



# Old News

Newsletter of the Wyoming State Archives

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## **New Records Information System**

The Wyoming State Archives has installed a new Records Information Management System (RIMS) to manage State Records Center (SRC) operations. The SRC is available to all state agencies needing additional storage space for their records that have not yet met their legally established retention period. Using Infolinx software, the new system will provide automated tracking of SRC activity, including the transfer and retrieval of records by state agencies. These agencies will be able to view, select, and request their records by logging into the database thru the Internet and the State's E-Portal.

The use of electronic requests and barcode identifiers will eliminate the need for paperwork previously required for transferring and researching records. The system also provides quick access to current records retention schedules, and requires the use of standard record titles. This will help reduce confusion over what is being transferred and provides precise retention information.

Agency records officers will be trained in the use of the software, which can also be used to track records within their department. RIMS, therefore, provides tools for the efficient, low cost management of an agency's records, whether they are stored in the office, or at the SRC. Contact Lizzie Stroebel at [estroe@state.wy.us](mailto:estroe@state.wy.us) for 7777-70450 for more information or to schedule training for your agency.

## **New Donation**

The State Archives recently received several scrapbooks from the Zonta Club to add to the collection previously donated to the Archives. The Zonta Club of Cheyenne was founded as a service organization in May 1956. In October 1956,

the local chapter received its official charter from Zonta International. Membership consisted of women who worked as business executives and professionals. Their service goals were conducted at the local, district, and international levels to improve the legal, political, economic, and professional status of women. A distinguished member was Amelia Earhart, and each January the Cheyenne Chapter and other chapters across the national pay tribute to the famous female aviator and her lifetime achievement.

Through fundraisers and service projects, the Cheyenne chapter assist local organizations such as Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, United Medical Center, Safe House, Youth Alternatives, and Senior Companions with scholarships, grants, supply funds, and volunteer assistance. The Zonta Club of Cheyenne continues to play an active role in the community.

The Archives holds many records of community organizations. Please contact us for information about these holdings, or if your organization is interested in preserving its history at the Archives.

## New Accessions

Brotherhood of Locomotive Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, various records, 1906-1969

Carpenter , Wyoming photographs

Cheyenne Civic Chorus and its successors, scrapbooks, 1951-2005

Cheyenne Frontier Days, additional records, 1972-1979

Chugwater, Wyoming photographs

Laramie Fire Department, photograph of personnel with new fire engine, ca. 1908

Third Wyoming Infantry photograph, 1917

Town and Country League (Cheyenne), scrapbooks, 1956-1981

Wheatland photographs

Woman's Club of Cheyenne, records and memorabilia, 1980-2000

Wyoming Cootiette Club, scrapbooks, 1948-1961

Zonta Club, scrapbooks, 1975-1989

## From the Archives

In 1876, the Wyoming Territorial Legislature passed a law requiring public offices to be open “during the usual business hours of each day, Sundays and legal holidays excepted.” This law remained in effect until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Subsequently, it was not unusual at to find, on a Saturday, the courthouse open with public servants at work and court in session. In time, though, after working Monday through Friday and desiring to have more leisure time, public employees sought time off on Saturday afternoons. The following undated petition on this subject was found in the records of the Sheridan County Clerk.

To the Honorable Board of County  
Commissioners, Sheridan County, Wyoming

We, the undersigned, the duly elected, qualified and acting officers of Sheridan County, Wyoming, and deputies duly appointed, hereby petition your Honorable Board, to designate Saturday afternoon of each week as a Holiday, commencing with the first Saturday afternoon in April and ending the last Saturday in November, of each year, during which said Saturday afternoon the county Offices may be closed. Provided, however, that before such office is permitted to be closed, the work thereof shall be fully performed and up-to-date.

## An Enigmatic Man

Merton Willer was born in 1890 in Sandusky, Michigan. A short man, he earned the nickname “Shorty” at Valparaiso University in northwestern Indiana, where he earned a teaching degree. According to a yearbook picture, he apparently wanted to embark on a career in law and hoped to be “an apostle of justice.” But such was not to be. Instead, Willer became a teacher and education administrator in North Dakota for a couple years before he moved in Shoshoni about 1914. By 1920, he was married and the father of one child, a girl, and was a teacher in Laramie. Willer's career has an education seemed to be firmly rooted, but over the next decade, Willer's world changed radically. He and his wife were divorced, and by 1930, Willer had moved to Grand Island, Nebraska. The Depression affected Willer politically as

well. By 1932 he had moved to Torrington, and his name appeared on the general election ballot as candidate for governor on the Communist Party ticket. Willer's radical political stance was well known in the locality. Yet, for all the attention Willer only received only 180. After the general election, he disappeared from public life, and nothing more is known about him.

## Aeronautics in Wyoming

The records of the State Aeronautics Commission are long overlooked treasure of information about commercial and private airplane usage and airport development in Wyoming. The collection consists of various records dating from 1947 to 1985. Correspondence and commission minutes document the role, real and perceived, of the relationship between airports and local economies. In the post-war years, aviation was seen as the future way of travel, and plans, surveys, reports and project files show how the state and federal government promoted air travel and airport development. Publications of the commission, including annual and biennial reports, maps, and miscellaneous publications, further document the role of the state in promoting air travel.



If you have questions, comments, suggestions, or complaints, please contact Carl Hallberg by phone at 307/777-6423 or by email at [challb@state.wy.us](mailto:challb@state.wy.us).

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Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources