



HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 2012
American Heritage Center

National History Day Receives National Recognition

Rick Ewig

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) recently honored National History Day (NHD) by awarding the program a National Humanities Medal. Begun in 1997, the National Humanities Medal “honors individuals and groups whose work has deepened the nation’s understanding of the humanities, broadened our citizens’ engagement with the humanities, or helped preserve and expand Americans’ access to important resources in the humanities.” President Obama presented the medal to NHD Executive Director Cathy Gorn at a ceremony at the White House.

Wyoming History Day (WHD) is an affiliate of NHD. Dave Kathka, currently a member of the AHC’s Board of Advisors and a former Wyoming State Historian, brought History Day to Wyoming in 1979. In 1999, the AHC took over the leadership of WHD.

The citation for the award states that NHD is “a program that inspires in American students a passion for history. Each year more than half a million children from across the country compete in this event, conducting research and producing websites,

papers, performances, and documentaries to tell the human story.”

NHD began during the mid-1970s at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Today, the program operates in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and is expanding internationally in Europe, China, Indonesia, and South Korea. A recent study found that students who participate in NHD develop a range of college and career-ready skills, and outperform their peers on state standardized tests across all subjects, including science and math.

Other sponsors of WHD include the Wyoming State Historical Society and the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources. ■

These two Wyoming students researched the Cuban Missile crisis for their entry in the 2011 Wyoming History Day competition.





From the Director

Mark Greene

Not everyone who enjoys history has the ability or the inclination to do research into primary sources. And because the American Heritage Center's mission is to "make [our] sources accessible to all," we devote some of our resources to creating exhibits—a method of introducing viewers to some of our primary sources placed within the context of a story. We are, in fact, very proud of our exhibits, which usually begin life on campus, and then not only tour throughout Wyoming on a regular basis, but also reach the far corners of the globe when converted to web format. It is, we believe, an effective method of sharing our holdings as well as the expertise of our faculty and staff, with the widest possible audience.

This past autumn's exhibit was a particularly popular one. It was part of our regular schedule of exhibits that begin on-site in the fall, using a small gallery graciously made available to us by our building-mates in the Centennial Complex, the University of Wyoming Art Museum. That exhibit, curated by AHC associate director Rick Ewig and digital scanning technician Keith Reynolds, was *Terror in the Theaters: Fifties Fears*—focusing on science fiction movies of the Cold War period. Funding for the exhibit was provided, in part, by an endowment from Laramie's First National Bank. All but one of the items in the exhibit came from the papers of Forrest J. Ackerman (1916-2008) at the AHC, a large collection of 93 cubic feet. Ackerman was well known for amassing the largest collection of science fiction, fantasy, and horror memorabilia including books, magazines, movie props and posters, and he is credited with coining the term "sci-fi."

Ackerman was an editor and writer of works on science fiction, fantasy and horror. He published several articles and books, and published the first science fiction fan magazine (fanzine) in 1932. From 1958 to 1982 he edited *Famous Monsters of Filmland*

fanzine; in 1947 Ackerman created a science fiction literary agency. A life-long fan of science fiction "B-movies", Ackerman had cameos in over 210 films, including bit parts in many monster movies and science fiction films. In 1953, he was voted "#1 Fan Personality" by the members of the World Science Fiction Society, a unique Hugo Award never granted to anyone else.

After spending the fall in the Art Museum gallery, where it engendered more than the usual amount of media coverage, the exhibit was taken down and digital facsimiles made of all pieces. These were used both to create an online version of the exhibit (<http://ahc.uwyo.edu/onlinecollections/exhibits.htm>) and a traveling version of the exhibit (<http://ahc.uwyo.edu/eduoutreach/traveling%20exhibits/traveling.htm>). The online version is of course available to anyone across the globe. Our traveling exhibits as a whole (there are more than a dozen) are tremendously popular throughout Wyoming and into our neighboring states. Public libraries, county museums, as far afield as Missouri and as close as the local campus of our community college, and other venues can reserve the exhibit for only the cost of shipment to its next destination. In a typical year approximately 50,000 people in Wyoming (and elsewhere) view our exhibits (Wyoming is a small state population-wise, so 50,000 people represents ten percent of the entire state's citizens)!

