

Archives & Manuscript Collections
National Sporting Library
Middleburg, VA

**Custer Cassidy
Collection
1953-1978**

Name: **Cassidy, Custer** **MC0030**

Materials: Collection

Dates: 1953-1978 (bulk dates, 1953-1959)

Volume: 0.5 cubic feet (1 document box)

Donation: Gift of Custer Cassidy, 1995

Usage: Unless otherwise stated by NSL staff, these records are open for research without restrictions.

Biographical Note

Custer Cassidy is a native of Wyoming, and as such made his early living by being a cowboy. However, in 1945 he enlisted in the army and received his training at the Cavalry Replacement Training School at Ft. Riley, Kansas. He went on to serve in a horse platoon of the Army of Occupation in Austria; it was there as a member of the Army Horse Show Team that Cassidy was first introduced to jumping. After his tour in the army, he returned to Wyoming, but did not remain a cowboy for long: he was called into active duty during the Korean War, serving as a machine gunner in the 7th Reconnaissance Company, 7th Infantry Division.

Upon his return to the United States in 1952, Cassidy embarked upon a lifelong career as a professional steeplechase jockey. During time off for a serious ankle injury in 1953, he began to pursue his childhood hobby of drawing; the resulting drawings were accepted for use in *The Chronicle*. For the past 50 years, Cassidy has been providing illustrations for the weekly magazine on a regular basis, including a new banner for the cover and graphics for the website. He has also published several compilations of cartoons, including *Cartoons by Cassidy* (1958), *Hunt Country Cartoons* (1966), and *Best of Cassidy Cartoons* (1997), as well as books by other authors, a series of calendars, and advertisements.

Collection Description

The Custer Cassidy Collection is comprised of groups of cartoons and illustrations created by Cassidy for use in advertisements, calendars, *The Chronicle*, and his own book *Cartoons by Cassidy*. The materials are arranged into two series: Original Drawings and Printed Materials. Many of the original drawings are undated, but several have been date stamped on the reverse to indicate in which issue they were used by *The Chronicle*. All of the drawings and most of the printed materials include Cassidy's trademark signature, the cattle skull formed from the "C" and "Y" of his last name. An appendix provides a complete list of the original drawings in the collection.

Series and Subseries

- I. Original Drawings, 1953-1959** **33 folders**
 Original pen, ink, and pencil sketches for cartoons by Custer Cassidy that were used in *The Chronicle* and *Cartoons by Cassidy* (1958). Cartoons that appeared in *Cartoons by Cassidy* are housed first, arranged in the order in which they appear in the book; the miscellaneous cartoons are housed thereafter in chronological order by date used (where such a date is available). A complete list of all of the cartoons is included in the appendix.
- II. Printed Materials, 1965-1978** **4 folders**
 Printed materials which feature illustrations by Cassidy, which include several of his calendars from the 1960s and 1970s. The materials in this series are arranged chronologically.

Container List MC0030

I. Original Drawings

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J35	08-33	Cartoons from <i>Cartoons by Cassidy</i>	1953-1958
J35	34-40	Miscellaneous cartoons	1957-1959

II. Printed Materials

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J35	41	Advertisements	1965-1967
J35	42-44	Cassidy Cartoon Calendars	1967-1978

This collection was processed by Michele M. Tourney, July 2004.

