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Photo courtesy Robert Winslow.
A New Chapter...
By Kevin Britz, Director

With this new issue of Timelines, we start a new chapter in the history of the Center of Southwest Studies. Our new logo, designed by Lisa Kirchner, reflects our new spirit. The spiral is a Southwest symbol, symbolizing the Native American heritage of the region and our organization at the center of circles that radiate outward to our greater region. It is divided into four parts symbolizing the Four Corners and our commitment to four specializations: history, art, culture, and science.

We hope that you will enjoy the new look of this issue of Timelines. Our upgrading to color and two additional pages offers new opportunities to offer feature stories such as those in this issue on mountain lions by Esther Greenfield and Carol Shepard, along with current news about the Center itself. Let us know what you think.

We are also happy to announce we have a new employee, Jen Pack. Jen joins us as Assistant Archivist and Librarian. She holds a MLIS with archives management from San Jose State University and a BFA at the Art Center of Design in Pasadena, CA. Aside from her archives and library skills, Jen is also a fiber artist and web designer. Before coming to the Center in February 2009, she worked as a library intern at the Columbia River Museum in Astoria, Oregon and at the Center of Southwest Studies during the summer of 2008.

The Center also has a new, user-friendly website. Designed by Jen Pack, the website keeps you current on all our events, upcoming programs, and gives you the opportunity to participate on our new blog.

We are also inaugurating the first official membership program for the Center. We invite you to participate in an exciting new era at the Center of Southwest Studies. Your membership will help us to create exciting new exhibits and thought-provoking programs. By joining, you have the opportunity to become a charter member of the Center!

Kevin Britz
Director

New CSWS staff member Jen Pack enjoys the view of the Rio Grande Gorge in NM.

Mountain Lion! Exhibit to open August 22

On August 22, the Center will open its major new exhibit entitled Mountain Lion! The exhibit is a collaborative effort between the Center, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the San Juan Mountains Association, and the Southern Ute Tribe. Together, our goal is to create an understanding of the nature of these predators and their long, historic relation with people. Mountain Lion! examines the history of cougars starting from the Ice Age when they roamed the continent along with fierce cats like the giant North American Lion and Smilodon, popularly known as saber-tooth tigers. Another exhibit section will look at the hunting techniques, habits, and physical features of modern mountain lions that have allowed them to survive for thousands of years. Other exhibit sections illustrate the different perspectives of Native Americans and early European settlers toward cougars, how opinions toward the animal changed, and the ways they continue to be portrayed in fine art and popular culture. The last section teaches visitors how to read cougar behavior, recognize signs, and offer practical tips on what to do if you encounter a mountain lion. The exhibit will feature dioramas, fossil representations of extinct cougar relatives, hands-on learning experiences, and the work of leading wildlife photographers including Robert Winslow and Claude Steelman, and original illustrations by Joseph Ortega.

The exhibit will run until fall 2010.
LIVING DANGEROUSLY IN THE SOUTHWEST WITH THE ILLUSIVE MOUNTAIN LION
By Esther Greenfield

Definition: ILLUSIVE – appearing to exist but vanishing as one approaches

To the early settlers of the southwest struggling to make a good life for themselves and their families, mountain lions were an unpleasant fact of life. Lions killed their game food and their livestock – lambs, calves and young horses in particular. They got into chicken coops and sometimes carried off the family pets. Lions, wolves, coyotes, and bears were shot on sight not out of cruelty, but because their predations threatened the homesteaders’ very existence.

Encounters with mountain lions were the source of much lively entertainment and yarn-spinning when neighbors met. Meeting in town or standing around a corral swapping stories, somehow the lions became bigger and more ferocious with each subsequent telling. Sometimes these stories reached epic proportions... and when they reached the ears of journalists they were embellished even more. Following are some of the newspaper accounts culled from the Colorado Historic Newspaper collection. They are tales of “maddened beasts”, “tawny brutes” and “snarling lions which will curdle your blood.” Also included are a few tales from folks who encountered the “shadow cat” of the American west, and lived to talk about it.

