

Ted Astley papers, 1920-1994

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Astley, Ted, 1920-1994
Title	Ted Astley papers
Dates	1920-1994 1920 1994
Quantity	1.42 cubic feet, including 3 photographs (2 boxes)
Collection Number	5077 (Accession No. 5077-001)
Summary	Papers of a University of Washington graduate student and staff member in the Veterans Affairs Office, who was dismissed at the time of the Canwell Committee on un-American activities hearings.
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	The papers are open to all users.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was partially provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Biographical Note

Theodore Raymond Astley was born in 1920 in Atlanta, Georgia, and spent most of his childhood years in Pontiac, Michigan. Upon obtaining a bachelor of arts in psychology from the University of Michigan in 1943, Astley joined the U.S. Army as a classification specialist and personnel clerk. He advanced to the rank of technical sergeant. During World War II, he was initially stationed in Fort Richardson, Alaska. In 1945 he was sent to Seattle, Washington, to assist in administering an Army program that provided correspondence courses for overseas personnel. Two weeks after receiving his honorable discharge in 1946, Astley obtained a job at the University of Washington as a career counselor for veterans.

In June 1948 Astley was served a warrant to appear before the Washington Legislature's Joint Fact Finding Committee on Un-American Activities, which was dubbed the "Canwell Committee" after its chairperson, Albert F. Canwell. Astley appeared before the Canwell Committee and refused to answer any of its questions regarding whether or not he was a communist or had communist affiliations. At one point in the hearings, his refusals to answer the committee's queries became so adamant that he was forcibly ejected for shouting on the stand. Some who were present characterized the reason for his dismissal as the fact that he was not answering the committee's questions but simply making speeches. He was not cited for contempt.

In August 1948 Astley, who had become a part-time employee at the university in order to pursue his graduate studies in psychology and economics, was fired from his counseling position. The cause of his

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dismissal is controversial. The university claimed that there was no correlation between his refusal to cooperate with the committee a month earlier and his dismissal from his job. Astley maintained that his Canwell Committee experience was a direct cause of his firing, along with the fact that he participated in student organizations that were critical of the committee. In addition to protesting the committee's hearings, these organizations also criticized the University of Washington's dismissal of Astley and three other professors who were also suspected of having communist affiliations.

In June 1954 Astley, who was now working as a sawmill "dogger," was called in front of another committee, the House Un-American Activities Committee. These hearings were held in Seattle and were called the Velde Hearings after committee chairperson Harold H. Velde. Once again, Astley refused to answer any queries regarding communist affiliations, but his behavior was more restrained. Instead of shouting at the committee, he simply cited the Fifth Amendment as the reason for his refusal to answer their questions.

In 1962 Astley was awarded a teaching certificate and became a teacher. He worked in education until his retirement, usually teaching social studies and English at the secondary level in the Seattle area. Having been a union member and supporter ever since he worked for General Motors in Pontiac, Astley was active in various education unions, such as the Washington Education Association and the Seattle Teachers' Association.

Ted Astley died in 1994.

Content Description

Contains biographical files, correspondence, publications, writings, testimony and other court papers, news releases, petitions, personal documents, photographs, clippings, and ephemera, 1920-1994. Primarily relates to hearings by the Canwell Committee of the Washington State Legislature in 1948 and Astley's testimony before the Velde Committee (HUAC) in 1954. Also includes records regarding Astley's activities in several teachers' unions, circa 1960s to 1980s, his military service during World War II, and his student work.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

The creator's literary rights have been transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Arranged into 2 series:

- Personal papers, 1920-1994
- Educational associations papers, 1967-1993

Acquisition Information

The papers were received from Ted Astley's son, Guy Astley, on September 16, 1997.

Processing Note

Processed by Reid Gustafson in 1997.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Personal papers, 1920-1994

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
1/1	Biographical information	1920-1988
1/2	Incoming letters	1920-1987
1/3	Outgoing letters	1933, 1976-1985
1/4	General correspondence	1974
Subject files on the Canwell investigation		
	Incoming letters	
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
1/5	American Veterans Committee, Seattle Chapter #2	1948
1/5	<i>The Colby Echo</i>	1949
1/5	Civil Rights Congress	1949
1/5	Gundlach, Jean	1994
1/5	Hartwich, Ethelyn	1948
1/5	Lupher, Tom	1949
1/5	Rutman, Tom	1949

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/5	United Office and Professional Workers of America, Local 35	1949
1/5	Washington Committee for Academic Freedom	1948
1/6	Unidentified	
Box/Folder		
1/7	Outgoing letters	1947-1949
1/8	General correspondence	1948-1949
1/9	Subpoena	1948
1/10	Reports	1947
	Writings	
Box/Folder		
1/11	Journal Contains four entries, one regarding the Canwell hearings.	1994
1/12	Drafts	1947-1949
Box/Folder		
1/13	Writings of others regarding Fifth Amendment	1954
1/14	Transcripts of Joseph Harrison at an ASUW (Associated Students of the University of Washington) assembly regarding tenure cases	1949
	News releases	
Box/Folder		
1/15	Ted Astley (et al.)	1948
1/15	Communist Party	1948
1/16	Others	1948-1949

