

AUGUST 2022 VOLUME 45 NUMBER 3

The Southwestern Archivist



FEATURE

Send Me a Postcard!
Summer Road Travel Inspires Exhibition

TALK OF THE REGION

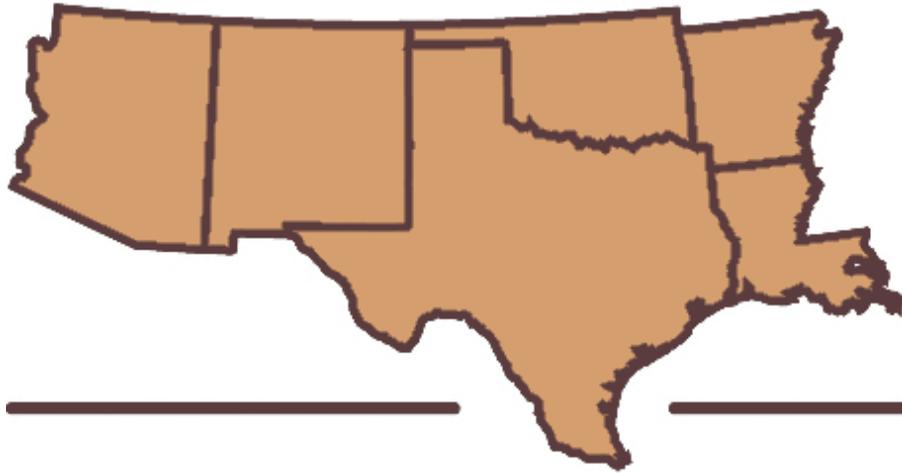
I Had My Student Loans Forgiven,
So Can You!

REPOSITORY NEWS

Chronicle of African Americans
in the Horse Industry



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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 knowledge.

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FROM THE EDITOR



Hello Archivists—The annual meeting is behind us and it was a tremendous success, thanks to the Local Arrangements Committee, 50th Anniversary Committee, and SSA Leadership. In the article “Small Steps, Giant Leaps” (page 13) the LAC recaps the thrill of meeting in-person after a two-year gap, to celebrate SSA’s 50th anniversary. The conference was also an opportunity to present the Distinguished Service Award to our friend and colleague Brenda McClurkin. You can read about her lasting impact at UT Arlington Special Collections and SSA in the DSA article on page 8.

During the conference, I had a remarkable conversation about a subject we would all soon forget, but spend a great deal of time thinking about—student loans. In this issue, Dylan McDonald from NMSU Library Archives and Special Collections, breaks down the rules and the controversies surrounding student loan forgiveness and explains how he took advantage of the government's Public Service Loan Forgiveness program (page 18). His practical advice and success story is something I felt imperative to share with our archive community.

The August issue is an opportunity to hear from SSA’s new President, Melissa Gonzales. If you have been in SSA for even a minute, you know Melissa! Be sure to read her thoughts and intentions for her tenure as SSA President on page 6. In addition to Melissa, we welcome a host of new SSA Officers, Chairs, and Board members—thank you for stepping up and leading the way.

Summer in the Southwest region—our workspaces are 69 -72 degrees, but step outside and you've entered a pre-heated oven. The change is jarring, but the August issue's feature article (page 5), "Send Me a Postcard" reminds us that despite the heat, summer is a time for adventures and misadventures. This exhibit at the DeGolyer Library at Southern Methodist University celebrates the best of car and road culture with the great American past-time--the summer road trip. In the summer of 1980, my immigrant parents wanted to “see America” and we took a month-long road trip from Texas to our "native" New Jersey. It took a month, because we intentionally took the long way by hanging a sharp left, making our way via AZ, NM, CA, NV WY, ND. WI, OH, PN, and finally, NJ. To this day, I recall that month with great fondness, despite being a pre-teen, in the car, with my parents, with no phone or gadgets of today!

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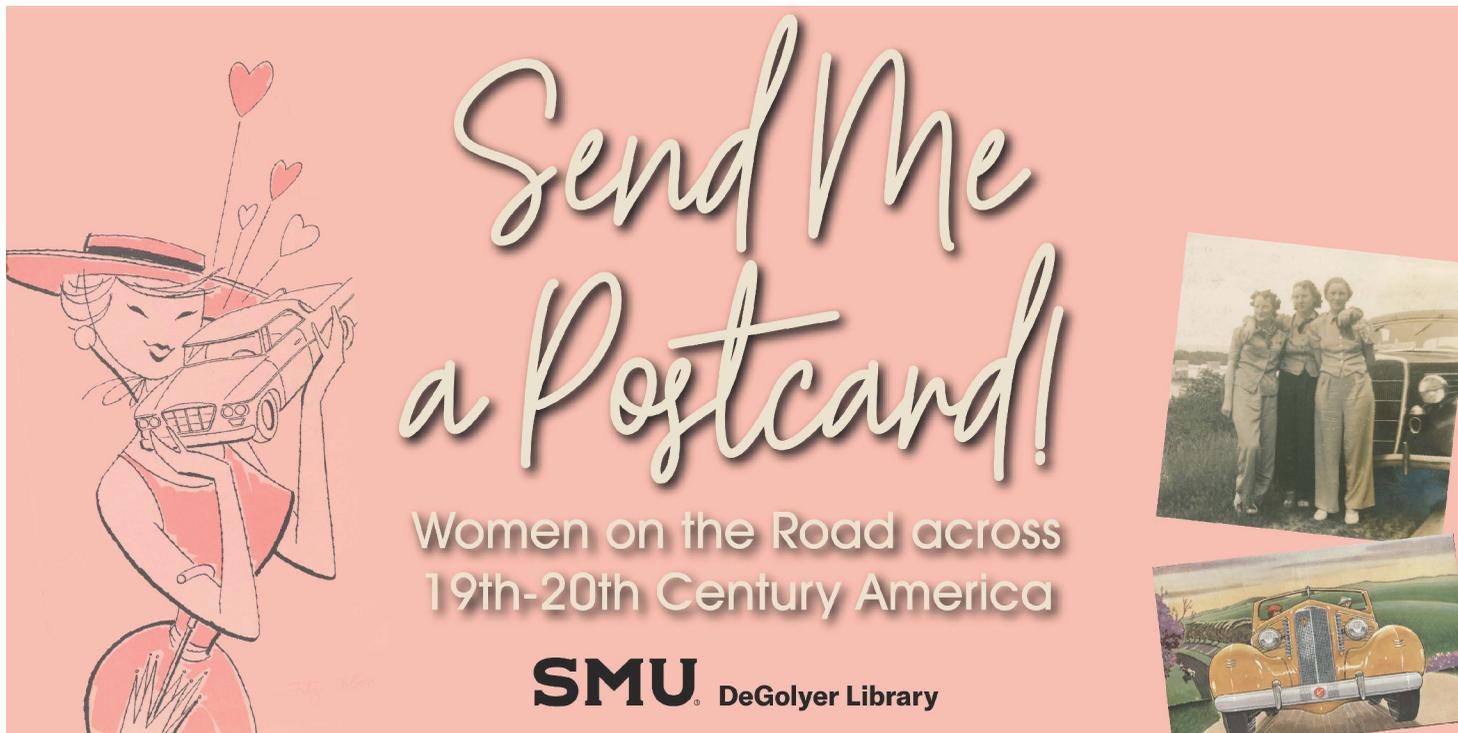
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Send Me a Postcard!

