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Spring 2001

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# Library focus

U S M L i b r a r i e s Spring 2 0 0 1

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# Celebrate Children's Literature at the 34th Annual Children's Book Festival

— Dee Jones, Curator, de Grummond Children's Literature Collection

Every spring for the past 33 years, children's literature aficionados have gathered on the campus of The University of Southern Mississippi for the Children's Book Festival. The original purpose of the book festival was to introduce the University Library's new collection of children's literature, begun in 1966. This collection was later named in honor of its founder, Dr. Lena Y. de Grummond.



The first festival, held in 1968, was an international book fair, highlighting children's literature from around the world. The focus changed slightly in the second year, and a new feature was added — the awarding of a silver medallion for the distinguished body of work of an author or illustrator. Lois Lenski was the first recipient in 1969 and was followed by a veritable who's who of children's literature — Ernest H. Shepard, Roger Duvoisin, Marcia Brown, Barbara Cooney, Scott O'Dell, Madeleine L'Engle, Leonard Everett Fisher, Ezra Jack Keats, Maurice Sendak, Beverly Cleary, Katherine Paterson, Arnold Lobel, Jean Fritz, Richard Peck, James Marshall, Tomie de Paola, Eric Carle, E.L. Konigsburg, Russell Freedman, David Macaulay, and the 2001 recipient, Virginia Hamilton.



The 2001 Children's Book Festival, held on The University of Southern Mississippi campus March 21-23, featured an exciting line-up of speakers. Newbery medalist Virginia Hamilton is the critically acclaimed author of more than forty books for children and young adults. Hamilton was joined by Arnold Adoff, respected poet and anthologist, whose compilations focus primarily on the work of black poets. Visual delight was provided by two author/illustrators with very different styles. Caldecott honor recipient Denise Fleming's highly textured drawings are the result of her innovative pulp painting technique. The work of Vera B. Williams, recipient of two Caldecott honors, features multicultural families and strong female characters. Distinguished African-American storyteller Evester Roper delighted the audience with folklore and tales from around the world. The Festival concluded with the 16th Ezra Jack Keats Lecture delivered by Dr. Patsy Perritt, professor of library and information science at the Louisiana State University.

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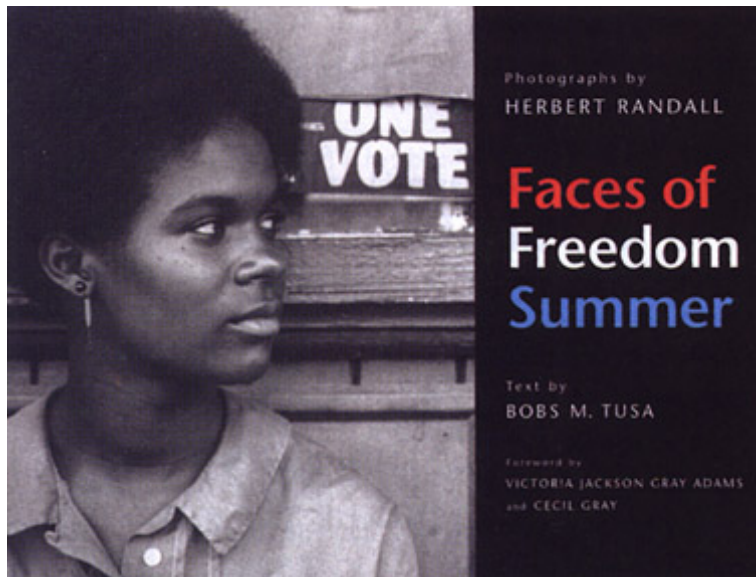


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## **Faces of Freedom Summer:** **The Civil Rights Photography of Herbert Randall**

— Dr. Toby Graham, Head, Special Collections

"They came to Mississippi from everywhere that summer of 1964," University Archivist Bobs Tusa writes, "to join with local black citizens in a national effort to make American democracy work." *Faces of Freedom Summer*, published in January by the University of Alabama Press, offers 102 images by award-winning photographer Herbert Randall that document the Mississippi Freedom Summer project in Hattiesburg and in the nearby community of Palmer's Crossing. The photographs are selected from a collection of 1,759 Randall images held by the USM Archives.



