

# CROSSFIRE

\* \* \* \* \* BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY \* \* \* \* \*

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## IDAHO COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Gloria Ostrander is Chair of the Committee. Other Boiseans serving on the Committee are Karin Ford, Donna Piscione and Marjorie Shelby as Recorder. After its first meeting the Committees recommendations to the Idaho State Library were:

- \* That a library must have a written Collection Development Policy in order to meet minimum eligibility requirements for LSCA.

- \* That the Idaho State Library serve as a Clearinghouse for all such Collection Development Policy statements.

- \* That the Idaho State Library revitalize the Last Copy Storage collection by formulating a written Collection Development Policy (in conjunction with the ICDC).

- \* That the Idaho State Library act as Clearinghouse for written Interlibrary Loan policies.

- \* That the Idaho State Library explore the possibility of cooperative cataloging of Idaho State Documents, if centralized cataloging is not possible in the near future.

- \* That the Idaho State Library re-evaluate the system of dis-

tributing Idaho State Documents.

In further action the Committee:

- 1) will be polling libraries in March, to determine the status of current collection assessment projects, and the perceived need for additional training in the assessment process;

- 2) recognizes the need for a regional/state union list of periodicals and will pursue the feasibility of such a project with the Periodicals Resources Subcommittee (ILA, Academic & Special Division).

- 3) is exploring the possibilities of cooperative purchasing in the areas of Idaho authors, history & literature among libraries in several geographic areas of the State.

- 4) is sampling libraries to determine the protocols for Interlibrary Loan that are currently in effect;

- 5) is working on a one-page emergency procedure sheet that could be adapted by libraries around the state to be used in case of fire, flood, etc.

## TIME TO MAKE BOOKS LAST LONGER

by Barbara Goldsmith

We stand at a watershed moment in book conservation and I thought that if I could get that information to publishers we could begin to solve the serious problem of book deterioration. Therefore, I welcomed the recent opportunity of talking to an AAP meeting (PW, Nov. 27).

I presented a number of disturbing facts:

- \*Right now 76 million volumes in major research facilities are turning to dust.

- \*In the Library of Congress over six million volumes, 11 1/2 acres of books, are too brittle to read.

- \*At the New York Public Library, even as ground is being broken for underground temperature and humidity controlled stacks, the equivalent of 35 miles of bookshelves contain over two and a half million dying books.

In my talk, I briefly explained the process by which much of our cultural heritage is dwindling away, while books produced before 1850--made manually from rag stock--are frequently in fine condition. However, with the Industrial Revolution came a major leap in literacy and, concomitantly, an increased demand for paper. Machinery and wood pulp have been used in paper manufacture ever since, along with aluminum sulphate and alum-rosin compounds that keep paper smooth and prevent ink from running.

For many years wood pulp was thought to be the cause of book deterioration, but 25 years ago conservator William J. Barrow determined that alum eventually combines with moisture to produce sulfuric acid, thereby

igniting slow self-consuming fires of destruction. Currently, some conservationists estimate that acid accounts for 75%-90% of paper deterioration.

Discoveries about acid free paper are relatively new. Standards were codified in 1981 by a committee on production guidelines of the Council on Library Resources. They reported that in order to be acid-free, paper must have a PH factor of 7.5 or higher, be able to resist 30 double folds, eight-ply tear-resistant and contain no groundwood. The book and periodical publishing industry utilizes only 1% of the paper produces; 10 mills could supply the entire hardcover industry with acid-free paper that will last 300 years, thereby eliminating the destruction of our cultural heritage and the millions spent on preservation. And the price of acid-free paper is competitive with that of acidic paper in weights of 40 or higher, which are used for most quality books.

When I'd finished speaking, moderator Peter Mayer of Penguin remarked, "If what Barbara Goldsmith says about book deterioration is true, perhaps some of us should look into the matter." The "If" stung. I have looked into this, and what I say is true.

At present about 25% of the publishing industry utilizes acid-free paper to some extent. But all too often indifference, apathy and cynicism are the attitudes that greet this problem; and many trade publishers don't believe that acid-free paper is cost comparable. Paper suppliers

say that many publishers just don't know if they are printing on acid or acid-free stock, and that acid-free stock is rarely requested.

One publisher told me that even if acid-free paper is comparably priced, "no one cares, and if lighter weights cost even a penny more--forget it forever." Forever is a long time--time enough for an anthropologist to look back at our era as another Dark Age.

What is needed is both a moral commitment to saving our cultural heritage and some practical American publishing savvy on how to go about it. You can't blame publishers for the confusion about this issue. For example, of twenty experts (including paper suppliers and buyers) polled recently, three said that acid-free paper was cheaper to produce, ten found it generally competitive, five said they thought it was 3%-10% more expensive, and two said you couldn't compare them.

