

HURRICANE KATRINA: NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Submitted by Susan Tucker

The Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel that sits above most of our desks (the 1997 version, though the 2005 version is little changed) has a sort of subtitle that appears beneath its trademarked title. This subtitle reads: "The first 48 hours can make the difference." For New Orleans archivists, this statement rebounds in complexity, and, of course, historic meaning. Hurricane Katrina's appearance on the last Monday in August left continuing and monumental sadness for the people of the storm-ravaged areas but also left a heightened awareness for our understanding of just how tricky - and much longer -- those hours after a storm might be. Even the pre-hurricane 48 hours were not without complications. On the Friday before Katrina struck, most New Orleans archivists left work thinking the path of the storm would pass within the Florida Panhandle. A scramble on the weekend did allow the saving movement of some collections and other storm preparations, but this was often done by one or two staff members. Now at seven weeks, some of us are just beginning work in our archives - with flashlights in hand since electricity is not yet restored. Outside huge generator-



powered fans pump cool air into the buildings. Not one library or archives in Orleans parish has reopened at the time of this writing.

September or yet, the middle of October.

What is especially important to remember is what we did not foresee. For the diaspora of New Orleanians, we who had planned a return by Wednesday at the latest, none of us saw the city before September 6, and most of us would come much later, towards the end of

The steps so crucial to disaster recovery -- getting started off site, stabilizing buildings and environments, retrieving and protecting collections, assessing damage, and making salvage priorities -- were all circumscribed. There was a continuing lack of access to officials, as well as the basic complications of cell phones that did not work and email systems all sent topsy-turvy by the storm. Though archivists began asking for re-entry into the city on August 31, and though one or two staff members from the Historic New Orleans Collection had stayed during the storm, almost no media or governmental attention was paid to the preservation of documents. ... *continued on page 10*

SSA ANNUAL MEETING
EL PASO , TX
MAY 2006
 See pg. 9 for details

inside...

| | |
|---|-------|
| The President's Series: Reflections on Public Service | p. 7 |
| After Katrina | p. 18 |
| Archives Week 2005 Celebrations | p. 32 |

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THE SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST ARCHIVISTS is a professional organization established to stimulate and make available research in archival administration and records management; promote sound principles and standards for preserving and administering records; foster opportunities for the education and training of archivists, records managers, and custodians of private papers; strengthen relations with others in allied disciplines; and cooperate with organizations and institutions having mutual interests in the preservation and use of our recorded heritage.

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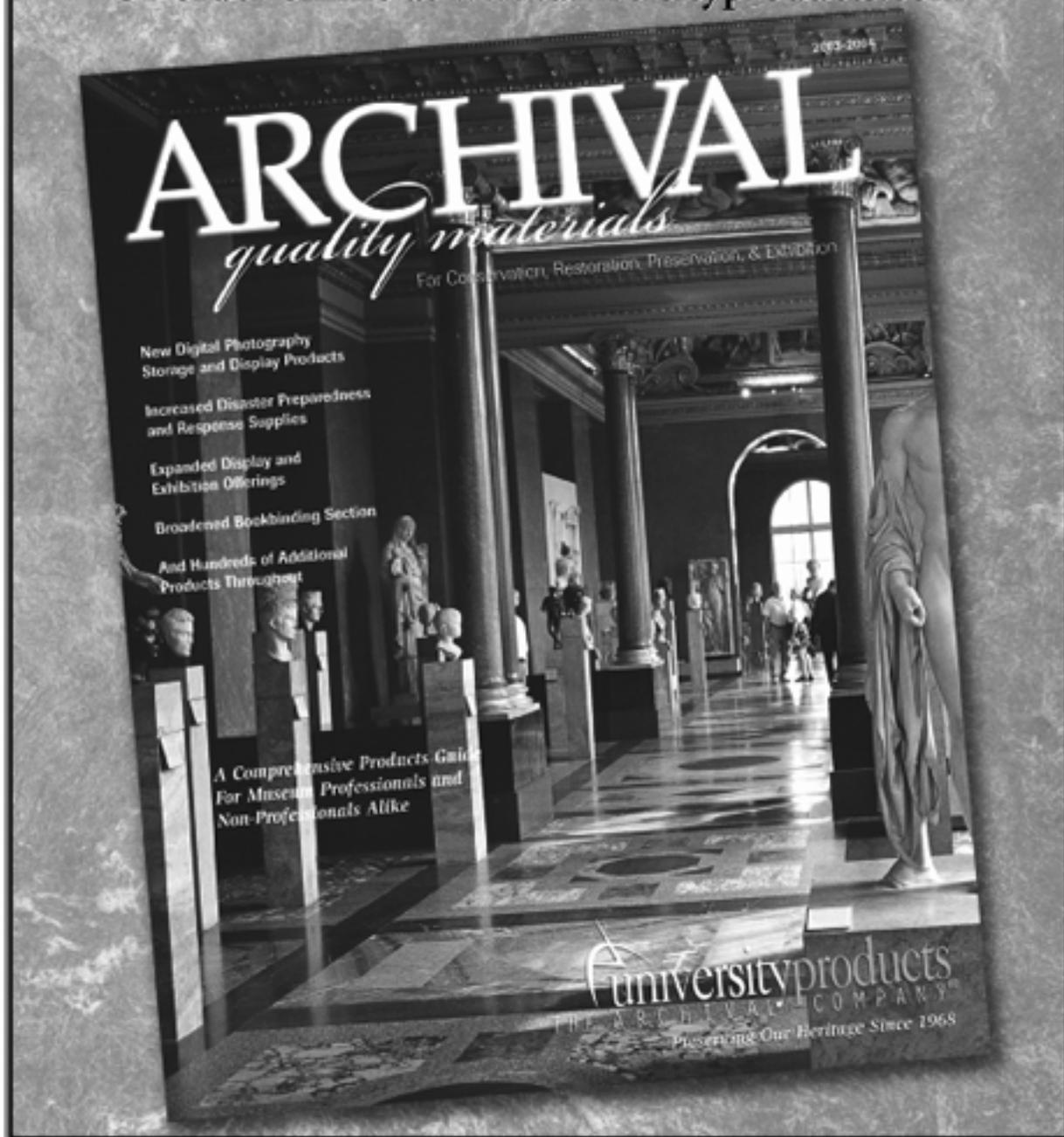
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We encourage your comments, suggestions, and news articles. News items about repositories in the SSA region and about the professional accomplishments of SSA members wherever they reside are especially sought. Institutional submissions by SSA members from repositories outside of the SSA region will be published if space is available.

We prefer you to send all submissions electronically in the bodies of e-mail notes or as e-mail attachments. Lengthy or highly-formatted submissions can also be sent on disk in any Windows word processing format. Submissions sent as hard copy should be double-spaced in Times New Roman font to facilitate scanning. Faxed submissions are difficult to scan and will not ordinarily be accepted. Submissions may be edited to conform to style conventions and space limitations.

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In order to obtain and track submissions from all the states in the SSA region, we encourage you to work with the Publications Committee member in your state.

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NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC LIBRARY SPARED MAJOR DAMAGE IN HURRICANE KATRINA

Submitted by Irene Wainwright

New Orleans Public Library's Louisiana Division (which houses the City Archives as well as large collections of photographs, maps, manuscripts, civil and criminal court records, ephemera and the library's local history and genealogy collections) survived Hurricane Katrina almost miraculously intact. The Main Library had only minor damage, and the building's sub-basements (the lower of which houses the bulk of the City Archives) did not flood, despite the building's location in the badly affected Central Business District. However, the City Archives' off-site storage facility (part of a historic cotton warehouse on Tchoupitoulas Street) did sustain serious roof damage. By the time the damage was discovered, the boxes stored there had collapsed and been crushed and mold was already apparent.

The records housed off-site included 290 boxes of records from various Orleans Parish civil courts (1813-1880). Also included were 400+ boxes of mid-twentieth century New Orleans Police Department records and 300+ boxes of Orleans Parish District Attorney records from the same period. The court records, which were the most heavily battered, have been "rescued" by Munters and are currently being treated. Luckily, all of these records had been microfilmed previously (and this is good Mormon film, made on site at NOPL in the late 1980s and early 1990s). Before the storm, we had already secured permission from NOPD and the DA to sample the records from these agencies (rarely used and of little historical significance) and discard the rest. Katrina forced us to revise our original plans to conduct an orderly random sample, however; instead, the sample comprised a choice of the least affected boxes. Since the retained sample had been in contact with the moldy court records, these boxes were also taken by Munters for remediation.

All in all, the City Archives and Special Collections fared relatively well. The New Orleans Public Library system itself, however, was devastated by the storm. Only four of our twelve branches can be reopened without major repair and replacement of the collections and entire contents. Of the eight that were damaged, five were almost completely destroyed. (We have posted photographs and brief assessments of our buildings on our website at <http://nutrias.org>.) Even more disturbing is the fact that only 19 of NOPL's more than 200 employees survived city government's drastic layoffs. The archivists are among those retained, but some 197 colleagues, regardless of rank, time-in-service, or any other measure of dedication to the Library, are now unemployed for the foreseeable future.

