

# MISSOURI TIMES

The State Historical Society of Missouri and Western Historical Manuscript Collection



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## Annual Meeting Moves, Educates Attendees



Guests sparked conversations with acquaintances old and new as they arrived at the Tiger Hotel for the annual meeting.

State Historical Society members and guests gathered at the historic Tiger Hotel in downtown Columbia for the 2008 annual meeting on November 1. In a departure from past meetings when a speaker was featured, attendees enjoyed *Reunion*, a reader's theatre presentation by the Society's Missouri History in Performance (MoHiP) Theatre. Four Columbia actors portrayed a World War II veteran, his wife, and the adult children of another veteran at a reunion of the Railsplitters, a unit of the Eighty-fourth Infantry. Written and directed by Mary Paulsell, the play incorporated dialogue drawn from the letters of World War II military personnel held by the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia. The Boogie Woogie Babes, a Jefferson City trio, opened the luncheon entertainment with a medley of 1940s songs.

Two concurrent sessions on topics of historical interest began the day's events. Walter A. Schroeder, professor emeritus at the University of Missouri-Columbia, presented "Cultural Regions of Missouri." William T. Stolz and David Moore, of WHMC-Columbia, discussed "World War II Research and Legacy Preservation at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia."

During the business meeting, Executive Director Gary R. Kremer delivered a report summarizing Society activities during the past

year. He noted the increase in monies received from the state legislature, which helped fund the second of a projected three-phase salary equity plan, and a \$600,000 appropriation to begin planning for a much-needed new building. Kremer discussed the popularity of the Missouri History Speakers' Bureau, which has provided more than one hundred speakers to nonprofit groups around the state, and the inauguration of MoHiP Theatre. Other Society achievements he noted included the receipt of a prestigious National

Digital Newspaper Project grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and grants from the Missouri State Library to digitize card catalogs in the Newspaper and Reference libraries.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, Dr. Kremer presented Alan R. Havig with the 2008 Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Havig, professor emeritus of history and now archivist at Stephens College in Columbia, has written histories of Columbia and local organizations as well as the 1998 centennial history of the Society. Earlier this year, he edited *Filling Leisure Hours*, the third volume in the Century of Missouri History Scholarship Series. Kremer highlighted Havig's long service on Society's committees and as a book reviewer and manuscript reader for the *Missouri Historical Review*.



The Boogie Woogie Babes (l-r): Suzie Nichols, Debra Walker, and Kim Vogel

## From the Executive Director



The events surrounding this year's annual meeting brought the usual pleasures of determining Richard S. Brownlee and Society award winners, offering educational workshops for attendees, and arranging the main program, including a musical performance and reader's theatre production on the strains and struggles associated with World War II.

The annual meeting also offered the opportunity for the Society's Board of Trustees and its various committees, including the Executive Committee, to hold scheduled meetings. The main topic of business at the various proceedings this year focused on plans to move the Society and Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia to a new facility. We were fortunate that Herb Duncan, our architectural planner, decided to visit directly with board members and present them with his most recently drawn working models. They quickly absorbed Herb's enthusiasm for the project and endorsed his preliminary concepts and proposals.

Herb also held several meetings with individual staff members and the staff building committee to

refine his understanding of the art collection and the need for increased exhibit space, patron and research services with open and secured collections, and requirements of more behind-the-scenes spaces for archival processing and professional management and care of collections. Herb also connected with Heidi Davis, a space planner for the University of Missouri system, to provide updates and seek her opinion on several issues associated with the Society's planned building project.

As we move toward the last two months of 2008, Society staff and trustees are uniformly excited about the prospect of designing a new headquarters for The State Historical Society of Missouri. We hope that in 2009, we will be able to settle on the size of building that we need, determine the physical relationships of the various departments toward each other, identify and perhaps even secure the best possible building site, and lay the groundwork for an all-important capital campaign. An exciting time indeed!

—Gary R. Kremer

## State Historical Society News

### Benton Scholar visits the Society

In October, The State Historical Society of Missouri

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co-sponsored a visit to campus by Dr. Leo Mazow, an art historian at Pennsylvania State University specializing in Thomas Hart Benton. Mazow, curator of American art at the Palmer Museum, gave the lecture "Thomas Hart Benton and Sound" to a crowd of over seventy people in Ellis Library auditorium on Thursday, October 16.

