The Leland D. Case Library preserves and promotes the history of the Black Hills, Western South Dakota, and the Northern Great Plains. We acquire historical materials pertaining to the history and culture of these areas in order to build a premier research collection that will be recognized locally, regionally and globally. We provide professional collection care. We are service oriented and assist with the research needs of BHSU faculty and students and scholars worldwide.

Case Library Sees Great Increase in Student/Patron Use

In the Fall 2014 newsletter I mentioned our efforts to get more students to use the Case Library. Our efforts were wildly successful. The last week in October, I had four classes come in for tours/workshops. They were David Cremeans’s Honors Composition 101; both sections of Cody Lawson’s K-8 Social Science Methods Class; and Robb Campbell’s Environmental History Class. The total number of students in these four groups was 68, plus the faculty. This number is the equivalent of the number of people I’ve had on tours in the last five years. In addition, Jace DeCory brought her Siouan Culture Class in for a tour earlier in the semester. These tours resulted in record numbers of Case Library patrons in November. I had 42 users compared to 7 in November of 2013 and had doubled the year to date statistics from 2013 by the end of November. I also visited Mitchell Stone’s Historiography class at Black Hills State University-Rapid City (BHSU-RC) this fall.

This semester Kathleen Parrow brought her Historiography students in for a tour and they are completing their archives projects inventorying materials in the E.Y. Berry collection. Kelly Kirk brought her South Dakota History Students in for a tour. I visited Mitchell Stone’s Modern American History class at BHSU-RC. Cody Lawson brought both her sections of K-8 Social Science Methods in for their tour & workshop.

I’ve had several of students from Robb Campbell’s Public History Class come in to work on an archival processing project.

The number of patrons in any Academic library does ebb and flow with the academic calendar. But often I find that while the rest of the library is mostly deserted over the Winter break, out of town researchers find that to be a good time to come in and do their deep research. I had several such researchers this year. Patron privacy prohibits my going into too much detail, but the E.Y. Berry papers were used heavily and successfully. Not to sound like a broken record, but I am always thrilled when my patrons have great success moving their projects forward by using our materials. This is not to say non BHSU patrons continued on page 2
can only come in over school breaks, I encourage researchers to visit whenever their research needs require. So long as it is between 9-12 and 1-5 Monday through Friday. If you are going to be making a special trip to campus, I encourage you to call in advance so that I will be here and prepared for you.

In celebration of 125 years of South Dakota Statehood, with the assistance of the South Dakota Humanities Council, the Case Library hosted, “Governor Mellette”. That is to say John Timm of Sioux Falls gave his living history presentation portraying Governor Mellette on campus on October 15th. Our thanks goes out to the SD Humanities Council for providing us with this opportunity.

My students created new exhibits for three of our display cases here on the second floor, one in the tower display case near the front door of the library, and one in Woodburn Hall. The two near the reading room are about BHSU Student Organizations, The New Deal in the Black Hills, and the Lawrence County Extension Office. The display in Woodburn is on Fort Meade during the American Indian Wars. The one near the library entrance celebrates the 125th Anniversary of South Dakota Statehood. I expect this exhibit will be changing soon.

With the assistance of our Systems Librarian, Rich Loose, I’ve been making small updates and changes to the Special Collections (Case Library and University Archives) web pages. We’ve added some collection information and links to helpful Internet resources. So begin your Black Hills and South Dakota research here http://bit.ly/ZqS7Ql. Also remember that past issues of this newsletter are available on our web pages as well. http://bit.ly/1iuZSRY

There are several ongoing projects. We’ve continued to add photographs to Digital Library South Dakota (DLSD). The current tally of items in DLSD exceeds 7,583. DLSD can be searched or browsed at http://bit.ly/NI7rYk. In addition to the Case Library and University Archives resources, the BHSU Herbarium will be adding their collections to DLSD in the near future. This is a wonderful opportunity to make the University’s scholarship more visible. Mark Gabel and Grace Kostel tell me that they should have collections mounted and ready to view in the next couple of weeks. To learn more about the Herbarium go to http://bit.ly/1E2lXVT. I have continued to add records to our collection management system, Past Perfect. We have more than 145 manuscript collections. At about 25% though the photograph files, I have more than 12,000 images entered. One of the photographs collections I’ve worked with is the Leland Case Photograph Collection. The thing that stands out in my mind about this collection is the number of the new to me views of Hot Springs, SD.