And publishers can't be expected to attack this problem alone. In the past week I telephoned 10 prominent writers to find out if their books were printed on acid-free paper. Not one of them knew. I didn't know either until I became aware of this problem, but now I insist on acid-free paper.

Publishers could get help from the Commission on Preservation and Access and the Council for Library Resources; they're very interested in developing a program to coordinate such efforts.

A last word on profit. I always assumed that publishers love books and that if they cared solely about profit they'd be in another business. If publishers will spearhead this conservation effort, then perhaps 300 years from now a student may open a book displaying the infinity sign indicating acid-free paper and still be able to read it.

WLNews

Submitted by Gloria Ostrander

**WORST SERIAL TITLE CHANGE OF THE YEAR:** Fed up with serials that keep changing their titles unnecessarily? Retaliate and nominate them for the Worst Serial Title Change of the Year awards, sponsored by the Serials Section of the RTSD/ALA. The awards, presented at ALA's Annual Conference in New Orleans this July, "honor" serials and newspapers whose titles have changed since January 1987.

Other award criteria include: a frivolous title change for no apparent reason & producing no advantage; the unnecessary change of an old, respected title; repeated

changes, the latest being no better than any earlier ones; & the "Et tu, Brute?" category for library publications (more recently known as the "Snake in the Grass" award).

Supply complete citations for the change, including title, number &/or date of the last issue of the old title & of the first issue with the new title, as well as the publisher's name & address. Submit nominations with photocopies of title pages by May 15, 1988, to: Sue Ann Harrington, Chair, Worst Serial Title Change of the Year Committee, University of Oklahoma Libraries, 401 West Brooks, Norman, OK 73019

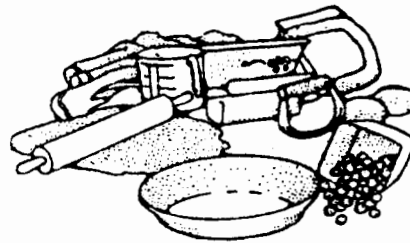
COOKING WITH LIZ  
By Liz Cardinale

As some of you probably know, my husband and I teach a Cajun cooking class for the community schools program here in Boise. Our expertise, such as it is, dates from a trip to New Orleans in 1984, lots of practice with Paul Prudhomme's cookbooks and a lifelong affinity for saturated fat in all its luscious forms.

Teaching a class on any subject shows you exactly how well you didn't explain what you forgot to cover in the instructions, and these classes are no exception. We have had several instances of this during the past 4 years. There was the class where I forgot to explain that half of the liquid for the bread pudding was supposed to be cream even though the recipe didn't state it. As a result, the pudding makers used up all of the milk we had bought and we had to make cornbread with cream. It was definitely the

richest cornbread I have ever eaten. Another time, I put the powdered sugar for the whiskey sauce in a plastic container and forgot to label it. The person making the cornbread thought it was flour and tried to use it to make the batter. The results were very, very sweet and very, very thin and we had to start all over again.

In spite of instances like the above, Community Education is very casual and lots of fun because there aren't any experts. We just get together and share some recipes. Everybody cooks, eats, cleans up and has a good time.



F.Y.I.

Submitted by Alan Virta

Brian Brown, a student in BSU's History Department, is working in Special Collections as an intern this semester, processing manuscript collections and archives. He will receive 3 academic credits from the History Department for the internship.

Leslie Pass spoke on the conservation and care of family documents to the Star Ward Relief Society on February 9.

The library's traveling exhibition of photographs from Special Collections's Robert

Limbert Collection has been on display at the State Capitol during January and February. The exhibit documents the life and work of Robert Limbert, one of Idaho's foremost publicist, who promoted Idaho's Wilderness and vacation lands through his lectures and writings in the early years of the 20th century. The exhibit has returned to the BSU Library and will move to the Twin Falls Public Library in April. It is scheduled to spend the summer at the Craters of the Moon Monument.

LETTER EXCERPTS TO RALPH HANSEN FROM GWENN STEARN

Gwenn, formerly of the Church room staff is now studying to be an Archivist in Wales, United Kingdom.

I'm afraid Schellenberg is the only yankee to make it onto the various reading list, which I shudder to say total 248 volumes. No, I didn't count them up, one of the other students did. I didn't want to know! Enough to surmise if put together it would appear the size of a small telephone book.

I'm not the only 'foreigner' on the course. We have one young woman from the Shetland Islands, one from Northern Ireland, two from England, a lad from England and one native, a lone Welshman. Quite nice, all six of them. Only the Welshman is a straight history major, the others are variously Social Sciences, law, theology, and two with English/History degrees. I must admit I'm the "old lady" on the course.

