



**THIS ISSUE:
NEWS FROM THE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES,
NHPRC, ARCHIVES
ACROSS THE STATE**

**SPRING 1993
TENNESSEE ARCHIVIST NEWSLETTER**



**AN ARCHIVIST'S NIGHTMARE
ARCHIVES OF STORYTELLING
DECEMBER 1990
(Story on p. 4)**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
BOBBY FLANARY
MEMPHIS

Well, its about time to emerge from our dusty dungeons filled with non-current records, take a breath of fresh air, and head for Knoxville. Steve and crew have lined up a great program for us, as you will have seen from their mailing.

They've decided--wisely, I think--not to have a pre-conference workshop. We've rather exhausted our "free and inexpensive" possibilities in recent years. There are all sorts of interesting ideas and speakers available, but the eternal problem is how to locate those which will be of value and fit within our limited possibilities. If anyone has any ideas, either for a workshop or our conference, I'm sure Steve will be delighted to hear of them before November.

One thing we want to do this year is to revive our committees. Carol has sent me a list of past members, but so many of the people have moved on. We've made a start. Michele Fagan has agreed to head the Education Committee, making a first priority putting together a packet of sources for those attempting to start an archives. Her committee will need to work closely with a membership committee, which is still open for members, in trying to reach prospects and encourage them to preserve their records.

If you'd like to serve on one of these or on the public relations or preservation committee, please let us know. Also, if you would like to help plan the November or other programs, you will be more than welcome.

John made available to me a copy of our Articles of Organization. If you are not familiar with them, there will be copies available at our conference. Perhaps you will look over them and be ready to discuss any way you feel we can more nearly accomplish our objectives.

I'd like to ask a favor of everyone. We've talked of getting together a mini-"union list." Would you please bring with you --or send, if you can not come-- information on your holdings. We'd like, if possible, a list of all major collections--manuscripts, photos, record groups, or whatever-- with any restrictions or brief descriptions that might help. If this is simply impossible, at least let us know the focus of your collection, with examples of your most requested holdings.
Thanks.

See you in Knoxville.

Bobby

SPOTLIGHT ON:**ARCHIVES OF STORYTELLING****AT****NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION AND PERPETUATION OF
STORYTELLING**

ADDRESS: NAPPS; National Storytelling Library and Archives
P.O.Box 309
Jonesborough, TN 37659
615-753-2171

ACCESS: Currently address requests to the archivist, Sandra Tucker.

MAJOR SUBJECTS: Audio and video tapes of Jonesborough National
Storytelling Festival (1973 - 1992); Literature related to storytelling;
Materials and artifacts related to storytellers;

HOLDINGS: Audio tapes, Video tapes, Photographs, Databases of
storytelling information, and Promotional materials of the storytellers

DIRECTOR: Jimmy Neil Smith

PROJECT ARCHIVIST: Sandra Moore Tucker

HISTORY OF ARCHIVES OF STORYTELLING:

Provided by Jimmy Neil Smith and Sandra Tucker

We are extremely pleased with the progress that has been made over the last two years in the development of a National Storytelling Library and Archives. Because of the NHPRC's willingness to support this project--and the willingness of our members to support it as well-- we have moved much closer to our ultimate goal. That goal is to become the national focal point for information about storytelling, its practice and application.

To be sure, the "archives" for our organization has had humble beginnings, as did the organization itself. Over the course of the project, it has been good to remind ourselves of the tarp covered mound of boxes and tapes that represented our "archives" for nearly a decade. During that time in Jonesborough's historic Chester Inn, we would check beneath the tarp on rainy days to make sure that a pernicious leak in the roof just above the mound of records was not causing irreparable damage. It was an archivist's nightmare.

Spotlight on Archives of Storytelling continued.....

The situation had improved slightly by the time archivist Sandra Moore Tucker undertook our project in December 1990. Although we have no photographs of our records from the days at Chester Inn, we have enclosed photographs taken by Ms. Tucker during her first few weeks of work at NAPPS. Our entire organizational history was packed in various closets of our office on Hometown Road. The records themselves had often been transferred from file cabinet to storage box with little, if any, serious attention to original order. Some of the boxes were simply filled with loose papers from one or more offices. Few of the boxes were labeled.

Our audio and video recordings, including tapes from the first Festivals and early Conferences, were not in much better condition. Most of the tapes were stacked in a small, upstairs closet that became quite hot during the summer months. Many of the ten-inch reel-to-reel tapes, as we discovered after the grant period began, were in pancake form and had never been placed onto a reel. Over the years, some of these tapes had unwound into a mass of magnetic tape "spaghetti" in their boxes. The helical scan video tapes with some of our oldest footage were deteriorating quickly, as the archivist also discovered after our 14-year-old helical scan video player was repaired.

