

srma

The Rocky Mountain **Archivist**

Volume 35 No. 4

Winter Issue

February 2019



Inside the issue

From the President

**Preservation of 10th Mountain Division Oral
Histories**

Public Service Company Exhibit

Spring Meeting Announcement

Hello SRMA members!

Welcome to my third official column as SRMA president – this year is off to a good start so far, buoyed by our very successful fall conference on audiovisual archives, which had near-record attendance (close to, if not 100 total, attendees), and rave reviews from nearly all of them.

I'm so excited about our spring meeting, which I'm hoping many of you will be able to attend. I've just sent out the Call for Proposals, which are due March 1st. The theme, "Teaching with Archives," is both an area of expertise for me as well as a personal passion – I'm really looking forward to your submissions and I hope that we get a wide range from not just archivists, but museum educators, librarians, and other folks who teach with archives. This interdisciplinary spirit will carry over into the conference, where our goal is to engage folks from across these constituencies in a dialogue about "teaching with stuff."

This week, you'll also see a survey following up on the education and outreach survey we did in 2017, exploring the possibility of re-configuring our usual annual line-up of 2 meetings. Please look for this in the coming month and do answer – we want to make sure we're accountable to the membership in the programming we provide.

Yours in Acid-Free Boxes,
Kate

Want to be part of SRMA?

Join the SRMA Board! The following board positions are available for 2019-2020.

Vice President
Member-at-Large
Treasurer
Preservation Member-at-large
Electronic Resources Coordinator (non-voting board appointed)

The position duties are spelled out in the bylaws at the link below.

https://srmarchivists.org/wp-content/endurance-page-cache/about-us/documentation/bylaws/_index.html

Let Kate Crowe or anyone on the board (see page 7) know if you're interested!

Cover Story

Preservation of 10th Mountain Division Oral Histories

Keli Schmid, Western History & Genealogy

Formed in 1942, the 10th Mountain Division was the first United States Army division to go through high-altitude and ski training. The men spent over two years at Camp Hale, Colorado (near Leadville) learning to climb rocks and ice, to ski through trees and down steep slopes, and to live outdoors in winter conditions where temperatures reached negative 30 degrees. The Division deployed to Italy in January 1945 and turned the tides for the Allied Forces fighting there, ultimately bringing about the surrender of the German Army in Italy. Many of those 10th Mountain Division soldiers did not talk about their experiences in the war until decades later, when they were invited to record oral histories now housed at the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center at Denver Public Library. Those oral histories are irreplaceable, and until recently, they were in danger.

As archivists, we're familiar with elements that pose threats to the longevity of analog recordings. At SRMA's Fall 2018 Conference, "Taking the Gloves Off: Getting Down and Dirty with Audio Visual Media" we learned even more about those threats (and, thankfully, what we can do about them). There are issues we can try to control...temperature, humidity, light. But there are also issues we have no power over, the most insistent being time. Over time, materials degrade, they decompose. They become fragile to the touch, and if not cared for properly, could be lost forever. Magnetic tape (think audio cassettes and VHS tapes), compact discs, and DVDs are especially vulnerable. Over time, playing them becomes risky...tapes can snap, disc surfaces can peel or get scratched.

In an attempt to save recordings like the 10th Mountain Division oral histories before it is too late, the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) – with funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation – has created a Recordings at Risk grant program. The program enables institutions to digitize their recorded materials and make them available online. In November 2017, the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center was awarded a grant of over \$22,000 to digitize 250 oral histories, totaling approximately 300 hours of interviews with 10th Mountain Division veterans who served in World War II. transcripts for each interview.



Preservation of 10th Mountain Division Oral Histories

For twelve months, a team of six library employees and seven volunteers organized, indexed, cataloged, and uploaded the oral histories for online presentation. The first step was to send all of the interviews to George Blood LP for digitization, which required each interview to be listed in a metadata spreadsheet with corresponding descriptions, formats, lengths, interviewer and interviewee names, interview dates and locations, and proposed names for resulting digital files. Everything was boxed up using more bubble wrap than I've ever before seen in a single location and shipped out. A few months later, three external hard drives were returned to us, containing MOV, MP4, WAV, and MP3 files, along with accompanying checksums. A new accession sheet was created for each interview.

Our plan was to upload all video histories to the Western History and Genealogy department's YouTube channel, which would automatically generate searchable transcripts for each interview. Audio histories were to be published on Denver Public Library's digital

collections website, along with transcripts created using PopUp Archive services. Unfortunately, PopUp Archive discontinued that service, so instead we manually created time-stamped indexes for the audio interviews to give researchers a searchable guide to what can be found within each recording.

