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Dale, James Arthur, Sr., 1931-2015 (MSS 721)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
 Department of Library Special Collections
 Western Kentucky University
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 721 DALE, James Arthur, Sr., 1931-2015

1 box. 15 folders. 244 items. 1951-1952, 2021.
 Originals, typescripts, photographs, compact disc.

SC2021.33.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

James Arthur Dale, Sr., the son of James Arthur Dale and Lillian Beatrice Andriot Dale, was born on 23 February 1931 in Louisville, Kentucky. In July 1948, between his junior and senior years at Flaget Memorial High School, Dale enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He received basic training in San Diego, then attended Advanced Individual Training (AIT) to become a diesel mechanic (he also received his G.E.D. while in the Navy). Assigned to the USS *LST 1123* as an engineman, Dale embarked on his first cruise to Japan via Alaska.

During the Korean War, Dale participated in General Douglas MacArthur's amphibious landing at Inchon that began on 15 September 1950. As a crewman aboard an LCVP, a smaller landing craft deployed from the LST, he assisted in resupply efforts to the Marines during the famous battle. Dale's next assignment was at the Naval Amphibious Base at San Diego, California. While on leave in June 1951, he met Barbara Ann "Bobbie" Dearing and they married on Thanksgiving Day, 1952 in Louisville. The Dales became the parents of five sons and a daughter.

After his discharge from the Navy, Dale worked as a milk deliveryman, a service station operator, and a truck driver. He died on 13 October 2015. He and his wife Bobbie are interred in Louisville Memorial Gardens.

A more extensive biography of James A. Dale, Sr. and his family, written by his son James A. Dale, Jr., is in Folder 2 of this collection.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of letters of James A. Dale, Sr., to his future wife Barbara Ann "Bobbie" Dearing, written from 1951-1952 while he was serving at the Naval Amphibious Base at San Diego, California. They are affectionate letters, written while Dale anxiously awaits his discharge from service and looks forward to his future life with Bobbie. He writes of his military duties as a boat engineer, and also of his recreational activities and local travel. (He makes only one reference, in a letter of 11 July 1951, to his duties while in Korea). He reports on his successful completion of high school and speculates on his future employment. He comments

on athletics at Flaget High School, women on the west coast, his lack of money, his boredom when he is assigned a desk job, and his readiness to marry and set up a household. Many of his letters are written on U.S. Navy stationery that includes whimsical sketches of a sailor writing a letter, swabbing the decks, napping, strolling with his sweetheart, etc.

Although Bobbie wrote Dale many letters, only one is in this collection (Folder 11), together with a short note included with Dale's letter of 13 March 1952. The original letters have been typescripted by their son James A. Dale, Jr. (Folder 12), and have also been scanned and saved on a compact disc (Folder 1).

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	James A. Dale, Sr.	1951-2021	244 items
Folder 1	Inventory; compact disc with scans of letters and and typescripts		2 items
Folder 2	James A. Dale Sr. – Biography	2021	2 items
Folder 3	Data on USS <i>Sedgwick County</i> (USS <i>LST 1123</i>) and Pusan Perimeter	n.d.	4 items
Folder 4	James A. Dale, Sr. – Letters to Bobbie Dearing	July 1951	12 items
Folder 5	James A. Dale, Sr. – Letters to Bobbie Dearing	Aug. 1951	10 items
Folder 6	James A. Dale, Sr. – Letters to Bobbie Dearing	Sept.-Oct. 1951	21 items
Folder 7	James A. Dale, Sr. – Letters to Bobbie Dearing	Nov.-Dec. 1951	11 items
Folder 8	James A. Dale, Sr. – Letters to Bobbie Dearing	Jan.-Feb. 1952	22 items
Folder 9	James A. Dale, Sr. – Letters to Bobbie Dearing	Mar.-Apr. 1952	25 items
Folder 10	James A. Dale, Sr. – Letters to Bobbie Dearing	May-June 1952	16 items
Folder 11	Bobbie Dearing – Letter to James A. Dale, Sr.; postcard from "Betty Ann"	1951-1952	2 items
Folder 12	James A. Dale, Sr. – Letters to Bobbie Dearing – Typescripts	1951-1952	1 item

Folder 13	James A. Dale, Sr. letters to Bobbie Dearing – Envelopes	July-Oct. 1951	43 items
Folder 14	James A. Dale, Sr. letters to Bobbie Dearing – Envelopes	Nov. 1951-Feb. 1952	32 items
Folder 15	James A. Dale, Sr. letters to Bobbie Dearing – Envelopes	Mar.-June 1952	41 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS DALE, James Arthur, Sr., 1951-1952,
721 1931-2015 2021

Letters of James A. Dale, Sr., Louisville, Kentucky, written to Barbara “Bobbie” Dearing while stationed at the U.S. Naval Amphibious Base at San Diego, California. He describes his military and recreational activities and writes affectionately in anticipation of their future together as husband and wife.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Courtship, 1951-1952
Dale, Barbara Ann “Bobbie” (Dearing), 1931-2017 – Correspondence F4-11
Dale family – Photographs F2
Dale family – Relating to F2
Dale, James Arthur, Sr., 1931-2015 – Photographs F2
Hornung, Paul Vernon, 1935-2020 – Relating to F6
Korean War, 1950-1953 – Relating to F3
Korean War, 1950-1953 – Soldiers from – Jefferson County
U. S. Navy – Military life, 1951-1952

Niedermeier 07/09/2021