

EASY ACCESS



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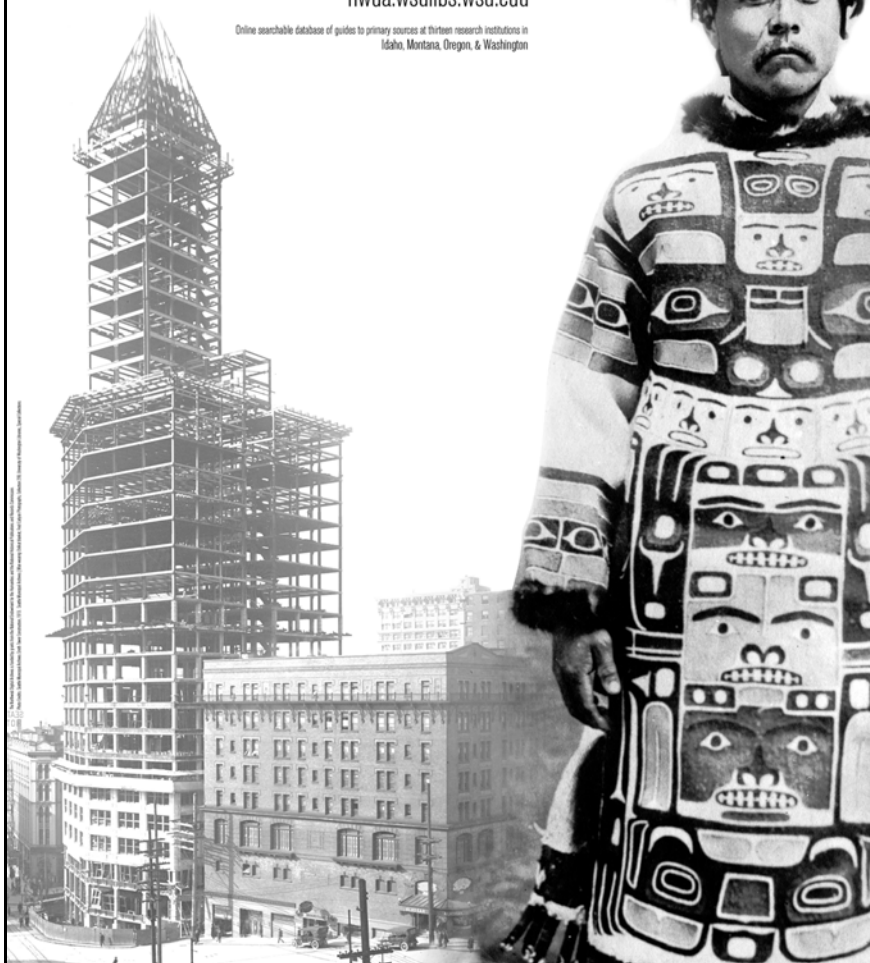
March 2005

DISCOVER THE SOURCES OF NORTHWEST HISTORY

Northwest Digital Archives

nwda.wsulibs.wsu.edu

Online searchable database of guides to primary sources at thirteen research institutions in
Idaho, Montana, Oregon, & Washington



IN-DEPTH LOOK: Northwest Digital Archives

To mark the successful completion of its first NEH grant, this issue is dedicated to an examination of the Northwest Digital Archives. See the series of four articles beginning on Page 3.



A poster used to promote the NWDA

President's Message

Lately, it seems that whenever I peruse an archival journal, newsletter, or even a newspaper, I am reminded of the difficult challenges facing archivists today. Observers and practitioners of our profession have consistently advised us to adopt a more pro-active approach in our efforts to reach our users. We are also encouraged to garner the support of those who control the financial resources needed to sustain the archival endeavor. If we fail, we risk being left behind on the information super-highway. This warning has permeated the archival literature for more than two decades and can be summed up in three overlapping themes.

First, we must learn to incorporate the marketing principles developed in the business world to become a more customer oriented profession. To accomplish this goal, we must improve our relationship with our users through the services we offer, while providing a product that increases awareness of the value of archives and the archival profession. Second, and tangential to the first point, we must be vigilant about advocating for the archival profession, especially in the communities we serve and in our interactions with those who allocate resources. And finally, rapid development of information technology is the driving force behind this rethinking of the profession. As a result, it is crucial that archivists remain current with the evolution of information technology. Since the only constant is change, this effort will involve a significant commitment to continuing education.

Regional organizations such as Northwest Archivists play a crucial role in addressing the themes outlined above. I believe that Northwest Archivists and its membership have made great strides in the last few years. We have established an Advocacy Committee that consolidates relevant information in our region. The Committee has been active on a number of national issues including the Weinstein nomination and the budget cuts threatening NHPRC. Outreach is another means of advocacy, and we've produced a brochure that will increase awareness of our organization and the opportunities it provides for our members. We are in the final stages of the Directory

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Northwest Digital Archives (NWDA): A Regional Collaborative Project

—Elizabeth Nielsen, NWDA Consortium Manager (Oregon State University)

The Northwest Digital Archives (NWDA) provides enhanced access to archival and manuscript materials in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington through a union database of Encoded Archival Description (EAD) finding aids available online at nwda.wsulibs.wsu.edu.

NWDA grew from initial discussions held at the 2000 Northwest Archivists annual meeting in Bel-
lingham, Washington where EAD training was offered for the first time in this region. In early 2001, archivists met following the Online Northwest Conference and agreed to seek grant funds for establishment of the consortium with Oregon State University as the lead institution and Washington State University as the host site for the finding aids database. The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded \$350,000 and the NWDA was officially launched in July 2002. Grant funds supported training, encoding by a contract vendor and staff at participating institutions, hardware and software infrastructure, programming, travel, and dissemination activities. These direct funds were matched by \$745,000 of cost-share support provided by the participating institutions.

The consortium includes 16 repositories at 13 institutions in the 4-state region.

In Idaho:

University of Idaho Library

In Montana:

Montana Historical Society Archives
University of Montana, Maureen & Mike
Mansfield Library

In Oregon:

Oregon Historical Society Research Library
Oregon State University Libraries,
University Archives

Oregon State University Libraries, Special
Collections
University of Oregon Libraries

In Washington:

Pacific Lutheran University
Seattle Municipal Archives
University of Washington Libraries
Washington State Archives, Main, Central,
and Northwest Branches
Washington State University Libraries
Western Washington University, Center for
Pacific Northwest Studies
Whitworth College

In addition to nine academic institutions (large public research universities as well as smaller regional colleges), the consortium includes a state archives and regional archival repositories in Washington; a municipal archives (Seattle); and two statewide historical societies (Montana and Oregon).

