

Harry P. Cain

Ms 55

Biography

Harry Pulliam Cain was born on January 10, 1906 in Nashville, Tennessee. He attended Hill Military Academy in Portland, Oregon and the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. In 1929, he returned to Tacoma and worked in the trust department of the Bank of California. Throughout his tenure at the bank, he was involved with the Washington Banker's Association. He resigned from the bank in 1939 to campaign for mayor. Prior to his campaign, Cain managed the 1939 Washington State Golden Jubilee in Tacoma.

In 1940, at age 34, Cain was elected mayor, the youngest in Tacoma history. During his time as mayor, he focused on strengthening his office because under the commissioner form of government the mayor was often seen as a figurehead. Cain strengthened Tacoma's cooperation with the military and took charge of the public welfare, health and sanitation departments of the city. Reelected in 1942, Cain served only a year of his four years because the military drafted him. Cain served with the 18th Airborne Division and rose to the rank of colonel.

After returning in 1945, Cain announced he would not run for reelection in 1946. He was awaiting word from the state Republicans as to his status as their candidate for the Senate. In 1946, he won the Senate seat. He served one term and retired in Miami, Florida where he died in 1979.

Scope and Content:

The Harry P. Cain papers cover the years 1933-1952 and are fragmentary. The papers are divided into nine series: Correspondence, Banking, Mayor, Radio Broadcasts, Senator, Speech Materials, Golfing, Photographs, and Miscellaneous Items.

Correspondence, 1933-1939 describes the courtship of his wife and his continued activity with his alma mater in Sewanee, Tennessee.

The Banking records, 1937-1939, are arranged alphabetically. The records include correspondence, news clippings, and memorandums. This series describes Cain's routine activities within the banking community such as the Pacific Northwest Banking School and the Washington Banker's Association.

Mayoral records, 1939-1946, include correspondence, news releases, committee lists, and speeches. The records reflect some of Cain's interests.

Radio Broadcasts are copies of the speeches given by Cain over the radio from 1940-1946 with special broadcasts occurring during the war.

The Senatorial records are limited in content, and date from 1946-1952. Included are voting records, campaign materials, and speeches.

Speech Materials are materials collected by Cain, 1936-1946 for speeches.

Golfing records, 1933-1939, focus on Cain's involvement in the local golf association. Records include correspondence, news clippings, and bulletins.

Photographs are photographs from different periods in Cain's life.

Miscellaneous Items are those records that do not focus upon his political or banking careers. Some of the records include correspondence from the Washington State Golden Jubilee, tax returns, and awards.

Dates: 1933-1952 (bulk 1939-1946)

Restrictions: none.

Volume: 2 linear feet.

Accession number: 1955.47

Record Series 1: Correspondence.

Box 1: Correspondence, 1933-1939.

Folder

- 1 **Correspondence, El, 3 May 1933 - 7 August 1933.**
Note: Correspondence from his future wife. El was the signature on each of the letters.
- 2 **Correspondence, University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, 1935-1939.**

Records Series 2: Banking.

Box 1: Banking, 1937-1939.

Folder:

- 3 **Banking, Bank of California.**
- 4 **Banking, Bank of California, Correspondence, 20 January - 30 December 1937.**
- 5 **Banking, Bank of California, Correspondence, 4 January - 30 June 1938.**
- 6 **Banking, Bank of California, Correspondence, 6 July - 19 December 1938.**
- 7 **Banking, Bank of California, Correspondence, 6 January - 11 May 1939.**
- 8 **Banking, Bank of California, Correspondence, 31 August - 12 December 1939.**
- 9 **Banking, Bank of California, Memorandum.**
- 10 **Banking, News Clippings.**
- 11 **Banking, Pacific Northwest Banking School**
- 12 **Banking, Washington Banker's Association, J.H. Barrigan, Group # I.**
- 13 **Banking, Washington Banker's Association, R.A. Barth, Group # II.**
- 14 **Banking, Washington Banker's Association, J.W. Brislawn.**
- 15 **Banking, Washington Banker's Association, Clark County, Dwight E. Gard.**
- 16 **Banking, Washington Banker's Association, L.M. Cleek, Group # IV.**

- 17 **Banking, Washington Banker's Association, E.A. Cook, Group # III.**
- 18 **Banking, Washington Banker's Association, J.H. Dietzen, Group # V.**
- 19 **Banking, Washington Banker's Association, F.C. Forrest.**
- 20 **Banking, Washington Banker's Association, Grays Harbor County, W.M. Hatch.**
- 21 **Banking, Washington Banker's Association, Oliver H. Haskell.**
- 22 **Banking, Washington Banker's Association, Dick Hill, American Banking Association Secretary.**
- 23 **Banking, Washington Banker's Association, William Kimple.**
- 24 **Banking, Washington Banker's Association, Robert M. Lee.**
- 25 **Banking, Washington Banker's Association, Lewis County, E. Lee Dunlap.**
- 26 **Banking, Washington Banker's Association, Pacific County, Frank H. Jenne.**
- 27 **Banking, Washington Banker's Association, Jerry Robinson.**
- 28 **Banking, Washington Banker's Association, Louis Weinel.**

Record Series 3: Mayor.

