

# Jerry De Santo papers, 1841-2010 (bulk 1901-1998)

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	De Santo, Jerry, 1928-
<b>Title</b>	Jerry De Santo papers
<b>Dates</b>	1841-2010 (bulk 1901-1998) (inclusive) 1841-2010 1841-2010
<b>Quantity</b>	13.5 linear feet
<b>Collection Number</b>	Mss 642
<b>Summary</b>	Jerry De Santo (Jerry DeSanto) was a Glacier National Park Ranger for 20 years and devoted a great deal of his time to studying the Park's native plant life. He was a prolific writer after his retirement and published several books and articles on Glacier Park and Montana topics.
<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. There is one restricted folder containing student papers that requires the archivist's approval for access.
<b>Languages</b>	English.

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## Biographical Note

Jerome Samuel De Santo (DeSanto) was born in Duluth, Minnesota on May 6, 1928. The third of five children, he was sent to the St. James orphanage for a period of time after the death of his mother. His father remarried and De Santo went to live with him and his new wife. In 1946, he joined the United States Air Force and served with the occupying force in Europe until he was honorably discharged in 1949. After he left the Air Force, De Santo travelled to Alaska with his brother and worked construction jobs and with the fire control service until the death of his father took him back to Minnesota.

Following his father's death, De Santo studied geology at the University of Arizona for two years and then transferred to the University of Denver where he studied English and then to the University of Colorado Boulder where he received a B.A. in 1956 and a M.A. in Italian history in 1958. With the

urging of his mentor, Dr. Harrison Thompson, De Santo travelled to Italy on a research fellowship and returned to Boulder and completed all of his requirements for a Ph.D. in history. However, he refused the degree he had earned and joined the National Park Service in 1965.

De Santo had done summer seasonal work in Yellowstone National Park from 1950 until joining the Park Service as a ranger in 1965; he initially was assigned to Yellowstone but was transferred to Glacier National Park in May of 1966. He worked at Belly River, Goat Haunt, and as a backcountry ranger until he was transferred to the Polebridge Ranger Station where he stayed until his retirement in 1986.

He retired to a cabin to Canada and began spending his time collecting, photographing, and cataloguing native plants. He also took time to research and write several books and articles including: Alpine Wildflowers of Glacier National Park, Montana and Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta; Logan Pass: Alpine Splendor in Glacier National Park; Bitterroot: Montana State Flower.

De Santo contracted viral encephalitis in 2000, which severely affected his health. He stopped working on his research and writing projects and was no longer able to participate in strenuous physical activities. His retirement became much more sedentary as he attempted to recuperate from his serious illness and ultimately he lived at the Montana Veterans Home. He died in July of 2017.

## Content Description

This collection contains materials related to Jerry De Santo's interest in Glacier National Park particularly its botany. There are many slides and photographs of the plants inhabiting the Park, as well as research materials including field notes, maps, and reports. Less prevalent but still a substantial part of the collection, De Santo collected information on important botanists of Montana and the Northwest. He also maintained files on the wildlife of both Glacier National Park and Yellowstone National Park. His personal files include photographs, immigration information, passport information, correspondence, clippings, and get well cards from his 1983 bear attack. He kept extensive research files on Glacier National Park history, specifically, on the different peaks and the boundaries of the Park. The collection also contains research materials for his many writing projects as well as copies of drafts of his books and articles and a copy of his book Bitterroot: Montana State Flower.

## 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--Missoula.

### Preferred Citation

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

## Administrative Information

### Arrangement

The collection is divided into four series:

Series I: Subject Files, 9 linear feet, 1841-1999

Subseries 1. Research, 6.5 linear feet, 1841-1999

Subseries 2. People, 2.5 linear feet, 1901-1999

Series II: Personal, 0.3 linear feet, 1962-1999

Series III: Publications, 0.5 linear feet, 1985-1999

Series IV: Photographs and Slides, 3.7 linear feet, 1861-1996

## Location of Originals

Many of the photographs and research materials on Glacier National Park are available at the Montana Historical Society in Helena, Montana and the Glacier National Park Museum and Archive Collections in West Glacier, Montana.

## Custodial History

The materials arrived in two separate accessions. The bulk of the donation was in the possession of the creator until it was transferred to Duane Hampton who brought the materials to Archives and Special Collections for a term of temporary storage in 2000. Jerry De Santo's power of attorney, Karen Feather, permanently gifted the materials to Archives and Special Collections in 2002. The second accession was in the possession of the creator until it was collected from his home and car by Rachel Potter and donated to Archives and Special Collections in 2011.

