



HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS

March 2011 Newsletter from the
American Heritage Center

Boom and Bust in the Minerals Industry

Leslie Waggener

If you're familiar with Wyoming's history, you're familiar with a particular Wyoming phenomenon of boom and bust, especially in the minerals industry. It's been happening since before Wyoming became a state in 1890. The AHC houses records of the minerals industry as this industry explored and developed Wyoming's resources, but we do not have many records on that industry's impact on surrounding communities and environment. To document the effects of a recent natural gas boom in Sublette County, the AHC conducted an oral history project.

In 2010, the AHC's Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership received grant funding from the Wyoming Humanities Council to conduct an oral history project to explore the social, environmental, and economic impacts of Wyoming's latest energy boom in Sublette County and the more recent downturn. The title of the project is "Wyoming's Energy Boom, 1995 – 2010: An Oral History Program." The AHC's Leslie Waggener, Rick Ewig, and Kim Winters, as well as Pinedale historian Ann Chambers Noble, conducted more than forty audio oral history interviews with those involved in, and impacted by, the activities to develop and extract the state's natural gas resources in Sublette County. Interviewees included those most directly impacted by the energy boom. UW School of Energy Resources is funding panel discussions at UW and in Pinedale to allow both community members and scholars to reflect on the interviews' perspectives in detail. Audio files of interviews, transcripts, and photos from the project are on the AHC's website <http://digitalcollections.uwyo.edu:8180/luna/servlet>.

If you're not familiar with Sublette County, it is located in western Wyoming and is an area of about 3.2 million acres; 80% of which is public land. The Wind River Range runs north to south along the eastern portion of the county, the Gros Ventre Wilderness lies to the north, and the Wyoming Range runs along the western side. The central portion of the county is a valley comprised of a sagebrush steppe eco-region. The natural beauty of the region has long made it a favorite tourist destination. The county is geographically isolated from railroads and population

centers and it has retained a frontier culture for longer than many areas of Wyoming and the West, and remained one of the least densely populated areas in the state until the start of the energy boom around 2000. The county has three incorporated towns, Big Piney, Marbleton, and Pinedale; and has several other smaller community centers, including Bondurant, Cora, Boulder, and Daniel.

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Tim Thompson, 4th generation rancher near Big Piney, in his interview discussed how the energy development in Sublette County has affected his ranching operation.





From the Director

Mark Greene

In the Spring 2006 issue of *Heritage Highlights* I took the opportunity to compare the American Heritage Center's "Heritage Health Index" to national figures and a report--*A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collections*--issued by the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services. In summarizing that report I noted "the index shows that archival repositories generally do a better job of preserving their collections than do libraries and museums—and reveals further that the AHC is among the institutions that have most thoroughly addressed major preservation risks." IMLS has just published an update, *Connecting to Collections: A Report to the Nation*, and I'd like to take notice of some of its contents.

For example, the new publication reemphasizes that "Storage is the single most important factor in determining the useful life of modern information media," which is why the AHC maintains secure and climate-controlled stack spaces and why we successfully petitioned the University's administration to upgrade both the security system and the dry-pipe sprinkler system in recent years. (Dry pipe systems hold water outside the walls of the storage area to minimize the threat of leaks or accidental deluge; when smoke or fire detectors inside the storage area are activated, the water flows into the pipes and discharges.) I am often asked why we use such apparently old-fashioned fire protection as a water sprinkler system: such sprinklers remain the safest and most effective responses to fire in tightly-packed storage units; water is not only less dangerous to paper than fire is, water is used to manufacture paper, making it possible to effectively rescue most paper no matter how wet it might be.