VON HOECKEL & A BLOOD CURLING EXPERIENCE
Count Von Hoeckel of the Denver and Rio Grande RR went hunting and in the evening, finding no wood to make a shelter, found a cave to sleep in. He cooked a rabbit supper then lay down for some pleasant slumber. About midnight he was awakened by the sound of crunching bones and in the moonlight saw a huge mountain lion finishing the remains of his rabbit. The Count started to reach for his gun but a warning growl from the lion stopped him. He stayed motionless until the lion fell asleep (using the Count’s leg as a pillow!) Then, slowly the Count pulled his glittering hunting knife out and plunged it into the reclining beast. After that his memory is indistinct. He only remembers the sharp teeth of the king of the mountains sinking into his flesh before, in their struggles, both fell over a precipice onto a ledge, breaking the beast’s back. The Count was rescued the next morning by his friends who hauled him up with ropes.

DoloRES NEWS,
December 5, 1885

MRS. PUTNAM,
CHAMPION RIFLE SHOT
Mrs. Jeanette Putnam, champion rifle shot of Wisconsin, Mrs. Thomas Chivington, and Miss Lou Bergh left Denver today for Eagle County where they will hunt mountain lions, bears, wildcats, and anything else that comes their way. “We are going after big game,” said Mrs. Putnam. “I had an awfully narrow escape once. I was out on a hunt when I was suddenly attacked by a wildcat. Before it had a chance to make the fatal leap I shot the beast down.” When asked if they would take any men along, Mrs. Putnam said: “Men would be all right to guard the camp, that’s all.”

DURANGO DEMOCRAT, August 1, 1901

GOOD BAG OF MOUNTAIN LIONS
Mrs. A. F. Dobrowsky, the young and pretty wife of a jeweler here, killed two mountain lions on Sunday at Bear Mountain. She was alone when she heard the baying of her hound which had a large lion up a tree. As she prepared to shoot she saw a second lion looking hungrily at her through the thick foliage. Just then her husband came. At the count of three, their two rifles rang out and two tawny brutes fell to the earth mortally wounded.

MONTezUMA JOURNAL,
December 12, 1902

UNLUCKY THIRTEEN
At Provo a mountain lion was killed while devouring his thirteenth sheep. Had he have quit at twelve it would have been different... a superstition that even sheep men do not ignore.

DURANGO DEMOCRAT, January 1900
S2O FOR EACH SCALP

Florence Packard of Tonto Basin is getting rich killing mountain lions. Within 2 or 3 weeks he has killed nine. The county pays him $20 for each scalp. A few years ago Packard varied the monotony of the mountain lion killing business by the less profitable killing of a man for whose scalp no bounty had been offered.

MONTEZUMA JOURNAL,
September 7, 1897

CHANGES TO GAME & FISH LAWS

Some important changes have been made in the Game and Fish laws. Deer may be killed October 12-15. Open season has been withdrawn on sage hens. Ducks may be killed September 16-December 31. No changes on fish. Mountain lions, bear, wolves and coyotes are not counted big game and may be killed any time.

SILVERTON STANDARD,
May 14, 1921

THE BOUNTY MONKEY WAS SO TEMPTING

Center of Southwest Studies, Andrew Callisford Collection
D050.003-05007.01

IT’S NOT A KITTY

It was late October and I wanted one last high country hike before the snows came. I walked through the red-orange scrub oak and pines with my dog and thought about where to stop for breakfast. I would sit on the boulders at the high point of the trail on the cliff’s edge overlooking the river canyon. Molly raced ahead then disappeared around a leafy turn in the trail. When I found her a moment later I froze. She was sitting in the leaves just off the trail, smiling and wagging her tail, wanting to play. Sitting in front of her was a mountain lion, not smiling or wagging his tail. Instead, his tail was twitching back and forth, back and forth, like a tabby cat about to pounce on a little mouse.

“Molly, come!! It’s not a kitty!! The lion contemplated us speculatively, then, cat-like, stretched his hind legs slowly and deliberately, one at a time, before suddenly shooting down the trail like a firecracker rocket. It should have been a frightening encounter, and in a way it was. But in reality it was quite wonderful. We hiked back the way we’d come and looked for another place to stop. We soon found a nice log to sit on by the creek; a good, safe spot for breakfast. But then my foot pushed some leaves aside, uncovering the remains of a freshly killed deer. Oh, no! It’s the lion’s cached breakfast. Now he will really be mad! I decided to leave the trail, and the wilderness, to the lion and went to Denny’s instead.

