

# K. Ross Toole Papers, 1867-1992 (bulk 1961-1981)

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Toole, K. Ross (Kenneth Ross) 1920-1981
<b>Title</b>	K. Ross Toole Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1867-1992 (bulk 1961-1981) (inclusive) 1867 1992
<b>Quantity</b>	16 linear feet
<b>Collection Number</b>	Mss 717
<b>Summary</b>	K. Ross (Kenneth Ross) Toole was a well-known historian of Montana and the American West. This collection largely contains correspondence, research materials and writings, and faculty materials from 1961, when he was named the A.B. Hammond Professor of Western History at the University of Montana in Missoula, to his death in 1981.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">University of Montana, Mansfield Library, Archives and Special Collections</a> Archives and Special Collections Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library University of Montana 32 Campus Dr. #9936 59812-9936 Missoula, MT Telephone: 406-243-2053 Fax: 406-243-4067 <a href="mailto:library.archives@umontana.edu">library.archives@umontana.edu</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Researchers must use collection in accordance with the policies of Archives and Special Collections, the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, and The University of Montana-Missoula.
<b>Languages</b>	English, French, German, Spanish

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## Biographical Note

Kenneth Ross Toole was born August 8, 1920 in Missoula, Montana. After serving in the Navy during World War II, Toole received a B.A. in History in 1946 and M.A. in History, American West, in 1948, both from the University of Montana – Missoula (then called Montana State University – Missoula). He finished his Ph.D. in History, American West, from the University of California – Los Angeles in 1955. He taught at the University of Montana as the A.B. Hammond Professor of Western History from 1965 until his death in 1981.

Toole served as the first Director of the Montana State Historical Society in Helena (1951-1958), Director of the Museum of the City of New York (1958-1960), and Director of the Museums of New Mexico in Santa Fe (1960-1963). He was also the President of K-J Ranches near Red Lodge, Montana, from 1950-1965. Toole was a fourth-generation Montanan whose relatives had always been heavily

involved in Montana's business, politics, and academia. His older brother, John Toole, served as Mayor of Missoula and held various other political offices.

K. Ross Toole was a prolific writer and one of the foremost historians of Montana. His books included Montana: An Uncommon Land (1959), The Time Has Come (1971), Twentieth-Century Montana: A State of Extremes (1972), and The Rape of the Great Plains: Northwest America, Cattle, and Coal (1976). His many articles and frequent speeches addressed a variety of historical and contemporary topics. One article in particular, "The Tyranny of the Spoiled Brats," started as a letter to his brother John concerning student activism and the "generation gap." It became a world-wide publishing sensation after the Billings Gazette and, later, Readers Digest, U.S. News and World Report, and a multitude of other periodicals in the U.S. and abroad reprinted it under various titles. Toole received thousands of letters in response and a book deal that led to The Time Has Come.

At the University of Montana, Toole taught and advised graduate students in the History Department and taught one undergraduate history course every year called "Montana and the West." The course attracted over 1000 students annually in Toole's last years at the University. Toole also served on numerous University committees and worked to establish and gather materials for a working historical archives on campus.

K. Ross Toole married Barbara Jean McCullough in 1945. They had one son, Kenneth Ross Toole, Jr., born in 1955. In 1960 Toole and Barbara Jean divorced. That same year he married Joan Trimble. They had two children: Dana (born 1960) and David (born 1962). Joan also had four children from her previous marriage to John Marchi: Jon (born 1946), Jael (born 1948), Charis (born 1950) and Peter (born 1951). Kenneth Ross Toole died of cancer on August 13, 1981.

The Archives in the Mansfield Library at the University of Montana was officially dedicated as the K. Ross Toole Archives on November 4, 1983.

