

THE CENTER FOR HOME MOVIES



2008 ANNUAL REPORT

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The Center for Home Movies 2008 Annual Report

2008 IN REVIEW

2008 brought the Center for Home Movies continued success. A highlight of the year was the naming of Robbins Barstow's *Disneyland Dream*, the 3rd Home Movie Day re-discovery, to the National Registry. The October change in date for Home Movie Day was met with enthusiasm, *Living Room Cinema* was picked up by distributor Watchmaker films and is scheduled for a re-release in the fall, and we launched the blog Home and Amateur

Our Board grew this year by 2 with the additions of Albert Steg and Molly Wheeler. In addition to being trained archivists they have shown undying support as representatives for Home Movie Day and home movies and amateur film in general we cannot thank them enough for their hard work throughout the year.



Home Movie Day in Grand Rapids, MI

NFPF Wallace Kelly Grant

In October, it was announced that CHM was the recipient of a Partnership Grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation. Colorlab, Inc. in Rockville, Maryland will provide in-kind laboratory support to preserve four films from the Wallace Kelly collection. Kelly was the Kentucky filmmaker whose film *Our Day* was first publicly screened at the New York City Home Movie Day in 2007, and was subsequently named to the National Film Registry. The grant will allow for the creation of new negatives and prints at Colorlab's state-of-the-art preservation lab.

The sophisticated “city symphony” imagery of *Wallace Goes to New York* belies the facts that not only was it most likely among the first rolls of film he had ever shot, but also that he was still in his teens when he began filming. The film documents his move from Kentucky to New York City and his adventures there, with shots of Times Square at night, elevated trains and city streets, and shots of the filming of the local dramatic film *A Story of Astoria*.

Eight years later (in the same year he made *Our Day*), Kelly produced *The Enterprise Goes to Press*. The Lebanon Enterprise was the family-run business and Kelly used the setting for a well-crafted documentary following the production of a small town newspaper, from the linotype operator to the handbill press operator to the editor proofreading galleys. All in all, it is a significant example of the amateur industrial film, a too-often overlooked form that offers an interesting and different perspective on the sponsored industrial film genre.

The last two reels, *Trip to the Yellowstone* (1937), *Family Trip West* (1939), are superlative examples of Kelly's amateur travel films. Like countless other home movie makers, Kelly eagerly got out his 16mm camera when it came time for family trips. These two were selected from numerous other travel reels because these voyages captured many of the most iconic settings of the American West—including stunning scenes of the family clambering around on the faces of Mount Rushmore while it was under construction. Kelly crafted the 1937 reel with titles reflecting his literary bent, and both films are superior examples of how Kelly could bring his photographer's perspective to landscape scenes.

Another HMD Film Named to National Film Registry

Overall, 2008 went well for CHM—but it ended with a real bang on December 30, when Librarian of Congress James H. Billington announced the 25 films named to the National Film Registry for that year. We were pleased and proud—though not at all surprised!—to hear that Home Movie Day spokesperson Robbins Barstow's 1956 work *Disneyland Dream* was among them. The Kodachrome masterpiece tells the story of how the entire Barstow family won the grand prize, an all-expenses-paid trip to Disneyland, in a contest sponsored by Scotch brand cellophane tape.

In addition to conveying the allure of the newly-opened Magic Kingdom and providing some lovely visitor's-eye views of mid-century Los Angeles, *Disneyland Dream* showcases the creativity of the entire Barstow family. The three Barstow children each choose a different way to express (in 25 words or less, of course) why they love Scotch tape. Filmmaker and patriarch Robbins works in some hilarious trick shots and fancy camerawork. Mother Meg Barstow shows off her costuming skills with matching color-coded fringed jackets for the whole gang. The Library of Congress calls this an example of the “priceless and authentic record of time and

place” that home movies can provide, and we couldn’t agree more. Congrats to Robbins and the rest of the Barstow family for literally making history with this film.

