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DEPOE, Norman Reade

MG 31, D 112

Finding Aid No. 1305 / Instrument de recherche no 1305

Prepared in 1981 by James F.  
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Canada

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MG 31 DEPOE, Norman Reade (1917-1980). Broadcaster and Journalist.  
D 112

Originals, 1933-1980. 1.15 m. Finding Aid No. 1305.

Norman DePoe was born in Portland, Oregon and moved to Vancouver as a child with his family in 1923. He attended the University of British Columbia, 1934-1938, and the University of Toronto, 1946-1949, studying Chemistry, History, English and Modern Languages. In 1938 he joined the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals serving during World War II in the United Kingdom, Italy and Northwest Europe attaining the rank of Captain by 1945. In 1948 he joined the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation News. He worked on both radio and television. He served his first broadcast assignment covering the U.S. political conventions in Chicago in 1952. From 1959 to 1966 he was Parliamentary Correspondent for C.B.C. Television. He retired from the C.B.C. in 1977. During his career with C.B.C. television he became one of Canada's best known broadcasters for his coverage of federal political affairs.

He published numerous free lance articles for newspapers and magazines including the Christian Science Monitor, the New York Herald Tribune, the Ottawa Citizen and Saturday Night.

Presented by Mrs. Norman DePoe in 1981. Several photographs were transferred to the National Photography Collection and a large number of films, tape recordings and a videotape were transferred to the National Film Television and Sound Archives Division.

Finding Aid No. 1305 is a file list.

Speaking of Words column, 1973-1977. 15 cm (volume 1).

Manuscripts for the column and correspondence from the readers of this column of N. DePoe published by the Ottawa Citizen on English grammar and usage.

Subject Files, n.d., 1933-1980. 85 cm (volumes 1-2, 5-7).

Scripts and memoranda for C.B.C. programs on public affairs, manuscripts for book reviews and newspaper articles. Letters of congratulation and comment on N. DePoe's work on C.B.C. television from viewers 1967-1979. History of Canadian television news. Manuscripts for N. DePoe's short stories n.d., 1971-1975 and for his memoirs n.d.

Scrap-Books, 1938, 1958-1977. 15 cm (volumes 3-4).

Two scrap-books containing articles of and concerning Norman DePoe. Several letters of congratulation are included in the scrap-books.

Sketches by Norman DePoe (volume 8).

Resumé of Norman Reade DePoe  
(Prepared by N.R. DePoe in 1979)

Born: Portland, Ore., U.S.A., May 4, 1917  
(Canadian citizen through inclusion as minor child on Naturalization Certificate of mother, Violet Reade DePoe, Series B, No. 43951, issued and effective Feb. 22, 1938.) Brought to Vancouver, B.C., 1923.

Education:

Dawson School, Vancouver.  
King George High School, Vancouver, Grade XIII 1934  
University of B.C. 1934-36 (Honour Chemistry)  
1937-38 (History & English)  
University of Toronto, 1946-49 Honour Modern Languages;  
(majors French, Italian, 2 yrs Spanish) One scholarship,  
three prizes; led class throughout. Student Administrative  
Council Award as one of two best all-round students of  
the year.

Qualified Meteorological Observer, Department of Transport.

Military Service:

11th Divisional Signals, Non-Permanent Active Militia of  
Canada, 15 Nov. 1935-21 Aug. 1938. Discharged as Acting  
Sergeant to join Permanent Force.

Permanent Force of Canada (Royal Canadian Corps of Signals)  
22 Aug. 1938-11 Mar. 1946. Served as Wireless Operator,  
Technician. Commissioned Jan. 10, 1942, promoted A/Captain  
1945. Theatres: United Kingdom, Italy, Northwest Europe.  
Assessment of conduct on Parchment discharge: 'Exemplary.'

Toronto Scottish Regiment: Platoon commander, 1954-55-56.  
Resigned through pressure of business.

Employment record:

1930's: Theatrical publicity, neighborhood vaudeville performer.  
Manager, Empress Theatre; (Legitimate); Vancouver, 1938.  
Part-time reporter, Vancouver Sun, 1937-38. Summer and  
part-time jobs, logging camp, painting, gardening, etc.  
Postwar: Many of these activities overlap; I was seldom doing only  
one thing at a time.

Employment record : cont'd

While at U of T: Giving private tuition in French; Managing Editor, The Varsity (a paid job); free-lancing for University Public Relations division, the Globe & Mail, CBC radio.

