

Small Gauge and Amateur Film Committee
Annual Meeting Agenda
Thursday, November 5 2009 1:00-2:00pm

Meeting co-chairs: Andy Uhrich and Albert Steg

Notes submitted by Molly Wheeler

1. Summary of Home Movie Day 2009 -Comments from various locations

Announced 2010 date of Saturday October 16. Dwight Swanson pointed out the Special Events listing on the Home Movie Day website, urging people to send along notices of appropriate events. HMD discussion would continue at the casual meeting after the committee meeting.

2. Reports of related events, including Snowden Bester on the Northeast Historic Film's 2009 Symposium.

Snowden reported on NHF's summer symposium, entitled 'Ways of Watching.' There were a record number of participants and proposals, including both from other countries. The program is up on the NHF website to support the presentations reaching a wide audience. The theme for next year is "Filmic Representations of Indigenous Peoples." A call has been made for proposals. Snowden urged people to attend next year and reminded people that carpooling is easy in the Northeast.

3. Transforming from an Interest Group to a Committee -Arrange a second meeting electronically

It is a committee as of now. We'll have to have a conference call at some point in the future. Figure out listserv or group communication tool (someone mentioned using Basecamp). An email will go out to confirm people's membership in the group.

4. Initiatives/Projects

Possibilities include:

- Small Gauge Survival Guide: directory of resources for parts/equipment/repairs**
Film Forever has something like this. The idea came up for a resource to help people evaluate local facilities and services for transfers. Albert Steg mentioned the new transfer resource on the Home Movie Day website. Also suggested was the idea of regional archives becoming familiar with local transfer outfits (their equipment, workflow, etc.) and it was pointed out that many transfer houses don't share this information. Undecided about updating the Film Forever website or making a new one. Skip Elsheimer said that after HMD, many people wanted information on repairs, equipment and transfers. Everyone agreed that we need to pool names of people that know this information. Including PDFs of manuals, lists of accessories. We could scan and put them up online.
- Update the online bibliography**
- Oral Histories: Families related to amateur films on LOC Registry**

Continue oral history project. Make the existing ones more available.
-Suggestions from attending members

5. Need panels for next year's AMIA

Tried to do that this year but it didn't work out. Question asked: what are the needs of the AMIA community that the committee could help serve? Skip said that HMD is a powerful tool for public outreach and education. It engages all of the AMIA issues. Thought a panel on HMD would be good. Toni Treadway suggested it be a plenary session at AMIA with four speakers. It would be a cohesive way to promote HMD. Andy Lampert suggested we look beyond home movies and elaborate upon other small gauge films. Leo Entickap suggested the issue of small gauge in hi-def environments. Brian Meachem reminded people that next year will be a joint conference, so we should communicate to this audience. Look at their membership list to see who could be on panels.

6. Questions/Concerns/Comments from members

Update online bios (?) of committee. Snowden will contribute to the bibliography.

List of previous panels are online.

The oral history project was brought up again- talk to people, figure out release form issues. Ross Lipman worked on an interview with Sid Laverents.

Dwight spread the word on a project on Italian home movies.

7. Election of one co-Chair and accolades for Albert

Brian Graney pointed out the committee election process. We'll address that in the group email. Term will still be one year. Tony suggested we renew the mission statements. Everyone should look at it online.

SMALL GAUGE and AMATEUR FILM INTEREST GROUP
ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Friday, November 14, 2008 4:30 – 5:30 pm
Telfair Room, Marriott Riverfront, Savannah, GA

Meeting co-chairs: Albert Steg & Diana Little
Minutes: Diana Little

Albert welcome and initial call for interest in co-chairing.

