Spring 2002

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Utah State University

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What was it like to be part of the 2002 Winter Olympics? Get up at 3:00 a.m. Work the mag & bag. Rake snow... People yell at you... Go hours without a break... And do it all in sub-zero temperatures with a smile on your face! Betty Dance and Todd Hugie of USU Libraries did all this and more.

Betty’s Olympic Diary
My assignment as a volunteer was to work as a Course Crew Leader on the Women’s Course for the speed events at Snowbasin. Our team consisted of 8 men and myself. We were stationed on Firecracker Alley at the bottom of the course. Our job was to assist the Section Crew, preparing and maintaining the course for each race: the Downhill, Combined and Super G. The Downhill is the longest and fastest race with fewer gates and a start position highest on the hill. The Combined consists of two slalom runs, with many gates on a short course followed by a downhill, all run on the same day. It’s a race that requires a lot of endurance. The Super G is also a challenge. The athletes may look at the course once but not run the gates prior to the race, and thus must quickly learn the line they want to take before racing.

February 5. A learning day. As a Course Crew Manager, I led five teams down to their sections. We skied down Ogden Bowl outside the course and entered the course near Porcupine Lift where each team dropped off to their respective sections. When we arrived at our Section, the Section Leader had us go in front of and behind an “A-Net” (big orange nets which act as fences) to make sure snow was level in front and behind... It was steep at the top, then leveled out. We ate lunch in the warm sun and then

Todd’s Olympic Diary
After training sessions from March to December 2001, I picked up my uniform: a yellow coat with Olympic rings on the back, Salt Lake 2002 down the sleeve, a yellow fleece vest, black fleece shirt, black ski pants, two pairs of gloves, small shoulder pack, fleece Elmer Fudd hat, head band, and a gift pack of NuSkin products. The Olympic experience has begun.

February 2. I headed down to Rice Eccles Stadium. The day was spent training on mag and bag security, similar to what they have at airports. Everyone — including athletes and dignitaries — will go through a magnetometer machine which checks for anything metal. 60,000 people are expected for opening ceremonies. Volunteers, with help from police and National Guard, are in charge of the security. We spent five of the six hours learning how to mag and bag. It got monotonous after one hour!

February 4. At Rice Eccles Stadium for opening ceremonies dress rehearsal. We were dispatched at 2:30pm to the ticket gate where we proceeded to stand in the cold for two hours. I was soon to find out we would be doing a lot of standing around in the cold for hours with nothing to do. It reminded me of the Marine Corps: Hurry up and wait — and then work like crazy. At
Reincarnation

"What does reincarnation mean?"
A cowboy asked his friend.
His pal replied, "It happens when
Yer life has reached its end.
They comb yer hair,
and wash yer neck,
And clean yer fingernails,
And lay you in a padded box
Away from life's trials.

"The box and you goes in a hole,
That's been dug into the ground.
Reincarnation starts in when
Yore planted 'neath a mound.
Then clods melt down, just like yer box,
And you who is inside.
And then yore just beginnin' on
Yer transformation ride.

"In a while the grass'll grow
Upon yer rendered mound.
Till some day on yer molded grave
A lonely flower is found.
And say a hoss should wander by
And graze upon this flower
That once was you, but now's become
Yer vegetative bower.

"The posey that the hoss done ate
Up, with his other feed,
Makes bone, and fat, and muscle
Essential to the steed.
But some is left that he can't use
And so it passes through.
And finally lays upon the ground.
This thing, that once was you.

"Then say, by chance, I wanders by
And sees this upon the ground,
And I ponders, and I wonders at,
This object that I found.
I thinks of reincarnation,
Of life, and death, and such.
And come away concludin': Slim,
You ain't changed, all that much."

— Wallace McRae
from the Cowboy Poetry Collection
USU Libraries

Mid-winter, when there is a break
between the roundup in the fall
and calving in the spring, ranch
folks (and others interested in cowboy
poetry and prose) travel to Elko, Nevada, to
participate in the National Cowboy Poetry
Gathering. This year marked the 18th
anniversary of the Gathering and over 8,000
people, from ranchers to educators, buckaroos
to bankers, poets to veterinarians, gathered
in Elko to fill their cups with intoxicating
cowboy poetry and prose.

