

Grace Wick Papers, 1888-1962

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Wick, Grace, 1888-1958
Title	Grace Wick Papers
Dates	1888-1962 (inclusive) 1888 1962 1928-1951 (bulk) 1928 1951
Quantity	6 cubic feet, (7 boxes)
Collection Number	Mss 49
Summary	Papers of an Oregon political activist who began as a New Deal Democrat in the 1930s and ended as a right-wing Republican in the 1950s. Includes correspondence, such as letters to and from right-wing activist Gerald L.K. Smith; writings; subject files; and ephemera.
Repository	Oregon Historical Society, Davies Family Research Library Davies Family Research Library Oregon Historical Society 1200 SW Park Avenue Portland, OR 97205 Telephone: 503-306-5240 Fax: 503-219-2040 libreference@ohs.org
Access Restrictions	The collection is open to the public.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Biographical Note

Grace M. Wick of Portland, Oregon, was a right-wing activist known for her outspokenness and flamboyant behavior. A prolific letter writer, she maintained an extensive correspondence with political figures in Oregon and nationally. Wick ran twice unsuccessfully for Congress in the Third District. In May 1935, she paraded down Broadway in a slogan-covered barrel to protest her lack of employment.

Born in Iowa in 1888, Grace Wick lived in Chicago, New York, and Boston and was a stage actress before moving to Central Point, Oregon, with her husband George Merritt in 1922. Grace Wick began her political activities in Oregon the same year by campaigning for Democrat Walter Pierce for Governor. After her divorce in 1924 and an attempt to start a film career in Hollywood, she returned to Oregon in 1926. Wick campaigned against Pierce in his bid for reelection because of his refusal to stay the 1925 execution of Archie Cody, a relative of Buffalo Bill Cody, for the murder of the sheriff of Harney County. Wick later claimed that a satirical pamphlet, "The Mascot," which she wrote and published, was responsible for Pierce's defeat.

Grace Wick moved to Portland in 1927 and was secretary-treasurer of the Oregon State Women's Smith for President Club in 1928. She ran for Congress in 1934 as a "Progressive Democrat," pledging

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full support of President Roosevelt and the New Deal. In 1936 she ran as an Independent, after having her name placed in nomination through a convention held in a beer hall. By 1937, having become frustrated with the Democratic party establishment in Oregon, Wick began to cultivate connections with Republican political figures. Her views became increasingly right-wing within the next few years. She chaired the local auxiliary of Sons of Union Veterans, an anti-immigrant organization, and became a strident anti-Semite, disseminating propaganda materials and corresponding with others of similar persuasion. Wick opposed U.S. entry in the Second World War and actively corresponded with leaders of the isolationist Mother's Movement and with congressional opponents of intervention. Wick's activities during the war led to her being questioned by an Army board on suspicion of disloyalty.

In the post-war period, Grace Wick opposed the establishment of the United Nations and U.S. involvement in Korea, while supporting a presidential candidacy for Gen. Douglas MacArthur. In 1951 she became Oregon state chairwoman of the newly formed American Woman's Party, led by Blanche Winters of Detroit, and conducted an unsuccessful petition effort to qualify the party for the Oregon ballot.

Content Description

Correspondence series includes letters to and/or from Walter Pierce, Charles Martin, Guy Cordon, Rufus Holman, Charles McNary, Rush Dew Holt, Hamilton Fish, James Farley, Blanche Winters, Gerald L. K. Smith, Lyril Clark Van Hynning, Agnes Waters, and William Kulgren. The personal correspondence subseries, in addition to correspondence, contains writings by Grace Wick and ephemera, mostly from her stage career. The publications series includes the newspapers of Central Oregon publisher Sid Pierce, newsletters of Elizabeth Dilling Stokes, 46 issues of the isolationist publication, *Woman's Voice*, and political and metaphysical publications of William Dudley Pelley and William Kulgren. The subject series contains correspondence and publications as well as ephemera. Organizations represented include several from the isolationist Mother's Movement, as well as the later American Woman's Party. Individuals include Gerald L. K. Smith, Rev. A. W. Terminiello, and Agnes Waters. Topics covered include internationalism, racial segregation, communist subversion, and the fluoridation of water.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

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Preferred Citation

Grace Wick Papers, Mss 49, Oregon Historical Society Research Library

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Series A: Correspondence, 1912-1958

Series B: Publications, 1928-1952

Series C: Subject files, 1891-1958

Acquisition Information

Gift of the Estate of Grace Wick via Myrtle Goldsby, 1959-1960, Accession 8180.

