GUIDE

to the


Manuscript Collection

ARCHIVES OF THE BIG BEND
COLLECTION SUMMARY
of the
J.T. CARNEY COLLECTION

J.T. Carney donated his collection of papers to the Sul Ross State University Library. The collection was subsequently turned over to the Archives of the Big Bend, c. 1978.

James Thomas Carney, Jr. was born in Eagle Lake, Texas on January 15, 1902. His father was James Thomas Carney and his mother was Georgie Norris. He had one older brother, Norris Carney and one older sister, Lucy Jean Day. He also had two younger brothers George and Scott A. Carney.

Carney attended Eagle Lake Schools until his graduation from high school in 1921. In September of 1922, Carney entered Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, but was reassigned to the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York, in July of 1923. He attended West Point until June of 1924.

From the age of 11 or 12, Carney worked summers and weekends on land surveys as a chainman for local Colorado and Wharton County surveyors. In May, 1925 and until June, 1932, Carney went back to work surveying in the east and south central Texas counties of Atascosa, Bexar, Brown, Colorado, Maverick, Medina and Wharton.

On March 19, 1930, he married Mary Jo McCanless at her parents' home in Brownwood, Texas.

In June, 1932, Carney took a position with the National Park Service as an Engineer Foreman and worked in Stephenville, Big Bend, Balmorhea and Cleburne State Parks through June of 1937. Carney entered active military service in July of 1937 and served in many Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps across Texas until July, 1939. (see Biographical information Sheet for further information) After a brief period of private surveying, Carney again entered military service in December of 1940 and served in the U.S. and Europe during World War II.

Information obtained in Carney's collection states that in December of 1946, Carney was associated with Mr. H.R. Gard, County Surveyor, Brewster County and also engaged in private surveys. In January of 1947, Carney became the Brewster County Surveyor and officially remained so until December of 1949. In August, 1948, Mr. Carney again took up active military service and went to Korea in September of 1950. Mr. Gard served as County Surveyor during his absence. Upon his return from Korea, Carney was deputy county surveyor from September, 1952 until the death of Mr. Gard in June, 1954. Upon Mr. Gard's death, Carney assumed the position of County Surveyor and held that elected position until 1973. There are some questions as to the accuracy of the dates above, as they relate to Carney's association with the Brewster County Surveyor position. Helen Crone, County Clerk, Brewster County, indicates that, according to official Brewster County records, Carney was sworn in as a deputy surveyor in August of 1953 and that he was appointed to fill the deceased Mr. Gard's unexpired term in June, 1954. There was no record of Carney holding the Brewster County Surveyor's job in the years 1947 to 1949. Carney did hold the position from June, 1954 until 1973, according to county records.

The Carney collection consists of personal, military (CCC camp and WW II), and surveyor correspondence. Educational Documents include diplomas and a Texas Woman's University transcript for Mary Jo McCanless Carney. Financial Documents include both personal and surveyor documents. Of particular interest are personal financial diaries kept by Mary Jo Carney from 1938-1968, listing monthly expenses and deposits for many of the inclusive dates listed. Legal Documents include state certificates proclaiming Carney Brewster County Surveyor. Photographs trace various moments of J.T. and Mary Jo Carney's life, from courtship through Korea. Of special interest in Printed and Savings Material are a 1924 Howitzer, the U.S. Military academy annual, two 1945 souvenir programs from a French nightclub, Tabarin, and a program from the 1936 Texas Centennial production, The Drunkard. Records and Notes include Military Records and Surveyor records. Of particular interest are many field notebooks containing Carney's surveying notes and figures pertaining to the Trans-Pecos area. Scrapbook Material includes many more photos in albums chronicling the Carney's life through the 1960's and one album chronicling Mary Jo Carney's college years. The Letter Boxes contain mostly surveyor correspondence, with the bulk of the letters falling in the 1950s.

The papers are housed in folders in three archival boxes, with one oversized scrapbook and three letter boxes following the archival boxes. The bulk of the papers date from 1925 to 1960. Oversize materials related to folders 12, 25, and 26 are housed in one oversize archival box.

