



The Wittliff Collections

Guide to the Stephen Harrigan Papers 1971-2000

Collection SWWC-012

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Harrigan, Stephen, 1948-
Title:	Guide to the Stephen Harrigan Papers
Dates:	1971-2000
Abstract:	The collection is composed of 21 boxes of manuscripts, galley proofs, notes, clippings, correspondence, artwork, financial and legal papers, screenplays, photographs and artifacts, spanning from 1971 to 2000, that document Stephen Harrigan's writing career.
Identification:	SWWC-012
Extent:	17.5 Linear Feet, 35 boxes (Plus oversize.)
Language:	English
Repository:	The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

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Biographical Notes

Stephen Harrigan was born on October 5, 1948, and grew up in Oklahoma City, Abilene and Corpus Christi. After receiving a degree in English from The University of Texas at Austin in 1971, Harrigan briefly attended graduate school and worked as a yardman and as an ad writer for the *University Co-op*. He contributed articles to a number of magazines, including *Rolling Stone*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Esquire* and *The Texas Observer*. He became a regular writer for *Texas Monthly* shortly after its inception and co-founded and edited *Lucille*, a journal of poetry, which published 10 issues between 1974 and 1978. Harrigan received a Dobie-Paisano fellowship in 1977, which allowed him to complete his first novel. *Aransas*, published by Knopf in 1980, tells the story of Jeff Dowling, an alienated young man who comes to terms with himself and the world as he trains two dolphins for a circus in Port Aransas, Texas. The *New York Times* named the novel one of the notable books of 1980, and reviewers praised its realism and style. His second novel, *Jacob's Well*, also focused on man's relationship with nature, following the lives of three people who are drawn together to explore an artesian well in Central Texas. The book was named one of the best books of 1984 by *The Washington Post* and *The Dallas Morning News*. Harrigan's recent books, until the publication in 2000 of *Gates of the Alamo*, have been nonfiction. As a freelance writer and later staff writer and editor for *Texas Monthly*, Harrigan displayed a talent for journalism, contributing interviews and other investigative pieces, but he also focused on the natural environment, writing about rivers, Big Bend, Padre Island and other Texas landmarks. Many of these essays were collected in Harrigan's third book, *A Natural State: Essays on Texas* (1988), which was recently republished by the University of Texas Press. His 1992 book *Water and Light: A Diver's Journey to a Coral Reef* combined research on aquatic life with his own experiences scuba diving off a coral reef in the Caribbean. The *New York Times Book Review* called *Water and Light* "moving, intelligent ... literary," and praised Harrigan's "remarkable ability to discuss the metaphysical and spiritual aspects of underwater exploration." Harrigan has also published a book of poetry and written screenplays, one of which, *The Last of His Tribe*, was broadcast on HBO. Harrigan's works are characterized by an intense interest in humans and their relationship to the environment around them. He once wrote of his interest in natural subjects: "I don't know what nature is exactly--whether it is a category that includes human beings or shuts them out--but for me it has always contained that hint of eeriness, the sense that some vital information--common knowledge to all the universe--has been specifically withheld from me. Sometimes, as with the

snake, this secrecy has seemed malevolent, but far more often it has been wonderfully tantalizing. For much of my life I have been obsessed with nature, but not in the way a naturalist would be obsessed with it--driven to classify, to define relationships, to comprehend the world's marvelous intricacy. I have simply wanted to feel more fully a part of that intricacy, to see something other than neutral scorn in the eyes of that half-imagined snake." (Introduction to *A Natural State*, UT Press, 1994) Harrigan lives in Austin with his wife Sue Ellen and three daughters.

Scope and Contents

The collection is composed of 21 boxes of manuscripts, galley proofs, notes, clippings, correspondence, artwork, financial and legal papers, screenplays, photographs, and artifacts, from 1971 to 2000 that document Stephen Harrigan's writing career. It has been arranged into six series: Works (1971-2000, undated), Correspondence (1976-1991, undated), Personal Materials (undated), Works by Other Authors, (1971-1972, 1992-1993, undated), Texas Institute of Letters (1982-1983, 1985-1986), and Clippings (1971-1983). The Works series comprises the largest part of the Harrigan collection. It thoroughly documents Harrigan's methodical writing process. Most of the books and articles can be traced from the earliest notes taken by Harrigan to a proof copy or published work. The other series relate generally to his writing career. The materials are arranged in chronological order. Largely absent from the collection are personal papers or correspondence. Books in the Stephen Harrigan Collection have been cataloged separately.

