

Paul St. Pierre Fonds

Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books

MsC 88

April 2008

Fonds Description

Title: Paul St. Pierre Fonds

Date: 1940 –

Extent: 17 m textual records and other materials

Biographical History:

Canadian writer Paul St. Pierre was born in Chicago on 14 October 1923, and grew up in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. After a brief period with the Royal Canadian Air Force, he moved to Vancouver in 1945, where he began a career in journalism.

Although his career has taken several other turns, St. Pierre has continued to work as a journalist, most notably for *The Vancouver Sun*, where he was a regular columnist for close to thirty years. He is also widely known for his books. His novels, many of which are set in British Columbia's Chilcotin region, include *Boss of the Namko* (1965), *Chilcotin Holiday* (1979), *Navel of the Moon* (1993), and *Breaking Smith's Quarter Horse* (1966), basis for the Disney film *Smith!* (1969). His works of nonfiction include *British Columbia: Our Land* (1977) and *Old Enough to Know Better* (2002). St. Pierre has also written various scripts for television and the theatre. He was one of the principal scriptwriters for the award-winning CBC series, *Cariboo Country*, a Canadian western set in central British Columbia that aired for eight years during the 1960s. He also wrote, among other television dramas, the acclaimed *Sister Balonika* (1969), and his play *How to Run the Country* was produced by the Vancouver Playhouse in 1967.

St. Pierre was the first Canadian to receive the Western Writers of America Spur Award, for his novel *Smith and Other Events* in 1983. In 2000, he was honoured with the Terasen Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to the literary arts in British Columbia. He also won the Joe Marten Memorial Award for the Preservation of Cowboy Heritage in British Columbia in 2007.

In a departure from his writing activities, St. Pierre served as a Liberal member of Parliament for the riding of Coast Chilcotin from 1968 to 1972 and as Police Commissioner of British Columbia from 1979 to 1983.

St. Pierre has four children and eight grandchildren. He continues to write and divides his time between his homes in Mexico, the Chilcotin, and B.C.'s Fraser Valley.

Custodial History:

Items in this collection were created or accumulated by Paul St. Pierre and remained in his possession until the time of acquisition by Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books.

Scope and Content:

The collection consists of items related to St. Pierre's writing activities and to his work as a politician and police commissioner. Included are published books; magazines and newspapers

in which St. Pierre has published his work; correspondence; drafts and manuscripts of books, radio and stage plays, television series episodes, and speeches; film scripts; newspaper columns; essays; reviews and articles about St. Pierre and his writing; and photographs.

Notes:

Source of Title:

Title based on contents of the fonds.

Physical Description:

Includes: books; magazines; hand-written and word-processed letters, memos, manuscripts, and speeches; photographs; scrapbooks; loose clippings; miscellaneous loose papers; and letters, manuscripts, columns, and speeches saved to compact disc.

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

The collection was acquired from Paul St. Pierre by Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books in two accessions. Further accruals are expected.

Arrangement

Material was acquired in two accessions in February 2006 and November 2006. Due to the lack of original order of the material and overlap between the two accessions, the material has been processed as a whole unit.

Terms Governing Access:

Reproduction of the material is subject to the approval of the Special Collections and Rare Books librarian.

Finding Aids:

No finding aid is yet available.