



Arkansas State University

## ARCH: A-State Research & Creativity Hub

---

[Archival Collection Finding Aids](#)

[Archives and Special Collections](#)

---

2024

### Joseph H. Weston collection

Arkansas State University - Jonesboro

Follow this and additional works at: <https://arch.astate.edu/finding-aids>

---

#### Recommended Citation

Arkansas State University - Jonesboro, "Joseph H. Weston collection" (2024). *Archival Collection Finding Aids*. 36.

<https://arch.astate.edu/finding-aids/36>

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and Special Collections at ARCH: A-State Research & Creativity Hub. It has been accepted for inclusion in Archival Collection Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of ARCH: A-State Research & Creativity Hub. For more information, please contact [mmcfadden@astate.edu](mailto:mmcfadden@astate.edu).

Finding Aid of

---

# JOSEPH H. WESTON COLLECTION

---

1972-1979

NEAD 020

---

Archives & Special Collections  
Arkansas State University  
Dean B. Ellis Library  
P.O. Box 2040  
State University, AR 72467  
Phone Number: 870-972-2960  
[archives@astate.edu](mailto:archives@astate.edu)  
<http://libguide.astate.edu/archives>

---

## Contents

Summary Information .....	2
Abstract .....	2
Acquisition .....	2
Processing Information .....	2
Conditions Governing Access .....	2
Rights Statement .....	2
Preferred Citation .....	2
Biographical Note .....	2
Scope and Content Note .....	3
Arrangement .....	3
Subjects .....	3
Names .....	3
Collection Inventory .....	4
<b>Series 1: <i>Sharp Citizen</i></b> .....	4
<b>Box 1:</b> .....	4
<b>Box 2:</b> .....	4
<b>Series 2: Joseph Weston</b> .....	4
<b>Box 3:</b> .....	4

## Summary Information

<b>Compiled By:</b>	Flora Smith
<b>Creator:</b>	Joseph H. Weston
<b>Date:</b>	1972-1979; Bulk, 1972-1976
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.25 linear feet. This collection consists of 5 bound volumes and 6 folders in 3 document boxes.
<b>Language:</b>	English

## Abstract

Joseph H. Weston was a controversial newspaper reporter, editor, and publisher who founded and ran the *Sharp Citizen*, a newspaper/tabloid from 1972 to 1978 which led to Weston being charged with criminal libel. This collection contains four volumes of the *Sharp Citizen* along with some material pertaining to Weston.

## Acquisition

This collection was donated to Arkansas State University Museum and later transferred to the Archives and Special Collection. Further additions to the collection are not expected.

## Processing Information

This collection was processed by Brady Banta, Charles Baclawski, and Flora Smith.

## 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 the archive. Standard copyright laws (U. S. Title 17) apply.

## Preferred Citation

Joseph H. Weston Collection, Item Name and Date, Box and Folder Numbers, Archives and Special Collections, Dean B. Ellis Library, Arkansas State University.
--

## Biographical Note

Joseph H. Weston was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on August 6, 1911. According to Weston, he began working at a young age for the *Arkansas Democrat*, selling newspapers on the street before becoming a reporter for Little Rock's *Daily News* at 14. During the Second World War, he served as a captain in the

U. S. Army Air Force. He stated he was a reporter for newspapers in San Diego, Salt Lake City, and other cities before moving back to Arkansas.

In 1972, Weston began publishing *Sharp Citizen*, a weekly newspaper based in Cave City, Arkansas. From the onset, *Sharp Citizen* was controversial, with some seeing it as a tabloid, others seeing it as amusing, while some portrayed Weston as a courageous country editor. In 1975, Weston was sued and convicted for libel by the local sheriff, but it was overturned by the Arkansas Supreme Court, stating the state's 1869 criminal libel law was unconstitutional. During this time, Weston published *American Manifesto*. The *Sharp Citizen* ceased publication in 1978.

In 1974, Weston attempted to run for governor but lost the Republican primary to Ken Coon. He ran again in 1976, leading the Republican party to run Leon Griffith against Weston to prevent him from being the party's nominee.

Weston died on November 15, 1983 in the Veterans Administration hospital in Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

## Scope and Content Note

The Joseph H. Weston Collection contains publications of the newspaper *Sharp Citizen*, a weekly paper published by Weston, along with materials pertaining to his trial, book publication, and political campaign.

## Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two series.

Series 1: *Shape Citizen*. The "*Shape Citizen*" series contains several volumes of periodical from 1972 to 1976. These items are arranged chronologically.

Series 2: Joseph Weston. The "Joseph Weston" series contains materials pertaining to Weston. These materials include information on his trial, book publication, political campaign, photographs, and newspaper articles on Weston.

## Subjects

- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
- Editors
- Feature stories
- Journalism
- Newspapers
- Newspaper editors
- Photographs
- Publications
- Rural journalism
- Tabloid newspapers

## Names

- *Sharp Citizen*

- Sharp County (Ark.)
- Weston, Joseph H. (Joseph Harry), 1911-1983

## Collection Inventory

### Series 1: *Sharp Citizen*

#### Box 1:

Description	Date
This box contains volume 1 and volume 2 of <i>Sharp Citizen</i> . Some issues from these volumes are not present.	1972 January 18 – 1973 December 21

#### Box 2:

Description	Date
This box contains volume 3, issues 1 through 23, volume 4, issues 2 through 5, and volume 5, issue 1 of <i>Sharp Citizen</i> . Some issues from volume 3 are not present.	1974 January 11 – 1976 March 1

### Series 2: Joseph Weston

#### Box 3:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
1	Trial	1972-1975, 1978-1979
2	Book Publication	Circa 1975
3	Political Campaign	1974
4	Photos	Circa 1970s
5	Appearances and Articles About Weston	1972-1973
6	Gambrill Correspondence, Class, and Research Notes	Circa 1970s