Summer Road Travel Inspires Exhibition

By Samantha Dodd, CA, Curator, Archives of Women of the Southwest
Southern Methodist University

FEATURE



Travelers Research Pub. Co., "The Negro Traveler" cover

The newest exhibit to open at the DeGolyer Library, "Send Me a Postcard! Women on the Road across 19th-20th Century America," highlights women's voices and their stories across America's roadways. From a group of college students on a summer road trip, to an anthropologist documenting the American Southwest, the manuscripts and narratives included in the exhibit provide invaluable insight into the experiences of traveling women.

Included in the exhibit are trailblazers such as: Blanche Stuart Scott, the first person to inaugurate a transcontinental motor trip for the purpose of interesting women in the value of motor car driving; Alice Huyler Ramsey, the first woman to drive an automobile across the United States from coast to coast in 1909; Harriet White Fisher Andrew, the first woman to circle the globe in a Locomobile. Also highlighted are everyday ladies

Continued on page 16



FROM THE PRESIDENT



After two years of no in-person annual meetings thanks to COVID, we had our first in-person annual meeting in May with a turnout of close to 200 attendees. And what a historic and delightful meeting we had! Having served on two Local Arrangements Committees before, I did not envy the 2022 LAC as they navigated the murky waters of the “sort of” post-pandemic world. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in the meeting’s success – leadership, the LAC, sponsors, exhibitors, and attendees. I salute you!

If the past two years taught us anything, it’s that virtual or streamed annual meetings are just as successful as their in-person counterparts and have the potential for more impact. The profession has had many surveys with data supporting the need for a virtual component to annual meetings, whether to make them more accessible for those with disabilities or for financial reasons. There was always hemming and hawing about it being too expensive, and I will admit hotels and their contracted A/V companies do not make it easy. And as volunteers, there is only so much we can do to negotiate and make a virtual/streamed annual meeting cost-efficient.

If we want to be a truly inclusive profession, we must look at all options for providing access to the annual meeting.

It will be a while before many repositories can replenish their travel budgets, and who knows when this profession will get a handle on its salary issues. Checking our privilege is a step in the right direction, and we owe it to our members to explore all possible options. I will be working with the 2023 LAC to see how/if we can stream sessions and develop an annual meeting model that can support our endeavors to be more inclusive and accessible.

Prior to 2020, professional organizations were already feeling the leadership sustainability crisis. I’ll save you some of the theories rolling around out there, but many organizations have had a very difficult time finding people to serve in leadership. Even without a pandemic to contend with, it’s difficult finding the extra time (especially if you have an unsupportive employer) and energy to get the work done. And I’m not talking about regular duties but creating and executing initiatives to benefit our profession.

I’m not going to lie, I used to judge the resume-padders HARD. Our colleagues don’t deserve such recriminations. Not when we work in a profession that demands we volunteer in unpaid leadership roles for pay increases and rank boosts. We must have compassion and empathy and adjust our expectations appropriately while attempting to incorporate positive change.

Position terms make it very difficult to start and end projects without them dying during role transitions. We hope that encouraging committee chairs to identify a vice-chair or successor will ensure that our hard, unpaid work will continue seamlessly. But that means relying on people to fill those roles. I had no idea that agreeing to serve on



FROM THE PRESIDENT

the Membership Committee in 2010 would lead to twelve years of leadership. And that level of work isn't expected from everyone, but there is always work to be done. It's easy to look for the ROI from professional organizations and complain from afar.

Spoiler alert: you get what you give in professional organizations.

You want to see change? Just like Tess McGill in "Working Girl", you have the power to make it happen. If you would like to serve but are nervous about participation levels or expectations, contact me. I'd be happy to talk to anyone who is interested and needs more information. Help us ensure the organization is around for another 50 years.

As mentioned above, I will be exploring all possible options for a hybrid annual meeting, and I have plans to move forward with the Ad Hoc Committee created in May to develop a strategic plan for SSA. If you have any ideas or want to help, please contact me. My door is always open to discussing how we can improve SSA and the profession.

Kindly,
Melissa

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Brenda McClurkin: 2022 SSA Distinguished Service Award Recipient

Amy Rushing, Chair, Distinguished Service Award Committee



SSA COMMITTEES



SSA's Distinguished Service Award (DSA) is presented to a member who has made significant contributions to the society and to the wider archival profession. Since 1996, Hollinger Metal Edge, Inc., has graciously sponsored the award. The Distinguished Service Award recipient is chosen by the Executive Board based on recommendations made by the DSA committee. The 2022 DSA committee was Amy Rushing (SSA Immediate Past President), Kristy Sorensen (winner of the 2021 Distinguished Service Award), Blake Relle, and Elena Perez-Lizano.

This year's recipient is Ms. Brenda McClurkin! For nearly 20 years, Brenda dedicated her archives career to the University of Texas at Arlington. She was hired in 2002 as the historical manuscripts archivist and rose through the ranks to become head of Special Collections in 2013. In 2022 she retired from UTA but continues to work there as a volunteer.

