



Austin History Center ★ Austin Public Library
UT TOWER SHOOTINGS
RESOURCES
at the Austin History Center

<http://library.austintexas.gov/ahc>

The following is a list of resources available at the Austin History Center for those researching the Charles Whitman mass murder tragedy, which occurred on the UT campus on August 1, 1966. Both primary and secondary sources are included in this list.

Materials are available for use in our Reading Room.

Archives and Manuscript Collection

Manuscripts

AR.2000.002 - *Austin (Tex.). Police Department Records of the Charles Whitman Mass Murder Case*

Includes police reports, witness statements, crime scene photographs, correspondence, clippings and personal effects including photographs, diaries, and writings belonging to C.J. Whitman.

Restrictions on Access: Redacted copies of FBI documents (Boxes 8a-c) are available for viewing at any time in the Reading Room. All unredacted records belonging to the FBI were returned to the FBI in August, 2016. Requests to view original material contained in Series III, Writing and Personal Effects (of Charles J. Whitman), Subseries I (Boxes 10 & 11) must be submitted in advance to the Curator of Archives and Manuscripts and will be granted under special consideration. Photocopies of this subseries (Box 12) may be viewed at any time without permission.

AR.2002.001 - *Gary Lavergne Papers*

Includes the manuscript for Gary Lavergne's book, *A Sniper in the Tower: The Charles Whitman Mass Murders*, and a collection of articles about the author and his book.

AR.2001.014 - *Records of the Office of the City Clerk*

Box 21, folder 10 of this collection contains telegrams and correspondence related to Whitman.

AR.2009.045 - *Whitney Milam Video Collection*

This collection contains the unedited video footage of interviews conducted by Whitney Milam for his "Sniper '66" television documentary. Milam interviewed three people who witnessed the Charles Whitman tower shootings at the University of Texas, as well as the author of a book about the incident. The collection also contains a CD access copy of the original KTBC (now KLBJ) broadcast of the Tower shootings by reporter Neal Spelce on August 1, 1966.

AR.2006.026 - *Grover Simpson Papers*

A long-time game warden for the state of Texas, Simpson is responsible for citing Charles Whitman in 1963 for deer poaching. Whitman and two friends were discovered butchering the animal in his UT dormitory bathroom. Collection contains an oversized scrapbook (1948-1973, undated) with two newspaper clippings: "Illegal Deer Cases Filed" [album page 3]; "Three Fined in Deer Case" [album page 5].

AR.2005.009 – *Betty Cox Papers*

Box 8, subseries C, Ramiro Martinez, contains an edited draft and manuscript proofs for *They Call Me Ranger Ray*, which was edited by Cox and published by Rio Bravo Publishing in 2005. Martinez was one of the APD officers who shot Charles Whitman in 1966 at the University of Texas tower shootings. The book contains a chapter dedicated to the Tower tragedy.

AR.2010.026 – *Linalice Carey Papers*

Box 5 folder 16 contains a play written by Texas playwright Cleve Haubold titled *The Man on the Tower* written on August 27, 1966. Linalice Carey was a local actor, producer, writer and director and was a key figure in Austin's theatre scene from the 1960s-1980s.

Oversized Archives

Playboy. October, 1970. [qAR Box 18 Item 6]

"The Many Faces of Murder," by Bruce Porter. Includes *The Charles Whitman Papers*.

Life Magazine. August 12, 1966. [qAR Box 18 Item 4]
"Texas Sniper's Murder Rampage."

Austin American. August 2, 1966. [qAR Box 18 Item 1]

Austin Statesman. August 2 & 3, 1966. [qAR Box 18 Items 2 & 3]

Fort Worth Star-Telegram. August 2, 1966. [qAR Box 18 Item 5]

Family First 2002 [qAR box 18 Item 8].

"UT Tower Massacre Still Haunting Austin Police Hero" - about Houston McCoy

The Police Line 2002 [qAR Box 18 Item 7].

"City Says No to Counseling for Police Hero's PTSD"

General Collection

1960s Austin Gangsters: Organized Crime that Rocked the Capital by Jesse Sublett, 2015.
[A 364.1066097 SU]

A Study in Murder: A Thesis Presented to the Faculty of the Department of Psychology, Bates College by Carol Jean Renaud, 1966 [A 364.1509764 RE]

Admissions: The Extraordinary History of Brackenridge Hospital by Lisa Fahrenthold and Sara Rider, 1984. [A 352.4 Fa]

Austin City Directories. Listings for Charles and Kathleen Whitman during the mid-1960s.

