

NEWS IN BRIEF

ALBERTA

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA: In terms of use and accessions, the past year has been a busy and productive one for the Provincial Archives of Alberta. But it was a year which also brought with it the resignation of one staff member. Mr. D. Leonard left to write his doctoral dissertation and was succeeded as assistant archivist in charge of maps and government records by Mrs. Ermeline Ference. The professional staff was augmented during the summer months with the addition of six student assistants to help in organizing collections and to prepare inventories and indexes. In addition, two graduate students were commissioned to research the folk music of Alberta, to make tape-recordings and to provide transcripts of lyrics with descriptive texts.

The year showed an increase in the number of students and others using archives research facilities; the reference room register recorded 1,430 users.

In terms of acquisitions, 1971 was a good year for archives. 723 linear feet of material were received in 452 accessions, of which 135 were from government departments and agencies; 145 microfilms and 119 audiotapes were acquired, as well as 375 maps, and private papers and photographs. Acquisitions worthy of note have included archives of the Oblate Lay Missionaries of Mary Immaculate; watercolours of Albertan churches by C. R. Kaufman; records of dissolved Mutual Telephone Companies; records of the dissolved Provincial Secretary's Department.

The Provincial Archivist continued to serve as Chairman of the Public Documents Committee under the Public Documents Act. The Committee was very active during the year and sixty-one recommendations for the disposition of records were made, including thirty-two recommendations for transfer to the Archives. A half-day conference on public documents was held to which departmental representatives were invited.

During the year, the staff prepared 247 inventories. A programme of indexing, printing and arranging by subject sets of prints from photograph collections was continued, and over 2,350 negatives were renumbered, printed in duplicate and indexed.

The outstanding event of the year was the preparation and the official opening of the Archives Gallery display, which was entitled "Ernest Brown - an early Alberta Photographer". In 1947 the Ernest Brown collection of photographs, artifacts and manuscript material was purchased by the Alberta Government. It is today regarded as one of the outstanding collections held by the Provincial Museum and Archives of Alberta.

GLENBOW-ALBERTA INSTITUTE ARCHIVES: The archives staff remained at eight during the year, but a university student was hired for the summer to assist with the work load. During the past winter, the services of

four students were obtained for four months through the Government-sponsored Local Incentives Program to help make Archives' collections more available for public use. Of these, three worked on the processing of photographic collections and one on transcribing and preparing outlines for tape recordings. In addition, two students working directly under the Extension Department transcribed some of Archives' manuscripts for future publication.

Plans are underway for a large new building which will house all of Glenbow's departments. There will be considerable exhibition space for the Museum and Art Gallery, while the Library and Archives research centre will occupy a separate and complete floor. Building is scheduled to commence this fall and, hopefully, will be completed by 1975. In the meantime, the building in which the Archives and Library are located is becoming increasingly crowded. The installation of Lundia rolling shelves in one section of Archives' stacks last year helped to alleviate the situation, and a further extension is planned for this summer.

The use of Archives' facilities by students and others continues to expand; to facilitate the handling of increased numbers of requests for photographs, mimeographed lists of selections of views on the most popular subjects are being prepared for mailing. Also further demands have been made upon Archives staff members as speakers.

Glenbow is planning a publication series of important manuscripts, two of these, namely N.W.M.P. Inspector W. Parker's papers and Rev. Robert Rundle's diary, are presently being edited.

Acquisitions of significance include the following: a collection of letters of Frank Crosby, an employee of the I. G. Baker Co. at Fort Calgary, 1882-1884; diary and post cards of R. K. Allan, 90th Winnipeg Rifles, written during the Riel Rebellion, and related papers; a large collection of letterbooks and other papers of A. E. Cox, Dominion Land agent in Southern Alberta, 1886-1912; papers of a pioneer Calgary law firm; a varied and interesting collection of photographs and papers relating to the Depression era on the Prairies; a four-reel film on the Blood Indian sundance, crafts, etc., taken in 1946 by Dr. Clyde Fisher, curator, American Museum of Natural History.

During April, Glenbow archivists participated in the Prairie Archivists' Conference held in Saskatoon, and a Conference on Tape Recording in Edmonton.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

VANCOUVER CITY ARCHIVES: The period from January, 1971, to May, 1972, has been a time of very rapid development for the City Archives in all areas; including accommodation, staffing, collections development, planning and public service.

In January, 1971, City Council chose, as the 1971 Centennial project, a new archives building. Plans were completed by June and tenders called in August. The structure, now six weeks away from completion, will provide 16,000 square feet of environmentally controlled stack area, work rooms, reference room, and office and display areas. It is joined to the