Biographical Note

Charles L. “Charley” Graves, Jr., was born on March 1, 1916, in Louisville, Kentucky, and graduated from Louisville’s Male High School in 1933. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Louisville in 1938 and is listed in Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges (vol. 3) from the year before. He received a Masters of Engineering degree from the University of Louisville in 1974.

After graduation Graves worked in bridge, highway, and plant construction until he joined J. Ray McDermott & Company, Inc., as a Field Project Engineer in 1946. Graves worked his way up through the company, becoming Assistant Vice-President in 1951, Vice-President in 1955, Director in 1961, Executive Vice-President in 1964, President and C.E.O. in 1972, and Chairman of the Board, President, and C.E.O. in 1974. In December 1978 McDermott & Company, while Graves was President and C.E.O., pleaded guilty to and paid fines for conspiring to rig bids and fix prices in the offshore construction industry. Graves resigned as Chairman of the Board and C.E.O. in March 1979 for health reasons brought on by complications from diabetes.

Charles Graves married Isabelle “Suzie” Ruigol on October 29, 1938. They had three children, David, Richard, and Carol. He owned Shamrock Plantation, just outside Woodville, Mississippi, where he raised Tennessee Walking Horses. Graves served as a Director of the Whitney National Bank and the International Trade Mart in New Orleans and was an active member of the Metairie Country Club, the Plimsoll Club of New Orleans, International House of New Orleans, and the Houston Club. He died on July 6, 1983.
Charles Leonidas Graves, Jr., 1916-1983

Papers, 1933-1987
bulk, 1972-1983

Scope Note

These papers are organized into four series: (1) J. Ray McDermott & Co., Inc., (2) personal, (3) succession, and (4) a series of papers organized by his family. The McDermott records include business material, *McDermott Quarterly, Annual*, and *Special Reports*, McDermott merger and debenture agreements, letters of delegation (job descriptions), a McDermott corporate profile, a *McDermott Fact Book*, the McDermott newsletter *Perspectives*, and articles about the company and Graves. The personal papers include information about his childhood, as well as Graves’s high school yearbook, his Master’s thesis for the University of Louisville, copies of birth and marriage certificates, and copies of passports. Other personal papers include records about memberships on boards and directorships he held, certificates, retirement announcements and related information, correspondence from well-wishers and thank yous, as well as correspondence regarding political contributions, clubs, speeches, and Graves’s special interest, Tennessee Walking Horses. The third series comprises records of Graves’s succession and the settlement of his estate. Materials in the fourth series overlap with much of the above material. However, this series was organized by the family, probably Mrs. Graves, before donation and has been preserved in that order. A separation list accompanies the finding aid.
Charles Leonidas Graves, Jr., 1916-1983

Papers, 1933-1987

bulk, 1972-1983

Series 1  J. Ray McDermott & Company, Inc.

Correspondence
1/1* Correspondence, congratulations on being named Executive Vice-President of McDermott, December 1971-March 1972. 18 items.
1/2 McDermott news release, Graves being named President of Company, December 22, 1971.
1/3 Correspondence, congratulations on being named President of McDermott, February 1972-September 1972. 235 items.
1/5 Correspondence, congratulations on being named Chairman of the Board of McDermott, August 1974-September 1974. 44 items
1/6 Resignation announcement as President and C.E.O. from McDermott, February 13, 1979. Includes Graves’s handwritten copy detailing health problems resulting from diabetes.
1/7 Correspondence, wishing Graves well on his retirement, February 1979-December 1980.
1/8 Correspondence, December 1980-December 1981. 92 items.
1/9 Correspondence, January 1982-June 1983 and n.d. 53 items.

Published Reports
1/10 McDermott, Quarterly Reports, 1954-1962.
1/12 McDermott, Quarterly Reports, 1968-1976.

2/1 McDermott, Annual Reports, 1954.
*Box 1, Folder 1


**Unpublished Reports**

**Letters of Delegation (Job Descriptions)**
4/7 Letters of Delegation, President’s Staff, 1979.
4/26 Letters of Delegation, President’s Staff, 1979.

**Bound Publications**

*1970 Offshore Technology Conference*, vol. 11.

**Bound Manuscripts**

J. Ray McDermott & Co., Inc., Redemption of $60,000,000  4 ½ Convertible Subordinated Debentures Due December 1977, 1973
J. Ray McDermott & Co., Inc., $30,000,000  9.70% Sinking Fund Debentures Due December 1, 1999 and $35,000,000  8.90% Notes Due December 1, 1984, 1974
J. Ray McDermott & Co., Inc., Corporate Organizational Charts, Prepared and
Distributed by The Organization Planning Department of Employee Relations, 
New Orleans, Louisiana, n. d.

**Other Publications**

5/2  McDermott Fact Book, 1980.
5/3  McDermott Corporate Profile, 1981.

**Collected Items**

5/5 Various articles.
5/6 Biographical Data.
5/7 Photos, Wire Rope Manufacturing Plant, April 1952.

**Series 2  Personal (non-posthumous)**

5/9  *Louisville High School Yearbook*, 1933.
5/11 Various, primarily correspondence from Suzie, also War Ration Books, ca. 1940.
5/12 Various, diplomas and contributions, 1937-1982.
5/14 Articles, photocopies of birth (Graves) and death records (his mother), 1960-1982, n.d.
5/17 Thank you notes, ca. 1970
6/2 Correspondence, political, 1972-1976.
6/7 Lunch with British Ambassador, Honorable Peter Jay and his wife, January 1978.
6/10 Thank yous and get well cards, 1979 and n.d.
6/12 Certificates and personal matter, 1972-1975 and n.d.
6/14 Speech Material, continued.
6/15 Speech Material, continued.
6/17 Speeches, continued.
7/1 Speeches, continued.

**Outside Interests**

7/4 Horses, Certificates of Registration, 1965-1977 and n.d.

**Series 3**  Succession of Charles L. Graves

7/8 Loan to Richard Graves from Succession, 1983.
7/11 Correspondence regarding Succession, 1983-1986.
7/12 Mrs. Graves’s Itineraries, 1984-1985.
7/16 Taxes, 1986.

**Series 4**  Papers Organized by the Graves Family

8/1 Birth Certificate, Education, and Proof of Residence.
8/2 Wartime Activities, Early Family Life and Youth, Marriage Certificate, and Social Security Number.
8/3 Income Tax Report.
8/4 Club Membership Cards, Letters of Recommendation.
8/5 Professional Papers, Car Registration Certificate.
8/6 Medical Reports.
8/7 Medical Reports, continued.
8/8 Other Events.
Separation List

Circulation

Transfer to Duplicate Exchange

Withdrawn
*Pocket Comparison: Information and Tables For Engineers and Designers and Other Data Pertaining To Structural Steel,* Carnegie Steel Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1934.