

# American Heritage Center HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS

## Wyoming Pioneer Oral History Interviews Digitized

Last year the American Heritage Center completed a project funded by a generous grant from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund. The largest part of the project was to digitize the Wyoming Pioneer Oral History Interviews which were recorded during the late 1940s and early 1950s under the leadership of Lola Homsher, one of the first employees of what is today the American Heritage Center.

During her time at the University of Wyoming, Homsher began a program to conduct oral history interviews with early residents of the state. Homsher noted proudly at the time that only a few other institutions, including the Library of Congress, were making such recordings. The interviews were recorded onto Soundsciber discs, a dictation format introduced in 1945. The machine recorded

sound by pressing grooves into soft six-inch vinyl discs, which can be played on turntables. Some of the topics of the project's interviews include the Johnson County War, Cheyenne Frontier Days, the trial of Tom Horn, the University of Wyoming, the exploits of train robber Bill Carlisle also known as the "Gentleman Bandit," and even the establishment of the Camp Fire Girls in Wyoming. All of the interviews can be accessed on the AHC's website and in the coming months transcripts will be available online as well.

In a 1951 interview, Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Allen of Laramie (unfortunately first names were not included) discussed the Camp Fire Girls program coming to Wyoming. The national Camp Fire Girls of America began in 1910, emphasizing camping and other outdoor activities for its members. Mrs. Allen moved to Laramie in 1913 to teach in the high school and she was "also made sponsor for the sophomore class."

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A troop of teenage Camp Fire Girls and their leader in Native American dress in Laramie, 1918-1919. Courtesy Ludwig-Svenson Studio Collection



# From the Director

Mark Greene

In my previous column, I introduced our strategic planning by providing an assessment of our success during the previous plan period. In this column I would like to introduce the “major programmatic goals” of our unit for 2015-20. These goals were derived from an AHC all-staff retreat, many drafts circulated to our department heads and then to all employees, and directions and suggestions from the University’s administration. While these goals will be attended to in focusing our work and resource allocation in the five years to come, they will not be a straight-jacket, permitting no flexibility. One of the AHC’s great strengths over the past 15 or so years has been its agility in responding to new circumstances. At the conclusion of my presentation of our strategic plan goals (and the inevitable “kudos” quotation), I have in fact an important new circumstance to discuss.

## WHAT ARE THE MAJOR PROGRAMMATIC GOALS OF YOUR UNIT OVER THE PLAN PERIOD?

A. Managing Digital History: Improved and expanded skills, tools, and resources for collecting and processing born digital collections. The AHC is a national model for collection development, management, and cataloging; we lag behind the leaders, however, on the complex issues surrounding born-digital source material--its generation, assessment, preservation, and long-term utility. Because electronic records will shortly become pervasive in all aspects of archives administration—in private collections donated to our manuscripts repository and in university records transferred to the university archives—achieving this heightened level of competence is required.

B. “We’re the Entire Fleet!” Ensuring the Appropriate Preservation of UW History. Former UW President Tom Buchanan was fond of pointing out that as the state’s only four-year college UW was not just the flagship institution of higher learning, it was “the entire fleet.” It is important that the records of Wyoming’s only university be properly preserved and made available. To that end, we wish to significantly enhance the visibility, stature, and effectiveness of the University Archives (UA). Most university archives have the triple responsibility to reach out to alumni; to support research on the history of the institution; and to maintain the public records required by

law to document the functioning of the university. Thus the archives supports both the educational and administrative needs of the institution. Of 14 comparable universities only one has as little staffing for university archives as does UW; this can and should be addressed during the plan period.

C. Enhance the Education and Citizenship of Wyoming’s Primary School Students: Further improve and expand Wyoming History Day. The least populous state has one of the most vigorous and successful programs in the nation—a program that encourages 6-12 grade students to be their own historians, learning to analyze, assess, concatenate, and most importantly communicate about primary sources. The AHC is responsible for all administration of WHD, plus fully half the budget (some financial support is provided by the Wyoming State Historical Society and the state’s Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources) for this epitome of a land-grant activity. With minimal additional resources the program could be even better and touch even more Wyoming students.

