revision of environmental history.

The Majewski Fellowship honors the late petroleum industry pioneer Bernard L. Majewski and is awarded annually to an outstanding scholar to research AHC collections. The fellowship is funded by a generous endowment given to the AHC by the late Thelmas Majewski to honor her husband.



Horace Albright of the National Park Service (NPS) speaking at the dedication of Grand Teton National Park. Albright, raised in a mining community, became vice president of U.S. Potash Company after his tenure with the NPS. He and his friends in the extractive industries supported efforts of those in the conservation movement for much of the twentieth century. This relationship will be researched by 2004 Majewski Fellow, Dr. Hal Rothman. (Photo from AHC Collections)



From the Director



Mark Greene

This past year has been full of achievement at the AHC. Traditionally we would provide a summary of the past year's accomplishments in our annual report. However, on the advice of our Board of Advisors, the AHC has decided to change publication of its annual report from a calendar year cycle to a fiscal year cycle. This year, therefore, our annual report will be produced in July for distribution in August. This will bring our annual report into line with most of the other units at the university, and make it easier, we hope, to align fiscal reporting with other yearly statistics.

But for internal reporting purposes our department heads continue to provide me with some calendar year statistics, and at least in this transition period I thought it might be helpful to report some of them to you here. Specifically, I would like to highlight four significant accomplishments during the past calendar year, all of which represent down payments on priority goals identified in our 2004-09 academic plan.

First, as I have been discussing in this column, the AHC has pledged to highly refine its collecting policies—to be much more selective about what we acquire. Before accepting collections our archivists look for material that is unlikely to be of use to researchers or students (from utility bills to commonly available publications—for more information about “Types of Material Collected” by the AHC, see www.uwyo.edu/ahc/about/publications.htm). In 2003 the total collection material acquired was 669.80 cubic feet—still sizable by archival standards but significantly less than the previous year.

Second, for decades, up through the 1980s, the AHC—like many U.S. archival repositories—acquired collections without sufficient resources for arranging, describing, and cataloging (what archivists call “processing”) those collections for use by researchers. In the early 1990s this changed significantly for the better, though using traditional archival methods progress was slow.

In 2002 we adopted cutting edge methods and brought in a national expert to conduct a workshop for our faculty and staff. In 2003 these changes resulted in our processing, *double* the amount ever processed in a previous year—2,115 cubic feet (*close to half a mile of paper*). Department head D.C. Thompson and her department's faculty and staff have done an absolutely terrific job in implementing this important change and accomplishing such impressive results.

Third, all of this work—acquiring collections, more closely evaluating collections, and processing collections—is a means to an end, the end being to make excellent historical collections

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available to researchers. This year we served *7,615 researchers from 42 states and 15 nations* (including India, Israel, Japan, and Nigeria). *More than 2000 of those researchers were UW undergraduates*, from departments as varied as Anthropology, English, History, Pharmacy, Religion, and Secondary Education. These statistics are exciting because they place us ahead of repositories at much larger and better-financed universities. For example, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill rare books and manuscripts unit served “about 5,540” researchers this past year; Ohio State’s several special collections units served researchers from fewer nations, and worked with fewer university classes.

Department heads **Carol Bowers** and **Anne Marie Lane** and their excellent reference faculty also worked with classes and students from Laramie High School and History Day busloads (junior high and high school) from Wheatland, Riverton, and Elk Mountain, among other places. We are very proud both of our success in making primary source research welcoming and accessible to students, and of our international reputation as a research center.

Finally, a word about our public programs. Not everyone interested in history has the time or inclination to do formal research, and as part of a land grant college the AHC has a responsibility to extend the reach of its materials beyond its reading rooms and into the community. We support public lectures and an annual symposium, send our faculty and staff across the state to give presentations to civic and fraternal groups, and make increasing content available on our Web site. But perhaps our most successful outreach tool has been our traveling exhibits (www.uwyo.edu/ahc/edu_outreach/traveling.htm).

