

News from the Midwest

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Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!*

ILLINOIS

Illinois State Archives

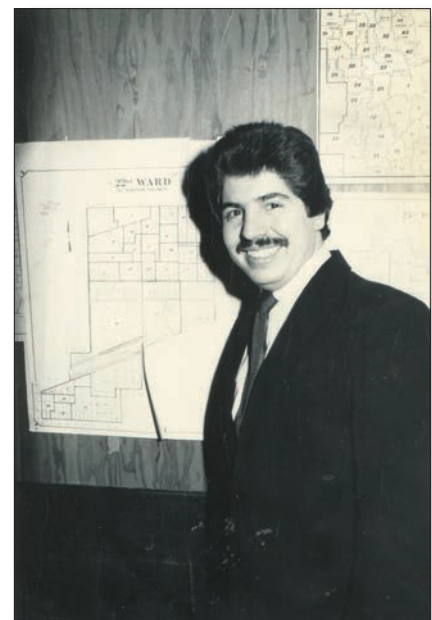
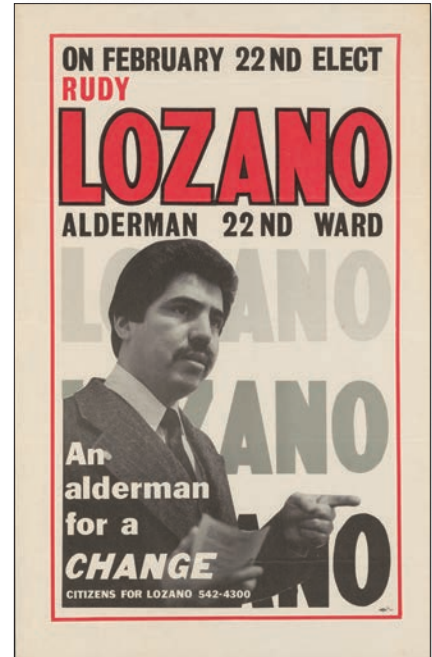
The Illinois State Archives recently completed a \$60,178 Access to Historical Records: Archival Projects grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to scan and place online more than 21,000 photo negatives from Eddie Winfred “Doc” Helm, who served as Illinois state photographer from the 1940s until 1992. Helm’s collection includes photos of government officials, politicians, celebrities, state workers, school groups, and events such as the state fair, parades, auto shows, and holiday parties at the capitol. An additional 20,000 photos will be added to the site over the next year. The photos can be accessed at Illinois Digital Archives, <http://www.idaillinois.org/digital/collection/DocHelm/search>.



Eddie Winfred “Doc” Helm. Credit: Photo courtesy of the Eddie Winfred Doc Helm Photograph Collection at the Illinois State Archives.

University of Illinois Chicago

Rudy Lozano’s life was cut short when he was murdered at 31 years old, but his legacy as an activist and community organizer shaped the lives of Chicago’s Latino communities in ways that reverberate to this day. The former activist, community organizer, and politician is the subject of a new exhibit at UIC’s Special Collections & University Archives, *A Search for Unity: Rudy Lozano and Coalition Building in Chicago*. The exhibit focuses on the way Lozano tried to bring different communities of people together, including various Latinx communities in the Near West Side neighborhoods of Pilsen and Little Village. He also brought together documented and undocumented workers who were fighting for better conditions. Among the items on exhibit are papers from his union organizing campaigns during the 1970s and items from his aldermanic campaign, as well as materials from his work on the mayoral campaign of Harold Washington, Chicago’s first Black mayor. Visit <https://library.uic.edu/events/rudy-lozano-exhibit-on-view-in-special-collections-and-university-archives> for more information.



Community activist Rudy Lozano is the subject of a new exhibit at UIC. Credit: Photo: Rodolfo “Rudy” Lozano papers.

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IOWA

Iowa State University

The Iowa State University Library, the African American Museum of Iowa, and six partner organizations will embark on a three-year project to digitize and increase access to collections that center the histories, shared experiences, and achievements of Black Iowa communities. The \$179,000 grant was awarded by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Digitizing Hidden Collections: Amplifying Unheard Voices program. The program prioritizes the digitization of rare and unique content stewarded by collection organizations across the United States and Canada. This collaborative project, the first of its kind in Iowa, will model similar initiatives, such as the Black Metropolis Research Consortium (Chicago), Black Archives of Mid-America (Kansas City), and Save the Black Press (California). Amy Bishop, rare books and manuscript archivist, and Laura Sullivan, digital collections librarian, are leading this project in collaboration with Felicite Wolfe, curator at the African American Museum of Iowa. For more information, visit <https://www.lib.iastate.edu/news/isu-library-receives-grant-digitize-and-amplify-collections-black-iowa-history-curated-local>.

University of Northern Iowa

Films from the television series *Landmarks in Iowa History* have been digitized and are now available online at UNI ScholarWorks, https://scholarworks.uni.edu/landmarks_historyfilms, thanks to generous

donations by UNI alumni. This series aired on WOI-TV and was directed and hosted by Herbert Hake as an educational program for Iowa children. Hake began his career at Iowa State Teachers College (now UNI) in the 1930s when he served as technical director, scenic designer, and instructor of speech courses. He became the first radio program director in 1942 and the first director of radio and television in 1947. Hake was known for his “chalk talks,” in which he drew as he told stories or taught lessons about Iowa towns, landmarks, and history, which visitors can now see and hear online in these digitized films. For more information about the films and other works by Hake, see the finding aids for *Landmarks in Iowa History*, <https://scua.library.uni.edu/classification-schedule/14-college-humanities-arts-and-sciences-1410-broadcasting-services/141006-0> and the Herb V. Hake Papers, <https://scua.library.uni.edu/classification-schedule/14-college-humanities-arts-and-sciences-1410-broadcasting-services/141002>.

