



Summary Information

Title: Paul Durham, Jr. Papers
Collection Number: 2004:014f
Creator: Paul Durham
Collection Dates: 1962-1978
Extent: 1 cubic foot (1 box)
Language: English

Collection Abstract:

Paul Durham was editor of the Diboll Free Press, previously called the Diboll News Bulletin and then the Angelina County Free Press, from 1952-1990. This collection contains correspondence, notes, candidate biographies, press releases, newspaper articles, and photographs relating to Texas and United States political campaigns during the 1960s and early 1970s. It also consists of various publications, some relating to East Texas schools or the lumber industry.

Repository:

The History Center
102 N. Temple
Diboll, TX, 75941
936-829-3543
<http://www.thehistorycenteronline.com/>

Author/Processing Information: Original finding aid created by Patsy Colbert in 2004.

Revision History: Finding aid revised by Matt Gorzalski in October of 2010.

Biographical/Historical Note:

Paul Durham, Jr. was born Feb. 25, 1933 in Pineland, Texas, the son of Paul Durham, Sr. (1887-1955). He moved to Diboll, Texas at age 5, later attending Diboll High School where he excelled in football and baseball. Durham graduated in 1951 and was class valedictorian. During his youth he worked at the Timberland Theater as projection operator and was very involved with local boy scouts. He later married Jimmie Beth Jordan and had two children, Bruce Durham and Lauri Sheridan.

Durham became editor of the Buzz Saw newspaper in September 1951, the Diboll newspaper owned by the Southern Pine Lumber Company. He later founded the Diboll News Bulletin in 1952, which became

the Angelina County Free Press in 1958. Southern Pine Lumber Company bought the newspaper in 1960. The name changed simply to the Free Press in September of 1961.

Durham was an acclaimed country editor. He won his first award in 1959 by the Texas Gulf Coast Press Association and received many awards from regional, state, and national press associations. The Free Press was the first newspaper to switch to offset printing in East Texas and was the first to begin using full color photographs. Durham retired from The Free Press in 1990 after 36 years.

In addition to his business career, Durham was a charter member of the Diboll Rotary Club, and a member of the Burke Masonic Lodge 833, T. L. Temple Memorial Library Board, Katherine Sage Temple Day Care Center Board, Texas Press Association, North and East Texas Press Association, and Gulf Coast Press Association. He also served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. Durham died on September 9, 1990.

Collection Scope and Content:

The Paul Durham Papers consist of a variety of materials relating to Durham's career as editor of the Free Press in Diboll, Texas. Several folders contain correspondence, notes, candidate biographies, press releases, newspaper articles, and photographs relating to Texas and United States political campaigns during the 1960s and early 1970s. Durham likely used these materials for Free Press articles pertaining to election coverage. Some candidates include Waggoner Carr, Benton Musselwhite, John Dowdy, Warren G. Moore, Ralph W. Yarborough, Preston Smith, Peyton Walters, and others. Also included are Angelina County 1976 general election totals.

The remainder of the collection contains publications and brochures from local authors, youth programs, Temple Industries, homecomings, and SFA Alumni Association documenting local schools and the East Texas lumber industry. Some are printed by the Free Press but most are not.

Arrangement: Campaign material is arranged chronological and publications are arranged alphabetically by title.

Subject Terms:

Topics

- Political campaigns -- Texas
- Political campaigns -- United States
- Presidents -- United States -- Election -- 1976
- Baseball -- Texas -- Nacogdoches
- Lumber trade -- Texas, East

Personal Names

- Durham, Paul, 1933-1990
- Carr, Waggoner
- Yarborough, Ralph Webster, 1903-1996
- Smith, Preston, 1912-2003
- Musselwhite, Benton
- Dowdy, John Vernard, 1912-1995
- Bean, Woodrow Wilson, Sr., 1917-1985

Genres

- Newspapers
- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)

Occupations

- Newspaper editors -- Texas, East

Locations

- Diboll (Tex.)
- Nacogdoches (Tex.)
- Huntington (Tex.)
- Polk County (Tex.)
- Angelina County (Tex.)
- Texas
- United States

Access and Use

Access Restrictions: There are no restrictions on this collection.

Acquisition Information: The Paul Durham, Jr. Papers are a part of the 2004:014 accession that was transferred from the Southern Pine Lumber Company commissary building between the mid 1990s to 2004. The accession has been divided into separate collections based on creator.

Citation: Paul Durham Papers, 1962-1978, 2004:014f, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Related Materials:

Arthur Temple, Jr. Business Papers, 1943-2006, 2004:014a, The History Center, Diboll, TX

W. Temple Webber Papers, 1950-1974, 2004:014b, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Clyde Thompson Papers, 1934-1978, 2004:014c, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Robert E. Minton Papers, c. 1920-1949, 2004:014d, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Jake Durham Papers, 1919-1950, 2004:014e, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Lottie Wimp Temple Papers, 1930s-1995, 2004:014g, The History Center, Diboll, TX

H. Spencer Knutson Papers, 1968-1975, 2004:014h, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Joe C. Denman, Jr. Papers, 1969-1977, 2004:014i, The History Center, Diboll, TX

David H. Dolben Papers, 1971-1974, 2004:014j, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Henry Holubec Papers, 1973-1978, 2004:014k, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Robert Weston Papers, 1965, 2004:014l, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Lee Zeagler Papers, 1951-1970, 2004:014m, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Temple Company Records, 1911-1992, 2004:014n, The History Center, Diboll, TX

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Collection Inventory

Box 1

- Folder 1 Attorney General, 1962
- Folder 2 Lieutenant Governor, 1962
- Folder 3 Jarred Secrest for Lieutenant Governor, undated
- Folder 4 United States Congress, 1962
- Folder 5 United States Senate, 1962
- Folder 6 Benton Musselwhite, 1962
- Folder 7 Woodrow Wilson Bean, 1962
- Folder 8 Edwin A. Walker for Governor, 1962
- Folder 9 Ben Ramsey for Railroad Commission, c. 1962
- Folder 10 Polk County Judge Peyton Walters, 1970
- Folder 11 1976 Angelina County General Election Totals
- Folder 12 Miscellaneous Campaign Information
- Folder 13 Brochures, c. 1972-1976
- Folder 14 "Columbia Journalism Review," 1977
- Folder 15 "The Eastexan," 1976
- Folder 16 "Hastings Star," 1978
- Folder 17 Huntington Homecoming Program, 1972
- Folder 18 Nacogdoches Teenage Baseball Yearbook, 1972
- Folder 19 Outdoor Tips, undated
- Folder 20 Pamphlets: "Allan Shivers Museum," "Wood Capital of the South," "Angelina College Machine Shop," "DEMCO Super Chuck"
- Folder 21 "Sawdust," 1977-1978
- Folder 22 "The Southern Forester," c. 1977
- Folder 23 Temple Employee Handbook, c. 1970s
- Folder 24 Temple Industries Annual Report, 1967
- Folder 25 "Texas Tally," 1971
- Folder 26 "Trifles and Treasures," 1967