

Archives & Manuscript Collections  
National Sporting Library  
Middleburg, VA

**Custer Cassidy  
Collection  
1953-1978**

Name: **Cassidy, Custer** MC 0030

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 7<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Company, 7<sup>th</sup> 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 MC 0030

**I. Original Drawings**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1-26	Cartoons from <i>Cartoons by Cassidy</i>	1953-1958
1	27-33	Miscellaneous cartoons	1957-1959

**II. Printed Materials**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	34	Advertisements	1965-1967
1	35-37	Cassidy Cartoon Calendars	1967-1978

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

## Appendix 1: List of illustrations

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

**Appendix 1: List of illustrations (cont.)**

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