



Seattle Area Archivists  
P.O. Box 95321  
Seattle, WA • 98145-2321  
seattle.area.archivists@gmail.com

Winter 2009

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## Winter Meeting

Monday, March 2, 2009

Student Presentations

**NARA – Pacific-Alaska Region**

2:00 PM

Our winter meeting features a fantastic “mini symposium” of student presentations. Students in archives from both the School of Information at the University of Washington and the History, Archives and Records Management program at Western Washington University will give papers and presentations on a variety of topics and will include:

- **Joshua Polansky** "Images from the Victor Steinbrueck Archive" (UW iSchool)
- **Andrea Hernandez** "The Rock: A Diamond in the Rough: My experience at the Gibraltar Government Archives" (WWU History and Archives)
- **Sammy Franklin** "According to ye latest and most Exact Observations": Digitizing Rare Maps at the University of Washington Special Collections (UW iSchool)
- **Heidi Holmstrom** "The Religious Archives as Film Orphanage?: The Orphan Film Concept and Its Relevance to Religious Film Collections." (WWU History and Archives)
- **Josh Zimmerman** "On the Idea of Collective Memory" (WWU History and Archives)

As Rand Jimerson has pointed out, “graduate students have opportunities for in-depth research that many practicing archivists, with daily work responsibilities, sometimes lack.” Join us to learn about what the new generation of archivists is up to, and formally welcome these students into the professional community!

# New Reading Group

**First Meeting: Thursday, March 26 at 6:00 pm.**

**Location: to be announced at the membership meeting on March 2.**

**Access** is the theme of the first meeting of the Seattle Area Archivists Reading Group. Over the past twenty years, technological advances have made information more accessible than ever before. As a result, the public has become used to instant access to information and these ever increasing expectations confront the archival profession.

How and to what extent should archivists provide access to their collections? What are the political, technical, logistical, economic, and legal issues surrounding access and how do new technologies address these issues? The three readings below explore these questions and we invite you to join us in a discussion of these pressing issues.

Max J. Evans, "Archives of the People, by the People, for the People," *The American Archivist*, Vol 70 (Fall/Winter, 2007): 387-400.

Brewster Kahle, "Universal Access to All Knowledge," *The American Archivist*, Vol. 70 (Spring/Summer, 2007): 23-31.

David Lowenthal, "Archives, Heritage, and History," in *Archives, Documentation, and Institutions of Social Memory: Essays from the Sawyer Seminar*, Francis X. Blouin, Francis X. Blouin, Jr., William G. Rosenberg, 193-206.

Reading should be completed prior to the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please bring at least one question based on the readings for discussion.

Please contact Josh Zimmerman at [zimmerj6@gmail.com](mailto:zimmerj6@gmail.com) for pdf copies of the readings.

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## Important Dates

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March 2	<b>Winter Membership Meeting</b>
March 7	<b>Pacific Northwest Historians Guild Conference</b>
March 21-22	<b>Association for African-American Historical Research and Preservation (AAAHRP) Biennial Black History Conference</b>
March 24	<b>Bonnie Beers, first female firefighter, to speak at Bertha Knight Landes, Seattle City Hall</b>
March 26	<b>Seattle Area Archivists Reading Group Meeting</b>
April 15-18	<b>Heritage Conference/Extravaganza</b>
July 15-18	<b>NAGARA Annual Meeting</b>

# Weyerhaeuser Company Archives

## Change is a Constant at a Corporate Archives

by Ken House

Recently the Weyerhaeuser Company Archives was transferred from a corporate support services division to the Law Department, one of many changes now occurring at Weyerhaeuser. The Law Department is the sixth organizational “home” for the Archives in its 34-year history. The transfer led to some reflection about the Archives’ past “organization reporting structures” or “homes” and the impact such changes have on the Archives and the archivists.

Change is a constant in American business and consequently in the work life of corporate archivists. Corporations grow and shrink and grow again, reorganize and diversify their holdings and then narrowly refocus, enter new geographic and market regions and leave others, adapt new business models, buy and sell companies and are sometimes acquired themselves. Change and challenge accelerate in times of economic difficulty for both the corporation and the corporate archivist. Each change impacts the archivist as new businesses and products bring new records to appraise, new company histories to learn and new and different research issues to address. They also create opportunities for the archivist to provide orientation about company history to employees from acquired companies or to bid farewell to records sent with a departing business.

