

JOHN M. TAYLOR PAPERS (MS/NC 658)

by

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JOHN M. (JOCK) TAYLOR

John Milton Taylor was born in Salem, Massachusetts on October 31, 1888, the only child of Bayard J. and Ida L. Taylor. He was graduated from Salem High School in 1908 and studied journalism at DePauw University in Indiana for two years.

On leaving the university he went to work for the Boston Post when it was one of the country's largest newspapers. Two years later he became a police reporter for the New York Herald. In the summer, 1914 he accepted a job with the London Times. Just weeks later, World War I began, and Taylor enlisted in the Royal Scottish Highlanders. This unit fought in France, Belgium and Turkey, and Taylor adopted the name "Jock" while serving with that fighting regiment.

In 1917, he transferred to the U. S. Army where he rose to the rank of captain. At the conclusion of the war he returned to newspaper work in a variety of jobs including managing editor of the St. Joseph, Missouri Gazette, United Press correspondent in Mexico, advertising and public relations work in Florida and South Carolina, and related positions in Kansas and Texas before relocating to Nevada in 1945.

Taylor was the editor of the pioneer Austin newspaper, the Reese River Reveille from 1949-1964, and was owner and publisher of the paper from 1950 until he sold it in 1962. He continued to write columns and a weekly editorial for the paper until his death. Both his columns and editorials had a wide following among independent thinking Nevadans. Taylor also served as editor of the Sparks Tribune in 1962-63.

During his career, Mr. Taylor wrote many articles on a variety of subjects for numerous magazines and served as president of the Nevada State Press Association in 1957-58. He compiled and had published a book, One Hundred Years Ago in Nevada, for the Nevada State Centennial Commission in 1964. Taylor interrupted his Nevada newspaper career in 1954 to go to Washington, D. C. for a year to serve as executive assistant to then U. S. Senator George W. (Molly) Malone.

John M. (Jock) Taylor died in Reno, Nevada, where he had owned a home for many years, on November 7, 1965.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION

The John M. Taylor papers consist largely of his draft manuscripts of newspaper and magazine articles and several book-length manuscripts mostly relating to events, both fictional and nonfictional, centered in Nevada. The manuscripts are almost all typewritten with editorial revisions in Taylor's handwriting. The collection of manuscripts is not arranged in chronological order due to the author's conspicuous practice of not dating his works. However, it appears that virtually all the manuscripts were produced between 1945 and 1965, the period that Mr. Taylor lived in Nevada.

The correspondence collection is incomplete, consisting mostly of letters from literary agents and other miscellaneous correspondence, including copies of outgoing letters ranging from 1946-1969. The collection includes a few politically oriented documents, pamphlets, and fact sheets as well as a small amount of correspondence relating to U. S. Senator George Malone, for whom Taylor worked in 1954-1955.

There are two files of unorganized news clippings, many from columns written by Taylor for the Reese River Reveille. There are no dates noted on these clippings except where the entire front page of the newspaper was kept. There is also a file of printed materials consisting of a variety of items including programs, name badges and convention cards from Nevada State Press Association annual conventions. There is a run (1936-38) of a religious instructional publication *The Mayans*, an organization with which Taylor presumably was associated.

In addition to the above, the Taylor papers also include eight scrapbooks which contain news clippings and articles from the early years of his life, among them two published short plays he wrote (one while still in high school), poetry clipped from newspapers and magazines, two poems he wrote to his wife in the 1920's and 30's, cartoons, human interest articles and pictures, World War II memorabilia, and numerous published articles he authored during the 1920's and 30's.

Lastly, the collection contains seven pieces of artwork: pen and ink drawings and watercolors by Richard Fitch (probably commissioned as illustrations for Taylor's stories), oil paintings by C. E. Massey, and an unsigned cartoon.

