

**SOUTHWESTERN WRITERS COLLECTION**  
**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - ALBERT B. ALKEK LIBRARY**  
**TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY - SAN MARCOS**

**Edwin (Bud) Shrake**  
**Papers, 1936 - ongoing**  
Bulk: 1960-1993

Collection 008

23 boxes (12 linear feet)

**Acquisition:** donated by Bud Shrake, Bill Wittliff, and Jody Gent. Some items purchased. **Note:** Contact the SWWC for information about additional materials from this writer that have not yet been fully processed. Texas State holds two collections of Shrake materials: this collection (the Edwin "Bud" Shrake Papers, 1936-ongoing), and a collection (the Edwin "Bud" Shrake Papers, 1943-1975) which formerly belonged to the Austin History Center (please refer to the finding aid for that collection for more information).

**Access:** Open for Research

**Processed by:** Gwyneth Cannan, June 1993 [Inventory revised December 2004]

### Biographical Note

Edwin A. (Bud) Shrake, Jr., journalist, sportswriter, novelist, biographer and screenwriter, was born in Fort Worth, Texas on September 6, 1931. He attended Paschal High School where, along with Dan Jenkins (*Semi Tough, Baja Oklahoma*), he wrote for the *Paschal Pantherette*. In 1951, Shrake followed Jenkins to the *Fort Worth Press* Sports Department, run by legendary sportswriter Blackie Sherrod. While working for the *Press* full time, Shrake earned a degree in English and Philosophy at Texas Christian University .

In 1958, Shrake moved to the *Dallas Times Herald* as a sportswriter. The rival *Dallas Morning News* hired him away in 1961 to write a daily sports column. In 1964, Shrake moved to New York, again joining Dan Jenkins, this time as a writer for *Sports Illustrated* . While in New York, Shrake and Jenkins kept company with Billy Lee Brammer, Larry L. King, Willie Morris, George Plimpton, Norman Mailer, James Dickey, William Styron and many other literary lights of the day. Shrake was later to reminisce that this period consisted of "exciting, mostly idealistic times and ... everybody seemed to know everybody else among the crowd of writers" (Shrake papers, SWWC). Shrake returned to Texas in 1968, making Austin his home. He continued his association with *Sports Illustrated* until 1979 while also writing novels and screenplays. In addition, he wrote an occasional article for other magazines, notably "The Land of the Permanent Wave," published in the February 1970 *Harper's*. Then-editor Willie Morris considered it one of two pieces published during his *Harper's* tenure that gave him "special pride. ... [It] struck a chord in me that I have never quite forgotten, having to do with how clean, funny, and lambent prose caught the mood of that moment in the country and mirrored with great felicity what we were trying to do at *Harper's*. To me few finer magazine essays have ever been written" (*New York Days*, 326).

To date, Shrake has published seven novels. All but one are set squarely in his home state and, as A. C. Greene once commented, "seemed to be reaching for some truth about life (Texas life) that needed to be explained" (*Texas Monthly*, Aug. 1981). Representative of Shrake's fiction are the heavily-researched, wry western, *Blessed McGill*; the searing portrait of Dallas during the days of the Kennedy assassination,

*Strange Peaches*; and the retelling of Petronius' *Satyricon*, *Peter Arbiter*, wherein Shrake translates the decadence of imperial Rome to the decadence of oil-rich Texas.

In the late 1980s, Shrake turned to the writing of celebrity as-told-to autobiographies, beginning with his friend, musician Willie Nelson. *Willie: An Autobiography* was followed by *Bootlegger's Boy*, the story of the controversial former University of Oklahoma coach, Barry Switzer, and *Harvey Penick's Little Red Book*, tips and tales from the accomplished golfer. All three of these works made the bestseller's list, the Penick book becoming the bestselling sports book in American publishing history.

Shrake's versatility as a writer extends to screenwriting. Productions on which Shrake is credited include: *J. W. Coop* (1972), with Cliff Robertson playing a rodeo star adjusting to a changing west; *Kid Blue* (1973), a comic western starring Dennis Hopper; *Tom Horn* (1980), with Steve McQueen as the legendary shootist; and *Songwriter* (1984), a film about the country music business directed by Alan Rudolph and starring Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson. Many other of Shrake's scripts remain unrealized despite the enthusiasm and support of prominent Hollywood figures. Actor/director Dennis Hopper was unable to finance a proposed production on Pancho Villa and Ambrose Bierce. The screenplay for that project was later reworked into the stage play, *Pancho Villa's Wedding*. Director Jonathan Demme labored to bring *Big Mamoo* to the screen for many years but his efforts to that end remain frustrated.

