

# LETTERS FROM THE LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE LAW LIBRARY OF MISSISSIPPI

*"There shall be ... a library ... known as the state library"*

An Act to provide for a State Library – General Laws, 1838

August 2022

## In This Issue

Hutcherson Passes	1
Hutcherson / Library	3
Henry Lee Rodgers	4
Lantern Project	6

---

## State Library Hours

Monday – Friday  
8am – 5pm

---

## Library Staff

Stephen Parks – State Librarian  
[sparks@courts.ms.gov](mailto:sparks@courts.ms.gov)

Casandra Noel – Circulation Librarian  
[cnoel@courts.ms.gov](mailto:cnoel@courts.ms.gov)

LaTavius Jackson – Reference Librarian  
[ljackson@courts.ms.gov](mailto:ljackson@courts.ms.gov)

Tiffany Paige – Catalog Librarian  
[tpaige@courts.ms.gov](mailto:tpaige@courts.ms.gov)

## Penelope Carr Hutcherson, former State Librarian, passes

Reprinted *Northside Sun*, Thursday, May 26, 2022

Penelope Carr Hutcherson passed away May 24th at the age of 81. An avowed Yellow Dog, she was a champion for social justice and equal rights and an activist for numerous local, state, and national political campaigns and organizations. She was well known and loved for her intelligence, wit, generosity, and hospitality.

Penny was born February 25, 1941 in Belzoni, MS, the daughter of Joe Warren Carr and Ellen Smith Carr. She was valedictorian of the Belzoni High School Class of 1958 and attended Ole Miss where she was a Tri-Delt, graduating with a Secretarial Science degree in 1962. She married Paul Tudor Jones V and the couple moved to Jackson and settled in Belhaven where she lived most of her life. She remarried to John Reese Hutcherson in 1970 and their shared love of the arts, particularly classical music and opera, inspired frequent travel for music performances and art exhibits across the US and abroad.

A career woman and mother, she attended night classes at Mississippi College School of Law while serving as the Mississippi State Law Librarian from 1968-1974. She was admitted to the Mississippi State Bar in 1971 and practiced law briefly before focusing her attention on her family, playing the piano, and politics. One of her great honors was attending the 1976 Democratic National Convention in New York City.

Later in her career she ran legislative reporting service StateWatch with her longtime friend and mentor Frances Hicks. She also was office manager for law firm Cupit, Jones, and Fairbanks and served on the Jackson Civil Service Commission. Throughout her career she actively supported numerous political campaigns as a fundraiser, canvasser, and advisor.

An accomplished pianist, she accompanied several voice students and played numerous concerts and recitals. She was a member of the Junior League of Jackson, the Belhaven Garden Club, and the Chaminade Club.

Penny was whip smart and a voracious reader, ruthless at Scrabble. She routinely dispatched the New York Times daily crossword in ink before the coffee ran out, and she lamented Eugene T. Maleska's retirement and succession by "that cheat face" Will Shortz, who she felt took undignified liberties as editor.

Her afternoon Salon was a major hub of the Belhaven social scene, and folks often ventured from 211 and beyond to partake in the lively conversation, music and refreshments. Christmas was a favorite time of year and the festivities at her home on Arlington Street were well attended over the years by her extended family. She was a lover of strays and orphans, human, canine, and feline, and all found a warm refuge in her home. Her son's friends universally adored her.

After a series of debilitating health issues, she spent the final eleven years of her life at the Blake at Township. Her family is deeply grateful for the dedication, compassion, and love shown by all the caregivers and staff while she was a resident.

She is preceded in death by both husbands and her son Joe Carr Jones who died in infancy. She is survived by her son Warren Carr Jones, her sister Emma George Hamilton, nieces Mary Ellen Dillard and Elizabeth Hamilton Ingram (Patrick), great niece Ellen Cooper Dillard, and great nephew Jackson Ford Ingram. A celebration of her life will be announced at a later date. Memorials may be made to the Mississippi Animal Rescue League and the Belzoni Cemetery Association.

**Mrs. Jones Is Elected Librarian**  
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Mrs. Paul T. Jones, 27-year-old secretary of the House Ways and Means Committee, won election by the Mississippi Legislature Thursday as state librarian.

