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Finding Aid to the J. Frank Cassel Papers

Cassel, J. Frank

J. Frank Cassel, Papers, 1938-1983

3.5 linear ft.

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OVERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY

J. Frank Cassel was born on July 9, 1916 in Reading, Pennsylvania. He received his BA in 1938 from Wheaton College (Wheaton, IL), his Master's in 1941 from Cornell University (Ithaca, NY), and his PhD in 1952 from the University of Colorado (Boulder).

He spent 4 years in the U.S. Army during the Second World War, including 2 years in the Southwest Pacific. Prior to joining North Dakota Agricultural College in 1950 as an Assistant Professor of Zoology, he was an Instructor and Assistant Professor of Zoology at Colorado State University from 1946-1950.

In 1953 he was promoted to Associate Professor and became the Chairman of the Zoology Department. In 1961 he was promoted to Professor and remained as Chair, but took a one year leave in 1963-1964 to become a National Science Foundation senior faculty fellow at Harvard University. He continued as Chair of the Department from 1968-1977, when he stepped down. Shortly after his retirement in 1982, he was named Professor Emeritus after 32 year tenure at NDSU.

His research interests were varied, but focused birds and mammals. He studies waterfowl nesting along North Dakota highways and railroads, duck production in the Turtle Mountains, and feeding habits of blackbirds. He also led students on many an early morning expedition in search of feathered fowl.

He had numerous professional memberships, including the Society for the Study of Evolution, American Scientific Affiliation, American Institute of Biological Sciences, American Ornithologists Union, North Dakota Academy of Science, Sigma Xi, and the Wildlife Society.

After retirement he moved back to Colorado and was a visiting professor of biology at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He died on July 4, 2004 at the age of 87 in Colorado Springs, CO. He was married to Elizabeth and they had four children.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

J. Frank Cassel's papers consist primarily of records relating to his work as an NDSU professor of Zoology from 1950-1979. The documents are dated from 1938 to 1983. The folders are arranged by subjects.

The papers consist of documents related to Cassel's work in the Zoology Department at NDSU. There is correspondence between professors, students, and other professionals in his field. There are also records pertaining to the Audubon Screen Tours that were shown on campus several times and hosted by the Wildlife Society. Cassel was involved in the YMCA student chapter at NDSU and there are documents detailing this work. There are also records dealing with Cassel's involvement with other groups on campus such as the Wildlife Society, Sigma Xi, and Zoology Club.

Cassel was involved with several organizations dealing with conservation in North Dakota. In his papers, there are records related to Camp Ritchie, the North Dakota Academy of Science, the State Conservation Training Center, and the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center. Cassel was chairman of the Zoology Department from 1968-1977 and there are documents related to his work in this position including correspondence, memorandums, course outlines, and budgets.

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