On October 17 Dr. Mazow discussed Benton's work in a more interactive, intimate

format in the Society's Main Gallery. More than thirty people joined Mazow for this informal talk, which focused on the Society's extensive collection of over three hundred Benton artworks. Dozens of Benton paintings, drawings, and lithographs were presented for the event. Patrons of all knowledge levels participated, and some university students from an art appreciation class were introduced to Benton for the

first time. Other attendees, such as Visiting Assistant Professor of Music Dr. Annett Richter, brought personal expertise to the interchange of ideas, joining Mazow in commenting on a rare sheet of Benton harmonica notations housed in the Society. Mazow also devoted a substantial amount of time to discussing the Society's ten dramatic World War II paintings by Benton and spoke at length about the issues of class, race, and social propaganda in Benton's art.



Thomas Hart Benton scholar discusses the *Year of Peril* paintings during his talk at the Society on October 17.

### Engelhardt Tours Engelhardt

On October 18, 2008, the celebrated *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* cartoonist Tom Engelhardt presented a lively tour of an exhibit of his work, titled *Engelhardt on Elections*, at the Society. The artist discussed the display of twenty-eight cartoons relating to elections that he produced during his thirty-five-year career with the *Post-Dispatch*, from 1962 to 1997. Many of the drawings comment

## 2008 Annual Meeting Award Winners

### Brownlee Awards

The Richard S. Brownlee Fund provides cash awards to individuals and organizations proposing to write publications about, or otherwise document, the history of Missouri and its citizens.

**Michael Les Benedict**, Columbus, OH, \$1,120.00  
Travel to research Western Historical Manuscript Collection holdings for a study of the constitutional politics of Reconstruction

**H. Jason Combs**, Kearney, NE: \$706.16  
Research travel for a journal article on David Rankin

**Sylvia Forbes**, Fayette, MO: \$300.00  
Travel and copying costs for research on young adult book with the working title "Floods, Earthquakes and Tornadoes: Missouri's Worst Disasters"

**James N. Giglio**, Springfield, MO: \$1,700.00  
Research travel for a book-length biography of Thomas F. Eagleton

**George S. Grazier**, Jefferson City, MO: \$500.00  
Printing and distribution of *And Then It Happened: The Historical Chronicle of Sergeant Ben Booth and Sheriff Roger Wilson*

**Historic City of Jefferson**, Jefferson City, MO: \$320.70  
Training and equipment for oral history program

**Mary Penner**, Tijeras, NM: \$500.00  
Research travel for a journal article on Joshua Brant

**Kenneth Winn**, Jefferson City, MO: \$800.00  
Reproduction costs for book with the working title "Breach of Promise: Henry Shaw and the Trials of Courtship in Victorian America"

### Lewis E. Atherton Thesis Prize

Benjamin Israel, University of Missouri-St. Louis, \$500, "Putting Black in Blue: The Struggle to Put Uniformed African American Police Officers on the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department"

### Lewis E. Atherton Dissertation Prize

Ken Mueller, St. Louis University, \$1,000, "Benton and the People: White Nationalism on the Jacksonian Frontier, 1782-1848"

### Missouri Historical Review Article Award

James N. Giglio, Springfield, MO, \$750, "Tom, You're Not Going to Get [It] On a Silver Platter': The Inaugural Senate Campaign of Thomas F. Eagleton"

### Missouri History Book Award

Harry Haskell, Guilford, CT, \$1,500, *Boss-Busters and Sin Hounds: Kansas City and Its Star*



The Society presented Tom Engelhardt with a cartoon by nineteenth-century artist Honoré Daumier; with Engelhardt is his daughter, Christin.

on important election issues such as civil rights, the Vietnam War, Watergate, and campaign finance abuse, which made the presentation especially timely in this election year.

Seventy-two people filled the gallery, many traveling from St. Louis to attend the event. Engelhardt discussed his aesthetic philosophy and stressed the importance of humor, truth, moral purpose, and good drawing in editorial cartoons. His presentation was informal and conversational as he moved around the gallery telling the stories behind the cartoons displayed. His comments ranged from discussion of his technique and inspiration, to insightful colloquy on political issues.