I am not in the habit of including personal information in this column, but there are a few things far too important not to mention. On December 19th, our Project Archivist, Anna Gaffey and her husband Adam welcomed their son Eamon. Former student worker, Jessica Skorheim is working as the Children’s Librarian at the Huron Public Library, and former student worker, Thawney Stottler has just been hired as a Forest Technician for the Black Hills National Forest. A big round of congratulations to all of them.
The Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) was established in 1934 by William Townsend. The intention of the institute was to document all languages around the world that had not yet been analyzed. Through his efforts, Townsend was able to involve governmental and educational organizations into bringing dignity and recognition to minority groups. In May 2007 the SIL Archives gifted the Leland D. Case Library with this collection of Lakota and Dakota Language material. It mostly consists of grammar training materials, but there are some books such as bibles and prayer books that were translated into the Lakota or Dakota Languages. There are also some children’s story books of Lakota tales with the English and the Lakota text side by side. For more information about this collection see the finding aid on our web pages http://bit.ly/1GKDvNc.

Graduating Student Worker Reflects on her time working in Case Library

The Case Library—or rather, Special Collections, which the Case Library is part of—has been my main place of work for going on four years. Every week I am surrounded by books, pictures, artifacts, and people who love both libraries and history as much as I do—which is saying something because I’m a senior about to graduate with history and English majors. My name is Elizabeth Leonhardt and I have been given permission to brag about all of the neat things I’ve seen and done and learned here at the Case Library.

Generally, when people think of librarians, they think of someone who helps patrons find books, puts books away, and shushes disapprovingly when anyone speaks above a whisper. To be

**Continued on page 4**

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**The Black Hills Historian**
(The Case Library newsletter)

**Contact info**
Case Library is located on the second floor of the E.Y. Berry Library-Learning Center on the campus of Black Hills State University.

Hours are typically 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and may vary depending on staff availability. Appointments aren’t necessary, but if you are making a special trip to campus, call (605) 642-6361 to make sure we are here. You can also contact Bobbi at Roberta.Sago@BHSU.edu.

Leland D. Case Library for Western Historical Studies:
Black Hills State University
1200 University, Unit 9676
Spearfish, SD 57799-9676
605-642-6361
Roberta.Sago@BHSU.edu

**Case Library web pages**

**Friends of Case Library web page**
http://bit.ly/1iuZsRY Click on Friends of Case Library on left menu
honest, I do those things (except the
shushing, the reading room is generally
only loud when I’m the one talking) but
there is a lot more to this experience than
that. Frequently, I’m not even dealing
with books. Last year was able to work
with the collection of Sumerian Clay
tablets. After a few years, I’ve learned
not to get too excited even when dealing
with manuscripts and artifacts over a
hundred years old (key word being ‘too’
excited, because how can that ever not be
cool?) but these tablets contain the oldest
writing known to man, range between
4,000 and 5,000 years old and I got to hold
them. No one can convince me that this is
not one of the best jobs in the world.

Admittedly, most of the collection
is far more recent and usually pertains
to the Black Hills. That’s fine with me.
It just means that most of what I work
with here is something I can do or see for
myself rather than simply read about. For
example, The Black Hills National Forest
collection has hundreds of photographs of
work at Wind Cave and Custer State Park.
I spent over two weeks just scanning
pictures of CCC (Civilian Conservation
Corps) workers from the 1930’s. Then,
over the weekend, I was able to go
visit those same places, touch the very
buildings I saw them erect, walk the trails
they cleared, and swim in the lakes they
dammed.