Cover from *Faces of Freedom Summer*.  
Printed with permission, University of Alabama Press.

The Mississippi Freedom Summer campaign was a watershed event in American history that brought together white college students from outside the South with black Civil Rights workers in an effort to create Freedom Schools for African-American children, open Freedom Libraries, and win voting rights for blacks through registration drives. The summer crusade, marred by the murders of Civil Rights activists Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, and James Chaney, deeply affected the national conscience and helped to change American race relations. There were Freedom Summer sites throughout the state, but Hattiesburg was the largest.

In 1964, an African and Native American photographer from New York City named Herbert Randall won a John Hay Whitney Fellowship for Creative Photography, which enabled him to spend a year creating a photographic essay on black life. Randall came to Hattiesburg, and the product was the 1,759 negatives. Almost none of these had been published or even developed to print as late as 1998 when he donated the collection to The University of Southern Mississippi.

In 1999, the USM Museum of Art held an exhibition of 102 images from the Randall collection. The June 7th opening of the exhibit, called *Faces of Freedom Summer*, coincided with a Freedom Summer reunion and symposium at Southern Miss. Former participants traveled from as far away as London, California, and New York to see Randall's photographs and renew acquaintances.

The 102 exhibition photographs are reproduced in print for the *Faces of Freedom Summer* book. Text by Dr. Bobs M. Tusa supplements the images. Her 28-page introduction is a history of Freedom Summer in Hattiesburg. It provides information on the photographs and recounts the return of the participants to

Mississippi in 1999. The book also includes a forward by activist and former senatorial candidate Victoria Gray Adams and her son Dr. Cecil Gray, head of African-American Studies at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania.

*Faces of Freedom Summer* portrays the danger inherent in Civil Rights activism in the 1960s. Randall shows the reader a volunteer's car perforated with bullet holes and an image of a bleeding Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld just after an angry Mississippian clubbed him with a tire iron.

The overall effect of the book, however, provides a sense that Freedom Summer was a success story, one in which whites and blacks joined together to promote education and political freedom in Mississippi and the nation through nonviolent means. *Faces* offers captivating photographic portraits of individual volunteers and local blacks, such as a Freedom School student smiling shyly at his teacher and Victoria Gray caught in a moment of contemplation. Its moving depictions of the Freedom Summer activities provide a window into the movement. Folk singer Pete Seeger stands, hand in hand with local African Americans, singing "We Shall Overcome." Ladies fan away the summer heat during a political caucus at a Hattiesburg church.

Civil Rights author John Dittmer writes of *Faces*: "Randall's stunning photographs bring Freedom Summer alive to a new generation of Americans. Tusa's introduction sheds new light on the Civil Rights movement in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Together they have produced a work as inspirational as it is instructive." Historian Jack Bass asserts that the book "adds rich imagery for understanding the most significant domestic development in 20th-century America. It captures the sense of place that lay at the core of Southern culture and attaches it to the struggle over Civil Rights." *Faces of Freedom Summer* lists at \$39.95, and it is available at the Hub Bookstore. Order blanks for additional copies are available at the Cleanth Brooks Reading Room at the McCain Library and Archives. The Herbert Randall Freedom Summer Photograph Collection is one of 68 original collections and 144 oral histories held by the USM Libraries that document the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi. For more information, visit our Web site at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~spcol>, e-mail to [spcol@lib.usm.edu](mailto:spcol@lib.usm.edu), or call (601) 266-4345.