As of early March 2005, the NWDA database includes 2362 finding aids. While this number is a small fraction of the collections held by these repositories, these finding aids represent many of the largest and most regionally significant collections documenting the political, cultural and natural history of the Northwest region.

The NWDA database reflects the importance of natural resources in the Northwest with large numbers of finding aids pertaining to these topics: Agriculture (204); Environmental Conditions (75); Fisheries and Wildlife (34); Forestry and Forest Products (74); Irrigation (37); Logging (49); and Mines and Mineral Resources (216).

Cultural diversity is represented by collections pertaining to African Americans (15), Chinese Ameri-

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(Continued from page 3) NWDA: A Regional Collaborative Project:

cans (8), Civil Rights (39); Japanese Americans (32); Jewish Americans (7); Mexican Americans (4); and Native Americans (138). Women are documented in 208 collections.

Eruptive activity at Mt. St. Helens in the fall of 2004 sparked interest in the catastrophic eruption almost 25 years earlier. A search of the NWDA database yields finding aids for 15 collections at eight repositories for materials pertaining to the 1980 Mount St. Helens eruption and its effects. These include moving images at 2 repositories; photographs and research records at 6 academic institutions, and the papers of Governor Dixy Lee Ray at the Washington State Archives.

Strong collaborative partnerships have formed among individuals and institutions during the past five years which form a strong foundation for future collaborative projects and have become a model for other regional consortia

The NWDA consortium will expand during phase II to add six new institutions; a minimum of 1600 finding aids will be added to the NWDA database representing collections held by 17 institutions (6 new and 11 continuing). In addition to vendor encoding, training, and dissemination activities, a long-term business plan will be developed. The NWDA will also be exploring with the Online Archive of California (OAC) the joint creation of tools and a union search interface across consortia.

NWDA: Accomplishments and Lessons Learned

—Lawrence A. Landis, NWDA Consortium Director (Oregon State University)

NEH funding for the establishment (Phase I) of the NWDA began on July 1, 2002; work began in earnest in September 2002. Over the next 30 months, archivists at the thirteen NWDA institutions made it a reality. Noteworthy accomplishments included:

Project meetings -- The implementation team met with Robin Chandler of the Online Archive of California in April 2002, before Phase I formally started. Project directors met twice yearly, in the spring and fall of 2003 and 2004.

Training -- The SAA EAD workshop was held at the University of Washington in September 2002; fourteen attendees from seven NWDA institutions participated. Several representatives from NWDA institutions attended the SAA Style Sheets workshop in Olympia in May 2004. This workshop was not NWDA sponsored, but many consortium members received grant funding to attend.

Working groups -- Several working groups were established during Phase I: best practices, style sheets, data conversion, search interface, Web interface, compliance, usability testing and dissemi-

nation.

Web site -- Site redesigned in late 2002, and again in May 2004.

Best practices -- Version 1.0 was adopted January 2003 and version 2.0 in January 2004. Compliance reviews of sample finding aids from most institutions were completed in March and August 2004.

Style sheets -- Development of style sheets began in spring 2003 at Western Washington University and continued through May 2004 by a contract programmer. Style sheet refinements were made by staff at NWDA member institutions into December 2004. A print style sheet was developed at OSU and made available in December 2004.

Vendor encoding of finding aids -- A data conversion contract was developed with ArchProteus of Vancouver, B.C., in June 2003. ArchProteus completed conversion of 700 finding aids in December 2003.

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4) NWDA Accomplishments and Lessons Learned:

Database -- Sample encoded finding aids were submitted to WSU for testing of search and retrieval software packages. In May 2003, the consortium agreed to purchase Ixiaoft's Textml search and retrieval software. A developmental database site was launched during fall 2003, and by May 2004 included 375 completed finding aids. Extensive usability testing was conducted from July to October 2004, and several changes to the database were made as a result. The database went public in October 2004 with approximately 1,800 finding aids. On December 31, 2004, the database contained 2,264 finding aids. As of March 1, 2005, it contained 2,362 finding aids.

Dissemination -- The NWDA has promoted the database at several meetings to a cross section of librarians, archivists, other information technology professionals, historians, and other potential users. Consortium members presented or distributed information at the Oregon Library Association (April 2003 & April 2004); Pacific Northwest Historians (April 2003); Northwest Archivists/Society of California Archivists (April 2003); Association of Records Managers and Administrators -- Oregon Chapter (October 2003); NWA/Pacific Northwest Historians (May 2004); Online Northwest (February 2004); the National Council on Public History/American Society for Environmental History joint meeting (March 2004); the Society of American Archivists (August 2004); the Western History Association (October 2004); and the Western Literature Association (October 2004).

In achieving the accomplishments enumerated above during the NWDA's Phase I, participants learned a number of lessons:

In order to provide the NWDA consortium director and manager with additional support, the NWDA project directors formed an executive committee in September 2003. The committee includes five institutional project directors and the consortium director and manager as ex-officio. One of the pro-

ject directors was selected to serve as the executive committee chair. This model was successful in providing the NWDA with management support and getting major decisions made in a timely and efficient manner.

Completion of the style sheets was considerably more involved and difficult than expected. Development of the style sheets began with a working group but quickly became the responsibility of a programmer at one of the member institutions. After the programmer had done as much as she could, the executive committee decided to have an outside contractor complete the style sheets. Uncommitted grant funds were identified to pay for this service. Refinements to the style sheets continued through the remainder of Phase I.

Revision of the best practices during fall 2003 resulted in many institutions needing to make changes to completed finding aids. NWDA participants at WSU, OSU and the University of Washington developed scripts to make global changes to finding aids to bring them in compliance with the revised best practices. This might have been avoided by having an additional face-to-face meeting after the working group's initial meeting.

Project directors' conference calls, although a cost effective means of communication, were not a particularly effective means of communication among this large a group nor a substitute for face to face meeting time. During the second year of Phase I, the project directors decided to meet as a group in person in the fall of 2003 and 2004, in addition to the scheduled meetings at the Northwest Archivists conferences in the spring. Almost all institutions were represented at the fall meetings in Pullman, Washington; much was accomplished during one and a half days, making the meetings a success and worth the investment in travel funds.

The best lesson of all, though, was the reaffirmation that we all work with a talented and dedicated group of archives colleagues in the Northwest.



Northwest Archives Processing Initiative (NWAPI): Finding Aids Worth Searching

—Jodi Allison-Bunnell, NWAPI Consortium Director (University of Montana)

Researchers Rarely Search on the Keyword “miscellaneous.”

