HARDEN, CECIL MURRAY

Collection Information

Biographical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 20 manuscript boxes, 5 4X6 "shoe boxes", 6 oversize manuscript boxes (12 linear feet)


PROVENANCE: Marjorie M. Harden, West Lafayette, Indiana, 26 June 1985

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Cecil Murray Harden (1894-1984), a native of Covington, Indiana, attended Indiana University and taught in the Covington school system. In 1914, she married Frost R. Harden, owner of a local Ford dealership and bore one son Murray, later a doctor in West Lafayette.

Active in local clubs and church organizations, Harden began her political career in 1932 when she was elected Republican Precinct Committee woman. After holding several district and state positions within the Indiana Republican Party, Harden was elected to the United States House of Representatives from the Sixth District in 1948. While in Congress, Harden became in 1951 the first woman member of a House subcommittee to make an official trip around the world. She served on the House Committee on Government Operations for eight years and on the House Committee for Post Office Civil Service for six years. One of her congressional activities involved gaining funds for the Federal flood control project in Indiana. After her defeat in the 1958 election, Harden was appointed Special Assistant to the Postmaster General for Women's Affairs by Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield, a position she held until 1961. During this time, Harden toured the country, speaking on the danger of "obscene" mail.

During the 1960s, Harden remained active in politics by serving as National Committee woman for Indiana (1964-1972). She also was a member of the Task Force on Conduct of Foreign Relations of the Republican Coordinating Committee from 1965 to 1968 and served as a delegate-at-large for the 1968 and 1972 National Conventions.

While spending her retirement years in Covington, Harden was honored in 1973 with an appreciation dinner in which five hundred friends and associates paid tribute to her years of service. Cecil M. Harden Day was established and Mansfield Lake was renamed for her in 1974 as a tribute to her work for the flood control project.

Information obtained from materials in collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection, spanning the years 1938 to the 1970s, consists largely of Harden's personal and political correspondence. Arranged chronologically, these folders contain cards and letters from family and friends as well as correspondence between constituents and colleagues. Also included is correspondence regarding Harden's six congressional campaigns (1948-1958) and her work as Special Assistant to the Postmaster General, as well as five letters from President Eisenhower congratulating her for her congressional work. Tributes such as Cecil M. Harden Day, Cecil M. Harden Lake, and a Harden appreciation dinner given in 1973 include congratulatory letters and well-wishes. Republican committee and convention correspondence and information as well as election results comprise three boxes and various legislation sponsored by Harden make up two boxes.

Also comprising a substantial part of the collection are Harden's speeches and news releases. A number of speeches are dated during Harden's congressional years and address such topics as high prices, Republican elections, and Abraham Lincoln. The majority, however, dated 1959 to 1961 and given when Harden was touring the United States as Special Assistant to the Postmaster General, attack the distribution of "obscene" material through the United States mail service. Groups addressed include women's organizations, rotary clubs, and post office employees. Items regarding Harden's public service role such as flag presentations and post office dedications, as well as the 1961 Raccoon Lake...
Recreation Area Dedication are also included.

Other items in the collection include political and personal expense accounts, appointment books, and calendars. Military academy appointments made by Harden when in Congress span the years 1951 to 1959 and comprise three boxes. Issues such as aging, health and nutrition, and women in politics are also covered. Clippings from various newspapers, dated from the 1940s to the 1970s, document Harden's personal and political life. Republican material including Richard M. Nixon speeches and election material from the late sixties and seventies are among the miscellaneous items. Speech notes, expense books, check books, note pads, address books, and diaries are contained in the remaining five boxes of the collection.