Classes go well. So far we have studied Archive Administration (mostly current), Administrative History (beginning in 1066 we'll go all the way to the present), Diplomatic (from Anglo-Saxon times), Medieval Latin and Paleography. These all continue on next term and, as well, we will take up Modern Records Management, to be taught by the archivist from British Steel. As soon as we finish the Diplomatic we go into History of Land Law. And, in the spring we start Computers in Archives. Six subjects may seem a breeze after we take-up a seventh for the remainder of the year!

I haven't mentioned the

practical parts of the course yet either. Every week we each get an obscure question to find an answer to, this in order to familiarize us with reference sources at our disposal. My last one was, 'How much did prisoners have to pay the turnkey upon discharge from the Canterbury goal in 1742?' We also have been cataloging documents from the university archives, in English and Latin, mostly deeds, feoffments, final concords etc.; all ancient parchment with various nasty scripts. Almost 80% of the holdings here are on loan from the landed gentry of the area; manorial records and quite interesting. All day Friday we spend in Caernarvon at the Gwynedd Archives Service (county archives). New and up to date building containing ancient stuff indeed. Their oldest document is a charter dating 1076. It lives in a box like any other scrap of parchment and you can bet no one wears white gloves when they handle it! In fact, the big concern is to wash your hands after handling old documents; the theory being you don't know where they've been; perhaps molding away in some barn, chewed up or urinated on by plaque infected rats etc, etc. There have been no documented cases of archivists done in by 'dirty deeds', but we did hear of the tale of a student on the course who "picked at a pimple" while working with an old parchment, got a nasty infection, which landed her in the hospital for a month. But, I digress. At Caernarvon I catalog Quarter Session records (local government) for the year 1817.

Interesting stuff this; lots of poor people being shuffled off to other counties; cases of folk being imprisoned, whipped publicly, sent to the 'hulks', and transported for the most petty of thefts; depositions; recognizances; claims for payment from the Session Trumpeter, the Goaler, the Overseer of the Poor; claims for support for Bastard children; Declarations against the Doctrine of Transubstantiation. I'm still hoping to find Hair Powder Certificates. Fascinating social history.

Something else you might find interesting Ralph - we use brass paper clips. It seems a bit of verdigris is 'alright', anything else is suspect. Also, we are told quite openly that librarians are inferior beings (not in so many words). Luckily, I know better, but you can be sure I keep my mouth shut. It would be blasphemous over here if I said I had some fine friends who were librarians, I would probably be drummed out of the profession before I got in, holding such beliefs; they are that adamant about it. All of my professors have jokes and stories at the librarians' expense.

Truth be told the archivists are a strange breed. The course director, Dr. Carr, is a rabid Medievalist; born in Mauritius, reared in the Falkland Islands, speaks Latin, French, German, Welsh (self taught), and is in the Guinness Book of World Records as being the youngest person (at 17) to win the 'Brain of Britain' (an erudite radio game show). One day I was in his office and he got a phone call, someone asking about 'thatching' on

Angelsey, whereupon Carr delivered him a ten minute lecture, off the top of his head, and invited him up to his office for more.

Dr. Carr has been summoned by Her Majesty's Master of the Rolls to bring us to the Public Record Office in London. It seems Bangor is the only course not to take their archives students there and this must be remedied. Lucky us! We've had visits to other record offices. They always give us coffee and biscuits during a question and answer session at the end. They treat us as though we were 'insiders' already.

As tough as this course is I hope I'm not 'out' before, in fact, I am 'in'. The thought of finals (21 hours worth) and the orals makes me shake in my boots. One of the external examines for the orals is the archivist for the House of Lords! I wonder if he wears a wig and carries a Hair Powder Certificate? I'll probably find out in a nightmare.

I must say Ralph, what I learned working on Church and Limbert, and from you personally, has been of untold help here. I can't thank you enough!

Please give my fond regards to Lillian and to the others that might ask about me. I'd love to ask for letters, but since I can't promise to write in return it's probably asking too much. I haven't written to anyone there and I feel like a regular rotter about it. Hope everyone understands. Will write again, but perhaps not before the course work is finished.

Best wishes for the new year.

## WELCOME/WELCOME

The Monographs Department welcomes Janene Berry, who joined the department as a part-time Library Assistant II on December 21st. Janene came to Monographs from the Church Collection, where she had been employed from June, 1987. During the other half of her full-time day, Janene can be found in the Technical services area of Boise Public Library.

