
Inventory of the Raymond Carver Photographs

Collection number: MS 130

The University Library
Special Collections and Archives
University of California, Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, California

Processed by:
UCSC OAC Unit

Date Completed:
September 2006

Encoded by:
UCSC OAC Unit

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Raymond Carver photographs

Dates: 1938-1988

Collection number: MS 130

Collector: Carver, James

Collection Size: 1 box
31 photographs

Repository: University of California, Santa Cruz. University Library. Special Collections and Archives
Santa Cruz, California 95064

Abstract: A small collection of thirty one family snapshots of Raymond Carver's early family life.

Physical location: Stored in Special Collections and Archives : Advance notice is required for access to the papers.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

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Acquisition Information

Purchased from James Carver in 2006.

Biography

Raymond Cleve Carver was born in Clatskanie, Oregon on May 25, 1938. In 1941 his family moved to Yakima, where Carver grew up, graduating from Yakima High School in 1956. On June 7, 1957, he married 16 year old Maryann Burk, who had just graduated from high school. In December of 1957 their first child, daughter Christine LaRae, was born. A son, Vance Lindsay, was born in October of the following year.

For the next dozen years one or both of the young parents were enrolled in various colleges and universities while holding a continuous succession of menial jobs. Carver wrote his first story, "Furious Seasons," while a student at Chico State College in California. After two years there, the family moved to Eureka, where he attended Humboldt State College, eventually becoming editor of the campus literary magazine *Toyon*. In the spring of 1962 *Western Humanities Review* accepted "Pastoral" -- Carver's first story published. The very same day, he received word that *Target* had accepted his poem "The Brass Ring" for publishing.

After graduating from Humboldt in February 1963, Carver moved to Berkeley, but by autumn the family had moved to Iowa City so he could attend the two-year master's program of the Writers' Workshop. They stayed only one year, however, before moving back to Sacramento, California, where Carver's parents were living. Financial difficulties continued, but he continued to write, and began to garner some success in getting work published. The next several years found them moving often, ending up in the Bay Area by the late 1960's. In 1970 "Neighbors" became the first of Carver's stories to be accepted by a major magazine, *Esquire*.

In 1971 he began teaching, despite finding it "a terrifying prospect." His first lecturer position was at the University of California at Santa Cruz. The following year was at UC Berkeley. During this time his drinking became more and more of a problem. In the 1973-74 academic year, he tried to teach at both the Iowa Writers' Workshop and at UCSC, without either school being aware he was teaching at the other. Meanwhile, his first collection of short stories, *Put Yourself In My Shoes*, appeared. Nonetheless, by the following year, when he was to teach at UC Santa Barbara, his alcoholism made the situation untenable and he was forced to resign. He continued a downward spiral, hospitalized for acute alcoholism on four separate occasions.

June 2, 1977, was called by Carver "the line of demarcation" between his "two lives": it was then he had his last alcoholic drink. It was too late to save his family life (he and Maryann eventually divorced but were already separated, and his children were estranged from him), but he soon recovered his ability to teach and desire to write. By the 1978-79 academic year, he held a writer-in-residence position at the University of Texas, El Paso. There he began a relationship with the poet Tess Gallagher, whom he had met the previous year at a conference in Dallas. They moved in together January 1, 1979, and they stayed together until his death in 1988. Jobs took them to Tuscon, Arizona, and then to Syracuse, New York, where Carver had his first permanent teaching post. Throughout the 1980's he continued to write stories and poems, enjoying ever-increasing success. Then in the fall of 1987 Carver was diagnosed with lung cancer, which by the next spring had spread to his brain. In June of 1988 he and Tess were married in Reno, Nevada. They returned to their home in Port Angeles, Washington, making only a brief trip to Alaska before Raymond Carver died on August 2, 1988.

Scope and Content of Collection

A small collection of thirty one family snapshots of Raymond Carver and his family from his earliest years to his death.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Carver, Raymond--Archives

Photographs

[Title: MS 131 Raymond Carver correspondence.](#)

[Date: 1977-1988](#)

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| Photo 1 | Ella (mother), Raymond Jr. 1938 |
| Photo 2 | Ella and Ray Sr. holding Raymond Jr. ca. 1938 |
| Photo 3 | Raymond and Dad (Ray Sr.) ca. 1940 |
| Photo 4 | Raymond ca. 1940 |
| Photo 5 | Raymond and Dad, Easter morning ca. 1942-1943 |
| Photo 6 | Junior (Raymond) ca. 1943 |
| Photo 7 | Raymond, James, Dick & Sue ca. 1945 |
| Photo 8 | Junior (Raymond), James & Muggs ca. 1945 |

- Photo 9 **[Father, Raymond, Mother & James] ca. 1944**
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- Photo 11 **[James, Raymond & Father - fishing] ca. 1948**
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- Photo 21 **James and Ray on steps of Apartment 408 in Chico, CA ca. 1956**
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