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# Hear the Voices of the **Civil Rights** **Movement** Online

— Dr. Toby Graham, Head, Special Collections

In 2000, the USM Libraries and the Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage collaborated on a project to bring to the Web transcripts of more than sixty oral histories documenting the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi. This collection of firsthand accounts is now supplemented with clips of digital audio for selected transcripts. The digital audio literally brings the voices of the Civil Rights movement to remote users and distance learners. Hear Freedom School Teacher Sandra Adickes describe her students' attempt to integrate Hattiesburg's public library in 1964 or Hollis Watkins explain the vital role that music played in Civil Rights activism. The oral histories are available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~spcol/crda/oh/>.

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## James A. Riley's Forty-Six Years of Giving

— Peggy Price, Special Collections Librarian

Libraries of all kinds have traditionally relied on the generosity of individuals to help support their programs to acquire and preserve distinguished collections for learning and research. One of these individuals is Mr. James A. Riley, who, along with his late wife Corneil, has donated tens of thousands of books, periodicals, maps, manuscripts, and ephemera of all descriptions to The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries. The Rileys began giving 46 years ago, and their gifts have reached every part of the USM Library system, including the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, USM Archives, Mississippiana, and Cook circulating collections.

The Rileys began donating materials to the USM Libraries in 1955, but Mr. Riley's connection to the school dates back to his college years. When the couple retired, they returned to Hattiesburg because it "felt like home." They continued collecting materials and giving books, artifacts, and ephemera to the library. Mr. Riley and his wife agreed on many things, including that "a thing should be where it can be used, and if not, then it should be where it can be appreciated." In a special collections environment, these treasures are both used and appreciated.

James A. Riley was born in New Hebron, Mississippi, in 1927. The family moved to Collins for his high school years, but at the young age of 16 Mr. Riley decided to join the war effort and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. During World War II, his family moved to Hattiesburg, where his father could be closer to his work at Camp Shelby. When the young soldier returned, he joined his family in Hattiesburg and began working at the A&P Grocery on South Main.



The G.I. Bill provided Mr. Riley with the opportunity to attend college, and he enrolled at The University of Southern Mississippi. As a student of History, English and Spanish, he spent many hours in the library conducting research. According to Mr. Riley, the library was sorely lacking in the types of materials he needed, and he continually pestered the head librarian, Anna Roberts, for books. They became great friends, and it was Ms. Roberts who prompted Mr. Riley's initial donations. Upon Ms. Roberts' request, he donated a collection of Life magazines dating from the 1920s. Mr. Riley's mother volunteered at the library until she was 80 years old, further strengthening his ties to the school.

Another connection was made when Mr. Riley worked on translating Spanish law documents at the Mississippi Department of Archives of History (MDAH), where he met William D. McCain, who was head of the MDAH at the time. The relationship proved fortuitous, as Dr. McCain would later serve as president of The University of Southern Mississippi and play a role in Mr. Riley's continued donations to the library.

Mr. Riley married and moved to Georgia to pursue a master's degree in history and political science at the University of Georgia. He went on to work as an insurance claims adjuster and to move with his wife around the country. Working in the claims business necessitated extensive travel, and Mrs. Riley accompanied him on these trips. She enjoyed visiting the flea markets, antique stores, and garage sales in the new cities they visited. She had an eye for the "good stuff" and picked up trinkets for a bargain. At one flea market in Wisconsin she came across an old mechanical pencil with the USM logo attached. She bought it, and the couple donated it to the USM archives for posterity.

By the 1960s, the Rileys had become serious collectors. Mrs. Riley became very interested in what she called "financial documents," which included banking papers and checks printed before 1920, when the tax on checks was lifted. In 1985 Mrs. Riley focused her collecting on children's books and began donating titles to the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection at Southern Miss. The couple also picked up modern first editions, maps, manuscripts, newspapers, land deeds, pamphlets, and other ephemera. The couple continued collecting and donating a wide range of materials up until Mrs. Riley's death in 1995, and Mr. Riley carries on the

activities to this day.