Amidst all the excitement is a small
library of cowboy poetry housed in the coat
check room of the Elko Convention Center.
In this library are volumes of the classic
cowboy poets which reflect the early years
of cowboy poetry in the United States and
contemporary poets who continue to work
the land and put into verse and prose the
folkways of ranch life.

This moveable feast, Cowboy Poetry
Collection Folk Coll 11, is part of Utah State
University's Fife Folklore Archives in Special
Collections. Since the first Gathering in 1985,
these books have traveled to Elko to supplement the Gathering activities with
the written artifacts of cowboy poetry. Many
of the books in the collection were gathered
and purchased with a grant from the Skaggs
Foundation. This same grant helped fund
the fieldwork that led to the first Gathering
in '85. It seems only fitting that the books
and their caretakers travel to Elko in late
January each year to bring the books together
with their constituency.

If these books could talk it would be
interesting to hear the stories they could tell:
the thrill a cowboy poet feels when he fi-
nally hunts down a long sought after poem
for which he only knows the first three stan-
zas; the pride a grand niece feels as she reads
her uncle's poems about cowboys in Ari-
izona at the turn of the last century; the laugh-
ter and joy a rancher/wordsmith chorltes as
she reads the poetry of one of her colleagues
who has been dead over fifty years.

It has been my great pleasure since
1994 to visit with the users of this collection
at the Gathering and learn about their great
love for the genre. Many sit quietly musing
over the poems of yesteryear, others check
their oral version of a poem with the printed
work right before they go on stage to per-
corn, some run in after a poetry session want-
ing to get a copy of one of the poems that
they just heard. To some the library is like a
church where they come to commune with
the "classics" that are the Bible of cowboy
poetry. Whatever the purpose of their call in
the library, all seem delighted to find a place
to read the genius of classic and contemporary
cowboy poets and prose writers who
represent, through their words, the experi-
ence of ranching people. For me, a city girl,
it is a delight to be a part of something that
shows first hand what a feast words can be.

This feasting continues year long, as
does the cultivation of this important collec-
tion. Each year new titles are added to the
Cowboy Poetry Collection through book pur-
chases. One of the greatest opportunities for
growth this collection experiences is through
the generous donations of folks at the National
Poetry Gathering and other cowboy poetry
lovers who donate volumes of their own verse
or copies of cowboy poetry from their library
to the Archives. If you are a cowboy poet or a
collector of cowboy poetry, please consider
donating a copy of your work or volumes of
cowboy poetry to the Fife Folklore Archives;
I guarantee your donation will be a feast for
many.

— Randy Williams
Fife Folklore Archives Curator
(435) 797-3493
University Libraries will present selections of book arts materials in two exhibitions scheduled to open this Spring. Eighteen publications from the Libraries Beat Poetry Collection will be on view at the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art from March 19th through May 15th in the Marie Eccles Caine Gallery. *A Close Circle of Friends: Artists, Poets, and Printers of the Beat Generation* includes works by friends of Beat era painter Jay DeFeo. The exhibition will feature fine press books and artists’ publications by Brother Antoninus, Wallace Berman, Bruce Conner, Jess (Collins), Robert Duncan, Diane DiPrima, George Herms, Graham Mackintosh, and Michael McClure among others. The exhibition is being organized to compliment the Museum’s retrospective installation of DeFeo’s work.

During National Library Week, the gallery space in the Milton R. Merrill Library will feature additional selections from the Beat Poetry Collection. Broadsides, fine press books, magazines, posters, and a variety of artists’ publications will be exhibited. An overview of the history of Beat generation literature will be given by Roberta Stearman, assistant professor of English, on April 17th at 7 p.m. in the gallery. A coffee house and student readings from the Beat poetry collections will follow. Students and the general public are invited to attend.

