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**Norman and Frances Weems Bradley papers  
MSS.367**

- Dates:** 1890-1981  
**Extent:** 5 cubic feet  
**Preferred Citation:** Norman and Frances Weems Bradley papers, Special Collections Department, Mississippi State University Libraries.  
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**Donor:** Norman and Frances Weems Bradley.

**Scope and Contents**

The Norman and Frances Weems Bradley papers include correspondence, speeches, editorials, photographs, clippings, and memorabilia, relating primarily to the Bradley's careers, civic activities, and family. Norman Bradley's career in journalism spanned more than forty years with the Jackson *Clarion-Ledger*, the Associated Press, the Jackson *State Times*, *The Chattanooga Post*, and *The Chattanooga Times*; he served the latter three newspapers as editor. Frances Weems Bradley was the food editor of *The Chattanooga Times*.

## Biographical Data

Full name of person about whom biographical data is needed:

Charles Norman Bradley

Date and place of birth:

1913, Flora, Mississippi

Date and place of death:

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

wife: Frances Weems

children: Caroline Bradley (Mrs. Van) Cavett  
William H. Bradley

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

Education: High school: Canton High School valedictorian

College: Millsaps College: member of Omicron Delta Kappa  
and Eta Sigma, editor of campus newspaper

Journalistic Career:

1934-1937 Jackson *Clarion-Ledger*

1937-1947 Associated Press

1947-1955 *The Chattanooga Times*

1955 Jackson *State Times*, founding editor

1956-1966 *The Chattanooga Times*

1966-1970 *The Chattanooga Post*, founding editor

1970-1980 *The Chattanooga Times*, editor 1971-1980

1980 *The Chattanooga Times*, editor emeritus

Date: November 16, 1971

1971 *Chattanooga Times* biographical statement:

Norman Bradley, recently named editor of the *Chattanooga Times*, is a man whose journalism career spans 37 years in the South as a reporter, editor, and news executive.

Born in 1913 in Flora, Mississippi, his early life was marked with academic success. He was class valedictorian at Canton High School, Canton, Mississippi, and was graduated from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, with highest honors. In college he was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, national leadership fraternity, and Eta Sigma, a scholastic leadership fraternity. While a student, he got his first newspaper experience serving as editor of the campus weekly newspaper for two years and campus correspondent for both daily newspapers in Jackson.

His fulltime newspaper career began in 1934 with the *Jackson Clarion-Ledger* where he served as reporter, state editor, and assistant to the managing editor. Three years later, he joined the Associated Press at Little Rock, Arkansas, and spent ten years as a news reporter in southern cities. From 1942 to 1947, he did a stint as AP correspondent in Chattanooga, an assignment which led to the beginning of a lasting association with Chattanooga newspapers. He became an editorial writer with *The Chattanooga Times* in 1947 but left in 1955 to take the editorship of the newly established *State-Times* in Jackson, Mississippi. He returned to Chattanooga--this time to stay--in 1956 as executive news editor of the *Chattanooga Times*. He was named associate editor in 1958. He was editor of the *Chattanooga Post*, an afternoon daily, from its establishment in 1966 until its suspension in 1970 when he again returned to the Times as senior associate editor.

Bradley has been known to his journalistic colleagues in the South by his courtly manner, gentle speech, abiding patience, and studious approach to complex issues. During his 16 years total service as an editorial page writer for the Times, his skill as an editorial interpreter of contemporary issues has gained him national recognition. He has participated in numerous journalistic workshops and seminars throughout the region and is a frequent speaker to local and regional audiences. His succession to editorship of the Times was announced after Martin S. Ochs relinquished the position to become university editor at the University of Virginia. Bradley had been acting editor for a year while Ochs was on a leave of absence and traveling in Asia, Africa, and Europe.

"He has long been considered one of the South's finest journalists," said Forrest Wallace Cato, "but he is also one of the finest in the country. Nobody knows the business of journalism like Norman Bradley."

"Norman Bradley," said Mrs. Ruth Golden, publisher of the *Times*, "has a deep concern for his city, for his fellowman, and for his newspaper. He is a calm, reflective man with an unerring ability to cut to the heart of the matter and thereby consider the essential without undue influence from the peripheral.

"The Times has been fortunate that Mr. Bradley has brought his judgments to the editorial page in past years, most notably during the preceding months when he served as acting editor.

"To name him editor is a high privilege, and I look forward to many years of harmonious association."

Bradley's activities have not been confined solely to the journalistic profession, but have extended into community service as well. A leading Methodist layman in the Chattanooga area for many years, Bradley has served on numerous civic boards and committees that embrace a

wide range of public service interests. He has made journalistic observations of social and political problems in Latin America and South America under the auspices of International House of New Orleans. Last summer he spent three weeks in Florence, Italy, visiting villages and cultural centers in many parts of that nation.

