

Zales N. Ecton Papers, 1947-1953

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Ecton, Zales N. (Zales Nelson), 1898-1961
Title	Zales N. Ecton Papers
Dates	1947-1953 1947 1953
Quantity	15 linear feet
Collection Number	Collection 1069, MtBC, us (collection)
Summary	The Zales N. Ecton Papers contains information pertaining to Ecton's position as a U.S. Senator. In general, the collection covers political issues from 1947-1953 at a state and national level. The topics range from correspondence, reclamation, communism and socialism, agriculture and the Brannon plan, and political opposition.
Repository	Montana State University Library, Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections Montana State University-Bozeman Library Merrill G Burlingame Special Collections P.O. Box 173320 Bozeman, MT 59717-3320 Telephone: 406-994-4242 Fax: 406-994-2851 spcoll@www.lib.montana.edu
Access Restrictions	This collection is open for research.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Biographical Note

Zales N. Ecton, born in Iowa April 1, 1898, moved to Montana at age nine. He received his public education in the local schools. After graduation, he attended Montana State College. When the country entered World War 1, Ecton volunteered for training in the Student Army Training Corps. After the war, Ecton completed his education at the University of Chicago Law School. Ecton entered politics in 1932, running for office as a State Representative from Gallatin County. He served in the Montana House of Representatives for four years and in the Montana Senate for ten years. From 1947-1953, Ecton was a U.S. Senator, the first Republican elected by popular vote in Montana. As a Senator, Ecton served on the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, the Committee on the United States Post Office and Civil Service, and the Committee on Public Lands. Ecton lost the 1952 election to Mike Mansfield. He returned to Montana and resided in Bozeman until his death in 1961.

Content Description

The Ecton Collection contains information pertaining to Ecton's position as a U.S. Senator. Within this collection are eighteen series that follow closely to the original order put together by Ecton and his staff. The contents section and the series description of this finding aid provides a more thorough breakdown of each series. In general, the collection covers political issues at a state and national level. The topics range from correspondence, reclamation, communism and socialism, agriculture and the Brannon plan, and political opposition. There is also information dealing with other important governmental figures of the time: Senator Joseph McCarthy, General Douglas MacArthur, and others. The collection offers an overview of political history from 1947-1953.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Series 1 Correspondence, 1947-1953

Series 2 Office Personnel and Office Space, 1947-1952

Series 3 Invitations, 1947-1952

Series 4 Congressional Records, 1949-1952

Series 5 Federal Issues, 1948-1952

Series 6 Agriculture and Natural Resources, 1948-1952

Series 7 Valley Authorities, 1947-1952

Series 8 Republican Party Material, 1947-1952

Series 9 Republican Party--Montana, 1948-1952

Series 10 Montana, 1948-1952

Series 11 Mike Mansfield, 1948-1952

Series 12 Native Americans, 1948-1952

Series 13 Communism and Socialism, 1948-1952

Series 14 Government Men, 1948-1952

Series 15 General Information, 1948-1952

Series 16 Scrap Collection, 1948-1952

Series 17 Photographs

Series 18 Scrapbook Collection

Acquisition Information

Mrs. Zales Ecton, Sr. donated Senator Zales N. Ecton's political files, covering his term as a U.S. Senator (1947-1953), in the spring of 1969.

Processing Note

This collection was processed 2009 May 19

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series 1: Correspondence, 1947-1953

The correspondence was mainly between Senator Ecton, his office staff, and constituents in Montana. The topics ranged from reclamation, communism, atomic energy, and a host of other political concerns. Generally, Ecton responded to each letter, and the response and the original letter are within the same file. The order of this series is chronological and alphabetical within each corresponding year except 1953, where all correspondence is in one file. Also, the correspondence in 1947 does include some correspondence from 1946.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	A	1947
1/2	B	1947
1/3-4	C	1947
1/5	D, E	1947
1/6	F	1947
1/7-8	G	1947
1/9-10	H	1947
1/11-12	I	1947
1/13	J	1947
1/14	K	1947
1/15	L	1947
1/16-17	M	1947

