

John Whiting Collection of Purple Books, 1917, 1920, 1942, 1955-1956, 1960-1961:

A Guide

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Whiting, John

Title: John Whiting Collection of Purple Books, 1917, 1920, 1942, 1955-1956, 1960-1961

Inclusive Dates: 1917-1961

Abstract: This collection documents an activity of John Whiting, a Dean of Admissions and Registrar of Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. He collected five historical copies of the Purple Book, a student handbook, during his tenure at the university.

Identification: AR84

Extent: 0.01 cubic feet (5 booklets)

Shelf location: SC Box 3, Folder 12, 7:E:1

Language(s): Collection is in English.

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

Biographical Note

John Whiting was born in Lanesboro, Iowa to Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Whiting. He graduated from Lanesboro High School in 1949. He earned a Bachelor of Science in journalism from Sam Houston State Teachers College and a Master's of Science in journalism from East Texas State College. The title of his master's thesis was "Attitudes of Texas Opinion Makers" and was about attitudes and opinions of the Austin press corps. While attending East Texas State College, he worked as a graduate assistant in photography. When he was 18 years old, Whiting joined the army and served as a signalman in the Korean War. When he returned to the states, he was an instructor at the Southeast Signal School at Camp Gordan, Georgia until his enlistment was completed. Early in his career, Whiting gained experience with several newspapers and other organizations. He served as advertising representative for the *Houston Chamber of Commerce Magazine*; reporter and photographer for the *Tyler Courier-Times Telegraph*; and reporter, science writer, and farm editor with the *Marshall News Messenger*. In addition to the events and subjects listed above, he covered the police news and political campaigns. Whiting was also a member of the National Cotton Council public relations staff in Memphis, Tennessee. Whiting's career with Tarleton State College began in February 1964 when he was appointed Tarleton State College Public Information Director and assistant professor of journalism. In November 1964 he became Acting Registrar and was named Registrar in 1966. In 1971 the position of Assistant Graduate Dean was added to his registrar duties. By 1976 he was a member of the Publications Committee and was Dean of Admissions and Registrar by 1987. Whiting retired from Tarleton in 1990. He received the 1997 Distinguished Faculty and Staff Award from the Tarleton Alumni Association. Whiting's hobbies included playing basketball, baseball, and softball as well as hunting and fishing. He married Barbara Willett of Hope, Arkansas on August 14, 1959 in Marshall, Texas. They had two children.

Sources:

"Distinguished Faculty and Staff Award Recipients (2012 and earlier)," *Tarleton Alumni Association*, Tarleton State University, 2022, <https://web.tarleton.edu/alumniassociation/wp-content/uploads/sites/139/2022/06/awards-pre-2013.pdf>. Accessed 07/14/2022.

The J-TAC (Stephenville, Tex.), Ed. 1 Thursday, April 30, 1987, newspaper, April 30, 1987; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapht141649/m1/2/?q=April%2030,%201987>: accessed August 1, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Tarleton State University.

The J-TAC (Stephenville, Tex.), Ed. 1 Tuesday, January 19, 1982, newspaper, January 19, 1982; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapht141493/m1/7/?q=%22John%20Whiting%22>: accessed August 1, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Tarleton State University.

The J-TAC (Stephenville, Tex.), Vol. 43, No. 14, Ed. 1 Tuesday, February 11, 1964, newspaper, February 11, 1964; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapht140806/m1/4/?q=%22John%20Whiting%22>: accessed August 1, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Tarleton State University.

The J-TAC (Stephenville, Tex.), Vol. 44, No. 12, Ed. 1 Tuesday, January 12, 1965, newspaper, January 12, 1965; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapht140829/m1/3/?q=%22John%20Whiting%22>: accessed August 1, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Tarleton State University.

The J-TAC (Stephenville, Tex.), Vol. 52, No. 1, Ed. 1 Wednesday, August 25, 1971, newspaper, August 25, 1971; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapht141222/m1/3/?q=%22John%20Whiting%22>: accessed August 1, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Tarleton State University.

The J-TAC (Stephenville, Tex.), Vol. 57, No. 14, Ed. 1 Thursday, May 6, 1976, newspaper, May 6, 1976; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapht141345/m1/13/?q=%22John%20Whiting%22>: accessed August 1, 2022), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Tarleton State University.

