

CIMA Newsletter

July 1998 (No. 76)

New slate of officers elected

Ballots cast in the 1998 election for officers have been tallied and members of the Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists have unanimously chosen Jeffrey M. Kintop, Archives Manager, Nevada State Library and Archives, to fill a three-year term as vice-president/president-elect of the organization. The term includes one year as vice-president, one year as president, and one year as immediate past president and head of the nominating committee. A retiring council member, Kintop also serves as assistant editor of the *CIMA Newsletter*.

Kintop succeeds Pauline K. Musig of the Archives Division at the LDS Church Historical Department, who takes over as CIMA president. Completing his term as president is Blaine Bake of the special collections department of the David O. McKay Library at Ricks College.

Running unopposed, Julie Hunsaker of the Archives Division at the LDS Church Historical Department, was voted to serve a two-year term as secretary/treasurer. Hunsaker replaces Sarah Talley of the Utah State Archives, who was elected in 1996.

Picked from a slate of four aspiring candidates to fill three vacancies on the CIMA council were: Steve Walker, Idaho State Historical Society; Jim Dooley, University of Utah, J. Willard Marriott Library; and John Powell, Utah State University, Merrill Library. The trio will serve a two-year term expiring in 2000.

Members completing two-year terms on the CIMA council include: Mary Carter-Hepworth, Albertsons Library, Boise State University; and Jeff Kintop, Nevada State Archives. Filling out the term of Tim Few of the Utah State Archives and Records Service, who returned to his native Florida in December, was Gary Domitz, Oboler Library, Idaho State University. Outgoing council members join Blaine Bake as members of the nominating committee.

Of the 109 ballots mailed last month to individual and institutional CIMA members, 37 (39 percent) were returned by the June 29 deadline.

Results:

Vice President/President Elect:

Jeffrey M. Kintop, 37 votes (100 percent)

Secretary/Treasurer:

Julie Hunsaker, 37 votes (100 percent)

CIMA Council (1998-2000):

Steve Walker, 32 votes (86 percent)

Brian Reeves, 22 votes (59 percent)

Jim Dooley, 24 votes (65 percent)

John Powell, 29 votes (78 percent)

FALL WORKSHOP: Appraisal instruction offered at BYU

The Encoded Archival Description (EAD) workshop that was to be offered at Brigham Young University in October was canceled because the instructors were unable to teach a class in Utah this fall and still meet their

other obligations. SAA, Kris Kiesling, Michael Fox, and the CIMA Council apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. The workshop will be offered in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in October and both SAA and the instructors have a firm commitment to offering EAD in the inter-mountain region this spring.

BYU has generously agreed to host a different workshop and CIMA has contracted with SAA to offer a workshop on appraisal instead. A description of the workshop follows.

"Probing Appraisal Practice: Contending with Methods, Mayhem and Madness" Workshop #9818 Instructor: Richard J. Cox Thursday, October 29, 1998 Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fee: \$215; SAA Members: \$169 Continuing Education Units: .75

Participants will learn how to evaluate the utility of traditional archival appraisal approaches and how to consider newer approaches proposed and debated in the past decade. Participants will consider how traditional archival appraisal approaches records values, acquisition strategies, records scheduling work or may not work as organizations and society become more complex. The workshop title reflects its goals. Methods refers to the range of appraisal approaches available to the archivist, although there seems to be little consensus about the relevance of these methods. Mayhem refers to the escalating change of communications and record keeping systems in organizations and society, all challenging the half-century-old idea of records being appraised for information and evidence. Madness refers to the contentious nature of society, aptly reflected in the culture wars, political debates, and litigation directly bearing on records (for example, the Enola Gay Exhibit at the Smithsonian). The workshop instructor is Richard J. Cox, Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences. He holds a Ph.D. in Library Science. Cox is the author of four books on archives and records management and of numerous articles on archival appraisal issues. He is currently working on two books, one on new directions in records management and the other on the implications of the Internet for our concepts of time, place and memory. Cox is a former editor of the *American Archivist* and was elected an SAA Fellow in 1989.

ANNUAL MEETING: Diversity reflected in culture and records

Over 50 participants took part in the 1998 annual meeting of the Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists May 21-22, 1998, at the Earl R. Pond Student Union Building on the campus of Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho.

Barre Toelken introduced this year's theme, "Celebrating Our Diversity," with a interesting and thought-provoking keynote address entitled "Folklore: The Living Cultural Archives."

Eight sessions, most built around the meeting topic, were offered during the two-day gathering. Presenters included: Matt Kreitzer, American Indian Studies teacher at Pine View High School and Dixie College, "Washakie Letters of Willie Ottagary;" Scott Christensen, LDS Church Historical Department, "Chasing Chief Sagwitch through the 19th Century;" Ron Watt, LDS Church Historical Department, "Settlement of Carbon County, Utah, by Diverse Groups;" Bob Parson, University Archivist and adjunct professor of history at Utah State University, "History of Rich County, Utah;" Anne Butler, professor of history at Utah State University, "Unlocking the Cloister: Archives, Convents, and the West;" Jay Burrup, LDS Church Historical Department, "Of Indians and Trails, Saints, Sage, and Rails: Marsh Valley's Role in Bannock County, Idaho;" Blaine Bake, Ricks College, "Accessioning and Deaccessioning in the 21st Century;" Ray Matthews, reference archivist at the Utah State Archives, "Accessibility Standards for Electronically Published Archival Finding Aids;" and Blake Miller, LDS Church Historical Department, "Electronic Records Issues." In addition, the state archivists Jeffery Johnson and Steve Walker and state archives manager Jeffrey Kintop provided an overview of the state of state archives in Utah, Idaho, and Nevada.