During 2003 our traveling exhibits went to Casper, Thermopolis (two different exhibits), Story, Evanston, Wright, Gillette, Kemmerer, and Worland in Wyoming—plus Boise, Idaho, and Moorhead, Minnesota. These exhibits were viewed by (figures provided by the host institution) *36,600 people*. The exhibits were created over the years by several AHC faculty and staff members; **Bill Hopkins** and his staff are responsible for booking and shipping the exhibits, which are free to recipients except for the charge of return shipping.

These are only some of the significant accomplishments of our faculty and staff during the past year, for we continue to be involved in important digitization projects, professional leadership, and academic scholarship, to name just a few other areas. You can learn about some of these other achievements by visiting our newly redesigned Web site, www.uwyo.edu/ahc. 

-- **Mark Greene**

New Members of the AHC’s Board of Advisors

This year, the AHC is proud to announce the induction of two new members to its Board of Advisors: **Mrs. Sally Biegert** of Laramie, WY, and **Dr. Pete Simpson** of Cody, WY.

Originally from Nebraska, Mrs. Biegert has devoted much of her life to making a difference in her community and abroad. She moved to Laramie in 1993, and has already left a great mark on the community. She has offered her talents and leadership to several important nonprofit boards and notable service organizations. She will be one of the distinguished judges for this year’s Wyoming History Day state contest.

Dr. Simpson has enjoyed a distinguished career in academia and politics. He is the former Vice-President of Advancement at the University of Wyoming (UW). He also served two terms in the Wyoming House of Representatives and was Republican nominee for governor in 1986.

Today, Pete is the Milward L. Simpson Distinguished Professor in Political Science at the University of Wyoming. 

-- **Joseph Hunter**



The George Zuckerman Papers

The George Zuckerman Papers document the activities of a nationally known screenwriter, playwright, and author. Through his literary work in these various entertainment mediums, he left a lasting legacy upon American popular culture. Zuckerman (1916-1996) was born in

Brooklyn, New York, and started writing short stories as a teenager. He graduated from the University of South Carolina, where he published short stories in the school's literary magazine *The Carolinian*. Zuckerman turned to writing novelettes during the mid-1940s and gained national exposure with works such as *Crosstown* (1945) and *The Victims* (1946). Several magazines, including *Cosmopolitan*, *Collier's*, and *Esquire* published his writings.

Zuckerman is best known for his motion picture screenplays, which he began writing during the late 1940s, starting with *La Forteresse* (1947). Often drawing upon his earlier literary works for material, he enjoyed great success throughout the 1950s. He earned screenwriting credits in seventeen movies, including



Poster for *Written on the Wind*, a film written by George Zuckerman. George Zuckerman Papers, American Heritage Center.

Trapped (1949), *Under the Gun* (1951), *Written on the Wind* (1956), and *The Tarnished Angels* (1958). A number of prominent actors and actresses of the day appeared in Zuckerman's screenwriting efforts, including Rock Hudson, Robert Stack, Lauren Bacall, and Dorothy Malone.

After his screenwriting successes, Zuckerman turned to other creative endeavors during the 1960s. He wrote the dialogue for the 1964 musical *Golden Boy*, starring Sammy Davis, Jr., which had a successful run on Broadway. He also started writing novels during this decade. His first published novel, *The Last Flapper* (1969), was loosely based on the life of Zelda Fitzgerald, the widow of novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald. Zuckerman wrote and published two more novels during the seventies, *Farewell Frank Merriwell* and *The Potato Peelers*.

The George Zuckerman Papers contain screenplays, manuscripts, notes, books, and other materials pertaining to his literary career. The materials record the development of some of his works from conception to final form and reveal much about his development as a writer, documenting his progression from short stores to novelettes, screenplays, plays, and novels.

-- Kent Jaehnig



Explore the UW's Online Western Trails Collection

The AHC and UW Libraries are members of a consortium of repositories in Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, and Kansas collaborating on an Institute for Museum and Library Services grant to demonstrate archives' and libraries' ability to broaden access to a collection of widely dispersed digital resources by creating a virtual collection of digital resources using the topic 19th and 20th century Western trails. **Mark Shelstad**, AHC's information manager, has served on the grant's planning committee.