The Society's oral historian, Jeff Corrigan, has interviewed the cartoonist as part of the Society and Western Historical Manuscript Collection's program

on political figures, and a filmed video of Engelhardt's tour will be added to that collection.

### Increased Focus on Oral History

In celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Oral History Program at the Society and Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia, efforts are being made to enhance usability of the oral history Web site. Oral historian Jeff Corrigan, who joined the Society in April 2008, hopes to raise awareness of the program, promote the availability of transcripts, and increase access to the more than 1,300 oral histories that compose the collection. For more information about interviews contained within the categories of politics, the environment, veterans, and prisoners of war, contact Jeff Corrigan at corriganj@umsystem.edu or call (573) 882-0417.



During October's yearly campus gallery crawl, the Society held a competition for visitors to create the best political cartoon based on a 1948 S. J. Ray cartoon from the *Kansas City Star*. MU sophomore Emily Backus won the contest and was awarded with a t-shirt bearing the original unaltered cartoon.

## Society Announces First James Goodrich Research Assistantship

The State Historical Society of Missouri is pleased to announce the awarding of the first James W. Goodrich Graduate Research Assistantship in Missouri History. The Goodrich Assistantship is a memorial tribute to the historian, writer, and preservationist who served as executive director of the Society for twenty years, 1985-2004. Jim Goodrich also served the Columbia community as a city council member and active volunteer. The assistantship announcement was made at a press conference on October 31, which would have been the former director's sixty-ninth birthday.

Created when Jim retired from the Society, the Goodrich Assistantship has been built with tribute and memorial gifts. It is a fitting honor, as Jim began his four-decade relationship with the Society and the University as a graduate research assistant at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, the Society's partner institution.

During his career with the State Historical Society, Goodrich expanded the collection, preservation, and publication of historical records. He edited four books and thirty-seven volumes of the *Missouri Historical Review*. He strengthened the Society's nationally significant art collection and initiated an oral history program. He wrote dozens of articles and gave hundreds of talks, mostly based on primary sources from the Society's holdings.

Roger E. Robinson, recipient of the first James W. Goodrich Graduate Research Assistantship in Missouri History, is a first-year doctoral student in history at the University of Missouri. Robinson, a Little Rock, Arkansas, native, earned the bachelor's in forestry from



Society Executive Director Gary R. Kremer, left, and University of Missouri Department of History Chair Jonathan Sperber, right, stand with Goodrich Assistant Roger Robinson during a press conference on October 31.

Colorado State University and the master's in international relations from Troy University. He recently retired with the rank of major after a twenty-year career as an Air Force pilot and has enthusiastically begun the pursuit of a new career as historian and teacher.

Robinson's work will focus on research for a book of George Caleb Bingham's letters and writings, which the Society will publish in 2011, the bicentennial of the artist's birth. Jim Goodrich was instrumental in obtaining a number of Bingham's portraits for the Society during his tenure. We believe Jim would be pleased that the first Goodrich Research Assistant is involved with this book project.

## NHDMO Receives Missouri Humanities Council Grant for Teacher Workshop

The Missouri Humanities Council (MHC) has awarded \$764 to the Society-sponsored National History Day in Missouri program to support the teacher workshop "The Individual in Missouri History: National History Day in the Classroom." The workshop will take place on Saturday, November 15, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Camden County Museum, 206 South Locust Street, Linn Creek, Missouri.

The workshop will focus on Missouri's digital primary source materials, using National History Day curriculum and sharing examples of successful student projects. Sharon Brock, processing archivist with the Missouri Digital Heritage Initiative (MDHI), will talk about the program and how it can be used in the classroom to help students research this year's topic, "The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies." Janet Baldwin, gifted education teacher with the Clayton Public School District, will explain how to incorporate NHD material into school



curriculum and discuss ways to help students participate in the program. Deborah Luchenbill, state coordinator for NHDMO, will give an introduction to the NHD program. Several students will present projects that advanced to the 2008 NHD contest in College Park, Maryland, and discuss their process for choosing and

researching topics and creating winning entries. Lunch will be provided, and a tour will be given of the Camden County Museum, with an introduction to its research tools.