## Content Description

This collection contains both personal and academic correspondence from Toole's years at the University of Montana, including seven boxes of letters responding to his article "The Tyranny of the Spoiled Brats." Drafts and publishing materials from his books written after 1965 are also included. There is one copy of his doctoral thesis on the Anaconda Copper Mining Company. Additional materials concern the University of Montana Graduate School, Department of History, Faculty Senate, and other administrative divisions. Lecture notes and other papers from Toole's courses are included, as well as his speeches and addresses from various events. There are also some materials from Toole's work outside the University, such as with the Northern Rockies Foundation, the Conrad-Campbell Historic Mansion, and Montana's 1972 Constitutional Convention. Finally, there are various research materials and subject files used in his teaching and writing on Montana history, the environment, conservation, higher education, prose writing, campus violence, and the "generation gap."

## Use of the Collection

### Restrictions on Use

Researchers are responsible for using in accordance with 17 U.S.C. and any other applicable statutes. Non-exclusive copyright transferred to The University of Montana.

## Preferred Citation

[Name of document or photograph number], K. Ross Toole Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, The University of Montana-Missoula.

## Administrative Information

### Arrangement

This collection has been divided into six series.

Series I: Correspondence, 5.5 linear feet, 1961-1982

Series II: Speeches and Writings, 2.75 linear feet, 1954-1989

Series III: University of Montana, 2.5 linear feet, 1962-1981

Series IV: External Business, 0.5 linear feet, 1954-1992

Series V: Research and Clippings, 3.5 linear feet, 1867-1981

Series VI: Biographical and Ephemera, 0.25 linear feet, 1949-1985

Series VII: Media, 0.75 linear feet, undated

Series VIII: Audio Recording, 0.25 linear feet, 1975

### Custodial History

A portion of these materials was likely transferred to the Archives directly from Toole's campus office. Other materials in this collection were likely in the possession of K. Ross Toole's family prior to their placement at the Archives. The collection was officially gifted to the Archives in 2011. It is not known how or when the audio recording of K. Ross Toole providing testimony to the Montana State Legislature was gifted to the Archives.

### Acquisition Information

This collection was likely delivered to the Archives in 1982 or 1983 by K. Ross Toole's family.

### Processing Note

The original arrangement of many of the materials was haphazard, although some partial attempts at organization had apparently been started by previous processors. During processing in 2009-2010, correspondence, writings, and research materials were generally sorted and rearranged chronologically or by topic. Series notes in this guide will indicate where some clear organization on Toole's part was preserved. Some additional materials were added to the collection after Toole's death by Professor Harry Fritz or Archivist Dale Johnson. These additions will generally be indicated by their later date and attached correspondence.

Some materials which contain sensitive or confidential information, such as correspondence with students, student evaluations, and letters of recommendation, have been removed or restricted. After the publication of "Tyranny of the Spoiled Brats," Toole was inundated not only with personal

letters, but also a multitude of promotional material from various individuals and religious and political groups. Items directly concerned with Professor Toole's article in particular or with student unrest and campus violence in general were retained. Clippings and pamphlets which were not considered to bear significant research value were removed.

Access to this collection was fully restricted until 2011. At that time the collection was reviewed by family, two personal documents were removed, and restrictions were lifted.

In 2017 an audio recording, originally processed as OH 176, was added to this collection.

## Related Materials

Two collections held at the University of Montana's Archives and Special Collections are related to this collection because of family connections. Mss 680, John R. Toole Family Papers (John R. Toole was K. Ross Toole's paternal grandfather) and Mss 156, Kenneth Forbes Ross Papers (Kenneth Ross was K. Ross Toole's maternal grandfather.)

## Separated Materials

K. Ross Toole's family removed personal correspondence prior to placing this collection in the Archives.

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# Detailed Description of the Collection

## Series I: Correspondence, 1961-1982

5.5 linear feet

This series consists of two subseries. Subseries 1, General Correspondence, is arranged chronologically and includes wide range of correspondence, personal and professional, covering Toole's time at the University of Montana. Note: Former Archivist Dale Johnson, who worked with and studied under Toole, indicates that Toole often would write letters without ever sending them, just to get his thoughts down on paper. Subseries 2 is Responses to "Tyranny of the Spoiled Brats." Toole's original arrangement and categorization of this correspondence has been preserved. Letters were organized by their origin or by their argument. Some letters in Subseries 1, General Correspondence, also relate to the article, but were not separated by Toole from other correspondence.

