

## Preservation Notes by Alan F. Perry

### WHAT'S BUGGIN' YOU? or How Many of us Remember Banana Gas?

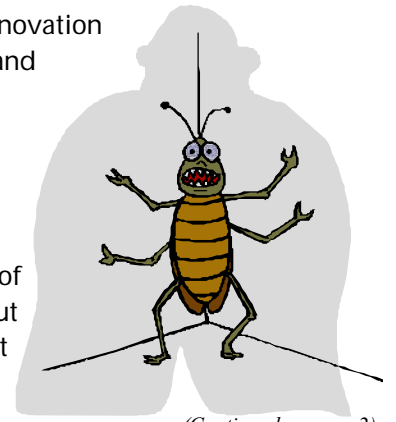
Some of us have been around long enough to recall when ethylene oxide was the standard fumigant for archival collections. A few of us even invested in large and impressive fumigation chambers for the purpose. (Even fewer, I suspect, remember that ethylene oxide was often known as "banana gas" for its effectiveness in doing in tarantulas hiding in Central American fruit shipments. Ah, the folk wisdom of Wise Old Archivists. But I digress.)

That was in the days when chemical fumigation was the standard and widely used method of pest control, either in chambers or by spraying entire stack areas. Today, OSHA has for most practical purposes eliminated use of ethylene oxide and many other chemical fumigants due to their hazards. Good thing, too. So, short of moving your archives to an OSHA-free jurisdiction and risking cancer, what to do?

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the answer.\* While particular applications of IPM will vary from institution to institution, all IPM programs include three basic principles:

- *Prevention:* monitor insect immigration into your domain and restrict immigration as much as is practical.
- *Integration with all building systems:* construction and renovation projects, repairs, food service, landscaping, custodial, and other operations should include a pest management element.
- *Minimal use of chemicals:* utilize only the least-toxic fumigants, and those to be specifically targeted to the specific pest you wish to evict. *No* regular fumigating!

The conscientious archivist will invest the modest amount of money needed to purchase a generous supply of cheap but effective cardboard sticky traps, available from many pest control firms. He or she will then place these little cardboard



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**REMEMBER! Renew your membership.**

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## The Corner Chair by Cynthia Laframboise

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Another quarterly meeting has come and gone. We met on a gorgeous day (March 14<sup>th</sup>) at the Truman Presidential Museum and Library. We owe our thanks to Amy Williams for arranging the tour and refreshments. I am embarrassed to say that I had not been there before - Joe and I meant to visit but never quite made the trip. We toured the archives and saw the new permanent exhibition, *Harry S Truman: The Presidential Years*, which is a thought-provoking interpretation – certainly well worth it if you missed the meeting or have yet to visit the Library .



This is my last chance to make comments as co-chair of KCAA, and I would like to thank Angela Curran for her support and assistance, while I was senior co-chair as she contributed more than I did this past year. I suspect that all of us are feeling the pinch between our professional commitments and our responsibilities at work, but we can accomplish miracles when we work together. Participation by our members will be the key to a successful sponsorship of the MAC conference in May 2003, so contact Dave Boutros and Amy Williams, local arrangements co-chairs, to offer to contribute to the cause.

You can contribute to building a strong organization by offering to serve as a junior co-chair, education co-chair, or by serving on the steering committee. Contact Angela Curran for more information.

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devices, smeared as they are with attractive (if you're a bug) stickum, around points of entry and likely areas of concentration. Monitoring the traps at least monthly, a sometimes stomach-turning but necessary part of IPM, means that you will have a good chance of catching any increase in bug traffic before it becomes a stubborn infestation of such potentially damaging creatures as silverfish. Keep a dependable record of what you find so you will know when the take increases, and will be able to prove it to your boss.

Liberal distribution (and regular monitoring!) of sticky traps should be combined with monthly walkabouts, when a responsible staff member checks for signs of insects or rodents in stack areas and other parts of the building, particularly those where food is stored or consumed. Take steps to seal inviting openings with caulking or weather stripping. Make more substantial repairs if necessary, and tighten up or change custodial service. Thoroughly clean dirty areas, particularly those littered with insect remnants. The cleaning tool of choice is a vacuum cleaner with a narrow nozzle for complete cleaning of those troublesome nooks and crannies. Whenever possible, ensure by means of a careful visual inspection that no bugs are hitchhiking in the boxes of a new accession.