Esther Greenfield, Durango, CO, October 2008

CLEM BIGGS, GOVERNMENT TRAPPER

Born in 1899 in Durango, Clem learned early to take care of himself when his mother died in a runaway buggy accident. Of necessity he learned to cook for his father and helped with the farm in Allison. Later he cooked for a dude ranch and was known far and wide for his prize winning cakes and pies entered in the La Plata County Fair. But when he wasn’t baking and icing cakes, he was hunting. He was a skilled hunter and trapper by the age of 11. In 1928 he was hired as a Government Trapper to help control the predatory animals that were decimating livestock. In this way he helped support his family during the Great Depression. In the early spring of 1928 he famously captured and killed three mountain lions in 6 hours.

Jolene Biggs Newbold, May 2009

MOLLY and the LIONS, Vallecito Trail, Durango, CO

Esther Greenfield lives in Durango and volunteers in the Archives at the Center.
At the northeast entrance to Fort Lewis College in Durango, a giant mountain lion slips quietly by students and visitors to the campus. This impressive work of art by sculptor Ken Bunn is entitled “The Intruder.” Shy and elusive, mountain lions have occupied this landscape far longer than those of us descended from European Americans, and lived in mutual respect with native people since the last Ice Age. The obvious question then becomes: Who is intruding upon whom?

Esther Greenfield illustrates in the previous article that as European Americans migrated into broad areas of the Southwest, lion encounters became “an unpleasant fact of life. Lions killed their game food and their livestock.” Lions were seen only as dangerous predators and direct competitors for food (although there is little indication they ever preyed on humans). Bounties were paid for their hides; in some western states this practice continued until the mid-1960’s.

Fast-forward to the last half of the 20th century. With the development of large-scale agriculture and petroleum-fueled transport, other sources of food became available in the Southwest and hunting became a sport instead of a necessity for survival. Human populations continued to migrate westward, to live, work and recreate close to wild and beautiful places.

With ever-increasing human populations and the burgeoning development of the West, wildlife has been pushed and confined to smaller wild spaces. Thanks to wildlife biologists and preservationists, we have come to a keener understanding of the interdependence of wildlife and human life.

As a result, attitudes toward predators are changing. Mountain lions are not so much “varmints” to be eradicated, but as worthy co-inhabitants that depend on this terrain for their livelihood. Unlike us, they depend solely on occupying a niche in the natural order that helps to maintain a balanced ecosystem.

Understandably, we don’t want to live next to large predators. Neither does this predator want to live next to us! Mountain lion attacks on humans are extremely rare. According to the Mountain Lion Foundation, 13 people have been killed by mountain lions in the past 100 years. That compares with 1,300 deaths by rattlesnakes and 4,000 by bees!* However, according to the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW), human encounters with mountain lions have increased in recent years due to human settlement and recreation in lion habitat. CDOW’s booklet, *Living with Wildlife in Lion Country,* is a valuable resource with important safety information in case that rare encounter with a mountain lion does occur. Patt Dorsey, Wildlife Manager with CDOW, says, “In most situations, people and wildlife can coexist. The key is to respect the wildness of wildlife. ‘Wildlife’ is just that - wild. Most dangerous and potentially harmful encounters occur because people fail to leave the animals alone.”

Harley Shaw, a retired biologist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department remarks in his book, *Soul Among Lions: The Cougar as Peaceful Adversary,* “We must, as the human species takes more space on this planet, approach exploitation of any fellow species with due caution and concern for its continued existence…Over-confidence that the earth was designed for the sole benefit of humans is perhaps our greatest weakness.”