D. Making History Accessible to All: Further improve access to the AHC’s rare books and archival materials, to better permit self-service by our patrons. A recent survey of UW teaching faculty made clear that professors would use rare books far more often and more intensively if more of the collection was cataloged online; heretofore the curator has focused almost 100% of her talent and expertise on teaching, rather than on the time-intensive process of original (as opposed to copy) cataloging. AHC must also build its capacity to accession, catalog, and make accessible born-digital material as these become an ever-larger proportion of our acquisitions; there is an analogous (but not directly comparable) need to create quality metadata for digitized copies of analog collection material. Finally, in addition to the need for the Center to bring all its inventories to the professional standard EAD, new approaches to presenting archival finding aids to make them more accessible for and useful to researchers of all kinds portend important re-tooling of AHC’s internal workflows and archivists’ knowledge base.

E. Contribute to UW’s International Standing: Expand the AHC’s ability to attract national and international scholars to UW. Currently the AHC makes operating funds available for 7-9 travel grants to scholars from across the US and the globe. These grants are small (usually no more than \$500), and in most years we have more worthy applicants than we have funds. In addition, the Center is fortunate

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Editor: Rick Ewig

Graphic Designer: Amanda Tetherow

enough to manage two named lectureships: The Rentschler Lecture, which has no topical restriction and is for a public presentation rather than research; the Majewski Fellowship, for research and public presentation by a scholar of economic geology. Majewski Fellows have been selected from as far from Wyoming as South Africa; so far Rentschler Lecturers have ranged only across the US, not internationally.

Our strategic plan might continue to evolve from the time I write this to the time you read it. It must remain somewhat pliable to permit us to react nimbly to changing circumstances. Part of what that means is that we welcome, from our readers, comments and suggestions regarding the plan, all the way through to 2020. Thank you.

**AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS COLUMN I SAID I WOULD I HAVE AN IMPORTANT NEW CIRCUMSTANCE TO DISCUSS.**

There are actually two, though closely related. I began my tenure at the AHC in August 2002. It was right in the middle of the Center's strategic planning process. Almost before I had unpacked my office I was leading an all-staff retreat in a log structure at Curt Gowdy State Park, close to Laramie. So in some way it seems almost fitting that still in the midst of the Center's most recent strategic planning process, about 12½ years later, I must announce my retirement. My last day at the AHC will be approximately the end of April 2015.

Readers might conclude, from my vita, that I am rather young to retire. This is unfortunately true. I am compelled to retire because of the continuing degradation of my health since my lumbar infarction in summer 2012. I have finally had to accept that I can no longer give the quantity or quality of attention, energy, creativity, and passion to the leadership of the AHC that the Center, its superb employees, its researchers, and its other supporters deserve. This is a very, very difficult realization for me; I love this job and this institution. On the other hand, it would be fair to say I should have seen this coming from a long way off.

Approximately a decade ago I met with an orthopedist at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale who suggested at the time that I should have been on disability years before based on the severity and extent of my arthritis alone. I laughed him off then. I even, as most readers of our newsletter know, laughed off the notion that paraplegia would keep me from returning to the helm of the AHC. However, since my stroke I have had serious conditions related to my heart, kidneys, and several other internal organs, as well as a diagnosis of diabetes and other complications. These were added to pre-stroke advanced arthritis in a host of joints and other conditions I'm afraid aren't easy to discuss in a family newsletter. So my retirement will be for reasons of disability.

