

AHC Actively Creating Digital Collections

by Mark Shelstad

A common question asked by visitors to the AHC is when will we have all of our collection material online?

Considering that the AHC has more than eighty thousand cubic feet of material filling more than one hundred thousand boxes, comprising about 240,000,000 items, it is unlikely a complete digital record of our materials will ever be completed. This is not unique to the AHC; no major repository in the nation will be capable of digitizing its entire holdings within any of our lifetimes.

However, since 2002 the AHC has been digitizing collections of scholarly and general interest with other partners from across campus, the state of Wyoming, and the region. These new digital collections benefit students and researchers by increasing their level of access to AHC materials, while allowing our reference staff to provide a higher level of efficient reference assistance. At the same time, digitization also assists in the preservation of original, historically significant, primary source materials by reducing the wear and tear to which they are subjected during research use.

The conversion of manuscripts, photographs, and other materials to electronic form meeting archival standards encompasses a range of procedures and technologies that are deceptively complex and require significant investments in hardware, software, training, and staff hours. Building a digital



The photograph of Roscoe Turner (left) and Joe E. Brown is one of the many documents from the Roscoe Turner Papers which has been digitized as part of the AHC's efforts to digitize some of its significant collections.

From the Director



Mark Greene

Normally in this column I write about AHC plans and accomplishments. Occasionally, however, I like to focus on the means to those ends. We rely substantially on private gifts from our friends and supporters. It is not simply that our overall budget is only 45% state-funded and 55% privately funded. Even more importantly, when we look at

our program budget—that is, the portion of our budget not devoted to salaries and benefits—dollars from our annual fund alone comprise more than 25% of the funds that support everything from technology purchases to History Day, from basic office supplies to maintaining our mobile archives shelving, from our public presentations to printing these newsletters, from our traveling exhibits to conservation of deteriorating material. Fundraising dollars allow us to preserve a legacy of archival information that is truly unique worldwide.

Your donations to the AHC are responsible for how our collections and programs grow and continue to grow. Thanks to your support, our programs have become nationally and even internationally recognized—among our peer professionals, among scholars, among documentary filmmakers, among teachers, and others. We have taken word of our outstanding work to China, England, France, Japan, and Iceland, and have drawn researchers from three times as many foreign nations. We have given presentations about our work to national conferences of archivists, historians, English professors, American culture scholars, experts on rare books, and more. And we have applied our programs throughout our home state of Wyoming as well as border states in the Rocky Mountain West.

To ensure continuing success, we require not only support from the state and our endowment funds, but from our annual fund as well. We have set an ambitious goal of increasing our annual fund by at least \$5000 per year for the next several years, to help us keep up with rising program expenses. We are seeking new supporters to assist in reaching that goal. But we must appeal to our existing friends to help us in this endeavor as well.

If you can, we would deeply appreciate your considering even a small increase in your donation this year over last. Even *ten percent more* would be an immense help, and if you can consider an increase of 25% or 50%...well, we would be tremendously grateful. If you have recently increased your contribution, we are deeply thankful, and the results of your generosity are already being felt in our programs.

Please remember, for those of you who might be able, that donations of \$1000 or more qualify you for membership in the *University of Wyoming's President's Club*, with special events and recognition by UW.

Whatever the amount, however, your contributions are valued. When you donate to the annual fund it has a tremendous impact. Here are some of the items that were purchased last year with your dollars:

- Subscriptions to the software services that permits us to place large amounts of digitized collection material accessible on our Web site.
- Brochures to permit us to spread the word about the AHC and its programs.
- Phone service, copy paper, and the other day-to-day costs of doing business.
- Updated computers when necessary and specialized technology such as professional scanners for our digitizing work.

- Travel costs to send AHC faculty around our state to give free historical presentations to school groups, fraternal organizations, and historical groups interested in how to preserve historical documents and images.

