



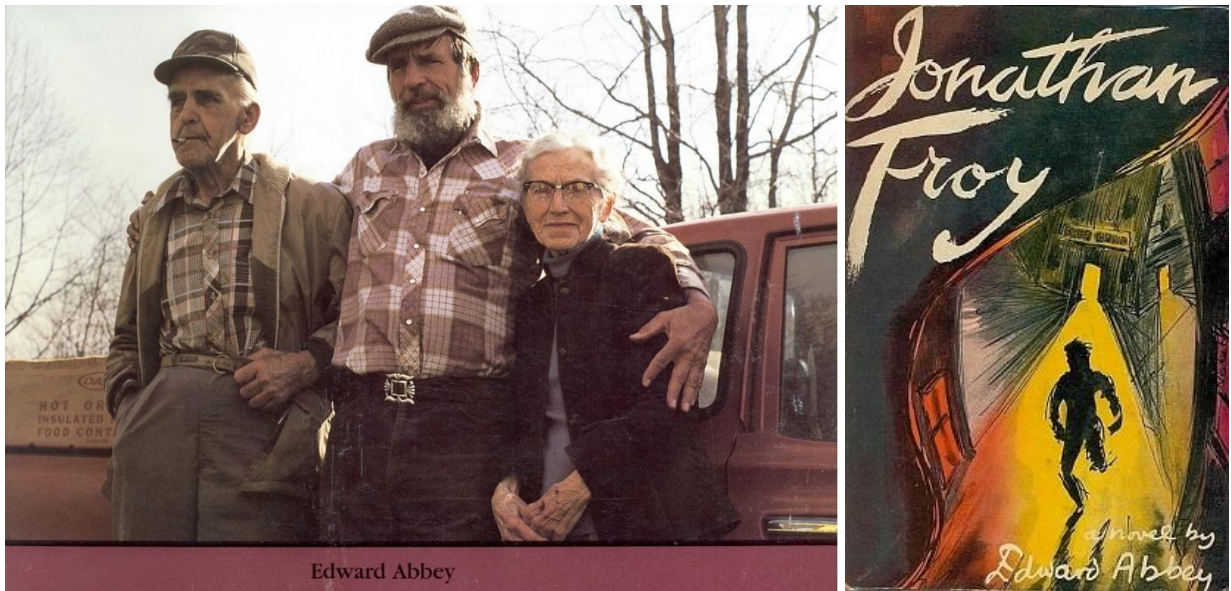
Special Collections and University Archives

**The Edward Abbey Collection
Manuscript Group 180**

**For Scholarly Use Only
Last Modified February 18, 2025**

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The Edward Abbey Collection; Manuscript Group 180
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and University Archives
1 box; 1 linear feet



Edward Abbey with his parents [Paul Revere Abbey \(1901-1992\)](#) and [Mildred Postlewait Abbey \(1905-1988\)](#) at their residence in Home, Pennsylvania

Biographical Note

Edward Paul Abbey (January 29, 1927-March 14, 1989) was a native of Home, Indiana County, Pennsylvania. As an author, Abbey is perhaps best known for writing *The Monkey Wrench Gang* (1975) and *Desert Solitaire* (1968). His parents were Mildred Postlewait Abbey and Paul Revere Abbey. During World War Two, Edward Abbey was drafted and served in the U. S. Army from June 1945 to February 1947 in the Mediterranean Theater. After his service in the military, Edward Abbey returned to Indiana County, and began his college education at Indiana State Teachers College (ISTC, later IUP), where he majored in Secondary Education and wrote two articles in student publications between 1946 and 1948. Edward Abbey left ISTC in 1948; moving west, he wrote his first book *Jonathan Troy* (1954).

During his writing career, Edward Abbey became known for his environmental advocacy, criticism of public land policies, and radical political views. According to his biographer James Cahalan (2001), “he was neither simply a countercultural cowboy hero nor a backward villain but, rather, a very complicated person. Almost every aspect of Abbey’s image is fraught with inaccuracy or contradiction. The popular and common critical version goes something like this: born in Home, Pennsylvania, and eventually settling in Oracle, Arizona, Abbey was one of our most important Western nature writers as well as an outrageous personality” (p. xii). After his death, Edward Abbey’s body was buried in an undisclosed location in the Cabeza Prieta Desert in Pima County, Arizona.

For additional information about Edward Abbey (1927-1989), see Manuscript Group 176 Series 10 Box 13 Video Tape 3 Edward Abbey (1992) which has been transferred to MP4.

Source: Cahalan, James M. (2001). *Edward Abbey: A life*. Tucson, Arizona: University of Arizona Press. Call Number: PS 3551 .B2 Z597 2001 (Special Collections)

Scope and Content

This collection contains publications written by Edward Abbey while he was a student of Indiana State Teachers College (ISTC) from 1946 to 1948. The collection also includes articles and interviews written about Edward Abbey.

Provenance

Collected by the IUP Libraries.

Restrictions

None, this collection is available for research.

Processor

This collection was organized by and the finding aid was written by Harrison Wick on February 18, 2025.

Container List

Box 1 (6 folders)

1. [*The Indiana GI Writes, 1946-1947*](#), a collection of essays, short stories, and sketches produced in English composition courses by students who have recently served with the Armed Forces of the United States. (September 1947). The English Department, Indiana State Teachers College. "A New Variation on an old theme" by Edward Abbey, pp. 5-6. (6 copies)
2. [*The Indiana Student Writes, 1947-1948*](#), a collection of short stories and narrative sketches written in English courses by students at Indiana State Teachers College. (December 1948). English Department, Indiana State Teachers College. "A Fugue in Time" by Edward Paul Abbey (2 copies)
3. *Pittsburgh History: A magazine of the city and its region*. (Fall 1996). Volume 79 Number 3. "My People: Edward Abbey's Appalachian Roots in Indiana County, Pennsylvania" by James M. Cahalan, pp. 92-107 (2 copies)
4. *Pittsburgh History: A magazine of the city and its region*. (Winter 1996-1997). Volume 79 Number 4. "Part II My People: Edward Abbey's Appalachian Roots in Indiana County, Pennsylvania," by James M. Cahalan, pp. 160-179 (2 copies)
5. Hafen, Lyman and Milo McCowan. (no date, after 1986). *Edward Abbey: An interview at Pack Creek Ranch*. Santa Fe, New Mexico: Vinegar Tom Press.
6. Interview: [Edward Abbey at Indiana](#), an interview conducted by the editors of the *New Growth Arts Revue* ([Record Group 102](#)), no date (1970s-1980s)

