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James Kenneth Toler papers MSS.89

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Donor: Mrs. Kenneth Toler of Jackson, Mississippi.

Scope and Contents

The collection contain press releases, newspaper clippings, photographs, speeches, and other material mostly concerning political, legislative, and racial happenings in Mississippi, collected by Mr. Toler during his career as correspondent for the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*.

Number of items: 845

Biographical Data

Full name of person about whom biographical data is needed:

James Kenneth Toler

Date and place of birth:

1904, Crowley, Louisiana

Date and place of death:

1966, Jackson, Mississippi

Names of parents, wife or husband, children, or other family relationships:

Parents: James Kenneth and Carrie Brooks Toler of Crowley, La.

Wife: Nan Olson Toler of Lumberton, Mississippi

Children: Mrs. Bob Marsh, Mrs. John Hogue, Jr., Mrs. Fisher Humphreys, Mrs. Joel Richardson

His occupation, activities, and place or places where he flourished:

Attended Louisiana State University. Member of KA fraternity. Began news career on the Crowley *Daily Signal*. Accepted job with AP in New Orleans and was sent to Jackson, Mississippi. Began work for Memphis *Commercial Appeal* in 1932 and covered the Mississippi Capitol and politics from then on. From 1928 on he covered the Mississippi Legislature and adjourned each session. He appeared each Monday on WLBT's "Comments". Editor for "The Brotherhood", a bulletin for the Sunday School Class at the First Presbyterian Church in Jackson. In 1953 he was awarded a non-physician certification by the Mississippi State Medical Association, the first such award in the association's 97 year history. He was the first non-alumnus to be made an honorary member of Omicron Delta Kappa (1953). In 1959 the Mississippi Bar Association presented its first award to him for outstanding coverage of courts and legal affairs. In 1960 he was presented Mississippi's highest award for a newspaperman, the Silver Em. President of Mississippi chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalistic society. Mr. Toler was called the Dean of Mississippi newsmen.

Titles of books or other sources where further information can be found:

Name and address of person supplying data (and relation to biographee):

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<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No. Items</u>
1. Thomas Bailey	Biog. matl., inaugural speech, press releases, statements to the press, other.	1943-46	7
2. Ross Barnett See folders 50, 54 (Photos transferred to Photographs folder)	Biog. matl., press releases, clippings, brochures, speeches, other <u>re</u> Barnett's campaigns for governor	1951, 1959	20
3. Bilbo See folders 24, 39, 43, 54, 55, 71	Pamphlets; press releases and clippings <u>re</u> senate investigation of Bilbo's 3rd term election; press release <u>re</u> Juniper Grove church and parsonage; eulogy of Bilbo by Juniper Grove pastor.	1946-47	14
4. Jesse Byrd	Matl. <u>re</u> Byrd's campaign for governor	1947-51	10
5. Mary Cain	Printed matl., clippings <u>re</u> Mrs. Cain's campaign for governor.	1951	4
6. Citizens Council See folders 24, 67, 70	C.C. publications, newsletters, newspapers, pamphlets, press releases, speeches by John Bell Williams Walter Sillers, letters, other.	1950-57	26
7. Coleman	Article by J.P. Coleman. <u>The Origin of the Constitution of 1890.</u>	1956	1
8. Coleman See folders 54,67 (Photos transferred to Photographs folder)	J.P. Coleman's inaugural address, clippings, photo, other.	1956-57	14
9. Collins See folders 21, 55 (Photos transferred to Photographs folder)	Speeches, press releases <u>re</u> Collins' campaign to fill unexpired term of Sen. Pat Harrison.	1942, 1946	10

