



## NEWSLETTER Spring 2004

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### Message from the Library Director

Forty years ago this spring the eagerly awaited duPont-Ball Library opened, replacing Sampson-Carnegie Library, built in 1907. As I am one who remembers that day well, you may note that this newsletter issue is history-oriented.

I describe the differences in the two buildings and the remarkable day in which the library collection was carried by hand to the new building by students, faculty, and staff.

Although University Archives have been housed in the Library for many years, in the last two years we have taken a very proactive stance in collecting and organizing those holdings. In

addition to historical records, we also have interesting memorabilia, as you will read in Susan Ryan's article.

As a librarian and historian, I am one of many who are concerned about President Bush's Executive Order 13233 of November 1, 2001, which allows any sitting President to restrict access to the records of his/her predecessors. Barbara Costello provides an excellent description of this order and its implications.

We hope you enjoy these articles and the other news in this issue.

*Betty D. Johnson, Library Director*

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### OPERATION BOOKLIFT, MAY 7, 1964

As the new \$1,000,000 duPont-Ball Library neared completion in the spring of 1964, Library Director Bob Mowery was faced with the question of how to move a collection of approximately 100,000 volumes. Exam week was scheduled to begin on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

When it became evident that the new building would be completed in late April, Mowery was determined that current graduating students should have the opportunity to use it. He convinced President J. Ollie Edmunds to declare Friday, May 7, 1964, Operation Booklift Day and to cancel all classes. The 1,200 students, along with faculty and staff, were asked to carry armloads of books from Sampson to duPont-Ball for about one hour each. Mowery estimated that this would move all of the circulating and reference books in about six hours. A complimentary barbeque lunch in the Forest of Arden was included. Volunteers were issued punched IBM cards (created by a state-of-the-art IBM1620 mainframe) with a time to report for duty.



Library faculty, staff, and student assistants were stationed in both buildings to coordinate the move so books would be re-shelved in the correct order. Installation of the elevator had been delayed, so the volunteers were to carry most of the circulating books upstairs to the mezzanine. President Edmunds carried as the symbolic "first book moved" volume one of the facsimile Gutenberg Bible.

The carefully scheduled moving plan, however, soon went awry. Spouses appeared as additional volunteers. Volunteers did not want to leave after one hour but wanted to continue working.



By early afternoon, it was clear that all of the circulating and reference books would soon be moved to their new home, thanks to the volunteers' refusal to leave. Mowery quickly arranged to move the bound periodicals from the basement of Sampson, creating a second line of volunteers from the area where the ceramic kilns are now located.

Once all books had been moved, volunteers removed card catalog drawers and moved the cabinets and drawers as well as the captain's chairs which were to be used on the mezzanine. Only the government documents were not moved that day.

As a result of the enthusiasm and energy of all involved, we opened for full operations at our regular time on Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> rather than the announced May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Many of those student volunteers are now retired. Of the faculty working that day, however, you may recognize in the picture to the right Dr. T. Wayne Bailey, Professor of Political Science, who was completing his first year at Stetson – still teaching and still a great Library supporter forty years later.



Many other pictures of this memorable day are available for viewing in the University Archives.

*Betty D. Johnson, Library Director*

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## SAMPSON-CARNEGIE LIBRARY TO THE DUPONT-BALL LIBRARY

The change for our Library users was like moving from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century:

### FROM

Cooling through open windows and large fans  
Books shelved in closed stacks with no student access  
Bound periodicals in a basement with termites  
Long study tables in the Main Reading Room  
Overcrowded stacks with no room for more books  
Seating for about 200  
No room for expansion

### TO

Air-conditioning  
Open shelves for browsing  
Bound periodicals on the main floor  
Individual study carrels and small tables  
Space for 350,000 volumes  
Seating for 420 on the two main floors  
Basement used for classrooms until needed

## Treasures from the Past: The Stetson University Archives

The Stetson University Archives, housed in the duPont-Ball Library, contains papers, books, publications, press clippings, photographs, yearbooks, the campus newspaper, Stetson Presidents' papers, and other items relating to Stetson University and its history.

Some of the most interesting items in the Archives are not print publications, but "ephemera" – miscellaneous items relating to Stetson or historical items donated by Stetson alumni. The Archives houses five wonderful vintage Stetson hats, donated by G. Henry Stetson, son of University founder John B. Stetson. The hats are unique, with wonderful handcrafted designs, and have been loaned for exhibit to other institutions, including exhibitions at the St. George Art Museum in Utah and the Rosewell Art Museum in Ohio.



The estate of alumnus William Amory "Moon" Underhill (LLB '36), a prominent attorney with a long career in Florida and Washington, D.C., donated some political treasures to the Archives, including complete inaugural invitation packages to both President Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1945 inauguration and President Ronald Reagan's first inaugural ceremony in 1981. Also from the Underhill collection is a gavel made from wood from the White House when it was renovated in 1950 -- apparently President Truman had a number of memorabilia items made from the White House wood at that time. Other Underhill items include a framed photo of the U.S. Supreme Court from the early 1950s signed by several of the Justices, and numerous inscribed and autographed pictures of Congressmen and Senators who were friends of Underhill.