I have tried during my tenure at the Center to give my all toward making it a better, stronger, more visible, and more honored institution than when I arrived. If I did succeed, it was because I had the immense good fortune to work with

outstanding colleagues, whose energy and talent equaled or exceeded my own. I will allow myself the indulgence of saying that I am particularly proud of the AHC having received the SAA Distinguished Service Award, almost a dozen competitive grants (National Endowment for the Humanities, US Department of Education, National Historic Publications and Records Commission—x3, National Film Preservation Foundation, Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund—x4, Wyoming Humanities Council—x2), significantly increased the breadth of UW departments with whose undergraduates we work, expanded Wyoming History Day, developed and/or implemented cutting-edge professional practices (including audio digitization, reappraisal and deaccessioning, minimal processing, backlog elimination, mass digitization, creating web collections, defining and publishing collection development and collection management policies), and influenced the archival profession broadly through the expansive and expert presentations, workshops, and articles produced by our superlative archivists and curators.

It has been a continuing honor as well as privilege to be the director of the AHC, to work alongside the best group of archivists in the nation, to work toward the success of student historians and senior scholars in pursuit of complex research, to work with professional colleagues across this country and beyond, and to work with the support of UW presidents, provosts, division heads, deans, and faculty members. I have been tremendously lucky to work here. Let me give one specific example, one that also has to do with the change in leadership at the AHC.

For I must also relay the retirement of Rick Ewig, long, long-time associate director and several times interim director. Rick's situation is different from mine. He has reached a combination of age and years of service to the state of Wyoming that would have permitted him to take full retirement benefits several years ago. But as he has said to me and to others, there were just too many interesting things going on at the AHC to walk away. But the time had finally come, he told me one day this autumn.

It is important to say that my success at the AHC, whatever success I managed to achieve, depended from beginning to end in no small measure on Rick. Depended on my having an associate I could trust implicitly, depended on the Center having an associate director who knew more about Wyoming history than all but one other living individual, depended on the AHC having a superb director of Wyoming History Day, a remarkably well-connected and universally respected administrator who ensured that the Center was a partner with the other historical institutions in our state, in sum, a true scholar and gentleman. When he explained his retirement plans to me last autumn, Rick knew nothing of my decision about my own retirement.

When I divulged my intentions to him we both realized that the AHC could not lose its two top administrators at the same time, for who knew how many months before a new

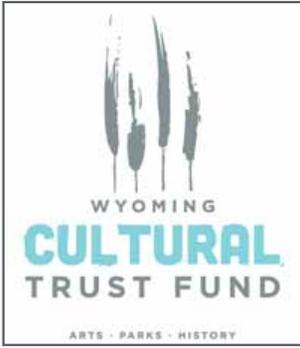
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## Wyoming Pioneer Oral History... Continued from page 1

Her class had several girls who wanted to organize a Camp Fire group. They started with four girls and presented their charter in spring 1914 and by the end of the year had ten members. The program continued to grow, providing many activities for the girls, and at the end of the interview Mrs. Allen remarked that the Camp Fire program “fits so nicely into the home life and it does a great job in the developing of girls. . . . I don’t know of any other program that does so much in making fine womanhood, . . .”

Several of the interviews mention the trial of Tom Horn. T. Joe Cahill, who was at the hanging of Horn on November 20, 1903, had this to say about Horn in his interview: “Personally I just absolutely bet, I bet anything yet in the world he was guilty. To my knowledge of the case, yes I do, I say very definitely he was guilty. Very definitely. Don’t think there’s any, there’s no question in my mind at all. I sat with him at four thirty in the morning just before we, before he took the jump off, tried my best to get something out of him but all he said was ‘just take it easy, now, take it easy.’ I sat down at four thirty and went on home, come back the next morning about eight o’clock and oh about ten, that when it was all over.”

The mission of the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund “is to serve the citizens of Wyoming by supporting Wyoming’s culture and heritage through grant funding of innovative projects for the enjoyment, appreciation, promotion, preservation, and protection of the state’s arts, cultural and historic resources; and to support and invest in Wyoming institutions that help further this mission.” We learned just two months ago that the AHC has received another grant from the Cultural Trust fund for another digitization project. Information about that project can be found in an article on page 7 in the newsletter.