A chart on page 17 of the new IMLS report shows that only 30% of U.S. archival repositories have emergency plans for their collections, meaning their holdings "are at risk of serious damage if a disaster strikes." The AHC has had a detailed emergency response plan for more than a decade. As IMLS states further on (p. 24), "a disaster plan... should consider people, the building, and the collections, including electronic data, registration records, and archives. A full spectrum of catastrophes should be considered—including fire, flood, earthquake, and theft. The plan must be reviewed regularly." The Center's plan meets all these criteria plus incorporates the IMLS dictate that "regular drills are key elements in emergency preparedness." Sometimes our drills are unplanned, such as when contractors accidentally trip smoke detectors, but such "emergencies" have given us our best tests of our plan's efficacy—even on frigid January afternoons AHC staff have demonstrated they are well-versed in the details of our plan.

Such information in *Connecting to Collections* reinforces and expands the content of the earlier report, but the new publication also stresses two additional points that resonate strongly here at the Center. "Not all collections are in institutions. Homeowners and caretakers of small collections should also be encouraged to establish their own emergency plans" (p. 24). Because not all important historical material will find its way to a repository, and because even many of the collections that are donated to archives spend decades and sometimes centuries in the care of the originating family or organization, the AHC has long been committed to helping to educate the public about the preservation of their heritage. At <http://ahc.uwyo.edu/faqs/default.htm> web visitors will find (along the left-hand column) three short handouts we have prepared on the preservation of family history (papers, electronic files, and photographs). In addition are links to other good sources for the care of artifacts, textiles and clothing, and photographic prints. Visitors will also find "25 Reminders for Common-Sense Book Care" and a more extensive booklet for organizations that wish to better manage their current and historical records. The Center's archivists and I are also available to give presentations on these topics to audiences within driving distance of Laramie.

Finally, *Connecting to Collections* states that "The public should not be kept separated from their heritage with 'do not touch' signs in museums and libraries" (p. 21). While some heritage collections are simply too fragile to permit hands-on interaction by visitors or researchers, that is seldom true of the material in rare books libraries and archives. (This is true notwithstanding the predilection of some curators—and some media outlets—to be wedded to white gloves during photo opportunities.) Students and the public, as well as scholars, are invited to study our rare books without gloves (there are rare exceptions)—curator **Anne Marie Lane** asks only that researchers wash their hands prior to use and keep the books in cradles that support their weakened spines. Similarly with our manuscripts and archives—with the exception of photographic negatives and slides (which are quite susceptible to the oil on hands) we do not require the use of gloves to handle the material, whether it is as recent as staff memos to former U.S. Senator Alan K. Simpson or fan mail to Barbara Stanwyck, or a diary kept by an overland pioneer. Not only is the tactile experience a significant part of connecting to the history represented by primary sources (particularly for students),

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why should the constituents of heritage institutions support preservation activities if the collections thus preserved are kept from them? Hence the title of the new IMLS report, *Connecting to Collections*—such connections should be experiential as well as intellectual, and the AHC is proud to play an active role in both preserving collections and connecting them to users. ■

Digital Collections

Benjamin M. Goldman

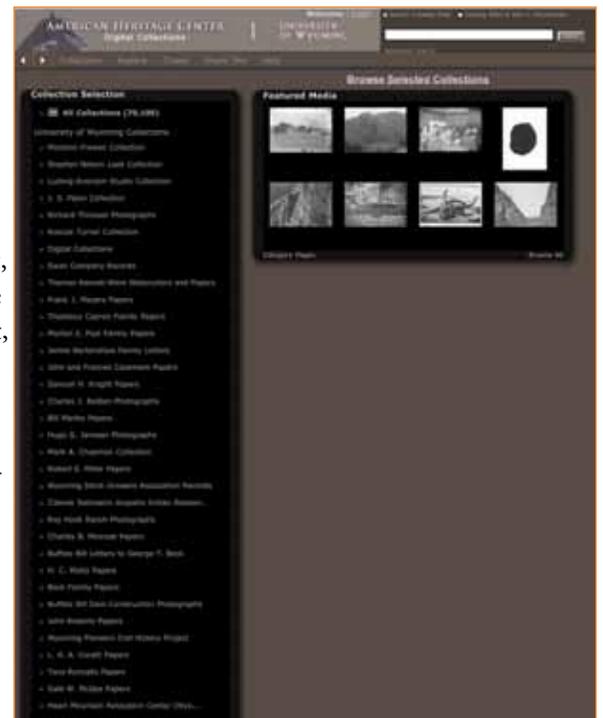
The American Heritage Center now has more than 70,000 items digitized and available online, with much of this growth happening in the past year. While it is not possible to give a full accounting of all that we have scanned recently, we'd like to highlight some noteworthy projects.

