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Sanders, William Willard "Whitey," 1930-2021 (MSS 723)

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 723 SANDERS, William Willard “Whitey,” 1930-2021

21 boxes. 1959-2017. Originals.

2011.211.0

Related collections: [MSS 659](#), [MSS 722](#)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William Willard Sanders (known as “Bill” or “Whitey”), the son of Romie Covington Sanders and Katherine (Tomerlin) Sanders, was born in Springfield, Tennessee on 14 October 1930. He graduated from Pompano Beach High School in Florida, then attended the University of Miami before accepting a football scholarship at Western Kentucky State College (now WKU). During 1953, Sanders set an NCAA record for completing 66 of his 98 passes as quarterback.

An English major at WKU, Sanders enrolled in a freshman art class with professor Ivan Wilson, who he credited with putting him on his future career path; while still a student, Sanders contributed cartoons to WKU’s student newspaper, *The College Heights Herald*. Another influence was Gene Graham, a Pulitzer Prize-winning editorialist and cartoonist for the *Nashville Tennessean*. On 12 February 1955, Sanders married Gene Graham’s niece Joyce Wallace, also a WKU student.

After graduating from WKU in 1955, Sanders was drafted to play professional football, but military service sent him to Korea with the U.S. Army. Put in command of a unit of the military newspaper *Stars and Stripes*, he contributed cartoons while overseeing printing and distribution. While in Korea, his reading of *Herblock’s Here and Now* by the legendary cartoonist Herbert Block sparked Sanders’ interest in political cartooning.

After his Army service, Sanders became a reporter with the *Pacific Stars and Stripes* in Tokyo, then worked as a freelance cartoonist with the *Japan Times*. In 1959, he accepted a position as cartoonist for the *Greensboro Daily News* in Greensboro, North Carolina. In June 1963 he became editorial cartoonist for *The Kansas City Star*, and in September 1967 moved to *The Milwaukee Journal*. Sanders’ cartoons reflected *Journal* editorial policy until 1987; thereafter, his work represented his own views rather than the paper’s.

Given considerable freedom to express his strong liberal opinions, Sanders frequently drew ire from newspaper readers, local officials and conservative groups. A proponent of civil rights, civil liberties, gun control, women’s rights, contraception and sex education, he was a harsh critic of the Vietnam War and the administrations of Presidents Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan. His treatment of local issues such as public accommodation laws and police misconduct also created conflict with politicians, judges and the public. In February 1970,

Sanders received a month-long suspension from *The Milwaukee Journal* for “moonlighting” when some of his cartoons appeared in a local underground newspaper, a penalty that sparked debate about political pressure on the *Journal*. However, Sanders was also known for his independence; his views on free speech, for example, led him to criticize 1960s student activists who objected to giving their opponents a forum on university campuses.

Over his career, Sanders’ cartoons were syndicated nationally to more than 100 newspapers, and his work appeared in other nationally known publications such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and *The New York Times*; a 1962 cartoon about civil rights was reprinted in the Soviet newspaper *Izvestia*. A jazz musician, popular speaker, and participant in professional organizations, Sanders served as president of the American Association of Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC) and received numerous awards and honors including the Kansas City Civil Liberties Achievement Award (1963) and the Wisconsin Civil Liberties Award (1979). He was inducted into the Wisconsin Media Hall of Fame, the Milwaukee Press Club Hall of Fame, and the WKU Hall of Distinguished Alumni. Collections of his work can be found in *Run for the Oval Room: They Can’t Corner Us There* (Alpha Press, 1974); *The Sanders Book: Selected Political Cartoons by Sanders* (Milwaukee Journal, 1978); and *Adventures in Whopperland: a collection of political cartoons, written opinions and essays* (Lulu, 2006).

Sanders retired from *The Milwaukee Journal* in 1991. He and his wife Joyce, the parents of four daughters, moved to Fort Myers, Florida, where Sanders continued to draw cartoons for his blog, *Sanders Cartoon-Commentary*. In 2018, he published a memoir, *Against the Grain: Bombthrowing in the Fine American Tradition of Political Cartooning* (NewSouth Books). Sanders died on 27 February 2021.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of original political cartoons and other cartoon artwork created by Bill “Whitey” Sanders. The bulk of the political cartoons were drawn for the *Milwaukee Journal*. Also included are some cartoons drawn earlier in Sanders’ career for the *Greensboro Daily News* and *Kansas City Star*, as well as cartoons drawn for other publications and after his retirement.

The cartoons cover mainly national politics, social issues and U.S. presidential administrations, but also address some issues in Milwaukee and Wisconsin politics. The bulk of the cartoons cover the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

A gallery of selected Sanders cartoons can be viewed [here](#).

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1966-1968	133 items
	Cartoons #1-133	1966-1968	133 items

BOX 2	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1968	61 items
	Cartoons #134-194	1968	61 items
BOX 3	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1969	69 items
	Cartoons #195-263	1969	69 items
BOX 4	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1970	72 items
	Cartoons #264-335	1970	72 items
BOX 5	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1971	67 items
	Cartoons #336-402	1971	67 items
BOX 6	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1972	56 items
	Cartoons #403-458	1972	56 items
BOX 7	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1973	64 items
	Cartoons #459-522	1973	64 items
BOX 8	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1974	102 items
	Cartoons #523-623	1974	102 items
BOX 9	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1975	77 items
	Cartoons #624-700	1975	77 items
BOX 10	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1976-1978	60 items
	Cartoons #701-760	1976-1978	60 items