Almost any archivist confronts this problem every day: “legacy” finding aids that do not adequately or correctly describe their collections. They were produced anywhere from five to fifty years ago and reflect a different reality for archives of the time: a small, specialized research audience of academic historians; an expectation of extensive reference interviews with archivists who carried a great deal of information about their collections in their heads; and low or no expectations for standardized description of archival collections before extensive automation. At some repositories, processing was done by volunteers, students, or staff without adequate training.

The result: older finding aids with inconsistent or nonexistent information; little or no recognition of women or minority groups that are of interest to contemporary researchers; and long lists of boxes described only as “miscellaneous.” These all make automation less useful than it could be, or even a waste of time.

These finding aids leave any archivist with a dilemma: turn your attention to revising existing finding aids, or to processing new collections? Most institutions lack the staff to do both.

When the Northwest Digital Archives project was conceived and developed in spring 2001, project participants recognized the need not only to encode finding aids and develop a searchable database, but to deal with legacy finding aid content. Six institutions participating in NWDA—Pacific Lutheran University, Whitworth College, Oregon Historical Society, Montana Historical Society, University of Montana, and the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies at Western Washington University—decided to approach the National Historical Publi-

cations and Records Commission to fund finding aid improvement.

The grant, submitted in October 2001 and received in April 2002, funded processing staff, archival supplies, and a descriptive standards consultant to create a regional finding aid standard that would be compatible with NWDA Best Practices. Brad Cole of Northern Arizona University (and now of Utah State University) served as Descriptive Standards Consultant for the project. Todd Welch and Sharon Howe were Consortium Co-Directors until Todd’s departure for Northern Arizona University in 2003, when Jodi Allison-Bunnell took on that role for the remainder of the project. Kerstin Ringdal served as Project Director, responsible for project finances. The total project budget was \$247,014: \$72,063 from NHPRC, and \$174,951 in cost share.

The project, completed in December 2004, has contributed immeasurably to good archival access in the Northwest. Participating institutions have completed 692 collections measuring over 6042.6 linear feet. While the project did not meet its goal of 880 collections, it exceeded its goal of 4300 linear feet by more than 1700 linear feet. At many institutions, this means that the largest, most complex collections were completed first; these are often the most difficult ones to address without additional staff. Most finding aids from the project have been added, or are in the process of being added, to the NWDA database. The regional finding aid standard helped to shape the stylesheet and presentation of NWDA finding aids. The majority of the collections completed also have MARC records in local catalogs and in at least one of the major bibliographic utilities—OCLC, RLIN, or NUCMC.

Participating institutions were able to reveal the presence of women and minorities in collections, describe still and moving image collections for the

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6) NWAPI:

first time, and make their way through massive collections of architectural drawings and business records. Several participating institutions reported significant increases in their research use; with the search function of the NWDA database, this can only increase. And the project provided a valuable training opportunity for several students in Western Washington University's Archives and Records Management graduate program.

Last, the project has helped project participants co-

ordinate with their colleagues across large geographical distances, which can only aid future cooperative efforts. A new group of participants--Alaska State Archives, University of Alaska, Lane Community College, Whitworth College, Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Whitman College, Seattle Municipal Archives, Pacific Lutheran University, and Center for Pacific Northwest Studies/Western Washington University—submitted a request for Round 2 funding from the NHPRC in October 2004.

Discovering the Sources of Northwest History: Searching the NWDA Finding Aids Database

—Molly Kruckenberg, NWDA Executive Committee (Montana Historical Society)

The ability to search guides for multiple types of collections at multiple locations in a geographically dispersed area is a primary goal of the NWDA database. Search functions for the database were conceived at two levels -- simple and advanced, each of which could provide users with a variety of ways to search for materials.

Users can search or browse the database at:
<http://nwda-db.wsulibs.wsu.edu/search/index.asp>

The "simple" search feature provides all users (regardless of their experience) with an easy way to search the database using a keyword or phrase. More advanced users may use defined operators to conduct complex string searches; a help page is provided to assist searchers.

The user will be provided with a list of collections containing the words they used in their search. Three options for viewing the finding aids (hits-in-context, complete finding aid, and a printer friendly version) are available. The hits-in-context view allows a user to preview the search results without loading the full finding aid.

In addition to keyword searching, users may browse the collections by NWDA category, repository, or collection title. NWDA categories are a

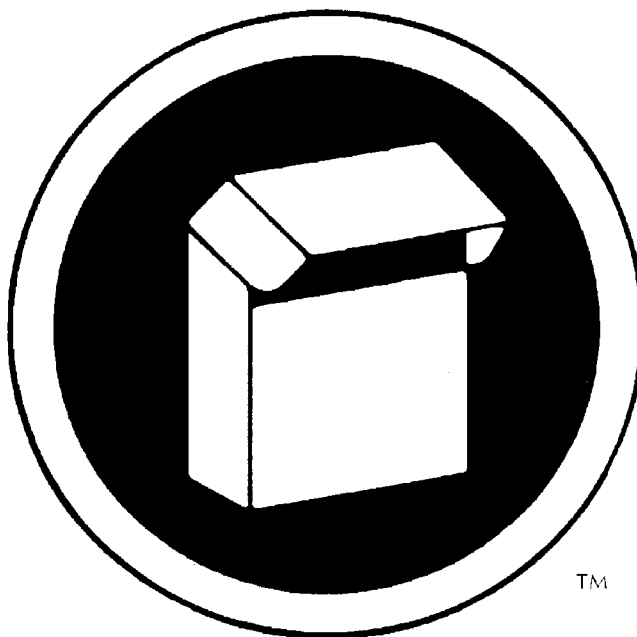
controlled list (developed by the consortium) of topics, places, and types of material. Examples include expeditions and adventures, fisheries and wildlife, and women; Oregon, Portland, Seattle, and Washington (State); and architectural drawings, diaries, moving images, photographs, and scrapbooks.

Browsing by repository allows a user to view a full list of the finding aids in the database from a given repository. This feature is most useful when a user is interested in the holdings of a particular institution rather than a specific topic.

Although not currently available, the NWDA search interface will eventually include an advanced search feature that allows for more complex searches and search combinations. As currently envisioned, this feature will provide search functions that will assist not only the more advanced researcher, but also participating institutions. These functions will include the ability to combine different types of searches (such as a phrase or word with a particular institution), to search by dates at the collection level, and to search by institution-specific attributes (such as collection number). NWDA anticipates that the advanced search function will be available in phase II of the project.



