

Guide to the Maurice A. "Casey" Downing Papers

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: Maurice A. "Casey" Downing, 1917-1985

Title: Maurice A. "Casey" Downing Papers

Dates: 1958-1984 (bulk 1962-1984)

Quantity: 6 linear feet

Abstract: Correspondence, news clippings, pamphlets, campaign material, invitations, speeches, petitions, and legislative bills, resolutions, and amendments.

Accession: 86-09-137 ; 137-1987

Biographical Note:

Maurice Downing, a native Mobilian, attended Catholic Boys Home from 1923 to 1934 and graduated from McGill High School. A local musician in his youth, Downing was a member of the Mobile police force from 1940 to 1942. He subsequently became a U.S. Border Patrol agent until April 1943, at which time he entered the United States Army. Downing spent a year in the Pacific theatre before being honorably discharged in 1946. He received a law degree from the University of Alabama in 1950 and practiced law in Mobile for thirty-five years. Downing was also a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, and the American Bar Association. Downing was first elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 1962 and served in that body for twelve years. He led the fight to bring greyhound racing to Mobile, a goal he finally achieved in 1972. A portrait of Downing hangs near the entrance to Mobile Greyhound Park and the lure that the greyhounds chase is named Casey in his honor. Downing was also instrumental in the battle to charter a college of medicine for the University of South Alabama, and was involved with the effort to move the USS *Alabama* to Mobile. Maurice Downing died April 10, 1985.

Scope and Contents:

The papers of state representative Maurice Downing reflect his interest in the Mobile Greyhound Park, the University of South Alabama Health Services Foundation, and Fowl River, and the day-to-day business of his state office.

Contains correspondence, news clippings, pamphlets, campaign material, invitations, speeches, petitions, and legislative bills, resolutions, and amendments. Portions of the collection focus on mental health, conservation, and wildlife, as well as the U.S.S. *Alabama*, the Alabama State Docks, Mobile General Hospital, Brookley Air Force Base, and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

Arrangement:

Organized into two series that are arranged chronologically: 1. Correspondence, by month, 1958, 1962-1975; 2. Miscellaneous, by year, 1958, 1962-1978, 1983-1984.

Access Restrictions:

This material is open to research.

Preferred Citation:

Maurice A. "Casey" Downing Papers, The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL.

Content List:**Box 1**

1958 Miscellaneous. Election expense account, letter from the American Bar Association, pamphlet from the Amaryllis Society's 6th Annual Gulf Amaryllis Show, Maurice Downing's statement as a candidate for Place 1 in the Alabama House of Representatives, etc.

1958 Correspondence. (February-April) Invitations, cover letter to "Qualifying Papers for House of Representatives," etc.

1962 Miscellaneous. Speeches, declaration of candidacy, information related to the 1962 Democratic primary, bill to permit the creation of a board of recreation for Mobile County, movement of USS *Alabama* to Mobile, bills and material regarding the Alabama State Docks, statement regarding Mobile General Hospital, various resolutions, various bills, etc.

1962 Correspondence. (January-December) Speeches, questionnaires, movement of USS *Alabama* to Mobile, congratulatory letters, thank you letters, mental health v. general health, various, etc.

1963 Miscellaneous. Legislative bills, state of Alabama reports, Wildlife Federation, Tenn-Tom Topics newsletter, debates of the 88th Congress, increased state funds, etc.

1963 Correspondence. (January-December) Invitations, Alabama Fisheries Association, resolutions, proposed tax on malt beverages, Mobile General Hospital, Mobile's form of government, amendments to the state license law, letters in support of various bills, etc.

1964 Miscellaneous. Opening of USA, Action Program Committee, state department of conservation, Food Stamp Act, etc.

1964 Correspondence. (January-December) AFL-CIO resolution, USS*Alabama* Battleship Commission and letters inquiring about battleship, amendments, legislative bills, invitations, resolutions, thank you letters, closing of Brookley Air Force Base, petitions pro and con, newspaper clippings, etc.

1965 Miscellaneous. Legislative bills, speeches, Engineering Education Program, USS *Alabama* brochures and other printed material, Alabama State legislature regular session minutes, petitions, estimated gas tax returns for various counties, list of House bills, etc.

Box 2

1965 Correspondence. (January-December) Sermon for the "Red Mass," bridge from Dauphin Island to Fort Morgan, proposed seafood code, Wildlife Refuge, Interstate 10, voter reidentification, meeting announcements, child custody, free school book petitions, letters seeking support, Mobile County School Board, etc.

