

Drop! Duck! And Cover!

The phrase “DROP! DUCK! and COVER!” and the fallout shelter were as familiar to 1950s Americans as the television show *I Love Lucy* and the suburban tract home. For all the prosperity of the 1950s, the threat of communism and nuclear attack always loomed close by. Never before had there been so much promise at home but so much danger abroad. The dichotomy of this unique time in American history is the focus of *Cold War: Promise and Fear in the 1950s*, the newest exhibition at the Johnson County Museum of History in Shawnee.

Johnson County’s modern identity was forged during the dangerous years of the early Cold War. Following World War II, Johnson Countians confronted a world polarized between the capitalist “West” vs. the communist “East.” The two remaining superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, struggled for political, economic, and social dominance during the Cold War era. Johnson Countians pursued the good life under the shadow of Soviet communism and the looming threat of nuclear war. The Korean War, the Arms Race, Civil Defense, McCarthyism, and the Eisenhower Presidency are themes discussed in this exhibition.

When the Korean Conflict erupted in 1951, it tested America’s commitment to containing the spread of communism. The United States decided to “draw the line” against Soviet-backed communist expansion in Korea. Americans, under the leadership of President Truman, fought a “limited war” without the use of nuclear weapons and confined to Korea. Johnson Countians initially supported Truman’s decision to enter the war strongly, but as reports of casualties and deaths increased, local support for Truman waned.

At the end of 1953, 756 Johnson County men and women were serving in the Armed Forces; ten men from the county were killed in action during the Korean Conflict. When an armistice was finally signed, North and South Korea remained divided. For many Americans accustomed to victory, the frustrating war was a defeat. However, the goals of the United States were accomplished: communism was contained and the war had remained limited.

After the Korean War, the United States and Soviet Union engaged in an escalating arms race. Fearing that each increase in arms jeopardized national security and upset the world’s balance of power, the two nations built massive arsenals of nuclear missiles and conventional weapons. During the 1950s, the military purchased billions of dollars worth of weapons and technology from private defense contractors every year. This “military industrial complex” kept the nation prepared yet fueled the Cold War. The Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant and the new Nike Hercules nuclear missile base were its manifestations in Johnson County. The Sunflower plant did not close after Korea. Government-owned, but operated by the Hercules Powder Company, Sunflower produced rocket propellants until 1958. During the 1950s and 1960s, the U.S. implemented the Nike system - the world’s first successful, surface-to-air guided missile system - to defend the nation’s cities from Russian bomber aircraft. Gardner, in Johnson County, was home to one of four Nike missile bases built around Kansas City. Together they were designated the 5th Missile Battalion of the Army’s 55th Artillery. The state-of-the-art Nike Hercules missiles at these bases were armed with nuclear warheads and designed to destroy entire formations of incoming Soviet bombers.

The missile is as safe as a well run service station and is as important as the police and fire department....

Colonial Leslie J. Staub, Army Air Defense Command, August 1957

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The Corner Chair by Cynthia Laframboise



I'm sitting in my office on this windy day hoping that our roof won't blow off and trying to concentrate on this column. Our last quarterly meeting was packed thanks to Bryan Culp's publicity efforts and of course the incomparable Jerry Motsinger. It was a bittersweet day to acknowledge Jerry's many contributions to the archives profession and tour the archives and records center that serves as model for county government across the state. My goodness, Jerry knows how to put on a spread! There was enough food to feed a small army. Fortunately, Jerry's services to the community and KCAA will continue along with his next project to assist Johnson County Community College with records management.

We hope to see a big crowd at the annual dinner in Leavenworth. Pam Kontowicz did an outstanding job of dinner arrangements at the historic depot in Leavenworth. We thank her for all her efforts. This should be a wonderful dinner with terrific atmosphere. Please come - it will be quite a treat.

The steering committee is making arrangements for an educational symposium to fulfill our responsibilities with the possibility of several small ones. More on this later and we welcome any ideas - this is truly a group project. Happy Spring!

Preservation Notes by Alan F. Perry

OUR DISASTER MANAGEMENT CASE STUDY

Or, maybe you shouldn't believe everything the contractor says

A sprinkler head blew off at the National Archives and Records Administration's Lee's Summit, Missouri, underground records center early on the morning of Sunday, December 17. Many KCAA members will recall attending the March 2000, quarterly meeting at "The Cave," located in the eastern suburbs of Kansas City.

The facility landlord handled removal of the standing water quickly and efficiently within five hours of the disaster. Over the following month NARA staff, initially assisted by a local damage recovery contractor, successfully identified, and dried approximately 5,100 cubic feet of records affected by the accident. Nearly 2,000 1-cubic foot cartons were wet enough to require breaking and discarding the boxes (initially leaving their contents in place), while about 2,700 less severely affected boxes were dried in place after being turned upside down and backwards. Following an experiment with desiccation drying, the wettest records from broken boxes were removed and spread out in a drying area set up in nearby space, where fans and a dehumidifier accelerated the drying process.