None of this is rocket science, certainly, but it is mighty effective.

Integrating pest management with your "total building system" is tricky, not because it doesn't make sense but because (no surprise here) it is often difficult to persuade architects, engineers, building managers and contractors that archives are a special case. Here the renowned bullheaded persistence of the successful archivist may pay off. You may be able to get a proposed cafeteria moved a bit further from a stack area, ensure that a redesign will not run a drain through your stack, or see that bug-attracting bushes are moved a few feet further from the foundation of a building than the landscape architect really wanted.

Nevertheless, one day you may discover that some accessioned records are infested with powderpost beetles, or that silverfish have decided to move into your stacks. What then?

It helps to have a good book on hand, one that can provide at least a tentative identification of the culprits. Several publications are useful for identification, as well as for additional details on pest management. You might consult J.D. Harmon, *Integrated Pest Management in Museums, Library and Archival Facilities* (Indianapolis: Harmon Preservation Pest Management, 1993), or B. Appelbaum, *Guide to Environmental Protection of Collections* (Madison, Conn.: Sound View Press, 1991). Still, identification by a non-expert is chancy at best. A local pest control firm can usually identify offending insects and provide some (self-interested) opinion on how damaging it is likely to be. Ideally, however, if you can link up with the entomologist at a local university you will be assured of identification and advice both professional and objective.



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Once you know the nature of your problem, then accept the task of eliminating it. You may want to employ a consulting entomologist if you have serious long-term problems. The Entomological Society of America operates the national certification program for Board Certified Entomologists. The society's "Entomology Buyers' Guide" is available through its website at <[www.entsoc.org](http://www.entsoc.org)>.

Another source of information is the EPA, which maintains a website that comes in handy for tracking down further information on IPM and specific chemicals or companies. You can find it at <[www.epa.gov/oppbppd1/PESP/p&s\\_pages](http://www.epa.gov/oppbppd1/PESP/p&s_pages)>. Click on "Partners," under "Members," to find an alphabetical list of firms and agencies that claim to cooperate with the EPA. The site for American Pest Management, the Washington area firm from which we get our sticky traps, is listed there (along with many organizations somewhat less relevant to archivists, such as the California Fresh Carrot Advisory Board).

Once you have selected a contractor, make sure your contract specifies the insects to be killed and the chemicals to be used, and that the people doing the work – not just their supervisor – are state certified. The pesticide used should be the least hazardous chemical that will do the job, preferably a solid, paste, or gel bait, rather than a spray or dust. Insect baits usually feature chemistry (boric acid, for example) that is relatively harmless to large mammals such as archivists. If, on the other hand, rodents are the problem, you'll probably want to go with old-fashioned but very effective snap traps. Poison bait is not the way to go for rodents: rotting mouse carcasses behind your wall will attract insects that otherwise would never stray your way. Spraying and dusting should be restricted to application in cracks, *if used at all*. Do not schedule regular spraying or other treatments, no matter how happy and wealthy this will make your local pest control contractor. Your regularly scheduled procedures should be your inspections and sticky trap maintenance.

Should you identify infested boxes of records that require offsite treatment, be aware that freezing and oxygen deprivation techniques have become increasingly popular recently, and with good reason. Traditional toxic gas chamber fumigation may still have a place in your life, but be aware that this must be handled by a trained professional, and is invariably very expensive. In many cases, museums have more experience in these matters than do archives or even libraries. You might begin your search for information on the local availability of appropriate freezing, oxygen deprivation, or fumigation resources by contacting museum curators.

Practitioners of modern pest control advise you to think of your stack area as a leaky boat in danger of being swamped by vermin. Traditional pest control is merely bailing, while with IPA you set out to repair the leaks. Good advice, that, so go after those leaks.

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\* Much of the information for this article is derived from Nancy L. Breisch & Albert Greene, "Integrated Pest Management," in Rebecca A. Buck & Jean Allman Gilmore (eds.), *The New Museum Registration Methods* (Washington: American Association of Museums, 1998). I recommend it for a more detailed overview of IPM. Miranda Martin, the National Preservation Program Officer of the National Archives and Records Administration, has also provided valuable advice.