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NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST . . . *Alaska*

University of Alaska Fairbanks Alaska and Polar Regions Dept.

New exhibit: "The Most Memorable Scenes: Exploration Art from the Alaska & Polar Regions Collections Rare Books" features the drawings and paintings of artists who accompanied some of the earliest explorers of Alaska and the North. Curated by Associate Archivist Peggy Asbury, the exhibit includes images of Alaska Natives at the time of first European contact as well as studies of flora, fauna, and landscapes. The exhibit is located on the second floor of the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library and is open during regular library hours through June 2005.

New Digital Collections: In response to news and public interest following the Southeast Asian Tsunami, historical materials related to Alaska's tsunami experiences were added to Alaska's Digital Archives (www.vilda.alaska.edu). The photos, moving images, and oral history recordings primarily relate to the Alaska Good Friday Earthquake of 1964, but earlier tsunamis are also represented.

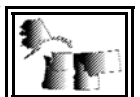
Collection Openings:

- **297th Alaska National Guard World War II Collection**, ca. 1940. 0.5 cubic ft. Photographs, histories, articles, maps and floor plans, menus, correspondence and a scrapbook, all relating to the activities of the Guard during World War II.
- **Alaskan Air Command Collection**, 1927-1950s. 0.35 cubic ft. A total of 99 photos of Air Force activities in Alaska, including Ladd Field, USO troupe shows, Lend-Lease activities, Japanese and American military personnel, and rescue operations.
- **Floyd Akin Collection [addition]**, 1940s-1950s. 1 cubic ft. 385 photos of Barrow and Barter Island, Alaska, during the construction of the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line.
- **Beatrice Abel Photograph Collection**, ca. 1909-ca. 1918. 0.25 cubic ft. A total of 55 photos taken in and around Ft. Seward, Valdez, Ft. Liscum, Cordova, Kennecott Mine, and Mile Glacier, Alaska.
- **Jack L. Adams Collection**, 1901-1902. 0.1 cubic ft. 16 photographs and a letter to Ivar Skarland con-

cerning Adams' experiences with the Trans Alaska Railroad Company survey.

- **Cabin Fever Quilters Guild**, 2002-. 0.35 cubic ft. Meeting minutes, newsletters, working files, and a digital capture of the group's website in 2003, including images of the members and many of their works.
- **Bob Johnson Photograph Collection**, 1964. 0.01 cubic ft. A total of 28 photos of earthquake damage in Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, Kodiak, and Anchorage from the Good Friday Earthquake of 1964.
- **R. J. Levensen Photograph Collection**, 1907-1916. A total of 64 digital print copies of images of the U. S. Revenue Cutter *Bear*, its ports of call, and Levensen, who was a member of the crew.
- **Bill Himes Photograph Collection**, 1900s-1910s. 0.01 cubic ft. A total of 24 photos of Interior Alaska in the first decades of the 20th century, including logging, fishing, dog sledding, and camping.
- **Howard Luke Papers [addition]**, 1916-ca. 1980s. 0.25 cubic ft. A total of 102 digital prints of images of Anchorage Fur Rendezvous and Ice Carnival, Fairbanks Winter Carnival and the North American Championship Dog Sled Race, an Alaska Native potlatch, Alaska Native dancers and drummers, Chena Athabascan Indians, a 1989 trip to Russia, and images of Luke and others building dog sleds, fish wheels, and other wooden items.
- **Thayer Expedition on Mt. McKinley**, 1954. Letters concerning the expedition's preparations for the climb and reactions to the rescue of one of its members, a field diary, photographs taken during the expedition and its aftermath, and aerial photographs used during the climb. The expedition scaled McKinley by the south buttress; a fall during descent took the life of Elton Thayer and seriously injured George Argus, who was the focus of a successful rescue effort.
- **W. H. "Billy" Porter Diary**, 1901-1903. 0.05 cubic ft. A 200-page diary written in Rampart, Alaska, recording events in Rampart and the author's activities as a gambler, proprietor of a saloon, and gold miner on Rhode Island Creek.
- **Betty Etten Wiker Papers**, 1945. 0.05 cubic ft. A

(Continued on page 10)



NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST . . . *Alaska*

(Continued from page 9) *University of Alaska Fairbanks:*

total of 41 photos of Women's Army Corps facilities and personnel at Ladd Field, Alaska, and at a base in the Aleutian Islands, as well as copies of two base newspapers and clippings concerning WACs in Alaska.

➤ **Additions to the records, University of Alaska Fairbanks:**

- Department of Alaska Native Studies, ca. 1976. 0.05 cubic ft.
- Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, ca. 1985. 0.25 cubic ft.
- Instructional Telecommunications Consortium, Learn Alaska Program, 1983. 0.25 cubic ft.
- Provost's Office, 2003-2005. 2 cubic ft.

Alaska State Library Historical Collections (Juneau)

Historical Collections Head Named Acting Director.

Alaska's Education Commissioner, Roger Sampson, named Kay Shelton as Acting Director of the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums. "[She has] a long record of excellence and dedication to conserving, preserving and making available the valuable materials that record our state's history [and] will provide excellent leadership and stability for the State Libraries, Archives and Museums," Sampson stated. Shelton has been Chief Librarian of the Alaska State Historical Collections since 1987.

New and Unprocessed Acquisitions:

- **Edmund J.E. Schuster Collection, 1901-1933.** Approx. 1 cubic ft. Typescript transcriptions of Judge James Wickersham's diaries and index. Wickersham was influential during a formative period of Alaska's political history. His daily journal entries from the time of his arrival in Juneau until his death in 1939 describe the political and judicial activities of the Territory, daily life and cultural events in personal, often colorful language. Dr. Schuster, a retired professor of sociology at UAA, spent approximately 1,000 hours transcribing the diaries and correspondence to use in writing a biography of Wickersham. When Evangeline Atwood's

biography of Wickersham was published, he changed his plans.

- **Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company addition,** approximately 10,000-15,000 maps. In November, the Historical Collections added this large group of maps from the Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company, completing the AJ Mine manuscript collection. In addition to 75 drawers of flat maps, the addition includes 405 rolled linen backed maps. The maps, predominantly India ink on linen and Mylar, include geographic and architectural drawings of the mine and surrounding buildings. A portion of the collection is restricted until 2025.

Archives & Manuscripts Dept. University of Alaska Anchorage

Recent exhibits. A permanent exhibit honoring the 50th anniversary of the University of Alaska Anchorage was installed in February in the hallways around the Archives and Manuscripts Department. The exhibit features many photographs and documents from the holdings of the Archives and Manuscripts Department.