The Impossible Tree by Mary Frances (Gabour) Lamport, 1972. [A 364.1523 La]

LT: A Street Cop's Stories by Ernie W. Hinkle, 2014. [A 353.36 H6634H]

Mass Murderers Time-Life Books, 1993. [A 364.1523092 Ma]

Monday, Monday 1st ed. by Crook, Elizabeth, 2014. [A 813.54 CR 2014]

Press Conference. Report to the Governor, Medical Aspects Charles J. Whitman Catastrophe, 1966. [A 364.1523 Pr]

A Sniper in the Tower: The Charles Whitman Mass Murders by Gary M. Lavergne, 1997.
[A 364.1509764 La]

Summer of '66, 2nd edition, Williams, Shelton L., 2007. [A 364.1523092 W7272W]

Texas Crime Chronicles, "The Madman in the Tower" by William J. Helmer, 2000.
[A 364.9764 Te]

They Call Me Ranger Ray 1st ed., Martinez, Ramiro, 2005. [A 363.2092 M3858M]

Tower Sniper: The Terror of America's First Active Shooter on Campus by Monte Akers, Nathan Akers and Roger Friedman, Ph.D., 2016 [A 364.1509764 AK]

The University Methodist Pulpit, "Is There an Answer?" by Jack D. Hooper, 1966.
[A 287.676431 Un]

Yearbooks

Cactus [A 378.005 Ca]

University of Texas at Austin yearbook. The 1963 yearbook includes the yearbook photographs of students Kathleen and Charles Whitman.

Rebel Roundup [A 373.05 Ro]

William B. Travis High School yearbook. The 1967 edition features an article on student and shooting victim Alex Hernandez.

Viking [A 373.05 Vi]

Sidney Lanier High School yearbook. The 1967 edition includes a dedication to victims Kathleen Whitman and Karen Griffith, Lanier biology teacher (and wife of Charles J. Whitman) and student.

Austin Files Collection

AF Biography: Heard, Robert

AP reporter shot while covering the shooting.

AF Biography: Hipple, Augusta

The Austin fortuneteller who read Whitman's cards.

AF Biography: Hohmann, Morris

Funeral home operator/ambulance driver wounded in the attack while transporting victims to Brackenridge Hospital. He was transported to Brackenridge in his own ambulance.

AF Biography: Kever, Jack

AP reporter responsible for first story published about the shooting.

AF Biography: Lavergne, Gary
Author of *Sniper in the Tower*.

AF Biography: McCoy, Houston
Austin Police officer responsible for firing shots that killed Whitman.

AF Biography: Martinez, Ramiro
The first Austin Police officer on the tower deck to confront Whitman and one of the officers who shot Whitman.

AF Biography: Preece, Jr., Forrest,
Personal account. Preece was a student at UT on campus the day of the shootings.

AF Biography: Spelce, Fannie Lou
Includes information about on-the-scene newsman Neal Spelce.

AF Murders--Mass--Whitman, Charles [AF -- M8960]
5 vertical folders of newspaper and magazine articles, inquest reports, autopsies, psychiatric evaluation and various other items.

AF Murders--Mass--Whitman, Charles [AF -- M8960(1)]
Photocopies of Inquest Docket, Justice of the Peace Precinct 3, Place 2, Travis County, Texas, 1966-67. Original material has been transferred back to the county archives. Includes records and some death certificates for the following individuals:
Eckman, Thomas Frederick, p. 18.
Sonntag, Paul Bolton
Speed, Billy Paul
Whitman, Charles Joseph
Whitman, Margaret E.

AF Murders--Mass--Whitman, Charles [AF -- M8960 (1)]
Photocopies of Inquest Docket, Justice of the Peace Precinct 5, Travis County, Texas, 1960-1972. Includes inquest report on Kathleen Whitman, page 54.
Note: Original material has been transferred back to the county archives.

Recordings Collection

Oral History Recordings

*Note - Check the "AF-Biography" files under the interviewee's name for a transcript of the oral history, if one exists.

Abell, Dr. Joe, Jr. N.d. Interview. Emergency Room doctor at Brackenridge Hospital during the shooting. [Cassette # 0502; access copy available. Transcript in *AF – Biography, Abell, Joseph Miles*]

Calhoon, Dr. Jim. June 2, 1983. Interview. Doctor at Brackenridge Hospital. [Cassette # 0454; no access copy. No transcript.]

Clay, Camille. May 26, 1983. Interview. Nurse at Brackenridge Hospital during the shooting. [Cassette # 0457-B; access copy available. Transcript in *AF -- Murders – Mass, Whitman, Charles Joseph*. [AF -- M8960]

Dellana, Judge Jerry. N.d. Interview. Justice of the Peace who performed inquests on most of the victims and on Whitman. [Cassette # 0511-B; access copy available. *Transcript in AF – Biography, Dellana Family.*]

Dowdy, Julia Ruth and Wood, Ruby Anne Corder. May 7, 1983. Interview. Graduates of The Nursing School At Brackenridge Hospital. [Cassette # 0459-A; access copy available. Transcript in *AF - Biography Dowdy, Julia Ruth.*]

Heard, Robert. June 16, 1983. Interview. Shooting Victim. [Cassette # 0470; no access copy. No transcript.]