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## Calendar

### **July 10-13, 2002**

National Assoc. of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA) Annual Meeting  
Denver, CO

### **August 19-25, 2002**

Society of American Archivists (SAA) Annual Meeting  
Birmingham, AL

### **October 10-12, 2002**

Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) Fall Meeting  
Rapid City, SD

### **November 7-10, 2002**

The American West(s) in Film, Television, and History  
Conference  
Marriott Country Club Plaza, Kansas City, MO

# Meeting Notes

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## KCAA STEERING COMMITTEE WINTER MEETING STEAMBOAT ARABIA MUSEUM – OLATHE, KS DECEMBER 13, 2001

**Members present:** Mary Hawkins, Amy Williams, Mary Burtzloff, Angela Curran, Nancy Sherbert, Cynthia Laframboise, and Letha Johnson.

Junior Co-chair Angela Curran called the meeting to order. The first order of business was Officer and Committee reports.

### Officer and Committee Reports

**Secretary (Letha Johnson):** The secretary presented a draft copy of the minutes from the Fall 2001 meeting, which been completed. Due to the amount of items covered and time constraints the secretary was not able to complete this set of minutes.

Corrections and changes were suggested for the minutes finished so far.

Change in the way the minutes are reviewed.

The treasurer will submit the wording for the explanation of the Treasurer's Report for the minutes.

Officers and Committee Chairs will review the minutes from their section and submit changes to the secretary.

**Treasurer (Mary Hawkins):** Quarterly Report was handed out for review. There were no expenses paid out during the quarter. Income for the quarter was from membership dues. The current balance invested in certificates of deposit is \$10, 668.70

**Education Committee:** Nancy Sherbert will try to contact Greg Kenney about the programs offered by the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC). Still in need of a co-chair for this committee.

**Membership:** Membership statistics – 141 members including 31 institutional members. There are 21 newsletter exchanges for a mailing total of 162. The current editions of the newsletter and the Membership Directory are ready to send to the printer. Work on the directory was slowed due to the fact that some renewal forms were not filled out completely. The renewal form will be revised and the process will be started earlier.

**Society of American Archivists (SAA) Directory:** After the first meeting of each new fiscal year, KCAA needs to provide updated information regarding officers to SAA for inclusion in their directory.

**Minority Internship:** Amy Williams asked to raise the stipend for the internship from \$1500 to \$2000. The amount of the stipend has not been increased since the internship started in 1994. The raise in the stipend was approved. Publicity for this summer's intern will start in January or February. The deadline for applications will be in May.

Possible fundraising activities for the internship were discussed. A silent auction could be held at the Annual Dinner or at a quarterly meeting. Transfer money from the Scholarship Fund. Proceeds from educational programs could go to the fund. This last suggestion was approved by the Steering Committee.

**Newsletter:** The next issue of the newsletter should be mailed out in a week or so. The newsletter will stay at three issues per year. A new column will be added to the newsletter that will profile member institutions.

**Publications:** Still no chair for this committee, however Paul Edwards is interested. Issue was raised over whether or not Edwards is a member.

**Publicity:** Bryan Culp is still the chair of this committee, however he is no longer at the University of Kansas. We are unsure of the future status of chairperson of the committee.

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**Scholarship:** The scholarship fund needs to be better utilized by members. There is the possibility that some of the funds will be transferred to the Minority Internship fund. The suggestion that the fund could possibly be used to defer the costs for students to attend educational programs and half of the cost of attending the 2003 MAC Conference in the Kansas City area was raised. This was approved by the Steering Committee

## **Other Business**

**Future Meetings:** The Spring 2002 meeting will be held at the Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri. Angela Curran will look into Kansas City locations for the 2002 Annual Dinner. Stevenson's Apple Farm was suggested.

## **Old Business**

**2003 MAC Conference:** Amy Williams and Dave Boutros are co-chairing the Local Arrangements Committee. Focus is on a location in the Plaza vicinity.

**Keeping Your Past:** Selling prices approved by Steering Committee

- \$12 if mailed
- \$10 if picked up
- \$8.50 at conferences
- \$8 for members

Opportunity for sales: Missouri Conference on History (Booth is \$50 and includes one meal.) 2003 MAC Conference. Angela thanked Mary Hawkins for arranging the meeting at the Steamboat Arabia and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Letha E. Johnson*

**KCAA SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING  
HARRY S. TRUMAN LIBRARY – INDEPENDENCE, MO.  
MARCH 14, 2002**

Senior Co-chair Cynthia Laframboise called the meeting to order by welcoming those members present.

