Guide to the Clara Shirpser Papers, [ca. 1948-1968]

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Note
Social Sciences --Political Science --General
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Collection number: BANC MSS 74/41 c

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Clara Shirpser Papers,
Date (inclusive): [ca. 1948-1968]
Collection Number: BANC MSS 74/41 c
Creator: Shirpser, Clara, 1901-
Extent: Number of containers: 3 boxes, 1 cartonLinear ft.: 2.5
Repository: The Bancroft Library
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.
Abstract: Correspondence, speeches, press releases, personalia, clippings and subject files, relating primarily to political activities, particularly her role as Democratic National Committeewoman from California, 1952-1956, and the Stevenson-Kefauver presidential primary campaign.
Languages Represented: English

Access
Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
Scope and Content
Clara (Garfinkle) Shirpser, Mrs. Adolph J. Shirpser, was born in San Francisco in 1901. A long-time Berkeley resident, Mrs. Shirpser was active in many civic functions, clubs and philanthropic associations. These included the Berkeley Women's City Club, Young Women's Christian Association, Children's Hospital Association, Menninger Foundation, World Affairs Council of Northern California, Red Cross and the City of Berkeley Taxation, Franchise and Charter Amendment Committees. She served as president and treasurer of the League of Women Voters of Berkeley and was a member of their executive board for eight years until she resigned in 1950 to enter an unsuccessful campaign for the California State Assembly.

In June 1952 Mrs. Shirpser was elected Democratic National Committeewoman for California, a position she held for over four years. As national committee woman, she helped to create and develop the Democratic club movement as a viable force in the California Democratic Party during the early 1950s.

At the time of the presidential primary campaigns of 1955, Mrs. Shirpser avidly supported Senator Estes Kefauver over Adlai Stevenson for the democratic nomination. As vice-chairman of the national Kefauver for President Committee, she was responsible for women's primary campaign activities in 22 western states until Stevenson won the nomination at the August 1956 Chicago Democratic National Convention.

It was as a direct result of her enthusiastic and outspoken support of Kefauver that Mrs. Shirpser was forced to relinquish her position as California Democratic National Committeewoman effective August 16, 1956.

This collection of correspondence and papers was given to The Bancroft Library in September 1973 as the gift of Mrs. Shirpser. The collection, which is fragmented and obviously incomplete, consists of 3 boxes and 1 carton and spans the period from circa 1948 through 1968 with particular emphasis on her activities on behalf of Senator Kefauver's presidential campaign, 1955-1956. Included are outgoing and incoming letters and a small subject file. All of the portraits have been removed and indexed separately in the portrait collection.

The papers as a whole are described in greater detail in the Key to Arrangement which follows.
Subject files
American Association for the United Nations, Inc. San Francisco Chapter
Democratic Party. National Committee
Democratic Party. Platforms
Kefauver for President Campaign, 1955-1956. Two folders
Kennedy-Johnson Campaign, 1960
Shirpser for Assembly Campaign, 1950
Stevenson for President Campaigns
Stevenson-Kefauver Campaign, 1956
White House Conference on Aging, 1961
White House Regional Conferences in San Francisco, 1961
Women for Johnson-Humphrey Campaign, 1964
Miscellany. Two folders

Photographs
Arvey, Jacob M., 1895-
  Include one letter by his secretary.
Bailey, John Moran, 1904-
  Letter, Jan 6, 1961. Re his impending appointment as chairman of the Democratic
  National Committee.
Bartlett, Edward Lewis, 1904-
  Letter, July 9, 1956. Written while U.S. Congressional Delegate from Alaska;
  addressed to Mrs. Edward J. Parnell.
Bee, Carlos, 1917-1974
Blair, William McCormick, 1916-
  10 letters, 1953-1956. Some letters written while executive assistant to Adlai E.
  Stevenson. Include copies of letters written to others.
Boyle, Bernard J., 1894-
Brannan, Charles Franklin, 1903-
Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. California Legislative Board
Brown, Edmund Gerald, 1905-
  18 letters, 1955-1964. Written while California Attorney General and Governor of
  California. Include form letters and copies of letters written to others.
Burwell, Lina (Weinberg), 1890-
  Letter, Nov 13, 1955. Written while Democratic National Committeewoman for
  Wyoming.
Butler, Paul M., 1905-
  19 letters, 1954-1956. Written while chairman of the Democratic National
  Committee. Include form letters and copies of letters written to others.
California. Attorney General
See Brown, Edmund Gerald
California. Controller
See Cranston, Alan
California. Secretary of State
  Letter, July 1, 1950. Form letter by Frank M. Jordan re Mrs. Shirpser's appointees to
  the Democratic State Convention.
California Democratic Council
See Democratic Party, Calif. California Democratic Council
Carrell, Tom C.
  10 letters, 1955-1956. Some letters written while chairman of the Kefauver for
  President Committee of California. Include form letters and copies of letters written
  to others.
Carvey, Thomas B., Jr.
See Democratic Party. Calif. Los Angeles County. Central Committee
  Letter, Jan 24, 1956. Written while Democratic National Committeeman for Arkansas re the selection of delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

