

Preston P. Macy Papers, 1916-1979

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Macy, Preston P., 1891-1979
Title	Preston P. Macy Papers
Dates	1916-1979 (inclusive) 1916 1979
Quantity	4 cubic ft. (4 boxes)
Collection Number	(Accession No. 3211-001)
Summary	The Preston P. Macy Papers document Macy's work in preserving Washington's natural lands both as a National Park Service administrator and a private citizen
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	The collection is open to all users.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was partially provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Biographical Note

Preston P. Macy, born in 1891, began his career with the National Park Service (NPS) in 1924 as a ranger-naturalist at Mount Rainier National Park. He remained at Mount Rainier until 1934, when he was appointed custodian of the Mount Olympus National Monument as it passed from the Forest Service to the National Park Service. Macy was in the middle of the battle over the future park's boundaries, and when Olympic National Park was created on June 29, 1938, he was named superintendent. He held this post until September 1951, at which time he returned to Mount Rainier as superintendent.

Throughout his career with the National Park Service, Macy was a moderator between opposing viewpoints on park lands. While at Olympic National Park, Macy not only took on the problems of organizing and building a new park, but he also tried to preserve as much roadless wilderness area in the park as possible. His return to Mount Rainier in 1951 coincided with a period of increasing user demand on the National Park system. In 1955, the NPS's response to the need for expanded access to the parks was a new ten-year master plan named "Mission 66" in honor of the NPS's fiftieth birthday in 1966. At Mount Rainier, Mission 66 brought completion of the Stevens Canyon Road and construction of the Nisqually Glacier Bridge, the Marmot Point-Barn Flat road to Paradise, the Box Canyon Picnic Area, and White River Campgrounds. At the same time as these improvements were made, Macy resisted other development schemes for the Park.

Macy's interest in the region's recreational lands continued after his retirement from the National Park Service in 1961. In that same year he was appointed a National Park Service collaborator. In 1962 Governor Rosellini appointed Macy to serve on the Washington Forest Area Use Council, a 21-member study and advisory group on the uses of the state's forested and mountainous lands chaired by Skagit County commissioner Scott Richards. Preston Macy died in 1979.

Content Description

The Preston P. Macy Papers document Macy's work in preserving Washington's natural lands both as a National Park Service administrator and a private citizen. The papers are subgrouped chronologically, according to the phases of Macy's career.

The Mount Rainier National Park, Ranger/Naturalist, subgroup documents Macy's first assignment at the park. Road construction activities can be followed in the correspondence and reports. The correspondence also contains memoranda written by Macy regarding his survey work of the area to become Olympic National Park prior to his assignment there. An additional account of the Olympic Mountains can be found in the speeches and writings series.

The battle to create Olympic National Park is documented in the Olympic National Park, Superintendent, subgroup. Macy was first assigned to the area as acting custodian of the Mount Olympus National Monument, which was under the administration of Mount Rainier National Park. Correspondence with his National Park Service superiors, including Mount Rainier Superintendent O.A. Tomlinson, sheds light on Macy's efforts to negotiate the proposed park's boundaries with conservationist and timber industry interests during the three-year legislative fight. Of special interest are Macy's and Tomlinson's impressions of a visit to the Olympic Peninsula by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the fall of 1937. Roosevelt's declaration of support for the proposed park helped turn the tide in favor its creation. Later correspondence, dating from the period after the creation of the park and his appointment as the park's first superintendent in 1938, documents Macy's opposition of efforts to release park lands to logging. The legislation files contain congressional hearings transcripts on proposals to alter the park's boundaries. A handwritten diary chronicles Macy's work on the proposed park from 1935-1937. While all the entries refer to Macy, the entries in the first half of the diary were made by someone other than Macy, possibly his young daughter. The speeches and writings include materials by Macy and others. The subgroup also contains maps, reports, clippings, and publications.

The Mount Rainier National Park, Superintendent, subgroup documents Macy's return to the park as superintendent. The correspondence is a mix of administrative and personal letters, discussing topics ranging from the installation of ski lifts and personnel matters to visits to the park from VIPs such as Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. The Rainier National Park Company subject files document the park's dealings with the concessionaire. The speeches and writings include a 1952 history of the park written by Robert McIntyre.

Washington Forest Area Use Council subgroup includes correspondence and reports by the council's technical committee on the North Cascades and Cougar Lakes Limited Area. Macy's private papers shed light on Macy's continued interest in Mount Rainier and Olympic National Parks following his retirement. He opposed a recommendation by his successor at Olympic National Park to concede park lands to logging interests and urged policy makers to take a strong stand against other such efforts.

Major correspondents include Horace M. Albright, C. Frank Brockman, Irving M. Clark, William O. Douglas, Henry M. Jackson, Scott O. Richards, and Owen A. Tomlinson.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

The creator's literary rights were transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Preston P. Macy papers were donated to the University of Washington in 1981 by Mrs. Preston P. Macy.

Processing Note

This accession is a merger of accession nos. 3211-1 and 3211-2.

Separated Materials

Three albums of Asahel Curtis photographs of Mount Rainier were relocated to the Owen A. Tomlinson Photograph Collection, PH Coll. 29, in the division.

