

Herc Ficklen Editorial Cartoon collection.
Inclusive: 1975-1980, undated, Bulk: 1978, undated
Baylor Collections of Political Materials, W. R. Poage Library
Baylor University, Waco, Texas

Summary Information

Creator	Herc Ficklen
Extent (quantity/size)	1 oversized box.
Language	English
Abstract	The Herc Ficklen Editorial Cartoon collection contains six cartoons Ficklen drew near the end of his life as well as a cartoon that Ficklen drew as a tribute to Walt Disney after his passing in 1966. Materials in this collection speak to several issues facing American society and Texas in the 1960s and 1970s, including space travel, taxation, foreign policy, and the governorship of Dolph Briscoe.

Subjects

American newspapers -- Texas. / Dolph Briscoe / Ficklen, Jack, 1911-1980 / Political cartoons. / Space flights / Texas -- History -- 20th century.

Administrative Information

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Preferred Citation	When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is:
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Herc Ficklen Editorial Cartoon collection, Accession #129, Box #, Folder #, Baylor Collections of Political Materials, W. R. Poage Legislative Library, Baylor University.

Processing Information	Described by Aaron Ramos and released on 2024-12-20.
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Scope and Content

The Herc Ficklen editorial cartoon collection contains six cartoons that Ficklen drew towards the end of his life, plus one cartoon that Ficklen drew as a tribute to Walt Disney after his passing in 1966. The inclusive dates are 1975-1980 with three of the items being undated. The cartoon dedicated to Walt Disney was reprinted to accompany Ficklen's obituary in the *Dallas Morning News*.

Most of the cartoons in this collection bear inscriptions dedicated to Theda Todd, an accomplished artist from Irving, Texas, who was a member of Artists and Craftsmen, Southwest Watercolor Society, and Irving Art Association. The collection came to Poage Library through Todd's husband Derol in 2014.

These materials address several issues that impacted Texas and American society in the 1960s and 1970s. These include space travel, taxation, foreign policy, and the governorship of Dolph Briscoe. Overall, the materials are in good condition.

Administrative/Biographical History

Born in Waco, Texas in 1911, Jack "Herc" Ficklen moved to Dallas with aspirations of being an artist. However, this love competed with his love for his state and country. Before he graduated from high school, Ficklen falsified his age so he could join the 112th Cavalry Unit of the Texas National Guard. In 1926, Ficklen's unit was called up to quell unrest in oil fields of the Texas Panhandle. Afterward, Ficklen graduated from the Peacock Military Academy in Dallas.

Ficklen enrolled at Southern Methodist University, but left due to the onset of the Great Depression. He began working full time for *The Dallas Morning News* where he eventually became a sports editorial cartoonist. From an early age, Ficklen realized that if he wanted to make money as an artist, he would likely have to work for a newspaper.

World War II interrupted Ficklen's career; he fought in five campaigns in the European theater. By the end of the war, Ficklen was a lieutenant colonel and had received the Bronze Star for his service with Allied forces in Italy. Ficklen's artistic career was not totally derailed by the war, as he regularly drew for the "You're in the Army" comic strip. After the war, Ficklen continued to draw political cartoons for the *Dallas Morning News* in addition to creating comic strips for the *Los Angeles Times* and starting his own syndicate, Avalon Features. Ficklen's work included drawings of Texas politicians including Ralph Yarborough, Preston Smith, and John Connally. Many of Ficklen's fellow editorial cartoonists considered him to be one of the forefathers of the art.

Ficklen was married to Mary B. Ficklen with whom he had two sons (Robert Fielding and Jack Howells) and one daughter (Molly Bess Goodwin). He died in 1980.

Related Resources

Related citations

Darden, Robert F., Wolfe, Erin L., "Drawing Power: Original Editorial Cartoons" (Baylor University Press, 2008).
"Former News Cartoonist 'Herc' Ficklen dies," *The Dallas Morning News*, October 21, 1980.

Archival Arrangement

Prior to this finding aid, the Herc Ficklen Editorial Cartoon collection was arranged by date in an oversized box. The final arrangement has largely remained faithful to this original order, with the only change being that undated items are now listed alphabetically by title.

Item List

Box 1 OVZ. Folder 1. Out of Orbit, "Gimmie My Space Helmet!", Child Crying Over Space Helmet, undated

Box 1 OVZ. Folder 2. Out of Orbit, "It Got Stuck Yesterday", Child in Church Choir Wearing a Space Helmet, undated

Box 1 OVZ. Folder 3. Zanies (6 Panels), undated

Box 1 OVZ. Folder 4. "And How Did My Little Helpmate's Day Go?", Stressed Woman Surrounded by Stacks of Tax Forms, 1975 April

Box 1 OVZ. Folder 5. "It's 10 PM Do You Know Where Dolph Briscoe Is", Parody of "Do You Know Where Your Children Are?" Curfew Campaign, 1978

Box 1 OVZ. Folder 6. "Me, Unacceptable! Jes' Wait 'Till Next Year!", Anthropomorphic Frame with a Cow in the Background, 1978

Box 1 OVZ. Folder 7. "Former Cartoonist 'Herc' Ficklen Dies," *Dallas Morning News*, Reprint of Cartoon Tribute to Walt Disney, 1980 October