The NHPRC grant has indeed brought our organization out of the archival dark ages. Although our development is an ongoing process, we are encouraged by the tremendous progress that has taken place. We now have quality shelving units, temperature and humidity control, archival quality storage materials, computerization, and a greater level of intellectual control over our holdings than ever before. The storytelling "library and archives" that NAPPS optimistically promised its members for many years is being realized. (The library currently consists of a modest collection of non-circulating materials.) Both NAPPS members and non-members are realizing its usefulness.

As our progress is publicized in NAPPS publications, the interest in our archives continues to grow. At times, the volume of requests for information, coupled with the difficulty in finding an archival assistant, has slowed our development. However, we recognize that information services are crucial to the high level of interest in the archives and will insure its continued growth. We anticipate a record number of inquiries during 1993.

Archives of Storytelling concluded.....

The coming year will also mark the first year of the archives' total dependence on membership support. We are committed to the continued growth and development of the National Storytelling Library and Archives. We believe the membership is firmly committed to its continuation as well. As we look back over the accomplishments of the NHPRC grant period, we see a very good foundation on which to move forward.

Our archival workplan for 1993 is ambitious, with important goals in every area of accomplishment. Our workplan also reflects the new strategies and projects that were not possible two years ago. As the archives has grown as an entity within our organization, so has its potential. In the coming year, for example, we will examine the possibility of producing a national directory of storytelling information developed directly out of the archival database. It will not happen overnight, but for the first time it is possible.



MAJOR CHANGES AT THE ARCHIVES OF STORYTELLING IN JUST TWO YEARS.
(Photo taken in February 1993 by Sandra Tucker.)

TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS
TREASURER'S REPORT
1992

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Balance as of January 1, 1992	\$1332.93
Balance as of December 31, 1992	<u>1500.82</u>

Surplus for 1992	167.89
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Total expenses	\$2753.46
Total receipts	<u>2921.35</u>

Surplus for 1992	167.89
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Receipts

Dues	\$1153.00	
Spring Meeting*		217.55
Fall Meeting**		<u>1550.80</u>

Total Receipts	\$2921.35
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Expenses

Newsletter	\$1093.13	
Fall Meeting	1295.58	
Treasurer's Office Expenses***		48.91
Bank Fees		153.37
Fall 1991 Meeting		<u>162.47</u>

Total Expenses	\$2753.46
Surplus for 1992	167.89

*The Tennessee Archivists handled the finances for the SAC Meeting so this represents the net surplus for each participating association.

**An additional \$24.20 will be credited on the 1993 ledger.

***This amount represents postage and phone calls.

Submitted by: David McWhirter

NOTE: The editor would like to thank all those who contributed to this newsletter. It is most appreciated that they were willing to take time out of busy schedules to help this Tennessee Archivists' project. Thank you.

John Thweatt

SAA Resolution on the National Archives and Records Administration

The governing Council of the Society of American Archivists has issued the following resolution.

Whereas the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is responsible for

- *protecting the rights of citizens by ensuring the identification, preservation, and accessibility of federal records of enduring value;
- *managing, in an efficient and professional manner, the life cycle of records and information;
- *addressing the changing nature of documentation and communication;
- *providing leadership in defining, articulating, and resolving archival issues affecting society and the profession;

and whereas in executing these responsibilities, NARA lacks

- *sufficient legislative authority to act and the structure to cope with the changing nature of documentation;
- *adequate resources to fulfill its mission and responsibilities;
- *effective mechanisms for ongoing communication and consultation with oversight and constituent bodies; and
- decisive leadership and initiative in responding to the current archival challenges;

and whereas NARA has not

- *aggressively exercised the authority it does have to ensure the preservation of important federal records;
- *provided leadership in the development and implementation of a federal information policy; and
- *established close working relationships with its federal, professional, and user constituencies and with congressional oversight bodies;

Whereas the Society of American Archivists, as North America's oldest and largest archival association, has a professional stake in the well-being of NARA,

Therefore be it resolved that the Society of American Archivists calls for

- *introduction of authorization legislation to reaffirm NARA's status as an independent federal agency; provide NARA with the authority and resources necessary to meet its responsibilities to federal agencies and citizens; establish an oversight structure that will ensure continuing review and support for NARA's ability to fulfill its mission;

*legislative hearings to: review NARA's mission and its ability to respond to significant challenges posed by the changing nature of documentation, the increasing volume of federal records, and the ineffectiveness of the current classification/declassification policy; assess the adequacy of NARA's resources to address such challenges; review NARA's legislative mandate to fulfill its mission and make recommendations for change in its statutory authority; investigate NARA's performance in areas noted in recent reports, publicity, and judicial rulings;

*increased executive branch support, through the Office of Management and Budget, for NARA programs and activities;

*NARA to develop structures for enhanced communication and cooperation with constituent and professional groups;

Be it further resolved that the Society of American Archivists stands ready to provide testimony and make recommendations relating to NARA on behalf of the archival profession.

