Finding Aid
For the
Dr. Rolland Dewing
Wounded Knee II
Collection

Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center
Chadron State College
Chadron, Nebraska
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations. Without their assistance, this project could not have been completed.

- Archivist Timothy Streasick for their work in processing the collection and creating this document.
- Drs. Rolland Dewing and Joel Hyer for their support and aid in the creation of this collection.
- Harris-Bishop Endowment for providing funding for this publication.
- Ms. Sarah Polak, Center Director, for her direction and determination.
- Dr. Janie Park, President of Chadron State College, and Dr. Lois Veath, Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Chadron State College, for their support of the Sandoz Center and this project.
Dr. Rolland Dewing Wounded Knee II Collection
CSC 001/2010.010.00001

Chadron State College
Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center
Ethel S. Abbott Library
Chadron, NE 69337

Descriptive Summary
Creator: Dr. Rolland Dewing
Title: Dr. Rolland Dewing Wounded Knee II Collection
Date Span: 1968-2000
Bulk Dates: 1970-1979
Physical Description: 7.5 linear ft.
Language Note: English

Restrictions on Access: None
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Acquisition Information: Materials left to the Chadron State College by Dr. Rolland Dewing.
Finding Aids: Container lists available
Preferred Citation: Dr. Rolland Dewing Wounded Knee II Collection

Biographical/Historical Note: In February of 1973, the American Indian Movement (AIM) occupied Wounded Knee, South Dakota. AIM, an Indian Power movement, was founded in Minnesota by Clyde Bellecourt, Dennis Banks, and George Mitchell. Modeling themselves after other minority power movements, AIM became dedicated to a multitude of causes, including fighting for a restoration of tribal treaty-making abilities, building schools and housing, and organizing community protection groups that served as watchdogs against police brutality.

Meanwhile, in the area surrounding the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, tensions began to rise. Traditional Lakota tribal members were in disagreement with the policies of Richard “Dick” Wilson, the Oglala tribal chairman. Wilson was accused of favoring mixed-race Indians, giving positions of power to his family and friends, and using his own “private-army of ‘goons’” to intimidate rivals. After gathering evidence of Wilson’s alleged corruption, the traditional tribe-members attempted to impeach him. This failed and left many tribe-members feeling that their only recourse would be through more militant means, leading them to contact AIM.
AIM was active in the area of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation during the early 1970s, having moved into the region after the murders of Raymond Yellow Thunder and Wesley Bad Heart Bull. AIM had already built a reputation for large, symbolic acts with their occupations of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Building in Washington D.C., Alcatraz Island, and Mt. Rushmore. Once both AIM and the traditional Lakota tribal members met, a meeting was held to discuss the correct course of action. It was decided that the town of Wounded Knee, the site of a previous Indian massacre, would be occupied until demands by both groups were met. Included in these demands were the removal of tribal council president Richard Wilson, the revisiting of treaties made and broken by the United States Government, and having the Bureau of Indian Affairs remade under Indian control.

The occupation and siege of the town of Wounded Knee began on February 27th, 1973. Roadblocks were set up by AIM and the FBI, who were called in soon after the siege began, as well as a third set of roadblocks by supporters of Wilson. National media groups focused their attention on the occupiers, giving not only a platform for AIM to plead its case, but also ensuring if the government did crack down on the occupiers, it would be caught on camera. An ultimatum was sent to forewarn AIM leaders of a government attack if they did not leave. AIM responded by publicly burning the ultimatum and refusing to leave. The government backed down from its ultimatum and removed their roadblocks, inadvertently allowing more supporters and supplies to enter Wounded Knee. After AIM seceded and declared Wounded Knee as an independent nation, the roadblocks were reinstalled and the stand-off continued.

By this point, a new US government negotiator, Kent Frizzel, was sent by Washington to take control of the situation. Frizzel oversaw the cutting off of electricity, water, and removal of reporters from the area. Negotiations continued and it appeared that a settlement had been reached: AIM would agree to lay down their weapons while the FBI would agree to let an AIM delegation leave Wounded Knee to negotiate with the White house. This settlement fell apart, however, when neither side could agree whether AIM was supposed to lay their arms down immediately, or after the White House negotiations were completed. The AIM delegation that was sent to Washington, which included leader Russell Means, was arrested and remained in prison for the rest of the occupation of Wounded Knee.

The pressure was then increased against AIM. Frizzel had been given a deadline to end the siege before universities let out for summer break, which would enable sympathetic students to join the Wounded Knee occupiers. Within Wounded Knee, paranoia and fear of spies grew as the FBI began to publicly leak that they had sources within the town. As the firefights and violence steadily increased, one FBI agent was shot and AIM took their first major casualties: Frank Clearwater and Buddy Lamont. These deaths broke the morale of some of the occupiers, who left the town under the cover of night. The FBI and those who remained in Wounded Knee agreed to disarm on May 5th. The town was completely evacuated three days later. The siege lasted 71 days.

