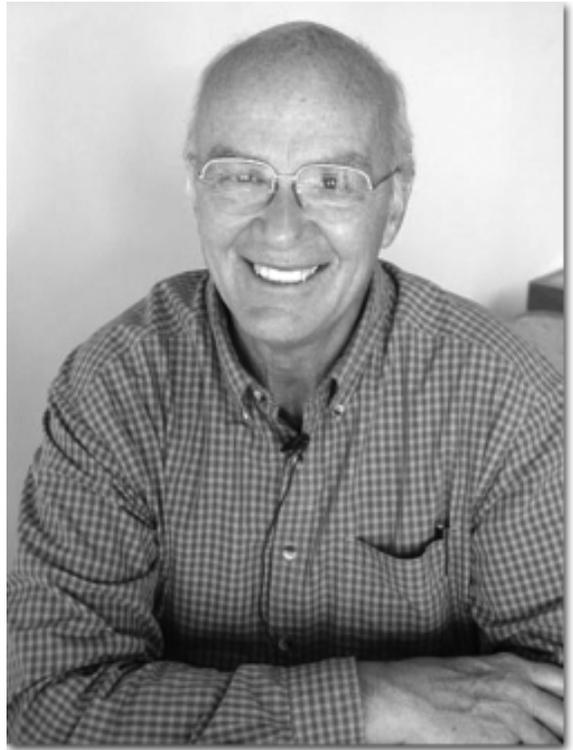


## James Watt Visited the American Heritage Center

James Watt, the former Secretary of the Interior under President Ronald Reagan, recently spoke at an AHC symposium sponsored by the Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership, the AHC's George A. Rentschler Visiting Distinguished Lectureship, and the Department of Political Science's Milward Simpson Lectureship Fund. Watt's talk was titled "Through the Rearview Mirror: Wyoming's Parks, Public Lands and Politics."

Watt was born, raised, and educated in Wyoming. He and his wife, Leilani, attended the University of Wyoming. Upon graduation from law school, Watt went to Washington, D.C. as a legislative assistant and counsel for U.S. Senator Milward Simpson. He then served in a variety of governmental positions during the tenures of six different presidents. He served as Secretary of the Interior from 1981 to 1983. In recent years, Watt has been a counselor, lecturer, professor, and businessman. In 1993, he taught at UW as the Milward Simpson Distinguished Professor of Political Science.

Watt's presentation, in which he talked about decisions as Interior Secretary which affected Wyoming, was followed by a lively public discussion with former U.S. Senator Alan K. Simpson and UW faculty members: Peter Simpson and Gregg Cawley, Political Science; Phil Roberts, History; and Amanda Rees, Geography.



James Watt,  
former U.S.  
Secretary of  
the Interior.



## From the Director



Mark Greene

If you are reading this column, you are by definition someone who is connected to and interested in the AHC. Thank you for that interest, and for your willingness to ask questions and send comments about the Center, its programs, and its priorities. I hope that the past several columns, focusing on some of the “inside baseball” that occupies us at the AHC (and most other archival repositories), has been somewhat helpful in clarifying the whys and hows as well as the whats of some of our work. As I’ve mentioned in passing in those columns, I believe that all of us in the archival profession have a responsibility to be as open as possible about our work, because we make decisions that have a profound and lasting impact on the sources available for the reconstruction and interpretation of history.

Some repositories, certainly including the AHC, also have a significant influence on how students, from grade school through college, learn history, by putting great effort and resources into bringing primary sources into the classroom. The AHC is also an archives that has a calculable effect on the archival profession as a whole, because so many of our faculty and staff are leaders within the profession, and because we have both the means and the will to embark on projects, adopt policies and procedures, and implement programs that become models for many other institutions. In short, we do not consider it an exaggeration when we say on our website and in our brochures, that while most universities have special collections repositories, *few have repositories as significant and active as ours.*

As much as I enjoy writing about what we do and why we do it, about the national professional leadership of our faculty and staff, and about the impact that our programs have on students, scholars, and members of the public, every so often I must digress to speak about the need to sustain this wonderful institution—yes, the need for fundraising. It is also not an exaggeration to state that only 45% of our annual budget derives from public funds (that is, comes to us through the University of Wyoming from the state) and user fees. All of our state appropriated funds are dedicated to salary expenses, but cover the salaries of only half of our faculty and staff. All of the remaining salary expenses are supported by private gifts and investment income.

