



ArchivesSpace

Mulligan, Thomas E., Jr.; Papers

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Title:	Thomas E. Mulligan Papers
ID:	apap090
Date [inclusive]:	1941-1973
Physical Description:	1 cubic ft.
Physical Location:	The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Thomas E. Mulligan Papers document Mulligan's life from 1941 to 1973 including his two unsuccessful political campaigns, one for Mayor of Albany and the other for assemblyman.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Thomas E. Mulligan Papers, 1941-1973. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Mulligan Papers).

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Biographical History

Thomas "Ed" Mulligan, Jr. (1918-1985) was an Albany Republican who made two unsuccessful attempts to become elected to political office. He hoped to eventually overthrow the reigning O'Connell/Corning Democratic Political Machine. In his first race, in 1953, he ran for Mayor of Albany against the long-standing Democratic favorite Erastus Corning and surprised the city with a powerful campaign that drew more votes than any previous Republican candidate running for that position against Corning.

Born on March 6, 1918, in Albany, New York, Mulligan attended St. Theresa's Parochial School, Christian Brothers Academy and Siena College where he received the Sigma Omega Achievement Award and was elected night college President as well as night editor of the Siena News. Prior to entering the United States Air Force in 1940, Mulligan worked for radio stations WOKO and WABY

and as a staff reporter for the Knickerbocker News. During World War II, he served as a B-17 bomber pilot until he was shot down and taken prisoner by the Germans in 1943. In 1951, Mulligan served as Chairman of the Publicity Committee for the Salvation Army Drive. In 1952, he founded the Albany County Eisenhower Committee and was appointed to the New York State Merit Award Board and the New York State Personnel Relations Board by Gov. Thomas E. Dewey. When nominated by the Republican Party to run for Mayor in 1953, Mulligan was employed as a publicity agent for the New York Department of State. He resigned from this position in order to campaign on July 30, 1953, the day his nomination was announced. The 1953 campaign was filled with accusations of corruption against the Democratic city government in areas such as fire safety in the public schools, traffic and highway department neglect, and understaffing of the city police and fire departments.

He lost the race to Mayor Corning by over thirty-four thousand votes. Mulligan returned to his state publicity job until he was fired by Edward S. Conway, the Republican GOP Chairman, in 1964, at the start of his second political campaign after challenging Conway's leadership of the party. Mulligan lost the 1965 election for assemblyman to Edward Rook, although this campaign was, as was his first, a heated struggle.

Upon his death, on April 22, 1985, the ownership of Thomas Mulligan's personal papers transferred to author William Kennedy pursuant to provisions in Mulligan's will. Mr. Kennedy then donated the collection to the University Libraries, State University of New York at Albany.

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Scope and Contents

Included in the collection are: direct correspondence, between Mr. Mulligan and others and also third-party correspondence, between other persons about Mulligan, dated between 1946 and 1971; campaign promotion materials, including scripts of radio programs, political advertisements, leaflets, buttons and photos, which represent a large portion of the papers but are undated; newspaper clippings about Mulligan dating from 1952 to 1967; various subject files composed mainly of investigations conducted by Mulligan into city corruption; and some personal memorabilia. There are also some black and white photos included in the collection.

Series one is made up of correspondence dating from 1946-1971. The series is divided into direct correspondence (November 1946 to May 1973) and third-party correspondence (August 1953 to June 1971). Some of the correspondence is undated. Series two includes campaign materials (undated). The file contains promotional materials about Mulligan and TV and radio address made by Mulligan in 1953. Series three is a collection of newspaper clippings spanning from 1952-1967. Series four is made up of subject files (1941-1973). The folders contain personal memorabilia, candidate lists, Albany Public School Citizens Committee information, Salvation Army promotional materials, information on the Republican Committee, grievances against city agencies, Pine Bush Land Grab Story, sales tax delinquency, snow removal contract deals, Albany Housing Authority, and Andrew M. Pickney Resignation, 1972-1973. Some of these files also contain black and white photographs.

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Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is organized into the following series:

- 1 Series 1: Correspondence, 1946-1971
- 2 Series 2: Campaign Materials, 1953 and undated
- 3 Series 3: Newspaper Clippings, 1952-1967
- 4 Series 4: Subject Files, 1941-1973

All series are arranged chronologically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Revision Description

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Processing Information

Processed in 2001 by Rosann Santos.

Access

Access to this record group is unrestricted.