He has served as charter member and first president of the Chattanooga Adult Education Council; member of the founding board of directors of the Chattanooga Area Literacy Movement; member of the founding board of directors, Chattanooga Council, Experiment in International Living; former trustee of the World Foundation for Literacy; board member and president, Chattanooga Family Service Agency; corporate member, Metropolitan Council for Community Services.

In addition, he has been president of the Allied Arts Council; member of the founding board Team Evaluation Center (diagnostic agency for persons with multiple handicaps); board member, Florence Crittenton Home; board member and former secretary, Metropolitan YMCA; board member and chairman, Methodist Student Center at UTC; board member and vice president, Chattanooga Symphony Association; member of the founding board, organizing president, Allied Arts Fund; board member, Chamber of Commerce; board member, Chattanooga Automobile Club, and member of the founding board, Citizens for Court Modernization. He is also a member of the Chattanooga Kiwanis Club.

Active in church work, he has been a teacher for many years in the Sunday School of First-Centenary Methodist Church. He has also served as member and chairman of the church's Official Board, member of the Holston Methodist Conference Committee on Publications, and he is listed in Who's Who in Methodism.

His professional associations include membership in Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism fraternity, and membership in the National Conference of Editorial Writers.

He is married to the former Frances Weems of Shubuta, Mississippi, and they have two children--Caroline, whose husband, Van Cavett, is an editorial page writer with the *Louisville (Ky.) Times*, and William H. Bradley, an attorney with the firm of Sutherland, Asbill and Brennan, in Atlanta.

When Bradley's ascension to the Times editorship was announced, one of his tributes came in an editorial in a rival newspaper. The editorial, which called Bradley's elevation "fitting recognition of his service to the Times," went on to praise him for expressing "the viewpoint of his newspaper in the continuing discussions that are a part of the service of the press to freedom in America."

## Biographical Data

Full name of person about whom biographical data is needed:

Frances Weems Bradley

Date and place of birth:

Shubuta, Mississippi

Date and place of death:

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

husband: Charles Norman Bradley

children: Caroline Bradley (Mrs. Van) Cavett

William H. Bradley

father: George Weems, Jr., graduate of Miss. A & M College (1908)

Her occupation, activities, and place or places where she flourished:

Education: Millsaps College

Journalistic Career: *The Chattanooga Times*, food editor

Date: November 16, 1971

## Container List

Box 1	Folders (Correspondence, Clippings, Photographs, Speeches, Other) Plaques Medal
Box 2	Scrapbooks (Clippings)
Box 3	Scrapbooks (Clippings), Certificates
OS	Framed Items (Newspapers, Photograph)
Unboxed	Newspapers Oversized Photograph (1907)

## Subject Tracings

### Names:

Baker, Senator Howard  
Bradley, Frances Weems  
Bradley, Norman  
Carter, President Jimmy  
Coleman, J. P.  
Cooper, Wyatt  
Cronyn, Hume  
Dunn, Winfield  
East, P.D.  
Humphrey, Muriel  
Lester, Bettie Page  
Lodge, Henry Cabot  
Milner, Dumas  
Morris, Jan  
Sulzberger, Arthur Ochs  
Sulzberger, Iphigene Ochs  
Weems, George S.  
Winter, Governor William

### Subjects:

*The Chattanooga Post* (Chattanooga, Tenn.)  
Guatemala  
Jackson (Miss.)  
Millsaps College  
*State Times* (Jackson, Miss.)  
Tennessee

## Inventory

Folder

### Box 1

1	Correspondence - General	1943-1981
2-3	Correspondence - Appointment as editor of <i>The Chattanooga Times</i>	1971
4-5	Correspondence - Retirement	1980
6	Family Biographical Papers	1890-1963
7	Frances Bradley Recipes	ND
8	Jackson (Mississippi) <i>State Times</i> (See also Folder 18)	1954-1956
9-10	Trip to Guatemala	1960
11	The Chattanooga Post	1966-1968
12	Millsaps College Alumnus of the Year	1973
13-16	Speeches	1949-1981, ND
17	Prayers and Invocations	ND
18	Television Editorials	1955
19	Photographs (See also Framed item #8 and 1907 Oversized Photograph)	
20-21	Clippings and copy - Associated Press Bylines	1938-1946
22	Clippings and copy - Editorials from <i>The Chattanooga Times</i> and <i>Chattanooga Post</i>	1967-1979, ND
23	Clippings - Editorial Page Columns from <i>The Chattanooga Times</i> and <i>Chattanooga Post</i>	1958-1980, ND
24-25	Clippings	1943-1981
26	Miscellaneous - Inaugural Invitations, other	1939-1980



- |    |  |             |
|----|--|-------------|
| 27 | Wyatt Cooper Letters [Addition]  | 1976 - 1977 |
| 28 | Oral history interview with Norman Bradley, conducted by the University of Southern Mississippi [Addition] | 1981        |
| 29 | <i>Lookout Mountain: A Place and Its People</i> , edited by Norman and Frances Bradley                     | 1986        |