Correspondence with students and correspondence that contains student evaluations are currently restricted.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	<b>Subseries 1: General Correspondence</b> 2.0 linear feet	<b>1961-1982</b>
<hr/> <b>Box/Folder</b>		
1/1	Correspondence	1961 and 1965-1966

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/2	Correspondence	1966
1/3	Correspondence	1967
1/4	Correspondence	1968
1/5	Correspondence	1969
1/6	Correspondence	1970
2/1	Correspondence	1971
2/2	Correspondence	1972
2/3	Correspondence	1973
2/4	Correspondence	1974
3/1-2	Correspondence	1975
3/3-4	Correspondence	1976
3/5-6	Correspondence	1977
4/1	Correspondence	1978
4/2	Correspondence	1979
4/3	Correspondence	1980
4/4	Correspondence	1981-1982
4/5-6	Correspondence	undated
32/1	Correspondence with students *RESTRICTED*	1965-1981 and undated
32/2	Letter of Recommendation, Faculty *RESTRICTED*	1969-1980 and undated
32/3	Letters of Recommendation, Students *RESTRICTED*	1966-1980 and undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	<b>Subseries 2: Responses to “Tyranny of the Spoiled Brats.”</b> 3.5 linear feet	<b>1970</b>
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
5/1	Alabama 1970	
5/2	Alaska 1970	
5/3	Arkansas 1970	
5/4	Arizona 1970	
5/5-11	California 1970	
6/1	Colorado 1970	
6/2	Connecticut 1970	
6/3	Delaware 1970	
6/4-5	Florida 1970	
6/6	Georgia 1970	
6/7	Hawaii 1970	
6/8	Idaho 1970	
6/9-10	Illinois 1970	
6/11	Indiana 1970	
6/12	Iowa 1970	
6/13	Kansas 1970	
7/1	Kentucky 1970	
7/2	Louisiana 1970	
7/3	Maine 1970	

<b>Container(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
7/4	Maryland 1970	
7/5	Massachusetts 1970	
7/6	Michigan 1970	
7/7	Minnesota 1970	
7/8	Mississippi 1970	
7/9	Missouri 1970	
7/10-11	Montana 1970	
7/12	Nebraska 1970	
8/1	Nevada 1970	
8/2	New Hampshire 1970	
8/3	New Jersey 1970	
8/4	New Mexico 1970	
8/5-9	New York 1970	
8/10	North Carolina 1970	
8/11	North Dakota 1970	
9/1-2	Ohio 1970	
9/3	Oklahoma 1970	
9/4	Oregon 1970	
9/5-7	Pennsylvania 1970	
9/8	Rhode Island 1970	
9/9	South Carolina 1970	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
9/10	South Dakota 1970	
9/11	Tennessee 1970	
9/12	Texas 1970	
10/1	Utah 1970	
10/2	Vermont 1970	
10/3	Virginia 1970	
10/4-5	Washington 1970	
10/6	Washington, D. C. 1970	
10/7	West Virginia 1970	
10/8	Wisconsin 1970	
10/9	Wyoming 1970	
10/10	Military Overseas 1970	
10/11	Canada 1970	
10/12	Foreign 1970	
10/13	No Address 1970	
10/14	Invitations 1970	
10/15	Hofstadler's Paranoid Right 1970	
10/16	Articulate "Pro" or Reps. of different arguments 1970	
10/17	Articulate "Con" 1970	
10/18	Articulate "Con" or unusual arguments 1970	
10/19-21	Con 1970	



