

## **An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, John C. Todd Collection**

**Repository:** University of Northern Colorado, James A. Michener Library, Archival Services

**Collection number:** SC 1-64

**Title:** An Inventory of the James A. Michener Papers, John C. Todd Collection

**Author:** Inventory prepared by Shirley Soenksen on 2006 December 27.

**Dates:** 1980

**Creator or Collector:** Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997; Todd, John C.

**Size:** .5 linear feet; framed letter is 12"x14."

### **Abstract:**

One framed original letter dated 1980 March 15 from James A. Michener to John C. Todd giving Todd permission to name a restaurant in Greeley, Colorado after Potato Brumbaugh, a character to Michener's novel *Centennial*.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

One framed original letter dated 1980 March 15 from James A. Michener to John C. Todd giving Todd permission to name a restaurant in Greeley, Colorado after Potato Brumbaugh, a character in Michener's novel *Centennial*.

### **Historical Note:**

John Todd, Vic Nottingham, Charlie Rymes, and Rob Haimson opened Potato Brumbaugh's Restaurant on August 15, 1981. Rob Haimson became owner of the restaurant in 1986. Potato Brumbaugh's Restaurant closed on August 16, 2006. After the restaurant closed, Rob Haimson gave several items to Archival Services to be included in the James A. Michener Papers. See also: James A. Michener Papers, SC1-74, Potato Brumbaugh's Collection.

Source: Jackson, Bill. "Potato's Restaurant Closing Next Month." *Greeley Tribune*, July 19, 2006, n.p.

### **Biography of James A. Michener:**

James Albert Michener was born in 1907 to unknown parents and raised as an orphan in the care of widow Mabel Michener of Doylestown, Pennsylvania. By the time he graduated from high school in 1925, he had visited 45 out of the 48 states. He was given a scholarship to Swarthmore, and after graduating summa cum laude in 1929, he traveled and continued his education at nine universities inside and outside the United States. During this time, he also taught in Pennsylvania, Colorado, and at the Harvard School of Education.

When he was not teaching, Michener worked as a textbook editor in New York, and he joined the British Merchant Marines. During WWII, he joined the Navy, making use of his experience in the British Merchant Marines to climb through the ranks to lieutenant and his knowledge of history to carry out sensitive assignments in the South Pacific. It was this experience that brought about *Tales of the South Pacific* in 1947, which won a Pulitzer Prize. Michener used this novel as the cornerstone of his writing career, publishing almost 50 books in the next 50 years, including *Sayonara*, *Hawaii*, *The Source*, *Iberia*, *Caravans*, *The Covenant*, *Sports in America*, and *Poland*.

In 1977, a four-part public television series called *The World of Michener* covered Israel, Hawaii, Spain, and Poland, just a few of the countries upon which his books have been based. Several other books have been turned into movies or miniseries, and two of his novels have been turned into musicals (most notably *South Pacific*, which won its own Pulitzer Prize).

During the time that he was publishing, however, Michener did not ignore the world around him. He ran for Congress in 1962 and held positions on several committees, including the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention, the U.S. Postal Service stamp committee, and an advisory position on a council for NASA. He also spoke often at congressional hearings and at functions of those organizations in which he held particular interest.

James A. Michener died at the age of 90 on October 16, 1997 in Texas, three years after his third wife, Mari Yoriko Sabusawa. He had no children.

**Restrictions on Access:** The collection is open for research.

**Restrictions on Use:** User is responsible for copyright compliance.

**Preferred Citation:** Letter dated 1980 March 15 from James A. Michener to John C. Todd, James A. Michener Papers (SC 1-64), John C. Todd Collection, Archival Services, James A. Michener Library, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.

**Acquisition Information (if applicable):**

Gift of John C. Todd on December 14, 2006.

Documentation relating to the acquisition is on file in Archives, RG 13 S1 F11-2.

**Subjects:**

Michener, James A. (James Albert), 1907-1997

Todd, John C.

Potato Brumbaugh's Restaurant & Saloon (Greeley, CO)

Centennial -- Michener James A James Albert 1907-1997

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