Recently processed:

- **Frontier Thinking Conference Videocassettes** (hmc-0694), March 1990. 0.45 cubic ft. Videos document a conference on the issues of resource development and conservation.
- **George T. Harper (1930-2004). Blacks in Alaska History Project Papers** (hmc-0681), 1953-2004. 11.5 cubic ft. Inventory available. In 1989, Harper created his first Black History Month exhibit, and in 1992, he created an exhibit honoring Black U.S. Army Engineers who constructed the Alaska Highway during World War II. With the help of interested friends, Harper co-founded the Blacks in Alaska History Project, which was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1995. The purpose of the project was to pursue information and historical photographs documenting the presence and contributions of African Americans in Alaska, maintain the resulting collection, and create exhibits and lectures publicizing these historical resources.
- **"Bud" Krier Alaska Highway Telephone Line Papers** (hmc-0709), 1943, 1944, 1975. 0.25 cubic ft.

(Continued on page 11)



NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST . . . *Idaho*

(Continued from page 10) University of Alaska Anchorage:

Photograph album and papers of a construction worker on the telephone line in 1943.

- **Glenn F. Massay Alaska Governors and Senators Oral History Project** (hmc-071), 1996-1998. 5 cubic ft. of interviews. List available. A series of oral history interviews with former Alaska governors and Alaska State Senate leaders, conducted by Glenn F. Massay.
- **George R. Szanik World War II Color Slides** (hmc-0722), 1941-1943. 0.2 cubic ft. List available. George Szanik, who later became a well-known architectural photographer, was stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska, from 1942 to 1943. The collection consists of his World War II era Alaska slides.
- **Warren A. Taylor Alaska Constitutional Convention Scrapbook** (hmc-0702), 1955-1956. 0.1 cubic ft. Copy of scrapbook of Fairbanks delegate to the constitutional convention.

University of Idaho Special Collections (Moscow)

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

A photograph of men packing a mule illustrates the impact of early day pack trains, an essential mode of transportation to remote Idaho mines and mining communities. Securely attaching bulky products and commodities to the backs of mules and horses was widely recognized as an art.

The Special Collections Department of the University of Idaho Library includes those materials that, because of subject coverage, rarity, source, condition, or form, are best handled separately from the

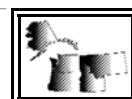
General Collection. The several "collections" housed in this department include the Day-Northwest Collection of Western Americana, Rare Books, Idaho Documents, Sir Walter Scott Collection, Ezra Pound Collection, Caxton Collection, University of Idaho Theses, Historical Maps, Historical Photograph Collection, and Personal Papers and University Archives.

"Digital Memories" can be accessed through the URL <<http://www.lib.uidaho.edu/special-collections/>>. Previous editions include eastern music about Idaho, early outdoor recreation, and an unrecorded Thoreau manuscript. Also at this site is information about Special Collections and its holdings, archival and manuscript descriptions and inventories, and a link to a massive geographical guide to repositories of primary source materials. The latter now contains more than 5,000 entries from around the world.

Idaho State Historical Society Library and Archives (Boise)

Irrigation Project Graphics Cataloged. The Idaho State Historical Society Library and Archives is pleased to announce the completion of the *Carey Act in Idaho* project. Funded in 2003 by a grant from the National Park Service's Save America's Treasures program, the project purchased a variety of preservation supplies and hired an archivist, Dylan McDonald, to clean, organize, and catalog a collection of more than 3,700 maps and drawings depicting the development of irrigation projects in early twentieth century Idaho. A web exhibit with an introduction to the project, historical overview about the Carey Act, bibliography, container list, and links to related sites can be found on the ISHS website: http://www.idahohistory.net/Carey_Act.pdf (full view) or <http://www.idahohistory.net/>

(Continued on page 12)



NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST . . . *Oregon*

(Continued from page 11) Idaho State Historical Society:

Carey_text.pdf (text only).

As noted in the Historical Overview:

“For more than 50 years—from the late 1800s to the early 1900s—those seeking an opportunity to create new lives for themselves and their families heeded Horace Greeley’s exhortation to ‘Go west, before you are fitted for no life but that of the factory.’ Various land allotment programs allowed generations of Americans and would-be Americans to satisfy their desire to create and own farms by allocating for private ownership part of the public (federal) domain. However, by the end of the nineteenth century the provisions of existing federal land allotment programs were generally not suited to fulfilling that dream; millions of acres of land remained in the public domain, but most of it was located in thirsty, uncultivable western states.

“The Homestead Act of 1862, the Desert Land Act of 1877 and the Timber Culture Act of 1873 had been effective at settling areas where irrigation was not a necessity or where needed irrigation water could be supplied through small reclamation projects created by individual settlers or a handful of settlers working together. What was needed was a program that would make land and water available *as a package* to would-be settlers.

“The U.S. Congress addressed this need by providing two new programs to encourage the reclamation and settlement of the West. The Carey Act of 1894 and subsequent amendments encouraged the states, private investors, and the federal government—the latter through the General Land Office (GLO)—to provide cooperatively the water-supply facilities necessary to make farming communities of sagebrush and diamondback rattlesnake habitat.

“During the first several decades of the twentieth

century, several western states, and in particular Idaho and Wyoming, successfully used the Carey Act to create thousands of family farms. Across the West, more than one million acres were patented. More than half of that acreage was in Idaho alone. Communities such as Twin Falls, Jerome and American Falls owe their existence to large irrigation projects initiated under the Carey Act.”

Oregon State Archives (Salem)

Goldschmidt Records Now Online

In February, the Oregon State Archives released online a major portion of records from former Oregon Gov. Neil Goldschmidt. This release is the culmination of a project begun in mid-September 2004 to digitize all of the available records. These span Goldschmidt’s political career from his days as Portland’s mayor and commissioner (1971-1979) and as Governor of Oregon (1987-1991).

The controversy that surrounds Goldschmidt extends from his May 2004 confession of sex with a minor during his tenure as mayor of Portland. The public’s interest in the records was sparked shortly thereafter when the records were moved from the Oregon Historical Society, where Goldschmidt deposited them, to the State Archives in Salem. (For further details on the custodial transfer of these records, please see the July 2004 *Easy Access*, pg. 13.)

While available for research at the Archives since June 2004, online access to these records enables widespread public review for the first time. With an Internet connection, more than seven gigabytes of data containing more than 150,000 scanned pages are available for download. Each PDF file—there are more than 4,300—represents a file folder contained within one of the 115 boxes of records. A

(Continued on page 13)



NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST . . . *Oregon*

(Continued from page 12) Oregon State Archives:

further nine boxes are currently withheld pending review by current Gov. Ted Kulongoski's legal counsel. As much as is possible in the virtual world, viewing the records online is like perusing the actual records.