Mrs. Jones collected 99 votes of the 146 cast on the first ballot in a joint House-Senate session to name a successor to retiring Mrs. Julia Starnes of Columbia, who is stepping down after 23 years in the post.

Also nominated were Mrs. Martha Lagrone Lang, now an assistant under Mrs. Starnes, and Mrs. Myrna Hennington, now with the State Library Commission.

On the first ballot, Mrs. Jones got 86 votes in the House to 15 for Mrs. Lang and 3 for Mrs. Hennington. Senators gave Mrs. Lang 19 votes, Mrs. Jones 13 and Mrs. Hennington 9.

Sen. Ollie Mohamed of Belzoni said he wanted to nominate Penny Carr Jones for the post because she was a lady of intelligence who had been valedictorian at Belzoni High School and a top student at the University of Mississippi. She has attended Jackson School of Law and worked for the House for three legislative sessions. She also has worked as a legal secretary in a bankruptcy court and for the secretary of state.

**Carpet Paths and Spots Easily Removed . . . or**  
Blue Lustre re-brightens colors, clean carpet wall - to - wall. Safe leaves nap fluffy. Rent easy - to use electric shampooer for \$1 a day at Brent Drugs, Woodland Hills Shopping Center.

**WESTLAND PLAZA  
OPEN  
MONDAY & FRIDAY  
Night until 9 P.M.**

Above: *The Clarion Ledger*, July 12, 1968

# Hutcherson: State Librarian during the move from the Capitol to the new Gartin Justice Building

Right: *The Clarion Ledger*, June 17, 1973

Below: *The Clarion Ledger*, March 28, 1974

## Justice Building Dedication Set

Lt. Gov. William Winter announced that official dedication ceremonies for the Carroll Gartin Justice Building are to be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 2.

Honored guests at the ceremony will be Mrs. Carroll Gartin, wife of the late lieutenant governor, and other members of the Gartin family.

Speakers for the occasion will be former governors J. P. Coleman, who now sits on the Fifth U. S. Circuit Court of

Appeals, and Paul B. Johnson, Jr., two of the three governors with whom Gartin served as lieutenant governor.

Gartin, who died in his third term of office Dec. 19, 1966 at age 53, was a native of Meridian and a former twoterm mayor of Laurel. He was a graduate of Jones Junior College, the University of Mississippi, and the Jackson School of Law.

Other program participants are to include Gov. Bill Waller, who

will formally present the building on behalf of the state, State Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert G. Gillespie, who will express the commitment and appreciation of those who will use the building.

A tour of the building to be conducted by Mrs. Julia Kendrick, State Supreme Court clerk, and Mrs. Penny Hutcherson, state law librarian.

Mrs. Gartin will unveil the official portrait of the former lieutenant governor which will be on permanent display in the building, and William C. Gartin, Jr. will make the formal response for the Gartin family. Winter will serve as master of ceremonies for the occasion.

**STATE LAW LIBRARIAN** Penny Hutcherson and her corps of regular and added assistants really sweated on the immense job last week of moving the State Law Library from its New Capitol second floor quarters to the second (i. e., just beneath the ground level, or third, floor) of the Carroll Gartin Justice Department Building.

It wasn't that warm inside the new quarters. The real heat was in attempting to fit the multi-thousands of law and law-related volumes which gathered in the New Capitol quarters over nearly three-fourths of a century into the spacious new library quarters.

Back in 1940 the Capitol rooms had been fitted with an intricate web of shelving, extending all the way to the high ceiling and so close together people had to rub noses to pass in the narrow passageways.

The new library was designed to afford somewhat easier access to the books and more space to handle them in. But there are a lot of books—and toward the middle of last week Librarian Hutcherson was scratching her brunette locks over the situation.

She said, however, "It'll all fit in the long run" and pledged that, as advertised, the new Law Library will be opened and ready for business Monday.

The old library—as the new one will be — was a fascinating place on several counts:

(a) It contained a very great many magnificent old books, pictures and other artifacts from Mississippi's past and present; (b) It had probably the most comprehensive input of Mississippi newspapers—weekly, daily and other—in the state, and (c) It was a wonderful place for reporters assigned to the Capitol to hide and kill an hour or two.