These exhibits represent a wide variety of topics, including Wyoming's *Chief Washakie*; *Girl Scouts at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center*; *Hell on Wheels--Union Pacific Railroad Towns in Wyoming*; *Rural Images--The Cartoon Art of J. R. Williams*, *Ace Reid*, and *Jerry Palen*; *Bozeman Trail*; *More Pronghorns than People* (I wasn't kidding about our state's population); *Images of Black Wyoming*; and *Photographers of Wyoming*... to name just a few. These exhibits have travelled to Evanston in the southwest

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corner of the state to Newcastle in the northeast corner to Powell in the northwest corner (Laramie and Cheyenne are in the southeast).

The *Terror in the Theaters* exhibit also inspired the theme for our 2010-11 AHC *Annual Report* which, too, featured 1950s science fiction movies. If you are not on the mailing list for our annual report, but would like a copy of this one, please just let me know, or you can view it online at <http://ahc.uwyo.edu/about/publications.htm>. Our colorful and striking annual reports are the products of Rick Ewig and graphics designer Vicki Schuster (she wears many other hats as well). The exhibit also inspired two blog posts (yes, this is a shameless plug for our relatively new blog): <http://americanheritagecenter.wordpress.com/2011/09/08/terror-in-the-theater-fifties-fears> and <http://americanheritagecenter.wordpress.com/2011/10/20/from-the-director-on-science-fiction>.

No column about our exhibits would be complete without some mention of several more permanent displays accessible in the AHC's loggia and our Rentschler Room. (A loggia, by the way, is defined as "a roofed but open gallery or arcade," and in the AHC describes the four-floor open space surrounding our—nonfunctional, for safety purposes—fireplace.) The most important of these exhibits by far are a set of paintings (oils and gouaches) by Alfred Jacob Miller (American, 1810-1874), one of the first European artists to depict the portion of the U.S. that would later become Wyoming—one of his best-known works is *The Rendezvous Near Green River* of Native Americans and fur traders. We are proud to have one of the largest collections of Miller's works in the U.S. The paintings were donated by the family of Everett Graff and by Charles Nevins, and will shortly be joined by yet additional Miller sketches and paintings through the immense generosity of Robert Graff.

Off of the loggia (and across from our Clara Toppan Rare Books Room) is the George Rentschler Room, which features nine Henry Farny (American, 1847-1916) paintings and one Frederic Remington (American, 1861-1909) painting, the gift of Rita Rentschler Cushman. Through the bequest of Frederic Rentschler and the supreme kindness of Pam Rentschler these will shortly be joined by four additional Farny works and a Remington bronze

sculpture. Farny's Indian paintings are considered some of the most accurate of the genre, because he situated them in the dress and environment of the time. The paintings hang in a reproduction of George Rentschler's New York City library. Both the loggia and the Rentschler Room are open to the public during the AHC's business hours.

Two other long-term exhibits of immense popularity are the silver and black leather saddle used by film and television star Hopalong Cassidy (William Boyd) and the slightly less elaborate saddle used by Western film star the Cisco Kid (Duncan Renaldo). We have extensive papers and artifacts for both men (including, for instance, Hoppy's trademark black outfit and black-holstered six-guns, a great deal of fan mail, and his extensive marketing efforts to expand the Hopalong Cassidy "brand." The saddles, along with reproductions of photographs and other material, are in the loggia, as are about a dozen vertical exhibits featuring a variety of the types of collections acquired and maintained by the Center—from one on Admiral Husband Kimmel (naval commander at Pearl Harbor) to one on Western photographer J.K. Moore to one on Spiderman creator Stan Lee.

Having said all this, however, it is important for me to reiterate that the AHC is not a museum, but an archive, manuscripts repository, and rare books library. Indeed, we have not acquired major works of art (except additions to existing collections) since UW established its own Art Museum. The roughly 18 miles of papers, books, photos, maps, audio tapes, films, and other media in our storage rooms could, of course, never be exhibited except in the tiniest bits and pieces. But virtually all of those 75,000 cubic feet of archives, manuscripts, and rare books are accessible to students, scholars, and the public—you need only ask to see it (we recommend a communication with one of our reference archivists so that they can best help you find what you are interested in). Our collections have formed the basis for countless books, television documentaries, exhibits at other museums (including Presidential libraries), news stories, and other methods of communicating our vast content. Whether through exhibits, research, or writing our ultimate goal is to make our holdings accessible to the widest possible audience. ■



Secret Agent Man: The Papers of Frank Wilson

Emily Christopherson



Another Depression-era collection has been processed and made available online thanks to an NHPRC grant! Two important news events during the Great Depression were the Charles Lindbergh baby kidnapping case and the conviction of Al Capone. Frank Wilson, Chief of the U.S. Secret Service from 1937-1946, played an instrumental role in both of these investigations.

Wilson, born in 1887, worked for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Justice Fair Price Commission before becoming an agent with the U.S. Treasury Department Internal Revenue Bureau Intelligence Unit in 1920.

It was here that Wilson played an instrumental role in the arrest of both Al Capone and Bruno Hauptmann, the Lindbergh baby kidnapper.

As a Treasury Department agent, Wilson was put in charge of the Al Capone investigation. While it was known that Al Capone was bringing in unreported revenue from criminal activities, no proof could be found. Wilson went undercover in Chicago to investigate the case. At one point, Capone ordered a \$25,000 hit on Wilson. Wilson finally discovered an envelope shoved in the back of

an evidence filing cabinet that had been confiscated in a raid 6 years prior. The envelope had been mislabeled, but inside was a ledger with the proof

needed to arrest Capone on tax evasion charges.

Wilson was also one of the lead agents in the Charles Lindbergh baby kidnapping case. It was Wilson's idea to record the serial numbers on the ransom money which later led to Bruno Hauptmann who was ultimately charged with the kidnapping. This method of recording serial numbers would become common practice in kidnapping cases.

While he was Chief of the U.S. Secret Service, Wilson was devoted to curbing counterfeiting.

The amount of counterfeit currency rose to an all-time high during the Great Depression. To curb counterfeiting, Wilson launched a "Know Your Money" campaign. As part of this campaign, a booklet and video were produced and distributed to students, bankers, and storekeepers that demonstrated how to identify counterfeit currency. By 1943, annual losses from counterfeits had dropped 97% from the 1936 level. Wilson also changed many of the protocols for Presidential Protection, many of which are still in place today.

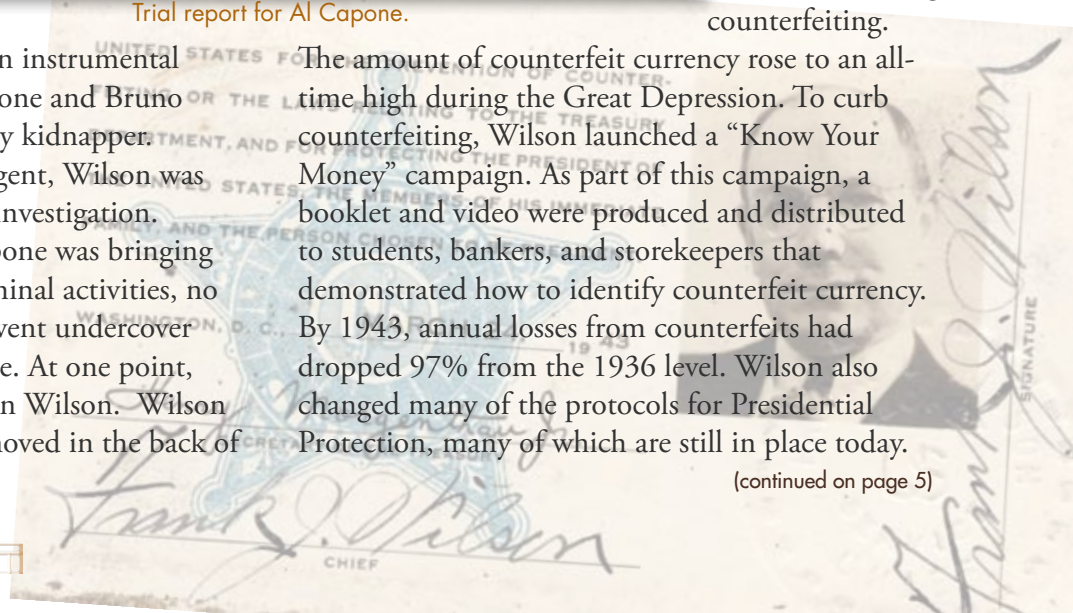
(continued on page 5)

