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Finding Aid for the Helen Meade scrapbook Collection 158

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections
Department

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title:	Helen Meade scrapbook
ID:	Collection 158
Date [inclusive]:	1945-1980
Physical Description:	0.17 Linear Feet Two boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Helen Meade was a secretary to five mayors and 13 city managers of Grand Rapids, Mich. This collection contains a scrapbook kept by Meade, including correspondence, photographs, cards and newspaper articles collected during her 26 years as secretary. Included are documents of Mayor George Welsh's last days in office, and resignation.

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Biographical / Historical

Helen Meade graduated from Central High School and Grand Rapids Junior College. She was the secretary for the Mayor of Grand Rapids. She was a widow with two children. She had a daughter Maureen, and a younger son Terry.

Meade kept a record of the mayor's activities of importance and travels. She did this by collecting news articles, postcards, and correspondence and photographs. She was the secretary for twenty-four years (1945-1969) and in that time worked for seven mayors and twelve city managers. She has stated that she enjoyed working for each of these officials.

Helen Meade worked for the controversial mayor George Welsh who resigned from office. Mayor George Welsh was president of the U.S. Conference of mayors. His resignation apparently had to do with political posters put up in the hall in favor of a Housing Commission being formed. City Councilmen Stanley Davis made an issue of this by throwing away these posters. In fact, apparently some spare posters were removed from Helen Meade's desk.

Helen Meade was present when Grand Rapids hosted the President of the United Nations, Qafrulla Khan of Pakistan. She presented the key to the city to Vice-president Lyndon Johnson's office as the

Vice-President's planned visit to Grand Rapids to receive the key was canceled due to the Bay of Pigs invasion.

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Scope and Contents

Contains a scrapbook. This scrapbook includes news clippings, photographs, correspondence and postcards. Mayor George Welsh traveled throughout Europe on business and wrote Helen Meade at the City Hall during this tour. One of these letters informs Helen Meade of Mayor George Welsh's resignation. These items were collected for the posterity of the mayor's administration.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

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URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Helen Meade, accession numbers 1986.061; 1987.015; 2002.042

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Related Materials

Related Materials

George Welsh served as City Manager, as well as Mayor, and his work or political life is documented in many of the archival collections in the GRPL Archives, as well as in the official City Archives. The old Civic Auditorium was named for Welsh.

See Coll. 317, the George Welsh Collection, for additional information, and more cross references to Welsh work in other archival collections.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- Politics and government
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Welsh, George W

Collection Inventory

Series I. Scrapbook

Scope and Contents

This series documents the initial gift which created the Meade Collection, the scrapbook which includes information on George Welsh and other people and activities in which Meade was involved while serving as a secretary in the Mayor's office.

Included in the scrapbook are original photographs, newspaper clippings including those which use some of the photographs, some correspondence, ephemera and realia. In March 2008, additional processing work was done to further describe the original photographs, and to house and describe loose material which had never been mounted or some loose from the scrapbook.

Scrapbook, 1945-1980

Arrangement

Loose items have been removed to folders in Box 2, documenting the page where found (perhaps not the original page). Some of these were never mounted, others have come loose from their original place. Only 22 actual photographs documented in the scrapbook One other photos is part of Jerusalem souvenir and not listed below.

Title/Description	Instances	
1. Picture of a picture of Old City Hall, that hung in the Mayor's Office	Box 1	Page 1
2. City Employees' Picnic Register Here! Helen Meade seated, man behind her at microphone, couple registering.	Box 1	Page 2
3. Welsh seated at desk with a model windmill. A group of five people standing behind him including Meade at left, and Pearl Lockley(?) at right, with three unidentified men center. (Right man may be Goebel?)	Box 1	Page 11
4. Pearl Lockley at desk, Feb. 26, 1949	Box 1	Page 11
5. Helen Meade at desk, Feb. 26, 1949	Box 1	Page 11
6. Interior, Old City Hall? Group seated on steps, some perhaps singing.	Box 1	Page 23
7. Paul G. Goebel portrait photo with inscription, 1958	Box 1	Page 28
8. Helen M. Meade on telephone at her desk. Clipping on same page using the same image dated Nov. 3, 1951. GR Herald.	Box 1	Page 31
9. Millard M. Moore, City Manager, Helen M. Meade and Pearl L. Lockley, right. Clipping of same image from GR Herald. July 14, 1953.	Box 1	Page 35
10. Jan Lounsbery, recent Ottawa Hills High School grad, with Helen Meade. Same image used in GR Herald, July 10, 1955.	Box 1	Page 36
11. Millard M. Moore, seated at desk. <u>Physical Location:</u> This item is loose, and now housed at 158-2	Box 1	Page 37
11. Millard M. Moore, seated at desk. <u>Physical Location:</u> This item is loose, and now housed at 158-2	Box 1	Page 38
12. Meade on telephone. Clipping using image: GR Herald, June 5, 1955	Box 1	Page 38
13. Group photos. Area Officials, Feb. 23, 1959. All males seated around a table with a shiny reflective surface, with others in chairs behind. A map hangs on the wall.	Box 1	Page 40
14. Photo of Ann, Sue, Lieschen, and Jim, staff of Yule Newz, 1960.	Box 1	Page 41
15. Helen Meade and assistant Emily Joseph getting materials ready for City Commission meeting. "Grand Rapids All-American City" shield graphic lower left in image. Interior	Box 1	Page 44

office setting with desk, phone file cabinets behind. Apr. 15, 1961 article from GR Press?

