

**PATTERSON, EUGENE C.
(EUGENE CORBETT), 1923-2013.
Eugene C. Patterson papers, 1940s-2000s**

Emory University
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Collection Stored Off-Site

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Patterson, Eugene C. (Eugene Corbett), 1923-2013.
Title: Eugene C. Patterson papers, 1940s-2000s
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1380
Extent: 50 linear feet (51 boxes, 8 oversized papers (OP), and AV Masters: .5 linear feet (1 box)
Abstract: Professional and personal papers of journalist Eugene Patterson including professional files from his time at various newspapers, personal papers, awards and honors, printed material, and photographs and audiovisual material.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

Collection stored off-site. Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance to access this collection.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Special restrictions apply: Use copies have not been made for audiovisual material in this collection. Researchers must contact MARBL at least two weeks in advance for access to these

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items. Collection restrictions, copyright limitations, or technical complications may hinder MARBL's ability to provide access to audiovisual material.

Source

Gift, 2016

Custodial History

The Eugene Patterson papers were gifted to by the Poynter Institute for Media Studies which the held, organized, and preserved the papers until their transfer to Emory University in 2016.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Eugene C. Patterson papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Arranged and Described at the series level by Carrie Hintz, November 2016.

Collection Description**Biographical Note**

Eugene Corbett Patterson (1923-2013) was born in Valdosta, Georgia to William C. and Annabel Corbett Patterson. He spent most of his youth on a small farm near Adel, Georgia. Patterson attended the North Georgia College at Dahlonega before transferring to the University of Georgia at Athens where he earned a degree in journalism in 1943. Upon graduation, Patterson joined the United States Army and became a tank platoon commander, fighting in the Battle of the Bulge under General Patton. He continued in the service after the war, becoming an Army pilot, until he ultimately left the Army in 1947 to pursue a career in journalism.

Patterson started his journalism career as a reporter for the *Temple Daily Telegram* in Texas and the *Macon Telegraph* in Macon, Georgia before he joined the United Press in 1948, working as a journalist in Atlanta, New York, and London before moving to the *Atlanta Constitution* in 1956. He became editor of the *Constitution* in 1960, following in the footsteps of his friend and mentor, Ralph McGill.

While editor of the *Atlanta Constitution* Patterson wrote a daily editorial column, including a column written after the 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing in Birmingham Alabama entitled "A Flower for the Graves" that Patterson read, at the invitation of Walter Cronkite, on the CBS Evening News. Patterson won a Pulitzer Prize in 1967 for editorial columns.

Patterson was an outspoken supporter of civil rights. In 1964 Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Patterson as vice chairman of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, a position he held until 1968.

In 1968 Patterson left the *Constitution* to take on the position of managing editor at *The Washington Post*, a position he held until 1971 when he left *The Post* to teach at Duke University. Patterson remained at Duke one academic year, but returned to newsrooms in 1972 when he became editor of the *St. Petersburg Times* and its associated publications, *The Evening Independent* in St. Petersburg and the *Congressional Quarterly*, a publication covering politics

and government. He became chairman of the board of the company upon the death of Nelson Poynter, the owner of the company, in 1978. Patterson retired in 1988.

Patterson was an active member of the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE), serving as president of that organization in 1977-1978. He was a member of the Pulitzer Prize Board from 1974-1985, a member of the board of the Poynter Institute, and a trustee of Duke University.

Patterson married Mary Sue (Sue) Carter in 1950. She died in 1999. The couple had a daughter, Mary Patterson Fausch. Patterson died on January 12, 2013 in St. Petersburg, Florida from complications of cancer.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of the papers of Eugene Patterson from the 1940s through the 2000s. It includes Professional Files, Personal Files, Awards and Honors, Printed Material, and Photographs and Audiovisual Material. Professional Files comprise the bulk of the collection and consist of correspondence, memos, reports and planning documents, and some writings and columns. Correspondence in the collection includes letters with colleagues, readers, and professional organizations. The correspondence files generally include carbons of Patterson's outgoing correspondence, as well as incoming letters and notes. The correspondence and business files are arranged roughly chronologically and include material directly relating to the running of the newspapers Patterson edited, as well as correspondence and files related to other personal organizations and Patterson's charitable work on various boards and advisory councils. Personal papers include letters and notes from family and friends, material relating to Patterson's time in the army, and family history material.

