

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARCHIVIST

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The 1976 flood in the Big Thompson Canyon west of Loveland, Colorado, wiped out a road, damaged dozens of homes, and took the lives of 144 people. It is the state's worst natural disaster in terms of loss of life. From the Albertson Papers. Courtesy of the Water Resources Archive, Colorado State University Libraries. The Fall 2013 SRMA meeting is all about water, see page 11 for more details.

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Notes from the President



Four years ago I moved back to Colorado after working in “upstate” New York for four years. Living in a wood-heated former trading post at the junction of two dirt roads, about thirty miles south of Woodstock in the post 9-11 era, all the talk was about living off the grid. We would all live locally.

Living local is a new mantra. In a lot of ways it’s just realistic. We’re seeing it manifested in many different ways, including in our own profession. It seems that fewer and fewer of us have the resources to attend national conferences. Local conferences are becoming a much more important way for us to pursue professional development and networking.

The CIMA/SRMA conference in Salt Lake City, as well as the CWAM/SRMA conference in Golden, were both very enjoyable. In both cases it was a great opportunity to get together with local regional colleagues and share information. And both were within reasonable price ranges, so in addition to me attending them I was able to take my entire archives staff to Salt Lake too.

In the last few years SAA has also embraced the importance of regional archival associations. As your President I will be representing SRMA at the SAA/Regionals Summit at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans, where I will lobby on behalf of SRMA and the other regionals for more support.

I’ve been a member of a number of regional archival organizations throughout my career. In the Catskills I participated in the New England Archivists and MARAC. Long before that, in Chicago, I was active in the Midwest Archivists. Now, in addition to SRMA, I’m also a member of the Society of Southwest Archivists. The fact is that living in Southern Colorado I’m actually closer to them than I am to our SRMA colleagues in Wyoming.

So I’d like to encourage more participation from SRMA members in our neighboring regional organizations. It was quite refreshing to see what CIMA is doing, and I’m also interested in getting to a Southwest Archivists conference, and maybe going back to visit my MAC friends soon.

The fact is that SRMA is a fairly small regional, but we border states in other regionals that could bring us interesting input, and vice-versa. Just as I am closer to New Mexico than I am to Wyoming, Kansas and Nebraska are closer to us than they are to their MAC colleagues in Chicago, and SRMA also shares borders with Utah, Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, and Oklahoma.

I would like to suggest that SRMA’s entire membership can be ambassadors for the organization and would like to encourage all of you to consider becoming a member of one of our neighboring regionals. By doing so not only will you open up additional inexpensive professional opportunities for yourself, but you’ll also offer needed support to other regionals and help bring more attention to SRMA. The goal is to foster reciprocal relationships with our neighboring regionals.

And in May, 2015, don’t forget that SRMA will be hosting the Western Roundup “Super Regional” in Denver. We’ve got a committee working on that and will pass on more information as we have it.

Finally, for those of you who will make your way to SAA in New Orleans this year, I’d like to organize some SRMA social activities there. If you’d like to be included just send me an email to let me know. I can be found at tim.hawkins@steelworks.us

-Tim Hawkins, Bessemer Historical Society/CF&I Archives

Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists/Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums Meeting

Editor's Note: The following three reports were written by SRMA scholarship recipients to the joint Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists/Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums meeting.

Jay Boyle, Pueblo City County Library District

Thanks to the generous one day scholarship I received from SRMA, I was able to attend the Friday session of the CWAM conference this past April. The Friday session was particularly appealing to me this year because of Alison Salutz and April Legg's presentation "Not All History is Happy" on displays and exhibits concerning difficult to tell stories, from the slightly unpleasant to the completely appalling.

It is an unfortunate fact that some of the most significant events in our history are the result of war, conflict, natural disaster, or other terrible events. This upcoming year is the 100th anniversary of the Ludlow Massacre, one of the most violent and pivotal labor clashes in United States history. Official reports vary, but anywhere from over 50 to 200 deaths resulted as the Colorado National Guard stormed a striking mining camp, followed by over a week of what was essentially guerilla warfare near Trinidad, Colorado. The fighting only ceased when President Woodrow Wilson sent federal troops to intercede. The fact that women and children, including mothers and their infants were among the victims, makes this a particularly painful story to relate.

As this is such an important part of Southern Colorado history in particular, the Infozone Museum at the Pueblo City County Library District's Rawlings Library will feature as its primary exhibit a display on the Ludlow Massacre this spring. Hopefully, the experiences shared by not only the presenters but also the attendees of the "Not All History is Happy" breakout session will help our department create a dynamic and informative exhibit that accurately represents the details of the Ludlow Massacre without allowing the challenging subject matter to deter potential supporters.

While these difficult and sometimes tragic events may not offer much opportunity for a lighthearted, cheerful exhibit, there is opportunity to stimulate emotions of empathy and inspiration. History Colorado used this approach effectively with exhibits on both the Japanese-American World War II Amache relocation camp as well as Lincoln Hills, a popular vacation retreat for African-Americans when segregation was still an everyday part of American life. For the exhibit staff was able to offer more than just a collection of images and artifacts and were able to recreate some of the environment and experiences of these two settings. The Amache exhibit, for example, included a sample of what few items the camp population would have been able to bring with them. The old suitcase contained not only necessities but personal items such as family photos and correspondence. These types of items help to connect with patrons and establish a "me factor" that allows that valuable empathetic connection.

