



The Wittliff Collections

Guide to the McCullough Collection of Hondo Crouch

1938–1993 (Bulk dates: 1965–1985)

Collection SWWC-138

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	McCullough, Dennis Lee
Title:	Guide to the McCullough Collection of Hondo Crouch
Dates:	1938–1993 (Bulk dates: 1965–1985)
Abstract:	This collection is comprised of papers and audiovisual materials compiled by McCullough throughout his time researching and writing about Hondo Crouch. The collection contains correspondence with friends and relatives of Crouch discussing Crouch's life, as well as letters from publishing companies about the book McCullough wrote about Crouch. Articles published in newspapers and magazines about Crouch, and the Terlingua Chili Cook-off are included, as well as multiple clippings of Crouch's newspaper column, "Cedar Creek Clippings" in The Comfort News. The collection also contains photographs of McCullough, as well as photographs of Crouch throughout his life, and various family members. A large collection of research materials, including notes and interview transcripts is included, along with a series dedicated to Crouch's swim career. A large part of this collection is an unpublished copy of Thank You, Sir, as well as two boxes of audio cassette tapes with interviews from various people that knew Crouch.
Identification:	SWWC-138
Extent:	6 Linear Feet, 9 boxes
Language:	English
Repository:	The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

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Biographical Note

Dennis Lee McCullough, a San Antonio native, was a writer, song-writer, and musician. After graduating from Jefferson High School, McCullough sought writing opportunities in California in the late 1960s. After several years, McCullough came back to Texas to pursue a career as a song-writer, started a band, and became a part of the Texas music scene. After a few years, D. Lee McCullough went back to writing and became a columnist for the Fredericksburg Radio-Post Newspaper and wrote weekly columns focused on humor. McCullough would later become a freelance writer for several publications, including Southwest Airlines Magazine writing about various topics. One of the many writing projects that McCullough has undertaken is Thank You, Sir, a biography of John Russell “Hondo” Crouch, mayor of Luckenbach and a well-known figure in the Texas country music scene. McCullough conducted research on Crouch between 1976 and 1977, but Thank You, Sir was never published.

John Russell “Hondo” Crouch (1916-1976), Texas rancher and folklorist, was born in Hondo, Texas in 1916. Crouch became an All-American swimmer at the University of Texas, coached several swimming camps throughout the course of his life. Crouch became president of the Hall of Fame for UT Athletes in 1964 and was influential in the creation of the Texas Swim Center in the 1970s. Hondo Crouch was also a writer and humorist, writing hundreds of “Cedar Creek Clippings” for the Comfort News Newspaper from 1963 through 1975. Under the pen name Peter Cedarstacker, Crouch satirized various topics including government, society, and politics. In 1971, Hondo Crouch would purchase the small community of Luckenbach, Texas and became both owner and mayor. The dance hall in Luckenbach became connected to country music in 1973 when country artist Jerry Jeff Walker recorded the album Viva Terlingua at the dance hall. Luckenbach would garner further fame through country music with a song titled “Luckenbach, Texas,” performed by country artists Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson. John Russell “Hondo” Crouch passed away in 1976 at the age of 60.

Scope and Contents

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Administrative Information

Physical Location

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

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Larry McCullough, 2019

Preferred Citation

McCullough Collection of Hondo Crouch, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.

Conditions Governing Use

Materials from the Wittliff Collections are made available for use in research, teaching, and private study. The user assumes responsibility for determining copyright status, obtaining permission to publish, and abiding by U.S. copyright laws. .
<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/visit/policies/publication.html>

Controlled Access Headings

- Luckenbach (Tex.)

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Correspondence, 1970, undated

Box	Folder	
1	1	Photocopies of letters from Crouch to Chris Regas, 1970
1	2-3	Letters discussing Crouch (various people), undated
1	4	Letters discussing Crouch (Miriam Herron & Blanche Matheson), undated
1	5	Letters regarding publication of Thank You, Sir, circa 1978

Series II: Publications, 1966, 1976-1984

1	6	Texas Highways, 1976
1	6	Texas Monthly, 1984
1	7	The Comfort News, "Cedar Creek Clippings", 1966
1	8	San Antonio Light, Wingspread, and Houston Chronicle, 1976 - 1977
1	9	The News, Austin American Statesman, and Action, 1977 - 1979
9		The Radio Post, multiple issues, September - December 1978

Series III: Photographs, 1978, undated

1	10	Photographs from Zintgraff to McCullough, undated
1	11	Photographs from Harry Marlin, undated
1	12	Photographs and negatives, sent March 31, 1978