CIMA President Blaine Bake was among the various organization officers who addressed members during the business meeting. Secretary-Treasurer Sarah Talley gave the financial report (included in this issue of the

newsletter), Mark Jensen announced the nominating committee's recommendations for new officers and talked about the new CIMA web site, and Glen Fairclough reported on the newsletter.

A guided tour to the site of historic Fort Hall as well as the Fort Hall Museum concluded the conference. Also available were a guided tour of the Eli M. Oboler Library, special collections, and self-guided tours of the Fort Hall reproduction, Museum of Natural History, and the Bannock County Historical Museum. Several participated in independent excursions around the area.

Morning and afternoon breaks were sponsored by Metal Edge, Inc., and the Eli M. Oboler Library. Donating merchandise for the prize drawing which took place at the business meeting included the University of Idaho Press, Idaho State University Press, the Idaho Museum of Natural History, and Ricks College.

Treasurer's Report: July 1, 1997-June 30, 1998

Checking Account

Beginning balance:\$2,684.52

Income:

July 1997: \$667.38

August 1997: \$30.00

October 1997: \$90.00

November 1997: \$195.00

March 1998: \$505.00

May 1998: \$2,410.00

June 1998: \$690.00 Total: \$4,722.38

Disbursements:

Newsletters & mailings (Printing & Stationery): \$551.77

Postage and P.O. Box Rental: \$371.50

Programs: \$144.64

Facilities and meals: \$3,088.68

Administration: \$130.00

Total: \$4,286.59

Ending balance: \$3,120.31

Savings Account

Beginning Balance: \$1,130.67

Interest earned: \$24.51

Ending Balance: \$1,155.18

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Talley, Treasurer

CIMA welcomes three new members

The Council of Inter-Mountain Archivists welcomes the following new members:

Karen Carver, University of Utah, Marriott Library, Manuscripts, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Brian Hahn, processing/reference archivist, Utah State Archives and Records Service, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Matthew Kreitzer, Pine View High School, St. George, Utah.

***Trail of Hope* wins national honors**

The recent book *Trail of Hope: The Story of the Mormon Trail*, co-authored by longtime CIMA members William Slaughter and Michael Landon, has won the 1998 Small Press Book Award, a prize for independent publishers sponsored by *Independent Magazine*. The book placed first in the history-political-current events category.

Slaughter and Landon both work in the Historical Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Landon is quoted as saying that he is glad that the pioneers are finally getting their due reward. "The quality of the book is a credit to those who left a documentary record," he says. "We kept everything as close to the original as we could. The pioneers were great journal keepers. You can even hear their accents in their writing sometimes. Still, the *Trail of Hope* was really not just a Mormon component, it's an American component. We wanted to show everything about the trail in a bigger context."

Released last year by Shadow Mountain, a division of Salt Lake City based Deseret Book, *Trail of Hope* was the companion volume to a PBS documentary that aired last year. The feature was so popular it will be re-broadcast on July 18 this year and then again on Aug. 10.

Details about the book (and TV documentary) and biographical information on Slaughter and Landon may be found at the PBS web site: <http://www.pbs.org/trailofhope/bookbio.html>.

Historical Society annual meeting set

The Utah State Historical Society will hold its annual meeting on Friday, August 7, at Westminster College in Salt Lake City. Historical papers covering such topics as the ghost town of Hebron, Fort Deseret, Everett Ruess, presidential visits to Utah, and much more, will be presented at sessions during the day. The evening will feature a history address, awards ceremony, and a light buffet.

Utah architecture lecture series continues

A year-long series of brown bag lectures devoted to Utah's Historical Architecture is under way. Upcoming speakers include: Roger Roper, "Barns in Utah," who will speak on Thursday, July 16; Paul Anderson, "LDS Church Temple Designs," who will speak on Thursday, Aug. 20; Monsignor Mannion, "Cathedral of the Madeleine," who will speak at the Cathedral on Thursday, Sept. 17; Winston Hurst, "Prehistoric Architecture", who will speak on Thursday, Oct. 15; and Phil Notarianni, "Rio Grande Depot," Nov. 19.

Each one-hour presentation begins at 12 noon in the West Lecture Room, Utah State Historical Society, Rio Grande Depot, 300 South 455 West, Salt Lake City. The lecture series is jointly sponsored by the Utah Heritage Foundation, the Utah State Historical Society, and the Utah State Archives and Records Service. Presentations are free and open to the public. Remember to bring your lunch. For more information, call Mary Peach at (801) 533-3545.

