## Overview of the Collection

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<th>Creator</th>
<th>D'Ewart, Wesley Abner, 1889-1973</th>
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<td>Summary</td>
<td>The Wesley A. D'Ewart Collection contains campaign materials, speeches and writings, correspondence, and research materials accumulated by Mr. D'Ewart. Subjects include campaign materials and election returns pertaining to the campaigns of D'Ewart and others between 1936-1973, papers and correspondence pertaining to D'Ewart's nomination for Assistant Secretary of the Interior in 1956, papers and materials relating to public land and water management, papers and materials relating to Communism and anti-Communism, photographs of D'Ewart, his Park County ranch, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Richard Nixon, Barry Goldwater, and Montana Governor Hugo Aronson.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities</td>
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## Biographical Note

Wesley A. D'Ewart was born in Worcester, Massachusetts on October 1, 1889. He attended the public schools of Massachusetts and Washington State College in Pullman, Washington. He later moved to the Wilsall, Montana area and worked for the Forest Service and in ranching. In 1936, D'Ewart was elected to the Montana House of Representatives and then to the State Senate in 1940. In 1945, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives by special election, representing Montana's Eastern District. He took the seat vacated due to the death of Representative James F. O'Connor. D'Ewart was reelected to 4 succeeding Congresses but failed to win a seat in the U.S. Senate in 1954. D'Ewart was an avowed opponent of Socialism and Communism from his earliest political campaigns. In the early 1950s, he supported U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy's anti-Communist crusade. In 1954, D'Ewart
unsuccessfully campaigned for the U.S. Senate seat held by Montana's Democratic U.S. Senator, James Murray. D'Ewart delivered speeches linking Sen. Murray with the Communist movement. The Montana for D'Ewart Committee compiled and published a booklet entitled "Senator Murray and the Red Web Over Congress." D'Ewart served as Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. from January 1955 to September 1955. He then took the post of Assistant Secretary of the Interior until July 1956, when the Senate Committee on the Interior declined to re-approve him, largely due to partisan efforts against him. D'Ewart's anti-Communist campaign against Senator James Murray for the U.S. Senate had angered both Murray and the Democratic Party. The controversy over D'Ewart's nomination for Ass. Sec. of the Interior generated a great deal of coverage and correspondence. Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson appointed D'Ewart to the position of Special Representative to the Secretary of Agriculture from August 1956 to October 1958. D'Ewart continued to be deeply involved in land and water issues during his retirement from political life. He was a serious follower of Montana elections from 1936 to the 1970s and took an active role in Republican politics, not only as a political candidate, but as a Republican Party activist and strategist.

Content Description

The Collection contains campaign materials, speeches and writings, correspondence, and research materials accumulated by Mr. D'Ewart. The collection is arranged by general subject, with the D'Ewart collection of the University of Montana arranged separately in its entirety as Series 1. Series 2 contains campaign materials and election returns pertaining to the campaigns of D'Ewart and others between 1936-1973. Series 3 consists of papers and correspondence pertaining to D'Ewart's nomination for Assistant Secretary of the Interior in 1956. Series 4 consists of papers and materials relating to public land and water management. Series 5 contains papers and materials relating to Communism and anti-Communism. Series 6 consists of photographs of D'Ewart, his Park County ranch, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Richard Nixon, Barry Goldwater, and Montana Governor Hugo Aronson. Other subjects photographed include views of Yellowstone National Park and Interior Department award ceremonies and erosion damage at Coulee Dam. Within this series is also a undated taped speech by D'Ewart.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Series 1 University of Montana Collection 15
Series 2 Campaigns and elections, 1936-1973
Subseries 1 - Election Returns, 1936-1970
Subseries 2 - Campaign and political materials and correspondence, 1950-1973
Series 3 Nomination for Assistant Secretary of the Interior, 1956
Series 4 Public land, water, and agriculture issues, 1945-1972
Series 5 Communism and Socialism, circa 1950s
Series 6 Speeches and speech materials
Series 7 Photographs

Wesley A. D'Ewart Papers, 1936-1973
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv00207
Acquisition Information

Papers, speeches, campaign materials, correspondence and photographs pertaining to the career of Wesley D'Ewart were donated to Montana State University by D'Ewart between 1960 and 1973. D'Ewart first donated papers to the University of Montana, but in 1972, UM transferred its D'Ewart collection to the Special Collections Library at MSU for purposes of consolidation. The U of M collection is on indefinite loan to MSU and is arranged separately from the other Wesley D'Ewart materials in its own series. MSU accession numbers 1038 and 2071 have been incorporated within this collection.

