

Slippery Rock University Archives
Collection Description

Collection Summary

Record group number: 10-1-C-1-1
Accession number:
Creator: Joseph Howard Riggs
Title: Joseph Riggs and Michael Osborn Research for *Mr. Mac* Collection
Dates, inclusive:
Dates, bulk:
Quantity: 2 linear feet
Abstract: This collection includes interview recordings and transcripts conducted as research for the book "*Mr. Mac*": *William P. MacCracken, Jr. on Aviation, Law, Optometry*.
Repository: Slippery Rock University Archives, Bailey Library, 1 Morrow Way, Slippery Rock, PA 16057, (724) 738-2635, rockarchives@sru.edu

Biographical Notes

Dr. Joseph (Joe) Riggs, professor emeritus, Communication Department, Slippery Rock University, was born in Middlebourne, West Virginia in 1928. Riggs graduated from Alderson Broaddus College in 1952 with a BA in Speech, English and Social Studies. In 1953 he earned a master's degree in Speech from West Virginia University and in 1962 a PhD in Speech Communication and American History from the University of Illinois. Riggs taught at Slippery Rock University from 1971 to 1989. Before coming to Slippery Rock he taught at Lehigh University, 1953-1954, Glenville State College, 1954-1955, Memphis State University, 1955-1970 and Indiana State University, Terre Haute, 1970.

Michael Osborn, a native of Dothan, Alabama, is professor emeritus at the University of Memphis, retiring in 1995 after thirty years as professor and department chair at the University. He had taught previously at American University and the University of Iowa, where he returned some years later to teach a seminar as the A. Craig Baird Distinguished Visiting Professor. He also served as visiting professor at the Universities of North Carolina, California Davis, New Mexico, and Vanderbilt. He served as president of the Southern States Communication Association and of the National Communication Association, and received the distinguished service awards from both organizations. He also served as chair of the board of Humanities Tennessee, on which he sat for many years as an appointee of the governor.

Source: "Department of Communication." *University of Memphis*. University of Memphis, 09 01 2013. Web. 10 Sep 2013.
<http://www.memphis.edu/communication/pac2012/speakers_bio/osborn.php>.

William P. MacCracken, about whom *"Mr. Mac": William P. MacCracken, Jr. on Aviation, Law, Optometry* is written, was a pioneer in aviation safety and an advocate for the profession of optometry. The book, for which the research for this collection was conducted, is based on hours of interviews by authors Riggs and Osborn with MacCracken's friends and associates. It chronicles the development of American aviation and the "parallel rise in importance and prestige of optometry" (from the book jacket). MacCracken was a pilot during World War I; he later served as Washington Counsel for the American Optometric Association and was appointed the first Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Aeronautics in 1926 by Herbert Hoover, then Secretary of Commerce. MacCracken was instrumental in the development of American aviation legislation. He served as the Secretary of the American Bar Association from 1926 to 1936. His pilot's license was the first issued in the U.S.A.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains audio recordings, transcripts and correspondence related to the research and publication of Riggs' and Osborn's book *"Mr. Mac": William P. MacCracken, Jr. on Aviation, Law, Optometry*.

Restrictions on Access

None

Restrictions on Use

Audiocassette must be digitized prior to use. Contact the Archives in advance to request the use of these items.

Arrangement and Description: The collection has been organized into 2 series.

Series 1:	Inclusive dates	Bulk dates	Quantity
Records and transcripts	1967-1970, 1990	1967-1968	51 folders
This series consists primarily of annotated transcripts from the interview recordings in series 2. It also includes background material on the interview process and related material regarding the publication of the book. It is arranged by subject.			

Series 2:	Inclusive dates	Bulk dates	Quantity
Audiocassettes	1967-1969	1967-1968	41
This series consists of interviews on audio cassettes. The series is arranged by interview and chronologically.			

Index Terms

Subjects

Aeronautics
 Air mail service
 Airships (Blimps)

Places

Washington D.C.
 Memphis, TN

Aviation
Optometry
Oral history
World War, 1914-1918 (World War I)

Organizations

American Bar Association
American Medical Association (AMA)
American Optometric Association (AOA)
National Aeronautics Association
Southern College of Optometry (SCO)
U.S. Department of Commerce, Aeronautics
Branch (predecessor agency of the Federal
Aviation Administration)
Veterans Affairs

Document Types

Transcripts
Correspondence
Guide
Contract

Media Types

Cassette tapes
Paper records

Preferred Citation

Joseph Riggs and Michael Osborn Research for *Mr. Mac* Collection, Record Group 10-1-R-1, Slippery Rock University Archives, Slippery Rock University

Copyright or Conditions Governing Use

Copyright clearance is the responsibility of the user. Contact the Archives for additional information and restrictions.