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Series A:: Correspondence, 1912-1958

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Political Correspondence	1922-1955
Box/Folder		
1/1	A	
1/2	B	
1/3	C	
1/4	D	
1/5	E	
1/6	F	
1/7	G	
1/8	H	
1/9	I-J	
1/10	K	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/11	L	
1/12	M	
1/13	N	
1/14	O-P	
1/15	Q-R	
1/16	S	
1/17	T	
1/18	U	
1/19	V-W	
1/20	X-Z	
Personal Correspondence		
America First Party		
Box/Folder		
1/21	Correspondence, clippings, ephemera 1944-1958	
	American Women's Party	
Box/Folder		
1/22	Correspondence 1951	
1/23	Correspondence 1951-1957	
1/24	Correspondence 1951-1953	
1/25	Correspondence 1951-1952	
1/26	Correspondence with Blanche Winters, president 1951-1952	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/27	Buck, Merle, president of the American Warriors	1936
1/28	Grace Wick campaign materials	1934-1936
1/29	Carson, Joseph K., Jr.--General correspondence	1932-1950
1/30	Cordon, Guy--General correspondence	1945-1954
1/31	Dewey, Thomas Letter from Grace Wick, acknowledgement from Everett Dirksen, and responses to letter from others, including Gerald L. K. Smith	1944
1/32	Farley, James--General correspondence	1933-1935
1/33	Fish, Hamilton--General correspondence	1938-1944
1/34	Hamel, Richard General Correspondence with Hamel and with others who alleged that Hamel was an informant	1944-1952
1/35	Holman, Rufus--General correspondence	1941-1944
1/36	Holt, Rush--General correspondence	1936-1940
1/37	Kullgren, William--General correspondence	1943-1946
1/38	Martin, Charles H.	1933-1935
1/39	McNary, Charles--Outgoing correspondence	1936-1941
1/40	McNary, Charles--Incoming correspondence	1935-1941
1/41	Moyes, William--Outgoing correspondence and clippings	1943-1953
1/42	National Gentile League--General correspondence	1944-1945
1/43	Nodel, Julius--General correspondence	1952
1/44	Old Age Assistance--General correspondence and clippings	1956-1959

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/45	<i>Oregonian</i> --Letters to the editor, many unpublished	1938-1957
1/46	<i>Oregon Journal</i> --Letters to the editor	1941-1949
1/47	Pelley, William Dudley General Correspondence with Adelaide Pelley Pearson, clippings, and copies of Pelley tract, "Dupes of Judah," republished by Grace Wick	1945-1949
1/48	Pelley, William--Newsletters from organizations	1945-1950
1/49	Pierce, Syd--General correspondence	1945-1957
1/50	Pierce, Walter Incoming Correspondence, clippings, copy <i>The Mascot</i> , written and published by Grace Wick	1922-1926
1/51	Richardson, W. E. Correspondence with attorney concerning summons to appear before Army board	1943
1/52	Roosevelt, Franklin Delano General Correspondence includes letters from Eleanor Roosevelt	1932-1941
1/53	Smith, Alfred General Correspondence concerning establishment of Oregon State Women for Smith for President Club, roster of members, clippings, and ephemera	1928
1/54	Smith, H. L.--General correspondence	1943-1954
1/55	Sons of Union Veterans--General correspondence and clippings	1937
1/56	Supreme Court Outgoing Correspondence concerning Roosevelt effort to expand the Supreme Court	1937
1/57	Van Hying, Lyrl Clark--General correspondence	1953
1/58	Waters, Agnes General Correspondence, clippings, handwritten transcript of congressional testimony.	1944-1947

