

Alfred Jacob Miller Classroom Dedicated

Approximately 110 people attended the dedication of the Alfred Jacob Miller Classroom on September 30 at the American Heritage Center (AHC). The AHC's celebration really began earlier in the year, when the Graff Family generously provided a donation in support of a new classroom, a new space for the countless students who learn at the AHC every year. The family recognized our urgent need for more educational facilities. Before the classroom became available, students (including Wyoming History Day students) and classes who convene at the AHC competed with visiting scholars and members of the public for space in the Owen Wister Western Writers Reading Room. The classroom already has been used by hundreds of students during the fall semester.



Members of the Graff family, who provided the funding for the new classroom, attended the dedication in September at the AHC.

The result of the Graff Family's kindness is the Alfred Jacob Miller Classroom. It's appropriately named in honor of the nineteenth century painter. Miller was the first artist of his generation to explore the Rocky Mountain West, traveling to the 1837 fur trade rendezvous in what is today Wyoming with Sir William Drummond Stewart, a Scottish nobleman and sportsman. Afterward, Miller produced a large number of 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 displayed in our loggia which were donated by the Graff Family more than thirty years ago.

Chavawn Kelley, who has researched extensively the life of Miller, curated an exhibit about Miller and his paintings which is on display in the classroom.

The new classroom will offer students their own "home" in the AHC, an ample space with state of the art technology which will allow the faculty to explore with students of all ages the rich resources of the AHC.



Joseph Hunter



From the Director



Mark Greene

This column will be a departure from most, in that I'd like to offer some practical tips for the everyday preservation of personal and family documents and photos—specifically the growing quantity of home “archives” created and stored as computer files. With the holidays approaching, many of us will be creating family newsletters using our computer's word processing program, and taking snapshots with digital cameras. We may send the newsletter solely as an attachment to email, rather than giving paper copies to the postal service to deliver; the same is increasingly true for how we share photos.

In years past, there would have been no question that a paper copy of the newsletter we created, as well as the paper copies of other newsletters we received from family and friends, would be “filed” away—perhaps not formally, but there would be a file drawer, desk drawer, box in the family room closet, or even trunk in the attic into which these items would be placed. Photos—prints and/or negatives—would receive a similar disposition, though perhaps the favorites would be placed into albums.

But since the advent of personal computers in the 1980s—and particularly since the dramatic price drops and widespread introduction of digital cameras in the 1990s—more and more people have been creating and storing correspondence, financial records, genealogies, memoirs, holiday newsletters, web sites, and photographs in electronic form. Material created and stored on computer media—on diskettes, on internal hard drives, on backup tapes, on flash drives or external hard drives, or on high-density auxiliary drives (such as Zip© drives)—is both similar to and different from traditional paper formats of the same material.

For most families, computer records are just a different form of the same information found in paper (a very rough analogy would be between an LP and CD version of the same music). *However, computer records are much more fragile than paper records, and greater care must be taken to ensure that they can be enjoyed for however long they may be wanted.* Three things threaten the usability of computer records: obsolete software, obsolete hardware, and deteriorated media. In less than five years, software can change so much as to make the material recorded on a diskette, backup tape, or auxiliary drive useless.

In roughly the same period of time the hardware necessary to access a particular media may become obsolete—if you are as old as I am you once had dozens of 5.25” diskettes, which are now completely obsolete; you began shifting to 3.5” diskettes in the mid-nineties, but such drives are now special order features on new computers (the beginning of the end). In as little as three to four years the physical media itself may become too deteriorated for even compatible hardware and software to read—this is particularly true for diskettes, but even backup tapes and auxiliary drives are nowhere near as durable as paper. It is this last fact that most often surprises people.

Several basic steps are necessary to maximize the useful life of computer records:

1. *The first and most critically important is TO BACK UP ALL IMPORTANT FILES, and to store the backup material someplace other than your home.* All other preservation considerations are meaningless if a hard-drive crashes or a fire or flood destroys the computer(s). Always label your backups, indicating the contents and the date of creation. Also remember that storage media have finite life spans—for floppies that's five to ten years under ideal conditions; CDs might last a decade; flash drives are untested for durability. Consistent renewal of media will help ensure that your files are accessible when you want them.

