



Creede, Colorado; c. 1890.

## ON THE INTERNET

# Western History Photography Collection

*The Denver Public Library Western History/Genealogy Department*

YOU CAN DIRECTLY ACCESS THE COLLECTION AT

**<http://gowest.coalliance.org>**

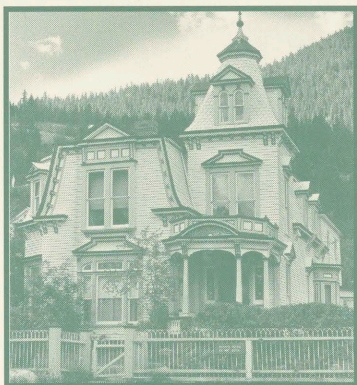
*or link to it from the Denver Public Library homepage at*

**<http://www.denver.lib.co.us/>**

## Overview

The Western History/Genealogy Department of the Denver Public Library has a collection of more than 600,000 photographs related to the history of Colorado and the American West. The major goals of the Photodigitization Project are to provide increased public access to the collection and to preserve the original photographs and negatives by eliminating the need to handle them. The photodigitized images are available for viewing and printing over the Internet and at public library loca-





The Maxwell Residence. Georgetown, Colorado; 1974.

tions across Colorado. Roughly 95,000 images will be available by the year 2000, and the collection will continue to grow.

## Content

The Photography Collection is particularly strong in Colorado subjects. The Colorado Town Collection contains images of more than 11,000 points of interest throughout the state, dating from the 1860s. Architectural details, streetscapes, residences, interiors, parks and ghost towns are included. Some of the prominent architectural photographers in the database are Joseph Collier, Donald Kemp, Harry Lake, L. C. McClure and Muriel Wolle. Railroads are another strength of the collection, in particular the photographs of Otto Perry and Robert Richardson. Other subjects include Native Americans (the photographs of D. F. Barry and Horace Poley), mining, Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and the World War II 10th Mountain Division ski troops. The Internet site has a more complete list of photographers and subjects. Click on "Help" and look for the heading "The Online Collection."

## Searching

You can search the collection by keyword, name, subject or call number. Keyword searching is very powerful and is perhaps the best way to start. The computer will search for the words you enter in any order and in any field, so the more words you use the better. The "subject browse" search will give you a selection of library subject headings that you can click on for very specific results.

*A few search tips:*

- Don't worry about capital letters.
- An asterisk acts like a wildcard; use it to pick up plurals and variant spellings. For example, "min\*" will pick up "mine," "mines," "miners" and "mining."
- Use "not" to limit a search. Ex. "Denver not railroads"
- Use "or" to broaden a search. Ex. "Ute or Cheyenne"

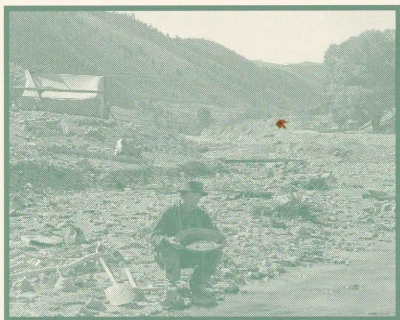
## Image Quality

Detailed directions for calibrating your monitor for optimum viewing are available in the "Help" section of the Internet site.

Photographs displayed on the Internet site are low-resolution images, suitable for reference. The thumbnails display 160 pixels in the long dimension. Full-size images are 640 pixels long.

High-resolution images (4,000 pixels long) can be viewed in the Gates Western History Reading Room, on Level 5 of Denver's Central Library, and at the following locations:

- Alamosa: Southern Peaks Public Library, (719) 589-6592
- Burlington: Burlington Public Library, (719) 346-8109
- Canon City: Canon City Public Library, (719) 269-9020



Site of first gold strike in Colorado, near Idaho Springs (photograph taken c. 1900).



Santa Fe locomotive no. 3780; 1947.