This form must be forwarded to the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Intelligence Unit, as soon as the necessary data is obtained and must not be delayed.

READ INSTRUCTIONS ON OTHER SIDE

(1) REPORT OF RESULT OF TRIAL OR FINAL DISPOSITION OF CASE
(2) Case No. S17025-F
(3) October 29, 1931
(4) U.S. vs. Alphonse Capone,
(5) Alias Alphonse Brown, Al Capone, Al Brown, "Scarface" Capone, A. Costa.
(6) Arrested June 2, 1931 (7) at Chicago, Illinois,
March 13, 1931
(8) Indicted June 2, 1931 (9) at " " "
(10) Crime Willful failure to file income tax returns for the years 1928, 1929,
Willful evasion of income tax for the years 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, and 1929.
Violation
(11) Section 1114-B of Rev. Act. of 1926,
and Sections 145-A and B. Rev. Act. 1928.
(12) Case called October 6, 1931 (13) at Chicago, Illinois.
(14) Defendant pleaded guilty.
On June 2nd indictment
(15) Verdict of jury Guilty on counts 1, (16) Date Oct. 17, 1931.
5, 9, 13, 18.
(17) U. S. Attorney Geo. E. Q. Johnson, (18) Judge Wilkerson.
(19) Sentenced October 24, 1931 (20) to 10 years in Leavenworth Penitentiary
and one year in the County Jail.
(21) Remarks: The defendant was sentenced to 3 years on each of Counts 1, 5, and 9,
and one year on each of the Counts 13 and 18. Felony counts 1 and 5, senten-
ces to be served concurrently and Count 9 to be served consecutively to the
first two. On the counts 13, and 18, sentences are to run concurrently if
the defendant serves his felony counts, and are to be served after the felony
counts in the county jail. If for any reason the felony counts are reversed,
the defendant is to serve the misdemeanor counts consecutively in the county
jail. The sentence of six months for contempt is to run concurrently with
the misdemeanor counts if all sentences are sustained, and consecutively
if the felony counts are reversed.
Frank J. Wilson
(22) Special Agent.

Trial report for Al Capone.



Secret Agent Man (continued from page 4)

A large portion of the collection consists of articles, radio scripts, and other manuscripts written by Wilson relating to his career as a Secret Service agent, and based on many of his and his colleagues' cases. The collection also contains files relating directly to his civil service career (both as an agent with the U.S. Treasury Department and the Secret Service), including case files, correspondence, reports, and photographs. Much of

the correspondence and case files pertain to his anti-counterfeiting campaign and his protection of the President and other dignitaries. There are also files on the Lindbergh kidnapping case and Al Capone.

View the Inventory of the Frank Wilson Papers to learn more: <http://rmoa.unm.edu/docviewer.php?docId=wyu-ah08312.xml>. ■

Ellen Wald Selected as the 2012 Majewski Fellow

The American Heritage Center recently selected Ellen Wald, a Ph.D. candidate in History at Boston University, as the recipient of the 2012 Bernard L. Majewski Research Fellowship. Ms. Wald is completing her dissertation which is titled "Fueling the American Century: The United States, Great Britain, and the Middle-Eastern Oil Industry, 1945 to 1960."