The damage recovery contractor initially provided most of the labor force for breaking and turning boxes; this was the firm's most useful service. The main remedy recommended by the contractor, construction and operation of a "desiccation tent" around the affected stacks, was partially successful at best. The

"tent" consisted of plastic tarps draped over the shelves and stuck to each other with hastily applied duct tape. Warm dry air was pumped into the tent, the theory being that the desiccation units would provide enough forced warm dry air to inflate the tent slightly. This warm dry air would circulate among the broken and turned boxes, absorbing moisture, and then exit the tent through small gaps.

Despite the contractor's assurances, the desiccation approach did not take care of the problem. The equipment provided was not powerful enough to fill such a large space with warm dry air, and additional rented equipment might have required more power than was available. We never did ascertain whether the greater problem was that the contractor had no more equipment, or that hooking up additional rented equipment would require generators or supplementary power lines. In the early days of the experiment, the taped "tent" seams kept coming apart. The wettest records were drying very slowly, and we feared that the (slightly) elevated temperature within the tent would trigger an explosion of mould.

Fortunately, the accident occurred at a time of seasonal low temperature and humidity; before and after the desiccation tent experiment we circulated cool, dry air with rented fans. The cave's dehumidification system helped to keep the temperature and relative

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Every wet records emergency is a singular case; each has its very own baleful character and peculiar problems.

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humidity low enough to discourage mould growth and dry the records more rapidly than the underpowered desiccation process. And with the tent gone, the reference staff could service the records. The facility landlord provided us with a rented dehumidifier unit that included a huge fan. This battered unit, emitting a fearful racket and mounted on trailer wheels, looked as though it had been captured at the German experimental rocket base at Peenemunde at the end of World War II and badly maintained since. But it circulated enough cool, dry air to keep the drying process moving along nicely.

NARA provided reference service on the affected records, mostly veterans' medical records slated for 75-year retention, without interruption throughout the two month drying process.

This impromptu exercise in disaster management taught us that desiccation drying can be expensive, chancy, and (most important!) depends on contractor's ability to call in adequate equipment. You will also need an adequate power supply. A major national firm may be better equipped to deal with a large recovery effort than a smaller local organization. You might also choose to handle things in-house. When the ambient temperature and humidity are both low, and adequate personnel are available, the labor-intensive approach of moving boxes and spreading out records to dry may be the best bet.

Every wet records emergency is a singular case; each has its very own baleful character and peculiar problems. However, we can sometimes learn general principles from experiences such as this one.

Membership Committee Report by Marilyn Burlingame

Membership Report As of April 2001

Since I was unable to attend the March general meeting and submit a report due to a recent broken bone in my right foot (no driving!), I will with this report attempt to bring everyone up to date on the current membership status. Currently the membership stands at 155. With the newsletter exchange of 26, this brings the total mailing number to 181, 19 less than 200 needed to achieve bulk mailing rates. We will continue to fill to 200 with "gift" newsletters to get the bulk-mailing rate (half the first class rate) and still save some money.

The annual membership drive will begin soon after the annual dinner/meeting in June. Please continue to encourage staff at your places of work to join, and please send any ideas of membership solicitation or mailing lists to the membership chair.

Add to your Directory!

Please welcome new members:

Tracy R. Burgess
9834 Shepherds Circle
KCMO 64131-3276
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Jean Bischoff, University of Kansas
Dole Archives
117 Spenser Research Library
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As stated in the last report months ago, sales of *Keeping Your Past* have lagged. Again, if any of you have any ideas of sales contacts, or of any upcoming symposiums or conferences where sales might be a possibility, let me know.

I wish to thank Nancy Piepenbring, new WHMC staff member and new KCAA member, for her assistance in various KCAA membership chores.

Does anybody know the whereabouts of the KCAA seal and the KCAA banner? The last I recall, the seal was here at our office and a committee member borrowed it to use on a KCAA certificate. The banner was used at a mini-workshop or symposium (?) that we held at Oak Park Mall (probably more years ago than I care to remember). In addition, does anyone have some KCAA stationery?

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Welcome back:

Kathleen Neeley, Kansas University
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After detonation of the first Soviet atomic bomb in 1949 the United States Congress created the Federal Civil Defense Administration (FCDA) in 1950. The FCDA coordinated efforts to help people prepare for and survive a nuclear attack. Local civil defense organizations sponsored meetings to educate the public about radiation, home preparation, bomb shelter construction and supply, first aid, fire fighting, and evacuation. Americans were encouraged to prepare themselves for atomic war by building home bomb shelters. The government advised citizens that while millions of Americans would be killed by the heat and blast of a nuclear attack, millions could survive if they protected themselves from radioactive fallout. Local civil defense agencies provided designs for "do-it-yourself" home bomb shelters, while private construction companies commercialized the concept. Bomb shelters ranged from inexpensive "foxhole models" which sold for as little as \$13.00, to more deluxe "suites" that cost as much as \$5,000. A re-created bomb shelter is part of the exhibition. Visitors can look into the shelter to get an idea of the size and the variety of supplies recommended for stocking shelters.

