

News from the Midwest

Assistant Editors: Alexandra Bisio, University of Oregon, and Lois Hamill, Northern Kentucky University. Please submit News from the Midwest items for Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio to Alexandra at bisio@uoregon.edu and items from Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin to Lois at hamilll1@nku.edu. Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!

ILLINOIS

Illinois State Archives

The Illinois State Archives turns 100 this year and so will be doing a few special things to commemorate the occasion. One such commemoration is a centennial logo that will be used throughout the year.



Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

The Special Collections Research Center at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) recently acquired the personal library of designer and futurist R. Buckminster Fuller. The acquisition came through collaboration with the R. Buckminster Fuller Dome Not-For-Profit, an organization that restored Fuller's dome house in Carbondale. Fuller joined SIUC in 1959 as a visiting professor and lived in the dome from 1960 to 1971. The Dome NFP acquired the library and original house furnishings from the Estate of R. Buckminster Fuller. In a unique take on "original order," the furnishings and bulk of the library will be reinstalled in the house as they were in the 1960s. Special Collections will catalog and provide reference to the library and store the overflow volumes. Many volumes include Fuller's notations, which

provide further insight into the mind of this influential figure. The dome is open for tours and serves as a place to engage with Fuller's legacy.



KANSAS

Fort Hays State University

Fort Hays State University's (FHSU) Forsyth Library develops and preserves research collections that tell the story of the cultural histories of the Great Plains with a concentration on central and western Kansas. A recent donation from FHSU alum Tim Johnson completes the Tim Johnson postcard collection containing thousands of "real photo" postcards. The cards were created by national photographers, such as Hal Reid, traveling lensmen, and local photographers who captured unique moments of ordinary Americans in turn-of-the-century Kansas communities through the Great Depression. This collection captures moments frozen in time, telling the story of main streets, store interiors, horse-drawn wagons, industries, and neighborhoods that evolved and devolved throughout a span of several decades. It includes several rare postcards, such as "Hamburger Gene," one of only six cards known to exist. Learn more about the

Tim Johnson Collections at www.fhsu.edu/library/specialcollections.



Real photo postcard titled "Hamburger Gene" from the Tim Johnson Collection. Photo courtesy Fort Hays State University, Forsyth Library, Special Collections & Archives.

MICHIGAN

Heritage Hall at Calvin University

Heritage Hall at Calvin University has been publishing a blog since October 2019 called *Origins Online* (<https://origins.calvin.edu/>). It has attracted over 10,000 different readers. Like its print sibling—*Origins: Historical Magazine of The Archives*—it focuses on the history of Dutch American enclaves in the United States and Canada and on the Reformed tradition in Protestant Christianity. The blog also does stories related to local history in Grand Rapids and Michigan. *Origins Online* publishes posts about three times a month, promoting them via its Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/heritagehallarchives>). Some stories are related to articles in the print magazine. Others are unique to the blog. Heritage Hall is the repository archives for Calvin University, Calvin Theological Seminary, and the Christian Reformed Church. It also has rich holdings in the social, ethnic,

cultural, religious, and intellectual history of the communities that have supported these institutions. Noteworthy collections include immigrant letters and the papers of two members of Congress, Paul Henry and Vern Ehlers.

MINNESOTA

Norwegian-American Historical Association

The Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA) recently received an \$87,000 grant that allows it to digitize a portion of its Ole E. Rølvaag Collection. Rølvaag is considered one of America's greatest immigrant writers, and his novels address the migration experience. The association will focus on digitizing three parts of the collection: correspondence with Norwegian-American leaders; manuscripts of Rølvaag's novels, with annotations; and family photographs. The project is financed by what is known as a Legacy Grant—funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society. The grant has enabled NAHA to hire a full-time imaging archivist for the duration of the project. NAHA archivist Kristina Warner, MLIS, will oversee the project, which is expected to be completed in early 2022. The Norwegian-American Historical Association is housed on the campus of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.



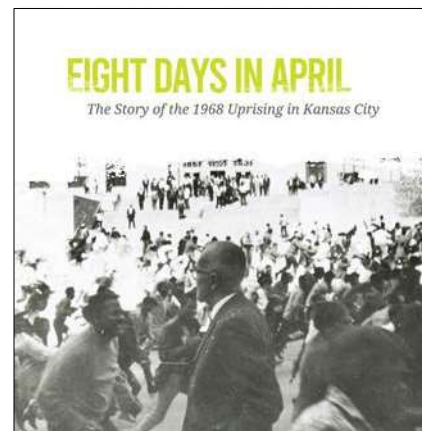
*O. E. Rølvaag is best known for his 1927 novel, *Giants in the Earth*. Photo courtesy of the Norwegian-American Historical Association.*

MISSOURI

University of Missouri–Kansas City

The University of Missouri–Kansas City's newest exhibit *Eight Days in April: The Story of the 1968 Uprising in Kansas City* uses materials from LaBudde Special Collections and Marr Sound Archives to tell the story of Kansas City, Missouri, in the eight days surrounding the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., its complex causes, and its long-term impact. The exhibit grew from a case study examining implicit and pro-police bias in the language and presentation of a 2017–2018 exhibit on the same events. The team, primarily composed of members of the Black community, used this new exhibit as an opportunity to implement more ethical practices by redescribing collection materials, adding historical context regarding systemic racist policies, elevating community voices through firsthand

accounts, and conducting a survey to rename the 1968 Riot Collection. The Missouri Humanities Council awarded the project a mini-grant for a virtual opening. For more information and a link to the digital version, visit <https://library.umkc.edu/news-events/eight-days-exhibit>.



