

UC0069

QUANTITY: 1 box
ACCESS: Open to research
ACQUISITION: July 9, 1986, Norm VanValkenburgh
PROCESSED BY: Margie Amodeo

Biographical Note: Norman J. Van Valkenburgh (NJV) grew up on a farm in West Kill in Green County. He went to college in Maine but left after three years for a position with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. In his 32 years with for the DEC, one of his responsibilities was surveying tracts of land the State of New York was considering purchasing. As appreciation of his writing ability grew, VanValkenburgh was assigned to writing DEC reports including the story of the Adirondack Park and Forest Preserve. The history was so well received that the DEC published it as, *The Adirondack Forest Preserve: A Chronology*. He was also author of *The Forest Preserve of New York State in the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains: A Short History*, *Land Acquisition for New York State: A Historical Perspective* and editor of *Verplanck Colvin's 1899 Report of the Superintendent of the State Land Survey*. In addition he also published at least twelve mystery novels set in the Adirondacks and Catskills. He rose to Director of Division of Lands and Forest at the DEC. He was also Vice Chairman of the Adirondack Research Center.

Scope and Content Note: The collection includes materials collected while researching *The Adirondack Forest Preserve: A Chronology* in the late 1960's. The files focus on surveying, "forever wild" provisions for public lands, private land ownership and details of the management of public lands. Included is a file titled, "For later use." "It was always my intention," VanValkenburgh wrote in the letter that accompanied the files, "to update that book and I collected this extra stuff with that expectation. I will now leave that task for a later writer." All materials have been kept in their original folders and the folders in their original order, with original titles.

Box and Folder List:

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	"Attorney General Opinions & Court Decisions" correspondence and opinions from the New York State Attorney General's Office 1921-1950 regarding tent platforms, cutting of timber, fees, licenses and maintenance for campsites, construction of ski trails, right to use dead

		<p>timber, use of dirt roads and land for CCC camps, property rights, the 1950 blowdown and creation of scenic vistas on State land within the Forest Preserve</p> <p>Names Found: John Brown, John J Bennett, Champlain Realty Company, Nathaniel L Goldstein, Hon. Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Charles D. Newton, Hon. Lithgow Osborne, Raquette Lake Railway Company, Ellis J. Staley and William Seward Webb</p>
	2	<p>“‘Blow-up,’ 1951-1952” <i>Conservationist</i> magazines June-July 1952, April-May 1952, December-January 1951-1952, and copy of</p> <p>Swanson, Gustav A. "Our Forest Preserve." <i>Conservationist</i> [Albany, NY] Feb.-Mar., 1952: 2-7. Print.</p>
	3	<p>“Bond Programs 1960-1962” memo, chart of statistics, booklets, surveys and a report regarding the purchase and development of land for recreation. A memo from NJV states, “Under the 1960 and 1962 Parks and Recreation Land Acquisition Bond Act, a total of 2,400 separate properties were acquired. Of this total, 900 were acquired through appropriation. Most of these appropriations were for the purpose of clearing title or were bulk appropriations wherein many of the individual owners were willing sellers. A total of 150 owners sought additional compensation in the Court of Claims. This total of 150 could be considered as unfriendly appropriations.”</p>
	4	<p>“Colvin, Verplanck” photograph of painting of Colvin, correspondence, articles, magazines and newsletters regarding Colvin and his reports and a lecture on Colvin given by Joe Jillisky</p> <p>Names found: Neal S. Burdick, Warder Cadbury, George R. Cataldo, Thomas L. Cobb, Edward Comstock, James C. Dawson, Maitland C. DeSormo, Henry Gannon, James A. Goodwin, Joseph M. Jillisky, John E McIntosh, Walter Medwid, Arpena S. Mesrobian, William B. Nye, Noel Reidinger Johnson, Francis B. Rosevear, Philip G. Terrie and Nina H. Webb</p>
	5	<p>“Constitution” correspondence, proposed bond amendment, bond voting figures, Panther Mountain Reservoir information and other proposed constitutional amendments and their statistics and a compilation of all constitutional amendments proposed as of September 30, 1968.</p> <p>Names found: Lang Marsh, Bill Wiles and Robert E. Young</p>
	6	<p>“Functions of Conservation Department” brief division descriptions and a summary of programs and expenditures within Adirondack Park for each project</p>
	7	<p>“Indians” The <i>Conservationist</i> magazine, January-February, 1976 including article on the Iroquois of New York, “A Brief History of the New York Indians,” by Paul Fox</p>

