

# V.T. Hamlin Collection I: Hamlin, Vincent Trout, 1900-1993 Papers, 1900-1993

## Scope and Content Note

The collection contains examples of Hamlin's work from high school until the end of his career. Although best known for his long-lived comic strip, *Alley Oop*, this collection includes some of his earlier cartoon work. Also included in the collection are newspaper and journal articles about Hamlin's work; contracts and correspondence with his primary publisher Newspaper Enterprise Association; personal and career photographs; and personal and family papers, correspondence and memorabilia.

## Provenance

The collection was assembled by V.T. Hamlin and his wife, Dorothy. It was briefly in the possession of daughter Theodora Dewalt prior to her giving the collection to the University of Missouri Libraries on December 22, 1990 with ownership effective January 1, 1991.

Series Eleven (Addenda) was presented to the University of Missouri Libraries by Theodora DeWalt 1/10/01.

## Biographical Note

Vincent Trout Hamlin was born May 10, 1900 in Perry, Iowa to Erma Garland and Frederick Clarence Hamlin.

He enlisted in the Army during his high school years serving with the Sixth Army's Motor Transport Group in France in 1917-1918. In 1919 he returned to Perry High School where he played football and published cartoons in the high school's yearbook, *The Eclipse*.

He attended the University of Missouri for one semester in 1920 and enrolled in Drake University in 1921, also attending only one semester.

After brief tenures with the *Des Moines News*, *Texas Grubstakers* and *Ft. Worth Record*, he was hired (in 1923) by the *Ft. Worth Star-Telegram* as a photographer. There he also produced a 4-panel comic strip, *The Hired Hand*, and a 2-column sports feature, *The Panther Kitten*.

In 1930, Hamlin drew, but destroyed, his first caveman comic strip, *Oop the Mighty*. The following year he re-drew the comic strip, renamed it *Alley Oop*, and sold it to Bonnet-Brown. When Bonnet-Brown

went out of business, the strip was purchased by Newspaper Enterprise Association. Hamlin continued his involvement in the comic strip until 1973.

In 1950 David Graue became his assistant and started drawing the daily strips in 1968. Hamlin continued to write continuities until 1970 and draw the Sunday strips until 1973.

Hamlin married Dorothy Stapleton in 1926. His daughter, Theodora, was born in 1927 and son Jon in 1936. Dorothy died in 1985. V.T. Hamlin died in 1993.

## Conditions of Use

### Access

Materials do not circulate but are available to all users in the Special Collections Reading Room during [service hours](#) or by appointment.

### Restrictions

Permission to publish materials in the collection must be obtained by the head of Special Collections. Additionally, permission to publish original *Alley Oop* cartoons that are still protected by copyright must be obtained from [Universal Uclick](#).

## Collection Details

MU Ellis Special Collections Comic Collection 5

5.1 cubic feet, 126 original cartoons, 436 photographs.

### Series Descriptions:

**Series One — Career and Family Papers**

**Series Two — Correspondence**

**Series Three — NEA Contracts and Related Documents**

**Series Four — Newspaper Articles Related to Hamlin, His Family, Friends and Career (Photocopies)**

**Series Five — Personal/Family Papers**

**Series Six — Lists Prepared By VTH**

**Series Seven — Bonnet-Brown And Newspaper Enterprise Association Promotions; Miscellaneous**

**Series Eight — Original Cartoons.**

**Series Nine: Photographs 1910-1987 (436)**

Series Ten — Personal Calendars, Address Books, Notebooks And Memorabilia

Series Eleven — Addenda

# Inventory

## Series One — Career and Family Papers

### Box 1

FF 1. Transmittal letter conveying ownership of the collection from Mrs. Theodora Dewalt to the University of Missouri, December 22, 1990, effective January 1, 1991. (2)

FF 2. *Just for the Record. An index of happenings and events over a period of eighty years* by V.T. Hamlin. 1983. [autobiographical sketch]. (56p)

### Career

FF 3. Early career influences:

- “Outbursts of Everett True” (1)
- “Oscar and Adolph” (3)
- “Flip and Flap.” (1)

FF 4. Early work:

- Wash drawing-Art School, 1921 (1)
- *Truth* from “The Hired Hand,” *Ft. Worth Star-Telegram*, 1924 (1)
- Cartoon from *TCU Skiff* 1925 (1)
- “Panther Kitten” – postcard and 10”x8” drawing (2)
- Postcard from Discovery Well No. 1, Iraan, TX (1). Hamlin was on site when this well became a gusher. Evidence of dinosaur bones gave Hamlin the idea for a comic strip about dinosaurs and cavemen.
- Post office receipt for register/insured mail from Bonnet-Brown. (1)
- See also Folder 59. Perry (Iowa) High School Yearbook. *The Eclipse* (1920). Illustrated by VTH.

