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LEONARD J. ARRINGTON DIARY - March 22, 1973 - FRIDAY

Let me describe in as brief a manner as possible the founding of the Western Historical Quarterly at Utah State University. After the American West Magazine had been founded about 1965 there was some discontent among the more scholarly members of the Western History Association with the format of the American West which was consciously modeled after American Heritage. Not that American West as such was regarded as a poor publication but simply that the association ought also to have a more scholarly publication. The American West was aimed at the buffs in the Western History Association and other people interested in Western history. It was trying to please the average reader rather than the scholar. This was proper but the scholars continued to believe that there ought to be another publication aimed primarily at the scholars.

A committee was appointed under the direction of John Alexander Carroll, then at the University of Arizona to study the possibility of establishing another journal. The thought was that perhaps one of the other Western regional journals could be "captured" by the association and converted into something suitable for general WHA circulation. Contacts were made with Pacific North-West Quarterly at Seattle, which preferred to remain a Northwest journal; with Arizona and the West, which wanted very much to be converted into an official WHA journal, but was prevented from doing so by the governor, legislature, and other prominent people in Arizona who wanted it to remain oriented to Arizona; and Pacific Historical Review published in UCLA, which after a long and rather disagreeable fight among its board of editors and sponsors, supported in a slight vote to remain oriented toward the Pacific.

At the time I was vice president of WHA, I was approached by Klaus Hansen, then a professor of history at Utah State University, with the idea that USU make application to establish a new journal to be called Western Historical Quarterly to be sponsored jointly by USU and WHA. We had conversations with Dr. Milton Merrill, then academic vice president of USU, and wrote some memos about this. Dr. Merrill put us off and put us off and finally it became clear that we would not get the money or support, so we gave up this idea. Klaus Hansen accepted an appointment to Queen's College in Canada. It appears that the previous year the English Department had applied to the administration through J. Golden Taylor, professor of English at USU, to have USU sponsor a journal of western literature. The administration had turned it down. Colorado State University had moved to support such a journal and Dr. Taylor had moved to CSU where he remains as editor of Western Literature where he remains to this day.

In the meantime, USU acquired a new president, Glenn Taggart and a new academic vice president, Gaurth Hansen. Klaus Hansen being gone, George Ellsworth then approached me about placing an application with Gaurth Hansen for USU to sponsor the Western Historical Quarterly. I was quite preoccupied with other projects, but agreed to join George in working to found such a magazine. I knew from my associations on the counsel of Western History Association that the association had not found a university which was willing to invest sufficiently to establish a journal of the type that we desired. I also knew that because of my position as incoming president of WHA that the membership would support me as an editor. George Ellsworth and I also recognized that he had not published enough for the members of the association to be acquainted with him and to support him in that position.

Having had no discouragement from Gaurth Hansen as the result of our oral interview, George and I worked out a plan for WHQ which would list myself as editor and George as associate editor with USU as a sponsor. The plan provided that USU would pay for the overhead editorial work and the association would pay for the printing and distribution cost in return for which we would send a copy to each member of the association. There were about 2,300 members of the association at the time. George wrote up these items in a memorandum to Dr. Hansen. We submitted it to him, and he approved it tentatively. We then informed the business vice president, Dee Broadbent and discussed the matter with the dean of social sciences, Judd Harmon and the dean of business, Robert Collier. We got clearance to make a formal application to the Western History Association. By this time I was president of the association. I received counsel approval to appoint Clark Spence incoming president and a committee of other including Robert Utley and John Bannon to approve arrangements for the establishment of a journal. George Ellsworth wrote the first draft of a complete proposal at which I made considerable input. This was then filed by Gaurth Hansen and Dee Broadbent, and Ellsworth and myself representing USU submitted it formally to WHA. Clark Spence looked it over, sent copies to his committee, they approved, and the journal was thus founded. We then made plans to start with the first number beginning January 1970. The arrangements were okayed by the general membership in October 1968 and by the counsel in April 1969.

With me as editor and George as associate editor, we then began the process of acquiring staff materials for publication. We approved the paper, the style of type, a program of limited advertising by book publishers, and so on. We asked Keith Montigue of the firm of Bailey and Montigue of Salt Lake City to help

work out a design. We wanted a design which would be appropriate and suitable for a scholarly publication. The basic design we modeled after was the William and Mary Journal, although our type style was not as antiquarian as theirs. We planned a publication of 100-120 pages in each issue. The publication would include an average of four articles running twelve to twenty printed pages each--about half the publication would consist of book reviews and notes. We set a price of \$7 for subscriptions outside the association and charged the association \$4.50 for each four issues that went to a member.

We employed Mary Turner Adams as office manager and copy editor and Cheryl Smith White as a part-time assistant copy editor. She also worked half time with the information center of the university. We also appointed a graduate assistant to work on the Quarterly. George was half time with the Quarterly and I was half time the first year and one-third time for the next two years. We also had Fred Yonce, a professor of history at USU appointed to serve one-fourth time to supervise book reviews, notes, and so on.