Her service to the profession includes the Texas State Historical Association archives committee, the Academy of Certified Archivists finance subcommittee, and of course the Society of Southwest Archivists. Specifics of her service to SSA include:

- SSA President, 2009-2010
- SSA Vice-President/Program Chair, 2008-2009
- Sponsorships Committee Chair, Denton 2020 SSA Local Arrangements Committee
- Annual Meeting LAC Co-chair, 2015 Arlington
- SSA Site Selection Chair 2015

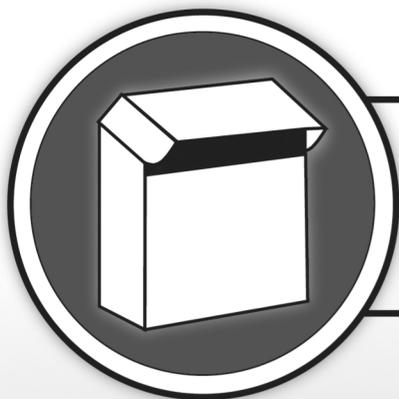
Brenda was nominated by four individuals who had a lot to say about Brenda's contributions to the Society and the wider archives profession. Here are just a few excerpts from the nomination letters:

"I know her to have a deep love of history and archives and I have witnessed that, in all she has undertaken in her archival career, she has excelled and been indefatigable."

"During our mutual time on the SSA board, I found her to be an effective and conscientious leader for the Society, and the archival profession generally. Her ability to listen and engage in a series of critical conversations about SSA finances, updating the SSA website, and revamping the Officer & Committee Procedures Manual allowed us to realign our thinking and stave off a raise in dues for several years."

"I worked with her on the 2015 annual meeting, visiting local Arlington hotels in 2013 and then helping with the hotel contract. The 2015 annual meeting was a great success despite a power outage. For the grace and perseverance she showed on that occasion alone, she should receive the distinguished service award."

"I have mentored her throughout her archival career, watched her evolve into an outstanding archivist and manager, and been a sounding board when she wants advice or an ear to bend. I could write about her all day, but will end by quoting Brigham Young, who said, "Love the giver, not the gift." She has given of herself to SSA, the archives profession, and the institution for which she works. I don't think I can give her any higher a compliment than that. As a former president of SSA, I believe she is an ideal candidate for the Distinguished Service Award."



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Professional Development Committee (PDC) Report

Dylan McDonald, CA, Professional Development Committee Chair



SSA COMMITTEES



Dr. Carolina Villarroel (left) and Dr. Gabriela Baeza Ventura during the *Latinx Digital Praxis: From the Archive to the Digital* pre-conference workshop in Houston, May 18, 2022.

The pre-conference workshops held in Houston, **Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) Hands on Workshop** and **Latinx Digital Praxis: From the Archive to the Digital**, were a big success. The former was at capacity (15 registrants) and the latter had a lively discussion among the eight attendees. We appreciate the instructors Amanda Focke (Rice University), Robert Weaver (Texas Tech University), Dr. Carolina Villarroel, and Dr. Gabriela Baeza Ventura (both from the University of Houston) for putting on such excellent trainings.

Upcoming webinars for this summer and fall include the following:

- August 11th – Ethics of Collecting Community Trauma
- September TBD – Challenges to Faculty Status & Academic Freedom
- October TBD – StoryMaps in Archives and Libraries

More details on each of these 60- & 90-minute offerings are forthcoming. Stay informed about SSA professional development programming by visiting the SSA website and social media accounts regularly, as well as through the society's email announcements – just be sure you have the correct email on file in your SSA profile.

On the SSA website under the Resources tab is the newly updated “Professional Development Resources” page (societyofsouthwestarchivists.wildapricot.org/Professional-Development-Resources). You can find links to additional professional development offerings, many offered for free and online by various archival, library, and museum organizations. The Resource Guide listing is broken down by the following topics – **Certificate Programs, Institutes & Conferences, Professional Organizations, and Regional Graduate Education**. Check this guide out to discover workshops, webinars, and educational programming to learn new skills or brush up on ones you haven't used in a while!

It has been a pleasure serving the SSA membership for the last year. Thank you to my colleagues on the committee for all their hard work and support. Patrice-Andre "Max" Prud'homme at Oklahoma State University will be taking over as PDC chair. As always, we are open to hearing your ideas for SSA-hosted workshops and webinars. Send us an email at pdc@southwestarchivists.org.

Publications Committee Seeking South Texas Liaison

Krishna Shenoy, Editor and Publications Committee Chair



SSA COMMITTEES



Publications Committee meet-up at the SSA Annual Meeting. L to R: Patrizia Nava, Krishna Shenoy, Steve Hussman, Ann Case, Gerriane Schaad, and Janine Smith. Missing: Amanda Hudson, Jennifer Olguin, and Joseph Lueck.

The Publications Committee is **seeking a South Texas Liaison to join our team**. We appreciate Joseph Lueck's years of service in that role and wish him the best for his new position at Union College in New York.

For more information about joining the Publications Committee, email the Editor at ssaeditor@southwestarchivists.org. Yes! We have a new email address!

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Membership Committee News

Katie Gray, Membership Committee Chair

The Membership Committee is happy to report that SSA has a current total of **482 active members. 38 of these members are registered under the umbrella of an institutional membership, representing 21 different institutions**. This level of institutional involvement is the highest our organization has seen since 2013. We hope all our members, both returning and new, are enjoying the benefits of membership in our organization.

The Membership Committee currently has members from all states except Arizona. Anyone wishing to participate on this committee (or any other committees), can contact the Membership Chair, Katie Gray, at membership@southwestarchivists.org, and she will help facilitate your involvement.

Leadership Log

Blake Relle, Leadership Log Liaison, Publications Committee



SSA COMMITTEES



In May, Krishna Shenoy completed a year and half long archival project at Brook Hollow Golf Club, Dallas, Texas. The engagement resulted in the creation of the Club's Historical Archive Collection and its first-ever finding aid, documenting the administrative, tournament, and social history of the century-old, private, recreational club. In July, Krishna left her position at the Bedford Public Library after serving two years as the Library Programming Specialist for Adult Services. She is now engaged at Southern Methodist University's DeGolyer Library, Archives of Women in the Southwest, as a contract archivist to arrange and process the professional and personal papers of pioneering business woman and philanthropist Ebby Halliday. She also continues her work as archivist assistant for a journalism and non-profit related collection in Dallas.

Diversity Outreach Committee Report

Ayshea Khan, SSA Board Member



The Diversity & Outreach Committee hopes that everyone had a memorable SSA Annual Meeting in Houston!

