

2015

Miller (Charley) Papers, 1931-1966

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ArchivesSpace

Miller (Charley) Papers

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Finding aid written in English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository:	Tc{o qpf 'J 0Hqi rgt "Nkdtct { 'Ur gekcnEqmgevkpu'F gr ctvo gpv
Creator:	Miller, Charley, 1900-1966
Title:	Charley Miller Papers
ID:	SpC MS 0348
Date [inclusive]:	1931-1966
Date [bulk]:	1935-1965 (bulk)
Physical Description:	3 boxes
Physical Description:	2 film boxes
Physical Description:	18 photographs (framed)
Physical Location:	
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The collection contains the papers of Charley Miller of Bangor, Maine, an outdoorsman, Maine guide, fight conditioner, and outdoor cook. Included are photographs, celebrity endorsements, 16 mm films, and news articles documenting his work as a Maine guide, outdoorsman and outdoor cook.

Preferred Citation

Charley Miller Papers, SpC MS 0348, [Box No.], [Folder No.], Raymond H. Fogler Library
Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

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Biographical Note

Maurice Charles Miller was born in Bangor on July 4, 1900, the son of Max and Rebecca Miller. As a young man he had a brief career as a boxer, quitting the ring after his first defeat. He then opened a training and conditioning camp for fighters at Moosehead Lake, introducing boxers such as Primo Carnera, Jack Dempsey, Gene Tunney and Jack Sharkey to the Maine woods, hunting and fishing.

He later branched out as a guide and host to famous people in sports and show business. From these associations he became a celebrity in his own right and spent more than thirty years promoting the state of Maine and himself at numerous sports shows, fairs, and public venues around the country. Miller also billed himself "The world's greatest outdoor cook" and spent a great deal of time cooking outdoor meals for his celebrity guests. In 1963, with Bangor attorney Oscar Walker, he formed the Charley Miller Outdoor Cooker Corporation to market his all-purpose outdoor cooker, a kind of reflector oven. This unit, the result of two years of experimentation, aimed to take advantage of the increasing popularity of backyard barbecuing. He also devoted considerable time to charitable activities, presenting his shows and demonstrations at hospitals and orphanages as well as to Boy Scouts and other groups. He was especially active at the Pine Tree Camp in Maine. He maintained a large library of films of famous fights and outdoor activities and showed these often at clubs, civic organizations and youth groups. He was a veteran of World War I. He died in November, 1966, survived by six brothers and a sister.

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Scope and Contents

The collection contains the papers of Charley Miller of Bangor, Maine, an outdoorsman, Maine guide, fight conditioner, and outdoor cook. Included are photographs, celebrity endorsements, 16 mm films, and news articles documenting his work as a Maine guide, outdoorsman and outdoor cook.

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Organization and Arrangement

The collection is arranged in two series: I. Photographs and Scrapbooks and II. Personal Papers. The photographs and scrapbooks make up the majority of the collection and thoroughly document Miller's career and his association with sports and show business celebrities of his day. At some earlier date, members of the library staff prepared an individual list of photographs for a segment of the collection; this list is retained at the start of the Box List because it gives a good indication of the contents of all of the notebooks and scrapbooks in Series I.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Alternate formats available

Fogler Library made a microfilm of some parts of this collection in 1983; the microfilm and a frame-by-frame guide to its contents are also included in the collection.

Restrictions on Access

Kept at Fogler Library's offsite storage facility. One week's notice required for retrieval.

Use Restrictions

Information on literary rights available in the repository.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Charley Miller papers came to the Special Collections Department, Raymond H. Fogler Library, University of Maine as a gift from Abraham and Frieda Miller in 1983.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Hunting guides -- Maine
- Fishing guides -- Maine
- Boxing trainers -- Maine
- Boxers (Sports) -- United States
- Camps -- Maine
- Outdoor cooking
- Celebrities -- Portraits -- United States
- Photographs
- Clippings
- Scrapbooks
- Motion pictures
- Recipes
- Microfilms

- Miller, Charley, 1900-1966

Collection Inventory

Series I: Photographs and scrapbooks

Title/Description	Instances
Primo Carnera and Charley Miller, Moosehead Lake, Carnera training for the Maxier fight; Charley Miller and Carnera sparring an hour before heavyweight championship fight with Max Baer, 1934	box 1 folder 1
Primo Carnera on way to New York for the Baer championship fight, Primo Carnera splitting wood (2 copies), 1934	box 1 folder 2
Charley Miller and Primo Carnera together; Primo Carnera with chef and trainer	box 1 folder 3
Primo Carnera and training crew(?); Primo Carnera being fitted for dress suit	box 1 folder 4
Primo Carnera and Governor Brann shaking hands; Charley Miller with Primo Carnera	box 1 folder 5
Primo Carnera ice fishing with two friends; photograph of Primo Carnera	box 1 folder 6
Charley Miller, Primo Carnera and friend with bear skin; Al McCoy shadow boxing, 1936	box 1 folder 7
Charley Miller with Al McCoy; Dave Castilloux? and Al McCoy sparring, 1935	box 1 folder 8
Jack Dempsey with friends in front of train; Dempsey and friends, 1933	box 1 folder 9
Charley Miller, Jack Dempsey and two men in boxing ring; Jack Dempsey and Jess Willard	box 1 folder 10
Jack Dempsey splitting wood; Charley Miller fastening Jack Dempsey's snowshoe	box 1 folder 11
Max Baer clowning with Charley Miller; Max Baer and wife, 1938	box 1 folder 12
Max Baer and Al McCoy, (2 copies), 1935	box 1