Dr. Rolland Dewing initially gained an interest in Wounded Knee II because of its geographical proximity to Chadron State College, where he was a Professor of History and Chair of the Social Science Division, and a colleague’s connections with Pine Ridge. Upon being made aware that
the FBI files on Wounded Knee 1973 were obtainable, Dr. Dewing believed that a significant historical contribution was possible.

Dr. Dewing published his findings in several different forms. First and foremost, he published “Wounded Knee: The Meaning and Significance of the Second Incident” in 1987. The book is currently out of print, though a revised version of the same material was published under the title of “Wounded Knee II” in 1995, with a second edition published in 2000. Dr. Dewing also served as the editor of “The FBI Files on Wounded Knee and the American Indian Movement,” which was finished in 1986. This collection is available at the Sequoyah National Research Center at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

**Custodial History:** Dr. Dewing made extensive use of newspaper accounts, interviews, FBI Files, and other primary sources in his research, and took notes on a series of over 2,000 index cards of various sizes. These notes, along with his folders of documents and newspaper clippings, were placed in boxes and left in a Chadron State College office closet at his retirement. The boxes were then passed to Dr. Joel Hyer, the chair of Communication and Social Sciences, who then sent the boxes to the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center. After getting in contact with Dr. Dewing, permission was secured to catalogue and make these materials available.

**Scope and Content Note:** This collection contains materials left at Chadron State College by Dr. Dewing. Included are newspaper clippings and other primary documents relating to his research on AIM & Wounded Knee II, lecture notes, drafts of his chapters, photographs from Wounded Knee II, and a Cassette Library regarding AIM and Wounded Knee from Minnesota Public Radio and Pacific Tape Library.

**Series 1. Dr. Dewing Research Materials**

**Box 1-6**

**Scope and Content Note:** A number of the boxes contained research materials that Dr. Dewing used while writing his book on the second Wounded Knee incident, including letters, newspapers, magazine articles, and interviews. Not limiting himself to only Wounded Knee 1973, Dr. Dewing also gathered sources on other events related to Native American Activism, including the Crazy Horse Malt Liquor Ban and court case, the debate over the sacredness of the Black Hills, the murder of Raymond Yellow Thunder, and court case of Leonard Peltier.

One of Dr. Dewing’s major sources of information outside of the FBI files were contemporary newspaper accounts of Wounded Knee and events that Dr. Dewing felt were related to it. Some of the topics include the murder of Raymond Yellow Thunder, Wounded Knee 1973, the Sacredness of the Black Hills, and the Anna Mae Aquash murder.

**Arrangement Note:** Several subseries make up this series, including folders of reference materials, copies of Dewing’s papers, newspaper articles, correspondence, and audiocassette interviews.
The first subseries are materials that Dr. Dewing kept in marked folders. These materials have been kept in their original order, unless otherwise noted in the collection. Dr. Dewing kept the folders separated largely by topic, making each folder easier to divide into its key components. There is a bit of overlap between Dewing’s folders in regard to topics; for example, Dr. Dewing had two separate folders (Wounded Knee and Fort Robinson) with sections of documents about the American Indian Movement that did not immediately relate to their respective events. In order to maintain Dr. Dewing’s order, these materials were maintained separately, but were both marked as “American Indian Movement.” Corresponding with Box 1, Folders 1-4 were part of a folder marked “Wounded Knee,” folders 5-9 were part of a folder also marked “Wounded Knee,” folders 10-11 were part of a folder marked “Bellecourt’s Material,” folders 12-13 were part of a folder marked “Banks Materials,” folders 14-19 were part of a folder marked “Fort Robinson,” and folders 20-23 were part of an unmarked folder.

Dr. Dewing’s papers included handwritten notes, drafts of chapters, promotional materials. The handwritten notes and chapter drafts were included in the unmarked folder mentioned above, but were set aside as a separate subsection due to their subject matter. In terms of order, the notes and chapters were kept as they were found. The notes were placed in a folder entitled “Unsorted,” as the order the notes were found in did not lend itself to any describable order. The chapter drafts were split between two folders due to the quantity of material. The split mark was largely arbitrary aside from trying to maintain equal sizes in each folder. Speaking notes on the contributions of the American Indian were placed in their own folder following the Unsorted Notes and Chapter Drafts.

Correspondence between Dr. Dewing and various entities (including newspaper editors and government officials) were found mixed together and scattered among the contents of the box. These letters were copied and arranged in alphabetical order by the archivist appointed by the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center. The envelopes that accompanied any correspondence are included in the “Originals” folder next to their corresponding letter, with the exception of the envelope sent by V. Bellecourt, which was placed alone in Box 3 due to its size. Some letters included excess materials such as pamphlets or donation requests; these are placed next to the original letters they accompanied. Also included in this subseries are research materials sent to Dr. Dewing by V. Bellecourt and John Lang, as well as letters written by the Chamberlin family, who ran a furniture store in Gordon, Nebraska.