At the meeting, D&O committee members Ayshea Khan, Cheylon Woods, Allison Olivarez, and Gerrienne Schaad facilitated the session: "Sorry to offend(?)' How to Deal with Microaggressions in the Profession". It was an engaging session with membership and the committee hopes to work with the Professional Development Committee on future trainings related to the topic. To view the presentation and some of the collaborative notes: <https://bit.ly/microaggressionskillshare>.



Outside of supporting the Annual Meeting, the committee has been working on developing a set of accessibility guidelines for planning future meetings.

The 2021-2022 committee had its outgoing meeting on April 18, 2022. We are excited to have Julie Tanaka and Cheylon Woods as committee co-chairs for the upcoming year.



SSA COMMITTEES



Society of Southwest Archivists Annual Meeting Houston, May 18-21, 2022

Thank you to all the conference attendees who attended SSA's first in-person Annual Meeting in three long years. SSA held this year's annual meeting in Houston, the Space City, on May 18-21, 2022, and the theme of this year's conference was Small Steps, Giant Leaps. SSA also celebrated the Society's fiftieth anniversary of its founding.

The annual meeting featured two pre-conference workshops, "Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) Hands-On Workshop" and "Latinx Digital Praxis: From the Archive to the Digital." And the conference kicked off with its Welcome Reception Wednesday night at the conference hotel, the Hyatt Regency.

Thursday commenced with the Welcome and Plenary Address. This year's distinguished speaker was Dr. Alexander Byrd, Rice University's vice provost for diversity and inclusion and a co-chair of its Task Force on Slavery, Segregation, and Racial Injustice. Following this were two days of educational programming that featured various topics, from improving archival diversity to working with ephemera and controversial collections to providing access to Spanish language resources online.



Presenters from the "Providing access to Spanish language resources online" session, photographed by Theresa Mayfield.



SSA COMMITTEES

Repository tours included the African American Library at the Gregory School; McGovern Historical Center, TMC Library; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston Archives; and Woodson Research Center, Rice University. At the conference hotel, we presented virtual tours created by local archives.



Museum of Fine Arts Houston Repository Tour
Photograph by Lauren DuBois.

The Student Posters on Friday afternoon were well attended, as was Friday evening's closing reception at the Houston Public Library's historic Julia Ideson Building. John Slate led a ceremony recognizing SSA's 50th anniversary, and a beautiful and delicious commemorative cake provided by the Ad Hoc SSA 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee was served.



Student poster section. Photographed by John Slate



SSA past presidents gathered together at the Friday reception as part of SSA's fiftieth-anniversary celebration. Photographed by Dylan McDonald.

2022 President Daniel Alonzo and LAC chairs,
Norie Guthrie and Traci Patterson.



Continued on page 15



SSA COMMITTEES

Saturday morning's activities revolved around the business meeting and the first SOTTO in three years. SSA conferred its 2022 Distinguished Service Award to Brenda McClurkin. Melissa Gonzales again assumed the SOTTO emcee role channeling a Pandemic Mad Max/Road Warrior.



Melissa Gonzales and Lauren DuBois at SOTTO.
Photographed by Dylan McDonald.

The 2022 Local Arrangement Committee (LAC) is indebted to Melissa Gonzales (Program Committee chair), Dylan McDonald (Professional Development Committee chair), John Slate (Ad Hoc SSA 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee chair), and John Rovell (Archivists of the Houston Area president), whose participation in the meeting planning was vital. And a huge thanks goes out to the many Archivists of the Houston Area members who volunteered to run the registration and SOTTO ticket tables during the meeting. Norie Guthrie and Traci Patterson headed this year's 2022 Local Arrangement Committee (LAC). They kept our ship in orbit through many challenges, including the uncertainty of hosting an in-person conference during a pandemic. While they ran a tight ship, meetings were always fun and lively!

SSA acknowledges the Annual Meeting sponsors and exhibitors without whose support the annual meeting would not be possible. Sponsors included the Houston Public Library, Woodson Research Center at Rice University, SSA's Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee, University of Houston Libraries Special Collections, Rice's Fondren Library, Texas General Land Office, Stars Information Solutions, and Iron Mountain.

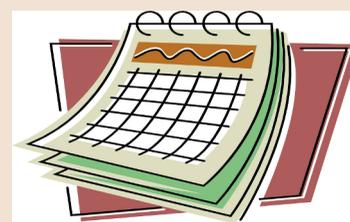
After over two years of Small Steps outside our homes and in our work environments, we are delighted that you made the Big Leap to attend. It was brilliant to see everyone in person!

We look forward to seeing everyone in Albuquerque, New Mexico, next year!

Society of Southwest Archivists

Annual Meeting 2023
Albuquerque, New Mexico

April 26-29, 2023



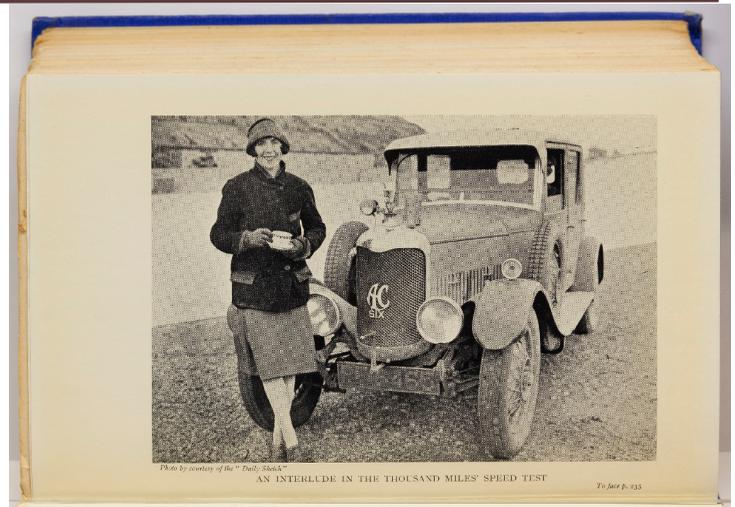
Send Me a Postcard! (continued from page 5)

on family vacations and girls' trips across the country.

The concept for this exhibit emerged in the summer of 2019, when I was browsing through the DeGolyer library's collections in search of a [summer-themed blog post](#). I came across a scrapbook by Elizabeth Dalrymple, which documented her road trip from Pennsylvania to Colorado in the summer of 1940. Along for the ride were a few of her girlfriends. From parks to zoos, diners to dives, encounters with hitchhikers and bikers, this manuscript is full of memories and adventures, an almost epic story of a trek to the west across more than a dozen states.