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/59	Wharton, C. E.--General correspondence	1936-1938
1/60	Xavier, Peter L.--General Correspondence	1952-1956
	General personal correspondence	
Box/Folder		
2/61	A-C	1914-1958
2/62	D-F	1914-1958
2/63	G-I	1914-1958
2/64	J-L	1914-1958
2/65	M-O	1914-1958
2/66	P-R	1914-1958
2/67	S-T	1914-1958
2/68	U-W	1914-1958
2/69	X-Z	1914-1958
Box/Folder		
2/70	Ephemera	1945-1953
2/71	Official Documents Birth certificate, marriage certificate, divorce decree, employment records, Social Security documents, Old Age Assistance records, stock certificates, clipping of obituary	1888-1958
2/72	Dramatic career General Correspondence, playbills, actor's directories, clippings of reviews	1913-1925
2/73	Family members--General correspondence	1911-1953
2/74	Meyer, Pearl Wick (sister of Grace Wick)--General correspondence	1936-1958

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/75	Wick, A.L. "Gus" (brother of Grace Wick)--General correspondence	1919-1956
2/76	Fuller, Helen--General correspondence Includes letter from Oswald West to Helen Fuller	1925-1938
2/77	Goldsby, Myrtle (executor of Wick estate)--General correspondence	1946-1958
2/78	Melanson, Fred Official documents, poetry, and ephemera from Grace Wick's companion	1926-1950
2/79	Clippings and articles concerning Grace Wick	1913-1958
2/80	Ephemera Includes address books, notes, and business correspondence	1912-1952
2/81	Writings of others Prose and poetry collected by Grace Wick	undated
2/82	Writing--Poetry, screenplay, and essays by Grace Wick	undated
2/83	<i>Riddle Woman</i> General Correspondence, clippings, and scrapbook concerning Grace Wick's part in promotional campaign for a motion picture	1920
2/84	Stage Women's War Relief General Correspondence regarding participation in organization	1917-1918
2/85	General correspondence Unidentified Correspondent. Letters between Grace Wick and friend in Southern Oregon concerned that Grace Wick had said that she had been invited to join the Ku Klux Klan	1922

Series B:: Publications, 1928-1952

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
3/1	<i>Northwest Defense News</i> 1:2,4,5 and 2:1. Walla Walla, Washington	1951-1952

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/2	<i>Boise Valley Herald</i> XXXVIII:27. (1947) Voice of Action, IV:2. (1936) Seattle, Washington.	1926; 1947
3/3	Sid Pierce Publications Including <i>Crook County American</i> (1940-1950), <i>The Free Press</i> (1944), and <i>The Rascal Scalper</i> (1952)This folder also contains handbills and a note from publisher Sid Pierce to Grace Wick	1940-1952
3/4	Other Oregon publications Including The Dalles <i>The Dalles Chronicle</i> (1953), reprints of editorials critical of Wayne Morse and union leader Harry Bridges and the <i>New American Order</i> (1941)	1941-1953
3/5	<i>Crow's Pacific Coast Lumber Digest</i> --Reprints of editorials from trade publication.	1943-1949
3/6	<i>The Sun</i> , 17:24. (1947) and <i>The East Side Post</i> , 19:4. (1950)	1947; 1950
3/7	<i>Harvey's Monthly Pension Newsletter</i> Twenty-two issues between III:7 and VIII:9	1953-1958
3/8	<i>The Reminder</i> , 8:3 and 14:8. This folder also includes undated reprints from the same publication	19451951
3/9	<i>Stallard's Democrat Crusade</i> --Newsletters and flyers.	1950
3/10	Other Portland News Publications Including <i>American Friends Service Committee Newsletter</i> (1951-1952); <i>Western Breeders Journal</i> , 60:21. (1928) and <i>The U.N. Advocate</i> , 1:10. (1955)	1928-1955
3/11	<i>American Capsule News</i> Washington D.C. Fifty-eight editions of publication billed as "The All American News Digest for All American People."	1956-1958
3/12	<i>American Nationalist</i> Inglewood, California. Five editions between 1:1 and 1:10	1952-1953
3/13	<i>America Preferred</i> Indianapolis, Indiana. Eight editions between 1:2 and 3:9	1943-1945
3/14	<i>Arab News</i>	1946-1948