For more information about this free workshop, contact Deborah Luchenbill, [historyday@umsystem.edu](mailto:historyday@umsystem.edu), (573) 882-0189, or see the NHDMO Web site at: <http://whmc.umsystem.edu/nhd/nhdwkshp08.html>.

The Society appreciates the support to National History Day in Missouri from the Missouri Humanities Council—the only statewide agency in Missouri devoted exclusively to humanities education for citizens of all ages. The MHC has served as a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities since 1971. For more information about the MHC grants program, call (314) 781-9660 or (800) 357-0909 or write to the MHC, 543 Hanley Industrial Court, Suite 205, St. Louis, MO 63144-1905.

## 2009 National History Day in Missouri Regional Contest Dates



National History Day finalists, award certificates in hand, and their teachers pose on the steps of the Governor's Mansion.

### NHD Finalists Recognized by Missouri Humanities Council

The Missouri Humanities Council hosted the 2008 Governor's Humanities Awards at the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City on October 22, where ten National History Day finalists and their five teachers were recognized at a high tea celebrating the students' research and presentation achievements. The honored students were among the top 15 percent of over 2,400 students across the country who competed at the national contest in Maryland in June.

Honorees and their teachers each received a special certificate commemorating the event: Clayton students Benjamin Goldsmith, Dee Luo, Zachary Praiss, Xiaoya Wu, and Chi Zeng; Columbia student Chris Ghan; Rolla students Laura Daily, Andrea Rolufs, and Erica Westenberg; Ballwin student Katrina Hauser; and teachers Janet Baldwin, Marilyn Toalson, Cynthia Felts, Mary Mueller, and Robert Stevens.



### Judges and Volunteers Needed for NHDMO 2009

To make the state contest run smoothly, the NHDMO staff must recruit close to 100 judges and 30 additional volunteers. Please consider filling one of these important positions. Judges should have a bachelor's degree, knowledge of history and/or education, or a familiarity with one of the presentation formats such as drama, speech, communications, or video and Web site production. Judges are placed in teams to balance knowledge of history with format experience. Volunteers help with registration, sell t-shirts, serve food, and "guard" the doors while presentations and judging are underway. Because it is so much fun to see the excitement of the young people, many of our volunteers come back year after year! For more information, please contact Deborah Luchenbill at (573) 882-0189 or HistoryDay@umsystem.edu.

- February 21**  
Region 2 — Kirksville  
Jeff Gall, jgall@truman.edu  
(660) 785-7747
- February 27**  
Region 1 — Maryville  
Tom Spencer, tspence@nwmissouri.edu, (660) 562-1294  
Region 8 — Rolla  
Jeff Schramm, schrammj@mst.edu  
(573) 341-4806
- February 28**  
Region 3 — Independence  
Mark Adams, mark.adams@nara.gov  
(816) 268-8236  
Region 4 — Jefferson City  
Shelly Croteau, Shelly.Croteau@sos.mo.gov, (573) 751-4303  
Region 5 — St. Louis  
Peter Acsay, acsayp@msx.umsi.edu  
(314) 516-5700
- March 6**  
Region 6 — Joplin  
Paul Teverow, Teverow-p@mssu.edu  
(417) 625-3114
- March 7**  
Region 7 — Springfield  
George Hummasti, GHummasti@missouristate.edu, (417) 836-5913
- March 13**  
Region 9 — Cape Girardeau  
Joel Rhodes, jrhodes@semo.edu  
(573) 651-2715
- April 4**  
NHDMO State Contest  
University of Missouri-Columbia
- July 14-18**  
NHD National Contest  
University of Maryland-College Park

# December

**December 16 7:00 p.m.**

## MoHiP Theatre Development Workshop

If you love history and theatre, you don't want to miss the Missouri History in Performance Theatre (MoHiP) workshops organized by Society artistic director Mary Barile. The workshops provide new writers, experienced playwrights, and interested readers with an environment for developing new reader's theatre scripts. Practice with performance techniques and public reading of works in progress is encouraged. Workshops are held the third Tuesday of each month and are free and open to the public.