This past July the AHC received a \$10,000 grant from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund to support the digitization of six of the Center's premier photograph collections related to Wyoming. So far we have completed the largest and most prominent of these collections, the photographs of Charles Belden. The more than 2,800 images in this collection, mostly scanned from original glass plate negatives, depict Wyoming life and landscapes from the early twentieth century. In addition, there are many images from Belden's travels in Europe and Central America. Having completed this large collection, the AHC turned to a smaller collection from photographer Hugo Janssen. We are nearly finished scanning the approximately 900 images from this collection, which mostly depict life in and around Lovell, Wyoming, in the first part of the twentieth century. Following these two collections will be a thousand more historical images of Wyoming from the collections of Stephen N. Leek, James K. Moore, Frank J. Meyers, and W.B.D. and Annette Gray.

Outside of this grant, the AHC continues to scan other significant photographic collections, including more than 3,000 images from former University of Wyoming geology professor and Wyoming Citizen of the Century, Samuel H. Knight. Much smaller, though equally significant, is a collection of 100 plus images from Wyoming photographic team Baker & Johnston, who ran a photographic studio in nineteenth century Evanston, Wyoming, and are best known for their portraits of Native Americans, including Chief Washakie and Geronimo. Finally, 300 photographs from famed Western writer Owen Wister are now available online, and will soon be joined by manuscript material from his collection.

The AHC is committed to also digitizing manuscript collections, with a number of recent projects centering on political collections. Previously, the AHC had scanned selections of material from political collections to support topical projects (e.g. Heart Mountain Relocation Center and Project Wagon Wheel), but in the past year we have revisited these collections and turned them into dedicated projects of their own. We now have several thousand documents online related to significant Wyoming politicians, including former governors Nels H. Smith and Lester C. Hunt, and former U.S. Senators Joseph C. O'Mahoney, Teno Roncalio, and Gale McGee. The digitized collection of O'Mahoney (2,700) is quite significant, befitting the long career of an important national leader of the mid-twentieth century.

The AHC's digital collections are growing all the time. Recently, we acquired equipment that will allow us to digitize from our film holdings—we expect to be adding selections of digitized video throughout the year. You can follow our progress online at: <http://ahc.uwyo.edu/digital>. We'll also be making announcements about new and finished projects on our blog at: <http://ahc.uwyo.edu/blog>. ■



The area in and around Sublette County has long been known as a vast source of oil and gas; however, the tight sand formations have frustrated more than a few energy companies since the 1920s. Success did not occur until 1995 when McMurry Oil employed a hydraulic fracturing process that could effectively unlock the considerable natural gas resources. The first area to be developed became known as Jonah Field, located about 32 miles south of Pinedale on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management; the field has a productive area of 21,000 acres. However, the development of a nearby even larger gas field beginning around June 2000, the Pinedale Anticline, located on BLM land about a stone's throw from the southern edge of Pinedale, led to significant impacts on the town as natural gas prices rose and this resource was rushed to be developed.

What were the impacts socially, economically and environmentally, on Sublette County? How did residents feel



Rick Ewig interviewed Ann Chambers Noble at her Bed and Breakfast in Pinedale in October.

about the impacts? Comments from two Pinedale residents who will be part of our panel discussions provide a sampling of the information we gathered. An interview with Leslie Rozier, Pinedale native and longtime nurse practitioner in the county, points up the ambivalence towards energy development that was reflected in a number of the interviews: "For me it's bittersweet because I can sit here with this gorgeous clinic. I have every tool...I don't have to send that patient to the hospital. I've got a full lab...I have a helicopter on this beautiful helipad in forty-five minutes. My pocket is full of change. But I really cry because we don't have our sweet little quiet town." Rozier is also active among a community of Pinedale residents who fear a decline in air quality: "My father has lived here—he's eighty-three, and he's had a ranch south of Pinedale and we know that our air quality has changed in his lifetime. We do not have what we used to call the... 'severe blue clear day.' We know

that. Is that coming from outside the area, or is it coming from Sublette County? And that's been a question that we've all asked as concerned citizens is, "Where has that change in the quality of our air come from?"

A frequent complaint of Pinedale residents, not always longtime residents, is that they no longer recognize those they see in the town's only grocery store, Ridley's. Rozier notes, "My parents are, like I said, in their eighties, and they just are very sad that...when they go to the grocery store anymore, they don't know anybody in the grocery store." Cally McKee is a Senior Regulatory Coordinator with Ultra Petroleum, a company with a number of gas leases in the Pinedale Anticline. She is also a longtime Pinedale resident, arriving in the town with her family when she was starting fourth grade. Her excitement at the changes in the town is evident in her interview. A sentiment of a lost town ethos is not part of her perspective. She recently joined the board of the Pinedale Fine Arts Council, which, at the time of the interview, was organizing its yearly gala, "...one of the things that Jo Crandall, who started the Fine Arts Council... keeps coming to me and saying, 'How do we get all the oil and gas people, these new people in town, involved in what's going on? Coming to the performances and stuff?' Going to the [San Jose] Taiko thing the other night...I saw people there and I was like, 'Oh, what are they doing here? I wouldn't have picked them for a Pinedale Fine Arts performance.' It's funny...they're certainly starting to become more and more of a part of the community. But I still hear from people, 'Well, I go in the grocery store and I just don't know anybody in there anymore.' And I say to people, 'So what? Well, stop and introduce yourself.'"

Differing attitudes toward the same circumstances were a large part of what we discovered in this project. The AHC invites you to explore other nuances that can be found in the voices of those interviewed for this significant Wyoming history program. For more information about the program, please contact Leslie Waggener, archivist for Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership, at 307-766-2557 or lwaggen2@uwyo.edu. ■



Center Benefits Again from Two Longstanding Friends

When the Centennial Complex was under construction, an important component was added to the American Heritage Center's portion of the building through the tremendous generosity of Vincent and Toni (Antoinette) Stabile, who created the Toni Stabile Conservation Lab. The Lab has assisted the AHC in ensuring the care and stability of its collections through the years. Toni Stabile, an investigative journalist whose stories on the cosmetics industry prompted not only congressional hearings but also strict government regulations, donated her papers to the AHC as well, and has remained a steadfast friend and supporter throughout the years. Ms. Stabile surprised and delighted us at the beginning of this year when she sent, unheralded, two significant gifts—one to assist with the curation of her papers and the other to support the Conservation Lab. It is not often that our director is stunned with joy, but this was one of those times. Toni Stabile is a tremendous friend and supporter of the Center, and we wish to thank her again publicly.

In 2005, the AHC had as its top fundraising goal the creation of a classroom next to our reading room on the fourth floor. Such a classroom, which could accommodate 30+ students, would permit us to conduct orientation sessions for undergraduate and k-12 classes to prepare them for doing research in original primary sources. Up to that time, we had to hold orientation classes in the reading room itself, which was often a distraction to our regular researchers. That year, an “angel” stepped forward in the form of Robert C. Graff, a Washington, D.C. attorney and descendent of the family who decades earlier had donated to the AHC a stunning collection of paintings by Alfred Jacob Miller (one of the earliest Westerners to paint the region later to become Wyoming). Mr. Graff agreed to donate the funds necessary to construct the classroom and, even more remarkable, was uninterested in having the room named in his honor—instead he wished the room named for—and used to educate students about—Alfred Jacob Miller; hence the Miller Classroom. Mr. Graff did not, however, “merely” construct a much-needed (and constantly used) classroom, he also created an endowment to ensure that the classroom would be kept up to date. Yet like Ms. Stabile, Mr. Graff decided to do even more, and in late 2010 and again in early 2011 he made substantial additions to his endowment! He has been a tremendous supporter of the Center, a true and valued friend, and we wish to thank him again for all he has done for us. ■