FF 5. Program. Cover by VTH (program cover and one complete program). Colorado School of Mines 23rd Annual Engineers’ Day, April 12-13, 1957. (2)

FF 6. Program. Cover by VTH. 1957 International Micro Midget Championship Race Yearbook. Carlsbad, NM, November 15-17, 1957. (1)

FF 7. Program. Cover by VTH. Dallas Cowboys vs. New Orleans Saints 1971. (1)

FF 8. Comic art exhibits and book announcements in which Alley Oop is included. (4)

- Pictorial greetings to VTH from Bud Blake, Harry A. West, and Eliza and Dave Graue. (4)
- College of Cartooning (fundraiser for Jaycee Cancer Crusade) flyer and certificate. (2)

FF 9. Alley Oop comic strips (photocopies of newspaper) sent by Ronald P. Sharrah. (12). Scattered issues 1933, 1934, 1936.

FF 10. Alley Oop comic strips (photocopies of newspapers) sent by Ronald P. Sharrah. (34). Scattered issues 1934, 1937, 1939, 1945.

FF 11. Watercolor chart and layout sketches (11)

FF 12. VTH's World War II work:

- News release with photo "Alley Oop Hits Nazi Targets"
- Matchbook cover with Alley Oop, 92 Bomb Group, U.S. Army
- Photomechanical reproductions of cartoons done for AAF Regional and Convalescent Hospital, Nashville (16)
- Article about the hospital cartoon series in *Review*, September 1945.

FF 13. Alley Oop theme park, Iraan, TX, 1965

- Brochures and flyers (8)
- Letters (2) to VTH from Iraan Chamber of Commerce and Radio KCTA
- Decal, matchbook cover, napkin and picture postcard.

FF 14. Alley Oop Broadway play (1966) – 10 newspaper articles.

FF 15. Alley Oop in "Getting the Bird" script for animated CBS cartoon. Filmation Associates, 1970-1971?

FF 16. "Young Alley Oop" cartoon. Creative Management Associates.

FF 17. Frame sketches (264) for [?] entitled Alley Oop

FF 18. Alley Oop the Teen Stone-Ager illustrations. Copy 1 (5)

FF 19. Alley Oop the Teen Stone-Ager illustrations Copy 2 (4)

FF 20. *The "All American" Art Cartooning* Alley Oop p. 37

FF 21. See, Sally. "Nothing Funny in the Funnies". *Pilgrim Youth*, vol. 2 no. 9, April 1949 pp. 21-23.

FF 22. *Eureka* vol. 4 no. 33, June 15, 1970, pp. 45-52 reproduces Italian translation of Alley Oop Sunday strips for June 27, 1965 to August 15, 1965.

FF 23. "Nostalgia Dept." [features VTH], *Cartoonists Profiles* no. 5, February 1970, pp. 60-68.

FF 24. Reprint volume of *Little Nemo in Slumberland* and an advertisement for Classic American Comic Strips.

## Series Two — Correspondence

### Box 1

#### Personal

FF25. M. Lee to VTH (undated)

- Postcard from Mildred [?] to Dorothy (September 2, 1978)
- VTH to family (August 21, 1979)
- Teddy to VTH and Dorothy (June 18, 1982)
- VTH to Teddy (July 18, 1988)
- VTH to Community Health Care, to Virginia [?], to Felecia [?], to Karen [?], to Pat [?] at the time of Dorothy's death [draft and final copy to each]
- Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to VTH re surrender of driver license (April 26, 1985).

#### Professional

FF 26. VTH (Snick) to Ding Darling with sketch (April 24, 1919) photocopy.

