Walter E. Hager was born on the Hager family homestead north of Bloomington, Franklin County, Nebraska. He owned and operated the Hager Candy Company, Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska, from 1907 until 1927 when fire destroyed the company’s building. In 1917, Hager was elected to a 2-year term as State Senator in the Nebraska Legislature representing Adams and Clay Counties. In 1931, Governor Charles Bryan appointed him to the Board of Control. He was also Secretary of the Democratic State Committee in the 1930’s. Hager died in 1974 in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he had lived for the past 43 years.

This collection consists of one box of political material collected by Walter E. Hager and arranged in five series: 1) Correspondence, 1933-1936; 2) Political Figures and Issues, ca.1928-1940; 3) Magazines, 1930-1931; 4) Newspaper Clippings, and 5) Miscellaneous.

This material relates to political figures and political issues during Walter E. Hager’s involvement in national and state politics in Nebraska.

The correspondence of Series 1 consists of two letters received by Walter E. Hager. One dealing with the William Jennings Bryan Memorial and the other discusses the Democratic Party Conventions to be held in 1936. A short note from Governor and Mrs. Charles W. Bryan is also included.

Series 2 contains material about political figures and issues. The William Jennings Bryan material, Folder 1, consists of programs for anniversary celebrations of Bryan’s birth. Folder 2’s Charles W. Bryan material includes Bryan’s Legislative Program for 1938, Budget Messages, 1931-1935, Campaign fliers, and a poster in oversize drawer 5, advertising the sale of “Every Horse He (Bryan) Owns.”

Gubernatorial candidate Terry Carpenter’s campaign material is in Folder 3. The Democratic Political Material in Folder 4 consists of campaign fliers for various candidates and pamphlet of the 1940 Democratic Platform. A sign supporting Franklin D. Roosevelt and a cartoon attacking the Republican National Party are in Oversize Drawer 5. Folder 5 deals with Pension Bills, including an initiative petition for The Old Age and Blind Pension Amendment, 1940 and bulletins. A newspaper, The Nebraska Old Age Pension Advocate, 1938 is oversize.

Two issues of Nebraska’s Own Magazine, 1930 and 1931, comprise Series 3.
The newspaper clippings of Series 4 are primarily about old age pensions and other political issues.

Miscellaneous material of Series 5 includes lists of members of the Senate and House of Representatives in Nebraska, 1933-1937, a copy of the by-laws of Box Butte County Poultry Association in Alliance, Nebraska, and an obituary for Walter Hager.

Note: Photographs of the Nebraska State Penitentiary have been transferred to the photograph collections. Duplicates of campaign posters for Franklin D. Roosevelt and Charles W. Bryan have been transferred to the museum.

DESCRIPTION

Series 1 - Correspondence, 1933-1936
Box 1
Folder

1. 1933-1936

Series 2 - Political figures and issues, ca. 1928-1940

2. William Jennings Bryan Birthday celebration programs, 1932-1942
3. Charles W. Bryan - Includes his Legislature Program for 1938, Budget Messages, Political Campaign Fliers (Horse Sale Advertisement in oversize)
4. Terry Carpenter - Material for his Gubernatorial Campaign
5. Democrat Political Material - Includes campaign fliers for various candidates and 1940 Democratic Platform. (Sign for Franklin D. Roosevelt and cartoon attacking Republican National Party in oversize)
6. Pension Bill - Includes petition for The Old Age and Blind Pensions Amendment, 1940 (Newspaper, The Nebraska Old Age Pension Advocate, 1938, is in oversize)

Series 3 - Magazines

7. Nebraska’s Own Magazine, 1930
8. Nebraska’s Own Magazine, 1931

Series 4 - Newspaper clippings

9. Clippings about Pension Bills and other political

Series 5 - Miscellaneous

10. Includes lists of Members of the Senate and House of Representatives in Nebraska, 1933-1937, a copy of the by-laws of the Box Butte County Poultry Association in Alliance, Nebraska, and an obituary for Walter E. Hager.
Added Entries:

Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925
Bryan, Charles Wayland, 1867-1945
Carpenter, Terry McGovern, 1900-1978
Democratic Party -- Nebraska
Politics -- Nebraska
Pensions

AIF  12-12-1979
Revised TMM  01/20/2016