

Papers Regarding the Elevation of Tarleton State College from a two-year to a four-year institution, 1955-1957:

A Guide

Descriptive Summary

Creator: James Earl Rudder

Title: Papers Regarding the Elevation of Tarleton State College from a two-year to a four-year institution, 1955-1957

Inclusive Dates: 1955-1957

Abstract: The papers document the activities of James Earl Rudder, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, and Joseph A. Chandler, an attorney in Stephenville, Texas, while they campaigned from 1955 to 1957 for a state bill to make Tarleton State College a four-year institution.

Identification: AR36

Extent: 2 folders

Shelf location: SC Box 2, Folders 6-7

Language(s): Collection is in English.

Repository: Tarleton State University, Dick Smith Library, Archives and Special Collections, Stephenville, Texas

Biographical Note

James Earl Rudder (1910-1970) was born in Eden, Concho County, Texas on May 6, 1910. He attended John Tarleton Agricultural College from 1928 through 1929 and Texas A&M University from 1930 through 1932. After graduating he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves. Rudder married Margaret Exah Williamson on June 12, 1937. He worked as a high school teacher and football coach. By 1938 he was teaching and coaching at John Tarleton Agricultural College. With the coming of World War II, Rudder was called into active duty. He participated in the D-Day invasion at Pointe du Hoc and commanded a regiment in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a colonel at the end of the war. Rudder was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Legion of Merit, Silver Star, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, French Legion of Honor with Croix de Guerre and Palm, and Order of Leopold (Belgium) with Croix de Guerre and Palm. Rudder served as Texas land commissioner from 1955 until 1958. He was vice president and president of Texas A&M University and president of the Texas A&M University System from 1958 to 1970. Rudder died in Houston, Harris County, Texas on March 23, 1970 and was buried in College Station Cemetery in College Station, Brazos County, Texas.

Sources:

“Major General James Earl Rudder ’32,” *Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets*, accessed November 23, 2020, <https://corps.tamu.edu/major-general-james-earl-rudder-32/>.

William N. Todd IV and Gerald Knape, “Rudder, James Earl,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed November 23, 2020, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/rudder-james-earl>. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Scope and Contents

The papers document the activities of James Earl Rudder, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, and Joseph A. Chandler, an attorney in Stephenville, Texas, while they campaigned from 1955 to 1957 for a state bill to make Tarleton State College a four-year institution. Materials are textual, comprising originals and photocopies of three letters and two brochures. The letters describe brief details of the bill's journey through the legislative procedure. "The Tarleton Bill" is a short version of the bill making Tarleton a four-year institution, and "The Tarleton Story" gives a concise history of the college and lists eighteen reasons the junior college should be changed to a senior college.

Organization

The "Papers Regarding the Elevation of Tarleton State College from a two-year to a four-year institution, 1955-1957" is organized in 2 series:

- Series I. Booklet of photocopies
- Series II. Original documents

Rights and Access

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Physical Access Restrictions

None.

Technical Access Restrictions

None.

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Index Terms

Persons

Chandler, Joseph A.

Rudder, James Earl, 1910-1970

Organizations

Tarleton State College
Texas Legislature

Subjects

Universities and colleges.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated to the Dick Smith Library at Tarleton State University by Margaret Rudder in 1991.

Preferred Citation

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Processing Information

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