

# CROSSFIRE

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HANSEN ADDRESSES HISTORICAL SOCIETY LUNCHEON

By Ellen Koger

What do Darryl Huskey, John Barnes, John Wayne and Larry Burke have in common? They all wrote letters to Frank Church. On Tuesday January 6, Ralph W. Hansen spoke to the Idaho Historical Society about the many kinds of letters Church received, and the careful, sometimes humorous, responses the Senator and his staff prepared. Hansen's hour-long talk was well-received by the audience of about 50 people gathered in the Historical Society meeting room.

The work of processing the papers for scholarly use has turned up letters ranging from wildly impractical schemes for solving the nation's ills to touching requests for help with personal problems. One of the staff's all-time favorites is the letter linking the use of the writer's favorite soap powder to the defeat of communism. Another is a serious proposal to commemorate the nation's bicentennial with highway along the U.S.-Mexico border, constructed of alternating concrete and blacktop to provide a dotted line when viewed from the air--perhaps for the flying saucer people? The demarcation would be completed by mile-long letters spelling U.S.A. "complete with punctuation."

Almost every letter received a courteous answer written by a staffer and approved by the Senator. But sometimes Church got mad and wrote a stronger reply. The Idaho Power executive who wrote supporting limited terms for Senators and Representatives received a handwritten postscript from Church: "Do you think that Idaho Power should be run exclusively by amateurs? Has experience and seasoning no part to play in the competency you bring to your job? How about enforced dismissal of all top executives of major corporations every four years, to be replaced by "fresh blooded" recruits without previous experience in the business concerned? Under such a rule, I can assure you that the chaos in Congress would be no less than the chaos in business."

Hansen's talk was presented as part of the Idaho Humanities Council grant the library received for processing and indexing the papers. A possible repeat performance on campus is being explored.

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THE WESTERN LIBRARY NETWORK recently announced that they ran tapes that added 95,366 MAP records and 21,064 SERIAL records to the database. This brings the total records in the WLN database to 4 million.

## NEWS FROM CRC

KBSU classical music disk jockeys have always, with permission, used the Library's record collection. This allows them to play a much more diverse selection on the air than if they had to rely merely on KBSU's own collection. We're pleased to have added the names of a few more disk jockeys to that list this year.

The CRC has two half inch VHS videotape players and one three quarter inch player for the use of people who are watching BSU related videotapes. The Simplot Micron Technology Center has a large collection of videotapes. They now have viewing facilities at which BSU people can also watch videotapes.

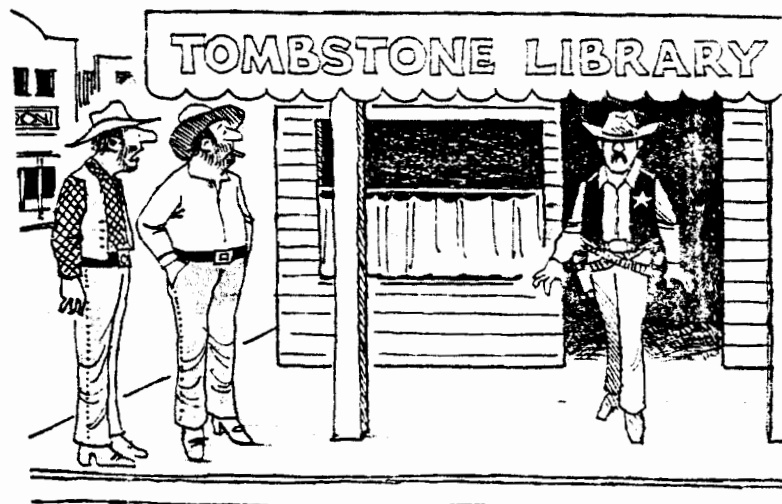
As a note of interest, the CRC gets many requests for videotapes. That medium has taken its place as just one more form in which information is stored and accessed.

Another new medium has arrived at the BSU Library: compact discs. CRC has nine discs, all classical music, including Beethoven, Mozart, Bach and Vivaldi. Compact discs will circulate as records do: only faculty will be allowed to check them out of the library with the added limit of three discs. The cd's will also be shelved on permanent reserve behind the CRC counter for greater security. We will be taking student's current activity cards when they use compact discs in the library. Cards for compact discs will be filed in the record catalog.

An often asked question is whether the CRC makes copies of records onto cassette tapes. The answer is no: we do not

have the equipment, and even if we did, copyright would prohibit us from so doing. We do copy cassette tapes for students who need tapes of music assignments, class lectures, anything that is related to BSU and is not copyrighted. For this service we require the patron to provide a 90 minute normal bias high quality tape.

Anne returned from the Idaho State Textbook Committee Meetings held December 1 to 4. No demonstrations or media attention was focused on this year's meetings. The committee spent its time discussing the adoption of K-12 textbooks in English, Spelling, Foreign Languages, Journalism and Art. Almost all the textbooks submitted were adopted with a few exceptions, among them a spelling program that was little more than lists of words and blank spaces. The committee meets again next May when publishers will present us with the Social Studies and Music programs they are submitting.



*"Oh-oh — sheriff's going after overdue books again."*

## ROBERT LIMBERT COLLECTION

By Ralph W. Hansen

Those of you who attended the President's address on Monday, January 12, heard him refer to the "Two-gun Bill (sic) Limbert" exhibit forthcoming in the Hemingway Center. The exhibit is to be based on the Robert Limbert Collection now in the BSU library. The collection came to BSU through the efforts of Dr. Todd Shallat of the History Department.