Ten years ago, under the direction of a then new CEO, Weyerhaeuser grew rapidly. The Company made three major acquisitions within four years, purchasing MacMillan Bloedel, Trus Joist, and Willamette

Industries. Employment increased to a record 60,000+ workers. Archivists scrambled to locate, appraise, accession and process the archival records of the acquired companies. Then Company direction changed dramatically in 2007 with the sale of the fine paper business and in 2008 as the containerboard packaging business was sold. As a result of these sales and as the economy forced closure of mills, the number of Company employees dropped to levels last seen in 1957. In response, hundreds of headquarters and regional staff were laid off. As part of this effort, the Archives once again was moved on the organization chart to a new “home.”

Established in 1974, as Weyerhaeuser prepared to celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Archives initially reported to Weyerhaeuser Corporate Services, a catchall organization providing support services to staff at headquarters and company-wide. The Archives next reported to a senior vice-president, as it became part of a holding company formed as the two primary businesses, forest products and paper, established their own separate companies. This placement was the highest level the Archives has reached in the corporate structure. When the vice president retired, the Archives found an interim home with the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation, responsible for corporate philanthropic efforts. Corporate communications, the public affairs group, became the next Archives’ leader. Twelve years ago the Archives returned to a headquarters support services group now titled Weyerhaeuser Business Services

(WBS). The WBS umbrella encompassed such diverse activities as headquarters safety and facilities management, travel, security, libraries, copy centers, photography, forms and records management, cafeterias, promotional merchandise sales, desktop publishing, and the archives while also managing the automatic teller machines and dry-cleaning drop off stations. Within WBS the Archives reported to a manager responsible for the Company library and records management groups.

In mid-2008, under leadership of a new CEO and senior vice president, the WBS organization was dissolved, and the Archives assigned to its current and sixth home. There, the Archives is part of a unit including records and knowledge management staff. Alignment with the Law Department is a logical decision. About a third of Archives internal reference and research requests originate in the Law Department.

With each change the archivists adapted to new organizational norms and expectations, explained their purpose to new leaders, established new relationships with key customers and content creators, developed a place and support within the new organization, tracked their activities in new ways, continued to justify their existence and most importantly continued, in spite of the change, to manage the long term information resources of the corporation in a manner that responded to business needs while meeting professional ethical requirements.

Regardless of corporate reporting structure, the archivists had to remain focused on acquiring, preserving and making available information of enduring value to serve the Company and to hopefully survive beyond the Company's time as a record of the impact of the industry, the firm and its employees on the region and nation. That

the Company Archives has survived and continues, to date, to survive is a testament of the ability of archivists in the past to repeatedly prove the value of historical information to business, to make a business case for their activities, and weather change.



## Northwest Archivists



### Mentoring Program

The NWA Mentoring Program is designed to bring together mentors and protégés, offer recommendations and guidelines that support successful matches, and provide an assessment component for the program to gauge its value to participants and to NWA as a whole.

Applicants should be members of Northwest Archivists, which incurs an annual membership fee of \$15.00 per year. Additional information and an application for membership can be obtained through the [Northwest Archivists website](#).

Applications for mentors/mentees can be found [HERE](#).

