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Bernice Brown McCullar Collection

Georgia College and State University

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Bernice Brown McCullar Collection

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Summary Information

Repository Georgia College Special Collections

Title Bernice Brown McCullar Collection

Dates 1935-1981

Extent 7.0 Cubic feet

Dimensions note 7 cubic feet

Language English

Abstract Bernice Brown McCullar was born in Richland, Georgia in 1905. She attended Georgia State College for Women where she was graduated in 1924 with a diploma and soon began her teaching career. She was admitted to the Georgia Bar Association in 1929, but only practiced law for a very short time with her husband before returning to her career in education. From 1943 to 1946 McCullar worked at GSCW as an Associate Professor of English and Journalism, Director of Public Relations, and was editor of the GSCW Alumnae Journal. While working for the college, McCullar also edited the Milledgeville Times. McCullar later received her MA from Mercer University (1944) and did doctoral work at Columbia University from 1949 to 1950. In the 1950s and 1960s McCullar was Information Director for the Georgia State Department of Education in Atlanta. While working for the State Department of Education, McCullar wrote and hosted an educational television show entitled, "This is your Georgia." In the 1960s she also began writing a column related to education and learning, as a freelance writer for the Atlanta Journal. In 1975 her alma mater, Georgia College, honored McCullar with a scholarship fund established in her name. Soon after the establishment of the scholarship, McCullar died in Decatur, Georgia on May 31, 1975. The McCullar Collection contains papers dating from 1935 to 1981, with most of the papers in the collection being related to her career as a journalist and freelance writer. The bulk of the collection is dated between 1950 and 1976. The collection contains a nearly complete run of the columns she wrote for the Atlanta Journal as well as scrapbooks devoted to her writing career. The collection contains some personal correspondence as well as manuscript material related to her books, articles, and television shows.

Preferred Citation note

Bernice Brown McCullar Collection. Special Collections, Ina Dillard Russell Library,
Georgia College & State University

Biographical/Historical note

Born: Richland, Georgia---March 9, 1905. Died: Decatur, Georgia---May 31, 1975.
Married: C.B. McCullar--- Lawyer (later Judge). Died May 7, 1942. Children: Mrs.
Eleanor Sibley Jennings, C.B. McCullar Jr. (Sonny) both of Fort Worth, Texas.

Education:

GSCW: Diploma 1924; AB 1930. Mercer University: MA 1944. Columbia University:
Doctoral work 1949-50.

Professional interests: Lawyer, college educator, journalist, author, historian, TV
personality, lecturer, director of information at the Georgia Department of Education.

Professional experience:

1923-24 Practice teaching at GSCW. 1924-25 Teaching experience, night school,
Washington DC. 1936 Taught summer school at Mercer University. 1936 Law
partnership with husband in Milledgeville, McCullar and McCullar. 1937-38 Instructor
of English and History at Peabody School. 1943-46 GSCW: Associate Professor of
English and Journalism, Director of Public Relations, Speakers' Service, Editor of the
GSCW Alumnae Journal. 1940's Edited the Milledgeville Times. 1949-50 Doctoral
work at Columbia University. 1951-1966 Information Director for the Georgia State
Department of Education. 1960's Freelance writer for the Atlanta Journal with columns
entitled "This Is Your Georgia" and "Georgia Notebook" and series entitled, "How to
Make Better Grades in School," "I Wander and I Wonder," and "Tales Out of School."
Articles published in Atlanta Journal and Constitution Sunday Magazine, Christian
Science Monitor, McCalls, Coronet, Farm Journal, and New York Times Magazine.
Moderated a weekly television show entitled "The Georgia School Story." 1972 Came
out of retirement to give tours and lectures on the Georgia Capitol Building. Wrote a
guidebook, Georgia and its Gold-Domed Capitol.

Publications:

1960's---Wrote a daily column for Atlanta Journal, "Georgia Notebook." Co-author
with Inez Wallace, Building Your Home Life (1960). 1960s - How You Can Become an
Exciting Teacher and How to Study and Why? 1967---This Is Your Georgia, textbook.
1972---Georgia and its Gold-Domed Capitol (32 page guide book). Venturing Into
Sundown,(a guidebook for productive living in retirement). Posthumous publication.