Our hope here at the Special Collections and Museum Services department at the Rawlings Library in Pueblo is to create a similar experience for our patrons. The events of the Ludlow Massacre, tragic though they are, offer an opportunity for patrons to reflect on the conflicts, sacrifices, and daily struggles that were such an integral part of industrial work, both across the globe, and in Colorado in particular, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Colorado Fuel and Iron, though a fraction of its former size, is still a connected part of the Pueblo community, and there still exists a connection in southern Colorado between those early miners and factory workers not only to current workers, but additionally to the many current Colorado residents who had family members working in similar conditions and fighting for the same rights as the Ludlow miners. From our collections we hope to use both imagery and artifacts relating not only to the events of Ludlow itself, but also that reflect the conditions and circumstances that led to such a dreadful event.

Thanks again to SRMA, CWAM, Alison Salutz, April Legg, all the presenters and all the attendees that made my Friday at the conference so entertaining, educational, and (of course) fun! Be sure to come down this spring and check out our Ludlow exhibit or any time you are in Pueblo stop by the Rawlings Library and visit us in the Special Collections department and at the Infozone Museum.

SRMA/CWAM continued from page 3 . . .

Ashley Houston, Fort Collins Museum of Discovery

The opportunity to attend this year's CWAM/SRMA conference was a fun and informative one. I was able to attend a wide range of sessions; each offering great information on various topics. I started with the workshop session: "The Exhibit Space..." While there I got to refresh my skills with applying vinyl and other useful carpentry skills. That evening it was great to go to the progressive reception where not only was the food great, but also having the chance to meet so many new people. I am still fairly new to the fields of both museums and archives, which is why I had really wanted to go to this conference. I believe the opportunity to network and learn what other institutions are out there is very important. The amount of museums and archival institutions out there surprised me.

The second day I went to the session "Connecting communities to collections: An in-depth look at the role of archives and libraries in museums." This session intrigued me because I work in a museum with an archive and I have always felt the two were very similar. I learned in the session, however, that our different "upbringings" or the way we learned one of the two professions, can actually create lack of understanding of the other one. Being able to grasp the subtle differences in a coworker's background is very important for learning how to effectively work with him or her. I know I will take this information with me in whichever job I have next and try to keep what I learned there in mind. Later that evening was the banquet and auction. I was able to catch up with old acquaintances then and have the time to catch up with a neighboring institution. From that meet up, I learned about a short two week job opportunity and ended up working a few weeks later. I felt very fortunate to have that opportunity and it wouldn't have been possible without the time to network with peers at this conference! The auction was also great and I wish I had known a little more about it because so many people brought things from their own institutions to auction off. It was a very material way for me to learn a little bit about what each museum or archival institution has to offer in the way of exhibits, local history, etc.

The last day, I attended a workshop put on by the Clyfford Still Museum. They gave me great ideas on how to make collections more accessible to the public and how to get them interested and aware of the importance of collections. I felt this was some of the best information I received at the conference because we all have the problem of connecting the public with our institution's collections, whether it be museum or archives. In the evening that day, I attended the session put on by History Colorado that spoke of their long moving process. I helped with part of it, but learning about the entire process was very informative. This was especially true and relevant because the museum I work at is currently moving over their collections.

All in all, I felt very fortunate to have been able to attend this conference. Meeting new people, catching up with ones I hadn't talked to in years, and getting ideas about how I can implement some of these topics into my own career was a priceless experience.

Ellen Kalwarovski, University of Colorado-Denver

Last summer, after writing a paper on digital preservation for a research class, I began wondering what avenue I should travel once I completed my degree in Environmental Science. My experience at the 2013 SRMA/CWAM meeting in April gave me plenty to think about. Upon entering the meeting hall, I was excited at the prospect of conversing with members already employed in archives and museums so that I could better decide my future. I knew immediately that I was in the perfect place to gain a perspective on such an important decision.

Though my current program of study isn't closely related to library work, I became interested in archival subjects when I began working at Auraria Special Collections two years ago. During this time, my supervisor, Rosemary Evetts has shown so much enthusiasm for her work that it is hard resist the draw of library work. Her talent of finding resources for me when I show the slightest interest in any aspect of the library (as a true librarian would) has developed a sincere desire in me to explore a career in Archives. Through her support, I have been fortunate enough to attend previous SRMA meetings, which have given me a fuller picture of the field.

I was therefore thrilled to get the news that I had a scholarship to attend the annual conference in April. After I got settled in my hotel and made my way over to the Mountaineering Center, I found that the presentations provided me another opportunity to discover if I was serious about getting my MLIS. Specifically, I was struck by the innovation that can . . .