### SYNTHETIC CRISIS

## Will Make Cotton

M I D I

☆☆☆

**STATE LIBRARIAN**



**Mrs. Peneiope Carr Jones**

Born in Jackson, Miss., Feb. 25, 1941, graduate of the University of Mississippi, receiving a B.S. in Commerce. Former clerk of Bankruptcy Court for the U. S. District Court for Southern Mississippi. Legal Secretary. Formerly secretary for the Ways and Means Committee of the Mississippi House of Representatives.

Elected State Librarian by Legislature in July, 1968 to succeed Mrs. Julia Baylis Starnes, who resigned after holding the post for 28 years.

Above: The 1968-1972 Bluebook

Below: The 1972-1976 Bluebook



**State Law Librarian**

**MRS. PENELOPE C. HUTCHERSON**

Born in Jackson, Miss. Feb. 25, 1941. B.S.C. degree, University of Mississippi; graduate of Jackson School of Law; member of Mississippi State Bar Association, American Association of Law Libraries. Elected State Librarian July, 1968, re-elected January, 1972.

## USM to digitize papers of former Justice Henry Lee Rodgers

USM's University Libraries' Special Collections division announced in July that it had received a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, an affiliate of the National Archives and Records Administration. The grant will support processing, digitization, and development of finding aids for existing collections significant to the history and culture of Mississippi. The Henry Lee Rodgers Papers collection will be included in this project.

University Libraries describes the Henry Lee Rodgers Papers as follows:

**Henry Lee Rodgers Papers:** *Rodgers served as a Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court from 1960-1976. Previously, from 1946-1950, he served as District Attorney for the 5th Judicial Court District and earlier in private practice. Before becoming a Justice, he served as a circuit judge. The collection documents this era in the state's judicial history.*

The State Law Library facilitated this collection in 2016. The Library had been granted access to boxes of papers of the late Justice that had been left in a storage shed (see pictures below) in Louisville, MS. As Stephen Parks began combing through the many boxes, he came across a copy of a letter (see below) dated February 28, 1975, in which the late Justice had written to Dr. William McCain, USM President,



stating his intention to deliver his papers to USM. Having uncovered this letter, Parks decided the boxes of papers should be turned over to USM. Perhaps one day in the future, the Library will be given complete access to a Justice/Judge's papers with the stated intention being that the State Law Library is to be the entity to archive and preserve them.

February 28, 1975

Dr. William D. McCain, President  
University of Southern Mississippi  
Southern Station, Box 1  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401

Dear Dr. McCain:

Thank you for your letter of February 10. I remember that I promised to give my papers to the University of Southern Mississippi, and I am embarrassed that I have not prepared these papers for delivery. My excuse is that my duties on the Supreme Court have increased to such an extent that I have not had an opportunity to do so.

I have kept all of my papers since I left law school in 1927. They consist of my private law practice, my district attorney files, my circuit court files, and Supreme Court files. I believe there are six four-drawer steel files and several storage boxes of papers. I would like to go through these files before I turn them over to the University. I suppose these files may be of some historical value; but there are, of course, many instances of confidential information given me by my clients which are sacred, and I am duty bound never to reveal. These must be destroyed, so I must go through these papers before I deliver them. You may be assured, however, that I fully intend to turn them over to Southern.

With every good wish for you and your continued success, I am

Sincerely yours,

HENRY L. RODGERS

HLR:mh





**LANTERN**  
PROJECT



## Introducing the Lantern Project

Come and learn about the Lantern Project, a multi-state and multi-institution effort to digitize legal records of enslaved persons, led by Mississippi State University Libraries and featuring records from Mississippi State University Libraries, University of Mississippi Libraries, Delta State University Libraries, Historic Natchez Foundation, the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System and the Montgomery County (Alabama) Archives. The Lantern Project has been generously funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

Attendees will get tips on navigating both the project digital collection and specific historic documents included in the project, such as probate and circuit court records.

**October 4, 2022 | 12:00 PM**

**State Law Library of Mississippi**

**Carroll Gartin Justice Building**

450 High Street, Jackson, MS 39201 - First Floor Meeting Room

For more information, contact Stephen Parks at  
[sparks@courts.ms.gov](mailto:sparks@courts.ms.gov) / 601-359-3612