Records are described according to the folder titles that contain the documents within subject categories and dates accorded to the box (i.e. Outgoing Correspondence, General, 1987). All scanning was performed in-house by student interns, Chad Hammer, Kacie Morgan, Amber Plambeck, and overseen by IT Policy Manager, Dan Cantrall. The papers were scanned exclusively for black-and-white output, which reduced file size. Each document contains basic metadata that, while it will facilitate the index processes used by search engines, is not yet designed to describe the specific documents from the PDF alone. The linking text provides a brief description of the PDF's contents.

The State of Oregon Archives believes that the public interest will be better served by making these records easily accessible and available to all. Furthermore, it remedies to some extent access difficulties due to geographic distance from the Archives. For further information and to see the box list, visit <http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/governors/goldschmidt/Goldschmidtseries.html>. Contact Layne Sawyer at 503-373-0701x239, or e-mail laysaw@state.or.us with any questions.

Oregon Historical Society Research Library (Portland)

Re-housing Project Starts. Work will start in April on survey and re-housing of 200 linear feet of the Research Library's most valuable manuscript materials, referred to as the "Vault Collections." The collections were arranged and described several decades ago before widespread use of acid-free materials and before availability of alkaline-buffered

materials. A \$5,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities will help cover the cost of archival supplies to complete re-housing. At the same time, archival staff will survey for special preservation and conservation needs, review existing description and bring it up to current standards, and complete MARC catalog records for collections that were not cataloged in the past.

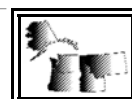
"Vault Collections" include approximately 300 overland trail diaries; logs of ships active on the Pacific Coast of North America; papers of prominent Oregon territorial and state politicians and judges; papers of the McLoughlin-Fraser family, including correspondence of Dr. John McLoughlin, Hudson's Bay Co. chief factor; records of churches, organizations, and businesses; and the personal papers of other prominent people in Oregon and regionally.

Collections recently opened and re-opened:

Collections were newly arranged and described or re-engineered as part of the Northwest Archival Processing Initiative, funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Guides are accessible through the Northwest Digital Archives, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

- **Oregon Roadside Council Records, 1960-2002.** 2 cubic ft. The collection consists of records of a private organization founded in 1932 and dedicated to the protection of Oregon's natural scenery through community efforts and influencing legislation. The records were largely created by one of the organization's active members and officers, Alexander Bolton Pierce, Jr. (1924-2003), a Portland architect. Included are board of director's minutes, position papers, and correspondence, as well as some of Pierce's personal papers and a few photographs. Pierce was the unofficial community

(Continued on page 14)



NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST . . . *Oregon*

(Continued from page 13) Oregon Historical Society:

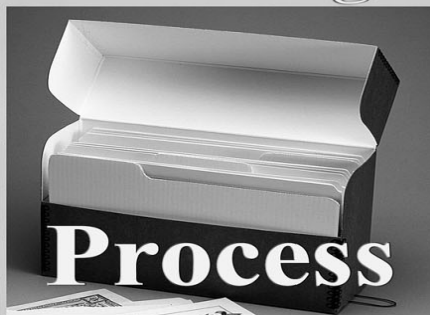
“watchdog” when it came to issues of outdoor advertising, signage, and other forms of “visual blight” in Oregon, particularly in the Portland metropolitan area. The Council’s achievements include the preservation of roadside forests and scenic areas (for example, the Van Duzer and Larch Mountain forest corridors); the creation of more State and County parks; helping to create the Columbia Gorge Commission; passage of the Billboard Control Act of 1955 which regulated to a degree the spacing and size of signs; aiding in the passage of state bills to regulate billboards according to the National Standards on sections of the Federal Interstate System; creating the Oregon Scenic Area Board which establishes scenic areas; supporting billboard removal under the Federal Highway

Beautification Act; and advocacy for stricter billboard and outdoor signage ordinances for the City of Portland and Multnomah County.

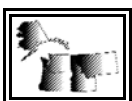
- **Donald D. Burkhart Photographs, 1926-1933.** 8 linear ft. of negatives, prints, and log-books. The collection consists primarily of images photographed by Donald D. Burkhart, an avid mountaineer and skier. The photographs provide extensive documentation of the Pacific Northwest landscape, with emphasis on the Oregon and Washington Cascade Mountains, the Columbia River Gorge, and the Oregon Coast. Of special note are documentation of mountaineering and early organized ski racing and ski jumping events on Mt. Hood. Donald was born Feb. 19, 1910, to Delbert C. Burkhart (1880-1947) and Elizabeth “Bess” Hammer

(Continued on page 15)

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EASY ACCESS Newsletter of the Northwest Archivists, Inc.

NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST . . . *Washington*

(Continued from page 14) Oregon Historical Society

Burkhart in Albany, Or. After graduating from Lincoln High School in Portland, Don Burkhart worked at an Eastman Kodak store, first as an office boy and later as a salesman. He was a member of the Oregon Camera Club and the Mazamas and Wy'east mountaineering clubs. On some mountaineering trips, he photographed in the company of noted Portland photographers, Ray Atkeson and Al Monner. He died in September 1933 at age 23 in a mountaineering accident on Mt. Jefferson.

Oregon State University Archives (Corvallis)

Recent accessions:

- **Liz VanLeeuwen Spotted Owl Collection (MSS)**, 1983-2004. 12.2 cubic ft. Materials collected and generated by former Oregon State Representative Liz VanLeeuwen pertain to the listing of the spotted owl as a protected endangered species in Oregon. Gathered from a variety of sources such as the federal government, the timber industry, environmental organizations, task forces/advisory boards, and local newspapers, the informational materials include legislative documents, maps, meeting minutes, newspaper clippings, notes, publications, reports, sound recordings, and a videotape. Correspondence from VanLeeuwen regarding various legislative issues can also be found, along with materials relating to the protection of the marbled murrelet. A graduate of Oregon State College, Liz VanLeeuwen served in the Oregon Legislature as State Representative for District 37 (Linn County) from 1981 to 1999. She campaigned actively against the listing of the spotted owl as an endangered species. In addition to her work in the legislature, VanLeeuwen has also been involved in a number of other advisory and governmental bodies, including: the

Western States Legislature Forestry Task Force, South Santiam Watershed Management Area Committee, and the Linn Soil and Water Conservation District.