## Future Additions

There are no expected additions to this collection.

## Processing Note

The creator's original order was maintained wherever possible, many folders retain their original titles. At the same time, materials collected by individuals other than the creator and deposited in a later accession had no discernible order and were organized topically during processing. Slides were maintained in their original containers, while photographs were removed from envelopes and albums and placed in folders in their original groupings and order. Index cards were removed from six different filing containers and rehoused in their original order. All paper items were refoldered. Financial information, a PanaVue automatic slide viewer, maps, the book *Sappers: the Royal Engineers in British Columbia* and a certificate of commendation from the Park Service were removed from the collection. Digital materials were separated from the collection to determine long-term maintenance and access.

## Separated Materials

A copy of *Alpine Wildflowers of Glacier National Park, Montana and Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta* by Jerry De Santo was transferred from the collection to Special Collections. Groups of plant specimens and their background information were also removed from the collection and transferred to the University of Montana Herbarium. Three books, *A Guide to Zermat and the Matterhorn* by Edward Whymper, *Scrambles Amongst the Alps in the Years 1860-1869* by Edward Whymper, and *Edward Whymper* by F.S. Smythe, and a folder containing De Santo's Lee Creek property records were removed from the collection by Jerry De Santo's power of attorney, Karen Feather. Digital material,

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<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv94952>

containing cover art for his Bitterroot book, was removed from the collection during processing to determine long-term maintenance and access and will be added at a later date.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Subject Files, 1841-1999

9.0 linear feet

This series contains materials organized topically by De Santo's areas of interest.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	<b>Subseries 1: Research</b> 6.5 linear feet This subseries contains subject files organized by research topic.	<b>1841-1999</b>
<b>Box</b>		
1/1	49th Parallel, Borderlands Project	1987
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
1/2	Alberta-British Columbia Boundary	undated
1/3	Alpine Flora	1969-1987
1/4	Astragalus, Seeds, Fort Collins	June 1998
1/5	Backcountry Trips, Mountaineering	1970-1980 and undated
1/6	Bears	1954-1992 and undated
1/7	A Bibliography of Literature and Papers Pertaining to Pre-Settlement Wildlife and Habitat of Montana and Adjacent Areas	1993
1/8	Big Trees	1981-1990
1/9	Birds	1966-1990
1/10	Bison	1888-1996

<b>Container(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
2/1	Bison	1910-1990 and undated
2/2	Bison	1986 and undated
2/3	The Bitter Root in Science and in History	1929
2/4	Bitterroot	1841-1993
2/5	Bitterroot	1872-1997
2/6	Blackfoot Reservation	1896 and undated
2/7	Bogs	1950-1997
2/8	Botany	1910-1990 and undated
3/1	Botany	1928-1996 and undated
3/2	Botany	1948-1995 and undated
3/3	Cabin	1977 and undated
3/4	Canada	1992 and undated
3/5	Chief Mountain	1982-1992 and undated
3/6	The Composition and Behavior of the Bitter Root	1922
3/7	Correspondence	1991 and undated
3/8	Erigeron	1947-1971
3/9	Field Notes	1984-1990

<b>Container(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
4	Field Notes	1991-1993
4/1	Field Notes	1994-1995
4/2	Field Notes	1996-1998
4/3	Glaciation	1969-1990
4/4	Glacier National Park History	1909-1992 and undated
4/5	Glacier National Park History	1912-1997 and undated
5/1	Glacier National Park History	1947-1995 and undated
5/2	Glacier National Park History	1997-1998 and undated
5/3	Glacier National Park, Montana	1932
5	Glacier Park Bibliography	undated
5/4	Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Preliminary Flora of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	October 1996
5/5	Granite Peak, Whitney and Boundary	1980-1993
5/6	Gravelly Range	1992-1996
5/7	Grinnell's Glacier, Thesis	1990
5/8	Heliograph	1890-1986
6/1	"The History of Waterton Lakes National Park, 1800-1937"	1971-1979
6/2	Humboldt National Forest	1985-1991
6/3	Indexed, Anotated Cartobibliography of the University of Montana Mansfield Library Historical Map Collection	1983
6/4	Indian Legend of the Bitter-Root	1984