Recent Events

1. SGAFIG pages on AMIA Site have been updated
-Each interest group has a space
-Is intended to give a sense of our history
-Andrea McCarty says an independent researcher found Alan Katelle project in a search for oral histories – cool!
-Please contribute information to our pages

2. Northeast Historic Film Symposium '08
Snowden Becker speaks:
-8th annual, theme was city and country, many small gaugers in attendance.
-Stimulating discussions as always from around various communities
-Encourage group to consider attendance
-Next year July 24-26, 2009 “ways of watching” fliers available

3. Home Movie Day '08
Katie Trainor speaks:
-Also many small gaugers participated
-70 venues, 10 countries
-Date change to October pretty successful, keep for next year 10/17/2009
-Working on compiling reports for everyone to read
-Thanks to volunteers
-Pat Doyen says great PSA (props to Robbins Barstow) and excellent web presence

4. SG/AFIG - hosted panels at AMIA '08
~Lost in The Archives? Unearthing Small Gauge Nontheatrical Films (presented Thursday)
Jennifer Peterson speaks on her panel:
-Researching educational films among academics
-Goal is to bridge archivists and scholars

~Access that Pays for Itself: Ethics, Legalities and Logistics of Licensing Amateur Films (presented Saturday)

- Leah Churner chaired with Kelli Hix, Lynne Kirste and Nancy Watrous as panelists
- Panel had not happened at the time of our meeting

Active Topics and Initiatives

1. New AMIA Committee guidelines & policies

- Should attempt to keep roster more current
- Make participation in the group more meaningful
- Create ways to include those who don't come to the conference
- Conduct a semi-annual electronic meeting
- Dec 30th deadline to express concerns and ask questions about new structure

2. Small gauge splicing guide / resources

- In preparation for Home Movie Day. Most don't have time for pre-HMD workshops, so looking for an alternative. Much time taken up at the beginning of HMD.
- Maybe Bob Brodsky could do more video aids for this purpose
- Illustrated text version as well?
- Snowden mentions HMD host list.
- Reminder: HMD is not an AMIA project, two separate lists for small gauge and HMD.
- New small-gauger (sorry, didn't catch his name) mentions some labs don't take tape splices
- Julie Lofthouse says: at HMD we teach the archival way
- This guide would be for HMD? Not for prep for transfer or lab work
- Snowden: must consider the audience when composing documents
- Nicole: reminds us of the Film Forever guide (filmforever.org)
- Pam Wintle: has film ever been damaged at HMD?
- Chad Hunter: perhaps one incident somewhere out west. We should instill confidence and reassurance that we'll behave responsibly.
- Snowden: CHM considers having volunteers and hosts sign a pledge. Also considering trademarking HMD to confirm this careful handling pledge, and discourage misuse of the idea of HMD. Confirms that we do have people sign a waiver when they bring in a film – indemnifies HMD folks.
- Chad: we connect untrained HMD hosts with folks w/experience.
- Liz Coffey and Katie will take action with this project.
- Albert clarifies how we communicate as a group of AMIA and as a greater community.
- Julie mentions Basecamp (software) as a tool for coordinating projects

3. Transfer House Listings on the Home Movie Day Site

- At this point they post anyone who is interested – no vetting process. Not ideal to do this way, but also probably not ideal to rate vendors or give a seal of approval.
- How can we best inform visitors about whom they can trust?
- If vendors want to be listed in this capacity, there should be some process of understanding whether they're practices are in keeping with our ideals. Also those companies should be asked to link back to homemovieday.com
- Sponsorship? Test case?

-In Austin a transfer house had sent press release and gave misinformation to local media – boo.

Julie: similar story of vendor telling folks that digital lasts forever.

Simona Monizza: Amsterdam event is done in concert with a X-fer house (w/ good message)

Kelli: tried to find X-fer houses beforehand, she went to visit facilities. If we support them, they might be motivated to keep on message.

Albert: would like to continue this project and will seek advice from group

4. Sub-committee on Lost Artists & Lost Works?

-Toni Treadway idea from a past year, Charles Tupperman has been writing on cine-club members and where are they now? Project to track them down. Caroline Frick had sent out a call for Texas films.