Awards:

1960's The Quill Award sponsored by Sigma Delta for outstanding journalism (1961)
and the Chi Omega Award for Outstanding Service to Education (1961). Woman of the
Year in Education by the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs (1965); M.D Collins

Silver Trophy from the Future Teachers of America for Excellence in Educational Journalism (1965). The Theta Sigma Award to Outstanding member. WSB's "Great Georgian" Award. Top Headline Maker, WSB (1966). 1970s "Bernice Brown McCullar Day," March 9, 1974, proclaimed by Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter. "Bernice Brown McCullar Scholarship," established by Georgia College in 1975. Delbert Clark Award for long and distinguished service in the field of Adult Education, June 1975. Posthumous, "Mrs. Bernice Brown McCullar Day," April 5, 1976, and the planting of the Dogwood Tree at the State Capitol, in her honor. Proclamation by Georgia Governor George Busbee.

Memberships:

Charter member of the Atlanta Press Club. President of the Georgia Club at Columbia University and of her class at GSCW. Trustee at Mercer University. Certificate for Life from American Vocational Association, June 1958.

Scope and Contents note

The Bernice Brown McCullar Collection contains seven cubic feet of material. There are no restrictions on this collection. The inclusive dates are 1935 through 1981, with the bulk dates from 1950 through 1976. The materials in this collection range from scrapbooks and newspaper clippings to artifactual material such as long-playing record albums and cassette tapes. Mrs. McCullar's journalism and writing career are featured prominently in the entire collection. Handwritten and typed drafts pertaining to her writing are in all six boxes. Materials in all six boxes follow a chronological order and arrangement. Collections, in other archives, that would enhance the McCullar collection are Jimmy Carter, George Busbee, and Lester Maddox; all former Governors of Georgia.

There are notable gaps in this collection. Papers documenting Mrs. McCullar's teaching career and law practice are missing from this collection. Other notable gaps are correspondence with her two children. There are notable mistakes between newspaper reports and Mrs. McCullar's own papers. Mrs. McCullar's column, in the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, entitled "Georgia Notebook" ran daily from October 1965 to May 1967. Only three installments are missing from the entire series and they can be found in microfilm area of the Ina Dillard Russell Library. The missing installments are noted in the folder list, along with the dates in which they ran.

Box 1 contains dated material ranging from 1947 to 1977. Mrs. McCullar's "Tales Out of School," "Teacher's Notebook," "Colorful Characters in Georgia's History," and "The Men Who Governed Georgia" manuscripts and notes are in this box. In 1977, the textbook *This is Your Georgia* was reintroduced to Georgia classrooms and Mrs. McCullar's son-in-law J.L. Sibley Jennings handled the revisions and the royalties. The paperwork relating to the revisions in 1976 is in box one. Paperwork relating to her

employment at the Georgia Department of Education and correspondence with Mercer University and the DAR are in box one. Notes from the book *Building Your Home Life* and numerous newspaper articles are in the box. Material related to items found in box one are located in box six A, including a copy of her book *Building Your Home Life* and a vinyl case containing four audio cassettes of her program *How You Can Become An Exciting Teacher* were transferred to box six A. A folder of the numerous awards and certificates bestowed upon Bernice Brown McCullar are in box one.

Box 2 contained four scrapbooks that were disassembled and placed in folders. The first scrapbook contained material pertaining to: *Bicentennial Attractions: Stay and See America in Georgia*, *How You Can Become An Exciting Teacher*, and "The Men Who Governed Georgia." The scrapbooks contained handwritten and typed notes and drafts. Many of the drafts have missing pages but the researcher should be able to obtain pertinent information on the various subjects. The folders follow either an alphabetical or chronological order depending on the subject matter. The second scrapbook contained the table of contents and the entire transcript for Mrs. McCullar's program, *How You Can Become An Exciting Teacher*. The third scrapbook contained material relating to Dahlonega and the Georgia Gold Rush. Mrs. McCullar's rough drafts and finished manuscript for the play *First Gold* along with notes and drafts of her article, for the Lumpkin County Tourism Board, entitled "The Discovery of Gold In Georgia" were included in the scrapbook and placed in folders accordingly. Notes from the book *Georgia: Unfinished State* by Hal Steed and Mrs. McCullar were in the third scrapbook.