Hohmann, Morris. May 31, 1983. Interview. Ambulance attendant wounded by Whitman shots. [Cassette # 0513; access copy available. Transcript in *AF – Biography, Hohmann, Morris.*]

Jaso, Rita. June 21, 1983. Interview. Head surgical nurse on duty the day of the shooting. [Cassette # 458-A; access copy # 2230. Transcript in *AF- Murders – Mass, Whitman, Charles*. [AF -- M8960]

Kelly, Eunice. May 23, 1983. Interview. Emergency Room nurse on duty the day of the shooting. [Cassette # 0459-B; access copy available. No transcript.]

Lalonde, Dr. No date. Interview. Chief of Staff at Brackenridge Hospital in 1966. [Cassette # 0511-A; access copy available. Transcript in *AF – Biography, Lalonde, Albert.*]

Lamport, Mary Frances (Gabour). 1974. Interview. Art Young, interviewer for KRMH-FM. Whitman shooting victim. [Cassette # 0118-B; access copy # 2227-B. Transcript in *AF - Murders – Mass Whitman, Charles Joseph*. [AF -- M8960]

Martin, Dr. Claud. February 18, 1983. Interview. Old Brackenridge Hospital. [Cassette # 0457-A; access copy available. Transcript in *AF – Biography, Clay, Camille.*]

Moffett, Bill. May 19, 1983. Interview. Victim, injured during the shooting. [Cassette # 0469-A; no access copy. No transcript.]

Pape, Dr. June 14, 1983. Interview. Emergency Room doctor who treated victims. [Cassette # 0490-A; access copy available. Transcript in *AF – Biography, Pape, Robert.*]

Roddy, Joe. June 14, 1983. Interview. Newsman who reported from Brackenridge Hospital on the status of the victims. [Cassette # 0479-B; access copy available. Transcript in *AF – Biography, Spelce, Neal.*]

Schmidt, May. February 14, 2000. Interview. Friend of 2 victims briefly discusses incident. [Cassette # 1642; access copy available. Transcript in *AF – Biography, Hamilton, Edward R.*]

Smith, J. H. Buck. July 5, 1983. Interview. Justice of the Peace who helped identify shooting victims at hospital. [Cassette # 458-B; access copy # 2230. Transcript in *AF - Murders – Mass, Whitman, Charles Joseph.* [AF -- M8960]

Spelce, Neal. June 14, 1983. Interview. An on-the-scene news television reporter. [Cassette # 0479-A; access copy # 2226. Transcript in *AF – Biography, Spelce, Neal.*]

Tobias, Ben. N.d. Interview. Administrator of Brackenridge Hospital who directed personnel that day. [Cassette # 0490-B; access copy available. Transcript available in *AF – Biography, Pape, Robert.*]

White, Norma. N.d. Interview. Operating room supervisor at Brackenridge Hospital during the event. [Cassette # 0494; access copy available. Transcript available in *AF - Murders – Mass, Whitman, Charles Joseph.* [AF -- M8960]

Yarborough, Ralph Webster. 1974 Interview. Art Young, interviewer for KRMH-FM radio station, June 24. [Cassette # 0118-A; access copy # 2227-B. No transcript.]

Video and DVD Recordings

APL Mayor's Book Club: Community Conversations

A moderated panel discussion, hosted by the APL Friend's Foundation and the Austin History Center, on September 26, 2014. The panel was composed of three individuals involved in the shootings - Neal Spelce, Clif Drummond and Forrest Preece and moderated by KUT News Director Emily Donahue. The event begins with a talk by Susan Rittereiser, Curator of Archives and Manuscripts at the Austin History Center, about the AHC manuscript collection, *Austin Texas. Police Department Records of the Charles Whitman Mass Murder Case*, AR.2000.002. [unprocessed audio and video recordings located on AHC shared drive. Ask staff for assistance]

Slacker

Richard Linklater's 1991 satirical comedy contains a scene referencing the Whitman tragedy. [VHS 791.43 SL]

Sniper '66: the Charles Whitman Murders at the Texas Tower

A film by Whitney Milam, Austin: Fox Television Stations, 2006 available in two versions [A DVD 364.1523 SN DVR-R ver.2.1]. This documentary aired on local station KTBC, Austin, Texas on July 29, 2006, followed by an edited version (approximately 21 minutes) of a one-hour news special which KTBC aired the night of the shootings.

Whitney Milam, producer-director and Danny Baker, executive producer. The second version is a 61 minute full-length version of the documentary.