## C O N T E N T S

HERITAGE  
HIGHLIGHTS  
Spring 2005

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The decline in investment income over the past several years, along with inflationary increases in major expense categories such as archival boxes and the need to find resources for tackling the new challenges of digital records, has resulted directly in our having to reduce our faculty by two positions in the last two years, and will further result in reducing our full-time staff by two positions by end of the 2005-06 fiscal year. Our remaining faculty and staff have absorbed and will continue to absorb the work responsibilities of the personnel we lose, up to a point. Some activities have had to be cut, though we have ensured that our core and priority programs and activities have not suffered in ways visible to our users.

We are pursuing the most obvious avenues available to us to offset, somewhat, this problem—we are submitting grants in the hope of being able to temporarily re-hire some of the lost positions. Permanent funding for the lost positions would require spectacular gifts to the AHC to create new endowments. *Very few people reading this column have the ability to make such gifts, though if you happen to be one and might be willing, I certainly would like to hear from you!*

On the program and operation side of the budget, annual gifts and other non-endowment donations account for nearly a third of our “income.” Our new business manager, Cricket Hoskins, has in her short time here identified savings of several thousand dollars that we can realize from changes in our network and telecommunication installations, by the end of this fiscal year. Even more significantly, we have stepped up our efforts to garner corporate support for our History Day program, and to reallocate funds to newly important areas such as digitization and to traditionally under funded needs such as support for faculty and staff to attend workshops or present papers.

Support for operations and programs is an ongoing test, as we confront the need to do all of the traditional archival work better and faster, while at the same time accepting newer priorities such as digitization and transparent web access not only for photographs but also for oral histories, films, maps, rare books, and other materials (more on this in a subsequent issue). The AHC has also been asked to shepherd a new K-12 program, Partnership for Civic Education, parallel to History Day, to improve and expand civic education in the classroom, including of course the use of primary sources such as the papers of public officials. These efforts, and all of our work with students from kindergarten through college, have been hugely eased by a private gift to build a classroom dedicated to what we call bibliographic instruction—introducing students (or any large group, really) to how to do research at the AHC—please see elsewhere in this issue for details of the A. J. Miller Classroom.

We have accepted the challenge of better integrating and simplifying access to the variety of cultural collections in libraries, archives, and museums, rather than hoping our users can navigate a forest of disparate catalogs, naming conventions, access rules, etc. This is an example of accepting new responsibilities by re-allocating existing resources, rather than relying on external gifts or grants. This commitment, to gradually expand and constantly improve our behind-the-scenes work and our public programs and services, is I think one of the things that sets the AHC apart from most other repositories.

To sustain this commitment, however, often requires help. Many of you already do help, with contributions from twenty-five to several thousand dollars each year. Each of those gifts is important, and we truly do recognize their importance in enabling us to do the work we do. If you have not yet helped in this way, and if you can, I hope I have made a good case for why the AHC deserves your support and how key that support—whether \$25 or \$2500—is to our success. Thank you for considering this request.

And thank you, no matter how else you may be able to help us, for you interest. I hope you will always feel welcome to contact me with questions or suggestions, to attend our public programs and visit our exhibits and web site, and to pursue your research interests and love for history in our reading rooms.



## Wyoming History Day Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary



Pete Illoway, the chairman for the AHC's Board of Advisors, judged junior group performances at the Wyoming History Day contest.

The AHC hosted the 2005 Wyoming History Day contest on April 24 and 25. The event began with a reception celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the contest. Linda Fabian, former WHD state coordinator and immediate past president of the Wyoming State Historical Society, served as master of ceremonies. Dave Kathka, the founder of WHD, was honored during the reception.

The 2005 theme was "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding." The 351 students at the state contest all selected a topic related to the theme for their paper, performance, documentary, or exhibit.

Some of the creative titles were "Navajo Code Talkers: Winning World War II with Covert Communications," "Women Carrying the Mail in Sublette County," "The Pony Express: Linking the East and West with Swift Reliable Communication," and "The Incredible, Analytical, Whimsical, Rhymable, Surprisingly Political Political, 'Dr. Seuss!'"

The first and second place winners received medals presented by Pete Simpson, historian and former Wyoming legislator, and Mark Greene, director of the AHC. The contest also handed out more than twenty special awards, including a \$3,000 scholarship sponsored by Taco John's. The fifty state first and second place winners are now eligible to compete at the National History Day contest to be held at the University of Maryland from June 12-16.

Wyoming History Day is sponsored by the Wyoming State Historical Society and the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources and coordinated by the AHC at the UW. Kori Livingston is the state coordinator for the competition.