Kalwarovski continued from page 4 . . .

be achieved in Archives. For example, I attended a presentation on Google Earth Saturday morning given by Douglass county archivists, Shaun Boyd and Adam Speirs, and Allaina Wallace, librarian and analog data archivist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center. Their idea to use a familiar tool (Google Earth) to make a visual record of history was something that I could see being useful in my future career and as an asset to those already in the field. I felt that any library could easily incorporate this as a project in their own program because it had many applications. I was doubly invested as an earth science student because they explained that Google earth can be used as a record keeping tool to illustrate climate change.

After enjoying several other presentations that pricked my curiosity, I was able to take a walk around the city of Golden, visit some of the museums, and spend time getting to know archivists, museum curators, and graduate students. I benefitted tremendously from being able to ask questions to SRMA/CWAM members that had varying outlooks on the profession they love. They offered much appreciated advice and related the reasons that they chose to work in archives and how they got there. By networking with these individuals, I learned that unexpected opportunities often arise.

Since the beginning of June, I have been interning at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder under the supervision of Kate Legg. Though I did not meet Kate at the SRMA meeting, I met people that connected me to her. Right away, she gave me a small processing assignment (Climate and Global Dynamics Division collection) that has already advanced my understanding of processing workflow. I have gained insights on archival standards, and I have grown in the way I approach organizational techniques in this context. By learning from Kate and being in a different work environment, I have been able to reflect on my progress as an assistant in archives.

Based on my experience at the annual SRMA/CWAM conference and the events thereafter, I feel that I now have enough information to say that I will be joining the archiving profession when I am in a position to. I didn't anticipate the events that followed the conference or the direction I would take, but I couldn't be happier with the outcome.

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The 2014 Certified Archivist examination will be held August 13 in Phoenix (AZ), Albany (NY), Madison (WI), Tuscaloosa (AL) and Washington (DC) -- and wherever 5 or more candidates wish to take it.

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The application deadline is May 15, so don't wait!



Have You Renewed?

Please consider renewing your membership in the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists for 2013!

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Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists/Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists Meeting

Editor's Note: The following four reports were written by SRMA scholarship recipients to the joint Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists/Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists meeting.

Linda Meyer, Colorado State University

SRMA's joint meeting with the Conference of Intermountain Archivists, held in Salt Lake City at the end of May, provided a rich variety of interesting speakers and topics. Among others, I found myself drawn to a session describing archival experiences similar to those at my own institution. This session, "Creating and Transitioning Academic Archives in Utah," offered the perspectives of academic archivists at Utah Valley University and Dixie State University.

Catherine McIntyre of the George Sutherland Archives at Utah Valley University (UVU) started her presentation by touching on the history of the institution, which began its existence as the Central Utah Vocational School in 1941 and went through 5 name changes and numerous partnerships in its evolution from a vocational school for "rough characters" to a full-fledged university. McIntyre described the three major sources of the school's original archives: campus publications (including early school yearbooks and pamphlets), special collections, and the Wilson W. Sorensen Collection (1946-1978). I was especially interested in her statement that the archives began with history professors who found boxes of early photos and other documents of the school in Sorensen's old office, since the university archives of my own institution also began with the efforts of a dedicated history professor. In addition, as at Colorado State, the history department of UVU offered an archives class which provided opportunities for numerous history graduate students to pursue careers in archives.

The process for the development of the Utah Valley University archives involved the creation of a mission and scope statement and the employment of a history librarian (a history major with an MLS) to manage the collections. Similar to Colorado State, the archives of UVU expanded through the addition of papers from retired faculty, publications from various departments, and class ledgers. These materials were supplemented by oral history collections (among them, interviews of World War II veterans and Utah peace activists) and folklore collections from professors on campus. Also, like Colorado State and many other academic institutions in the region, UVU began digitizing their materials in 2005 and became part of an online consortium; in this case, the Mountain West Digital Library.

Amber D'Ambrosio and Amanda Reeve from Dixie State University chose the humorous title, "Growing Pains: Transitioning a College Hoard into a University Archives" for their presentation. They described the transformation of their archives from a pile of boxes in a closet to a true archival repository. Five years ago, a librarian was given responsibility for the archives with the assistance of two volunteers: an elderly historian and an MLS student. At that time, the repository had no mission statement or policies, and only limited records of accessions.

D'Ambrosio arrived last year when the librarian retired, and found a drawer full of donor letters for books and archival collections. She began assessing the collections, instituting accession numbers to put in Archivists' Toolkit, and then developed the repository's mission and policies (for example, putting an end to the practice of photocopying articles from published materials to put in the archives).

The repository benefitted greatly from an opportunity to move from its old location (890 square feet in a back room) to an area more than four times larger, with space for a reading room, workroom, shelving, and digitization lab. The expanded space allowed simultaneous projects and provided room for another archives assistant and some work study students. The larger space also encouraged donations from faculty and staff, who began cleaning out their offices and bringing historical materials to the archives. Although the archives remains underfunded, donors of large collections now provide funds to process them.

The Archives and Special Collections department of Colorado State University also moved upstairs to more spacious, renovated section of the library in 1997 (fortuitously, just a few months prior to the flood that totally inundated. . .

