

## **An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers,**

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

**Collection number:** SC1-80

**Title:** An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Norris Anderson Collection

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

**Dates:** ?-2004

**Creator or Collector:** Anderson, Norris and others.

**Size:** 0.01 linear feet

### **Abstract:**

This collection consists of news clippings and correspondence by/about Norris Anderson and James A. Michener. Most of the items are photocopies.

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

This collection consists of news clippings and correspondence by/about Norris Anderson and James A. Michener. Most of the items are photocopies.

### **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 Norris Anderson:**

Norris Anderson was born to Harry and Anna (Aabel) Anderson in Kearney, Nebraska, on August 16, 1922.

Anderson worked at his father's jewelry store in junior and senior high school. In between helping customers he worked on articles for the *Kearney Hub* newspaper <<http://www.kearneyhub.com>>. While attending Kearney State College, he was sports editor of the school newspaper, the *KSC Antelope*.

Following graduation from college, Anderson became sports editor of the *Daily Nebraskan* at the University of Nebraska. He wrote for the *Lincoln Star* in 1941 and 1942. While in the United States Marine Corps, he served as editor of the *The Chevron* in San Diego. As a USMC combat correspondent in the South Pacific and China, he worked with Ernie Pyle and won an award for an article on Pyle.

Anderson served in many professional capacities through the years:

- Sports editor for the *Lincoln Star*, 1946-54
- Sports columnist at the University of Florida at Gainesville and the *Miami News* until 1959.
- Featured columnist for the national *Football News*.
- Traveled with the Miami Dolphins for 18 years
- Wrote a weekly article for the *Islander* (Key Biscayne, Florida)
- Publicity director for the University of Florida and the Orange Bowl
- Publicist for the third Patterson-Johansson world heavyweight championship fight in 1961.
- Publicity director for the Miss Universe Pageant
- Publicity director for the late Heavyweight Champion Rocky Marciano and was coordinator of Marciano's program for juvenile delinquents.
- Appointed to the Bud Wilkinson's National Council on Crime and Delinquency by President Nixon.

He received several awards and honors:

- Dade Dolphins Booster Club as "the nation's leading football columnist."
- Associated Press Writing Award.

Anderson belonged to several organizations:

- Sports Writers of America
- American Legion Joseph J. Duncan Post 119 in Estes Park, Colorado
- Knights of the Belt Buckle
- Miami Touchdown Club.

Norris Anderson was a personal friend of James A. Michener and introduced him to exiled Cubans who discussed their homeland with him. Michener then incorporated information from their conversations in his book on the Caribbean.

Norris Anderson passed away on November 13, 2004, at Prospect Park Living Center in Estes Park.

Source: "Obituaries: Norris Anderson." *Estes Park Trail-Gazette Archives, Wednesday, November 17, 2004*. Last accessed: 2008 March 25  
<<http://www.eptail.com/archives/2004/11november/11-17wed.html>>.

**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 1-80), Norris Anderson Collection Name, Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

**Acquisition Information (if applicable):**

Although correspondence indicates that these items were a gift of Norris Anderson in 2000, it is difficult to tell exactly which items he gave to the library as there are duplicate photocopies of many of the clippings. Materials relating to the death of Norris Anderson were transferred from the Reference Files (SC 1-50, Folder: Anderson, Norris).

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

**Subjects:**

Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997  
Anderson, Norris, 1922-2004.

**Inventory:**

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
Norris Anderson Collection	SC 1-80		Box	Folder 0 -- Finding Aid	An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, Norris Anderson Collection
Norris Anderson Collection	SC 1-80		Box	Folder 1 -- Clippings	Anderson, Norris. "Great College Bowl Plucks Even Greater Baseball Legend as This Year's Grand Marshall." Photocopy. Publication information not available. (This article may be from <i>Football News</i> ).
Norris Anderson Collection	SC 1-80		Box	Folder 1 -- Clippings	"Anderson Receives Accolades." Photocopy. Publication information not available.
Norris Anderson Collection	SC 1-80		Box	Folder 1 -- Clippings	"Beachcombings." Photocopy. <i>The Islander News</i> , Jan. 5, 1989, pp. 14 Includes photograph of James Michener with Norris Anderson and Scottie Miller.
Norris Anderson Collection	SC 1-80		Box	Folder 1 -- Clippings	"Beachcombings." Photocopy. <i>The Islander News</i> , Publication information

Collection	MSS #	Series	Box	Folder	Title
					not available. Includes photograph of James and Mari Michener with Norris Anderson and Betty Miller at the Calusa Playhouse, Key Biscayne, Florida.
Norris Anderson Collection	SC 1-80		Box	Folder 1 -- Clippings	Anderson, Norris. "Sonesta Hotel 'Football Headquarters USA'." Photocopy. Publication information not available.
Norris Anderson Collection	SC 1-80		Box	Folder 1 -- Clippings	Anderson, Norris. "Denver's Bowlen Shows Class." Photocopy. <i>Football News</i> , Sept. 26, 1998.
Norris Anderson Collection	SC 1-80		Box	Folder 1 -- Clippings	Powell, Putt. "Texas Tech is a Shaky Guess Over Wyoming." Photocopy. Publication information not available.
Norris Anderson Collection	SC 1-80		Box	Folder 1 -- Clippings	[Anderson, Norris]. "Oct. 18 Issue." [Football News]. Typed. Photocopy. Publication information not available.
Norris Anderson Collection	SC 1-80		Box	Folder 1 -- Clippings	Anderson, Norris. "Many Reasons for Osborne Success." <i>Football News</i> , Nov. 15, 1987, p. 18B.
Norris Anderson Collection	SC 1-80		Box	Folder 1 -- Correspondence	Letter dated 1999 November 22 from Bernie Kish to Norris Anderson enclosing photocopies of newspaper articles and The National Football Foundation certificate got Hugh Rodham
Norris Anderson Collection	SC 1-80		Box	Folder 1 -- Correspondence	Letter dated 1987 February 26 from James A. Michener to Norris Anderson. Photocopy.
Norris Anderson Collection	SC 1-80		Box	Folder 1 -- Correspondence	Letter dated 1995 September 21 from Jim Michener to Norris Anderson. 2 copies. Photocopy.
Norris Anderson Collection	SC 1-80		Box	Folder 1 -- Correspondence	Letter dated 1995 September 21 from Jim Michener to Norris Anderson. Retyped.