- **Withycombe Family Collection (MSS)**, 1844-1918. 0.50 cubic ft. This collection includes 12 photographic images of James Withycombe and publications collected by Withycombe and his son, Robert. In addition to depicting James Withycombe's involvement in a 1911 Farming Demonstration Train tour of Oregon, the photos portray Withycombe in equestrian poses and on campus in front of Education Hall, and also include a view of the family's house in Corvallis. The publications are primarily farming and livestock raising textbooks and manuals, many of which would have been used at OSU. Born in Tavistock, England, James Withycombe came to Oregon in 1871 to farm near present-day Hillsboro. Withycombe's success in farming and livestock raising earned him an appointment as State Veterinarian in 1889 and professorship in Agriculture with Oregon Agricultural College in 1898. Withycombe also served as Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station and Head of the Department of Dairy Husbandry, holding these posts with the college until he was elected Governor of Oregon in 1915. Shortly after his re-election, Gov. Withycombe died at the beginning of his second term in 1919.
- **College of Home Economics Photographs (P 44)**, 1970-1998. 0.20 cubic ft. A total of 443 images of the groundbreaking, construction, and dedication of the Family Study Center (Bates Hall) make up this transfer. Included are images of a nutrition conference held at OSU in 1970, an event honoring the centennial of the College of Home Economics, and interior and exterior views of Milam and Education halls.



NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST . . . *Washington*

(Continued from page 15) Oregon State University:

Printing and Mailing Services (RG 166), 1992-2001. 1.6 cubic ft. This accession consists of records pertaining to the 1992 OSU Printing Plant fire. Primarily made up of correspondence, invoices, equipment inventories, work orders, photographs, and other records documenting the process of replacement and reimbursement for losses incurred in the fire, this transfer also contains architectural drawings, correspondence, and project manuals relating to the demolition and reconstruction of the burned-out section of the building. Also included are historical materials pertaining to the printing plant building that were supplied by the OSU Archives and used as supporting documentation in a legal case filed by the university. The Printing Plant (now Cascade Hall) fire occurred on July 13, 1992 and was attributed to a roofing project on the industrial building, which housed the plant. No one died in the conflagration. Printing operations were temporarily housed in the West Dining Hall during renovation.

Central Washington University Archives (Ellensburg)

New Archives Opens. Archivist Dieter Ullrich has joined the faculty of Central Washington University to establish a university archives. Dieter came to Washington from Auburn University in Alabama in September 2004. Six thousand cubic feet of shelving will arrive in March, allowing for collection of archival materials from the entire campus community. Already housed in the archives are more than 10,000 historic photographs from Central's Public Relations department and the student newspaper. A full run of the university's yearbooks and other historical collections are being digitized and will be available to researchers through the archives' web site soon. Working with Dieter are Kirsten Erickson, assistant archivist, and Riva Dean, graduate assistant, formerly with the Arizona Historical Society.

Washington State Historical Society (Tacoma)

New Accessions:

Eells, Edwin (1841-1917), papers, 1862-1947. 4.3 l.f. Indian agent for the Skokomish and Puyallup tribes. Active in Congregational church. Includes correspondence, letter books, diaries, Indian agency records, censuses, etc., historical work by his daughter, Ida Eells.

Hurley, Charles B. (1861-19-), papers, 1881-1885. 0.2 l.f. Civil engineer whose early work included surveys for the Mexican National Construction Company on the Ferrocarril de Manzanillo y Laredo branch, 1881-1884. Later president of Tacoma Light and Water. Collection includes some correspondence relating to his work in Mexico and also a scrapbook with correspondence and ephemera. His scrapbook, relating to his presidency of Tacoma Light and Water and the controversy surrounding its sale to the city of Tacoma, provides comprehensive coverage. It is housed with the scrapbook collection.

Wright, Frederick G. (-1912), diary, 1893. 1 v. Wright, a Tacoma businessman, made a prospecting trip to the Klondike and down the Yukon from April through September 1893. His diary is detailed, describing daily events, native locations and customs observed, and his return trip on the Revenue Cutter Bear, via Unalaska. Some pages are smudged and difficult to decipher.

University of Washington Special Collections (Seattle)

Staff News: Michelle Light joined UW Libraries on Dec. 28, 2004 as Head of Special Collections Technical Services. Prior to coming to the UW, she was Assistant Archivist at Northeastern Univer-

(Continued on page 18)



Board Meeting Minutes

The NWA board of Northwest Archivists, Inc., met by conference call January 4, 2005.

Those present were: Elizabeth Joffrion, Anne Foster, Terry Badger, Terry Baxter, Diana Shenk, Jodi Allison-Bunnell, Arlene Schmuland, Linda Morton-Keithley, Janette Gomes, Ellen Crain, Donna McCrea, John Bolcer and Diana Banning.

The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. PST, with president, Elizabeth Joffrion, presiding.

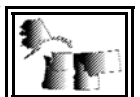
1. Treasurer's Report (Banning) – As of 12/15/04 the association has \$13,132.10. Our conference share was \$1,924.00.
2. Membership Committee (Shenk) – Currently have 178 members on the database, up from 162 members in August. One mailing list has been distributed to the Northwest Oral History Assn at no charge. Additionally, all state reps have up-to-date lists for their state. So far, there have been no vendor requests for the mailing list.
3. 2005 Meeting (McCrea & Joffrion) –

Program Committee: Some interesting plenary and luncheon speakers have been chosen. There are several workshops scheduled, mostly conceived and presented by members of the four regional associations. The choice to offer non-SAA workshops was in keeping with attempts to keep costs down for attendees. NWA's business meeting is scheduled for Friday, 3-5. Discussion regarding how to disseminate the program – Easy Access or separate mailing. Easy Access won't come out soon enough, so it was agreed that a postcard mailing directing people to the website is the best way to go.

Local Arrangements: April 14-16, at the Alexis Resort & Villas. Estimated registration is \$85 and the committee is hoping for 25 vendors. The reception is set for Barrick Museum of Natural History, UNLV and there are many exciting tours planned.

4. 2006 Meeting (Crain) – Local arrangements committee met to discuss resources and like the School of Mines campus in Butte as the best choice; the campus has an association with the University of Montana. The issue is that the conference would need to be held after May 14th, which is when graduation occurs. The expected dates would be the 18th-20th. Housing would be available in the dorms for as little as \$13/night and local hotels can offer a discounted rate as well. The board approved the later date.
5. Nominating Committee (Allison-Bunnell) – Recommendations for changes to the policies and procedures for nominations and voting.
 - Nominating committee membership: reasonable diversity of representation (state, type of repository), include a member of the executive committee.
 - Procedures for the mail-in voting: try the mail-in voting for a couple of years and revisit if it seems needed. Discussion of ways of getting people to send in their ballots (self-addressed, stamped envelopes; tear-off cards). The committee will decide the method of returning the ballots.
 - Timeline: Slate of candidates by Feb 1, ballots mailed out March 1, state reps send out reminder March 10, ballots postmarked by March 20, ballots counted by March 30.