Meyer & SRMA/CIMA continued from page 6 . . .

the basement). In addition to sparing the archives from watery ruin, the move provided space for additional collections as well as students and staff to process them.

Listening to this session, I found it helpful to note the similarities and differences among academic archives, to note the progress made and learn from the experiences of the archivists. The other sessions of the conference were similarly educational, and it was wonderful to mingle with our colleagues on the other side of the great divide, if only for a few days. I'm looking forward to meeting with many of them again in Denver, at Western Roundup 2015!

Rachael Dreyer, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming

I was delighted to learn that I'd been selected as a recipient of a 2013 Annual Meeting Scholarship! I was especially grateful to receive the news because I had volunteered to present at the conference and was wondering how I would finance the trip. So, it was extremely welcome news that I'd been selected as a scholarship recipient. This was actually my first experience with presenting at an archives conference; as part of a panel titled "Onward and Outward: Online Outreach Strategies for Archives," I talked about the AHC's "Name the Tribble Contest," our primary activity for American Archives Month in October of 2012. Our panel discussed various strategies and lessons learned regarding online outreach efforts, and seemed to be well attended. My co-panelists were excellent collaborators, and we worked well together, our individual portions of the panel addressing different but connected facets of outreach efforts. I truly enjoyed viewing the conference from a presenter's perspective; CIMA and SRMA members were so warm and attentive that I wasn't intimidated at all and will definitely return for a repeat performance, albeit on a different topic. My fellow presenters shared such interesting ideas--I learned some new social media outreach strategies and have been contemplating how I might best implement them into what I'm already doing. It was also heartening to hear that other institutions experience many of the same challenges as the AHC when it comes to social media and outreach work--fostering meaningful connections with researchers, donors, and the average internet surfer can be difficult. When these connections don't seem to scratch the surface or move forward into deeper inquiry and exchange, it can be disheartening. And you know what else? I even learned something from my co-presenting colleague, Jamie Greene! Though we often talk at work, we don't often delve into the specifics of what we do daily. Listening to Jamie talk about an MPLP approach to digitization here at the AHC was fascinating.

I also have to hand it to the conference organizers--they were so receptive to all of my questions! As the person who proposed our panel, I fielded questions from my co-presenters and in turn, inquired of the conference organizers. Everyone was quick to reply or to forward my question to the best person to answer it. I really appreciated the quick turnaround and I know that my fellow panelists did, too!

In addition to participating on a conference panel, I also thoroughly enjoyed the other sessions that I attended. Some of the projects and techniques with which other institutions conduct their archival business could be implemented easily at my own institution, while others were simply fascinating, as well as inspiring, to learn about. Another highlight of the conference was the reception at the Fort Douglas Officers' Club. Robert Kirby was an entertaining speaker and had just about everyone laughing at point or another.

Thank you, SRMA, for making my conference experience not just possible, but informative and enjoyable as well.

Shannon Walker, Thunderbird School of Global Management

I recently applied for, and received, a SRMA scholarship to attend the CIMA/SRMA conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. I had a great time, the weather was nice and the scenery was beautiful! Of course, one of the highlights of the conference was the opportunity to meet Archivists from all over the Rocky Mountain region. The other high point of the conference was the opportunity to attend informative and enlightening presentations. One that especially appealed to me was entitled, "**Creating and Transitioning Academic Archives in Utah.**" The presenters were from two small schools in Utah, Dixie State University and Utah Valley State College. Both institutions grew from boxes of collections stored in "closets" for many years to recently created formal "Archives."

The history of the Archives at my institution is very similar to those at Dixie State University and Utah Valley State. . .

Walker & SRMA/CIMA continued from page 7 . . .



Shannon Walker in Salt Lake City. Photo courtesy Shannon Walker.

College. I am currently the Archivist at Thunderbird School of Global Management. The School was founded in 1946, originally known as the American Institute for Foreign Trade. The mission of the school has always been to train men and women as international business managers. The School campus is an historic site, built as a training airfield for the Army Air Corps. On these grounds thousands of American, British and Chinese pilots received primary pilot training during World War II. The School has maintained and uses many of the buildings original to the airfield including the Control Tower, Barracks, Administrative Building and Hangars. In fact, at present the Archives are located in the last remaining Hangar building (there were originally four). In addition, the Control Tower now houses the ThunderShop (retail store), conference rooms and a Pub.

As the only Archivist on campus, I get to maintain the history of the school and its historic buildings. Until 2010, when I was hired, our collections were kept in five small rooms (“closets”), loosely organized with very limited access.

The School was fortunate to have had several part-time Archives assistant over the years, all of whom did a great job of collecting materials and creating databases for accessions and photographs. I have had the opportunity to build on their foundation, which has involved moving the materials to a climate controlled space, creating exhibits of materials, and completing digitization projects that give the Archives an online presence (@ the Arizona Memory Project: <http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/cdm/contributor?colln=tgmhistcollsite>, and YouTube videos: <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL19BF488DD9F10EED>). With the help of Archivist’s Toolkit, we are now able to publish Finding Aids for several collections and hope to have these online in the coming months. It is a lot of work for one person but it makes every day interesting. So you can see how important the opportunity to attend a conference can be for me, in order to meet others in my field and find out how they have tackled, or are tackling, the same issues I wrestle with every day!