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gifts of Stephen Harrigan and Bill Wittliff beginning in 1987. Contact the The Wittliff Collections for information about additional materials from this writer that have not yet been fully processed.

Physical Location

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

Preferred Citation

Stephen Harrigan Papers, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Authors, American -- Texas -- 20th century
- Historians -- Texas
- Journalism -- Texas
- Natural history literature
- Screenwriters -- United States
- Texas -- Description and travel

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Works, 1971-2000, undated

Early Works , 1971-1978, undated

Box	Folder	
1	1	Note by Harrigan concerning his time at the Co-op, 1988
1	2	Ads, March 1971
1	3	Ads, April 1971
1	4	Ads, January 1972
1	5	Ads, May 1972
1	6	Ads, November 1972
1	7	Ads, December 1972
1	8	Ads, January 1973
1	9	Ads, February 1973
1	10	Ads, March 1973
1	11	Ads, April 1973
1	12	Ads, May 1973
1	13	Ads, June 1973
1	14	Ads, July 1973
1	15	Ads, August 1973
1	16	Ads, September 1973
1	17	Ads, October 1973
1	18	Ads, November 1973
1	19	Ads, December 1973
1	20	Ads, January 1974
1	21	Ads, February 1974
1	22	Ads, March 1974
1	23	Ads, April 1974
1	24	Ads, undated
2	1	Note by Harrigan concerning his time running the magazine , 1988
2	2	2 Submissions for publication and correspondence, includes copy of MFA thesis by R. S. Gwynn entitled "After the Nigerian Air Show, Poems by R.S. Gwynn," University of Arkansas, and correspondence with Gunnar Hansen, 1972, undated
2	3	Submissions for publication and correspondence, includes poems by and correspondence from Vassar Miller
2	4	Submissions for publication and correspondence
2	5	Design notes, photos and sketches
2	6	Correspondence, 1975-1978

2	7	7 Financial papers, includes bank statements and cancelled checks
2	8	8 Grant applications, guidelines and correspondence, 1974-1977, undated
2	9	Reviews, 1975-1978, undated
2	10	Empty file folders, undated

Books, 1977-2000, undated

3	1	Dobie-Paisano Application and acceptance letter
3	2	2 Correspondence and contract for publication of Aransas
3	3	Notes and notebook 1
3	4	Notebooks 2 and 3, 1977, undated
3	5	Notebooks 4 and 5, undated
3	6	Notebooks 6 and 7, undated
3	7	Notebooks 8 and 9, undated
3	8	Revisions, two notebooks, undated
4	1-2	Original typescript, contains deleted first chapter, undated
4	3	Early typescript, bound, undated
4	4	Edited typescript, International Creative Management's copy , undated
5	1	Edited typescript, International Creative Management's copy , undated
18	1	Typescript with typesetting notes, 1980
18	2	Various chapters with typesetting notes, undated
5	2	Correspondence regarding revisions from Alfred A. Knopf Publishing
5	3	First proof with handwritten revisions, 1978-1979
5	4	Page proofs
5	5	Final page proofs
5	6	Reviews, 1980
18	3	Reviews, 1980
5	7	Screenplay of Aransas by Robert Lovenheim, includes correspondence, 1980, undated
6	1	Notes and maps, undated
18	4	Notebooks 1 and 2, 1981, undated
18	5	Notebooks 3 and 4, undated
19	1	Notebook, no number (begins with Chapter 4 notes), 1983
6	2-4	Original manuscript with corrections , 1984
6	5-6	Early draft with changes , undated
7	1	Early draft with changes , undated
7	2-4	Early draft, undated
7	5	Author's galleys, undated
7	6	Reviews , 1984, undated
19	2	Reviews , 1984, undated