Alternate Format(s) and Additional Locations

Physical Characteristics (formats) and Technical Requirements

Audiocassette tapes must be reformatted prior to use.

Related Material

"Mr. Mac": William P. MacCracken, Jr. on Aviation, Law, Optometry, by Michael Osborn and Joseph Riggs, Southern College of Optometry, 1970.

Persons

Mr. Justice Hugo Black
Tom Bourne, Sr.
Howard Coffin
Harold Dickey
Amelia Earhart
Paul Garber
Michael Heiberger
Herbert Hoover
Ernest Kiekenapp
Harold Kohn
Billy Mitchell
Charles Lindbergh
William P. MacCracken, Jr.
John Montgomery
Charles E. Planck
Norman Pritchard
Donald Richberg
Frank Lloyd Wright
Orville Wright
Clarence M. Young

Joe Riggs, *Rock Voices: the Oral History Project of SRU*, Slippery Rock University Archives
<http://www.sru.edu/academics/library/rockvoices/Pages/RiggsJoseph.aspx>

American Optometric Association Washington Office Records, 1945-1969 (microfilm), The Archives & Museum of Optometry, American Optometric Association, St. Louis, MO ([link to Guide](#))

William P. MacCracken, Jr. Papers, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library

Sallie Lucile Lewis MacCracken Interview, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 9/1/1970,
<http://millercenter.org/scripps/archive/oralhistories/detail/2022>

Acquisition Information and Custodial History

This collection was received in its entirety from Dr. Joseph Riggs.

Inventory

Series 1: Records and Transcripts

Box	Folder	Folder Title
1	1	[misc., book preface, etc]
1	2	[Southern College of Optometry Guide to the American Optometric Association Washington Office Records 1945-1969, editors Joseph Riggs and Virginia Riggs, MacCracken Memorial Library, Southern College of Optometry, Memphis Tenn., 1980]
1	3	“Mac—vita” [Correspondence including letters from Charles Lindbergh]
1	4	MacCracken contract
1	5	MacCracken correspondence
1	6	[Correspondence]
1	7	MacCracken commencement address SCO [Southern College of Optometry] 1967
1	8	MacCracken testimonial
1	9	MacCracken tape #1, May interviews [transcript]
1	10	MacCracken tape #2, May interviews [transcript]
1	11	MacCracken tape #3, May interviews [transcript]
1	12	MacCracken tape #4, May interviews [transcript]
1	13	MacCracken tape #5, May interviews [transcript]
1	14	MacCracken tape #6, May interviews [transcript]
1	15	MacCracken tape #7, May interviews [transcript]
1	16	MacCracken tape #8, May interviews [transcript]
1	17	MacCracken #1, first draft, October 1967 [transcript]
1	18	MacCracken #2, first draft, October 1967 [transcript]
1	19	MacCracken #3, first draft, October 1967 [transcript]
1	20	MacCracken #4, first draft, October 1967 [transcript]

1	21	MacCracken #5, first draft, October 1967 [transcript]
1	22	MacCracken #6, first draft, October 1967 [transcript]
1	23	MacCracken #7, first draft, October 1967 [transcript]
1	24	MacCracken #8, first draft, October 1967 [transcript]
1	25	MacCracken #9, first draft, October 1967 [transcript]
1	26	MacCracken #10, first draft, October 1967 [transcript]

Box folder

2	27	MacCracken #11, first draft, October 1967 [transcript]
2	28	MacCracken #12, first draft, October 1967 [transcript]
2	29	MacCracken #13, first draft, October 1967 [transcript]
2	30	MacCracken #14, first draft, October 1967 [transcript]
2	31	MacCracken #15, first draft, October 1967 [transcript]
2	32	MacCracken #16, first draft, October 1967 [transcript]
2	33	MacCracken #17, first draft, October 1967 [transcript]
2	34	MacCracken #18, first draft, October 1967 [transcript]
2	35	MacCracken Memphis Interview, 9 June 1967
2	36	MacCracken Early years, dictated 21 September 1967
2	37	MacCracken FAA Interviews, [interviewer] Charles E. Planck
2	38	Victory Interview #1
2	39	Victory Interview #2
2	40	Victory Interview #3
2	41	Victory Interview #4
2	42	Mr. Justice Hugo Black, May 24, 1968
2	43	Heiberger Interview
2	44	Tom Bourne, Sr.
2	45	Paul Garber
2	46	Kohn Interview #1 and #2
2	47	Kohn Interview #3 and #4
2	48	Clarence Young
2	49	Pritchard & Montgomery
2	50	Kiekenapp Tape #1
2	51	[Kiekenapp] #2