I don’t even have to leave the campus
to do things like that. All of the school
yearbooks, newspapers, and general
archives are in Special Collections, which
means records on everything from the
schools founding in 1883 to last semester
can be found just down the hall. So I
can go into detail about how the stone
arches by the football field are all that
remains of the “Old Main” building,
which stood where Woodburn is now.
I could also talk about how boys used
to sneak into Wenona Cook by climbing
up the fire slide (a metal tube instead of
today’s stairs) and if the girls didn’t want
to see them, they would throw a bucket
of water out the fire door and flush the
boys away. I don’t even have to actively
research any of this. In the past four
years, I’ve probably gone through every
single yearbook twice looking up certain
names, events, and pictures for patrons.
Everything I do ends up helping someone
else with their research or interest, even
as I get to dive into the treasure trove
of history and literature literally at my
fingertips. And every time someone
comes to study something, I am able to
learn about it along with them. Like I said
earlier, this is one of the best jobs I can
imagine.

Elizabeth has worked in the Case
Library all of her time studying at BHSU. Elizabeth received the Friends of Case Library Scholarship Fall 2011. She graduates this spring and we will miss her but wish her well on her future endeavors. – Bobbi Sago

World War II ration book
While processing the Jeffries Family Papers, student worker, Elizabeth Leonhardt found this WWII ration book. It was a particularly interesting find for Elizabeth’s since her World War Topics class had just discussed WWII rationing less than a week prior to this discovery.

How to Donate to the Friends of Case Library Scholarship
Donations to the Friends of Case Library Scholarship can be sent to:
University Advancement
Black Hills State University
1200 University, Unit 9506
Spearfish, SD 57799-9506

Please make checks payable to the BHSU Foundation. Let them know that the gift is for the Friends of Case Library Scholarship. Or you can donate online at:

How to apply for the Scholarship
To apply for scholarships students can go to the online application form:
The Margaret Sager Papers

By Sarah Cox

In the mid-1960s, a determined effort to mount a giant statue of Jesus on the top of Spearfish Mountain was undertaken. Inspired by the late Senator Francis Case’s awe at Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro, the non-profit Christ on the Mount, Inc. formed in Spearfish to complete a similar project for the Black Hills. The Margaret Sager collection in the Case library documents this project from 1961 to 1968.

The project was backed by several popular names within our community, including Josef Meier and Dr. Russell Jonas. However, for all the big-name support for the project, the collection is peppered with opposition from locals. Newspaper clippings and letters between the members of Christ on the Mount, Inc. reveal public denouncement of the project and appeals to government offices to delay or stop the project. The foundation stated the statue would be an inspiration to Christians around the world and an excellent companion to the Black Hills Passion Play. However, some locals saw it as a commercialization of the Christian faith and little more than a tourist trap.

Christ on the Mount encountered significant obstacles and accomplishments during its undertaking. They were able to purchase a bust of Jesus modeled by Gutzon Borglum and contract Lincoln Borglum, Gutzon’s son, to complete the bust as a standing model and oversee the construction of the statue. They also negotiated a complex land transfer with Homestake Mine and the U.S. Forest Service to gain control of the top of Spearfish Mountain. However, it does appear that the fundraising campaigns were not as successful as they group had anticipated. It also appears enthusiasm was waning, and attendance to board meetings was often at a quarter or less of the complete board. Perhaps the lack of momentum and the lack of funds caused the project to simply stall and die.

I greatly enjoyed the experience of cataloging the Margaret Sager collection. The papers were already in chronological order, so reading through the papers allowed me to follow the story of Christ on the Mount, Inc. Knowing their goal was to erect a statue on top of Spearfish Mountain and having the spoiler that there is no statue there today gave me an interesting perspective. It was like trying to solve a mystery as to why the efforts failed. It was also a little heartbreaking to see the amount of time and the determined effort put in over seven years, but knowing that they would not succeed.

In addition, it was fascinating to see the more personal changes over the seven years. There was a great cultural difference between the mid-1960s and today. Communications were very formal, done in type-written letters with copies of everything sent and received. Brochures, pamphlets, and catalogues for various companies were included as well, and they were the stereotypical 60s designs. Another interesting observation was watching the names change over the seven years. Members came and went, positions changed, local supporters appeared and disappeared, and women’s last names changed as they married or remarried. This collection is a little slice of local history, documenting the 1960s, the Christ on the Mount project, and the lives of a few Spearfish citizens.