O'Mahoney Papers Organized with NHPRC Grant

D. Claudia Thompson

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, unemployment in the United States rose to 25%. President Franklin D. Roosevelt initiated a number of government programs intended to alleviate joblessness under the title New Deal. However, Roosevelt was not the first to use the term New Deal. Joseph C. O'Mahoney campaigned in 1924 using the slogan “A New Day and a New Deal” eight years before the phrase became prominent on the national stage.

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Joseph C. O'Mahoney lost in the Democratic primary in 1924 for the opportunity to challenge Francis E. Warren for a seat in the U.S. Senate. Joseph O'Mahoney Papers.



A New Day And A New Deal

MY PLATFORM

I STAND:

FOR farm relief; FOR justice to labor; FOR honesty and economy in government; FOR World Peace, through the League of Nations or the World Court; FOR the exercise of every governmental instrumentality primarily in the interest of ALL, rather than in the interest of the few. I stand FOR the liberal as opposed to the reactionary theory of government.

AGAINST all grants of special privilege, in whatever form they may appear; AGAINST the growth of bureaucracy in government; AGAINST the control of our financial and tax systems by Big Business; AGAINST all forms of exploitation, whether of the farmer, the laborer, the public or the public resources.

I am a Progressive Democrat. If nominated and elected, I shall owe allegiance only to the people.

Democratic primaries, August 19, 1924



AHC Adopts New Collection Management System

William Hopkins

In August 2010, the AHC signed a contract with Cuadra Associates, Inc. to customize and install their STAR Knowledge Center for Archives to replace the Center's aging GRACE collection management system. This decision resulted from more than a year's worth of work by a committee comprised of AHC faculty and staff who analyzed and compared available collection management systems, both open source and proprietary, and concluded that Cuadra was the only system currently available that could meet the Center's abundantly complex needs.

Cuadra Star Knowledge Center for Archives (now named Sage) offers a number of advances and advantages which simply were not possible with the aging GRACE system, which has steadfastly and reliably served the Center since its debut in 1995. Sage allows the capability of creating both MARC format catalog records, and EAD finding aids from a single data entry thus dramatically streamlining workflow, and increasing the efficiency, of both our Accessioning and Arrangement & Description departments. Sage also offers numerous and extremely flexible search capabilities, plus the ability to directly link EAD finding aids, digitized images, and eventually PDF copies of important collection documentation directly to the collection records thus providing "one stop shopping" to the Center's Reference Department and greatly aiding them in fulfilling patron requests. Additionally, the Sage system, which will be housed in its own server at UW Information Technologies, will position the AHC, through its partnership with Cuadra Associates, to take full advantage of the rapid advances in archival collection management systems and to be a leader in their development in the years to come.

Customization of the Cuadra system and conversion of the Center's copious data, which encompasses more than 3000 collections, is a laborious and currently on-going task which will take some time to complete. However, once finished and installed, this new system offers the promise of a dynamic change in the Center's collection management capabilities thus enhancing our ability to serve patrons, support our future growth, and once again confirming the AHC's position as a national leader in the development of archival theory and practice. ■

2011 Majewski Fellow Selected

The AHC recently selected Dr. Jeremy Vetter, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Arizona, as the 2011 Bernard L. Majewski Research Fellow. Dr. Vetter's research proposal is titled "Economic Geology in the Rocky Mountains before 1920," which is part of a larger research project, "Capitalist Nature: Science, Environment, and Development in the American West."