As important as the annual fund is, *we also have other needs that extend beyond the range of typical annual fund contributions.* Two examples are digital storage hardware and a high-speed scanner. The former, costing \$6,000, is necessary to support our growing digitization programs. Scans of images and documents to archival standards are extremely large (hundreds even thousands of megabytes), and while storage hard drives have dropped in price the storage capacity we need rises at an equal rate. We would like to buy ten terabytes of storage this year. The latter, costing \$10,000, is necessary to support the increasing demands by our researchers for copies created in digital form, rather than as photocopy. The funds would purchase a high-speed scanner/copier for our reference staff, doubling our current capacity to respond to researcher demand for digital copies.

In addition to mentioning these annual and special purchase needs, I will also mention *our goal of endowing certain positions and programs.* These are highly ambitious attempts to permanently support or expand key programs at the AHC. They require substantial contributions, but in fact the face value of the endowment necessary to support them can be achieved by a donation of half that size—this is because of an unprecedented program by the state of Wyoming to match major endowments (anything

from \$50,000 up) one to one with public funds, as part of an overall commitment to education.

So for example, when we talk about the need for a \$3,000,000 endowment to create a Center for Primary Source Research, to further improve and expand our work with students of all ages, it would require “only” a donation of \$1,500,000. Similarly, our goal of a Digital Archives Center will require a total of \$2,500,000—but a donation of “only” 1,250,000; the creation of an Oral Historian position a donation of “only” \$1,000,000 for a \$2,000,000 endowment. On a smaller scale, we are hoping to create a \$200,000 endowment (\$100,000 donation) to fund replacement of our technology hardware as it becomes obsolescent. Thus *your endowment gift doubles with the state match and your gift can be paid over a five-year period.* I realize, of course, that very few of you reading this column could consider such stupendous gifts, but I mention them on the off chance.

In fact, of course, *every donation of any size is important to us.* They truly do add up. So let me close where I began, by asking our friends to consider, if they can, a small increase to their contributions to the annual fund this year, in honor of the excellence achieved by our faculty and staff in recent years, and to ensure that such excellence is maintained for many years to come. If you have recently increased your donation, we are deeply grateful. If not, thank you so much for considering this request. And thank you so much for your past and continuing support of the American Heritage Center.

Shirley Greene



AHC Digital Collections *continued from page 1*

collection involves selection of materials, clearance of copyright issues, scanning, the creation of data about the digital item (called metadata), data storage, delivery of the images to the user, and ensuring that the digital objects can be sustained long-term. The digital objects created by the AHC are in accordance with national best practices, which it helped to create in partnership with the UW Libraries and the Collaborative Digitization Program in its best practices documents for digital imaging, metadata, and digital audio.

There are three methods by which material is chosen for digitization: internal processes, grant funding, and donor funding. Internally, AHC faculty and staff select materials for digitization they feel best represents the quality, diversity, and breadth of the collections. Submissions are evaluated within the context of available staffing, resources, and technology. Materials you will find among the digitized collections include photographs, maps, diaries, letters, sound and video files, and more.

Digital collections created in this way include images from the Charles Belden Collection from the 1920s and 1930s taken on Wyoming's Pitchfork Ranch near Meeteetse, which include photographs of everyday ranching life, an active dude ranch, and some romanticized images of Wyoming; a portion of the papers of Roscoe Turner, a barn-storming aviator, who was a three time winner of the Thompson Trophy, one of the National Air Races of the heyday of early airplane racing in the 1930s; letters written between James Bertenshaw and his wife Mary while James traveled from Indiana to the Montana goldfields in 1864-1865; and photographs, sketches, letters, and other materials documenting the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, one of ten camps in which Japanese and Japanese-Americans were interned during the Second World War. The camp was located between Cody and Powell, Wyoming, and operated from 1942-1945.

In 2005 the AHC received a grant from the US Department of Education to support our civic

education program. A significant part of that grant was focused on digitizing collection material for middle and high school classes. The AHC has created substantial digital collections for six topics: the Heart Mountain Relocation Center; the Hollywood Ten; Nellie Tayloe Ross (Wyoming's and the nation's first woman governor); the development of Cody, Wyoming; the Black 14 (a civil rights controversy at the University of Wyoming); and Project Wagon Wheel (the effort to halt nuclear blasts in Wyoming to release underground natural gas). These collections, each with its own lesson plan, will be distributed to every high school in Wyoming this year, and later made available to schools around the nation.

