

**An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers,
James A. Michener at
Colorado State College of Education, 1936-1941**

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

Collection number: SC1-69

Title: An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, James A. Michener at Colorado State College of Education, 1936-1941

Author: Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on 2006 July 19, revised 2007 December 28; slightly revised 2011 July 1.

Dates: 1936-1941

Creator or Collector: Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997; Archival Services staff (Collector)

Size: 1.5 linear feet

Abstract:

This collection includes newsclippings, publications, and/or other materials that relate to James A. Michener while he was a student and/or taught at Colorado State College of Education.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection includes newsclippings, publications, and/or other materials that relate to James A. Michener while he was a student and/or taught at Colorado State College of Education.

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.

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation: [Description of Item], James A. Michener Papers, SC 1-69, James A. Michener at Colorado State College of Education, 1936-1941, Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

Acquisition Information (if applicable):

Collected by Archival Services staff and others.

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

Subjects:

Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997
Michener, Patti Magdalene Koon
College High Courier
The Owl's Eye
Laboratory schools – Colorado
Colorado State College of Education. College High School.

Inventory:

Folder 1 -- *College High Courier*, volume 1-3, November 1934-June 1937.

One bound copy with some loose pages. All pages are yellow and brittle.
The *College High Courier* was known as *The Owl's Eye* from 1934 to 1936. Copies of the *College High Courier* from 1934 to 1969 are on file in Archives, RG14 S2 F1.

Folder 2 -- *College High Courier*, volume 1-3, November 1934-June 1937.

One photocopy, unbound. Unbound photocopies.

Folder 3 -- *College High Courier*, Nov. 20, 1936-Dec. 5, 1941.

Unbound. Original copies.

Folder 4 -- *College High Courier*, Nov. 20, 1936-Dec. 5, 1941.

Unbound photocopies.

Folder 5 -- Greeley Tribune Clippings, 1936-1941

["Faculty Wives Hear Mr. Michener Talk on Mexico." *Greeley Tribune*, May 12 1938, p. 6.](#)

James Michener discussed a trip to Mexico that he took with his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Carol Gilbert. Michener included illustrations drawn by his wife during the trip.

["Graphic Club Hears Michener." *Greeley Tribune*, Feb. 17, 1938, p. 6.](#)

"Michener addressed the issue of "International Relations" before members of the Graphic Club."

["James Michener Orates at GHS Soph Assembly." *Greeley Tribune*, Mar. 12, 1938, p. 5.](#)

Michener discussed several items before members of the third period Sophomore class at Greeley High School: the "perfect gentleman;" assets of girls, specially charm; as well as skills that high school students needed for college."

["Kiwanis Hears of Mexico Trip of 2 Members." *Greeley Tribune*, May 6, 1938, p. 2.](#)

James Michener discussed a trip to Mexico that he took with his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Carol Gilbert.

["Legislation for Women Discussed by Mrs. Michener." *Greeley Tribune*, Jan. 11, 1938, p. 7.](#)

"Mrs. James A. Michener spoke on the topic of ""Legislation for Women"" before members of the Business and Professional Woman's Club."

["Margaret Maddux Crowned Queen of Gala Freshman Ball on Friday." *Greeley Tribune*, Jan. 29, 1938, p. 5.](#)

Mr. and Mrs. James Michener were chaperones of the dance.

["Michener Tells Music Teachers Melody Makes World Go Round." *Greeley Tribune*, Jan. 11, 1938, p. 2.](#)

Michener discussed the importance of studying music in schools at the sixteenth annual convention of the Colorado State Music Teachers Association.

["Michener to Speak at Gill." *Greeley Tribune*, Feb. 5, 1938, p. 2.](#)

"Michener addressed the issue of 'War in Spain' before members of the Gill School Club."

["Peace Meeting is Held by Baptists." *Greeley Tribune*, Feb. 4, 1938, p. 8.](#)

Michener addressed the issue of "Peace Problems" before members of the Woman's Missionary Society of the First Baptist Church."

["Philadelphia Teacher Visits Campus Here." *Greeley Tribune*, Aug. 3, 1938, p. 4.](#)

Julian McCreary on the faculty of the George School and a former college of Michener was the guest of James Michener and Arthur Henderson, both on the CSCE faculty.

["Problems of Mexico Class Meets Jan. 16." *Greeley Tribune*, Jan. 13, 1939, p. 3.](#)

Michener was leader of the Problems of Mexico class sponsored by the A.A.U.W. and the Greeley Woman's Club.

Folder 6 -- Greeley Tribune Clippings, 1941-

"James Michener Assembly Guest." *Greeley Tribune*, Aug. 5, 1949, p. 1.

James was the guest speaker at an All-College Assembly on the topic of "Aspects of Our Culture."

"Library Seen as 'Resting Place for Ideas' by Michener at Dedication Ceremonies." *Mirror*, Oct. 30, 1972, p. 1.

Tribune Obituaries: "Velma Beauchamp." *Greeley Tribune*, Jan. 18, 2005, n.p. Available [Online]: <http://www.greeleytrib.com/article/20050118/OBIT/101180035&SearchID=73258645330789>. Last viewed 2006 October 2, 2006.

Velma Muriel Beauchamp was James A. Michener's secretary for one year while he taught at Colorado State College of Education.

Folder 7 -- Michener's Writings

Michener, James A. "Bach and Sugar Beets." *Music Educator's Journal*, Sept. 1938, pp. 29, 43.

Michener, James A. "A Functional Social Studies Program." *Curriculum Journal*, Apr. 1938, pp. 163-164.

Michener, James A. "Sex Education: A Success in Our Social-Studies Classes." *The Clearing House*, April 1938, pp. 461-465.

Folder 8 -- The Mirror Clippings, 1936-1941

Jones, Gloria. "Dorm Doings." Photocopy. *The Mirror*, Feb. 19, 1937, p. 3.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Michener, directors of Hadden Hall, and others hosted an annual tea.

"Michener is Speaker Before Morgan County Chamber of Commerce." Photocopy. *The Mirror*, Mar. 12, 1937, p. 2.

James Michener addressed the Morgan County Chamber of Commerce on the topic of "St. Christopher." The following morning he discussed the situation in Spain with high school students.

"Michener is Speaker at International Club Meeting November 20." Photocopy. *The Mirror*, Nov. 20, 1936, p. 1.

James Michener addressed the issue of South America and their relations with the world.

"Spanish War and America to be Discussed at Forum. Photocopy. *The Mirror*, Jan. 8, 1937, p. 3.

James Michener was scheduled to preside over the discussion, "Should America Take Sides in the Spanish Civil War," to be held at the International Relation Forum Monday evening at the Junior High School.

Folder 9 -- Michener's Students Note dated 1999 February 25 from Charles E. McFarland.

Michener was McFarland's "Dorm Daddy" in 1936 when Jim and Patty Michener were "Dorm Parents" at Hadden Hall.