The fourth scrapbook contained memorabilia pertaining to Mrs. McCullar's life and her death in 1975. The scrapbook contained personal photographs of Mrs. McCullar and her home in Decatur, Georgia; numerous newspaper clippings relating to her death and the numerous awards bestowed upon her over the years. There are notes from contributors to the Bernice Brown McCullar Scholarship Fund including: Mrs. Sam Laird, Treasurer of the Alpha Rho Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma, Mrs. Max Hardie, and Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Carter. There are numerous congratulatory letters concerning the Scholarship Fund and numerous sympathy cards and letters. Newspaper clippings and photographs of the April 5, 1976 Dogwood Tree Dedication held in Atlanta, Georgia were in scrapbook four. A rough draft of *Random Rememberings of a Reminiscencer* (no date) and a letter written by Mrs. McCullar, in December 1974, were also in the scrapbook. The letter pertained to Mrs. McCullar's thoughts when she found out she had terminal cancer.

Box 3 contains notebooks relating to *Tales Out of School*, *Colorful Characters in Georgia's History*, and "Georgia Notebook." The notebooks were disassembled and placed in folders. Two of the three scrapbooks originally found in this box were disassembled and placed in folders. One scrapbook is entitled "Great Lady Scrapbook" and the other is entitled "Mother's Scrapbook." The "Great Lady" scrapbook was put together by Frank Underwood and contains newspaper articles and clippings, photographs, and correspondence relating to Mrs. McCullar's employment and various speaking engagements. The dates range from 1948 to 1965. A scrapbook of photographs remains intact and can be found in box six A. Box three also contains information and notes, along with manuscripts, relating to Mrs. McCullar's *History Teacher's Notebook*

entitled *How to Kiss a Ghost*. A copy of the book *Practical Methods, Aids & Devices for Teacher*, Vol. 1, belonging to Eleanor (daughter) remains in box three.

Box 4 consists of many artifacts including: a vinyl case containing two cassettes and a long-playing record album of *How to Study and Why?*, a Georgia ashtray and plate, a framed copy of the Delbert Clark Award, and a rock with the logo of the National PTA. The box originally included drawings "by Eric" (Lou Ericson, illustrator for the Atlanta Journal and Constitution,) featured in "Georgia Notebook." These drawings were moved to large flat box. The box contained a box of index cards relating to *Tales Out Of School*. There was no apparent order to the index cards, so a subject order was imposed. Personnel correspondence relating to the numerous awards and the National PTA Conference, in Ft. Worth, Texas, are also in box four. Box four ranges in date from 1946 to 1978 with 1974-75 featuring prominently.

Box 5 consists, mainly, of "Georgia Notebook" material and is arranged chronologically. Notes and drafts from *The Men who Governed Georgia*, *Georgia Folklore and Ghosts*, and *Colorful Characters in Georgia's Story* are located in this box. Newspaper clippings and correspondence, including letters from Georgia schoolchildren, and a copy of *Gift Not Under the Tree* are in box five. The date range for box five is 1956-1978 with the 1960's featuring prominently.

Box 6 contains personal correspondence from 1960 to 1970. There are numerous letters pertaining to the Bernice Brown McCullar Scholarship Fund. A copy of the Scholarship Resolution and a detailed list of contributors and the amounts contributed are in Box 6. The class lists for GN&IC and GSCW dating from 1920 to 1924 are in the box. There are numerous copies of the Congressional Proclamation for Bernice Brown McCullar Day (1976) and related newspaper articles and clippings. The artifacts in this box were moved to Box 6 A. They include: four LPs and two cassettes of *How You Can Become an Exciting Teacher*, one LP of *How to Study and Why?*, a reel to reel tape of "WSB Viewpoint" (WSB Radio, Atlanta) which aired March 30, 1977, and two tapes of Dorrie Neligan interviewing Mrs. McCullar, one original and one copy. These artifacts were moved to Box 6 A.

Additional material (Series A) from the papers of GSCW President Guy Wells was added to box six. The material includes correspondence between Mrs. McCullar and Dr. Wells dating 1935-1951. Correspondence between Dr. Robert Wilson and Penny Howard concerning dates included in this collection can be found in the additional material.

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Use note

There are no restrictions.