## University of Washington

### *Scrapbook Cataloging Project Enhances Access to "Hidden Collection"*

By Helice Koffler

For the past several months a small-scale, but ambitious project to improve access to a legacy collection of scrapbooks from the Pacific Northwest Collection has been taking place in the Special Collections Division, University of Washington Libraries. The momentum for this project first began last summer when Computer Specialist, Mark Carlson, was able to convert the data from an existing list of the scrapbooks to output in MARC format, but the project really took off serendipitously in the autumn quarter, with the arrival of UW Information School student, Mahrya Carncross, who was looking to volunteer in Special Collections. Once Pacific Northwest Curator, Nicole Bouché, and I showed her the scrapbook collection, Mahrya was immediately enthusiastic about tackling the project and she has been coming in regularly since the beginning of October to put in several hours per week. In the first phase of the project, Mahrya went through all of the automatically generated records systematically and cleaned up problems with creator and title fields. The process of resolving some of these issues frequently necessitated a close examination of the scrapbooks themselves. After receiving some basic preservation training from Conservator, Kate Leonard, Mahrya also has been measuring the individual volumes for custom phase boxes. As of this writing, nearly all of the approximately 170 scrapbook titles are now discoverable through brief records in WorldCat and the University of Washington Libraries' online catalog.

With this first phase of the project completed, Mahrya has begun doing more detailed cataloging of selected scrapbooks. Working more closely with these materials has yielded some interesting finds. Creators and compilers of the scrapbooks range from

relatively famous names in Seattle area history (for example, R. H. Thomson) to the more obscure (Charles "Tiny" Burnett).

Check the catalog frequently to see what new records have been added, or, even better, beginning in March you will be able to read about these discoveries and other news from the Pacific Northwest Collection in a soon-to-be-launched blog.

## Mark Your Calendars!

### **Pacific Northwest Historians Guild Conference**

**Saturday, March 7, 2009  
8:00 – 5:00 PM**

**Museum of History and Industry  
2700 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue East  
Seattle, WA  
Click [HERE](#) for details**



### **National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA)**

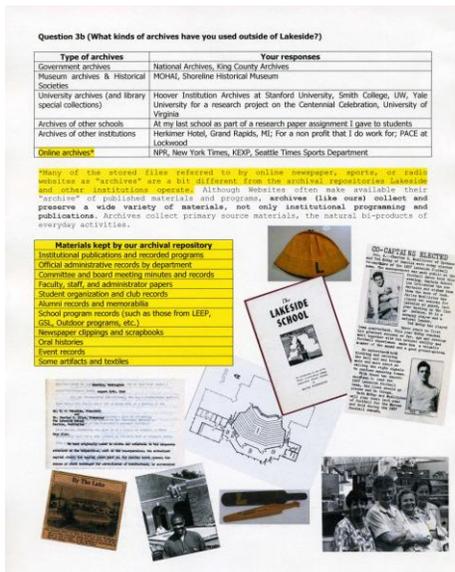
**Annual Meeting  
July 15-18, 2009**

**Crowne Plaza  
Downtown Seattle  
1113 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101  
Click [HERE](#) for details**

## Lakeside School

### *From Furrowed Brow to “Oh, Wow!”: How to Engage Your Colleagues With a Simple Survey*

by Leslie Schuyler



*Courtesy of Lakeside School*

Although many archivists were likely relieved when the NHPRC's budget was restored through the end of fiscal year 2009, the current economic climate exacerbates an ongoing problem for archivists in this country: securing sufficient resources. Hiring freezes, position cuts, and tightening budgets put increased pressure on many of us to defend the importance of our work. To justify our employment, it seems that some (or all) of us will have to embrace our roles as educators. When I began my archivist position last year, I found that most of the employees with whom I worked knew very little about archives. This wasn't a lack of knowledge specific to my repository, but something that applied to the field in general, and it created problems for me in terms of fulfilling my responsibilities. Because people didn't know what I did, why I did it, or how I went about doing it, they weren't able to donate or even identify valuable records, use the materials in our collection effectively, or appreciate the value of maintaining a functioning archives. One of

my initial goals, therefore, was to introduce my new community to archives, and in order to do that successfully, I knew I had to reach out to some 200 relative strangers in an engaging way. My approach—which I'll explain in more detail below—took very little time and/or resources, and the response I received amazed me. I'm writing this article for those of you who feel that, because of the current economic climate, you'd like to focus more on improving your repository's visibility within your institution.