- 1950-1957 NEA Service to VTH (6)

FF 27. Correspondence 1960

- NEA to newspaper editors (1)
- NEA to VTH and/or Dorothy (5)
- Toni Mendez to William Borglund (NEA) (1)

FF 28. Correspondence 1961-1962

- NEA to VTH (1)
- Press Club of Ft. Worth to VTH (1)
- Ernest Lynn to Clifford A. Thomas (1)
- Clifford A. Thomas to NEA (1)
- Telegram from R E Stanaway to VTH (1)

FF 29. Correspondence 1963

- NEA to VTH (5)

FF 30. Correspondence 1964-1966

- NEA to VTH (4)
- B.W. Ayers, Iraan Chamber of Commerce to VTH
- Robert Molyneux to Harold M. Farkas (photocopy and carbon)
- James D. Farr to VTH (with photo of sketch of The Hired Hand and photo of Farr with wife taken by VTH in 1923).

FF 31. Correspondence 1967-1968

- NEA to Fellow Employe [sic] (1)
- Memo from Robert Molyneux to VTH (2)
- Sharon Stark, William C. Brown Co to Robert Molyneux (1)
- Telegram from Boyd Lewis to VTH (1)
- NEA to VTH (1)
- W. M. Porter, Scripps-Howard Newspapers to Earl H. Anderson (1)

FF 32. Correspondence 1969-1971

- VTH to [?] Porter (1)
- NEA to VTH (photo of VT in race car attached) (1)
- Editoriale Corno to VTH (1)
- NEA to VTH (3)
- Sumet Sound Studios to VTH (2)

FF 33. Correspondence 1972-1973

- Memo from Tom Peoples to VTH attached to letter from Daniel B. DeBra, Prof. at Stanford University to VTH at NEA (1)
- Frank Paluka, University of Iowa Libraries to VTH (1)
- NEA to VTH (5)
- Fenwick Anderson to VTH (1)
- Harry B. West to VTH (1)

FF 34. Correspondence 1974-1978 and undated

- Max Allan Collins to VTH (1)
- Ronald P. Sharrah to VTH and Dorothy (2) and 1 to VTH
- Gordon [?] to Ronald [Sharrah?] (1)
- Betty Furness, NBC News to Dorothy (1)
- NEA to George Delaney (1)
- Memo from Robert Molyneux to VTH (1)
- Art Sansom to VTH (1)

## **Series Three: NEA Contracts and Related Documents**

### **Box 1**

FF 35. 1941, 1950, 1953, 1960 (5)

FF 36. 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966 (6)

FF 37. 1968 (4)

FF 38. 1971-1978 (6)

## **Series Four — Newspaper Articles Related to Hamlin, His Family, Friends and Career (Photocopies)**

### **Box 1**

#### **Family and Friends**

FF 39. Newspaper articles: January 13, 1938 – September 22, 1960 (9)

FF 40. Newspaper articles: July 3, 1963 -December 13, 1984; undated (3)

#### **Hamlin and His Career**

FF 41. Newspaper articles: Mid-1920's – January 26, 1945 (10 articles; 4 strips)

- Partnership in photo firm; announcements that Alley Oop would be added to comics sections; descriptions of pterodactyls and stegosaurus as a result of comic strip; announcement that the Hamlins were returning to Sarasota; Alley Oop in W.W.II; articles about VTH and Alley Oop.

FF 42. Newspaper articles: January 9, 1949 – June 8, 1950 (7)

- Announcement of move to San Antonio; articles about VTH and Alley Oop.

FF 43. Newspaper articles: July 13, 1952 – January 1959 (8)

- Articles about VTH and Alley Oop; participation in Centennial of Colorado Gold Rush; VTH ending position as chairman of National Cartoonists' Society.

FF 44. Newspaper articles: September 29, 1959-August 31, 1962 (9)

- Articles about VTH and Alley Oop; "Alley Oop" in music charts; photos of meeting of Florida Society of Editors.

FF 45. Newspaper articles: January 9, 1963 – January 12, 1964 (6)

- Photo of VTH with "quadenser"; column on VTH and fishing, articles about VTH and Alley Oop; drawing that appeared on front page of newspaper celebrating 75 years; Christmas greeting to the Livingston Enterprise.