"Who was Bob Limbert" you might well ask. He was a self-promoter and an Idaho promoter who came to Idaho in 1911 to practice taxidermy. His name is hardly a household word today but had he not died in 1933, at the comparatively young age of 48, and just as a major publishing house signed him up to write an autobiography, he might be better known to us than he is.

Several forthcoming activities are sure to provide Limbert with the publicity he sought during his life-time. The BSU FOCUS will have a major story on Limbert in its February issue. Nick Casner, a BSU history student, involved in processing the collection has written an article that will be submitted to Idaho Yesterdays. And then there is the exhibit, rather, two exhibits. In addition to the Hemingway exhibit, due to open in the late spring, the Library has applied to the Idaho Humanities Council for funding of a traveling exhibit. Should this grant be funded a panel exhibit will be prepared for display at sites yet to be

selected.

Robert Limbert's taxidermy business flourished and in 1914 he was engaged to build the Idaho exhibit at the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. If the awards this exhibit garnered are any indication it must have been a first class exhibit. In connection with his taxidermy work Limbert took up photography. He photographed animals he mounted. He photographed the Idaho exhibit at the Exposition. Then he photographed Idaho, its scenic wonders, Indian pictographs, animals and pioneer settlements. In all there are over 2,000 photographs in the collection. Limbert also promoted tourism in Idaho. He built Redfish Lodge and had schemes to build resorts on other Sawtooth lakes. He touted Sun Valley as a resort before Harriman and the Union Pacific came up with the idea. He also urged park status for the Craters of the Moon and sent President Cleveland a photo album of the Craters area to support his cause.

In the winters, when not leading pack trips, Limbert toured in his own "Wild West" show. Apparently Limbert was a crack shot, and thus the star of the show. In Chicago he challenged the gangster Al Capone and his henchmen to a showdown shootout. The challenge went unanswered.

Limbert does not deserve his present anonymity. Events of the next few months will help restore him to his place in Idaho history.

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**FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP FOR FACULTY  
AND STAFF**

In an effort to enhance interaction among faculty and staff a task force composed of representatives of the faculty, classified staff, and professional staff has been working with the SUB to establish a regular faculty/staff luncheon. The task force has succeeded in obtaining use of the Lookout Room in the SUB every Wednesday, beginning January 21.

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**\*\*\*\*\*BASSINET BULLETIN\*\*\*\*\***

Congratulations go to Kathy and Mike Tanfield on the arrival of their little girl, Michelle Jane. They call her Shelly. She came just in time for Christmas, December 1, 1986, and weighed 8 pounds. Her sisters, Holly, 4, and Carmen, 2, are enjoying the new addition to the family. (Kathy is a Library Assistant in the Catalog Dept.)

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SAGA Foods will prepare a buffet in the Lookout Room, to be served from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. Tables will be pre-set with linen, china, silverware, and glassware. Each week there will be a choice of a hot entree or a lighter meal, including vegetable, salad, and bread, at a cost of no more than \$5.00. Some weeks there will be a program of a speaker or entertainment. The primary purpose is to create an opportunity for faculty and staff to have a nice meal together once a week.

If these luncheons are well-attended and enjoyed by faculty and staff, it will create impetus toward establishing a permanent facility in the future. Please take this opportunity to enjoy a rejuvenating dose of collegiality. Watch for monthly flyers with menus and programs.

Leslie Pass and Janet Strong are serving on the task force as representatives of the faculty and classified staff.

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*"Form a committee? This is a committee!"*

SHOW ME ONE PAGE IN  
"ANNA KARENINA" THAT CONTAINS  
AN IDEA'

Compiled by Bill Henderson  
(From the New York Times)

Rotten reviews have happened to some of the best books and authors, and here are a few of them. In determining the best books and authors I let history have the final say. Each of these books has lasted for at least 25 years, and some have been respected for centuries. I have included not only periodical reviews but critical essays, diary entries, letters and reported conversation. I have quoted from original documents; when available, but often a review digest, a critical text edition or a biography was the source of the bad blurb.

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The Deerslayer  
by James Fenimore Cooper, 1841

In one place in Deerslayer, and in the restricted space of two-thirds of a page, Cooper has scored 114 offences against literary art out of a possible 115. It breaks the record.

--Mark Twain, "How to Tell a Story and Other Essays," 1897

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Henry James

An idiot, and a Boston idiot, to boot, than which there is nothing lower in the world.

--H. L. Mencken

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Journey to the End of the Night  
By Louis Ferdinand Celine,  
1934

Most readers will find "Journey to the End of the Night" a revolting book; its vision of human life will seem to them a hideous nightmare...If this is life, then it is better not to live.

--J. Donald Adams, The New York Times Review

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The Great Gatsby  
By F. Scott Fitzgerald, 1925

What has never been alive cannot very well go on living. So this is a book of the season only.

--The New York Herald Tribune

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Madame Bovary  
By Gustave Flaubert, 1857

Monsieur Flaubert is not a writer.

--Le Figaro

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Ernest Hemingway

It is of course a commonplace that Hemingway lacks the serene confidence that he is a full-size man.

--Max Eastman, The New Republic, 1933

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The Naked and the Dead  
By Norman Mailer, 1948

If he has a taste for transcribing banalities, he also has a talent for it.

--The New Republic

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