

4-2012

Vol. 7, no. 3, Spring 2012

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

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Recommended Citation

Southern Illinois University Carbondale, "Vol. 7, no. 3, Spring 2012" (2012). *Cornerstone*. Paper 26.
http://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/morrisnews_cornerstone/26

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CORNERSTONE

THE NEWSLETTER OF MORRIS LIBRARY • SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE



IN THIS ISSUE

- ♦ Hal W. Trovillion Collection Spotlights Sixtieth Anniversary of *Bloody Williamson*

Page 1

- ♦ Library Is Seeking

Page 3 & 6

- ♦ Reunion of Library Workers Planned for Homecoming

Page 7

- ♦ Vintage Image Corner

Page 7

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Hal W. Trovillion Collection Spotlights Sixtieth Anniversary of *Bloody Williamson*

After sixty years in print Paul M. Angle's *Bloody Williamson: A Chapter in American Lawlessness* is the longest-lived and best-selling book on southern Illinois history. Angle drew upon a myriad of local sources in researching the blood-soaked events of the 1920s and earlier that came to be synonymous with Williamson County, Illinois. But the collaboration, and eventual friendship, that proved the most

productive was with Hal W. Trovillion, the newspaper publisher and private press operator in Herrin, Illinois, who was active in those roles from 1904 until 1960. At sixty-eight boxes the Hal W. Trovillion Collection is one of the larger collections in Morris Library's Special Collections Research Center.



Herrin newspaperman and publisher Hal W. Trovillion hosted Paul Angle at his home, *Thatchcot*, at 515 South 13th St. in Herrin.

Ironically, Angle does not mention Trovillion in the book's foreword, though he acknowledges the assistance of others in the book's preparation. Trovillion first appears on page 196, three-fourths through the book, when in 1925 he brought a minister to Herrin to counter the perception that Herrin was a lawless, Godless town. But Angle does describe in his foreword the literacy and graciousness of an unnamed source who could only be Hal Trovillion, "On another evening, in Herrin, the talk ran to fine printing, to an obscure



Courtesy SCRC

pamphlet of Sir Thomas Browne's that my host had not been able to find, to

London antiquarian booksellers, to the maps in William Camden's *Britannia*, which lay open before us. I do not mean to imply that such interests are the rule in Williamson County. Neither are they the rule in Chicago or New York or Boston. I do contend that in friendliness and hospitality the people of this region are unsurpassed." The end

continued on page 2 . . .

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For a complete listing of the library staff, go to the **STAFF DIRECTORY** on our home page: <http://tinyurl.com/4gybkbl>

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continued from page 1

of the 1920s did not bring an end to violence in southern Illinois. The brutal murders of two notorious southern Illinois gangsters—the infamous Shelton brothers—in the late 1940s highlighted the fact that deadly retribution was still an ever-present danger at the time of the book’s planning and writing and that anxiety contributed to Trovillion remaining uncredited for his participation.

Paul McClelland Angle, born Christmas Day 1900 in Mansfield, Ohio, earned his BA from Miami (Ohio) University in 1922. Two years later he received a master’s degree from the University of Illinois. In 1932 Angle was appointed librarian of the Illinois Historical Library and held that position—as well as state historian—until 1945. He next became director and secretary of the Chicago Historical Society. He was involved in Chicago civic matters in the late 1960s, and he was appointed by Mayor Daley to study what

city records should be preserved. He died May 11, 1975. His obituary in the *Chicago Tribune* acknowledged that Angle, who had been a copious book reviewer for the *Tribune* in the 1950s and 60s, “probably knows more about Illinois and its history than anyone else.” He authored or edited more than thirty books in his lifetime, almost all of which dealt with Abraham Lincoln or an aspect of Illinois history. He was so prolific that *Bloody Williamson*, a critical and financial success, went unmentioned in many of the posthumous overviews of his literary career. The *New York Times* noted his partnership with Carl Sandburg in 1932 for *Mary Lincoln, Wife*

and *Widow* and praised his *Here I Have Lived: A History of Lincoln’s Springfield, 1821–1865*, adding, “These all received wide acclaim but nothing like the public response to *The Lincoln Reader*, a one-volume biography put together from the writings of 60 authors and published by the Rutgers University Press in 1947.

Charles Poore, reviewing it in the *New York Times*, said of Mr. Angle’s introduc-

tion to each chapter: “The selections from the works of the different authors are introduced in turn so unobtrusively that the transitions from one point of view to another and from one style to another seldom jar.”

