

## **An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Robert C. Easterday Collection**

**Repository:** University of Northern Colorado, James A. Michener Library, Archival Services

**Collection number:** SC1-68

**Title:** An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Robert C. Easterday Collection

**Author:** Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on 2006 August 8.

**Dates:** 1943, 1980, 1993

**Creator or Collector:** Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997; Easterday, Robert C. (Robert Cameron), 1916?-

**Size:** .5 linear feet

### **Abstract:**

This collection includes correspondence, a copy of the 1943 *Cache La Poudre* year book from Colorado State College of Education, a copy of the author's book, *A Kid's-Eye View of Early Greeley*, and a condensed version of a tape recording, "A Tour of the Lindenmeier/Folsom Site."

### **Scope and Content Note:**

This collection includes correspondence, a copy of the 1943 *Cache La Poudre* year book from Colorado State College of Education, a copy of the author's book, *A Kid's-Eye View of Early Greeley*, and a condensed version of a tape recording, "A Tour of the Lindenmeier/Folsom Site."

### **Biography of James A. Michener:**

James Albert Michener was born in 1907 to unknown parents and raised as an orphan in the care of widow Mabel Michener of Doylestown, Pennsylvania. By the time he graduated from high school in 1925, he had visited 45 out of the 48 states. He was given a scholarship to Swarthmore, and after graduating summa cum laude in 1929, he traveled and continued his education at nine universities inside and outside the United States. During this time, he also taught in Pennsylvania, Colorado, and at the Harvard School of Education.

When he was not teaching, Michener worked as a textbook editor in New York, and he joined the British Merchant Marines. During WWII, he joined the Navy, making use of his experience in the British Merchant Marines to climb through the ranks to lieutenant and his knowledge of history to carry out sensitive assignments in the South Pacific. It was this experience that brought about *Tales of the South Pacific* in 1947, which won a Pulitzer Prize. Michener used this novel as the cornerstone of his writing career, publishing almost 50 books in the next 50 years, including *Sayonara*, *Hawaii*, *The Source*, *Iberia*, *Caravans*, *The Covenant*, *Sports in America*, and *Poland*.

In 1977, a four-part public television series called *The World of Michener* covered Israel, Hawaii, Spain, and Poland, just a few of the countries upon which his books have been based. Several other books have been turned into movies or miniseries, and two of his novels have been turned into musicals (most notably *South Pacific*, which won its own Pulitzer Prize).

During the time that he was publishing, however, Michener did not ignore the world around him. He ran for Congress in 1962 and held positions on several committees, including the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention, the U.S. Postal Service stamp committee, and an advisory position on a council for NASA. He also spoke often at congressional hearings and at functions of those organizations in which he held particular interest.

James A. Michener died at the age of 90 on October 16, 1997 in Texas, three years after his third wife, Mari Yoriko Sabusawa. He had no children.

**Biography of Robert C. (Robert Cameron) Easterday:**

Robert C. Easterday attended Colorado State College of Education (now the University of Northern Colorado) in 1942. While at the college, he took a social studies class with James A. Michener. He left to serve in World War II. He was stationed in Alaska during the war. He returned to the college and received a Bachelor's Degree (with Teaching certificate) in General Secondary in June 1950. He taught in the Cordova Public Schools in Cordova, Alaska while completing his 1957 thesis *A Study of Dropouts in Alaska Public High Schools*. He graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Educational Administration in December 1957.

**Restrictions on Access:** The collection is open for research.

**Restrictions on Use:** User is responsible for copyright compliance.

**Preferred Citation:** [Description of Item], James A. Michener papers (SC 1-68), Robert C. Easterday Collection, Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

**Acquisition Information (if applicable):**

Gift of Robert C. Easterday to the UNC Alumni Association in 1993.

Documentation relating to the acquisition is on file in Archives, RG 13 S1 F11-2.

**Subjects:**

Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997  
Easterday, Robert C. (Robert Cameron), 1916?-

**Inventory:**

Letter dated 1993 April 26 from Bob Easterday to the UNC Alumni Association enclosing a copy of the *1941 Cache La Poudre* yearbook, which contained a signature by James A. Michener. Photocopy. Original copy in the acquisition file listed above.

*1941 Cache La Poudre*. Greeley, CO: Associated Students of Colorado State College of Education, 1941.

A signed note from Jim Michener appears on the last page.

Easterday, Robert C. *A Kid's-Eye View of Early Greeley*. [Greeley, CO: UNC Alumni Association], 1993.

Easterday reminisces about growing up in Greeley, Colorado. He mentions James Michener on page 22.

"A Tour of the Lindenmeier/Folsom Site" September 1, 1980. Local History Archives, Fort Collins Public Library, Fort Collins, Colorado. Available [Online]: [http://library.ci.fort-collins.co.us/local\\_history/topics/Anecdotes/anecdotes4.htm](http://library.ci.fort-collins.co.us/local_history/topics/Anecdotes/anecdotes4.htm). Printout dated 2006 July 14. Last viewed: 2008 November 19..

This is a condensed version of a tape recording.

As a young man, Robert C. Easterday worked with the Smithsonian Institution on the original dig at the Lindenmeier Site located in northern Larimer County.