This particular manuscript felt relatable to me, as though it captured a trip I took with my own friends. The pages are filled with delightful poetry, limericks, and words of wisdom about traveling. There are simply too many enjoyable stories to list them all. I found myself laughing out loud in the stacks as I read through their adventures, and often thought this would have happened to me.

Elizabeth Dalrymple said of travel: "Never worry about getting lost out here in the great open spaces, as every road eventually leads to somewhere, no



"An Interlude in the Thousand Miles Speed Test,"
pg. 235, Mildred Bruce

matter how lonely or how long." Some of my other favorite quotes from her manuscript are: "From palace to hovel, from chicken to feathers, from swanky hotel suites mingled with [champagne], to cabins infest with mosquitos—that's life I guess;" and "I think that we are all agreed that the farther west we go, the more friendly the handclasp. It's something like this: out where the handclasps' a little stronger, out where the smile dwells a little longer, that's where the West beings."

The following summer, I wrote a second blog post, "[On the Road Again](#)," about another travel manuscript in the Margaret Burkhalter papers. It was then that I sought out other examples of women on the road and documents describing how women experienced travel across America. The culmination of my exploration into the stacks was a treasure trove of stories and photographs of women with their friends and with their families; of women whose professions involved writing about travel in personal narratives and official guidebooks; of a multitude of ephemera and postcards signed off with the ever-iconic phrase "Wish you were here!"

The exhibit is on display in the Hillcrest Exhibit Hall through August 2022, and available online.

For more information, contact Samantha Dodd at 214-768-0829 or via e-mail at smdodd@mail.smu.edu.



Advertisement for Special Deluxe Plymouth, 1941

A Word of Thanks from A. Otis Herbert Jr. Scholarship Recipient

Jacqueline Devereaux, Archivist, Baylor University



TALK OF THE REGION

Receiving the A. Otis Hebert Jr. the Continuing Education Scholarship in March was amazing! As an emerging professional, I accepted a position as a temporary archivist at Baylor University in Texas this past October. In this temporary assignment, my aim was to acquire as many skills as possible in a one year time frame to prepare for future opportunities. This scholarship has supplemented my professional experience with expanding my skill set beyond my initial MLIS.

With this wonderful resource, I started the Society of American Archivist's program for the Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) Certificate. The certification requires nine classes over the course of 24 months that culminates in a comprehensive exam, so I decided to use part of my money for completing three asynchronous "foundational" courses. My three foundational courses were Basics of Managing Digital Records, Introduction to Processing Digital Records and Manuscripts, Digital Preservation of Audio and Video: Fundamentals that required readings, watching an online lecture, and then completing a multiple choice exam to count towards the certificate. These classes were available online 60 days after purchase, and it allowed for flexibility to complete the courses.

I have gained skills to prepare for a possible career in digital archives and expanded my knowledge beyond physical materials. Learning about the basics in these classes allowed me to build on preexisting skills in archiving and understand how to process and preserve resources digitally. Then the audiovisual class presented an overview in how to care for manual, digitized, or digital born materials. I look forward to completing this certificate in the near future!

Additionally, the scholarship helped pay for expenses related to attending the California Rare Book School in Los Angeles this August. Since my MLIS degree was completed 100% online during the initial outbreak of COVID-19, my course on the Renaissance Book will diversify my skill set beyond archiving and transfer into libraries and handling rare book materials.

"Thanks to this scholarship, I have gained knowledge across the archival and library world. I am incredibly grateful for this gift, and I look forward to using my new knowledge – and adding it to my resume! I would highly recommend applying for this scholarship in the future!"



Texas Library Association Conference.
Courtesy of Jacqueline Devereaux

I had My Student Loans Forgiven and So Can You!

Dylan McDonald, CA, NMSU Library Archives & Special Collections



TALK OF THE REGION



I am not a fan of my Monday morning email inbox. In my experience, any email received at the kickoff of the work week is generally going to require more of you than those sent on other weekdays. So went my thoughts when I spotted the January 17, 2022, message from the Fed Loan Servicing Center, the agency handling the student loans I had been paying off for over 20 years. For nearly 15 months I'd been wrangling with the Center over my **Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)** application. I had learned to temper my expectations that I would ever qualify to have my loans erased, so I was unprepared to read the line, "We have determined that you have successfully made the required 120 monthly payments in order to have all or a portion of your loans listed below forgiven. . . You have satisfied your obligation and no additional payments are required on these loans." I had assumed this Monday email would ask for more paperwork from me. **Stunned by a sense of how anticlimactic it all seemed – even if the heavily bureaucratic message began with a hearty "congratulations" followed by an exclamation mark – it would take me several days to really celebrate this milestone after such a laborious process for absolution.**

Like many of my colleagues in the library and

archival field, the cost of graduate school for me, even when working full-time while taking classes, required going into debt to pay the tuition, fees, and books necessary to earn a degree. Graduate degrees are an expensive "investment" in your future, particularly when measured against the wages found in our field. The cost of living in many areas of the country, coupled with rising inflation, makes home ownership, marriage, parenthood, and retirement plans precarious and difficult to achieve when shackled by student loan debt. Many cannot see a path to the "American Dream" as we pursue our archival labor of love. Momentarily setting aside the many intertwined labor challenges in our field – the many hurdles to embarking on an archival career, underpaid and unpaid work, wage stagnation and compression, inadequate benefits, lack of diversity and equity, stilted career ladder, insufficient union representation, and ongoing challenges to academic freedom, to name a few – **I want use this article to recruit my fellow archivists who are working in government and nonprofit agencies into pursuing financial relief through the PSLF and the TEPSLF programs.**



Continued on page 19

I had My Student Loans Forgiven and So Can You!

(continued from page 18)



TALK OF THE REGION

As one who has navigated the process, here are a few of my suggestions to keep in mind about the PSLF:

Rule #1 – Follow the Rules. Understand what is required to participate in the program, fastidiously follow those qualifying rules, periodically double-check that you are in compliance with what is stated on the PSLF website, and always read and reply to any mailings or emails that you receive regarding your status. One has to take the long view when seeking loan forgiveness, primarily because the finish line is years away if all goes according to plan. Established in October 2007, the program "forgives the remaining balance on your Direct Loans after you have made 120 qualifying monthly payments under a qualifying repayment plan while working full-time for a qualifying employer." There are several qualifiers in that statement, thus it behooves one to be sure you are firmly on track. You may have to consolidate loans, change payment plans, set up automatic bank deductions, and check that your current (and potentially past) employer meets the public service definition. One does not want to experience the profound disappointment years down the road upon finding out that your payments do not fulfill the program's rules. This happened to me in late 2017 when I discovered that my loan repayments were ineligible due to being on the wrong payment plan. I had gone on autopilot with my payments after setting them up 10 years prior and failed to review changes to the program made a year later. A real gut punch.