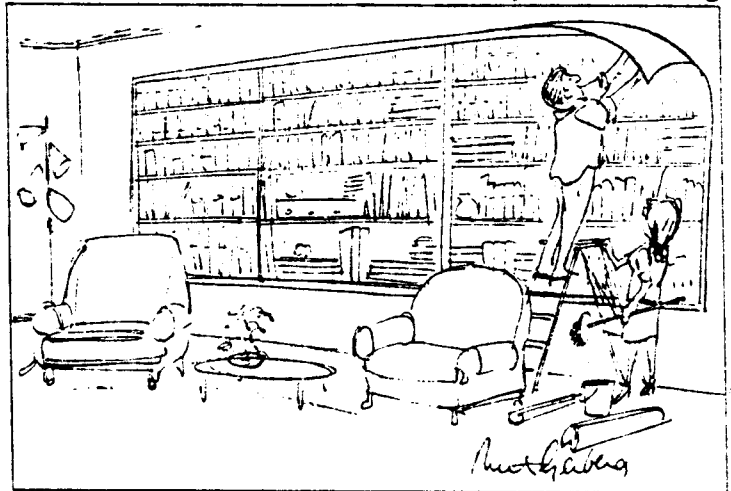
Janene's previous library experience also includes four years as a serials technician at CSI, supervision of the filing division in the Cataloging Department at the University of California/Davis Library, and bindery preparation at the Davis Library.

In addition to squeezing in a stint as president of the Boise chapter of Welcome Wagon, Janene finds time for walking, reading, cross-country skiing, and backpacking. She and her husband, James, have two children, and one "wonderful" grandson.

Another new face can be seen in the Library. Julie Stubbers has recently accepted the position of secretary/office coordinator to replace Linda Kay Allen who had moved to the Honors Program. Julie has spent the last three and one half years working for the Bronco Athletic Association in the Athletic Department. During her spare time Julie likes to fish, read and just spend time with her cats, Sam and Alex.

### Out of Line

by Mort Gerberg



### SOUND RECORDING RECON PROJECT

By Mary Carter

The library has received a grant from the Idaho State Library for searching sound recordings. The Monographs Department is coordinating this Recon project with assistance from Cataloging and CRC. Using the LASERCATalog, phonorecords are searched for matching entries. When a "hit" is located the call number is downloaded to a floppy disk.

These disks are sent to WLN. The holdings will be added to the data base for the first time on February 29 and each month thereafter throughout the project. The holdings will appear in the COM CATalog in May and in the LASERCATalog with the June issue. The project is scheduled to run from February, 1988 to November, 1988.



CONFESSIONS OF A SF FAN  
By Terry Madden

One of my hobbies is science fiction. I read a great deal of the science fiction and fantasy fiction that is published. I also attend several science fiction conventions each year and belong to several loose affiliations of fans in the SF community.

My favorite convention is NORWESCON which is held each year in the Seattle-Tacoma area during March. It is one of the best run conventions held in the Northwest and it usually draws over a hundred writers, artists and publishers as well as several thousand fans. Conventions such as NORWESCON provide a chance for fans to meet other fans as well as to meet professionals in writing, illustrating and publishing their favorite reading material. Many of the current crop of SF writers started their career publishing in fan produced publications. Their experiences as a fan gave them the chance to polish their craft before breaking into the professional market. Marion Zimmer Bradley, this year's guest of honor at NORWESCON, started her career writing for fanzine publications.

Conventions can give SF fans a chance to exhibit their creativity. Art and craft projects are sold in the dealer's room. People parade the hotel convention halls in homemade costumes modeled on their favorite SF TV show, movie, or book. Late night folksongs give the amateur musician a chance to air new works or new

arrangements of old classics. Workshops and seminars give the novice writer a chance to talk to the professionals concerning writing SF and breaking into the SF marketplace.

I'm looking forward to this March when I'll be in Tacoma for NORWESCON 10. It will give me a chance to see people I haven't seen since last March. I'll also have the opportunity to catch up on the current trends, new rumors and old news. Perhaps I'll even be able to see a preview of the coming summer Science Fiction and Fantasy movie releases.

Between conventions I keep in touch via letters and through various homegrown productions known as zines. Fans communicate with one another via letters, poetry, art and fiction published by fans and for fans using copy machines or mimeographs. Fanzines and letterzines are a way for a diverse and scattered group of people with common interest to reach out and contact one another, share ideas, and promote creativity. It's a great way to meet new friends and to keep in contact with old friends.

CROSSFIRE is published by the Boise State Library. Contributors to this issue are Liz Cardinale, Mary Carter, Terry Madden, Gloria Ostrander, Nancy Rosenheim, Gwenn Stearn, Julie Stubbers and Alan Virta. Comments should be sent to Julie Stubbers, editor.