Box 1

I. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence, 1946-1962
2. Correspondence, 1963-1969

II. POLITICAL DOCUMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

3. Pamphlets, Congressional Records, fact sheets, etc.
4. Documents relating to U. S. Senator George Malone {Congressional Record, speeches, etc.}

III. PHOTOGRAPHS

5. Four photographs of Virginia and Truckee Railroad trains from 1940's, one photograph of artist Richard Fitch, one unidentified photograph of scene on a street

IV. CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS

6. Military appointment certificate, military discharge, fraternity certificates, other

V. HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

7. Receipt for one-year subscription to Reese River Reveille dated March 24, 1882, collected by Jock Taylor.

VI. Literature - Manuscripts

8. Horntown, draft 280 pp
9. Horntown, (draft 259 pp)
10. "Horntown" (draft, 307 pp)
11. "Murder in The Black Generation" (2 drafts, 182pp)
12. "Murder in The Black Generation" (2 drafts, 193pp)

Box 2

13. "Death at The Desert's Rim" (2 drafts, 32pp)
14. "Shenanigan on The Desert" (4 drafts)
15. McCarran Golden Jubilee—a series of 8 short stories, life of Senator Patrick A. McCarran
16. "The Doggonedest Episode" (3 drafts)
17. "Mint Julep Headache" (4 drafts)
18. "We Hypocrites" (2 drafts)
19. "Snatch in The Desert" (draft, 172pp)
20. "Snatch in The Desert" (draft, 180pp)
21. "Snatch in The Desert" (first chapter & synopsis, draft #1, 198pp, draft #2, 202pp)
22. "Snatch in The Desert" (draft, 180pp)
23. Miscellaneous short stories regarding women of the Comstock era
24. "Grandma's Dizzy Decade" (7 drafts)
25. "Nevada - The Kicked in State" (4 drafts)
26. Miscellaneous Manuscripts "A" through "C"
27. Miscellaneous Manuscripts "D" through "H"
28. Miscellaneous Manuscripts "I" through "O"
29. Miscellaneous Manuscripts "P" through "Z"
30. Newspaper clippings with attached manuscript drafts
31. Untitled Manuscripts
32. Incomplete Manuscript

VII. PRINTED MATERIALS

Box 3

33. News clippings #1
34. News clippings #2
35. Miscellaneous printed materials
36. Miscellaneous printed materials - The Mayans
37. Miscellaneous printed materials - The Mayans
38. Miscellaneous printed materials - The Mayans
39. Laminated memorial obituary of John M. Taylor

VIII. SCRAPBOOKS

Box 4

40. News clippings, cartoons, animal pictures and stories, human interest articles, all during World War II era
41. News clippings from Reese River Reveille "Simple Stuff" column and Jock Taylor obituary, November 1965

Box 5

42. News clippings, poetry, 1920's-1940's
43. News clippings, Reese River Reveille, Nevada State Journal and other newspapers, 1940's-1950's

Box 6

44. News clippings, "Slightly True Nevada Tales," other news articles and pictures from Eastern newspapers, 1940's-1950's
45. News clippings, 1930's-40's, "The Man on the Street" columns from 1948-49, poems, obituaries

Box 7

46. News clippings, poetry 1920's-1930's, short plays written by John Taylor in 1907 and 1910, old photos, Christmas cards
47. News clippings, cartoons, Christmas cards, opinion articles, 1920's-30's

IX. ARTWORK

Box 8

1. Cartoon by unknown artist of man trying to get flying machine off ground, (possible caricature Jock Taylor)
2. Oil painting, of cougar looking at waterfall, by C. E. Massey
3. Oil painting, of bighorn sheep, by C. E. Massey
4. Pen and ink drawing of lady walking by, gentleman tipping his hat, by Richard Fitch
5. Pen and ink drawing of lady having a glass of wine, by Richard Fitch
6. Watercolor of cowboy watching a rodeo, by Richard Fitch
7. Watercolor of man holding a snake, by Richard Fitch