- Cortez: Cortez Public Library, (970) 565-8117
- Craig: Craig-Moffat County Library, (970) 824-5116
- Denver: Colorado Historical Society, (303) 866-2305; Denver Art Museum Library, (303) 640-5513; Ross-Barnum Branch Library, (303) 935-1891; Byers Branch Library, (303) 571-1665; Ford-Warren Branch Library, (303) 294-0907; Montbello Branch Library, (303) 373-0767; Pauline Robinson Branch Library, (303) 370-1530; Valdez-Perry Branch Library, (303) 295-4302

- Durango: Durango Public Library, (970) 385-2970
- Georgetown: John Tomay Memorial Library, (303) 569-2620
- Glenwood Springs: Garfield County Public Library, (970) 945-5958
- Grand Junction: Mesa County Public Library District, (970) 243-4442
- Greeley: Weld Library District, (970) 330-0208



- Gunnison: Gunnison County Public Library, (970) 641-3485
- La Junta: Woodruff Memorial Library, (719) 384-4612
- Leadville: Lake County Public Library, (719) 486-0569
- Montrose: Montrose Library District, (970) 249-9656
- Pagosa Springs: Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, (970) 264-2209
- Pueblo: Pueblo Library District, (719) 543-9600
- Sterling: Sterling Public Library, (970) 522-2023
- Trinidad: Trinidad Public Library, (719) 846-6841

## Ordering Prints

High-resolution prints, for personal use or publication, can be ordered from the Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library, 10 West 14th Avenue Parkway, Denver, CO 80204. For ordering information call (303) 640-6289. The fax number is (303) 640-6298. A price list and an order form can be printed out from the Internet site; click on "Store" for details.

## Funding

This project was paid for in part by a State Historical Fund grant from the Colorado Historical Society, a grant from the Library of Congress and Ameritech as part of the National Digital Library American Memory Project and grants from the Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, United States Department of Commerce, the National Endowment for the Humanities, an independent federal agency, Bruce and Virginia Rockwell and the Boettcher Foundation.

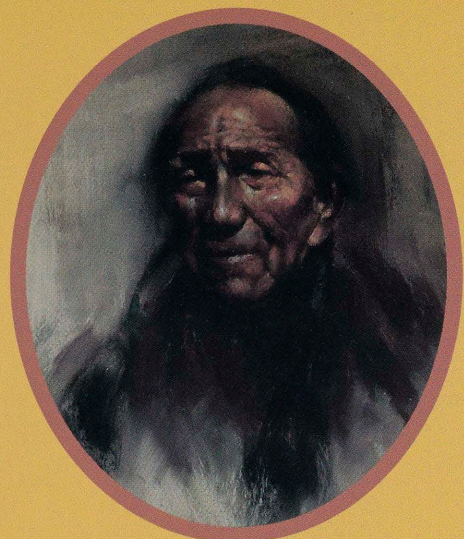


THE DENVER PUBLIC  
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The Denver Public Library  
10 W. Fourteenth Ave. Pkwy.  
Denver, CO 80204

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DENVER, CO





**Indian with Braids**, 1968. Pastel by Ramon Kelley

#### BEQUESTS

Some of the finest materials in the Western History Collection have been acquired through gifts, memorials and bequests. The Denver Public Library is enormously grateful for these gifts from donors who recognize the importance of preserving valuable material where it will be assured the best care and where it will be part of permanent archives for use by researchers. Most donations are tax deductible within the limits of current state and federal tax guidelines.

The Department offers the annual Caroline Bancroft History Prize to an author who has opened new perspectives on the West through nonfiction writing, original style and thorough research. The award was established in 1986 from the estate of Caroline Bancroft, a noted chronicler of Colorado history.

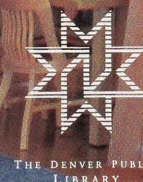


**Buffalo Bill's Wild West** with portraits of Rough Riders. Lithograph by Courier Lithograph Co., ca. 1907.

Collecting  
the heritage of  
the West and  
preserving those  
documents that  
reveal past  
dramas is the  
primary purpose  
of the Western  
History Collection  
at The Denver  
Public Library.



