



**Inventory of the Eberly Collection, 1947 Fires
(Miscellaneous Collection #34)**

The Brick Store Museum
Kennebunk, Maine

Compiled by Joyce Butler, Manuscript Curator
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Physical Description:

This collection of items concerning the 1947 forest fire disaster, particularly in York and Oxford counties, was removed from a scrapbook that was evidently kept by H. J. Eberly, who was appointed supervisor of the firefighting control center in Wells during the height of the disaster. It includes the following folders:

Folder Breakdown:

- Folder 1: Fire Control Official pass (to allow bearer behind fire lines), a Maine Forest Service Warden's cloth badge, and a photocopy of Austin H. Wilkin's report on the fires and a cover letter, dated 1975, to Marguerite "Peg" Hendrick, who researched the fires and wrote a number of articles about them.
- Folder 2: A copy of Cory Ford's article from *Colliers Magazine*, "Brownfield's Still Here," 1948, and a Forest Service cartoon showing Maine as one of the states in the forefront of forest fire fighting in 1925.
- Folder 3: Miscellaneous newspaper articles and clippings about the 1947 fires.

Also the following, stored separately:

- Folio Box #2, Folder 12: Two copies of the "General Highway Map, York County, 1938, marked (by Eberly ?) with the path and scope of the fires in 1947.
- Newspaper Box #X, Folder 4: A copy of the Buy Gannett Company's special issue on the fires, published in November 1947.

Photo file: Numerous glossy photographs, some with negatives, of fire scenes in 1947. These were taken by national Forest Service personnel. Some were used to illustrate an article about the fire in Brownfield by Joyce Butler that was reprinted in *Yankee Magazine*, October 1981. The negatives were generated by Yankee for whom copies of the photographs were made. The photographs are filed under #85.L.66, the collection's accession number.

For more information about these materials and their significance, see *Wildfire Loose: the Week Maine Burned*, by Joyce Butler.

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