10. W.M. Colmer	Speech and campaign matl. <u>re</u> Colmer's campaign for U.S. Senator.	1947	5
11. Conner See folders 13,43,55	Clippings, statements to press, speeches, press releases, other <u>re</u> Mike Conner's campaign for governor and senator; obit.	1932-50	19
12. Conservation (oil & gas board)	"Jackson Gas Field" by Toler. Matl. <u>re</u> State of Miss. Oil and Gas Board.	1932, 1947	4
13. Democrats	Address by Mike Conner; 2 issues of <u>The Southern Weekly</u> ; speech by Fred B. Smith (1944); party matt. including speeches, clippings, resolutions, pamphlets, etc. Speech by Sen. Stennis (1956).	1944-56	17
14. Democrats	Clippings, press releases, party resolutions, other.	1936-51	12
15. Democrats- Job Selling	Clippings, press releases <u>re</u> investigation of job selling charges against demos.	1951	10
16. Democrats- Loyal	Clippings, speech by Walker, press releases, other.	1952?	11
17. Democratic States Rights	Resolutions providing for permanent organization of Miss. Democratic Convention; room reservations; constitution of national States' Rights Committee; report of subcommittee; press releases; speeches by Fielding Wright, other.	1948	16
18. Democrats- Truman	Clippings, pamphlets, statements, resolutions, press releases, other.	1944-56	18
19. Doxey See folder 55	Speeches, press releases <u>re</u> Wall Doxey's campaign for re-election to U.S. Senate in 1942.	1942	7
20. Dutch	Clippings <u>re</u> Juliana's (of Netherlands) visit to U.S.	1943	2

21. Eastland See folders 45,55	Speeches, press releases, printed matl. re Eastland's campaign for U.S. Senator, 1942. Speeches (1948, 1954).	1942,48,54	10
22. Eisencrats See folder 65	Press releases, statements to press by Hugh White, declaration of principles by Republican party, etc.	1952	16
23. Elections	Press releases, statistical compilations, clippings, other <u>re</u> elections.	1934-50	23
24. Tom Q. Ellis	Speech, press release, statements by Ellis and Joe T. Patterson <u>re</u> Ellis' campaign for senator against Bilbo.	1946	6
25. Lester Franklin	Press release, speeches, Franklin's platform, other <u>re</u> Mr. Franklin's candidacies for governor.	1931-43	24
26. Carroll Gartin See folder 54	Matl. pertaining to Gartin's campaign for lt. gov. and U.S. Senator.	1950-54	5
27. Governor's Race 1951	Press releases.	1951	3
28. Kelly Hammond	Matl. <u>re</u> Hammond's campaign for governor.	1951	8
29. History	Articles <u>re</u> high schools in Miss., Dixie Division, Miss. Mercy Ships to Greece, hanging of Will Purvis, Miss. levee district bond holders, Commercial Appeal history, pardon of 10 Miss. convicts for taking part in volunteer health service (sleeping sickness) new Capitol Bldg., other.	1935-47	11
30. Investigations See folders 52, 75	Report of the general legislative investigating committee on Parchman and Miss. State Sanatorium.	1949	1
31. Investments	Matl. <u>re</u> Choctaw Investment Corp.	1957	4

	and Bankers Trust Co.		
32. Jackson Daily News-Clarion Ledger Suit	JDN, 7-17-54, with article <u>re</u> Hederman suit.	1954	1
33. Forrest Jackson	Biog. matl.; press releases, speeches <u>re</u> Jackson's campaign for U.S. Senator (Bilbo's unexpired term).	1947	6
34. Paul B. Johnson See folder 55	Speeches, press releases, telegram, other <u>re</u> his candidacy for gov. in 1935 and 39. Publication <u>re</u> his term as gov., 1940-44 (oversized).	1935-43	13
35. Paul B. Johnson, Jr. See folders 50, 69 (Photos transferred to Photographs folder)	Speeches, press releases, other <u>re</u> his candidacies for gov. and senator.	1947-51	9
36. Keeton-Carter	Article by Toler <u>re</u> murder of Mrs. Keeton.	1937	1
37. Land Committee	Legislative reports, press releases <u>re</u> R.D. Moore (state land commissioner) and irregularities in his office.	1936-37	18
38. Legislation	Article from Jackson Chamber of Commerce advocating an investigation of the merits of the County Unit System of county govt. Clippings <u>re</u> 1946 act of legislation aiding towns, counties; other.	1932,47	5
39. Levings (Nelson T.)	Matl. <u>re</u> Levings' campaign for U.S. Senator against Bilbo.	1946	5
40. Lumpkin See folders 22, 54	Matl. <u>re</u> Lumpkin's campaign for gov.	1951	3
41. Mangold	Clippings of article by Dr. Konrad Mangold of Yazoo City, Miss., <u>re</u> communism.	1963	8