I think you should know a little bit about my archival experience before I begin to explain how I engaged my colleagues in archives. When I was working toward my undergraduate degree in art history I felt like I was stuck between two worlds: the academic liberal arts, and the more hands-on (and quite a bit messier) fine arts. We art historians-in-training were never really a part of the history crowd, and many artists dismissed us as "wannabes" who had thrown in the creative towel for a more critical, literary one. To me the field was fascinating in that I was learning about the past through the creative efforts of the people who lived it. My work was interpretive and creative in its own way, and I felt lucky to be able to explore my interests in history and art without restricting myself to one or the other.

Perhaps I'm drawn to this kind of ambiguity in a profession because after three years working in an art museum (where, in 2003, my position was eliminated in the face of serious budget cuts), I went back to school to become an archivist. Archives seem to straddle so many different worlds (and refer to so many different kinds of institutions) that

many people who don't work in the field think that an archives is a place where old e-mails are stored in order to free-up server space. Finding myself without a job and having learned, after three years working in museum administration just how much I missed working with the "stuff" of history, I enrolled in Western Washington University's program in history, archives and records management.

The program was an excellent fit; I found myself knee-deep in archival literature that genuinely appealed to me. I enjoyed reading about the history of the profession, the theoretical foundations of American archives, and the problems that faced the field in the future. My discussion groups focused not only on the practical skills required of an archivist, but also on the ethical implications of an archivist's work. We learned the chemical properties of paper and pondered the archivist's place in a profession that, until fairly recently, has collected and preserved only the records of a very small portion of the population. I loved my courses, and developed relationships with my fellow students, many of whom will likely remain my friends for the rest of my life.

The only drawback to my studies, it seemed, was that each time I told an old friend that I was working on a degree in archives, he or she would give me a blank stare. In response to their furrowed brows, I usually explained that I was learning how to organize and preserve old stuff so that it would be available in the future. Only now does it occur to me how silly that probably sounded at the time. The real answer, however, was always too involved and intense for me to feel comfortable sharing, so I kept it to myself. All of this changed after I was hired as an archivist in April 2008. When I encountered a general lack of understanding for archives in the people with whom I worked, my watered-down

explanation just didn't cut it. Not only was it inappropriate in a professional setting, but it devalued my importance as an employee, and impeded my efforts to serve my potential users. So, in order to open up a line of communication between the archives and the rest of my organization, I put to good use what I had learned at the Society of American Archivists annual meeting last summer: I created a survey.

It was a relatively easy process. In thinking about what I wanted to learn from them, and what I wanted to share with them about the archives, I created a 9-question survey using free software from Survey Monkey ([www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com)). I first asked employees to share their department and position with me so that I could publicize the number of respondents from each department, thus creating a competitive incentive for people to participate. The remainder of my questions focused on respondents' experiences with archives. I developed these questions with the intent to create an education piece in which I would utilize the responses as a jumping off point for what I wanted to share about the *what*, *why*, and *how* of archives. I asked if anyone had used archives outside of my organization, so that I could determine my audience's general familiarity with the field. I also requested that participants list examples of archives they had used—knowing I would see the *Seattle Times* article archive, and the KEXP streaming archive in the responses—so that I could explain the difference between the popular usage of the word "archive" and the repository in which I worked. Finally, I asked respondents to list some of the images they associated with the word "archives," partly because I was curious and wanted to enjoy reading through the survey results, but also so that I would have a segue into describing, in detail, a functioning archives. I sent out a link to the survey by e-mail on a Wednesday morning, and by the time I checked for

results that following Friday, I was shocked by what I saw.

To my surprise, 125 out of roughly 200 employees to whom I sent the survey had responded! A 62 percent response rate was definitely much higher than I had hoped. Not only that, but the responses I received gave me an understanding of how people felt and thought about the archives, and what kinds of things they didn't yet know about our repository. Because I had promised a summary of results when I sent out the questionnaire, I had both a vehicle through which to disseminate archival information, and an interested audience waiting for it. From the responses I received, I created a lively, image-filled educational piece that explained the kinds of materials the archives holds, how to access the materials, how others have used materials in the past, what types of records employees should consider donating to the archives, and how they would go about doing so. I created the summary of results two weeks after I received the last response, and sent that out via e-mail as a pdf attachment (if you are interested in seeing this, I would be happy to share it with you, just send me an e-mail).