Adopted by the Council of the Society of American Archivists, January 31, 1993.

TENNESSEE LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS BILL

At the December 8, 1992 meeting of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR), Dr. Edwin S. Gleaves, State Librarian and Archivist, presented testimony on behalf of the Local Public Records Preservation and Destruction Act originally introduced during the first session of the 97th General Assembly. In his remarks, Dr. Gleaves called attention to previous efforts to preserve the documentary heritage of the state with emphasis on the role of the Local Records Microfilming Program at TSLA which was discontinued as a result of budget cuts in 1990. As evidenced by comments from Commission members, the membership was particularly impressed with the great volume of historical records which have been lost over the years as a result of fires, tornadoes, floods, and earthquakes. Following the presentation, Commission Chairman, Representative John Bragg, directed the TACIR staff to develop legislation acceptable to state, county, and municipal government representatives. Accordingly, a three part bill emerged from discussions on December 16, 1992 which provides for (1) each of the ninety-five counties in the state to have a county public records commission to manage the disposition of its records; (2) the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) of the University of Tennessee be authorized to print and distribute retention schedules for

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From Vanderbilt:

The former Photographic Archives of Vanderbilt has fully merged with the Special Collections Department in the restructuring plan designed to centralize operations and allow for more focused assignments. Questions concerning the photographic collections may be referred to the general Special Collections telephone number 322-2807. The Department is responsible for the Vanderbilt University Archives as well as the rare book, manuscript, and photographic collections.

An exceptional Caroline Gordon Collection has been acquired by Vanderbilt University to honor Professor of English Walter Sullivan for his recent service as president of the Friends of the Library organization. The collection was assembled by Ann Waldron in researching her 1987 biography of novelist Gordon, Close Connections: Caroline Gordon and the Southern Renaissance. Consisting primarily in correspondence, the collection includes letters to Waldron from writers Laura Riding and Mary McCarthy, in which they give literary evaluations of Gordon; letters from friends including Robert Penn Warren and Andrew Lytle; and responses from family members, particularly Nancy Tate Woods, the only daughter of Caroline Gordon and poet-critic Allen Tate.

An agreement has been arranged between the organization, Hemlock of Tennessee, Incorporated, and Vanderbilt University detailing the terms under which the association's papers will be deposited semiannually in the university's Special Collections. The Hemlock program is educational in nature, sponsoring discussion and consideration of approaches to death. Papers of the national society are deposited at the University of Washington, whose contract provided a model for the Tennessee agreement. Records of Hemlock of Tennessee, Incorporated, will be open to the public for research.

From University of Tennessee Special Collections:

The Alex Haley Papers are now on display to the public, and have received national attention through AP/UPI press releases.

From Wilson County Archives:

The Wilson County Public Works Committee voted to recommend the renovation of the old county jail to give the Wilson County Archives and register of deeds much needed space.

From the Tennessee Historical Records Advisory Board:

Governor Ned McWherter recently made appointments to the THRAB. As a result of this action, Tennessee shall continue to participate in the grant programs of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), an agency of the National Archives and Records Administration. The state board is the central advisory body for historical records planning and for Commission funded projects in the state. They also facilitate cooperation and communication among historical records repositories and information agencies within the state and as a state level review body for grant proposals to the NHPRC. Members of THRAB include:

Dr. Edwin S. Gleaves, State Librarian and Archivist, Board Chairman and State Historical Records Coordinator

Herbert Harper, Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

Dr. Marvin Downing, History Professor; University of Tennessee at Martin

Joanne Cullom Moore, Historian, Corona, TN

NEW MEMBERS:

Walter T. Durham, Historian, Gallatin, TN

Mattie McHollin, Special Collections, MeHarry Medical College Library

Norma Myers, Director Archives of Appalachia, ETSU

Charles Sherrill, Director of Cleveland Public Library

Wayne White, Maury County Register of Deeds

The new board will assemble for its first meeting at the State Library and Archives in Nashville on March 18-19, 1993.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS BILL BEFORE GENERAL ASSEMBLY concluded from page....9

municipal government records; and (3) the restoration of the Local Records Microfilming Program at TSLA to preserve the permanent value bound records of county and municipal governments. With a few minor amendments, this proposed legislation was recommended by TACIR for passage by the 98th Tennessee General Assembly.