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2. *Migrate your files as you upgrade your equipment or buy new software.* Even if you are able to safely store your data long-term, items will be inaccessible if you no longer have the hardware to read the media, or the software to open the files. Copy files from your old media format to your new before you eliminate the outdated drive from your system. Relying on backups to carry files through upgrades risks not only the deterioration of the backup medium, but discovering that your new software cannot open the old file format.

3. *Records in computer form (in whatever media) should be stored ONLY in spaces that are cooled in summer and heated in winter* (your living areas at home, your office at work, a bank safe deposit box, the home of a relative), NEVER in basements, attics, or garages, or near electric motors or other sources of magnetic fields. Except for the threat of magnetic fields, the same advice applies to storage of paper files and analog photos—cool, dry, and dark are the best storage conditions to preserve longevity.

4. *Digital images are probably the most fragile photographic material that humans have ever devised.* They are subject to all the threats to which electronic text documents are prone, and the files are often compressed, so that actual visual information has been subtracted and therefore lost. At this time, if you use a digital camera to take pictures or a scanner to convert traditional photos to image files, the files should be saved to disk (or CD) as *.tif files—the rawest and therefore least compressed form of image file. (Tif files are also enormous—to share the image with others, make a copy of the image as a *.jpg file.)

Because of the difficulties of preserving computer records over long periods of time, *it still makes sense to consider creating paper copies for the most important items.* However, printouts from “inkjet” and “bubblejet” printers are not durable—moisture or light will ruin them. Laser printers create fairly permanent copies, and so do modern photocopiers, but only for text documents, not for photographs! The photo prints from home printers—even a laser printer and even with “photo quality” paper—are not permanent because of the instability of the color inks. Even commercial prints—whether from negatives or digital files—are fugitive. Properly stored, color negatives, slides, and transparencies (in ascending quality) are more stable than prints—but for the best preservation, an old technology is still best—shoot a roll of black and white film.

The US National Archives has just awarded a \$308 million, six-year contract to Lockheed Martin to build the Electronic Records Archives (ERA) system to capture and preserve the electronic records of the federal government, regardless of format; ensure hardware and software independence; and provide access to the American public and federal officials. Preserving non-governmental electronic files—from business records to family photographs—is an even larger and more complex goal, and one that the archival profession continues to wrestle with, albeit without the financial resources of the National Archives. In the meantime, I hope these simple and inexpensive tips will be of some service.



Buffalo Bill Historical Center and the AHC

Wyoming is a very large state. This fact becomes particularly obvious in certain situations. One of those situations is attempts by historical institutions at different ends of the state to establish stronger relationships and begin substantive collaboration. Such is the situation that the AHC and the renowned Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody found themselves in this year after many prior years of paying lip service to cooperation, but having made little progress. Real progress has recently been made, however.



Anne Marie Lane, the AHC's curator of rare books, shows Bob Pickering of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center around the Toppan Rare Books Library.

The BBHC is a comprised of five museums, encompassing everything from the natural environment to art, from the life and times of William F. Cody and the history of firearms to the past and present of the Plains Indians. Located in the northwest part of the state near Yellowstone National Park, the BBHC attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every year and has established a reputation as a museum of truly national stature. Given that both the BBHC and the AHC are significant institutions documenting and interpreting the history of Wyoming and the West, and that the BBHC excels as a museum and the AHC as a manuscript repository and archives, the potential for alliance has been evident for some time.

In June of this year a delegation from the AHC visited the BBHC to begin defining how a realistic and sustainable partnership might evolve. In November, our colleagues from the BBHC paid a return visit to

Laramie to further that conversation. In collaboration with UW's Outreach School, which will facilitate collaboration through use of video networking, the BBHC and AHC have defined specific projects as the basis for true joint ventures.

One will be the development of a shared web site to unite the two parts of a single photo collection split between Cody and Laramie. Another is development of K-12 curricula packets featuring facsimiles of both archival documents and museum artifacts and supported by lesson plans. A third involves sharing expertise and collection material relating to cowboy ballads. Three others involve more technical issues of cataloging and conservation. We are tremendously excited by these projects and look forward to developing increasingly stronger ties with our colleagues at the BBHC. 

Mark Greene

Empowering the AHC's Expert Faculty

The American Heritage Center owes its distinguished international reputation, as one of the largest and best manuscript repositories, to many things: a significant body of manuscript collections, a unique orientation toward education and students (K-12 and college-level alike), etc. But the AHC's outstanding faculty and staff are its greatest assets.