Container(s)	Description	Dates
10/22	Strange 1970	
11/1-3	Unsorted 1970	

## Series II: Speeches and Writings, 1954-1989

2.75 linear feet

This series consists of two subseries. Subseries 1, Short Works, is arranged by topic and includes articles, speeches, book reviews, and prefaces written by Toole, as well as essays on his family history. Subseries 2, Books, is arranged chronologically and includes his doctoral dissertation, the manuscript of an untitled novel, and drafts of several books Toole published while at the University of Montana.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	<b>Subseries 1: Short Works</b> 0.75 linear feet	<b>1957-1989</b>
<a href="#">Box/Folder</a>		
12/1	Articles/Speeches - Campus Unrest, Academic Freedom	1966-1970 and undated
12/2	Articles/Speeches - Conservation and Environment	1970-1979 and undated
12/3	Articles/Speeches - Education	1961-1975 and undated
12/4	Articles/Speeches - History, Museums	1956-1989
12/5	Articles/Speeches - History, Museums	1976 and undated
12/6	Articles/Speeches - Legislative and Political	1972-1983 and undated
13/1	Articles/Speeches - Miscellaneous	1966-1979 and undated
13/2	Articles/Speeches - Montana and Region	1957-1980
13/3	Articles/Speeches - Montana and Region	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
13/4	Articles/Speeches - University of Montana	1968-1978
13/5	Book Reviews	1966-1976 and undated
13/6	Forewords and Prefaces for Other Authors	1973-1980 and undated
13/7	Toole Family Histories	undated
	<b>Subseries 2: Books</b> 2.0 linear feet	<b>1954-1978</b>
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
14/1	A History of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company: A Study in the Relationships Between a State and Its People and a Corporation: 1880-1950. (Ph.D. Dissertation, UCLA)	1954
14/2	The Time Has Come Drafts: Introduction, Chapters 1-4	1971
14/3	The Time Has Come Drafts: Chapters 5-9, Bibliography	1971
14/4	The Time Has Come Annotated Draft	1971
14/5	The Time Has Come Annotated Printer's Proof	1971
15/1	The Time Has Come Annotated Galley Prints	1971
15/2	Twentieth-Century Montana: A State of Extremes Drafts: Introduction	1972
15/3	Twentieth-Century Montana: A State of Extremes Drafts: Chapters 1-2	1972
15/4	Twentieth-Century Montana: A State of Extremes Drafts: Chapters 3-4	1972
15/5	Twentieth-Century Montana: A State of Extremes Drafts: Chapters 5-6	1972
15/6	Twentieth-Century Montana: A State of Extremes Drafts: Chapters 7-8	1972

Container(s)	Description	Dates
15/7	Twentieth-Century Montana: A State of Extremes Drafts: Chapters 9-10	1972
15/8	Twentieth-Century Montana: A State of Extremes Drafts: Chapters 11-12	1972
16/1	Twentieth-Century Montana: A State of Extremes Annotated Draft	1972
16/2	Twentieth-Century Montana: A State of Extremes Photo Prints and Captions	1972
16/3	The Rape of the Great Plains: Northwest America, Cattle and Coal Drafts: Outlines, Intro.	1976
16/4	The Rape of the Great Plains... Drafts: Chapters 1-3	1976
16/5	The Rape of the Great Plains... Drafts: Chapters 4-6	1976
16/6	The Rape of the Great Plains... Drafts: Chapters 7-9	1976
16/7	The Rape of the Great Plains... Drafts: Chapters 10, 12-13	1976
16/8	The Rape of the Great Plains... Drafts: Other Chapters	1976
17/1	The Rape of the Great Plains... Partial Draft of Chapters 1-8, correspondence with publisher	1976
17/2	The Rape of the Great Plains... Draft of Chapter 12, correspondence with publisher	1976
17/3	The Rape of the Great Plains... Annotated Draft: Introduction, Chapters 1-5	1976
17/4	The Rape of the Great Plain... Annotated Draft, Chapters 6-14, Bibliography and Index	1976
17/5	The Rape of the Great Plains... Master Galley Print	1976
18/1	Montana: Images of the Past Chapter Drafts, Correspondence with co-author William Farr	1978
18/2	Montana: Images of the Past Complete Draft	1978