## Perry Botkin, Musician and Composer

The AHC recently completed the processing of the Perry Botkin Papers. Botkin (1907-1973) was a music composer, arranger, pianist, band leader, orchestra conductor, and string instrument musician. His musical career began at the age of fourteen when he started playing with a band in his hometown of Richmond, Indiana. The band needed a banjo player and Botkin learned to play the banjo, guitar, ukulele, lute, and several other string instruments.

Botkin moved to Hollywood during the 1920s and worked with radio orchestras such as Victor Young, Johnny Green (The Jack Benny Show), Red Nichols, Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Paul Whitman, Roy Rogers, and the Sons of the Pioneers. He also played for the original Fibber McGee and Molly radio show. He worked for Al Jolson for fourteen years and Eddie Cantor for twenty-five. He also was Bing Crosby's guitar accompanist and musical supervisor for radio, film, and stage.

*continued on Page 5*



Perry Botkin *continued from page 4*

Later in his career Botkin arranged music for television programs such as “Wyatt Earp,” “The Rifleman,” and “Wells Fargo.” In 1962 he became the music arranger and composer for “The Beverly Hill-billies.” Throughout his career Botkin was recognized as the foremost guitar musician in Hollywood and the first musician to perform ukulele solos. He primarily composed jazz, bluegrass, western, popular, and folk arrangements.

Botkin’s papers contain his music compositions, arrangements, and music recordings, along with scripts from some radio shows and about sixty scripts from “The Beverly Hillbillies.” Correspondence from 1924 to 1970 is also included in the collection and numerous photographs of Botkin, Bing Crosby, and several other radio, television, and screen stars. Botkin’s papers fit in well with the many other music collections held by the AHC including Hal Kemp, Fred Karlin, Ozzie and Harriet Nelson, and Frank DeVol.



Perry Botkin from the Perry Botkin Papers, American Heritage Center.

Former Bull Rider Speaks at AHC

**A**be Morris, former member of the UW rodeo team, spoke to a large crowd at the AHC about his experiences as a bull rider. Morris just completed his first book, *My Cowboy Hat Still Fits: My Life as a Rodeo Star*. He autographed copies of his book after the talk.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Morris began riding at the age of ten. After high school he attended UW on academic and rodeo scholarships. As a member of the rodeo team he won the Laramie River Rendezvous bull riding title in 1978. After graduating with a degree in Business Management, Morris competed in professional rodeos for eighteen years. He also was a commentator for the television broadcasts of Cheyenne Frontier Days™ from 1989 to 1997. Today he works in Denver for TIAA-CREF, but still maintains his ties to rodeo by writing a column for a trade magazine, “Humps N’ Horns Bull Riding News.” Morris plans on writing three more books and hopes to become a motivational speaker.

Last year Morris donated his papers to the AHC. The papers contain biographical material, correspondence, and other materials.



AHC Director Mark Greene (left) with Abe Morris (right) signing books after his lecture on April 8, 2005.



## Wyoming Partnership for Civic Education Receives Federal Grant



The AHC recently received word that it would receive federal monies intended to support the efforts of the Wyoming Partnership for Civic Education (WyoPCE) to strengthen and expand civic education in the state. Another goal of the grant is to integrate the teaching of civic education in K-12 classrooms with the vast primary historical sources at the AHC. The AHC became the administrative home for the WyoPCE in late 2003, and its director shares executive responsibility for the WyoPCE along with a faculty member from the UW's College of Education.

The grant will support hiring a half-time coordinator for the WyoPCE (this has been a ten-hour per week position to date). In addition, a project archives specialist will process and catalog relevant collections. Also, in consultation with the WyoPCE coordinator, faculty of the College of Education, and K-12 teachers on the PCE advisory board, will digitize particularly important items and mount them on the AHC web site. Compact discs will also be distributed to every public school in the state.

The grant will support the creation of a series of summer teachers' workshops in Laramie which will introduce social studies and other interested instructors to the AHC's resources. UW faculty members will work with the teachers integrating primary sources into their curricula and learn from them what additional related topics and lesson plans would be of most benefit in the future. To help ensure that geography is not a barrier to teachers participating in the workshops, one additional workshop will be held in the northwest part of the state.

The grant provides funding for hardware to support this work, most notably the purchase of a scanning station and server storage space and web server space to preserve the archival copies of the digitized material and make it available.



## Donation Provides for Alfred Jacob Miller Classroom

Thanks to a very generous gift from long-time AHC supporters, the Graff Family, the AHC has begun construction on a new classroom on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of its Centennial Complex, adjacent to the Owen Wister Reading Room. The classroom will be named The **Alfred Jacob Miller Classroom**, according to the family's wishes and in honor of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century painter.

