



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AL LARVICK FUND AWARDS TWO NORTH DAKOTA HOME MOVIE COLLECTIONS

February 24, 2016: The Al Larvick Conservation Fund (ALCF), a New York based nonprofit, announced the first grant recipients of its AL LARVICK NORTH DAKOTA GRANT (ALNDG). The award for North Dakota submissions went to two individuals, in partnership with the fund's sponsor, [The MediaPreserve](#). Stephanie Kom of Mandan, and Carol Renner of Fargo, North Dakota will have their films conserved, digitally transferred and publicly showcased in 2016 through ALCF and its partners.

The home movie collections, consisting of Super 8, 8mm and 16mm films total approximately 5,500 feet of footage, which capture both every day, and unique, family and community history of the Peace Garden State. The **Vernon Baltzer Family Films** and the **Casper J. Renner Home Movies & Community History Collection**, reflect life in South Central and Southwestern regions from school picnics, to rodeos, to jubilees.

The fund's North Dakota Committee, made up of former and current residents of North Dakota, made some difficult decisions in the grantee selection process. Larry Danielson, one time student of Al Larvick's and former Valley City resident joined the committee early on in the development of the organization. Danielson said of judging this first grant round, *"[I was] impressed with the sincerity of the applicants and their desire to save and to share their material... The films cover many years (1940s –1970s). As someone who lived through that period and now often finds it difficult to adequately describe people, events and activities as the years pass, I value these preservations and look forward to seeing them."*

Beginning operation in 2015, ALCF held a North Dakota screening and workshop series this past fall in Bismarck, Valley City and West Fargo with state and local historical societies. The event marked the launch of its North Dakota State grant. Shane Molander, Deputy Archivist for the State Historical Society of North Dakota and ALCF board member, was the series' organizer and presenter. Rhonda Vigeant, ALCF Board Chair and owner of Pro8mm, one of the fund's sponsors, led the workshops.

In 2016, ALCF will hold public events in North Dakota, showing highlights of the grantees' film collections in coordination with the Kom and Renner families and partner venues. Following the program, the fund will also provide assistance in filling out 2016 grant applications. Details to be announced.

Al Larvick Conservation Fund's mission is to preserve historical and cultural heritage through conservation, education, and the public accessibility of American home & amateur audiovisual materials. Its grant program supports conservation, digital transfer and the availability of works through the AL LARVICK NORTH DAKOTA GRANT and AL LARVICK NATIONAL GRANT.

Kirsten Larvick, Founder and Executive Director of ALCF, states, *"Many home movies reside in family residences. Media captured on dated formats can be intimidating. Because viewing them on older consumer projectors and decks hold some risk of damage, or the transfer process is confusing, materials often remain neglected. Additionally, once they've been digitized, owners may unknowingly receive low quality transfers, or are unaware of how to manage their assets. ALCF aims to increase awareness of these technical challenges and reduce the mystery behind them, making analog and digital care second nature for the average home movie owner and custodian. We are a work-in-progress, so we are listening to people and making adjustments to our approach as we go. We want the process to be easy, informative and most of all, fun."*

The Al Larvick Conservation Fund was inspired by home movie enthusiast, Al Larvick, who documented many of his family, professional and community activities after receiving an 8mm film camera from his son, Rockne, during the 1950s. Al and his wife, Ethel were longtime residents of North Dakota where they both taught, coached sports and raised their two sons, Rockne and Wally. Al was born in the town of Temvik where his parents homesteaded. He attended college, lived and worked in Valley City.

ALCF works in collaboration with its sponsors, [Home Movie Legacy](#), [The MediaPreserve](#) and [Pro8mm](#), as well as partners the [State Historical Society of North Dakota](#), [Center for Home Movies](#), [Barnes County Historical Society](#) and [Bonanzaville](#). ALCF is fiscally sponsored by [IndieCollect](#), a program of the Laboratory for Icon & Idom, Inc.

This spring, the fund will work in partnership with its national grant sponsor, Pro8mm, for its AL LARVICK NATIONAL GRANT launch. A West Coast event is to be held. Details to follow. For further information about the Al Larvick Conservation Fund, please visit <http://www.allarvickfund.org>. Contact: Kirsten Larvick, 646.797.3295, info@allarvickfund.org.