

Newspaper archive added to UM library

From Staff Reports

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The W.M. "Mack" Wyatt Digital Archive has recently been added to the offerings of Carmichael Library at the University of Montevallo.

A donor event was held at the library Oct. 17 to introduce this new addition and to recognize donor Clayton M. Nordan, a 1976 M.A. graduate of the university.

The W.M. "Mack" Wyatt Digital Archive will serve as a repository for archived newspapers printed in Montevallo and Shelby County, particularly during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The archive is named for Nordan's grandfather, who was born near Clanton in Chilton County, in 1892.

Beginning his newspaper career as a typesetter and printer in 1907 at the age of 15, Wyatt contin-

ued his work in the newspaper business, as an editor and an owner, including associations with the *Union Banner* newspaper in Clanton, the *DeKalb Herald* in Fort Payne, the *Montevallo Times* and the *Calera Herald*. The latter two publications were merged to become the *Shelby County Times-Herald* in 1954 and were published until 1959, when Wyatt sold the publication to the *Shelby County Reporter*.

"I decided to fund and support the creation of this special local newspaper archive as a way of preserving my grandfather's life's work," Nordan said. "In addition, to locate and read this invaluable record of life in Montevallo and Shelby County in the mid-20th century has been difficult at best for the general public until now."

The intent of the archives is to preserve for posterity the news-

papers published by Wyatt during his time in Montevallo and to make them available to the public. Any and all other newspapers that have been published in Shelby County will also be included in the digital archive.

"The newspapers from Montevallo and Shelby County that will be found in the W.M. 'Mack' Wyatt Digital Archive are a treasure trove of news, personal interest stories, ads and local goings-on from a bygone era," Nordan said. "They are fascinating to look at today and offer us a sense of what life must have been like when the world was a smaller, simpler place. It is my hope that the W.M. 'Mack' Wyatt Digital Archive will grow and expand to include any and all newspapers and appropriate printed materials that tell the story of Montevallo and all of Shelby County."

"The W.M. 'Mack'



CONTRIBUTED

Family connection: Generations of the W.M. "Mack" Wyatt family gathered at the University of Montevallo's Carmichael Library for a donor event marking the addition of the W.M. "Mack" Wyatt Digital Archive to the library's offerings.

Wyatt Digital Archive is a part of Carmichael Library's digital initiative program," said Kathy Lowe, director of the library. "The initiative seeks to provide students and scholars access to primary source materi-

al from local newspapers from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In some cases, Carmichael Library held the only remaining print copy. The library's first priority is to digitize these one-of-a-kind and rare

newspapers."

The archive can be viewed at montevallo.edu/academics/library/w-m-mack-wyatt-digital-archive/. As this archive expands, newsprints appearing in various formats will be added.