Laramie Camp Fire Girls in the Camp Fire official uniform, 1919. Courtesy Ludwig-Svenson Studio Collection

## Amanda Tetherow hired as AHC Graphic Designer

Last fall the American Heritage Center welcomed our newest staff member, Amanda Tetherow, as our Graphic Designer. This May, Amanda will finish her bachelor’s degree in Business Administration along with minors in Marketing and Graphic Design at the University of Wyoming. Prior to starting at the AHC, Amanda spent the majority of her UW career working for various on campus organizations doing graphic design, marketing, and photographic work.

“I am a Wyoming native, born and raised in Casper. I am passionate about our amazing state and the University of Wyoming. UW offers this state and community so many diverse and wonderful opportunities and I am thrilled to be able call the University community home. “

Amanda replaces long time AHC employee Vicki Schuster, who retired last fall.



## From the Director... Continued from page 3

director could be sought and installed (we will be doing an international search, and expect a large and impressive applicant pool).

The reasonable solution to the problem of a potentially leaderless AHC, would have been for Rick to retire as he had already planned—he had a date defined and plans laid—and for me to remain as director until a new one could be hired. That might delay my retirement by 6-9 months, but it seemed like the fair thing to do.

Rick instead insisted that the right thing to do was to permit me to take as much pressure off my strained health as soon as possible, and that his retirement plans could easily be put on hold for the necessary period. So he volunteered to delay his date of retirement to occur far enough after my retirement that the Center would have had time to do an international search and hire a new director before Rick left. I will never be able to repay his selfless act of generosity, kindness, and compassion.

But...I just cannot end on a sad note, however gallant. So... Most of our readers are by now well familiar with my penchant for quoting from our researchers and others as anecdotal evidence that the AHC is a world-class repository. In this column, the quotation is a bit different, in that it expresses, better than I've ever been able to, the nearly visceral reaction students have to encountering original sources of history—encountering them not under glass or on line, but tactilely, directly, immediately. Such an encounter can quite significantly

change the way a young person views his or her place in the world. This is a quote from a paper from an undergraduate history course, about a student's required primary source research exercise:

*The collection at the AHC is incredible! I can't explain the feeling of holding a piece of literature that's close to a century old. I've never been involved in something like this before. I think every student should take some time to go through some of the collections in the AHC. It actually helped me develop pride in my University and it really showed me that our school takes pride in its collections and it's student's education. I will be visiting the AHC again soon to handle the Buffalo Bill and Jim Bridger collections. These collections are important to me because of the stories I grew up listening to around the family campfire. In regards to History for undergrads I think this could help us develop an appreciation for Wyoming history that power points and lectures can't even come close to doing.*

Hear! Hear! I couldn't have invented a better sentiment on which to exit. I am deeply grateful for your support of and kindness toward me these past 12½ years. Rest assured that I will, as I know all of you will, bolster and strengthen the AHC in every way possible in future. I look forward to its continuing prominence and excellence. Thank you, and farewell.

*Harold Greene*

# Legacy Hall Features University History

The Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center, home of the UW Foundation, UW Alumni Association, and UW's Center for Advising and Career Services, opened on campus this past October. An important part of the new center is the McMurry Foundation Legacy Hall, which includes exhibits about the history of the University of Wyoming.

A major part of Legacy Hall is a history timeline of the university. The timeline is a collaboration between the AHC and the Foundation. We hired Dr. Julia Stetler to research the institution's history and to write the narratives for the static and interactive portions of the timeline as well as to assist with the section about distinguished UW alumni and with portions of the history of energy in the main part of the Center.

The timeline is divided by decades into a static exhibit and interactive exhibit, beginning with the 1880s and ending with the 2000s. The static timeline includes important events such as the territorial legislature passing the bill creating the university in March 1886, the changes to the campus during the world wars, and the Black 14 incident in 1969, along with many other interesting events. The interactive exhibit includes films, such as the one showing the Wyoming Cowboy basketball team winning the 1943 NCAA tournament, as well as more text and documents exploring in more detail the events mentioned in the static exhibit and much, much more.