The newspapers were, like the correspondence, found mixed together in the boxes. The oversized newspapers and pages from the newspaper clippings were separated and arranged by date. Articles that did not have a way of identifying their date were placed in a separate folder alphabetically by title. In the case of oversized newspapers, the undated materials were placed alphabetically following the dated collection in the same box. Copies of the clippings are in Box 1, Folders 25 & 26; the original clippings are in Box 2, Folders 1 & 2; the oversized newspapers are in Box 4.

Audiocassettes were arranged by source in Box 5. An unmarked and unnamed cassette is placed at the beginning of the collection, followed by a cassette marked by handwriting only. Following these are cassettes from sources such as Akwesasne Notes, M-9, Minnesota Public Radio, Pacifica Radio Archive, and the Pacifica Tape Library. Finally, there are three mini-cassettes
which are unmarked. In the case of the Minnesota Public Radio and Pacifica Tape Library groups, which contained more than one cassette, cassettes were arranged by either date (in the case of the Minnesota Public Radio cassettes) or organizational number (in the case of Pacifica Tape Library).

Finally, there was a small portion of apparent source materials which were not part of any folders or apparent source, such as pamphlets and books. Materials that were smaller and able to fit were gathered and placed in Box 2, Folder 9: entitled “Non-Foldered Source Materials.” More materials, including small books and pamphlets, were placed in Box 6 and organized alphabetically according to their publisher. If a book shared the same publisher, then the books would be organized alphabetically according to title.

Series 2. Dr. Dewing Research Index Cards
Box 7-9

Scope and content note: A large part of Dr. Dewing’s notes were written on a series of over 2,000 index cards. These notes mostly consisted of quotes, citation information, and personal comments. The quotes are often taken from newspaper clippings and documents that are included in the collection, although a large group of the index cards include notes taken by Dr. Dewing while he reviewed the FBI files on Wounded Knee II and AIM.

The index cards alternate between typewritten and handwritten, with some index cards printed on both sides when a quotation or important passage required more space. When compared to their respective sources, the index cards not only identify which information Dr. Dewing considered important but also which information he did not consider important, deepening a historiographical understanding of his research.

Arrangement Note: When the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center came into possession of Dr. Dewing’s research, nearly all the index cards were mixed together and spread among the three boxes. These cards were intended for bibliographic purposes and arranged them as such.

The first subseries of index cards are organized alphabetically by author (or newspaper, if a newspaper article), and within this they are organized chronologically from earliest to latest date. If no date could be determined, the index card is placed, still alphabetically, in front of the cards that are dated. At this point, the index cards are organized by page number, and if no page number is available they are placed at the beginning of the dated section and ordered by topic or title, whichever was more readily available.

Very few of the index cards managed to stay in their original order, as age had taken its toll on the rubber bands Dr. Dewing used to hold them together. There were two exceptions to this devastation: Dr. Dewing’s notes on the Interviews and Dr. Dewing’s notes for the last chapter in his book. Both of these groups have remained intact and are filed in a separate subseries.

Another large group of index cards include Dr. Dewing’s notes on the FBI files about AIM and Wounded Knee II. Due to large quantity of these index cards, they have been placed aside and are filed in a separate subseries. Within this subseries, a different organizational pattern emerged.
than previously used with the other index cards. Nearly all the index cards were marked with a Box Number, Section Number, Volume number, or File Number. These numbers apparently referred to the FBI boxes that Dewing was describing. Occasionally (specifically in FBI Boxes 1-5), there would be a Box Number and one of the other (Section, Volume, or File) numbers as well. For the sake of simplicity, the arrangement order determined was Box, Section, Volume, & File. This means that if a Box had multiple sections within it, the order of the cards would be cards with only a box number, cards with a box and section number, cards with a box and volume number, and cards with a box and file number.

If the card did not have a number that allowed us to place it within one of the four sections, it was placed at the beginning of the collection in an “Unidentified” section and organized numerically or alphabetically, whichever was available from the card. Following the Unidentified section are the cards with listed Box numbers, which are organized numerically according to box. The subsections (cards with box & section numbers, etc.) are also organized numerically. Following the cards with Box numbers are the cards with Section numbers, the cards with volume numbers, and the cards with file numbers.

The standard size of Dr. Dewing’s index cards was 5x8 inches. Included in this collection are cards which did not fit this standard size. These cards were 3x5 and 4x6 inches, and contained only bibliographic information. These cards were found together and separate from the rest of the Index Cards, justifying their own section of this series. They were placed, in original order, after the FBI Files index cards.