1966 Miscellaneous. Distribution of state gas tax, other legislative bills, USA College of Medicine, Tenn-Tom Waterway map, East and West Fowl River map, printed material, campaign material, list of bills that died in the Alabama Senate, gubernatorial proclamations, Mobile County highway program, air pollution, etc.

1966 Correspondence. (January-December) news clippings, thank you letters, endorsement petitions, letters seeking support, resolutions, recommendations, congratulatory letters, free textbooks, various correspondence, etc.

1967 Miscellaneous. Distribution of state gas tax, registration fee for cars and trailers, tax issues, public roads, distribution and sale of alcoholic beverages, printed material, public health care, Tenn-Tom Waterway newsletter, Alabama population, etc.

1967 Correspondence. (January-December) Daylight Savings Time, Downing biography, thank you letters, State Board of Cosmetology, Tenn-Tom Waterway, Wildlife Federation, distribution of state gas tax, Inferior Civil Court of Mobile, 4-year USS *Alabama* visitor's pass, various correspondence, etc.

1968 Miscellaneous. Alabama Boys Industrial School, State Board of Public Welfare, legislative bills, printed material, Alabama Department of Conservation Seafood Division, an economic abstract of Mobile, election codes, biography of Downing, miscellaneous booklets, etc.

1968 Correspondence. (January-December) news clippings, invitations, thank you cards and letters, Alabama National Guard Band (Dixie Division), recommendations, Mobile County Wildlife and Conservation, Mobile County Seafood Advisory Commission, various correspondence, etc.

1969 Miscellaneous. Voting centers, legal holidays, homestead exemption, legislative bills, Mobile Grand Jury, 1969 Alabama legislature report, Alabama Consumer Credit Code, Alabama Highway Department, draft of the minutes of the Mobile County regular session, public defender office in Mobile, etc.

Box 3

1969 Correspondence. (January-December) News articles, thank you letters, Alabama Petroleum Council, International Paper, Plantation Pipe Line Co., various correspondence, etc.

1970 Miscellaneous. Campaign material, printed material, legislative bills, reports, resolutions, absentee ballots, congratulatory letters, support letters, Water Improvement Commission, pollution, Alabama Recreation and Parks Society, news articles, etc.

1970 Correspondence. (January-December) Thank you letters, news articles, invitations, constituent letters, letter to the editor, shrimping laws, resolutions, various correspondence, etc.

1971 Miscellaneous. Legislative bills, state general fund, 1960 and 1970 federal census, printed material, map, reports, etc.

1971 Correspondence. (January-December) Invitations, reports, support letters, various correspondence, etc.

1972 Miscellaneous. Reports, speeches, letters to the editor, legislative bills, USA Health Services Foundation, Alabama Department of Conservation, Mobile Bay dredging, Committee of Public Utilities, Alabama Circuit Court, Bankhead Tunnel, etc.

1972 Correspondence. (January-December) Corps of Engineers, Alabama Legislative Commission to Preserve the Peace, various correspondence, etc.

Box 4

1973 Miscellaneous. Bankhead Tunnel, news articles, legislative bills, reports, George Wallace, printed material, Mobile County Board of Health, Jeremiah Denton, West Fowl River, state budgets, etc.

1973 Correspondence. (January-December) Invitations, various correspondence, etc.

1974 Miscellaneous. Printed material, reports, Greyhound Park, campaign material, news articles, etc.

1974 Correspondence. (January-December) Letter to the editor, campaign material, hunting short story, various correspondence, etc.

1975 Miscellaneous. Nebraska Hearing Aid Association, etc.

1975 Correspondence. (Material not dated by month) Legislative bills, various correspondence, etc.

1976 Miscellaneous. USA Health Services Foundation articles of incorporation, etc.

1977 Miscellaneous. Printed material, etc.

1978 Miscellaneous. News articles, printed material, lobbyists, etc.

1981 Miscellaneous. Printed material, etc.

1983 Miscellaneous. USA Health Services Foundation.

Box 5

Miscellaneous. Photos, cards, USA Medical Center Board of Directors, USA Health Services Foundation, printed material, East and West Fowl River Connection, etc.

Mobile Greyhound Park. bill, racing commission license, menu, misc. correspondence, pamphlets, petition, news articles, telegrams, etc.