

## **Polly Rosenbaum State Archives and History Building Dedication**

The building was named in honor of Edwynne “Polly” Rosenbaum (1899-2003) who served in the Arizona Legislature for forty-five years, Arizona’s longest continuing serving legislator, and a long-time supporter of historic preservation and the work of the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records.

A 1983 consultant’s report to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission noted the woefully small Arizona State Archives storage area in the Capitol building had filled to capacity twenty years before. In the succeeding twenty-five years, the storage in various environmentally inappropriate rented storage spaces reached a crisis, putting Arizona’s irreplaceable historical records in jeopardy and causing daunting logistical challenges.

The January 15, 2009, dedication was the culmination of a twenty-five year effort by many committed individuals and organizations to secure a repository for Arizona’s unique and irreplaceable archival and historical materials and Capitol Museum artifacts. The Friends of Arizona Archives provided special support and impetus. Nine years in planning, design, funding, and construction, this state-of-the art building provides Arizona with one of the best and most technologically sophisticated archival facilities in the nation. It marks a new era and a renewed commitment to preservation and access in Arizona, and is one of the most important milestones of the State Library’s service to Arizona since it was founded in Prescott in 1864 at the beginning of Arizona’s Territorial government.

The two story, 124,000 square foot facility features a secure loading dock, a triage room for examining incoming records, an isolation room for contaminated records, a blast freezer for the eradication of pests, a humidification room, a full service conservation laboratory, a darkroom, archives paper, photograph, electronic records, and museum artifact processing rooms, a microfilm cold storage vault, seven roomy storage compartments, sophisticated, especially designed HVAC systems providing four climatic environments, a meeting room, and a spacious reading and research room that makes Arizona’s archives open to all.

With more than a year in careful planning, the move of nineteen miles of historical materials into the new building occurred between August and November, 2008. The holdings contain original, official records of all branches of territorial, state, county and local governments, 125,000 historical photographs, 35,000 history books of Arizona and the Southwest, 900 Arizona-related periodical titles, Arizona newspapers from 1859 to the present, 32,000 historical maps, private papers of Arizona people and organizations, oral histories of legislators, government officials, and constituents, and 7,000 artifacts of the Arizona Capitol Museum. It is the single largest collection of Arizona historical records in existence.

The building will proudly serve Arizona into the next century, and longer.