Amy Williams introduced the director of the Truman Association. He welcomed members and described the renovation project at the Truman Presidential Library and Museum as well as the programs offered by the Truman Association.

The first order of business was Officer and Committee reports.

### **Officer and Committee Reports**

**Secretary (Letha Johnson):** The secretary handed out the minutes from the last meeting. Mary Hawkins noted corrections that needed to be made to the minutes. The minutes were approved pending the corrections.

**Treasurer (Mary Hawkins):** The accounts are in good standing. The expenses for the quarter were slightly more than the income. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

**Minority Internship Committee (Amy Williams):** The application process is underway.

**Membership Committee (Marilyn Burlingame and Nancy Piepenbring):** Membership renewal will start earlier this year – late April or early May. Starting earlier so that the Membership Directory can get out earlier. There will also be a new renewal form that all members need to fill out completely so that the correct information gets put into the directory. The Membership report was approved.

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**Membership Survey:** The secretary asked the members to fill out a survey if they have not done so already. It will also be in the next issue of the newsletter.

**Annual Dinner:** The Annual Dinner will be held at Tuscany Manor, in Lee's Summit, on June 8, 2002.

**Future Meeting Locations:** The senior Co-chair asked for suggestion for locations of future meetings.

**Officer Elections:** Positions currently opened are: Junior Co-chair and Treasurer; Education Co-chair, Publicity Chair, and Awards & Nominations. A request for nominations or suggestions for people to fill these positions was made.

**MAC Conference:** As a whole, KCAA will be more involved with the preparations for the MAC Conference in 2003 once the meeting locations have been finalized. The Senior Co-chair asked that those members interested in helping contact Amy Williams or Dave Boutros.

The meeting was adjourned for tours of the Truman facilities.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Letha E. Johnson*  
Secretary

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## Membership Committee Report by Marilyn Burlingame/Nancy Piepenbring

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KCAA's total membership stands currently at 147, including institutional members. With 22 newsletter exchanges, the mailing list is at 168.

This year the membership renewal and solicitation for new members will start with a mailing in late spring. Hopefully we will have many renewals in by the time of the annual dinner in June. One renewal reminder will be sent during the summer and one email reminder thereafter. New member solicitations will go out in June. We would like for the membership directory to be completed and mailed early in the fall, rather than in December as was the case last year.

The membership forms will be revised with the request that **all** informational lines be completely filled whether you are a new member or a renewing member. A problem that we encountered during production of the last directory was frequently incorrect or incomplete membership information, especially with email addresses.

Welcome to new members: Nancy Davis, Center for Army Lessons Learned, Fort Leavenworth; Judy Sweets, Lawrence, KS; Loren Taylor, Wyandotte County Historical Journal; Sherri Kline Smith, Kansas City Public Library; Justin Dragosani-Brantingham, Kansas State Historical Society; and Michael Oates, UMKC Student. Tricia Miller, Center High School, won the free one-year membership to KCAA at The Missouri Conference on History, April 18-20. An addendum for your directories with additions and corrections is attached to this newsletter.

KCAA members in the news recently include: an article in *The Topeka Capital-Journal*, 2/11/02, describing talks given by Deborah Dandridge on local black history to Topeka high school students; an article in *The Kansas City Star* from the Associated Press, 1/28/02, discussing the move of the papers of Dr. Karl Menninger from the Menninger Clinic campus in Topeka to The Kansas State Historical Society building (the papers have been described as the finest set in the field of psychiatry); and an article in *The Springfield News-Leader*, 1/20/02, celebrating the move of the material on labor union history, collected by Neal Moore, to the Southwest Missouri State University's new Special Collections and Archives facility. This facility is part of the new 29 million dollar renovation of The Duane G. Meyer Library. The Ozarks Labor Union Archives will take up 6000 square feet of space according to archivist, Anne Baker. Larence Larsen, UMKC History Professor Emeritus, was awarded the first ever service award from The Missouri Conference on History April 18-20. This is the first time since 1959, when the organization began, that an individual has been recognized for accomplishments and contributions to the profession.

