

PAT LAWLER CRICKENBERGER 1921-1990, COLLECTION

PAT LAWLER CRICKENBERGER (1921-1990)

Collection c. : NAB No. 44

Size: 2 Hollinger Boxes

Accession number: 92-013

Location: NCCRW

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION:

Donation of her daughter, Leslie Palmer, and her friend, Joan Bennett.

RESTRICTIONS:

None

ORGANIZATION AND ARRANGEMENT:

The material is organized into five series: I. Biographical Information; II. Clippings; III. Correspondence; IV. Manuscripts; V. Books.

NOTES:

The bulk of this material is contained in Series IV. -- Manuscripts. Material from all series has been refoldered, and some metal fasteners have been removed.

FINDING AIDS:

Inventory, with complete descriptions of the series is available in the repository.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Pat Crickenberger, whose pen name was Pat Lawler, wrote novels and short stories. During a writing career which spanned most of her life, Pat wrote for magazines like *Ladies' Home Journal*, *Seventeen*, *Ingenue*, *McCall's* and *Good Housekeeping*, and also authored three books, My Brother's Place, What About Me?, and So This Is Puberty (still unpublished), for young adults. Pat began writing in her early twenties, but with the pressures of housework, three children, and a struggling marriage, there was little time to concentrate on being a serious writer. After divorcing her first husband, Ralph, Pat sought teaching jobs in the Denver and Pueblo areas to support herself and her three children. It was during this time that she also began submitting her stories to contests and magazines. She met with some success, and had there been more money in short stories, Pat most likely would have devoted all her time to these. However, Pat continued to find time for writing among her teaching, motherly responsibilities, and magazine work; her first novel, My Brother's Place, came out in 1976. In 1977, Pat and her new husband moved to New Orleans where she taught non-credit creative writing classes at Loyola University and worked a secretarial job in the Biology department of Tulane University. This secretarial job was an "on-again, off-again job" relating to her money situation. Like this job, New Orleans shifted back and forth throughout the rest of her life. Though she moved around quite a bit, she always returned to New Orleans. Pat published her second novel, What About Me? in 1982, eight years before her death. Shortly after this publication, Pat was invited to attend the Breadloaf

Writer's Conference held at Middlebury College in Vermont. At sixty-one, Pat still had that special ability to relate with the younger generation; she danced and partied with many of the young, conference goers. She attributed her frolic and the cold Vermont air to her first heart attack. Although she recovered, she suffered continuous angina which led to her second and fatal heart attack in December 1990.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: This material was assembled by Leslie Palmer and Joan Bennett and covers the period of 1943-1990. The bulk of the material consists of manuscripts. The material might be helpful to writers and others interested in documenting the lives of women who combined motherhood and careers.

Crickenberger, Pat Lawler, 1921-1990, Collection

Series:

- I. Biographical Information
 - A. Resume (ca. 1986)
 - B. Description of creative writing classes that she taught
- II. Clippings
 - A. Newspaper articles (both written by and about her)
 - B. Book Reviews
 - C. Memorial of her life (from *Inside Tulane*)
- III. Correspondence
 - A. Professional letters
 1. Letters from Knopf/Pantheon and Curtis Brown, Ltd.
 2. Acceptance notices from magazines
 3. Notification of awards
 - B. Personal letters
- IV. Manuscript Collection
 - A. Short Stories
 1. "The Boy She Married" -- ca. 1988
 2. "Celebration" -- McCall's 1987
 3. "A Difference of Dreams" -- Co-Ed. 1976
 4. "An Eye for Hills" -- ca. 1972
 5. "The Human Element" -- ca. 1989
 6. "A Matter of Responsibility" -- McCall's 1987
 7. "Millie Down Home" -- n.d.
 8. "A Sort of Magic" -- n.d.
 9. "Strangers on a Honeymoon" -- ca. 1987
 - "After the Wedding" -- Good Housekeeping 1988
(Shortened version of above)
 10. "Sweet Adversity" -- McCall's 1960
 11. "Try to Remember" -- n.d.
 12. "When Hi-old Silver Came Back" -- n.d.
 13. "When The Crying Stops" -- n.d.
 - B. Originals
 1. Typewritten works of some of the above mentioned short stories.
 2. Typewritten works of stories and novels that were incomplete and unpublished.