Series 3. Dr Dewing Classroom Materials
Box 2, 10

Scope and Content Vote: Dr. Dewing taught a plethora of courses during his career at Chadron State College, including many courses that dealt specifically with Native American History and Wounded Knee II. Dr. Dewing left materials, specifically lecture notes, assignments, tests, handouts, essays, and photographs, connected to these courses mixed together with the aforementioned research materials. In an effort to retain the continuity of Dr. Dewing’s collection of materials, the class materials covering the Wounded Knee Massacre, Wounded Knee II, and Native American History were added to this collection.

Arrangement Note: The class materials were kept in folders that either noted the class in which Dr. Dewing used the materials or contained a topical format. For simplicity’s sake, a folder containing both typed and handwritten notes was split into two folders, one containing typed notes and the other containing handwritten notes. Folders containing class materials were refoldered for the purpose of archiving. Some of the class materials, such as the handouts, included multiple copies. For the most part these copies were contained in the same area, and if copies were found in multiple sections of a folder, it was assumed that where a majority of the copies were contained was the original location. At this point, copies were removed in order to preserve space, leaving one copy to mark the original location.

Finally, a box contains educational posters/photos of Wounded Knee and Wounded Knee II. The photos were organized according to the numerical order given to each photo by the publisher.
Subjects:

American Indian Movement
Aquash, Anna Mae
Banks, Dennis
Bellecourt, Clyde
Bellecourt, Vernon
Black Hills
Chadron State College
Crazy Horse Malt Liquor
Dewing, Rolland
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Fort Robinson Demonstration
Janklow, Bill
Means, Russel
Native American History
Peltier, Leonard
Pine Ridge Reservation
Sioux Nation Black Hills Act
Wilson, Richard
Wounded Knee II
Yellow Thunder, Raymond
Dr. Rolland Dewing Wounded Knee II Collection
Container List

Series 1. Dr. Dewing Research Materials

Box 1. Folder 1. American Indian Movement
Box 1. Folder 2. American Indian Movement
Box 1. Folder 3. War on Poverty
Box 1. Folder 4. Bibliographical Notes
Box 1. Folder 5. Dewing Writings
Box 1. Folder 6. Dewing Writings
Box 1. Folder 7. Wounded Knee Book Reviews
Box 1. Folder 8. Janklow v. Newsweek
Box 1. Folder 9. Yellow Thunder Interviews
Box 1. Folder 10. American Indian Movement
Box 1. Folder 11. Crazy Horse Malt Liquor Ban
Box 1. Folder 12. Dennis Banks
Box 1. Folder 13. Dewing’s Handwritten Notes
Box 1. Folder 14. Dick Wilson
Box 1. Folder 15. Vernon Bellecourt
Box 1. Folder 16. Crazy Horse Malt Liquor Ban
Box 1. Folder 17. American Indian Movement
Box 1. Folder 18. Fort Robinson Occupation
Box 1. Folder 19. Sioux Nation Black Hills Act
Box 1. Folder 20. Gates and Peppin Interview
Box 1. Folder 21. Unsorted Notes
Box 1. Folder 22. Chapter Drafts
Box 1. Folder 23. Chapter Drafts
Box 1. Folder 24. Wounded Knee Book Promotional Materials
Box 1. Folder 25. Dated Newspaper Articles (Copies)
Box 1. Folder 26. Undated Newspaper Articles (Copies)
Box 2. Folder 1. Dated Newspaper Articles (Originals)
Box 2. Folder 2. Undated Newspaper Articles (Originals)
Box 2. Folder 3. Personal Correspondence (Copies)
Box 2. Folder 4. Personal Correspondence (Originals)
Box 2. Folder 5. Materials Sent by V. Bellecourt
Box 2. Folder 6. Materials Sent by John Lane
Box 2. Folder 7. Chamberlin Correspondence (Copies)
Box 2. Folder 8. Chamberlin Correspondence (Originals)
Box 2. Folder 9. Non-Foldered Source Materials
Box 3. V. Bellecourt Envelope (Contents on the Envelope were moved to Box 2 Folder 5)
Box 4. Oversized Newspapers (Originals)
Box 5. Audio Cassettes
Box 6. Non-Foldered Source Materials (Books/Large Pamphlets)

**Series 2. Dr. Dewing Research Index Cards**

Box 7. Index Cards A-P
Box 8. Index Cards Q-Z
    Interviews
    Last Chapter
    FBI Index Cards
        FBI Unsorted
        Boxes
        Sections
        Volumes

Box 9. FBI Index Cards
    Files
    Bibliographic Index Cards

**Series 3. Dr. Dewing Class Materials**

Box 2. Folder 10 Typed Notes
Box 2. Folder 11 Handwritten Notes
Box 2. Folder 12 Wounded Knee Class
Box 2. Folder 13 Indian History
Box 10. Wounded Knee Educational Photos