# January

**January 20 7:00 p.m.**

## MoHiP Theatre Development Workshop

**January 24**

## The St. Louis Gemini Story

NASA's Project Gemini was designed to test new hardware and master many procedures essential in fulfilling President John Kennedy's challenge to "land a man on the moon and return him safely to earth." Averaging a launch every 66 days, Gemini flew ten manned missions in under fifteen months between March 1965 and November 1966. *The St. Louis Gemini Story*, developed by staff at WHMC-St. Louis, displays many images related to production of Gemini spacecraft by workers at McDonnell Aircraft Corporation in St. Louis. McDonnell's commitment to Gemini greatly accelerated success of the Apollo program that placed a man on the moon in July 1969. The WHMC exhibit will be accompanied by editorial cartoons from the Society collection that relate to Gemini, the space race, and lunar exploration in the 1960s.



# February



**February 6**

## Keith Crown: A Retrospective

Artist Keith Crown has called Missouri home for twenty-five years, but his contributions to the art world as a painter, teacher, and arts advocate have national significance. After earning degrees from the Art Institute of Chicago, Crown taught at the University of Southern California for more than thirty-five years, was a founding member of the board of directors for the Los Angeles chapter of Artist's Equity, and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Watercolor USA Honor Society in 2003. His works hang in museums on both coasts and in renowned art centers such as Taos, New Mexico. In celebration of his 90th birthday, the Society will present a comprehensive retrospective of Crown's work in watercolor, oil, and painted ceramics. Artworks from the Society's collection will be displayed, as will pieces borrowed from Crown's personal holdings and several works on loan from various collectors.

**February 6 7:00 p.m., Thespian Hall, Boonville**

## Song of the Middle River

MoHiP Theatre returns to Thespian Hall with *Song of the Middle River*, written by Lincoln University Theater Professor Emeritus Thomas D. Pawley III. The play reveals the story of a young slave woman, Celia, who in the early spring of 1855 decided to combat her master's sexual exploitation of her in the only way available: she killed him. Her trial and subsequent execution by hanging riveted the citizens of Missouri.

*Song* examines the days leading up to the murder and captures the tragedy of Celia's circumstances, revealing the multiple moral dilemmas of human bondage. The performance will be directed by Francis Blackchild, and Boonville musicians Cathy Barton and Dave Para will perform hymns and spirituals of the era. Tickets are \$5, available at the door.

**Due to its subject matter, this play is for mature audiences.**

**February 17 7:00 p.m.**

## MoHiP Theatre Development Workshop

**February 21 2:00 p.m.**

## Reaching for the Moon: How the Gemini Program Culminated in Apollo 11

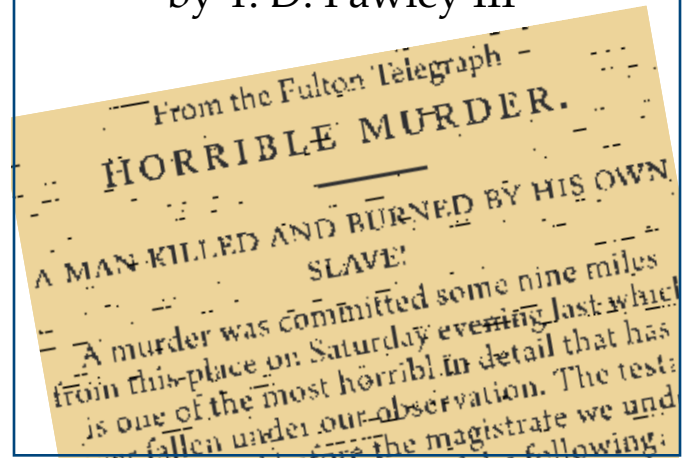
Award-winning Kansas City author Tahir Rahman will give a presentation on the NASA space program in the 1960s, focusing on Gemini's contribution to development of the Apollo missions that eventually put men on the moon. In celebration of the upcoming fortieth anniversary of the first moon landing in 1969, Rahman will also discuss his new book, *We Came in Peace for all Mankind*. This book explores the role the U.S. space program played in global peace initiatives, with particular emphasis on the silicon disc left on the moon by Apollo 11 astronauts Armstrong and Aldrin containing messages of peace and hope from world leaders.