	folder 13
Jack Dempsey, Benny Lucas and Max Baer, 1934; James Johnston and Primo Carnera signing contract(?), 1934, 1936	box 1 folder 14
Tony Canzoneri in the boxing ring; Benny Leonard in the ring	box 1 folder 15
Benny Leonard in boxing ring; James Johnston with two friends, 1936	box 1 folder 16
W.L. "Young" Stribling in boxing stance; Ernie Schaaf at Bangor auditorium, 1932	box 1 folder 17
Charley Miller greeting Ernie Schaaf in Bangor, Johnny Risko and two friends with string of fish, 1932	box 1 folder 18
Jimmy Braddock signing paper with three men; James Braddock family at home, 1935	box 1 folder 19
Four frames depicting Jimmie Braddock; Charley Miller's first radio appearance with Linus Travers in Boston, 1936	box 1 folder 20
Charley Miller at Danbury fair, Danbury, Conn.; Charley Miller on T.V. in Boston, Mass., 1958	box 1 folder 21
Charley Miller on the Bud Leavitt show in Bangor, 1958;1964	box 1 folder 22
Charley Miller sports show, Belfast, Maine, 1964,1959	box 1 folder 23
Sportsman show, Waterville, Maine; Governor Reed, Bob Cousy, Charley Miller serving, Augusta Sportsmen Show, 1964	box 1 folder 24
Cleveland Sportsman show, Cleveland, Ohio; Sportsmen show with South Portland Lions Club	box 1 folder 25
Sportsmen's show, South Portland Lion's Club; New York boat show, 1959	box 1 folder 26
Charley Miller with Alice Gilbert, Bill Geagan and Doc Almy, 1956	box 1 folder 27
Charley Miller with Doc Almy, 1934, 1936	box 1 folder 28
Charley Miller and Doc Almy at Moosehead Lake; Governor Brann and Charley Miller	box 1

	folder 29
Governor Brann in ring with four men; Ed Haren with mail, September 27, 1936	box 1 folder 30
Senator Ed Muskie and family at China Lake, Maine, Charley Miller cooking; Muskie family around picnic table and Charley Miller with grilled steak at China Lake	box 1 folder 31
Mr. and Mrs. Collins with Charley Miller holding fish at Moosehead Lake; photograph of Tom Yawkey	box 1 folder 32
Ted Williams and Charley Miller holding fish; Babe Ruth and a Miller relation	box 1 folder 33
Eddie Collins of Red Sox and Mrs. Collins sawing wood; Joseph H. Pilates in loincloth, 1945	box 1 folder 34
Charley Miller and Joseph Pilates eating outdoors; Joseph Pilates' contrology... ages 57-60-72-82, 1945	box 1 folder 35
Dewitt MacKenzie fishing; Charley Miller, Dewitt MacKenzie and man holding fish	box 1 folder 36
Photograph depicting a river, signed Dewitt MacKenzie; To Charley Miller "in the Maine Woods" with all the best from Ripley's "Believe It or Not" [Photograph of Ripley]	box 1 folder 37
One Eye Connelly with Charley Miller (2 photos)	box 1 folder 38
Clem Norton speaking; photograph of Hannah Dempsey	box 1 folder 39
Jock McAvoy splitting wood with Charley Miller; photograph of Tex Rickard	box 1 folder 40
Jimmy Braddock and three men; Gene Tunney, 1935	box 1 folder 41
Milo Milcradovic demonstrating cooking with Anne Russell; Earl Boardman (?), Tansey Norton and Charley Miller on lake	box 1 folder 42
Charley Miller holding fish with Sally Rand and Herbert Swett; photograph of Jack Sharkey	box 1 folder 43
Postcard depicting Charley Miller smoking a cigarette; photograph of Charley Miller	box 1 folder 44
Charley Miller cooking outdoors, 1964, 1965	box 1