This also marked the third year in a row that a film rediscovered through Home Movie Day made the Registry; *Think of Me First as a Person* and *Our Day* were screened at HMD events in New Orleans, LA in 2006 and Columbia, SC in 2007. We know from the last six years of Home Movie Days that there are many more outstanding films still out there, waiting to be seen, and we look forward to getting another one named to the Registry for 2009!

Helen Hill Contribution to Orphans Film Symposium

At the Orphans Film Symposium held in New York City April 2008, The Center for Home Movies contributed to the Helen Hill Award by donating a portion of the sales from the *Living Room Cinema* DVD. We were able to raise \$500.00 as an offering to this fund.

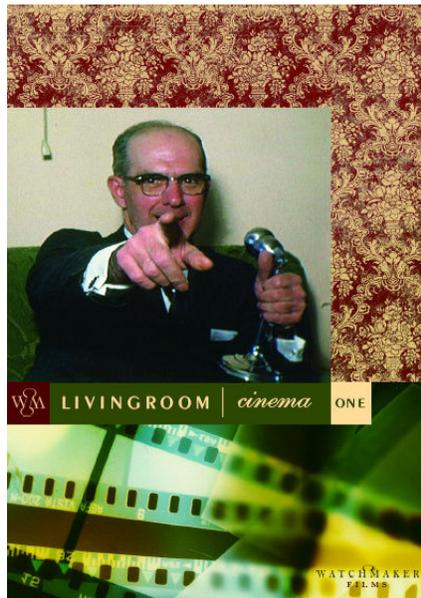
The award will help fund its recipient to attend the 7th Orphan Film Symposium, April 7-10, 2010 at the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center in the Library of Congress in Culpeper, Virginia. There the recipient will screen her or his work for an eclectic audience of other filmmakers, scholars, moving image archivists, curators, collectors, students, and others working in media beyond the mainstream. This award honors work that affirms Helen Hill's artistic legacy, lived values, and everyday passions. In a film culture dominated by corporate interests and the values of consumerism, the Helen Hill Award supports radically independent, innovative filmmaking of exceptional talent. The award will go to a filmmaker whose work celebrates and embodies such things as creativity, self expression, animation, small-gauge film, homemade movies and all things made by hand, collaboration, generosity, liberal spirituality, activism, love, play, community, and connection.

In addition to the *Living Room Cinema* DVD sales contribution, CHM also contributed by paying the registration for a student to attend Orphans 2010.

Living Room Cinema Re-release

CHM's DVD, *Living Room Cinema: Films From Home Movie Day, Vol. I* will be re-released by Watchmaker Films www.watchmakerfilms.com in August, 2009.

After releasing the self-produced DVD in 2007, it came to the attention of filmmaker Mark Rance, who had just founded the film and DVD distribution company Watchmaker Films. *Living Room Cinema* will be among Watchmaker's first DVD titles, following up on their release of their restoration of the 1978 independent film *THE WHOLE SHOOTIN' MATCH*. *Living Room Cinema*, which is being remastered by Watchmaker from the original transfers by Colorlab, Inc. will be available on Amazon.com and through other online and retail sellers.



Think of Me First as a Person / Dwight Core Jr.

A new digitally-preserved 35mm print of George Ingmire's film *Think of Me First as a Person* had its world premiere at the 6th Orphan Film Symposium at NYU in March. The film, a compilation of home movies shot by Dwight, Sr. about his son and his life with Down Syndrome, was first shown in a video version at the 2006 New Orleans Home Movie event organized by the late Helen Hill. The reaction to the film was so dramatic among the home movie and archival communities, that mere months after its rediscovery it was named to the National Film Registry. NYU's Dan Streible, CHM Advisory Board member, National Film Preservation Board member, founder of the Orphan Film Symposium and all-around friend of home movies, arranged for a pro bono restoration of the film by Haghefilm Conservation. Led by preservationist Tom De Smet, Haghefilm painstakingly restored the film from its original 16mm reels. The job was an especially complicated one due to the fact that the film was a mixture of different stocks of varying conditions, which had been shot by filmmaker Dwight Core, Sr. from 1960 to 1975. Ingmire, the grandson of Dwight Core, Sr. and nephew of the late Dwight Core, Jr., the film's subject, introduced the film at the New York screening. While at the symposium he also interviewed De Smet, Mike Mashon of the Library of Congress and Dwight Swanson of CHM for

special audio commentaries on the film's DVD, which was released last fall. The DVD can be ordered on the film's website at www.thinkofmefirstasaperson.com.

