

NATIONAL ARCHIVES CATALOG

Favorite Film Finds of 2016

Our colleagues Heidi Holmstrom and Audrey Amidon work in the Motion Picture Preservation Lab, which is responsible for performing conservation and preservation work on motion picture records held across the National Archives. This post from the [Unwritten Record blog](#) describes their favorite films that were preserved and digitized in 2016.

In the past year, staff in the motion picture preservation lab handled millions of feet of film. Films might come to us for inspection and repair, photochemical duplication, or digitization. To follow up [last year's list](#), we've identified a handful of films that were digitized in 2016 and found their way to our list of favorites.





Manufacture of Gas Masks ([111-H-1204](#))

Over the past couple of years, in remembrance of the centennial of the conflict, the National Archives has digitized photographs and motion pictures related to World War I. The Stills unit digitized some [24,000 photographs](#) from the Signal Corps, while the motion picture lab has slowly but steadily digitized the [Signal Corps' historical film collection](#). Compiled in 1936, the series includes other historical events, such as the [dedication of the Lincoln Memorial](#), but the bulk of the series is footage of World War I. We found this film compelling because it shows the entire process of the manufacture of the gas mask, an object of central importance during World War I.



***The Hidden Army* ([111-WF-25](#))**

The Hidden Army is a somewhat standard film about the involvement of American women in the war effort during World War II— but with a twist. In a fictional frame story, we see Adolf Hitler in a caged cell, writing his memoirs at the end of the war. Chapter 25 details how Germany’s underestimation of American women led to their defeat. One Nazi official in the film actually laughs at the suggestion that American women will step up to provide the nation’s labor. *The Hidden Army* was made by the Army Pictorial Service for “the men and women of industry,” ostensibly as a motivational film.



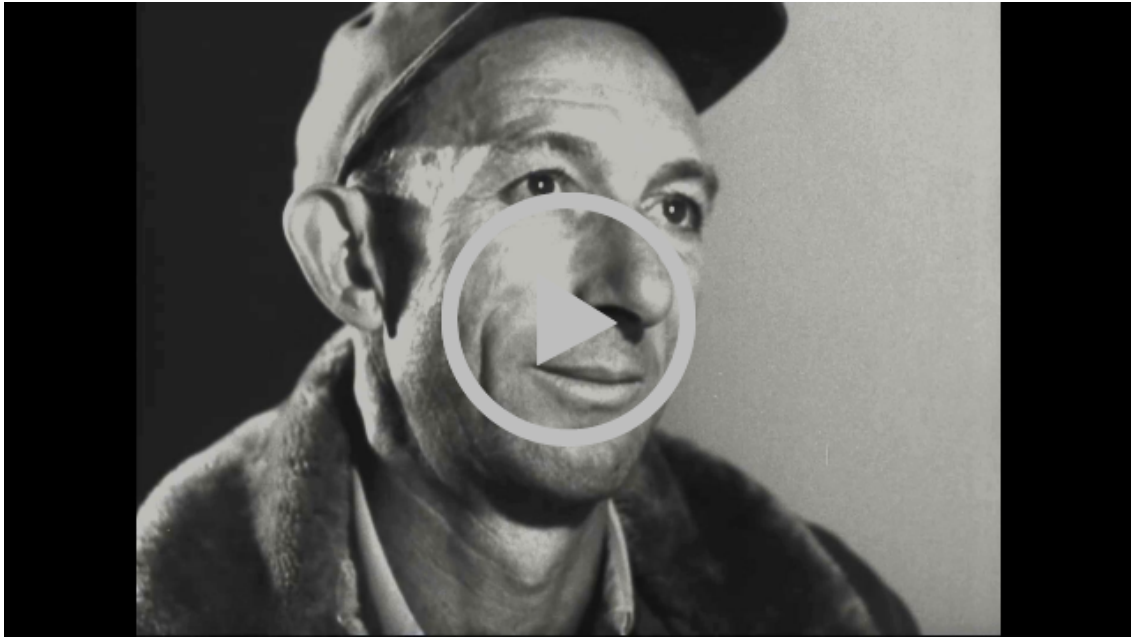
School for Assassins ([306.2997](#))

If we could hand out an award for “Narrator of the Year,” it would go to the voiceover talent for the English-language version of the animated anti-communist film [School for Assassins](#), produced in the 1960s for the United States Information Agency. This unsung artist steers us through the tragic story of two brothers at political odds in Latin America. Just listen to the way he spits out the phrase “[school for assassins](#)” in the closing line of the film. A+ work!



As the City Sleeps ([306.8104](#))

As the City Sleeps is a fascinating peek into the lives of the workers who readied San Francisco's Grand Central Market for a day's customers. We digitized the film after receiving a request from the filmmaker's son, who was hoping to surprise his father, Charles Larrance, with a copy of the film. *As the City Sleeps* features gorgeous nighttime photography and serves as a record of this significant San Francisco landmark.



Route One ([235-ADA-2](#))

[Route One](#) is the only film we know of that allows you to see the world through the eyes of a hungover St. Bernard. The dog, named Patches, belongs to one of the students at Jackson Junior High, who is, coincidentally, learning all about alcohol in health class. This 1976 alcohol education film includes [a folky song explaining how to avoid hangovers](#). There is also a [bizarre animated sequence](#) explaining the route alcohol takes into the bloodstream and how it affects the body. They don't make alcohol education films like this anymore! Probably for good reason.

For more about the alcohol education films in the Jackson Junior High series, see [this blog post from August](#).



Read more about the work of the Special Media Archives Services Division at National Archives on the [Unwritten Record blog](#)!

New in the **Catalog**



U.S Army Engineer District, New England: [Construction Projects, 1927-1981](#)

Photographs of federal construction projects located in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Photo: [Bangor and Aroostook Train Plowing through the Snow Near Limestone Air Force Base, Limestone, Maine](#)

Pedernales River Chili
A favorite recipe of
Vice President and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson

4 lbs. chili meat	4 tps. chili powder
1 large onion	—more if needed
2 cloves garlic	2 cans tomato sauce
1 tsp. ground cayenne	salt to taste
1 tsp. coriander seed	2 cans of hot water

Put chili meat, onion and garlic in large heavy boiler or skillet. Stir until light colored. Add cayenne, onion, chili powder, tomatoes and hot water. Bring to a boil, lower heat and simmer about one hour. As fat cooks out—done.

MOCHE SPECIALS

Cut tortillas into quarters and fry in deep hot fat until brown and crisp on both sides. Drain and put about one teaspoon of ground cheese and a slice of jalapeno pepper on each quarter. Place in hot oven until well heated and cheese begins to melt. Serve at once.

Did you catch our last [Newsletter](#) filled with recipes from in the National Archives Catalog? Be sure to check out [past issues or share](#) the newsletter with a friend.

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