	folder 45
Charley Miller displaying meal in outdoor cooker; Charley Miller cooking	box 1 folder 46
Charley Miller fishing; Charley Miller displaying reflector oven	box 1 folder 47
Charley Miller holding a rifle; Charley Miller displaying clear charcoal	box 1 folder 48
Baking fish with potatoes and bacon in reflector oven; fish caught at Moosehead Lake, 1931	box 1 folder 49
Back yard cooking; Miller's Restaurant sign, Bangor, Maine	box 1 folder 50
Charley Miller's car; Charley Miller advertising Bleader Lure	box 1 folder 51
Charley Miller at sports show, Brunswick, Me. (?); Charley Miller showing films to young boys in Portland, Me., 1950	box 1 folder 52
Children at Pine Tree Camp (2 photos)	box 1 folder 53
Pine Tree girl eating ice cream on steps; Pine Tree Camp worker wiping young boy's hands	box 1 folder 54
Charley Miller blazing a trail with Pine Tree children; Charley Miller and Pine Tree children making a bed of pine boughs	box 1 folder 55
Display window, Charley and two women in a canoe, 1935	box 1 folder 56
Charley Miller on crutches with a nurse; Charley Miller sparring with doctor	box 1 folder 57
Photographs depicting a hospital	box 1 folder 58
Charley Miller and a large group of people on a lake shore (2 photos)	box 1 folder 59
Charley Miller and two couples at bar; Charley Miller and a group of people at a banquet	box 1 folder 60
Charley Miller and friends at banquet table; Charley Miller teaching wood splitting	box 1

	folder 61
Charley Miller and unidentified woman sawing wood; Charley Miller and boxer (?) sawing wood	box 1 folder 62
Charley Miller and two men conversing; two men holding string of fish	box 1 folder 63
Two boxers in ring; Boston Post Santa Claus fund	box 1 folder 64
Man eating a chicken; Mr. Rice and Charley Miller holding fish	box 1 folder 65
Charley Miller and two men in front of hunting camp; man with dogs in front of hunting camp	box 1 folder 66
Charley Miller and three friends by hunting camp (2 photos)	box 1 folder 67
House of David basketball team of Chicago; Charley Miller and two women with Miller beer	box 1 folder 68
Charley Miller cooking while three children watch; Charley Miller paddling canoe, 1949	box 1 folder 69
Charley Miller's cooking utensils; Plane taxiing on unidentified lake	box 1 folder 70
Tent site; Charley Miller and two friends on a shore	box 1 folder 71
Charley Miller and Jack Dempsey; Mrs. Collins; Charley Miller and Eddie Collins splitting wood and holding fish	box 1 folder 72
Charley Miller sparring with Doc Almy (?); Boy and bear "boxing" while Charley Miller looks on	box 1 folder 73
Charley Miller sparring with Gene Tunney (?); Charley Miller and boxer? splitting and carrying wood	box 1 folder 74
Charley Miller and two friends on steps	box 1 folder 75
Photograph of Charley Miller	box 3 folder 76
Charley Miller sparring with friend; Charley Miller and three friends	box 1

	folder 77
Charley Miller and Jack Dempsey? with women; Charley Miller with two women boxing	box 1 folder 78
Charley Miller snowshoeing; Charley Miller and child snowshoeing	box 1 folder 79
Charley Miller with boxers	box 3 folder 80
Charley Miller sparring with Primo Carnera	box 3 folder 81
Illustration from Gus Lesnevich to Charley Miller, undated	box 3 folder 81a
Miscellaneous photographs	box 1 folder 82
Unidentified negatives	box 1 folder 83
Newspaper articles	
Two scrapbooks, 1931-1965	box 2 folder 1
Photos, etc., from notebook 1, 1936-1965	box 2 folder 2
Photos, etc., from notebook 1, 1937	box 2 folder 3
Photos from notebook labeled: Cooking outdoors with Charley Miller, 1947-1958	box 2 folder 4-5
Photos from notebook labeled: Here he is presented with some of the nation's foremost personalities, 1948-1959	box 2 folder 6-7
Photos from notebook labeled: Charley Miller, famous Maine guide, 1948-1959	box 2 folder 8
Photos from notebook labeled: Cooking outdoors with Charley Miller, 1936-1964	box 2 folder 9
Photos from scrapbook labeled: Charley Miller, Maine guide, 1936-1949	box 2 folder 10
Scrapbook cover	box 2

	folder 11
Photos from scrapbook labeled: Charley Miller, Maine guide, 1947-1951	box 2 folder 12-13
Scrapbook cover	box 2 folder 14
Scrapbook, 1950-1966	box 2 folder 15

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Series II: Personal Papers

Title/Description	Instances
Address book	box 2 folder 16
Advertisements, etc.	box 2 folder 17
Correspondence, awards, etc.	box 2 folder 18
Financial information, deeds	box 2 folder 19
Newspaper and magazine articles about Miller	box 2 folder 20
Writing, drafts, etc.	box 2 folder 21
Microfilm of collection and guide	box 3 folder 22
Oversize material	box 3
Films (16mm) about boxing	box 4
Films (16mm) labeled "Regular films for clubs"	box 5

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