CHM on Archive.org

With the invaluable help of Skip Elsheimer of A/V Geeks, CHM has created a digital repository of home movies at the Internet Archive (www.archive.org). The Internet Archive is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that was founded to build an Internet library, with the purpose of offering permanent access for researchers, historians, and scholars to historical collections that exist in digital format. In addition to documenting the history of the Internet itself the Archive's Moving Images library of free movies, films, and videos contains thousands of digital movies uploaded by Archive users.

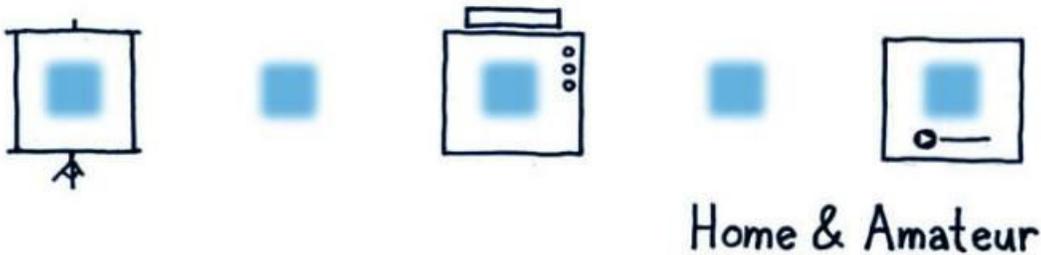
The Home Movie subdirectory initially began with selections from the *Living Room Cinema* DVD, including extended clips from the films not available on the DVD. The directory has since expanded to include other films from the CHM collections (such as National Film Registry title *OUR DAY*), as well as home movies from partner organizations and private contributors. Most recently, CHM Advisory Committee member Rick Prelinger created a subdirectory of home movies from the Prelinger Archives' massive online collection of ephemeral films.

The most consistent contributor to the collection has been Advisory Committee member Robbins Barstow, who has uploaded his entire "Barstow Travel Adventures" collection. When his films became an Internet sensation last year, the online traffic skyrocketed, and to date his title *Tarzan and the Rocky Gorge* has been downloaded an amazing 142,000 times.

Beginning in 2009, the plan is that the Home Movie collection will be the universal digital repository for the world's home movies, allowing people to upload and use high resolution digital files of their films and videos on a non-commercial and long-term website.

The collection can be accessed directly at http://www.archive.org/details/home_movies

New blog: Home & Amateur

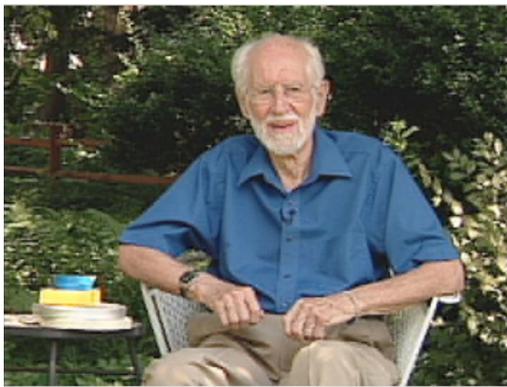


In April 2008, CHM started about home movies and amateur films, home video, films about home movies, films using home video, other blogs about home movies, home movies in popular culture and the culture of home movies. We'll also occasionally look at other types of amateur and self-published media, like sound, images and writing. Check it out at <http://amateurism.wordpress.com/>.

HOME MOVIE DAY 2008

Each year since the inaugural event in 2003, Home Movie Day has grown bigger and better, and 2008 was no exception. More than five dozen events were held across the United States, and the international representation was better than ever, with events in Japan, Canada, Argentina, Mexico, Australia, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Slovenia.