**Linda Wolcott appointed vice provost**

Linda L. Wolcott has been named vice provost for libraries and instructional support at Utah State University. Wolcott’s appointment has been approved by Utah State’s Board of Trustees and follows a two-year search. For the past year, she has provided excellent leadership while serving as interim vice provost.

Wolcott joined the faculty at Utah State in 1991 as an associate professor in the department of Instructional Technology. She served as interim department head in 1999-2000 and then assumed the post of interim assistant dean for Information and Learning Resources prior to serving as interim vice provost.

Wolcott graduated with honors from the University of Georgia, Athens, where she earned a doctor of education in instructional technology. Other degrees earned include an educational specialist in instructional technology from Utah State University and a master of library science and a bachelor of science in education from the University of Maine.

The Libraries staff and University Administration are very pleased that Linda has accepted the position of vice provost and look forward to working with her during this exciting time for Utah State University and the Libraries.
worked more on the A-Net.

February 6. On the lift at 6:30am, but had to stand at the top awhile until it was light enough to see. We skied down to our section where we tamped down snow in front of the A-Net. When we got back up to the top we stayed and watched the Men’s Downhill training runs. It was exciting to see them starting down the 70 degree pitch from the start house and then blow right past us on the course.

February 8. It was so windy on top I could hardly see to ski all the way down. A couple of times I just lost my balance and fell over. We arrived at our section and shoveled snow off the course the rest of the day. We finished around 2:30.

February 9. Spent all morning shoveling starting at 6:00am. We got to watch the women’s downhill training run from the stands, then back up for more shoveling. By 4:30 we were pretty worn out. We were off the hill around 5:00 – a long day.

February 10. The Men’s Downhill. We groomed our course and then went around the corner from our section to watch the men’s race. We could see the final four or five gates. Those guys were really flying! We worked more on our course until 4:30. Another long day.

February 12. Our work day starts at 5:00am again. The competitors for the Women’s Combined had training runs for their downhill after the Men’s scheduled race. When they finished, we groomed the hill with more shoveling and raking. We were released at 2:00 and told that we had the next day off. Yahoo!

February 14. The day for the Combined. We cleaned the snow off the course by shoveling and raking. For the slalom, we had another three teams on the hill. There were two people stationed at each gate. The slalom racers make much shorter turns and so we had to rush out to the gate after each racer to smooth out any ruts or repair any holes. After the race, we had to clear off all the snow to prepare for the downhill. We worked for about an hour and a half raking and smoothing. At 2:45 we started the downhill part of the Combined with 35 racers. After the finish, we again raked and shoveled for another half hour. We were finally off the hill at 4:30, pretty tired. We were applauded by the race officials for our work in getting the course ready in such a short time. Apparently this had never been done before – to run two slaloms and then a downhill. Usually it is the reverse order.

February 17. Today is the Women’s Super G race. Hiked up to our section arriving at 6:00am. After course inspection we raked off surplus snow and got the course in good shape. We hiked down to the bottom of our section and climbed up on a TV tower where we had a pretty good view of the finish. After the race everyone on the whole hill had to pull down the B-Net, which took a few hours.

It was a great experience. There were long hard days with blisters on my feet and sore arm muscles from hoisting around those large rakes. But we had great guys on our team.-- hard workers. Would I do this again? You bet! In fact, I am planning to work the Paralympics in just a few more weeks. Volunteering is well worth the effort with the neat friends I have made and the great feeling of accomplishment at the end of each day. Truly a “Once in a Lifetime Experience.”

– Betty Dance
Reference Librarian

4:30pm about 8000 people arrived. We’re on our feet in 14 degree temperatures until 7:30pm before we can have a break; then back from 8:00 until 10:30pm when everyone left the stadium. As we arrived in Logan at 12:30am the temperature was minus 17 degrees. Took hours to thaw.

February 6. Second dress rehearsal with 30,000 spectators. It’s a rehearsal for security as well and it was a nightmare-- there weren’t enough stations to process all the volunteers. We’re ushering. Even in the cold we watched the show in awe – it’s an incredible production. At 10:00pm the masses exited. We directed people one way for a quick, safe exit. So many people insist on going the opposite way. Many swore at us and a man and his wife started charging their way through, knocking us to the side, angry and yelling at us. It amazed me that with the Olympic spirit radiating through the stadium anyone could behave this way. We were told in training this might happen and to remain polite and work with the situation. Got home about 1:30am. The temperature in Logan was -15 degrees. I dream about crowds.