This proposed legislation (SB 131 by Henry and HB 256 by Bragg) is included in the recommendations in the final "Volunteer Challenge" report to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

The following is a revised version of the article prepared by Archivist of the United States, Don W. Wilson, for the April, 1993 issue of the NEA Newsletter.

I thought the readers of the Tennessee Archivists Newsletter might like to hear my views on the recent publicity involving the National Archives, especially the report issued last November by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Soon after the report was issued I announced an Action Plan to deal decisively with the matters it raised. Much has taken place since then. I will summarize those developments in this statement, commenting on each point in the Action Plan.

I. I have reassigned the agency's Inspector-General, and we have begun a search for a permanent replacement. In the meantime, we have arranged to "borrow" the Deputy Inspector-General and two investigators from Amtrak for up to ninety days so that we have qualified staffing in our Inspector General's office. These persons report directly to their superior at Amtrak.

II. At my request, the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency has assigned two members of the Inspector-General's staff at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to undertake an impartial review of the allegations in the Senate report. They are examining the evidence that the Senate committee gathered and will recommend any further actions that I should take to resolve the matters the report touched upon. The HHS staff members, who have been working in our building but are under the direction of their own Inspector-General at HHS, expect to complete their work by March 1. I will act promptly once I have received and studied their report.

III. The appointment of Raymond Mosley as Acting Deputy Archivist continues in effect, pending receipt of the report of the HHS Inspector-General's office.. The new National Archives internal management council has met, and I am optimistic that it will strengthen my own administrative management of the agency.

IV. We have redoubled our efforts to keep our oversight committees in both houses of Congress informed about our actions in responding to the Senate report, and about other subjects. We are committed to a better relationship with these committees.

V. The strategic planning initiative that was begun last summer, before the current controversy began, is nearing fruition. Over the months since then, the planning process has been broadened to encompass the entire agency, has engaged a professional expert in strategic planning for advice and assistance, and has involved dozens of National Archives employees and others in a thoroughgoing reassessment of the agency and its mission. Some thirty-five employees from all over the country have been responsible for the planning process, with the guidance of

the senior management of the National Archives. We have written a new mission statement for the agency. We have crafted goals and objectives that take it and our external environment into account. And we have sketched out what the National Archives must do during the next three to five years to be successful in accomplishing its mission. We are now putting specific requirements and definite steps together with the goals and objectives. We will soon be able to share the detailed plan with those outside the agency who are interested in seeing it.

(I might add that we have benefitted greatly in the planning process from the advice of many outside organizations and individuals -- from OMB to MARAC -- who advised us on what the National Archives does well, what it does less well, and what it should focus on for the future. In preparing the detailed plan, we have tried to balance those viewpoints with others that arise within the agency.)

The next -- and difficult -- challenge will be trying the strategic plan with resource allocations. We know that there will be considerable external scrutiny of our actions during the next few years: our credibility is on the line. We ask that you judge us by what we do as we move toward systematic implementation of the strategic plan.

VI. I have invited nearly fifty organizations to send me their recommendations regarding the purpose, structure, and membership of the re-established National Archives Advisory Council. We intend to have this Council meet later this spring.

As you can see, we are expecting additional developments between the time I am writing this and the publication of this issue of the newsletter, and thereafter as well. We do know that members of the national archival profession are vitally interested in what is happening at the National Archives, and we will do our best to keep you informed. In the meantime, we are always willing to respond as fully as possible to inquiries; I suggest that if you have any you contact our Director of External Affairs, Donn Neal, at (202) 501-5521.

Space does not permit me to respond at length to Seymour Hersh's critical article in the December 14, 1992, issue of New Yorker Magazine. The article contained numerous misrepresentations of the position of the National Archives, which we described in a letter to the editor of that magazine. Donn Neal will send you a copy of that letter upon request.

continued on next page.....

Before I conclude, let me also comment briefly on the status of the White House computer materials that were the subject of litigation and several court orders during the presidential transition. The National Archives has acted to reach agreements with Bush Administration officials and others regarding backup tapes and disks in the White House. We have taken possession of these materials and will carefully preserve them until the legal issues are resolved. I am sure that there will be more to report about this matter as the case proceeds through the appeals process.

I appreciate the opportunity to address these matters on these pages, and I welcome your thoughts on these topics.