19	3	Publicity, includes Simon Schuster Catalog and book signing invitations, 1983, undated
19	4	Correspondence, 1982, 1984
19	5	Screenplay agreement between Stephen Harrigan and Ron Coley, 1984
7	7	Published book of poetry, drafts of poems, and extra poems not included in the book
8	1	Trip to Turks and Caicos Islands, notes, map, sketches, 1987, undated
8	2	Research notes, general outline of chapters
8	3	Prospectus and sample chapter with handwritten notes
8	4-5	Typescript of draft, includes correspondence with Houghton Mifflin Publishing Company
8	6-7	Edited manuscript copy with style sheet, undated
8	8	Typescript with editor's notes, undated
9	1	Typescript with editor's notes, undated
9	2	Edited master proofs, 1992
9	3	Author's marked set with cover, 1992, undated
9	4	Author's extra set, 1992, undated
19	6	Correspondence, 1991-1992, undated
19	7	Publicity, Houghton Mifflin catalog and mail-outs, 1992, undated
19	8	Audiotapes, undated
20	1-2	Typescript, undated
20	3	Bound typescript, undated
20	4	Correspondence (letter from Harrigan to John Sterling, Editor in Chief, Houghton Mifflin. The book was contracted with Houghton Mifflin, but moved with John Sterling to Broadway Books/Knopf.), April 12, 1987
21		Research note-cards, Set 1(A-I)
22		Research note-cards, Set 2 (J-S)
23		Research note-cards, Set 3 (S-Z and miscellaneous)
24	1-2	Chapter notes and research, undated
24	3	Costume notes, undated
24	4-5	Typescript with notes by Elizabeth Crook , undated
25	1-3	Typescript with notes by Elizabeth Crook , undated
25	4-5	Typescript with notes by Hardin, undated
26	1-3	Typescript with notes by Hardin, undated
26	4-5	Typescript with notes by Huffines, undated
27	1-3	Typescript with notes by Huffines, undated

27	4	Typescript with notes by David Lindley , undated
28	1-2	Typescript with notes by David Lindley , undated
28	3-4	Bound typescript draft, sent to International Creative Management , undated
29	1-2	Bound typescript draft, sent to International Creative Management , undated
29	3	Typescript, undated
30	1-2	Typescript, undated
30	3	Publicity, Alfred A. Knopf catalog, Spring 2000

Screenplays, 1986-1991, undated

31	1	Research, notes, clippings, 1986, 1991, undated
31	2	Research notebooks and note-cards, undated
10	1	First draft, December 1987
10	2	First draft (copy), December 1987
10	3	Second draft, includes correspondence with Texas Monthly Publishing, undated
10	4	Draft that Harrigan says got him invited to the Sundance Film Festival, also labeled second draft, undated
10	5	Third draft, September 1990
10	6	First HBO Draft (Take One), August 1990
10	7	First HBO Draft (Submitted), September 1990
10	8	Draft, December 6, 1990
11	1	Draft, December 20, 1990
11	2-3	Drafts, January 1991
11	4	Draft, February 3, 1991
11	5	Draft, February 21, 1991
11	6	Draft, March 30, 1991
11	7	Draft, August 14, 1991
11	8	Annotated draft, August 29, 1991
12	1	Draft, September 6, 1991
12	2	Production draft with revisions, September 10, 1991
12	3	Production file, includes script, staff and crew information, shooting schedule, and notes, 1991
12	4	Miscellaneous notes, undated
12	5	Movie prop, undated
12	6	Script by Lawrence Wright and Stephen Harrigan, undated

Songs, undated

31	3	"The Old Three," typed draft with corrections
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Contributions to Texas Monthly, 1978-1992, undated