Wald's research as the Majewski Fellow will concentrate on the history of petroleum development during World War II and the early 1950s. She will examine the relationship between government and business during that time. According to her proposal, "the current literature on the evolution of the business-government relationship between multinational oil companies and the government has ignored many of the organization structures that oil companies and government agencies established to promote the acquisition and production of foreign petroleum by American companies."

During her time at the AHC this summer, Wald will research many collections. They include the papers of Walter J. Levy, C. Stribling, Bernard L. Majewski, Richard C. Kerr, Harold B. Hoskins, and John E. Rouse. Wald will then return to the AHC during the fall semester to present a public talk about the research she conducted at the AHC.

The Bernard L. Majewski Research Fellowship in the amount of \$2500 was established in 1996 by a

generous endowment by Mrs. Thelma Majewski. The first Majewski fellowship was awarded in 1997. ■



Bernard L. Majewski had a long career in the petroleum industry. He worked for Deep Rock Oil Corporation for many years, he served in the Petroleum Administration for War during World War II, and in 1951 he started the Great American Oil Company. Bernard L. Majewski Papers.



AHC Announces Joseph M. Carey Research Fellowship and First Fellow

Last year the AHC established the Joseph M. Carey Research Fellowship. Members of the Carey family generously funded the fellowship, which will be awarded for the first time in 2012.

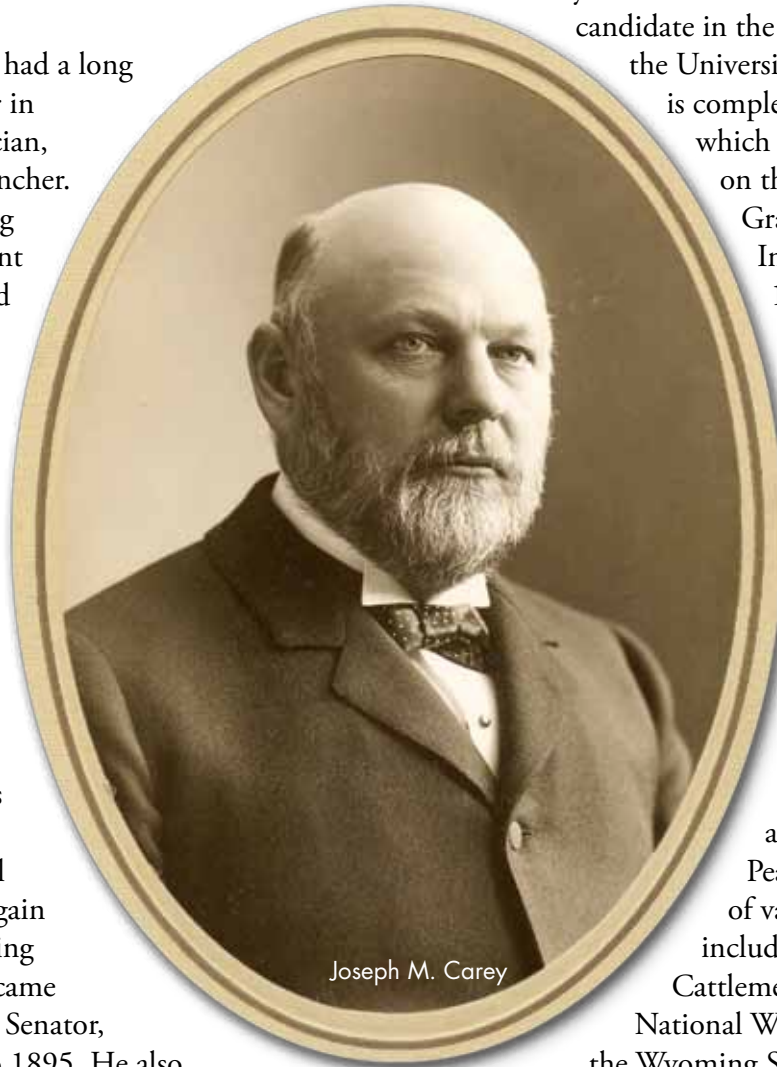
Joseph M. Carey had a long and influential career in Wyoming as a politician, judge, lawyer, and rancher. He came to Wyoming in 1869 after President U.S. Grant appointed him the first U.S. Attorney General for the Territory of Wyoming. He went on to serve as an associate justice of the territory's Supreme Court, was elected mayor of Cheyenne during the early 1880s, and served as Wyoming's Delegate to Congress from 1895 to 1890 and was instrumental in the movement to gain statehood for Wyoming in 1890. He then became Wyoming's first U.S. Senator, serving from 1890 to 1895. He also served as Wyoming's governor from 1911 to 1915. His son, Robert B. Carey, also served as Wyoming governor, holding the office from 1919 to 1923. The AHC holds the Joseph M. Carey Family Papers.