WESTERN  
HISTORY  
COLLECTION



THE DENVER PUBLIC  
LIBRARY



"A PEOPLE WITHOUT HISTORY IS  
LIKE WIND ON THE BUFFALO GRASS."

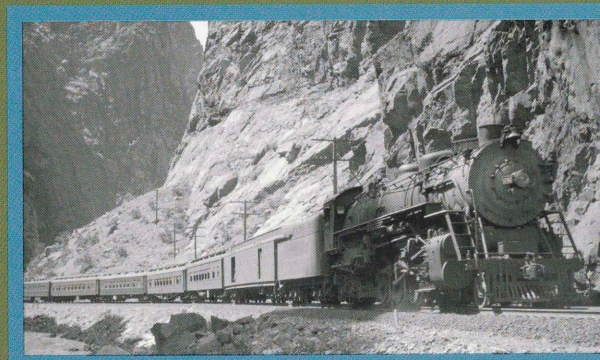
— *Sioux proverb*

This celebrated collection of Western Americana opened to the public in January 1935, and today reflects all phases of development of the trans-Mississippi West. The Collection is comprehensive in scope and includes 82,000 cataloged books and pamphlets; 500,000 photographs; 2,500 manuscript collections; 6,000 historical maps and atlases; hundreds of Western journals and newspapers; and business and family records, scrapbooks, prints and original art.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

The staff of the Western History/Genealogy Department gladly provides reference assistance to customers in person, by telephone or by mail. Customers represent a diverse population and a wide geographical area, including the 50 states and foreign countries. Clientele includes authors, attorneys, architects, planners, students, genealogists and politicians, as well as theatrical people, scouts, hikers, climbers and nature lovers. Specialists on staff can direct researchers to their desired subject matter, for they realize that the value of the Collection is in its accessibility.

The Denver Public Library's Western History Department was merged with the Genealogy Department in January 1995.



**Denver & Rio Grande Western train  
near Royal Gorge in Colorado, 1930.**  
Photograph by Otto Perry

"HISTORY AFTER ALL IS  
THE TRUE POETRY."

— *Thomas Carlyle*

## NOTABLE COLLECTIONS

**Notable special collections in Western History allow the researcher to focus on particular aspects of the American West.**

### Collections include:

- ◆ The map collection has original drawings and maps of Dragoon Captain Lemuel Ford, as well as land grant materials, mining maps and city plats. The collection is further enhanced by reports and maps of Colorado mines, including New York newspaperman Horace Greeley's famous report of mining prospects in the Colorado Rockies.
- ◆ The Western railroad collection includes such items as railroad publicity material, timetables, tickets and photographs.
- ◆ Trade catalogs, autographed books and articles illustrated by Frederic Remington, records and memorabilia of Buffalo Bill's Wild West shows, frontier theater programs, territorial imprints and architectural drawings further complement the collection.
- ◆ Resources on Native Americans in the West focus on social life and customs, religion, government relations, warfare and military life and tribal history.
- ◆ The General Index is a unique index to more than three million selected articles from Denver newspapers, Western journals and other materials from 1865 to the present.
- ◆ In cooperation with the Colorado Historical Society, the Department is the national repository for the papers of the 10th Mountain Division, famed ski troops of World War II.
- ◆ The Conservation Collection reflects the rise of the conservation and environmental movements in America. National organizations such as The Wilderness Society, Alaska Coalition, American Bison Society and Outdoor Writers Association of America are among those which have made The Denver Public Library the repository for their records.
- ◆ The collection of rare books includes such diversity as the Douglas Collection of Fine Printing, the Ross-Barrett Historical Aeronautics Collection, poet and journalist Eugene Field's Collection of books and manuscripts and the Juvenile Historical Collection.