Clark, Georgia (Neese), 1900-
  2 letters, 1956. Written while Democratic National Committeeewoman for Kansas.

Clement, Frank Goad, 1920-
  Letter, July 16, 1956. Written while Governor of Tennessee; addressed to Mrs. Edward J. Parnell.

Clements, Earle C., 1896-

Cohelan, Jeffery, 1914-

Cranston, Alan, 1914-

Cunningham, Mary Rosalle, 1907-
  Letter, Feb 15, 1956. Written while Democratic National Committeeewoman for Nebraska.

Daley, Richard J., 1902-

Davis, Pauline L., 1917-

Delany, Frank J.
  3 letters, 1956. Include copies of letters written to others.

Democratic Party. Calif. California Democratic Council
  2 letters, 1955

Democratic Party. Calif. Contra Costa County. Central Committee

Democratic Party. Calif. Los Angeles County. Central Committee

Democratic Party. Calif. San Mateo County. Central Committee

Democratic Party. Calif. Santa Cruz County. Central Committee
  2 letters, 1954. By chairman Donald Younger.

Democratic Party. Calif. Solano County. Central Committee

Democratic Party. Calif. State Central Committee
  4 letters, 1955. By chairman Elizabeth Snyder. Include copies of letters written to others.
  See also Roger Kent, William A. Munnell, Lionel S. Steinberg and Eugene L. Wyman.

Democratic Party. Montana. State Central Committee

Democratic Party. National Committee
  See also Paul M. Butler, India Edwards, Clayton Fritchey, Matthew H. McCloskey and Stephen A. Mitchell.
  See also subject file in Carton One.

Democratic Party. Oregon. State Central Committee

DiSalle, Michael Vincent, 1908-
Donahoe, Dorothy M.
Letter, Feb 24, 1956. Written while a member of the California Assembly re the California political organization.

Donnelley, Dixon, 1915-
Telegram, May 24, 1956. Written while with the Kefauver for President Committee explaining Senator Kefauver's negative civil rights votes.

Donohue, F. Joseph, 1900-
2 letters, 1956. Written while general chairman of the Kefauver for President Committee and director, vice-presidential activities, Stevenson-Kefauver Campaign Committee.

Doyle, Clyde Gilman, 1887-
Letter, July 11, 1956. Written while U.S. Congressman from California.

Edwards, India (Gillespie)
13 letters, 1952-1964. Include letters written while vice-chairman of the Democratic National Committee and while special consultant to the U.S. Secretary of Labor.

Engle, Clair, 1911-1964.
13 letters and telegrams, 1955-1964. Written while U.S. Congressman from California and chairman of the California Stevenson-Kefauver Campaign Committee.

Espe, Carl F.
See U.S. Navy

Fields, Bertrude Kendall (Thompson), 1901-
2 letters, 1956 and n.d. Written while Democratic National Committeewoman for Oklahoma.

Finletter, Thomas Knight, 1893-

Finney, Ruth, 1898-

Fleeson, Doris

Fleishhacker, Mortimer, Jr.

Ford, John Anson, 1883-
5 letters, 1952-1953 and n.d. Written while Democratic National Committeeman for California. Include form letters and copies of letters written to others.

Friedman, Monroe Mark, 1895-
Letter, June 18, 1958.

Fritchey, Clayton

Gatov, Elizabeth (Rudel) Smith, 1911-
2 letters, 1960-1964. One written while Democratic National Committeewoman for California.