42. Willie McGee	Clippings, press releases, other <u>re</u> Willie McGee case.	1951	12
43. Misc. Matl.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hayden Campbell: press release <u>re</u> his campaign for lt. gov. (1950). 2. H.H. Johnson: biog. sketch. 3. Clayton Rand: speech or pub., 1944, "The New Deal and the New Slavery". 4. John Rankin: Matl. <u>re</u> his campaign for U.S. Senator, 1947. 5. John C. Satterfield: speech, "United We Stand", American Legion Convention, 1962. 6. J.D. Smith? Speech <u>re</u> Bilbo, Connor, other. 7. A.H. Stone: speech, 1937, Millsaps College. 8. Edgar S. Wilson. Autobiography? 		11
44. Dennis Murphree	Speeches, press releases, campaign matl. <u>re</u> Murphree's candidacy for lt. gov. and gov. Also sheet music, <u>Mississippi</u> , by R. Roy Coats for KMB Train. Clippings <u>re</u> Murphree's death. Political broadside (1934).	1934-39	17
See folder 55			
45. NAACP	Correspondence, other re MCHR; press releases <u>re</u> desegregation of public school system; clippings; reprint of speech by Eastland; reprint from Mercer Law Review on compulsory legal segregation in public schools.	1954-55	14
See folder 67			
46. Negroes	Matl. <u>re</u> Miss. Baptist Seminary at Jackson; Miss. Progressive Voters League (1946); negro education in Miss. (S.D. Redmond); ltr to Toler from F.D. Patterson, pres. Tuskegee Institute, Ala. (Photos' transferred to Photographs folder)	1942-51	22
See folders 3, 45, 60 75			
47. Newspapers Misc.	<u>Newspaperman</u> , May, 1944. <u>Alabama Journal</u> , Dec. 8, 1958. Same, Dec. 9, 1958. <u>The Montgomery Advertiser</u> , Dec. 9, 1958.	1944, 58	4
48. Newspapers Miss.	List of newspapers in Miss. (1955) Address of Fred Stein, pres. Southern	1951-65	9

	NP Publishers Association. Clippings <u>re n p. Rough draft of speech [by Toler ?], Hoar, Jere R. "Mississippi Newspapers and the Law". Ltr. to Toler from Hoar <u>re</u> above. <u>Miss. Free Press</u>, 12-16-61. <u>Miss. Methodist Advocate</u>, 6-11-47.</u>		
49. Obits	<u>Gun Shots</u> , Jan., 1953	1953	1
50. Ole Miss James Meredith See folders 51, 69	Press releases, clippings, statements to press and senate by Barnett and Johnson, reports (2) of "general legislative investigating committee to gov... <u>re</u> occupation of ... Ole Miss and events resulting therefrom."	1962-63	17
51. [Ole Miss] Meredith (1962)	Press releases, resolutions, addresses clippings <u>re</u> Meredith's entry to Ole Miss.	1962	68
52. Penitentiary See also folders 29,30,75	Clippings, press releases, articles, ltrs., <u>re</u> Parchman. Included are a series of articles by Toler in 1947 <u>re</u> same	1943,47,50	30
53. Petrified [forest], Black	Photos, note <u>re</u> petrified forests in Mississippi.	nd	4
(Photos transferred to Photographs folder)			
54. Photographs See separate inventory below.	Photos of Mr. Toler, Ross Barnett, Gene Wirth, Carroll Gartin, J.P. Coleman, Hugh White, Sam Lumpkin, Theo. G. Bilbo, Edgar Poe, Memphis Press Club Gridiron, Gov. Faubus, Methodist Convention, Dr. Sam Hooper (pres. Jackson Lion's Club), Joe S. Price, Avery Island, other.	----	18
55. Politics	Platform of Frank Harper, Hattiesburg (1934), candidate for U.S. Senator; clippings of Toler's "Mississippi" <u>re</u> 1934 politics; press release <u>re</u> 1942 campaign for U.S. Senator.	1934,42	6