Processing Note

This collection was processed 2009 May 18

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series 1: University of Montana Collection 15, 1945-1959

Mr. D'Ewart donated these materials to the University of Montana who assigned them the collection number "15" and later deposited the materials with MSU as an indefinite loan. Due to contractual obligations, the collection is arranged in its entirety as Series 1 and separated from the rest of the D'Ewart collection. No attempt has been made to rearrange the collection or integrate it into the subject arrangement of the balance of the materials in the D'Ewart papers. Much duplication exists between subject matter covered by this series and series 2-6.

This series contains campaign materials, speeches and writings, and research materials accumulated by Wesley A. D'Ewart. There is almost no correspondence in the collection. The collection is arranged using the same subject headings utilized by Mr. D'Ewart. The series is arranged into 7 boxes of topically labeled folders.

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Series 2: Election and Campaign Papers and Materials, 1936-1972

Papers, correspondence, press releases, and other materials pertaining to the campaigns of Wesley A. D'Ewart and others. Included are published election results, and papers and correspondence about Republican Party politics, national and regional elections, and nominations. Divided into two subseries and arranged chronologically.

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**Series 3: Nomination Assistant Secretary of Interior, 1955-1956**

Papers, correspondence, and news articles about D'Ewart's nomination to the position. Included are letters from organizations and individuals supporting and opposing D'Ewart's nomination.

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**Series 4: Public Land, Water, and Agricultural Management, 1945-1972**

Papers, documents, and correspondence pertaining to public lands, water resources, and agriculture created or compiled by Wesley A. D'Ewart between 1945 and 1972. D'Ewart collected materials for...
reference in making his own statements and decisions on various topics. These topics are generally
arranged within the folders of the different subjects.

Series 4 is arranged by subject with a general attempt to follow D'Ewart's involvement in these issues
chronologically. Papers in this Series comprise a broad array of public land, water, and agricultural
issues. Numerous topical articles, press statements, speeches, and letters are arranged together in
folders, loosely by subject and by source of origin. The releases and papers of various public land and
water governing bodies, councils, and commissions are included, notably the Western States Water
Council, the National Water Users Association, the Montana Water Resources Board, the Montana

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<td>D'Ewart's presentation to Montana Reclamation Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>British Committee on External Affairs document</td>
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<td>Technical specifications, Army Corps of Engineers</td>
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<td>Report on Dam Regulations</td>
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<td>Great Northern Railway, Statement, Engineering Report</td>
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Wesley A. D'Ewart Papers, 1936-1973
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv00207
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<td>Hon. Membership, Emp. and Alumni Assoc., Nat. Park Service</td>
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Series 5: Communism and Socialism, circa 1950s

Papers, correspondence, and materials pertaining to Communism and Communists. Includes materials for reference in the writing and publication of "Senator Murray and the Red Web over Congress", a booklet used by the Montana for D'Ewart Committee during D'Ewart's 1954 campaign for the U.S. Senate.

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### Series 6: Speeches and Speech materials, 1947-1971

Speeches, speeches in progress, and reference materials for speeches by Wesley D'Ewart and others. Some of the speeches are printed, some are photostatic copies, and some are original manuscript. Folders 14-16 of Box 19 contain speeches and statements of other speakers and writers, including Herbert Hoover, and Dewey Short.

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<td>Republican Convention, Helena</td>
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<td>&quot;The American Constitution&quot; Constitution Day</td>
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<td>&quot;Problems of Reclamation&quot;</td>
<td>November 6, 1948</td>
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<td>Grand Lodge of Montana, Helena</td>
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<td>August 25-26, 1952</td>
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<td>&quot;Recent Elections&quot; Helena</td>
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<td>Mont. Wool Growers, Bozeman</td>
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<td>&quot;Public Lands - Who Should Control Them?&quot;</td>
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<td>Lincoln Day Dinner, Billings</td>
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<td>&quot;Farm-City, Partners in Progress&quot;</td>
<td>November 26, 1957</td>
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<td>Office of Civil Defense Mobilization Natural Disaster Planning Meeting</td>
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<td>May 26, 1962</td>
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<td>&quot;Montana Water...Why We Need Action Now&quot;, Butte</td>
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<td>Park County Masonic Lodge</td>
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<td>&quot;Partnership and Power&quot; Unknown Speaker, supports D'Ewart for Senate</td>
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<td>Clippings, speeches, and other speech prep materials</td>
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**Series 7: Photographs, Slides, Film Strips, and Audio Tape, 1947-1958**

172 photographs, a small number of slides, 8 film strips, and one audio tape. Most photographs are 8” × 10” Black and Whites and cover a wide variety of subjects. Included are photographs of D’Ewart’s ranch in Park County, his sheep and cattle stock, and portraits of D’Ewart. Also included are photos of D’Ewart with President Eisenhower, Senator Mundt of South Dakota, Richard Nixon, Barry Goldwater, and others. Numerous photos of D’Ewart, Eisenhower, and Governor Hugo Aronson at Denver airport in 1953 are included. Other photos depict D’Ewart at Capitol, at Lincoln Memorial, at the Washington D.C. Cherry Blossom Festival, at a national pistol tournament, signing Hungry Horse Dam legislation, at an Idaho land drawing, and at dedication ceremonies in Yellowstone Park. Photos depicting soil erosion at Coulee Dam and scenery at Yellowtail Dam have also been included. Film strips cover the Communist menace and similar topics. The audio tape is an undated recording of a D’Ewart broadcast on KOOK radio.