Detailed Description of the Collection

U.S. Mount Rainier National Park, Ranger/Naturalist

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1-2	General Correspondence Includes Tomlinson and Emergency Conservation Committee.	1926-1935
1/3	Regulations	1928, n.d.
Reports		
Box/Folder		
1/4	Brief Resume of the Seasin's (sic) Operations in Mount Rainier National Park Includes photos.	1929

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/5	Brief Resume of Operations and Construction Includes photos.	1931
1/6-7	Miscellaneous	1928-1933
Box/Folder		
1/8	Speeches and Writings	1928; 1933
1/9	Maps	1915-1928, n.d.
1/10	Clippings	1928-1933
1/11	Ephemera	1924-1934

U.S. Olympic National Park, Superintendent

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/12-17	General Correspondence Includes Jackson, Clark, and Tomlinson.	1935-1951
General Correspondence		
Box/Folder		
1/18-27	U.S. National Park Service	1935-1951
1/28	Re: Rosemary Inn	1942-1944
Box/Folder		
1/29	Diaries	1935-1936
1/30	Regulations and Policies	1946-1950
Reports		
Box/Folder		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/31	Summary of Work Carried on in Mount Olympus National Monument Includes photos.	1934
1/32-35	Miscellaneous	1934-1950
Speeches and Writings		
Box/Folder		
1/36	Radio Broadcasts of Macy	1939-1941, n.d.
1/37-39	Speeches and Writings	1934-1949, n.d.
Box/Folder		
1/40	Conferences and Conventions	1934-1950
Legislation		
Box/Folder		
1/41	Hearings	1936-1938
1/42	Lumber Shortage Committee Hearings Includes letters.	1943
1/43-45	Hearings	1943; 1947
Publications		
Box/Folder		
1/46	Mount Olympus National Monument	1930-1938
1/47	U.S. Olympic National Park	1947-1950
1/48-49, 2/1	Miscellaneous	1935-1950
Box/Folder		
2/2	Lists	n.d.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Maps		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
2/3-4	Mount Olympus National Monument	1935-1938, n.d.
2/5	Proposed U.S. Olympic National Park	1935-1938
2/6	U.S. Olympic National Park	1938-1944
2/7	Miscellaneous	1930-1948
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
2/8-33, 3/1-2	Clippings	1934-1951
3/3	Ephemera	1937-1948, n.d.

U.S. Mount Rainier National Park, Superintendent

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
3/4	Organization	1958,1960
3/5-14	General Correspondence Includes Douglas, Albright, and Brockman.	1951-1961
Reports		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
3/15-16	Re: Mount Rainier	1953-1961
3/17	Mission 66	1961
3/18	Ecology Study Includes photos.	1959
3/19	Work Schedules	1960-1964

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/20-21	Miscellaneous	1952-1961, n.d.
Speeches and Writings		
Box/Folder		
3/22	Speeches of Macy	1952-1960
3/23	Writings of Macy	1954-1960
3/24	Conference Address by Others	1953-1960
3/25	"Short History of Rainier National Park," by R. McIntyre	1952
3/26	Miscellaneous	n.d.
Box/Folder		
3/27	Maps	1952, 1957; 1960
3/28	Legislation - Hearings	1953-1956; 1961
Conference and Conventions		
Box/Folder		
3/29	Mission 66	1961
3/30-31	Miscellaneous	1952-1957
Publications		
Box/Folder		
3/32-33	U.S. National Park Service Manuals	1951-1960
3/34, 4/1	Miscellaneous Publications	1951-1960
Box/Folder		
4/2	News Releases	1954-1961

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/3	Directories	1951, 1954; 1961
4/4-17	Clippings	1951-1961
4/18-20	Ephemera	1951-1961, n.d.
Subject Series-Rainier National Park Company		1916-1961
Box/Folder		
4/21	Organization	n.d.
4/22-23	General Correspondence	1933-1960
4/24	Contracts and Permits	1916-1959
4/25	Financial Records	1939; 1956-1957, n.d.
4/26	Project/Planning Files	1930; 1960, n.d.
4/27	Ephemera	1932-1959, n.d.

Washington Forest Area Use Council

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
4/28	Organization	1962-1963
4/29-31	General Correspondence Includes Richards and NCCC.	1962-1964
Reports		
Box/Folder		
4/32	Cougar Lakes Wilderness Area, by Washington Forest Area Use Council	1963

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/33	Cougar Lakes Wilderness Area, by Others	1958-1964
4/34	North Cascades, by Washington Forest Area Use Council	1964
4/35	North Cascades National Park, by NCCC	1963
Box/Folder		
4/36	Ephemera	1961-1964, n.d.

Personal Papers

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
4/37-38	General Correspondence	1962-1972
4/39-40	Reports	1962-1977
4/41	Speeches and Writings	1964-1969

Conference and Conventions

Box/Folder		
4/42	World Conferences on National Parks, Seattle	1962
Box/Folder		
4/43	Legislation	
	Hearings	1963; 1966
4/44	Organizational Chart	n.d.
4/45	Maps	1961; 1972; 1977
4/46	Clippings	1962-1971

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/47	Ephemera	1962-1970

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Logging--Washington (State)
 National parks and reserves--Planning
 National parks and reserves--Washington (State)
 National parks and reserves--Washington (State)--Management
 Park naturalists--Washington (State)--Archives
 Park rangers--Washington (State)--Archives

Personal Names :

Albright, Horace M. (Horace Marden), 1890-1987
 Brockman, C. Frank (Christian Frank), 1902-
 Clark, Irving M., 1883-1960
 Douglas, William O. (William Orville), 1898-
 Jackson, Henry M. (Henry Martin), 1912-1983
 Macy, Preston P., 1891-1979--Archives
 Richards, Scott O
 Tomlinson, Owen A., b. 1882

Corporate Names :

North Cascades Conservation Council
 Rainier National Park Company
 United States. National Park Service
 Washington Forest Area Use Council

Geographical Names :

Cougar Lakes Wilderness (Wash.)
 Mount Rainier National Park (Wash.)
 North Cascades National Park (Wash.)
 Olympic National Park (Wash.)

Form or Genre Terms :

Diaries

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Personal Papers/Corporate Records (University of Washington)

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