Container(s)	Description	Dates
18/3-5	Untitled Novel Manuscript	undated

### Series III: University of Montana, 1962-1981

2.5 linear feet

This series has been divided into two subseries. Subseries 1, Administrative, includes meeting minutes, various reports, and other materials from the Faculty Senate and committees, the History Department, the Graduate School, and the Library. Toole's organization has been preserved where possible, but much of the correspondence originally with these materials was integrated into Series I, Correspondence. Subseries 2, Classes, includes mostly lecture notes, exams, and course evaluations from Toole's popular course History 367: Montana and the West. Some materials from other courses are also included.

Student coursework and evaluations are currently restricted.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	<b>Subseries 1: Administrative</b> 1.25 linear feet	<b>1948-1981</b>
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
18/6	Ad Hoc Committee on English Composition	1968-1969
19/1-2	Budget and Policy Committee	1969-1971
19/3	Center for Natural Resources	1968-1969
19/4	Committee on University Research	1964-1968
19/5	Consortium - Indian Community Action Program	1968-1969
19/6	Faculty Senate	1970-1973
19/7	Graduate Council (1 of 2)	1966-1969 and undated
20/1	Graduate Council (2 of 2)	1966-1968 and undated
20/2	Hammond Committee	1975-1981
20/3	Hammond Professorship	1962-1980

Container(s)	Description	Dates
20/4	History Department	1966-1978 and undated
20/5	K. Ross Toole (Personnel File)	1966-1980
21/1	Library and Archives	1948-1979 and undated
21/2	Miscellaneous University of Montana Administrative Materials	1965-1980 and undated
21/3	Research Advisory Council - Norman Taylor	1969
21/4	Response to Legislative Audit	1970
21/5	Travel, Leave, and Expenses	1966-1980 and undated
	<b>Subseries 2: Classes</b> 1.25 linear feet	<b>1971-1981</b>
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
21/6	History 367 Course Evaluations	1971
21/7	History 367 Exams and Keys	1971-1978 and undated
21/8-9	History 367 Lecture Notes	undated
22/1	History 367 Subscription Lecture Notes	1978-1980
22/2	History 598 Seminar Materials	undated
22/3	Miscellaneous Class Materials	1972-1980 and undated
22/4	Montana History Newspaper Course	1975
32/4	Student Evaluations and Advising *RESTRICTED*	1965-1981 and undated
32/5	Student Work *RESTRICTED*	1966-1969

Container(s)	Description	Dates
32/6	Student Work *RESTRICTED*	1970-1973
33/1	Student Work *RESTRICTED*	1973
33/2	Student Work *RESTRICTED*	1974-1980
33/3	Student Work *RESTRICTED*	Undated

## Series IV: External Business, 1954-1992

0.5 linear feet

This series is arranged by organization or project and includes materials related to Toole's consulting and various projects outside of the University of Montana, including a conservation plan for his ranch near Luther, Montana.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
22/5	American Indian Hall of Fame	1978
22/6	Conrad Mansion Historic Site	1968-1977 and undated
22/7	Great Plains Cultural History (Television Course, University of Nebraska - Lincoln)	1974
22/8	Great Plains Cultural History - Critiques	1974
22/9	Great Plains Cultural History - Unit 2	1974
22/10	Great Plains Cultural History - Unit 4	1974
22/11	Great Plains Cultural History - Unit 5	1974
23/1	History - Public School Requirements	1975-1976
23/2	Miscellaneous External Business	1954-1978 and undated
23/3	Montana Constitutional Convention	1971-1972
23/4	Northern Rockies Foundation	1976

Container(s)	Description	Dates
23/5	USDA Soil Conservation Plan - Carbon County, Montana	1957-1964, 1992

## Series V: Research and Clippings, 1867-1981

3.5 linear feet

This series is arranged topically and includes primary- and secondary-source materials related to Montana and the region, particularly regarding coal-mining and other topics of conservation and pollution. Also included are materials on Montana history and clippings related to Toole's "The Tyranny of the Spoiled Brats" article, campus violence, and "the generation gap."