The Gateway Center is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to visit the McMurry Legacy Hall and become immersed in the fascinating history of the University of Wyoming.



Dr. Julia Stetler demonstrates the functions of the interactive exhibit in the McMurry Legacy Hall.

# AHC Dozier Collection

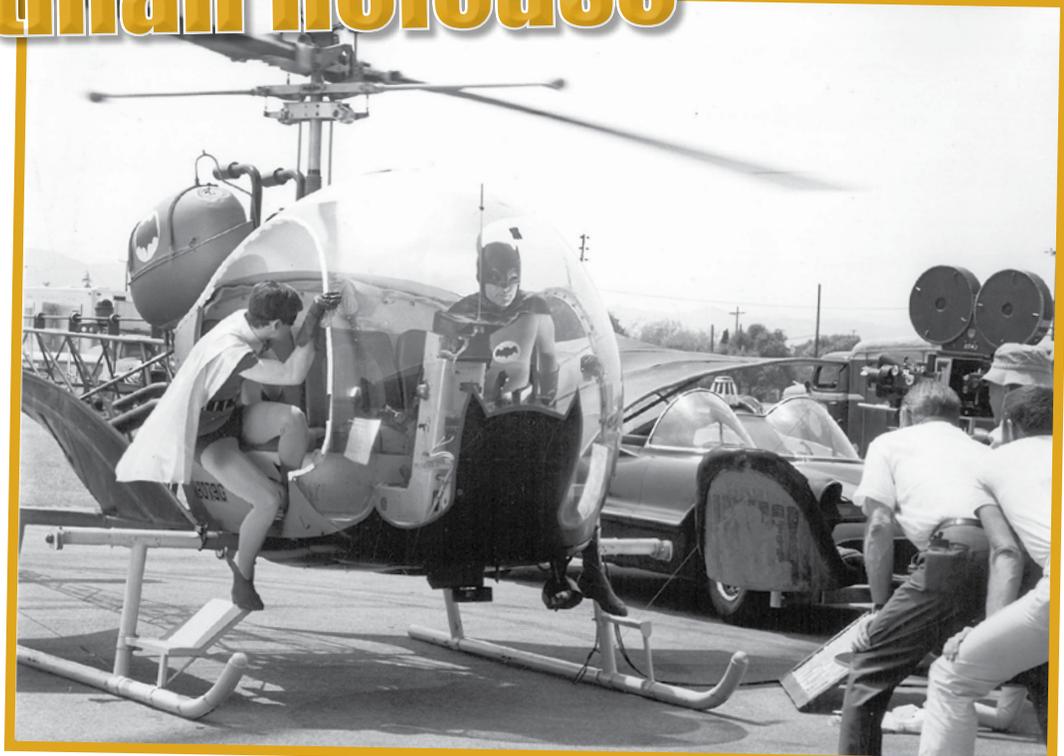
## Drives Batman-Release

Nearly fifty years after Batman and Robin faced the Riddler in the premiere of *Batman* on ABC on January 12, 1966, all 120 episodes of the television series were finally released on Blu-ray in November 2014. The long delay was due to the split ownership of the series. Rights were held by the creator and producer of the series William Dozier, DC Entertainment, Twentieth Century Fox, and Warner Brothers. It wasn't until John Stacks began selling model kits of the characters in *Batman* in 1998 and was told by DC to stop and desist with his efforts, that he began researching the William Dozier Papers here at the American Heritage Center, which then led to what wired.com described as the series escaping "legal purgatory."

Stacks began researching the Dozier papers for his own reasons, but the documents he uncovered and passed along to the Dozier family proved "to be pivotal to bring *Batman* to home video." Eventually, Fox became sole owner of the series and agreed that Warner Home Video would be the distributor of the DVD and Blu-ray set. Stacks did not benefit in any way from the release of the video. The wired.com article can be accessed at <http://www.wired.com/2014/11/batman-home-video-finally>.