The *Chicago Tribune* observed, “It was characteristic that many of Mr. Angle’s books should have university press imprints and yet reach wide audiences. He knew how to be both scholarly and popular. A man of both dignity and charm,

he was practical without compromising high standards. Mr. Angle served Illinois and Chicago long and well, and we are grateful.”

In recollecting Angle’s literary life, friend and colleague Irving Dilliard, a Collinsville native and a long-time editor with the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, pointed out that “An abiding concern with violence as a means in America led Paul to dig deeply into the causes of the strife and bloodshed in the coalfields of southern Illinois, including the Herrin massacre in June, 1922. The result was *Bloody Williamson* (1952) which the publisher,



Courtesy ALPLM

Taken near the time of his departure from Springfield in 1945, Angle was about to start his research for *Bloody Williamson*.

The Library Is Seeking . . .

With research library budgets strained by the increasing costs of electronic journals and databases, more traditional reference/replacement volumes are sometimes left behind. The Library Is Seeking . . . looks for private funding for those items that would not otherwise be purchased by the library. If you are interested in underwriting one of these items, please contact Kristine McGuire at kmcguire@lib.siu.edu or 618-453-1633.



\$425 for *Antarctica: an Encyclopedia* by JOHN STEWART. Second edition in two volumes. This well-regarded encyclopedia continues to be a remarkable resource, emphasizing history and geography. It now features 30,000-plus entries (twice the number of the previous edition) and, at 1,758 pages, offers 500-plus more pages. It continues to offer easy-to-use A-Z entries on everything Antarctic: historical events, geographic features, expeditions, people, ships, stations, scientific topics, animals, plants, and climate—just to name a few topics. Extensive cross-referencing assists readers. All linguistic variations of place-names are included and cross-referenced.



\$585 for *Sittig's Handbook of Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals and Carcinogens*. Sixth edition in two volumes, edited by R. POHANISH. *Sittig's Handbook* is a globally recognized reference source, providing full listings of the 2,000 most common hazardous chemicals. For more than a quarter century, *Sittig's Handbook of Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals and Carcinogens* has proven to be among the most reliable, easy-to-use and essential reference works on hazardous materials. This new edition contains extensively expanded information in all 28 fields for each chemical and has been updated to keep pace with world events.

\$195 for *The Encyclopedia of Migration and Minorities in Europe: from the 17th Century to the Present*, edited by KLAUS J. BADE et al. Very few nations can say that their current residents represent the original population for their region. Migration has always been—and always will be—important because it keeps in flux resource distribution and population density, which are dependent on a myriad of ever-changing factors. This encyclopedia boldly attempts to wrangle this enormous and difficult subject into one volume so that readers can understand population movement trends in Europe.



\$170 for *Robert Adams: The Place We Live, a Retrospective Selection of Photographs, 1964–2009*. Photographer Robert Adams (b. 1937) is widely regarded as one of the most significant and influential chroniclers of the American West, renowned for his austere views of a landscape profoundly changed by human development. This stunning three-volume set—printed with an unprecedented fidelity to the photographer's master prints—accompanies a major traveling exhibition and is the first publication to comprehensively survey Adams' 45-year career.



\$200 for *The Continuum Companion to Leibniz*, edited by BRANDON LOOK. G.W. F. Leibniz (1646–1716) was one of the great polymaths of the modern world. As well as being among the greatest Rationalist metaphysicians of the post-medieval age, he built the first mechanical calculator capable of multiplication and division, and developed the binary, base-two system. As a physicist, he made advances in mechanics, coining the term “kinetic energy.” As a mathematician, Leibniz invented calculus independently of Newton, and it is his notation, not Newton's, which is used to this day.

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\$160 for *Italian Paintings Before 1400* by DILLIAN GORDON. This catalogue is much more than what its name implies, and it will set the standard for future museum catalogues. Brief introductory comments about panel painting are followed by entries for 35 artists or schools represented in the collections of the National Gallery in London. Far from being simple enumerations of facts, many of the entries contain unexpected essays on the original context from which the museum's paintings come. Gordon pays careful attention to condition, with helpful details of restoration photographs, to iconography, and to other issues such as provenance that are usual to catalogues of this nature. Attributions and comparisons are measured and astute, and iconographic explanations convincing, making this volume one that will be a reference source for many years to come.