Appendix 1: List of illustrations

Fol.	Caption	Date used
08	"You an' your wise back-talk to the handicapper!"	Nov. 1955
08	"Is this what yer a-huntin' fer??"	Nov. 1956
09	"He's makin' sure he don't pick the wrong mount again!"	undated
09	"Let's try him without the burr once!"	undated
10	"Think we ought to call it a season, Mr. Dyhard?"	Jan. 1955
10	"Patent pending"	undated
11	"News item - 'New safety helmets adopted'..."	Oct. 1957
11	"By jingoes! It <u>is</u> shock-proof!"	undated
12	"Omigosh! - How many times did he cough?"	undated
12	"Jock, you ain't started no continued stories I hope!!"	undated
13	"It's O.K. Pierre - it ain't the Mounties!"	Dec. 1964
13	"Some mighty low branches back there - Eh? George??"	undated
14	"Oops! - Sorry, wrong beacon!"	undated
14	"Maybe he's thirsty, McGee!"	undated
15	"'Ware whip!! Right there - that's <u>where</u> !!"	undated
15	"It's not the 'going' that worries me..."	June 1957
16	[Jockey spies buzzard waiting patiently]	Feb. 1956
16	"McFee must be on a dandy this trip!"	Oct. 1955
17	"Look, Slim, - just yell out - 'Talley-ho!'..."	Feb. 1958
17	"Naw! He ain't blind! - He just don't give a dang!"	Aug. 1953
18	"How hammy can ya get?!"	undated
18	"Whadya mean - 'Where's the rest of it?'"	Feb. 1958
19	[Rider threatening judge with a noose]	Oct. 1955
19	"Speak up man! How are you on that side?"	Apr. 1953
20	"Brother! <u>Did we</u> take the wrong course!!"	undated
20	"It's just your imagination! - Su-ure it is!"	undated
21	"Doesn't like the front,- he gets lonely!"	Nov. 1955
21	"I'm O.K. - but good luck to the rest of ya!"	July 1956
22	"They're off!!"	undated
22	"Togetherness"	undated
23	"He's blowin' a little - ain't he?"	undated
23	"Who gave <u>you</u> permission to dismount, rider?"	undated
24	"Yeah, I rode him once...."	Oct. 1957
24	"Oh I'd be glad to school him, - in arithmetic!"	undated
25	"Never mind me. - Get that -blankety@*- <u>Pony</u> !"	undated
25	"I'm just tryin' to remember what it was I didn't like...."	Sep. 1957
26	"If it ain't ants it's - VIPE!!"	May 1953
26	"Well you could use it!!"	May 1953
27	"'Game'- Hell!! - I'm stuck!!!"	undated
27	"Spitting out the gum didn't help much, Fagan!"	undated
28	"I think he wants us to start over!"	Apr. 1953
28	"If you can't hold him - pull him up!!"	undated
29	"Some scuffle at that last fence, huh!?"	May 1953
29	"Slim's back east riding jumpers. - Must wanna get killed."	undated
30	"Did I boost too hard? Huh? George??"	undated
30	"You can let go now - dadgum it!"	Dec. 1955
31	"Oh, those amateurs don't mean to mess you up...."	undated

Appendix 1: List of illustrations (cont.)

Fol.	Caption	Dates
31	"You were right about him liking the 'going'...."	Dec. 1957
32	"Quick! Who's on the '5' horse? I wanna knock him!"	undated
32	"Better take along a sandwich, jock!"	undated
33	"I <u>am</u> lookin' man! I'm lookin' already!"	undated
34	" <u>Where</u> was it that you whipped hounds before, Kelly?"	undated
34	"Sam's in orbit!"	undated
35	"Look at it this way - you're <u>leading faller</u> !!"	undated
35	"Yeah, I think you should ride <u>longer</u>"	undated
36	"Have saddle - will fall! I. Fallagin"	undated
36	"Are you the good Humor man??"	undated
37	" <u>Blind</u> ?- Wal, at the sale I <u>told</u> you...."	undated
37	"Please replace the divots."	undated
38	"Yeah,- but this ain't no conformation class!"	June 1957
38	"Tough luck pal - er'- did you have a ride in the next race?"	July 1957
39	"'Show him a fence?' - You can show him...."	May 1959
39	"This horse <u>always</u> jumps to the <u>right</u> !"	June 1959
40	"Put your heels <u>down</u> boy, - the track's <u>been</u> harrowed!"	Dec. 1959