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<td></td>
<td>#5: D'Ewart at ranch with shovel</td>
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<td>#6: D'Ewart receiving &quot;Honorary Sheepherder&quot; award from 2 men</td>
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<td>#7: D'Ewart with wife at fence</td>
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<td>#8: D'Ewart ranch</td>
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<td>#9: D'Ewart cattle on the move</td>
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<td>#11: D'Ewart watching cattle</td>
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<td>#16: Signing of Hungry Horse Dam legislation</td>
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<td>#17: Mammoth High School</td>
<td>September 19, 1948</td>
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<td>#18: D'Ewart, men posing</td>
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<td>#25: D'Ewart with Senator Mundt, others</td>
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<td>#27: D'Ewart at Capitol with Indian women</td>
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<td>#28: D'Ewart at Capitol with Indian women March 1953</td>
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<td>#29: D'Ewart with Indians, Miami April 17, 1956</td>
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<td>#31: D'Ewart shaking man's hand at Capital</td>
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<td>#32: D'Ewart with Mr. and Mrs. Scott Pthel, Capital</td>
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<td>#33: D'Ewart reading speech into microphone</td>
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<td>#34: D'Ewart with gavel presiding</td>
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<td>#35: D'Ewart with uniformed group by Capital</td>
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<td>#36: Upper Colorado River Commission at Denver Airport</td>
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<td>D'Ewart on train with Eisenhower and 2 women</td>
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<td>D'Ewart clapping near podium with Ike, others</td>
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<td>On platform seated with Ike, Governor Aronson, and Doug McKey</td>
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<td>#48:</td>
<td>On platform with Aronson and Ike</td>
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<td>At airstrip in crowd</td>
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<td>Eisenhower and airman at podium</td>
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<td>Eisenhower and D'Ewart seated</td>
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<td>Large crowd at airport</td>
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<td>Ike, Aronson, D'Ewart in front of airplane</td>
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<td>Eisenhower at desk</td>
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<td>#117: D'Ewart with man and woman</td>
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<td>#120: D'Ewart at podium</td>
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<td>#125: Japanese girl smiling</td>
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<td>#126: Pageant contestants, Cherry Blossom Festival</td>
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<td>#129: D'Ewart speaking, Rupert, Idaho</td>
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<td>#130: D'Ewart at podium</td>
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<td>#132: Speaker addressing crowd, Rupert, Idaho</td>
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<td>#135: Land drawing</td>
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<td>#136: Men writing names on board</td>
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<td>#139: Nixon Buffet Dinner, D'Ewart in back on right</td>
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<td>#142: BLM Director Woozley addressing delegation meeting</td>
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<td>#143: Turkish delegation meeting</td>
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<td>#144: D'Ewart addressing delegation meeting</td>
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<td>20/18 Photographs #145-148</td>
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<td>#145: D'Ewart with Congressmen, Philosophical Society</td>
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<td>#146: Men looking at papers in office</td>
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<td>#147: Signing paper</td>
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<td>#148: Displaying picture in office</td>
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Wesley A. D'Ewart Papers, 1936-1973
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv00207
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<td>#153: Dedication of Mission</td>
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<td>#158: Eroded road during Coulee Dam project</td>
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<td>#159: Cracked road, Kettle Falls, area</td>
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<td>#162: Eroded area, Reed Slide</td>
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<td>D'Ewart portrait</td>
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<td>D'Ewart and wife at ranch</td>
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<td>Tourist slides of Washington DC</td>
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**Film Strips and Audio Tape**

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<td>7: Film Strip</td>
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**Names and Subjects**

**Subject Terms:**
- Anti-communist movements
- Communism
- Elections-Montana
- Erosion-Washington (State)-Photographs
- Legislators-United States
- Public lands-United States
- Ranches-Montana-Park County-Photographs
- Water-supply-Government policy-United States

**Personal Names:**
- Aronson, J. Hugo-(John Hugo), 1891-1978-Photographs
- Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969-Photographs
- Goldwater, Barry M. (Barry Morris), 1909--Photographs

**Corporate Names:**
- United States-Dept. of the Interior
- United States-Congress-House

**Geographical Names:**
- Grand Coulee Dam (Wash.)
- Montana-Politics and government-20th century
- United States-Politics and government-1945-1989
- Yellowstone National Park-Photographs

Kim Allen Scott, 2009