Map of "New Spain" from 1579,  
donated by Mr. Riley

Rural garage sales yield the best finds for the lowest prices, according to the seasoned collector. He has found many personal accounts, letters, and diaries this way. Mr. Riley also discovered several signed John Grisham works at a garage sale for just a few dollars each. Mr. Riley believes that by the time most items arrive at the flea market, the prices are unreasonable. He has formed relationships with many dealers across the coast from Brownsville, Texas, to Panama City, Florida, and can usually get a bargain in exchange for his repeat business.

Although the Rileys participated in collecting as a way of enjoying each other and their lives as a retired couple, they also promoted history and the preservation of our cultural heritage. It was their hope that others would learn of their donations and become inspired to follow suit. When they first returned to Hattiesburg, Mr. Riley opened a shop downtown selling stamps, coins, and historical artifacts. He was disappointed to find that local residents were not interested in Mississippi history. When he closed his store, he contacted Dr. McCain at Southern Miss and donated historical materials, such as Confederate rosters and supply orders, to the library.

Personal writings such as diaries and letters provide first hand accounts of the life of Americans at a particular point in the nation's history. Primary sources like these are an invaluable resource to a special collection, and Mr. and Mrs. Riley's gifts have made a real impact in this area. One donation, a set of letters between a soldier and his wife during the Civil War, documents history in a way that interpretive texts cannot. Another, a diary, details a young Mississippi college student's experiences away at school. Such things enlighten and inform researchers and become the substance behind historical and cultural scholarship. Pamphlets and other ephemeral items are another area where the Riley donations have enhanced the library's holdings. Though perhaps widely distributed and made easily available, such materials are often not considered worthy of historical study and are not saved. The rise of cultural studies, along with the popularity of social history, is increasing the demand for these types of materials. Fortunately, the Rileys were already hard at work collecting such things and added them to the thousands of items donated over the years. In an appraisal document, Dr. McCain states, "Some of the printed items (pamphlets) may be unique in that they may not be deposited in any other library. "

To explain where he might have inherited his sense of history and collecting, Mr. Riley tells the story of a great uncle, Franklin L. Riley. Franklin Riley was a professor of history at the University of Mississippi at the turn of the 20th century. According to James Riley, Mississippi government officials decided that they no longer had room to store the old state records and were going to throw them away. Franklin Riley discovered this shocking turn of events and rushed to intervene. He managed to save a portion of the archive, and it was those documents that formed the foundation of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.



Quite a legacy to uphold, yet James Riley and his wife have managed. Together they have made a substantial contribution to historical preservation and research in Mississippi. The USM Libraries thank those individuals who—like the Rileys—realize the value of our cultural heritage and offer both their time and their resources to the cause.

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## The Latest and Greatest: Online Book Renewal and Other User Services in Anna

— Kay Wall, Director, Public Services

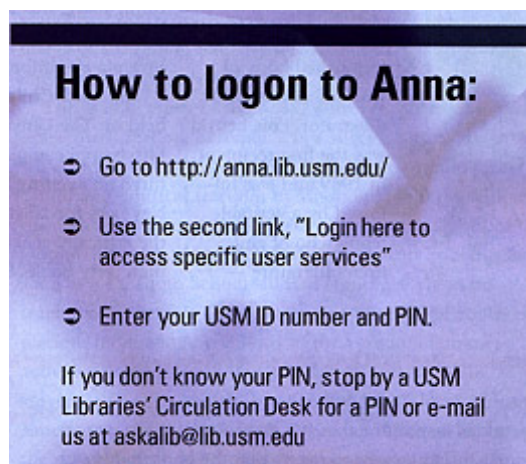
It's a busy, rainy Tuesday evening, and you realize that you have thirty library books that are due today! Help! How will you carry all of them to the library when you want to keep them a week or two more before finishing the research you're doing? And it's really coming down out there . . . . .

*Anna User Services to the rescue!* By logging onto Anna, the library catalog, from home, you are now able to renew books online without bringing the books to a circulation desk. This new service allows one renewal of each item you have checked out.

