
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 1149
UDALL, DON T., 1898-1976
PAPERS, 1933-1972 (bulk 1946-1963)

DESCRIPTION

Business correspondence relating to Navajo County Superior Court; family correspondence and manuscripts relating to the history of the Udall and Patterson families; and manuscripts and pamphlets relating to the history of the Holbrook Lions Club and the Lions Club of Arizona.

5 boxes, 2.75 linear feet

ACQUISITION

The papers were donated by Don T. Udall on April 29, 1974.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Archives Department.

PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Samuel Weller under the direction of Riva Dean in November 1999.

ARRANGEMENT

Four series: 1.) Business Correspondence (1945-1963), 2.) Personal Papers and Correspondence (1933-1973), 3.) Photographs (1951-1961), and 4.) Record of Protests Ledger (entries from 1928-1965).

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Don T. Udall, one of seven sons of David King Udall, served as Superior Court Judge for Navajo County for 17 years: elected in 1945, he served until 1963. A native of Eager, Arizona, Judge Udall resided in Holbrook, Arizona from 1923 onward and began his career by serving as deputy county attorney after his graduation from Georgetown University College of Law. He was elected county attorney for three terms before becoming a judge. As Navajo Superior Court Judge, he developed the first juvenile probation department in Navajo County and was instrumental in having the board of supervisors erect a juvenile detention home that was separate from the county jail. He sat 18 times on the Arizona

Supreme Court where he authored opinions. During World War II, he served one and one-half years in the Judge Advocate General's Office of the Army, both in this country and on General Douglas McArthur's staff in the South Pacific. He served as a district governor of Lions International and was a founding member of the Holbrook Lions Club in 1929. He was active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, serving a two-year mission in the New England states, and was President of the David Udall Family Organization from 1961 to 1963.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers of Don T. Udall contain incoming and outgoing correspondence from his 1946 to 1963 service as Navajo Superior Court judge reflecting routine operations as well as his interests in child welfare, aviation safety, and state and local politics; personal correspondence and manuscripts reflecting the strong genealogical interest promoted by the LDS church; four photographs; and a Record of Protests ledger. The bulk of the collection is his business correspondence that deals with routine matters such as court clerk employment, juvenile correction, adoptions, divorce, court dates and assignments, and petitions for release from jury duty and assistance in obtaining probation. The business correspondence reflects his civic and political connections on the state and federal level.

The personal papers and correspondence are family history manuscripts, open letters to the David Udall Family Organization, Holbrook and Arizona Lions Club history, programs for the annual Arizona Lions Club conference and dinner. The Udall, Emily and Don T. file contains historical sketches of Emily Udall's parents, Margaret Emily Richey Patterson and John Bowman Patterson. The Don T. Udall Articles file includes a sketch of Don and Emily's lives from 1923-1954 including the report of the death of their son, Franklin in a two-plane collision which is blamed on poor control and explains Don's ongoing concern for aviation safety, and a report of Don and Emily's round-the-world trip, March 3-May 31, 1963. The David Udall Family Organization file, in addition to containing open letters to the family from Don's 1961-1963 presidency, includes the will of John Udall (1729-1801) and sketches of the lives of David Udall (1829-1910), David King Udall (1851-1938), and Ida Hurt Udall, Don's mother. The 50th Wedding Anniversary file contains a photocopy of a congratulatory note from President Nixon (August 26, 1972).

The four photographs are unremarkable. Three of the photographs were filed under Wilson and were presumably taken by Martha Wilson of Pine Top in 1951 as support for her allegation that the town's police officer was sleeping when he should have been on duty. The fourth picture is of Don T. Udall at the Kent, England gravesite of John Udall, Don's great, great grandfather, posing with Rosemary Archard, an English great, great granddaughter of John Udall. The picture was originally filed with the David Udall Family Letters and was probably taken during Don's 1961 travels in England and Europe.

The Record of Protests is an alphabetical ledger of protests over import duty rates with chronological entries recorded by last name of protestor. Each entry lists the date of protest, the protestor's name, a statement of type of material imported, the means of transport into the county, the date of resolution, and a statement of the resolution. May be of interest for its broad-spectrum view of Navajo County import trade with Mexico as it developed from 1923 to 1965 (most entries from 1945-1959) when the ledger record was discontinued.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Series 1: Business Correspondence, (1942-1963)

Box 1

f. 1-7 Business Correspondence, A-G (1945-1963)

Box 2

f. 8-14 Business Correspondence, H-P (1942-1962)

Box 3

f. 15-20 Business Correspondence, Q-Z (1943-1962)

Box 4

f. 21 Business Correspondence, Office (1959-1961)

f. 22 Business Correspondence, Estate, Owens File (1961-1962)

f. 23 Business Correspondence, Misc. File (1959-1962)

Series 2: Personal Papers

f. 24 Personal Papers, Udall, Emily and Don T. (History of Margaret Emily Richey Patterson) (1969)

f. 25 Personal Papers, Don T. Udall Articles (1949-1963)

f. 26 Personal Papers, David Udall Family Letters (1939-1974)

f. 27 Personal Papers, 50th Wedding Anni (1972)

f. 28 Personal Papers, Holbrook Lions Club History (1933-1969)

Series 3: Photographs, (1951, 1961)

f. 29 Photographs, (1951, 1961)

Series 4, Box 5: Record of Protests Ledger (1923-1965)