Series IV: Research Material, 1964-1978

2	1	"Hondo History Background," Letters, Notes, and copies of Newspapers regarding history of Hondo Crouch, 1936 - 1978
2	2	"Dos Machines & Docs...Volume 1 Templates", 1978
2	3	Thank You, Sir Chapters, interviews and notes on Hondo's life and Astrology writing, 1915 - 1978
2	4	"Tejas Vaqueros Pix," Photocopies of Tejas Vaqueros and letters to Lee McCullough, 1967 - 1993
3	1	"Cedar Creek Clippings," Written by Peter Cedarstacker a.k.a Hondo Crouch, 1964 - 1972
3	2	Thank You, Sir Chapters, Daily Texan on Swimming, and the Hondo Crouch Tapes, 1976 - 1977

Series V: Crouch Swim Career, 1938, 1973-1972

4	1	Newspaper clippings, 1938
4	2	Texas Aqua Carnival Program, 1973 - 1974
4	3	Working Exes for Texas Swimming Letters, 1979
4	4	The Torch Camp Champions yearbook, 1968
4	5	The Torch Camp Champions yearbook, 1969
4	6	The Torch Camp Champions yearbook, 1972

Series VI: Unpublished works on Hondo Crouch, undated

5	1	Chapters 1-3 of Thank You, Sir
5	2	Chapters 4-7 of Thank You, Sir
5	3	Chapter 8 and Epilogue of Thank You, Sir
5	4	"Hondo Book-Chapter 1"
5	5	"It's Easy to Make an Album" article and letter about publication

Series VII: Audio Material

6	1	Tumbleweed Smith Interview about Crouch Biography, ¼" reel tape, 1975 - 1977
6	2	"Sweet Arah" and "Doing the Hondo Crouch," Three 45 rpm records, 1975
6	3-6	Dictabelt audio

Audio cassette interviews, 1976-1978

7	1	Bob Tarlton- Tex Robertson Scrapbook
7	2	Bob Totten-Charlie Schreiner III
7	3-4	Bonnard & Stella Rothe
7	5	Bouton/Vinnie Romanello 1
7	6-8	Bur Noonan
7	001	Carrol Abbot #1, bulk: 1976-1978

Side A: Carroll Abbott discusses how he met Hondo Crouch. They discuss where Crouch performed. He talks about Crouch's humor and how he wrote his jokes. He talks about his own sense of humor and how it worked with Hondo's. They discuss the other people that Crouch did comedy with. He talks about how he was afraid of failure and how it impacted his work.

Side B: Carroll Abbott discusses when JFK died and the relation to Hondo Crouch and his comedy. He discusses the impact JFK's death had on him. They discuss a story about him and Hondo in D.C. during a folk festival. They go through more stories and the interviewer gets clarification on them.

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|---|-----|--|
| 7 | 011 | Cedar Creek Clip, 1967 November 30 |
| | | Side A: Cedar Creek is discussed. |
| 7 | 11 | Charlie Schreiner/Ace Reid, February 9, 1977 |
| 7 | 12 | Darrel Royal |
| 7 | 014 | Dave Edwards, Merrilee, Juan, bulk: 1976-1978 |
| | | Side A: David Edwards talks about his time in Vietnam. He talks about how he crashed a helicopter. He talks about his education in Texas. He talks about his father and his ranch. They talk about hunting. Merrilee talks about her stories of Hondo. |
| | | Side B: McCullough reads through the Daily Texan from the years 1939-1940. |
| 7 | 14 | Dick Suman, May 28, 1977 |
| 7 | 15 | Gloria Hill |
| 7 | 006 | Hank Chapman/Ed Barlow, 1977 May 6 |
| | | Side A: Hank Chapman discusses what school and sports was like with Hondo Crouch. He discusses Ed Barlow. They talk about the injury that Hondo got that forced him to stop doing freestyle. They discuss Hondo's swimming talent. They talk about his self image and confidence. They talk about how Hondo had friends and his personality. |
| | | Side B: |
| 7 | 17 | Hoffrichter #2 |
| 7 | 18 | Hoffrichter #3 |
| 7 | 19 | L.W. Killian #2 |
| 7 | 20 | L.W. Killian #3 |
| 7 | 21 | McClamroch |
| 7 | 016 | Melvin Finger, Ralph 'Bur' Noonan, bulk: 1976-1978 |
| | | Side A: Melvin Finger and Burr Noonan are interviewed. |
| | | Side B: Burr Noonan is interviewed. |
| 7 | 23 | Morgan & Kuhlmann |
| 7 | 24 | Raymond Kuhlmann |
| 7 | 007 | Squamp & Hank Chapman, 1977 May 5-6 |
| | | Side A: Squamp and Kay Finger are interviewed. |
| | | Side B: Hank Chapman is interviewed. |
| 7 | 26 | Tejas Vaqueros |
| 7 | 003 | Tex Aulds/Killian, 1977 August 17 |
| | | Side A: Tex Aulds discusses Hondo Crouch's swimming career and how he trained. He discusses how and when he met Hondo. He discusses their time in the military and how Hondo was "washed out". He talks about Hondo's time in school. He talks about |

