

J. THOMAS TANNER, JR., PAPERS
(Ms. 3527)
Inventory

Compiled by
M. Stone Miller, Jr.
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Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

Revised 2009

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SUMMARY

Size.	15.5 linear feet, 56 volumes
Geographic locations.	Louisiana, predominantly Shreveport
Inclusive dates.	1869-1980
Languages.	English.
Summary.	Primarily diaries kept by Shreveport city official J. Thomas Tanner, Jr., from 1929-1980, with handwritten entries and numerous newspaper clippings and political cartoons, letters, cards, ticket stubs, and other ephemera, and some photographs. Also included are three manuscript volumes of Tanner's parents.
Access.	No restrictions.
Related collections.	None.
Copyright.	Physical rights and copyright are retained by the LSU Libraries.
Citation.	J. Thomas Tanner, Jr., Papers, Mss. 3527, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Stack location.	77:86-87; R:19-22; OS:T

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

James Thomas Tanner, Jr., attorney, banker, and public servant, was born May 24, 1885, in Garfield, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, the son of storekeeper J.T. Tanner, Sr., (1885-1923) and Belmont "Belle" Bonham (1862-1934). He received both his undergraduate degree in 1908 and his law degree in 1911 from Louisiana State University. While at LSU, Tanner was a member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

After serving as manager of the Mooringsport Bank and mayor of Mooringsport, La., he was city auditor from 1912-1915, and represented Caddo Parish in the state legislature, 1920-1924. He married Lady Jane Ellis (1898-1986), the daughter of R.J. Ellis and Margaret Elizabeth Cosgrave of Texas, on June 11, 1924. The couple had no children.

Tanner was also engaged in the oil and drilling business in the 1920s, and in 1930 began a career in the city government of Shreveport serving from 1930-1965 as Secretary-Treasurer, and as Commissioner of Finance from 1965 until his retirement in 1966.

Along with his employment with the city, Tanner was the co-author of the original Shreveport retirement charter and secretary of its retirement fund from 1949-1966. He also maintained a farm called Tanelwild in Caddo Parish.

The Tanners were active in civic and social organizations in Shreveport and were members of the First Baptist Church there. In 1946, Tanner served as president of the state LSU Alumni Federation. He died on February 3, 1980.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The earliest items in this collection consist of an autograph album (1882) of J. T. Tanner Jr.'s mother and two store ledgers of his father (1889-1892) at Garfield, La. Early family photographs are mounted in the diary for 1980.

Papers of J. Thomas Tanner, Jr., include diaries for every year between 1929 and 1980. Aside from handwritten entries, there are numerous mounted newspaper clippings and political cartoons, letters, cards, receipts, and other financial records, ticket stubs, and a few photographs. Loose items found in each diary have been removed and placed in individual folders arranged by the year of the volume (as items found inside the volumes were not limited to that particular year).

In addition to entries pertaining to Tanner's career, social life, travel, household and farm expenses, other subjects treated include references to residents, businesses and events in Shreveport and northwest Louisiana; LSU faculty and administration, students, sports, and alumni activities; local, state, and national politics; race relations; the oil industry; Louisiana religious topics and matters concerning the Shreveport First Baptist Church; national and economic developments during the Depression and afterward such as unemployment and the National Banking Holiday; the end of prohibition; and other news.

In his diaries (1929-1935), Tanner mentions radio programs by Huey P. Long, the Cotton Holiday, the Share Our Wealth movement, and Long's death.

All items originally found in the scrapbook concerning Tanner's year as Commissioner of Finance in Shreveport have been removed and placed in folders 66-67, except for a campaign bumper sticker.

Included among the photographs in the diaries are two of Red Cross ambulances during World War I (January 1, 1919) and early family photographs (1980). There is also a group photograph of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity at LSU in 1908 and of the LSU campus (undated).

TANNER (J. THOMAS, JR.) PAPERS
1869-1980

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LIST OF SERIES

Series I. J.T. Tanner, Sr., and Belle Bonham Tanner manuscript volumes, 1882, 1889-1892. 3 volumes

Series II. Loose items removed from J. Thomas Tanner, Jr., Diaries, 1869-1980, undated. 5 boxes

Series III. J. Thomas Tanner, Jr., Diaries, 1929-1980. 52 volumes, 1 scrapbook (1965-1966)

Series IV. LSU photographs, 1908, undated. 2 items

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INDEX TERMS

Caddo Parish (La.)--History.

Caddo Parish (La.)--Politics and government.

