

2015

Miller (Charley) Papers, 1931-1966

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ArchivesSpace

Miller (Charley) Papers

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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| Series II: Personal Papers | 12 |

Summary Information

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| 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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Orono, ME 04469-5729
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URL: <http://www.library.umaine.edu/speccoll>

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 |

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| | 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 |

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| | 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 |

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| | 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 |

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| | 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 |

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| | 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 |

| | |
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| | 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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