

William P. Sherman Papers

Inclusive Dates:

1976-2002

Name and Location of Repository:

William P. Sherman Library and Archives Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Great Falls, MT

Collection Processed by:

Dick Smith, 2007

Finding aid prepared by:

Shelly Kath, 2016

Collection Number:

AR 003

Name of Creator:

William P. Sherman (1918- 2003)

Extent:

1.5 linear feet

Biographical Note:

William P. Sherman was born and raised in Helena, Montana. He graduated from St. Thomas Military Academy in St. Paul, Minnesota and attended Georgetown University in Washington, DC. In 1940 Bill married Marian Lean, took over Sherman Music Company (in Helena) upon his father's death, and, enlisted in the Montana National Guard. He served on the State Headquarters staff in Helena. He and Marian had two children: Roger and Charis.

Bill joined the Army Air Corps Aviation Cadets in 1942. He flew fighter aircraft overseas beginning in November 1943. Bill flew eighty-eight combat missions in fighter aircraft during World War II. When the war ended, Bill served in the Reserves Forces. He retired as Lieutenant Colonel in 1972.

Upon his discharge from active duty, he started a small business in Portland, Oregon with some friends, buying and selling anything they could. Eventually they focused on manufacturing fireplace equipment. The business grew to a multi-million-dollar operation that employed 500 people. In 1972 Bill sold the business to Thomas Industries and subsequently served on their board of directors.

Bill had an abiding love for the art and history of the American West including the Lewis and Clark story and Charles M. Russell's art. Bill was part of the very first

Russell Art show in 1969 and Honorary Chairman of the event in 1990. If his actions inspired someone else to get involved, donate, or take charge he was happy.

Bill loved Montana and shared his success with Helena, Bozeman, and Great Falls. He was a generous philanthropist, but Bill preferred not to be credited for any of his good works.

Scope and Contents:

This collection is largely comprised of correspondence and documentation relating to William P. Sherman's philanthropic interests related to Lewis and Clark and Western History. It includes correspondence, information he kept on organizations he was involved with, and projects he funded.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged in two series. Series one is correspondence arranged alphabetically by subject, including general correspondence which is further broken down into folders per year. Series two is projects in which Sherman had interest, activities he attended, and organizations in which he was involved. They are organized alphabetically by name.

Subject Terms:

Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee
Bivens, Bob
Museum of the Rockies
Oregon Lewis and Clark Committee
Pompey's Pillar National Historic Site
Travelers Rest Chapter Collector Showcase
Washington State Lewis and Clark Committee
We Proceeded On, publication of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
Idaho Chapter
JK Ralston Studio, Inc.
Lewis and Clark County Cancer Committee
Lewis and Clark Festival, Great Falls Montana
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center in Great Falls, MT
Lewis and Clark Symphony

References:

Nell, D. F. (2004). *William P. Sherman: US Citizen, Patriot, National Hero, Entrepreneur, Philanthropist*. Bozeman, MT: Headwaters Chapter, LCTHF.

Date Acquired:

2010. Accession number 2010.004.

Acquisition Source:

Sherman, Roger

Access Restrictions:

The collection is open for use.

Use Restrictions:

LCTHF does not own copyright to all the materials in the collection. In some cases, permission for use may require seeking additional authorization from the copyright owners.

Preferred Citation:

Item description and date. *William P. Sherman Papers*, AR 2003-03. Box and Folder numbers. William P. Sherman Library and Archives, Great Falls, MT.

William P. Sherman Papers

AR 003

Box Listing:

Box 1

Series 1: Correspondence (1976-2002)

- Folder 1: Aerial Photography on the Trail
- Folder 2: Belsky, Ken
- Folder 3: General 1976
- Folder 4: General 1979
- Folder 5: General 1980
- Folder 6: General 1981
- Folder 7: General 1982
- Folder 8: General 1983
- Folder 9: General 1984
- Folder 10: General 1985
- Folder 11: General 1986
- Folder 12: General 1987
- Folder 13: General 1988
- Folder 14: General 1989
- Folder 15: General 1990
- Folder 16: General 1991
- Folder 17: General 1992
- Folder 18: General 1993
- Folder 19: General 1994
- Folder 20: General 1995
- Folder 21: General 1996
- Folder 22: General 1997
- Folder 23: General 1998
- Folder 24: General 1999
- Folder 25: General 2000
- Folder 26: General 2001
- Folder 27: General 2002
- Folder 28: Governor of Montana 1983, 1987, 1994
- Folder 29: Membership

Box 2:

- Folder 1: Museum of the Rockies
- Folder 2: Oregon Lewis and Clark Committee
- Folder 3: Pompey's Pillar
- Folder 4: Roger Condolences
- Folder 5: Sculpture *Map Maker*
- Folder 6: Sculpture Meriwether Lewis and Our Dog Scannon
- Folder 7: Travelers Rest Chapter Collector Showcase
- Folder 8: Washington State Lewis and Clark Committee

Folder 9: WPO
Series 2: Activities, Organizations and Projects (1979-2002)
Sub-Series 1: Activities and Projects
Folder 10: Awards
Folder 11: Bicentennial Committee
Folder 12: Bob Bivens Nomination for Kiwanis Citizenship Award
Folder 13: Centennial Report Great Falls, Clark's Lookout, Coal Tax Park
Proposals, 1876 Photographs- Indians
Folder 14: Future Annual Meetings
Folder 15: Idaho Chapter
Folder 16: JK Ralston Studio, Inc.
Folder 17: Lewis and Clark County Cancer Committee
Folder 18: Lewis and Clark Festival, Great Falls Montana
Folder 19: Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center in
Great Falls, MT
Folder 20: Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center in
Great Falls, MT student and junior explorer packets
Folder 21: Lewis and Clark Symphony

Box 3:

Folder 1: Member Handbooks
Folder 2: Membership Lists
Folder 3: Nez Perce National Historic Trail
Folder 4: Portage Days
Folder 5: Sculptures
Folder 6: State of Montana Lewis and Clark Memorial
Folder 7: We Proceeded On
Sub-Series 2: Organizations (1979-2002)
Folder 8: Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
Folder 9: National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council
Folder 10: Oregon Lewis and Clark Trail Committee
Folder 11: Portage Route Chapter