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Ben Laney campaign letters, 1944

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Ben Laney campaign letters

SMC.037.015

Finding aid prepared by the Arkansas State Archives

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

November 24, 2020

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical Note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	4
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	6

Summary Information

Repository	Arkansas State Archives
Title	Ben Laney campaign letters
Date	1944
Extent	0.2 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation

Ben Laney campaign letters, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Biographical/Historical Note

Benjamin Travis Laney Jr. (1896-1977) was born on November 25, 1896, in Jones Chapel, Arkansas the son of Benjamin Travis Laney and Martha Ellen Saxon. Laney entered Hendrix College in 1915 but left in 1916 to teach before serving in the U.S. Navy during World War I. He received a BA from Arkansas State Normal School in 1924. Laney worked in business and banking from 1925 to 1926 in Conway, where married Lucile Kirtley on January 19, 1926; they had three sons. In 1927, Laney returned to Ouachita County. He was the mayor of Camden (Ouachita County) from 1935 to 1939. A relative unknown when he ran for the 1944 Democratic gubernatorial nomination, he had the support of conservative business and financial interests. His opponents were former congressman David D. Terry and State Comptroller J. Bryan Sims. Sims withdrew ten days before the election amid accusations of a negotiated deal, and Laney easily defeated Republican opponent H. C. Stump in the general election, as was the norm in this essentially one-party political era. His re-nomination and reelection in 1946 were effortless. The governor was a leader in the States' Rights Democrats (Dixiecrats) movement, and the Dixiecrats considered him for a presidential or vice presidential nomination. Laney died on January 21, 1977, in Magnolia and was buried in Camden Memorial Cemetery.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains campaign letters for Ben Laney in 1944.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Arkansas State Archives 04/19/2012

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use. The ASA possesses the material listed in this finding aid in the original format, but due to preservation concerns this collection is accessible to the public through microfilm format.

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

South by Southwest Books, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 1984.

Collection Inventory

	Reel
1944 June 20: Mrs. F.J. Jackson, Women's Campaign Committee to Miss Leslie Stringfellow Read, Fayetteville, Arkansas	MG00222
1944 July 3: Mrs. J.M. Stinson to Miss Leslie Stringfellow Read, Fayetteville, Arkansas	MG00222
1944 July 5: Ben Laney, Little Rock, Arkansas to Mrs. Miriam Feathers, Fayetteville, Arkansas	
1944 July 12: Mrs. F.J. (Addie M.) Jackson, Director of Women's Division to Miss Leslie Stringfellow Read, Fayetteville, Arkansas	