February 8. Opening Ceremonies for the 2002 Winter Olympics. The security processing has improved. We’re only in the mag and bag line for 15 minutes. I’m assigned to stand near the entrance and welcome people as they arrive. We’re at our posts by 2:30pm. The crowds don’t arrive until 4:00pm. They certainly have us arrive in plenty of time before much happens... When spectators began arriving I yell in a loud voice, “Welcome to the Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Olympics Opening Ceremonies.” I shout from 4:00pm until 7:20pm. There were people from all over the world, very friendly and excited to be here and many people thanked me. As I welcomed the crowds, SWAT teams were setting up atop the high building just to the North; probably Secret Service for the U.S. President attending the Opening Ceremonies. The weather is cold but exciting and adrenaline keep me warm for the magnificent two hour program... After non-stop action the finale featured the Mormon Tabernacle Choir singing composer John William’s “Call of the Champions” while fireworks exploded in sync with the music. As if on cue, it started to snow lightly. Beautiful! A Frenchman told me he had been to seven opening ceremonies and this one was by far the best...As we drove home, the huge murals on the buildings, the flame at Rice Eccles, and the gi-
ant Olympic rings on the mountain above Salt Lake brightly illuminated the night. From the freeway it looked like a perfect postcard wonderland. It was an event I will never forget.

10 February. Snowbasin. My shift started at 6:00am. As I went through the mag and bag my credentials were lost. By the time they were located I was late and missed the best assignment at Snow Basin — ushering in the bleachers. Instead, I get the least desirable duty — "support" which is actually relieving people from the stressful and uncomfortable assignments that no one could stand to do for very long... Today is the Men’s Downhill. In my first assignment I sit on an elevated chair with a megaphone, directing people coming off the buses to security or mag & bag. It’s zero degrees. By 9:00am my hands and feet are numb... My next duty is to act as a security guard in the media area, a huge heated tent with computers and equipment. I stand outside checking for credentials, stopping people from sneaking in and listening to various complaints. A man rudely orders me out of his way, then argues about the imposition of showing his credentials. I told him sorry, but he would have to. He finally produced them. It was a hard day. I stood for three hours on hard cement with a large number of fairly unpleasant people. Then I was sent about 20 yards to another access point and no one came through at all. Guarding access points is a tedious job — alternately aggravating or boring. When I finally got a “lunch” break, I’d been on my feet for 9 hours straight. I was exhausted. By the time I got back in Logan it was 5:30pm — a 12 1/2 hour day. I was beginning to wonder if volunteering was such a good idea.

11 February. On the road by 4:00am to work at the Mountain Green Park n’ Ride. Temperatures are around zero or below. We’re assigned the Sponsor and Media mag and bag. Oh goofy, I get to work with the media again! The mag and bag assignments start early but we get off early. We’re done by noon but I’m tired and cold. I will have to dig deep inside for motivation because tomorrow I’ll be assigned to “hell”: South Weber Park n’ Ride.

12 February. It’s 5:30am. The Park n’ Ride is at the mouth of Weber Canyon. The wind always blows here and is unbelievably cold. I keep thinking about the legend of Sam McGee. With the wind howling we work until 11:00am and then we’re sent home. The nice thing about this shift is that it’s too short a time to freeze to death.

13 February. I’m off at 4:00am to Snowbasin. We’re assigned mag and bag and securing access points so skiers don’t sneak into the event without paying. During breaks in the Games we help control lines of people waiting for restrooms and refreshments. There’s over an hour wait to get food so people are hungry and grouchy. Concessions weren’t well planned and in coming days we see administration make big improvements... There have been day skiers sneaking into the venue — two hundred, yesterday. We’re to find where they’re getting through and block them. Snowbasin promised they could watch the Olympics if they bought ski tickets and many thought their ski pass was a ticket. It wasn’t. We had a lot of skiers angry with us for not letting them in, plus we stood all day without a break or meal. I arrived home at 7:15pm.