Caddo Parish (La.)--Social life and customs.

Depressions--1929--Louisiana.

Diaries.

Farm management--Louisiana.

First Baptist Church (Shreveport, La.)

Garfield (La.)--History.

Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

Lawyers--Louisiana.

Long, Huey Pierce, 1893-1935.

Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, La.)--Alumni and alumnae.

Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, La.)--History.

Louisiana--Politics and government--1865-1950.

Petroleum industry and trade--Louisiana.

Radio in politics--Louisiana.

Shreveport (La.)--Officials and employees.

Shreveport (La.)--Politics and government.

Shreveport (La.)--Social life and customs.

Tanner, J. Thomas (James Thomas), 1885-1980.

Tanner, Lady Jane Ellis, 1889-1986.

United States--Race relations.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>		
77:86	1	1	Loose manuscripts, 1890-1980, undated (11 items)		
		2	Loose printed items, 1920-1981, undated (12 items)		
		3	Manuscripts and printed items, 1932, undated, removed from diary, 1932 (6 items)		
		4	Items removed from diary for 1935. 1935, undated (4 items)		
		5	Items removed from diary for 1936. 1929, 1935-1936, 1942, undated (16 items)		
		6	Items removed from diary for 1937. 1936-1938, undated (14 items)		
		7	Items removed from diary for 1938. 1936-1938, undated (9 items)		
		8	Items removed from diary for 1939. 1934, 1939-1940, undated (11 items)		
		9	Items removed from diary for 1940. 1951, undated (4 items)		
		10	Items removed from diary for 1942. 1942, undated (11 items)		
		11	Items removed from diary for 1943. 1941, 1943, 1950, undated (6 items)		
		12	Items removed from diary for 1944. 1943-1944. (11 items)		
		13	Items removed from diary for 1945. 1944-1946, undated (7 items)		
		14	Items removed from diary for 1946. 1940, 1943, 1946, undated (14 items)		
		15	Items removed from diary for 1947. 1947, undated (12 items)		
		16	Items removed from diary for 1948. 1948-1949, undated (8 items)		
		17	Items removed from diary for 1949. 1947, 1949-1950, undated (15 items)		
		18	Items removed from diary for 1950. 1949-1950, undated (8 items)		
		19	Items removed from diary for 1952. 1953, undated (4 items)		
		20	Items removed from diary for 1953. 1924-1925, 1927, 1941, 1949, 1953 (39 items)		
			21	Items removed from diary for 1953-1955, undated (40 items)	
			22	Items removed from diary for 1954. 1952, 1954-1955, undated (37 items)	
			2	23	Items removed from diary for 1955. 1952, 1954-1955 (23 items)
				24	Items removed from diary for 1955-1956, undated (23 items)
				25	Items removed from diary for 1956. 1949-1950, 1956-1957, undated (34 items)
				26	Items removed from diary for 1957. 1953, 1957-1958, undated (28 items)
				27	Items removed from diary for 1958. 1924, 1955, 1957-1958 (22 items)
				28	Items removed from diary for 1958-1959, undated (26 items)
				29	Items removed from diary for 1959. 1957-1959, undated (24 items)
				30	Items removed from diary for 1960. 1943, 1959-1960, undated (14 items)
				31	Items removed from diary for 1961. 1958-1962, undated (25 items)
				32	Items removed from diary for 1962. 1958-1962, undated (25 items)
				33	Items removed from diary for 1963. 1959-1963. (25 items)
				34	Items removed from diary for 1963. 1964-1965. (23 items)
				35	Items removed from diary for 1964. 1963-1965, undated (40 items)
				36	Items removed from diary for 1965. 1964-1965 (20 items)
				37	Items removed from diary for 1965. 1964-1965 (20 items)
				38	Items removed from diary for 1966. 1966-1967, undated (20 items)
				39	Items removed from diary for 1967. 1945, 1967, 1971, undated (11 items)
		77:86	3	40	Items removed from diary for 1968. 1968, 1970, undated (5 items)