◆ A major imaging project for historic photographs has been undertaken with start-up grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Boettcher Foundation. Through this photodigitization project, researchers can retrieve pictures on a computer screen that are indexed by subject and photographer. Specialized collections such as the L. C. McClure city and landscape views, William H. Jackson's photochromes, Burnis McCloud's collection of Denver's African-American community and the Otto C. Perry and Robert W. Richardson railroad photographs will be accessible.

On-line computer access to bibliographical information for a majority of the Western History Collection is available through The Denver Public Library's on-line catalog (a part of the CARL network), through the On-line Computer Library Center (OCLC) network and through national on-line service providers.

**While modern technology allows further access to the Collection, emphasis remains on the books, manuscripts and images that preserve the American West. The vitality of the Collection is continually renewed by ongoing efforts to acquire historical manuscripts, photographs, books, maps, scrapbooks and ephemera.**

## The Denver Public Library Western History/Genealogy Department

10 West Fourteenth Avenue Parkway  
Denver, Colorado 80204

Reference: (303) 640-6291  
Photographs: (303) 640-6288/6289  
Telefax: (303) 640-6298  
TTY: (303) 640-6299

*Trans-Mississippi  
West with emphasis  
on the Rocky  
Mountain Region*

- Eleanor M. Gehres, Manager
- Open to the public; noncirculating collection
- Lockers provided for customer belongings

**Sunday: 1 - 5 p.m.**  
**Monday - Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.**  
**Thursday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

CREDIT: All photographs from the Western History Collection of The Denver Public Library  
FRONT: A view of the Gates Western History Reading Room at The Central Library of The Denver Public Library. Photograph by Rhoda Pollack.



#### IMPORTANT COLLECTIONS

The Conservation Collection includes the records of many national conservation organizations, federal agencies, prominent conservationists and naturalists. Among the notable collections are the complete documents of America's first conservation organization, the American Bison Society; the records of The Wilderness Society; the Howard Zahniser Memorial Wilderness Collection; Arthur Carhart's manuscript collection, including his U. S. Forest Service Planning Reports; and Aldo Leopold's manuscript for *A Sand County Almanac*.

#### OTHER NOTABLE COLLECTIONS

Alaska Coalition  
American Association for Conservation Education  
American Forestry Association  
American Motors Conservation Award  
Dr. Hugh H. Bennett  
Louis Carpenter  
Conservation Foundation  
Lois Crisler  
Harry Crandell  
Colorado Open Space Council  
Colorado Wildlife Federation  
Rosalie Edge/Hawk Mountain Sanctuary  
Peter Farb  
Edward C. Graves photo collection  
Zane Grey outdoor adventure book collection  
Ira Gabrielson  
Albert Haanstad photograph collection  
John Muir items  
Olaus Murie  
Sigurd Olson  
Outdoor Writers Association of America  
National Association of State Foresters  
Nature Conservancy  
Charles Lathrop Pack  
Pan American Union  
Phillipson Rod and Tackle Company  
J. Clark Salyer  
Rocky Mountain Committee on the Environment  
Theodor R. Swem  
Walter P. Taylor  
Roger Toll  
U. S. Bureau of Land Management  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U. S. Forest Service  
U. S. National Park Service  
U. S. Soil Conservation Service  
William Vogt  
Wild Horse Annie/Velma V. Johnston  
Wildlife Society  
Wright & McGill Book Collection  
Stanley P. Young

#### THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY

*Joy Hilliard's generous gift, combined with the new quarters of the Western History Department, provides a unique opportunity to reestablish the Conservation Collection as a resource for students, scholars, and policy-makers. Physical access to well-organized and well-preserved manuscript and archival collections will improve dramatically. Electronic access to descriptive information about these materials will be available worldwide through the Internet. An infusion of books and periodicals will strengthen coverage of additional topics. Staff whose time and expertise will be fully devoted to the organization of the collection and to assistance to readers will be on duty.*

