

## **James Fairbourn's Trip to BYU-Idaho**

At the request of Martin Raish and Sam Nielson, I made a trip to visit them at the library at BYU Idaho in Rexburg on February 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The purpose for this visit was to discuss with them what it would take to create a book repair operation in their library as they see a growing need for this in their collections. I produced a photo tour of our facility and tools and recorded it on a CD for them to help with our discussion. We looked over 3 or 4 spaces they were contemplating as locations for making a repair shop and discussed what tools and equipment would be necessary for building a small operation with perhaps 2 to 4 employees. One piece of equipment that we agree is indispensable, a good board shear, Sam has managed to get a used one from Heckman bindery for only \$2500. Martin considered it an awful expense, but I assured him that was a very good buy (the board shear they got could easily sell for more than twice that amount). In order to move it into their building, Sam had had to take the shear apart and then reassemble it once they moved it inside. After doing so he found that the blade no longer cut true and he didn't know how to correct that. When I got a chance to look at it, I borrowed some of their tools and showed Sam how to true up the blade so it would cut right for them (actually it wouldn't cut at all before I started adjusting it). The shear can cut well now but could still use some lubrication and a little fine tuning. I taught Sam how the adjustment bolts on the shear operate so that he knows how to make those changes himself. (They need better hand tools to work with, too, a 10" or 12" adjustable wrench would sure have helped in making that blade cut true!) I also provided them with a list of sources for book repair tools and supplies. I think Martin felt overwhelmed at the costs involved in making a repair operation, but I reminded him that this wasn't all done at once at the BYU Library either, it grew gradually since the days when Dean Larson and Chad Flake drove nails through the spines of magazines to bind them together! It can be put together "line upon line" and "here a little, there a little" as they can manage it at the BYU Idaho Library, too.