Rule #2 – Block out the noise. Ignore the current rhetoric regarding student loan forgiveness coming from both sides of the political aisle. While there is active pressure on the Biden administration to proffer some kind of general student loan relief,

that decision is still up in the air and I do not recommend waiting for some future political decision instead of actively pursuing assistance through the established and funded PSLF program. While my personal feelings lean heavily toward an overall student loan amnesty, in today's political climate whatever decision is reached is unlikely to offer the same rewards the PSLF ultimately does. Additionally, do not give into feelings of failure, inadequacy, or selfish reliance on charity that some



talking heads would have you believe regarding student loan forgiveness. The PSLF is not welfare, but rather a program that has strict qualifying requirements, including full-time work, and was put into place to *incentivize* public sector career paths. Similar government programs offer a myriad of benefits and bonuses for public service, such as those granted to participants in the US military, Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, and medical and teaching careers among the underserved, and yet these programs are not seen as charity. Thus, it is with PSLF program – do not forget that you earned it.

Rule #3 – Act fast. When you have reached 120 loan payments, send in all application paperwork

Continued on page 20

I had My Student Loans Forgiven and So Can You!

(continued from page 19)



TALK OF THE REGION

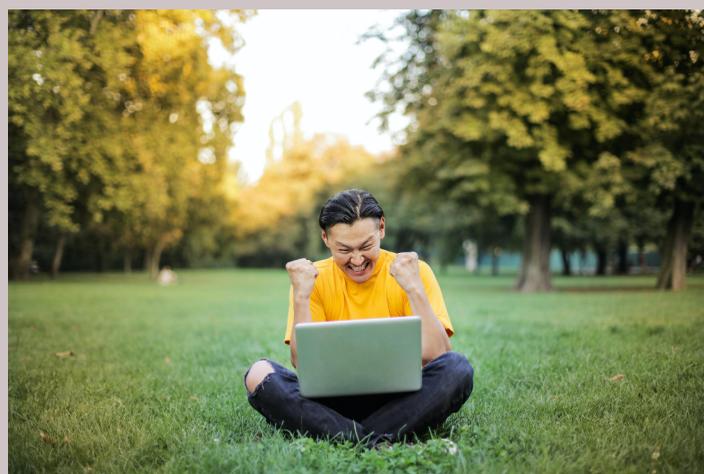
as soon as possible. Do not procrastinate. You will likely be asked to provide further documentary evidence, particularly if you use the TEPSLF program (more on applying through that program below). A delay in responding on your part will slow the review of your application, thus requiring you to continue making payments. Your application for forgiveness will require documentation from your qualifying employer(s). I recommend personally walking over a copy of that paperwork to your HR department and asking to speak with a manager about getting the form filled out as quickly as possible. Both my qualifying employers, the City of Sacramento and New Mexico State University, were unfamiliar with the form, took months to certify the dates of my employment, and misunderstood the nature of the form. Do yourself a favor and set up an appointment with an HR manager to get what you need, which might include letting them know that any delay in receiving the completed paperwork may actively cost you money.

Rule #4 – Check your employment. Check to see if your former non-qualifying payments now qualify under the Temporary Expanded PSLF (TEPSLF). Hurry though, as the program is set to sunset on October 31, 2022. It was through this change, one created after the federal government acknowledged how few people had become eligible for forgiveness under the standard PSLF program, that I qualified. For those still paying on loans ten years or older, please take the time to investigate this option. Again, the door is closing on this option, so the time to act is now!

Rule #5 – Seal the deal. Once you have received confirmation from the Department of Education that your application has been approved and your loans forgiven, check your credit reports in the

weeks afterward to make sure those student loans are shown as having been paid off.

Best wishes in navigating this program. As with any bureaucratic process, it is easy to give up hope and get frustrated. Believe me, I very much know that feeling, however I'm glad that I continued to seek relief from a \$30,000 debt. A few months after being notified of my successful application, I also received several thousand dollars back for "overpayments," an unexpected windfall to be sure.



If you have further questions about the PSFL, I suggest reviewing the resources and webinars found on the PSFL Coalition's website. Additionally, feel free to reach out to me at dylanmcd@nmsu.edu with questions or for support.

I appreciate the encouragement that I received in drafting this article from Krishna Shenoy, *The Southwestern Archivist* editor, and Daniel Alonzo, former SSA President. Kudos to SSA for advocating for its membership.

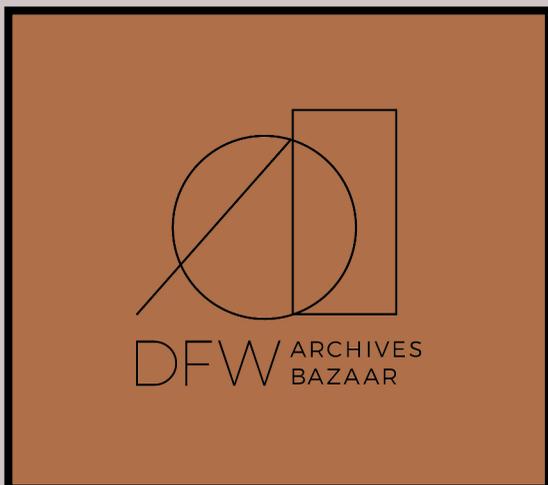
Dylan McDonald, CA, is the Political Collections Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at New Mexico State University. He is an active member of the Society of American Archivists, the Society of Southwest Archivists, and the National Council on Public History.

Save the Date: The DFW Archives Bazaar is back

Mary Saffell, CA, Mary Coups Burnett Library, Texas Christian University



TALK OF THE REGION



After two years of virtual events, the Dallas-Fort Worth Archives Bazaar will be back for an in-person event on Sunday, November 6, 2022, from 1 to 5 PM in the Heritage Room at the Fort Worth Stockyards.