Other sessions I enjoyed during the conference included:

Onward and Outward: Online Outreach Strategies for Archives

The Well-Rounded Archivist in your Mid-career: How do you do it all and what have you learned?

Ensuring Objectivity During the Archival Life Cycle

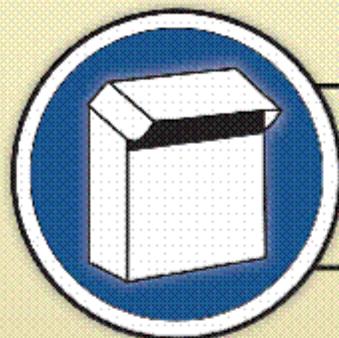
Collections, Collecting and Collaborating

Overall, hearing the experiences of others reassured me I have been making similar decisions (and mistakes) in selecting, organizing, processing and bringing our collections to light. It was a great conference and I enjoyed meeting with other Archivists, who were very friendly. I am very grateful for the opportunity to attend, thank you SRMA!

Staci Comden, Bessemer Historical Society

While at the joint CIMA/SRMA conference, I was able to join two of the tours arranged for attendees. I am glad to have made the trip to Salt Lake City for the conference itself, but these tours were definitely highlights for me. As “book-ends” to my conference experience, the tours of the LDS Church History Library and the University of Utah Special Collections were definitely worth arranging travel plans to accommodate.

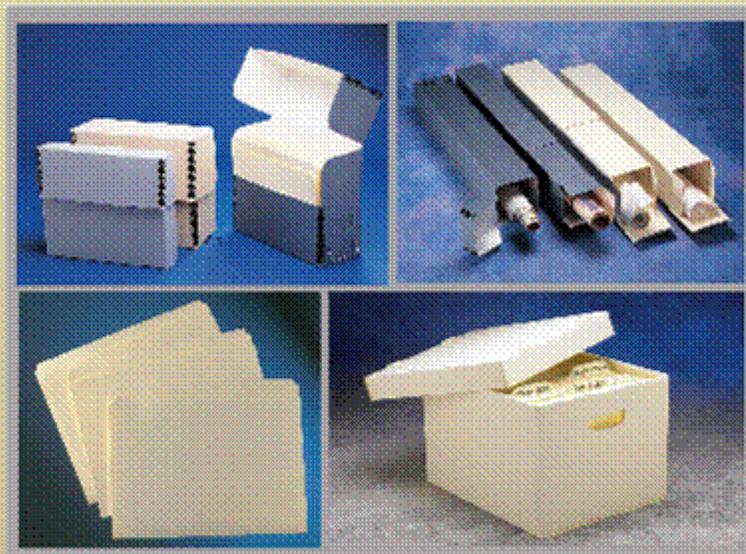
By arriving early on Wednesday, I was able to join the LDS Church History Library tour. While touring, it was evident to all of us that the Mormon Church highly values the records of their past. The building which houses the collections was erected four years ago and brought together many parts of the church’s historical documents that had formerly been scattered and housed in different locations. It was explained that this building was constructed as “two side-by-side structures” which consist of a front portion, holding public spaces and offices on each floor, and a back or parallel portion, constructed to withstand earthquakes and properly house collections. The tour started at the top floor in the conservation lab where we were shown a great workspace with a lot of equipment for conservation work. Three of the four full-time conservators were present to discuss the facility and their duties to the collections. We were then taken to the main storage area . . .



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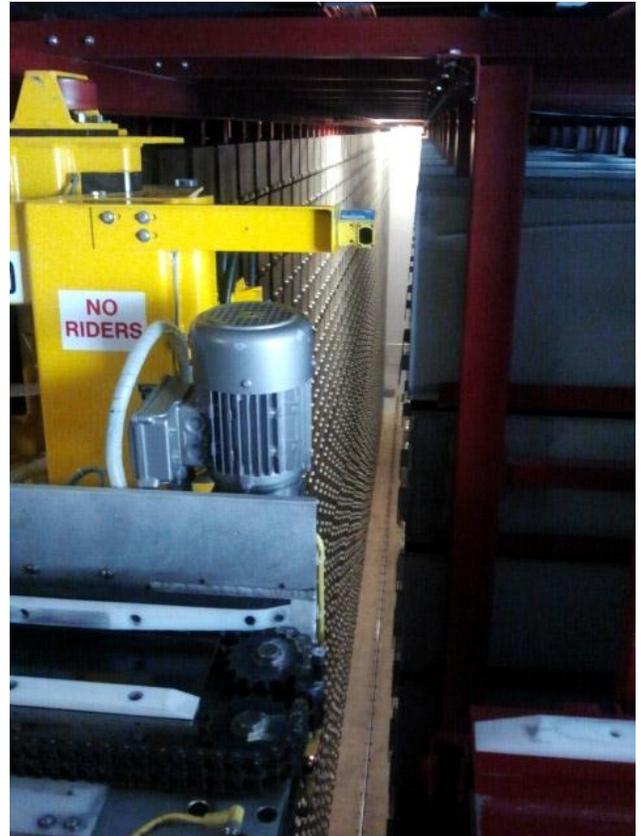
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Comden continued from page 8 . . .

vault with precise climate control and “earthquake-proof” rooms. We also saw the deep storage vaults, kept at a balmy -4 degrees with constantly automated mobile shelving so that the tracks aren’t able to freeze up. The last portion of the tour covered the AV area where we were shown the software and equipment that the staff uses to digitize and clean up audio recordings from the collection. At the close of the tour we were led back to the public reading room where a cased exhibit of special collections is displayed and rotated out. While a beautiful and impressive space, the most interesting parts for those of us on the tour were surely behind the scenes.

