

## Guide to the School Bus Accident 1961 Collection 2 - 2008.18

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**Reference code** US CoGrCGM 2008.18  
**Title** School Bus Accident 1961 Collection 2  
**Processed by** Patsy White  
**Finding aid prepared by** Patsy White

**Name and location of repository** Hazel E. Johnson Research Center  
Greeley History Museum  
714 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Greeley, CO 80631  
Phone: (970) 336-4187  
Email: museums@greeleygov.com  
URL: <http://greeleymuseums.com/>

### Collection Summary

**Dates** 1961  
**Bulk dates** 1961  
**Level of description** Collection  
**Extent** 1.37 cubic feet  
**Creator(s)** Weld/Evans School District 6

### Administrative/Biographical History

#### **Brief History of the Greeley/Evans Train/School Bus Tragedy**

On Thursday, December 14, 1961 at about 8:00 a.m., Union Pacific Train No. 111 "City of Denver" was travelling toward Denver at a higher than normal speed and behind schedule. A Greeley-Evans School District 6 bus was travelling toward Evans, CO and was crossing the tracks where an east and west county road crosses the Union Pacific Railroad two miles east and one mile south of Evans, CO in section 27, Weld County. The bus was carrying 36 children on the way to school. The train struck the right rear of the school bus, resulting in the death of 20 children.

#### **Brief History of the F. H. Langell Presentation**

F. H. Langell was a consultant with the Dow Chemical Company's operations at the Atomic Energy Commissions Rocky Flats Plant near Denver, CO from 1951 until 1961. Rocky Flats held the nationwide safety record for all AEC contractors (17,00,000 man hours of exposure without a lost-time injury. Because of his deep personal interest in safety, Mr. Langell became

interested in the school bus/train accident. He spent over 29 hours at the accident site and prepared a series of slides for a presentation on principles of industrial safety in the hopes it would prevent such things from happening in the future.

### **Scope and Content**

This collection consists of 2 black and white photographs (one 3"x 5" and one 8"x 10") of aerial views of the scene of the accident involving a Greeley/Evans school bus and a Union Pacific train in 1961; 58 5" x 7" index cards with typed presentation by F. W. Langell with a description of the accident, analysis of dynamics of the accident, and suggestions for safety guidelines; 34 slides corresponding to the presentation; and 2 audiotapes of radio reports of the accident.

#### **System of arrangement**

No original order. Order imposed by material type and subject.

#### **Conditions governing access**

There are no restrictions on the access of this collection.

#### **Conditions governing reproduction and use**

There are no restrictions on the use or reproduction of this collection.

#### **Languages and scripts of the materials**

English

#### **Immediate source of acquisition**

This collection was donated by Greeley-Evans School District 6.

#### **Notes**

Preferred citation: City of Greeley Museum's Permanent Collection, #2008.18.

#### **Names**

Bindell, Arthur  
Harms, Duane  
Hembry, Jerry  
Langell, F. H.  
Larson, Arthur  
Sommers, Herbert  
Swanson, Melvin

#### **Places**

Greeley (Colo.)  
Evans (Colo.)

#### **Subjects**

Casualties

Accidents  
Traffic accidents  
Tragedies  
School buses  
School children

**Document forms** Photographs  
Presentation Index Cards  
Slides  
Audiotapes

**Contents**

**Series I: Photographs**

Consists of one 8" x 10" and one 3" X 5" black and white photo of aerial views of the scene of the accident.

**Series II: Presentation Index Cards**

Consists of 58 5" x 7" index cards with typed presentation of F. H. Langell on the Greeley-Evans school bus tragedy.

**Series III: Slides**

Consists of 34 slides from presentation by F. H. Langell on the Greeley-Evans school bus accident.

**Series IV: Audiotapes**

Consists of two audiotapes of radio reports of the school bus tragedy.

**Container List**

**Series I: Photographs**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1	1

**Series II: Index Cards**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1	2

**Series III: Audiotapes**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
AV-ARC-001	N/A

**Series IV: Slides**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
IM-ARC-001	N/A