Alfred A. Knopf, without exaggeration, described as 'a shocking and hair-raising story of unparalleled violence and disorder.' Though it was a sharp break from his earlier writing, Paul regarded it as his best book."

Hal W. Trovillion (1879–1966) was born and raised in Norris City, Illinois, and he came to Herrin in 1904 after attending Indiana University. Trovillion purchased the *Herrin News* from the owner and sole editor, C. E. Ingraham. In the early 1900s a large seam of soft coal had been discovered that turned the village of Herrin's Prairie into the town of Herrin along with a meteoric rise in prosperity and population. Under the imprint of the Trovillion Private Press (1908–1960) or his newspaper, the *Herrin News* or its successor, the *Herrin Daily Journal*, Trovillion made significant contributions to the region's history. In *Faces and Places Remembered* (1956), issued by his own press, Trovillion reflected, "Everywhere I have traveled, my first interest in the place has been to acquaint myself with its historical background. When fresh out of college, I came to one of the fastest growing little coal mining cities in southern Illinois where I bought a weekly newspaper. Here I cast my lot and here I still dwell."

His reprinting of a classic local history was perhaps Trovillion's most successful

publishing effort. Milo Erwin's *A History of Williamson County, Illinois*, originally published in 1876, was reissued as *The Bloody Vendetta* in 1914. And with this

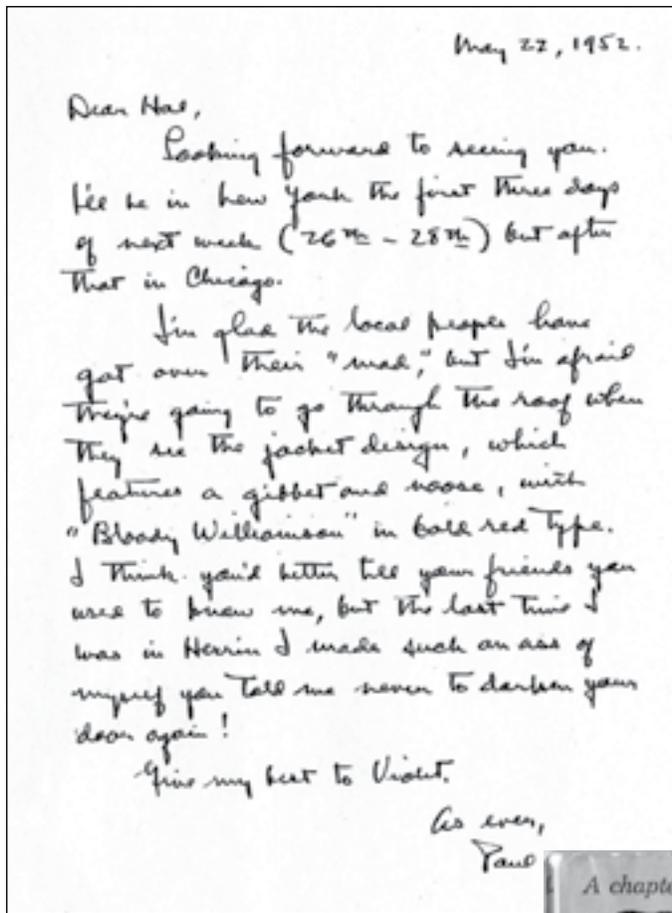
son. Appropriately, the foreword begins: "My interest in the subject of this book started with the Herrin Massacre. . . ."

Trovillion's correspondence, held by SCRC, documents Angle's frequent and repeated requests in the late 1940s for maps, books, newspapers, pamphlets, etc. Angle amassed a gargantuan amount of printed information in preparation of his manuscript. Trovillion was not only a source of information, but a trusted editor and advisor for content, as indicated in Angle's letter of June 5, 1951, "I would be extremely grateful if you would look over the story as it stands, and I mean look it over very critically. When you have finished, I would like to drive down to Herrin, go over the manuscript with you, and talk with anyone whom you think I should see. . . . The manuscript that I will send you, if you want to see it, needs a great deal of revision, but I believe it can be made into a good book."