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4 Correspondence Regarding Truman Campaign Tour 1950
5 Campaign Contribution Correspondence 1950-1951
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9 Personal Correspondence 1953
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5 Correspondence - Raymond Humphreys 1968
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7 Notes and Correspondence 1970-1977
8 Political Correspondence 1972
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20 Personal Records, 1959-1960
21 Radio Speeches - Campaign 1948
22 Campaign 1952 part 1
23 Campaign 1952 part 2
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2 Campaign Planning - September 1971
3 Sample Questions and Answers, Speechmaking Primer - Campaign 1968
4 Campaign Planning - September 1971
5 Campaign Contribution Laws 1972
6 Republican National Committee 1940s
7 Minutes of Republican National Committee Meeting, Indianapolis - January 22, 1945
8 Committee on Un-American Activities Information 1956
9 Resignation From Republican National Committee 1959
10 National Republican Women's Convention - Washington D.C. 1959
11 Seventh Annual Republican Women's Conference, April 12-15, 1959
12 Citizens Advisory Committee on Literature, December 1959
13 (OMB 43) Box 1, Scrapbook Regarding Special Assistant to the Postmaster General, 1959
14 National Association of Postal Supervisors Convention 1960
15 Republican National Convention Materials 1960
16 Republican National Committee Correspondence 1965
17 Republican Women's Conference 1965
18 Women's Task Force Committee 1965
19 List of Members of Republican National Committee 1965
20 Count-Down Workshop - September 12-15, 1966

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6 Republican National Convention 1968
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11 Republican National Convention 1972
12 Republican National Committee 1970s
13 Election Information 1940, 1942, 1944
14 Statements, Deposit Slips Regarding Harden for Congress Fund 1950


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1 Election Results 1952
2 1954 Election Materials
3 Election Results and Miscellaneous, 1956-1960
4 Election Law Reform 1972
5 Bills Introduced by Cecil M. Harden
6 Remarks in Congressional Record, 1953-1956, Committee on Post Office and Civil Service
7 News Releases 1949-1951
8 News Releases 1951-1952
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10 Press Release and Christmas Card Lists 1959
11 News Release - Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Clubs, January 28, 1960
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13 News Releases 1961
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2 Cecil Harden Reports and Releases 1955-1956
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5 Speeches About Abraham Lincoln 1947-1968
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10 Crawfordsville Speech - September 1, 1948
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4 Speeches 1953, 1956
5 Indiana Speeches - Fall, 1955
6 Covington Post Office Dedication 1956
7 Cincinnati, Ohio - July 27, 1959
8 Ladies Auxiliary to Rural Route Letter Carriers Association - Washington D.C., August 11, 1959
9 Grand Total of Speaking Activities, May 1959-November 1960
10 Supplemental Speech Material - May 1959
11 Business and Professional Women's Club - May 3, 1959
12 Springfield, Illinois - May 7, 1959
13 Lafayette, Indiana - May 16, 1959
14 Buffalo, New York - June 10, 1959
15 Grand Rapids, Michigan - June 16, 1959
16 Veedersburg, Indiana - June 21, 1959
17 Moodus, Connecticut - June 27, 1959
18 Zonta Club, Washington D.C. - July 8, 1959
19 National League of Postmasters, Lafayette, Indiana - August 13, 1959

20 Troy, Wabash, Indiana - August 19, 1959


22 Regional Operations Directors, Washington D.C. - September 16, 1959

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2 Doctors and Nurses, Post Office Department - September 25, 1959

3 New Obscenity Speech I and II - October 1959

4 Warsaw, Indiana - October 5, 1959

5 California Tour - October 8-22, 1959

6 NAPUS Convention Luncheon, Washington D.C. - October 26, 1959

7 Ben Hur Day, Crawfordsville, Indiana - November 14, 1959

8 Mayor's Commission on Decent Literature Danville, Virginia - November 19, 1959

9 Republican Women's Club - November 24, 1959

10 Radio Station, Richmond, Virginia - December 15, 1959


12 Post Office Speech Material 1959-1960

13 Miscellaneous Speeches 1950s

14 Michigan Tour - January 7-22, 1960

15 Holy Name Society, Flint, Michigan - January 10, 1960

16 North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs - January 27, 1960

17 Florida Tour, February 17 - March 8, 1960

18 Zonta Club, Tampa, Florida - February 26, 1960

19 New Orleans, Louisiana - March 18, 1960

20 Phoenix, Arizona - March 20-28, 1960

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22 New Mexico - April 1, 1960

