



Maleta Forsberg and Larry Griffis, Director of the Sandzén Gallery

SV Foundation gift aids Sandzén photo storage

The Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery recently received a generous grant from the Smoky Valley Community Foundation to purchase 65 acid-free expansion folders. The folders will be used to store the Gallery's collection of historic photographs. Subject matter for the photographs range from formal portraits of Birger Sandzén and his family to snapshots of Lindsborg, the Rocky Mountains and Sweden. They provide a wealth of visual information related to Sandzén, the Gallery and local community.

The photographic collection was initially sorted, organized, documented and cataloged by former Gallery Co-Director Carl Wm. Peterson following the death of Margaret Sandzén Greenough in 1993. Carl worked many volunteer hours to complete this task and his efforts made the photographs accessible for staff members and researchers. Initially, Carl placed the photographs in manila folders, but the grant from the Smoky Valley Community Foundation makes it possible for the photographs to be stored in an archival environ-

ment. Once the photos are transferred the archival folders, they will be labeled with appropriate subject headings.

In 2008, Bethany College Experience Based Education (EBE) students David Hardman and Bojan Mitrevski began digitizing the photographs so the images could be stored on a computer. They completed nearly two-thirds of the collection, with the remaining images being digitized as staff time permits. Having the images available on computer ensures less handling of the original photographs and eventually will make them accessible online.

The Gallery is very appreciative of the Grant opportunities provided by the Smoky Valley Community Foundation. In addition to the Grant for folders, donations of office supplies have been received from Judy and Leon Burch, and Elaina McMillan. Maleta Forsberg donated a Swedish flag and easel for the Gallery to use. These materials were requested through the Foundation's Make a Wish Come True 2008-2009 catalog.