The new Alfred Jacob Miller Classroom will satisfy the AHC's urgent need for educational facilities. Currently, students (including Wyoming History Day students) and classes who convene at the AHC must compete with visiting scholars and members of the public for space in the Owen Wister Reading Room, the public room where the faculty teaches and facilitates research. Each year, the AHC assists with countless K-12 and university courses (in addition to the courses they teach themselves), all while serving an average of 8,000 researchers from all around the world. So, adequate space in which to serve all of these individuals has become a real concern. The new classroom will offer students their own "home" in the AHC, an ample space where they can learn.

*continued on Page 7*



## Donation continued from Page 6

The new classroom will also include an exhibit on the life and work of Alfred Jacob Miller. Miller was the first artist of his generation to explore the Rocky Mountain West, during his expedition in 1837 with Sir William Drummond Stewart, a Scottish soldier and sportsman. Miller attended one of the last of the annual fur trappers' "rendezvous" along what is now the Green River of Wyoming. Afterward, Miller produced a large number of incredible oil paintings descriptive of his experience. Though most of these paintings remain in private hands, the AHC is privileged to have nine of his paintings prominently displaying in its loggia and that were donated by the Graff Family over 30 years ago.



## Jeremy Mouat Named 2005 Majewski Fellow

The AHC recently announced that Jeremy Mouat, Professor of History at the Centre for Global and Social Analysis, Athabasca University, Alberta, Canada, has been selected as the 2005 Bernard L. Majewski Fellow. His research will focus on a group of university-educated mining engineers during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. According to Mouat, this group of mostly American men came to dominate the world's mining industry when the industry was undergoing profound change. Scholars have not explored the emergence of the mining engineering profession with any rigor, a surprising omission given that mining was arguable the world's first truly modern and distinctively global industry. During Mouat's time at the AHC this coming summer, he will research the papers of Pope Yeatman, H. Foster Bain, Harold A. Titcomb, J.E. Spurr, A.B. Parsons, Thayler Lindsley, and George W. Tower.

Mouat received his Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia. His dissertation was titled "Mining in the Settler Dominions: A Comparative Study of the Industry from the 1880s to the First World War." He has written several books, including *Metal Mining in Canada, 1840-1950*. Mouat recently guest edited a theme issue on mining for the *Journal of the West* and is currently working on a similar issue for the *Australian Economic History Review*. He is a former president of the Mining History Association and a recipient of its Rodman W. Paul Award "For Outstanding Contributions to Mining History." As part of the fellowship, Mouat will present a public lecture about his topic during the fall at the AHC.

The Majewski Fellowship is funded by a generous endowment given to the AHC by the late Thelma Majewski to honor her husband, Bernard L. Majewski, a petroleum industry pioneer.



## AHC Notes

**Leslie Shores** wrote an article about the life and times of Fort Laramie's first Indian agent, Thomas Twiss, which was published in the Winter issue of *Annals of Wyoming*. A former New York school teacher, Twiss uprooted himself from his work and family in 1855 and emigrated to Dakota Territory to take over a challenging post that entailed establishing peace amongst approximately 1,400 Cheyenne, 1,600 Arapaho and 6,500 Sioux in the Upper Platte area. He remained in the area even after his tenure as Indian agent ended in 1866.

**Mark Greene** has published, with co-author Christine Weideman, "The Buckley Stops Here: The Ambiguity and Archival Implications of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act," commissioned for publication in Menzi Behrnd-Klodt and Peter Wosh, eds., *Privacy and Confidentiality Perspectives* (Society of American Archivists, 2005), 173-90. Mark also received the David B. Gracy II Award from the Society of Georgia Archivists for his article "What WERE We Thinking? Embracing Reappraisal and Deaccessioning as a Collection Management Tool," *Provenance* 20 (2002) 33-49.





Hal Kemp's orchestra was one of the most popular dance bands of the 1930s. Born in 1905 in Alabama, Kemp attended the University of North Carolina where he led the school's band, the Carolina Club Orchestra. After graduating, he formed the Hal Kemp Orchestra, originally more jazz-oriented, but the band switched to dance songs during the early 1930s. By the late 1930s the band's popularity began to wane and in December 1940 Kemp died of injuries resulting from an accident as he was driving to a gig in San Francisco. Kemp's papers are held by the AHC and include his band's music, albums, copies of radio broadcasts, biographical information, correspondence, and photographs.

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