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Washington D.C.. Twelve editions of newsletter published by the embassies of several Arab countries	
3/15	<i>Common Sense</i> Forty-four editions of anti-communist newspaper published in New Jersey	1947-1957
3/16	<i>Dayton Independent</i> Dayton, Ohio. Forty-seven editions between XXXI:40 and XXXII:42	1951-1953
3/17	William Kulgren Publications Including <i>America Speaks</i> , Atascadero, California (1943-1950), <i>The Beacon Light</i> , (1939-1942), and <i>Beacon Light Herald</i> (1945-1950)	1942-1950
4/18	Patriotic Research Bureau Publications Nine issues of newsletter published by Elizabeth Dilling of Chicago	1944-1946
4/19	<i>The Dispatch</i> III:3,4,9,10,11. Anti-Semitic publication of the Pioneer News Service. This folder also contains ephemera from the same publication	1945-1946
4/20	<i>The Political Reporter</i> 3:4,5,6,7. Memphis, Tennessee. The January 1945 issue of this monthly publication contains a letter by Grace Wick	1953-1954
4/21	<i>Woman's Voice</i> Chicago. Forty-six editions between 3:9 and 18:11. This folder also includes ephemera associated with this publication	1945-1959
4/22	Other National Publications <i>The Aryan Voice, America in Danger-Christ or Chaos, Peace Action, The Individualist, The Citizen, Constitution Press, Grass Roots, Round Table News Flashes, and Right</i>	ca. 1940-1960
4/23	Other National Publications Including: <i>The Defender, Constitutional Americans, Headlines, The National Record, The Realist, The Patriot, T A W (The American Way), Upton Close Newsletter, Free Men Speak, Sabotage, Hitler and Stalin, and Railway Journal</i>	ca. 1940-1960
4/24	<i>The Methodist Challenger</i>	1958-1959

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Thirteen editions between XXVI:12 and XXVIII:3	
4/25	<i>Present Truth</i> Mountain View, Ten editions between 23:49 and 24:19. Seventh Day Adventist publication	1948-1959
4/26	Soulcraft Publications Publications of William Dudley Pelley, mostly following his release from prison	1942-1954
4/27	Watchtower Publications	1940-1959
4/28	Miscellaneous Religious Publications Includes Adventist publications and literature from The Christophers, a Catholic lay organization	undated
4/29	Jewish Religious Publications	1944-1949
4/30	Miscellaneous Religious Publications	1944-1958
4/31	Astrological and Occult Publications	undated

Series C:: Subject Files, 1891-1958

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
5/32	American Woman's Party Correspondence and ephemera. Includes issue of the <i>Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes Journal</i> with editorial praising American Woman's Party	1951-1952
5/33	Women's Organizations, Miscellaneous Includes publications of several of the isolationist Mother's organizations from the Second World War Organizations include United Mothers of America and We, The Mothers. Also includes material from the Oregon State Women for Smith for President Club	1891-1956
5/34	Miscellaneous Political Organizations Includes ephemera from right-wing organizations Defenders of George Washington and The American Warriors, an ex- serviceman's organization	1936-1946

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5/35	Anti-War and Anti-Conscription Organizations Includes pamphlets and ephemera of the America First Committee, radio transcripts of speeches by Charles Lindbergh, and ephemera of the Oregon Committee Opposing Peacetime Conscription	1941-1947
5/36	National Blue Star Mothers of America Ephemera from militant isolationist organization with anti-Semitic emphasis	1945-1952
5/37	Miscellaneous National Political Organizations Publications and ephemera from several right-wing organizations including the Constitutional Alliance and the Nationalist Convention Committee	1940-1956
5/38	Government Publications Includes reprints from The Congressional Record of speeches by Sen. Joseph McCarthy, Rep. Hamilton Fish, Sen. Burton Wheeler Sen. William Langer, and Sen. Rufus Holman	1935-1957
5/39	Miscellaneous Publications on Economics	1935-1951
6/40	Marilyn R. Allen Publications and ephemera from Salt Lake City activist opposed to immigration and racial integration	1947-1952
6/41	Gerald L. K. Smith Publications and ephemera. Includes issues of <i>The Cross and the Flag</i> (6:10, 7:10, 8:8, and 16:12) and other material of the Christian Nationalist Crusade	1945-1958
6/42	Einer Aberg Publications and ephemera including booklist and flyers for the Pro-America Information Bureau	1948
6/43	Rev. A. W. Terminiello Publications of right-wing Alabama priest, an ally of Gerald L. K. Smith and would-be successor to Father Coughlin	1943
6/44	Agnes Waters News releases of Washington, D. C., activist	1944-1954
6/45	F. D. R. Administration Publications critical of the Roosevelt administration	1937-1945