Carolyn Faber says: partner with independent media group for the search

-Also please contribute questions to Toni's *Small Gauge Q&A* in the AMIA newsletter.

Last year: Andrew Lampert had mentioned a panel about Kodak's support of 16mm film

-Idea was to contact film schools and let them know the future is in their hands.

-Liz will work with Andrew to enact this project.

-This point of film schools came from Kodak so they should be accountable to this response.

-Could also search outside the film school world to film co-ops (mentioned Millenium Film Workshop in NYC and Pittsburgh Filmmakers – what else?).

-Simona speaks on Belgian Museum of Traditions put out call in local media for home movies. Got response from local filmmakers to use the footage in new projects (with permission from original owners). Very successful project in Belgium.

-Snowden: possible panel next year (not volunteering to chair) uses of home movies in new films

Dwight Swanson: Alan Katelle recently spoke with Dwight about aging Kodak technicians. Follow up project to expand oral histories: also Bob and Toni as candidates for interview.

Albert: possible database of projector repair, parts, avoid technical obsolescence

Andy Uhrich will spearhead this project?

Wrapping Up

1. Ideas for new panel topics / initiatives

-Miami fellow (sorry, didn't catch his name) asks about archival cores for 8mm.

-Snowden thinks film should not be on cores, because undamaged reels should be fine.

-Patti says other collections use 8mm cores.

-What are the reels made of? No archival vendor is willing to produce them.

-This debate has come up before, and there is disagreement within the group.

-Outreach to Kodak to encourage them to update website about archival practice. Kodak might be first thing individuals think of. Maybe Toni can tell us a contact at Kodak for small gauge interests?

-Nicole asks about video at HMD and where do we stand? What about small gauge and amateur video in general? We have no policy of addressing the video question. Spoken about in brief at last year's HMD panel.

-We are perhaps the ones to deal with this question, since we communicate with untrained individuals more than other archivists.

-How do we discourage people from "archiving" on you tube?

-Andy U.: some film clubs have moved to videomaking

-Molly Wheeler: guy at Yale who collects Indian home movies and is planning a center in India for collecting such documents.

2. General questions / concerns

-Marsha and Devon Orgeron (new *The Moving Image* editors) call for writings about small gauge. Please contribute.

-Julie: have you noticed degradation on Kodak grey 8mm reels? White stuff. Snowden can give it to someone with a microscope. IPI maybe? Folks agree that they've seen this.

3. Election of one new SGAFIG Co-Chair

Andy Uhrich volunteers to be the new SGAFIG co-chair and is elected. Thank you Andy!

AMIA Small Gauge/Amateur Film Interest Group
Annual Meeting minutes 2007

- Diana Little welcome
- Roster sent around for sign-up
- Website
 - see Margie Compton about bibliography
 - update past conference sessions
 - we'll have more input and control with new AMIANet.org model.
- Chad Hunter said a few words about the Alan Katelle Oral history, and it was suggested that it be linked to new small gauge site within AMIANet.org. Co-chairs should speak further with NHF to see if they will post the materials on their site or not (they have permission from AMIA – ask Chad for more info). If yes, it can be linked to the SGAFIG site, if no, we need to look for another host site.
- Katie Trainor gave brief report on HMD (Home Movie Day) -- over 60 venues, great press. Next year's date changed to October. Brian Meacham has been updating HMD website (homemovieday.com). Gave CHM (Center for Home Movies) update – mentioned HMD DVD, available through website. Contract signed with LoC for next three years will provide storage and support for org. while it is seeking to establish its own brick and mortar facility, establish policies, etc.
- Northeast Historic Film symposium report by Sean Savage – 7th year, academic to varying degrees and fun. Theme was “Images of Play and Leisure” – perfect for home movies. Not as many proposals as hoped for last year – if you have work you want to present please contact NHF. Albert Steg's presentation was great – tracing techniques from how to make good home movies from Kodak home movies book. No theme for next year determined yet. Organizing committee is being determined. More info to come.
- Lab updates – Julia Nicoll from Colorlab commends Bob Brodsky and Toni Treadway's work on film from last night. Colorlab put in an HD transfer system for small gauge for super8, 28mm, 9.5, 8 capability. Call or e-mail Jake Kreeger at Colorlab. Questions – Julia wondering if people thought it acceptable to offer customers the scanning of fragments for films that come in too damaged to deal with. There was definite support of that. Italian film along those lines presented at screening night was great. Issue of conveying to public limitations of what can be done and costs of film to film preservation.
- Diana reads report from Rhonda Vigeant of Pro8mm – they've opened E-bay store called “My Super8 Closet” to liquidate 30 years of supplies: camera, lenses, filters, c-mounts, etc. Currently selling last of projector bulbs – about 50 various bulbs listed.
- Diana reads Toni's report from Brodsky & Treadway
 - Reminds us to stock up on white acetate leader in 16mm, 8 and Super8.
 - Recommends splitting an order with someone else, as there are minimums on some items. Here are the Kodak catalogue numbers for leader:

~double-perf 16mm [8001901]

~single-perf 16mm [8210445]

~Super8mm [8827362]

~8mm [1635002] – thanks to Buck Bito for this last one

-Please subscribe to and advertise in 2 magazines: Jurgen Lossau's "Smallformat" (smallformat.schiele-schoen.de/home/zeitschrift.asp) and Chris Cotrill's "Super 8 Today" (super8today.com). Echoes of support from the group.

-Any suggestions for Small Gauge Q&A, please e-mail Toni:

treadway@littlefilm.org.

-Mentioned question of whether blow-ups of 8mm and Super8 should best be done to 16mm or 35, but insufficient time for an in-depth discussion.

-Suggestion of a subcommittee to research lost artists and lost works.

- Where can perforated splice tape be bought - Someone mentions that tape can be purchased thru Numade directly. Also Christys.net.
- Much discussion of problem of adhesive on perforated mylar tape. Someone suggests a letter to 3M to be signed by a host of AMIA-types who care. Maybe it will have impact. We need someone to spearhead this effort. Who will do it?
- Albert – ebay panel. 230 reels split up and sold separately, case study. Snowden Becker spoke about quantitative data on home movie sales on ebay, average sale prices and lots vs. singles. Worthwhile, well attended. Much discussion on this issue, had to cut short due to time.
- Guy Edmond's report on HMD panel. Well attended. Looking for input about future of HMD. Would like to continue discussion from this panel on the HMD list.
- Pam Wintle's 16mm documentary outtakes session – feedback was very useful session. Maybe a follow up session in two years – preparing a fuller session.
- New ideas for conference sessions? Chad suggests focusing on the "amateur" part of SGAFIG for next year, perhaps a panel or screening. Leah Churner and Andrew Lampert have idea for a panel focused on ethical issues, etc. of licensing home movie footage
- Patty Zimmermann's book "Reel Families: A Social History of Amateur Film" was mentioned; Patty and Pam W. presenting at Virginia Film Festival on mining home movies and also "Think of me First as a Person". Kinship theme. Panel is November 4th.
- Caroline Forcier-Holloway – offer to act as clearing house for home movies in need of home in Canada – thanks to Caroline!
- Andrew – reversal stock questions. Idea of composing a letter to film depts. across the country – to alert people that film will die if we let it and give them Kodak contacts and try to encourage production on film. Possible issue of small gauge advocacy.
- Call for volunteers to serve as co-chair for 2007-2009.