Trovillion's position to remain relatively anonymous within the work has been

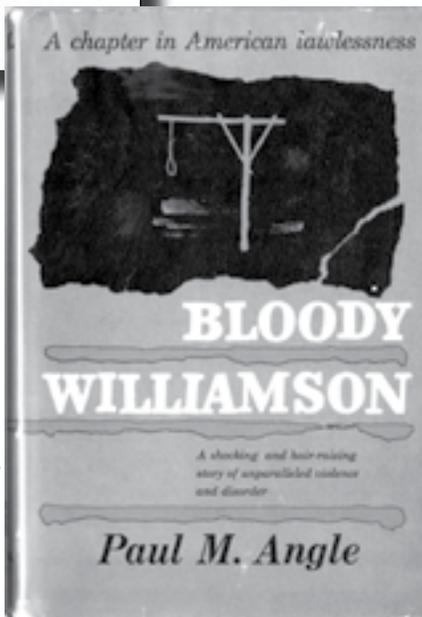
noted, but the book's impending appearance precipitated this response in March 1952, underscoring his position in the community, "I thank you for bringing to my attention the matter relative to my name appearing in the

introduction to the forthcoming book. I am inclined to view the matter somewhat as does our mutual friend OP [Oldam Paisley of Marion]. In view of recent experience, I find that there is seated



This letter of May 22, 1952, warns Trovillion of the cover design that *Bloody Williamson* was to feature for the next forty years.

title, the book sold well enough to enjoy subsequent printings—a third printing appeared in 1927. And Angle was to revisit the family feuds of the later nineteenth century as a basis for Williamson County's propensity for bloodshed. But it was the Herrin Massacre—the infamous event of June 1922 that claimed the lives of some twenty non-union miners and shocked the nation—that had piqued Paul Angle's interest and led to what would become *Bloody William-*

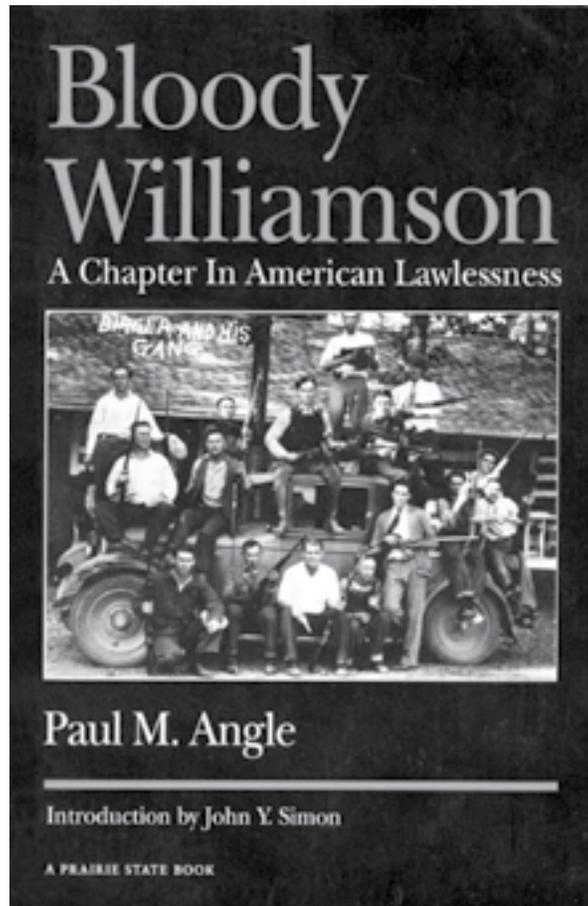


resentment on 'stirring the ashes' of the ill-fated past of this community. Recently Thomas Morrow of the *Tribune* came among us looking for traditional stories, especially stories of the early days in this community. I took him in tow and was surprised at the many doors that were slammed in his face. The secretary of the chamber of commerce all but ordered him out of his office when the bad days were referred to."

When *Bloody Williamson: A Chapter in American Lawlessness* was released on June 12, 1952, reviews were positive. Writing for the *New York Times*, Theodore Link, a St. Louis journalist, asserted, "Splendid is the best word I can think of to describe this book on Williamson County, Ill., and its long and turbulent history of violence. The author, a well-known Lincoln historian and director of the Chicago Historical Society, has not only drafted a factual and fair account of the county's bloody history but a readable and gripping one as well."

The appearance of the book may not have been noted in print locally as in 1950 the *Herrin Daily Journal* (the successor to Trovillion's *Herrin News*) had been absorbed by the *Southern Illinoian* which had also consumed the *Carbondale Free Press* and the *Murphysboro Daily Independent*, and the *Southern Illinoian* had brought in some new personnel, many unfamiliar with local lore. James Ballowe, a Herrin native and essayist who has written about the Herrin Massacre, recalls, "I remember coming back to Herrin for summer break in 1952. I knew of *Bloody Williamson*, but I hadn't yet read it. When I talked to people about it, it seemed they hadn't read it either, and they didn't even want to talk about it. Later after I read it and wanted to discuss it, I was met with adamant silence."