Series 2: Audio cassette tapes

Box	Tape	Title	(link to Michael Osborn's Index to tapes 1-18)
3	1	Washington—Tape 1, 27 Oct 1967 Time 60:49—MacCracken (Osborn & Riggs)	
3	2	Washington—Tape 2, 27 Oct 1967 Time 59:12—MacCracken (Osborn & Riggs)	
3	3	Washington—Tape 3, 27 Oct 1967 Time 65:00—MacCracken (Osborn & Riggs)	
3	4	Washington—Tape 4, 27 Oct 1967 Time 61:30—MacCracken (Osborn & Riggs)	

- 3 5 Washington—Tape 5, 27 Oct 1967
Time 61:00—MacCracken (Osborn & Riggs)
- 3 6 Washington—Tape 6, 28 Oct 1967
Time 63:40—MacCracken (Osborn & Riggs)
- 3 7 Washington—Tape 7, 28 Oct 1967
Time 60:24—MacCracken (Osborn & Riggs)
- 3 8 Washington—Tape 8, 28 Oct 1967
Time 63:32—MacCracken (Osborn & Riggs)
- 3 9 Washington—Tape 9, 28 Oct 1967
Time 63:02—MacCracken (Osborn & Riggs)
- 3 10 Washington—Tape 10, 28 Oct 1967
Time 57:28—MacCracken (Osborn & Riggs)
- 3 11 Washington—Tape 11, 30 Oct 1967
Time 62:16—MacCracken (Osborn & Riggs)
- 3 12 Washington—Tape 12, 30 Oct 1967
Time 52:00—MacCracken (Osborn & Riggs)
- 3 13 Washington—Tape 13, 30 Oct 1967
Time 59:28—MacCracken (Osborn & Riggs)
- 3 14 Washington—Tape 14, 30 Oct 1967
Time 63:28—MacCracken (Osborn & Riggs)
- 3 15 Washington—Tape 15, 1 Nov 1967
Time 50:48—MacCracken (Osborn & Riggs)
- 3 16 Washington—Tape 16, 1 Nov 1967
Time 62:12—MacCracken (Osborn & Riggs)
- 3 17 Washington—Tape 17, 1 Nov 1967
Time 63:29—MacCracken (Osborn & Riggs)
- 3 18 Washington—Tape 18, 1 Nov 1967
Time 64:08—MacCracken (Osborn & Riggs)
- 3 19 Washington—Tape 1, 24 May 1968
Time 49:40—MacCracken
- 3 20 Washington—Tape 2, 24 May 1968
Time 63:04—MacCracken
- 3 21 Washington—Tape 7, 27 May 1968
Time 66:24—MacCracken
- 3 22 Washington—Tape 8, 28 May 1968
Time 50:00—MacCracken
- 3 23 MacCracken Anniversary Banquet
Time 62:00
- 3 24 MacCracken Interview, June 9, 1967
- 3 25 W.P. MacCracken, 24 May 1968
Wash. D.C. Time 67:40 Tape 3
- 3 26 W.P. MacCracken, 25 May 1968
Wash. D.C. Time 63:20 Tape 4
- 3 27 W.P. MacCracken, 25 May 1968

- 3 28 Wash. D.C. Time 36:48 Tape 5
- 3 28 W.P. MacCracken Jr, Washington D.C.
May 25 1968 Time 58:32 Tape 6
- 3 29 Mr. Harold Kohn, Chief Counsel AOA
4 Mar 1968 Time 46:48 Tape 1
- 3 30 Mr. Harold Kohn, Chief Counsel AOA
4 Mar 1968 Time 30:04 Tape 2
- 3 31 Mr. Harold Kohn, Chief Counsel AOA
4 Apr 1968 Time 58:24 Tape 3
- 3 32 Mr. Harold Kohn, Chief Counsel AOA
4 Apr 1968 Time 60:00 Tape 4
- 3 33 Mr. Harold Kohn, 30 Jan 1970
Time 40:36
- 3 34 Paul Garber Interview, 13 Sep 1968
Time 66:16
- 3 35 Mr. Justice Hugo Black Interview
24 May 1968 Time 27:28
- 3 36 Mr. Tom Bourne SR, Interview
May 27, 1968
- 3 37 Victory Tape, Tape 1
Time 31:12
- 3 38 Victory Tape, Tape 2
Time 32:00
- 3 39 Victory Tape, Tape 4
Time 25:56
- 3 40 Dr. Kiekenapp, 21 Mar 1969
Time 97:00 Tape 1
- 3 41 Dr. Kiekenapp, 21 Mar 1969
Time 97:14 Tape 2

Finding Aid prepared by: J. Silva and K. McLatchy
Date: July 2013