As obligate carnivores, animals that require the flesh of other animals to survive, mountain lions need wild space. A male lion requires 100 square miles of territory and a female, 30 square miles. But we are everywhere— with our livestock, our pets and our homes, in and near wild places. What’s a mountain lion todo? Carol Shepard lives in Durango and considers herself an amateur suburban naturalist.
Center News and Happenings

Delaney Library News

The Delaney Southwest Research Library continues to grow in collections, services, researchers and visitors. This past year, tours and programs were presented to several local schools – Dolores Elementary, Cortez Middle, Ignacio Middle, Park Elementary, Bloomfield (NM) High, and Red Rock (AZ) Schools, as well as more extensive tours and research instruction for students in Southwest and American Indian Studies, and History senior seminar classes. It is through these special opportunities that students become aware and appreciate the unique nature and scope of our collections. For the younger students, it also gives them a glimpse of the Center’s resources, in hopes that they will one day attend Fort Lewis College.

Delaney Library has added over 360 titles to book and media collections this past year. While some were purchased with college funds, the majority were received through deeded collections. Over 200 books in the areas of Southwest and Native American anthropology were cataloged from the Jerrold E. Levy Collection, including several volumes of the Annual Reports of the Bureau of Ethnology dating back to 1886. Dr. Levy was a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Arizona. The Levy family deeded his book collection to the College and the Delaney “due to the reputation of the Anthropology Department and the care and appreciation books receive in a small college setting.” This gift arrangement was made possible through retired Anthropology professor, Dr. Phil Duke. Another significant gift came from Lovenia Villareal on behalf of William M. Ferguson who has authored several books on ancient Puebloan and Mesoamerican sites. In this collection are over 100 books that focus on Four Corners regional archaeology, history, and Native peoples that Mr. Ferguson used in his research to write and publish, Anasazi Ruins of the Southwest in Color (1987) and The Anasazi of Mesa Verde and the Four Corners (1996). And an anonymous donor also enhanced Delaney’s contemporary works in Native American history and literature. With the college facing a limited budget this forthcoming year, it is gracious donations such as these that enable the Delaney Library with collection development to provide greater resources for students, faculty, visitors and researchers. To learn more about the specific needs that will continue to develop the Library’s book, periodical, and media collections, please contact Elyane Silversmith, Librarian.

Donations to the Archives

Nina Heald Webber continues to add to her collection of postcards, photographs, spoons, china and other interesting ephemera.

Many groups in Durango have donated records and related materials including The League of Women Voters, the La Plata County Search and Rescue, and the Reading Club of Durango. All continue to add materials to their existing collections.

Pat Chatfield donated six lithographs depicting Mayan sites in Mexico.

Jenny Cooper donated a collection of her husband’s images and negatives that he photographed around the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo Mountains of southwest Colorado. Her husband, Jack Kyle Cooper, was a dentist in Alamosa and taught biology part-time at Adams State College.

Sue Mason of Round Rock, Texas recently donated eleven photo albums and documents collected by John E. and Thelma J. Smith from approximately 1932 until the 1960s during John Smith’s career with the United States Forest Service. Many of these images include the San Juan National Forest, the Uncompahgre National Forest, the Gunnison National Forest, and views from around Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, and South Dakota.

Charles Herner donated a collection of papers, photos and records relating to the work of Myra Ellen Jenkins as State Historian in New Mexico. The Center holds Dr. Jenkin’s papers, as she was a close friend and colleague of the Center’s founder, Dr. Robert Delaney.

Museum News

As you can see from the main theme of this newsletter, all of us have been actively working towards the opening of Mountain Lions! We are anticipating new audiences for this show. Staff has have also been working on developing a new Durango Collection exhibit, Woven to Wear: Navajo and Hopi Textiles, in partnership with Colorado State University’s new Avenir Museum and their curator, Linda Carlson. Our heartfelt thanks to Richard and Mary Lyn Ballantine for their special support of this new exhibit. We also look forward to hosting the Intermountain Weavers juried textile show Fiber Celebrated 2009, in conjunction with their upcoming conference. And, don’t forget that our Old Spanish Trail: Conduit for Change exhibit is still on view at the Anasazi Heritage Center in Dolores, CO. Please see our Calendar of Events for all programming and exhibition details.

We have been pleased to have three Southwest and Native American Studies students interning with us this year, and want to thank Gerald Bia, Athenaayee Garnanez and Michael Tom for their diligent work with our collections and database records. We couldn’t do our work without them! And, additional thanks to Melody Pickup and Nick Costa, our gallery and reference desk assistants for the summer months.