Vetter's project analyzes the relationship between the environmental sciences and the material economy in the American West during the formative period from 1860 to 1920. His research will focus on the U.S. Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains and asks the question how these two historically connected regions came to be known scientifically and how they were shaped by the developing capitalist economy. For his research at the AHC, Vetter will study the collections of Charles Laurence Baker, Eliot Blackwelder, and Charles T. Lupton, as well as the correspondence of the Wyoming State Geologist.

Vetter received his Ph.D. in the History and Sociology of Science from the University of Pennsylvania. He edited the book *Knowing Global Environments: New Historical Perspectives on the Field Sciences*, published in 2010 by Rutgers University Press, and has published a number of articles, including "Cowboys, Scientists, and Fossils: The Tools of Knowledge Empire in the American West."

The Bernard L. Majewski Research Fellowship is funded by an endowment provided through the generosity of Mrs. Thelma Majewski 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 at the AHC. Dr. Vetter will spend time during the summer at the AHC and then in the fall give a public presentation about his research at the Center. ■



O'Mahoney was born in 1884 in Massachusetts. He became a newspaper reporter in Colorado in 1908 and later took a job with the *Cheyenne Leader*. The *Leader* was owned by Senator John B. Kendrick (D-Wyo), who hired O'Mahoney as secretary in his Washington D.C. office. O'Mahoney developed political aspirations of his own, but his first campaign for his own senate seat ended in defeat. He continued to be active in politics, and in 1932 he was Roosevelt's Western campaign director. He was appointed to fill Senator Kendrick's seat after Kendrick's death in 1933. After Kendrick's term was over, O'Mahoney again ran for the senate seat and was elected. He eventually served four full terms.

In 1937, O'Mahoney became chairman of the Temporary National Economic Committee, which studied the reasons for "poverty in the midst of plenty." The committee's reports blamed monopolistic business practices, a conclusion that proved highly controversial. O'Mahoney was a strong proponent of anti-trust legislation. He believed that monopolies stifled the free enterprise system. He sought to promote and encourage the development of small businesses against the competition of large corporations. O'Mahoney was also a proponent of water reclamation projects in the West and co-authored a law to encourage the development of oil exploration in Wyoming. Joseph O'Mahoney retired from politics after suffering a stroke in 1959. He died in 1962.

When the American Heritage Center sought a grant from the National Historic Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to arrange and describe collections connected to the Great Depression and the New Deal, the Joseph C. O'Mahoney papers became the centerpiece. Although the Center's collections reflect many different political viewpoints, no other collection is more closely related to the concept of the "New Deal." However, the grant proposal also highlighted collections that illuminate other aspects of life during a time of economic depression. The Jack Benny papers show the importance of radio entertainment in the period. The John L. Savage papers include information on the construction of the Hoover Dam, a project that provided many men with employment during the Depression.

The grant was awarded to the American Heritage Center in 2010. The funding pays for two full-time archivists for two years. During that time the archivists will create web-based finding aids for 41 collections that span topics such as politics, journalism, public works, business, agriculture, and entertainment. The finding aid for the O'Mahoney Papers was completed in January 2011 and is available through the American Heritage Center website at <http://rmoa.unm.edu/docviewer.php?docId=wyu-ah00275.xml> . ■



The AHC hired archivists Emily Christopherson (left) and Kathryn Brooks with the funding provided by the HNPRC grant. Here they review the papers of Joseph O'Mahoney.



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PHOTO from the ARCHIVES

Before Seth Rogen donned the Green Hornet's mask in the 2011 film *The Green Hornet*, William Dozier produced a television show about the Green Hornet and Kato broadcast on ABC during the 1966-67 television season. Van Williams starred as the Green Hornet and Bruce Lee starred as Kato. William Dozier papers.