The final facility tour offered at the conference was at the University of Utah Special Collections in the Marriott Library. This structure, in a similar fashion to the LDS Church History Library, has many new features that were installed with preservation and access in mind. The library, while not a brand new building, was recently gutted and rebuilt from the inside out with an emphasis on earthquake collapse prevention. We began the tour in the Book Arts Studio, which we were told is greatly expanded from the space that it occupied before renovation. We then got to tour the new top-of-the-line storage for special collections and rare books. After a walk through the larger manuscripts processing area, we headed toward the multimedia archives. It includes a beautiful new reading room and a large storage area for the collection. The reading room was currently showcasing an exhibit on river running collections at the University and had some very interesting artifacts and photographs on the topic. This tour was concluded with a visit to the Automated Retrieval Center or ARC. Library and archives staff retrieves materials through an automated system that activates a “robot”. A robotic retrieval arm lifts metal boxes from one of several long, three-story tall corridors of shelves. Staff can then find items within when the box is moved to the retrieval area on an end cap. The ARC was a quintessential example of the sheer magnitude of collections within the archives and larger library holdings. It is also an impressive showcase of the remodeling of a facility with space saving measures and feasible expansion of collections in mind.

My experience with the University of Utah Special Collections and Church History Library tours made me reconsider the view that I am often guilty of: that tours are peripheral when considering the point of a conference. The facilities were both impressive and interesting to see. At any future conferences I attend, I will definitely be making all possible accommodations to join tours that are offered.



ARC at the University of Utah Marriott Library. Photo courtesy Sara Szakaly.



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Volunteer Opportunities

Processing Archivists and Catalogers of 2-D materials needed. The City of Greeley Museums archives is needing help in processing a large backlog of archival collections. Training is provided. You do not need experience, just interest! Please contact Caroline Blackburn, Archivist at 970-350-9219 or caroline.blackburn@greeleygov.com

Are you looking for volunteers? Are you looking to volunteer your services?

If you have any archives related volunteer experiences coming up please submit them to Caroline Blackburn, SRMA electronic Resources Manager (srmaerm@srmarchivists.org) to be placed on the website.

Society of American Archivists Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the Scholarship Winners!

Adam Speirs of Douglas County Libraries and Nicole Blechynden of the University of Colorado Boulder are the recipients of the SRMA scholarship to the 2013 Joint Annual Meeting of CoSA & SAA in New Orleans!

SRMA looks forward to hearing about their experiences when they return. The SRMA Scholarship Committee would like to thank all those who submitted an application, there were several worthy applicants.

- SRMA Scholarship Committee (Patty Rettig, Melissa Gurney and James Boyle)

Save the Date!

What's With Water?

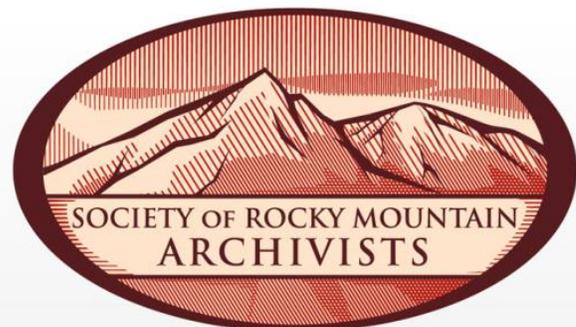
SRMA Fall Meeting
September 20, 2013
CSU Fort Collins

SRMA's Fall Meeting "What's With Water?" will be held at CSU in Fort Collins on September 20th. As the meeting's title implies, we are going to be focusing on water in the archives, including water records, researching water collections and water disasters in the archives.

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Here are our rates:

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- ◆ Business card (3 1/2" wide x 2" tall) = \$50



Conversation About Conversion

~Cyns Nelson, Oral History Task Force

The recent CWAM/SRMA spring conference featured a day of oral-history workshops. Mary Larson, president of the national Oral History Association, led complementary sessions geared toward community interviews—preparing and training for a project, defining purpose, organizing the work, and sharing the results.

Planning for the sessions came under the purview of the Oral History Task Force, which is charged with confirming the interest in, need for, and feasibility of a regional oral-history association that would include Wyoming and Colorado. SRMA covered expenses associated with the workshops, and profits will seed the formation of a regional if/when it is deemed to be a sustainable enterprise.