This year CHM produced their first HMD video PSA. With the generous help of Robbins Barstow and George Odell, we created a PSA for online distribution and viewing on YouTube and Archive.org. Thanks to local hosts embedding the video and various blog post inclusions (including the popular blog BoingBoing), the video has been viewed over 6,000 times. The video is at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RAXZrOaI_w and <http://www.archive.org/details/HomeMovieDayPsa>.



Cory Doctorow, author and BoingBoing.net editor, gave us a great quote that we used for publicity: "Home Movie Day! What a fantastic idea -- culture isn't just the stuff that the studios make, it's what we make of it. Content isn't king, conversation is -- and what better conversation-starters than the significant moments of your neighbors' lives?" We continue to approach various notable people for publicity quotes.

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of the volunteers who have contributed to the success of Home Movie Day this year. This worldwide event is conducted and coordinated through the collective efforts of hundreds of volunteers working at the local level.

HMD 2008 cities

Amsterdam, Netherlands
Athens, Georgia
Austin, Texas
Baltimore, Maryland
Berkeley, California
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
Berlin, Germany
Bloomington, Indiana
Boston/Cambridge, Massachusetts

Buenos Aires
Burlington, Vermont
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Chicago, Illinois
Columbia, South Carolina
Durham, North Carolina
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Eugene, Oregon
Gerrigong, New South Wales, Australia
Gorizia, Italy
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Greenville, North Carolina
Hachioji, Tokyo, Japan
Hanover, New Hampshire
Hawkinsville, Georgia
Hirosaki, Aomori, Japan
Huntington, New York
Kingsville, Ohio
London, United Kingdom
Los Angeles, California
Kita-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Kitasenju, Tokyo, Japan
Kodaira, Tokyo, Japan
Madison, Wisconsin
Manchester, United Kingdom
Mexico City, Mexico
Miami, Florida
Milan, Italy
Minato-ku, Osaka, Japan
Misawa, Aomori, Japan
Mobile, Alabama
Nagoya, Aichi, Japan
Nashville, Tennessee
New Haven, Connecticut
New Orleans, Louisiana
New York, New York
Nova Gorica, Slovenia
Orlando, Florida
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Portland, Maine
Portland, Oregon
Providence, Rhode Island
Raleigh, North Carolina
Roanoke, Virginia
Rochester, New York
San Diego/La Jolla, California
San Francisco, California

Sandusky, Ohio
Scottsdale, Arizona
Seattle, Washington
Sendai, Japan
Sheboygan, Wisconsin
Shimokitazawa, Tokyo, Japan
Suginami, Tokyo, Japan
Torino, Italy
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
University of California, San Diego
Urbana, Illinois
Yanesen, Tokyo, Japan

HMD Organizers

Akinori Kaneko, Akira Takato, Alex Howel, Andy Resek, Anne Wells, Asako Takemori, Ashley Maynor, Barry Snyder, Brenda Flora, Carl Feather, Catrien Boettger, Charles Tepperman, Dwight Swanson, Dylan Skolnick, Elizabeth Peterson, Fritz Herzog, Gideon Kennedy, Gypsye Legge, Gregorio Rocha, Hidenori Sakamoto, James Paasche, Jean-Pierre Sens, Jennifer Proctor, Jimi Jones, John Tariot, Joanna Poses, Julia Nicoll, Julie Lofthouse, Kae Ishihara, Karen Eberhart, Karen Glynn, Katie Trainor, Keiichi Shima, Kelli Hix, Kevin O'Sullivan, Kim Harne, Kirston Johnson, Kohei Sengen, Koichi Saito, Leah Kerr, Leandro Listorti, Lia Friedman, Liz Coffey, Liz Czach, Lucy Laird, Lucy Smee, Lynne Kirste, Maija Howe, Marion Hewitt, Mark A. Rukavina, Marsha Orgeron, Martin Johnson, Martin Koerber, Mat Darby, Michael McFarlin, Molly Wheeler, Monica Rossi, Naohiko Yanagida, Nozomi Nakagawa, Pamela Jean Smith, Pat Doyen, Philip Borgnes, Rob McIlwain, Ruta Abolins, Sally Golding, Sarah White, Satoe Tamura, Sean Savage, Simona Monizza, Skip Elsheimer, Stephen O'Riordan, Stephen Parr, Stephen Schlow, Thomas Robinson, Tim Wisniewski, Yuko Shiota

