MSS0507. Wayne Chastain collection finding aid

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Wayne Chastain collection

Title: Wayne Chastain collection
Collection No: MSS.507
Extent: 2 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1965-1999

Abstract: The collection comprises published materials collected by Wayne Chastain (1930-1999), journalist and lawyer, primarily dealing with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Processed by: Gerald Chaudron, 2017.
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: Wayne Chastain collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: April 2017
Scope and contents

The collection comprises published materials collected by Wayne Chastain, journalist and lawyer, primarily dealing with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy but also Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert F. Kennedy.

Wayne Chastain was born on April 30, 1930, in Paris, Texas, and moved to Texarkana as a child. He attended Texarkana College and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1956. Chastain served in the U.S. Air Force and later worked as a reporter for newspapers in Texas, Louisiana and Missouri before joining the Memphis Press-Scimitar in 1967. It was as the general assignment reporter on April 4, 1968, that Chastain was the first print journalist at the Lorraine Motel after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Convinced the killing was part of a conspiracy, Chastain began a lifelong quest to prove his theory. He had also previously investigated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. He earned a law degree from Memphis State University in 1974 and began working as a lawyer, later representing both James Earl Ray and the King family. Chastain died in Memphis on June 7, 1999.

Subject terms

Kennedy, Robert F., 1925-1968--Assassination.
King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968.

Inventory

Box 1
Folder 1: Clippings:

“Lawmakers try to buy King papers”, Texarkana Gazette, 1999 October 27.
Presley, James, “Former Texarkanian dies of pancreatic cancer at age 69”, Texarkana Gazette, 1999 June 10. (copy)

Publications:

Garrison, Jim. On the Trail of the Assassins: My Investigation and Prosecution of the Murder of

**Box 2**