Sarah is a student in Robb Campbell’s Public History class this semester. She processed this collection for class credit. The finding aid will be available on our website at http://bit.ly/11wfrM. – Bobbi Sago

Local happenings

Deadwood History, Inc. and the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission will host a discussion by author and historian Jerome Greene from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 23, 2015, at the Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center (HARCC), 150 Sherman Street, Deadwood. Admission is $5 for museum members and $10 for non-members. Reservations are requested; please call 605-722-4800. Additional information available at: http://bit.ly/1NKDlD6


Lawrence County Historical Society – for upcoming events see their webpage http://bit.ly/15IFbs4

South Dakota State Railroad Museum – for upcoming events see their webpage http://bit.ly/UE0b20

Deadwood History, Inc. – Preservation Thursdays, for upcoming events see their webpage http://bit.ly/16NKvQ6
John Freeman and the Black Hills National Forest Historical Collection

On April 8th, the Case Library hosted Wyoming author John Freeman in a presentation titled All History Is Local: The Black Hills National Forest Historical Collection. A scholar and community developer, Freeman recently published the book Black Hills Forestry: a History, for which he made extensive use of the Forest Service’s Black Hills National Forest Historical Collection, housed on deposit at Case Library. John’s remarks focused on his path to writing the book, beginning with his introduction to members of the Forest Service, touching on research material available throughout the nation including the collection at Case Library, and finally the serendipitous collaboration between Forest Service, BHSU, and Neiman Enterprises which allowed the library to hire a grant-funded archivist to process and digitize the collection. Frank Carroll of Rapid City (Black Hills National Forest public information officer, retired) made introductory remarks for John and other members of the Forest Service including Blaine Cook, silviculturist, and Mike Hilton, heritage program manager.

Anna Gaffey presented information regarding the collection’s processing and the current status of digitization, with a demonstration of online resources and digitized collection materials currently available through the library website and the Digital Library of South Dakota. We had a nice turnout of nearly 30 attendees from around the community and campus.

Links to online resources for the BHNF Collection and others in the Case Library:
Leland D. Case Library and Special Collections at E.Y. Berry Library: http://bit.ly/ZqS7QI

E. Y. Berry Library dedicates new work by John Grittis

During National Library Week, on Wednesday April 15th, the E. Y. Berry Library held a reception to recognize John Grittis and dedicate his artwork that was added to the library permanent collection. John is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. He was employed at Black Hills State University for 24 years, starting in the summer of 1973. While at BHSU he worked for the Upward Bound Program, Student Support Services, The Center of Indian Studies, and the Financial Aid Office where he was the Director from 1980 to 1997. While not a full time artist John has always created work. His medium is pen & ink with watercolor and/or colored pencil. For his long career in Education John was presented the Indian Elder of the Year Award in 2012 by the National Indian Education Association. While on the staff at Black Hills State the students honored him with an Outstanding Faculty/Staff award.
The West River History Conference calls for papers proposals

The 23rd Annual conference is October 1, 2, and 3, 2015. The theme this year is, “Let the Games Begin: Sports and Recreation in South Dakota”, however, papers on any topic relating to the history of Western South Dakota. The conference will be held at Hilton Garden Inn, 815 E. Mall Drive, Rapid City, SD. For further information on the conference and how to submit your proposal, go to http://bit.ly/y07fXI.

Help us save our history:

These links are to the Society of American Archivists pamphlets on donating your personal papers or business records to an archive. Please consider donating your historical photographs, scrapbooks, diaries, personal and family papers, and business or organizational records relating to the history of the Black Hills to the Case Library (or another favored archives or museum).

Donating personal papers http://bit.ly/1HImg6
Donating organizational & business records http://bit.ly/w0FrMZ
Friends of Case Library
Join Today!

☐ Annual Individual: $10

Name:____________________________________
____________________________________
Address:____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________
Phone: (home)_______________________
(cell)_______________________________
E-mail:____________________________________

Please return to:
Bobbi Sago, Friends of Case Library
Black Hills State University
1200 University St., Unit 9676
Spearfish, SD 57799-9676

From the Archives

President Jonas serving at the Senior Breakfast during the 1961 Graduation festivities.