

An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Wyoming Collection

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

Collection number: SC1-79

Title: An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Wyoming Collection

Author: Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on 2007 December 28.

Dates: 1974-1990

Creator or Collector: Hanks, John (Collector)

Size: .1 linear feet

Abstract:

This collection consists of 8 newspaper articles and 3 photographs pertaining to James A. Michener's visits to the State of Wyoming.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection consists of 8 newspaper articles and 3 photographs pertaining to James A. Michener's visits to the State of Wyoming.

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 John Hanks:

John Hanks worked at the Wyoming Collection’s American Heritage Center at the time that he donated these materials to the James A. Michener Special Collection.

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 (RG SC 1), Collection Name, Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

Acquisition Information (if applicable):

Gift of John Hanks in July 1999.

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

Subjects:

Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997.
Hanks, John.+

Inventory:

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
Wyoming Collection	SC 1-79		Box 1	Folder 1 – Finding Aid	An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Wyoming Collection
Wyoming Collection	SC 1-79		Box 1	Folder 1 -- News clippings	“Author Michener to be Guest of Treagle.” <i>Wyoming Eagle</i> (Cheyenne, Wyoming), Sept. 13, 1974, n.p.
Wyoming Collection	SC 1-79		Box 1	Folder 1 -- News clippings	Moulton, Candy. “James Michener Visits Saratoga During Weekend.” <i>The Saratoga Sun</i> (Saratoga, Wyoming), Aug. 23, 1979, n.p.
Wyoming Collection	SC 1-79		Box 1	Folder 1 -- News clippings	Franck, Ron. "Author James Michener to Dedicate Centennial Library." <i>Laramie Daily Boomerang</i> (Laramie, Wyoming), July 13, 1979, n.p.
Wyoming Collection	SC 1-79		Box 1	Folder 1 -- News clippings	“Michener to Visit Wyoming.” Publication information unavailable. [Aug. 23, 1979?].
Wyoming Collection	SC 1-79		Box 1	Folder 1 -- News clippings	Dewey, Amy. “Author James Michener Shares Insights, Experiences.” <i>Laramie Daily Boomerang</i> (Laramie, Wyoming), n.d. [June 1990?], pp. [1?], 11.
Wyoming Collection	SC 1-79		Box 1	Folder 1 -- News clippings	Roten, Robert. “Luxurious Accommodations.” Photograph and caption. <i>Laramie Daily Boomerang</i> (Laramie, Wyoming), June 28, 1990, p. 5.
Wyoming Collection	SC 1-79		Box 1	Folder 1 -- News clippings	Roten, Robert. “Union Pacific Steam Engine No. 1243” Photograph and

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
					caption. <i>Laramie Daily Boomerang</i> (Laramie, Wyoming), June 28, 1990, n.p.
Wyoming Collection	SC 1-79		Box 1	Folder 1 -- News clippings	Roten, Robert. "The Centennial Train" Photograph and caption. <i>Laramie Daily Boomerang</i> (Laramie, Wyoming), June 28, 1990, n.p.
Wyoming Collection	SC 1-79		Box 1	Folder 2 -- Photographs	[Roten, Robert]. "Commemorative License." Photograph. 1990.
Wyoming Collection	SC 1-79		Box 1	Folder 2 -- Photographs	Roten, Robert. "Luxurious Accommodations." Photograph. 1990. This photograph appeared on page 5 of the June 28, 1990 issue of the <i>Laramie Daily Boomerang</i> (Laramie, Wyoming)..
Wyoming Collection	SC 1-79		Box 1	Folder 2 -- Photographs	Roten Robert. [Wyoming First Lady Jane Sullivan and Author James Michener.] This photograph appeared in the <i>Laramie Daily Boomerang</i> , possibly in June 1990.