A. C. Greene listed *Blessed McGill* in 1981 as one of Texas' fifty best books and in so doing, fairly described much of Shrake's writing in general - it shows "an appreciation for the absurdities of existence, a recognition of irony's major role in the world, [and] highly suggestive humor" (*Texas Monthly*, Aug. 1981).

### Scope and Contents Note

The Edwin (Bud) Shrake papers span the years from 1936 to 1993, with most of the material dating from 1960 to the present. The records are organized into the following three series: I. Writings (books, scripts, articles, school papers and comic strips); II. Personal Records; III. Other Writers. The archive includes book manuscript drafts, galley proofs, magazines, clippings, tear sheets, letters, photographs, slides, audiotapes, and a typewriter. Arrangement is in chronological order.

See also the Larry L. King Papers for correspondence and the Gary Cartwright Papers for material on the screenplay *Rip*.

## Series Description

### Series 1 : Writings, 1960 - 1990 Boxes 1 - 22

This series constitutes the bulk of the record group and is broken down into four subseries: Books; Scripts; Articles; School Papers and Comic Strips. The subseries consist primarily of manuscript drafts but also contain research material, editing notes, galleys, magazines, tear sheets, and reviews. The series is arranged in chronological order. Of interest are some of Shrake's handwritten notes on the title pages of his screenplays.

The first subseries, Books, (1960-1990), contains manuscripts, galleys, reviews and correspondence with editors. Also included are screenplays of *Blessed McGill* written by writers other than Shrake; an interview with Shrake written shortly after *Limo* was published; and a manuscript of the poem *The Grubiad* written for *Peter Arbiter* with the help of Shrake's friends: John Sullivan, Gary Cartwright, Jay Milner, David Simmons and Billy Lee Brammer.

The majority of the material in this subseries contain items relating to the creation of *Willie: An Autobiography*: boxes 4 to 7 include interview transcripts; boxes 7 and 8 contain research materials; boxes 8 to 13 house numerous manuscript drafts; and box 14 contains drafts, galley proofs and audio tapes of interviews. The drafts remain in the order in which they were typed into the computer by Shrake's assistant, Jody Gent. Mixed in with the Nelson drafts are letters to the publisher, letters about the *Beverly Hills Cop II* screenwriting arbitration, and letters about the novel *Night Never Falls*. The December 1987 draft was housed in six green three-ring binders with white labels. None of these binders have been retained. Edited drafts and Barry Switzer's formal revisions represent the Oklahoma football coach's autobiography, *Bootlegger's Boy*.

The second subseries, Scripts, (1971-1989), is made up of the screenplays Shrake wrote or co-wrote. In addition to the scripts, there is a letter from film director Jonathan Demme regarding a mutual project, *Big Mamoo*, and an article in *Premiere* about the difficulty of bringing the project to fruition. A stage play, *Pancho Villa's Wedding Day*, is also included. It began as a screenplay, was reworked as a stage musical, and was finally produced as a conventional play in Austin in 1984.

Four magazines containing Shrake articles form the third subseries, Articles, (1974 - 1975). They are: "The Land of the Permanent Wave," *Harper's*, February 1970; "Trouping the Colors for Gussie," *Sports Illustrated*, December 16, 1974; "The Screwing Up of Austin," *Texas Observer*, December 27, 1974; "Getting Swamped by 'Gators," *Sports Illustrated*, January 20, 1975. Also available is the portable typewriter on which Shrake typed most of his articles and books.

The fourth subseries, School Papers and Comic Strips, 195? - 196?, contains two college English papers annotated with the professor's comments, and hand-drawn comic strips "Captain High" and "Adventures of Nerd."

**Series II : Personal Records, 1936 - 1991.**  
**Box 22**

This series contains photographs and slides of Shrake and friends as well as personal letters. Most of this material dates from the 1960s, is in chronological order, and was purchased from Larry McMurtry.

**Series III : Other Writers, 1987 - 1993.**  
**Box 23**

This series contains manuscripts of works written by Shrake's friends, the writers Dan Jenkins and Willie Morris.

Container List

Box Folder

Series I : Writings, 1960 - 1990

A. Books, 1960 - 1990

1	1	<i>The Bugler of the Cherubim</i> manuscript
	2 - 4	<i>Patrol to Palo Duro</i> [ <i>Blood Reckoning</i> ], 1960 - 1961
	5 - 10	<i>But Not For Love</i> manuscript, 1962 - 1964
2	1	<i>But Not For Love</i> manuscript, 1962 - 1964
	2 - 7	<i>Blessed McGill</i> manuscript, reviews, screenplays, 1967-1968
	6	<i>Strange Peaches</i> manuscript, 1972
3	1 - 3	<i>Strange Peaches</i> manuscript, 1972
	4	"Bud Shrake, Almost Famous," <i>Pearl</i> , May 1976
	5 - 6	<i>Peter Arbiter</i> , "Grub" manuscript, unbound edition
	7 - 9	<i>I, Harry Sparrow</i> [ <i>Night Never Falls</i> ] manuscript
4	1	Disks and paperwork
	2-3	Paperwork
	4	Interview questions and transcripts: Shirley Nelson (Willie's second wife); Willie Nelson; Joel Katz (lawyer); Connie Nelson
	5	Sammy Allred (friend, Lone Star artist)
	6	James "Kimo" Alo (friend)
	7	David Amram
	8	Chet Atkins (producer, musician former RCA Records president)
	9	Bennie Binyon (friend)
	10	Rick Blackburn (President of CBS Records)
	11	Pat Butler (friend)
	12	Don Cherry
	13	Biff Collie (once married to Shirley Nelson), Mae Axton (songwriter and friend)
	14	Billy Cooper (Willie's crew - valet/security)
	15	Erma Red Duffy (A Maid to the Stars)
	16	Diane Eichenbaum (Astrologer), Willie's astrology chart
	17	Paul English (Willie's drummer and friend)
	18	Tompall Glaser

Box Folder

Series I : Writings, 1960 – 1990 (continued)

A. Books, 1960 – 1990 (continued)

5	1	Tom Gresham
	2	Joel Katz (lawyer)
	3	Sheryl Leverett (Jimmy Day's ex-wife)
	4	James (Poodie) Locke
	5	Cheryl McCall (friend)
	6	Gates Moore (Willie's driver)
	7 - 8	Willie Nelson and Bobbie (Willie's sister)
	9	Lana Nelson (daughter)
	10	Shirley Nelson (second wife)
	11	Willie Nelson (interviewed by Rev. Gerald Mann)
	12 - 13	Willie Nelson
	6	1 - 5
6		Waylon, Willie, Neal, Marvin, Bud
7		Frank and Jeanne Oakley (friends from Ridgetop and managers of the Willie Nelson General Store)
8		Sydney Pollack
9		Dudley Budrock (Willie's crew); Buddy Prewitt (production manager)
12		Rattlesnake Annie (friend, singer; recorded "Long Black Limousine" with Willie)
13		Mark Rothbaum (manager)
14		Susan Rossman
15		Darrell Royal (good friend)
16		Tim O'Connor
7	1	Martha Scott (first wife)
	2	W. B. Shelton (Ag teacher at Abbott High School)
	3	Hazel Smith (songwriter)
	4	Mike Tollison
	5	Larry Trader (golf pro)
	6	Zake Varnon (childhood friend)
	7	Billy Walker (first guy who ever cut a Willie Nelson song)
	8	Jim Watt (ICM agent)
	9	Mildred, Willie, Bobbie (Willie's siblings)
	10	Charlie Williams
	11	Bill Wittliff
	12	Sybil Greenshaw (Myrle's [Willie's mother's] younger sister)

Box Folder

Series I : Writings, 1960 – 1990 (continued)

A. Books, 1960 – 1990 (continued)

7	13 14 - 15	Handwritten questions <i>Willie Nelson</i> research (clippings, photocopies, magazines, photograph)
8	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Clippings, photocopies (April - July 1987) Clippings, magazine (August - December 1987) Financial documents, typescripts of articles by David Breskin, Townend Miller, clippings, photograph taken from the air Copies of newspaper articles, clippings, press releases, Columbia Records biography, interviews from other sources Interviews from other sources, biographical sketches, photocopies of articles Interviews from other sources, photocopies of articles, August, 1983 issue of LIFE magazine Notes, typescript of "Epilogue", handwritten list of names Copies of Willie's childhood songbook "Willie Outline" <i>Willie</i> manuscript drafts
9	1 - 7	<i>Willie</i> manuscript drafts
10	1 - 7	<i>Willie</i> manuscript drafts
11	1 - 7 8	<i>Willie</i> manuscript drafts <i>Willie</i> July 1, 1987
12	1 2 3 4 5 6 - 7 8	<i>Willie</i> <i>Willie</i> Partial ms. (September 14, 1987) <i>Willie, An Autobiography</i> Parts I and II <i>Willie</i> Parts I and II (December 1987) <i>Willie</i> Part III (December 1987) <i>Willie</i> Part IV (December 1987) <i>Willie</i> Part V (December 1987)
13	1 2 3 - 7	<i>Willie</i> Part VI (December 1987) <i>Willie</i> Parts VII and VIII (December 1987) "I Didn't Come Here..."