Association of Moving Image Archivists
Small Gauge Amateur Film Interest Group Minutes
Thursday, October 12, 2006
Conference, Anchorage, Alaska

Meeting Chair: Chad Hunter,
Minutes: Lauren Sorensen

Old business

Home Movie Day 2006 / Center for Home Movies update (Dwight Swanson)

HMD's 4th year. 50 cities. Austria. 5 in Japan. Spotlight on New Orleans Home Movie Day, collections' needs, organized from outside, local filmmakers and organizations that helped. There is an interest in continuing the concept of spotlighting cities that haven't had an individual organizer.

HMD compilation DVD is close to finished; transfers taken from the first 2 years of HMD. 13 minute version in Quicktime with clips is available from Dwight; 20 copies available here.

The Center for Home Movies is finalizing an arrangement with The Library of Congress for storage space and office space in Culpepper, Virginia. Potential corporate sponsors are being sought out for the proposed Home Movie Mobile which would entail a group of archivists traveling around the country; a "mobile Home Movie Day."

AMIA Hurricane Relief (Lynne Kirste)

We are pursuing creating a section on disaster recovery and planning on the AMIA web site; not too much response from a call for information. This web site was in response to questions that came up when Hurricane Katrina happened; e.g., what can we do as archivists, after Katrina to help to direct people to advice on dealing with damaged moving image materials. No labs in the immediate area to do rewashing. Similar information on Film Forever (filmforever.org). Trying to print a guide; question of how people in a disaster situation with home movies will be able to access it. Perhaps trying to get the interest group to work on a web site. Trying to get the information out to organizations and institutions that may get calls about what to do with materials. Outreach to these organizations and institutions.

Derived a brochure for NOLA; found that in general, people tend to prioritize home movies and photographs for saving following a disaster situation. Brochure or web site should be broken down by types of

damage, and then by type of media; help with putting information on disaster site. Speak with Lynne if available to help.

Alan Kattelle Oral History update (Chad Hunter)

Kattelle wrote the book "Home Movies: A History of the American Industry 1897-1979" Chad and Andrea McCarty helped to set up an oral history project, on video and audio. Trying to figure out how to make the history accessible. Spoken with AMIA about making the small gauge web site, working with NHF to put it up on their web site. Will make a posting on the list when further progress occurs.

Northeast Historic Film Summer Symposium update

Brian Graney mentioned Robbins Barstow presented a documentary/amateur film produced at a Christian labor work camp in the 1940's. The symposium was stimulating, with presenters from Scotland, 2 from England, and NY, CA, CT, GA, ME, MA, all represented, all on the theme The Working Life. Ryan Shand from Glasgow wrote a summary posted at <http://www.oldfilm.org/> What may be the first single system Super 8 film was shown: Brodsky's 1973 shoe factory film. The topic and date of next summer's symposium is "Time Out: Images of Play and Leisure," July 19-21, 2007.

SGAF website challenges and ideas

AMIA is under resourced for entire web site. If anyone is interested in helping out, please talk to Chad. In the short term, maybe we can set up a Small Gauge interest group web site hosted on another server and link to it from the AMIA page.

New business

LGBT/SGAF/ Diversity Anchorage Panel and Screening (Chris Lane)

"In Focus and on Screen" a panel sponsored by SGAF, Saturday at 10:30, Screening from 2-3:30. Jacqueline Stewart will be talking about collecting regional home movies in Chicago's South Side.

From San Francisco GLBT Historical Society, Terrance Kissack will be presenting a collection of home movies preserved through NFPF; Lindy Leong will present amateur works in the film festival context. Program available. Dwight Swanson will be presenting home movies from New Orleans, compiled by a man about his son, documentary form. Pam Wintle, HSFA, Smithsonian will present footage from Iraq shot by missionary 1920's to 1950's. Two presenters from the Alaska area. Stephen Parr

will also be presenting.

Updates from Labs

Colorlab (Russ Suniewick)

20 years ago, home movies were not a priority. Now, labs are taking these artifacts seriously, institutions are collecting amateur film. Orphan films are being preserved, home movies for study; Scene by scene color timing.