16. Group of men meeting in a room with a mirror about a fireplace. Microphone hanging above the table to record the proceedings. Probably Helen Meade with her back to the camera lower center. Bust of Lincoln in the far corner. Photo is deteriorating, brown spots. GR Press Feb. 8, 1961 use.	Box 1	Page 45
17. Two men standing in front of louvered window covers, with a decorative branching display and a flag with crescent and star. Man at right holds an object. Man at right may be President Khan (Sir Zafrulla Kahn, President of the UN General Assembly)	Box 1	Page 48
18. Parks Superintendent Fred C. See and Helen Meade with bananas grown in the tropical house at the John Ball Park Zoo. GR Press, Apr. 30, 1963. Photo deteriorating, brown spots.	Box 1	Page 49
19. Chris H. Sonneveldt taking the oath of office with Helen Meade left and City Clerk R. Stanton Kilpatrick administering the oath. Brown spots.	Box 1	Page 50
20. Gordon R. Carson, Division Manager of Consumers with Helen Meade, looking at a large aerial photo of Grand Rapids hanging on the wall. GR Press, June 9, 1965. Photo deteriorating, brown spots.	Box 1	Page 51

General

Ray Barnes caricature of Helen is also on this page.

21. Group photo in council chamber. City seal, over a area mal on wall behind. GR Press, Aug. 23, 1969. "City Hall Vacated, article on same page, and may or may not have used this image.	Box 1	Page 52
22. Court Room, or council room, with officials in place and few seen in audience. Mead is in the background right near the US flag. No clipping.	Box 1	Page 56

Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances
Empty Envelop. Aug. 5, 1949. Loose from pg. 26	Box 2

Clipping

Title/Description	Instances
GR Press, Sept. 11, 1980. "Open the Door to your Downtown" special section documents historic buildings, at the end of the 1979/1980 downtown renewal era.	Box 1

Interpreter

Title/Description	Instances
Aug. 2, 1973 Supplement. RE David Libel. Loose from pg. 76.	

Box 2

Graphic Clipping

Title/Description	Instances
Welsh. Source unknown. Inscribed to Helen Aug. 16, 1948 by Welsh. Loose from pg. 3/4	Box 2

Ephemera

Greeting Cards

Title/Description	Instances
Get Well Card to Helen from Bob Blandford.	Box 2

Postcard

Title/Description	Instances
Maabula. Loose from pg. 30	Box 2

Programs

Title/Description	Instances
Royal Luncheon, April 16, 1952. Queen of Netherlands visit. Loose from pg. 32	Box 2

Realia

Title/Description	Instances
Book of Matches (heads clipped for safety) "The Vice President of the United States" [Lyndon B. Johnson] Diamond Match Division, Springfield, Mass. Loose from pgs. 61/62	Box 2

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Series II. Autograph book

Scope and Contents

Included here are 7 sheets which contain various ephemera. But, most significant are the slips with autographs of various national figures. Additionally, there is a loose laminated sheet from an unidentified source.

Title/Description	Instances
Item 1. Christmas Card. "The Fords" n.d. Group photo with Steve & Susan, and cameo photos of Mike & Jack.	Box 2 Page 1
Item 2. Gerald R. Ford Museum Ground Breaking Ceremony. June 13, 1979.	Box 2 Page 2

Item 3. "The Calkins Law Office" sheet with image by David & Marilyn Hanks.	Box 2	Page 3
Item 4. Illustrated souvenir including historical information on the Calkins Law Office and an original nail.	Box 2	Page 3b
Item 5. March 4, 1961 letter from the White House, with an unidentified signature. Attached to the letter is a clipping about Mayor William B. Hartsfield receiving a letter, but for which he could not recognize the signature. Upon inquiry, the unknown signature being that of John Fitzgerald Kennedy himself.	Box 2	Page 4