Because of a generous monetary gift from Lawrence M. Woods, the AHC has begun digitizing the Moreton Frewen Papers. Frewen, an Englishman, started a ranching operation in northeastern Wyoming during the late 1800s. Also, the gift will allow us to digitize portions of the records of the Swan Land and Cattle Company, one of the most well known Wyoming and western ranching operations, once those materials have been arranged and described. Woods donated both of these valuable Wyoming ranching collections. The AHC is always willing to discuss potential digitization projects either with the donors of the collections or other interested parties.

Access to the digital collections can be found at <http://digital.uwyo.edu>. This resource is designed to be useful to the general public, students, teachers, and scholars and may be searched or browsed in a variety of ways, including by subject, creator, title, and date. 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.



Majewski Fellow Discusses Women in the Coal Industry

Jessica Smith, a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology with a certificate in women's studies at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, served as the AHC's 2007 Bernard L. Majewski Research Fellow. As part of her fellowship, Smith presented a talk titled "Kinship, Labor, and the Law: Women's Engagement with Wyoming's Coal Mining Industry" at the AHC on October 2.

Smith's dissertation research studies the everyday lives of people living in Wyoming, especially looking at the roles of women in the coal mining industry. Smith has spent considerable time conducting ethnographic fieldwork with oral history interviews in Gillette, Wyoming, located in the coal-rich Powder River Basin. She also spent time researching various AHC collections to determine whether historical records bring to light women's work in coal mines before and during industrialization.

The Bernard L. Majewski Research Fellowship is funded by an endowment provided through the generosity of the late Mrs. Thelma Majewski



Jessica Smith, the 2007 Bernard L. Majewski Fellow, presented her research at the AHC during October in the AHC's Wyoming Stock Growers' Room.

to honor her husband, Bernard L. Majewski, a petroleum industry pioneer, and is intended to provide research support for a recognized scholar in the history of economic geology and to facilitate the Fellow's use of archival collections held by the AHC.



AHC Homecoming Event

The AHC saluted "The All American Cowboy" on Friday, October 12, as part of its special event related to UW's Homecoming. The Friday afternoon program included a talk, "From Coach Hess to Coach Glenn: A Century of Wyoming Cowboy Football," presented by AHC archivist John Waggener and mainly based on photographs and film held by the AHC. Following John's presentation, Pete Simpson moderated a panel titled "From the Announcer's Booth to the Gridiron: An Afternoon of Great Cowboy Football



(left to right) Alan Simpson, Dave Walsh, Paul Roach, Ken Cook, and Galand Thaxton discussed their UW football experiences at the AHC's Homecoming event.

Memories." Members of the panel included former former UW Cowboy and U.S. Senator Alan Simpson, former UW football coach Paul Roach, Galand Thaxton, who played linebacker for the Cowboys during the 1980s and was selected an

All-American in 1987, Dave Walsh, the "Voice of the Cowboys," and Ken Cook, a UW graduate who played for the Cowboys during the 1930s. Current UW football coach Joe Glenn also stopped in and discussed the Cowboys' strategy for their homecoming game against the New Mexico Lobos.

After the panel
continued on page 6

AHC Homecoming Event continued from page 5

discussion, AHC faculty exhibited a number of items from various collections. On display were Hopalong Cassidy's guns and costume from the William Boyd Collection, many western photographs from the 1920s and 1930s from the collection of Charles

Belden, and special books from the Toppan Rare Books Library. The event ended with "tailgate snacks" and entertainment by cowboy singer, songwriter, and musician Hub Whitt.