Copyright

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Acquisition Information

All items in this manuscript group were donated to the University Libraries, M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, by William Kennedy in 1985.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Public Servants
- Albany, New York
- Albany (N.Y.)--History
- Albany (N.Y.) Office of the Mayor
- Albany (N.Y.) Politics and government--20th century
- Albany (N.Y.)
- Scripts, Television
- Correspondence
- Clippings
- Promotional Materials
- Notes
- Minutes
- Political Campaigns
- Financial Records
- Photographs
- Mulligan, Thomas E., 1918-1985

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1946-1971

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically where possible.

Scope and Contents

Series one is made up of correspondence dating from 1946-1971. The series is divided into direct correspondence (November 1946 to May 1973) and third-party correspondence (August 1953 to June 1971). Some of the correspondence is undated.

Title/Description	Instances
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Direct Correspondence, November 1946 to September 1953, November 1946-September 1953	Box 1 (1- Correspondence)	Folder 1
Direct Correspondence, October 1953 to May 1973 and undated, October 1953-May 1973Undated	Box 1 (1- Correspondence)	Folder 2
Third-party Correspondence, August 1953 to June 1971 and undated, August 1953-June 1971Undated	Box 1 (1- Correspondence)	Folder 3

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Campaign Materials, 1953 and undated, 1953Undated

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically where possible.

Scope and Contents

Series two includes campaign materials (undated). The file contains promotional materials about Mulligan and TV and radio address made by Mulligan in 1953.

Title/Description	Instances	
Drafts of Television Addresses, 1953, 1953	Box 1 (2- Campaign Materials, 1953 and undated)	Folder 4
Final Scripts of Television Addresses, 1953, 1953	Box 1 (2- Campaign Materials, 1953 and undated)	Folder 5
Handwritten Notes and Telephone Messages, Undated	Box 1 (2- Campaign Materials, 1953 and undated)	Folder 6
Promotional Materials About Mulligan, Undated	Box 1 (2- Campaign Materials, 1953 and undated)	Folder 7
Promotional Materials About the Republican Party, Undated	Box 1 (2- Campaign Materials, 1953 and undated)	Folder 8
Proposed Advertising Schedules, Price Lists and Bills, 1953, 1953	Box 1 (2- Campaign Materials, 1953 and undated)	Folder 9

1953 and
undated)[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Newspaper Clippings, 1952-1967, 1952-1967

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

Series three is a collection of newspaper clippings spanning from 1952-1967.

Title/Description	Instances	
June 1952 to December 1953, June 1952-December 1953	Box 1 (3- Newspaper Clippings, 1952-1967)	Folder 10
January 1954 to November 1967, January 1954-November 1967	Box 1 (3- Newspaper Clippings, 1952-1967)	Folder 11

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Subject Files, 1941-1973, 1941-1973

Arrangement

Folders are arranged alphabetically. Material within folders is arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

Series four is made up of subject files (1941-1973). The folders contain personal memorabilia, candidate lists, Albany Public School Citizens Committee information, Salvation Army promotional materials, information on the Republican Committee, grievances against city agencies, Pine Bush Land Grab Story, sales tax delinquency, snow removal contract deals, Albany Housing Authority, and Andrew M. Pickney Resignation, 1972-1973. Some of these files also contain black and white photographs.

Title/Description	Instances	
Albany Housing Authority, 1970, 1970	Box 1 (4- Subject Files, 1941-1973)	Folder 12
Albany Public School Citizens, Committee, 1949-1954, 1949-1954	Box 1 (4- Subject Files, 1941-1973)	Folder 13
Complaints Against City Agencies, 1953, 1953		

	Box 1 (4-Subject Files, 1941-1973)	Folder 14
Lists of Candidates, Labor Committee, Members and Albany County Canvass of Voters, 1946-1953, 1946-1953	Box 1 (4-Subject Files, 1941-1973)	Folder 15
Personal Memorabilia, 1941-1956, 1941-1956	Box 1 (4-Subject Files, 1941-1973)	Folder 16
Pickney, Andrew M. Resignation, 1972-1973, 1972-1973	Box 1 (4-Subject Files, 1941-1973)	Folder 17
Pine Bush Land Grab Story, 1955-1971, 1955-1971	Box 1 (4-Subject Files, 1941-1973)	Folder 18
Republican Committee Materials, 1952-1967, 1952-1967	Box 1 (4-Subject Files, 1941-1973)	Folder 19
Salvation Army Promotion Materials, 1951-1952, 1951-1952	Box 1 (4-Subject Files, 1941-1973)	Folder 20
Sales Tax Delinquency, 1960-1972, 1960-1972	Box 1 (4-Subject Files, 1941-1973)	Folder 21
Snow Removal Contract Deals, 1969-1970, 1969-1970	Box 1 (4-Subject Files, 1941-1973)	Folder 22

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