FF 46. Newspaper articles: March 18, 1965-May 9, 1965 (6)

- Alley Oop Day; Alley Oop Fantasy Land opening.

FF 47. Newspaper articles: May 13, 1965 – June 4, 1965 (4)

- Alley Oop Day; Alley Oop Fantasy Land dedication.

FF 48. Newspaper articles: January 20, 1967 – 1970 (9)

- Article on death of Herbert Walker of NEA; Alley Oop Fantasy Land; Alley Oop on TV show, "The Fabulous Funnies"; articles about VTH and Alley Oop; announcement of retirement.

FF 49. Newspaper articles: April 4, 1971 – December 6, 1971 (6)

- Boys' Club drawing class; Alley Oop Day; announcement of retirement; announcement VTH would not retire.

FF 50. Newspaper articles: February 13, 1972 – October 25, 1975 (8)

- Articles about VTH and Alley Oop; Graue takes over Sunday comic strip; article on final Alley Oop strip; VTH speaking at schools.

FF 51. Newspaper articles: 1976 – December 10, 1978 (6)

- Articles about VTH and Alley Oop; Alley Oop Fantasy Land; article about Graue.

FF 52. Newspaper articles: July 6, 1979 – June 1990 (10)

- Alley Oop to be filmed; Alley Oop is 50; VTH bitten by cat; VTH at Forest Oaks Care Center.

FF 53. Newspaper articles: Undated (13)

- Articles about VTH and Alley Oop; Alley Oop in W.W.II; sketch of Alley Oop; World Science Fiction Convention.

FF 54. Newspaper articles unrelated to Hamlin or his career (10 – not photocopies)

## **Series Five — Personal/Family Papers**

### **Box 1**

FF 55. Birth and death dates of Frederick Clarence Hamlin and Erma Imogene Trout

- Birth Certificate of VTH (photocopy)
- Baptismal and confirmation certificates (5)
- Marriage license (Dorothy and VTH)
- Original Christmas cards (5)
- Last Will and Testament (July 1940)
- Hunting and fishing licenses (VTH) (1)
- Railway passes (VTH) (2)
- Membership cards (VTH) (3)
- Membership card (Dorothy) (1)

FF 56. Contract for real estate

- Newspaper column explaining unavailability of Army records due to fire in Army Archives
- Wedding invitation (Frederick Dewalt)
- Comic strip by Jon Hamlin

FF 57. Funeral notices, memorials – friends and relatives – 1956-1982 (17)

FF 58. Stationery (VT and Dorothy's)

- Camp o' the Woods Stationery



- Sarasota County 6th Annual Legislative Weekend
- Picture post cards (5)
- *Heritage, the Scripps Family Story*

FF 59. Perry (Iowa) High School yearbook, *The Eclipse* 1920. Includes 10 illustrations by VTH, VTH's football photograph and Dorothy's senior picture.

FF 60. Miscellaneous

- Telephone list
- VTH's signature – multiple times
- Dorothy's personal card
- Sketch of VTH's army service ring/brooch

## **Series Six — Lists Prepared By VTH**

### **Box 1**

FF 61. Roster of presidents from 1860 to date.

A directory of radio, television, and motion picture personalities.

FF 62. Some all-time great motion pictures.

FF 63. Internationally syndicated newspaper comics... strips and blocks... 1983

FF 64. Inventories of the collection prepared by Theodora Dewalt

## **Series Seven — Bonnet-Brown and Newspaper Enterprise Association Promotions; Miscellaneous**

### **Box 2 (oversize)**

FF 65. Bonnet-Brown 1933 (2—original and photocopy)

FF 66. NEA 1934-1945 (8, one sheet also contains promotions from 1948 and 1949)

FF 67. NEA 1947-1948 (8, one sheet also contains promotions from 1959 and 1961)

FF 68. NEA 1949-1955 (5, one sheet also contains a promotion from 1958)

FF 69. NEA 1958-1962 (5)

FF 70. NEA 1964-1967 (7)

FF 71. NEA 1968-1970 (4); Dates unknown (2)

FF 72. NEA Dates unknown (7)

FF 73. NEA Dates unknown (7)

