Archival Resources on the World Wide Web—Bob Garrett, Assistant Editor, Michigan Historical Center

All You Have to Do Is Dream

By Bob Garrett

This issue's topic springs from a conversation at the last MAC meeting. Someone asked, "If you could work in *any* archives, what kind of archives would it be?" There were some interesting responses, and I realized that the topic would make good "column fodder." I've thus asked several archivists to relate their "dream archives job." I then investigated the pertinent Web sites, which I'll describe for the reader.

Our first "archival dreamer" is Tim Ericson, Archive Program Coordinator, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, School of Information Studies. Tim would like to be an archivist at the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum in Hayward, Wisconsin. He said, "I don't think they even have an 'archivist' as such, but they do have a records program relating to 'record' catches." The "History" link on its Web site, <http://www.freshwaterfishing.org/>, provided additional information. Anglers who catch properly authenticated "fresh water fish of trophy proportion" are deemed "record holders." The facility maintains a photo gallery of these people.

I feel compelled to note one prominent feature of the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum's home page, namely, the photo of the very large faux muskellunge. Upon clicking on the "Museum" link, I discovered that this muskie is actually the museum's "Shrine to Anglers"! It's described as being "half a city block long and a four and half stories tall." There is an "observation tower" in its mouth. I don't know how Tim feels about it but, if I worked for this organization, I would want an office inside that giant fish.

Tim Cary, Archivist of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, is a baseball aficionado. He'd like to be an archivist at the Baseball Hall of Fame's A. Bartlett Giamatti Research Center in Cooperstown, New York. The center's Web site, <http://www.baseballhalloffame.org/library/research.htm>, notes the presence of "special collections related to teams, owners, officials and players." (The Abner Doubleday Papers, in particular, caught my eye.) The center also includes a "Photograph Department" and a "Film, Video and Recorded Sound Department." Tim would no doubt enjoy its Web site, which provides access to some archival finding aids and the center's on-line catalog (named "ABNER," after Abner Doubleday). As an archivist at the center, he would no doubt have a ball (so to speak).

Mary Zimmeth, Head of Processing at the State Archives of Michigan, loves movies. She'd like to work in a movie archives. When I asked her to "dream," she was initially torn between the Sundance and Cannes Film Festivals. Ultimately, she decided that living in southern France slightly beat meeting Robert Redford!

The Cannes Film Festival's Web site can be found at <http://www.festival-cannes.fr/>. I was unable to determine whether the Cannes Film Festival employs an official archivist. It obviously does keep records, however. The Web page includes an "Archives" link that leads to a listing of the individual 55 consecutive years of the festival. A short blurb explains that clicking on a given year will retrieve that year's "official selection, awards, film and artist profiles, as well as live videos of the Red Carpet ceremony, press conferences and photo calls since 1998." A key word-searchable database also appears to the left of the page. As a test, I typed in "Orson Welles." This retrieved a full list of the films that Welles presented at Cannes and the awards that he won there. It's nice to know that the Cannes Festival does have a sense of history. Just imagine what an archivist such as Mary could do for it.

Janet Carleton, our esteemed newsletter editor, is the Digital Projects Librarian at Ohio University's Mahn Center for Archives & Special Collections. She said, "When I was a student at University of Texas, Austin, I did two practicums (and then volunteered) at a nonprofit organization that had the 'stuff' but no formal archives—I'd love to be their 'real' archivist." She was speaking of Texas Folklife Resources (TFR), located in Austin. On its Web site, <http://www.texasfolklife.org/>, TFR states that it works "directly with folk artists and communities to document living traditions and present them to the public through exhibitions, concerts, media projects and educational residencies." Music, quilting, wood carving, and religious rituals are examples of folk arts and traditions preserved. The Web site includes photographs, a calendar of events, and information on specific programs. TFR does look like a fun place to work. If Janet ever accepts a position there, I hope that she'll still help us get the newsletter out on time.

