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2024

### Carl Reng collection

Arkansas State University - Jonesboro

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Finding Aid of

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# CARL RENG COLLECTION

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1927-1974

UR 007

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Archives & Special Collections  
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Dean B. Ellis Library  
P.O. Box 2040  
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## Contents

Summary Information .....	2
Abstract .....	2
Acquisition .....	2
Processing Information .....	2
Conditions Governing Access .....	2
Rights Statement .....	2
Preferred Citation .....	2
Biographical Note .....	3
Scope and Content Note .....	3
Arrangement .....	4
Related Materials .....	4
Subjects .....	4
Names .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	5
<b>Series 1: Scrapbooks</b> .....	5
Box 1: .....	5
Box 2: .....	5
Box 3: .....	5
Box 4: .....	5
Box 5: .....	5
Box 6: .....	6
Box 7: .....	6
<b>Series 2: Documentation</b> .....	6
Box 8: .....	6
Box 9: .....	7
Box 10: .....	7
Box 11: .....	7
<b>Series 3: Books</b> .....	8

## Summary Information

<b>Compiled By:</b>	Will Reaves, March 2024; Matthew Mayton, editor
<b>Creator:</b>	Barbara Reng
<b>Date:</b>	1927-1974; bulk, 1951-1974
<b>Physical Description:</b>	12.25 linear feet. The collection consists of 71 folders in 4 document boxes, 10 scrapbooks in 7 oversized boxes and 23 books.
<b>Language:</b>	English

## Abstract

Dr. Carl R. Reng was the fourth president of Arkansas State College and oversaw one of the campus's greatest periods of growth and change, including Arkansas State becoming a University. This collection contains scrapbooks, documentation, and books highlighting Carl Reng's tenure as President of Arkansas State College, and later University, as well as some records from his military service.

## Acquisition

The collection was donated to Archives and Special Collections by Barbara Reng in 2005. Further additions are not expected.

## Processing Information

This collection was processed by Will Reaves and completed in March 2024.

## Conditions Governing Access

This manuscript collection consists of physical materials. This collection has not been digitized. This collection is open for research use only in the Reading Room. It is not available for request through Interlibrary Loan. Please contact the archive via email ([archives@astate.edu](mailto:archives@astate.edu)) at least a week in advance of your arrival to ensure the availability of the material.

## Rights Statement

Copyright has not been transferred to Archives & Special Collection. Standard copyright laws (U.S Title 17) still apply.

## Preferred Citation

Carl R. Reng Collection, Item Name and Date, Box and Folder Numbers, Archives and Special Collections, Dean B. Ellis Library, Arkansas State University.
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## Biographical Note

Dr. Carl R. Reng was born on May 13, 1910, in Sioux Rapids, Iowa to John Gilbert Reng and Anna Marie Severson Reng. He obtained his bachelor's degree from Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Iowa around 1932. Upon graduation, he was hired as a principal and coach at Cooper High School before becoming superintendent for Huxley, Iowa school system three years later. On August 15, 1935, Reng married Ruby Irene McLaughlin. They would have two daughters, Marilyn and Barbara.

Reng obtained his master's degree from Drake University in 1940 and became superintendent in Dunlap, Iowa. He served as superintendent until the start of World War Two where he enlisted in the Navy. Following two months of training at Princeton University, he was assigned to small-craft training for amphibious operations. He was later selected for leadership in the V-12 Navy College Training Program. After four years of service, Reng was discharged into the Naval Reserve with the rank of lieutenant commander.

In 1948, Reng received his doctoral degree from the University of Missouri and was hired to be the head of the School Administration Division of the Graduate School for the University of Arkansas. He served in this position for a few years before Arkansas State College Board of Trustees hired him to become the college's fourth president on April 3, 1951.

During his 24-year tenure as president, Reng oversaw a period of some of the greatest growth and development in the college's history. Under his leadership, Arkansas State College saw enrollment increase from 863 students in 1951 to approximately 7,300 students upon his retirement in 1975. The number of faculty also increased during this time from 82 in 1951 to 342 in 1975.

He also oversaw extensive building projects across campus which included the construction of the Dean B. Ellis Library, Indian Stadium (First National Bank Stadium today), Carl R. Reng Center, Fine Arts Center, and numerous other buildings and residential halls. In 1975, the *Herald* reported every building on campus was either constructed or renovated under Reng's tenure.

Under Reng's tenure as president, the number of baccalaureate degree programs offered at Arkansas State College more than tripled, from 21 programs to 69 in 1975. The college also saw the introduction of its first graduate degree programs in 1955 which increased steadily under Reng. The campus also saw the introduction of an education specialist program in 1969. The number of faculty holding doctoral degrees increased from 11 in 1951 to 166 when he retired.