LDS gathering artifacts for welfare exhibit

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is collecting welfare and humanitarian artifacts and photographs for an upcoming exhibit at the Museum of Church History and Art.

Museum curator Mark Staker said he needs objects dating from before 1950 that help tell the story of the church's welfare efforts in the United States. Artifacts and photographs of help given international disasters

are also being sought.

For more information, call 240-1754.

State Archives begins reference service for death certificates in Utah

Utah's newly amended law clarifying access to vital records has made it easier and less expensive for genealogists to obtain copies of death certificates issued by the Utah Board of Health prior to 1948. The Inspection of Vital Records Act (HB 84) passed during the last legislative session opens vital records to the public after a specified time period. This statute makes historic death records available 50 years after the date of death. The Bureau of Vital Records has transferred custody of historic death certificates to the Utah State Archives. Beginning July 1, these records will be available through the Utah State Archives.

"After having a unique policy for a long time, Utah has adopted a national standard which distinguishes current and historical death certificates," said Barry E. Nangle, director of the Bureau of Vital Records. After being approached by State Archivist Jeffery O. Johnson, Nangle did some research and discovered a national standard covering these records already existed. The revised statute which went into effect May 4 is modeled after one recommended by both the National Center for Health Statistics and the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems.

Out of concern for preservation, many original death certificates came to the Archives in 1986. Microfilm copies and indices to the records issued between 1905 and 1947 were obtained by the State Archives in June from the Bureau of Vital Statistics. To facilitate retrieval, those performing genealogical research should provide as much information as possible regarding the decedent's name and date and place of death. Reader-printer copies will be available for the cost of duplication. Requests may be in person or by telephone, standard mail, or electronic mail. To expedite your request, please call (801) 538-3013 a day in advance so the records will be available in the research center when you arrive. Send written requests to: Utah State Archives, P.O. Box 141021, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-1021 or to research@state.ut.us.

Until the creation of the Bureau of Vital Records in 1905, county clerks throughout the Beehive State recorded births and deaths in registers compiled between 1898 and 1904. These records are also available to researchers at the Utah State Archives. Prior to 1898, births and deaths in Utah were not recorded by any government agency.

Nangle says that without the reference service of the State Archives, it would not be possible to provide access to the historic death certificates. "The Bureau of Vital Records in Utah issues copies of records for current, legal purposes. Vital Records offices in some states do have historical research facilities, but we think State Archives is the appropriate agency to serve the public in that area."

The Bureau of Vital Statistics will continue to provide to immediate family members and authorized family representatives only official copies of death certificates issued between 1948 and the present. The cost is \$9.00. Patrons requesting earlier death records from the Bureau of Vital Statistics will be referred to the State Archives.

Utah teachers visit state archives

Reference archivists Alice Cone and Ray Matthews introduced a group of teachers to the holdings of the Utah State Archives and Records Service as the educators visited the Research Center on Friday, June 19. Nancy Mathews, former social studies specialist at the Utah State Office of Education who arranged the tour, requested a basic orientation of how the Utah State Archives can assist teachers and an overview of how to teach with original documents.

The group included nearly 40 fourth grade, seventh grade, and high school instructors who were interested in available resources for history fairs, information and documents available via the Internet, and specifics about what the State Archives can and cannot help them with. The importance of using primary sources in research was demonstrated effectively as the teachers experienced first-hand how original records are subject to divergent interpretations. Using case studies involving criminal court records, correspondence, and territorial militia record orders, the teachers learned how historical interpretations are based on original documents. Each teacher received a packet highlighting useful and interesting collections which could be incorporated into lesson plans and curriculum. Included were handouts about women's suffrage, the Utah Capitol Commission, the execution of convicted murderer Joe Hill, motor vehicle registration, territorial executive records, the Castle Gate mining disaster, the state song, and such genealogical sources as military records and naturalization documents.

Ms. Mathews arranged for another group of teachers to visit the Utah State Archives in 1994.

Revised micrographics guide produced

The Preservation Section of the Utah State Archives and Records Service has substantially revised its *Micrographics Guide*. The illustrated *Guide* briefly explains the basics of micrographic systems so that agencies can make informed decisions about document reproduction. Archives services to state agencies and local governments, from feasibility studies to inspection and off-site storage, are described in more detail.

The first copies of the *Guide* were distributed in May and are available free of charge to government entities in Utah. A hypertext version will be available on the Archives web site in September.

Utah State Archives notes staff changes

Vacancies in the records analysis section were filled in May with the hiring of two new employees, Daryl Downs and Eric Stene. Downs was formerly manager of administrative services for Weber County. Stene received an M.A. in history with an emphasis in Western America from Utah State University in 1994 and worked three summers as a historian with the Bureau of Reclamation. Both have been assigned to work with state agencies.

Michelle Call joined the patron services section in June as a processing and reference archivist. Call worked as an intern at the archives last winter and spring before being hired as a full-time employee. She recently completed her master of arts degree in American History from the University of Utah. She replaces Paul Smith, who has left the archives field.

Leonard Johnson is the new receptionist at the state records center while temporary employee Laura Bowers is performing data entry and records retrieval duties.