Box 1: Mayor, 1939-1946.

Folder:

- 29 **Mayor, Correspondence, 4 October - 20 December 1939.**
- 30 **Mayor, Correspondence, 2 January - 22 February 1940.**
- 31 **Mayor, Correspondence, 22 February 1940 - 22 June 1940.**
- 32 **Mayor, Correspondence, 9 July 1940 - 28 December 1940.**
- 33 **Mayor, Correspondence, 1 January 1941 - 11 February 1944.**
- 34 **Mayor, Correspondence, 18 January 1946 - 11 June 1946.**
- 35 **Mayor, Memoranda, 5 December 1939 - 27 April 1943.**
- 36 **Mayor, News Releases, 9 May 1940 - 12 April 1946.**
- 37 **Mayor, News Clippings, 1940-1945.**
- 38 **Mayor, Christmas Greetings, 1945.**
- 39 **Mayor, Budget Expenditures, 1941-1942.**
- 40 **Mayor, Campaign Spot Announcements, 1940.**

- 41 **Mayor, Committees, Meetings, Dinners.**
- 42 **Mayor, Election Results, 1940.**
- 43 **Mayor, History of Traffic Tickets, 1944-1945.**
- 44 **Mayor, Ledger, 20 January 1940 - 25 January 1943.**
Note: These are entries by Cain about his duties as mayor and his interaction with the council.
- 45 **Mayor, Reports.**
- 46 **Mayor, Speech File, p.1.**
Special Items:
 One of last public appearances as Mayor in 1946.
 Launching of 'Cape Alva' Shipyards, August 1, 1940.
 Presentation of picture of Col. Wm. C. McChord, McChord Field, April 4, 1941.
 Unity in Law Enforcement Conference, September 14, 1941.
 Launching of the Frederick Funston, September 27, 1941.
 Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet, December 29, 1941.
 Washington Newspaper Publisher's Association Luncheon, June 22, 1942.
 Western Boat Building Company Launching ceremonies, February 21, 1942.
 Liberty Center, October 6, 1942.
 'One's Individual Responsibility', American Municipal Association, October 21, 1942.
 'I am An American and New Citizens Program,' Jason Lee, May, 14, 1943.
- 47 **Mayor, Speech File, p.2.**
Special Items:
 Boy Scout banquet, Dedication ceremony, January 16, 1946.
 Tacoma Chamber of Commerce Forum Political Speech, undated (1940?).
 Campaign speech, undated (1940?).
 Announcement of not seeking reelection, undated, (1946?).
 'Democracy—Education's Opportunity,' Washington Education Association Convention, undated.
 Welcome to Pacific Northwest Circulation Managers Annual Convention, by the acting mayor, May 17, 1943.
 'Tacoma Today' for the Girl Reserves, undated.
 Liberty Center, undated.
 Dedication of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, undated.
 Campaign Speech, March 11, 1940.
 Tacoma's 50th Anniversary script, undated.
- 48 **Mayor, Tacoma USO Publicity Scrapbook, 1945.**
- 49 **Mayor, United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, 1944-1945, p.1.**
- 50 **Mayor, United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, 1944-1945, p.2.**

Box 2: Mayor, 1939-1946.

Folder:

- 1 **Mayor, 20 year Plan for Tacoma, p1.**

Note: Folder one and two contain the responses to a letter sent by Cain to various community organizations. The question was “What are the ten most important things for Tacoma to improve?” The responses are arranged alphabetically by organization and the final tally in folder two.

2 Mayor, 20 year Plan for Tacoma, p.2.

Record Series 4: Radio Broadcasts.

Box 2: Radio Broadcasts, 1940-1946.

Folder:

- 3 Radio Broadcasts, 18 November 1940 - 31 March 1940.
- 4 Radio Broadcasts, 7 April 1941 - 16 June 1941.
- 5 Radio Broadcasts, 7 July 1941 - 29 September 1941.
- 6 Radio Broadcasts, 6 October 1941 - 29 December 1941.
- 7 Radio Broadcasts, 5 January 1942 - 23 March 1942.
- 8 Radio Broadcasts, 6 April 1942 - 26 June 1942.
- 9 Radio Broadcasts, 13 July 1942 - 28 September 1942.
- 10 Radio Broadcasts, 5 October 1942 - 28 December 1942.
- 11 Radio Broadcasts, 11 January 1943 - 22 February 1943.
- 12 Radio Broadcasts, 1 March 1943 - 10 May 1943.
- 13 Radio Broadcasts, 3 December 1945 - 31 December 1945.
- 14 Radio Broadcasts, 8 January 1946 - 28 March 1946.
- 15 Radio Broadcasts, 3 April 1946 - 29 May 1946.
- 16 Radio Broadcasts, Special Wartime Broadcasts, 7 December 1941 - 26 March 1943.
- 17 Radio Broadcasts, Miscellaneous Radio Speeches, 7 January 1941 - 18 November 1941.
- 18 Radio Broadcasts, Miscellaneous Radio Speeches, 3 February 1942 - 15 December 1942.
- 19 Radio Broadcasts, Miscellaneous Radio Speeches, 20 November 1945 - 20 December 1945.
- 20 Radio Broadcasts, Miscellaneous Radio Speeches, 2 February 1946 - 5 June 1946.
- 21 Radio Broadcasts, Miscellaneous Radio Notes, 5 December 1940 - 21 January 1941.
- 22 Radio Broadcasts, Miscellaneous Radio Notes, 16 February 1941 - 15 December 1941.

Record Series 5: Senator.

Box 2: Senator, 1946-1952.**Folder:**

- 23 **Campaign Material.**
- 24 **The Chairman's Letter, December 1945 - 1 June 1946.**
- 25 **News Clippings, 1946.**
- 26 **Reports and Statements, 23 May 1947 - 17 June 1948.**
 Special Item:
 'News from Washington to the State of Washington.'
- 27 **Senator, Speeches.**
 Special Items:
 'The Veteran's Bureau,' October 24, 1946.
 'The Future,' undated.
 Seventy Air Group, May 24, 1948.
- 28 **Senator, Voting Record, 1951-1952.**

Record Series 6: Speech Materials.**Box 2: Speech Materials, 1936-1946.****Folder:**

- 29 **Speech Materials, 1936-1946, p. 1.**
- 30 **Speech Materials, 1936-1946, p. 2.**
- 31 **Speech Materials, 1936-1946, p. 3.**
- 32 **Speech Materials, 1936-1946, p. 4.**
- 33 **Speech Materials, 1936-1946, p. 5.**
- 34 **Speech Materials, 1936-1946, p. 6.**

Record Series 7: Golfing.**Box 2: Golfing, 1933-1939.****Folder:**

- 35 **Golfing, Correspondence, 7 August 1933 - 4 December 1939.**
- 36 **Golfing, Country Club Bulletins, 11 June 1935 - August 1935.**
- 37 **Golfing, Pacific Northwest Golf Association Tournament Correspondence.**
- 38 **Golfing, Pacific Northwest Golf Association Tournament.**
 Note: Cain was the coordinator for this tournament in 1939.

Record Series 8: Photographs.**Box 2: Photographs.**

Folder:

- 39 **Photographs, Harry P. Cain.**
- 40 **Photographs, Army Personal.**
Note: These are photographs of Cain in uniform.
- 41 **Photographs, Baseball Team.**
Note: Photographs from his college team.
- 42 **Photographs, Basketball Team.**
Note: Photographs from his college team.
- 43 **Photographs, Earl of Athlane, Governor General of Canada and H.R.H. Princess Alice, 1943.**
- 44 **Photographs, Ft. Lewis 2nd Infantry Division, Army Men and Wives.**
- 45 **Photographs, Ft. Lewis Cake Cutting.**
Note: Photograph of Mrs. Cain wearing 'The Hat.'
- 46 **Photographs, Football Team.**
Note: Photographs from his college team.
- 47 **Photographs, KMO Broadcasting Army and Air Force Band.**
- 48 **Photographs, Letter, Dinner Speech.**
- 49 **Photographs, Military Photograph.**
- 50 **Photographs, Model Plans.**
Note: One of the models is of Lincoln High School.
- 51 **Photographs, Navy Ship.**
- 52 **Photographs, Radio KMO, Army and Navy Program.**
- 53 **Photographs, 'Rajah of Madia.'**
- 54 **Photographs, Religious Literature Rack.**
- 55 **Photographs, USO.**
Note: The originals have been transferred to the photo collection.

Record Series 9: Miscellaneous Items .**Box 2: Miscellaneous Items.****Folder:**

- 56 **Miscellaneous Items.**
Special Items:
Safe deposit box inventory.
Debtor's petitions for Melvin G. Tennent and Agnes E. Tennent.
Power of Attorney.
Tacoma Department of Utilities Information book, 1938-1939.
1939-1940 Official Traffic Code.

- 57 **Miscellaneous Items, Initiative #130, 1938.**
Note: Cain spoke in favor of this initiative which would have legally prevented the occurrence of strikes. Included in the folder is the text of the initiative.
- 58 **Miscellaneous Items, Personal Forms.**
Special Items:
Tax Returns, 1943-1945.
Personnel Placement form.
- 59 **Miscellaneous Items, Programs and Awards.**
Special Items:
Award of Merit, Construction Battalions, U.S. Navy, November 30, 1942.
U.S. Treasury Department citation for war savings programs, December 7, 1942.
- 60 **Miscellaneous Items, Washington State Golden Jubilee, 1939.**
Note: Cain was the general chairman of this celebration.