Box Folder

Series I : Writings, 1960 – 1990 (continued)

A. Books, 1960 – 1990 (continued)

- |    |       |  |
|----|-------|--|
| 13 | 8     | <i>Willie</i> typescript   |
| 14 | 1 - 4 | <i>Willie</i> typescript   |
|    | 5     | <i>Willie</i> galley proofs  |
|    | 6     | <i>Willie</i> audio script   |
|    | 7     | <i>Willie</i> Bud Shrake interview / Paul Pryer Show<br>(October 11, 1988) / <i>Willie</i> on PBS (November 4, 1988) |
|    | 8     | <i>Willie</i> reviews  |
| 15 | 1 - 2 | <i>Willie</i> reviews  |
|    | 3     | <i>Willie</i> - [clippings and letters] to agent<br>Esther Newberg, ICM  |
|    | 4 - 7 | <i>Bootlegger's Boy</i> unedited version (March 29, 1990)  |
| 16 | 1     | <i>Bootlegger's Boy</i> editing letters (March - April 1990)   |
|    | 2 - 5 | <i>Bootlegger's Boy</i> draft (April 11, 1990)   |
|    | 6     | <i>Bootlegger's Boy</i> Goodbye To All That (April 23, 1990)   |
|    | 7     | <i>Bootlegger's Boy</i> William Morrow catalog   |
|    | 8 - 9 | <i>Bootlegger's Boy</i> galleys (June 12, 1990)  |

B. Scripts, 1971-1989

- |    |       |   |
|----|-------|---|
| 16 | 10    | <i>Dime Box [Kid Blue]</i> final shooting script (September 20, 1971) |
| 17 | 1     | <i>Limo</i> first draft (April 21, 1977)                              |
|    | 2 - 3 | <i>Nightwing</i> first draft (October 15, 1977)                       |
|    | 4     | <i>Nightwing</i> second draft (November 30, 1977)                     |
|    | 5     | <i>I, Tom Horn</i> (September 15, 1978)                               |
|    | 6     | <i>Belle Starr</i> (May 4, 1979)                                      |
|    | 7 - 8 | <i>Texas Devils</i> (1979 – 1989)                                     |
| 18 | 1     | <i>Texas Devils</i>   |
|    | 2 - 5 | <i>Songwriter</i> (January, 1981)                                     |
|    | 6 - 8 | <i>Strange Peaches</i> (April 8, 1981)                                |
| 19 | 1     | <i>Myrabelle Shirley, a Love Story</i> (August 1, 1981)               |
|    | 2 - 5 | <i>Big Mamoo</i> (1981-1988)  |

Box Folder

Series I : Writings, 1960 – 1990 (continued)

B. Scripts, 1971-1989 (continued)

19	6	<i>Pancho Villa and Ambrose Bierce</i> (197?)
	7 - 10	<i>Pancho Villa's Wedding Day</i> (1981)
20	1 - 5	<i>Pancho Villa's Wedding Day</i> typescripts (1983 - 1984)
	6	<i>Pancho Villa's Wedding Day</i> publicity and reviews
	7	<i>Pancho and Ambrose</i> (1984)
	8 - 9	<i>Killer Sigh</i> first draft (June 14, 1983)
	10	<i>Loose Women</i> first draft (November 2, 1983)
21	1	<i>Damn Yankees</i> revised (January 1, 1984)
	2	<i>Slim and None</i> (May, 1985)
	3	<i>First Among the Best</i> revised (November, 1985)
	4	<i>Beverly Hills Cop II</i> second draft (December 20, 1985)
	5 - 7	<i>Plum Creek</i> (January, 1986)
	8	<i>King Jack</i> (March, 1986)
	9	<i>FilmTexas</i> magazine re: Screenwriter's Conference (1986)
	10	<i>Murder Clear</i> rough draft (April 15, 1986)
22	1	<i>Murder Clear</i> second rough draft (May 1, 1986)
	2	<i>Murder Clear</i> (January 19, 1987)
	3	<i>Rip</i> (with Gary Cartwright)
	4	<i>Rip</i> fourth draft (July 20, 1989)
	5	<i>Zebras</i> first draft (June, 1990)
	5	C. <u>Articles</u> , 1974 - 1975
22	6 - 7	Magazine articles
	6	D. <u>School Papers and Comic Strips</u> , 195? - 196?
22	8	School papers (Untitled short story for English 332, Comic strips)

**Box Folder**

**Series II : Personal Records, 1936 – 1991**

22	9	Photos, 1953 - 1973
	10	Letter from Charles Daggett, Dec. 24, 1936 Letters to David Simmons, 1964 - 1972, Letter from John Graves, July 5, 1991

**Series III : Other Writers, 1987 - 1993**

23	1 - 4	<i>Don't Write Me Nothing That Rhymes</i> ms. by Dan Jenkins (June 1, 1987)
	5 - 9	<i>New York Days</i> ms. by Willie Morris