

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Walker, Paul R. (1896-1985)** **MC 2003.10**

Material: Papers (1914-1985)

Volume: 6.5 linear feet (Document Boxes 1-15, 1 Oversized Folder, and
1 Photograph Folder)

Donation: Gift of Mrs. Paul Walker, 1985

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Paul “Irish” Walker was born on Nov. 12, 1896 in Bolivar, Pennsylvania to Christopher Walker, native of Ireland, and Sara A. Reynolds. Walker graduated from Johnstown High School in 1915 and matriculated at Dickinson College in 1917. He withdrew from the college in 1918 to enter military service and served in the Army Signal Corps as a private in World War I. Following his military service he re-enrolled at Dickinson College in December 1918 and graduated in 1921.

Walker’s entire professional career was, with the exception of five years spent as copy chief for Columbia Pictures Corp., spent as a newspaperman. He began setting type and running copy for the Bolivar News after his high school graduation. Upon graduating from Dickinson College, Walker covered the Carlisle area for the Harrisburg Telegraph and subsequently worked for newspapers in surrounding regions, including the Baltimore News and Philadelphia Public Ledger. Returning to central Pennsylvania in 1925, Walker spent 19 years with the Harrisburg Telegraph, first as city editor and then as a columnist. The Harrisburg Telegraph went bankrupt in 1948, and that same year Walker founded the Harrisburg Home Star, which went bankrupt in 1971.

From 1971 until his death, Walker worked for the Harrisburg Patriot-News. His column, “Roundabout,” first appeared in the Harrisburg Telegraph in 1928 and he continued to write it for each subsequent paper. In addition to “Roundabout,” Walker wrote two weekly columns for the Patriot-News, “Roundabout Sixty Plus” and “Walking with Walker – News Outside the Door.”

According to his obituary in the Patriot-News, Walker wrote over 5,000 columns during his career. Walker was married three times and had one daughter and several grandchildren. He continued to work for the Patriot-News until his death on January 10, 1985 at the age of 89.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Paul R. Walker Papers are housed in 15 document boxes, one oversized folder, and one photograph folder and consist of diaries, journals, newspaper clippings, and other materials maintained by Walker throughout his life and professional career. The collection is divided into the following five series: Articles, Commonplace Books, Diaries, Journals, and Miscellaneous.

The series entitled Articles consists of photocopies of columns written by Paul Walker for the Harrisburg Patriot-News between 1971 and 1985. The majority of the articles are under the title “Roundabout” (1971-1985) or “Walking with Walker – News Outside the Door” (1972-1979). “Roundabout covers a variety of topics, but, more than anything else, it is a mix of reader response and happenings about the greater Harrisburg area. “Roundabout” was printed several times a week for over fifty years and for a variety of papers; the photocopies in the collection are from the column as published by the Patriot-News. “Walking with Walker,” as the title implies, is a series of articles written about the many walks Paul Walker took in the Cumberland Valley, its towns and cities, and nearby environs. Like “Roundabout,” “Walking with Walker” contains a significant amount of reader commentary and concerns itself with topics of interest to serious hikers or people just out for an evening stroll; even when the two columns were printed concurrently, there is a great deal of similarity in their content. The articles in this series are arranged chronologically.

The series entitled Commonplace Books consists of twenty diaries containing newspaper clippings and quotations. As such, it is a record of passages from printed materials that Walker found interesting. It is possible that the quotations and clippings he collected were intended for use in his writing. The books are arranged chronologically.

The series entitled Diaries consists of thirty handwritten diaries of Paul Walker. The content of the diaries is varied and ranges from general descriptions of daily activities to specific comments about conversations and events of the day. The diaries range in date from 1919 to 1980 with certain years missing (most of the 1950s, for example). Nevertheless, the diaries cover Walker’s life from the end of his college education through his employment as a newspaper editor and columnist and give the reader a picture of his activities and thoughts. The diaries are arranged chronologically.

The series entitled Journals consists of the “Walk Books” maintained by Paul Walker. The series contains books maintained on a yearly basis between 1949 and 1971 (1954 missing). These journals contain the notes Walker took while on his numerous walks and range from descriptions of the routes taken to notes on the color of the sky. The journals are both typed and handwritten and occasionally include clippings from the resultant column “News Outside the Door.” The journals are arranged chronologically.

The series entitled Miscellaneous consists of correspondence, Paul Walker’s address book, genealogical material about the Walker family, and a notebook chronicling Walker’s eye problems between March 1947 and July 1968, with the majority of entries falling between 1947 and 1950. One oversized folder is also grouped under Miscellaneous and maintained separately from the rest of the collection. It contains two complete editions of newspapers: The Bolivar Herald (Johnstown, PA) c1915 and The Homestar (Harrisburg, PA) of Aug. 1, 1970. The Bolivar Herald is included in its entirety due to various mentions of Paul Walker and other family members. The Homestar is included in its entirety as an example of a newspaper edited by Walker.