Current plans are to open the Main Library first as a FEMA Disaster Recovery Center. We hope also to make Main's Technology Center available to the public for general internet access. Plans also call for opening our Cita Dennis Hubbell Branch (at Algiers Point) for internet access. There are no immediate plans to extend service beyond these basics. On a high note, NUTRIAS, NOPL's website is once more up and running on NOPL's own server. Updates to the NOPL situation will be posted regularly on NUTRIAS.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS - GET INVOLVED IN SSA!

Submitted by John Slate

SSA elective offices provide ample opportunities to meet other archivists, gain valuable experience, and earn the respect of your colleagues by serving in one of the following positions:

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Chair, Mark Lambert, CA mlambert@stcl.edu; Carol Bartels, CA carol@hnoc.org; John H. Slate, CA jslate@ci.dallas.tx.us

THE PRESIDENT'S SERIES

By Brenda Gunn, SSA President



Brenda Gunn, C.A.

Reflections on Public Service

After 38 years of service, Ralph Elder retired from the Center for American History on August 31, 2005. Ralph began his work in archives as a clerical assistant in 1967 at the Barker Texas History Center. While at the Barker and then at the CAH, Ralph held many positions: assistant archivist, head of the Archives and Manuscripts Processing Unit, Head of the Public Services Unit, and University Archivist. In all of these positions, Ralph excelled, but none was as close to his heart, it seems, as public service. "I have found public services to be my niche. It's the job I really enjoy the most." Legions of researchers will testify to Ralph's ability to introduce them to collections that would make their research come together. Ralph would "birddog" a question until he had an answer. He was always undaunted.

During the last week of August, while Ralph wound down his illustrious public service career in Texas, archivists in Louisiana wrote another definition of public service. Louisiana archivists responded to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina with remarkable resourcefulness at protecting their collections in the face of odds that were beyond overwhelming. Immediately after the hurricane, stewardship became an effort not limited to the 8-5 normal workday. These archivists worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the need to assess collections and begin recovery efforts. Once back in the city, they sought to stabilize conditions that put their collections in peril. For many, the recovery will be long-term and very costly. But, undaunted they remain.

So now as I reflect on what public service means in an archival context, I think of Ralph Elder and his work in our reading room with researchers from all over the world. He promoted the Center's material and as a result made a difference to the Center's researchers. I also think of those Louisiana archivists, whose work in inhospitable conditions to rescue and salvage collections, will make a difference to researchers who will be in New Orleans reading rooms again soon. They and their deeds make me want to be a better archivist.

**BRENDA'S "THE PRESIDENT'S SERIES"
CONTINUES IN THE NEXT TWO ISSUES OF THE
*SOUTHWESTERN ARCHIVIST***

COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?
CONTACT BRENDA AT BGUNN@MAIL.UTEXAS.EDU

DAVID GRACY AND JOHN CHAPMAN HONORED FOR LOCAL HISTORY PRESERVATION WORK BY AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER ASSOCIATION

Press release



Dr. David B. Gracy II. Photo courtesy of Austin History Center.

The Austin History Center Association (AHCA) presented two of the city's most distinguished history preservation awards at its recent annual meeting. The 2005 Katherine Drake Hart History Preservation Award was presented to Dr. David B. Gracy II and the 2005 Austin History Center Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to John Chapman.

The organization selected Gracy for his noteworthy contribution to the preservation of Austin and Travis County history. In addition to being the Governor Bill Daniel Professor in Archival Enterprise in the School of Information at the University of Texas, Gracy is a longtime Austin History Center supporter and AHCA board member. He has served in several roles with AHCA including the chair of the annual Audray Bateman Randle Lecture Series.

"The documentation painstakingly collected at the Austin History Center is the most substantial and faithful record that does, or could exist of Austinites doing their thing and thus making Austin what it is," says Gracy. "To be recognized for playing a role in maintaining this unique and irreplaceable asset of the city is an honor above honors." Gracy's roots in Austin go back more than 120 years. His father, grandfather, and other family members contributed in substantial ways to shaping the city. "Having a place where I can see Austin's history as it developed in the words of those making that history gives me a place in the continuity of Austin that neither I nor anyone could have without the Austin History Center," says Gracy. "The Austin History Center is a place of discovery, especially discovery of ones' self, by experiencing the lives of others."

The annual Austin History Center Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to John Chapman. A retired petroleum geologist and consultant, Chapman has volunteered at the history center for more than two years. "I don't feel I really deserve any awards for doing what I like to do," says Chapman. "It's important to support the work of repositories like the Austin History Center. I believe the history center is particularly important for the genealogical information it holds."

The Austin History Center Association established and awarded the first Katherine Drake Hart History Preservation Award in 1991. The award is named in honor of Katherine Drake Hart, 1905-2000, a member of one of the most prominent families in Austin's history, who had the vision for and then served as the first division head of the Austin-Travis County Collection (now the Austin History Center) of the Austin Public Library.

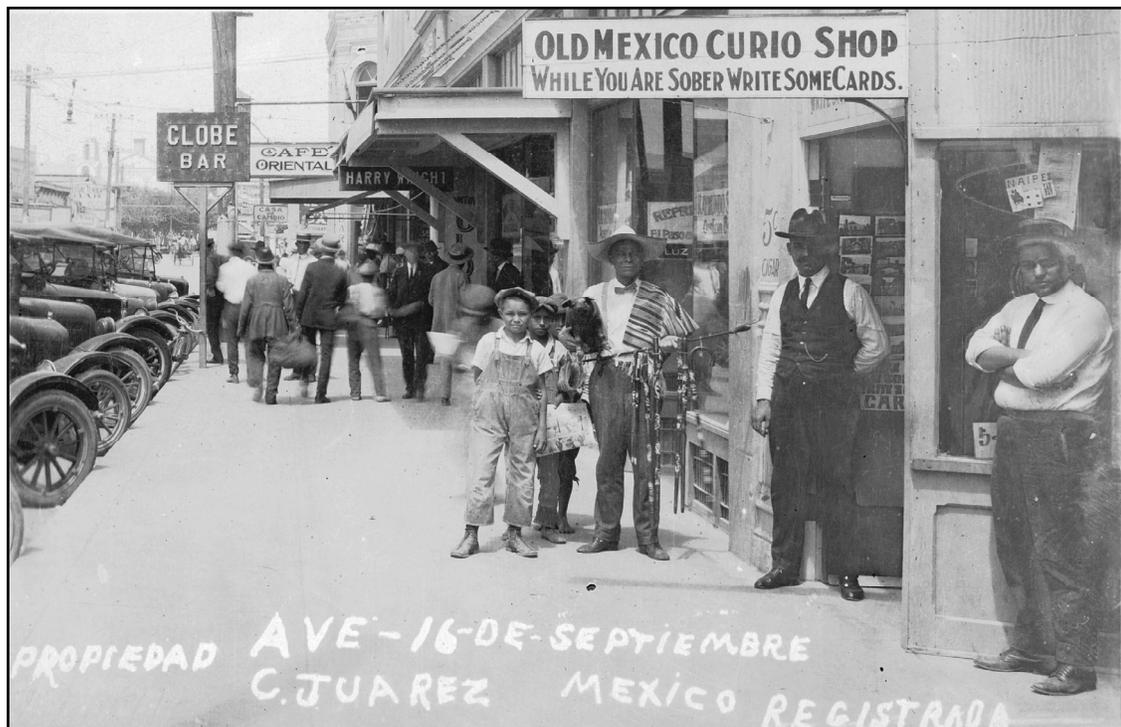
Past recipients of the Katherine Drake Hart History Preservation Award bestowed in recognition of their notable contributions to local history include: Betty Baker, David and Binnie Hoffman (jointly), Mary Jo Cooper, Marian B. Davis, the German Free School Guild, Matt Kreisle, Wayne Bell, Dealey Herndon, Audray Bateman Randle, Drury Blakely Alexander, Dorothy Depew and Emmett Shelton (jointly), Sue Brandt McBee and Biruta Celmins Kearn.

The Austin History Center Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the support of the Austin History Center, the local history collection of the Austin Public Library which houses over one million items of current and historical interest.

For more information call (512) 974-7499 or visit <http://ahca.net>.

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Continued from cover...

All requests for attention to historic paper records were denied. Most federal and state officials did not even return phone calls from archivists. The Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism failed to include archivists on planned reconnaissance trips into the city or to include anyone from the archival community in its planning meetings. Members of the historic preservation community focused on building preservation; and museum professionals gave attention only to paintings and three-dimensional objects. All attempts for some coordinated response among similar institutions failed.

Our exclusion from these activities is striking. The answer for most archivists was that entry to the city and the campus was prohibited for everyone, regardless of the historic record. Even New Orleans Public Library, a city agency housing the City Archives, had difficulty contacting the right people and cutting through enough red tape to allow archivists to enter the city.

Lesson Learned:

Archivists' own efforts worked in many cases. A number of archivists entered the city on their own, securing passes in roundabout and clandestine ways. Commercial vendors, even moving companies, had passes, and were willing to provide places in trucks into the city. At Notarial Archivist Ann Wakefield's urging the Times-Picayune brought attention to the important legal records at risk. Almost immediately the newspaper article generated enough interest that she secured a pass into the city. Archivists from NOPL were able to seize the opportunity created by the Notarial Archives' success to secure their own pass into town. Salon.com also focused some attention on archives, at least enough that archivists could send written attention about the crisis to their administrators. Persistence and the willingness to call on others finally helped. Although many top library officials were assigned other duties that took them far from oversight of collections, they remained willing to assist in providing details of how to find storage for undamaged collections and begin renovation of mold infested buildings. In addition, we learned that governmental officials and commercial vendors should be contacted before the storm. A representative of Belfor, for example, advised a written letter allowing re-entry to the city and to the particular archives be taken with one in an evacuation.



Another idea that might be added to the emergency wheel is the need to take along in an evacuation a list of colleagues who have been through disasters. Such persons could help with countless psychological and practical responses. The list of materials taken should also include printouts of FEMA regulations, NEH emergency and stabilization grant deadlines, and literature on other more mundane matters – everything from the way to work with an administration that does not put libraries and archives anywhere near the top of its priority list to how to vacuum molding books in a truck or under a tent.

Several aspects of our emergency plans did work. Books and boxes were removed from bottom shelves, plastic coverings were draped over cabinets, and fragile items were moved to interior spaces. Lists of officials, inventories and computer back up disks were preserved. Coordination with other officials meant that we knew that an overall master plan for building shut down was being followed.

Most important to all of us, the support of our colleagues in other areas was bountiful. Bruce Turner and Faye Phillips lobbied valiantly and tirelessly on our behalf to state officials. SSA's website and SSA's emergency fund provided not only valuable and needed services but also a significant reminder that we were not alone. We will do better in our next shared disaster – for every disaster is that – a shared one of our historic collections and our historic role as caretakers of these collections. We will do better next time – adding our lessons learned, as always, to the overall record. And are we not lucky as archivists, that we can frame disasters in this way?

All photos courtesy of Nadine Vorhoff Library and Newcomb Archives.

A NOTE FROM ALFRED LEMMON, HNOG

Upon learning of an approaching hurricane, the staff of The Historic New Orleans Collection prepared the buildings and the collections for the then classified category 3 storm. Receiving word of it being upgraded, the collections and buildings were further protected. One staff member, John Magill remained in the Williams Research Center, throughout the storm. Warren Woods, who did not evacuate, checked on the buildings on a daily basis throughout September.

Working with the governor's office and state police we were included as part of a projected convoy on Friday, September 2. However, due to the problems in New Orleans that day, the convoy did not materialize. Senior staff did have the opportunity to visit the site on Thursday, September 8 with a state police escort. At that time, certain collections, that had previously been designated "high priority" and stored for ease of access in the event of an emergency, were removed and brought to an undisclosed location. Another inspection trip was held on Thursday, September 15. At that time, we had sporadic electrical service. Fortunately, the buildings remained cool. Within another week, the buildings did have air conditioning.

Staff, able to return, formally resumed work on October 3. The exhibition gallery re-opened to the public on October 10. While the research center will formally resume public hours on October 15.

The staff has been systematically cleaning all shelves and checking all collections for any signs of damage.

The symposium "Common Routes: St. Domingue and Louisiana" remains scheduled for Saturday, February 4. The accompanying exhibition, which draws heavily on items loaned from European archives, will open in mid-March.



Faye Phillips working on the recovery of Donn Young's photograph archive. Young has been a photographer in New Orleans for 30 years much of that spent working for the Port Authority. His entire collection was under water in Lakefront. Photo courtesy of Faye Phillips.

NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK ARCHIVES

Submitted by Sally Reeves

The archives located in the City Park Administration Building No. 1 on Baseball Drive, was under 4 to 5 feet of water for two or more weeks. The collection which contains 115 years of the City Park minutes, photographs, architectural drawings, scrapbooks, correspondence, posters and various ephemera, was in a windowless room, suffering temperatures around 100 degrees and the mold reached up to 8 feet high. Using two flashlights as the room was in complete darkness and wearing masks, with the assistance of Scott Williams of Louisiana Binding, staff were able to move roughly 2/3 of the collection, much of it wet and moldy, to Williams' warehouse on the west bank.



NARA RELEASES FUNDS FOR GULF COAST ARCHIVISTSSubmitted by Rob Thormeyer, *Government Computer News* staff

Aiming to avoid the “identity loss” of the Gulf Coast, the National Archives and Records Administration authorized the release of up to \$25,000 in emergency grants to state archives in the hurricane-battered region for disaster assessment and recovery activities.

Allen Weinstein, NARA archivist, also stated yesterday that the agency will designate a senior conservator to help Louisiana officials and the Orleans Parish coroner provide document recovery assistance and support.

“The potential loss of information that directly affects the lives of people in these states is staggering,” Weinstein said. “The loss of our collective memory of this region — ‘identity loss,’ in other words — is at stake. Property deeds, birth certificates, personal papers, information documenting the rights and entitlements of citizens, such as Social Security and veterans’ benefits, are all at risk. Records found in federal, state, local and cultural sites must be rescued.”

On top of the \$25,000 in grants to the region, Weinstein said the agency will consider additional grants of up to \$100,000 from the 2006 fiscal year when those funds are appropriated.

“Archives staff has already spent hundreds [of] hours working with federal agencies and our partners in state and local government to scope out this effort and begin to identify and recover records,” Weinstein said. “In the coming days and weeks, working with our partners in the states and the federal agencies, we are committed to spending thousands more.”

**NEWS FROM THOSE AFFECTED
BY**

HURRICANE RITA

WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE

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SSA CARES ENOUGH TO BLOG

Submitted by Brenda Gunn

In the days following Hurricane Katrina, the questions swirling around in everyone's head—Where are our friends? Where are our colleagues?—reached frantic heights, evidenced by the messages on the archives list. Information seemed to be the singular thing that people craved. And information was something that SSA could facilitate. I realized that a place for those affected by Katrina to check in and let everyone know what was their situation would be helpful. Additionally, I felt that many of those displaced might not have the ability to check in themselves, so providing a place for second-hand reports would be the next best thing. After individuals, people would want to know about the status of repositories and collections. And from reading the archives list, people seemed to need to post their thoughts and concerns. So, the site could be informative and therapeutic simultaneously. The bottom line was to establish channels of communication and distribute the information about people and repositories in a timely way. And, thus, a blog was born on Thursday, September 1.

The University of Texas at Austin's School of Information agreed to host the blog, and adjunct faculty member Stan Gunn agreed to build the site. I talked with SAA president Richard Pearce-Moses on the afternoon of the 1st, and he encouraged SSA to go forward with the blog and promised that SAA would link to it from their main web page. On Friday morning, September 2, the SSA Cares blog debuted.

As soon as word spread about the blog, through word of mouth and through the archives list, people began posting. And I began receiving responses almost immediately. Unsure initially about whether SSA Cares would be used and whether it would fill a need, I quickly became reassured that SSA had made a good decision about where to direct its efforts. People from all over the country and a few from outside of the U.S. wrote to express their gratitude for the blog and to say that SSA was doing a good job.

But by far the greatest gauge of the success of the blog was the response we received from Louisiana archivists themselves. They took time out of the chaos of their lives to check in, to report on their repositories, to communicate with each other, and to express the needs of their collections. They made the site work.

Visit the blog at <http://www.ssacares.org/>.



SSA/SAA EMERGENCY DISASTER ASSISTANCE GRANT

Submitted by Shelly Kelly

As the SSACares.org blog site began to reveal the desperate situation of many archives, the SSA executive board began discussions about developing a fund to help archival repositories recover from Hurricane Katrina. Discussions started on Friday, September 9 and continued through the weekend via email.

On Monday, September 12, SSA president, Brenda Gunn, spoke with SAA Director Nancy Beaumont and the SSA/SAA Emergency Disaster Assistance grant fund was conceived. The Society of American Archivists would receive donations, write checks and handle basic administration of the fund within their infrastructure. The Society of Southwest Archivists would appoint a Review Committee to develop the application process and review criteria, receive applications and approve/deny any requests.

The SSA motion to establish the fund passed on Wednesday, September 14. In addition, SSA board voted to donate \$5,000 to start the fund. In an unprecedented move, the Society of American Archivists council waived their standard waiting period and unanimously approved to create the fund on Friday, September 16. SAA also donated \$5,000.

The SSA/SAA EDA Review Committee is composed of Immediate Past President, Shelly Kelly, Immediate Past Treasurer Robert Schaadt, and SSA past presidents Kathlene Ferris, Carol Roark, and Bruce Turner. Carla Summers participates as the SAA council liaison.

The committee spent three very intense days working out the criteria for reviewing applications, creating an application process, and agreeing on the amount to be awarded. The committee turned in their document to SSA/SAA on Tuesday, September 20 as Hurricane Rita approached the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast. Committee members Shelly Kelly, Robert Schaadt and Bruce Turner were directly or indirectly affected by the storm.



On Wednesday, September 21, only three weeks after Hurricane Katrina made landfall, SSA/SAA announced the fund even as archivists were finally gaining entrance into their repositories to survey the damage.

As of October 13, 2005, the fund had received \$ 9,126 in donations, not including the original \$5,000 from both SSA and SAA. (Total \$19,126.) As of October 17, SSA has received five requests for assistance and has approved grants of \$2,000 for three of them. The other two are still under review and consideration.