Again, we're tossing this question out to the collective memory of the membership. **Does anyone know the whereabouts of the KCAA banner and seal?**



# KANSAS CITY AREA ARCHIVISTS

## AWARD OF Excellence

WHEREAS, the Kansas City Area Archivists' Award of Excellence is an annual award which recognizes outstanding contributions to preserving the documentary heritage of the Greater Kansas City area, and

WHEREAS, the **Kansas City Crossroads** series on **NBC 41** has educated and entertained local television viewers on innumerable topics related to the history of the Kansas City area, and

WHEREAS, Jim Swinehart, Vice-President and General Manager of **NBC 41**, provides the overall leadership and continuing support to the **Kansas City Crossroads** series, and

WHEREAS, Richard Eller, Executive Producer, Renee Van Erp, Producer, and Tony Ladesich, Photographer, ensure thorough research, descriptive writing, high production values, and technical excellence in each segment, and

WHEREAS, Bill Kalahurka, Host, brings an engaging style and accessibility to the series' overall presentation, and

WHEREAS, the **Kansas City Crossroads** staff has consistently manifested a spirit of cooperation and joint stewardship of the area's history as they have worked with the local custodians of historical collections, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas City Area Archivists presents its 2002 Award of Excellence to the **Kansas City Crossroads** production team of **NBC 41**, for the contributions cited above, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Award and This Resolution be presented to our **Kansas City Crossroads** colleagues at **NBC 41** and that a copy of this Resolution be filed with the archives of the organization.

Presented at the annual meeting of the Kansas City Area Archivists on the eighth day of June, two thousand and two.



Thanks for bestowing the Award of Excellence to "Kansas City Crossroads" at the Kansas City Area Archivists' annual meeting. It's gratifying to be honored by those who preserve the amazing stories of Kansas City's past. Clearly, because Kansas City's archivists are so good at their jobs and such conscientious guardians of our local history, it makes my job as "Kansas City Crossroads" producer much easier. It's a pleasure to work together with such professionals in helping Kansas Citians understand a little bit more about this place we call home.

We will proudly display our very own "Holly" in the station's lobby, and I look forward to our continuing partnership with Kansas City archivists in telling the stories of my hometown on "Kansas City Crossroads."

Sincerely,

*Renée VanErp*

Writer/Producer

"Kansas City Crossroads"

## **KU Medical Center Archives**

Pearl Johnson, last year's KCAA Minority Intern, has been accepted to the University of Missouri, Kansas City Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program, and has been awarded the Helen Kemper Doctoral Fellowship. Pearl will be majoring in History and Art History. Congratulations and way to go Pearl! *Submitted by Nancy Hulston*

## **Kansas City Public Library, Special Collections**

Sherrie Smith has joined the staff of the Kansas City Public Library in Special Collections.

## **National Auctioneers Museum**

The National Auctioneers Museum received a grant from the Kansas Museums Association for the development of a brochure. The grant was matched by the governing Foundation for the museum. The brochure was professionally designed and it looks great! The museum was the subject of an article in *Antique Week* in February. *Submitted by Lynn M. Ward.*

## **Kansas State Historical Society**

March 15 marked the last day of Ramon Power's tenure as Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society after 14 years. Significant changes occurred during his incumbency, including a major reorganization, the move to the new Center for Historical Research, renovation of the Pottawatomie Baptist Mission, the establishment of the state records center, and completion of the third storage bay of the Center for Historical Research.

The Executive Committee of the Kansas State Historical Society, Inc. conducted a nationwide search for the

new director and three names were submitted to the Governor for his final selection. Unfortunately the new director will confront some of the toughest budget times in recent memory and will face some very difficult decisions. Submitted by Cynthia LaFramboise

KSHS Press Release, March 21: Governor Bill Graves today appointed Mary Allman, Littleton, CO, as Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society. Allman, the Director of the Littleton Historical Museum, will be moving to Kansas and will start in her new position by early June. Mary Allman has served as Director of the Littleton Historical Museum since February, 1998. She administers a 14-acre living history farm and museum complex.

## **Truman Presidential Museum & Library**

The Truman Presidential Museum & Library announced the availability of the "Daily Presidential Appointments Calendar," on its web site, [www.trumanlibrary.org](http://www.trumanlibrary.org). Visitors can search the daily schedules created for President Harry S. Truman during his term of office. The appointments took place while the President was in Washington D. C. and on trips within the United States - appointments and meetings while on semi-vacation and in foreign countries were not usually included.

A typical daily schedule of appointments, coinciding with the actual current date, appears on the web site as an initial introduction for users, who are then invited to view other features. The Daily Presidential Appointments Calendar is searchable both by month and year as well as by

keyword (typically the name of an individual).

