



The Wittliff Collections

Guide to the Jan Reid Papers 1974-1994

Collection SWWC-059

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Reid, Jan
Title:	Guide to the Jan Reid Papers
Dates:	1974-1994
Abstract:	Working drafts, photographs, and correspondence make up the papers of journalist and novelist Jan Reid. The collection is arranged into the following three series: Books (1974-1986), Articles and Stories (1975-1994, undated), and Correspondence (1976-1993, undated)
Identification:	SWWC-059
Extent:	3 Linear Feet, 4 boxes (Plus 1 oversize folder.)
Language:	English
Repository:	The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

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Biographical Notes

Writer Jan Reid was born on March 18, 1945, in Abilene, Texas. After graduating from high school he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, 1964-1970. He received his BA from Midwestern University in 1968 and then went on to receive his MA from the University of Texas in 1972. Reid began to write for the *Mt. Pleasant Tribune* and soon after quit to seek another job as the sports editor for the *New Braunfels Herald* in 1972. His break came in 1973 when an editor at *Texas Parks and Wildlife* magazine suggested he contact a publication that was just getting started in Austin. *Texas Monthly* needed young, hungry contributing writers. Along with Stephen Harrigan, Shelby Hearon, Prudence Mackintosh and others, Reid joined in on the ground floor in 1973 and became one of the upstart publication's first writers. He wrote countless stories for *Texas Monthly* and soon after became a contributing editor for the magazine. In 1974 Reid published *The Improbable Rise of Redneck Rock*, which tells the story of "the movement that changed the face of traditional country music. It traces the development of the exuberant music community in Austin, Texas, from its formative years in the early sixties up to the flourishing activities of the present." "Like many Americans of my generation, I had fantasized my share of guarded moments over the turn my life would have taken had I been one of those lucky fellows with guitars slung like machine guns on their hips, mowing the audiences down." He also started up Look Away Books, a small publishing company. While visiting Mexico, along with three friends, on April 20, 1998 he was shot by two robbers. Soon after Reid began to write a book, *The Bullet Meant for Me*, about his ordeal, describing how the shooting left him a paraplegic and his subsequent struggle to regain as much physical control of his body as possible. Texas A&M University Press recently published *Close Calls: Jan Reid's Texas*, a collection of some of Reid's best-loved magazine pieces. Also, the March 2001 issue of *Texas Monthly* included a story, by Reid, about legendary Texas author Billy Lee Brammer and *The Gay Place*, Brammer's equally legendary novel about politics.

Reid passed away on September 19, 2020.

Scope and Contents

The Jan Reid collection span the years from 1976 to 1988 and includes working drafts, photographs and correspondence relating to Reid's career as a journalist and novelist. They are arranged according to the following series: Books(1974-1986), Articles and Stories (1975-1994, undated), and Correspondence (1976-1993, undated)

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

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>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Jan Reid, 1974-1993.

Physical Location

Materials may be stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use:

<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/makearesearchappointment.html>.

Preferred Citation

Jan Reid Papers, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.

Controlled Access Headings

- Authors, American -- Texas -- 20th century
- Music -- History and criticism
- Music -- Texas
- Music journalists
- Popular music -- Texas -- Austin
- Texas -- Description and travel

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Books, 1974-1986

The Improbable Rise of Redneck Rock (1974), 1988, undated

Box Folder

Map-case 4	The Austin Chronicle , March 25, 1988
Map-case 4	Final corrected galleys
Map-case 4	Dustjacket production film
Map-case 4	Dustjacket proofs
Map-case 4	Photographs by Melinda Wickman - Jerry Jeff Walker, Michael Murphy, Kinky Friedman, Steve Fromholz

Deer in Water, 1985

1	1	"False start"
1	2-4	First draft
1	5	Second draft
2	1-3	Second draft
2	4-6	Final edited version
2	7	Reviews
3	1-2	Vain Glory (1986) (working title: "The Lavender Brothers") - typescript

Series II: Articles and Stories, 1975-1994

3	3	"Postscript: The Improbable Rise of Redneck Rock" , 1975
3	4	"The Untimely Death of Redneck Rock" in Texas Monthly, 1976
3	5	"The Grand Canyon" (Palo Duro Canyon) (Texas Monthly) - Research and photographs, January 1985
3	6	"The Grand Canyon" (Palo Duro Canyon) (Texas Monthly) - Typescript draft, January 1985
3	8	Bob Eckhardt (Texas Monthly) - Correspondence, May 1994
3	7	Bob Eckhardt (Texas Monthly) - Typescript, May 1994
3	9	Larry McMurtry profile (Texas Monthly) - Typescript draft, February 1993
3	10	Undated annotated drafts with letter to Stephen Harrigan from Reid describing drafts - "Communion," "Country Basketball," "Season's Greetings," "Billy the Kid," "Cages," "Too Cool", undated

Series III: Correspondence, 1975-1994, undated

4	1	Hearon, Shelby, 1976-1979
4	2	Hearon, Shelby, undated
4	3	Richards, Ann, 1993