Now, just over a year later, the project is complete. All of the histories are available online, and the original media sit on archive shelves while we debate the pros and cons of keeping versus deaccessioning them. Since the completion of the project, the Resource Center has received additional oral histories which will be available online soon. Other histories that were received in 2015 and 2016, already in digital format, will be online as well in the coming weeks.

For more information about this project, or about the 10th Mountain Division, please contact Keli Schmid at 720-865-1812 or kschmid@denverlibrary.org.





Public Service Company Exhibit

Western History & Genealogy

Feature Exhibit

The Denver Public Library (DPL) is featuring an exhibit throughout the 5th floor of the Central Library noting the 150th anniversary of the founding of the parent company of what for many years was known as the Public Service Company of Colorado. Today it is referred to as Xcel Energy-Colorado, but it began in November of 1869 as the Denver Gas Company.

Photographs, articles, memorabilia, company publications and items from the archives housed at the DPL have been put on display as the collection has been completely processed by a former Xcel Energy employee and current DPL reference librarian and archivist Roger Dudley.

Dudley worked for 23 years with the utility company in the visual communications area and has been at the DPL for 13 years. He processed the collection as a volunteer devoting over 7,000 hours to sleeve and collate some 250,000 images (both prints and negatives) along with gathering additional items for current and former employees. He was able to get some of the earliest Denver Gas Company documents deaccessioned by History Colorado to provide a more complete collection under one roof. Company telephone books, publications, annual reports, department histories, memorandum, cookbooks, Reddy Kilowatt items, and a myriad of other articles have been retained and many of them are in display cases in the Gates Reading Room.

The exhibit will be up until the end of March and some vintage (1955) Reddy Kilowatt pins will be given away while the supply lasts.

Continued on pg. 6

Call for Proposals

The Call for Proposals for SRMA's "Teaching with Archives" spring conference is now open!

Proposals from all areas of cultural heritage work that incorporate teaching with archival materials in some way are welcome! We particularly encourage presentation proposals that cross disciplinary boundaries between archives, libraries, and museums.

Details on submissions are in the Google Form:
<https://goo.gl/forms/L8FGdWf9MbkZK6X62>

Proposals are due Friday, March 1st. Questions?
E-mail Lisa Dunn (ldunn@mines.edu) or Emily Kintigh (emilydkintigh@gmail.com).

Save the Date

Proposal Submissions Due
March 1, 2019

SRMA Spring Conference
Teaching with Archives
May 24, 2019
University of Denver



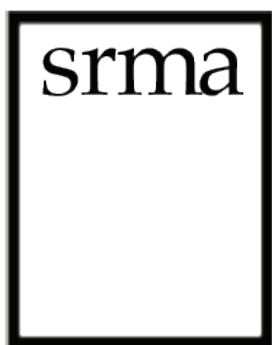
HOLLINGER METAL EDGE

Archival Storage Materials

The Choice for Archival Storage Solutions



hollingermetaledge.com
1•800•862•2228 or 1•800•634•0491



Governance

President: Kate Crowe
Curator of Special Collections & Archives
University of Denver

Vice President: Heather Bowden
Director of Special Collections, Archives,
and Preservation
University of Colorado Boulder Libraries

Past President: Jamie Seemiller
Acquisitions Archivist/Librarian
Western History/Genealogy Dept.
Denver Public Library

Secretary: Laura Hoff
Lead Archivist & Digital Librarian
National Center for Atmospheric Research

Treasurer: Laura Uglean Jackson
Archives and Special Collections Librarian
James A. Michener Library
University of Northern Colorado

Member-at-Large: Emily Knigtigh
Communications and Student Services
Specialist
University of Denver

Program Director: Lisa Dunn
Research & User Interface Librarian
Special Collections Manager
Arthur Lakes Library,
Colorado School of Mines

**Preservation Member-at-Large:
Nicole Becwar**
Technical Services Librarian and
Archivist
Western State Colorado University

**Membership Coordinator:
Mary Elizabeth Ruwell**
Archivist
US Air Force Academy

Society Archivist: Katie Rudolph
Archivist/Librarian
Western History/Genealogy Dept.
Denver Public Library

Newsletter Editor: Nathalie Proulx
Reference Archivist
Carson Brierly Giffin Dance Library
University of Denver

**Continuing Education Coordinator:
Amanda Stow**

**Electronic Resources/Website
Coordinator: John Major**
Reference Librarian
Bud Werner Memorial Library

**Need to renew your
membership?**

Contact Mary Elizabeth Ruwell
mary.ruwell@usafa.edu

**Do you have any interesting projects
or collections to feature in the next
issue of *Rocky Mountain Archivist*?**

Contact Nathalie Proulx at
nathalie.proulx@du.edu