Due to these expansions, Reng began lobbying the state's legislators to change the campus's status from a college to a university, only to meet resistance. Despite these setbacks, Reng continued to lobby. His efforts finally paid off on January 17, 1967, when Governor Rockefeller signed a bill renaming Arkansas State College to Arkansas State University.

He retired in 1975, and continued to live in Jonesboro until his death on February 12, 1988.

## Scope and Content Note

The Carl R. Reng Collection consists of scrapbooks, documents, and books pertaining to Dr. Reng's tenure as president of Arkansas State College and Arkansas State University. This collection also includes some records pertaining to his military career.

## Arrangement

This collection is arranged in three series.

Series 1: Scrapbooks. The “Scrapbook” series contains 10 volumes of scrapbooks which highlights Dr. Carl R. Reng’s tenure as Arkansas State College and Arkansas State University president. This collection is arranged chronologically.

Series 2: Documentation. The “Documentation” series highlights Dr. Reng’s tenure as president and aspects of his military career. This collection is arranged alphabetically by subject matter.

Series 3: Books. The “Books” collection consists of published books by Arkansas State faculty with a note to Dr. Reng by the authors. There are also a few university yearbooks along with five bound copies of *Uncle Arthur’s Bedtime Stories* volumes which were for his daughter, Marilyn.

## Related Materials

Researchers interested in this collection may also be interested in the following collections held by Archives & Special Collections:

- Arkansas State University Board of Trustees Records: This collection primarily consists of minutes and supporting documents from the Board of Trustees meetings from 1901 to 2020.
- Arkansas State University Faculty Senate Records: This collection primarily consists of minutes and supporting documents from the Faculty Council/Faculty Senate meetings from 1954 to 2012.
- Eugene W. Smith Collection: Eugene Smith was the eighth president of Arkansas State University. This collection contains highlights of his career and his contributions to Arkansas State University.
- Mid-South Center for Oral History: This is a collection of interviews primarily conducted by Dr. Larry Ball, Dr. William Clements, and Dr. Michael Dougan to preserve the memory of Northeast Arkansas. Dr. Carl R. Reng was interviewed as part of this project.

Other materials in Archives & Special Collections holdings may relate to this topic. Please contact Archives & Special Collections at [archives@astate.edu](mailto:archives@astate.edu) for further research assistance.

## Subjects

- Books
- College personnel management
- College presidents
- College publications
- College sports
- College students
- College yearbooks
- Education--Arkansas
- Public universities and colleges
- Scrapbooks
- State Universities and colleges

- State Universities and colleges--Admission
- Universities and colleges--Administration
- World War, 1939-1945

## Names

- Arkansas State College
- Arkansas State University
- *Arrow*
- KASU
- Mid-South Folklore
- Phi Kappa Phi
- United States. Navy
- Jonesboro (Ark.)
- Faubus, Orval Eugene, 1910-1994
- Huskey, A. J.
- Reng, Carl R., Dr.

## Collection Inventory

### Series 1: Scrapbooks

#### *Box 1:*

Volume Number	Dates
1	1952-1957

#### *Box 2:*

Volume Number	Dates
2	1957-1962

#### *Box 3:*

Volume Number	Dates
3	1963-1965

#### *Box 4:*

Volume Number	Dates
4	1965-1967
5	1967-1968

#### *Box 5:*

Volume Number	Dates
6	1968-1970
7	1970 September – 1971 August

**Box 6:**

<b>Volume Number</b>	<b>Dates</b>
8	1971 September – 1972 May
9	1972 May – 1973 October

**Box 7:**

<b>Volume Number</b>	<b>Dates</b>
10	1973 October – 1974 November

**Series 2: Documentation****Box 8:**

<b>Folder Number</b>	<b>Folder Name</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1	"A Follow-Up Study of Doctoral Graduates in Education," University of Missouri	1951
2	Affairs of State	1964 October
3	Agriculture	undated
4	Agriculture at ASC	1949 July 18, 1950 February 8
5	Agriculture in Northeast Arkansas	1950 June 28
6	A. J. Huskey	1954
7	Article: "How to Run Away from an Educational Problem"	1951
8	African American Students	undated
9	Alumni Chief	1955-1958
10	Arkansas State Teachers College	undated
11	<i>Arrow</i>	1969, 1972
12	ASC Becomes ASU	1967
13	ASC Becomes ASU	1967
14	ASU History	1967 January 22
15	Biographical Material	1962 February 24 – 1974 November 15
16	Board of Trustees	1953 April 10 – 1971 November 14
17	Budget	1946-1948
18	Chamber of Commerce	undated
19	Commencement	1974 August 11
20	Commendations, Resolutions and Honorary Awards	1967, 1974
21	Computerized Acquisition Systems at the ASU Library	1974
22	Contracts between Reng and ASC/ASU	1951-1973
23	Correspondence about Presidency	1951
24	Correspondence: Press Regarding Presidency	1951
25	Faculty and Staff	1965-1967
26	Faubus	1962
27	Future Homemakers of America	undated
28	General Correspondence	1950-1970
29	Jonesboro and Craighead County Centennial Celebration Souvenir Program	1959