Janet Davey, a long-time employee in the governor's office, assisted the archives in compiling agency history information this spring prior to her retirement.

Archives goals set at June retreat

The entire staff of the Utah State Archives and Records Service participated in a retreat June 5 at the Utah Winter Sports Park at Bear Hollow near Park City. During the day-long session the group was addressed by Raylene G. Ireland, executive director of the Department of Administrative Services, participated in various team building exercises conducted by a professional facilitator, engaged in a discussion of employee concerns, reviewed section goals set prior to the retreat, and discussed division-wide goals for the coming year.

SL County films building permits files

Salt Lake County Records Management and Archives recently began preservation microfilming of the county building permits files. Through a camera loan program of the Utah State Archives, the County will microfilm and preserve these valuable and highly used records.

Microfilming on site allows uninterrupted reference access to the records and staff management of the project. Holly Horne, a new staff member, is working on the project.

Salt Lake County staffers attend training

Staff members of Salt Lake County Records Management and Archives have recently participated in training opportunities.

Darrell Passey, Records Center Manager, attended the Rio Grande ARMA Chapter meeting in Albuquerque, NM, April 2-3. The conference theme was "Integrated Information Management: Expand Your Horizons" and highlighted topics on legal issues, digital records, information management, libraries and records centers, information preservation, and behavioral issues in work groups. Susan Quinley, Archives Manager, attended the Utah Preservation Consortium workshop held on May 6 at the Salt Palace. The workshop, conducted by Paul Needham, Scheide Librarian at Princeton University and instructor at the University of Virginia's Rare Book School, traced the history of the book and the preservation issues regarding physical integrity of book bindings.

Donation makes a difference at UHS

Training received by staff members through the generous donation of William P. MacKinnon has made a difference to the Utah Historical Society. Staff members have been able to receive training that, because of limited budgets, otherwise would not have been available to them. For example, Linda Thatcher, who received the MacKinnon Award this year, was able to attend an Encoded Archival Description (EAD) workshop sponsored by the Society of American Archivists.

At the SAA workshop Thatcher learned how to encode manuscript finding aids in EAD, which is becoming the standard document type definition for archival finding aids such as registers, box inventories, etc. The Utah History Information Center is now in the process of developing a new web page, where this knowledge will be put to good use to make our resources available on the World Wide Web in a consistent format.

Through MacKinnon's far-sighted contribution, projects that normally would have been accomplished years down the road have occurred much faster as staff members have been able to get the needed training. [Reprinted from the April 1998 issue of the Utah State Historical Society Newsletter.]

Historical Society receives Hanson papers

The papers of Earl F. Hanson have been donated to the Utah Historical Society by his sons Richard and Earl. Hanson was chief geologist for the Tintic Standard Mining Company between 1925 and 1948. During this time, he assisted in the development of several Tintic mines, including the Eureka Lilly and the Eureka Standard. In 1948 he joined the Utah Construction Company in Cedar City as resident engineer; there, he supervised the development of mining operations at Iron Mountain and Iron Springs. During his career he investigated iron ore deposits in Utah, Nevada, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Canada, Virginia, and West Virginia. He was also actively involved in property negotiations, water rights and mineral exploration.

This collection offers an excellent look at day-to-day mining operations in Utah and at the development of the

mining industry in Washington, Iron, and Juab counties. Included in the collection are correspondence, minutes, mine production records, engineer reports, drilling logs, leases, agreements, maps, and photographs. [Reprinted from the June 1998 issue of the Utah State Historical Society Newsletter.]

Max Evans appointed to AASLH council

Max J. Evans, director of the Division of State History, has accepted an appointment to serve a term on the American Association of State and Local History council

Marriott Library acquisitions processed

by Mark Jensen, J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah

The Manuscripts Division of the University of Utah J. Willard Marriott Library has recently acquired and processed the following collections. Further information is available at (801) 581-8864 or at www.lib.utah.edu/spc/mss/spcmss.html.

The William H. Smart Diaries (1886-1937 and 1979-1981) comprise 50 volumes of Smart's personal journals written from the age of 24 through his death. The collection also holds microfilm copies of 43 of these journals, as well as photocopies of selected volumes. Lastly, the collection offers associated documents in the form of student-prepared summaries of the diaries (1981), scholarly articles about his life (ca. 1979), and news clippings regarding his death (1937). Smart (1862-1937) served a proselytizing mission to Turkey and England and later served as president of the Eastern States Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 1899 through 1900. The diaries discuss his activities in these capacities, and later provide information on his extensive business interests in southeastern Idaho and eastern Utah, including the Heber City area and the Uintah basin. Smart was active in promoting town settlement in these regions, and served in several LDS Church leadership positions. The diaries record his interactions with other LDS Church leaders and his activities later in life while a resident of Salt Lake City.

