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## **Stevenson family Southwest rock, mineral collection On display at IWU's Sheean Library until June 14**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--About 150 minerals and rocks from the American Southwest--collected in the late 1890s by Lewis Green Stevenson, son of a U.S. vice president and father of an Illinois governor and two-time presidential nominee--are on display through June 14 at Illinois Wesleyan University's Sheean Library.

The minerals and rocks were donated last fall to IWU by Timothy R. Ives, IWU trustee from 1984-87 and Stevenson's grandson. Following the Sheean Library exhibition, they will be moved to IWU's new \$25 million Center for Natural Science Learning and Research for use in classroom study.

The exhibit is titled, "Minerals and Rocks of the American Southwest--A Personal Collection of Specimens Collected by Lewis Green Stevenson at the Turn-of-the-Century."

It was probably from 1896 to 1899 that the majority of this collection was gathered, explained Jane Chamberlain, information services librarian and display organizer. Stevenson's handwritten labels remain intact on many of the specimens, she added, indicating they are from Arizona, New Mexico, and Montana.

Admission to the exhibit is free and open to the public. Sheean Library hours are: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-Midnight; Friday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m.-Midnight.

"The collection," Chamberlain said, "is mostly of minerals from the Southwest. It is rich in azurite, malachite, and copper. It is an educationally and visually rich and rewarding exhibit to have on campus.

Wendy Wolbach, IWU assistant professor and chairperson of chemistry, sifted through the collection, identifying unmarked specimens and cataloging the collection.

Chamberlain said the specimens were collected when Stevenson was managing mining properties for Phoebe Apperson Hearst, widow of George Hearst, who made a fortune in gold and copper mining, who served as a U.S. senator from California from 1886 until his death in 1891, and who was the father of famed newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst. Initially, Stevenson managed Hearst's Santa Rita copper mine in New Mexico. However, in 1899, he gained additional responsibilities and was transferred to Los Angeles.

### **Lewis Green Stevenson Biography**

Lewis Green Stevenson was born in Chicago, Aug. 15, 1868. He was the son of Adlai

**(more)**

## **IWU-Stevenson Exhibit/2**

Stevenson, who served as Grover Cleveland's vice president, 1893-97.

Lewis Green Stevenson married Helen Davis in 1893. They were the parents of Elizabeth Stevenson Ives, a longtime Bloomington resident, and Adlai Stevenson II, governor of Illinois, 1949-53; the Democratic party's presidential nominee in 1952 and 1956; and President John F. Kennedy's United Nations' ambassador until his death in 1965.

While Lewis Green Stevenson was a student at what is now Illinois State University in Normal, he became friends with John Wesley Powell, the Civil War hero, famed explorer of the American West, and IWU professor of natural sciences, 1865-67. Powell joined the Illinois State faculty for a few years before helping to found the National Geographic Society and the U.S. Geological Survey. Later, he was the first director of the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of Ethnology.

Lewis Green Stevenson asked Powell, who was a friend of his father's, for a position on a U.S. Geological Survey expedition to the Southwest. The trip triggered Stevenson's interest in the region and its abundant mineral resources.

After returning from the expedition, Stevenson served as his father's personal secretary during his vice presidency.

While living in Washington, D.C., Stevenson's mother became friends with Phoebe Hearst. As his father's term as vice president was winding down, Stevenson began working for the Hearsts.

His wife, Helen, gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth, in 1897, and a son, Adlai, in 1900. After relocating to California in 1899, the Stevenson family returned to Bloomington following the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. At this time, Stevenson took over management of 49 farms consisting of more than 12,000 acres owned by a widowed aunt.

Lewis Green Stevenson, who served as Illinois Secretary of State, 1914-17, died in Bloomington, April 5, 1929.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,850 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$25 million science building opened in the fall of 1995. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition.