



The Wittliff Collections

Guide to the Sterling VanWagenen Papers 1984-1985

Collection SWWC-015

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Van Wagenen, Sterling, 1947-
Title:	Guide to the Sterling VanWagenen Papers
Dates:	1984-1985
Abstract:	Five folders of works, financial papers, photographs, promotional kits, and clippings, 1984-1986 contain materials from the 1985 film "The Trip to Bountiful."
Identification:	SWWC-015
Extent:	1 boxes, .5 Linear Feet
Language:	English
Repository:	The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

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Biographical or Historical Information

Sterling VanWagenen produced “The Trip to Bountiful” with screenwriter Horton Foote. VanWagenen was a co-founder of the United States Film Festival and the Sundance Institute, and served as the executive director of the latter organization for five years. He is also known as a director of stage and screen, and he has produced both films and documentaries. He currently heads the Leucadia Film Corporation in Salt Lake City, Utah.

“The Trip to Bountiful” was first written in 1953 by Horton Foote for the "Philco/Goodyear Television Playhouse," and starred Lillian Gish. A longer version opened eight months later on Broadway to critical acclaim. Thirty years later, Peter Masterson, an award-winning actor and director, approached his cousin Horton Foote about making “The Trip to Bountiful” into a movie. Masterson then contacted VanWagenen, who agreed to produce the film. Filming began in the summer of 1985 on location in Texas, and was completed in five weeks. The film starred Geraldine Page (in an Oscar-winning performance), John Heard, Carlyn Glynn, Richard Bradford, and Rebecca De Mornay.

Scope and Contents

Five folders of works, financial papers, photographs, promotional kits, and clippings, 1984-1986 contain materials from the 1985 film "The Trip to Bountiful." The collection highlights the filming of the movie and includes the screenplay and stage-play (both signed by writer Horton Foote), a copy of the budget, the main titles, photographs taken during the filming, press kits, a long press book giving background on the film, and clippings pertaining to the movie.

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Sterling VanWagenen, 1987.

Physical Location

Materials may be stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use: .
<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/makearesearchappointment.html>.

Preferred Citation

Sterling VanWagenen Papers, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.

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<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/visit/policies/publication.html>

Controlled Access Headings

- Advertising -- Motion pictures
- Motion pictures -- Production and direction
- Screenplays

Detailed Description of the Collection

Box	Folder	
1	1	Screenplay by Horton Foote, photocopy, April 8, 1985
1	2	Production materials, including budget details and title sheets, 1985, undated
1	3	Photographs from production, undated
1	4	Press kit and press books, undated
1	5	Clippings, 1984-1985