Geddes, Samuel Robert

George, Walter Franklin, 1878-1957

Golden, John Matthew, 1895-

Gore, Albert Arnold, 1907-

Grady, Henry Francis, Jr.
Grady, Lucretia (del Valle)

Gravel, Camille Francis, 1915-

Graybill, Leo Carlisle, 1894-
2 letters, 1956. Written while Democratic National Committeeman for Montana.
Include letters written to others.

Green, Theodore Francis, 1867-
Letter, June 20, 1956. Written while U.S. Senator from Rhode Island.

Hagen, Harlan, 1914-
Letter, June 18, 1956. Written while U.S. Congressman from California.

Harber, Winford Elmer, 1892-

Heaney, Gerald William, 1918-
Letter, Jan 20, 1956. Written while Democratic National Committeeman of Minnesota.

Heller, Elinor (Raas), 1904-

Holloran, Mark Richard, 1905-

Humphrey, Hubert Horatio, 1911-

Kefauver, Estes, 1903-1963.
Include form letters and copies of letters written to others. Also: four letters, 1955-1956, by his wife Nancy Patterson (Pigott) Kefauver.
See also clippings in Carton One.

Kefauver for President Committee
See also Dixon Donnelley, F. Joseph Donohue and Mabelle Kennedy.
See also subject file in Carton One.

Kefauver for President Committee of California
See also Carrell, Tom C.


Kennedy, Mabelle
Letter, Feb 24, 1956. Written while vice chairman of the Kefauver for President Committee.

Kent, Roger, 1906-
8 letters, 1954 and n.d. Written while chairman of the California Democratic State Central Committee. Include form letters and copies of letters written to others.

Killion, George Leonard, 1901-
4 letters, 1956-1962. Written while chairman of the board of Loew's Incorporated and president of American President Lines, Ltd. Include copies of letters written to others.

