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Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
825 Fifth St.
Eureka, CA 95501
Submitted by email: cob@co.humboldt.ca.us

Re: The “Don Tuttle Humboldt History Fund” at the Humboldt Area Foundation

Dear Chairman Fennell and Board Members,

I am writing to let you know that a fund in memory of Don Tuttle has now been established at the Humboldt Area Foundation to help support the archiving and digitizing of important historical materials on Humboldt County that Don collected during his career with the county. His wish was to make these easily available online for use in county planning, project development and the assessment of environmental impacts of proposed projects. He wished the materials to be available to county staff, historical researchers and the enjoyment of the general public.

Specifically, the Fund provides for:

1. Curating the collection of aerial photos, maps, etc. done during Don’s tenure with the County of Humboldt Public Works Department. Approved grant funds would be paid to the County of Humboldt and/or Humboldt State University Library.
2. Curating and preparing Don’s 1400+ pages of personal historic notes in the collection of the Humboldt State University Library. Approved grant funds would be paid to the Humboldt State University Library.
3. Complete Don’s book on the history of Big Lagoon and its community. Approved grant funds would be used for a writer and the publication of the book.

Regarding the county-owned maps and photos: I have had several conversations with Hank Seemann of the Department of Public Works discussing the tasks involved in organizing and hiring a consultant/contractor to scan the extensive set of aerial photograph flight lines covering the county since approximately the 1940’s, and any maps not already available online. I believe the hard copies are now stored in the basement of the Clark Complex.

I believe there may also be a collection of photographic slides Don took over the years of county facilities and projects. Many of these are color aerials that were taken while flying in a small plane with various county Aviation Directors and contract pilots. These now provide important baseline information and should be scanned before the slides deteriorate.

I have also consulted with Carly Marino, the Special Collections Librarian at Humboldt State University, regarding possible collaboration with Humboldt County to eventually host the digital database. I look forward to Hank and Carly coordinating their capacities to determine the best arrangement for hosting the County materials once they are digitized. I assume the hard copies will remain the property of and under the control of Humboldt County.

I look forward to your support in getting the tasks pertinent to the Public Works collection underway. Please note that the current size of the fund represents seed money to get started, and it may be adjusted once we know the scope of the work. I will remain in touch with Hank Seemann as the project proceeds.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Andrea Tuttle

Cc:

Thomas Mattson, Director of Public Works, Humboldt County

Hank Seemann, Deputy Director, Environmental Services

Steve Lazar, President, Humboldt County Historical Society

Cyril Oberlander, Dean of the University Library, Humboldt State University

Carly Marino, Special Collections Librarian, Humboldt State University