## Holiday Hours

**The Society will be closed on the following dates:**

**November 27-30**, with the Society to close at noon on November 26;  
**December 25-28**, with the Society to close at noon on December 24;  
**January 1, 2009**

MoHiP Theatre presents  
 Song of the Middle River  
 by T. D. Pawley III



## Preserving the Jerry L. Litton Collection

Jerry L. Litton was born May 12, 1937, in Lock Springs. He grew up an only child on the family farm in rural northwest Missouri. In 1961 he received a bachelor's degree in agricultural journalism from the University of Missouri. During this time he was active in the Future Farmers of America and Democratic politics. Litton married Sharon Summerville in 1959, and they had two children, Linda and Scott.

After graduation Litton returned to his roots, becoming part owner in the successful Litton Charolais Ranch in Chillicothe with his parents, Charley and Mildred. Politics kept calling him, however, and he ran for the Sixth Congressional seat in 1972 as a Democrat and won reelection in 1974. Litton served in Washington at a time of great political upheaval. Vietnam and Watergate had eroded the public's confidence in government, and Litton's stated primary goal while in office was to be responsive to his constituents' concerns and regain their trust. In 1976 Litton challenged well-known politicians Warren Hearnes and James Symington for a U.S. Senate seat. On August 3, while flying to Kansas City from Chillicothe with his family to celebrate his primary win, the plane crashed, killing Litton and his family, the pilot, and pilot's son.

In 1979 Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia received the bulk of the Jerry L. Litton Papers, 1960-1976 (C3730), from Litton's parents, and in 2004 almost three hundred related audiovisual materials in multiple, outdated formats were added to the holdings. Among these items are more than fifty original, two-inch quadruplex videotapes produced for the *Dialogue with Litton* show that aired on television between 1974 and 1976. As part of his effort to bring "government back to the people," Litton hosted the monthly program with prominent political guests to respond to audience members about concerns and government issues. Of the twenty-nine television programs, WHMC-Columbia has twenty-seven of the original tapes, including interviews with Governor Jimmy Carter, Senator Thomas Eagleton, and the first African American congresswoman, Shirley Chisholm.

The *Dialogue with Litton* tapes cannot be viewed in their original format, and many suffer from dirt and mold. WHMC-Columbia is dedicated to preserving the collections under its care and is looking to clean and reformat the videotapes at a cost of \$400 each. The Adopt-A-Document Program works to facilitate revenue to preserve fragile documents and clean, stabilize, and digitally reformat outdated audiovisual material. The Adopt-A-Document fund will be used for this preservation effort. Please consider making a contribution, made payable to the University of Missouri, in care of WHMC-Columbia, 23 Ellis Library, Columbia, MO 65201-5149.

For more information on how to help save the Jerry Litton videotapes, visit our Web site: <http://whmc.umsystem.edu/aad/info.html>



[Courtesy Missouri State Archives]

*Litton served in Washington at a time of great political upheaval. Vietnam and Watergate had eroded the public's confidence in government, and Litton's stated primary goal while in office was to be responsive to his constituents' concerns and regain their trust.*

## Kansas City: Home to the American Royal

Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Kansas City continues to seek large, modern collections of key institutions. Among the most prominent in the Kansas City region are the records of the American Royal livestock show. Each fall the streets of Kansas City fill with visitors eager to enjoy and participate in this event. The parades are not as big as they used to be, and the blue jackets of the Future Farmers of America are not present in as large a number as they were when their convention was held in conjunction with the Royal, but the American Royal is still a big deal for those in Kansas City and the surrounding rural communities who take pride in the fact that one of the world's largest livestock and horse shows happens here in Missouri.

Following the Civil War and with the advent of the railroads, Kansas City became a leading place for cattle herders to gather. Stockyards and packinghouses became big business, and livestock shows were held to promote various breeds and to better cattle quality. In October 1899 a National Hereford Show took place at the Kansas City Stockyards, and the next year Shorthorn cattle were included.

On January 1, 1901, Walter Neff, editor of the agricultural newspaper *Kansas City Drovers Telegram* wrote an editorial, "Call It the American Royal," after hearing Dean C. F. Curtiss of Iowa State College say he thought the livestock at Kansas City's show was better than livestock he had seen at the British Agricultural Royal in England. The new name was given to the 1901 show, which also offered additional breeds of cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, and draft horses.