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| 13 | 1 | "Coppini the Great," research file, photographs, and correspondence, 1984, undated |
| 13 | 2 | "The Line Forms Here," galley proofs, 1978 |
| 13 | 3 | "On the Edge of Texas," research file, maps, correspondence, 1982, undated |
| 13 | 4 | "On the Edge of Texas," maps, undated |
| 13 | 5 | "On the Edge of Texas," drafts, edited galley proofs, undated |
| 13 | 6 | "Governor's New Clothes," research notes, 1980-1981, undated |
| 13 | 7 | "Governor's New Clothes," drafts (handwritten and typed) and published article in Texas Monthly, May 1981 |
| 14 | 1 | "What Texas Means to Me," research notes and drafts, undated |
| 14 | 2 | "Isle Without End," notes, undated |
| 14 | 3 | "On the Set of Lonesome Dove," research material, call sheets from the set, drafts, galley proofs, 1988, undated |
| 14 | 4 | "The Lost Tribe," notes, drafts, galley proofs, undated |
| 31 | 4 | Correspondence, drafts, and galleys, 1992, undated |
| 31 | 5 | Various drafts and galleys with Harrigan's annotations, 1992, undated |
| 14 | 5 | Texas Monthly Magazines, January, July, and August 1979 |
| 15 | 1 | Texas Monthly Magazines, January, June, and August 1980 |
| 15 | 2 | Texas Monthly Magazines, October and November 1980 |
| 15 | 3 | Texas Monthly Magazines, February and April 1981 |
| 15 | 4 | Texas Monthly Magazines, May and August 1981 |
| 15 | 5 | Texas Monthly Magazines, Correspondence and artwork, 1980, 1988 |

General Works, 1976-1988, undated

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| 16 | 1 | Various untitled drafts, undated |
| 16 | 2 | Application for NASA's Journalist in Space Program (1986), memo from Texas Commission of Arts (1981), and interview with Harrigan by Mark Gozonsky in West Austin News (1988), 1981, 1986, 1988 |
| 31 | 6 | Notebook, Poetry, 1976 |
| 31 | 7 | Notebook, Prose, 1978 |

Series II: Correspondence, 1976-1991, undated

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|----|---|---|
| 16 | 3 | Lee Goerner and Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., includes royalty statements and contract, 1978, 1984-1985, undated |
| 16 | 4 | International Creative Management and Texas State Library, 1980, 1983-1985, undated |
| 16 | 5 | Simon and Schuster Publishing, includes publishing agreement, 1983-1984, 1991 |
| 16 | 6 | Correspondence - contacts include Marge Harrigan, Justin Green, John Deaton, the |

University of Texas, Julian Bach Literary Agency, the University of Iowa, Houghton Mifflin Publishing, John A. Sterling, Paul R. Reynolds, Bill Broyles, and fan mail, 1976-1980, undated

- 16 7 Correspondence - contacts include James P. Hart, Albert C. Lewis, Outside magazine, Houston City Magazine, Texas Institute of Letters, PEN: An Association of Writers, Esquire, Simon and Schuster Publishing, and others, 1981-1988

Series III: Personal Materials, undated

- 16 8 Personal Materials, includes underwater slate used during the writing of Water and Light, notes, etc., undated
- 33 Swimming fins

Series IV: Works By Others, 1971-1993, undated

- 31 8 Raven's Bride by Elizabeth Crook, three audio-tapes
- 16 9 "Texas Ramblers," an original screenplay by Ken Harrison, draft, November 1982
- 17 1-4 Texas, by James A. Michener, photocopy of edited draft
- 17 5 Barton Springs Eternal: The Soul of a City, Essays, Photos, and Oral History, edited by Turk Pipkin and Marshall Frech, photocopy and correspondence, 1992-1993, undated
- 31 9 "The Snake Doctors," poem by Frank Stanford
- 31 10 From Hell to Breakfast, book of poetry by James Whitaker
- 32 1 100 Flowers, literary journal, Spring 1971

Series V: Texas Institute of Letters, 1982-1986

- 32 2 Clippings, correspondence, meeting minutes, and programs, 1982-1983
- 32 3 Clippings, correspondence, financial documents, newsletters, programs, 1985-1986

Series VI: Clippings, 1971-1983

- 32 4 Clippings about Harrigan, 1977-1983
- 34 Original clippings of Co-op ads, preservation photocopies can be found in Series I.
- 35 Original clippings of Co-op ads, preservation photocopies can be found in Series I.