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Empowering the AHC's Expert Faculty *continued from page 4*

In a typical year, the American Heritage Center serves nearly ten thousand researchers, who come from the UW community and from around the globe alike. Its faculty members also teach (or assist in teaching) dozens of academic courses, literally from Art to Zoology. This is all in addition to the extensive outreach—events, exhibits, lectures, etc.—they perform throughout the state and nationally to diverse audiences. This service and their own important research have brought global attention and distinction to the AHC, University of Wyoming, and the state. These distinguished scholars and public servants are also leaders in their respective fields, setting national standards for archival institutions. They influence a wide-audience through their research and work, which they present at international, national, and local conferences and publish in professional journals and books.

The AHC has never had adequate funding to support the professional development of its faculty. Each year, these individuals decline remarkable opportunities, because of funding. Or, they pay for these opportunities themselves. This has been a pressing concern. Yet, thanks to a recent gift from Mr. Tom O'Leary of Saratoga, Wyoming, the faculty and staff have been given the resources to reach new heights. Mr. O'Leary has established an endowment, the "Fund for Faculty Excellence," that will allow them to take on expanded leadership roles. It will also foster greater innovation and enhanced partnerships in the archival and rare books fields themselves.

Also, as part of his gift and in further support of educators, Mr. O'Leary has endowed the AHC's *Teaching & Research Grants Program*. This is the program that enables the AHC to offer grants to faculty, staff, and students at UW to pursue projects such as independent or collaborative research projects, course development, and symposia that use the AHC's collections. The program has fostered many important research products within the university community by talented faculty members and students.



Joseph Hunter

Former Teacher Continues to Make a Difference for Students

Each year, countless students from all over the State of Wyoming participate in the Wyoming History Day (WHD) program. Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, the program has developed beyond merely a one-day contest into a tremendous resource for students, parents, and teachers. It is also a wonderful way to introduce students to the wonder of primary source research, instilling in many students a life-long love of history.

Although students and their teachers are involved with the WHD throughout the year—by attending workshops and doing intensive research at the American Heritage Center and other repositories—it is the one-day contest, held annually during the spring, that is the highlight of the program. During the state contest, students demonstrate their research projects in front of a wide-audience and a panel of judges. The top projects are given awards and invited to compete at the National History Day Contest.

One of the important awards presented annually is the *Gerald & Jessie F. Chambers Award*, given to the best Junior and Senior Division entries. This award was established in 2002 by Mrs. Jesse Chambers in honor of her late husband. Mrs. Chambers taught in Wyoming for forty years and continues to influence students through this award. Each year, it has given students an incentive to be involved with the program in the first place, as well as a source of pride after they have proven their research, analytical, and interpretive skills.

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Former Teacher Continues to Make a Difference *continued from page 5*



Wyoming History Day students celebrated Wyoming's centennial at the 1990 National History Day contest. In the coming years, thanks to a generous gift by Jessie Chambers, financial assistance will be provided to some Wyoming students in order to attend the national contest.

This past summer, Mrs. Chambers was again generous to the Wyoming History Day program, so as to help even more students. She established an unprecedented need-based stipend program that will help those participants who have received top-honors at the WHD, but who cannot afford to attend the National History Day Contest. It promises to be a tremendous resource for the less-fortunate students who deserve to showcase their work at the national contest, but who might otherwise be denied the opportunity, simply because of personal finances or the budgets of their school district.

As with so many dedicated, caring educators, it is surely hard to determine the number of students Mrs.

Chambers has had an impact on. And now, and well into the future, she will continue to make a difference in the lives of students through her kind and important support of the Wyoming History Day program.



Joseph Hunter

Leave Behind a Legacy

You, too, can leave behind a legacy at the American Heritage Center, becoming an important part of our future and the futures of our students and researchers.

One way to do this is through a **planned gift**. Such gifts may be helpful in your financial and estate planning. Moreover, planned giving can be a powerful element of your wealth management strategy or estate planning process and can be arranged to benefit the AHC and the University of Wyoming, while providing a life income source for spouses and other family members.

Planned gifts can take many forms.