In 1905, for the first time, a horse show was part of the American Royal and was held at night in a tent at the stockyards. Over the next several years, the Royal rotated among locations that included Convention Hall, Electric Park, and the stockyards. In 1922 an exposition building was constructed with money raised from contributions. It burned in February 1925 but was



rebuilt and ready for the fall show later that year.

The Royal continued to be held during the depression years. During World War II, only a small livestock show was held, with no horse show. Even the 1951 flooding of the Kansas River and destruction in Kansas City's West Bottoms failed to stop the Royal.

The Governors' Building was constructed in the early 1970s with space for event exhibits, and the completion of the Crosby Kemper Memorial Arena in 1974 allowed much of the show to be moved to the arena with the addition of a rodeo.

Along with the horse shows, which include Quarter Horses, Arabian/Morgans, a 4-H Horse Show, Hunter/Jumpers, and Saddle Horses, and the livestock show, there is still an American Royal parade through downtown Kansas City. For many years there was a coronation of a queen elected from the Future Farmers of America State Sweethearts.

The American Royal is supported by a board of governors, almost one thousand members, the Belles of the American Royal (BOTARs), the Saddle and Sirloin Club, and many volunteers.

The WHMC-KC American Royal Records of more than 150 cubic feet contain papers, photographs, scrapbooks, magazines, programs, ledgers, motion picture film, videotape, and other items relating to the American Royal Horse and Livestock Show, as well as the American Royal Rodeo and Barbecue Cook-off. For more information, contact WHMC-Kansas City Associate Director David Boutros at [BoutrosD@umkc.edu](mailto:BoutrosD@umkc.edu).



**Scenes from the American Royal** (top to bottom): A horse parade, 1924; a young man taking part in the boys and girls 4-H Club Calf Group, 1924; and former President Harry S. Truman greeting a mule and its exhibitor, 1963. [Courtesy the Truman Library]



## Longtime Associate Director at Rolla to Retire

Dr. Mark C. Stauter, associate director of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the Missouri University of Science & Technology, has announced his retirement effective January 2, 2009, after twenty-nine years of service to the University of Missouri and The State Historical Society of Missouri. Stauter, who helped activate the Rolla branch on January 2, 1980, is the only person to have served as its associate director. Senior Manuscript Specialist John F. Bradbury Jr., who has also worked at WHMC-Rolla since early 1980, will serve as interim associate director until the future direction of the Rolla branch has been determined.

Stauter, a native of Michigan, came to WHMC from Duke University in Durham, NC, where he earned a PhD in American history and served as assistant university archivist. Under the direction of Dr. Richard S. Brownlee, and with the support of University of Missouri President Dr. James Olson and Vice President Dr. Melvin George, WHMC offices were activated on the Kansas City and Rolla campuses. "I was fortunate to have been selected by Dr. Brownlee to start up the historical manuscript operation at Rolla," Stauter said. "I arrived on a cold winter morning to a bare room—no furniture, no shelving, and, above all, no collections." Twenty-nine years later, there are over 1,250 cataloged collections and a full-time staff of three that provides reference services, collection development and cataloging, and public programming.

Stauter explained, "One of our first 'acquisitions' was a state-of-the-art IBM Selectric II typewriter. We used it for everything—correspondence, catalog cards, memos, whatever. We would fill out cataloging summary forms and send them to the Library of Congress, and three or four years later they might be published in the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections. Today our cataloging records are born digital and are immediately uploaded to the Internet, where they are instantaneously available to researchers around



the world. Almost all of our research queries now arrive via the Internet, an entity that was not even in our imaginations twenty-nine years ago.

"I've been fortunate to work under three State Historical Society directors (Brownlee, Dr. James W. Goodrich, and Dr. Gary R. Kremer) who allowed me to develop the program at Rolla with a great deal of freedom, while providing the support and guidance necessary to sustain operations. I've also been lucky to have had coworkers like John Bradbury and three secretaries, Marcia Brown, Freda Hines, and Beth Lane, who have been the major contributors to the program's success over the years. And it has certainly been my great good fortune to have worked in southern Missouri, from the French colonial heritage of Ste. Genevieve and the distinctive environment of the Bootheel in the east, to the Tri-State Mining District and prairies in the west, with a whole lot of Ozarks in between. The people are friendly, and their love of history has made working with them a pleasure.