The calendar should prove useful for scholarly researchers, the general public interested in the President's daily activities, and individuals or their relatives who actually had appointments with the President. For instance, a search on 1946, a year of considerable labor strife, shows 10 Presidential appointments with John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers. The Truman-Lewis meetings in May of 1946 include eight appointments, sometimes two in a day, culminating with the May 29 settlement of a bitter coal strike.

## **Jackson County Historical Society**

The Society's web page titled, "Jacomo Bookmark: Online History/Educational Sources In and Around Jackson County, Missouri," is proving most helpful to Internet surfers interested in history and education-related web sites. Here are links to historic sites and districts; history and house museums; archives and libraries; businesses and government agencies; historical and genealogical societies; arts and cultural sites and organizations; and historical associations: [www.jchs.org/education/jackomo\\_bookmark.htm](http://www.jchs.org/education/jackomo_bookmark.htm).

A new 12-page booklet produced by the Historical Society addresses basic preservation issues for individuals interested in preserving family heirlooms. The booklet titled, "Practical Preservation: Simple Steps You Can Take to Protect Historic Documents, Photographs and Books," is available at the Society's virtual bookshop: [www.jchs.org](http://www.jchs.org) (click on virtual bookshop).

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Susan Church has joined the Historical Society as the director of the 1859 Jail, Marshal's Home and Museum, located at 217 N Main Street, Independence, Missouri. The Historical Society saved the 1859 Jail from demolition in 1959--the year the building turned 100 years old. Former President Harry S Truman made the first call to begin raising funds for its restoration. Susan was formerly with the National Frontier Trails Center where she served as Education and Special Events Coordinator. Before her accomplishments at the Trails Center, Susan volunteered, served on the board, and directed historical sites including the Carter House and Carnton Plantation, both located in Tennessee. *Submitted by David Jackson.*

### Kansas City Museum/Union Station Kansas City

Josh Fry has joined the staff as a film technician. Josh is a graduate of the KU Film School. Thanks to a grant from the Missouri Historical Records Grant Program, he will work with museum's news film collections over the next year. The grant will allow the museum to process and better preserve its collection of film from WDAF and KMBC. Longtime KCAA member Paul Eisloeffel has been serving as consultant on this project. *Submitted by Denise Morrison.*

### Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia

"When you were in that prisoner of war camp, you had to learn how to get along with people. It taught you the one thing that other than you,

there's somebody else in this world. In fact, I learned an awful lot by being in the prison camp. I learned to appreciate things, and I learned to appreciate my fellow man."

Jack Sites was a ball turret gunner on a B-24 bomber during World War II. His plane was shot down over Albania on July 26, 1944. For the next nine months--the longest nine months of his life--he was a prisoner of war. As a twenty-year old, he suffered and witnessed horrors unfathomable to today's young Americans. Mr. Sites came home from the war physically and emotionally scarred, and "full of hate." Like thousands of fellow ex-POWs, he kept his emotions pent-up long after he resumed a normal life. He was married for five years before he told his wife he was a former POW. Gradually however, he learned to cope with his trauma, and today he believes he is a better person for having endured it. From his office at the Kansas City VA Medical Center, he works tirelessly helping other ex-POWs receive government compensation.

Mr. Sites' narrative is one of more than forty currently available to patrons of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection. The Missouri Ex-POWs Oral History Project is an ongoing effort of the WHMC-Columbia and the State Historical Society of Missouri. The purpose of the project is to record, preserve, and honor the personal histories of men and women who were captured by the enemy in wartime. The collection inventory is available on the World Wide Web:

<http://www.system.missouri.edu/whmc/invent/3975.html>. The project is also linked with the Veterans History Project, a national enterprise sponsored by the American Folklife Center, and the Library of Congress. For more information on the Missouri Ex-POWs Oral History Project, contact Tom Miller at (573) 882-7253 or [MillerThom@umsystem.edu](mailto:MillerThom@umsystem.edu). *Submitted by Tom Miller.*

### NARA's Central Plains Region

Mark Corrison, Reed Whitaker, and Tim Rives took lead roles in planning and coordinating the 44th Annual Missouri Conference on History, which took place at the Marriott Country Club Plaza in Kansas City, Missouri April 18-20. For the first time, the conference included a History Expo open to conference attendees and the general public. The Expo gave local historical organizations an opportunity to promote their resources to the academic community and the public.