Don W. Wilson

REMEMBER: TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS' SPRING MEETING

LOCATION: Knoxville

DATE: MAY 6TH AND 7TH

HOTEL: RADISSON HOTEL KNOXVILLE

REGISTRATION BEGINS: 12:30 TO 1:00 Thursday May 6th

MEETING BEGINS: 1:00 (Eastern Time)

Topics of Discussion: Optical Disks, InterNet, Unique Archives of East Tennessee, and Several Optional tours on Friday.

The Knoxville Location Committee will be sending pre-registration packets soon.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

U.S. Archivist Announces Resignation
Washington D.C.

The Archivist of the United States, Don W. Wilson announced today that he is stepping down from his position as head of the National Archives on March 31, 1993, to accept a position at Texas A&M University.

In making the announcement, Dr. Wilson said "It has been a great privilege to hold the position of Archivist of the United States for the past five and a half years and to serve three Presidents. It has been especially rewarding for me to have had the opportunity to work with employees at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., the regional branches, the Presidential libraries and the records centers. Their dedication to furthering the mission of the National Archives and their professionalism is exemplary."

He continued, "I believe through the efforts of the staff much progress has been made toward making this institution a strong, viable and independent agency providing a leadership role in records management and in serving the three branches of the Federal government, as well as the American public. The new National Archives facility in College Park, MD will enhance the opportunities to carry out the important mission of preserving and making available all the permanently valuable records of the Federal government."

Dr. Wilson who was appointed by President Reagan and confirmed by the Senate as the first Archivist under the terms of the National Archives Independence legislation of 1985, will become Research Professor of Presidential Studies and Executive Director of the George Bush Center at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Texas A&M is the site of the future George Bush Library and related School of Government and Public Service. "I am fortunate to have the unique opportunity to apply my experience and strong interests in the creation of this exciting new research and educational facility," Dr. Wilson said.

Dr. Wilson leaves the Federal government after 20 years of public service. Prior to being named Archivist of the United States, he was the first Director of the Gerald R. Ford Library and Museum in Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids, Michigan. He also served as the Assistant Director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library.

Source: Public Affairs Office, National Archives, (202) 501-5525

Prior to the election the Congress passed and the President signed an appropriations bill that cuts grant funds for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission by seven per cent for fiscal year 1993. The result will be fewer grants to archives and others for records projects, no new publications projects, and a hold on publication of many documentary volumes that are ready for press.

For fiscal year 1992, the Congress had appropriated \$5.4 million for NHPRC grants. For fiscal year 1993, the President's budget called for a 25 per cent cut to \$4.0 million. The House of Representatives passed an appropriations bill accepting that cut. The Senate, however, voted to increase NHPRC grant funds 11 per cent to \$6.0 million. In the final bill, the House and Senate split the difference, reducing NHPRC grand funds to \$5.0 million.

The Commission had agreed that if its funds were cut, the cut would be divided evenly between the Commission's Publications Program and its Records Program. The latter would absorb its half of the cut by funding fewer grant proposals for records preservation and access projects.

The Publications Program, however, deals with ongoing, multi-year documentary editing projects. Their staffs cannot readily be cut and then rehired if and when appropriations are restored. In order to protect such staffs, and maintain the momentum of present editorial teams, the Commission agreed to absorb the cut on the Publications Program side by funding no proposals for new editing projects in fiscal year 1993, and by putting off for the year applications from nonprofit presses for grants to subvent publication of volumes in ongoing documentary editions. The Commission decided to risk holding up publication rather than holding up entire projects.

At its November meeting, the Commission heard evidence that the negative effect on documentary publication of the budget cut is substantial. Eight university presses reported that they would not be able to continue publishing editions without restoration of subvention grants. Some are shelving manuscripts already in hand and awaiting publication. Others said they would go ahead with manuscripts in hand but would have to publish them in lower press runs at higher prices.

The latter included editions of the papers of George Washington, James Madison, and Benjamin Franklin. Editions for which suspension of publication is likely without subvention grants include, among others, the papers of the First Federal Congress, of Presidents Grant, Jackson, Johnson, and Polk, and of John C. Calhoun, Jefferson Davis, Frederick Douglass, Samuel Gompers, and John Marshall.

Presses affected include those of the universities of Illinois, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, along with those of Yale University and The Johns Hopkins University.

Source: "Annotation", The Newsletter of NHPRC

UPDATE IN BUSINESS ADDRESS LIST & HOLDINGS

Please update or correct your Tennessee Archivists Mailing Address. We need a more accurate business address for the archives or special collections you represent. Thank you for your help.

ARCHIVES:

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE:

ZIP CODE:

TELEPHONE:

Please include a brief listing or examples of your holdings, or even the focus of your collections. List or describe these below or attach sheet.

TENNESSEE ARCHIVISTS NEWSLETTER
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