In terms of my goals for the project—to introduce myself to the community and foster an appreciation for the archives among my colleagues, inform employees about their roles in terms of donating items and accessing archival materials, and creating a dialog between my department and everyone else in the organization—it was a great success. In the months following the survey I saw an increase in the number of visitors/reference requests to the archives, and people who I hadn't yet met introduced themselves to me and seemed to have a clear picture of what I did. My supervisor found the educational piece fascinating and commended me on disseminating the information “in such an interesting and interactive way,” and for

having “exponentially increased our collective knowledge base about our archives, all for the betterment of [our institution] and the preservation of its history.” For the relatively limited time and resources I put into the project, the payoff was definitely worth it. People are still talking about the survey, and the educational piece I created will now become a part of our new employee orientation packet.

Although I don't have any solid proof to support a direct connection between an archives' visibility and how much support it receives from resource allocators, I do think that engaging your colleagues in the work that you do will foster a general appreciation for archives, both within your institution, and in greater society. As we face the economic challenges ahead, archivists will likely need to spend more time educating those outside of the profession who don't yet appreciate what we do. A simple survey may not solve our budgetary problems outright, but it may be one of the many small steps that we take toward a brighter future for our profession.

THE TOP TEN IMAGES THAT YOU ASSOCIATED WITH ARCHIVES	
Your comments	True or False?
10. "Cobwebs" 	<b>False</b> Spiders and other members of the creepy-crawly family are not often found in archival repositories' stacks. HVAC systems regulate temperature and humidity to delay deterioration of materials and to discourage mold growth and pest activity.
9. "Artifacts (old smelly football jerseys - )" 	<b>True</b> I'm not sure about the "old smelly" part, but our archives does care for old uniforms and other textiles (patches, hats, banners, flags, sports, etc.).
8. "Dust (just kidding). Seriously: old smelly." "Musty (sorry), faded, worn"	<b>True</b> Everything degrades over time: paper, photographic materials, textiles, wooden and metal artifacts, even plastic. Heat and high relative humidity accelerate deterioration by promoting harmful chemical reactions that break down materials. The smell you encounter in old bookstores and in archives is mostly the smell of paper deteriorating.
7. "Files of files that have yet to be converted to a digital format" 	<b>True</b> This is true of course, but it should be noted that digital formats are highly unstable—it's hard to ensure the authenticity of digital records, and technology is always changing. Each time we convert files to a digital format, we have to think about preserving those files for the next 10, 20, or 100 years. More importantly, we have to be able to access those files into the future. CDs and DVDs are popular forms of recordable technology, but the most stable form, in terms of the continued preservation of records, is still the clay tablet.
6. "Probably more information than I would ever want"	<b>True</b> It's hard to say, but it's true that the archives collects a wide variety of materials. However, we can't collect everything. One of the goals of the archives, with help from all of you, is to determine the kinds of things that have enduring value and should therefore be preserved into the future.
5. "Need larger storage area"	<b>True</b> More and more materials enter the archives everyday, and the amount of space for storage remains the same. In order to continue to collect items, we will need to either expand the archives or begin to store some materials off-site.
4. "Who we were"	<b>True</b> Yes! Primary source materials give us insight into the past (people, places, things) through the eyes of those who were actually there, living it.
3. "Stacks of official documents"	<b>True</b> Archives collect not only interesting memorabilia and old stuff, but also official records of the school created by staff and faculty.
2. "Database"	<b>True</b> One of the most important things archives do is maintain an inventory of the items in their collection so that they can provide users access to them. Instead of cataloging documents individually, however, archival materials are often described by series, according to the person, group, or organization that created them. "Dexter K. Strong Papers," or "St. Nicholas School Photographs," etc.
1. "Indiana Jones and X-Files" 	<b>Unfortunately, False</b> Archivists generally don't lead lives of adventure and intrigue (at least not in relation to their professional duties). Unlike the theme of X-Files, archivists work to make materials available for use. Some materials are confidential, but for the bulk of what we preserve, we strive for transparency as opposed to secrecy. For more on this in relation to Vice President Dick Cheney's attempt to keep his records secret, refer to this article available from the New York Times archive: <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/24/us/politics/24cheney.html?_r=1&amp;ref=archive">http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/24/us/politics/24cheney.html?_r=1&amp;ref=archive</a>