After volunteering faithfully for some time, Brian Brown has joined our staff as a contract employee. He will be preparing series descriptions for NARA's Archival Research Catalog. In addition to Brian, Janice Lee will soon be joining our staff as contract employee. She will arrange and describe U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maps housed at our Lee's Summit facility.

The 1930 population census schedules were released to the public on April 1, exactly 72 years after the official date of the census. We opened

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Missouri	219	71	172	Forane	Daughter
				Wallace Madge G	Head H
				Ford W	Son
				Truman Harry S	Son-in-law
				Blair W	Daughter
				Mary M	Daughter
	605	72	173	Wallace George P	Head
				Mary S	Wife - H

Harry Truman and Family, 1930 Federal Population Census. Courtesy of National Archives, RG 29.

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our doors at midnight to accommodate eager patrons. Harry Truman and family are among the area notables who appear. Others include Kansas City Monarchs star Wilbur Rogan, Charlie Parker, Andy Kirk, Bennie Moten, and Tom Pendergast.

### Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City

As part of our *The History Speaks Project: Visions and Voices of Kansas*

### City's Past

<[www.umkc.edu/HistorySpeaks/](http://www.umkc.edu/HistorySpeaks/)> we have video-recorded approximately 125 oral histories covering a range of topics that have had significant impact on the shaping of Kansas City in the period between 1920 - 2000.

Each individual included in this project has been recommended because of the contribution he or she has made to a significant aspect of Kansas City. Broadly, the topics to be covered by this project include stories

of community (e.g. neighborhood, cultural and ethnic groups, religion), stories of place (e.g. architecture, transportation, real estate and development) business and industry, government and politics, women and children, education and, obviously, important historical events.

We plan to do at least another 25 interviews before the end of the year and are looking at ways to extend the project, both in doing additional interviews and programming.

**REMEMBER to renew your membership!**

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

### Anthrax and the Irradiation of Mail

Last fall's anthrax episode has led to the proposed irradiation of U.S. postal mail to kill biological contaminants. While directed at living organisms, irradiation affects a number of materials, including paper, textiles, glass, and organic specimens, and poses potential problems for archivists and museum curators. According to "The effects on research specimens and museum collection items from electron beam irradiation of mail by the US Postal Service," an article produced by the Smithsonian Center for Materials Research and Education (SCMRE), plant fibers and paper will be lost.

Consequences of the planned electron beam irradiation of USPS mail for the mailing of museum and archival collection items Preliminary information suggests that at this time only irradiation of mail, not of packages, is planned, and this may reduce the concerns to a small fraction of all specimen exchange. Should this situation change, and should USPS start to irradiate packages too, it may be more effective to this irradiation. Materials of cellulosic composition, especially plant fibers and paper, will be quite seriously affected. They will lose significant tensile strength and will become more brittle, while the induced chemical changes, chain scission and oxidation, will accelerate their aging processes. Discoloration is also to be expected. Oxidation also will result from interaction with ozone formed in air during the irradiation; while one may expect efficient ventilation at the radiation equipment, ozone also will be formed within the enclosures of the mailed materials, where the

concentration could range in the tens of ppm. Dyestuffs will fade, resulting in fading and color shifts in textiles, stained specimens, and color photographs. The same effect may result in shifts and fading of the natural colors of specimens. Glass can undergo blue/purple discolorations; compromised. Rubber and plastic stoppers of bottles and vials may become somewhat embrittled, but not to an extent of losing the closure of the containers. Magnetic media (floppy disks, zip disks, audio and video tape) will probably lose significant information content. Undeveloped photographic film will be exposed. In view of the above it is strongly suggested that mailing through USPS of vulnerable specimens and collection items, as well as important research information on magnetic media or undeveloped film, be avoided unless it can be arranged for these mailings to be exempted from irradiation. This information has been prepared by the Smithsonian Center for Materials Research and Education (SCMRE) for your information and as a service to the professional community. November 5, 2001

For the full text of the article, see [www.si.edu/scmre/mail\\_irradiation.html](http://www.si.edu/scmre/mail_irradiation.html) or contact Ann N'Gadi, Technical Information Officer, SCMRE, tel. (301) 238-3700 ext 134, fax (301) 238-3709, e-mail [NGadiA@scmre.si.edu](mailto:NGadiA@scmre.si.edu)

websites lead to increased requests for copies of documents. The posting of an order form on the website can expedite the request process for both staff and patrons.