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Petitions	
Box/Folder		
1/17	Notes	1948
1/18	Miscellaneous	1948-1949
1/19	University of Washington Student Organization for Academic Rights meetings	1949
Box/Folder		
1/20	Pamphlets	1948
1/21	Court papers - University of the State of New York v. Francis Thompson This case was a possible precedent for the Canwell hearings.	1947
1/22	Programs and announcements	undated
1/23	Miscellany	1949
1/24	Ephemera	1948
	Clippings	
Box/Folder		
1/25	Concerning Ted Astley	1948
1/26	<i>The Daily</i>	1949
1/27-29	<i>The New World</i>	1948
1/30	<i>Seattle Post-Intelligencer</i>	1948-1949
1/31-36	Concerning hearings in general	1948-1980
Box/Folder		
1/37	Subject file on Florence B. James	1988

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/38	Subject file on the Extended Services Program, an educational reading program	1970-1974
1/39	Subject file on the 1948 elections	1948
	Subject files on peace	
Box/Folder		
1/40	General correspondence	1951-1954
1/41	Outgoing letters	undated
1/42	Resolutions to end the Korean War	1951
1/43	Petitions	1951
1/44	Programs and announcements	1951
1/45	Newsletters	1951
1/46	News releases	1951
1/47	Ephemera	1951
1/48	Clippings	1950-1951
	Subject files on politics	
Box/Folder		
1/49	Incoming letters	1947-1988
1/50	Outgoing letters	1978-1984
1/51	Writings of Ted Astley	1979-1990
1/52	Script for canvassing	1984
1/53	Certificates of election to precinct committee	1976-1988

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/54	Newsletters	1946
1/55	Ephemera	1945-1973
	Clippings	
Box/Folder		
1/56	Concerning Ted Astley	1947
1/57	Miscellaneous	1946
	Subject files on the Velde hearing	
Box/Folder		
1/58	Incoming telegram - Velde, Harold H.	1954
1/59	Summons	1954
1/60	Testimony of Ted Astley	1954
1/61	Legal opinions about the Fifth Amendment	1954
1/62	Notes	1954
1/63	News releases	1954
1/64	Ephemera	1954
2/20	Scrapbook	1954
	Clippings	
Box/Folder		
1/65	Regarding Ted Astley	1954
1/66	Hearing (general)	1954
Box/Folder		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/67	Speeches and writings	1970-1976
1/68-71	Military service records	1943-1946
1/72-77	Student papers	1946-1970
1/78	Personal documents - birth certificates	1920
1/79	Notes on readings	undated
1/80	Payroll records	1940-1982
1/81	Programs and announcements	1953-1969
1/82	Passports	1966-1984
1/83	Photographs of Alaska during World War II	undated
1/84	Certificates	1940-1982
1/85	Drawings	undated
2/1	Pamphlets	1947-1972
2/2	Newsletters	1969-1973
2/3-5	Publications	1944-1958
2/6	Ephemera	undated
2/7	Miscellany	1944-1985
	Clippings	
Box/Folder		
2/8	Ted Astley	1938-1973
2/9	Miscellaneous	1941-1984

Educational associations papers, 1967-1993

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
2/10	Seattle Education Association	1986-1987
Seattle Teachers' Association		
Box/Folder		
2/11	Organizational information	1967-1979
2/12	Minutes	1968-1969
2/13	General correspondence	1967-1986
2/14	Clippings	1973-1981
Washington Education Association		
Box/Folder		
2/15	Organizational information	1973-1992
2/16	Minutes	1969-1974
2/17	General correspondence	1968-1973
2/18	Pamphlets	undated
2/19	Clippings	1972-1993

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Anti-communist movements--Washington (State)--History --20th century
 College students--Political activity
 College students--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
 Communism--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Sawmill workers--Washington (State)--Archives
 Teachers' unions--Washington (State)
 Teachers' unions--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Teachers--Political activity
 Teachers--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
 Universities and colleges--Washington (State)--Seattle--Employees--Archives

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Universities and colleges--Washington (State)--Seattle--Societies, etc

Personal Names :

Astley, Ted, 1920-1994--Archives

Corporate Names :

Seattle Teachers' Association (Seattle, Wash.)

United States. Congress. House. Committee on Un-American Activities

United States. Constitution. 5th Amendment

Washington (State). Legislature. Joint Legislative Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities

Washington Education Association

Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)--Politics and government--20th century

Washington (State)--Politics and government--20th century

Form or Genre Terms :

Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)

correspondence

Court records

ephemera

hearings (meetings, events)

military records

Newsletters

Pamphlets

Petitions

Photographs

Press releases

Scrapbooks

subpoenas

testimonies

writings

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Personal Papers/Corporate Records (University of Washington)

2006 (Last modified: 4/11/2018)



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