The Charles A. Knight Papers (1864-1865) contains Knight's original diary, a photocopy and a typescript copy of the diary, Knight's obituary, several poems by Charles A. Knight and David S. Davidson, excerpts from the book, *Prison Life in Dixie* (Central Book Concern, Chicago, 1880), and "The Story of the General," an article about a train named the General that ran during the Civil War. The diary dates from March 27, 1864, to June 24, 1865. Knight fought during the Civil War as a member of the 22nd Indiana Volunteers. He enlisted July 11, 1861, and was later captured on July 18, 1864, and became a prisoner in the Confederate prison at Andersonville. He was released six months later. His experiences as a prisoner are recorded in the diary.

The Arthur L. Chaffin Papers (ca. 1920-1976) contain correspondence, financial records, mining documents, and other records concerning Chaffin's ownership and operation of the Chaffin Ferry and his mining career. Chaffin was a farmer who grew up in Teasdale, Utah. He owned and operated the Chaffin Ferry (also called the Hite Ferry). Established in 1946, the ferry service was designed to transport people and their vehicles across the Colorado River. The ferry was the only crossing along a 200-mile stretch of the river. Chaffin was also extensively involved in mining operations in southeastern Utah, specifically the Lucky Strike and Green Copper Mines.

Nevada SHRAB receives NHPRC grant

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) has awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Nevada State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) for a two-year project to grant money to local historical repositories for planning or training in archives and records management. Grant recipients will use funds for specific problems identified in "Preserving Nevada's Documentary Heritage, 1997-2005: A Strategic

Plan." Unlike the local government regrant project, this program has an expanded focus to include Native American governments, historical societies and museums. The grant will begin July 1, 1998. State Archives Manager Jeffrey M. Kintop will be the project coordinator.

The board met on Feb 27, 1998, at the Sands Regency Hotel in Reno in conjunction with the Annual Assembly of boards of the Department of Museums, Library and Arts. Once a year, all the councils, boards and commissions associated with the Department meet separately, then together in a day-long meeting to acquaint the various board members with the activities of the other boards, and plan for the next legislative session. SHRAB members discussed the NHPRC grant award and progress on the execution of their Strategic Plan.

In addition to the SHRAB, other boards and commissions associated with the Department include: the Board of Museums and History, the Commission for Cultural Affairs, the Comstock Historical Commission, the Nevada Arts Council, State Council on Libraries and Literacy, the Nevada Humanities Committee, and the State Records Committee.

The board met again April 29, 1998, at Special Collections, at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, to finalize details for the re-grant project.

NSLA hosts History Day competition

The State Library and Archives was again the site for History Day in Nevada. More than sixty students showed off their talents and knowledge in the northern Nevada competition held Saturday, April 4. A separate competition for southern Nevada was held on Saturday, April 28, at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Student projects remained on exhibit in the NSLA Gallery throughout April.

Both junior and senior high school students submit papers, create exhibits, and perform for judges from the university, historical societies, and museums. Winners advanced to National History Day in College Park, Maryland, in June. NSLA has been a partner with the Nevada Humanities Committee with History Day since it began in the state in 1990.

Records management classes popular

Last August the Nevada State Library and Archives' Records Management Program began offering its records management training classes to local governments. Three classes have been held so far for the city employees of the cities of Reno, Sparks and Winnemucca. Winnemucca hosted a workshop for the rural communities and was attended by representatives from three counties and five cities. The attendees included law enforcement, county clerks, school districts, county libraries and justice courts. Since its inception, more than ninety employees of local governments in northern Nevada have attended.

NSLA explores southern projects

The Nevada State Library and Archives has for over ten years advocated the establishment of a "State Records Center" in the Las Vegas area. The existing State Records Center, located in Carson City, has long served all state agencies by providing storage space for inactive records. The increasing growth of state offices in southern Nevada has pointed up the need to provide similar services to state agencies in that area.

NSLA management staff met at the Grant Sawyer State Office Building in Las Vegas on April 29 to plan new State Library and Archives facilities in southern Nevada and cooperative programs with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In addition to meeting with state and local governments, Archives and Records staff, along with representatives from a firm of architects who have been retained for this study, visited possible

sites for a future records center and micrographics and imaging programs. Several sites are under consideration and no final decision has been made.

In the afternoon, library, archives and records management staff met with UNLV library staff about conservation, imaging projects; public records and records management issues; cooperative purchasing of licensed databases; federal publications depository issues; state data center and state publications. These meetings represent a major step in statewide planning for library, archives and records management issues in Nevada.

Attendance at this meeting was good, suggesting that a definite interest in this concept does exist among the key people representing several local governments in the southern Nevada area who were invited to attend. A survey was mailed to those local governments who have shown an interest. Any other local governmental entity in the southern Nevada area which may be interested, or has questions about this proposed facility, should contact Joan Kerschner, Director of Museums, Library and Arts, at (702) 687-8315.

Government records manual updated

Updated pages for the Local Governments Records Manual were recently mailed to local governments around the Silver State. This was done to make users aware of recent changes to the Nevada Administrative codes that have added new items to the retention schedules or have changed existing requirements.

We expect to have an amended manual available within the next few months that will include these changes. However, the requirements are effective as of April 10, 1998, the date these regulations were filed with the Secretary of State by the Legislative Counsel Bureau, and have the force and effect of law as of that date. We will let everyone know, via this newsletter, when the updated manuals are available.