"When we established the program at Rolla, one of our priorities was to document the history of the mining industry in Missouri. Since Missouri S&T was formerly the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy, we felt it was important to complement the heritage and curriculum of the campus. To that end we acquired two centerpiece collections, the records of the St. Joe Minerals Corporation (and its predecessor and acquired firms) from the Old Lead Belt in St. Francois and Madison counties, and the St. Louis-based American Zinc, Lead & Smelting Company, which had extensive operations in Jasper County, along with many smaller collections concerning mines and mineral resources. But if there is a "signature" record collection at WHMC-Rolla, it is the St. Louis-San Francisco (Frisco) Railway Company, which crisscrossed the Ozarks of Missouri as well as several other states. The acquisition and eventual ownership of the Frisco archives was a twenty-five-year process made possible by support and cooperation from several levels of University administration."

In retirement, Stauter plans to remain active in historical and genealogical work and hopes to do some extensive traveling. "I love history and baseball, so I intend to visit a lot of historic sites and see a lot of games, as well as work on the family history and historical research and preservation in Phelps County. I'll also continue to be active in the Route 66 Association of Missouri and the Missouri State Genealogical Association."



John F. Bradbury Jr. and Mark Stauter, circa 1980



The Soulard area of St. Louis, 1972 [SHSMO #018165]

## St. Louis's Metro Housing Resources

Western Historical Manuscript Collection-St. Louis staff recently processed the records of an important housing activist group in St. Louis during the 1970s and 1980s, Metro Housing Resources.

Members of the Concordia Seminary Social Concerns Committee and other interested citizens of St. Louis County founded New Neighbors in 1970, but later changed the name to County Open Housing, and finally, to Metro Housing Resources (MHR), which better identified it as a metropolitan-wide fair housing organization. MHR was established in response to United States Civil Rights Commission hearings held in St. Louis early in 1970, which concluded that the St. Louis area "housed essentially two societies as the Kerner Commission warned" and that the "racial division of St. Louis is supported by a broad network of institutional systems whose leaders disclaim responsibility for them." The commission stated that the existence of two different housing markets supported this reality. MHR intended to help make housing options available to all people in every area of metropolitan St. Louis.

Metro Housing Resources' specific activities included providing client services; advocacy for fair housing and housing options for lower-income

families; and researching questions of fair housing and the provision of housing for low-income and minority families. A listing service was developed and maintained for renters and referrals, and counseling was provided for people alleging housing discrimination. In addition, MHR worked to convince property owners to participate in the Housing and Urban Development-subsidized Section 8 program and sought low-cost housing for clients who were not certified for Section 8. MHR counseled all clients regarding their obligations as tenants and their rights under fair housing legislation.

In 1978 Metro Housing Resources Director Harry "Pete" Berndt completed a study of displacement in several midwestern cities, including St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, and Toledo. The study resulted from a concern over the large numbers of low-income people, the majority comprised of African Americans, displaced from redeveloped areas in St. Louis. MHR also proposed major research to determine the number of emergency housing requests by type and instance in St. Louis, as well as the viability of providing permanent housing for families.

For several years, MHR submitted administrative complaints against St.

Louis County, alleging the county failed to meet obligations to lower-income people. Each complaint stressed the specific failures of municipalities to participate in the provision for housing low- and moderate-income persons; the county's failure to have an affirmative fair housing program; and the failure by municipalities to affirmatively comply with civil rights laws. As a result, the county's fifth-year HUD application was conditioned by the federal agency, and funds were denied for failure to adequately provide housing for lower-income families. MHR also filed an administrative complaint against St. Louis city's sixth-year HUD application, emphasizing the city's deficiencies in several aspects of the fair housing program and for continued displacement. As a result of these activities, MHR was selected to participate in the National Citizens Monitoring Project.

MHR closed in 1982, in response to declining support for housing issues under the Reagan administration. In addition to the records of the organization's years of housing activism, the collection includes a newly conducted interview with the group's former director, sociologist Harry "Pete" Berndt.