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/18	N	1947
1/19	O	1947
1/20	P	1947
1/21	Q	1947
1/22-23	R	1947
1/24-26	S	1947
1/27	T	1947
1/28	V	1947
1/29-30	W	1947
1/31	Y, Z	1947
2/1	A	1948
2/2	B	1948
2/3	C	1948
2/4	D	1948
2/5	E	1948
2/6	F	1948
2/7-8	G	1948
2/9-11	H	1948
2/12	I	1948
2/13	J, K	1948
2/14	L	1948

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/15	M	1948
2/16	N	1948
2/17	O	1948
2/18	P	1948
2/19	R	1948
2/20-21	S	1948
2/22	T	1948
2/23	W	1948
2/24	Y, Z	1948
2/25	A	1949
2/26	B	1949
2/27	C	1949
2/28	D	1949
2/29	E	1949
2/30	F	1949
2/31	G	1949
2/32	H	1949
3/1	I	1949
3/2	J	1949
3/3	K	1949
3/4	L	1949

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/5	M	1949
3/6	N	1949
3/7	O	1949
3/8	P	1949
3/9	Q	1949
3/10	R	1949
3/11	S	1949
3/12	T	1949
3/13	U, V, W, X, Y, Z	1949
3/14	A	1950
3/15	B	1950
3/16	C	1950
3/17	D	1950
3/18	E	1950
3/19	F	1950
3/20	G	1950
3/21	H	1950
3/22	I	1950
3/23	J	1950
3/24	K	1950
3/25	L	1950

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/1	M	1950
4/2	N	1950
4/3	O	1950
4/4	P, Q	1950
4/5	R	1950
4/6	S	1950
4/7	T	1950
4/8	U, V, W	1950
4/9	X, Y, Z	1950
4/10	A	1951
4/11	B	1951
4/12	C	1951
4/13	D	1951
4/14	E	1951
4/15	F	1951
4/16	G	1951
4/17	H	1951
4/18	I	1951
4/19	J	1951
4/20	K	1951
5/1	L	1951

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5/2-3	M	1951
5/4	N	1951
5/5	O	1951
5/6	P	1951
5/7	Q, R	1951
5/8	S	1951
5/9	T	1951
5/10	U, V	1951
5/11	W	1951
5/12	X, Y, Z	1951
5/13	A	1952
5/14-16	B	1952
6/1	C	1952
6/2	D	1952
6/3	E	1952
6/4	F	1952
6/5	G	1952
6/6-8	H	1952
6/9	I	1952
6/10	J	1952
6/11	K	1952

Container(s)	Description	Dates
7/1	L	1952
7/2-3	M	1952
7/4	N	1952
7/5	O	1952
7/6	P	1952
7/7	Q	1952
7/8	R	1952
7/9-11	S	1952
7/12	T	1952
8/1	U, V	1952
8/2-4	W	1952
8/5	X, Y, Z	1952
8/6	All	1953

Series 2: Office Personnel and Office Space, 1947-1952

This series covers details regarding Office Personnel and Office Space. Some of the correspondence includes individuals applying for a position on Ecton's staff. Other correspondence is between Ecton and staff members along with correspondence between staff members in Washington D.C. and staff members in Montana. The information encompassing Office Space generally follows the needs of setting up an office--renting and purchasing the necessary items for an office.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
8/7-8	Office Personnel	1947
8/9	Office Personnel	1948

Container(s)	Description	Dates
8/10	Office Personnel	1949
8/11	Office Personnel	1950
8/12	Office Personnel	1951
8/13	Office Personnel	1952
8/14	Office Space	1947
8/15	Office Space	1948
8/16	Office Space	1949
8/17	Office Space	1950
8/18	Office Space	1951
8/19	Office Space	1952

Series 3: Invitations, 1947-1952

This series includes invitations received by Senator Ecton during his term as a federal senator. His constituents in Montana often invited Ecton to attend a variety of functions. Serving in the capacity of a federal senator, Ecton also received many invitations centered around national interests. Those in charge of reclamation projects and military development occasionally asked Ecton to review the progress. Ecton also received an invitation to a dinner sponsored by Albert Einstein in an effort to clear the accusations of the un-American like conduct of Edward U. Condon.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
9/1-5		1947
9/6-15		1948
9/16-20		1949
10/1-2		1949
10/3-4		1950

Container(s)	Description	Dates
10/5-6		1951
10/7-8		1952

Series 4: Congressional Records, 1949-1952

This series is simply a collection of Congressional Records and covers a variety of issues brought before the congress between 1949 and 1952.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
11/1-2		1949
11/3-5		1950
11/6-9		1951
12/1-4		1951
12/5-8		1952