University Files, UA39, Box 27, Folder 55, Tarleton State University, Dick Smith Library, Archives and Special Collections, Stephenville, Texas.

Scope and Contents

This collection documents an activity of John Whiting, a Dean of Admissions and Registrar of Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. He collected five historical copies of the Purple Book, a student handbook, during his tenure at the university. The books in the collection were published in 1917, 1920, 1942, 1955-1956, and 1960-1961. The 1917 handbook is a first edition and is marked with revisions for the 1920 second edition. The handbook provided information to help students navigate the college experience.

Organization

The John Whiting Collection of Purple Books is organized chronologically.

Rights and Access

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Physical Access Restrictions

None.

Technical Access Restrictions

None.

Publication Rights

Materials published before 1927 are in the public domain. Tarleton State University owns the copyright for Purple Books published in 1927 and later.

Reproduction Note

Reproductions must be made from surrogates (microfilm, digital scan, photocopy of the original held by Archives/Special Collections, Dick Smith Library, Tarleton State University), when available. Only archives staff may photocopy collection documents.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated to the Dick Smith Library at Tarleton State University by John Whiting in July 2022.

Preferred Citation

John Whiting Collection of Purple Books, 1917, 1920, 1942, 1955-1956, 1960-1961, AR84, Small Collections Box 3, Folder 12, Tarleton State University, Dick Smith Library, Archives and Special Collections, Stephenville, Texas.

Processing Information

Finding aid prepared by Phyllis Kinnison, 2022.

Note to the Researcher

The collection is processed, but advance notice is required with time allowed to retrieve the records from an offsite location before conducting research. There may be occasions when staffing or weather conditions may delay or prevent retrieval of the records. For more information, contact Librarian/Archivist Phyllis Kinnison at pkinnison@tarleton.edu.

Booklet List

1917, First Edition

“Purple Book of the John Tarleton Agricultural College,” September, 1917

Printed by Von Boeckmann-Jones Co., Printers, Austin, Texas

Blue soft cover, 4.25”x5.75”, 25 pages.

Sections include Academic Regulations, Grades, Uniforms, Military Regulations, Dormitory or Boarding House Government, General Rules for Women, Girls’ Dormitory Regulations, Athletic Rules, and College Nuggets.

The 1917 Edition contains edit notations in pencil to plan for changes made to the 1920 Edition.

1920, Second Edition

“Purple Book of the John Tarleton Agricultural College,” September, 1920

Purple soft cover, 4.5”x6”, 40 pages.

Sections include Regulations, Academic Regulations, Rules Concerning Discipline, Military Regulations, Regulations for Boarding Students, Athletic Rules, College Nuggets, and Index.

1942

“John Tarleton Agricultural College A Branch of the A. and M. College of Texas, Stephenville, Texas, Purple Book” September 1, 1942

Purple soft cover, 3.5”x5”, 8 pages.

Sections include Discipline; Class Attendance; Excused Absence; General Policies; Special Regulations; and Permits, Explanations and Illness.

1955-1956

“Bulletin of the Tarleton State College, a part of The Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College System, College Regulations, 1955-56”

White soft cover, 4”x5.5”, 36 pages.

Section I: Regulations

Class Attendance

Special Regulations

Reports, Grades, Examinations

The College Library

Section II: Student Life and Activities

Basic Policy

Athletics

Service Organizations

Religious Activities

Musical Organizations

Student Publications

Other Clubs

Rules Governing Student Organizations

Rules for Governing Social Affairs

Rules Governing Athletic Awards

Rules Covering Non-Athletic Awards

Scholastic Honors
Student Loan Funds and Scholarships
Index

Handwritten notes

Front cover: "Gretchen Price. Do not remove."

Inside back cover: "For Honor grade point: count P.E. for boys and girls – also count "Fs" on hours."

1960-1961

"Bulletin of the Tarleton State College, a part of The Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College System,
College Regulations, 1960-61"

White soft cover, 4"x5.5", 36 pages.

Section I: Regulations

Class Attendance
Special Regulations
Reports, Grades, Examinations
The College Library

Section II: Student Life and Activities

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Service Organizations
Religious Activities
Musical Organizations
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