The fellowship is intended to provide research support for a recognized scholar in the area of Wyoming and Western history and to facilitate

the use of archival collections at the AHC. The fellowship is in the amount of \$2,500.

The selection committee for the fellowship recently awarded it to Matthew Pearce, a Ph.D. candidate in the History Department at the University of Oklahoma. Pearce is completing his dissertation which is titled "Discontent on the Range: Public Lands Grazing Politics in the Intermountain West, 1934-1964." His research examines the conflicts associated with the use of federal rangelands from the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 to the Wilderness Act of 1964. Wyoming ranchers, politicians, range scientists, and conservationists constitute a significant part of the story.

During his research at the AHC this summer, Pearce will study the records of various organizations, including those of the National Cattlemen's Association, the National Wool Growers Association, the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, and the Wyoming Wool Growers Association. The papers of numerous Wyoming politicians also will be consulted by Pearce, including Frank Barrett, Lester Hunt, Nels Smith, Joseph O'Mahoney, and Milward Simpson. During the fall semester, Pearce will present a public talk about the research he conducted at the AHC. ■



Joseph M. Carey



Emily Christopherson Hired as Assistant Archivist

Emily Christopherson recently started her new position as an extended term track assistant archivist at the AHC. Prior to becoming one of the Center's faculty members, she worked here as a grant archivist on the National Historic Publications and Records Commission grant related to our Depression era collections. Among the collections Emily processed during her work on the grant are Jack Benny, U.S. Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, the National Wool Growers Association, Trans World Airlines (TWA), and Frank Wilson, chief of the U.S. Secret Service in the 1940s.

Emily graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2010 with a Master of Arts degree in Library and Information Studies with a specialization in Archives and Records Administration. She received her undergraduate degree in education from the same university. From 2008 to 2010, Emily worked as an archival assistant at the Wisconsin Historical Society. Since she became an AHC faculty member, Emily has been processing the papers of Richard Tregaskis, a journalist who covered World War II and the Vietnam War. He is especially noted for his book *Guadalcanal Diary*. ■



Andy Miller is New AHC Major Gift Officer

The UW Foundation recently hired Andy Miller as a Major Gift Officer and assigned him to assist the AHC among other University of Wyoming units.

Andy is originally from upstate New York and he attended Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, where he received a degree in business management. He has spent his career in banking, relationship sales, fundraising, and development. Andy most recently served as the Director of Development at St. Paul's Newman Center in Laramie.

Andy is looking forward to working with staff and faculty of the AHC and getting to know our many donors. He said "It's an honor to be assigned to the American Heritage Center." If you would like to contact Andy he can be reached at amille54@uwyo.edu. ■

If you would like to read future issues of *Heritage Highlights* on-line please send us your e-mail address at: ahc@uwyo.edu



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PHOTO from the
ARCHIVES:

Architect Victor Gruen designed Southdale Shopping Center just outside of Minneapolis which opened in 1956. It was the first enclosed shopping center. This undated photograph is of a sculpture located in the mall. Gruen was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1903 and emigrated to the U.S. in 1938. He later established Victor Gruen Associates, one of the nation's leading architectural, planning, and engineering firms. Victor Gruen Papers.