Series 5: Federal Issues, 1948-1952

This series is a compilation of political issues, ranging from state affairs, national affairs, and international affairs. Some of the files are specific to Ecton's activities in Washington D.C., yet other files include a summary of the Hiss Trial, federal finances, and many other political concerns during Ecton's time in Washington D.C.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
13/1	Taft-Hartley Act	
13/2	Reorganization Plans	1950-1952
13/3	Public Work Funds Granted	1947-1952
13/4	Projects	1947-1952

Container(s)	Description	Dates
13/5	Civilian Nominations, Montana, since	1947
13/6	Republican Administration Assistants and Executive Secretaries Association	
13/7	Related Bills	
13/8	Patronage	
13/9	Interior and Insular Affairs	
13/10	Harvey Machine Company--John P. Saylor	
13/11	The Hiss Trial--Mundt	
13/12	MacArthur's Cleveland Address	
13/13	Why Prices Are High--Sanborn-Ecton	
13/14	Repeal of Oleomargine Taxes--Ecton	
13/15	Government by Law, Not by Men--Ecton	
13/16	Why Tax the Cost of Sickness--Ecton	
13/17	The Great Question before Senate--Ecton	
13/18	Ecton Activities	1947-1952
13/19	Congressional Speeches--Ecton	
13/20	Ecton Bills (except Indian Bills), 80th, 81st, 82nd Congresses	
13/21	Ecton Votes for Reduced Appropriations, 80th-82nd Congresses	
13/22-23	Washington Office Cases--Ecton	
14/1	Repeal of McCarran Internal Security Act	
14/2	Funds--Treasury and Post Office Departments	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
14/3	Party Platforms	
14/4	Veterans	
14/5	Senator George D. Aiken	
14/6	81st and 82nd Congresses	
14/7	Federal Finance	
14/8-9	Finance--Mainly Ecton	
14/10	Federal Finance	
15/1	Federal Finance	
15/2-3	Foreign Affairs	
15/4	Dr. Manfred Zapp--Germany	
15/5-6	Foreign Policy	
15/7	The Korean Crisis--Taft	
15/8-10	News Bulletins	1951
15/11-13	News Bulletins	1952

Series 6: Agriculture and Natural Resources, 1948-1952

This series contains some information regarding the Brannon Plan, and correspondence between Ecton and his constituents related to the Brannon Plan. Additional information discusses natural resources and the importance of natural resources for the future of the country

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
16/1-4	Agriculture-Brannon Plan--Correspondence	
16/5	Agriculture-Brannon Plan	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
16/6-8	Agriculture--General	
16/9-11	Defense Mobilization and Price Control	
16/12	StockPile Report--Nation's Resources	
16/13	Resources for Freedom	

Series 7: Valley Authorities, 1947-1952

This series mainly deals with Valley Authorities, including the Missouri Valley Authority and Columbia Valley Authority. Some files include correspondence concerning the Valley Authorities. Valley Authority bills and power utilities are also part of this series along with a statement from Harold Ickes and Floyd Dominy's resume.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
17/1	M.V.A.	1947
17/2-4	M.V.A.	1948
17/5-9	M.V.A.	1949
17/10	M.V.A.	1950
17/11	C.V.A.	1949
17/12	C.V.A.	1950
17/13	V.A.--Correspondence	1949
17/14	V.A.--Correspondence	1949
17/15	V.A.--Correspondence	1950
17/16	V.A.	1950-1951
18/1	V.A. Bills	
18/2-4	V.A. General	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
18/5-6	V.A. Memorandums	
18/7	Statement of Harold L. Ickes--C.V.A.	
18/8	Bureau of Reclamation--Floyd E. Dominy	
18/9-11	Power Utilities--Montana Power	
18/12-14	Power Utilities	

Series 8: Republican Party Material, 1947-1952

This series contains a variety of information dealing with the Republican Party mainly at a National level. Speech material and campaign issues are part of this series, including Ecton's "The Meaning of Things"--a collection of papers written by Ecton, explaining his perspective of the state of affairs. Part of this series also details Republican activity in certain committees, which generally deals with their opposition, the Democrats.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
19/1	Republican Convention	1947
19/2-17	Republican Campaign	1948
19/18	Republican Campaign	1949
19/19-20	Republican Campaign	1950
20/1	Republican Campaign	1951
20/2	Republican Campaign	1952
20/3	Republican Speech Material	1947-1948
20/4-5	Republican Speech Material	1949
20/6	Republican Speech Material	1950
20/7-8	Republican Speech Material	1951