Archives survey results  
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Courtesy of Lakeside School

## News Briefs

### Seattle Municipal Archives

The Seattle Municipal Archives held an open house for the Legislative Department on January 13th. Amidst the good food and cheer were several areas where fellow employees could learn about what we do. Maps of the Seattle waterfront before the fill were displayed, and a demonstration of how to use the photo database was ongoing. The hit of the gathering was a 1970s video titled *Major Recycler* featuring Richard Conlin who is currently a City Council Member.

### Records of Mayor Wesley C. Uhlman

The records of [Mayor Wesley C. Uhlman](#) have been recently processed and are available for research at the Seattle Municipal Archives. Transferred recently from the University of Washington Special Collections division, these records shed light on many of the issues and challenges the City of Seattle faced in the 1970s, including economic woes and unemployment, transportation and land use, and the Forward Thrust projects. The emergence of the historic preservation movement can be seen in records relating to Pioneer Square and the thwarted redevelopment of Pike Place market. Civil rights-related issues are represented by records relating to desegregation, redlining, affirmative action, and gay rights. Increasing concerns about the state of the environment are reflected in files about pollution, Earth Day, and new environmental policies.

### Upcoming Event: Women in the Seattle Fire Department

On Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> Bonnie Beers, the first female firefighter for the Seattle Fire Department, will talk about the challenges and hurdles she encountered in her 30-year

career as a firefighter. From being the first woman to pass the strenuous physical recruit training to the psychological burden she carried daily, her experiences attest to the strength and stamina of those who pioneered the way for women as firefighters in the Fire Department.



The Seattle Fire Department began recruiting female firefighters in the mid-1970s. This flyer is from an early recruiting effort.

Seattle Fire Department Central Files, 2801-03  
 Courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives

An exhibit, "Strength and Stamina: Women in the Seattle Fire Department" will also be on display. Created by the Seattle Municipal Archives staff, the exhibit chronicles the history of the Seattle Fire Department, and the struggle of women to enter the traditionally male world of firefighters.

The presentation will begin at 2 pm in Bertha Knight Landes, Seattle City Hall. The event

is free and open to the public and is funded in part by the Washington Women's History Consortium.



**Fighting a fire on the Hinkley Block at Second and Jefferson, 1908**

Item 63803

*Courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives*

## University of Washington Libraries Special Collections

Throughout the snowy month of December 2008, UW Libraries Special Collections Division undertook the large task of relabeling and moving approximately 22,000 items from offsite collections to a new storage facility at Sand Point, shared with UW Libraries' auxiliary book stacks.

The materials had been shelved at a warehouse space near the Oak Tree shopping center for almost twenty years, prior to which many of these collections had been moved several times. Previous offsite storage locations ran the gamut, from a records room at a UW Hospital laundry facility to a building at the Seattle Army Terminal that also happened to contain a firing range!

Some of the benefits and service enhancements resulting from the move to the Sand Point facility are:

- Climate controlled space
- New compact shelving
- Coordinated retrievals with UW Libraries Circulation, allowing twice-daily deliveries
- Associated item records and barcodes for each box, improving the tracking of materials
- Approximately 6,500 cubic feet of growth space

While the physical movement of all boxes, tubes, and oversize materials was contracted to Bekins, all of Special Collections staff and many students were enlisted to help with the process.

Paul Constantine and Janet Polata supervised the movers at Oak Tree, while Angela Weaver, Nicole Bouche, Nicolette Bromberg and John Bolcer traded shifts supervising the delivery and re-shelving at Sand Point. Nan Cohen and Jeni Spamer coordinated space assignment, item record creation and label printing, with the help of UW Libraries IT staff. The remainder of the staff pitched in to either help affix the new barcoded labels, or cover the reference desk to keep our reading room open during the move.