The three recipients are the Notarial Archives, the Louisiana Museum Foundation, and the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women (Tulane University).

On October 17, the SSA board voted to also accept applications from archival repositories damaged during Hurricane Rita.

For more information or to apply, visit <http://www.ssacares.org/grant.php>.

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH IN NEW ORLEANS*A letter from Sr. Jane Aucoin, Archivist*

Baton Rouge, LA

October 24, 2005

Dear Friends,

Some of you, I know, have already heard about how Katrina has affected the Sisters of St. Joseph in New Orleans. This, though, is a more formal account that I wrote recently and want very much to share with all of you, and with others whom I may not have thought of. So, here goes...

Last Saturday, October 15, the 355th anniversary of our founding, we received the word we had expected, yet dreaded to have confirmed. Our buildings on Mirabeau Avenue in New Orleans will be put up for sale as soon as the cleaning up is completed and we can get a "certificate of clean air" that will protect us from future liability. The cost of renewing the first floors is simply beyond our resources. The clean-up will cost over \$1 million, and that will take all that we hope to receive from insurance. FEMA money will probably go toward paying our employees and maintaining their health insurance through October, possibly November...Many of them have lost everything.

As I think I told you before, the second floors are largely OK. That's where Archives and Sisters' living spaces are. However, the Sisters who have lost everything are those in the Marian Community, our assisted living facility, housed in a one-story building. The water level there was higher, and the mold grew to about 6 feet. These, our oldest Sisters, lost everything. They have been relocated to St. Joseph Academy in Baton Rouge, where, despite the warm welcome by that community, they wander around like brave, but lost souls! Please remember them especially in your prayers. Also, two of the three residences that we own in New Orleans are ruined beyond repair.

A handful of sisters will remain or return to NO--those whose ministries are there--at Loyola and Xavier Universities; in parishes that may reopen, at Ochsner Hospital, at St. Rita School, Harahan, etc. Thank God for that! Perhaps later others will find ministry opportunities there...

As Archivist my immediate task is to pack up Archives and ship them to an as-yet-unknown location in BR. Again, please join us in praying that we can find space that we can afford to rent--not easy in a city that has so dramatically increased in population! While you're at it, pray also that those of us who are housed temporarily here can soon find permanent housing.

Like all evacuees, I deeply feel the exile from "home." We've long known that "we have not here a lasting city," and we've prayed over the accounts of Jews in exile in Egypt and in Babylon. Yet, quite honestly, we never expected anything like this! Like exiles everywhere, we need courage and hope which can only come from the Lord, whose words to Jeremiah are so precious: "I know well the plans I have for you. Plans for your welfare, not for woe. Plans to give you a future full of hope."

To all of you, dear Sisters, and to all my fellow evacuees, my heart cries: "LONG LIVE HOPE!"

Love always, in God's great LOVE,

Jane Aucoin, csj
csjarch@mirabeaucsj.org
Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille

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AFTER KATRINA

By Tara Laver, Assistant Curator for Manuscripts; Mark Martin, Assistant Curator for Image Resources; and Elaine Smyth, Curator, Special Collections, LSU Libraries, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

As the staff of Louisiana State University Libraries Special Collections returned to work a few days after Hurricane Katrina, many of us had difficulty focusing on our everyday jobs. Evacuees poured into Baton Rouge, LSU faculty and staff worked frantically with emergency officials to set up shelters and field hospitals on campus, and via website and television, we watched, horrified, as a vast human tragedy continued to develop.

To many of us, getting that new finding aid posted, that collection cataloged, or the next exhibit planned suddenly seemed irrelevant. We wanted to do something to help. Stints at the on-campus shelters sorting clothes, entertaining children, caring for pets, transporting supplies, and running errands offered one way to contribute. Indeed, many of us wished we were doctors or nurses so we could help more directly. But when evacuees of a different sort—records, books and photos from New Orleans's diverse archives and libraries—made their way to Baton Rouge and LSU Special Collections, we had the opportunity to put our skills and facilities to good use.

In anticipation of receiving collections from New Orleans, Special Collections set up a kind of "archival ER" in Hill Library's large lecture hall. Tables, paper towels, blotter paper, large plastic bags, Rescubes, rolls of newspaper, silicone release paper, and box fans were laid out in readiness. The first materials to arrive were approximately 20 linear feet of albums, cassettes, film, ephemera, manuscripts, photographs, sheet music, and scrapbooks from the Louisiana State Museum's Jazz Collection. Housed in the Old U.S. Mint at 400 Esplanade Ave, these materials, which represent about one percent of the total Jazz Collection, were damaged when a large portion of the building's copper roof ripped off. The Louisiana State Museum has the largest collection in the world of instruments owned and played by important figures in jazz, including Louis Armstrong's bugle and cornet, Kid Ory's trombone, and Sidney Bechet's soprano saxophone; over 10,000 photographs documenting the local music scene from about 1950 onward; more than 10,000 recordings in all formats; as well as sheet music, posters, film, and art works. Museum staff were able to survey their collection, with the assistance of a National Guard escort, and on September 2nd, they delivered the wet collections to LSU. Because they were wet with rainwater, as opposed to the contaminated floodwater, the collections were rela-



Special Collections staff all pitched in to lay out damp materials from the State Museum for air drying in the Hill Memorial Library lecture hall. Photo by Leah Jewett.

tively clean; few items showed evidence of mold. LSU Special Collections' Conservator Don Morrison and Curator Elaine Smyth triaged the materials, and with the assistance of Special Collections staff, air-dried the bulk of the recovered collections. A sheet music collection and the Museum's own scrapbooks required freezing.

As the scale of damage in New Orleans became apparent, Associate Dean Faye Phillips received approval from university officials for Special Collections to assist in recovery efforts in any way she considered appropriate, not limiting our assistance to only other state schools or agencies. Consequently, another institution with which Special Collections has been working closely is the Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans. Over 700 volumes from the book collection of Notre Dame Seminary, which is operated by the archdiocese, are presently stored at LSU for safekeeping. The seminary's holdings include rare and important versions of the Bible from foreign countries, most notably one of three copies known to exist of the Complutense Polyglot Bible (1514-1517), incunabula, other religious texts, Louisiana church parish histories, some New Orleans and Louisiana titles, and a few manuscript collections. Among the latter are Archbishop Philip Hannan's personal papers from Vatican Council II.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Additionally, the Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge Archives received 66 volumes of sacramental and financial records and congregational minutes from New Orleans-area and southeast Louisiana churches damaged or destroyed by Katrina. Volumes from one church were found in the middle of the street. Archives staff washed the volumes, and they were placed in Special Collections' freezer. An additional 129 volumes and four linear feet are being stored in the library's stacks.

Another group of materials requiring freezing was the newspaper archive of the Saint Bernard Parish Voice. Saint Bernard Parish was one of the hardest-hit areas, and flooding there submerged 100 volumes of issues spanning 1890 to the present. Staff from the Louisiana Press Association retrieved the newspapers and brought them to LSU.

A more active and arduous role for Special Collections staff developed a little over a month after Katrina made landfall. On the morning of September 30, Special Collections received a telephone call from New Orleans photographer Donn Young, whose studio was flooded by both Katrina and Rita. Unable to save his 35-year archive of work without help, Young donated the collection to the LSU Libraries in order that something might be saved. When Special Collections' Image Resources Curator Mark Martin arrived to survey the materials, he found a motley mix of some 80 containers in which approximately 100 cubic feet of material were stewing in a mix



Image Resources Curator Mark Martin inspects some color transparencies from the Young Collection that miraculously survived. Photo by Joe Scott.

of contaminated water, leached photography chemicals, and muck. Despite its condition, the documentary value of the work was clear. Believing there might be some salvageable materials, Special Collections staff began an urgent search for a rental truck, much in demand in the aftermath of two hurricanes, to transport the materials to Baton Rouge.

On Sunday, October 2, Phillips, Smyth, and Martin drove to Metairie to load the truck. Some of the largest containers, too heavy to be lifted safely, were repacked into smaller boxes. After four hours the truck was loaded and headed back upriver. Over the following four days Special Collections staff assembled behind the Library to triage the collection. As expected the damage was extensive, since photographic materials do not take well to being underwater for a month. Most of the 35 mm color negative and color positive film was completely destroyed, as was almost all the 120 mm black & white negative film. Some of the 4" x 5" color negative and color positive film that had been placed in Mylar sleeves survived; some of the 35 mm black & white negative film looked as if it might be salvageable.

There were also more than 1,000 CD-ROMs in the mix. The aluminum layer on many of these disks completely debonded leaving a transparent disk behind, while many others suffered some degree of damage rendering them unreadable on local MAC disk readers. Funds are being sought to outsource data recovery for these disks. A sampling of disks with no visible damage revealed 4 out of 5 were still readable without using extraordinary measures; unfortunately, these undamaged disks form a very small fraction of the whole.

The Libraries' salvage operation reduced the size of the collection from approximately 100 cubic feet to approximately 28 cubic feet, which was immediately placed in the our walk-in freezer to stabilize the materials and give the staff time to develop an action plan for the next phase of recovery. We anticipate that perhaps as little as 5 cubic feet of material will survive.

The aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita has pointed out many areas of disaster recovery practice that need to be reconsidered. Most training assumes recovery can begin within 48 hours of damage. In New Orleans, the earliest anyone could survey their collections was three days after the storm, and most archivists were not granted access until a week or more had passed. Another assumption is that the water causing the damage has come from a broken pipe, firemen's hoses, or rainwater, and is therefore clean. Katrina's floodwaters, however, contained chemicals and bacteria. Just as government at all levels reviews its response, so must the archival community learn from this unprecedented disaster.

This article also appears in the November/December 2005 issue of *Archival Outlook*.

MISSION TO MONTANA

Submitted by Cindy Smolovik



View near Bozeman, Montana. Photo by Cindy Smolovik.

For those members who could not join us in Baton Rouge, a resolution honoring Kim Allen Scott for his dedication and service to the organization was read at the annual business meeting. In addition, to the resolution itself, the board commissioned a unique gift of a hand-crafted and engraved hunting knife. The knife was beautifully designed and crafted by Thatcher Focke.

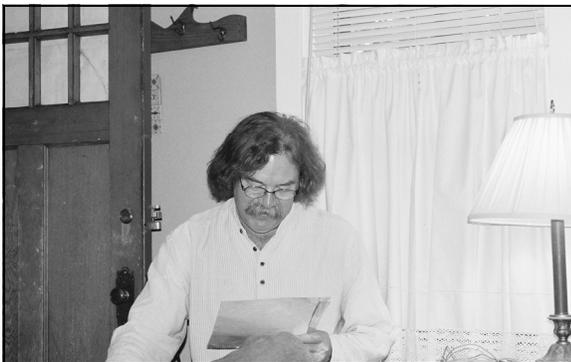
THE RESOLUTION INSTRUCTED, “a copy [of the resolution] be sent to Kim Allen Scott at his home in Montana by such manner as the Secretary may think proper.” The Secretary

(Cindy Smolovik) and her family deemed it proper to trek

north to beautiful Bozeman, Montana to deliver said copy and knife in person. After all, a token of gratitude of this magnitude should not be entrusted to the efficient but impersonal U.S. Postal Service. I am happy to report that we found Kim and his family in grand spirits. The knife, as it turns out, was truly the best gift. Kim was very excited and happy to receive it.

For those of Southern traditions, worried about the gift of a knife symbolizing the severing of friendships, on instruction by the great and wonderful Paul Scott (no relation to Kim), before giving Kim the gift, I asked for a coin as “payment”. This coin was delivered to Gerrienne Schaad, Treasurer at the next board meeting.

Again, our sincere thanks to Kim for his unflagging support of SSA and helping make our scholarship programs as strong as they are today.



Kim reads the resolution honoring his years of service to SSA.. Photo by Cindy Smolovik.



The blade is inscribed to “Kim Allen Scott, with our sincere appreciation for SLOTTO, Society of Southwestern Archivists, 2005”. It is a Bowie knife with an antler handle and brass guard.

LETTER OF THANKS FROM KIM ALLEN SCOTT

Dear Friends in SSA:

For the second time in my association with the Society of Southwest Archivists, I am speechless, although since I am sitting at a word processor and not standing before you at a podium, I will attempt a few words. Cindy Smolovik came to Bozeman this summer bearing the resolution you folks passed at the last meeting, and the beautiful Bowie knife. I cannot begin to tell you what both mean to me, and I am honored by your gift.

As some of you know, I am a big Alamo fan, and when I visited the shrine of Texas freedom during the San Antonio meeting, I purchased a tourist Bowie knife at the gift store. I admired the blade and bought it, never realizing that the low price on the thing had something to do with the word "Pakistan" stamped near the hilt. When I got the knife home, I found it was duller than an Orson Bean monologue, and the only way it would take an edge was to put it under a pyramid and hope it would sharpen like those used razor blades. When I did get it sharp enough to use, I put it to work butchering a buffalo that a friend of mine shot on the Ted Turner ranch last November. It took three days, and I spent more time dragging that blade over a stone than I did slicing meat for bison burgers. Now, with this fine knife you have given me, I will be able to tackle the largest critter in no time at all. Can you think of a more appropriate use for a Bowie knife? (Showing up at the Arkansas Territorial Legislature for debate does not count.)

Although I am not available to meet with you all face to face and thank you personally for your gift, I intend to stay active in SSA as best I can. My term on the nominations committee is still active, and to be successful at the job I will continue to need your help. Please let your interest in holding office be known to myself or the other members of the committee as soon as possible. Our beloved organization thrives when you get involved.

Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Kim Allen Scott
Special Collections Librarian/University Archivist
Montana State University Libraries, Bozeman

**100 YEARS OF OKLAHOMA GOVERNORS CENTENNIAL PROJECT
LAUNCHED BY OKLAHOMA STATE ARCHIVES**

Submitted by Tally Fugate



The Oklahoma State Archives Division of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries announces that the *100 Years of Oklahoma Governors* project has been officially launched!

Over three years in the making, the *100 Years of Oklahoma Governors* project is an official centennial project celebrating the state's history, endorsed by the Oklahoma Centennial Commission. The project involved the creation of gubernatorial website accessible through the Oklahoma Department of Libraries at www.odl.state.ok.us

The project encompasses descriptive, administrative, and archival arrangement information. On each governor's page one can find biographies, histories, and state of the state addresses. There are listings for publication rights and citations, research topics, and links to related websites. Most importantly, we've provided archival finding aids for each governor. Each finding aid describes--by box and folder--the respective governor's official records such as correspondence, speeches, press releases, reports, proclamations and much more. The project also incorporates online exhibit elements such as photographs and images of pertinent documents.

The *100 Years of Oklahoma Governors* project not only recognizes the importance and impressiveness of the Governors' Collection housed in the Oklahoma State Archives, but also provides an important service to state government and all Oklahomans. This is best exemplified by the number of downloads during the project's creation. According to statistical reports Governor Jack Walton's biography was downloaded 342 times and Governor George Nigh's finding aid received 147 downloads; both in one month. Now, as we begin to promote the project, those numbers will surely increase.

The Oklahoma State Archives is very excited about *100 Years of Oklahoma Governors* and appreciates the assistance of Jan Davis, Oklahoma State Records Center, for editing; Tina Calloway, Oklahoma State Records Center, for endless amounts of typing; and of course William Struby and Michael O'Hasson, Public Information Office, for website "flash" and creation.

In the future, we will incorporate the *100 Years of Oklahoma Governors* project into database format; information will be expanded and updated, and new images will be added. This is merely the launch of an evolving, valuable and enjoyable digital resource for Oklahoma's state history. In the meantime, please browse what the Oklahoma State Archives has accomplished so far.

For further information contact Tally Fugate, Archivist, Oklahoma State Archives, Oklahoma Department of Libraries at tfugate@oltn.odl.state.ok.us.

COVETED 2005 SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AWARD PRESENTED TO AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER, AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR WORK IN LATINO COMMUNITY

Submitted by Sue Soy

The Austin History Center recently accepted the 2005 Spirit of Cooperation Award presented by the United East Austin Coalition, a prominent umbrella organization that represents several neighborhood activist groups. The Austin History Center was recognized for its work helping to improve the quality of life for East Austin's native people. The award was presented to History Center staff in honor of Dia de la Raza, a day of celebration for indigenous people around the world.

"Dia de la Raza is an alternative holiday to Christopher Columbus Day and the day's events strive to recognize the contribution of those who help native people and preserve their culture that the Spaniards exploited in search of gold and land," Lori Renteria, representative for the organization explained in the award notification letter. She noted that "The Austin History Center has made real progress over the last two decades to expand its collection to include the history and culture of the Mexican-American community and document contributions made to the City by our community."

In 2001, the Austin History Center hired Irene Gonzales as a Neighborhood Liaison to help document the Mexican American community. Irene started her work with the Austin History Center by establishing working relationships with individuals and groups in the community and developing an advisory committee that is focused on education and business. The Mexican American Advisory committee includes such prominent community members as former Austin Mayor Gus Garcia, former county commissioner and the first elected Latino official in Travis county, Richard Moya, and longtime activist Gloria Mata Pennington. They meet regularly to advise Irene and to help acquire materials from businesses and families in the community. These materials fill obvious gaps in the Austin History Center collections and keep staff in touch with a vital part of our community.

The Award recognizes Irene's important contributions documenting the people, places, and events of the Latino community. Renteria, and the numerous community organizations that make up the United East Austin Coalition, couldn't agree more. They wrote in the nomination:

"Since hiring Irene Gonzales, a long-time cultural warrior for preserving eastside arts traditions and individual artists, the Austin History Center is really reaching out and collaborating in all kinds of public gatherings where Irene can persuade a family to share their history and preserve it in the archives. We commend the staff and the Board for its commitment to preserve our individual and collective histories and showcase our accomplishments to the city at large."