Robert Bonner Speaks at AHC

Robert Bonner, Professor Emeritus of History at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, spoke to a large crowd at the AHC on November 7 about his new book, *William F. Cody's Wyoming Empire: The Buffalo Bill Nobody Knows*, published by the University of Oklahoma Press. Buffalo Bill is best known for his traveling Wild West show, but he tried other endeavors, including that of a western land developer and town promoter. In the book, Bonner demonstrates that the skills Cody acquired from his time in show business failed to prepare him for these other business ventures.

During his research, Bonner spent quite a bit of time at the AHC examining two Buffalo Bill collections, the records of the Cody Canal Irrigation District, and the papers of George Beck, Cody's partner in their unsuccessful attempt to irrigate land around Cody, Wyoming, in the northwestern part of the state. Bonner also conducted research at the



UW History Professor Phil Roberts (left) discussed Buffalo Bill Cody with Robert Bonner, author of *William F. Cody's Wyoming Empire: The Buffalo Bill Nobody Knows*, following Bonner's talk at the AHC.

Buffalo Bill Historical Center and the Wyoming State Archives.



AHC Archivists Teach SAA Workshop

AHC archivists Leslie Waggener and John Waggener are co-instructors for a workshop titled "Preservation of 20th Century Visual Materials." The two-day workshop is part of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) Continuing Education Catalog and is intended to expand the knowledge of archivists, curators, librarians, and others responsible for photographic and video collections owned by archives of all types. Leslie and John discuss the types of materials typically found in twentieth century photo collections, showing examples of the different types, how they

deteriorate, and how to protect and store the items. Participants also gain a basic understanding of the various types of videotape, concerns about decay of the tape, splicing techniques, and preservation recommendations during the video portion of the workshop.

Leslie and John will next teach the workshop at Princeton University on March 18-19, 2008. The workshop can be co-sponsored by any organization or entity. Information about scheduling the workshop and other offerings from the SAA education catalog can be found at www.archivists.org.



From the Development Officer



Susan Scratchley

A planned gift can be transformative for a charity and help a charity quickly reach its long term goals. However, these gifts are often few and far between. Only 40% of Americans have estate plans. Of this group, only 8% of Americans will leave a planned gift to a charity-- despite the fact that

planned gifts to charities can:

- *Provide tax savings for the donor*
- *Increase yearly income for the donor*
- *Provide tax advantages to estate beneficiaries*

Making a planned gift to charity can open up advantages that many people would want to access if they knew about them. Especially because with the combination of state and federal taxes and estate taxes, in some cases, 80% of an estate is taxed. **So, would you prefer that a significant portion of your estate go to taxes or would you prefer to give to your favorite charities without being taxed?**

A few of the different types of planned gifts that can be given to charity are:

- **Revocable Living Trusts**—This type of gift can provide you with fixed annual payments for life through the gift of property. The funds only go to charity when the donor specifies. Also a tax deduction is allowed at the time the gift is made to the charity. Of course, there are many different types of

trusts, and the right giving vehicle can be tailored to your needs.

- **Charitable Remainder Trusts**—Giving through cash, securities, or property that can be sold and the proceeds reinvested can make it so that you or your estate beneficiaries do not need to pay a capital gains tax.
- **Gift Annuities**—You can transfer money or assets to a charity. In return, the charity can provide you with income for the remainder of your life. This allows you to avoid being taxed while still enjoying income.
- **Life Insurance**—You can take an income tax deduction by naming a charity as the beneficiary of your life insurance.

Also, as Mark Greene mentioned in his Director's Column, for the past six years, the University of Wyoming has been given state matching dollars for gifts to endowments, including certain types of planned gifts. Qualifying gifts must be at least \$50,000 and given after March 1, 2001. **Many donors have responded to this opportunity provided by the state and doubled the size and impact of their gift.** There has never been a better time to give!