Joined Saturday Night Press, April, 1948, as writer-editor. Rapidly was made responsible for dealer organ and other material for Dulux-Dupont (then a division of Dupont, with affiliations to C-I-L) and for Imperial Oil Limited, with the addition of writing annual reports and direct mail promotions. Continued in this line of work as a free-lance for the same account executive until about 1955, when general writing began to take up all of my time; wrote and participated in the planning of a point-of-sale promotion for the Lowe Brothers Paint Company that won a Direct Mail Advertisers' Association award in 1952 or 1953. Took course in paint chemistry as part of work for the 'Big Four' paint companies.

Joined CBC News Set. 5, 1948 as 'associate editor'- actually the title for a rewrite man on the news desk. Promoted Senior Editor, and in 1951 Editor, CBC News Roundup, a radio program featuring voice reports by correspondents across Canada and around the world. In the following year, became, in addition to editorial duties and supervisory function, an on-air correspondent from the U.S. political conventions in Chicago and in the subsequent presidential election. Later assignments have included a wide variety: some 28 political conventions and 30 elections, municipal, provincial, federal and foreign; the end of the French régime in Indo-China, military maneuvers, several wars or civil disturbances in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East; coverage of crucial sessions of the United Nations, integration in the U.S. South, space shots, State Visits, State Funerals, Summits, the Coronation of our present Queen, and the attempt by USS Manhattan to traverse the Northwest Passage. Also a wide variety of business and financial reports. Parliamentary Correspondent for CBC-TV 1959-1966 as a full-time appointment (except for trips elsewhere) and later returned for special occasions. Awards from: Canadian Radio Awards, Mediaconference, Inc., and the National Press Club of Canada. Took early retirement from CBC News effective Sept. 1st, 1977; still return as a free-lance writer and commentator. Have also appeared on TVO and a number of commercially-sponsored programs.

Began free-lancing for newspapers and magazines about 1948; Ontario correspondent for The Christian Science Monitor; Toronto ditto for the New York Herald Tribune. Articles in Saturday Night, National Home Monthly, Chatelaine, Maclean's, Weekend Magazine, shorter pieces for the Globe & Mail, Toronto Telegram, Toronto Star, Montreal Star, Thomson News Syndicate.

Postwar Work experience cont'd

All of this experience have given me a wide, coast-to-coast set of editorial and other media contacts, plus business, financial, legal and political ones, which I have maintained.

Miscellaneous:

Loaned by CBC to do broadcast media public relations for several international conferences; founding member and first president of North Jarvis Community Association, Toronto, involving public relations and dealing with City Hall; member Knights of Columbus, handling some public relations and publicity for boys' work. Elected first chairman, Board of Directors, York Condominium Corporation No. 66 on handover from developers; served six years; did not run again in 1978; Ran in 1979; and was re-elected Chairman for a further 3-year term.

Personal:

Married. Children grown up and on own.  
Health: generally good.  
Recreations and interests: Tent camping, swimming, Canadian and other history; linguistics (currently learning German); chess; theatre, recorded music ranging from early jazz to early swing to swing, classical, opera, some country and folk, very little rock; chess; and, of course, politics. Curling when change arises. Spectator sports: CFL, baseball.

Norman Reade DePoe

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<u>Vol. No.</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>File Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
SPEAKING OF WORDS COLUMN			
1	1	Speaking of Words Column - Manuscripts and Correspondence	1973
	2	Speaking of Words Column - Manuscripts	1974
	3	Speaking of Words Column - Correspondence, clippings	1974-1977
	4	Speaking of Words Column - Manuscripts	1975
	5	Speaking of Words Column - Manuscripts	1976
	6	Speaking of Words Column - Correspondence	1976
	7	Speaking of Words Column - Manuscripts	1977
SUBJECT FILES			
	8	Actuality in Pipes and Drums - Script	<u>1970</u>
	9	Book Reviews - Manuscripts	n.d., 1977, 1979
	10	C.B.C. Scripts, Memoranda	1962-1977
2	1	C.B.C. Research Material	1972
	2	<u>Christian Science Monitor</u> - Manuscripts for articles by N. DePoe	1955
	3	DePoe, Norman Memoirs - Notes	n.d.

<u>Vol. No.</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>File Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
		SUBJECT FILES (cont'd)	
2 (cont'd)	4	DePoe, Norman Personal - Memoranda and Correspondence	1962-1978
	5	Family Medicine Program - Memoranda	1973
	6	Foreign Ownership, Balance of Payments - Memoranda, clippings	1968-1971
	7	Garbage Disposal Program - Correspondence and memoranda	1973
	8	The Governor General - Script	n.d.
	9	<u>Herald Tribune</u> - Manuscript for article by N. DePoe	n.d.
	10	Letters of Congratulation and Comment	1968-1977
	11	Letters of Congratulation and Comment	1968-1979
	12	In Search (History of Canadian T.V. News) - Manuscript by N. DePoe	n.d.
	13	The National News - C.B.C. manual	1971
	14	Newspaper Articles - Manuscripts	n.d., 1975
	14A	Obituary - Clippings	1980
	15	Press Cards, Certificates	1952, 1963- 1978
	16	Reminiscences of Major James William Coldwell - Manuscripts	1972
	17	Short Stories - Manuscripts	n.d.
	18	Short Stories - Unpublished manuscripts	n.d., 1972- 1975
	19	Speaking Engagements - Correspondence and memoranda	1968-1978