The mother of alumnus Robert Davies Henry ('47) donated the United States flag that covered her son's coffin after he was killed in action in

1952 during the Korean War. This is maintained as a reminder of all Stetson alumni who lost their lives serving our country.

Other political and historical items of interest include a Homestead Certificate for 161.9 acres in DeLand signed by President Chester Arthur in 1882, photographs of President Harry S. Truman when he visited Winter Park in 1949 (then Stetson President J. Ollie Edmunds was in attendance at the President's speech), and scrapbooks with clippings from J. Ollie Edmunds' unsuccessful run for the United States Senate in the 1940s. Also found among the J. Ollie Edmunds memorabilia is a small acrylic memento that appears to have been given to delegates for President Kennedy in 1960.

The Sage family (for which Sage Hall is named) donated a number of items to the Archives, including a drawing of the family crest, some old family photographs, and a brass letter opener engraved with "Henry J. Sage Company."

Stetson President (1904-1934) Lincoln Hulley was a prolific playwright, and the Archives contains manuscripts of his many original plays from the turn of the century through the 1930s. Hulley's printed plays are also found in the Library's cataloged collection.

Stetson sports memorabilia in the Archives include a 1922 baseball uniform worn by Ed Henderson, a Stetson jacket worn in 1936 by Stetson football player John Hughes, and a letter sweater worn by Willard Anderson, who kicked the winning field goal against the University of Florida in 1938. The Archives has some old Stetson sports equipment, including a football used in the 1947 Stetson game against Southwestern (Stetson 27 – Southwestern 0).

If you are visiting the Library, please see our two permanent display cases at the bottom of the stairs on the ground floor. Display items vary – at the current time a wonderful collection of football memorabilia is in one of the display cases and some beautiful china and Stetson collector's plates are in the other.

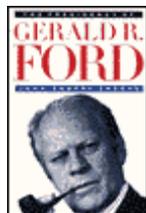
The Archives and Special Collections office is located on the ground floor of the Library and is open several hours each afternoon. We suggest you call ahead for an appointment.

*Susan M. Ryan, Associate Library Director*

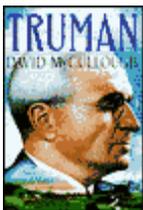
## Executive Order Threatens Open Access to Government Records

The Presidential Records Act, passed by Congress in 1978, mandates that presidential records be released to the public twelve years after a president has left office, subject to any claims of constitutional privilege made by the former president. However, on November 1, 2001, President George W. Bush issued Executive Order 13233 which expands the claim of constitutional privilege over past presidential records to the sitting president. In effect, the current president can restrict access to the records of a former president if he/she feels there is sensitive or confidential content in the records that should not be made available to the public. The records of President Reagan were scheduled to be released in January 2001; Executive Order 13233 was invoked to delay their release.

Opposition to E.O. 13233 was immediate and vociferous among historians, librarians and other proponents of public access to government records. The American Library Association released a list of 47 books, including *Truman* by David



McCullough and *The Presidency of Gerald R. Ford* by John Robert Greene, which could not have been written without access to the type of historic presidential materials that E.O. 13233 seeks to restrict.



Early in 2002, Representative Stephen Horn (R-CA) launched a bipartisan effort to pass legislation to overturn E.O. 13233. The bill, H.R. 4187, eventually picked up 44 sponsors in the House, but it was never passed into law.

Just weeks after the Executive Order was issued, the American Historical Association, joined by other groups and individuals, filed a lawsuit seeking the immediate release of the Reagan presidential records. The plaintiffs claimed that E.O. 13233 violates the provisions of the Presidential Records Act and is an "impermissible exercise of executive power."

The lawsuit, *American Historical Association, et al., v. National Archives and Records Administration, et al.*, was dismissed March 28, 2004, as not "judicial" because the records sought by the plaintiffs had subsequently been released by the NARA or withheld under

constitutional privilege. By issuing a technical ruling, the judge failed to address the principle of the case: does President Bush's Executive Order 13233 lawfully override the statutory provisions of the Presidential Records Act regarding public access to the records of former presidents?

The question remains a contentious one, and it is almost certain that court appeals and additional lawsuits, and possibly Congressional action, will be required to resolve the issue. In the meantime, historians, librarians, and proponents of open-government continue to protest the unprecedented restrictions placed on public access to presidential records by Executive Order 13233.

Barbara Costello, Government Documents Librarian

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## Library Associates Make a Difference

The server for our Library integrated system was purchased almost eight years ago and has served us well as the home for our Library catalog, WebCat, and other Library functions and services. However, the increasing size of our catalog and increased complexity of the software had slowed response time. We also began to fear a breakdown of parts of the system.

The University allocated funds to pay for part of a new server, but money in the special fund donated by the Library Associates made it possible for us to pay the remainder of the cost. We now have the server in place, and the software and data migration is scheduled for June. The old server will probably be recycled for student projects.

Associates' gifts to the Library enable us to provide our students with excellent research resources and with the equipment to write and print the results of their research.

**THANK YOU, ASSOCIATES!**

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