Indexing Terms

Subjects - Corporate Bodies

- Columbia University.
- Daughters of the American Revolution. Georgia State Society--Nancy Hart chapter, Milledgeville.
- Georgia Bar Association.
- Georgia College & State University.
- Mercer University.

Genres and Forms of Materials

- audiocassettes
- audiotapes
- long-playing records

Subjects - Places

- Baldwin County (Ga.)
- Milledgeville (Ga.)
- Richland (Ga.)

Subjects - Topics

- Education--Georgia
- McCullar, Bernice Brown (1905-1975)

Collection Inventory

Box	Folder	
1	1-6	Teacher's Notebook on Georgia History
1	7-10	This is Your Georgia (Revisions, 1976-77)
1	11-16	Tales Out Of School, manuscripts
1	17-20	Georgia Governors
1	21-24	Woman of the Year, 1965, congratulations
1	25-26	Notes on "Georgia Notebook"
1	27-29	Colorful Characters in Georgia's Story
1	30	Mercer University correspondence and newspaper clippings
1	31	Certificates and Awards
1	32	Information on Thomas Jefferson
1	33	Information on Governor James Jackson
1	34-49	Correspondence: 1948, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1966-68, 1970, 1972-75, 1977
1	50	Funds for building higher education and salaries, 1947, 1949
1	51	State of Georgia Maps (2), 1962, 1938

1 52 Correspondence DAR, 1947

1 53 Information on Golden Isles/Coast

1 54 Cancer Information, 1972

1 55 World's Fair, NY, August 21-28, 1964

1 56 Counties in Georgia, manuscripts.

1 57-58 Men Who Governed Georgia, 6 installments, # 6 missing 1 How You Can Become An Exciting Teacher, 4 cassettes 1 Copy of Building Your Home Life, by Inez Wallace and McCullar

2 1-9 Notes and manuscripts on Bicentennial Attractions: Stay and See America in Georgia

2 10 Correspondence between Jerry Voight and Roger Wilson, Georgia Department of Education Public Relations Association

2 11-15 How You Can Become An Exciting Teacher, (Complete) Table of Contents, Sections 1-6, pp. 1-89

2 16-21 First Gold, A drama about the discovery of gold in Georgia, drafts and notes

2 22 "Where Gold Was Found In Georgia," notes and drafts

2 23 Georgia: Unfinished State, by Hal Steed and McCullar

2 24 Dahlonega and Lumpkin County tourism brochures, 1961-62

2 25 First Gold, brochures and magazines relating to research

2 26 Copy of the Bicentennial Times, Vol. 2, No.2, 1976

2 27-34 Men Who Governed Georgia, listed alphabetically, notes and manuscripts

2 35 Information on Georgia Governors

2 36 Atlanta Capitol building brochure and Gov. Jimmy Carter

2 37 BBM as Director of Public Relations at GSCW, 1943-46

2 38 Photographs of BBM, 1970s

2 39 Random Rememberings of a Reminiscencer, no date

2 40 Georgia College Alumni Day, 1974, 1975, fliers and correspondence

2 41 Letter from BBM, December 2, 1974

2 42-45 Correspondence: BBM Scholarship Fund, 1974 and sympathy letters and cards, 1975

2 46 "Dogwood Tree Dedication," Atlanta, April 5, 1976

2 47 Correspondence to Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Sibley Jennings, 1975, 1981

3 1-18 Tales Out Of School

3 19 Georgia Education Pamphlet, 1963

3 20-24 Information on Georgia counties

3 25-26 Colorful Characters in Georgia's Story, A-F, notes and drafts

3 27-28 Scrapbook material and photographs, 1948-50s, 1960s and 1970s

3 29 Newspaper articles about BBM, 1949, 1958-59

3 30 Pamphlets about BBM, 1977

3 31 Newspaper articles and clippings concerning BBM 1948, 1961, 1948, 1966, 1973 and the BBM Scholarship Fund 1974-75.