Container(s)	Description	Dates
21/1	Republican Propaganda	
21/2	News Release	1948
21/3	News Release	1949
21/4	"The Meaning of Things"--Ecton	1950-1951
21/5	"The Meaning of Things"--Ecton	1952
21/6	Redbook Our Worst Congressmen--Ecton	
21/7	Ecton Newspaper Clippings	
21/8	Material for Ecton's Senator Pamphlet	
21/9-12	Democratic Corruption	
22/1-6	Minority Committee	
22/7	Resolutions Committee	
22/8	Republican Senatorial Committee	1949
22/9	Republican Senatorial Committee	1950
22/10	Appropriations Committee	
22/11	Committee Assignments	1950
22/12	Committee Assignments	1951
22/13	Republican National Committee	

Series 9: Republican Party--Montana, 1948-1952

This series generally deals with the Republican Party in Montana and the campaign efforts involving Senator Ecton. Some of the files include information concerning committee members in Montana and their work regarding Ecton's campaign. Other files contain speeches made in Montana during Ecton's visits along with his itinerary. There is also general information regarding advertising and broadcasting.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
23/1	Republican State Central Committee	
23/2	Montana Republican Committee men and women	
23/3	Republican County Chairmen, Committee men, and committee women	
23/4	Campaign's Key Men	
23/5	Tabulation--Selected Election Returns	
23/6	Ecton--Sectional Organization	
23/7	Speeches to Montanans--Happenings in Washington	
23/8-9	Campaign Speeches--Montana	
23/10-11	Ecton Speeches Montana and Others	
24/1	Ecton for Senator Club	
24/2-3	Campaign Letters and Wires	
24/4-6	Ecton Campaign	
24/7	Contributions	
24/8	Campaign Contributions	
25/1	Broadcasting--Montana	
25/2-5	Advertising and Publicity	
25/6-7	Itinerary	
26/1	League of Women Voters	
26/2	Address to Women's Republican Club at Butte	1951
26/3-4	People Requesting Favors from Ecton	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
26/5	Thank You Letters--Endorsements During Campaign	
26/6-7	Co-operation Other Organizations	
26/8	Plans and Staff Instructions	1952
26/9-10	Opposition Activities	

Series 10: Montana, 1948-1952

This series mainly contains a list of individuals, performing various occupations in Montana, such as the sheepmen's list, physicians' list, etc. Rules of Senate and House for Montana are also part of this series--1933, 1935, 1937, 1939, 1941.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
27/1	Montana Labor Protest	
27/2	Montana Events	
27/3	Directory PMA Committeemen, Montana	1952
27/4	Ministers' List--Montana	
27/5	VFW List--Montana	
27/6	Postal Clerks' List--Montana	
27/7	Librarians' List--Montana	
27/8	Physicians' List--Montana	
27/9	Lawyers' List and Some County Employees--Montana	
27/10	Labor Unions' List	
27/11	Government Employees--Montana	
27/12	Sheepmen's' List--Montana	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
27/13	Civic Organizations	
27/14	Bankers' List--Montana	
27/15	American Legion List	
27/16	Rules of Senate and House, Montana	1933; 1935; 1937
27/17	Rules of Senate and House, Montana	1939; 1941

Series 11: Mike Mansfield

This series mainly contains Mansfield's voting records, remarks, and legislation through 1948-1952. Ecton collected this data in preparation for his campaign against Mansfield in the 1952 election. Mansfield defeated Ecton.