<u>Vol. No.</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>File Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
		SUBJECT FILES (cont'd)	
2 (cont'd)	20	State Funerals - Memorandum	n.d.
	21	Tour of Italian Battlefields - Memoranda & correspondence	1972
	22	Wage and Price Control, C.B.C. Coverage - Memoranda, clippings	1975-1976
	23	"Words" Speech Winnipeg - Notes	1978
3		Scrap-book - Clippings, some letters of congratulation	1938, 1958- 1976
4		Scrap-book - Clippings	1954-1977
5	1	Alberta Election - Memoranda, scripts, press releases, polls and studies, clippings	1971
	2	Cabinet Ministers - Clippings, notes	1968
	3	Confederation for To-morrow Conference - Statements, memoranda	1967
	4	DePoe, Norman - Memoirs - Manuscript	n.d.
	5	DePoe, Norman - Editor-for-a-day; <u>The Vancouver Sun</u> 4 February clipping	1936
	6	DePoe, Norman - offers of work, honours, personal	n.d., 1946-1952
	7	DePoe, Norman - Memoranda, manuscripts, correspondence, clippings, biographical miscellaneous	1954, 1969-1980

<u>Vol. No.</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>File-Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
SUBJECT FILES (cont'd)			
5 (cont'd)	8	DePoe, Norman - Old controversies and anti-fan mail largely concerning De Gaulle visit and DePoe's anti-monarchical remarks	n.d., 1967
	9	DePoe, Norman - Correspondence in praise of his work at the C.B.C for example his interview of Gerda Munsinger	1967-1970
	10	DePoe, Norman - Correspondence in praise of his M.J. Coldwell documentary	1974
	11	Diefenbaker - Scripts for 1956 convention, Harkness, MANHATTEN voyage	n.d., 1969
	12	Federal Election - T.V. coverage memorandum, clippings, memoranda	1968
	13	Federal Election - Stanfield - Clippings, address	1968
	14	Federal Election - Memoranda, clippings, speeches, itineraries of Robert Stanfield	1974
	15	Federal Tories - Correspondence, brochures	1970-1972
	16	Howe, C.D. - Scripts, notes, address for memorial dinner	n.d., 1957
6	1	Liberal Leadership Convention - Brochures, clippings	1968
	2	Liberal Leadership - Polls and Stories	1968
	3	McRuar Report on Civil Rights - Clippings	1968

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SUBJECT FILES (cont'd)				
6 (cont'd)	4	S.S. MANHATTEN Voyage	1969	
	5	S.S. MANHATTEN Voyage - Brochures, clippings, notes, maps	1969	
	6	S.S. MANHATTEN Voyage - Notes, clippings, press releases, scripts	1969	
	7	Miscellaneous Scripts - Mainly concerning the United Nations and International Affairs	1963-1973	
	8	Miscellaneous Scripts - Royal visit, separatism, notes, Expo 67, Vincent Massey funeral, Flag debate, Interview with Paul Hellyer on defence	1963-1965	
	9	N.D.P. Leadership - Scripts, agenda for convention, reports	1971	
	10	Ontario Progressive Conservatives - Leadership Convention, clippings, notes		
	7	1	Politics Miscellaneous - clippings, leaflets	1968
		2	Progressive Conservative Convention - Correspondence and telegrams re N. DePoe's coverage of the P.C. convention	1966-1967
		3	Progressive Conservative Centennial Convention - Brochures, memoranda	1967
4		Quebec - Memoranda, scripts, clippings	1967	

<u>Vol. No.</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>File Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
		SUBJECT FILES (cont'd)	
7 (cont'd)	5	Quebec - Polls studies clippings	1967
	6	Quebec - Clippings, pamphlets	1967
	7	Script - Canadian Centennial	1967
	8	Short Stories - Manuscripts, correspondence re Florida, Chattenoga, Oscar Jonathan Livingstone Beagle	n.d., 1978
	9	Tenant Power - Scripts outline, clippings	1969
	10	Trudeau, Pierre Elliott - Clippings, brochures, transcript of DePoe interview	1968
	11	United Nations Sept-Oct. - Clippings, memoranda	1973
	12	University notes	n.d., 1933