



September 26, 2018

Museum & Heritage Fund Advisory Board
PO Box 773598
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

RE: Letter of support for the Tread of Pioneers Oral History Transcription Project

Dear MAFAB and County Commissioners,

As the Project Coordinator for the Three Wire Winter Oral History Digitization Project, I have seen firsthand the power of oral histories and their associated availability to be keyword searched online. For years the Tread of Pioneers Museum has captured the voices, insights and lives of our most iconic citizens with their oral history program. They have digitized this rich and untapped contribution to our local history, but we lack the knowledge of what exactly is discussed in each interview. It is only through transcription of these oral histories that will we be able to quickly uncover the content, share it with others, and one day, hopefully, make it available on the web.

Oral Histories provide a fuller, more accurate picture of the past compared to one person's written account. By interviewing many people, on similar topics, we are afforded eyewitnesses to events with varying viewpoints. This often fills in the gaps in documented history and more often uncovers stories that have gone untold or have been forgotten. It is not uncommon for oral histories to also be the only source of information about a place, event, or person.

It is, therefore, our hope that the Museum & Heritage Fund Advisory Board will support the Tread of Pioneers Museum's effort to transcribe their magnificent oral history collection. We are optimistic that such an effort will continue to enrich our local history, and I for one, cannot wait to see what gems we may uncover.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alysa F. Selby".

Alysa F. Selby
Digital Services Librarian