Center for Home Movies will serve as a clearinghouse for home movies and amateur film; first step would be to keep the films with the owners if they are able to care for them properly, second, to an institution in the region, and so on.

Cineric (Diana Little)

Cineric's primary work is in film-to-film preservation, restoration and digital restoration. Cineric sees less home movies and amateur films from the owner, more from the wealthy, and institutions who want to preserve film to film. Leave it to the client to decide whether or not to have blow-up from small gauge to larger gauge. One issue: 16mm projectors harder and harder to come by. Because Cineric does blowups, people comment that their films don't look like they've ever seen them before; "vivid and bright." Sample projects this year: For Anthology Film Archives, Greg Sharits' films in the letraset type- dry gate, regular 8mm and blew them up to 16mm. For Northeast Historic Film – Super 8mm film made by a group of Junior High students "Mission Alpha Centauri"; separately recorded reel-to-reel sound that was never synced up to the film. Film was shot at 18 fps. Super8 to 35mm.

For the NYU library – peace corps volunteers footage featuring Eleanor Roosevelt. Recently received some newly shot Super 8mm Brazilian feature film; Super 8mm B+W plus-x; had to reposition for every shot. The new Super 8mm stock looked like it could be 16mm, grain was completely different.

Other

LittleFilm.org (email Toni Treadway)

She writes in support of Dwayne's Photo in Kansas, the remaining lab for processing all gauges of Kodachrome movie film, now that the Kodak Swiss lab is closed. She recommends that filmmakers focus on using their remaining rolls of Kodachrome sooner than later. Archives might stock up on white acetate leader (especially regular 8mm) direct from

Kodak order line; details on supplies at the labs page at www.littlefilm.org.

Toni advocates that Small Gauge Preservation copies be made on 35mm whenever possible, as it is a more viable and capable format than 16mm. She is looking for interest in subcommittee on lost artists and their work – perhaps a screening and articles.

Pro8mm (email Rhonda Vigeant)

Anything screened at the conference, she can make transfers. Would anyone be interested in leader made from old acetate stock? Better and active relationship between AMIA in general and SGAF interest group. Met with PAC Labs in NYC; good quality processing.

Lab/Technology/Supplies questions

Colorlab – say Kodak promises that small gauge leader will be available for a while to come.

Suggestions for Toni Treadway's Small Gauge Q+A Column in the AMIA Newsletter? Please contact Toni by email if ideas come up.

New panels for 2007 Conference

Conference will be in Rochester, New York next year. Perhaps a panel about preserving small gauge on 16mm or 35mm? Possible panel on 16mm outtake collections; open to talking – Appalshop. If Kodak instigates a panel?---important to make sure the presentation doesn't turn into a sales pitch. Next August will be the 5th anniversary of Home Movie Day. A panel figuring out where HMD is headed?

SGAF long-range planning

Longer meeting, another meeting? Look into having a separate longer meeting in Rochester. Perhaps focused on a longer, more in-depth topic.

Logo for SGAF interest group?

Election of one new SGAF co-chair

Co-chairs serve alternating two year terms. Those interested in serving from November 2007 to November 2008 should contact Chad Hunter.

Other topics

National Film Preservation Board is working on National Film Registry.

Home movie study group; push for a film to put on the registry. Talk to Dwight Swanson if you have a potential film in your archive.

Small gauge film scanner is in the works from Midwest Telecinecompany.

BIG INTEREST IN SMALL GAUGE AT THE ANNUAL AMIA CONFERENCE
Archivists Worldwide descended upon Austin Texas November 30-December 3
for the 2005 conference of the Association of Moving Image Archivists.