HMD Volunteers

Adrienne Cardwell, Albert Robinson, Alexandra Myers, Alice Sanders, Amy Gallick, Amy Jo Damitz, Andreas Busche, Andy Uhrich, Anne Gant, Anne Shelton, Annike Kross, Arthur Hailey, Avery Clayton, Aydin Dehzad, Ayumi Suzuki, Barry Snyder, Ben Carter, Bernhard Andre, Bertil Pouw, Bob Pence, Brian Drischell, Brian Meacham, Brigit Oele, Bruce Manke, Candace Lewis, Carolyn Caizzi, Cassandra Gallegos, Catherine Duke, Chantel Dunham, Charlie Smoke, Charlotte Walton, Claudy Op den Kamp, Collin Williamson, Corey Lovell, Corin Wilson, Courtney Egan, Crystal Rangel, Curtis the Projectionist, Dan Lee, Danica Cullinen, Daniel Alonzo, Dave Monroe, David Boudinot, David Colannino, David Scott, Daniela Curro, Danielle Kramer, Deborah Taylor, Devin Orgeron, Diana Little, Dino Everett, Dirk Foerstner, Dolores Hooper, Elizabeth Hansen, Emily Happell, Emily Vinson, Emma Lincoln, Erwin Verbruggen, Esther Nam, Eva Hielscher, Evan Knight, Ferdinand Knaak, Fred Yglesias, Frederique Urlings, Gemma Perretta, George, George Royer, George Wietor, Germaine Fodor, Gibbs Chapman, Glenn Andreiev, Guy Edmonds, Hannah Palin, Heather Dean, Hiroki Yamashita, Ian McDermott, Ioannis Papaloizou, Janine Leiberman, Jan Scholten, Janis Nelson, Jared Agnello, Jay Schwartz, Jean Cannon, Jean Goldman, Jenn Blaylock, Jere Gudlin, Jeroen van Dijk, Jerry Pemberton, Jessi Jones, Jesse Vestermark, Jessie Frey, Jez Stewart, Jim Alchediak, Jim Keitner, Jim Smith, Joey Guercio, Johan Kalee, John Migliore, John Passmore, John Pettit, Jon Shibata, Jonah Grumbine, Jonathan Cul, Jordan Berson,

Joy Jacobs, Julie Lubo Cerra, Kady Ferris, Karen Coyle, Kate Klutz, Kate Pourishariati, Katie Risseeuw, Kazuo Shinato, Keiko Saito, Kelly Anzalone, Kevin O'Sullivan, Kim Jackson, Kimberly Tarr, Laura Tatum, Lance Watsky, Lauren Algee, Lauren Sorenson, Leah Wagner, Lee Teverow, Lesley Ibbotson, Lia Friedman, Lindsey Barnes, Lisa Carter, Lisa Kerrigan, Loni Shibuyama, Lorrie Dong, Lucy Smee, Luke Savisky, Mami Kanda, Marita Klements, Mao Suzuki, Margie Compton, Margo Greenlaw, Mark Koyanagi, Mark Rosen, Martin Robinson, Mat Darby, Max Morey, Megan Alonzo, Meghan Currey, Michael Neault, Michelle Puetz, Mikako Sato, Mikio Yamazaki, Miyuki Takeda, Nancy Watrous, Naohiko Yanagida, Nobuaki Hara, Nozomi Nakagawa, Ole Schepp, Oliver Gaycken, Onno Petersen, Ora Gelley, Paige, Pat Naumann, Paul, Paul Wittenbraker, Raymond Liefjes, Rebekka Bernotat, Renee Cawley, Renna Tuten, Richard Ward, Rixt Jonkman, Ronald Simons, Ruud Molleman, Sarah Stan, Sarah Weinblatt, Satoe Tamura, Sean Kinney, Sean Savage, Shira Peltzman, Shiraz Bhathena, Sheila McAlister, Shyrien Abdoelhak, Siue Moffat, Snowden Becker, Stephen O' Riordan, Steve Bailey, Steve Hamilton, Steve Wilson, Steve Wright, Stuart Freeman, Taro, Tim Emblem-English, Tim Wilson, Tom Adams, Tom Terracino, Tom Wills, Trisha Lendo, Troy Vadakan, Valentine Kuypers, Victoria Jaschob, Walter Forsberg, Walter Swagemakers, Wren Jackson, Yasuki Kanamori, Yoko Fukada, Yukari Yasuda, Yuko Kodama, Yvonne Ng, Zach Finch, Zack Lischer-Katz, Zamir Javed

