

Gilbert "Gib" Stiles Collection
Manuscript 7

Processed by
Carol Sigsbee, November 2009

Volume:
23 linear ft. for the Zane Grey portion; 2.5 linear ft. for the Will James portion

Provenance

This Collection was donated to the Zane Grey Foundation and the Northern Gila County Historical Society, Inc. via the Gilbert Stiles Family Living Trust.

Copyright

Northern Gila County Historical Society, Inc. retains copyright to this collection. Requests for permission to publish information from this collection must be submitted in writing to the Archivist.

Biographical Notes:

Gilbert W. Stiles was born 14 Apr 1922 in Evanston, IL and died 8 Nov 2008 in Tucson, AZ. His first wife, Josephine "Joie" nee Kiningham, preceded him in death. He was survived by his second wife, Irine, his children, Robert (Kathy) Stiles of Covington, LA, Wendy (Chuck) Sweet of Oro Valley, AZ and Laurie (Lincoln) Daynes of Sierra Vista, AZ and stepsons, Dennis (Kim) Humbarger, George (Diane) Huxhold and Bill (Susan) Huxhold.

Stiles was a graduate of both Harvard and Yale Universities and served in WWII. He served on the Village Board of Libertyville, Illinois for 24 years, 16 years as a trustee and 8 years as the Mayor of Libertyville. He spent many years sharing his time between Tucson, Arizona and Sarasota, Florida. Stiles was an avid collector of western writer Zane Grey's books and memorabilia and amassed a fine collection of first editions, photographs, movie posters, letters and other items. Stiles also collected first editions of Will James books.

Zane Grey was born January 31, 1872 in Zanesville, Ohio. He began writing even as a boy, but his father discouraged his efforts. He published his first article in the journal *Recreation* in 1902. In 1903, he based his first book on an ancestor, Betty Zane, and although it was published, it did not sell well at all.

In 1905 he married Lina Roth whom he called Dolly, and she became his proofreader and prime booster of his books. At first his books were only moderately successful but in 1910 he wrote *The Heritage of the Desert* and the rest is history. Grey has almost ninety books in print. Sixty are westerns, nine concern fishing and the world record fresh and

salt water catches, three trace his roots and the Zanes of Ohio, and the others center on juvenile fiction, baseball stories and a biography of George Washington in his youth. There are books dealing with his anti-war sentiment (WWI), recollections of an Arizona hunting trip and excursions written in the first person. In addition, short stories for magazines were written for quick cash. Over 130 films have been produced based on Zane Grey books. Zane Grey died October 23, 1939 at the age of 67. His wife continued to have his books published.

Descriptive Summary

Collection Name

Gilbert W. Stiles Collection

Collection Number

ZGF 2009.01

Creator

Gilbert "Gib" Stiles

Administrative Information

Restrictions

Zane Grey books must be on display in a locked cabinet in the Zane Grey Cabin with a bronze plaque with donor's name.

Credit Line

Gilbert W. Stiles Family Living Trust

Access Terms

American Novelists
Western Writers
Deep Sea Fishing
Fresh Water Fishing
Correspondence-- Zane Grey
Comic Books
Poster—Motion Picture

Container List

Box 1 19 photographs
7 postcards
11 lobby cards

Box 2 16 Zane Grey comic books
6 letters
1 contract
17 magazines
6 miscellaneous Publications
1 dust Jacket
3 pamphlets (checklists of Zane Grey books)

Zane Grey Cabin
129 first edition Zane Grey books

Marguerite Noble Library
23 Zane Grey miscellaneous books
18 VHS tapes of Zane Grey movies
5 Zane Grey audio books
19 miscellaneous books about Zane Grey
Will James fiction, non-fiction, bibliographical and biographical books