56. Power: Dixon-Yates	Clippings, copy of news release <u>re</u> electric power rates.	1954-55	3
57. Progressive Party	Article <u>re</u> national and state progressive party.	1948	1
58. Prohibition	Clippings <u>re</u> Christian Citizen's Committee, liquor in Miss.	1942	2
59. H.H. Puryear, M.D.	Articles written by Dr. Puryear: "A Celebrated Country Churchyard", "The Possibilities of the Country Doctor", other.	5	
60. Racial	Press releases, clippings <u>re</u> state sovereignty commission, Alcorn A & M trouble (1957), harassment of Mrs. Elizabeth Wheatley of Greenwood, hiring of negro policemen, other.	1957	30
61. Reapportionment	Marvin Fortner et al vs. Ross Barnett et al.	nd	1
62. Redistricting	Press releases, other re constitutionality of 1932 congressional redistricting act and the supreme court's refusal to interfere with the election of 7 congressmen from the districts set up by the Blair-White bill.	----	4
63. Reorganization 1933-34	Legislative reports; memo to re-organization committee, press releases re same.	1933-34	5
64. Reorganization 1950	Matl. <u>re</u> reorganization of state govt.	1950	8
65. Republicans	Press releases; vote records; 2 articles by S.D. Redmond <u>re</u> Perry Howard; resolutions by Republican party; other.	1928-48	14
66. Sales Tax	Reprint from <u>The Tax Magazine</u> , Oct.-Nov., 1932, "Sales Taxes" by D.H. Waits; clipping.	1932-33	2
67. Segregation	NAACP material; Citizens' Council	1954-56	20

See folders 6, 45, 79	material; speech by J.P. Coleman; other.		
68. J.B. Snyder (Candidate for gov.)	Press releases, speeches, clip- pings <u>re</u> Snyder's campaign for gov.	1939	6
69. Speeches	Press release of Paul B. Johnson's inauguration speech; speech on integration at Ole Miss by Russell H. Barrett (1963); clipping of lecture at MSCW by Paul Flowers (1964); 2 clippings of editorial comments; biog. matl. re Mr. Toler; 2 speeches by Mr. Toler; 3 clippings from <u>The Quill</u> (Oct., 1964); speech by Frank Ahlgreen at MSCW (1963).	1963-64	12
70. Subversion	Press releases, clippings.	1959	11
71. Teachers Public School MEA, MTA	Press releases, report, recommendations.	1957	3
72. [Toler] See folders 69, 73, 74	Clippings <u>re</u> Mr. Toler; <u>Scripps- Howard News</u> , Oct., 1953, and <u>Stock man-Farmer</u> , Dec., 1965, containing articles about Toler: address by Mr. Toler at MEC, 1953.	1951-65	5
73. [Toler] Column Clippings	Clippings with Toler by-line; clip- pings about Toler; other.	1932-39	6
74. [Toler Columns]	Columns by Toler including Dumas Milner article; articles about Toler (biog., honors, speeches, etc.); ltr. to Toler from Pat Purcell, ex. manager NASCAR, 1954; <u>The Southern Weekly</u> , 10-16-43; <u>Scripps-Howard News</u> , Aug., 1955.	1943-62	28
75. [Toler] Columns	Toler Columns mostly re education of blacks in Miss. Also <u>re</u> hearings	1949	13

	before Public Service Commission on rate increases in utilities; penitentiary.		
76. Werner von Braun	Speech by von Braun at Delta Council, Cleveland, Miss., 1959.	1959	1
77. Wagner	Press release <u>re</u> capture of Kennie Wagner.	1943?	1
78. Hugh White	Speeches, press releases <u>re</u> White's term as gov. and his later campaign.	1936, 39, 1950-51	12
See folders 22, 54, 55			
79. Fielding Wright	Press releases, speeches, clippings <u>re</u> his candidacy for governor; speech <u>re</u> segregation; pub. of the Staple Cotton Association, vol. XXX11, no.8, Aug., 1954.	1947-50, 54	11
See folders 17, 54			

Photographs inventory

Barnett, Ross, undated. (mats).