		T.R. Hutton, O. Messerly. Highway of the Long House. Map [1in. = approximately 7.5 mi.]. (no city: no publisher), 1917. Print (copy)
	8	<p>"Land Grants" newspaper clipping, list of colonial and state land holdings</p> <p>State Forest Commission. Map of the Tracts, Patents and Land Grants of Northern New York. Map [no scale]. Albany, NY: New York State Forest Commission, 1893. Print</p>
	9	"Laws" legislation of the State of New York dating back to 1779 regarding property, railroads, government positions and appropriations, establishment of a college of forestry at Cornell, land purchases, water rights and protection of natural resources
	10	<p>"For later use" includes correspondence, reports, newsletters, magazines, articles, charts of Park and land acquisition statistics and articles regarding acid rain, landslides, Gooley Dam, watershed forests, the Adirondack Park Agency, environmental legislation, the Lake Placid Olympics, development of ski sites and horse trails, Prospect Mountain State Parkway, forever wild, responsible forestry, deer management, CCC camps, land exchange, land use and the State Land Master Plan</p> <p>Names found: Adirondack Trail Improvement Society, Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, Peter A.A. Berle, Henry Clepper, Arthur Crocker, George D. Davis, Environmental Planning Lobby, Jean Robert Foster, H.F. Gannon, Robert C. Glennon, Harold K. Hochschild, J. Neil Huber, Jr., Charles H. Jennings, E.W. Littlefield, Clarence Petty, Ruth Riedinger, Robert J. Ringlee and Theodore Roosevelt</p>
	11	<p>"Misc. reference material" correspondence, magazines and articles regarding campsites, river regulating districts, reservoirs and highways, report on "The Problem of Forest Fire Truck Trails," and notes and statistics regarding history and legislation surrounding the creation and land acquisition policy of the Forest Preserve including "Fifty Years of The State Forest Preserve, Report from the President of the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks," April, 1934</p> <p>New York State Forest Commission. Map of the Great Forest of Northern New York. Map [1in. = approximately 5.75 mi.]. Albany, NY: New York State Forest Commission, 1890. Print</p> <p>Names found: Herman F. Cole, Peter W. Fosburgh, Henry F. Gannon, Henry S. Graves, Cecil E. Heacox, Harold K. Hochschild, Harold A. Jerry Jr., Herbert H. Lehman, Edward W. Littlefield, Joseph Martens, W.D. Mulholland, Lithgow Osborne and G.J. Rider</p>
	12	"Policy" pamphlet regarding public use of the Forest Preserve, "Administrative Manual Forest Preserve Section," and "The Adirondack

		Park Land Acquisition Policy”
	13	“Taxes” “State of New York Department of Audit and Control to Clinton County Treasurer, for general town and school taxes of 1966 pursuant to Sec. 532a, b, f, 534, 536, and 545, Real Property Tax Law on Forest Preserve, Reforestation and Prison lands and lands of the Plattsburgh and Dannemora R.R. in the several towns of Clinton County”
	14	“National Park” pamphlets, reports, correspondence and articles on the Adirondack Mountains National Park proposal Names found: Glen S. Haderup, R. Stewart Kilborne, Governor Rockefeller, Lawrence S. Rockefeller, Ben H. Thompson, Edward G. West and Conrad Wirth