*From this reestablished base, the Conservation Collection can continue to grow and serve, depending upon the generosity and commitment of those who value it. Financial support for the preservation and protection of this unique intellectual resource will help build the understanding necessary to preserve and protect America's natural resources.*

*"Conservation is thought and action directed by man to protect, maintain and fortify the environmental complex that supports and enriches life as it now exists on the planet Earth."*

Arthur H. Carhart  
1963

THE DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Conservation Collection





The Conservation Collection is one of the most significant collections of its kind in America, comprising over 2,000 linear feet of manuscript material as well as significant book, photograph and document collections. National conservation organizations such as The Wilderness Society, The Alaska Coalition, The American Bison Society, and The Outdoor Writers Association of America, are some which have made the Denver Public Library the repository for their organization records. The holdings of the Conservation Collection reflect all aspects of the rise of the conservation and environmental movements in America.

The Conservation Collection was founded in 1960 by conservationist and author Arthur Carhart and Denver City Librarian John Eastlick. The 1940s and 1950s were a formative period for the American conservation movement. During this period conservation-minded individuals and groups came together to create a powerful pro-environmental constituency. One of those individuals, Arthur Carhart, was at the forefront of early conservation battles. He eventually amassed a large collection of conservation-related materials and in the late 1950s began to search for a suitable location to house his collection and the conservation materials of organizations involved in the movement. Carhart met with Denver City Librarian John Eastlick and the two conceived the idea of a conservation center based in the Denver Public Library. They enlisted the help of a powerful group of conservation and business leaders from throughout the country who formed an advisory council. With the support of

these leaders, and a \$25,000 grant from the Rockefeller-supported American Conservation Association, the Conservation Collection was officially launched in 1961.



Arthur H. Carhart, 1964

#### CONSERVATION COLLECTION ADVISERS HAVE INCLUDED SUCH PEOPLE AS:

Carl Buchheiser  
President  
National Audubon Society

James Cagney  
Actor and conservationist

Kay Collins  
Conservation librarian

Edward H. Hilliard, Jr.  
Managing Partner  
Redfield Gun Sight Company  
Member, The Wilderness Society

Thomas Kimball  
Director  
Colorado Game and Fish  
Department

Estella Leopold  
Paleobotanist  
U. S. Geological Survey

E. Budd Marter, III  
Executive Director  
Outdoor Writers Association of  
America

Donald McLaughlin  
Chairman of the Board  
Homestake Mining Co.

Bernard Orell  
Vice President  
Weyerhaeuser Company

Paul B. Sears  
Chairman  
Conservation Program  
Yale University

Dr. Robert L. Stearns  
President  
University of Colorado, Boulder

Theodor R. Swem  
Assistant Director  
National Park Service

William Vogt  
First National Director  
Planned Parenthood Federation of  
America  
Author, Road to Survival

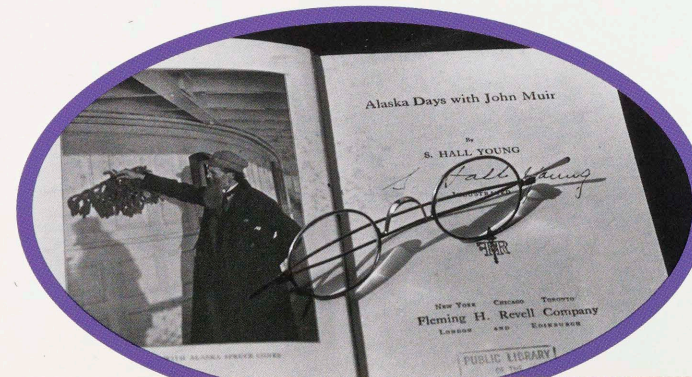
Gilbert White  
Director  
Institute of Behavioral Science  
University of Colorado, Boulder

Success, excitement, and fame benefited the Collection in the 1960s. Carhart was an enthusiastic promoter of the Collection who succeeded in bringing a remarkable quantity of significant materials into the new archive. Lauded in the national press as an unprecedented source for environmental advocacy and research, the Conservation Collection received the prestigious American Motors Conservation Award for 1968.

