John Ben Snow Memorial Trust supports Oral History Program

A long-time benefactor of the University of Nevada, Reno, the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust, has contributed $185,000 to the Oral History Program since 1995, including a $25,000 gift in 2009.

The University’s Oral History Program is a research and publication operation that produces primary-source oral histories with enduring value to scholars and the reading public alike, as documentation of the history and culture of Nevada and the West.

Former director of the Oral History Program Tom King says, “The John Ben Snow Trust was the single greatest benefactor to the program and made possible the two components of the program—video documentaries and book publishing—that set us apart from all other academic oral history programs in the country.” Furthermore, “We wanted not only to record the remembered past, but to get it to the people, and the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust made that possible. We owe them a lot, and so do the people of Nevada.”

John Ben Snow, born in Pulaski, N.Y., in 1883, enjoyed a long and colorful life. During his 89 years, Snow amassed fortunes on two continents: in Europe, as a competitive and innovative executive with F.W. Woolworth, and in his native America as the dynamic publisher of the Speidel Newspapers. In addition to the Oral History Program, the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust has provided major gifts to numerous campus projects including the William N. Pennington Health Sciences Building, the Redfield Campus, Black Rock Press, the Robert Laxalt Distinguished Writer Program Endowment and the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center.

With income from grants, contracts, sales and gifts, and enjoying new status as part of the University’s history department—the University of Nevada, Reno’s Oral History Program will continue to record and preserve Nevada’s remembered past.

To learn more about activities in the College of Liberal Arts, contact Stuart Golder, (775) 784-1222 or sgolder@unr.edu; or Robyn Powers, (775) 784-6873 or rpowers@unr.edu.