stories Hondo used to tell. He talks about Hondo's music. He discusses why Hondo wasn't able to go to the Olympics. They talk about his swimming skills.

Side B: Tex Aulds is interviewed by Larry McCullough. He talks about the jokes that he and Hondo would play in the military. The audio then changes to an interview with L.W. Killian. They talk about Hondo in the military. He talks about being friends in the military and outside.

- 7 28 Tom Moore #1
- 7 29 Tom Moore #2
- 7 30 Tom Moore #3
- 7 002 Tower, Carroll Abbot #2, bulk: 1976-1978

Side B: Tower talks about when he met Hondo Crouch and what he was like. They talk about Crouch's famous jokes. They discuss stories he has with Crouch. They talk about Comfort, Texas and what it's like. They talk about the different characters Hondo would play. He talks about when he would sing in Spanish. They discuss Texas A&M and Camp Champions. They talk about a person named Ace.

- 7 32 Wally Hoffrichter #1
- 7 33 Wier Kirby #1, March 9, 1978

- 8 1 Ace Reid-Oleta Bolles
- 8 2 Alex Spenrath
- 8 3 Brownie Rice-Hondo

- 7 008 Chickensnake Leslie, bulk: 1970-1978

Side A: Chickensnake Leslie is interviewed.

Side B: Interview about Cedar Creek.

- 7 010 Clyde Cook and Cedar Creek, 1965, 1977

Side A: Clyde Cook is interviewed.

Side B: Cedar Creek is discussed.

- 8 6 Dr. Ray Cruse
- 8 004 Ed Barlow, bulk: 1976-1978

Side A: Ed Barlow is interviewed about Hondo Crouch and their relationship. They talk about Hondo's love life. They talk about how they suspect something happened to Hondo being in the military. They talk about Hondo's marriage. They talk about his personality changes and what triggered them. They talk about his self image and ranching.

- 8 8 Fleetwood Richards/Don Russell
- 8 9 F.M. Johnson #2/ Robertson
- 8 10-11 George Wright, December 9, 1976

7	013	Gilly Davis, bulk: 1976-1978
		Side A: Gilly Davis discusses the first time he met Hondo Crouch while in college. He talks about starting the rangerettes. He talks about being in the army and the places he has lived in Texas. They talk about pictures he has with Hondo.
		Side B: Continued interview with Gilly Davis. He tells stories about flying with Hondo Crouch. He talks about their friendship. He talks about Hondo's swimming skills. They talk about him playing the guitar while in the Air Force. He talks about seeing Hondo after the war. He remembers going fishing with him and different stories from that. He talks about playing football at Texas.
8	13	Gloria Hill
8	14	Guich #1
8	15	Guich #2
8	16	Hondo Anvil-Herald Notes, Nora Finger, Melvin Finger
7	015	Horton Nesrsta/Guich, bulk: 1976-1978
		Side B: Horton Nesrsta is interviewed.
8	18	Ken Morgan
8	19	Klaus, Tex, Lovett
8	20	Laurence, January 14, 1977
8	21	Lovett, Stroud, Jerry Jeff
8	22	Marge Ottmers
7	015	Mrs. Benno Engel (Elizabeth), bulk: 1976-1978
		Side A: Mrs. Benno Engel is interviewed.
8	24	Raymond Kuhlmann
8	25	Representative Walt Parker
8	26	Rex Foster, Sr., January 1977
8	27	Robertson 2nd
7	005	Running Bear, 1977 February 1
		Side A: Interviewee discusses how she got her nickname Runnin' Bear. She discusses some of the stories that she has with Ace Reed and Hondo Crouch. She tells different funny tales that she had with Hondo. She discusses her Native American heritage. She talks about her views on football.
8	29	Sherrile Stroud
8	30	Sherrile Stroud Tape 2
8	31	Si Ragsdale
8	32-33	Tex Robertson

8	34	Tex Schofield, April 3, 1977
8	35	Vinnie Romanello #2
8	36	Wier Kirby