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Includes a flyer of the Oregon Chapter of the America First Committee	
6/46	Truman Administration Miscellaneous clippings critical of the Truman administration	1945-1952
6/47	Eisenhower Administration Convention News, Non-Partisan League for Decency in Political Candidates. Headline reads: "Ike Renominated in Spite of His Red Record."	1956
6/48	Gen. Douglas MacArthur Clippings and ephemera promoting MacArthur as candidate for President. Also includes reprint of MacArthur's 1951 speech to Congress	1952
6/49	T. Coleman Andrews Ephemera from presidential campaign of former Internal Revenue Service commissioner	1956
6/50	John T. Flynn Publications of right-wing journalist, including <i>The Truth About Pearl Harbor</i> and <i>The Road Ahead: America's Creeping Revolution</i>	1944-1949
7/51	Pro-Segregationist Correspondence, publications, and ephemera	1952-1954
7/52	Anti-Internationalist Newsletters, publications, and ephemera	1944-1954
7/53	Anti-Semitic Correspondence, publications, and ephemera	1938-1945
7/54	Anti-Communist Correspondence, publications, and ephemera include material from Gerald B. Winrod and Col. E. N. Sanctuary Includes list of Hollywood "Reds" published by Cinema Educational Guild	1934-1957
7/55	General Correspondence, newsletters, clippings, publications, and ephemera. Newsletter concerning mass sedition trial. Credentials card for the America First Party convention	1926-1956
7/56	General	1922-1956

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Publications and ephemera. Political publications and non-political ephemera	
7/57	Oregon Politics Correspondence petition, publications, and ephemera. Petition from 1936 to form Socialist Labor Party. Material from various campaigns includes pamphlet satirizing Gov. Julius MeierIncludes fact sheet by Oswald West containing allegations against Monroe Sweetland	1930-1956
7/58	Portland and Multnomah County Correspondence, resolutions, and ephemera. Portland City Council resolutions, proposed charter amendments, and campaign materials	1933-1956
7/59	General Correspondence, clippings, and ephemera. Includes material from various activitiesPower of Attorney for the American Woman's Party, letter from DeMille Studio,campaign material from Grace Wick's own candidacies, and signs from the barrel that she wore in protest	1925-1951
7/60	Compulsory Medicine Newsletters and ephemera. Material opposing compulsory vaccinations and socialized medicine	1943-1954
7/61	Anti-Fluoridation Correspondence, publications, and ephemera	1951-1956
7/62	National Health Federation--Bulletin of the National Health Federation	1955-1958
7/63	Health, Nutrition, Anti-Vivisection Publications, correspondence, and ephemera	1942-1957

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Anti-communist movements--Oregon
 Antisemitism--Oregon
 Nativism--Oregon
 Neutrality--United States
 New Deal, 1933-1939
 Right-wing extremists--Oregon--Correspondence

Personal Names :

Smith, Gerald L. K. (Gerald Lyman Kenneth), 1898- --Correspondence
Cordon, Guy, 1890-1969--Correspondence
Farley, James Aloysius, 1888- --Correspondence
Fish, Hamilton, 1888- --Correspondence
Holman, Rufus Cecil, 1877-1959--Correspondence
Holt, Rush Dew, 1905-1955--Correspondence
Kulgren, William--Correspondence
McNary, Charles Linza, 1874-1944--Correspondence
Pelley, William Dudley, 1890-
Pierce, Sid.
Pierce, Walter Marcus, 1861-1954--Correspondence
Terminiello, A. W. (Arthur W.)
Van Hyning, Lyrl Clark--Correspondence
Waters, Agnes--Correspondence
Wick, Grace, 1888-1958--Correspondence
Winters, Blanche--Correspondence

Geographical Names :

Oregon--Economic conditions
Oregon--Politics and government--1859-1950
Oregon--Politics and government--1951-
Oregon--Social conditions.

Form or Genre Terms :

Letters
Publications

2003



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