<b>Container(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
6/5	International Boundary, Glacier National Park	1980-1992 and undated
7/1	International Boundary, Glacier National Park	1984-1999 and undated
7/2	Kintla Lake	1988
7/3	Kutenai and Scarred Trees	1954-1985
7/4	Lewisia	1992-1997
7/5	Logan Pass Project	1994
7/6	Logging History	1982-1990 and undated
7/7	Maps	undated
8/1	Miscellaneous Papers	1983-1995 and undated
8/2	Montana Champion Tree Program	1996-1998
8/3	Montana Register of Big Trees	1996-1997
8/4	North American Boundary Commission	undated
8/5	Parasitic Plants	1989 and undated
8/6	Photographic Subjects Notebook	undated
8/7	Plant Species	undated
8/8	Plant Species, Bog Collections	1988
9/1	Seeds	1991-1993
18/3	Student Papers - Restricted	1979 and undated
9/2	Subalpine Larch of Glacier National Park	1971

Container(s)	Description	Dates
9/3	United States Department of the Interior	1990
9/4	Waterton, Belly River	1969 and undated
9/5	Wildlife Observation Reports	1976-1991
9/6	Wildlife Observation Reports	1986-1998
9/7	Yellowstone National Park	undated
<b>Box</b>		
10	General Research, Card File	undated
11	Plant Research, Card File	undated
12	Plant Research, Card File	undated
13	Research for Flower Book and 49th Boundary Survey, Card File	undated
	<b>Subseries 2: People</b> 2.5 linear feet This subseries contains materials related to De Santo's research on individual people.	<b>1901-1999</b>
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
14/1	David Lyall	1997 and undated
14/2	Edward Whymper	1912-1991 and undated
14/3	Eugene Bourgeau	undated
14/4	George Bird Grinnell	1901-1991
14/5	George Bird Grinnell	1908
14/6	Klaus Lackschewitz	1979-1995
14/7	Morton J. Elrod	1901-1979



Container(s)	Description	Dates
14/8	Paul Standley	1997-1998
14/9	Ranger Hockett	1927-1991 and undated
14/10	Robert Statham Williams	1921-1999 and undated
15/1	Robert Statham Williams	1995
15/2	Sereno Watson	1880-1995 and undated
15/3	Sereno Watson	1997 and undated
15/4	Tulli Kerstetter and J.W. Blankinship	1995-1998
15/5	Wilhelm Nikolaus Suksdorf (1850-1932): Pioneer Botanist of the Pacific Northwest	March 1997

#### Box

16	Edward Whymper Research, Card File	undated
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## Series II: Personal, 1962-1999

0.3 linear feet

This series contains personal materials from Jerry De Santo.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
15/6	Bear Attack	1983
17/1	Correspondence	1983-1999
17/2	Diplomas and Certificates	1965-1983
17/3	Immigration	1986-1987

Container(s)	Description	Dates
17/4	Outhouse Walls	1998 and undated
17/5	Passport Information	1962-1963 and undated
17/6	Personal Papers	1960-1986
Box		
30	Retirement Plaque - Glacier National Park	1986
Box/Folder		
17/7	Wine	1972-1993

### Series III: Publications, 1985-1999

0.5 linear feet

This series contains materials written and published by Jerry De Santo.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
17/8	Articles for Montana: The Magazine of Western History	1985-1995
17/9	Alpine Wildflowers of Glacier National Park, Montana and Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta, Manuscript	1989
17/10	Introduction, Alpine Wildflowers of Glacier National Park, Montana and Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta	1989
17/11	History and Dispersal of Alpine Flora, Alpine Wildflowers of Glacier National Park, Montana and Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta	1989
17/12	Ecology, Alpine Wildflowers of Glacier National Park, Montana and Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta	1989
17/13	Distribution, Alpine Wildflowers of Glacier National Park, Montana and Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta	1989

Container(s)	Description	Dates
17/14	Identification, Alpine Wildflowers of Glacier National Park, Montana and Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta	1989
18/1	The Montana State Flower: Bitterroot	1993
18/2	Yellowstone Stories, Manuscript	March 1999

## Series IV: Photographs and Slides, 1861-1996

3.7 linear feet

This series contains visual materials for the collection mostly pictures and slides from De Santo's research.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
19/1	Agoseris	undated
19/2	Alberta and British Columbia	undated
19/3	Bailey Willis	undated
19/4	Big Trees	1930-1990
19/5	Bitterroot	undated
19/6	Boulder Glacier	1932-1988
19/7	Brown Pass	August 23, 1990
19/8	Chief Mountain	1903-1990
19/9	Chief Mountain	1989-1990 and undated
19/10	Coyotes, Browning, Montana	1947
19/11	Erigeron, Slides	undated

