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National Archives Begins Moving Its Vast Collection to a New Home

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 (AP) — Over the next three years, the National Archives will move millions of historical items — including Civil War photographs, tapes from the Watergate scandal and the windshield that was cracked in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy — to a \$250 million research building in suburban College Park, Md.

The move, which begins on Monday, will require at least 1,300 truck loads and cost \$6.8 million, said a spokeswoman for the National Archives and Records Administration, Susan Cooper.

Much of the 765,934 cubic feet of material will be placed in 2.3 million small, specially designed and cushioned containers to protect the contents from sunlight, temperature fluctuations and humidity.

The windshield of the limousine in which Kennedy was riding when he was shot will be wrapped in Styrofoam, put in a crate and taken along a special route to avoid potholes. The Watergate tapes, part of the large collection of President Richard M. Nixon's records that will be kept at the new archive, will be transported in armored cars.

"We have people who have already been working on this move for five years, full time," Ms. Cooper said. "And they will continue to work on this for another three years."

The movers will transport 7 million still pictures, 11 million charts, maps and aerial photographs, 112,274 reels of motion picture film, and 200,122 sound and video recordings, archivists said.

Civil War Photographs

The picture collection includes photographs taken by Mathew Brady during the Civil War, work by Ansel Adams and hundreds of thousands of photographs from World War II. Other items include documents on the Kennedy assassination and audio tapes from the Supreme Court.

But some of the nation's most important documents, like the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, will remain at the Archives' main building in downtown Washington, along with a quarter-million cubic feet of other documents.

The new building, known informally as Archives II, is 10 miles away, on 33 acres of the main campus of the University of Maryland, which donated the land. Archives II features advanced pollution and environmental controls and has nine laboratories, where archi-

vists will employ the latest document-preservation methods and develop new ones, Ms. Cooper said.

Paper records will be stored on mobile shelves that can be shifted electronically at a push of a button. Laid end to end, the 520 miles of shelves would reach from the Archives' downtown headquarters to Ann Arbor, Mich.

The building can hold up to 2 million cubic feet of records, enough space to accommodate the acquisition of materials well into the next century, officials said.

Since the 1960's, the Archives has been leasing storage space at various locations in and near the capital. "One thing this move is going to achieve is a consolidation of all of those facilities," Ms. Cooper said, adding that the consolidation is expected to save about \$5 million a year in rental costs.

"But it's not just a cost-saving measure," she added. "It will also really help researchers, because it will be consolidating the material."

Harassed by Protests, Couple Vacate Home

COLRAIN, Mass., Jan. 2 (AP) — A couple who became embroiled in a peace protest by buying another couple's foreclosed-upon house have left the property after reaching an agreement with a land trust that sympathized with the protesters.

On Friday, the couple, Daniel and Terry Franklin, moved out of the two-story house that they had bought for \$5,400 at a foreclosure auction in April 1992.

The house had belonged to Randy Kehler and his wife, Betsy Corner. Beginning in 1977, the couple refused to pay taxes to protest American policy in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama and Iraq, and by the time their property was taken in 1989, they owed more than \$45,000 in taxes, interest and penalties. Mr. Kehler was jailed for three months for contempt of court.

Soon after the Franklins moved into the house, protesters began holding daily vigils outside. A land trust, whose members were drawn partly from local residents and sympathetic to the protesters and the former owners, bought 200 acres under and around the house.

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