By: Deann Randle
Assistant Archivist

June 24, 1982

SOURCES:
The following sources were used in the compilation of the collection Summary:
Internal material-J.T. Carney Collection
Telephone interview on June 24, 1982 with Mrs. Vivian Davis, Alpine, Texas
Telephone interview on June 28, 1982 with Mr. Scott A. Carney, Austin, Texas.
Telephone interview on June 28, 1982 with Mrs. Helen Crone, Alpine, Texas.
ARRANGEMENT

Correspondence 1923-1973 & n.d. (621 leaves)
Educational Documents 1924-1968 (8 leaves)
Financial Documents 1937-1973 & n.d. (14 unbound, 940 leaves) (472 leaves)
Surveying 1947-1969 & n.d. (10 leaves)
Photographs 1933-1971 & n.d. (199 leaves)
Printed & Savings Material 1923-1973 & n.d. (5 bound, 911 leaves) (1 unbound, 26 leaves) (168 leaves)
Records & Notes 1925-1971 & n.d. (6 bound, 1312 leaves) (5 unbound, 365 leaves) (598 leaves)
 Scrapbook Material 1924-1972 & n.d. (2 bound, 139 leaves) (3 unbound, 340 leaves) (553 leaves)
Letter Boxes 1946-1973 & n.d. (527 leaves)

QUANTITY: TOTAL 7445 leaves

14 bound items, 2427 leaves; 23 unbound, 1671 leaves; 3347 single leaves

PROCESSING NOTES

11/23/92 Wallets removed and oversize materials moved to OS in flat file.

08/10/94 1. Inventory keyboarded to permit WordPerfect word searching.
         2. Materials located in unprocessed but labeled Carney Appendix were added to the collection as folders 25-26 and collection leaf count adjusted.
         3. Oversize materials rehoused in an oversize archival box.

01/10/2006 : Files rehoused in document boxes. Box numbers no longer used as contents are described at the folder level & folders are numbered consecutively throughout the collection.
James Thomas Carney, Jr.

DATE OF BIRTH: January 15, 1902
PLACE OF BIRTH: Eagle Lake, Texas

DATE OF DEATH: March 6, 1979
PLACE OF DEATH: El Paso, Texas

FATHER'S NAME: James Thomas Carney
MOTHER'S NAME: Georgie Norris

NAMES OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

Norris Carney
Lucy Jean Day
(J.T. Carney, Jr.)
George Carney
Scott A. Carney

EDUCATION: Eagle Lake High School–Graduated, 1921
Texas A & M University–Fall, 1922 to Spring, 1923
U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY–July, 1923 to June 1924

DATE OF MARRIAGE: March 19, 1930
NAME OF SPOUSE: Mary Jo McCanless

CHILDREN: None

PRIMARY RESIDENCE(S), WITH DATES:

Eagle Lake, Texas – 1902 to 1922
West Point, New York – 1923 to 1924
Wharton, Texas – 1925 to 1928
Natalia, Texas – 1928
Brownwood, Texas–1929 to 1932

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION($): Military, Surveyor

MEMBERSHIPS, PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS, OFFICES HELD:

Brewster County Surveyor 1954 – 1973
Texas Surveyors Association 1952–?
Military Police Assn. 1952
American Legion Post 653, Charter Member, Alpine
Alpine V.F.W. & Masonic Lodge
Country Club
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND DATES IN THE LIFE OF J.T. CARNEY:

May, 1925 to Mar. 1925 - Surveying work with U.S. Geological Survey in Colorado Co., Texas in co-operation with Texas Board of Water Engineers
Sept. 1925 to Feb. 1928 - Surveying in Wharton Co., Texas
Mar. 1928 to May, 1928 - Surveying in Maverick Co., Texas
March 19, 1930 - Married Mary Jo McCanless in Brownwood, Texas
Mar. 1929 to June, 1932 - Surveying with Brown Co. Water Improvement District
June, 1933 to June, 1937 - Work for National Park Service as Engineer Foreman at Stephenville, Big Bend, Balmorhea and Cleburne State Parks
July, 1937 to June, 1939 - Active Military Duty in CCC Camps across Texas
July, 1939 to Oct. 1939 - Surveying on Colorado River
Jan. 1940 to Dec. 1940 - Surveying in Big Bend National Park
Dec. 1940 to Feb. 1946 - Active Military Service in U.S. and Europe
Dec. 1946 to Jan. 1947 - Associated with H.R. Gard, County Surveyor, Brewster Co. and engaging in private surveys
Jan. 1947 to Dec. 1949 - County Surveyor, Brewster Co., Texas (see collection summary)
Aug. 1948 to Sep. 1952 - Active military service in Korea
Sep. 1952 to June, 1954 - Deputy County Surveyor in Brewster Co., Texas
June, 1954 to 1973 - County Surveyor, Brewster Co., Texas
October 15, 1972 - Mary Jo McCanless Carney dies