William Dozier, born in 1908 in Omaha Nebraska, started out as a writer in Hollywood during the 1930s and 1940s. In the 1950s, he worked for CBS and produced shows such as *Danger*, a dramatic anthology show which ran from 1950 to 1955, and which starred such luminaries as James Dean, Jack Lemmon, Carroll Baker, Grace Kelly, and Paul Newman. He also served as executive producer for the series *Rod Brown of the Rocket Rangers*, a show based in the 22nd century. The rangers were a celestial defense organization battling interplanetary evil. Additionally, he supervised such shows as *Perry Mason*, *The Twilight Zone*, and *Gunsmoke*.

In 1964, Dozier founded Greenway Productions, which went on to produce such shows as *The Loner* starring Lloyd Bridges and *The Tammy Grimes Show*. Of course, Dozier's best known show is *Batman*, starring Adam West and Burt Ward. The show ran for two-and-one-half years and became a cultural phenomenon. After its premiere it quickly catapulted into television's top ten programs. The day after the first episode, the *New York Times* stated "Bob Kane's heroes of the comic strip came to television last night as real people, and it looks as if the American Broadcasting Company has something going for it." The *Los Angeles Times* wrote that Batman and Robin "have become new high priests of Camp." Many Hollywood actors wanted to become villains for the show. The most well-known and most used villains in the program were Burgess Meredith as The Penguin, Cesar Romero as The Joker, Julie Newmar as Catwoman, and Frank Gorshin as The Riddler.



Robin joins Batman in the Batcopter during a scene of the *Batman* television series. The Batcopter premiered in the 1966 film *Batman*. Courtesy William Dozier Papers

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The show still is successful in syndication and because of the legal documents found in the Dozier papers all of the episodes can now be viewed on DVD and Blu-ray.

William Dozier donated his papers to the AHC during the 1980s. The collection includes materials relating to Dozier's production of television programs with Greenway Productions and other television studios and companies. There are scripts, budgets, cast lists, fan mail, photographs, posters, production reports, shooting schedules, story outlines, titles and credits for *Batman* and for other television programs. Also included is correspondence with actors and others involved in Dozier's productions, such as Lorenzo Semple (*Batman* writer) and Erle Stanley Gardner (*Perry Mason* writer). There are related legal documents, memos, notebooks, speeches, and articles by Dozier.

To view the online inventory of the collection see <http://rmoa.unm.edu/docviewer.php?docId=wyu-ah06851.xml>.

William Dozier (left) produced *The Loner* series starring Lloyd Bridges in 1965-1966. The show, which ran for 26 episodes, was created by Rod Serling. Courtesy William Dozier Papers.



## New Grant Project – “Wyoming Women Leading Change”

by Tyler Cline

This year will be a busy one for the Digital Programs department. The AHC has received a grant to fund the digitization of four collections of Wyoming women in politics and leadership. This continues a tradition of successful grant awards from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund for digitization of our collection material. Two years ago, the AHC digitized more than 500 Wyoming-related films with the assistance of a Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund grant.

This year the AHC will embark on an ambitious project to digitize collection material from Wyoming

women who have served as educators, leaders, politicians, and advocates for empowerment. The AHC holds numerous collections related to women's history and politics, and currently has the papers of Nellie Tayloe Ross, Wyoming's first female governor, available online.

The project will digitize more than 600 file folders worth of material, including the complete collection of Edith K. O. Clark's daily diaries from 1904 to 1936, detailing her life as a teacher, state school superintendent, and homesteader. Also digitized will be correspondence and thirteen videocassette tapes and one 16mm motion picture film from the League of Women Voters of

Wyoming, as well as files of Harriett Elizabeth Byrd, Wyoming's first black female legislator, and Sheila Arnold, a Wyoming state representative.