Other positive consequences of this project included the opportunity to replace approximately 400 damaged boxes, correct outdated and incorrect labels, find misshelved materials, and gain better overall control of the collections. Highlights of the move were discovering what happens to thirty-year-old packing tape (the adhesive dissolves completely, leaving wisps of string like cornsilk dangling from the box) and relocating not one, not two, but three wooden flagpoles from the collection of Warren G. Magnuson.

Offsite materials were unavailable for patron

use throughout the month of December, but retrieval requests resumed as scheduled on January 5, 2009. Special Collections staff members are still sorting out kinks and adjusting to new procedures, but are overall very pleased with the outcome of this major project.

## National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) - Pacific Alaska Region (Seattle)

### Staff News

The Pacific Alaska Region (Seattle) of NARA is happy to announce that we again have an Archives Technician. Brita Merkel started on January 5, 2009 and has this to say for herself:

*I was born in Eugene, Oregon and remained there for college. I graduated from the University of Oregon with a BA in Art History in 2007. I served as an AmeriCorps member for one year in Sidney, Montana where I worked at the MonDak Heritage Center. I am very excited to serve NARA and experience Seattle!*

### Other News

Members of the archives staff will be supporting several events in March including the Pacific Northwest Historians Guild Conference at the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) on March 7th, the Organization of American History Conference in Seattle from March 26th to the 29th, and History Day judging events throughout the month. We will also be hosting the Association of King County Historical Organizations (AKCHO) meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup> at NARA site in Seattle.

## Virginia Mason Historical Archives

### Staff News

In September 2008 beloved archivist, Heather Davis, departed the Historical Archives of Virginia Mason Medical Center to pursue full time librarianship. Lisa Cohen, took the Archives Director position vacated by Davis and has been with Virginia Mason since October 2008.

### Collections News

In December 2008 the Papers of the Virginia Mason Hospital Nursing School (1920-1956) were processed.



**Group of nurses and nursing students in front of hospital, ca. 1930**

Virginia Mason Hospital School of Nursing, no. 6053  
Courtesy of Virginia Mason Historical Archives

The collection encompasses 17 cubic feet of records pertaining to the administration of curriculum at Virginia Mason Hospital's nurse training program and includes documentation of nursing student life at the Virginia Mason residential training facility throughout the 1920s to 1950s. The records document the Washington State and Federal accreditation process for nurse training programs, admissions process, financial conditions, policy and procedures, as well as events and activities. There are administrative records from the Alumni Association and Student Council, attendance and rotation log books, correspondence, course outlines, schedules,

requirements, committee meeting minutes, materials about local, regional and federal nursing associations, as well as internal and external publications. The collection contains artifacts such as a tea service used by the Nursing School for special occasions and examples of uniforms worn by students.

There are also approximately 300 photographs, some quite remarkable, of students and staff shown through portraiture and candid shots. There are 12 oversized prints of various school classes (some mounted on boards). Most of the photos range in size from 2 x 3 to 8 x 10 inches. Photographs identified as "Nursing School" photos have been cataloged at item level. There is a photo scrapbook that has multiple photos mounted on pages and is housed with the photograph collection. Many photographs from this collection have been scanned and are accessible digitally.

If you would like more information about the Nursing School collection or anything else related to Virginia Mason Medical Center's history, please contact Archivist Lisa A. Cohen ([Lisa.Cohen@vmmc.org](mailto:Lisa.Cohen@vmmc.org)).

Otherwise, processing work continues as we unearth great heaps of Virginia Mason history in the Historical Archives, including founding physicians' personal papers, reports of the chairman, and the Executive Committee meeting minutes of Virginia Mason Hospital, not to mention approximately 12 cubic feet of photographs that document various aspects of Virginia Mason history.

## Providence Archives

### Staff News

We are happy to share the news that Pam Hedquist has joined the staff of Providence Archives, Seattle/Spokane. After the merger of the Spokane and Seattle Sisters of

Providence Provincial Administration offices now located in Renton, Hedquist transitioned from Office Manager to Assistant Archivist-Technical on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Hedquist will work remotely in Spokane with her first major task being data input for the more than 1600 deceased and former sisters in the new sister personnel biographical database. Pam was involved with the database design and with her historical knowledge of the sisters and the religious community she will be a great asset to this Archives project. There are several other archival duties she will assume and we look forward to accomplishing much.