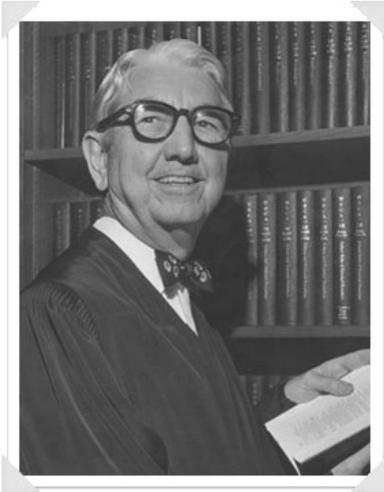
Gonzales, always looking for ways to enhance the Austin History Center's collection, is passionate about the need for community involvement. "There's so much to do, so the committee is by no means closed, the work is so vast, we need all the help we can get! Our community has contributed immensely to Austin. It's my job to make sure that Latinos in Austin know that we are here to document their history and contributions and that we are also here as a resource when they need to research information about the community," she said.

Anyone who is interested in developing a program of this type should contact the Austin History Center where work documenting underrepresented neighborhoods and community groups has been ongoing for five years.

Sue Soy, Manager, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library sue.soy@ci.austintx.us 512-974-7388

MAJOR SUPREME COURT CASES FROM JUSTICE TOM CLARK'S PAPERS ON-LINE

Submitted by Michael Widener



Tom Clark, Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court, 1949 -1967.
Photo courtesy of Tarlton Law Library.

Documents from several of the major U.S. Supreme Court cases of the 20th century are now available via the Internet, thanks to a joint project by the Tarlton Law Library at The University of Texas at Austin, and The University's UTOPIA initiative, a digital gateway designed to open the University's doors of knowledge, research, and information to the public.

"The Papers of Justice Tom C. Clark: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Cases of the U.S. Supreme Court" is available at <http://utopia.utexas.edu/explore/clark/>.

The documents include Clark's own handwritten opinion drafts, notes exchanged between the Justices, and in some cases Clark's notes of the Court's private discussions of the cases. "These documents allow you to peek behind the curtain of secrecy that surrounds the Supreme Court's deliberations," said Professor Roy M. Mersky, director of the Tarlton Law Library.

Tom C. Clark (1899-1977) was a 1922 graduate of The University of Texas School of Law and, so far, the only Texan to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. He was appointed to the court in 1949, and retired in 1967 when his son Ramsey Clark became Attorney General. The collection contains a comprehensive record of Justice Clark's activities as a Supreme Court Justice, public servant, and advocate for improved judicial administration. Experts regard the Tom C. Clark Papers as one of the two most complete collections of Warren Court papers in existence; the other is the William O. Douglas Papers at the Library of Congress.

Among the case files digitized for the project are *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), which outlawed the segre-

gation of public schools, and *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966), which required arresting officers to read suspects their "Miranda rights" (their right to remain silent and to have an attorney). Also included is the "school prayer" case, *Abington v. Schempp* (1963), in which Justice Clark wrote the majority opinion. Other cases deal with the integration of public facilities, voting rights, and free speech.

For each case, there is a brief introductory essay that explains its background and significance. Users may then choose from a list of the most significant documents, or they may browse all the documents. "The project is designed to be useful to both the high school civics student and the professor of constitutional law," explained Mersky.

Also included are suggestions for further reading on each case, and a glossary of legal terms to help students understand the documents.

The documents digitized in the UTOPIA project are a small fraction of the Tom C. Clark Papers, which totals close to 900 boxes of documents, photographs, scrapbooks, recordings, and printed materials.

In addition, the finding aid to the Tom C. Clark Papers is now available via the Texas Archival Resources Online (T A R O) p o r t a l , at <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utlaw/00021/law-00021p1.html>. The finding aid is encoded using the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) markup language, and is part of the Texas Archival Resources Online repository of EAD finding aids. This web-accessible guide is a major step forward in providing access to the Tom C. Clark Papers.

In connection with this project, the Law Library's archivists developed a database which enables them to prepare EAD finding aids in a period of days instead of months. Assistant Archivist Addy Sonder designed and built the database tool, based on a concept by Mike Widener, Head of Special Collections.

For more information, contact Michael Widener, Head of Special Collections, phone 512/571-7263, email mwidener@law.utexas.edu.

ARCHIVISTS AND RECORDS MANAGERS WEIGH IN ON NEW TEXAS LAWS

Submitted by Paul R. Scott, CA, CRM

During the 79th Legislative Session Texas senators and representatives struggled with the issues of school finance, Dutch ovens and sexy cheerleaders. And, yes, there were some less newsworthy matters such as some 534 identified bills with RIM implications.

Perhaps the bill that archivists and records managers can be proudest of is HB 698 requiring the destruction of discarded business records containing personal identifying information. As filed, the definition of personal identifying information was so broad that it could be applied to the phone directory and 19th Century mercantile ledgers. The Archivists for the Houston Area (AHA!), the Society of Southwest Archivists, and the Dallas and Ft. Worth Chapters of ARMA as well as individual RIM professionals weighed in and the final bill has a reasonable definition of personal identifying information, sensible safe harbor provisions, and an exception for historically significant records transferred to a "professional managed historical repository."

Briefs of relevant bills will soon be posted on the SSA website, <http://southwestarchivists.org/>. Many tracked bills contain only boiler plate language authorizing or requiring public agencies to utilize appropriate technology, board members to be trained in the Public Information Act, creating records of investigations, etc., and I have opted not to brief them. HB 1155 Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Dieticians, is an example of such an act. Nor have I briefed bills with only minor impact such as HB 1268 which makes only minor changes to the questions on a voter registration application.

Because laws are longer and more complex than these briefs, readers are enjoined to do their own research. They are also warned that this report deals only with records issues which are frequently only a small part of entire bill.

Full text and related reports to each bill can be found at <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>. Also, if anyone finds errors or identifies other bills of significance to information professionals, please report it to me at paul_scott@fpm.co.harris.tx.us.

UTOPIA INTRODUCES TEXAS ARCHITECTURE: A VISUAL HISTORY

Press release

UTOPIA, the online knowledge gateway at The University of Texas at Austin, now features the site "Texas Architecture: A Visual History" (<http://utopia.utexas.edu/explore/txarch/index.html>). Texas Architecture showcases images selected from the Marian Davis and D. Blake Alexander slide collections held by the School of Architecture's Visual Resources Collection (VRC) and the University of Texas Libraries Alexander Architectural Archive, respectively. The collections are unique and valuable resources documenting architecture throughout Texas of both extant and razed buildings.

This UTOPIA site provides a curated historical overview of the development of the built environment in Texas, as well as the ability to search and access nearly 4,000 digitized images documenting Texas architecture. UTOPIA is the University's digital knowledge gateway into the treasures of libraries, museums, galleries, and laboratories of The University of Texas at Austin. It is designed to open to the public the knowledge, research and information and share these resources free of charge. UTOPIA also presents the research of key faculty members to general audiences through online articles, presentations, lessons and discussions.

Texas Architecture: A Visual History



For more information contact:
Travis Willmann, 512-495-4644
twillmann@mail.utexas.edu

ARCHIVIST'S DAYBOOK

Compiled by Lee Miller

For more complete information, please visit
<http://southwestarchivists.org/HTML/daybook.htm>

Dec 11 Feast day of St. Damasus I (circa 304-84), pope (366-84). A special achievement of his pontificate was providing adequate housing for the papal archives.

Jan 1 Deadline to apply for Fulbright Awards for NATO advanced research fellowships and institutional grants. Visit <http://www.iie.org/cies/> for more information.

Jan 20 On this date in 1981, the US Presidential Records Act took effect. It declared that after this date the records of all US presidents and vice presidents would be the property of the American people. The law allowed citizens to review all materials, including confidential communications with advisers, 12 years after a president left office. The act also assured that the most sensitive records relating to national security, foreign relations, financial and trade secrets, and personal privacy were exempt from disclosure.

Feb 1 Deadline to apply for the MARAC Modern Archives Scholarship. See <http://www.lib.umd.edu/MARAC/awards/scholar.html>.

Feb 28 Deadline for proposals for "Archives and You! Everything You Wanted to Know About Archives...But Were Afraid to Ask," the 1st national conference for the users of archives, to be held June 27-28 in Ottawa by the Canadian Council of Archives. For more information, visit www.archivesconference.ca or contact George Rogerson tel. (819) 827-5168 (toll-free 866-775-1816) or email conference@archivescanada.ca

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 SSA Treasurer
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 San Antonio, TX 78270

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Submitted by Shelly Kelly

Stop for a minute and think about someone in SSA. Who comes to mind? How has that person made an impact within our organization and the archival profession over a number of years? Has that person been recognized with the Distinguished Service Award? (Hint, the list is available on the website and in the membership directory.)

That person you're thinking of right now, who has given so much of himself or herself through hard work, volunteerism, mentoring, and service to the organization and profession, wouldn't it be nice to see them recognized? Sure it would!

So what are you waiting for? Please take the time and write a letter of support highlighting their accomplishments and submit it for consideration of the SSA Distinguished Service Award.

The Distinguished Service Award Committee is now accepting nominations for the award to be presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting in El Paso. This award is given to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the Society of Southwest Archivists and the archival profession over a number of years. The award is sponsored by Metal Edge, Inc.

As SSA's most prestigious award, each year the Distinguished Service Award honors someone whose long-term efforts contributed to the success of the organization.

Nominations must include a statement of the contributions the nominee has made to SSA and the profession. Letters of support for the nomination are strongly recommended.