14 February. A long but warmer day at Snowbasin. Today is the women’s Downhill Slalom Combined. I’m working Media Access. This is the area where the media interview the athletes after they’ve skied. Our job is to keep the general public from annoying the media. I finally get to see some of the events – the women’s two slalom runs and the Women’s Downhill.

A man asks me if I’ve seen the satellites. It’s a clear day so I’m looking at the sky thinking the media must have satellites covering the Olympics. I said no, I haven’t seen any satellites. He said I was supposed to know where everything was. Then he tells me he wants the restrooms. Back in his youth they were referred to as satellites. The other day the Australians wanted to know where the “loos” were. I’ve increased my vocabulary by two words during the Olympics and both refer to restrooms... Driving home I’m thinking: five long days and I’m exhausted. Coming into Logan I stop at a stop light and fall asleep at the wheel. I quickly wake up before anything happens but I realize how tired I am.

16 February. Arrive at South Weber at 5:30am. It’s cold with wind gusts of up to 50 mph. We work the mag and bags, processing around 15,000 people in under three hours. Today is the Men’s Giant Slalom... We’re nearing the end of the Olympics. This is the last game venue for me and many of the other volunteers. We’re really efficient at mag and bag. We’re told we could get a job at any airport in the country.

24 February. Closing ceremonies tonight... Start at 2:30pm and at 4:00pm spectators arrive. At 7:15pm I take a break and get to stay in the bleachers helping people exit when the show ends. It allows me to see the Closing Ceremonies. Watching the flame pass to Italy for the 2006 Olympics I realized the Games were moving on. As they put out the flame and melted the ice, it was a sad moment. The music and the fireworks were spectacular. The show ended. I directed people to the exits. I had one more “inspiring” confrontation with the Media — a guy saying the show was so wonderful and then “we” spoil it by directing him out a different gate than he came in at. He didn’t say it kindly, either. He was cussing. But I was surprised how little it fazed me. Arrived home at 1:00am and went to sleep dreaming about the Olympics. It has been a good experience. I worked nearly 150 hours with few breaks and stood for hours outside in freezing temperatures. It was almost as hard as my time in the Marine Corps. But the Olympic experience is something I’ll always remember. I’m sad to see the Games go (but not the Media).

—Todd Hugie
Senior Programming, Information Systems
Uintah Basin Campus Library Partnered with USU Libraries System

Utah State University first offered classes in the Uintah Basin in 1967. These early classes were held evenings in local secondary schools. Except for one or two locals, professors were flown down from Logan several nights each week on a rickety plane of WWII vintage. It was a great challenge.

When I came on board as “librarian” at the USU Uintah Basin Education Center (UBEC) in 1992, a new classroom and administration building had just been built. It included a 700 sq. ft. library room with beautiful, locally crafted Honduras mahogany shelves and a collection of some 1500 books, built from donations. There was no library catalog and finding materials was difficult. The library also lacked a circulation desk, but by sandwiching a donation oak desk between two stack sections a circulation window was created with a small area behind it to serve as a librarian’s office, work room, and audio visual and special collection area. Things were crowded.

With the advent of Distance Education Library Services (DELS), students were finally able to request materials from the Logan campus. Soon after its inception, DELS began distributing the USU Library catalog on CD-ROM. It wasn’t the best system as the CD-ROMS went out-of-date so quickly, but it was proverbially light years from where we had begun, and the Uintah Basin campus quickly became the biggest user of DELS. USU moved its catalog onto the Internet in 1995 and, through this medium, searching of USU library catalogs by Uintah Basin students became first-person; they could now articulate a search the same as any student standing on the main floor of Merrill Library. What an amazing event!