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3 Indiana Tour - May 11-25, 1960
4 Mansfield Reservoir Dedication - June 1960
5 Illinois Tour - June 13-29, 1960
6 Sixth Congressional District - Indiana Rural Carriers Convention, Decatur, Indiana - July 3-5, 1960
7 Park Ridge, Glenview, Illinois - July 15, 1960
8 National Rural Letter Carriers Assoc., Indianapolis, Indiana - August 11-19, 1960
9 National Auxiliary to the National Assoc. of Postal Supervisors, Philadelphia, Pa. - August 23, 1960
10 Indiana Tour - September 13-19, 1960
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13 Indianapolis, Indiana - September 1960
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16 New York State - October 5-13, 1960
17 New York City, New York - October 6-7, 1960
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19 Loraine, Ohio - October 15-20, 1960
20 Danville, Illinois - October 23, 1960
21 Indiana Tour - October 24-November 3, 1960
22 Dedication of the First Automated Post Office - November 1960
23 Galesburg, Illinois - November 1, 1960
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25 Whiting, Indiana - November 30, 1960
26 Thorntown, Indiana Post Office Dedication - November 27, 1960
27 Invitations to Speak on Obscenity 1961
28 Speaking Engagements 1961
29 Women's Report to Postmaster General - March 1961
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10 Travel 1955
11 Congressional Trips Abroad 1957
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14 Charles David Myers - Navy 1958
15 Thomas Savoldi - Navy 1958
16 William Troncin 1956-1958
17 George T. Nasser 1956
18 Thomas Patrick Abel - Air Force 1958
19 Raymond Kent Bolderjack - Air Force 1957-1958
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21 James Hayes 1958
22 Albert Ray Sheppard - Air Force 1957-1958
24 Richard G. Laxen - West Point 1958
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16 George Brittain - 1958
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31 Jerry Sparks - Air Force 1958
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33 John Leroy Franck - West Point 1957-1958
34 Ronald Martin - West Point 1952
35 Ronald J. Wools - West Point 1958
36 Thomas Leroy Houk Jr. - Air Force 1958
37 Bob Leyner - Air Force 1958
38 Thomas E. Wright - Air Force 1958
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42 John Merrill Spencer - Air Force 1958
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47 Larry W. Sapper - West Point 1956-1958
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6 Indiana Health Facilities Council 1974-1975
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9 Indiana Health Facilities Council - Agenda June 21, 1978

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2 Indiana Health Facilities Council - Tentative Agenda June 1978
3 Physical Fitness 1959-1960
4 Indiana Republican Women 1976
5 Women Postal Workers
6 "Interesting Women I've Known" - West Lebanon Women's Club, April 3, 1972
7 Business and Professional Women By-Laws
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8 Clippings From New York State Newspapers, September-October 1960
9 Newspaper Clippings 1960s-1970s
10 Newspaper Clippings 1964
11 Newspapers Clippings 1969-1977
12 Newspaper Clippings 1970-1973
13 Certificates - WCVL Radio and Honorary Treasurer 1968
14 Cecil M. Harden Funeral Bulletin - December 10, 1984
15 Indiana Republican State Platform 1966
16 Notebook 1936-1940
17 Republican Material 1965-1968
18 Republican Party of Indiana 1968
19 Congressman Ralph Harvey Newsletters 1964, 1965
20 "Filth for Sale" movie script
21 Prospectus on Seamount Cooperative Apartments, Inc.
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24 X Club Information
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5 Form Letters
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7 Doris B. Underwood File 1960-1961
8 Christian Science Articles 1972
9 Purdue University
10 DAR Magazine Advertisement 1974
11 Honorary Secretary of State Certificate
12 (CT ) Audio Tapes - Interviews with Cecil Harden, located in Cassette Tape Collection
13 (VC) Photographs located in Visual Collection
14 Official Visit to San Diego, Oct. 20-21, 1959
15 "Dinner with Ike" program, Jan. 27, 1960
16 Guest Book, Postmaster General Special Assistant, 1959
17 (OMB 0043) Box 2, General Political Materials
18 (OMB 0043) Box 3, Scrapbook, October 1955 - April 1957
19 (OMB 0043) Box 4, Scrapbook, May 1957 - April 1958
20 (OMB 0043) Box 5, Scrapbook, April - December, 1958
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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  http://opac.indianahistory.org/
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0584).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.