Nevada State Archives displays artifacts

VIRGINIA CITY, NV Last summer's archaeological dig at Piper's Opera House in Virginia City, Nevada, resumes this month. Upcoming excavations at Piper's Old Corner Bar, located below the Opera House, will concentrate on a subterranean cold-storage pit, similar to a cellar, located in the back portion of the saloon.

"During the summer of 1997 we recovered over 16,000 artifacts from the historic saloon site, and this summer we will continue where we left off last year," said Kelly Dixon, Administrator and Archaeologist for the Comstock Archaeology Center.

Many artifacts from Piper's Old Corner Bar are displayed for the public at the Nevada State Library and Archives Building, 100 North Stewart Street, Carson City. Since Piper's Old Corner Bar was considered an upscale saloon, the artifacts reflect vestiges of opulence in Virginia City's historic places of entertainment. In addition to seeing the exhibit, the public is also invited to visit the archaeological dig at Piper's Opera House. Call 702- 847-0281 for the dig schedule through the month of June.

Volunteers who worked on the saloon dig last summer continued to help over the winter months by cleaning and cataloging many of those artifacts in a temporary lab facility at the State Historic Preservation Office. Volunteers will continue their work with saloon archaeology by completing excavations at Piper's Old Corner Bar this summer.

"The volunteers are hard workers and have a fresh enthusiasm for the accurate recovery of information about Virginia City's dynamic past," said Dixon. "We are indebted to all the volunteers who assisted with the excavation and laboratory work.

Volunteers include individuals from local and surrounding communities, members of the amateur

archaeological support group AmArcs of Reno, and students from the University of Nevada, Reno, Anthropology Department. Other entities who support the dig include the archaeological consulting firm Archaeological Research Services of Virginia City, the Piper's Opera House Board, the Consolidated Virginia Mining Company, the Comstock Historic District Commission, and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office.

The Old Corner Bar operated from the 1860s through the 1880s. The Foundation for Piper's Opera House intends to restore the Old Corner Bar and has enlisted the help of the Comstock Archaeology Center to gather information about the upscale saloon that operated during Virginia City's heyday. The Archaeology Center also plans to excavate the Boston Saloon site, an African American saloon that operated in Virginia City from 1864 1875 in late summer or fall of 1998, pending funding.

Remodeling project launched in Nevada

The Nevada Historical Society was very fortunate during the 1997 session of the legislature to receive a Capital Improvement Project appropriation of over \$1 million to remodel the 1968 museum/library building and to put a new roof on the 1982 collections management building, both on the University of Nevada campus.

The Public Works Board, in cooperation with Joan Kerschner, Director of the Department of Museums, Library and Arts; Peter Bandurraga, Director of NHS, and Eric Moody, NHS Curator of Manuscripts, have selected Worth Group of Reno and Boulder, Colorado, as the architects on the project. Some of their earlier efforts include Planet Hollywood and the National Bowling Stadium in Reno and the Hard Rock Cafe in Las Vegas.

The tentative plan is to reverse the existing floor plan of NHS, moving the Library Reference Room into the Shepperson Gallery and building a new permanent exhibition on the west side of the building. A professional exhibits firm will be hired to design, fabricate, and install a new permanent exhibition on the history of Nevada, making extensive use of all of the NHS collections. The new reading room will be wired for computers and include new microfilm readers and printers. Right at the front entrance will be an expanded shop, offering a full selection of books and gifts about the history of Nevada and the West. Staff offices and a dark room will be added, with new paint, carpets, lights and fixtures completing the freshening up.

The current construction schedule will necessitate a brief closing for construction in the summer and a grand opening with the annual Mid-Winter Gala of 1999. Fund raising is under way to enhance the budget for the new history gallery, and a number of community and staff committees are coming together to provide design assistance.

Boise staffers observe anniversaries

Both professional staff members in Special Collections at Boise State University celebrated their ten-year anniversaries in the department recently. Alan Virta, head of special collections, and Mary Carter-Hepworth, assistant archivist, came to the department in 1988. The Special Collections Department has been refurbished this spring with new custom-built work stations, desks, and bookcases made by inmates at the Idaho Correctional Institution.

Recent BSU acquisitions announced

Among the recent accessions at BSU are records of the Boise Hotline (1971-1980), one of the first volunteer-operated telephone referral/crisis intervention lines in Idaho. A companion collection, the records of the Idaho Hotline Association, documents the rapid creation of other such hotlines across the state of Idaho in the

early 1970s. Also acquired was a collection of alternative newspapers published in Boise in the early 1970s. One of those newspapers, *The Helping Hand*, was published for two years by antiwar GIs at Mountain Home Air Force Base. Recently opened for research were small collections of letters by author Vardis Fisher written to his personal physician, Dr. George E. Brown, Jr., and his friend, Judge James P. Gossett.

Digital Memories: Homer Pound and Idaho

by Terry Abraham, Special Collections, University of Idaho

Special Collections and Archives at the University of Idaho Library announces a new installment in the Webpage "Digital Memories." Digital Memories focuses on historic artifacts, documents, photographs, and books from the holdings of Special Collections and Archives. This is a changing showcase of highlights from our collections.