The DFW Archives Bazaar is a place to celebrate history, discover new stories and learn about the diverse people and communities that make up the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. In the heart of the Fort Worth Stockyards on the historic brick-laden East Exchange Avenue, the Heritage Room in Stockyards Station provides a unique historical backdrop for the DFW Archives Bazaar. This event will attract visitors with an interest in history and give a “behind the scenes” opportunity to meet and interact with local archives, archivists and historians.

Archivists from across the Metroplex will be participating to raise awareness of the unique and historically significant materials in our collections, and to encourage the public to engage “hands-on” with history. Participating archival organizations will showcase their unique and rare historical collections.

Participants this year will include the Denton Public Library, Dallas Jewish Historical Society, the Fort Worth Jewish Archives, Dallas Municipal Archives, UT Dallas Special Collections, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum, the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, the Dallas Morning News, Texas Wesleyan University Library, and many others.

The DFW Archives Bazaar is a collective of archival repositories in the DFW area. Participating organizations, volunteers and generous sponsors make this event happen.



Interested in participating? Please fill out the [2022 Participant Registration Form](#) by August 19th. Volunteers can sign up [here](#). To become a sponsor, please contact the steering committee at dfwarchivesbazaar@gmail.com.

STAY UP TO DATE WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE DFW ARCHIVES BAZAAR

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Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/dfwarchivesbazaar/>

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TALK OF THE REGION



Greetings all! Summer is certainly here in Texas. Nothing like walking outside of your library and into an oven. TARO steering members and subcommittee volunteers are hard at work on various TARO projects. The development team down in Austin is continuing work on txarchives.org thanks to the NEH and ARPA grant funds. Stay tuned to the TARO today blog and listserv for more updates.

Speaking of TARO Today, the home for news, announcements, and resources is getting an overhaul as well this summer. The standards subcommittee has completed work on the new and improved [Best Practice Guide](#). Plans are in the works for additional webinars, and walkthroughs related to the new BPG and access terms.

We're pleased to announce that the TARO team has hired a TARO Subjects Assistant to work with us to begin implementing the TARO subject recommendations. Please welcome Margaret Monfared to the team. If your repository would be willing for us to work with the subjects in your finding aids, please reach out to Margaret at margaret.monfared@austin.utexas.edu to bring your collection to our attention.

News and Accomplishments

New Members

Welcome to our new TARO members!

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Texas A&M University-San Antonio's Archives & Special Collections contains collections of enduring historical value that are relevant to the academic programs of A&M-SA. Collection priorities include items focusing on San Antonio, South Texas, Mexican American Studies, borderlands, the military, and local political figures.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

In 40 years, the Special Collections and Archives Division of UT Dallas has grown to include the History of Aviation Archives, the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library, the Louise B. Belsterling Botanical Collection, Rare and Unique Book Collections, and the University Archives.

ROTHKO CHAPEL ARCHIVES

The archival collection holds information related to the Rothko Chapel and its founders, Dominique and Jean de Menil. The collection focus is on the three main missions of the chapel: spirituality, art, and human rights. This includes information about the chapel construction, paintings by Mark Rothko, sculpture by Barnett Newman, events held at the chapel throughout its history, key visitors such as the Dalai Lama and Nelson Mandela, and the Oscar Romero Human Rights Award.

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TALK OF THE REGION



NAFAN Update

TARO continues its work as one of twelve finding aid aggregator partners in the [Building a National Finding Aid Network initiative](#) led by the California Digital Library. Most recent partner meetings included demos of potential interfaces and uploading procedures. [Registration](#) is now open for the joint annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists Encoded Archival Standards (EAS) Section and the Technical Subcommittee on Encoded Archival Standards (TS-EAS). The meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM (CT).

This is a moderated panel and discussion on encoded archival standards in the context of aggregators of archival description (e.g., Archives Portal Europe, Online Archive of California, Archives Hub, ArchiveGrid, etc.) both within and outside of the United States. Panel participants will include representatives and maintainers of archival aggregation sites as well as users and contributors.

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The screenshot shows the ArchivEra website interface with the following collection cards:

- Air Protection Society Collection 1979-1990
- Avalon Corporation Records 1939-1978
- Brandywine Ranch 1902-1989
- Commission on Cancer Collection 1919-1958
- Council on Dental Education 1940-1949
- David Warren Brubeck Papers 1960-2012
- Emil Burjot Papers 1880-1934
- Fraternal Order of Eagles 1903
- Helen Eleanor Kist Collection 1940-1964
- Horace M. Kallen Papers 1913-1998

Blucher: A Family, a Legacy, and a Research Resource at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi: A New Publication on Archives

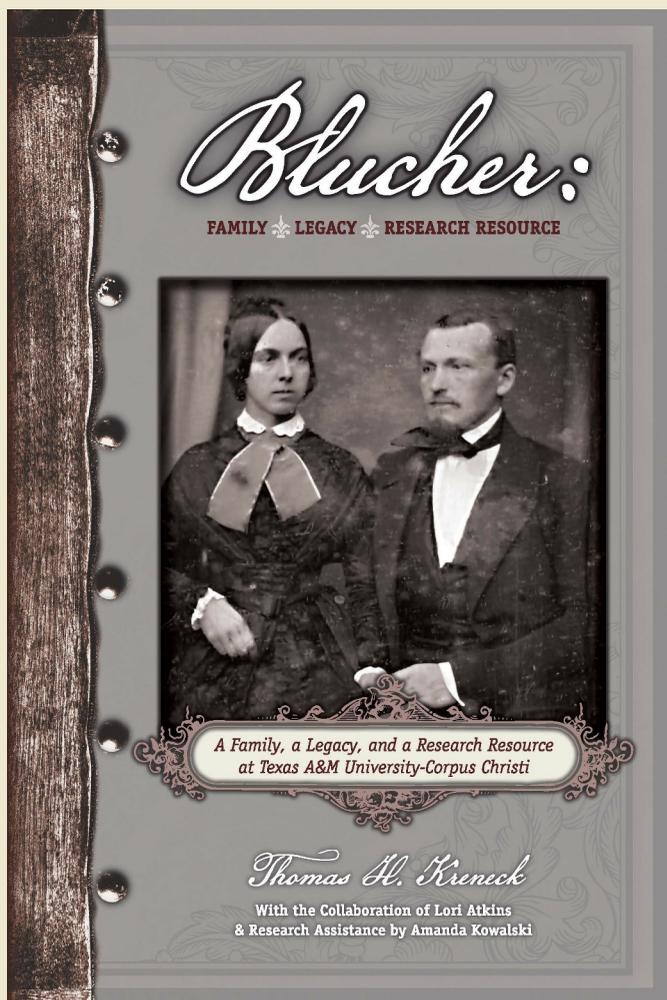
Thomas H. Kreneck, Ph.D., CA (Emeritus)



REPOSITORY NEWS

In January of this year, former and present staff members of Special Collections & Archives of the Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, in conjunction with the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science (CBI) of that institution, brought to fruition a two-year publication project. This effort resulted in the release of *Blucher: A Family, a Legacy, and a Research Resource at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi* by Thomas H. Kreneck, in Collaboration with Lori Atkins & Research Assistance by Amanda Kowalski (Corpus Christi: South Texas Imprints, 2022). The monograph was sponsored by the CBI and the Bell Library.