30	KASU	undated
31	<i>Listen</i> Vol. 9 No 1	1963

**Box 9:**

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
32	Memorabilia	undated
33	Mid-South Folklore	1973-1974
34	Military: Carl Reng U. S. Navy Officer Service Record Photographic Reproductions Removed from File	1946
35	Military: Carl Reng U. S. Navy Officer Service Record	1943-1954
36	Military: Certificates	1946
37	Military Certificates Photographic Reproductions	1946
38	Military Publications	1945, 1966
39	Multiple Topics	1970-1972
40	Multiple Topics	1954-1956
41	Museum	undated
42	New Buildings	1961-1967
43	Newspaper Articles	1967
44	Northeast Arkansas History	1958-1971
45	Out of State Students	1954
46	Pageants	undated
47	Parades	undated
48	Phi Kappa Phi	1974
49	Photo Album Fifteen Year Club	1975 April 22
50	Press Material	1949-1962
51	Proclamation and Resolutions	1967-1972

**Box 10:**

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
52	Reng Biographical	1955-1960
53	Reng Scrapbook Loose Material	1952-1957
54	Reng Scrapbook Loose Material	1957-1962
55	Reng Scrapbook Loose Material	1963-1965
56	Reng Scrapbook Loose Material	1963-1965
57	Reng Scrapbook Loose Material	1968-1970
58	Reng Scrapbook Loose Material	1970 September – 1971 August
59	Reng Scrapbook Loose Material	undated

**Box 11:**

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
60	Reng Scrapbook Photographs	1957-1963
61	Reng Presidency	1951-1967
62	Reng Trusteeship Controversy	1969
63	Postcards	undated

64	Promotional Publications	1957-1967
65	Protest	undated
66	Scholarships	1954
67	Social Events	Circa 1960s
68	Sports and Homecomings	Circa 1950s
69	Unidentified Photographs	undated
70	University of Arkansas and Little Rock University Merger	undated
71	WWII Veterans	undated

### Series 3: Books

Title	Author	Publishing Date
<i>The Forand Writer: Models for Composition</i>	Anthony Dubé, Forrest Burt	1973
<i>The JLC&amp;E: The History of an Arkansas Railroad</i> (4 copies)	Lee A. Dew	1968
<i>The T Formation from A to Z</i>	Forrest W. "Frosty" England	1952
<i>Ramey</i>	Jack Farris	1953
<i>The Cyprus Economy: A Case in the Industrialized Progress</i>	John S. Kaminarides	1973
<i>Roosevelt, Lewis, and the New Deal, 1933-1940</i>	C. K. McFarland	1970
<i>The Catholic Missions of North-East Arkansas, 1867-1893</i>	Reverend John Eugene Weibel	1967
<i>Creative Success Oriented Program for Head Start</i>	Mildred B. Vance, Linda Rose	undated
<i>Everyday Communication</i>	Ralph W. Widener, Jr.	1974
<i>Arkansas State College...The School of Opportunity</i> (advertisement)	Arkansas State College	undated
<i>Reng the Bells! ASC is ASU!</i>	Arkansas State University	1967
<i>Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories, Volumes 1-4</i>	Arthur S. Maxwell	1927
<i>Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories, Volumes 5-8</i>	Arthur S. Maxwell	1928-1931
<i>Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories, Volumes 9-12</i>	Arthur S. Maxwell	1932-1935
<i>Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories, Volumes 13-16</i>	Arthur S. Maxwell	1937-1939
<i>Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories, Volumes 17-20</i>	Arthur S. Maxwell	1940-1943
<i>The Key, Volume 29</i> (Yearbook)	University of Dubuque	1945
<i>Indian, Volume 46</i> (Yearbook)	Arkansas State University	1969
<i>Indian, Volume 47</i> (Yearbook)	Arkansas State University	1970
<i>Indian, Volume 48</i> (Yearbook)	Arkansas State University	1971
<i>Indian, Volume 49</i> (Yearbook)	Arkansas State University	1972