The most recent addition to the series is "Homer Pound and Idaho," featuring a letter from Ezra Pound's father remembering the grandeur of Idaho's mountains.

The Special Collections Department of the University of Idaho Library includes those materials that, because of subject coverage, rarity, source, condition, or form, are best handled separately from the General Collection. The several "collections" housed in this department include the Day-Northwest Collection of Western Americana, Rare Books, Idaho Documents, Sir Walter Scott Collection, Ezra Pound Collection, Caxton Collection, University of Idaho Theses, Historical Maps, Historical Photograph Collection, and Personal Papers and University Archives.

"Digital Memories" can be accessed through URL <http://www.lib.uidaho.edu/special-collections/>. Previous editions, on the Bannock Indian War, Frank B. Robinson and his mail-order religion, the 1921 Idaho Yell Squad, WWII married student housing, and the famous S-curve trestle snow slide, are also available. Also at this site is information about Special Collections and its holdings, archival and manuscript descriptions and inventories, and a comprehensive geographical guide to repositories of primary source materials. The latter now contains over 2,700 entries from around the world.

Select ISU Special Collections detailed

Pocatello Chamber of Commerce Records: The collection contains correspondence, clippings, subject files, and the minutes of the Chamber and its sub-committee meetings. Some maps and blueprints are included. Records cover from the beginnings of the Chamber in 1904 through 1965. (7 lin.ft.)

Lemhi Indian Agency Records: The collection includes a correspondence file (1887-1904) of approx. 5,000 items in letterbooks and folders. Tribal census information, lists of supplies, medical reports, personnel reports and miscellaneous agency reports comprise the balance of the materials. (ca. 1885-1907) (8 lin.ft.)

J. A. Harrington Collection: J. A. Harrington's collection was copied from many sources and contains correspondence, manuscripts, extracts from unpublished sources, research notes, etc. which focus on early Idaho history. Many of the items are copies of originals the location of which is unknown. Includes the reminiscences of Chief Joseph's War by two scouts (Clough and McCreery). Time covered is approx. 1830s to 1930s. (1.5 lin.ft.)

A. L. Lillibridge Collection: Correspondence, articles and news clippings related to railroad history (especially the Utah Northern Railroad) and Pocatello area history are the primary focus of this collection. Also included are some of Lillibridge's personal records and materials related to his teaching career at Idaho State University (1920-1962). (4 lin.ft.) Related collections: PMC 015 Photographs... (historical photographs of Pocatello, Idaho State University, and railroads.)

Idaho State Journal photo negatives: Negatives from the Idaho State Journal cover 1950s through 1991 (except for 1974 & 1987-89). ISU has a log of the photos taken, however, there is no subject or name index. They are arranged by date so if you find an interesting photo in the *ISJ* you can just give us the date of the newspaper and we can view it or have a print made from the negative.

Recent acquisitions at USU noted

Salt Lake Opera Company Records, 1897-1906 (.5 linear feet; 250 items): Letters received between 1897 and 1906 by Horace G. Whitney (1858-1921), manager of the Salt Lake Opera Company, from costumers, music companies, and various theaters in Wyoming, Idaho, and Utah. The letters reveal the complicated logistics (ticket sales, division of profits, costumes, props, the orchestra, etc.) of taking an opera on the road at the turn-of-the-century. Managers of theaters in Evanston, Rock Springs, Pocatello, Salt Lake City, Park City, Provo, Ogden, and Logan wrote to Whitney in order to entice the company to play their town. There are also letters from costumers, letters discussing music, scores, royalties, and copyrights. The Salt Lake Opera Company was organized in 1897 by singer Heber S. Goddard, Willard E. Weihe, and John D. Spencer, with Horace G. Whitney as manager. It staged thirteen operas at the old Salt Lake Theatre from 1897-1912. In addition to being manager of the Opera Company, Whitney was a well-known literary and dramatic critic for the *Salt Lake Herald* and the *Deseret News* and, later, the business manager of the *Deseret News*. The collection was purchased through the support of the Marie Eccles Caine Foundation and will be added to the Caine Archives. A register is available.

Sylvester Low Papers, 1875-1910 (0.5 linear feet; 20 items): The Sylvester Low Papers contains letters written by Low (1836-1908) from Cardston, Alberta, North-West Territories, Canada to his family in Smithfield, Utah, marriage and missionary certificates of Low's son-in-law, Joseph J. Richardson, and a life sketch of Eliza Lavina Harper Richardson. Sylvester Low was a prominent Mormon pioneer of Cardston and at different times a farmer, miller, school teacher, clerk, and photographer. In 1895, when the Alberta Stake was created, Low was made the stake clerk, a position he held until his death. The letters contain detailed information about life in Cardston in the 1890s.