Teleclip

Videos recording daily newscasts typically feature stories about the Whitman murders around the time of the anniversary, August 1. Longer segments were typically produced around major anniversaries, such as thirty years.

Musical Recordings

Friedman, Kinky. 1973 "The Ballad of Charles Whitman." On *Sold American*. New York: Vanguard. [A MC R872]

Friedman, Kinky. 198-? "The Ballad of Charles Whitman." On *Sold American*. Santa Monica, CA: Vanguard. [CD MC FRIE 167]

Periodicals Collection

Austin American-Statesman

The Austin History Center has the *Austin American*, *Austin Statesman*, and *Austin American-Statesman* on microfilm. In 1966, coverage occurred on several days throughout the month of August. In subsequent years, articles often appeared near the anniversary of the shootings. Some indexing is available to help locate articles.

The Austin Citizen, August 1, 1977.

"Tower Tragedy Sequel: She's Still Not Bitter" by Carolyn Bengtson.

Austin Jaycee Keynote, August 9, 1966.

"Program This Thursday to Honor 'Tower Tragedy' Heroes."

Austin Jaycee Keynote, August 15, 1966.

"Tower Heroes to Honored at Luncheon."

Life, Vol 61, 1966

"Texas Sniper's Murder Rampage" by William J. Aelmer [A 364.1523 Te]

Texas Monthly, August 1986.

"The Madman in the Tower" by William J. Helmer.

Texas Monthly, September 2001.

"Where Are They Now?" by Chester Rossom.

Photograph Collection

AF Murders -- Mass -- Whitman, Charles Joseph [AF-M9860 (1)]

AF University of Texas -- Buildings -- Main Building, Tower [AF-U3455]

Austin American-Statesman Photographic Morgue, AR.2014.039

This collection contains several sets of negatives related to the UT Tower Shooting. See the Collection finding aid for more details on access and copyright. The AHC has also made prints of many of these negatives, available in the AF – Murders – Mass – Whitman, Charles subject file.

Job ID #	Date	Logbook Entry	Description from Negative Envelope	# Negs.
AS-66-54969	8/4/1966	Paul Sonntag	Copy negs - Paul Sonntag	5
AS-66-54973	8/4/1966	Jerry Dellana at press conference	Jerry Dellenda and Dr. C. de Chenard at Press Conference	3
AS-66-54977	8/5/1966	About Whitman	Grand Jury meets to hear about C.J.Whitman	4
AS-66-55000	8/8/1966	Charles Whitman, Sr.	Charles Whitman, Sr. visits Penthouse	2
Job ID #	Date	Logbook Entry	Description from Negative Envelope	# Negs.
AS-66-55003	8/8/1966	Karen Griffith, 18, victim	Copy neg -- Karen Griffith, 18, 16th Fatal Victim of Sniper Charles Whitman (d. 8/8/1966 -- Brackenridge Hospital)	2
AS-66-55004	8/8/1966	Charles Whitman, Sr.	Charles Whitman, Sr. of Lake Worth, Florida leaves J.P. Jerry Dellana's office with Det. Bill Landis, Goe. Phifer	3
AS-66-55011	8/9/1966	Furniture being moved from Whitman's home	[same]	3
AS-66-55014	8/9/1966	Ramiro Martinez	Answers mail -- Patrolman Ramiro Martinez	2
AS-66-55018	8/10/1966	Jerry Dellana holds press conference	J.P. Jerry Dellana holds press conference	3
AS-66-55026	8/11/1966	Jaycees cite Sniper Heroes	Jaycees cite sniper heroes -- Secretary of State John Hill, seated; Allen Crum -- USAF ret.; Ptl. Ramiro Martinez; Ptl. Houston McCoy; Ptl. Jerry Day	6
AS-66-55061	8/17/1966	Mrs. Mary Gabour	Mrs. Mary Gabour, 8/1 sniper victim flies home to Texarkana	7
AS-66-55092	8/22/1966	Morris Hohmann	Morris Hohmann -- Ambulance Driver shot by sniper 8/1, returns home -- 410 Lightsey	3
AS-66-55215	9/8/1966	Governor Connally	Governor Connally presents report on Charles Whitman	3
AS-66-55346	9/22/1966	Sniper victim Alex Hernandez	Travis High School holds benefit for sniper victim Alex Hernandez	9

Other Institutions

Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, UT Austin – *The Shel Hershorn Photograph Collection*

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utcah/00124/cah-00124.html>

Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library - *John B. Connally Papers*

<http://www.lbjlibrary.org/>

Texas State Library and Archives - *Texas Governor's Committee and Consultants: An Inventory on the Report of the Charles J. Whitman Catastrophe at the Texas State Archives, September 8, 1966.*

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/tslac/50095/tsl-50095.html>