Nearly all organized civil defense programs in Johnson County operated on the premise that because it was so close to Kansas City, as well as home to the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant, the Olathe Naval Air Station, and the Nike missile base, Johnson County could reasonably expect "a bombing attack disaster."

...there is no question in my mind that we will eventually get the A-bomb dropped on us.

Captain James H. Flatley, commanding officer, Olathe Naval Air Station, April 1951

By 1960, civil defense agencies advised that Johnson County could expect a 100 percent death rate if Kansas City were hit. If Richards-Gebaur Air Force base in rural Jackson County, Missouri, were the target, the prediction was 50 percent dead, 35 percent injured, and only 15 percent uninjured.

More than global politics fueled the fight against communism. Convinced that "Reds" were lurking everywhere, ready to undermine the country from within, America became obsessed with identifying and investigating communists, spies, and "security risks." Thousands were falsely accused of being communists by loyalty probes and congressional hearings.

We were among the first targets of virulent McCarthyism.

Paul Brown, Merriam, KS

Cold War: Promise and Fear in the 1950s will be on exhibit at the Johnson County Museum of History from April 7 - December 30, 2001. The Museum of History is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and Sunday from 1:00-4:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Anti-communism influenced the Civil Rights movement in the United States. Often, opponents accused civil rights activists of being communists in hopes of discouraging them. Esther Brown and her husband Paul, of Merriam, were among the first targets of this type of anti-communist intimidation in Johnson County. Esther was involved in the Civil Rights movement and worked to desegregate the South Park Elementary School in Merriam in the late 1940s. As a result of her activities, unknown informants went to the FBI falsely accusing the Browns of disloyalty and associating with communists. Paul Brown was forced to leave his job and the Air Force Reserve pressured him to resign his post because he had "supported and sympathized with unspecified Communist-front organizations." Reproduced copies of the couples' censored FBI files are included in the exhibition. The Browns, innocent of all charges, continued to work for social justice in spite of the accusations against them.

Despite the strife at home, President Dwight D. Eisenhower gave Americans steady leadership during this dangerous era. The folksy "Ike" projected a comforting image of grandfatherly calm, integrity, and self-assurance. Between 1953 and 1961, the former general successfully combined concern for domestic needs with strength in foreign policy. Although Eisenhower was unsuccessful in thawing the Cold War or ending the arms race, the U.S. enjoyed one of the most prosperous decades of the 20th century under his presidency. America liked Ike and so did Johnson Countians. In a county of around 63,000, Eisenhower received a record 29,023 votes in 1952 compared to Adlai Stevenson's 10,960. In his reelection bid in 1956, Johnson County again gave Ike 35,511 votes to Stevenson's 14,185.

The exhibition ends with the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. The struggle between the superpowers continued another 25 years, until the fall of the Berlin Wall and the demise of the Soviet Union marked its end. Some claimed that the Soviet failure proved American superiority and justified four decades of preparedness and containment. But was it really that simple? Ultimately, the conflict ended because the price simply became too high. Faced with trillion-dollar deficits, neglected domestic needs, and diminished positions in the world, both "superpowers" finally chose to move toward a more lasting peace.

Joel Rhodes
Johnson County Museums



Meeting Notes

KCAA Winter Quarterly Meeting Spencer Research Library – University Of Kansas

December 14, 2000

(Corrected Version Approved March 8, 2001)

Deborah Dandridge started the meeting by having the members present introduce themselves. The next item of business was the reports from the Officers and Committee Chairs.

Secretary (Letha Johnson): Corrected Minutes from the Fall Quarterly Meeting will be published in the newsletter; Letha will also bring copies of the minutes to the Spring 2001 meeting. The Spring Quarterly Meeting will be held at the Johnson County Archives in Olathe, Kansas.

Treasurer's Report (Mary Hawkins): Mary reported that the organization has increased its revenue to \$16,000 plus. *Keeping Your Past* sales are at \$204; there are 179 copies that have been paid for. The reports were approved.

Membership Committee (Marilyn Burlingame): The membership stands at 150 members; there were 22 members who did not renew. The new Membership Directory should be mailed around Dec. 15. There was a discussion about making the Membership Directory available on-line; the issue of privacy was raised in response to this.

Publicity Committee (Bryan Culp): Bryan reported on his attempts to build a list of contacts to inform about upcoming meetings and events. He welcomed any suggestions from the membership.

Publication Committee (Pamela Kontowicz): Plans are underway to create additional publicity for *Keeping Your Past*. There is an opportunity for selling more copies at the Kansas Archeology Training Program to be held in Atchison, Kansas this year.

Newsletter (Stan Ingersol/Stuart Hinds/Mary Burtzloff): Information for the next newsletter can still be sent in until Dec. 15; this is Stan's last edition as editor. Stuart Hinds is leading the transition to a new editor.