Arrangement Note

Arranged by record type, and chronologically within record types.

Container List

Professional Files

| Box | Folder | Content |
|-----|--------|--|
| 1 | - | Presidential and other important letters |
| 9 | - | Atlanta Constitution—Correspondence and Invitations, 1956-1968 |
| 10 | - | Atlanta Constitution, 1956-1968 |
| 11 | - | Atlanta Constitution—Correspondence A-L, 1956-1968 |
| 12 | - | Atlanta Constitution—Correspondence M-Z, 1956-1968 |
| 18 | - | Board and Civic Engagement—Correspondence, 1957-1964 |
| 19 | - | Correspondence C-E, 1968-1978 |
| 25 | - | 1963 Birmingham Bombing Column and Responses, 1963 |
| 37 | - | Pulitzer Prize Congratulatory Notes, 1967 |
| 39 | - | Atlanta Constitution Columns, 1960-1967 |
| 39 | - | Correspondence, 1967-1971 |
| 40 | - | Correspondence, 1967-1971 |
| 41 | - | Correspondence, 1967-1971 |
| 3 | - | Washington Post Correspondence and Memos, 1968-1971 |
| 18 | - | Washington Post, 1968-1971 |
| 6 | - | Duke University teaching and administrative material, 1971 |
| 7 | - | St. Petersburg Times |
| 13 | - | St. Petersburg Times |
| 14 | - | St. Petersburg Times |
| 15 | - | St. Petersburg Times—Correspondence and Reports |
| 17 | - | St. Petersburg Times—Reports |
| 17 | - | St. Petersburg Times- Correspondence |
| 16 | - | Congressional Quarterly, 1972-1980 |
| 34 | - | Congressional Quarterly, 1970s |
| 7 | - | Congressional Quarterly, 1975-1988 |
| 24 | - | American Society of Newspaper Editors Files, 1970s |
| 24 | - | Patterson Memos, 1970s |
| 35 | - | Correspondence, M-P, 1970s |
| 36 | - | Correspondence, 1970s |
| 32 | - | American Society of Newspaper Editors, 1970s (including Patterson's trip to China) |
| 43 | - | St. Petersburg Times, 1970s-1980s |
| 29 | - | St. Petersburg Times—Correspondence, 1980s |
| 27 | - | Modern Media Institute, 1975-1981 |
| 20 | - | Correspondence S-T, 1980s |

- 21 - Correspondence U-Z, 1980s
- 22 - Correspondence S-U, 1970s
- 23 - Correspondence, 1980s-2004
- 37 - Correspondence, 1980s (Including Ralph McGill correspondence)
- 30 - Congressional Quarterly, 1980s
- 31 - American Society of Newspaper Editors, 1980s
- 33 - Congressional Quarterly, 1980s
- 26 - Correspondence, 1980s-1990s
- 28 - Duke University, 1990s
- 28 - Collins Center, 1990s
- 8 - Pulitzer Prize Board
- 5 - Speeches and Speech-related correspondence and notes
- 5 - General Material
- 8 - Poynter Fund and Poynter Institute

Personal Files

- 1 - World War II
- 2 - World War II
- OP8 - World War II Scrapbook
- 4 - Family and financial material
- 37 - Correspondence- Personal, 1950s-2000s
- 38 - Correspondence and Records- Personal, 1990s-2000s
- 41 - Patterson- Biographical Information
- 41 - Patterson- Financial Information
- 41 - Patterson- Retirement
- 42 - Correspondence, 2000s
- 44 - Family Correspondence and Genealogical Materials

Photographs and Audiovisual Material

- 2 - Photographs
- OP1 - Photographs
- OP2 - Photographs
- 49 - Audiovisual Material
- AV1 - The Happy Birthday Granddaddy Tape, Eugene C. Patterson, October 1991
[original: VHS]

Awards and Honors

- 50 - Awards and Honors
- OP1 - Awards and Honors
- OP2 - Awards and Honors

- OP5 - Awards and Honors
- 47 - Academic Robes
- 48 - Academic Robes

Printed Material

- 45 - Printed Material
 - 46 - Printed Material
 - OP3 - Printed Material
 - OP4 - Printed Material-- Newspapers
 - OP6 - Original Patterson columns, 1960-1964
 - OP7 - Original Patterson columns, 1965-1968
 - 51 - Original Patterson columns, 1972-1985
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