

PLANNING, ZONING AND
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

108 Sherman Street
Telephone (605) 578-2082
Fax (605) 578-2084



Mike Runge
Archivist
Telephone (605) 578-2082

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 23, 2026
To: Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission
From: Mike Runge, City Archivist
Re: **2026 Digitization of 8mm Film, Collection 2025.11 Houlette Family Film Archive**

The City Archives is requesting permission to hire Lawrence “Buck” Bitto of Movette Film Transfer of San Francisco, California to clean, condition, and digitize the forty-nine reels of 8mm motion picture films donated to the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission by the Houlette Family in 2025.

The Houlette family once lived at 27 Lincoln Avenue in the 1930s and 1940s. Their daughter, Edith Houlette, graduated from Deadwood High School in 1948. Based on the donor’s written notes, this assemblage contains early Days of 76 footage, Deadwood High School Homecoming parade, snow removal in Deadwood, northern Black Hills scenery and sites, including Roughlock Falls and the carving of Mount Rushmore.

The Historic Preservation Commission has hired Movette Film Transfer on three occasions, including 2020, 2023 and 2024. Upon completion, the Historic Preservation Office will incorporate portions of the film on the City’s online GIS Historic Media Map located at:

<https://gis.cityofdeadwood.com/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9fc6864908aa4ed48dedeee01e5f5be8>

RECOMMENDATION:

Allow the City Archives to hire Movette Film Transfer of San Francisco, California to clean, condition, and digitize the forty-nine reels of 8mm motion picture films from the Houlette Family Film Archive. The cost of this project will not exceed the amount of \$4,800.00 and will come out of the 2026 Archives budget. This project is a 2026 City Archives budgeted project.

2026 City Archives SC

Michael Runge

From: Buck Bito - Movette <buck@movettefilm.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 5, 2025 5:09 PM
To: Michael Runge; Buck Bito
Subject: Re: City of Deadwood Archives, formal quote for digitizing Houlette Film Collection - EST22797

Hi Michael,

The rough estimate I punched in assumes all film is in Fair or better condition and does not require our special warp gate. Film requiring the warp gate is charged at twice the normal rate. The estimate also takes into account that many families loaded reels beyond their rated capacity - often 50 additional feet are found on 200 and 400 foot capacity reels. The 5 inch diameter reels were intended for a maximum of 200 feet but we do find 250 feet of film loaded on these reels so I estimated for 15 x 250' and up to 450 feet on the 7 inch / 400 foot capacity reel.

Bearing in mind the above, my ballpark estimate is \$4703.40 (plus shipping costs).

If the actual footage is within the neighborhood of the 5850 feet in my cost estimate the project would produce around 2.8TB of files. However 200 foot capacity reels could be holding less than 50 feet rather than the 250 feet I used for the cost estimate which would drop the cost and file sizes to 1/5 of what I am estimating - this is why we are loathe to produce estimates without physically inspecting the reels.

We can certainly break the project into multiple sub-projects.

-Sincerely,
--Buck Bito

Lawrence "Buck" Bito
Movette Film Transfer
1407 Valencia St.
San Francisco, CA 94110
(Valencia at 25th St.)
415-558-8815
By Appointment Only: Tuesday - Saturday
www.movettefilm.com

On 8/4/2025 12:41 PM, Michael Runge wrote:

Good afternoon Buck:

Hope all is well in San Fransico. We received that large collection of 8mm film and would like to get a quote from you to digitize it. The breakdown is as follows:

1. (29) 3" 8mm films
2. (4) 3" 8mm news films
3. (15) 5" 8mm films. Owner stated he spliced them together.
4. (1) 7" 8mm film. Owner stated he spliced them together.

105 CLIMBING MT RUSHMORE w/ CARL HARRIS - JITTERY BOATS ROBBERS
 106 BW DOLL'S THUR CATHEDRAL SPIDERS/NBEDLES 128 MOM + GRANDMA (HOMERS)
 (135) MOM + GRANDMA (HARRIS) (HARRIS) (HARRIS) (HARRIS)
 SILENCE @ (3:10) MOM + GRANDMA (HARRIS) (HARRIS) (HARRIS)
 (6:22) GRANDMA (HARRIS) WHITE ROCKS? MT MORNING, MT RUSHMORE,

107 BW DAM + PLEASANT (DEDICATION?) BOATS, SAILBOATS
 108 w/ ELMINGHAM (MT RUSHMORE?) DVD FIRE DOWNDOWN
 109 CARP BOATS @ JANET BABY, BOATS @ MUM