As always, we thank all of our friends and donors for their ongoing support and collections donations. We would like to once again thank the McLain family, Peggy Fearing, Nina Webber, Ken and Nancy Goodhue-McWilliams, Bill and Sue Hensler, and Dusty Kimball. I would also like to acknowledge a special donation of two Acoma Pueblo pots and two spectacular baskets from the family of the late professor, Lewis Soens, and the donation of a Tarahumara pot from Judy Fleish. Adding to our textile collection is a new, beautiful Two Grey Hills Navajo rug from Doug Galinsky and Melanie Rogers. We are looking forward to a donation of Southwestern artwork in the fall from Judith Rueb, who learned about the Center of Southwest Studies during her travels last year.

Thank you to all! We look forward to seeing you at the opening of Mountain Lions!

Jeanne Brako, Curator

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CENTER NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

NEW MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Be a new charter member of the Center of Southwest Studies! For the first time in its history, the Center of Southwest Studies is pleased to offer you the opportunity to officially join us as we embark on an exciting new era of programs, exhibits, and other educational adventures. Upcoming major exhibits will be on a diverse number of topics such as the ranching heritage of the Southwest, the military frontier and old Fort Lewis, the history of southwest foods, and the story of mining, films, and coyotes.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:
$55 Annual  $150 Sustaining  $500 Basic Business
$1500 Business Sponsorship  $2000 or higher The Patron Circle of the Center

PLEASE SEE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE FOR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

CENTER EVENTS

EXHIBIT: Fiber Celebrated 2009
Opening Reception JULY 31st, 7:00-9:00 PM
This exhibit, brought to us by the Intermountain Weavers, presents a variety of mediums used in modern textile arts. Exhibits through Sept. 20.

SPECIAL GALLERY HOURS:
August 1st - 2nd, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Opening weekend of Fiber Celebrated 2009, and last weekend to see 100% Birgitta: The Fine Art of Revolutionary Crochet and Transitions: Navajo Weavings, 1880-1920.

SPECIAL EVENT: VIP/Member preview event
AUGUST 21st, 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Members and special guests exclusive preview of our new Mountain Lion! exhibit. Become a member today!

EXHIBIT: Mountain Lion!
Public opening AUGUST 22nd, 1:00 - 4:00 PM
Our new exhibit Mountain Lion! opens to the public, with kids activities and food for purchase from Zia Taqueria.

Colored pencil, 7 x 7 inches.

EXHIBIT: Woven to Wear: Navajo and Hopi Textiles from the Durango Collection
Opens SEPT 17th at the Avenir Museum at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO.

LECTURE SERIES: Four Corners Speakers Series
SEPT 21st - OCT 1st, CSWS Lyceum
Please check our website for topics, speakers and times.

PANEL DISCUSSION: Ideas and issues related to this year’s Freshman Reader The Beast in the Garden. Moderator: David Baron, author of The Beast in the Garden. Panelists: Marc Bekoff, author of Listening to Cougar; Steve Pavlik, Northwest Indian College faculty member; representatives of the Division of Wildlife (DOW), and the local ranching community.

SEPT 24th, 7:00-9:00 PM, FLC Concert Hall

SPECIAL GALLERY HOURS:
OCT 10th, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
FLC Homecoming and Family Weekend.

EXHIBIT: RARE: Imperiled Plants of Colorado
Opening reception OCT 11th, 1:00-4:00 PM
Developed by the Rocky Mountain Society of Botanical Artists to introduce the public to wildflowers of Colorado that are threatened with extinction. Exhibits through May 2010.

LECTURE: Tracking Mountain Lions and other Animals with Lyle Willmarth from the Colorado Division of Wildlife.
OCT 13th, 7:00-9:00 PM Student Union Ballroom

EXHIBIT: Old Spanish Trail: A Conduit for Change closes at the Anasazi Heritage Center OCT 31st.

Please visit our webpage for updates on event listings: http://swcenter.fortlewis.edu
Please patronize the Center’s friends!

- Animas Museum
- La Plata County Historical Society
- Durango, Colorado

- San Juan County Historical Society
- Silverton, Colorado