

## GUIDE TO THE JEAN RITCHIE PAPERS



**Collection Abstract:** This collection focuses on Jean Ritchie's folksinging career family life in Kentucky and Port Washington days. Ritchie is an internationally acclaimed folksinger, a longtime resident of Port Washington and member emeritus of the Music Advisory Council.

**Collection Title:** THE JEAN RITCHIE PAPERS

**Inclusive Dates:** 1930s-2003

**Size:** 1 box

**Source:** Gift of Ritchie family

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**Repository:** Port Washington Public Library Local History Center

## **JEAN RITCHIE PAPERS**

### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:**

Jean Ritchie, acclaimed folksinger, was born in Viper, Kentucky in 1922, the youngest of 14 children. Her parents were Abigail (nee Hall) and Balis W. Ritchie, and Jean's forebears fought in the Revolutionary War. She married photographer George Pickow in 1950, and they brought up their family (Jon and Peter, sons) in Port Washington, New York. A musician, author, teacher, historian, composer, singer, and dulcimer-player, Jean has performed around the world, won prestigious awards and was recently inducted into the Long Island Hall of Fame. She currently lives in Berea, Kentucky. Most of her papers reside in the New York State Archives and the Library of Congress. Today Jean is credited with reviving interest in the Mountain dulcimer.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The collection includes photographs, programs, booklets, audiotapes, articles, letters, postcards, and advertisements for Folklife Productions and Greenhays Recordings, music companies that were run out of the Pickows' home at 7A Locust Avenue in Port Washington. There are portraits of Jean in Kentucky and Port Washington, her third grade report card from 1930, family gatherings, and negatives and proofs of Port Washington landmarks and scenes by Goerge Pickow. In addition, artifacts such as her ASCAP pin are included in the collection.

### **ORGANIZATION:**

The collection is arranged into nine series:

- Series I**     **News Articles**
- Series II**    **Performances**
- Series III**   **Family Life in Kentucky**
- Series IV**   **Family Life in Port Washington**
- Series V**    **Folklife Productions and Greenhays Recordings**
- Series VI**   **George Pickow**
- Series VII**   **Peter Pickow**
- Series VIII**   **Jonathon Pickow**
- Series IX**    **Miscellaneous Papers**

### **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS:**

#### **Series I: News Articles** (1 folder)

Various newspaper and magazine articles from sources such as the New York Times, Newsday, Port News and Venture about Ritchie's albums, life and career.

## JEAN RITCHIE PAPERS

### **Series II: Performances** (1 folder)

Includes programs, 28 photographs of performances and recordings, correspondence from the Music Advisory Council, posters and flyers. Includes a 1961 advertisement for New York's Folk Festival and 2003 program "A Tribute to Jean Ritchie."

### **Series III: Family Life in Kentucky** (1 folder)

Includes 43 photographs of family life in Kentucky. Also contains Ritchie's third grade report card (1930-1931) and a lock of Ritchie's blonde hair in a yellow ribbon.

### **Series IV: Family Life in Port Washington** (1 folder)

Includes 40 photographs and 13 negatives of family life in Port Washington, change of address postcards, two family season passes to Manorhaven Beach Pool and a letter to Jean Ritchie from Yutuka Mizutani, a bluegrass fiddler in Japan (1980).

### **Series V: Folklife Productions and Greenhays Recordings** (1 folder)

Contains mailers, flyers, and an envelope from Folklife Productions and an advertisement titled "Mountain Born, Jean Ritchie and Sons, Celebrating 50 Years of Song" from Greenhays Recordings.

### **Series VI: George Pickow (husband)** (1 folder)

Includes programs from the United Methodist Church in Port Washington, flyers, a Newsday review, newspaper articles, gallery brochures, promotional postcards and photographs (including negatives of Falaise) taken by George Pickow.

### **Series VII: Peter Pickow (son)** (1 folder)

Includes two childhood photographs, programs from various school concerts, Peter's Fathers' Day poem (1964) and a season pass to Manorhaven Beach Pool for Peter Pickow (1964)

### **Series VIII: Jonathan Pickow (son)** (1 folder)

With three childhood photos, a few negatives, a Father's Day card, and various papers relating to Jonathan's attendance at Merry-Go-Round Nursery School including an application to the school, enrollment list, two letters to his parents and an "Off to Kindergarten, a Parent's Handbook" from the Port Washington Public Schools.

### **Series IX: Miscellaneous Papers** (1 folder)

Various material including membership certificate and lapel pin from ASCAP and an audiotape titled, "Jean Ritchie, Child Ballads in America," Volume One.

## JEAN RITCHIE PAPERS

### BOX LIST:

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
1	1	News Articles
	2	Performances
	3	Family Life in Kentucky
	4	Family Life in Port Washington
	5	Folklife Productions and Greenhays Recordings
	6	George Pickow
	7	Peter Pickow
	8	Jonathan Pickow
	9	Miscellaneous Papers