

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY
K0018 (KA0029)
DANIEL LEWIS JAMES, JR. (1911-1988) PAPERS, 1933-1939

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Introduction

The Daniel Lewis James, Jr. (1911-1988) Papers contain annotated manuscript and typescript drafts of plays, radio broadcasts, and a novel by award-winning author and playwright, Daniel James. Also included are newspaper clippings and a playbill related to the production of the play "Survival." Some of the materials are revised and heavily annotated. 13 folders, approximately .5 c.f.

Location Note

This collection is stored in two different c.f. boxes containing multiple small collections.

Donor Information

These papers were received as a gift from the UMKC General Library, and accessioned as KA0029 on August 14, 1980.

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Biographical Note

Daniel L. James, Jr. was born January 14, 1911, the son of Daniel Lewis James (1880-1944) and Lillie Hyatt Snider James (1883-1968) of Kansas City. The elder James was vice-president of the T.M. James and Sons China Company. He was a 1902 graduate of Yale University, and wrote a half-dozen full length plays which were produced in New York.

Daniel L. James, Jr. initially was not interested in theater, despite the fact that his father was a playwright. Following his education at Yale where he studied Greek and graduated in 1933, he worked in the Oklahoma oil fields as an organizer for the Unemployed Council. It was during this time that he turned to literature.

He proposed a radio series on Paul Bunyan which failed. Later, he worked with Charlie Chaplin for about a year on the production of "The Great Dictator." He then went on to write "Winter Soldiers" and other plays. "Survival" and "The Life and Times of Frank and Jesse James" were efforts of James which apparently dated after his Paul Bunyan work but prior to his work with Chaplin.

James married Lilith Stanward, a ballet dancer, writer, and social worker in 1940, and they had a daughter.

James was a controversial writer expressing his social and political ideologies in his writings. He was attracted to Marxist ideas in the 1930s while working in the oil fields

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and later, along with this wife, was a member of the Communist Party until 1948. In 1951, the U.S. House Committee on Un-American Activities investigated the couple. James was blacklisted but continued to write screenplays, novels, and short stories under the pseudonyms Daniel Hyatt and Danny Santiago.

He won the Sidney Howard Memorial Award in 1942 for his play *Winter Soldiers*. His novel *Famous All Over Town*, published in 1983 under the pen name Danny Santiago, depicted the lives of a Mexican American family living in a Los Angeles barrio. It won the Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Foundation Award for fiction from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters in 1984.

Daniel Lewis James, Jr. died in Monterey, California, May 18, 1988.

Box List

Box 1 (038413)

f 1.

“Survival”

Typed play script, heavily annotated, March 1933

f 2.

“Survival”

Reviews of the production of “Survival”, related clippings and a playbill from the Cape Playhouse, Dennis, Massachusetts.

f 3.

“Life and Times of Frank and Jesse James”

Incomplete typescript of the play, 1939.

Box 2 (038414)

f 4-9.

“Paul Bunyan”

Radio scripts for 12 episodes of Paul Bunyan stories. These are working drafts, two drafts for each episode.

f 10-13.

Unidentified book

Typed and manuscript drafts of an untitled book, undated.