In tandem, the oral-history sessions drew 35 participants from a wide range of institutional settings with disparate objectives for the narrative process. Numbers demonstrate a persistent interest in oral history and its educational opportunities. The Oral History Task Force will use feedback from these initial workshops to steer planning for future programs, thinking about factors that contribute to library and museum projects. We are eager to receive feedback, thoughts, and ideas from the SRMA community. Task Force goals are explorative, and our decisions rely on the community's thoughtful contributions. Please, share your thoughts!

Contact Kate Legg (Klegg@ucar.edu) or Cyns Nelson (Cynsnelson@voicepreserve.org), co-chairs of the OH Task Force

Workshops for Genealogists

Dear Friends:

The National Archives and Records Administration at Denver is offering two workshops for genealogists in August.

The workshops will be held in the training room of our facility at 17101 Huron Street, Broomfield, Colorado, 80023. The classes are free but you need to sign up for them by emailing denver.archives@nara.gov or by calling 303-604-4740. Please include your name, phone number and what sessions you'd like. Workshops are limited to 45 people each.

Tuesday, August 13, 2013

9:00AM to 11:00AM, "*Introduction to Genealogy: Using Federal Records to Find Your Family History*," by Ed Wilson, Archives Technician.

1:00PM to 3:00PM, "*Location, Location, Location: Land Records at NARA's Denver Region*," by Rick Martinez, Archives Specialist.

Since we are now located at our new location in Broomfield, you can find us listed on Google Maps but not necessarily on other mapping services. If coming from Denver, head north on I-25 and take Exit 229 (Lafayette-Brighton). At the stop light on top of the ramp, turn left on what is Highway 7, cross over the interstate and make the first right turn (about 1/8th of a mile down). Unfortunately, there is no sign on Highway 7 for our Huron Street facility but look for the large blue/white building to the north-west. If you go past the Children's Hospital (on the right), you've gone too far.

Note: there are two Huron Street signs. Turn on the one going north of Huron Street and not the one going south.

Eileen Bolger
Regional Archives Director
(303) 604-4749
eileen.bolger@nara.gov

2013 Best Practices Exchange

Save the date/call for papers announcement:

The Utah State Archives and Records Service invites you to attend this year's Best Practices Exchange Conference in **Salt Lake City November 13-15, 2013**. This year's theme is "Innovation and Creativity in the Digital World." The event will be held at the Radisson Hotel Salt Lake City/Downtown. The conference registration form and links to visitor information can be found on the Best Practices Exchange web page (<http://www.bpexchange.org/>). BPE is an online community for librarians, archivists, records managers and other information professionals dedicated to managing digital information primarily in state government. Anyone with an interest in digital preservation is welcome.

Do you have new techniques you'd like to share? Have you developed a tool that can assist the effort? Have you learned from a failure and are willing to share the details with others?

Anyone with an idea for a presentation should submit a session proposal by **September 1, 2013**. Categories for sessions include the following:

Access: Legal and ethical issues affecting access; technology that improves access to records, or assists with redaction

Sustainability: Digital preservation and access in a time of scarce resources; turning grant projects into permanent programs; planning for an unknown future; improving skill sets of existing staff; the economics of data storage

Collaboration and Community: Crossing professional boundaries; finding unexpected partners; building new communities and partnerships; fostering leadership

Technology and Innovation: Real-world digital preservation projects; practical technology (practical tools and services being explored/developed by participants); tech trends (cloud computing, information technology consolidation, digital forensics, etc.)

Black Forest Fire – Evacuation of Western Museum of Mining and Industry Archives

~Mary Rupp, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs and Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, US Air Force Academy

On June 13, the Western Museum of Mining and Industry (WMMI) archives were in the mandatory evacuation zone of the Black Forest fire. Among the significant collections in an off-site environmentally controlled storage area were the mining papers of Winfield Scott Stratton --over 400 ledgers, 100 bankers' boxes of documents, and 2200 maps. Leah Davis Witherow and Matt Mayberry from the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum rallied their staff and organized a rapid move out of the building. Meanwhile, Carl Stewart and Leslie Williams of the Colorado Cultural and Historic Resources Alliance (CCAHR) were monitoring the situation and contacting other possible resources. Because they had contacted Mary Elizabeth Ruwell at the Air Force Academy, she was able to get an Air Force truck to bring the materials back when the fire danger was over. With the help of Mary Rupp and volunteers from UCCS, as well as some Air Force Academy staff and cadets, the archives was moved back to WMMI. Rick Sauers, Museum Director at WMMI since last October, is still sorting and reshelving the papers, but he and everyone concerned are delighted that they are safe and sound.

Colorado State University Water Resources Archive digitizes 43,000+ Water History Documents

~Patricia Rettig, Water Resources Archives, Colorado State University

100+ years of Colorado water history added to the web by massive digitization project

Fort Collins, Colo. – June 4, 2013 – More than 43,000 pages of primary source materials related to water use and history in Colorado are now freely available online. The Colorado State University Water Resources Archive recently scanned and posted the items that include reports, images, oral histories and data thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). This is the fourth such grant from the CWCB to the Archive.