Container(s)	Description
Box/Folder	
28/1	Mike Mansfield--General
28/2	Mansfield--China
28/3	Mansfield's Voting Record--80th Congress, 1st session
28/4	Mansfield's Voting Record--80th Congress, 2nd session
28/5	Mansfield's Remarks and Legislation--80th Congress, 1st Session
28/6	Mansfield's Remarks and Legislation--80th Congress, 2nd Session
28/7	Mansfield's Voting Record--81st Congress, 1st session
28/8	Mansfield's Voting Record--81st Congress, 2nd session
28/9	Mansfield's Remarks--81st Congress, 1st Session
28/10	Mansfield's Remarks and Legislation--81st Congress, 1st Session
28/11	Mansfield's Remarks--81st Congress, 2nd Session

Container(s)	Description
28/12	Mansfield's Remarks and Legislation--81st Congress, 2nd Session
28/13	Mansfield's Voting Record--82nd Congress, 1st session
28/14	Mansfield's Voting Record--82nd Congress, 2nd session
28/15	Mansfield's Remarks--82nd Congress, 1st Session
28/16	Mansfield's Remarks and Legislation--82nd Congress, 1st Session
28/17	Mansfield's Remarks--82nd Congress, 2nd Session
28/18	Mansfield's Remarks and Legislation--82nd Congress, 2nd Session
29/1	Voting Record--Mansfield
29/2	Voting Record--82nd Congress, 1st Session
29/3	Voting Record--82nd Congress, 2nd Session
29/4	Voting Record--General

Series 12: Native Americans

This series includes files pertaining to tubercular Indians and treatment at Galen Hospital. Also in this series are several Bill related to Indian affairs.

Container(s)	Description
Box/Folder	
29/5	Galen Hospital for Tubercular Indians
29/6	Indian Affairs
29/7	Indian Bills

Series 13: Communism and Socialism

This series contains information pertaining to Communism and Socialism. The Republican Party maintained an anti-communism and anti-socialism and most of the information reflects this agenda.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
30/1	Moscow's Master Plan	
30/2	U.S. News--Communist Threat	
30/3	"True"--George John Dawson--War Surplus and Communist Customers	
30/4	Saturday Evening Post--Hiss Case	
30/5-8	Anti-Communism and Socialism	
30/9	Minority Policy Committee	1952

Series 14: Government Men, 1948-1952

This series includes files regarding Senator McCarthy, Senator Martin, Congressman D'Ewart, and General MacArthur. Each file is specific to the person and contains a variety of information based on their role in the government. For instance, the McCarthy files provide some biographical discussion but also pertain to McCarthy's involvement in the federal government.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
31/1-3	Senator McCarthy	
31/4-6	Senator Martin	
31/7-8	Congressman D'Ewart	
31/9	General MacArthur	

Series 15: General Information, 1948-1952

This series is a collection of general subject materials put together by Ecton and his staff. It ranges from newspaper clippings, speech material, congressional records, and more.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
32/1-7	General Information	

Series 16: Scrap Collection, 1948-1952

This series is mainly newspaper clippings, covering a variety of topics. Some of the files are under specific names, but the content within the file is generally a newspaper clipping about the person, such as the Eisenhower file.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
33/1	Copper and Civilization	
33/2	Miscellaneous	
33/3	Democratic Views	
33/4	81st Congress clippings	
33/5	Clippings	
33/6	Clippings	
33/7	Dwight D. Eisenhower	
33/8	Leif Erickson	
33/9	Defense	
33/10	Robert A. Taft	
33/11	Bills	
33/12	Henry J. Taylor	
33/13	Harry S. Truman	
33/14	James E. Murray	
33/15	Gov. John Bonner	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
33/16	Bernard Baruch	
33/17	Herbert Hoover	

Series 17: Photographs

This series includes several photographs of Ecton, members of congress, and other events during Ecton's service as a federal senator. The last file contains some information regarding some of the photographs.

Container(s)	Description
Box/Folder	
34/1	
34/2	
34/3	Photograph #22 removed and placed in oversize folder (enlarged picture of Ecton).
34/4	Letters Regarding Photographs

Series 18: Scrapbook Collection

This series contains one binder with congressional records for the 1st session of the 81st Congress and eight scrapbooks pertaining to Ecton and his service as a federal senator. Generally, the scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings linked to Ecton or other governmental issues during his time as a senator.

Container(s)	Description
Box	
35	Binder
36	Scrapbook collection, 1-8

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Agriculture and state-United States
Communism

Legislators-United States
Reclamation of land-Government policy-United States
Socialism

Personal Names :

MacArthur, Douglas, 1880-1964

McCarthy, Joseph, 1908-1957

Corporate Names :

United States-Congress-Senate

Geographical Names :

Montana-Politics and government-20th century

United States-Politics and government-1945-1953

Kim Allen Scott, 2009