In all of this planning George Ellsworth took a most active role. Although I was editor, I felt sure that George did not have full confidence in my decisions. It is a characteristic of George that he always knows how to do things better than others and this is true--he does. He is a brilliant, imaginative person and whether it is doing carpentry work or printing or giving lectures or whatever the task, he can always do it better than anyone else, and because of this he gets bogged down in doing things that should not have high priority. Unlike Lincoln who could black his boots better than anybody he ever employed, he still left the blacking to his "boy"; George has been unable to accomplish a great deal in the way of publication because he gets bogged down with things that he can do better than his colleagues.

At any rate, George played a leading role in making all the

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basic decisions even to the extent of insisting upon certain things he believed strongly in doing. This did not bother me because I perceived that after a limited number of years, I would be able to turn the Quarterly over to George without any difficulty. By that time members of the association would know him and would have confidence in his work and judgment. So I allowed him to be the directing genius. I did not overrule him in any way and catered to his own recommendations and desires. This proved to be fortunate since when I received overtures from BYU about the creation of the Redd Center, I was able to work out with the association for George to be listed as co-editor. Then when I received the call from the Church to be Church Historian necessitating my resignation in the fall of 1972 from USU, I was able to obtain permission for George to be listed as full editor. In that change of editorship, the only thing which stung as far as I was concerned was George's refusal to have me listed as a member of the Board of Editors of the Quarterly. Various persons recommended it to George but he adamantly refused. I do not know to this day the reasons for such a refusal but I will confess that it hurt me some although I have never mentioned it to him.

USU has continued to support the journal in fine ways. Total costs of the journal run about \$50,000, of which USU puts up about \$30,000 and the association puts up about \$20,000. The association in essence pays for the printing and description of the journal. Advertising and other subscriptions pay for some of the editorial overhead and the university absorbs the salary and time of George Ellsworth and Charles Petersen now associate editor one-third time, Mary Turner Adams, full time as manager and copy editor and Evelyn

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Lawrence who replaced Cheryl White who is now assistant copy editor. There is also a graduate assistant obtaining the same stipend as a regular graduate assistant in history half time for a year for \$2,500. George Ellsworth was disappointed with the work of Fred Yonce and after two years on the USU staff Charles Petersen took his place.

Approximately fifty manuscripts are received each year, of which the association is able to publish only about sixteen. About half of the manuscripts are seminar papers by graduate students and not of the quality that ought to be published. We also receive occasional manuscripts from buffs, most of which are not suitable for publication. From the very beginning, the editors have insisted upon interpretive-type articles rather than narrative accounts and we have gotten articles that will have an interest to many people. We may run an occasional photo or two, but because of expense we have never had more than one or two photos per issue, nor do we emphasize artwork in the form of line drawings or otherwise.

One of my ideas at the outset was to ask the great ones in the field of western history to prepare autobiographical articles detailing their experiences in the field of western history. We started this out in the lead article with Ray Allen Billings, which had a wonderful effect on teachers and graduate students who read our journal and we have carried autobiographical articles by these leading men in the field in most of the issues since. George was never as enthusiastic for this as I and has not given it the same emphasis that I did during the two years that I was editor. George is always cautious that the articles we commission may not be good enough for publication, then we are stuck with publishing them. I have not had the same caution and only one of the articles which has been published which were accepted during my years as editor (and all of those published thus far were accepted during those years), was

not stimulating and brilliant. George still has one or two pieces which I accepted which he hesitates to publish. I do not agree with this policy and thing he should publish them.

We regard our area of interest as emphasizing first the western United State, which we interpret to mean the area west of the Mississippi plus Alaska and second the westward move, which includes also movement toward the west from the east coast. We have always aimed toward the more scholarly members of the Western History Association and think of that in terms of the 700 professors who belong to WHA and the graduate students who are assigned to read it. We publish approximately 3,600 copies of each issue which will include about 2,500 to go to members of the association, 300-400 to go to private subscribers, and a few hundred to the store for future demand. The Quarterly has established a firm reputation as one of America's most important historical journals. In 1971 the American Historical Association formed a committee consisting of editors of leading historical journals to study the possibility of cooperative activity among the journals and choose me as editor of WHQ to be one of the members of this committee. Other members were the editor of the American Historical Review, Journal of American History, William and Mary Quarterly, and Southern Historical Review. To give us this recognition demonstrates the status which we attained and have maintained. This is not the kind of journal which will build up rapidly. Our subscriptions have increased a little each year, and we expect this to grow, but not more than by a small percentage each year. The advertising has grown slightly. We began as I recall with two pages of advertising plus the back cover, and we now have six pages of advertising plus the back cover in most issues.