Online renewal is just one of several services available to USM faculty, staff, students, and alumni through the Anna login. Other services available by logging onto Anna include

- Interlibrary Loan online forms.
- Campus-to-campus loan request forms. When titles you want are on another USM campus, click the campus-to-campus bar and complete the request form.
- Patron accounts. With your password and PIN, see what books you have checked out, when they are due, and if you have any bills outstanding with the library that have not been sent to the USM Business Office.
- PIN changes. Make your PIN something easy to remember, and change it periodically for security.
- Holds. See what items you have asked to be placed on hold for you.

User Services described above are available to any member of the USM community, and all the features are accessible via computer from campus or any site off campus. If you have other questions about User Services, contact Kay Wall at (601) 266-4362.



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## New USM Gulf Coast Library

— Edward McCormack, Director, Cox Library

The new \$7 million USM Gulf Coast Library building is currently undergoing construction by Roy Anderson Construction Corp. It will be the largest facility on the Gulf Park campus and is scheduled for completion in early 2002.

It will be a three-story, 54,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art building. An open stair, crowned with a vaulted skylight, will connect all three floors and provide a central focal point for the interior of the building. Each floor will have a comfortable seating area positioned at the south end with a spectacular view of the Gulf of Mexico. The building will house the Library, Media Center, Curriculum Lab, and a Computer Lab/Reading room that will be open 24 hours, 7 days a week.



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## The Special Collections

# VIRTUAL READING ROOM

— Peggy Price, Special Collections Librarian

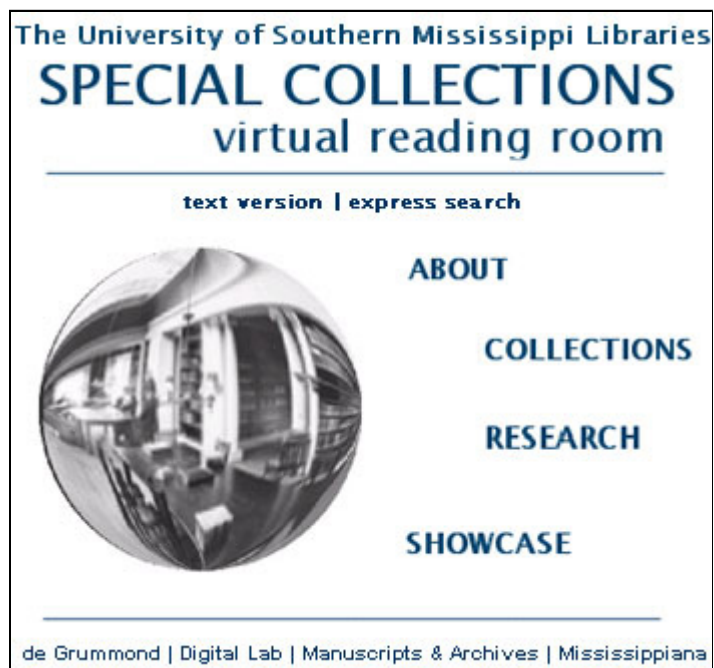
The McCain Library and Archives is pleased to announce the launch of their new Web site, the Special Collections Virtual Reading Room. By translating traditional reading room activities into an online environment, the site enhances access to physical and virtual resources. Its most innovative feature allows users to search full-text the finding aids that describe and inventory the USM Libraries' unique primary source collections in Archives, the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, and its other special collections. The site also offers an overview of the collections held in McCain Library, contact information, news and exhibits, and instructional information. It links to digital collections and relevant databases.

USM Libraries' Special Collections department encompasses the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, USM Archives, Mississippiana, and the Special Collections Digital Lab. Each maintains a Web presence. The new site operates as a comprehensive focal point for research in Special Collections, gathering information across collections and unifying searching functions.

A functional splash page lists the four primary components of the site, and with the roll of the mouse, a content outline of each component page appears:

- **ABOUT:** Provides contact information, hours, location, services, and information for donors.
- **COLLECTIONS:** Offers descriptions of each collection, with links to their respective pages.
- **RESEARCH:** Facilitates access to finding aids, pathfinders, and the vertical file indexes. "Using the collections" defines these terms and helps new users identify needs. Online resources are listed as well.
- **SHOWCASE:** Informs users about news items, events, and activities associated with Special Collections materials and people. Exhibit announcements are included on the showcase page, along with links to online exhibits.