**PLAQUES:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | 1976-1977. NB, first president of Sigma Delta Chi's Southeast Tennessee Chapter.                               |
| 2 | June 7, 1979. NB, charter member of the Chancellor's Roundtable at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. |
| 3 | March 18, 1980. Senator Sasser's tribute to NB in the Congressional Record.                                    |

**MEDAL:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | 1956-1960. Mississippi Governor's Staff. |
|---|--|

**Box 2**

**SCRAPBOOKS** containing clippings of NB editorials for *The Chattanooga Times*:

- |    |                 |
|----|-----------------|
| 1  | 5/8/47-11/29/47 |
| 2  | 12/1/47-5/31/48 |
| 3  | 6/1/48-12/31/48 |
| 4  | 1/1/49-5/1/49   |
| 5  | 5/2/49-9/30/49  |
| 6  | 10/1/49-5/1/50  |
| 7  | 5/1/50-8/31/50  |
| 8  | 9/1/50-12/31/50 |
| 9  | 1/1/51-5/31/51  |
| 10 | 6/1/51-12/31/51 |

**Box 3**

- |    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| 11 | 1/1/52-6/30/52   |
| 12 | 7/8/52-12/31/52  |
| 13 | 1/1/53-3/30/53   |
| 14 | 4/1/53-8/31/53   |
| 15 | 9/1/53-12/31/53  |
| 16 | 1/1/54-6/30/54   |
| 17 | 7/1/54-12/10/54  |
| 18 | 8/31/66-12/29/67 |
| 19 | 1/1/68-1/31/69   |
| 20 | 2/3/69-7/29/70   |

## CERTIFICATES:

- 1 November 18, 1954. Chattanooga Family Service Agency resolution of gratitude to NB.
- 2 1954, 1957, 1958. Chattanooga Family Service Agency certificate to NB, President of the Board of Directors.
- 3 July 7, 1958. Subpoena, State of Tennessee vs. Raulston Schoolfield, to NB.
- 4 1962-1964. Centenary Methodist Church certificate to NB
- 5 July 18-22, 1966. Vanderbilt Law School Seminar on Court and Constitution certificate to NB.
- 6 1968. Tennessee State Press Contest Honorable Mention to *Chattanooga Post* for Best Single Editorial.
- 7 Feb. 2, 1968. The Woman's Division of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church certificate of special membership in the Woman's Society of Christian Service to FB.
- 8 Dec. 31, 1968. City of Chattanooga certificate naming NB Ambassador of Good Will.
- 9 Dec. 5, 1972. Tennessee Governor Winfield Dunn certificate making NB Colonel, Aide de Camp, the Governor's Staff.
- 10 1973. Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce certificate to NB, Board of Directors.
- 11 1973. Millsaps College Alumnus of the Year award to NB.
- 12 March 6, 1973. Legion of Honor award for 25 years of membership in Kiwanis International.
- 13 March 30, 1979. City of Paducah, Kentucky, "Duke of Paducah" award to NB.
- 14 1980. Tennessee Educational Association's School Bell Award to NB.
- 15 March 25, 1980. Kiwanis certificate recognizing NB's 32 years of service as a Kiwanian.
- 16 Jan. 31, 1980. State of Tennessee Senate resolution commending NB "for an outstanding career as a journalist."

- 17 April 15, 1981. Alpha Honorary Scholastic Society at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga certificate of membership.

## **OS**

### FRAMED ITEMS:

- 1 Jackson *State Times*, Feb. 28, 1955, p. 1. (Volume 1, Number 1)
- 2 Jackson *State Times*, Feb. 28, 1955, p. 14. (Volume 1, Number 1)
- 3 *The Chattanooga Post*, Aug. 29, 1966, p.1. (Volume 1, Number 1)
- 4 *The Chattanooga Post*, Aug. 29, 1966, p.4. (Volume 1, Number 1)
- 5 *The Chattanooga Post*, Aug. 29, 1966, p. 18. (Volume 1, Number 1)
- 6 *The Chattanooga Times*, Nov. 7, 1971, p. 1. (NB named editor)
- 7 *The Chattanooga Times*, Nov. 7, 1971, p. 18.
- 8 Photograph: NB in office of *The Chattanooga Times*, 1958-1980.

## **Unboxed**

### NEWSPAPERS:

Jackson *State Times*, Feb. 28, 1955. (Volume 1, Number 1)

Jackson *State Times*, March 27, 1955.

Jackson *State Times*, July 29, 1955. (Extra)

*The Chattanooga Post*, Aug. 29, 1966. (Volume 1, Number 1)

Oversized Photograph, 1907

## **Separation Sheet**

### Oversized Newspapers

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

MISSISSIPPI: Jackson: *State Times*, February 28; March 27; July 29, 1955.

TENNESSEE: Chattanooga: *The Chattanooga Post*, August 29, 1966, Vol. 1, No. 1.