There is also one photograph folder maintained separately from the rest of the collection. This folder contains a single photograph of Paul Walker from c1960.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2003.10

ARTICLES

Folder 01)	1971 (Sep – Dec)
Folder 02)	1972 (July – Dec)
Folder 03)	1973 (Feb – June)
Folder 04)	1973 (July – Dec)
Folder 05)	1974 (Mar – June)
Folder 06)	1974 (July – Dec)
Folder 07)	1975 (Jan – June)
Folder 08)	1975 (July – Dec)
Folder 09)	1976 (Jan – June)
Folder 10)	1976 (July – Dec)
Folder 11)	1977 (Jan – June)

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ARTICLES (cont.)

Folder 01)	1977 (July – Dec)
Folder 02)	1978 (Jan – June)
Folder 03)	1978 (July – Dec)
Folder 04)	1979 (Jan – June)
Folder 05)	1979 (July – Dec)
Folder 06)	1980 (Jan – June)
Folder 07)	1980 (July – Dec)
Folder 08)	1981 (Jan – June)

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ARTICLES (cont.)

Folder 01)	1981 (July – Dec)
Folder 02)	1982 (Jan – June)
Folder 03)	1982 (July – Dec)
Folder 04)	1983 (Jan – June)
Folder 05)	1983 (July – Dec)
Folder 06)	1984 (Jan – June)
Folder 07)	1984 (July – Dec)
Folder 08)	1985 (Jan.)

COMMONPLACE BOOKS

Folder 09)	1940, 1942
Folder 10)	1953, 1954

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COMMONPLACE BOOKS (cont.)

Folder 01) 1955, 1956
Folder 02) 1957, 1958
Folder 02) 1959, 1960
Folder 03) 1961, 1962

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COMMONPLACE BOOKS (cont.)

Folder 01) 1963, 1964
Folder 02) 1965, 1966
Folder 03) 1967, 1968
Folder 04) 1969, undated

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DIARIES

Folder 01) 1919
Folder 02) 1921
Folder 03) 1922
Folder 04) 1930

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DIARIES (cont.)

Folder 01) 1933, 1935
Folder 02) 1936, 1943
Folder 03) 1944, 1945
Folder 04) 1946, 1947
Folder 05) 1948, 1949

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DIARIES (cont.)

Folder 01) 1962
Folder 02) 1963, 1964
Folder 03) 1965, 1966

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DIARIES (cont.)

Folder 01) 1967
Folder 02) 1968, 1970
Folder 03) 1971, 1972
Folder 04) 1973, 1974

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DIARIES (cont.)

- Folder 01) 1975, 1976
- Folder 02) 1977, 1978
- Folder 03) 1979, 1980

JOURNALS

- Folder 04) 1949
- Folder 05) 1950
- Folder 06) 1951 (Jan. 1 – Mar. 18)
- Folder 07) 1951 (Mar. 19 – July 6)
- Folder 08) 1951 (July 7 – Dec. 31)

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JOURNALS (cont.)

- Folder 01) 1952 (Jan. 1 – July 18)
- Folder 02) 1952 (July 20 – Dec. 31)
- Folder 03) 1953 (Jan. 1 – May 13)
- Folder 04) 1953 (May 14 – Sep. 1)
- Folder 05) 1953 (Sep. 2 – Dec. 31)
- Folder 06) 1955 (Jan. 1 – Apr. 16)
- Folder 07) 1955 (Apr. 17 – Aug. 23)

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JOURNALS (cont.)

- Folder 01) 1955 (Aug. 24 – Dec. 31)
- Folder 02) 1956 (Jan. 1 – May 17)
- Folder 03) 1956 (May 19 – Sep. 20)
- Folder 04) 1956 (Sep. 21 – Dec. 31)
- Folder 05) 1957 (Jan. 1 – Apr. 21)
- Folder 06) 1957 (Apr. 24 – July 31)
- Folder 07) 1957 (Aug. 2 – Dec. 31)
- Folder 08) 1958 (Jan. 1 – May 15)

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JOURNALS (cont.)

- Folder 01) 1958 (May 17 – Aug. 14)
- Folder 02) 1958 (Aug. 17 – Dec. 31)
- Folder 03) 1959 (Jan. 1 – Apr. 22)
- Folder 04) 1959 (Apr. 25 – Aug. 15)
- Folder 05) 1959 (Aug. 16 – Dec. 30)
- Folder 06) 1960 (Jan. 1 – May 9)

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JOURNALS (cont.)

- Folder 07) 1960 (May 10 – Aug. 13)
- Folder 08) 1960 (Aug. 14 – Dec. 31)

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JOURNALS (cont.)

- Folder 01) 1961 (Jan. 1 – Jun. 10)
- Folder 02) 1961 (June 11 – Sep. 23)
- Folder 03) 1961 (Sep. 24 – Dec. 31)
- Folder 04) 1962
- Folder 05) 1963
- Folder 06) 1964
- Folder 07) 1965
- Folder 08) 1966
- Folder 09) 1967

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JOURNALS (cont.)

- Folder 01) 1968
- Folder 02) 1969
- Folder 03) 1970, 1971

MISCELLANEOUS

- Folder 04) Address Book
- Folder 05) Correspondence
- Folder 06) Genealogy
- Folder 07) Notebook

OVERSIZED - OC 2003.10

MISCELLANEOUS

- Folder 01) Newspapers

PHOTOGRAPHS - PC 2003.10

- Folder 01) Walker, Paul