Over time the UBEC became the UBBC, and within the last year, the USU-UB, Utah State University–Uintah Basin. This campus has grown to 15 resident faculty and 1500 students generating over 800 FTEs. It owns four buildings on two sites in Roosevelt and Vernal, respectively. In the last ten years the library stacks have grown almost six fold with most of the growth again coming not through purchase, but through the thoughtful donation of materials by scholars, students, and groups within the local community, and with donations from USU Libraries and other institutions on the Logan campus.

Even with all this growth in holdings the library still did not have a catalog of any kind. In the fall of 2000, however, the USU-UB Library and USU Libraries in Logan began a joint project to catalog the collection and add it to the USU Libraries WEB Catalog. This was done by making photocopies of the title pages held in Uintah Basin library and sending them to the cataloging department at Merrill Library. Here records were created and spine labels generated. Then, in a week-long effort, a five member team from Merrill, lead by Geniel Pond, came to the Basin and joined in on the actual labeling and reorganization of the library. Thanks to that great service, not only Uintah students, but anyone tapping into USU Libraries Online Catalog, can also search USU-UB stacks.

In the Spring of 2001 a new 3500 square foot library was completed on the Uintah Basin Campus. It includes a circulation area, workroom, special collections room and display cabinets, a group study room, a large study hall, and librarian’s office. It also is home to the Testing Center. There are presently 12 computer stations set up for student use and an adjacent computer classroom. Through the ongoing spirit of partnership, USU - Uintah Basin students now have full access to material held by USU Libraries, and in turn, the Basin campus is able to do its part by giving outreach to students in Logan and elsewhere in the Distance Education family. Our thanks to USU Libraries for their contribution to research excellence and document delivery services.

— Bert Jenson
Uintah-Basin Campus Library

Photo: Courtesy Bert Jenson
Off-campus students access our web-based research databases at home, their local education center, or at a public library; incarcerated students cannot use these sources directly. The main challenge in providing services to prisons is that Internet access is not permitted and prison libraries are not equipped to support university-level research.

We address this discrepancy by providing the same document delivery services available to all off-campus students: book loans, photocopies of journal and encyclopedia articles and full-text materials from online databases. Incarcerated students fill out forms to request information for class research assignments. Library staff research the topic and e-mail a bibliography of library materials to the student (through a teaching assistant), and then specific materials are requested and mailed to the site.

Since 1990, more than 1,100 “mediated searches” have been provided to incarcerated students. Donated and discarded magazines and journals are collected and distributed to these correctional facilities for student use. This year USU Libraries purchased several reference books to enhance the on-site research collections which are small and often out-of-date.

Why does USU support prisoner education? Nationally, more than 60% of all inmates return to prison; this rate of “recidivism” is less than 5% for student-inmates participating in the Utah State program. We want these students, upon graduation and release, to find meaningful employment so they do not return to prison. The University Libraries are committed to ensuring that all students receive a positive educational experience and have the best chance at success after graduation.

— Rob Morrison
USU Libraries, Distance Education

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**yes! I would like to join friends of utah state university libraries!**

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If yes, please enclose matching-gift form.
(Or inquire about alternate USU employee payment plan)

Friends of Utah State University Libraries
3000 Old Main Hill
Logan UT 84322-3000

thank you for your support!
LIBRARY WEEK CALENDAR

**Monday, April 15**
- Librarian’s Lunch
  12:00-2:00
  Center & West Colony Rooms (TSC)
- Forum: Who Controls the Internet?
  3:00-5:00
  SciTech 120

**Tuesday, April 16**
- Library Week Lecture
  Prof. Ted Pease
  USU Communication Dept.
  2:00-4:00
  SciTech 120

**Wednesday, April 17**
- Student Employee Day
  (All Day)
- Library Staff Reception
  Tippets Art Gallery
  3:00 - 5:00
- Avant-Garde Treasures of the Library
  Including a Beat Poetry Exhibition & Presentation
  Merrill Library
  7:00 - 9:00

**Thursday, April 18**
- Amnesty Day - All Day
  Have an Overdue Book?
  Afraid to Return it?
  Return it Today
  Your Fine Will Be Forgiven!
- Panel:
  Don't Write a Wrong
  10:00 - 12:00 SciTech 120