The unique project took just under a year to complete and added material from 15 previously undigitized collections and 24 total collections to the Archive's online offerings. Scanned materials relate to today's water issues, and include groundwater research and administration, snow hydrology, agricultural water use, the 1976 Big Thompson flood and early water leaders. Digitization also preserved more than 200 rare glass plate images of Colorado and several thousand slides of dams and waterways in the western United States.

Patrons can browse documents or find specific items with simple keyword searches on the Archive's website, <http://lib.colostate.edu/archives/water/>. Online access to archival materials is intended to aid those without the time or money to travel to Fort Collins to view documents but who want to educate themselves about water.

Some highlights from the recently digitized materials include 41 oral history interviews from survivors and emergency responders of the 1976 Big Thompson flood, USGS Civil Engineer Robert Glover's diaries from 1923 to 1984, and data and reports from Colorado's portion of the 1979-1981 six-state High Plains-Ogallala Aquifer study. Those interested in Colorado history will also find 79 images of farms, towns and mountains in the 1890s from the Delph Carpenter collection particularly fascinating.

The Water Resources Archive, part of the University Libraries, is Colorado's only repository dedicated specifically to preserving the history of water in the state and the American West. Most of the documents in the Archive are unique and unavailable elsewhere. Holdings, contained in nearly 2,000 boxes, cover more than a century of water history and provide access to the studies, debates and legislative deals that have shaped Colorado's water legacy.



Visit the SRMA Trading Post at
<http://www.cafepress.com/srma>

Colorado's 10 Most Significant Artifacts Campaign

Colorado turns 135 years old on August 1. To celebrate Colorado Day and to acknowledge our state's most important artifacts, nominations are being accepted for Colorado's 10 Most Significant Artifacts award.

The story of Colorado is preserved in the artifacts cared for in archives, libraries, museums, and historical societies. Nominate a significant artifact from your institution's collections and help highlighting the role that artifacts play in Colorado's history.

Who is eligible to submit a nomination?

Colorado collecting organizations that are open to the public may nominate an item from their collections. The individual nominator must be affiliated with the institution that owns the artifact.

What is an artifact?

An artifact is defined as an artistic or historic item (or related group of items) and may include a wide variety of items such as:

Documents

Books

Photographs

Recordings

Artwork

3 dimensional items

Other

Note: Buildings and structures are not included.

How many submissions are allowed?

A collecting organization may nominate ONE artifact or a related group of objects.

Artifact election and voting process

A panel of professionals who have historical knowledge and expertise with Colorado's cultural institutions will review nominations to identify 15-20 artifacts meeting significance criteria.

Online voting will be open to the general public in November of this year. The Honorees will be announced at the beginning of 2014.

Learn more

Colorado Connecting to Collections, www.collectioncare.auraria.edu

Dana Echohawk, Project Manager, 303-556-5818, dana.echohawk@ucdenver.edu

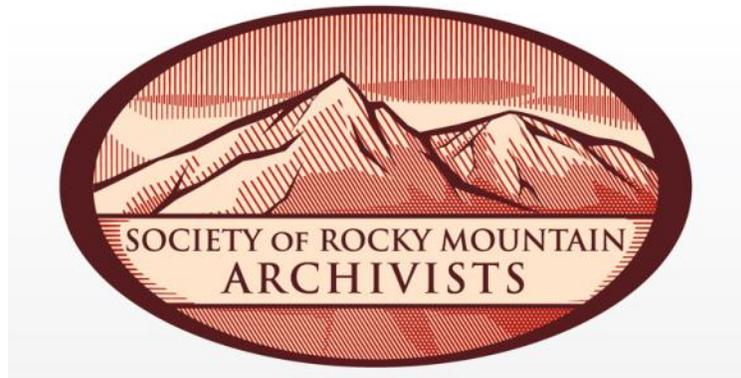
Environmental Monitoring Kits

Colorado Connecting to Collections has Environmental Monitoring Kits (EMK) for loan.

Each kit includes:

- PEM2 easy-to-use temperature and humidity logger
- Designed for use by cultural institutions.
- No user setup or installation of software is required.
- Data may be downloaded to your computer and accessed as a spreadsheet or text document.
- Analyze data and create detailed reports and graphs at www.eClimateNotebook.com
- Canon PowerShot camera

To learn more and submit a request to borrow a kit for either a one or three month period of time, please see our website: <http://collectioncare.auraria.edu/programs/environmental-monitoring-loaner-kits>



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Membership Information & Benefits

SRMA membership is drawn from regular and volunteer staff of archives, historical societies, museums, businesses, government agencies, libraries, colleges and universities, religious institutions and other persons who are concerned with the identification and care of information that documents the history of our region. Individual membership is open to any interested person. Institutional memberships are welcome and encouraged.

SRMA membership facilitates the exchange of archival knowledge and assistance. It advances the interests of

individual archivists and of the archival profession. Members automatically receive the SRMA newsletter, membership directory, regional archives directory, and informational materials. The Society also has an editorial board for the publication of occasional papers. We invite you to complete the membership application form located on the SRMA website to enhance your personal career developments and to further the cause of the archival profession in the Rocky Mountain region.