- FF 74. Dallas Cowboys program cover (13)
- FF 75. Comic collector's and buyer's guides (4)
- FF 76. "Cavalcade of American Comics" (2)
- FF 77. Alley Oop strips. Newspaper clippings. September 2, 1963 – January 2, 1966 (7)
- FF 78. Alley Oop strips. Newspaper clippings. November 27, 1966 – February 25, 1968 (3)
- FF 79. Alley Oop strips. Newspaper clippings. October 27, 1968 – July 1970 (5)
- FF 80. Alley Oop strips. Newspaper clippings. April 1, 1973 (7)
- FF 81. November 21, 1965 comic strip – one that Dorothy shaded (1)
- FF 82. Christmas sketches (2)
- FF 83. Color chart (1)
- Comic after shading (1)
- Comic before shading (1)
- FF 84. "Evolution of a Sunday Comic" (1)
- FF 85. Banner – Iraan, Texas (1)

## **Series Eight — Original Cartoons.**

### **Box 3 (oversize)**

#### **Alley Oop Daily Strips (77)**

1956:

April 18, October 17

1957:

December 20, December 21

1958:

January 31

1959:

June 18

1960:

March 5

1961:

April 11, April 19, April 26

1962:

August 7, August 14, September 7, September 8, September 10, September 17, October 16, October 30

1964:

February 27, March 18, March 21, March 23, March 30, March 31, April 2, April 10, April 11, April 14, April 17, April 20 to April 22, May 23, June 4

1965:

September 10, September 15

1967:

August 5, August 9, August 14, August 24, August 29, September 5, September 9, September 14

1969:

March 3 to March 8, March 10, March 12, March 14, March 17, March 19, March 26, April 5, October 23

1971:

January 26, January 29, January 30, February 2 to February 6, February 8 to February 13, February 15, February 16, February 18, February 19, February 27

AAF Regional and Convalescent Hospital (6)

#### **Box 4 (oversize)**

##### **Alley Oop Sunday Strips (43)**

1962:

July 29, September 9, November 18

1965:

July 4

1968:

October 13

1969:

January 5, July 13, August 17, October 26

1970:

January 25, March 15, March 22, June 7, June 21, August 23, September 6, September 13, September 20, October 11, October 18, October 25, November 15, November 22, November 29, December 20

1971:

January 31, February 7, July 11, September 26, December 5, December 12

1972:

January 9, January 23, January 30, February 6, February 20, March 5, March 19, March 26, April 2, April 23, April 30, June 11

## **Series Nine: Photographs 1910-1987 (436)**

### **Box 5**

The photographs in the collection were originally donated in four photo albums and have since been consolidated into a single large photo album in chronological order. Descriptive captions for the photographs have been collected in an accompanying binder; most of these captions were provided by Mrs. Theodora Dewalt, V.T. Hamlin's daughter.

## **Series Ten — Personal Calendars, Address Books, Notebooks And Memorabilia**

### **Box 6**

Travel expenses notebook, 1972-1978 (1)

Cash book of business expenses and payments, June 1922-1928 (1)

Address books (one includes a list of the Hamlins' addresses December 24, 1926-May 15, 1942) (6)

Weekly reminder notebooks for 1968-1969; 1971; 1979-1983 (VTH) (8)

"Language of Flowers" birthday book (Dorothy) (1)

*Alley Oop and Dinny in the Jungle of Moo*. Racine, WI: Whitman Publishing Company, 1936. (1)

*Alley Oop*. Paris: Dupuis, 1966. (French) (1)

Miscellaneous pins and medallions (16)

Romer, Alfred Sherwood. *Vertebrate Paleontology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1933. (1)

Alley Oop pins (2)

Sarasota, Florida Rotary Club nametag for VTH (1)

Deck of playing cards with photo of the Hamlin's house in Sarasota

Birthday note to Dorothy from VTH [?], 1926 (1)

Plaque (National Honor Tablet) (1)

## **Series Eleven — Addenda**

Presented to the University of Missouri Libraries by Theodora DeWalt 1/10/01.

