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Fund launches to conserve American home & amateur movies

Inspired by one time North Dakota resident, Al Larvick, the Al Larvick A/V Conservation Fund (ALCF) has officially launched. The Fund will seek to preserve historical and cultural heritage through conservation, education, and the public accessibility of home and amateur audiovisual media created prior to 1990.

Al Larvick and his wife, Ethel, were teachers and coaches in the North Dakota school system for many years. They both shared a commitment to education, church and community. Al (or A.C. Larvick) held the position of Athletic Director at Valley City High School, in Valley City North Dakota in the 1940's and 50's. It was during his time in Valley City that Al was gifted an 8mm camera by his son, Rockne Larvick. Rockne purchased it for his father while stationed in Germany during his service in the United States Air Force. It was Rockne's intention that his father would use the camera to record and study the school's football and basketball games. Al was also a basketball and football coach at the school. While Al did employ the camera for these purposes, the gift inadvertently began a life-long love of capturing every day events, from family get-togethers, to town parades and other community and school activities. Like so many Americans, he realized the value of capturing seemingly mundane moments, which often prove to be so much more.

Like Al Larvick, ALCF recognizes the significant historical and cultural value of these works in addition to their personal importance as family legacy materials. The Fund also acknowledges the gap in resources that protect film and video formats, which are, or are soon to be, obsolete. In an effort to modestly support the preservation and appreciation of the home movie, ALCF, in conjunction with its grant opportunities, will host screening and workshop events, as well as make publicly available its conserved audiovisual materials.

ALCF offers two small annual grants, which support the conservation and digital transfer of home and amateur analog media. Grants are open to individuals, institutions and organizations and divided into two categories, Al Larvick National Grant (ALNG) and Al Larvick North Dakota Grant (ALNDG).

Both grants will include a combination of cash and in-kind products and services. Thanks to the generous sponsorship by Burbank, California based Pro8mm and Home Movie Legacy, the Fund is able to offer state of the art transfers and resources to its grant recipients.

The ALNG supports media recorded within the United States with the exception of North Dakota State. The ALNDG supports media recorded within the state of North Dakota with special consideration for the Sheyenne Valley region. It will also give priority to recordings of school sports and other scholastic activities in North Dakota.

In celebration of the Fund's first year in existence, ALCF will partner with local and national like-minded organizations to bring screening and workshop events to North Dakota later this year. We welcome screening and workshop partnerships in other cities and states. To inquire, please contact Kirsten at info@alavcf.org.

To further explore ALCF, please refer to its website, <http://www.alavcf.org> and its Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/alavcf> for further information and updates. To join the ALCF's mailing list, please visit, <http://www.alavcf.org/subscribe>

ALCF is led by its Board of Directors, Advisory Board, and a North Dakota regional committee. Special thanks to Pro8mm; Home Movie Legacy; IndieCollect; State Historical Society of North Dakota; Center for Home Movies; TK Design; Rockne & Avis Larvick & family; the Valley City All 50's Reunion.