Initially, book sales were a disappointment. In an August 5, 1953, letter to Trovillion, Angle wrote, "I don't have exact figures on *Bloody Williamson*, but I think that Knopf printed approximately 7,500 copies, of which about half have been sold to date. To be frank the book isn't doing at all well. In fact, I have not yet recouped my out-of-pocket expenses, and I probably never will."



Since 1992 *Bloody Williamson* has been available as a paperback, featuring a new introduction by John Y. Simon and vintage photographs.

The scarcity of bookstores in southern Illinois has always posed a challenge to regional authors and publishers. Opportunely, a local magazine distributor, Austin Periodicals of Johnston City, placed regional titles with selected retailers, and this proved essential for the continued sales of *Bloody Williamson* from the 1960s through the 1980s. In the early 1990s Knopf sold the rights for a paperback edition to the University of

Illinois Press, which was enhanced by a new foreword from noted historian John Y. Simon and the addition of period photographs by this writer. Why *Bloody Williamson* had never contained any of the dramatic photographs of the era is a mystery that is not even explained by the Angle-Trovillion correspondence.

Since the book appeared in paperback in 1992, more than 18,000 copies have been sold, and it still sells briskly at about 500 copies per year. Ironically, in an August 22, 1955, letter Angle cautioned, "I am inclined to doubt that a paper edition of *Bloody Williamson* will be published. If it should materialize, I will give you plenty of warning." According to Lisa Bayer, Marketing Director and Regional Trade Editor at the University of Illinois Press, "It is astonishing that [*Bloody Williamson*] continues to sell at its current rate after this many years. A publisher's dream."

Just after publication in 1952 legendary bookman Ralph G. Newman, founder of Chicago's Abraham Lincoln Book Shop asked Angle why he would broach such a book topic. Angle's response was, "... I became convinced that the story of *Bloody Williamson* had broad significance. The conflicts that had exploded there—the old 'American' vs. the recent immigrant, Protestant vs. Catholic, union vs. non-union, Negro vs. white—are

evident in much of the United States, and I concluded that it would be worth while to investigate thoroughly one region where they had led to violence repeatedly. Nobody else wanted to write the story in terms of serious history, so I decided to do it." And generations of southern Illinoisans are forever grateful for his vision, insight, and propriety. **GP**

The Library Is Seeking ... continued from page 3

\$340 for *Sports in America from Colonial Times to the Twenty-first Century: an Encyclopedia*, edited by STEVEN A. RIESS. Far more than a simple compendium of statistics, records, and histories of all sports, this three-volume set provides well-written essays on the history of American sports and on people and events that impacted American culture. Its crowning achievement—what sets it apart from other sports encyclopedias—is the way in which contributors cover sports history from both the spectator and participatory sides, and are able to merge this coverage into the economic and social culture of the US from Colonial times to the present.



\$1,010 for *International Encyclopedia of Political Science* edited by BERTRAND BADIE, DIRK BERG-SCHLOSSER, and LEONARDO MORLINO. This eight-volume work is a remarkable, if not monumental, achievement. Its three European editors, all professors of political science, have combined the scholarship of academic contributors worldwide to produce an excellent core reference title that transcends the ethnocentricity that typically characterizes encyclopedic treatments of the subject.



\$125 for *The Oxford Handbook of Wittgenstein* (Oxford Handbooks). Since the middle of the 20th century Ludwig Wittgenstein has been an exceptionally influential and controversial figure wherever philosophy is studied. This is the most comprehensive volume ever published on Wittgenstein: thirty-five leading scholars explore the whole range of his thought, offering critical engagement and original interpretation, and tracing his philosophical development. Topics discussed include logic and mathematics, language and mind, epistemology, philosophical methodology, religion, ethics, and aesthetics.