Charles W. Nibley Family Papers, 1879-1947 (3 linear feet): The Charles W. Nibley Family Papers is comprised of documents relating to the lives of Charles W. Nibley (1849-1931) and his three wives, Rebecca Neibaur, Ellen Ricks, and Julia Budge. The papers, donated by descendants of Charles W. Nibley and his wives, have been brought together to create this collection. The collection includes: letters, speeches, life sketches, poems, speeches, legal documents, deeds, a receipt for contributions for Nibley Hall, Hotel Utah birthday dinner menus (1913-1928), the journal of Ellen Ricks Nibley (1859-1935), Resolution of Respect for Charles W. Nibley, and a funeral program for Rebecca Neibaur Nibley. The bulk of the letters, ranging from 1879-1931, are from Charles W. to Julia Budge Nibley, one of his wives. An inventory is available.

James H. Martineau Commonplace Book, 1887-1900 (1 bound volume): This holograph commonplace book entitled "Pearls collected from Church works" contains extracts from published addresses by Mormon Church leaders. Some unpublished teachings given at local conferences may be included, however. The book also includes copies of patriarchal blessings given to members of the family and a copy of a letter written by Mormon Church President Lorenzo Snow to Martineau.

James J. Chandler Journal, 1882-1910 (1 bound volume): Holograph journal (1882-1910) of northern Utah and southeast Idaho school teacher James J. Chandler (1849-1922). Chandler was appointed by the Mormon Church and served as, the first school teacher at the Washakie Indian settlement. Thirty-five students enrolled the first year. Chandler did such a good job that many white children from the neighboring area attended his school. In later years, Chandler was a pioneer settler of Rigby, Idaho, where he died.

Wayne D. Criddle Papers (34.5 linear feet): The Wayne D. Criddle Papers contains papers relating to

Criddle's career as an irrigation specialist. Criddle served as state engineer for Utah, he was involved in the important Colorado River Compact as well as various projects throughout the west as a consultant. He was also active in the International Conference of Irrigation and Drainage (ICID).

Mormons For ERA Papers, 1979-1987 (12 linear feet): The Mormons for ERA Papers document the history of this organization of Mormons committed to the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in spite of the opposing stance taken by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The collection is composed of the papers of three women prominent in the organization, Alice Allred Pottmyer, Hazel Davis Rigby, and Maida Rust Withers.

Virginia Hansen Papers, 1920-1978 (5 linear feet): Diaries (1933-1978), correspondence concerning the proposed closing of the Cornish post office in 1953, a scrapbook containing playbills from local theatrical productions (1920-1941), essays, skits, speeches, and newspaper clippings of Virginia Hansen, Cache County librarian and lifetime resident of Cornish, Utah.

Horace Cummings Papers, 1867-1890 (1 linear foot): Letters received by, and account books of, Horace H. Cummings as a Mormon missionary and then President of the Mexican Mission (1885-1887). The bulk of the collection consists of letters written by Cummings's wife, Barbara Mathilda Moses, to him, first, in Cache Valley, Utah, then, later, to him on his mission to Mexico. Other correspondents during the Mexican Mission period include Mormon apostles Erastus Snow and Henry B. Eyring, and fellow missionary Helaman Pratt. Also included is the account book for Cummings's newspaper, the *Logan Leader*, in the 1880s and the Cummings Family accounts for 1867-1890.

CONSERVATION NOTE: You're still microfilming?

By Sarah Talley, Utah State Archives and Records Service

This is a question that is asked with some frequency these days. The public expects rapid access to information and people are often surprised to find that the entire contents of libraries and archives are not being converted to digital formats. Institutions that microfilm are perceived as archaic by some members of the records management community and the public alike.

For the archival community, the answer is obvious: There are long-term preservation problems with current digital information technology. Even if the physical medium on which information is stored is sound, hardware and software necessary for playback may not be. It is important to give a thorough explanation of these issues to people who perhaps don't share our historical perspective, but this can get rather lengthy. A common "sound bite" response to such questions is, "Remember 8-track tapes and Beta video?"

Digital technology offers many options for capture, storage, and access to information and has advantages over microforms in several areas. It provides quick access for multiple users, so it's particularly beneficial for frequently-accessed information. It is important to consider an institution's information needs as a system and then choose which technology or combination of technologies would best serve those needs. It doesn't matter how "modern" or "sexy" an information storage technology is, it can't fix a poor records management program.

Both technologies can be used to their advantage in hybrid systems that use both micrographic and digital technology. Rather than spend a lot of time and money converting thousands of existing microforms to digital formats, an institution can choose to have its most frequently-accessed microforms converted to a digital format. The silver master is kept as a sound preservation/security copy and patrons receive the benefits of quick, distributed access. Some reader-printers have the capability of scanning the microform image so that users can print out a good-quality paper copy, save it to disk, or even fax it.

Another indicator that micrographic technology is thriving is the recent revision of two important publications

on microfilming:

Association of Image and Information Management. ANSI/AIIM MS23-1997 *Practice for Operation Procedures/Inspection and Quality Control of First Generation, Silver-Gelatin Microfilm of Documents*. Chicago: AIIM, (according to AIIM headquarters, the new standard is complete, but they don't know when they'll be publishing it).

Fox, Lisa L., ed. *Preservation Microfilming: A Guide for Librarians and Archivists*. 2nd ed., Chicago: American Library Association, 1996.

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