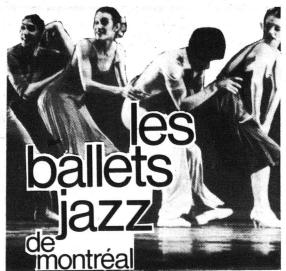
sub theatre

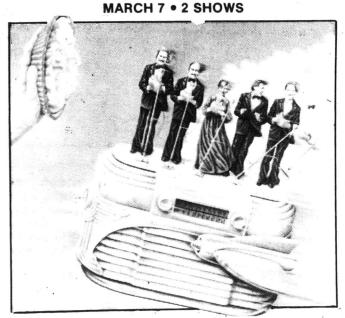
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Archives: window on the past

by Mary Ruth Olsen

Have you ever wanted to read the very first edition of the Gateway, or thought of testing your wits against an English exam given in 1935?

These are just two of the many informative records documented at the University Archives in South Rutherford

Library.

Established in 1968, the Archives are the U of A's memory bank cataloging the official records of its governing bodies and the semi-official records of groups such as the Students' Union, faculties and academic associations.

As well as being a valuable reference source for current administrative decisions, the Archives have a wealth of historical information on campus activities and events dating back to their founding in 1970.

Researchers have access to a vast collection of diaries, interviews and publications. Many former faculty members have deposited their private papers in the Archives, many of which include details on their work overseas and information about the province and the university

One of the more publicized works is the World War II diary of Dr. Benjamin Wheeler, compiling his experiences in Formosa as a prisoner of war.

Student activities and events throughout the life of the U of A are also recorded in the collections. These include the issues of the Gateway, since its first edition in 1910, yearbooks and memorabilia such as freshman caps, old trophy cups, and the shovel with which the first piece of sod was turned for the present site of SUB.

The Archives also rescued the ornately decorated St. Seorge's banner from a pile of rubbish when SUB was housecleaning in preparation for building the Bearpit.

The banner was given to the first SU president in 1910 by Lord Gray, and had been presented to each successive president in the earlier years at the university.

The Archives hold number of audio and visual records, including a photo collection of 150,000 prints everything from freshman initiation scenes to a picture of the first graduating class at the U of A.

There are also taped interviews with faculty members, microfilms, motion pictures and architectural blueprints and drawings depicting the university's history.

In addition to this wealth of information, the personal services of archivist James R. Parker and his staff are offered to students trying to find records for research

or just information.





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