KENTUCKY

Northern Kentucky University

Students from NKU’s master’s in public history program visited Special Collections and University Archives to learn about management of photographs. They had previously read about archival management, but now they saw it put into practice. What is mylar and why would you use it? How do you insert a photo into a Fold Lock sleeve? What does description look like for boxes and folders? And the big question, how do you identify unidentified photos?

In April, three students gained additional experience through short practicums in the department. One student transcribed several digitized oral histories, while a second scanned a university history, which is a routine reference resource. Both their products will be added to the digital repository as new resources. A third student with advanced computer expertise is assisting with preservation of and eventual access to digital photo files from 2000 to 2008.



Public history students identify photographs.
Credit: Photo courtesy of Greg McCoy.

MINNESOTA

St. Cloud State University

Ready and accessible are 5,000+ “under drawings” from 1930 St. Cloud State University alumnus Ralph Heimdahl. Heimdahl is best known as the artist for the Bugs Bunny newspaper comic strip from 1947 through 1978. The pencil under drawings were used by Heimdahl to create the final ink version of the final product. Donated by his family, the materials focus mostly on the comic strip but include comic book covers, children’s books, and other original artwork. In addition are a few final ink versions of the comic strip as well as published comic book covers and children’s books such as *Bugs Bunny’s Birthday*.

Thanks to an additional cash donation, the Heimdahl Papers are processed and ready for researchers. The finding aid can be found at <https://bit.ly/3kq2Ei1>.



Ralph Heimdahl on the St. Cloud State campus in October 1966 to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award. Credit: Photo courtesy of St. Cloud State University Archives.

University of Minnesota

The Social Welfare History Archives at the University of Minnesota Libraries completed a one-year Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund grant to digitize *A Public Health Journal* TV program episodes dating from 1985 to 2004. The 302 digitized episodes are available on the University of Minnesota Libraries' UMedia digital content site at https://umedia.lib.umn.edu/search?facets%5Bcollection_name_s%5D%5B%5D=Minnesota+Public+Health+Association+Records. Topics include the history of public health programs, medical history,

specific diseases, access to health care, preventative health care, and the health priorities and challenges of various groups and communities. This new digital resource is available to the public and to scholars from all disciplines. This publication was made possible in part by the people of Minnesota through a grant funded by an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



MISSOURI

State Historical Society of Missouri

A new exhibit, *In Their Own Words: Celebrating the National Women and Media Collection*, featuring diaries,

letters, interviews, and photographs from the National Women and Media Collection, will open in July at the State Historical Society of Missouri. The exhibit will showcase important female voices in media, such as Kay Mills, Jean Gaddy Wilson, Marjorie Paxson, Rose Nolen, Tad Bartimus, Christine Craft, Mary Paxton Keeley, Lucile Bluford, Dorothy Journey, and others. Visitors will learn of their struggles and triumphs in the media industry and how these journalists were able to navigate careers in a traditionally male-dominated industry. The National Women and Media Collection, established at the State Historical Society in 1987, is celebrating its 35th anniversary in 2022. Including work from more than 100 women and organizations, the collection includes the records of media organizations and the professional and personal papers of notable women who worked as reporters, editors, publishers, press secretaries, and in other positions in the print and broadcast media industries.



Dorothy Journey (forefront) and the staff of the Miami Herald's women's pages, c. 1950s. Credit: Dorothy Misener Journey Papers (C3904), State Historical Society of Missouri—Columbia.

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SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota State Historical Society

The South Dakota State Historical Society's third Pioneer Girl Project installment, *Pioneer Girl: The Revised Texts*, written by Laura Ingalls Wilder and edited by Nancy Tystad Koupal, has been selected for the Association of University Presses Scholarly Typographic award (design

.up.hcommons.org). For generations, the works of Laura Ingalls Wilder have defined the American frontier and the pioneer experience for the public at large. *Pioneer Girl: The Revised Texts* presents three typescripts of Wilder's original *Pioneer Girl* manuscript in an examination of the process through which she and her daughter, Rose Wilder Lane, transformed her autobiography into the much-loved Little House series. Koupal and other editors of the Pioneer Girl Project

provide a meticulous study of the Wilder/Lane partnership as Wilder's autobiography undergoes revision, and the women redevelop and expand portions of it into Wilder's successful children and young adult novels and into Lane's bestselling adult novels in the 1930s. The three revised texts of *Pioneer Girl*, set side by side, showcase the intertwined processes of writing and editing and the contributions of writer and editor.

Exploring the Possibility of Establishing a Midwest Religious Archives Group

Religious archives are significant for a variety of reasons. The contents of these collections are useful for researchers because of the growing diversity of the United States' religious landscape and the records' unique value. There is some danger that these materials will be lost because of closure of institutions and places of worship, dissolution of religious communities, or lack of knowledge about how to handle these collections.

The focus of a Midwest Religious Archives Group would be to encourage preservation of and access to these valuable resources. The application of best practices can assist solo archivists and volunteers, as well as established archival programs, in providing diverse programming to address the unique importance of religious collections.

The Midwest Religious Archives Group would sponsor semi-annual meetings that could respond to the immediate needs of its diverse membership. Currently, similar religious archives organizations meet annually or every three years, so a Midwest archives group would provide a regional archival network embracing a broad range of faith traditions.

This proposal is put forward by the Chicago Area Religious Archivists Steering Committee and some members of the now-defunct Saint Louis Area Religious Archivists. We hope that by creating a regional religious archives group, our efforts can be expanded and our assistance to faith-based institutions broadened.

If you are interested in being a part of this exploratory discussion, please contact Malachy McCarthy at mccarthym@claretians.org.