Awards Committee (Angela Curran): Awards nominations are being accepted. The focus of the Holly Award was discussed.

There were no reports from the Education, Scholarship, and Minority Internship Committees. After reports from the officers and committee chairs were given, discussion turned to the next two meetings and the Spring Symposium.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, Sherry Williams gave a brief history of the Spencer Research Library before the members were given a tour of the facility.

Becky Schulte gave a presentation on the Wilcox Collections and the capturing of political extremist websites.

The employees of the Spencer Research Library were thanked for hosting the Spring Quarterly Meeting, and the meeting adjourned.

KCAA Minority Internship Committee Report

The Internship Committee is now developing a list of institutions interested in hosting the 2001 minority intern this summer. The application announcement will be sent out in April and intern will be selected in May. The intern will then choose among the institutions that have expressed an interest in serving as host.

Minimum requirements for applicants are to be currently enrolled in a two or four-year college program and an interest in the field of history. The internship offers a stipend of \$1500 for 10 weeks, 20 hours per week.

The application announcement sent to your institution will include procedural guidelines outlining the requirements for the host institution and for the intern. Institutions should return the application form and a preliminary plan for internship activities by May 18, 2001. Materials should be sent to Amy L. Williams, Harry S. Truman Library, 500 West US Highway 24, Independence, MO 64050, or amy.williams@nara.gov. Questions may be directed to Amy at (816) 833-1400, ext. 252.

Cleveland Chiropractic College

Ms. Jetta Nash, Archivist for Cleveland Chiropractic College recently presented a paper entitled "D. D's Daughters; The Lost Palmers" at the 21st annual conference for the Association for the History of Chiropractic. It was one of nine papers presented at the conference, which was held in San Jose, CA, on the campus of Palmer College of Chiropractic - West.

One of Ms. Nash's earlier papers, "The Rise and Fall of Basic Science Laws," appeared in a recent issue of *Chiropractic History*, the biannual journal of the Association for the History of Chiropractic. Nash is on the Association's Board of Directors.

Combined Arms Research Library, Fort Leavenworth

The Archives at the Combined Arms Research Library (CARL), Fort Leavenworth has a new staff member. Ms. Pamela Bennett joined the staff of the Special Collections/Archives section in June 2000. She replaced Tim Renick, who left CARL to accept a position as the Director of the Library at Fort Eustis, Virginia. Ms. Bennett was formerly the Head of Reference at the CARL.

The Archives recently made portions of several collections available online. These include the diary of a Kansas soldier in the Philippine Insurrection, 1899-1901, the journal and other papers of a soldier killed when Japan invaded the Philippines at the beginning of World War II, and lectures given at the Command and General Staff School in the early twentieth century. (Among the lecturers were Douglas MacArthur and William "Billy" Mitchell) The online collections can be accessed at:<http://www.cgsc.army.mil/carl/Admin&LibInfo/info.htm#archonline>. A number of finding aids for the collection are also

available at this link. (Submitted by Pamela J. Kontowicz, Librarian/Archivist)

Jackson County Historical Society

Three notable, recent accessions reflect the variety of primary source material available to researchers in the Jackson County Historical Society's Archives:

1) Arthur Young & Company's "Report on Examination" of Jackson County, Missouri, December 31, 1923, is financial assessment of county's operations for the year. One notable tabulation is the "Bounty on Wolves' Scalps."

2) The Papers of Mrs. Horace S. (Georganne) Hedges, 1952-late 1980s, relating primarily to Mrs. Hedges' work as Arrangements Chair for the Host Committee at the 1976 Republican National Convention, which was held at Kemper Arena in Kansas City. Manuscript material is supplemented with artifacts including banners, pins, badges, a large wooden gavel, and a section of the wooden gavel block used at the Convention.

3) The Papers of John Landon and Mary Graham (Minor) Laird, document their careers in the world of theater. Mary Graham "M.G." "Minor's dance career culminated in her work at the Tower Theater in Kansas City, Missouri, where she was (and is) known as one of the "Tower Adorables." Landon Laird, a columnist and theater critic for the *Kansas City Times*, began the "About Town" column, which he wrote for many years. His early career took him to California where he grew acquainted with many Hollywood motion picture stars. The collection consists primarily of photographs, supplemented by scrapbooks, sheet music, and theater programs. If you are interested in contributing to the Society's JOURNAL of historical articles, contact David W. Jackson, Director of Archives and Education

for submission guidelines (djackson@jchs.org). (David W. Jackson, Director of Archives and Education)

Johnson County Archives

The Johnson County Archives hosted the spring quarterly meeting of KCAA. Nancy Hulston and Bob Knecht gave speeches honoring Director Jerry Motzinger, who retired this spring.

Johnson County Historical Society

Rachel Casey has accepted the position of Marketing & Development Officer for the Johnson County Museums. Rachel formerly served as a program manager for the Kauffman Foundation for six years. She began her duties on April 30.