For images of various HMD events, please see the end of the report.

PRESENTATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Presentations

March 2008 was a high-profile month for CHM: Early in the month, Charles Tepperman, the local host for HMD in Calgary, Alberta, chaired a panel session at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies annual conference in Philadelphia, PA. The panel, titled “Amateur Media Histories,” included talks by two CHM board members; Dwight Swanson spoke on “Christmas Morning Movies: Examining Rituals of the Commonplace in Amateur Films,” and Snowden Becker presented on “Teaching from the Tip of the Iceberg: Using Amateur Films in the Classroom and for Research.” Later that month, the whole CHM gang (and several members of our advisory board) gathered in New York for the Orphan Film Symposium—see the previous annual report sections on the Helen Hill Fund, *Think of Me First as a Person*, and *Our Day* for details.

In September, Snowden Becker appeared on a panel organized by the National Film Preservation Foundation at the Society of American Archivists conference in San Francisco, CA. The title of the session was “Old Movies, New Audiences: Archival Films as Public Outreach Tools,” and Snowden discussed how Home Movie Day works as an outreach effort for archives by putting the emphasis on materials owned and cared for by members of the public.

Also in September, Dwight Swanson and Katie Trainor gave a presentation on home movies and Home Movie Day for Dan Streible’s NYU class “Curating, Programming, Exhibiting, and Repurposing/Recontextualizing Moving Image Material.”

CHM Workshop: Becoming a Film-Friendly Archivist

Starting in 2009, board members Snowden Becker and Katie Trainor will be booking their popular “Becoming a Film-Friendly Archivist” workshop—formerly offered through the Society of American Archivists’ continuing education program—through the Center for Home Movies instead. The day-long program provides an introduction to film identification, assessment, and handling, and is designed to help archivists plan more effectively for acquiring, preserving and providing access to film materials. The workshop structure is flexible enough to address the specific information needs and collection management issues of the participants; in fact, we always encourage attendees to bring examples of material from their own collections for help with identification and assessment!

Workshop dates are flexible and can be booked throughout the year. Costs are limited to the travel expenses of the instructors and a modest booking fee that goes directly to the Center for Home Movies. Host institutions may set their own registration fee for those who attend the workshop in order to recoup their costs; in most cases, the break-even point will be \$75-100 per person for 12-15 attendees, but groups of up to 30 people can be accommodated for this program.

Regional archives associations may wish to book “Becoming a Film-Friendly Archivist” as a pre-conference activity for annual meetings, or as a standalone program. Institutions with motion picture materials in their collections may use the workshop for onsite staff training, and would also have the option of opening it up to other archivists in their area to help defray expenses. Colleges with archival education programs that do not cover audiovisual media and preservation as part of a core curriculum or through electives can bring our experienced instructors in to help fill this gap.

For more information about collection consultations, or to schedule a workshop date, email info@centerforhomemovies.org.

IN MEMORIUM

Bill O'Farrell



Bill O'Farrell loved home movies. He donated the home movies his father shot of Bill and his siblings to the Library & Archives Canada (LAC) in Ottawa, where Bill was Chief of Moving Image and Audio Conservation. When the Association of Moving Image Archivists had its annual conference in Portland, Oregon, in 2001, one of the conference themes was small gauge film, and out of that interest and movement the Center for Home Movies came to be. I'd never seen Bill so excited about the potential for content and historical value as he was about home movies. Whether they were 16mm, 8mm, 9.5mm, or Super8mm, Bill got a thrill out of what might be on those films.

