



*Special Collections/Archives Department
John B. Coleman Library
Prairie View A&M University*

UA00166

The Edward B. Evans Collection

Complied by Anna Gaffey, May 2013

Revised by Evelyn Davis, February 2024

The Edward B. Evans Collection Finding Aid

Collection Overview

Creator: Edward B. Evans

Title: Presidents and Principals Papers: Edward B. Evans

Dates: 1933-1992

Quantity: 3.25 Linear Feet (5 boxes)

Abstract: The E. B. Evans Papers include correspondence, news clippings, photographs, printed materials, and writings relating to the tenure of Edward B. Evans, seventh principal and first president of Prairie View A & M University (then Prairie View University and Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas).

Identification: UA00166

Use Restrictions: Written permission must be obtained from the Special Collections/ Archives Department and all relevant rights holders before publishing quotations, excerpts, or images from any materials in this collection.

Language: The materials are in English.

Repository: Prairie View A&M University

Biographical Note: Dr. Edward B. Evans (born May 7, 1894, died July 3, 1976) was an African-American veterinarian and educator who served as the eighth principal of Prairie View A & M University from 1947 to 1948, and first president from 1948 to 1966.

Dr. Evans received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1918 from the School of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State College. Later he returned to Iowa State College for his Master of Science degree. Formerly the state leader of the Cooperative Extension Service, Evans was a veterinarian well-respected by the A&M system and the federal government. On September 1, 1947, Dr. Evans became the eighth principal of Prairie View A & M University. That same year, the Fiftieth Legislature changed the name of the institution to Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. The act provided that "courses be offered in agriculture, the mechanic arts, engineering, and the natural sciences connected therewith, together with any other courses authorized at Prairie View at the time of passage of this Act, all of which shall be equivalent to those offered at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. In 1948, the title of Principal was changed to Dean by the Board of Directors, then to President. On December 3, 1948, Evans was inaugurated as the first President of Prairie View

Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. He served as president until his retirement in 1966.

During his tenure Dr. Evans promoted and oversaw a multimillion-dollar development project for buildings and dormitories. A new women's dormitory completed in September of 1950 was named for the late Dean of Women, Miss M.E. Suarez. A similar building for men, completed in 1952, was named for former teacher J.M. Alexander. The E.B. Evans Animal Industries Building was completed in 1951, and the Gibb Gilchrist Engineering Building was completed in 1952. Two additional dormitories, one for men and one for women, were completed in 1955, along with a dairy barn and utility warehouses. A home economics building, May Hall, was added in 1957, and the old home arts building were converted to a modern music building. The Memorial Student Center and Harrington Science Building were completed in 1960 and 1961, respectively, followed by the health and physical education building in 1964 and two air-conditioned dormitories in 1965.

Prairie View A&M was accepted for membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in December of 1958 and later received full accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. Following the retirement of Dr. E.B. Evans as President Emeritus in 1966, Dr. J. M. Drew was appointed to the position as second president. Dr. Drew became ill shortly after taking office and was replaced by Dr. Evans who served briefly as acting president. He later became a consultant for the United Nations in northeast Africa and the Middle East. He died on July 3rd, 1976, and is buried in Prairie View Cemetery in Prairie View, Texas.

Sources: None.

Scope and Contents Note: The Edward B. Evans collection consist of correspondence, news clippings, photographs, printed materials, and writings relating to Evans and his tenures as Principal and President of Prairie View A & M University. **Correspondence** is both incoming and outgoing. **News Clippings** are largely made up of photocopied articles about Dr. Evans, his tenure at Prairie View A & M University, and editorials regarding his death. **Photographs** consists of multiple photographs of Evans. **Printed materials** include book chapters, printed programs for events, and obituaries. **Writings** include speech manuscripts, a published article, a typescript of an address given at Evans' 1948 presidential inauguration by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, and other typescript addresses.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged by Correspondence, News Clippings, Printed Materials, and Writings chronologically. Photographs are not arranged.

<u>Administrative Information</u>
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Preferred Citation

The Edward B. Evans Collection, UA00166, Special Collections/Archives Department, John B. Coleman Library, Prairie View A&M University

Related Material: Dr. Evans' autobiography, *Down Memory Lane*, is available in the Special Collections/Archives Department Rare Book collections.

Index Terms

African American educators.

Educators – United States.

Edward B. Evans, 1894-1976.

Prairie View Normal and Industrial College (Prairie View, TX)

Prairie View (TX).

Inventory

Box #	Folder #	Title/Description	Date	Location
		Series 1: Correspondence, 1952-1961		
1	1	Miscellaneous Letters	1952-1961	R2/C2/R5
		Series Two: News Clippings, 1933-1976, Undated		
1	1	Untitled (4 articles)	Undated	R2/C2/R5
1	2	Untitled (34 articles)	1933-1976	R2/C2/R5
		Series Three: Photographs, Undated		
1	1	E. B. Evans	Undated	R2/C2/R5
		Series Four: Printed Materials, 1939-1992, Undated		
1	1	Untitled (2 items)	Undated	R2/C2/R5
1	2	(13 items)	1939-1992	R2/C2/R5
		Series Five: Writings, 1938-1951, Undated		
1	1	(5 items)	1938-1951	R2/C2/R5