For further information contact Shelly Kelly, Chair, or one of the other members of the Committee:

Tim Blevins
Pikes Peak Library District Archives
tblevins@ppld.org
x2258

Kathie Bordelon
McNeese State University
bordelon@mail.mcneese.edu
337-475-5734

Laine Sutherland
Tennessee State Library & Archives
laine.sutherland@state.tn.us
615-253-6483



Send nominations to:
Shelly Kelly
University of Houston-Clear Lake
kellysh@uhcl.edu
281-283-3936

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2006.

TEXAS STATE LIBRARY RECEIVES \$240,249 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP GRANT FROM THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

Press release

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has awarded the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) a \$240,249 National Leadership Grant to fund an initiative to bring Texas history and culture to the desktop. The grant will fund the Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative, a collaborative project of the Texas State Library and eleven library, museum, and archives partners from throughout the state.

The Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative will broaden and streamline access to Texas institutions' historical and cultural resources through the Internet. Digitized collections will be formatted so they are searchable through the same interface, the Library of Texas, www.libraryoftexas.org. The project team will also work collaboratively to create study guides and other teaching tools that map assets in collections to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) requirements for fourth and seventh grade history students.

As State Library Commission Chair Sandra Pickett notes, "Many Texas institutions have been digitizing their collections and making them available online, but there has been little standardization among them. The Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative will provide for a statewide plan and the development of guidelines that will enable more institutions to put their collections online. People also will be able to search these collections simultaneously through the Library of Texas."

Cathy Hartman, assistant dean of the Texas Center for Digital Knowledge at the University of North Texas and one of the founders of the initiative, adds, "Smaller libraries and museums face a real dilemma in providing online access to their unique collections, often lacking sufficient staff, equipment, or perhaps the knowledge on how to provide this type of access. The Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative's core value is inclusiveness - all interested organizations may participate. This funding will go a long way towards building a structure to provide the assistance and support that these people need in order to share the stories of their local communities."

Some of the collections that will be included in the project are the "Portal to Texas History," a project of the University of North Texas; "Tejano Voices" from the University of Texas at Arlington; "Austin Treasures"

from the Austin History Center; and, "Texas Historic Sites Atlas" from the Texas Historical Commission.

In addition to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, partners in the Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative include the Austin Public Library, Dallas Public Library, Fort Bend County Museum, North Richland Hills Public Library, Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas A & M University, Texas General Land Office, Texas Historical Commission, University of North Texas, University of Texas at Arlington, and the University of Texas at Austin.

The National Leadership Grants for Libraries, a grant program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, supports innovative projects that enhance the quality of library services and can be widely replicated. Areas of funding include education, research, digitization, and library-museum collaboration.

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A STUDY OF THE SPANISH SPEAKING PEOPLE OF TEXAS, 1949—PHOTOGRAPHS BY RUSSELL LEE

Submitted by Beth Dodd



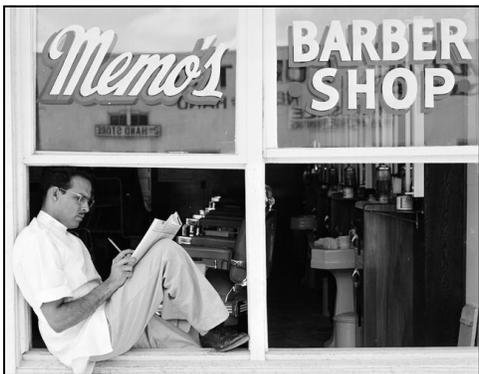
Sheepshearers at the camp during a brief rest period on a ranch near Sonora, Texas.

The Center for American History is pleased to announce the completion of a project to digitize and make available online more than 900 images that acclaimed documentary photographer Russell Lee produced in 1949 of Mexican Americans communities in Texas (Corpus Christi, San Angelo/Sonora, San Antonio, and El Paso).

Done as a part of Dr. George I. Sanchez’s seminal socio-economic survey, *A Study of the Spanish Speaking People of Texas*, these images represent a unique visual record for that period, and are unparalleled anywhere in the United States for their variety, scope, and quality. Among the many subject areas are elementary schools and children, housing, migrant workers, trades and vocations, businesses, politics, professions, and leisure activities.

Site features include an introduction, section headings for each regional group of images, captions taken from Russell Lee’s field notes, a biography of Russell Lee, technical information about the project, and lesson plans. The site is located at <http://www.cah.utexas.edu/ssspot/>.

This site was funded by a grant from UT’s UTOPIA initiative and produced in partnership with the staff of UT Digital Libraries Services.



Man studying for night adult classes at Central and Winn Seal High Schools that are composed largely of Latin-American veterans who are completing grade and high school, Corpus Christi.



Swimming pool at Armijo Park, El Paso.

REVEALING THE ROMAN BRONZE WORKS FOUNDRY ARCHIVES AT THE AMON CARTER MUSEUM

Submitted by Paula Stewart

In keeping with its mission to support art history research, the Amon Carter Museum Archives oversees not only the institutional archives but a number of special collections as well. One of these collections is the business records of the Roman Bronze Works Foundry, which documents the work of hundreds of sculptors who had pieces cast at the foundry throughout the 20th century.

The Roman Bronze Works was one of the United States' leading fine-arts foundries during the first half of the twentieth century. Riccardo Bertelli established the firm in Brooklyn, New York, in 1899, to cast art sculpture. From approximately 1920 to 1948, the foundry operated as a subsidiary of the General Bronze Corporation. While it continued to cast art sculpture, the company also produced more commercial pieces, including such architectural elements as floor registers, door jambs, window casings, lamps, and sconces. In 1948, the Schiavo family, which had been associated with the foundry since 1904, bought the company from the General Bronze Corporation, and the foundry returned to casting primarily art sculpture.

The records acquired by the Carter include those from the foundry's period of greatest activity: approximately 1902 until the mid-1960s. The collection encompasses a wide array of materials, including general ledgers dating from 1902 through 1977, order books documenting orders placed from 1928 through 1958, card indexes of clients, business operations files, job files that record pieces cast from 1927 through 1977 which may contain correspondence, invoices, artist's sketches and drawings, photographs, and small architectural drawings. Also included are a plaster model index that lists the 1948 inventory of plaster models at the foundry, a Conrad Schmitt Studios sample book, a photograph album of decorative elements and fixtures manufactured by General Bronze Corporation for the Schmitt Studios, 791 oversize architectural drawings (primarily blueprints) illustrating decorative elements and fixtures and their placement in ten buildings constructed in Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, New York, Pittsburgh, and Washington, DC between 1931 and 1941.

Years of storage throughout the foundry building—in filing cabinets and boxes in offices, in a basement with a window open to the East River, behind furnaces—had left the records covered in dirt and soot. When the records arrived in Fort Worth, we first stabilized them and then had Mary Todd Glaser from the Northeast Document Conservation Center conduct a conservation assessment. Using Glaser's recommendations and an internal evaluation of the most useful records, we developed a work plan and obtained funding from the Getty Grant Program for cleaning, arranging, and describing the job files. Because of the amount of labor involved in processing the job files...and the need to suspend this work while we participated in planning, building, and opening a renovated and greatly expanded museum. The processing begun in 1997 was only completed in 2003.

EXHIBITS AT THE AMON CARTER MUSEUM

A number of exhibitions and installations at the Amon Carter Museum feature items drawn from the museum's archival collections.

Maps from the library and archives collections are the focus of *Nineteenth-Century Texana*, which runs through December 8, 2005.

In commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of a history-making project, the Carter is presenting a special exhibition of 78 of the 124 original photographs from *In the American West: Photographs by Richard Avedon*. To compliment this exhibition and another, *Laura Wilson: Avedon at Work*, a selection of records and artifacts have been pulled from the museum's exhibition files and displayed in the library. All three exhibitions run through January 8, 2006.

An Artistic Legacy: Photographers' Archives at the Carter is an on-going exhibition of photographs, papers, and artifacts from the photographers' archives held by the museum. This installation runs through January 8, 2006, and the next will open January 28.

Additional information may be found at www.cartermuseum.org.

Continued on following page

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The most time-consuming task was the development of a database listing every piece of sculpture represented in the job files. Job file titles sometimes indicated only the gallery or the patron for whom the piece was being cast but not the artist and many times more than one piece was documented in a job file; therefore, a database from which we could generate reports would improve access to the contents of each file. This was the first database developed in the archives, and although it is very simple, it has been extremely useful and already justified the extra time required developing it.

Some work remains: we must finish the finding aid and consider whether or not we want to make parts of the collection available electronically or on the Web. However, the collection is currently open to researchers. Users so far have included owners and dealers looking for information to authenticate pieces in their possession, museums wanting documentation for object files, conservators requiring information on a sculpture's composition and original patina, and of course, art historians.