<b>Container(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
19/12	Eugene Bourgeaux	2010 and undated
19/13	Extra Color Prints of Flowers	January 14, 1990
19/14	Flathead	undated
19/15	From an Album	undated
19/16	George Bird Grinnell	1923-1990 and undated
19/17	George Bird Grinnell	1923-1991
19/18	Glacier National Park	1900-1998 and undated
19/19	Glacier National Park	1901-1932 and undated
19/20	Glacier National Park	1908-1932 and undated
19/21	Glacier National Park	1948
19/22	Glacier National Park	1990
19/23	Glacier National Park	1990
19/24	Glacier National Park	undated
19/25	Glacier National Park Chalets	1971 and undated
19/26	Historic	1897-1912
19/27	Historic	1902-1933 and undated
19/28	Historic, Butte Well Story	1901 and undated

<b>Container(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
19/29	International Boundary, Glacier National Park	1861-1873 and undated
19/30	Jerry De Santo and Karen Feather with Juniper	undated
20/1	Kinnerly Peak, Kintla Lake	undated
20/2	Negatives for Chapter 1	undated
20/3	North Fork Article	1992
20/4	Park Rangers	1966-1976 and undated
20/5	Personal	1910-1981 and undated
20/6	Personal	1928-1983 and undated
20/7	Personal	1928-1985 and undated
20/8	Photographic Record, Joe Halm	1910
20/9	Ranger Hockett, Jerry De Santo	1983 and undated
20/10	Robert Statham Williams	undated
20/11	Scarred Trees	undated
20/12	United States Geological Survey	1981-1991 and undated
20/13	United States Park Police	June 8, 1971
20/14	Used for Christmas	1998
20/15	"Whitehead"	1931-1937 and undated
20/16	Yellowstone National Park, Saloons	1884

Container(s)	Description	Dates
20/17		
Box		
21	Achillea-Eritrichium, Flowers 1	
22	Erythronium-Pyrola, Flowers 2	
23	Ranunculus-Zygaderus; Multiple Flowers; Ferns; Algae Colony, Flowers 3	
24	Garden Plants; Prairie, Flowers 4	
25	Alden Watercolors; Rock City; Lemhi; Zimmerman; Lee Creek; Trees; Oil Wells; Chief Crew; Carthew; Boulder	
26	Jerry De Santos; Karen Feather; Skiers and Tracks; Winter Scenics; Joe Prince Site; Winter Buildings and Cabins; Non-Glacier; North Fork Homesteads; Scenic Trees; Animals; Indians	
27	Scenics (not winter); Old Cars; People; Buildings (not winter)	
28	Graminae; Cyperaceae; Juncaceae	October 1989
28	Aguilegia	October 27, 1992
28	Annu	November 10, 1990
28	Olsen Creek drainage	August 15, 1995
28	Larix slides for Lyall paper	undated
28	Agla	undated
28	Lichens, Needle Balls, Moss, Mushrooms	October 1989
28	Bonsai	October 1989
28	Papy	October 22, 1992

Container(s)	Description	Dates
28	S & P, except Cast, I	October 1989
28	S & P, except Cast, II	October 1989
28	Bogs, Not plants-plants in Flowers 4	undated
28	Caro and Caun	August 1993
28	Henry and Garden	November 27, 1995
28	Ledi, Lema	undated
28	Gravelly Range, Snowcrests	July 1994 and July 1996
28	Lebr; Lecol (2ssp); Lecot; Leke; Lele; Lene; Leop	undated
28	Lepyg; Lesti; Letr; Letw	undated
28	Lere-all	October 27, 1992
29	Three rolls of unidentified negatives	undated
29	One roll of undeveloped film	undated
29	Twenty-three unidentified negatives	undated

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Bitterroot

Botanists--(West) U.S.

Botanists--Montana

Mountain plants--Alberta--Waterton Lakes National Park

Mountain plants--Montana--Glacier National Park

Natural history--Montana--Glacier National Park

Natural history--Montana--Yellowstone National Park

Plants--Montana

### Personal Names :

De Santo, Jerry, 1928-Archives

### Corporate Names :

United States. National Park Service--Officials and employees

**Geographical Names :**

Glacier National Park (Mont.)--History

Montana--Maps

Yellowstone National Park

**Form or Genre Terms :**

Photographs

**Occupations :**

Park naturalists--Montana--Glacier National Park

Park naturalists--Montana--Yellowstone National Park

Park rangers--Montana--Missoula

Finding aid prepared by Kellyn Younggren  
2013



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