

Guide to the John C. Rouillard Papers

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Guide to the John C. Rouillard Papers 1971/1983

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Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: John C. Rouillard Papers

Dates: 1971-1983

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Creator: Rouillard, John C., 1928-1983

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Biographical Information:

John C. Rouillard was born on December 31, 1928 in Rapid City, South Dakota. He was a Santee Dakota Sioux, and attended the Government Indian School on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. He later attended Washington and Lee High School. After graduating, Rouillard joined the US Army of Occupation in Japan as an infantryman and bandsman. In 1948, he left the service to begin college. He graduated from Northwestern University in 1952 with a bachelor's in music education. Rouillard then taught music at the high school level. Six years later he received a master's in music, also from Northwestern. In 1969, Rouillard moved to San Diego and began working as a music instructor at Helix High School. In 1971, he was asked to help with Native American education at San Diego State. He initially worked for the Equal Opportunity Program for Native Americans. In this position, he helped to increase the attendance and retention of Native American students at San Diego State by helping students obtain financial aid and tutoring assistance. A year later, Rouillard began his twelve-year tenure as the first Chair of the American Indian Studies department. He also started lecturing at Grossmont College. As chair, Rouillard developed courses in Native American music, education, language, and history. He also applied for, received, and managed numerous grants, including a National Endowment for the Humanities grant for the All-Yuman Applied Workshop in Language and Culture; as well as a California Council for the Humanities grant in Public Policy, Treaty Rights, and Sovereignty Forum.

In addition to his work at San Diego State, Rouillard was active in numerous professional organizations, and served on various commissions, committees, and boards. He worked as a consultant to the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and was active in the National Indian Education Association (NIEA), the National Congress of American Indians, the National Interdisciplinary Ethnic Studies Association, and the California Indian Education Association (CIEA). President Jimmy Carter also appointed Rouillard to a three-year term on the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE) in 1979.

Rouillard passed away in 1983.

Access Terms

This collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Corporate Name:

San Diego State University. Dept. of American Indian Studies

United States. National Advisory Council on Indian Education

Topical Term:

American Indian studies

Indian educators -- San Diego

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Identification of item, folder title, box number, John C. Rouillard Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Library and Information Access, San Diego State University.

Related Materials:

Chicano and Chicana Studies Department Records

Arrangement of Materials:

- I. General Files, 1971-1983
- II. Study Files, 1976-1981
- III. Organizational Files, 1972-1982
 1. California Indian Education Association (CIEA) Files, 1972-1978
 2. California Postsecondary Education Commission Files, 1975-1979
 3. Coalition of Indian-Controlled Schools Board Files, 1976-1977
 4. Commission for Teacher Preparation and Licensing Files, 1971-1973
 5. Indian Policy Review Commission Files, 1976
 6. National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE) Files, 1979-1982
 7. National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Files, 1978-1981
 8. San Diego City Schools Community Advisory Committee Files, 1978

Scope and Contents

The *John C. Rouillard Papers* document Rouillard's tenure with the American Indian Studies department, as well as his participation in and involvement with numerous Native American organizations, councils, and committees. The collection includes correspondence, lectures, notes, memorandums, reports, studies, conference material, and proposals. The majority of the material focuses on Rouillard's membership in various organizations regarding Native American education. The collection is divided into three series: [General Files](#), [Study Files](#), and [Organizational Files](#).

The [General Files](#) (1971-1983) document Rouillard's academic interests and activities while serving as chair of the American Indian Studies department. Of particular interest are the lectures in Rouillard's "personal file" that include information about the creation of the department, as well as Rouillard's philosophies and techniques pertaining to Native American education. Arranged alphabetically, this series also includes correspondence, conference materials, memorandums, notes, manuscripts, and reports.

The [Study Files](#) (1976-1981) document Rouillard's participation in several studies related to his work and the development of Native American education. These studies include correspondence, court briefs, minutes, agendas, hearings, reports, memorandums, and position papers. This series is arranged alphabetically by study title. Of particular interest are the disease and health care statistics for Native Americans in the feasibility study for a Native American medical school.

The [Organizational Files](#) (1972-1982) document Rouillard's membership and activities with various Native American-related organizations, commissions, councils, and boards during the 1970s. The series includes meeting minutes, reports, correspondence, and memorandums. The series is divided into eight sub-series: [California Indian Education Association Files](#) (1972-1978), the [California Postsecondary Education Commission Files](#) (1975-1979), the [Coalition of Indian-Controlled Schools Board Files](#) (1976-1977), the [Commission for Teacher Preparation and Licensing Files](#) (1971-1973), the [Indian Policy Review Commission Files](#) (1976), the [National Advisory Council on Indian Education Files](#) (1979-1982), the [National Indian Education Association Files](#) (1979-1981), and the [San Diego City Schools Community Advisory Committee Files](#) (1978). Of note are the Community Advisory Committee files, which include cultural elementary school lesson plans dating from the late 1970s. Committee members were tasked with editing, commenting, and making recommendations for these plans.

General Files

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National Indian Education Association (NIEA)

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