We anticipate that increased access to the information in these records will encourage new scholarship, expanding what we know about sculpture and bringing to light new sculptors and pieces. Indeed, a recent request for information has done just that. In December 2004, Dr. Sandra Underwood, Professor of Art History, Emerita, at St. Mary's College in Maryland, contacted me. Dr. Underwood is preparing a manuscript on Sylvia Shaw Judson's *Bird Girl*, a sculpture made famous by its appearance on the cover of John Berendt's book *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* and in the movie based on the book. The sculpture now resides at the Telfair Museum in Savannah. The Telfair Museum had contacted the Carter in 1997 to find out if the Roman Bronze Works' records included information on the *Bird Girl*. Since the collection was unprocessed at that time, we were unable to locate records for the sculpture. Dr. Underwood wanted to know if we had found any information while processing the collection. Happily, we *had* found records and Dr. Underwood discovered new information about the piece, including that *Bird Girl* was not the sculptor's original name.

The museum hopes that this will be just one of many such stories. For additional information on the collection, please contact Paula Stewart at paula.stewart@cartermuseum.org or 817.989.5077.

LABOR ADVOCATE ARCHIVES RESCUED BY UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS EL PASO

Submitted by Claudia Rivers

The El Paso County Historical Society provided a tip that led to the acquisition of a major collection, The *Labor Advocate* records. The print shop that housed The *Labor Advocate* was closing, and the owner was not able to keep the back files and records.

The *Labor Advocate* was a union newspaper that was published in El Paso from 1909 to 1998. The newspaper's print shop also published commercially, and the collection includes many posters, political ephemera, and records relating to labor unions in the El Paso area.

UTEP Special Collections staff, El Paso Historical Society members, and volunteers helped empty the building, and the newspapers were donated to the UTEP Library. A history graduate student worked throughout the summer to re-box and inventory the materials.



This photo from The *Labor Advocate* files depicts members of the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers showing off their handiwork. Hats, parasols, and even belts are made of sheet metal.

Courtesy of University of Texas E I Paso. Special Collections.

ARCHIVES WEEK 2005 CELEBRATIONS

REDISCOVER ARIZONA'S FRONTIER: THROUGH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCE MATERIAL

Submitted by Rose Minetti

Arizona became a state in 1912 making this one of the last western frontiers. Some of selected materials on display date back before statehood and were created during the territorial period while others are an account that describe and interpret the frontier days. The exhibit includes images of a pioneer family selected from the Robert Ross Photograph Collection, manuscripts, stereoscopes, illustrations, books, ephemera and artifacts which are primary, secondary or tertiary source materials; resources that are needed to research a subject.

The exhibit is designed to define, describe and illustrate primary, secondary and tertiary source materials through examples.

Primary source material is original and provides first hand evidence of an historical event. Secondary source material interprets or analyzes an historical event. Tertiary source material is a selection or compilation of primary and secondary source material.

Luhrs Gallery- Hayden Library though January 15, 2006.

Visit <http://www.asu.edu/lib/archives/> for more information.



ARCHIVES & COMMUNITY: ARCHIVISTS OF THE HOUSTON AREA TEAM UP WITH LOCAL GENEALOGISTS

Press release

Archives Week in Houston kicked off with a full day of presentations for the Houston Genealogical Forum offered by members of the Archivists of the Houston Area (AHA!).



Poster design by Dennis Moser

Topics included:

- Oral History, A Tool for Genealogy*
by Lesley Brunet, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Intro to Archives of the Houston Area*
by Lisa May, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
- Basic Preservation Strategies*
by Michelle Mears, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Dating your Family Photographs*
by Joel Draut, Houston Metropolitan Research Center

AHA member Paul Scott, CA, CRM, also crafted an Archives Week proclamation stating the importance of archives in our lives and communities. The City of Houston and Harris County welcomed these statements, the formal versions of which are available on-line at <http://houstonarchivists.org/archivesweek.shtml>.

A hand bookbinding workshop was taught by Amanda Focke, and AHA members enjoyed some informal fun dining at a local restaurant.

ARCHIVES WEEK IN NEW MEXICO:**LURE OF THE LAND: RECORDS, PROMISES, AND POLITICS**

Submitted by Sibel Melik, Archivist

Since 2001, the New Mexico State Archives has selected themes around which to create programming to celebrate the richness of New Mexico's documentary history. In past years education, family, mainstreets, and letters have all served as foundations for unique and rich programming.

For 2005, Governor Richardson proclaimed October 16 through 22 *Archives Week in New Mexico*. Events scheduled during this week served to raise public awareness of the significance of historical documents and their relevance to the issues of today. Events were free and open to the public.

The New Mexico State Archives chose *Lure of the Land: Records, Promises, and Politics* as the theme for this year's celebration, in recognition of the centrality of land issues and records to the history and culture of New Mexico. Two film screenings and a day-long symposium highlighted the 2005 Archives Week celebration.

The Santa Fe Film Festival hosted the film screenings at the Santa Fe Film Center. On Sunday, October 16, screenings at 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM will showcased selections from the Sallie Wagner Film Collection, which have recently been restored through a National Film Preservation Foundation grant awarded to the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives. Ms. Wagner provided live narration for these silent films.

Beginning in 1938, Ms. Wagner and her then-husband Bill Lippincott took over the Wide Ruins Trading Post on the Navajo Reservation where they lived and worked throughout the World War II years. Ms. Wagner proved to be a skillful amateur filmmaker who documented life on the trading post with her 16mm camera, which she kept ready to go in her saddlebag. These short films, which Ms. Wagner also edited, provide a rare glimpse into what life was like for some of the earliest non-native residents of the Navajo Reservation. The restored films that will be screened include three black and white short pieces from Ms. Wagner's early visits to Santa Fe, as well as six Kodachrome films from her days at Wide Ruins. The black and white titles are: *Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Taos* (1929); *Taos, San Ildefonso, Frijoles* (1928-1929); and *School of American Research and Santa Fe*

Fiesta (1932). The Kodachrome film titles (which are edited and inter-titled) include *Around the Hogan, If You Should Visit Wide Ruins...*, *Navajo Seasons, Navajo Weaving I and II*, and *Trading Post and Ruin*. These films were shot and edited between 1938 and 1950.

On Thursday, October 20, *Homeland: Four Portraits of Native Action* was screened. Presented by the Navajo Nation Museum, this documentary explores efforts by Native Peoples to safeguard their land from exploitation. Included in the film is the story of Mitchell and Rita Capitan's struggle to halt uranium mining in the Crownpoint, New Mexico area. The Capitanes are the founders of the non-profit organization, Eastern Navajo Dineh Against Uranium Mining.

A day of symposia on land issues took place Friday, October 21, at the State Records Center and Archives building in Santa Fe. The full-day program consisted of three panel sessions and exhibits by the National Archives and Records Administration and various other repositories, as well as a brown bag lunch with the panelists.

Participants included the Center for Land Grant Studies, National Archives and Records Administration, Bureau of Land Management, and representatives from several land grant associations. The Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to land grant research, is working to produce summaries of the appeals and adjudications pertaining to each of the approximately 275 documented land grants in New Mexico. Summaries will include document-level citations to the Surveyor General and Court of Private Land Claims case files found in the *Land Records of New Mexico: Spanish Archives of New Mexico Series I*, which are housed in the New Mexico State Archives. To date, the Center has completed 16 summaries and has received funding through the New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board re-grant program to produce four additional summaries.

For more information, visit the New Mexico State Archives web site at

http://www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/archives/archives_hm.htm or by calling 505-476-7948. Information regarding past Archives Week celebrations can also be accessed at the above website.

LEADERSHIP LOG

Compiled by Carol Roark, Dallas Public Library



Jennifer Albin began her new position as Archivist in the History and Archives Division of the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records on October 3rd. She received a BS in History from Northern Arizona University and is completing her thesis for a Masters of Arts in Public History from Arizona State University. She worked in the History and Archives Division for five years as a Vital Records Clerk and Archival Technician.

Julie Grob has a new job title at the University of Houston Libraries as Digital Projects & Instruction Librarian for Special Collections.

Phil Montgomery, recent graduate of the University of North Texas School of Library and Information Sciences, has been promoted to Archivist / Special Collections Librarian at the Woodson Research Center, Fondren Library, Rice University. Also at the Woodson Research Center, **Amanda Focke** has been promoted to Asst. Head of Special Collections.

Lee Pecht, Head of Special Collections at Rice University's Fondren Library and **Dick Dickerson**, University Archivist of the University of Houston, have both been appointed to Mayor Bill White's Task Force on Houston's History. The Task Force has been asked to make recommendations within six months of its formation concerning two related topics: (1) identification and preservation of Houston's historical resources, ranging from photographs to archives to oral history to artifacts to cemeteries to public art; and (2) educating people and raising awareness of Houston's history.

John Slate, City Archivist for the City of Dallas, was named to a term on the Texas Historical Records Advisory Board.

Kit Goodwin, Cartographic Archivist, retired from UTA Special Collections on August 31, 2005, after 18 years of service. She remains active as secretary/treasurer of the Texas Map Society and a Councilor of the Society for the History of Discoveries.

The Austin History Center Association presented the 2005 Katherine Drake Hart History Preservation Award to **Dr. David B. Gracy II**, Governor Bill Daniel Professor in Archival Enterprise in the School of Information at the University of Texas. The organization selected Gracy for his noteworthy contribution to the preservation of Austin and Travis County history. Gracy is a longtime Austin History Center supporter and AHCA board member. He has served in several roles with AHCA including the chair of the annual Audray Bateman Randle Lecture Series.

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