The work explains concisely who the Corpus Christi, Texas, Blucher family was and outlines some of that family's important imprints on the city, on Texas surveying, and on A&M University-Corpus Christi. It specifically details the origins, archival development, and use of the massive research materials that bear the Blucher name and are housed within the Bell Library's Special Collections & Archives. These holdings comprise the Charles F. H. von Blucher Family Papers and its series the Conrad Blucher Surveying Collection.



Charles F. H. von Blucher (standing at far right) and his Surveying Crew, 1876.

The volume was given special support by former CBI Interim Director Dr. Philippe Tissot, Interim Associate Director Ms. Gina Concannon, current CBI Director Dr. Richard Smith and Dean of Libraries Dr. Catherine Rudowsky. Special thanks must go to the editorial work of Dr. Arnolde De León and Dr. David M. Billeaux, as well as to the contributions of Dr. Gary A. Jeffress, Ms. Pam Durrwachter, Dr. C. Elaine Cummins, and a host of individuals who provided information for its making.

On June 23, 2022, the Bell Library held a reception for the book in the Special Collections area. The event

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Blucher: A Family, a Legacy, and a Research Resource (continued from page 24)



REPOSITORY NEWS

was attended by approximately one hundred individuals including Blucher family members (headed by Mrs. George A. Blucher, Jr.), and supporters and friends from the campus and larger community.

The monograph has a limited printing and can be fully accessed at <https://tamucc-ir.tdl.org/handle/1969.6/90253>.

For further information, please contact Thomas Kreneck at thomas.kreneck@gmail.com or (830) 583-3190.



Dr. Catherine Rudowsky addresses book reception audience, June 23, 2022.



Dr. Gary A. Jeffress, Dr. Thomas H. Kreneck, Mrs. George A. Blucher, Jr., Dr. Philippe Tissot, and Dr. Richard Smith

Chronicle of African Americans in the Horse Industry Grant Project Collaboration

Lulu Zilinskas, Archivist I, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum



REPOSITORY NEWS

In late 2021, the Dickinson Research Center (DRC), located in the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, was selected as a partner for an ongoing grant project initiated by the International Museum of the Horse (IMH) titled "Chronicle of African Americans in the Horse Industry".



Myrtis Dightman. Devere Helfrich (1902-1981), 1967, safety film negative. Devere Helfrich Rodeo Photographs Collection, Dickinson Research Center, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. 81.023.29097-08.

In an effort to expand upon the path set by the permanent IMH exhibition *Black Horsemen of the Kentucky Turf*, this project intends to shine a spotlight on the historically marginalized Black members of the horse industry. To help write a more complete story of their contributions, IMH partnered with individuals and organizations across the nation who hold records related to the project's mission. As of November 2020, IMH hosts a project website with valuable research content gathered from these partnerships. We here at the DRC have digitized and photographed over 60 of our archival and museum objects, from images of famed rodeo cowboy Myrtis Dightman to cowboy boots crafted by Willie Lusk. We look forward to broadening access to our research materials through this collaboration as well as being a part of an important historical revision.

Hull-Daisetta Rotary Building Opens in Texas

Alana Inman, Manager, Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center



REPOSITORY NEWS

The Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center, a component of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, held a grand opening for the newly restored Hull-Daisetta Rotary Building on Saturday, April 30, 2022.



Sam Houston Center Manager Alana Inman and TSLAC Chair Martha Wong cut the ribbon at the opening of the Hull-Daisetta Rotary Building.

Built by the Rotary Club of Hull-Daisetta, the building is one of the first and only ones constructed and owned by a Rotary club. Built in about 1930, the building is now open to the public as a museum documenting the history of Southeast Texas Rotary clubs and the impact a person can make through community service.

Chartered in 1926 when an oil boom was bringing people to the area, the Hull-Daisetta Rotary Club met in various locations around Hull for the first few years



Rotarians and their wives in front of Hull-Daisetta Rotary Building, ca. 1930s

of its existence. A May 1932 article in *The Rotarian* described the building as “a log cabin, built, in part, by extra fifty-cent fees at weekly luncheon sessions.” The building’s unusual six-sided structure mimics the design of the Rotary International symbol, the wheel. Perhaps in part because of the cozy, home-like setting, with a fireplace and kitchenette, local residents also used the cabin for celebrations and special events. After the club disbanded in 1982, ownership changed hands, and the condition of the building deteriorated over time.

In 2006, the community set out on a mission to restore the building and preserve its legacy in a historical context. Several individuals and organizations worked to move the structure to its current site and support its renovation. Many of the artifacts featured in the museum’s exhibit were recovered from the original Hull-Daisetta Rotary Building and are on display with archival materials from the Sam Houston Center’s collections. The restored structure creates the ideal setting to reflect upon the mission of Rotary International to inspire friendship and improve communities through selfless service.

For more information, visit www.tsl.texas.gov/shc.



Guests enjoy the exhibits on display in the Hull-Daisetta Rotary Building.

The Southwestern Archivist

Submissions

Submission guidelines are as follows:

- Repository news items showcases significant projects, donations or purchases, exhibitions, grants received, and similar activities.
- Leadership Log items highlight professional accomplishments such as promotions, career changes, retirement, awards, publications, and presentations.
- Submissions are written in a style consistent with a professional publication, including a title, the author's name, institutional affiliation, and contact information.
- Suggested word count is 150-600 words.
- Images, sent as separate files, with captions and attributions, are encouraged.
- Articles may be edited to conform to style conventions and space limitations.

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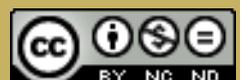
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Submission Deadlines

January 10 | April 10
July 10 | October 10

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