By the 1970s the Conservation Collection had become a leading center for research, environmental advocacy, and education. Thousands of people from all regions of the U. S. and abroad had used the Collection and donated materials to be added to it. The Collection was more than just the repository for conservation materials – the grass roots conservation movement relied on its presence to help increase awareness of ecological issues. In spite of its unparalleled success the Collection was eventually faced with diminishing private and municipal funds. Rather than closing the Collection, administrators sought specific financial support from the federal government allowing the Conservation Collection to continue its work with a new emphasis. In 1977, the Collection became the Regional Energy Environment Information Center offering up-to-the-minute research and news about the development and promotion of alternative forms of energy. The older Conservation materials continued to be available to researchers and the public.

Within a few years federal energy funding sources dried up and the 1980s became a decade of inactivity for the collection with only limited access given to researchers. Conservation leaders, concerned community members, and historians from around the country lamented the stagnation of the archive and worked diligently during this time to return the Conservation Collection to its former eminence. By the 1990s an increase in requests for use of the Collection had grown significantly and the Denver Public Library began searching for a way to expand accessibility and content of the Collection. The fortunes of this unique collection changed dramatically in 1994 with a generous gift from Joy Hilliard.

Edward Hobbs Hilliard, Jr. played a crucial role in the conservation movement of the 1950s and 1960s. His organization of a Colorado coalition helped achieve passage of the federal Wilderness Bill in 1964. Hilliard was a focal point for conservation action within the Rocky Mountain Region, bringing together previously irreconcilable factions and constructing a powerful coalition that influenced grass roots environmental advocacy. His vision of cooperative action in support of the environment is embodied in the Collection. The gift from his family honors his efforts and makes possible future growth of the Collection by providing a research and materials processing facility and through acquisition of additional materials with staff to manage and access them.



JOHN MUIR'S GLASSES RESTING ON A FIRST EDITION OF  
Alaska Days with John Muir, by S. Hall Young

Today the Conservation Collection is once again a national center for environmental research. Over the years historians and researchers have used the collection to produce some of the most important books on the American environment, including *Wilderness and the American Mind* by Roderick Nash (1967), and *A Symbol of Wilderness: Echo Park and the American Conservation Movement* by Mark W.T. Harvey (1994). Major collections continue to augment the wealth of this singular archive. The Denver Public Library is actively collecting with a special emphasis on materials related to

resource and land use issues from all points of view and all perspectives. Recent acquisitions include Hal Harrison's ornithological field notes and nature articles, Merrill Mattes' slides and photographs of Alaska sites, and Phillipson Rod and Tackle Company records and photographs.

With environmental issues at the forefront of American politics the Collection is more important now than ever. The Denver Public Library is strategically located in a new 540,000 square-foot building on Denver's Civic Center Park. It reflects the wide diversity of its customers in a dynamic mix of formal and informal spaces, community rooms, relaxing reading areas, and research facilities. The latest and most sophisticated design provides an ideal location for processing and maintaining the Conservation Collection, now part of the Western History and Genealogy Department, a nationally recognized historical repository with supporting background information relevant to conservation. The Denver Public Library also provides an excellent trained staff to assure the best management and use of materials entrusted to the Conservation Collection.

**The Denver Public Library  
Conservation Collection**  
10 West Fourteenth Avenue Parkway  
Denver, Colorado 80204  
(303) 640-6291

Eleanor M. Gehres, Manager  
Rick J. Ashton, City Librarian

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Monday - Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Thursday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

BISON PHOTO: "American Bison Bull" from *The American Bison*, by Martin S. Garretson, New York Zoological Society, 1938. Howard Zahniser Memorial Wilderness Collection

COVER PHOTOGRAPH: Trappers Lake by Ron Ruhoff  
Courtesy Ron Ruhoff

PHOTOGRAPHS: Courtesy Denver Public Library Western History and Genealogy Department