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<a href="#">Box/Folder</a>		
23/6	Articles - Culture, History, and Writing	1953-1970 and undated
23/7	Articles - Miscellaneous	1974 and undated
24/1-2	Articles - Montana History	1958-1973 and undated
24/3	Air and Water Pollution in Montana	1969
24/4	Bibliography Cards (1 of 2)	Undated
25/1	Bibliography Cards (2 of 2)	Undated
26/1-3	Coal and Montana	1973-1974 and undated
26/4	Coal and North Dakota	1973-1976 and undated
26/5	Environment and Conservation	1936-1981 and undated
26/6	Environmental Quality Council	1972-1973
27/1	Montana, 1900-1910	1968

Container(s)	Description	Dates
27/2	Montana Banks and the Federal reserve	1921-1967 and undated
27/3	Montana Statistics	1974-1975 and undated
27/4	Montana and Western Maps and Mapmaking	1922-1945 and undated
27/5	Miscellaneous Bibliographies and Archival Research	1949-1975 and undated
27/6	Miscellaneous Research Notes and Primary Documents	1867-1918 and undated
28/1-2	Northern Cheyenne Petition on Coal Leases	1974
28/3	Northern Cheyenne Petition - Related Materials	1969-1979
29/1-3	Clippings - Campus Unrest, Generation Gap	1968-1972 and undated
30/1	Clippings - Education, Montana	1966-1971 and undated
30/2	Clippings - K. Ross Toole	1970-1981 and undated
30/3-5	Clippings - "The Tyranny of the Spoiled Brats"	February - May 1970
31/1	Clippings - "The Tyranny of the Spoiled Brats"	June - October 1970 and undated
31/2-3	Clippings - "The Tyranny of the Spoiled Brats" Responses	February - December 1970 and undated
31/4	Clippings - Toole's Response to Letters	May 1970 and undated

## Series VI: Biographical and Ephemera, 1949-1985



0.25 linear feet

This series includes memorials and obituaries, a few photos and postcards, materials from Toole's study at UCLA, curricula vitae, and publication lists.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
31/5	Curricula Vitae and Publication Lists	1970-1980
31/6	Ephemera	1949-1977 and undated
31/7	Obituaries and Memorials	1981-1985

## Series VIII: Audio Recording, 1975

1 audio cassette

This series includes a single audio recording produced by K. Ross Toole of taped testimony on House Bill 656. Toole recorded his testimony voicing his concerns about funding for the University of Montana and sent it to the Montana State Legislature.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
34	OH 176: K. Ross Toole Taped Testimony	1975

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Campus violence--United States  
Conflict of generations--United States  
Conservation of natural resources  
Constitutional conventions--Montana  
Education, Higher  
Historic buildings--Montana--Kalispell

### Personal Names :

Conrad family--Homes and haunts--Montana--Kalispell  
Toole, K. Ross (Kenneth Ross), 1920-1981--Archives  
Toole, K. Ross (Kenneth Ross), 1920-1981--The tyranny of the spoiled brats

### Corporate Names :

Montana. Constitutional Convention (1971-1972)  
Anaconda Copper Mining Company  
Conrad-Campbell Historic Mansion (Kalispell, Mont.)  
Northern Rockies Foundation  
University of Montana (Missoula, Mont.). Dept. of History

[K. Ross Toole Papers, 1867-1992 \(bulk 1961-1981\)](http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv06430)  
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv06430>

University of Montana (Missoula, Mont.)--Administration

University of Montana (Missoula, Mont.)--Faculty

**Geographical Names :**

Kalispell (Mont.)--Buildings, structures, etc

Montana--History--Study and teaching

Montana--Politics and government--20th century

**Occupations :**

College teachers--Montana--Missoula

History teachers--Montana--Missoula

**Titles within the Collection :**

The Time has Come

Finding aid prepared by Micah Everson  
2010



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