Established in 2001, the Mission of the Small Gauge Interest Group is to:

- * Activate the exchange of information among individuals involved with small gauge and amateur film at all levels
- * Continue to develop and publicize standards for the care and preservation of small gauge and amateur film materials
- * Encourage consideration and appreciation of small gauge and amateur film works, especially in the context of film and social history and the culture of the moving image
- * Support research, writing, and public activities related to small gauge and amateur film and the many issues associated with it

At the conference there were several events chaired by the Small Gauge Interest Group. This included two general meetings where topics of general concern were discussed. The first meeting on Tuesday, November 29th had about 15 people in attendance and was moderated by committee chairs Dwight Swanson and Andrew Lampert. Topics discussed included the availability of supplies, (splicers, splicing tape, leader, film, labs, and the discontinuation of K-40.) 2005 projects were briefly reviewed, including a discussion about the preserved film screening series, the Alan Kattelle Oral History project, lab survey and how to improve the website. New projects proposed included a discussion about ideas for the AMIA Book Publishing Task Force. Nominations for leadership of the Small Gauge Task Force for 2006 were Chad Hunter and Rhonda Vigeant. Elections were tabled until the meeting on Friday when more members of the group would be present. The second meeting on Friday, December 2nd had nearly 30 people in attendance, and was moderated by committee chairs Dwight Swanson and Andrew Lampert. There was a presentation by Andre Pion of Stil Design of Canada on their small format new archival film cans. Karen Sheldon displayed and presented a time line of the history of the Small Gauge Task Force. The opportunity for members to present ideas for future group projects was opened up to the membership. Chad Hunter and Rhonda Vigeant were elected as 2006 chairs.

There was a well attended conference panel titled Super 8mm: Past, Present and Future? to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Super 8 format. The panel discussed Super 8 in both a historical and present day context. Chaired by Steve Polta of San Francisco Cinematheque, the panel was comprised of four speakers. Alan Kattelle, historian and author of the book "Home Movies: A History of the American Industry, 1897-1979. ", Colette Scott, Development Manager for Kodak, Philip Vigeant, President of Pro8mm, and Andrew Lampert, Archivist, Anthology Film Archive. Each speaker gave a perspective of their area of expertise as it related to small format. Mr. Kattelle spoke about the early roots of the format and had some great slides depicting early equipment;

Ms. Scott talked about Kodak's decision to discontinue K-40 and how the new Ektachrome would facilitate "work-flows" with local labs offering better and more expedient processing. She gave away a number of rolls of the new Ektachrome to members of the audience. Mr. Vigeant talked about the milestones in 30 years of Professional Super 8 and the filmmakers that made significant contributions and Mr. Lampert discussed the history of Super 8 from an archivist's perspective and the importance of amateur films in collections.

One of the conference highlights was the AMIA SILVER LIGHT AWARD presented to Alan Kattelle for his substantial contributions and leadership in the area of amateur film. From his nomination "2005 will see the completion of the AMIA sponsored Alan Kattelle Oral History Project, the first of its kind in the organization's history. Kattelle's unparalleled knowledge of amateur film history allowed for the making of this in-depth record which will be available through AMIA, the George Eastman House and The Northeast Historic Film Society.

Co-chairs of the Small Gauge Interest Group for 2006 are Chad Hunter an archivist at Appalshop in Whitesburg, Kentucky, e-mail chunter@appalshop.org and Rhonda Vigeant, VP of Marketing for Pro8mm of Burbank, CA, e-mail Rhonda@pro8mm.com.

Notes Submitted by Rhonda Vigeant

Small Gauge/Amateur Film Interest Group Meeting, 2004

Following introductions, outgoing chair Snowden Becker introduced incoming chairs Andrew Lampert (Anthology Film Archive) and Dwight Swanson (Human Studies Film Archive). It was proposed that the group adopt a system of having co-chairs serve two-year terms, but alternating so that each year there will be one new chair. Dwight will serve until 2005 and Andrew until 2006. Nominations for future chair positions will be solicited through the Smallgauge list. The new co-chairs thanked Snowden profusely for her tireless leadership of the group throughout its first three years, and her unending support for small gauge and amateur film in general.