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
		41	Items removed from diary for 1969. 1965, 1967, 1969-1971, undated (16 items)
		42	Items removed from diary for 1970. 1968-1970 (23 items)
		43	Items removed from diary for 1970. 1970-1971, 1973, undated (19 items)
		44	Items removed from diary for 1971. 1971, undated (25 items)
		45	Items removed from diary for 1972. 1963, 1968, 1969, 1971-1973, undated (36 items)
		46	Items removed from diary for 1973. 1966, 1972-1973, undated (16 items)
		47	Items removed from diary for 1974. 1973-1974 (6 items)
		48	Items removed from diary for 1975. 1966, 1969, 1975. (7 items)
		49	Items removed from diary for 1976. 1869, 1975-1977, 1979-1980, undated (14 items)
		50	Items removed from diary for 1977. 1949, 1976-1977, 1979, undated (21 items)
		51	Items removed from diary for 1978. 1978, undated (7 items)
		52	Items removed from diary for 1979. 1979, undated (2 items)
		53	Items removed from diary for 1980. 1923, 1979-1980, undated (12 items)
		54	Manuscripts and printed items removed from Scrapbook. 1965. (12 items)
		55	Manuscripts and printed items removed from Scrapbook. 1966, undated (21 items)
77:87	4	56	Newspaper clippings removed from diaries for 1938, 1939, 1940, 1942, and 1944. 1936, 1940, 1942, undated (23 items)
		57	Clippings removed from diaries for 1946-48, and 1949. 1947-1949, undated (15 items)
		58	Clippings removed from diaries for 1952-54. 1946, 1952-1955, undated (34 items)
		59	Clippings removed from diaries for 1955-57. 1950, 1956-1958, undated (14 items)
		60	Clippings removed from diaries for 1958-61. 1958-1961, undated (19 items)
		61	Clippings removed from diaries for 1962-64. 1962-1965, undated (19 items)
		62	Clippings removed from diaries for 1965-67, and 1970. 1960, 1965-1967, 1969-1970, undated (37 items)
		63	Clippings removed from diaries for 1971-74. 1952, 1971-1974, undated (21 items)
		64	Clippings removed from diaries for 1975-77. 1956, 1875-1977, undated (37 items)
		65	Clippings removed from diaries for 1978-80. 1978-1979, undated (14 items)
		66	Clippings from Scrapbook. 1965. (30 items)
		67	Clippings from Scrapbook. 1965-1966, 1970-1971, 1974, undated (34 items)
77:87	5	68	Photograph removed from diary for 1934. J. Tom Tanner, age 16, undated (1 item)
		69	Photograph removed from diary for 1947. unidentified, undated (1 item)
		70	Photographs removed from diary for 1948. unidentified, undated (5 items)
		71	Photographs removed from diary for 1953. J. Tom Tanner, undated (5 items)
		72	Photographs removed from diary for 1958. Lady Jane and Tom Tanner, 1952, 1958 (2 items)
		73	Photographs removed from diary for 1962. Tom Tanner, Mrs. Tom Tanner, undated (2 items)

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		74	Photograph from diary for 1964. Mrs. Tom Tanner, undated (1 item)
		75	Photograph from diary for 1965. Lady & Tom Tanner, Ruth & Dr. Gowen, undated (1 item)
		76	Photograph from diary for 1966. Tom Tanner and others, 1916-1919. (1 item)
		77	Photograph from diary for 1971. Tom Tanner, 1970. (1 item)
		78	Photographs from diary for 1972. Drilling site, Pepper the dog, 1972, undated (2 items)
		79	Photograph from diary for 1973. Tom Tanner, 1973. (1 item)
		80	Photograph from diary for 1976. Unidentified, 1976. (1 item)
		81	Photographs from diary for 1977. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Tanner and friends, undated (5 items)
		82	Photographs from diary for 1978, Tanelwilde, Tom Tanner, 1891, 1908. (2 items)
		83	Photograph from diary for 1980. Tom Tanner, Quebec, undated (1 item)
		84	Photograph of Louisiana State Capitol, 1951.
		85	Photograph of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, undated
		86	LSU, Views and Activities, 1936.
		87	LSU buildings completed, Long-Allen Admin., Nov. 1930-May 1, 1936. April 7 & 8, 1938.
		88	Display Item, Tiger tail with ribbon, undated
OS:S	--	1	Kappa Sigma Fraternity, group photograph, Louisiana State University, 1908
		2	Louisiana State University, Old Campus photograph, undated
			Manuscript volumes
77:87	5	89	Vol.1 Autograph book of Belle Bonham, 1882.
R:19-21	--	--	Volumes 2-53 Diaries, 1929-1980
			Vol.54 Scrapbook, J. Tom Tanner, Commissioner of Finance [1965-1966]
			Vol.55 Ledger, J. Tom Tanner, Sr., store, 1889-1890
			Vol.56 Ledger, J. Tom Tanner, Sr., store, 1891-1892