Coleman, James P., Memphis Rotary Club, undated.

Collins, Ross, undated (mat).

Hooper, Sam J., President, Jackson Lion's Club, undated.

Mississippi Baptist Seminary Baccalaureate, Jackson, Mississippi, 1951. Dr. Herbert L. Lang, President, other staff members, and Mississippi Baptist Pastors.

Petrified Forest, Madison County, Mississippi, J.P. Black.

Price, Joe S.

Toler, Kenneth:

Toler, Orville Faubus and others, undated.

Toler, Gene Wirth, and Ross Barnett, undated.

Toler, Lieutenant Governor Carroll Gartin, and Gene Wirth, (1957?)

Toler and Sam Lumpkin, undated.

Toler, Edgar Allen Poe, and Theodore Bilbo.

Toler and Memphis Press Club, 1964.

Toler at Boys State, 1962.

Toler and Mississippi Press Association, undated.

Toler and Mississippi Press Association, Louisiana, undated.

Toler, Ben Stevens, Paul Millsaps, Thomas Bailey, Harlan Hilbun, Methodist
Jurisdictional Conference, Kansas City, undated.

Toler, James P. Coleman, and Hugh White, undated.

Unidentified.

Separation Sheet

Small Oversize Manuscripts Box 9

The following items have been routed to the above unit for appropriate disposition:

Collins, 1942, 1946: Article, undated.

Democratic States Rights, 1948:

National States Rights Committee, Sub-Committee report, circa 1949.

National States Rights Committee Constitution, 1949.

Paul B. Johnson, 1935-1943: Publication, Honorable Paul B. Johnson: Mississippi's War Governor, circa 1942.

Legislation, 1932, 1947: Statistical report, circa 1932.

Newspapers Miscellaneous, 1951-1965: Newspaperman, 1944 May.

Penitentiary, 1943, 1947, 1950: Article, undated.

Racial, 1957: Article, undated.

Separation Sheet

Oversize Manuscript Box 7

The following items have been routed to the above unit for appropriate disposition:

Ross Barnett, 1951, 1959: Article, 1951.

Conner: "Mike Conner's address to thousands at Poindexter Park" May 30, [1932?]

Democrats-Job Selling: Article, undated.

Eastland, 1942, 1948, 1954: Campaign Newspaper, 1942.

Eisencrats, 1952: Articles, undated.

Governor's Race, 1951: Articles, 1950.

Investments, 1957: Clipping "Choctaw Life Insurance Company" State Times, January 30, 1957.

Paul B. Johnson, Jr., 1947-1951: Clipping, 1950.

Dennis Murphee, 1934-1939: Campaign broadside, 1954.

NAACP, 1954-1955: Article, undated.

Reorganization, 1950: Article, undated.

Subversion, 1959: Article, undated.

Hugh White, 1936, 1939, 1950-1951: Article, 1950.

Separation Sheet

Special Collections

The following items have been routed to the above unit for appropriate disposition:

The Citizens Council: July 1956

Democrats, 1936-1951: The Southern Weekly, May 27: June 24, 1944

Newspapers-Mississippi, 1951-1965: Mississippi Methodist Advocate, June 11, 1947.

Toler Columns, 1949: The Southern Weekly, October 16, 1943.

Separation Sheet

Oversize Newspapers

The following items have been routed to the above unit for appropriate disposition:

The Community Citizen, Feb. 23, 1956.

Clarion Ledger, July 27, 1953.

Mississippi Free Press, Dec. 16, 1961.

Jackson Daily News, May 20, 1955.

PM Daily, July 21, 1944.