A search box located at the bottom of the page provides comprehensive access to online finding aids and indexes. Special collections often hold large archival collections that require extensive inventories to keep track of their contents. Called finding aids or registers, the descriptive tools are traditionally printed and placed in binders for browsing.



Many archives provide finding aids online; however, USM is more thorough in electronic description of archival collections than any other repository in Mississippi or its contiguous states. The USM Libraries offer 540 online registers (processed collections) and another 300 accession records (unprocessed collections) for USM Archives and the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection. The USM Libraries have had finding aids on the Web as early as 1995, but through the Virtual Reading Room these descriptive tools are searchable in a comprehensive fashion.

In addition to the finding aids, the Virtual Reading Room allows searching of the de Grummond and Mississippiana vertical file indexes and other guides to collections. Altogether, the search engine indexes nearly a thousand Special Collections Web pages, and provides considerable bibliographic power. For example, the term "Will Campbell" entered under "exact phrase" produces hits for the preacher/writer's personal papers in Archives, papers of two of his correspondents, and a vertical file in the Mississippiana Collection. We also learn from the search that Campbell

wrote two children's books, and that their manuscripts are in the de Grummond Collection.

Users will also find direct hyperlinks to Anna, the Information Online databases, and, soon, the digital media archive. Listed too are hyperlinks to finding aids in de Grummond and Archives, and the Mississippiana vertical file and pathfinders. Online resources are divided into subject categories and provide access to relevant sites on campus, in the state, and nationwide.

Other points of interest include a new Mississippiana/Other Special Collections page and the Civil Rights in Mississippi Digital Archive with full-text oral history transcripts with selected audio clips. To access the Special Collections Virtual Reading Room, point your browser to <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~spcol/>.

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## Try a brand new type of "Cook 'book"

— Barton Spencer, Head, Electronic Resources Department

I can check out a computer?

From the library?

ABSOLUTELY!

Let Cook Library put the power of the Internet and all of the Libraries' resources in your hands, literally, in the form of a "Cook 'book" - also known as a Cook Library notebook computer.

Using a valid USM ID, library patrons can now check out a notebook computer for use within Cook Library for a three-hour period. This allows library users to take software programs and Internet access with them to any place in the library. The notebook computers use wireless network cards to connect to the Internet via wireless network transmitters installed by the Office of Technology Resources (OTR).

The computers offer several popular software packages, including Microsoft Office, which helps users write papers, create spreadsheets, design PowerPoint graphical presentations, and much more.

The machines feature two types of Web browsers, Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator, along with a program for file transfer (ftp). As a result, library patrons can check and send e-mail, transfer files from the notebook computer to Internet accounts, and conduct research. Most of the electronic research resources available through USM Libraries are accessed via the Web, so no matter where you are within the building, you have vast capabilities available to you.

The notebook computer checkout program was created as the result of a partnership between USM Libraries and the Office of Technology Resources. The departments split the costs 50-50 as computers, software, and accessories were purchased. The notebook computers connect to the Internet via OTR's wireless transmitters installed on all five floors of Cook Library. The library itself oversees the checkout process and keeps the computer batteries powered for the next user.

The notebook computers are Dell Latitude models with Intel 600Mhz Celeron processors, 128MB of RAM, and 6GB hard drives. They use the Windows 98 operating system. When patrons check out the notebook computers, they specify their desire to use a floppy drive or a CD-ROM drive. If a person needs to change drives or batteries during the checkout period, a quick trip to the Circulation/Reserve desk will accomplish this. Printing is handled by the two networked printers located in the Information Services area on the first floor. Printouts are 10 cents a page.

The Cook 'books are already proving to be popular and are filling patrons' needs for mobility and additional computing power. Allow us to show you what they can do and how they can help you.

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