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(Continued from page 17) Board Minutes:

- Additional issues:
 - People voting for the wrong state. Since the ballots will be sent out as a separate mailing, different ballots can be created to represent the slate of candidates for each state.
 - Nominating committee will count the ballots.
 - Scott Cline will have the procedural changes finished soon and Jodi will send him the changes.
6. Education Committee update (Joffrion) – Anne Foster has been working hard on the committee and is developing policies and procedures that will be sent to the board soon.
 7. Advocacy (Allison-Bunnell) – The board needs to keep an eye on what the five state legislatures are doing and be ready to notify the committee in case any archives-related bills come up. Contact people are: Allison-Bunnell, Joffrion and Terry Badger.
 8. Old Business
 - Directory Project (Joffrion) – contract is still pending
 - Brochure (Joffrion) – Schmuland has created a draft and it was sent to Bolcer as the chair of the Publications Committee and to Allison-Bunnell for comment. A revised draft will be ready in February for board review. A request for graphics from past meetings or archives-related content. Joffrion will look into estimates on printing the brochure. There is also an issue with the logo; Bolcer doesn't have a clean copy. The NWA archives may contain a clear copy and if not, Joffrion will look into having someone recreate the logo.
 9. Publications Committee (Bolcer) – Easy Access

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Archivist's Calendar

April 14-16, 2005 Joint Meeting, Northwest Archivists, Conference of Intermountain Archivists, Society of California Archivists, and the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists, Las Vegas, NV

April 28-30, 2005 Pacific Northwest History Conference and Northwest Oral History Association, Boise, ID

May 15, 2005 Academy of Certified Archivists Certification Examination Registration Deadline

May 19-20, 2005 "Understanding Archives: An Introduction to Principles and Practices" (SAA workshop) Seattle, WA

June 3, 2005 *Easy Access* contribution deadline

July 10-July 22, 2005 Western Archives Institute University of California—Davis, Davis, CA

August 15-21, 2005 SAA Annual Meeting New Orleans, LA

August 17, 2005 Academy of Certified Archivists Exam New Orleans (SAA), New York, Memphis, Kansas City, Portland (Or.)

Nov. 2-6, 2005 Oral History Association Conference Providence, RI

Nov. 30-Dec. 3, 2005 Assoc. of Moving Image Archivists Conference, Austin, TX

(Continued from page 16) University of Washington:

sity in Boston. She holds an M.A. in History (All But Dissertation) and an M.S. in Information, both from the University of Michigan.

Nicole Bouche has accepted the position of Pacific Northwest Curator, and will begin June 1st. Nicole comes from the Beinecke Library at Yale, where she is the Manuscript Unit Head. Nicole is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, with both an MLS and All But Dissertation toward a PhD in US and Western History.



(Continued from page 18) Board Minutes:

will be out mid-January.

10. Awards Banquet for 2005 is a joint event and retirements need to be brought to the attention of the board.
11. New Business – Bylaws (Joffrion) – Bylaw changes proposed by Joffrion regarding board positions.
 - Divide the Secretary/Treasurer's position into two. There are a couple of issues pertaining to the split: staggering the positions and making the board membership even. First, the initial election would need to be an odd election for one of the positions (one year or three years). All were in agreement to a 3 year election until the two positions are staggered. Second, making the board even presents issues when it comes to a split vote.
 - The Membership coordinator was originally designated as an ad-hoc position and it is a good idea to make it an official board position since it is working well. The position will remain an ex-officio position, but will act as a voting member in the case of a split vote.
 - Joffrion will submit changes for review at the next meeting.
12. Update membership directory (Joffrion) – It's time to start updating the membership directory, but should wait until after the next renewal cycle, which ends by the end of June. The design of the directory should begin soon.
13. Minutes (Joffrion) – The minutes will now be circulated through the full board before being published in Easy Access.

Meeting adjourned 11:11 a.m.

(Continued from page 2) President's Message:

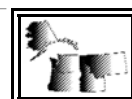
Project which will serve as an online clearinghouse for information about archives and archivists.

The Education Committee is involved in a strategic planning effort and will soon play a much more visible role at our annual meetings. Many of our members are involved in the Northwest Digital Archives and NWA has supported this effort in many ways. NWDA is a prime example of how to reach users in new ways by providing better services. The project has linked the archival resources of the region and has set a standard for accessing these materials. This effort can only serve to expand our research base and increase awareness of archives in our region. And, finally we've offered a series of joint meetings which strengthens our cross regional ties. The next super-meeting in Las Vegas is affectionately known as the "Western Round-Up." I encourage all of you attend and to join ranks with your colleagues from other Western states.

But, there is still much to do. We need to increase our membership and our volunteer base to continue to grow and develop in productive ways. In the future, I would like to see NWA utilize its website to better reach our constituents with information on a myriad of topics of interest to archivists. I would also like to see NWA involved in coordinating local and state activities during Archives Week. The Education Committee can and should be more involved in continuing education and strive to provide these opportunities throughout the year at a reasonable cost. These are just a few ideas. I encourage you to become more professionally proactive. Contact your State Representative with your ideas and vision and then volunteer to help enact these ideas.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your president. I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting in Las Vegas. Don't forget that you can find information about the meeting, including the registration form, on the NWA website.

–Elizabeth Joffrion



Join NWA: Membership benefits include the exchange of information among colleagues, an annual conference, *Easy Access* published four times a year, and a membership directory.

To join send this form, along with \$15, checks payable to Northwest Archivists, Inc., to Diana Banning, City of Portland—Recorder's Division, 9360 N. Columbia Blvd., Portland, OR 97203. For more information, contact Diana at 503-823-4564 or e-mail her at <dbanning@ci.portland.or.us>.

Name _____ Title _____

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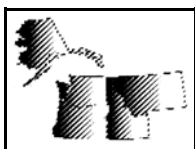
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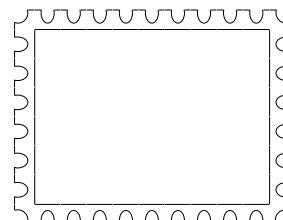
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