An important component of this federally funded project is the development of best practice guidelines for the creation, description, and storage of digital images, which include texts, photographs, maps, and audio-visual materials. The Western State Best Practices Documents for Digital Imaging and Dublin Core Metadata are guides for image capture, presentation, storage, preservation, and description. The recommendations are broad enough to apply to a variety of institutions and collections and attempt to synthesize previous recommendations.

The Western Trails Project has digitized photographs, text, maps, and video that may be searched or browsed in a variety of ways, including by subject, creator, title, and date. Detailed descriptions of the images are provided in cataloged records and the interpretive exhibits explore themes from the collections. The project also features detailed access to large format items through software using a Macromedia Flash application.

The UW's collections for digitization for the Western Trails include:

- A 1911 UW History Thesis on the Bozeman Trail with 34 photographs and a hand-drawn map.
- Fourteen maps of the Oregon and Bozeman trails drawn from the collections of the UW Libraries.
- 1867 and 1868 diaries and transcripts of Bozeman Trail paymaster Robert Dunlap Clarke.
- A 1976 motion picture, *The First Road West: The Oregon Trail Through Wyoming*, produced by the Wyoming Recreation Commission.
- A forty page transcript of 1869 journal and 64 watercolors and sketches of 1868 trip across the U.S. on the transcontinental railroad by English traveler Thomas Kennet-Were.
- Photographs, artwork, and text of Wyoming historian Grace Raymond Hebard, who authored a history of the Bozeman Trail and was active in placing markers along the Bozeman and Oregon trails.
- 1854 diary and transcript of an overland journey from Wisconsin to California kept by Charlotte Allis.
- 1859 diary and transcript of William Gordon, a doctor who traveled overland from Missouri to California.



Grace Raymond Hebard standing next to a rock at Devil's Gate, Natrona County, Wyoming, on the Oregon Trail. Hebard is pointing to a carving in the rock noting the Oregon and California Trail, 1843-1914. Grace Raymond Hebard Papers, American Heritage Center. See <http://digital.uwyo.edu/hebard/>

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Western Trails Collection (continued from Page 5)

Access to the collections is provided through the project Web site at <http://digital.uwyo.edu>. This resource is designed to be useful to the general public, students, teachers, and scholars. Users will be able to view and learn from Web-based exhibits on particular topics with pointers for further information to guide you to print and online resources. The Web site also provides for image browsing and an interface to search UW collections or across primary source materials from the Western Trails project participants.



-- Mark Shelstad

Simpson Family Oral History Project Progressing

Through the generosity of Denver businessman Carl Williams, the **Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership** at the AHC began its Milward L. Simpson Family Oral History Project last year. The project documents the professional and private lives of former Wyoming governor and U.S. senator Milward 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.

Kim Winters, the archivist for the Simpson Institute, has completed five interviews, with one interview ongoing. Interviewees have included Thyra Thomson, former Wyoming secretary of state; Bud Webster, long-time family friend; Cliff Hansen, former Wyoming governor and U.S. senator; his wife Martha Hansen; James Watt, one-time Simpson senate staffer and former U.S. secretary of the interior; and Dean Borthwick, former administrative aid to Governor Simpson. In addition to these, other interviews are currently being arranged. The interviews so far have offered a wealth of information about the family, their involvement in both the Wyoming and national political scenes, and their many contributions to Wyoming. The interviews will be transcribed and made available to researchers in the future. For more information about the project contact Kim Winters at kimain@uwyo.edu.



AHC Unveils New Web Site

The AHC recently launched its updated and redesigned Web site, which can be found at <http://www.uwyo.edu/ahc>. The new design allows easier navigation to information about how to use AHC collections, links to finding aids and the online catalog, virtual exhibits, digital projects,

educational and outreach programs and events, an online store, and a list of resources for teachers. Other features will be incorporated as they become available, including AHC faculty members' presentations, more online forms and policy documents, and the ability to browse through AHC collections grouped by subject area. Last year the Web site received more than 132,000 visitors. For more



Introductory page of the new AHC Web site. information about the new site, contact **Mark Shelstad** at shelstad@uwyo.edu.



