

The James O. Page Collection at UCLA Library

The earliest paramedic programs are celebrating their 40th anniversaries. Many of the pioneers of EMS are retiring, and some, sadly, have passed on. The history and landmark works of our profession, and the voices of these leaders, need to be preserved and made available to help guide future generations and provide a context for their challenges and opportunities. There is an urgent need, and also a special opportunity, to begin this process now. Jim Page, often called the father of modern EMS, had special meaning for many. He gave voice to the importance and needs of the EMT and paramedic and the importance of EMS as a community asset. He informed these positions as a writer and speaker, firefighter, chief, publisher, attorney and advocate. Jim was a great storyteller, historian and prolific writer of everything from speeches to investigative articles to TV scripts. He was also diligent about keeping everything he had written, as well as important historical documents.

The Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library at UCLA has a section for special collections, considered among the top 10 in the country. Because of Jim's strong link to Los Angeles, and Jim's support of the Prehospital Care Research Forum at UCLA's Center for Prehospital Care, the James O. Page Foundation selected UCLA as the best place to archive and house Jim's voluminous materials. After a careful search and determination that no other library of its kind existed, UCLA welcomed the opportunity. Here are the goals for the Collection:

- *Preserve Jim's Legacy and Works* Professional archivists catalog every relevant document and protect them from deterioration, ensuring they'll be available for future generations. Special rooms are available at the Library in which anyone can review material, whether for research or because of their own personal interest.
- *A National EMS Library* The Collection is intended to act as a touchstone and gathering place for the papers, recordings and works of other pioneers. It provides a core upon which to build a National EMS Library, with promotion and links to other sites that offer additional resources. The site will welcome the opportunity to others in the community to offer insights and comments on their perspective and interactions with Jim to further enrich the legacy.
- *Available On-line* The works of Jim's and others, along with interviews, video's, letters and other documents and mementos will be available for those wishing to visit the library, but will also eventually be available on-line at the Collection's website. We envision the James O. Page Collection's website to be relevant and vibrant, looking to the future from the context of where we've been. For researchers and scholars, it will be a treasure trove of original scripts, speeches, articles and letters that document everything from Jim's role in the TV show Emergency, to the critical reports that set the stage for EMS development in the late 60's and 70's.
- *Voices for Tomorrow* Using its endowment, the Collection will promote and fund interviews with EMS luminaries and other pioneers, ensuring their perspectives will be saved for generations to come. Existing interviews will be sought, gathered and archived, providing a central point to hear and see our pioneers and leaders.