Johnson County Museum of History

The Johnson County Museum of History in Shawnee, Kansas presents the exhibition, *Cold War: Promise and Fear in the 1950s*, from April 7 - December 30, 2001. The Museum of History is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and Sunday from 1:00-4:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Kansas City Public Library

The Special Collections department of the Kansas City Public Library has a new Department Manager. Mary Beveridge joined the department on Feb. 16, 2001, replacing Katherine Long, who retired last November. Mary was previously head of Public Services at the Cowles Library at Drake University, where she worked for the last 12 years. During her tenure at Drake, she worked with the university's Special Collections.

Special Collections recently received the James Hazlett papers, donated by his widow. Dr. Hazlett was superintendent of the Kansas City School District from 1955 to 1969 and participated in the district's early

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desegregation efforts. The collection includes his papers and speeches, photographs, graduate degree thesis and dissertation, correspondence, files on the middle school controversy in the 1960s, and reel-to-reel tapes of talks given primarily in the mid to late 1950s at the teacher's convocations held at the start of the school year. Also included are Dr. Hazlett's topical files on local history. These papers should be useful to those studying the history of the Kansas City School District and the desegregation saga.

The Frank Lauder Autochrome Collection consists of over 1,200 unique color images of homes, gardens, and landmarks throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. Most date from the early 1930s, and they provide a truly captivating and one-of-a-kind view of Kansas City's past. The pictures were created using an early color photographic process called the autochrome. Mr. Lauder, an amateur photographer, used the glass plate slides to illustrate the lectures he frequently presented to local garden clubs. Check out the Special Collections web site, www.kclibrary.org/sc to view these interesting views of Kansas City.

The Liberty Memorial Museum of World War One

Many donors (or their families) have given successive items to the Liberty Memorial since it began its collection in 1920. In 1991, we received a ditty bag for a U.S. soldier, Private Orvill Raymond (O.R.) Hunt, Machine Gun Company, 356th Infantry, 89th Division. A ditty bag, or comfort bag, was usually a drawstring bag produced in the United States to be given to soldiers heading overseas or in hospitals by service organizations such as the American Red Cross. The bags contained items like razors and razor blades, handkerchiefs, candy, matches, and sundry items.

As she went through family

documents recently, O.R. Hunt's niece found a single letter home from Private Hunt to his sister in Missouri. Hunt's division, the 89th, was on occupation duty in Germany on December 18, 1918 when he wrote: "I guess they celebrated [the Armistice] right back of the lines and in the big cities, but up on the front it was quiet after the bugle sounded and we celebrated by taking a snooze. Then we built fires for the first time for light and to warm and dry by. We are going to celebrate when we get home though and may raise the roof." O.R. Hunt returned home from the war and occupation duty. In 1920, he married Edna Cooper in Mexico, Missouri. A newspaper clipping states that Hunt "was in the crash of bloody conflict and was in the last bloody struggle when the Armistice was signed."

The museum archives and library remain open for research by appointment during the restoration of the Liberty Memorial. The telephone number is 816-931-0749 and the email address is staff@libertymemorialmuseum.org. The website is www.libertymemorialmuseum.org. Work on the memorial is progressing at a good pace and the tentative reopening will be around Memorial Day 2002. (Submitted by Doran L. Cart, Museum Curator)

NARA Central Plains Region

NARA's Archival Resources Catalog (ARC) project will be phased in following several pilot implementations expected to begin late this year or early in 2002. ARC will replace NAIL (National Archives Information Locator) as the on-line tool for accessing finding aids and a selection of digitized documents. ARC will use controlled vocabularies drawing on existing authorities. When complete, researchers will be able to find complete NARA finding aids, staff contacts, and information on NARA's functions and services.

This year, the region will accession

several thousand cubic feet of inmate case files from the Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary. The accretion will extend current holdings from 1920 to 1950, the period in which the FBI emerged as the premier Federal police agency.

In February, the Central Plains Region and the Center for the Study of the Korean War co-sponsored a two-day conference on war poetry at Graceland University in Independence, Missouri. Poets and historians from around the country gathered to discuss poetry engendered by warfare from the seventeenth to the twentieth century.

Tim Rives, who facilitated the region's sponsorship of the poetry conference, also wrote the cover article featured in the fall, 2000 issue of *Prologue*, the National Archives quarterly. Tim's article, "Grant, Babcock, and the Whiskey Ring," analyzes an early example of presidential testimony in a criminal trial. The case file, found in the Region's federal court records, contains a deposition signed by President Grant.

The Region will be hosting next year's Missouri Conference on History. Anyone interested in participating in the planning, or in the conference itself, should contact Mark Corrison at (816) 823-5023, or mark.corrison@nara.gov. (Submitted by Alan Perry, Archivist)

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Archives

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Archives participated in the creation of the recently broadcast KCPT series *Uniquely Kansas City*. Images from the collection that were used in the production included photographs of prominent individuals and images of the museum throughout its history.

The Archives continues to work with the various architectural firms involved in the Museum's expansion project. Groundbreaking for the underground parking garage, the first

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phase of the project, took place on Monday, April 2nd. Owing to the construction, Museum parking space is now available at Manor Square in Westport until mid-2002. Shuttle service to and from the Museum will be provided. For more information, please refer to the Museum's website, <http://www.nelson-atkins.org/>. Because of these new conditions, it will be essential for researchers to make appointments at least one week in advance to gain access to the Archives.

Truman Presidential Museum & Library

The Truman Presidential Museum and Library re-opened March 1 with a new look and expanded identity. Last summer, construction began on a \$22.5 million renovation project that will continue into 2002. The facility was closed for major contracting work on September 5 to finalize preparations for the first of three major new additions.

Two special exhibits opened in March: "Portraits of the Presidents" from the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery and "Mount Vernon in Miniature." "Portraits of the Presidents," on display through May 20, features a collection of 61

original paintings, photographs, and sculptures from the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery. "Mount Vernon in Miniature" is a detailed model of the home of the nation's first president, George Washington, in 1/12th scale. It remains on exhibit until September 23.

Along with the temporary exhibits, the initial phase of the renovation includes the re-opening of the Oval Office, the Thomas Hart Benton mural located in the main lobby, and the documentary film, "Harry S. Truman: 1884-1972," produced by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Charles Guggenheim. The Truman gravesites and courtyard, plus a fascinating collection of artifacts and treasures, open later this spring.

Other renovation phases scheduled to open over the next two years:

"Harry S. Truman: The Presidential Years." Summer, 2001. This permanent exhibit will feature interactive decision theaters that engage visitors in the most important decisions of the Truman presidency. "White House Decision Center." Fall, 2001. Designed for school groups, this experiential learning program focuses on major policy issues that faced Truman during his presidency.

"The Life and Times of Harry S. Truman." Spring, 2002. This permanent exhibit features artifacts that tell the story of President Truman before and after his years in the White House.

Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City/UMKC University Archives

The staff of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City and the UMKC University Archives participated in the ceremonies surrounding the opening of the Kansas City Century Box at Union Station on January 1, 2001. David Boutros assisted with removing the objects from the box itself. Marilyn Burlingame, Jennifer Parker, and Nancy Piepenbring placed the items in folders, adding sleeves when necessary, and prepared a preliminary inventory. Items of special interest were read aloud and displayed for the public to view. Later, the 2001 Century Box was filled with messages and artifacts and sealed until 2101. The contents of the 1901 Century Box are maintained by the Kansas City Museum Archives. Materials concerning the 2001 Century Box, including committee records, are maintained by WHMC-KC. (Submitted by Jennifer Parker)

Archives & the Nation: History, Archives, and the Public Interest

SAA and EAD

The Society of American Archivists, in collaboration with the Canadian Council of Archives, announced that it has received funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support reconciling the two principal North American standards for archival description with each other and with a broader international standard. The anticipated final product will be a manual of archival description which reconciles APPM (Archives, Personal Papers and Manuscripts) and RAD (Rules for Archival Description) within the structure of ISAD (G)

(General International Standard Archival Description).

(Susan Fox, SSA, submitted to Archives listserv).

Ellis Island Records Go Online

On April 17, the American Family Immigration History Center launched an online database of Ellis Island passenger arrivals between 1892 and 1924. The site, www.ellislandrecords.org, has been difficult to access due to a high volume of hits, but is well worth the wait for ancestor-hunters. Perhaps the most eagerly awaited genealogical database ever, it should make the jump across the Atlantic much easier

for millions of genealogists

SAA Election Results

SAA Executive Director Susan Fox announced the results of the election for Vice-President, Council, and Nominating Committee on April 23. Vice-President: Peter Hirtle. Council: Danna Bell-Russel, David Haurly, and Megan Sniffin-Marinoff. Nominating Committee: Scott Cline, Kathy Marquis, and Brenda Square.

Nicholson Baker and Double Fold

Novelist and essayist Nicholson Baker's new non-fiction book, *Double Fold*, lambastes preservation

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microfilming and other attempts to preserve the informational content of a record without also preserving the original. Baker's book has drawn favorable reviews in a number of national publications and is the subject of a lengthy review by Richard J. Cox in the current issue of SAA's *Archival Outlook*. His ideas have provoked considerable comment, mostly negative, on the archives listserv.