## Association for African American Historical Research and Preservation (AAHRP)

### 2009 Biennial Black History Conference



Black History: Full Disclosure

Saturday and Sunday  
March 21-22, 2009

*Keynote Speaker*  
Tim Pinnick

Seattle University  
Student Center  
901 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Seattle, WA

Click [HERE](#) for information about AAHRP's 2007 black history conference. For additional conference details, contact [AAHRP2009Conference@comcast.net](mailto:AAHRP2009Conference@comcast.net).

## The Seattle Public Library Hugh and Jane Ferguson Seattle Room

### The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Digital Collection

Click link above to access additional information about the collection.

This collection features books, pamphlets, invitations, reports, speeches, maps, articles and more. It has been created in honor of the Exposition's centennial in 2009. It includes items from the collection of the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI). The materials are full-text searchable and can be downloaded or printed out for library users.

The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition was Seattle's first world's fair. Held on the campus of the University of Washington, the event drew almost 4 million visitors and put Seattle on the map as a gateway to the Pacific Rim.

### **Pike Place Market Collection**

During the past year we have been working with a descendant of one of the owners of the Pike Place Market and have received a large gift of original materials about the market. The collection has been processed and will shortly be available through our online catalog. It includes photographs, scrapbooks, ledgers, papers, and property records from 1920-1975.

For additional information contact:

Jodee Fenton, Manager  
(206) 386-4610  
[jfenton@spl.org](mailto:jfenton@spl.org)

## Seattle Public Schools

The new hourly assistant to the archivist at Seattle Public Schools Archives is Althea Jones. Althea began working at SPSA last November and plans to enter a program in archival management in the near future.

## Skykomish Historical Society

### **Great Northern Railway Photo History CD's Available**

The Skykomish Historical Society has completed two Great Northern Railway photo history CD's. The **Monitor to Monroe, Great Northern Depots - Across the Cascades** CD covers the thirty-six railroad stations established starting in 1892 across the Cascade Mountains.

The **Great Northern Railway – Mansfield Branch** CD documents the eleven stations established by the Great Northern in 1909 as they followed Moses Coulee and the Douglas Creek Canyon on to the plateau east of Wenatchee, Washington. Both CDs include over 300 images of depot photos, Great Northern blueprints, aerial photos, maps and documents about the stations. All images are provided as .jpg files. The CDs are sold for research and nonprofit use only and reproduction requires permission. The CDs sell for US \$22.50 each, postage paid in the USA. International postage is by arrangement.

For additional information contact:

Bob Kelly  
Skykomish Historical Society  
PO Box 247  
Skykomish, WA 98288  
Email: [mvmvm@comcast.net](mailto:mvmvm@comcast.net)

## Heritage Conference/Extravaganza

A Northwest History and Heritage Extravaganza, including the 2009 **Oregon Heritage Conference**, the **Pacific Northwest History Conference** and the annual meetings of the **Northwest Archivists** and the **Northwest Oral History Association**, will take place April 15-18, 2009 in Portland, Oregon

The conference hotel will be the Holiday Inn at the Portland Airport, but activities will also take place at some of the Portland area's historical and heritage resources.

The Extravaganza will have the theme of "Rendezvous 2009!" The goal reflects the sharing of ideas, perspectives, skills and cultures in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest that will take place at the Extravaganza.

The Extravaganza will inform and inspire people. Attendees will include community leaders, staff and volunteers from historical societies, museums, historic cemeteries, ethnic organizations, schools, historic preservation commissions, humanities groups, the tourism industry, economic development, history buffs and professional historians, archaeologists, youth, and local, tribal, state and federal governments. All will be welcome at the Extravaganza.

The Extravaganza also will include the third annual Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards and presentations by university students who have been selected as Oregon Heritage Fellows.

If you are interested in helping with the conference's local arrangements, contact Kyle Jansson at 503-986-0673 or [heritage.info@state.or.us](mailto:heritage.info@state.or.us)

You can find out more about the conference [HERE](#).



### Steering Committee Members

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