## Opportunities: Employment, Fellowships, Grants

### THE AMERICAN WEST(S) IN FILM, TELEVISION, AND HISTORY

November 7-10, 2002 at the Kansas City Marriott near the historic Country Club Plaza. This conference is sponsored by The Film and History League, *Film & History*, the journal, and by The Historians Film Committee of the American Historical Association.

Send proposals by 15 August to Area Chairs who are listed on the web site: [www.filmandhistory.org](http://www.filmandhistory.org) Featured speaker is John Cawelti, author of *The Six-Gun Mystique* (1971), a pioneering work of popular culture studies and the Western. Cawelti's publisher, Ray B. Browne (of the popular press), will be present to comment on this breakthrough publication and the ripple effects which followed. As one of the Editors of *The Journal of Popular Film and TV*, Jack Nachbar will speak about how he, Mike Marsden, Gary Edgerton, and Sam Grogg carried on the tradition into our own times. (See the web site for the details concerning subject areas and the contact points to go with them.) For questions, contact Peter C. Rollins at [RollinsPC@aol.com](mailto:RollinsPC@aol.com).

### MAC coming to KC in 2003!

Kansas City will host the Spring 2003 meeting of the Midwest Archives Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on April 24th-26th. Amy Williams of the Truman Library and David Boutros, Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City are the MAC Local Arrangement Committee co-chairs. MAC is the nation's largest regional professional association for archivists and its members are drawn predominantly from the twelve heartland states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

If you are interested in working on this project, please contact Amy ([Amy.Williams@nara.gov](mailto:Amy.Williams@nara.gov)) or Dave ([BoutrosD@umkc.edu](mailto:BoutrosD@umkc.edu)).

## The Fifty-Cent Bill



*Courtesy of NARA's Central Plains Region, RG 21*

This counterfeit fractional currency note was submitted as evidence in an 1866 court case heard by the U.S. District Court at Leavenworth, Kansas. According to [www.fractionalnotes.com](http://www.fractionalnotes.com), fractional currency was issued by the U.S. Government from 1862 to 1874, due to a precious metal shortage caused by the Civil War.

## Have An Item You'd Like to Share?

Humorous/unique/poignant photos and scans from your repository are welcomed for future issues. Please include a caption with your submission. Contact the editor regarding size, etc. at [Mary.Burtzloff@nara.gov](mailto:Mary.Burtzloff@nara.gov) or (816) 823-5032.



KANSAS CITY AREA ARCHIVISTS

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

c/o WHMC-KC
302 Newcomb Hall, UMKC
5100 Rockhill Road
Kansas City, MO 64110-2400
(816) 235-1543

Editor
Mary Burtzloff

Preservation Notes Columnist
Alan Perry

Occasional Humor Columnist
Bob Knecht

Layout, Production, and Distribution
David Boutros
Stan Ingersol

Materials for publication should be sent to:
Mary Burtzloff, National Archives-Central Plains Region
2312 East Bannister Road
Kansas City, MO 64131-3011
(816) 823-5032, FAX: (816) 926-6235
or e-mail: Mary.Burtzloff@nara.gov.

Memberships and address changes should be sent to:
Marilyn Burlingame, UMKC Archives
5100 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO 64110-2499
(816) 235-1539, or e-mail BurlingameM@umkc.edu

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.

KCAA OFFICERS

Co-Chairs

Angela Curran
(Archives for Family Practice)
(913) 906-6000 x4420
Acurran@aafp.org

Mary Hawkins
(University of Kansas)
(913) 864-4274
MHawkins@ku.edu

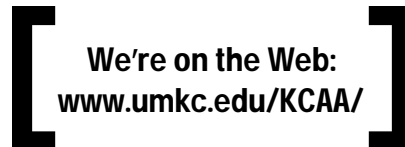
Secretary

Letha Johnson
(Kansas State Historical Society)
(785) 272-8681 x515
LJohnson@kshs.org

Treasurer

Jean Bischoff
(Dole Archives, KU)
(785) 864-2033
Bischoff@ku.edu

Kansas City Area Archivists is a local non-profit organization serving archivists in Eastern Kansas and Western Missouri. Annual membership dues: \$15 individuals, \$30 institutions, \$10 students, \$50 sustaining institution, \$100 supporting institution.



University of Missouri-Kansas City
5100 Rockhill Road
Kansas City, MO 64110-2499

REMEMBER to renew your membership!



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