Opportunities: Employment, Fellowships, Grants

The Kansas State Historical Society has the following position open: **Archivist I – Government Records Archivist**, Position number: K0091913 Division of Library and Archives, Topeka, KS (www.kshs.org). This is a professional position at the Library and Archives Division of the Kansas State Historical Society, which is a state government agency within the state Civil Service system. This position assists state and local government agencies with surveying and scheduling records and appraising records for enduring value. Primary Responsibilities:

- . Provides advice to state and government agencies regarding proper archival and records management procedures and assists them in surveying, scheduling, storing, and microfilming records in order to implement K.S.A. 45-406 and 45-412 to help carry out the responsibilities of the State Records Board;
- . Updates and expands the Kansas State Records Management Manual and the Government Local Records Manual;
- . Appraises records offered to the state archives by state and local government agencies including district courts or included in special disposal requests submitted to the State Records Board by state and local officials;
- . Serves on the divisional appraisal committee;
- . Helps develop and articulates to records users the technical, theoretical, legal, historical, and research issues associated with archival/records management administration of electronic and analog records;
- . Cooperates with the Genealogical Society of Utah's microfilming project;
- . Provides assistance to the state records manager in administering the state records center daily operations and functions when necessary

Secondary Responsibilities:

- . Provides reference service to patrons conducting research in the Center for Historical Research;
- . Serves as the divisional volunteer coordinator

Physical demands require some lifting, carrying boxes of boxes or heavy volumes, often in dirty, dusty or hot or cold conditions.

Qualifications: BA with one year experience minimum; Master of Arts in history, library science, archival administration, political science, public administration, or related field; Must be able to pass KBI background check; Typing skills; Good communication and writing skills; Ability to work independently. **Salary:** Salary grade: 22 - \$13.46 an hour. **To apply:** Open until filled and application review begins May 14th. Interested applicants submit a cover letter, resume, Kansas Employment Summary, college transcripts, and DA 434. Richard Lira Human Resources Director Kansas State Historical Society 6425 SW 6th Ave. Topeka, KS 66615-1099, (785) 272-8681, ext. 207, FAX: (785) 272-8682, <http://www.rlira.kshs.org>.

The Missouri Historical Records Grant Program (MHRGP) is looking for **consultants** to assist subgrantees in one-day, one-week, and two-week consultation projects. Funding for the professional review of records management and/or preservation activities will result in written plans identifying short-term and long-range projects for recipient organizations. Consultants may also aid in the development of collection policies, mission statements, outreach activities, or advise on the particular educational opportunities of greatest benefit to staff or volunteers. The MHRGP was created through a collaborative effort between the state of Missouri and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the grant-awarding arm of the National Archives and Records Administration. The grant program is administered by the Missouri State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, on behalf of the Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board. The program awards financial assistance to help preserve and make accessible Missouri's historical records and promote archival education and cooperation among records keepers. Grants will be given to support training and professional development for staff and volunteers, increased access to records, acquisition of preservation supplies, services, and equipment, and strategic planning and consultation with professionals. Eligible institutions are historic, ethnic and religious societies, museums, libraries, and colleges or universities with records of historic value that are open to the public. The deadline for cycle 1 applications is June 30th. Cycle 1 will begin in early September of 2001. Grant guidelines and application forms are available on-line at <http://mosl.sos.state.mo.us/rec-man/archives/mhrab/guidelines.html> or by contacting Kevin W. Edwards, Grant Administrator, Office of Secretary of State, Missouri State Archives, PO Box 1747, 600 W. Main St., Jefferson City MO 65101, (573) 751-2403, grantprogram@sosmail.state.mo.us.

Pikes Peak Library District, in Colorado Springs, CO, is hiring a **Special Collections Section Manager** to oversee its Local History and Genealogy collections. For more information, please contact Sandy Baum at (719) 531-6333, x 1257,

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or visit Pikes Peak Library District's web site at: <http://library.ppld.org> and click on the "Jobs at PPLD" icon in the lower left corner.

ARCHIVIST

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

(TWO POSITIONS AVAILABLE, AS TWO YEAR TERM APPOINTMENTS)

Because of many recent additions to the archival holdings of the Special Collections Library at the University of Michigan, we are seeking assistance in processing our collections. We wish to hire two trained and enthusiastic archivists, each for a two-year term appointment, to help make these interesting collections available for use and study. The collections consist mainly of papers of noted people active in the fields of literature, dramatic arts, and radical social movements. The Special Collections Library is a unit of the University Library, and includes the University's main collection of rare books as well as notable literary archives and excellent archival collections which supplement our strong subject holdings in radical social movements (the Labadie Collection), literature (the Hopwood Awards archive, the papers of Marge Piercy and Anne Waldman), theatre history, transportation history, and the history of information technology (the ASIS Archive). Please note that the University Archives, as well as notable archives documenting Michigan and U.S. history, are held separately in the Bentley and Clements Libraries on campus. We are committed to building collections with complementary book and archival collections in selected subject areas. We are currently one of the world's leading repositories for the study of radical social movements, and are rapidly expanding in the areas of literary and other cultural collections. **DUTIES:** Under the supervision of the Head of Processing in the Special Collections Library, each Archivist will be responsible for accessioning and processing manuscript and archival collections. Follows national practices and standards approved by the Society of American Archivists. Specifically responsible for performing the following tasks for each collection: assessing the material, writing a workplan, rehousing and physically arranging the collection (including minor preservation work), identifying and recommending more serious preservation needs, producing a finding aid, and working with the supervisor to create a suitable cataloging record. Will work independently at an off-site location. Involves some direction of the work of support staff and student workers. Most of the collections to be processed consist of personal papers, rather than organizational or corporate archives. Special strengths include the working papers of 20th-century writers, correspondence of noted people in the theatre, and assorted archives related to people and organizations working for radical social change. Further details may be found at <http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/humres/VAC-SPEC.htm> after May 1st.