Autographs

Title/Description	Instances	
1. Matthew J. Connelly, Secretary to the President	Box 2	Page 5a
2. A.H. Vandenberg + "Bliss" "Small-Fry Entrepreneur" cartoon RE Vandenberg.	Box 2	Page 5a
3. Everett M. Dirksen	Box 2	Page 5a
4. La Guardia	Box 2	Page 5a
5. Attorney General ?	Box 2	Page 5a
6. Pat McNamara	Box 2	Page 5a
7. Lady Bird Johnson	Box 2	Page 5a
8. John W. Snyder, Secretary of the Treasury	Box 2	Page 5a
9. Hubert H. Humphrey	Box 2	Page 5a
1. Somer(?) Ferguson(?)	Box 2	Page 5b
2. Mike Monroney	Box 2	Page 5b
3. Kim Siglar, Governor, Michigan	Box 2	Page 5b
4. ? Governor, Michigan	Box 2	Page 5b
5. ? ? Kaufman, Mayor, St. Louis	Box 2	Page 5b
6. Martin H. Kennelly(?), Mayor, Chicago	Box 2	Page 5b
7. Thomas A. Burke, Mayor, Cleveland	Box 2	Page 5b
8. Sam Rayburn	Box 2	Page 5b
9. Charles E. Potter	Box 2	Page 5b
10. Bill ? , Mayor, NYC	Box 2	Page 5b
11. Roger D. Lapham, Mayor San Francisco	Box 2	Page 5b
12. Joseph E. Dillon, Mayor, St. Paul, Minn.	Box 2	Page 5b
13. Michael V. DiSalle, Toledo	Box 2	Page 5b
14. Thomas ? , Mayor, Baltimore	Box 2	Page 5b

1. ? Mayor, Portland, Oregon	Box 2	Page 6a
2. Delesseps S. Morrison, Mayor, New Orleans	Box 2	Page 6a
3. Edward J. Keller(?), Mayor, Chicago, 1947	Box 2	Page 6a
4. Cooper Green(?), Mayor, Birmingham, Ala.	Box 2	Page 6a
5. F. Batista, Senador de la Republica Capitolio Nacional Habana, Cuba	Box 2	Page 6a
6. Jrs. R.M.J.F.L. Van Grotenhuis, Mayor of Groesbeek, (Netherlands?)	Box 2	Page 6a
7. Ralph A. Villani, Mayor, Newark, N.J.(?)	Box 2	Page 6a
8. Charlie Farrell, Mayor of Palm Springs	Box 2	Page 6a
9. Albert E. Cobr?, Mayor, Detroit	Box 2	Page 6a
10. Mr. D. Ailly? Mayor, Amsterdam	Box 2	Page 6a
11. Henri Bonnet, French Ambassador to the U.s.	Box 2	Page 6a
12. N. Arkema. Union of Dutch Municipalities	Box 2	Page 6a
13. Dr. Scharnagi, steelv. Oberburgermeister (Deputy Chief Mayor, Munich, Germany	Box 2	Page 6a
1. Sachis Kis??, Governor, Kobe, Japan	Box 2	Page 6b
2. Lucien Bond(?), Mayor of Quebec	Box 2	Page 6b
3. P.J. Oud, Burgomaster of Rotterdam,	Box 2	Page 6b
4. J. Cary Jones	Box 2	Page 6b
5. George Murry (G.D. Murray	Box 2	Page 6b
6. Henry J. Kaiser	Box 2	Page 6b
7. Hustinx(?), Burgomaster of Nijmegen	Box 2	Page 6b
8. Hector M. Hall(?), Lord provost, Glasgow	Box 2	Page 6b
9. Bernard M. Baruch	Box 2	Page 6b
10. Basil O'Connor, President, American Red Cross ...	Box 2	Page 6b
11. Drew Pearson	Box 2	Page 6b
1. Wilson W. Wyan (?)	Box 2	Page 7a
2. Thomas ? Biophy(?) President, American Heritage Founcation	Box 2	Page 7a
3. Henry ? Ford Motor Company	Box 2	Page 7a
4. Joe E. Brown, Hollywood California	Box 2	Page 7a
5. James E. Petrillo, President ?	Box 2	Page 7a
6. Red Skelton, Honorary Mayor, City of Culver City	Box 2	Page 7a

"An Inside View of Our Time Capsule / W.D. Frankforter + other articles on 1 double page laminated sheet. Original source unknown.

Box 2

General

This item accompanies the book, but may not have been part of it.

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Series III. Remembrance & Clippings

Scope and Contents

Most outstanding from this accession is a copy of a handwritten remembrance by Helen Meade "'Highlights of City Hall Career", n.d. Also, found here are photocopies of x clippings, and a small color snapshot of former Mayor Paul Goebel, May 13, 1957.

Additions

Title/Description	Instances	
"Highlights of City Hall Career" / Helen Meade, n.d. Handwritten. Photocopy only, 2002.042	Box 2	
Photocopies of clippings, many of which are in the scrapbook above, 2002.042	Box 2	Folder 2
Original snap shot of Paul Goebel, May 13, 1957, seated at a desk in an office, 2002.042	Box 2	

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