PRIMARY RESIDENCES:

June 1933 to June 1937: Texas State Parks Board & National Park Service (Stephenville, Balmorhea, Big Bend, & Cleburne)

June 1933 to June 1939: CCC Camps

- Lamesa - JUN 1937 to NOV 1937
- Waco - NOV 1937 to FEB 1938
- Mexia - FEB 1938 to MAY 1938
- Linden - MAY 1938 to JUN 1938
- Winnsboro - JUN 1938 to MAR 1939
- Waco - MAR 1939 to JUN 1939

1940-1979: Alpine (active military service 1940-1946 & 1948-1952)
CORRESPONDENCE 1923-1973 & n.d. (621 leaves)

Folder 1 PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE 1924-1973 & n.d. (60 leaves)

Series of letters written by Mary Jo McCanless to J.T. Carney just prior to their marriage, V-mail to J.T. Carney from Mary Jo Carney relating Alpine's reaction to the Normandy invasion, and letters of sympathy to J.T. Carney at the time of Mary Jo Carney's death.

Folder 2 MARY JO MCCANLESS CARNEY CORRESPONDENCE 1928-1972 (18 leaves)

Thank-you letter from Pauline Wherry for her participation in Girl Scout Camp, Medina Lake, Mico, Texas, 1928; a postcard from Switzerland from Loralee; personal letters written in 1972.

MILITARY CORRESPONDENCE 1923-1948 & n.d. (386 leaves)

Military Correspondence includes letters regarding J.T. Carney's attendance at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York, 1924-1925; Carney's work with various Civilian Conservation Corps camps throughout Texas, 1937-1939; active military service, U.S. Army, 1940-1946.

Folder 3 1923-1925 (9 leaves)
Folder 4 1935-1937 (61 leaves)
Folder 5 1938 (55 leaves)
Folder 6 1939 (53 leaves)
Folder 7 1940-1944 (79 leaves)
Folder 8 1945-1948 (86 leaves)
Folder 9 n.d. (43 leaves)

SURVEYOR CORRESPONDENCE 1925-1973 & n.d. (157 leaves)

Surveyor Correspondence includes letters and accompanying legal instruments and notes.

Folder 10 1925-1958 (85 leaves)
Folder 11 1960-1973 & n.d. (72 leaves)
EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTS  1924-1968 (8 OVERSIZE leaves in OS box)

Folder 12

1924 Ennis High School diploma for Mary Jo McCanless; 1928 Diploma from College of Industrial Arts, Denton, Texas, (now Texas Woman's University) for Mary Jo McCanless, 1928 College of Industrial Arts, Texas State College for Women commencement program, Brownwood, Texas; 1929-1930 Brownwood I.S.D. teacher's contract for Mary Jo McCanless; and college transcript from Texas Woman's University for Mary Jo McCanless, 1968.

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS  1937-1973 & n.d. (14 unbound, 940 leaves) (472 leaves)

PERSONAL FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS  1937-1973 & n.d. (14 unbound, 940 leaves)  (465 leaves)

Personal Financial Documents include statements of account from local Alpine merchants, insurance companies, medical facilities, Veteran's Administration, Alpine Tax Office and the City of Alpine. Also included are financial diaries in which Mary Jo Carney kept a monthly account of expenses and bank deposits for most of the inclusive years noted and also check stubs from the First National Bank in Alpine for a few of the inclusive years shown.

Folder 13   A,B,C,   (51 leaves)
Folder 14   D,E,F,   (89 leaves)
Folder 15   G,H,I,   (137 leaves)
Folder 16   J,K,L,   (6 leaves)
Folder 17   M,N,O,   (6 leaves)
Folder 18   P,Q,R,   (22 leaves)
Folder 19   S,T,U,   (54 leaves)
Folder 20   V,W,X,   (99 leaves)
Folder 21   Y,Z,     (1 leaf)
Folder 22   [Financial Diaries], 1938-1968 & n.d. (8 unbound, 559 leaves)
Folder 23   (Checkbook Stubs), 1946-1972 (6 unbound, 381 leaves)

Folder 24 SURVEYOR FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS 1946-1972 (2 unbound; 7 leaves)

Statements of account from the Miller Blueprint Co.; Records of Expenses & Employees
SURVEYING PRACTICE 1947-1969 & n.d. (191 leaves)