Bill already knew about the small gauge film holdings at archives such as Northeast Historic Film and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, so when other archives started talking about their present holdings or their intent to collect them, Bill did what he could to encourage them. When he left LAC in 2002, he became an eBay maven, searching among all the listings for any kind of local/regional footage, home movie, or amateur film, and then among those, would figure out which archivists he knew who really should have that footage among their holdings. If the archives in question could not do eBay purchasing, then Bill would bid on the films and donate them. If there just wasn't an archives which could take them, it would disappoint him terribly because, even if all he had was a short description from a can he'd found at an antique mall or from an eBay description, he was sure it would be the greatest footage imaginable of whatever the subject. So when the Center for Home Movies came into existence, Bill was delighted that there would be an organization devoted to educating the public about home movies' importance and to promoting their historical value and preservation.

Bill's particular *joie de vivre* for small gauge film and for supporting archives was unique among film archivists. He is missed.

-Margie Compton

Dwight Core, Jr.

Dwight Core, Jr., the star and heart of the film *Think of Me First as a Person* passed away in Norfolk, Virginia on October 1st at the age of 48. The film follows his life from birth until his teenage years, when he was sent to the Lynchburg Training School. He later returned to Norfolk,

where he had his own apartment in the Hope House, an assisted-living facility for people with disabilities.

In addition to his nephew George Ingmire, Core is also survived by three other sisters: Carolyn Greyard, Nancy Vanek and Patricia Ingmire-Richard. According to a story about Core in the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, Dwight enjoyed his celebrity and appeared at public showings of the film. "He was signing autographs wherever he went," Ingmire said. "He visited the graveside of his mother and father to announce that he was 'on DVD.' "

José Torres

Boxing legend José Torres passed away in Ponce, Puerto Rico on January 19th at the age of 72. One of the highlights of the 2006 New York City Home Movie Day was the screening of a wedding film found by filmmaker Jeanne Liotta. The beauty of the black-and-white 16mm reel caught the attention of everyone in the audience, but especially Craig Lopez, who noticed the name of the couple in the film and used it to track them down. It turned out that the film was the wedding film of Ramonita Ortiz and José Torres, a former light-heavyweight boxing champion, who later became a *New York Post* columnist, biographer, actor, and political activist. A close friend of Norman Mailer, he starred in Mailer's 1968 film *WILD 90*. The story of the rediscovery of the Torres's wedding film was the subject of an August 2007 *New Yorker* "Talk of the Town" piece by Charles Graeber
http://www.newyorker.com/talk/2007/08/06/070806ta_talk_graeber.



Larry Morris/The New York Times
José Torres, left, in his 1965 title-bout win over Willie Pastrano.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The 2008 CHM Financial report is available upon request

SPONSORS

We would like to once again thank our generous 2008 national sponsors:

- Library of Congress
- Colorlab
- Ascent Media
- Cineric
- The Orphan Film Symposium

There are many additional sponsors who have supported local HMD events with cash and in-kind donations.

For information about contributing to Home Movie Day or the Center for Home Movies, contact film@homemovieday.com or any of the CHM board members.

LOOKING AHEAD

CHM Board of Directors 2009 Annual Meeting and Retreat

The board of directors of the Center for Home Movies held its 2009 annual meeting and retreat on February 13-14 in a cabin at Raccoon Creek State Park, just outside of Pittsburgh, PA. We were pleased to return to the site of our first annual retreat in 2005, and more so to be joined by newer board members Molly Wheeler and Albert Steg for their first retreat with the board.

Officer Elections

Board and officer voting results included the election of Chad Hunter as board president, Dwight Swanson as board vice president, Molly Wheeler as secretary, and Snowden Becker as treasurer. We thank outgoing president and secretary Snowden Becker, and outgoing treasurer Brian Graney for their excellent service to the board.