110 BW HOWST MARRIAGE FILM IN GARD, KIDS ON SWINGS DOWN ONE OF THE BOATS
 MOM + GRANDMA (3:14) BY HOSS ROOL

111 CLR MARRIAGE @ SNEED? P.C. BOATS 247 STEAMER PARADISE JUNIOR
 112 DEER, TOTTIE, GANNY w/ DEER, FRED w/ TOTTIE JOE TOWLER, KEN, JANE
 @ REVERSE? @

113 KIDS PAINTING IN BLD (JILL + KEN) ON FRONTON CRE IN GARDEN
 MOM (CARP w/ SAND) GANNY JANET POP

114 CARP FARM @ CROOK MEL MOM w/ MITZI JOE WADING, KEN
 @ ROUBAH? LALO w/ INSULATOR DINOSAUR KEN IN SAND JANET
 PUP MITZI

115 CLR PLEASANT MOM, MOM DRIVE BOAT, BOAT BY LAOS, CARP w/ BOAT,

116 CLR ORMAN DAM? BOATS, MOM BIG BOAT, SETTLE MOTOR ON TRAWLER

117 CLR JANET BABY STEWART ST HOWIS? MOM + CAT SWIMMY, GINA HOLST
 -> w/ JANET + MOM

118 BW MILITARY PARADE DVD, DAVE'S @ 76? ~~VIDEO~~ PAR RO DOO
 MUM NET, TRICK ROPE, CARNIVAL, GANNY @ VERY SWD

119 CLR SHIPS PARADE DVD FRED (TOTTIE) (2:41), MOM + DAD IN GP'S BOAT
 MOM + GANNY (JANET (BABY), GRAND GANNY IN BOAT

120 BW DVD PARADE BOAT DAY? MOM @ (1:00) ON FRONT

121 CLR PARADE - JITTERY (ROBBERS?) MILITARY CHORUS FRONTIER DAYS
 SIDO - GY - IPS BLAKE (2:08), PAUL PARTIAL (2:11) 48-STAR PLAC (3:22)

122 CLR CHILD RIVER PLOD. 1842 JAN. BARLES + PADDLE WHEEL BOATS
 BW FRONTON DAYS ROBBERS 2:53

- 24, 123 CLR SNOW SKIING, RACEDS, JUMPS, SAND-STORM IN DWD
REMOVING MACHINES, BLOWING SNOW, BOOR IN SNOW (8:50) DOW PLANE SWIMMING
- 125 CLR HELICOPTER, KONG (SITTING?) DRILL'S TWR CLIMBERS, HELICOPTER ACCR.
- 126 CLR ICE FALLS, PRAIRIE, HILLS, FALL COLORS,
- 127, 128 CLR DUCKS, CHIPMUNK, SQUIRREL
- 129 BW ^{HOLSTEINE} CRABS, OCEAN, TROSS IN SWAMP,
FL
- 130 BW MILITARY PARADE
- 131 CLR SPLASH CW FALL COLORS, BOATS, PAINTING HOUSE ON LAKE
DRINKING, REFINISHING BOAT BOATS ORMAN DAM?
- 132 BW RQ. PUNDSANK PARK, UNAPPROVED DIVERSARY, HILLS STREAN, GMA + DAM
BEHIND DAM
- 133 CLR DRILL TWR CLIMBERS JAMES
- 134 CLR " " "
- 135 CLR DWD SNOW + REMOVING MACHINES (15:00), SHIRINE PARADE JAN 142
- 136 BW MTS,
- 137 CLR FLOWERS MOM @ (3:14)
- 138 BW BOATS RACES
- 139 BW SAILBOATS ON OCEAN (FL?) DWEL IN OLD STILLS EQUIPMENT
- 140 BW OUR NAVY IN ACTION JAMES 1922-1932 @ 1937
- 142 BW RUSSIA STOPS HITLER WINTER 1941
- 143 BW CHAPLIN - HERO JAMES 1915 - 01:57
- 145 BW THE FALLS & YOSEMITE PARK
- 146 CLR CLIMBING AT REFINERS IN 19?? EVELL HARRIS, HOWARD HOWLTON
- 147 CLR SCRAP PIECES & BOAT FOOTAGE

$$\frac{2252 \cdot 200}{318}$$

$$W_p = \frac{t_y \cdot v_{rms}}{52 FL}$$

377 R. 101