AHC Student Employees Get the Job Done

In every department of the AHC, a small cadre of student workers not only assist faculty and staff members with day-to-day operations, but show remarkable creativity and initiative in carrying out their job duties. The AHC currently employs nineteen UW students, from freshman to graduate students.

The students do everything from greeting patrons at the information desk to digitizing archival collections. According to Mark Shelstad, UW's university archivist and AHC's webmaster, "Justine [White] and Janelle [Ley] have scanned more than 1800 photographs, documents, and maps according to national standards, created descriptive and technical information about each item, and performed quality checks." In the reference department, students not only pull collection material from storage areas for patron use, but maintain the database that tracks their actions as well. In the accessioning unit, among many other duties, the students create content lists for some recent acquisitions, which allows immediate access for patrons to those collections. The many students here at the AHC are the unsung heroes of the wonderful service we provide. 



Paige Emerich, student worker in the AHC Accessioning Department.

AHC Notes

John Waggener, assistant archivist, was the guest editor for the Fall 2003 issue of *Annals of Wyoming: The Wyoming History Journal*. He authored the article "Putting Wyoming on the Map: The Story of the Official Wyoming Highway Map" for the issue.

In February, **Mark Shelstad**, associate archivist, attended an institutional repositories conference held in Denver, sponsored by the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries. Institutional repositories are systems to capture, preserve, and make accessible publications, papers, and other digital content produced by an organization. Mark also contributed three case studies that appeared in the 2003 Society of American Archivist's publication *Ethics and the Archival Profession*.

Kim Winters, the Simpson archivist, is presently teaching the Cultural Diversity in America class in the UW American Studies Program.

In December **Mark Greene**, AHC director, taught a workshop in Boston on archival appraisal to archivists and librarians throughout New England. He has been asked to guest edit, along with a colleague in Michigan and one in Amsterdam, an issue of the international journal (published in the Netherlands) *Archival Science*, on "Meaning in the Museum." Finally, his article, "What Were We Thinking? A Call To Embrace Reappraisal and Deaccessioning," has been published in the journal *Provenance*.

Rick Ewig, AHC associate director, recently agreed to serve as editor for *Annals of Wyoming: The Wyoming History Journal*. He has served in that capacity before during the 1980s and mid-1990s. The journal is a publication of the Wyoming State Historical Society with support from the AHC and the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources.

Anne Marie Lane, AHC's curator of rare books, presented papers at two national conferences in March. At the meeting of the Association of American Geographers held in Philadelphia she presented "Using Nineteenth Century Geographies in Teaching Book History," and in Seattle at the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy's conference she gave her paper titled "Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Printed Materials about the Pursuit of Health at Mineral Springs and Invalid Resorts." Anne Marie also had an article published in the Mid-American Print Council Journal. 





During World War II, Jack Benny devoted most of his efforts entertaining Allied servicemen overseas. During June 1944, Benny headed up Troupe 278 on a U.S.O. tour to entertain troops in New Guinea, the Solomons, and the Kwajalein Atoll, as well as Hawaii and Australia. The schedule was rugged for all concerned, performing several shows a day, only getting four or five hours of sleep each night, then moving on to the next location, sometimes performing in torrential jungle rains. Whenever he could he would visit hospitals, talking to the patients, and jotting down the names of the wounded soldiers so he could contact their families back home. Once back in the U.S. he would write or call the families. After

Benny's death in 1974, his widow, Mary Livingstone, found literally thousand of letters from mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, fiancées, and friends who had written to thank him for news of their loved ones fighting overseas. The photo is taken from the papers of Jack Benny held by the AHC. His papers contain extensive correspondence, photographs, speeches, scripts from his radio and television programs, and one of his trademark violins. The above information about Benny's World War II experiences comes from the book *Jack Benny* by Mary Livingstone and Hilliard Marks.

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