Application for Registration to Practice Public Surveying, 1955
State of Texas certificates acknowledging J.T. Carney as County
certificate (1953) acknowledging membership in Texas Surveyors
Association, and legal forms for mineral surveying and leasing (n.d.)
newspaper clipping on surveyor "race," Brewster Co., 1946; survey plats
and notes

Folder 26  J. D. Straus Survey, 1968-69 (166 leaves)

Correspondence, notes, and reports

RECORDS AND NOTES 1925-1971 & n.d. (6 bound, 1312 leaves) (5 unbound,
365 leaves) (598 leaves)

SURVEYOR RECORDS AND NOTES 1925-1956 & n.d. (6 bound, 1312 leaves)
(3 unbound, 55 leaves) (569 leaves)

Field and test notes; sample legal forms and abstracts; field notebooks,
1943-1971; and a survey file index, 1930-1945.

Folder 27  1925-1966 (64 leaves)
Folder 28  n.d. (59 leaves)
Folder 29  Field Notebooks 1943-1971 (13 bound, 1066 leaves)
Folder 30  Survey Index and Field Notebooks 1930-1971
(3 bound, 246 leaves) (2 unbound, 35 leaves) (446 leaves)

Survey index Card File 1930-1945 & n.d.

Folder 31  MILITARY RECORDS AND NOTES  1947-1952 (2 unbound,
310 leaves) (29 leaves)

Two memoranda notebooks containing military notes documenting inspection
violations and travel expenses; two immunization registers for J.T.
Carney, one dated 1949 to 1951 and the other 1928-1948; notes on
preparing a lesson plan and a register of purchases made while overseas,
n.d.

Memoranda notebook 1950, 1951 contains a nail file inside folded Jan
9, 1951 form
PHOTOGRAPHS 1933-1971 & n.d. (199 leaves)

Folder 32

Photographs include photos of J.T. and Mary Jo Carney's courtship and early married life in Texas CCC camps, c. 1930-40; photos of Carney and fellow soldiers in Europe during World War II and in Korea and Japan c. 1952, and photos of the Big Bend National Park, c. 1965.

PRINTED AND SAVINGS MATERIAL 1923-1972 & n.d. (5 bound, 911 leaves) (1 unbound, 26 leaves) (168 leaves)

Folder 33


SCRAPBOOK MATERIAL 1924-1972 & n.d. (2 bound, 139 leaves) (3 unbound, 340 leaves) (553 leaves)

Scrapbook Material includes sympathy cards that accompanied flowers at Mary Jo Carney's funeral, a small flag with 48 stars, a souvenir drawing of a Russian Jeep (1950), J.T. Carney's military brass of insignia and rank, Mary Jo Carney's My Him Book, 1924, a diary of various boyfriends and a diary called My Trip, chronicling a trip taken in 1940-1941.

Folder 34 1924-1972 (163 leaves)
Folder 35 1924-1940 (403 leaves)
SCRAPBOOK MATERIAL, cont.

Scrapbook 1: 1925-1972  (164 leaves)
Photographs and savings material regarding Mary Jo McCanless Carney's college years, c. 1925, at the College of Industrial Arts (now Texas Woman's University), Denton, Texas.

Scrapbook 2:  1934-1971  (160 leaves) Original non-circulating. Digital copy available (Housed in OS Box)
Photographs of J.T. Carney taken in Europe during World War I I, First Presbyterian Church of Alpine Dedication Sunday, January, 1944; Ft. Francis F. Warren (Wyoming); rodeo in Cheyenne, Wyoming, 1941; Ft. Bliss, 1935; Gettysburg State Park, 1941; Big Bend National Park CCC Camp and Boquillas, 1934'; Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, 1940; Snow Scenes/Alpine, 1940; J.T. Carney in Korea during Korean War, c. 1951; and friends and family.

Scrapbook 3: Alpine photos taken in the 1960s, 1941-1969 (16 leaves)
Calling cards & greeting cards (boxed) n.d. (126 leaves)

LETTER BOXES  1946-1973 & n.d. (527 leaves)
Letter Box 1 contains surveyor correspondence for 1954-1959. Letter Box 2 contains one leaf of surveyor correspondence and four leaves of insurance correspondence. Letter Box 3 contains surveyor correspondence for 1946-1961, with bulk of papers falling in 1950s.

Letter Box 1   Tax Assessor and General Land Office File
              A-Z 1954-1959 & n.d.  (380 leaves)
Letter Box 2   A-Z 1965-1973 & n.d.  (5 leaves)
Letter Box 3   A-Z 1946-1961 & n.d.  (142 leaves)