QUALIFICATIONS: **REQUIRED:** ALA-accredited MLS with a concentration in archival studies or an MA in history with an emphasis on archival studies. Experience processing archival collections. Strong organizational skills. Knowledge of accepted American archival arrangement and descriptive practices. Demonstrated ability to work effectively with faculty, students, and staff in a multicultural environment. **DESIRED:** Experience processing archival collections larger than five linear feet. Knowledge of the EAD DTD for archival finding aids. Knowledge of AACR2, APPM, and MARC21 format. Advanced study in a subject area relevant to our collections. Knowledge of at least one non-English European language. **RANK:** Rank is anticipated at Assistant Librarian depending on experience and qualifications. **SALARY & LEAVE:** Final rank and salary dependent on qualifications and experience. (Minimum salary at Assistant Librarian is \$33,500). Professional positions receive 24 working days of vacation a year, 15 days of sick leave a year with provisions for extended benefits.

TO APPLY: Send cover letter & copy of resume to: Lucy Cohen, Library Human Resources; 404 Hatcher Graduate Library North; University of Michigan; Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1205. (Contact 734 764-2546 for further information.)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Applications received by 6/1/01 will be given first consideration. The University of Michigan is a non-discriminatory, affirmative action employer.

Calendar

August 27-September 2

Society of American Archivists 65th Annual Meeting
Washington, D.C.

October 18-20

Midwest Archives Conference Fall Meeting
Indianapolis, IN

A Note from the Editor



Hello, all. Let me introduce myself. I am Mary Burtzloff, an archives specialist at NARA's Central Plains Region in Kansas City. This spring I took over as editor of *The Dusty Shelf*. KCAA owes a profound debt of thanks to Stan Ingersol, who has edited the newsletter for nearly 10 years. Stan is still contributing as copy editor. Dave Boutros, who has handled printing and distribution for a number of years, has graciously undertaken the development of a template in Microsoft Publisher. The template should allow for faster and more flexible layout and printing of the newsletter.

In future issues, we will be adding a section for historic photographs from KCAA member institutions (submission guidelines to be announced) and a "Spotlight" article profiling a member institution. To better manage layout and encourage more uniform submissions, announcements in the MidAmerican Archives column will be limited to 300 words or less. Longer submissions will be edited to fit.

Stan, Dave, and I have been discussing what the newsletter should include and how many times a year it should be published. KCAA members, this is *your* newsletter, please let the editorial team know what you want to see and what you like best. Send your suggestions and comments to me at mary.burtzloff@nara.gov or NARA, 2312 E. Bannister, Kansas City MO 64131, Attn: Mary Burtzloff.



Join the KCAA Listserv

More and more information is coming at us by our computer. This can be a good thing for organizations like KCAA, because it is an easy way to alert members of upcoming events, reminders about deadlines, and share information needed by the Kansas City archival community. For you and your archives, it is a way to broadcast news or to ask the collective wisdom of KCAA for advice.

But the system does not work if you don't subscribe! It is free, and not too painful to do. And we don't send junk mail! (In fact only subscribers can send mail to other subscribers.)

To join simply send the words

SUBSCRIBE KCAA *your name*

as the text of an email message (without a subject in the subject field) to

LISTSERV@LISTSERV.UMKC.EDU

You should immediately receive a confirmation message confirming your subscription and including instructions about various commands you may use with the list.

Postings to the list should be sent to

KCAA@listserv.umkc.edu

Future plans for the listserv include a Web interface and an archive of messages.

Thank you. If you have questions, direct them to Dave Boutros at BoutrosD@umkc.edu or call him at (816) 235-1543.



KANSAS CITY AREA ARCHIVISTS

...Striving to provide an atmosphere of cooperation which will enliven and support the use and availability of historical records.

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Our ability to study and understand the past rests on the availability of historical materials for examination and research. At work throughout the Kansas City region are people dedicated, either through professional responsibilities or personal interest, to making historical materials available for use by identifying, collecting, and preserving the records of our heritage. The **Kansas City Area Archivists**, a local professional association of archivists, manuscript curators, librarians, historians, and others, seeks to unite those individuals interested in the advancement of archival collections in the Kansas City area, and in preserving the documentation of our past.

The Dusty Shelf is published three times a year by Kansas City Area Archivists. We honor exchanges with other organizations.

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Kansas City Area Archivists is a local non-profit organization serving archivists in Eastern Kansas and Western Missouri. Annual membership dues: \$15 individuals, \$25 institutions, \$10 students, \$50 sustaining institution, \$100 supporting institution.

We're on the Web:
www.umkc.edu/KCAA/

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Kansas City Area Archivists