

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Coll. 2499
Astor, Dave
Dave Astor collection
Circa 1919-2007

Accession number: 2010.242, 2011.221, 2011.362

Processed: Fall 2010 by Aimee Bastarache, Simmons College intern, with additional processing of additional material by Erin Finn, Fall 2011 - Spring 2012.

Access: Unrestricted

Copyright: Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the MHS Image Services Coordinator.

Size: 4.25 linear ft. + O.S. box 12 and 6 volumes

Biographical information: Dave Astor was born September 1919 to Max Astor and Sarah (Sonya) Novick Astor. He has three sisters, Sylvia (Sissa), Evelyn, and Muriel. He was a member of Congregation Shaaray Tphiloh on Newbury Street and later Temple Beth El on Deering Avenue, both in Portland, Maine. He attended college at the University of Maine where he was a member of the Tau Epsilon Thi fraternity, and he received his Bachelors degree in June 1941, majoring in pre-dental courses.

Dave served as a US Marine from 1942-1945 serving in WWII in the Pacific theater at Guadalcanal, Okinawa, and Guam. He was a lieutenant by the time he was 23 years old, commanding 220 men and 6 officers. He eventually reached the rank of captain.

Dave Astor married Esta June Venner in 1943, a friend of his sister Sissa. Dave and Esta have two children, Martha and Kenneth.

Astor was actively involved with the Jewish Community Center and was also responsible for the creation of the Center Day Camp at Sebago Lake, on which committee he also served. Dave is also an advocate for senior citizens, and was also involved with Zionist Organization of America's Portland chapter.

Mr. Astor loved to direct plays and reviews and was actively involved with local theater.

Dave Astor is perhaps most well known as host of a local teen television music program called *The Dave Astor Show*, which he also staged and produced. The program ran from 1956 to 1971 beginning on WGAN-13 as *For Teenagers Only* and moving to WCSH-6 as *The Dave Astor Show*.

Dave Astor has received multiple awards and recognitions for his work with the community and enjoys collecting art. Mr. Astor died December 10, 2011.

Scope and content:

This collection contains items created by, or related to Dave Astor's personal life, aspects of his religious life and work within the Jewish community, as well as his professional life, with major emphasis on items related to his local Portland, Maine teen music television program, *The Dave Astor Show*.

Material types include multiple magazine and copied newspaper articles; awards and certificates from multiple organizations and institutions; correspondence, mostly from local government officials; a large number of photographs from *The Dave Astor Show*, as well as family

photographs; multiple VHS videos containing home movies, an episode of *The Dave Astor Show*, news segments and tributes, the presentation of an award, and a dedication ceremony; drawings and letters by Dave Astor while serving in the military; and scrapbooks, ledgers, posters, cards, booklets, manuscripts, committee records, reports, financial reports, and other miscellaneous materials.

Conservation Note: All of the photographs that were received in rolled and/or folded condition have been unrolled using humidification and/or flattened with weights.

Related Items:

Me Hist Soc Stacks:

Jewish Community Center, Bar Mitzvah week: [scrapbook]
Call No: Ms P837p.58

Maine State Sesquicentennial Commission presents the Portland Players in The birth of a state at the First Parish in Portland, March 16, 17, 18 & 19, 1970.
Call No: Pamphlet 2928

Me Hist Soc Museum Collections:

Dave Astor Show sign
Accession #: 2001.313

Dave Astor pin
Accession #: 2002.420

Dave Astor Show horn
Accession #: 2010.242.001

Provenance: Gift of Dave Astor.

Collected by Susan Cummings-Lawrence as part of the Maine Jewish History Initiative.

Inventory:

Arrangement Note: Due to the nature of the items in this collection similar material types have been physically housed together, therefore the container listing on the inventory contains duplicated box listings within the three series. Refer to the end of the finding aid to see an ordered container listing.

The series arrangement is as follows:

Series:

1. Personal
2. Jewish materials
3. Dave Astor Show

Series 1: Personal

Date: Circa 1919-2007

Scope and Content: This series contains items related to Dave Astor's personal life, including: his military service in the USMC during WWII; his awards and recognitions (as well as some related to his wife): involvement in local theatre, personal writing, travel, art collecting, and relationships with friends and family.

Materials include: copies of newspaper articles; family letters during wartime; military documents; photographs; certificates; personal drawings of Okinawa and other pacific locations; correspondence, mostly from local government officials; programs; manuscripts; advertisements and other materials related to art collecting; telegrams; notes; magazines; The Interfaith Prayer Project; VHS videos including home movies, an award presentation from the American Legion, and a WCSH news segment; and other materials.

