



Mitchell F. Jayne Papers (C4757)

Collection Number: C4757

Collection Title: Mitchell F. Jayne Papers

Dates: 1984-1995

Creator: Jayne, Mitch, 1928-2010

Abstract: Audiobooks and personal papers of a Columbia author and musician, 1984-1995. Also contains the manuscript of Jayne's *Hiram*.

Collection Size: 0.4 cubic feet, 6 audio cassettes
(19 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research but may be stored offsite. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Mitchell F. Jayne Papers* (C4757); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Mitchell Jayne on May 2, 1996 (Accession No. CA5637).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Collection can be found in the following collections:

[*American Audio Prose Library Records*](#), (CA6585)

[*University of Missouri-Columbia, Missouri Folk Arts Program Records*](#), (C4035)

Processed by: Autumn Cuddy, August 4, 2025

Historical Note:

Mitchell Franklin “Mitch” Jayne was born to Gus and Bea Jayne on July 5, 1928, in Hammon, Indiana. Jayne taught in one-room schoolhouses in Dent County from 1951 until 1962, when Douglas and Rodney Dillard convinced him to join their bluegrass band and leave the Ozarks for California. As bass player and oft-songwriter for The Dillards, Jayne featured as a member of the Darling Family on “The Andy Griffith Show” for three years and recorded albums until leaving the band in the late 1970s. His musical interest extended beyond performing with the Dillards, however, as he also hosted the popular Salem, Missouri-based radio show, “Hickory Holler Time” on KSMO, which featured sketches, satirical news reports, and bluegrass music. The Dillards, including Jayne, were inducted into the Bluegrass Hall of Fame in 2009.

In addition to his musical accomplishments, Jayne was a published author and acclaimed storyteller. His first book was *The Forest in the Wind*, published in 1966, followed by *Old Fish Hawk* in 1973, *An Up to Date Biography of the Original Dillards and Other Ozark Lies* in 1989, *Home Grown Stories & Home Fried Lies* in 2000, and *Fiddler’s Ghost* in 2007, which won the Governor’s Humanities Book Award the following year. Mitch also wrote columns and articles for a number of Missouri publications, including his weekly “Driftwood” column in Eminence’s *Shannon County Wave*, and gave lectures on the importance of conservation.

Mitch married Diana in 1994 and had two daughters, Carole and Valerie. He was often recognized by his trademark bear-claw necklace and smoking pipe. Jayne died on August 2, 2010, in Columbia, Missouri, two weeks after being diagnosed with cancer.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following 2 series:

Records

Audiovisual Materials

Scope and Content Note:

Records

This series contains magazine and newsletter articles written by Jayne, press, reviews, materials on Jayne's band, The Dillards, and a manuscript copy of *Hiram*, later published as *Fiddler's Ghost*, 1984-1995.

Audiovisual Materials

This series consists of audiobook recordings of Jayne's *Old Fish Hawk* (1995) and *Stories From Home*, vols 1 & 2 (1993).

Container List:

Correspondence

f. 1	Press and reviews, 1984-1995
f. 2	The Dillards, 1989-1990
f. 3	"Today's Farmer" articles, 1990
f. 4	"Missouri Conservationist" articles, 1990-1993
f. 5-17	<i>Hiram</i> manuscript, 1994

Audiovisual Materials

f. 18	a.c. 1-2, <i>Stories from Home</i> , volumes 1 & 2, 1993
f. 19	a.c. 3-6, <i>Old Fish Hawk</i> , 1995

Index:

Index Terms	Folder	Medium	Image
Audiobooks		a.c. 1-6	
Conservation--Missouri	3, 4		
Folklore--Ozarks		a.c. 1, 2	
Jayne, Mitchell F., 1928-2010	1-17	a.c. 1-6	
Jayne, Mitchell F., 1928-2010	2		Yes
Musicians—Missouri	2		Yes
Novels	5-17	a.c. 1-6	
The Dillards	2		Yes