SG/AF sponsored panels at the Minneapolis conference include sessions on home video preservation and a panel on Expanded Cinema which was preceded by a screening which included super 8 projections. Several other panels and meetings at the conference also touched on small gauge issues.

Home Movie Day, a project of both the SG/AF and Regional Audio Visual Archives Interest Groups, was once again a tremendous success in 2004, with more than 40 cities participating. Even greater international participation is being sought for 2005. A DVD of films shown at HMD events is currently in the production phase and should be available commercially by next year's Home Movie Day. Beginning in 2005, Home Movie Day will be sponsored and administered by the Center for Home Movies, an amateur film archive currently being created by the Home Movie Day founders.

Because of HMD's successful partnership effort, it was recommended that the group attempt additional collaborations with the Independent Media group in order to come up with panels or projects related to small gauge experimental film.

It was mentioned on behalf of Chad Hunter (not present) that the Alan Kattelle oral history project was ready for transcription. The goal is to have it available on the AMIA web site and possibly the MIC site.

An involved and substantive discussion about the role of digital video in small gauge preservation was launched. Andrew raised the issue that it is no longer feasible, in real world situations, to rely only on expensive film-to-film preservation for small gauge collections, many of which tend to be very large in scope. It was suggested that it is not enough to consider preservation to only mean film-to-film and video to be only for access copies. Instead, archivists will need to embrace the idea of digitization as preservation, or at least an intermediary step. In order for this to be feasible, standards and best practices will have to be adopted in regards to digital transfers or scanning of small gauge film such as has been done with standards for still imagery.

It was suggested that a good project for the group would be to produce several documents. First, the list of small gauge services originally produced for the Home Movie Day website should be expanded and annotated so that users could be informed of the type of equipment available at the transfers houses listed. This should also include descriptions of the various film transfer techniques available, and the relative costs of each, so that archivists and the general public could make informed decisions about the transfer process. Paul Eisloeffel mentioned how certain standards about digitization and transfer were already in place in the library and non-moving image archiving world and that these should be investigated and possibly modified as there is no need to reinvent the wheel. It was agreed that discussion needs to be continued via the small gauge list and that a few individuals should be nominated (or should volunteer) to take charge of this writing process.

The issue of preserving small gauge equipment was also touched upon.

Panels for next year's conference were briefly discussed. One idea was something that would discuss the problems of storage and outreach to the independent filmmaking community. The idea was to help people to archive for themselves with some simple and easy to follow guidelines.

Kodak's gradual abandonment of reversal and small gauge stocks was discussed as to how it would affect current filmmaking and future preservation. Although in 2004 Kodak did release a new Super 8 stock, it is a negative stock only, intended for telecine, not printing. Julia Nicoll of Colorlab noted that they had been having difficulty in obtaining the double perf 16mm stock they need for printing of silent films.

Lynne Kirste mentioned the problem she had discovered with pre-sprocketed splicing tape. The 3M-manufactured tape is unsatisfactory, and there was a general discussion about supplies, lack thereof and what can be done about it. One particular problem is that it falls off during cleaning. Participants were encouraged to speak up on the AMIA listserv when they encounter problems with the qualities of slicing tape and other such necessary supplies. The only way to handle this situation is as a group, and the problem of one archive is actually the problem of all archives when it comes to this particular matter. The high and rising price of these basic materials means that they must be up to archival standards. Note: a complete account from Lynne is in the following e-mail.

It was announced that one of the group's major projects for the following year would be the creation of a traveling film program of amateur films. This would be a showcase of films already preserved through the NFPPF and other preservation grants. The SG/AF co-chairs have been in contact with

the NFPPF and will seek help from them in gaining access to the preservation negatives, so that the program can be presented on 16mm film. Donations of lab work will be sought and assistance from the archives will be required in order to put on as strong a program as possible. Ideally the film will be able to tour around the country and be accompanied by presentations about film preservation and amateur film history.