\$215 for *A Companion to American Literary Studies* (Blackwell Companions to Literature and Culture) by CAROLINE F. LEVANDER. *A Companion to American Literary Studies* addresses the most provocative questions, subjects, and issues animating the disciplinary field of “American literature.” It provides state-of-the-art essays on a full range of topics central to the field, examining the strengths and limitations of current scholarly and pedagogical practices and pointing to future developments and possibilities. The essays explore critical and institutional genealogies of the field, increasingly diverse conceptions of American literary study, and the unprecedented material changes to the field occasioned by emerging digital, new media, and visual technologies. Collectively, the essays provide readers with the knowledge and conceptual tools for understanding American literary studies as it is practiced today, and chart new directions for the future of the field. With its emphasis on histories, practices, and futures, this is an essential resource for anyone interested in American literary studies.



\$315 for *Syria: the Assads' Twilight*, a fifty-two minute DVD by VINCENT DE COINTET & CHRISTOPHE AYAD. This film is a history of the Assad regime, from its origins to its teetering, possibly final days. The Assads have always been survivors. In 1982, Hafez ruthlessly crushed an uprising by the Muslim Brotherhood (the film shows us rare photos of property damage during the battles—the only record of an otherwise invisible massacre by security forces). In contrast, soon after coming to power in 2000, Bashar ushered in the Damascus Spring—a flowering of dissent and openness. But when it seemed to threaten his rule, he banned all opposition and tightened his family's grip on the reins of wealth and power.

The Adopt-a-Book Program encourages donors to purchase needed titles within which a personalized bookplate is placed.

For more information, please call 618-453-1633.

\$665 for *Victorian Science and Literature*, four volumes, edited by G. DAWSON. This unique set collects rare primary sources on Victorian science, literature and culture. Science had a fundamental effect on the Victorian world. Previously, ‘science’ was used to refer to knowledge of a quite general kind, but during the nineteenth century science became more formalized as it grew to encompass new and emerging disciplines. The growing influence of science on Victorian culture can be seen in almost every aspect of life; from industry, urbanization and the spread of imperialism, to religion and the impact of Darwinism. Theories on the natural world, evolution, race and spiritualism entered the public consciousness, contributing to a more scientifically literate society. In turn literature helped to shape the new sciences, with scientific discourses relying heavily on literary precedents.



\$315 for *Goodbye Mubarak!*, a seventy-two minute DVD. On January 25, 2011, the world was captivated as thousands of protesters flooded Tahrir Square in Cairo, demanding an end to the regime of President Hosni Mubarak. But the ground for the protests had been laid in the weeks and months preceding the mass outpouring of opposition. *Goodbye Mubarak!* takes us to Egypt during the fall of 2010, in the run-up to legislative elections. What we discover is a revolution-in-waiting already simmering under the surface of Egyptian society.

Reunion of Library Workers Planned for Homecoming

If you were faculty, staff, or a student worker in the past for Morris, or even Wheeler Library, your participation is welcome at a reunion on Friday, October 12th and Saturday, October 13th, 2012. On Friday there will be tours of the Library and a reception with hors d'oeuvres from 4:00–7:00 PM in the Hall of Presidents and Chancellors. At 10:00 AM on Saturday a tent along Saluki Row will open for Library workers to reconnect. Souvenir t-shirts are planned as part of the event, and tickets to the Homecoming game with Northern Iowa will be available. Too, a block of rooms have been reserved with a local motel for out-of-town visitors.

The Friends of Morris Library are sponsoring this first “all workers” reunion in the Library’s history, and others may be planned for the future. One of the event’s organizers, Kimberly Omelson, said, “For alumni who haven’t been back to campus in a while, this is a great chance to see the new Morris Library and catch up with former co-workers and supervisors. We’re really hoping alumni take advantage of this opportunity to reconnect.”

Additional details about this event are available on Morris Library’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/203621006403847/> and from Kristine McGuire at kmcguire@lib.siu.edu or 618-453-1633.



The expansive circulation desk in 1958 (below) replaced and dwarfed Wheeler’s circulation desk of the 1930s (above).



Vintage Image Corner



Originally from Jasper County, Illinois, Burl Ives was an American actor, writer, and folk music singer. In 1952 he cooperated with the House Un-American Activities Committee and was quoted as stating, “You know who my friends are; you will have to ask them if they are Communists.” That year he also appeared at Southern’s Music Festival along with 2,000 other area musicians.



Join the party during Homecoming 2012 at the first (hopefully annual) reunion of workers (faculty, staff, or student) from Morris or Wheeler Libraries. More details on page 7 or by contacting Kristine McGuire at kmcguire@lib.siu.edu or 618-453-1633.



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