BOX 11	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1979-1981	90 items
	Cartoons #761-850	1979-1981	90 items
BOX 12	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1982-1984	92 items
	Cartoons #851-942	1982-1984	92 items
BOX 13	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1985-1986	59 items
	Cartoons #943-1001	1985-1986	59 items
BOX 14	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1987-1989, 2003	94 items
	Cartoons #1002-1095	1987-1989, 2003	94 items
BOX 15	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1990-2017	95 items
	Cartoons #1096-1190	1990-1991, 2004-2012, 2015-2017	95 items
BOX 16	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1967-1982, n.d.	59 items
	Cartoons #1191-1249	1967-1982, no date	59 items
BOX 17	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1968-2004, n.d.	50 items
	Cartoons #1250-1299	1968-2004, no date	50 items
BOX 18	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1974-2001, n.d.	36 items
	Cartoons #1300-1335	1974-2001, no date	36 items
BOX 19	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1963-1990, n.d.	88 items
	Cartoons #1336-1423	1963-1990, no date	88 items

BOX 20	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1968-2004, n.d.	16 items
	Cartoons #1424-1439	1968-2004, no date	16 items
Oversized C2,D3,#2	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1964, n.d.	3 items
	Cartoons #1440-1442	1964, n.d.	3 items
BOX 21	Bill “Whitey” Sanders	1968-1991	14 items
	<i>Milwaukee Journal</i> magazine editions with Sanders cartoons	1968-1991	14 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS SANDERS, William Willard “Whitey,” 1959-2017
723 1930-2021

Cartoons drawn by Bill “Whitey” Sanders during his career as an editorial cartoonist with the *Greensboro Daily News*, *Kansas City Star*, and *Milwaukee Journal*. Includes some created after his retirement.

21 boxes. Originals.
2011.211.0

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Abortion
Agnew, Spiro Theodore, 1918-1996
Agriculture
Arafat, Yasser, 1929-2004
Automobile Industry
Baseball
Biden, Joseph Robinette, Jr. “Joe,” b. 1942
Birth control
Brezhnev, Leonid, 1906-1982
Bush, George Herbert Walker, 1924-2018
Bush, George Walker, b. 1946
Busing
Carter, James Earl “Jimmy,” b. 1924
Cartoons and cartoonists
Catholic Church

Central Intelligence Agency
 Cheney, Richard Bruce "Dick," b. 1941
 China
 Civil rights
 Clinton, Hillary Diane (Rodham), b. 1947
 Cold War, 1945-1989
 Constitution – United States
 Contraception
 Deer hunting
 Defense spending
 de Gaulle, Charles, 1890-1970
 Democratic Party
 Discrimination in housing – Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 Dole, Robert "Bob," b. 1923
 Drug prices
 Drugs
 Dukakis, Michael Stanley, b. 1933
 Elections and election campaigns
 Electoral college
 Ervin, Samuel James "Sam," Jr., 1896-1985
 Falwell, Jerry Lamon, Sr., 1933-2007
 Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Football
 Ford, Gerald Rudolph, Jr., 1913-2006
 Fortas, Abraham "Abe," 1910-1982
 Fulbright, James William, 1905-1995
 Furness, Elizabeth Mary "Betty," 1916-1994
 Goldberg, Arthur Joseph, 1908-1990
 Goldwater, Barry Morris, 1909-1998
 Gorbachev, Mikhail Sergeyevich, b. 1931
 Gore, Albert Arnold, "Al," b. 1948
 Graham, William Franklin, "Billy," 1918-2018
 Greece
 Gun control
 Hart, Gary Warren, b. 1936
 Haynsworth, Clement Furman, 1912-1989
 Hijacking of aircraft
 Housing
 Humphrey, Hubert Horatio, 1911-1978
 Integration and segregation
 Iraq War, 2003
 John Birch Society
 Johnson, Lyndon Baines, 1908-1973
 Judges – United States
 Kennedy, Edward Moore "Ted," 1932-2009
 Kennedy, John Fitzgerald, 1917-1963

Kennedy, Robert Francis "Bobby," 1925-1968
 Kissinger, Henry Alfred, b. 1923
 Korea
 Lindsay, John Vliet, 1921-2000
 Lobbyists
 Maier, Henry Walter, 1918-1994
 McNamara, Robert Strange, 1916-2009
 Meese, Edwin III, b. 1931
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin – Politics
 Mitchell, John Newton, 1913-1988
 Newspapers – *Greensboro Daily News* – Greensboro, North Carolina
 Newspapers – *The Kansas City Star* – Kansas City, Missouri
 Newspapers – *The Milwaukee Journal* – Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 Nixon, Richard Milhous, 1913-1994
 Nuclear weapons
 Obama, Barack Hussein, b. 1961
 Oil industry
 Pepper, Claude Denson, 1900-1989
 Political cartoons – United States
 Pollution
 Pornography
 Poverty
 Reagan, Ronald Wilson, 1911-2004
 Republican Party
 Rice, Condoleezza, b. 1954
 Rockefeller, Nelson Aldrich, 1908-1979
 Rumsfeld, Donald Henry, 1932-2021
 Sanford, James Terry, 1917-1998
 Schools
 Seraphim, Christ T., 1918-1998
 Sex discrimination
 Sex education
 Sexual assault
 South Africa
 Soviet Union
 Student activism
 Taxation
 Television
 Terrorism
 Thailand
 Thurmond, James Strom, Sr., 1902-2003
 Tobacco industry
 Trudeau, Pierre Elliott, 1919-2000
 Trump, Donald John, b. 1946
 United States – Economic conditions
 United States Postal Service

United States Supreme Court
Vietnam War, 1961-1975
Wallace, George Corley, Jr., 1919-1998
Watergate scandal, 1972-1974
Wisconsin – Politics

SEE or SEE ALSO

Sanders, Bill, 1930-2021
See:
Sanders, William Willard

Sanders, “Whitey,” 1930-2021
See:
Sanders, William Willard

Niedermeier 09/02/2021