Bylaw Amendments

The board also voted to amend its bylaws to more accurately reflect the board's current structure and protocol. Changes included increasing the allowable number of board members to eight; voting annually on board officer positions rather than service of indefinite terms; and revision of our quorum from three persons to a simple majority of the board.

Transfer House List Revamp

The Film Transfer pages on the Home Movie Day site have been useful in providing the public with resources for locating a vendor to transfer their home movies, and have also provided vendors with a free platform for promoting their services. However, the pages do not give visitors to the HMD site any guidance in choosing between services and, of greater concern, do

not make any requirements of the vendors to observe or encourage sound archival practices. This year Albert will address both sides of this Transfer House listing feature, providing more information about each of the listed services and some simple guidelines for differentiating between levels of professionalism in transfer houses; and, perhaps most importantly, requiring that listed transfer houses express preservationist values on their websites and support HMD through reciprocal links. At the same time, CHM will clarify and encourage various opportunities for transfer houses to sponsor our efforts.

Home Movie Day 2009

Home Movie day 2009 is scheduled for Saturday October 17th. We had a very good response from our representatives about this change in date from August to October therefore we are going to continue celebrating Home Movie Day the 3rd Saturday of October. We did see a rise in attendance at many venues because of this October change. It opened up the audience pool to students and those who may have found themselves vacationing during our August date. The only downside to this change that we could see was the potential conflict with those hosted Universities that have big Saturday football games!

As always, we are seeking to increase the number of participating cities and countries.

Upcoming Projects

The Center for Home Movies was approached by Mark Neumann and Janna Jones to collaborate on a book project about home movies. Jones and Neumann are scholars of amateur film, cinema and visual culture, and faculty members of the School of Communication at Northern Arizona University. They will edit the book in collaboration with CHM.

Tentatively titled "Things to Do with Home Movies," the book will be an edited collection of essays by a diverse range of scholars and writers who will provide an engaging analysis and discussion of particular examples of home movies and amateur films drawn from an array of collections.

Synopsis: The essays comprising this volume will be written by a range of scholars and writers drawn from disciplines that focus on such topics as culture, history, anthropology, psychology, and sociology. Each contributor will be given a single film or group of films that will become the subject of his or her essay. Essentially, the aim of this collection of essays is to have a vast group of people from different intellectual backgrounds think about why particular amateur films or home movie holds interest, value and significance. In other words, if resources are devoted toward amateur film preservation, what are the possibilities of putting amateur film and home movies to use for the study of life, history, and culture? By drawing on a variety of thinkers and writers, our goal is not only to expand the potential for how we understand such films, but also to create a dialogue and vocabulary for talking about the uses of amateur cinema.

"Things to Do with Home Movies" will be accompanied by a DVD that provides readers with an opportunity to view the films discussed in the essays that comprise the book.

OTHER BUSINESS

The board affirmed that priority for projects in 2009 be given to development of the CHM website. The board also formed a committee to oversee this year's Home Movie Day, consisting of Dwight, Molly and Katie. As part of their work, they will identify and recruit a volunteer to help organize this year's event. Other discussion included our acquisitions policy and process; better utilization of our advisory board; CHM/HMD branding; white paper ideas; our book/dvd project; podcasting; and fundraising.

As the activities of Home Movie Day and the Center for Home Movies continue to expand into new areas, we are always in need of your support.

Things we need for 2009:

- Support for web design
- Equipment in good working condition
- Donations of printing costs for letterhead and promotional brochures
- Legal counsel, including help with contracts, copyright issues, tax filings, and other concerns as they arise
- Assistance with accounting
- Your time and labor for local events and international projects

The Center for Home Movies Board

Snowden Becker
Brian Graney
Chad Hunter
Albert Steg
Dwight Swanson
Katie Trainor
Molly Wheeler

Images from Home Movie Day 2008



Urbana, IL



Austin, TX



Grand Rapids, MI



New Haven, CT



New York City



Berkeley, CA



London



Los Angeles

For more HMD images, visit the Flickr Home Movie Day pool at <http://www.flickr.com/groups/homemovieday/pool/>