Box 1

Folder 1: Military

Folder 2: Awards and Recognition

Folder 2b: Awards and Recognition 2

Folder 3: Theatre

Folder 4: Manuscript

Folder 5: "A Glorious, Exciting Adventure: My Three Weeks in Israel"
(corresponds with V.6 Israel Adventure)

Folder 6: Art Collecting

Box 2

Folder 1: Tribute to Morris Cox

Folder 2: Scrapbook, unbound

Folder 3: Fraternity Newsletters

Folder 4: Miscellaneous 1

Folder 5: Miscellaneous 2

Folder 6: Miscellaneous 3

Folder 7: Miscellaneous 4

Box 3

Folder 1: Military Letters 1 1944-1945

Folder 2: Military Letters 2 1944-1945

Folder 3: Military Letters 3 1944-1945

Folder 4: Military Letters 4 1944-1945

Folder 5: Interfaith Prayer Project

Box 7

Audio Cassette 1: Dodo Visiting and Daddy's Speech

Audio Cassette 2: Grandpa's Father's Day Portland Family

Audio Cassette 3: Dave Astor

Audio Cassette 4: Daddy 1971-1972

Box 9

Video 1: News segment with Bill Greene: Dave Astor's Senior Fitness Program, circa 1990-1991

- Video 2: Dave and Esta's 50th Wedding Anniversary, Sarasota. FL 1993
- Video 3: Dave Astor's 80th Birthday Weekend, Maine, 1999
- Video 4: Astor Family Luncheon, 2001
- Video 5: Dave Astor, American Legion Award presentation, 1971

Box 10

- Oversize Folder 1: Newspaper Articles
- Oversize Folder 2: Miscellaneous
- Oversize Folder 3: Miscellaneous 2

Volumes

- Volume 1: Photograph album
- Volume 2: Scrapbook
- Volume 4: Scrapbook 2
- Volume 6: Israel Adventure

Series 2: Jewish Materials

Date: 1938-2003

Scope and Content: This series contains items related to aspects of Dave Astor's religious life and work within the Jewish community, including: his affiliation with the Zionist Organization of America's Portland chapter, the Jewish Community Center, and Center Day Camp; as well as affiliation with congregation Etz Chaim in Portland, Maine. Materials include: meeting reports; bulletins; scripts and lyrics from "Past Presidents' Nite;" committee records, including expense reports; a men's seating records, and membership lists/ledgers; booklets; a VHS video of the Center Day Camp's rededication ceremony; and other materials.

Box 4

- Folder 1: Membership Ledger
- Folder 2: Booklets
- Folder 3: Zionist Organization of America, Portland chapter meeting reports, 1943-1946
- Folder 4: Jewish Community Center bulletins, 1955-1958
- Folder 5: Jewish Community Center "Past Presidents' Nite," 1948
- Folder 6: Jewish Community Center Day Camp Materials (includes committee records)
- Folder 7: Congregation Etz Chaim: Men's seating record, 1938; Membership lists, 1945-1957

Box 9

- Video 6: Video of Center Day Camp rededication, 2003

Box 10

- Oversize Folder 4: Newspaper Articles
- Oversize Folder 5: Jewish Community Center Bulletins and JWB Circle issued by the National Jewish Welfare Board

Volumes

- Volume 5: Maimonides Club Project

Series 3: Dave Astor Show

Date: 1956-2004

Scope and Content: This series contains items related to Dave Astor's professional life as host of The Dave Astor Show, as well as items related to the show in general.

Materials include: Photographs (mostly behind-the-scenes photographs taken while filming as well as posed and candid photographs of Mr. Astor, and the show's stars and guests); copies of newspaper articles about or referring to the Dave Astor show; VHS videos including one of the show itself, as well as news segments and tributes to the show; and other materials.

Box 5

Folder 1: Photograph Album
Folder 2: Photographs (loose)
Folder 3: Photographs (loose)
Folder 4: Album Photographs 1
Folder 5: Album Photographs 2

Box 6

Folder 1: Album Photographs 3
Folder 2: Album Photographs 4
Folder 3: Miscellaneous Photographs 1
Folder 4: Miscellaneous Photographs 2
Folder 5: Miscellaneous Photographs 3
Folder 6: Miscellaneous Items
Folder 7: Reunion Scrapbook (unbound)

Box 7

Audio Reel 1: Deering-Lewiston Junior Year
Audio Reel 2: Deering-Lewiston Basketball
Audio Reel 3A: Final Show
Audio Reel 3B: Final Show
Audio Reel 4: Miscellaneous 1
Audio Reel 5: Miscellaneous 2
Audio Reel 6: Deering-Biddeford Basketball
Audio Reel 7: Miscellaneous 3 (small)
Audio Reel 8: Miscellaneous 4
Visual Reel 1: Astor Special
Visual Reel 2: 10th Portland-Deering Thanksgiving Show
Visual Reel 3: Receiving Award from St Francis High School
Visual Reel 4: WGAN-TV
Visual Reel 5: "Play for Dave Astor"

Box 8

Slides 1: SPHS 1962
Slides 2: Freeport '62

Slides 3: SPHS '62
Slides 4: Freeport HS
Slides 5: SP Etc.
Slides 6: Mechanic Falls '62
Slides 7: SPHS '62
Slides 8: Mechanic Falls 1962
Slides 9: Misc. S.P. Lewiston
Slides 10: Miscellaneous

Box 9

Video 7: Video of *The Dave Astor Show* at Jordan's, 1962 (see also source file for DVD copy)
Video 8: Video of "Cooking with Dave;" *Healthbeat Kitchen with Dianne Atwood*, WCSH 6, 1996
Video 9: Video of news segment commemorating 25 years since The Dave Astor Show, WCSH 6, 1998
Video 10: Video of *WCSH 6; 50 Year Flashback*, 2003
Video 11: Video of *Celebrating our History*, WGME 13, 2004
Video 12: Thornton Academy Reunion

O.S. Box 12

Oversize Folder 6: Newspaper articles
Oversize Folder 7; WCSH Poster
Oversize Folder 8: Dave Astor Show Posters

Volumes

Volume 3: Scrapbook

Container Listing:

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