

American Heritage Center Information

Established in 1945, the American Heritage Center (AHC) is the University of Wyoming's repository of manuscript and special collections, rare books, and the UW Archives. The AHC is widely acknowledged by the University community, by the people of Wyoming, and by scholars worldwide as one of the nation's finest special collections repositories.

Simpson Family

The Simpson family has served Wyoming throughout the 20th century. William "Billy" Simpson (1868-1940) was a leading attorney in Cody. His son, Milward (1897-1993), served Wyoming as governor and United States senator. Milward's sons have also been deeply involved in Wyoming and national politics. Alan served in the Wyoming State Legislature and the U.S. Senate. Most recently he was a member of the Iraq Study Group. Peter K. Simpson, also a Wyoming legislator, later became a vice president for institutional advancement at the University of Wyoming. Colin Simpson, the third generation of his family in Wyoming politics, is a member of the Wyoming House of Representatives.



Alan Simpson with his wife, Ann, and their sons, Colin (far right) and William, including William's wife, Debbie, and their children, 1995.



Reelection campaign poster for the first woman governor in the United States, Wyoming Governor Nellie Tayloe Ross, 1926. Nellie Tayloe Ross Papers.



Ralph Dietler (far right), a pioneer in the crude oil purchasing sector of the petroleum industry, in conversation with industry colleagues, ca. 1930s. Ralph O. Dietler Papers.

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING American Heritage Center

Mailing Address:

Dept. 3924, 1000 E. University Avenue
Laramie, WY 82071

Location:

2111 Willett Drive (Centennial Complex)
307-766-4114 / 307-766-5511 (FAX)

ahc@uwyo.edu (General)

ahcref@uwyo.edu (Reference Dept.)

<http://www.uwyo.edu/ahc>

AHC Director:

Mark Greene - 307-766-2474

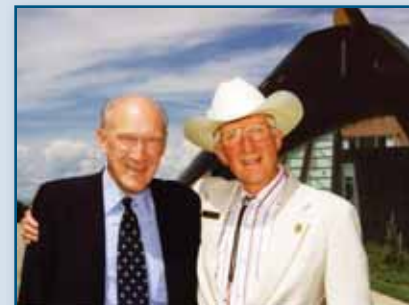
AHC Associate Director:

Rick Ewig - 307-766-6385

Simpson Institute Archivist:

Leslie Waggener - 307-766-2557

E-mail: lwaggen2@uwyo.edu



Alan and Peter Simpson outside the American Heritage Center, 2001.

For questions not relating to donations of collections, contact our Reference Department 307-766-3756

American Heritage Center



University of Wyoming

Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership

Since its beginnings in 2000, the Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership has acquired the personal papers, organizational records and oral histories of individuals and organizations prominent in political and economic leadership in the West. The Institute is a dynamic program of the University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center that seeks to document political, economic and other aspects of leadership in the West, particularly the Rocky Mountain West. Promotion of innovative, interdisciplinary research by students, faculty and scholars on the unique characteristics of Western leadership is key to the Institute's vision. Public programs offered by the Institute advance dialog on leadership issues affecting the politics and economy of the West.



Wyoming U.S. Senator Alan K. Simpson (Ret.)

Programs

Oral History

- The Milward Simpson Family Oral History Program focuses on the history of the prominent Simpson family and is supported through the generosity of Denver businessman Carl Williams.
- The Business and Political Leadership Oral History Program records the recollections of recognized leaders in the Rocky Mountain West.

Symposium and other public programming

- The Simpson Symposium, a biannual event that focuses on current issues affecting the West and the nation.
- Sponsorship of regional and national speakers providing lectures on current topics of interest to the West.



L to R: Peter Simpson, James Watt, University of Wyoming Professor Gregg Cawley, and Alan Simpson share a laugh during a question and answer session at the 2005 Symposium.

K-12 programming

- Teacher workshops and other programs that promote civics in the classroom.
- Simpson Institute Award presented at Wyoming History Day for the best junior and senior division entries pertaining to political history and leadership. An award of \$250 is given to each winning entry.



Abraham Lincoln presenter John Voehl and Simpson Institute Archivist Leslie Waggener present the Simpson Institute Junior Category Award to Sally Sanders at Wyoming History Day, 2008.

Collections

Among the collections related to political leadership in the Institute are:

- Wyoming Governor Milward L. Simpson (Republican, 1955-1959) and U.S. Senator (Republican, 1963-1967).
- Wyoming Legislator Thomas Stroock (Republican, 1967-1969; 1971-1975; 1979-1989) and U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala (1989-1992).
- Wyoming Legislator Alan K. Simpson (Republican, 1961-1977) and U.S. Senator (Republican, 1979-1997).
- Wyoming Legislator Peter K. Simpson (Republican, 1981-1985).
- U.S. Secretary of the Interior James G. Watt (1981-1983).
- Wyoming Legislator Craig Thomas (Republican, 1981-1989), U.S. Congressman (Republican, 1989-1995), and U.S. Senator (Republican, 1995-2007).

President John F. Kennedy is greeted by U.S. Senator Gale McGee at the start of Kennedy's September visit to Wyoming, 1963. Gale McGee Papers.



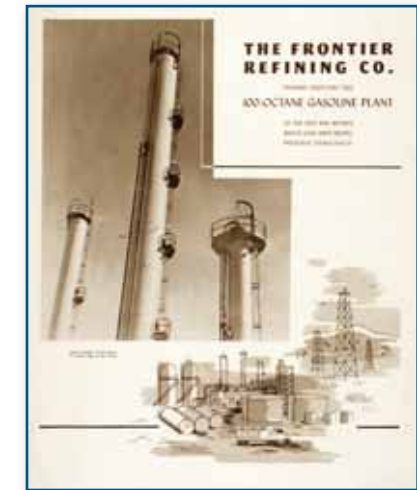
- U.S. Senator Gale W. McGee (Democrat, 1959-1977).
- U.S. Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney (Democrat, 1934-1953, 1955-1961).
- U.S. Congressman Teno Roncalio (Democrat, 1965-1967, 1971-1979).
- Wyoming Governor Nellie Tayloe Ross (Democrat, 1925-1927).
- Wyoming Governor Francis E. Warren (Republican, 1885-1886, 1889-1890) and U.S. Senator (Republican, 1890-1893, 1895-1929).
- Wyoming Legislator Malcolm Wallop (Republican, 1969-1977) and U.S. Senator (Republican, 1977-1995).
- Wyoming Legislator Harriett Elizabeth Byrd (Democrat, 1981-1993).
- Wyoming Governor John B. Kendrick (Democrat, 1915-1917) and U.S. Senator (Democrat, 1917-1933).



Wyoming State Senator Liz Byrd (far left) looks over the shoulder of Governor Mike Sullivan as he signs a bill in 1990 to establish Wyoming Equality Day. Harriett Elizabeth Byrd Papers.

It also houses the collections of prominent institutional and business leaders from the region and nation including:

- Wyoming Mining Association.
- Husky Oil Company.
- Indian Petroleum Company.
- Wyoming Stock Growers' Association.
- Wyoming Hereford Ranch.
- Taco John's International, Inc.
- John S. Wold.
- Warwick M. Downing.
- Cortland S. Dietler.
- Ralph O. Dietler.



The predecessor company to Husky Oil was the Frontier Refining Company based in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Husky Oil Company Records.



An early logo used by Taco John's International, Inc., 1976-1979. Taco John's International, Inc. Records.