



**AMIA** the association of moving image archivists

## **2003 Dan & Kathy Leab Award Winner:**

### **Marlena Wyman, Audio-Visual Archivists, Provincial Archives of Alberta**

From Dr. Sandra Thompson, Director & Provincial Archivist, Provincial Archives of Alberta: "Marlena Wyman has been the Audio Visual archivist at the Provincial Archives of Alberta for the last 19 years. As an archivist, Marlena acquires, appraises, preserves, arranges and describes audio visual archives at the Provincial Archives of Alberta, making the archival holdings available to the researching public. The audio visual program within the Private Records Section of the Provincial Archives includes responsibility for photographs, sound recordings, films and video archives, which document the history of Alberta's government and its people. Because Marlena's work is media-based, her area of responsibility also includes the audio visual records in the Government Records Section.

Marlena always approaches her work and challenges associated with audio visual archives with an upbeat professionalism based both in the experience and the knowledge that she has gained in her field of expertise. She is always willing and happy to share her experience and knowledge with staff and new comers to the archival field. She has participated and led several workshops both at the Provincial Archives and with the Archives Society of Alberta, sharing her expertise in appraisal and preservation of audio visual media. She has also mentored several students who have shown an interest in audio visual archival issues.

Although Marlena is responsible for a variety of audio visual media, she has displayed a particular dedication to the moving image collections at the archives. They are one of the most fragile and require special care and handling, and often seem to be the underdog in receiving the necessary attention they require. Marlena has been the champion of the moving image collections at the Provincial Archives, promoting the preservation issues and also promoting the collections as well. Her steadfast dedication to the moving image collection is featured annually at the Provincial Archives of Alberta during the Annual Film Night. These Film Nights have been very successful in showcasing the archival holdings and attract near full and sometimes full houses to their showings. During the preparation of these Film Nights, Marlena takes the time to review and select films that will showcase films in the institutions holdings based on a different theme each year.

One of Marlena's most significant contributions to the Provincial Archives and the moving image collections has been as a pioneer in developing a video dubbing room for the preservation and duplication of the video collection. This video dubbing room has been realized in the new state-of-the-art building the Provincial Archives of Alberta now calls its home. This video dubbing room can handle 2", 1" and 3/4" VHS and Beta formats of video. She achieved this triumph through a variety of her own initiatives, her persistence in bringing the moving image collection preservation needs to management's attention, through partnerships with CBC Television, and CFRN Television as well as outright purchase of equipment when budgets allowed. Through her own initiatives and intimate knowledge of the collection she has secured several grants for a variety of preservation projects, for example the Canadian Council of Archives preservation of holdings grant for video dubbing, and the AV Preservation Trust Fund preservation award for the preservation of the Fil Fraser film collections held at the Provincial Archives.

Another of Marlena's most significant contributions to moving image preservation is her work with the CBC archives project. She was part of the team that set up and managed the preservation and cataloguing of the extensive holdings of the CBC held at the Provincial Archives.

Although Marlena is the overall Audio Visual archivist at the Provincial Archives of Alberta with a very significant portfolio, it is obvious that moving image archival holdings are of particular interest to her. The care and attention Marlena has given this fragile media has helped develop a significant archival collection at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Moreover, Marlena has championed moving image acquisition and preservation which have helped her achieve the recognition and credibility in the archival and film production communities she has today."