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Sollner, William J., collection, 1963-1995

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William J. Sollner Collection

Overview of the Collection

Title	William J. Sollner Collection
Collection Number	MS 186
Creator	William J. Sollner
Dates	1963-1995
Quantity	2 linear feet
Summary	A collection of correspondence, publications, writings, books, and media.
Repository	Pittsburg State University, Leonard H. Axe Library, Special Collections & University Archives 1701 S. Broadway Pittsburg, Kansas, 66762 (620)235-4883 speccoll@pittstate.edu
Access Restrictions	There are no listed restriction for this collection. Collection is open for research. Researchers must use the collection in accordance with the policies of the Special Collections & University Archives, Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University
Languages	English

Biographical Note

William J. Sollner was born July 28, 1925 in Downs, Kansas to Dr. Anson Huey and Esther Ann Sollner. Dr. Anson Sollner moved the family to Arma, Kansas where he worked as a dentist for several years. William Sollner graduated from Crawford County Community High School in 1943, and began training to be a naval aviator. Upon finishing his training he remained in the Ready Reserves until 1956 when he had received a Fulbright award to teach a year in Germany. After teaching in Germany, he continued his teaching career in Battle Creek, Michigan, Missouri, and Hawaii. While in Michigan he began to develop an interest in performing with puppets. In 1960, he took a position as a scriptwriter, actor, and director for the Centron Corporation of Lawrence, Kansas. While with Centron, he produced non-theatrical films for business, industry, and education. Afterwards, he began working for the Calvin Corporation of Kansas City, Missouri and continued working in the film industry until 1970 when he moved his family to Hawaii. In Hawaii he served as Dean of Instruction at Kaua'i Community College for a short time, then accepted an offer to write for *The Garden Island* newspaper, where he worked for twelve years as run-of-the-press reporter. In addition, he made a series of independent films on Hawaiian culture and published an alternative bi-monthly periodical, *Kaua'i OFF CENTER*, for five years. Two of his play scripts won national

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contests and were produced in Florida and Michigan. He performed in numerous college and community theater productions. In 1991 "Bill" and his wife Fay moved back to Arma to care for his aged mother. His wife preceded him in death on July 24, 2005. In 2013 Sollner married Yanju Chen. Mr. Sollner passed away in Arma, Kansas in November 2017.

Scope and Content Note

The **Correspondence** series contains one letter, written by Thomas E. Sims to William J. Sollner on September 6, 1973. The information provided in the letter is about the production of educational films and writings that Sollner had done.

The **Publication** series consist a copy of the *Congressional Record*, March 5, 1974. On this publication it has an article about William J. Sollner and his organization of the Solfilm International project. The series also has copies of: Calvin Workshop 1971 manual; Aviation Safety (Vol XV No. 21 & 22); The Millennium; Solfilm publications; and the largest part of the series, the Off Center publication (Vol 1-6).

The **Writings** series includes "Cane Camp Script," "Scriptwriting for Pun and Profit, or Show and Tell, 1963," and "A Sampler of Film Projects for Kauai Community College." The series also contains "Pied Piper Puppets."

The **Books** series contains copies of books that were not catalogued into the Special Collections. These books were *Hawaiian Games* by Philip K.E. Geh and *The Menehune Scrolls II* by William J. Sollner.

The **Media** series 16mm film and video tapes collected by Sollner. On the 16mm Film, Sollner had "Buddhist Temple," "Cane Camp," "Dance Trip," "Hanalei" which had two reels, "Oberlin," and "The Universe and Other Things." On the video tapes or VHS, Sollner had "Bill Sollner's Hawaii Videocassette" and "Kauai on Tape Volume 1."

Processing Note

Collection formally processed in December 2017 by MaryJo Noblit Johnson (GA).

FOLDER LIST

Correspondence series

f. 1 circa 1973, Thomas E. Sims to Sollner

Publications series

f. 2 Calvin Workshop Manual, Aviation Safety, The Millennium.

f. 3 Solfilm

f. 4-10 Off Center

Writings series

f. 10 Writings

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f. 11 Pied Piper Puppets

Books series

f. 12 Books (2)

Media series

f. 13 VHS (2), DVDs (2)

f. 14 16mm Film (6 reels)