- **Bequests & Life Insurance.** Establishing bequests through your will is the most common form of planned giving. Substantial gifts can be made without affecting your family's current financial security. Both the principal and the income of your estate are available to you during your lifetime. The amount and ultimate use of the funds may be designated and the tax savings on your estate are maximized for all of your beneficiaries.
- **Income-Producing Gift Plans.** Some gift plans enable you to make a gift to the AHC while providing income for yourself or others. You also may increase your expendable income through tax benefits and diversification of assets. These plans, each offering distinct advantages, allow you to tailor your giving to meet your personal needs and achieve your financial goals.
- **Appreciated Securities.** A gift of long-term appreciated marketable securities helps you save taxes twice! Such a gift will provide an income-tax charitable deduction and capital gains tax savings.

Our Development Office is ready to explore with you and/or your professional advisors the best possible giving opportunities to suit the philanthropic and financial objectives of you and your family. Please contact Joseph Hunter, the AHC's Development Coordinator, with any questions (307-766-4295 or jhunter@uwyo.edu).



Joseph Hunter



Music from the Silents: New and Old Music for the Silent Films

The AHC sponsored a concert of *Music from the Silents: New and Old Music for the Silent Films* on December 11 in the UW Fine Arts Concert Hall. The concert featured the new score to *The Playhouse*, a 1921 silent film starring Buster Keaton, composed by Lee Wolfinbarger of Laramie, a U.W. music composition major. Wolfinbarger's project was funded by a Teaching and Research Grant from the AHC. The film, *The Playhouse*, was selected from the AHC's extensive film archives. Wolfinbarger composed a score for the Keaton comedy that is inspired by the sound of the era. The movie's opening dream sequence is what makes this film famous. In it, Keaton plays everyone in a theatre simultaneously (through multiple exposures). Keaton is the band leader, all its members, the dancers on the stage and everyone in the audience. Performing the composition were UW faculty members, Dr. Robert Belser, conductor; Steve Barnhart xylophone/percussion; Anne Guzzo, clarinet; and UW music students Josh Bizeau, piano; and Paul Hertz, trombone. Dr. Katrina Zook was a special guest vocalist.

The Starting and Stalling Orchestra, a chamber ensemble dedicated to music of the 1920s and 30s, performed several selections from various silent movie music archives at the AHC. The Orchestra is composed of UW faculty members Sherry Sinift, violin; Anne Guzzo, clarinet; Theresa Bogard, piano; and Kate McKeage, string bass. The concert included music from Laramie's own silent movie house, the Empress Theater, as well as other popular 1920s selections such as the "Charleston," and "My Blue Heaven." 

Lone Scouts Collection Available for Research

Practically no one has heard of the Lone Scouts, which was a brother to the Boy Scouts. William D. Boyce, after founding the Boy Scouts in 1910, realized that there were many rural boys who could not join the Boy Scouts because they were miles away from a troop. Thus, he created the special Lone Scouts of America in 1915. Their scouting was by correspondence and they had to do their work on an honor basis without adult supervision. Boyce's original Lone Scout organization failed financially in 1924, but an alumni organization took its place three years later.

The successors to the original Lone Scouts were a voluntary grassroots organization that lasted for nearly seventy years. The alumni named themselves the Elbeetian Legion or L.B.T.s for short, adopting the initials of the *Lone Beaver Tribune* newsletter. From youth to old age, the members kept things humming between annual conventions by writing, mailing, and receiving newsletters. These "tribal" publications had names such as *The Friendly Provoker* or *The Old Timer*. Every month each member received a packet of these "small town newspapers."

The AHC has most of the newsletters and even the colorful *The Lone Scout* and *Elbeetee* house organs. There were no formal officers, but the AHC has a fair sample of correspondence from the active core of the organization. Original Lone Scout manuals, merit badges, rank badges, and patches have been saved, along with some neckerchiefs. The collection is now available for research. 

John Hanks

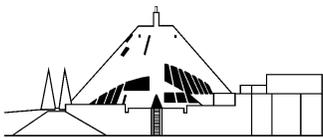




Courtesy Carroll Baker Papers, American Heritage Center.

Cheyenne Autumn, directed by John Ford, premiered in Cheyenne, Wyoming, at the Lincoln Theater on October 3, 1964. Many of the film's stars, including Carroll Baker, Jimmy Stewart, Ricardo Montalban, and Karl Malden attended the premiere. Earlier that day the actors paraded through downtown Cheyenne and visited Fort Laramie.

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