This project will be completed at the end of 2015, and the digitized material will be available online free to all on the AHC's digital collections site ([ahc.uwyo.edu/digital](http://ahc.uwyo.edu/digital)). These collections will be added to the more than 110 digital collections and hundreds of thousands of documents, images, and films the AHC hosts online.



Edith K.O. Clark photographed these trained bears and their trainers who visited Sheridan during the early 1900s. Clark included many of her photos in her diaries which will now be digitized as part of this grant project. Courtesy Edith K.O. Clark papers.





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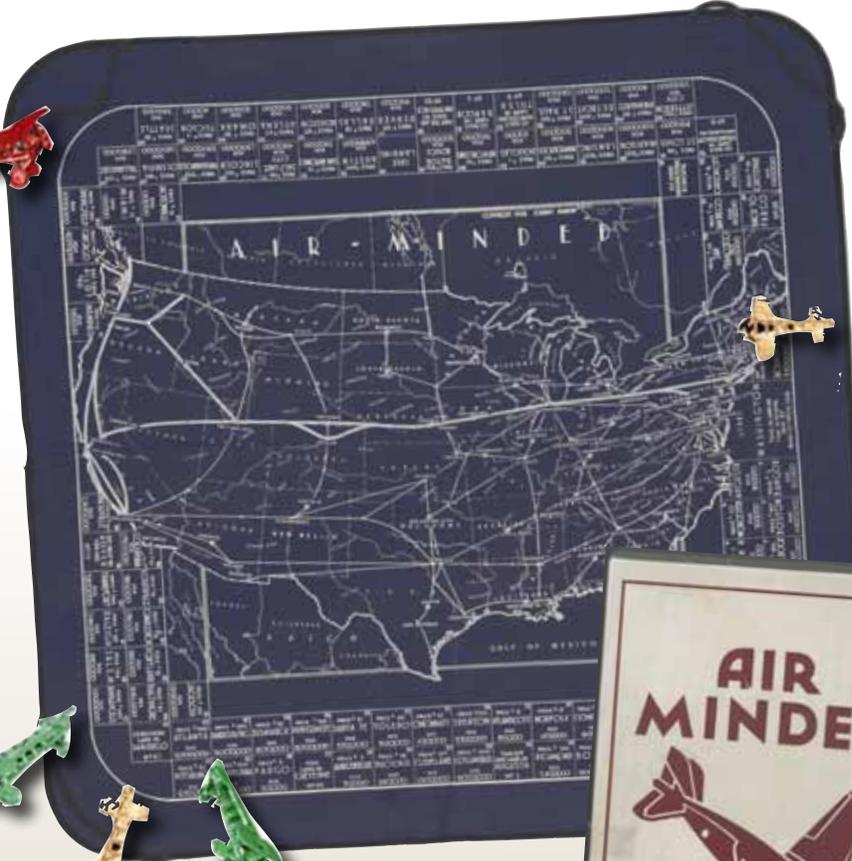
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## From the Archives



In 1940, noted aviator Roscoe Turner sponsored a game titled *Air Minded*, which was touted as “The Educational Game of the Age.” Turner had participated in air races held around the world and was known as “The Speed King.” He broke the transcontinental speed record for airplanes seven times and flew the first airplane to surpass 300 miles per hour. The game, played on a linen board with round colored chips as the currency and with colored metal airplanes as the players’ pieces, was similar to Monopoly, with the object to get all of the money from your opponents. Instead of buying streets, the object of *Air Minded* was to land on and purchase state capitals. Once a player owned the capital, the player owned all of the other cities in that state. Then, when a player landed on a city owned by another player, rent had to be paid. Anyone landing on Cheyenne, Wyoming, for example, owed the owner \$35, as shown on the board. As the game progressed, anyone without funds had to “retire” from the game. It is unclear how successful the game was.

Courtesy Roscoe Turner Papers.