Knutson, Coya Gjesdal, 1912-

Kreps, Theodore John, 1897-

Langmade, Stephen Wallace, 1914-
Lawrence, David Leo, 1888-
  2 letters and telegrams, 1954-1958. Written while Democratic National
  Committeeman for Pennsylvania. Include one telegram co-signed with
  committeewoman Emma Guffey Miller.
Leader, George Michael, 1918-
  Letter, Nov 13, 1958. Written while Governor of Pennsylvania upon his defeat for
  re-election.
Loew’s Incorporated
See Killion, George Leonard
McAteer, J. Eugene
  Letter, Nov 28, 1955. Written while a member of the San Francisco Board of
  Supervisors.
McCarthy, Eugene Joseph, 1916-
  2 letters, 1956-1964. Written while U.S. Congressman and later Senator from
  Minnesota.
McCarthy, Robert I., 1920-
McCloskey, Matthew H.
  4 letters, 1956. Written while treasurer of the Democratic National Committee.
  Include one letter by an assistant.
McCormac, John William, 1891-
Madden, Ray John, 1892-
  Letter, Feb 9, 1956. Written while U.S. Congressman from Indiana.
Magnin, Cyril L., 1899-
Magnuson, Warren Grant, 1905-
Mazo, Earl, 1919-
Miller, Emma Guffey
See Lawrence, David Leo
Miller, George, Jr.
  Letter, Dec. 6, 1955. Written while California State Senator, declining an invitation.
Miller, George Paul, 1891-
  Letter, July 17, 1956. Written while U.S. Congressman from California; addressed to
  Mrs. Edward J. Parnell re Clara Shirpser.
Mills College, Calif. President
See White, Lynn Townsend
Mitchell, Stephen Arnold, 1903-
  25 letters and telegrams, 1952-1954 and n.d. Written while chairman of the
  Democratic National Committee. Include copies of letters written to others.
Monroney, Almer Stillwell Mike, 1902-
Munnell, William Arthur, 1920-
  2 letters, 1955-1960. Written while California Assemblyman and chairman of the
  California Democratic State Central Committee.
Nygaard, Daphna (Hauser), 1896-
  Letter, Feb 8, 1956. Written while Democratic National Committeewoman for North
  Dakota.
O’Gara, Gerald J.
  Letter, June 17, 1952. Congratulatory letter upon Mrs. Shirpser’s election as
  Democratic National Committeewoman.
Olson, Culbert Levy, 1876-1962
Pauley, Edwin Wendell, 1903-
  2 letters, 1956.
Pearson, Drew Andrew Russell, 1897-
Price, Margaret (Bayne), 1912-
Ragland, Martha Ragsdale, 1906-
Ramsey, Ben
Letter, Feb 28, 1956. Written while Lieutenant Governor of Texas.
Rawlings, Calvin William, 1895-
3 letters, 1956. Written while Democratic National Committeeman for Utah.
Richards, Richard, 1916-
Roberts, Willa Mae (Alexander), 1887-
Letter, Feb 1, 1956. Written while Democratic National Committeewoman for Missouri.
Roberts, William Allerton, 1900-
See Kefauver for President Committee
Rock, George Frederick, 1907-
3 letters, 1956. Written while Democratic National Committeeman for Colorado.
Romney, Roxey (Stowell), 1889-
Letter, Feb 6, 1956. Written while Democratic National Committeewoman of Utah.
Roosevelt, James, 1907-
Letter, Jan 25, 1956. Written while U.S. Congressman from California re his decision to support Adlai Stevenson for President.
Roth, William Matson, 1916-
Roybal, Edward R., 1916-
Rumford, William Byron, 1908-
Sackett, Sheldon Fred, 1902-
Letter, June 18, 1952. Written while president of KROW Radio.
Salinger, Pierre Emil George, 1925-
2 letters and telegrams, 1964. Written while U.S. Senator from California.
San Francisco. Board of Supervisors
See also McAteer, J. Eugene.
San Francisco. Mayor
See Shelley, John Francis
San Francisco International Film Festival
Saroyan, Suren Michael, 1905-
Saun, Dalip Singh, 1899-
2 letters, 1957. Written while U.S. Congressman from California.
School, Inez (Montgomery), 1890-
Letter, Nov 24, 1954. Written while Democratic National Committeewoman for Indiana; co-signed with others.
Seedall, Dean S.
Shane, Leonard, 1922-
2 telegrams, 1956. Re labor volunteers for Kefauver.
Sharp, Thelma Parkinson
Shelley, John Francis, 1905-1974.
   4 letters, 1963-1965. Written while U.S. Congressman from California and San Francisco Mayor.
Sheppard, Harry Richard, 1885-
   4 letters, 1955. Written while U.S. Congressman from California. Include copies of letters written to others.
Silverman, Sol, 1900-
Sisk, Bernice Frederic, 1910-
   2 letters, 1956. Written while U.S. Congressman from California.
Smith, Elizabeth (Rudel), 1911-
   See Gatov, Elizabeth (Rudel) Smith
   Additional Note
Smith, James Edward, 1910-
Sparkman, John, 1899-
   Additional Note
Steinberg, Lionel Sanford, 1919-
Stevenson, Adlai Ewing, 1900-1965.
   See also clippings in Carton One.
Stevenson-Kefauver Campaign Committee
   See Donohue, F. Joseph.
   See also clippings in Carton One.
Stevenson-Kefauver Campaign Committee, California
   See Engle, Clair
Sutton, Leonard V. B.
   Letter, Apr 3, 1956. Written while justice of the Colorado Supreme Court.
Sweetland, Monroe Mark, 1910-
Switzer, George Frederick, 1903-
Symington, Stuart, 1901-
   Letter, July 9, 1956. Written while U.S. Senator from Missouri.
Tennessee. Governor
   See Clement, Frank Goad
Tulare Co., Calif. District Attorney
U.S. Dept. of Labor
   See Edwards, India (Gillespie)
U.S. Navy
Vredenburgh, Dorothy (McElroy), 1916-
   See Democratic Party. National Committee
Wagler, S. Victor, 1906-
   Letter, Nov 30, 1955. Written while judge of the Alameda County Superior Court declining an invitation to meet Estes Kefauver.
White, Lynn Townsend, 1907-
Letter, June 24, 1952. Congratulatory letter written while president of Mills College upon Mrs. Shirpser's election as California Democratic National Committeewoman.
World Affairs Council of Northern California
Wyatt, Joseph L., Jr.
See California Democratic Council
Wyman, Eugene Lester, 1924-
Yorty, Samuel William, 1909-
Younger, Donald, 1903-
See Democratic Party. Calif. Santa Cruz County. Central Committee
Ziffren, Paul, 1913-
3 letters, 1955. Written while Democratic National Committeeman for California.