For gift planning assistance, please call Susan Scratchley, Director of Development & Marketing at 307-766-4295 or e-mail sscratch@uwyo.edu. Gifts of any size are welcomed by the AHC and are tax deductible. ***More than 55% of the AHC's budget comes from private donors—like you!***



Remembering a Friend

Loreley Moore, an archivist who worked for the AHC for nearly 25 years, passed away peacefully November 18, 2007. She was born in the state of Washington, on May 11, 1939. She lived in the Seattle area in her early life, earned a degree in chemistry from the University of Washington, and worked for the Boeing Company. Later, she moved to Laramie, Wyoming, working at the AHC primarily as a dedicated archivist, processing collection material. She played a crucial

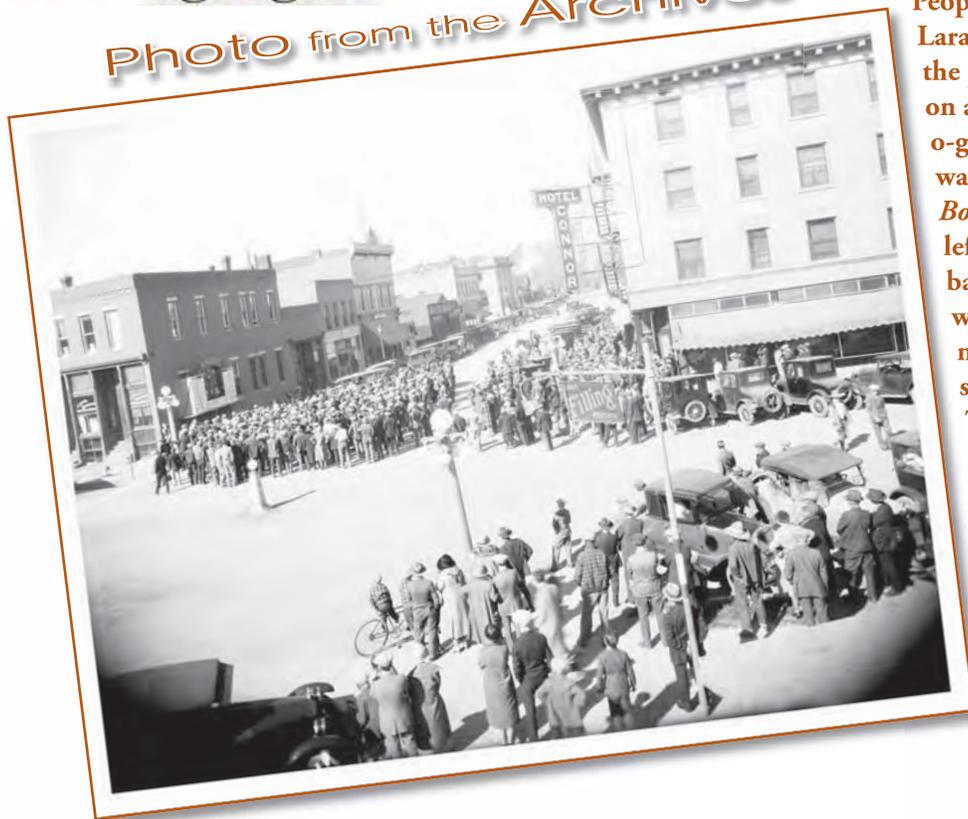
role in a nationally recognized cataloging project. Loreley has said, "The work I do is really interesting. I have learned so much about different professions from the variety of collections that I have processed. It has given me a breadth of knowledge that I couldn't have acquired in any other profession."



Loreley Moore

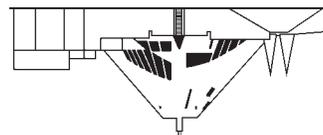


Heritage 8 highlights Photo from the Archives



People gathered in downtown Laramie in October 1926 to watch the progress of the World Series on a "Play-o-graph." The Play-o-graph, located on the exterior wall of the *Laramie Republican Boomerang* (building on the left), showed every pitch, hit, baserunner, and out. Results were telegraphed to the newspaper office and then shown on the Play-o-graph. The pitching of the St. Louis Cardinals led the team to a seven-game series victory against the New York Yankees led by Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. The Cardinals won game seven 3 to 2. Courtesy Ludwig-Svenson Collection, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming.

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