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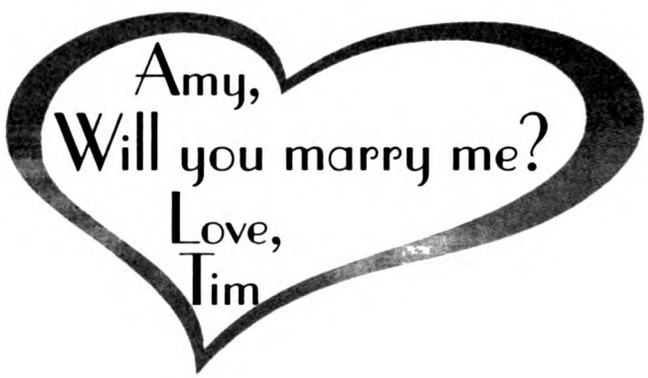
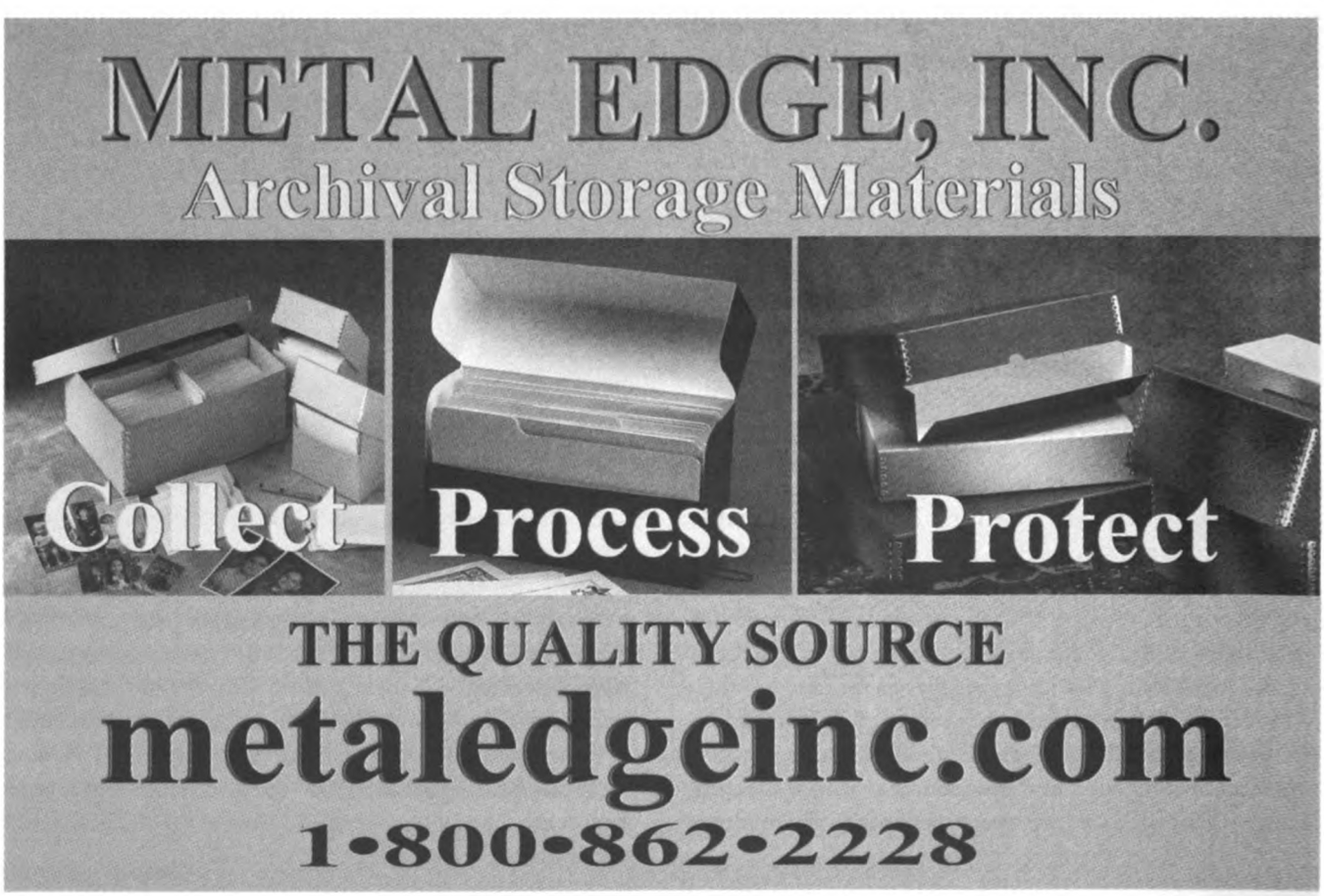
I can't end this column without revealing my own "archives dream job." I'd like to be an archivist at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. Visiting the Web site, <http://www.rockhall.com/>, I beheld a colorized, full-length Elvis. That's not as cool as a giant fish, perhaps, but I thought it was still pretty cool. By clicking on "General Information Overview," one discovers that the Hall of Fame and Museum contains "interactive exhibits, films, videos and priceless and poignant artifacts, and serves as host of the permanent Hall of Fame exhibit." I saw no information on an archives, although I had heard rumors that the facility employs an archivist. (If the archivist there is reading this, then this person can feel free to drop me a line.) The Web site is very informative and easily navigable. One can find a wonderful interactive "rock and roll timeline," a calendar of events, and detailed information on exhibits, programs, and Hall of Fame inductees. (Tim Cary said that the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum was his *second* choice for a "dream job" and that he "might have to arm wrestle me for it." Sorry, Tim—I called it first!)

That concludes my brief survey of "archivists' dream jobs." I hope that I've encouraged some others to do a little dreaming of their own—and possibly a little Web surfing along the way.





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