Overview of the Collection

**Interviewee**  
Sweetland, Monroe, 1910-2006

**Title**  
Oral history interview with Monroe and Lil Sweetland

**Dates**  
1976 August 17  
1976-08-17

**Quantity**  
.1 cubic feet, (1 audiocassette (44 min., 15 sec.))

**Collection Number**  
SR 1129

**Summary**  
Oral history interview with spouses Monroe Sweetland and Lil Sweetland conducted by Barbara Sweetland on August 17, 1976. Monroe Sweetland was an Oregon state representative and senator.

**Repository**  
Oregon Historical Society Research Library  
1200 SW Park Avenue  
Portland, OR  
97205  
Telephone: 503-306-5240  
Fax: 503-219-2040  
libreference@ohs.org

**Access Restrictions**  
Collection is open for research.

**Languages**  
English

**Sponsor**  
This project is supported in whole or part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the State Library of Oregon.

Biographical Note

Monroe Mark Sweetland was born in Salem, Oregon, in 1910. His family moved to Michigan in about 1915, and he spent the bulk of his childhood there. He began his involvement with the Democratic Party when he was just 10 years old by clandestinely organizing a party meeting. He entered Wittenberg University in Ohio at age 16, then attended Cornell University and Syracuse Law School in New York. He met Lillie Megrath while attending Syracuse Law School and they were married in 1933. He returned to Oregon in 1935 and subsequently worked with the Commonwealth Federation, promoted progressive politics, and was instrumental in the rise of the Democratic Party to political power in the state. He also owned several newspapers in Oregon, including the Molalla Pioneer, the Newport News, and the Milwaukee Review. He represented Clackamas County in the Oregon House of Representatives 1953, and served in the Oregon Senate from 1955 to 1962. After leaving the Legislature, he moved to California and lobbied for the National Education Association. After retiring from politics, he began a business selling dried floral arrangements, called Western Wilderness Products. He returned to Oregon after Lillie died in 1985, and he ran unsuccessfully for the Oregon Senate again in 1994. He died in 2006.
Biographical Note

Lillie "Lil" Megraft Sweetland was born in New Jersey in 1912. She attended Smith College in Massachusetts and met Monroe Sweetland while living in New York. They were married in 1931. She died in 1985.

Content Description

This oral history interview with Monroe and Lil Sweetland was conducted by their daughter, Barbara Sweetland, on August 17, 1976. In this interview, the Sweetlands discusses their college experiences. Monroe Sweetland talks about attending Cornell University and Syracuse Law School in New York. Lil Sweetland discusses attending Smith College in Massachusetts. They both discuss meeting through their political activism while in New York; their reasons for being anti-war during the lead-up to World War II; and their involvement with the Socialist Party.

Other Descriptive Information

Handwritten index (2 pages) is available for in-person use at the Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

Other Descriptive Information

Sound quality is extremely poor.

Use of the Collection

Alternative Forms Available

Audio available online in OHS Digital Collections.

Restrictions on Use

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Preferred Citation

Oral history interview with Monroe and Lil Sweetland, by Barbara Sweetland, SR 1129, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

Administrative Information

Related Materials
Additional oral history interviews with Monroe Sweetland are held by the Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

Related Materials
Monroe Sweetland papers, Mss 1747, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

Detailed Description of the Collection

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<th>Container(s)</th>
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<td>Cassette</td>
<td>Oral history interview with Monroe and Lil Sweetland</td>
<td>1976 August 17</td>
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Names and Subjects

**Subject Terms**:  
College students  
Pacifism  

**Personal Names**:  
Sweetland, Lil M. (Lillie Megrath), 1912-1985  
Sweetland, Monroe, 1910-2006  

**Corporate Names**:  
Socialist Party of the United States of America  

**Form or Genre Terms**:  
interviews  

**Other Creators**:  
**Personal Names**:  
Smith, Barbara Sweetland  
(interviewer)  
Sweetland, Lil M. (Lillie Megrath), 1912-1985  
(interviewee)  

Sarah Stroman  
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