3 32 Women in Communication Award, April 1975

3 33 Chi Omega Award and Quill Award, 1961 and photographs

3 34 Notes on the Constitution

3 35 Andersonville notes for "Georgia Notebook"

3 36 Pamphlets on Georgia Education

3 37-42 Georgia History Teacher Notebook/ How to Kiss a Ghost

3 43 Lt. Gov. Zell Miller letter to BBM, May 30, 1975 and Miller's speech to Georgia Federation of Educators, May 7, 1975, Jekyll Island

3 44 Scenic Georgia Tour Booklet

3 45 "Mother's Scrapbook," 1951-61

3 46 "Great Lady Scrapbook," from Frank Underwood, 1956-65

4 1 Personal correspondence, 1971

4 2 How You Can Become An Exciting Teacher brochure

4 3 Brochures: Georgia Attractions, The Scenic South, 1962 and a map of Georgia (1977-78)

4	4	Georgia Forestry Bulletin, 1947
4	5	Georgia Capitol and Governor's Mansion Brochure,(Gov. Jimmy Carter
4	6	Scrapbook material: articles and correspondence 1944-45, 1949, 1956, 1964, 1966-68, 1970
4	7	Framed Delbert Clark Award, August 10, 1975
4	8	Georgia Plate and Ashtray
4	9	Rock with the logo of the National PTA
4	10	Box of Index cards for Tales Out Of School
4	11	LP and two cassettes (in a vinyl case) of How to Study and Why?
5	1	Brochures for Education in Georgia and This Is Your Georgia
5	2	Newspaper clippings and poem, no dates
5	3	Delta Kappa Gamma, 1974-75
5	4-7	National PTA Conference, Ft. Worth, Texas, 1967-68
5	8	Gift Not Under the Tree
5	9	North Carolina, Thank you notes, 1964
5	10	Pilot Club, 1959-60
5	11	Aaron Burr notes

5 12 Newspaper clippings and correspondence, FHA and School Lunch Conference, 1956, 1964

5 13 TV Lessons and letters from Georgia schoolchildren

5 14 Papers on teaching Georgia history

5 15-16 Georgia Folklore/Ghosts

5 17-33 Georgia Governors

5 34-40 Colorful Characters in Georgia's Story

5 41 Magazine articles on the new Governor's Mansion, 1966

5 42 Magazine articles Savannah's Waving Girl and Atlanta artist Athos Menaboni, 1973

5 43 Counties and Secretaries of State of GA

5 44 Governor Herman Talmadge

5 45 Press releases and fliers concerning Georgia tourism

5 46-54 Personal correspondence, 1945-50, 1959-68, 1971

5 55 Georgia Department of Education photographs and news articles

5 56-57 "Georgia Notebook" notes

5 58-60 Index for "Georgia Notebook," October 21, 1965 to May 26, 1967, handwritten and typed

5 61-62 "Georgia Notebook" (1-80) October 21, 1965 to December 31, 1965

5 63-68 "Georgia Notebook" (81-340) January 4, 1966 to December 31, 1966

5 69-70 "Georgia Notebook" (341-439) January 16, 1967 to May 26, 1967

6 1 Personnel correspondence, 1965-73, and photograph of BBM and Gov. Jimmy Carter at "Bernice Brown McCullar Day," 1974

6 2-4 Personal correspondence and news articles, 1960s and 1970s

6 5-8 BBM Scholarship donation letters and receipts, 1975

6 9 Copy of the Milledgeville News, Friday, May 8, 1942

6 10 Class lists for GN&IC and GSCW, 1921-24 and correspondence

6 11-12 Atlanta Journal and Constitution Magazine, April-June 1966,

6 13 The Congressional Record, April 7, 1975

6 14 Newspaper clippings and information on education, 1966-70s

6 15 Awards and a copy of the State resolution proclaiming Bernice Brown McCullar Day

6 16 Newspaper clippings concerning BBM Scholarship at GC, 1974

6 17 Copy of Georgia Flags and Georgia's Capitol Building

6 18-20 Georgia newspaper and radio station addresses

6 1A-6A Correspondence between President Guy Wells and BBM, 1935-51.

6 7A Correspondence between Dr. Robert Wilson and Penny Howard, 1999

6A How You Can Become An Exciting Teacher (LPs and cassettes)

6A One LP of How to Study and Why?

6A One reel-to-reel audiotape, WSB Radio, Atlanta, GA, "WSB Viewpoint." Wednesday, March 30, 1977

6A Taped interview between Dorrie Neligan and BBM, two tapes, one original and one copy

6A Poster of GN&IC Bulletin