Crowds run from tear gas at City Hall, April 1968. MS 235, 1968 Riot Collection, Photo 108.

OHIO

The Ohio State University

The Ohio State University's Rare Books and Manuscripts Library recently launched its new Twitter account, which will be used to share collection highlights, new acquisitions, information about student accomplishments, events, and more. Please follow along at @OhioStateRBML.

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota State Historical Society–State Archives

The South Dakota State Archives in Pierre received items pertaining to a January 20, 1980, "Pot Plane" seizure near Alaska in western Walworth County. A four-engine

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

DC-7 airplane landed on a bluff along the Missouri River on that Super Bowl Sunday, when many people were in front of their televisions, carrying approximately 26,000 pounds of baled Colombian marijuana. The street value of the marijuana (in 1980 dollars) was estimated at \$18 million. Timothy Kwasniewski, former state Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) agent, collected the items, which were donated by his wife, Pat Kwasniewski. Six suspects were charged in the incident. The DC-7 was confiscated by the state and later sold for \$60,000 to offset court costs in Walworth County. The State Archives received 34 photographs showing ground, aerial, and internal views of the DC-7, along with various news clippings concerning the drug seizure, arrests, and trial in 1980.



More than 4,600 negatives, slides, photographs, and other materials concerning the Black Hills Speedway in Rapid City were recently added to the South Dakota State Archives collections. “Automobile racing and racetrack images from the 1970s are new to our collections,” said Chelle (SHEL-ee) Somsen, state archivist. “We are fortunate to have these meticulously detailed negatives, slides, and photos which provide insight into South Dakota’s automobile racing history.” The photographs, dating from 1971 to 1974, include images of the operations of the racetrack, extra promotional

activities, the drivers and crews, the support staff, and the races. The donation also features Black Hills Speedway yearbooks, programs, newspaper clippings, and magazine articles. The Rapid Valley Race Track was in operation by the 1940s. George and Lois Davis purchased the track in 1968 and changed the name to the Black Hills Speedway. Black Mountain Photography was authorized to operate at the speedway between 1971 and 1974 where they took images of the track, pits, and people involved with the speedway.



The digitized historical newspaper collections on Chronicling America have added new titles, including *Brookings County Sentinel* (1882–1890), *Brookings Register* (1890–1894), *Semi-Weekly Register* (1894–1898), *Brookings Weekly Register* (1898–1903), and *The Brookings Register* (1903–1905). These newspapers were all predecessors of the current *Brookings Register*. More issues of the *Brookings Register* up to 1923 will be added as the project continues. Other titles represent Tabor, Custer, Eureka, Kadoka, and Miller. Chelle Somsen, state archivist, said, “There are now 77 different newspapers available online.” They can be viewed online by visiting the Chronicling America website: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/south%20dakota/>. A third round of grant funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities will enable the State Historical Society–Archives to digitize approximately one hundred rolls of microfilmed newspapers predating 1924. The project is part of Chronicling America, a Library of Congress initiative to develop an online database of select historical newspapers from around the United States.



This newspaper masthead is from the January 16, 1891, Brookings Register. Photo courtesy South Dakota State Historical Society–Archives.

WISCONSIN

University of Wisconsin–Madison

The Oral History Program (OHP) (<https://www.library.wisc.edu/archives/archives/oral-history-program/>) at the UW–Madison Archives recently concluded two oral history projects that others might be interested to learn about! One helped document the history of 21 nurses trained between the late 1940s through the early 1980s at the Madison General Hospital when it was located on the UW–Madison campus. The other offered an overview of the recent restructuring of the UW System through the stories

of 25 people directly impacted by it. The OHP crafted a webpage for each project and worked with the UW Libraries to create a press release about each project. Here are the links to the Nurses webpage (<https://www.library.wisc.edu/archives/exhibits/madison-general-hospital-school-of-nursing/>) and to the Restructuring Project’s webpage (<https://www.library.wisc.edu/archives/exhibits/uw-system-restructuring-project/>).

The University of Wisconsin–Madison Archives is pleased to announce and share its newest online collection, *WHA Radio Broadcasts: Early Years of Wisconsin Public Radio*, launched November 2020. The collection comprises a small selection

of recordings from our holdings of WHA Radio broadcasts digitized from their original transcription disc format. Visit <https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/WHARadio> to browse the recordings and listen to Wisconsin voices from the 1940s. The archives can’t thank enough all the many people involved in this project from its partners on campus in digital collections to its student staff to its vendors to the wonderful funding support. This project was supported by a Recordings at Risk grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). The grant program is made possible by funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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