### **Box 6**

#### **Career and Influence**

FF 1. VTH's World War II Work. All are items compiled by Michael J. Drake prior to the dedication of Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport Historical Marker in 1/30/1997 that commemorated the airport's World War II role. Included are:

- Correspondence with Michael J. Drake.
- Airplanes with Alley Oop nose art (Paleface (41-24370), Dottie 41-24411 both of the 92<sup>nd</sup> BG, 325<sup>th</sup> BS and one not identified (photocopies).
- "Alley Oop Goes to War" *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, July 3, 1942 (shows VTH painting a plane).
- "Sarasota Bomber Squadron Remembered" Newspaper not identified, 1/30/1997. Sent to DeWalt by Laura D. Queen.
- Invitation to the Dedication sent to DeWalt.
- "Nose Art Basis for Heritage Museum" *Denver Post*, undated.

FF 2. Alley Oop theme park, Iraan, TX 1965 Bumper Sticker, "Visit Alley Oop Playland, Iraan, Texas."

FF 3. Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts. Gulf Coast University. Diploma 1971. (photocopy)

*Wings of Forest Oaks* [newsletter of the Forest Oaks Care Center]. Column "Our Talented Residents" contains a brief note by VTH and a drawing of Alley Oop. Undated.

FF 4. Alley Oop Room. Hotel Pattee, Perry, Iowa. Correspondence with DeWalt asking and receiving permission to name a room for VTH and invitation to the grand opening and rededication, 5/29/1997.

#### **Correspondence: Personal**

FF 5. Letter from Dorothy Hamlin to DeWalt at the time of the announcement of VTH's retirement.

Greeting card to VTH (forwarded to DeWalt) from Joe and Madge Buchko.

Pictorial Christmas greeting from Dave Graue 1991 and 1992 (one is in Alley Oop strip format).

#### **Correspondence: Professional**

FF 6. Ken Greenwald to VTH 2/25/1991.

Jack Bromiley to DeWalt 8/30/1992 and 6/18/1993. With a pictorial account of VTH's life by Bromiley.

FF 7. Daniel B. Levine to DeWalt 3/13/1995. With a preprint of Levine's article "Classica American Troglodytica. V.T. Hamlin's 'Alley Oop', April 1939 – February 1940. The Epic Meets the Comics" *Classical and Modern Literature*, vol. 14, no. 4, Summer 1994.

Ronald P. Sharrah to DeWalt 7/14/1995 and her reply.

FF 8. Jack Bender to DeWalt 5/9/1995 and her reply. Includes an article from *Tulsa World*, 5/5/1995, "Cartoonist Get Stamp Approval."

FF 9. Tobia L. Meyers to DeWalt 10/2/1995.

Lee Clough to DeWalt 1/10/1996 and 6/21/1996 and her reply. Includes photocopy of newspaper clipping of an Alley Oop float in the Memphis Cotton Carnival Parade (undated) and a four-page summary of the Alley Oop strips by Clough.

### **Newspaper Articles**

FF 10. "I'm Learning More Than They Are" *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, April 4, 1971. VTH's drawing class at the Boy's Club.

"Creator of Alley Oop Strip to Retire" *Miami Herald*, November 29, 1971.

"Alley Oop Creator Hears From Fans, Won't Retire" *Tampa Tribune-Times*, December 5, 1971.

"Alley Oop Will Stay" *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, December 6, 1971.

Column from Sarasota Herald-Tribune regarding Alley Oop's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Partial clipping only, part of headline is missing. Undated. 1983[?]

"Caveman Cartoonist Enjoyed Fishing Here. *The Enterprise* (Livingston, MT), July [?] 1993. Also contains a note to DeWalt from Lew Urbach.

Article about Alley Oop Stamp. Portion of article only. Newspaper not identified. 1995[?]

Cartoon (Jurassic Park) *Rocky Mountain News*, April 8, 1996.

"Oops! Alley Back in News" *Rocky Mountain News*, undated. Strip that had been left out of newspaper is printed. Signed Graue/Bender.

### **Personal Family Papers**

FF 11. Picture Postcard. Island Resort Motel, Livingston, MT.

VTH's recipes for Chili and Potato Soup.

FF 12. Sunday strip April 9, 1995.

Bronze Statue of Alley Oop by Gary Ernest Smith 1992 (photographs). Also photos of his Crazy Kat statue.

### **Photographs**

Filed in Box 5 of V.T. Hamlin Collection I

VTH and family 1970's[?] to 1990 (21 photographs).