

**Guide to the Senator Robert Bailey Papers
1895-1992, Bulk 1953-1977
Collection Number: USWaOArAR11-11**



AR 255-1-80, Susan Parish Collection

**Office of the Secretary of State
Division of Archives and Records Management
1129 Washington Street SE
PO Box 40238
Olympia, WA 98504-0238
(360) 586-1492
Email: research@secstate.wa.gov
<http://www.secstate.wa.gov/archives>**



Finding Aid written by Diana Bradrick, Scott Sackett, Jason Ticknor, and Mark Kifowit, 2006.

Finding aid created in accordance with *Describing Archives: A Content Standard* and Washington State Archives internal standards.

WASHINGTON STATE ARCHIVES

The Washington State Archives, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State, was created in 1909 and currently operates under the 1957 Public Records Law. Under this law, the Archives is mandated “to centralize the archives of the State of Washington, to make them available for reference and scholarship, and to ensure their proper preservation” (RCW 40.14.020). The Archives provides a vital account of public government in Washington State, beginning with the establishment of Washington Territory in 1853 and continuing to the present. It collects, manages, and preserves records of historical and legal importance. Included among its collections are the records of each governor, the Legislature, the Supreme Court, state agencies, boards, and commissions

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Washington State Archives

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OVERVIEW OF COLLECTION

Collection Number: USWaOArAR11-11

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Creator: Bailey, Robert C., 1918-2005

Title: Guide to the Senator Robert Bailey Papers

Dates: 1895-1992, Bulk 1953-1977

Extent: 26 boxes (26 cubic feet)

Summary:

This collection documents the activities of Robert Bailey who served his country in a variety of capacities from the late 1950s to the early 1980s. He served terms as Pacific County Clerk, State Representative, State Senator, and was appointed Chairperson of the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission and manager of the Port of Willapa Harbor. The Bailey Papers primarily document his service as a state legislator for the Third Congressional District in Pacific and Grays Harbor Counties. The records are arranged into four series. Subject and Correspondence Files, the bulk of the collection, includes material from both his personal and professional life relating to bills and issues he supported. The Scrapbook series contain letters, invitations, photographs, newspaper clippings, and artifacts documenting many of Bailey's activities from 1953 to 1992. The third series, Campaign Materials, span the years 1956 to 1974. Bailey kept a variety of items related to campaign elections in Washington State. These include stickers, matchbooks, leaflets, and newsletters from candidates for Governor, Senator, Representative, and other elected positions. Finally, the Publication series is composed of materials Bailey collected for personal reasons.

Language: Materials entirely in English

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- Access and Use:** The collection is open for research use
- Reproduction and Use:** Material in this collection is in the Public Domain
- Citation:** Washington State Archives, State Government Archives. Series AR11-1-11. State Senator Robert C. Bailey Papers.
- Custodial History:** The records were in the custody of Robert Bailey until their transfer to the State Archives.
- Acquisition:** This collection was accessioned into the Archives on three different occasions. The first nine cubic feet of correspondence / subject files were received in 1977. The cubic foot of campaign materials was acquired in 1984. Finally, the remaining 12 cubic feet of correspondence / subject files and five cubic feet of scrapbooks were donated in 1997.
- Processing Note:** Over the course of five years, several archivists have worked on the arrangement and description of this collection. Diana Bradrick, Deputy State Archivist, started in 2001, and Western Washington University interns, Scott Sackett and Jason Ticknor, continued the project over the following years. Finally, Mark Kifowit completed the guide in 2006. The records were kept in their entirety with a few exceptions. Duplicate documents were destroyed, as were those containing information of little value, such as scratch paper with telephone numbers and illegible scribbles.
- Future Additions:** No further accruals are expected.



Bailey's Oath as Senator
Robert C. Bailey Papers, Scrapbooks, Volume 24 #1, Box 25

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Biographical Note:

The Robert Bailey Papers offer a window into the life of a man who participated actively in civic leadership from the late 1950s to the early 1980s. Bailey served his country in a variety of capacities, from his service in the US Navy, to terms as Pacific County Clerk, State Senator, and State Representative, and finally to his appointments as Chairperson of the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission and manager of the Port of Willapa Harbor. He also actively participated in civic organizations such as the Freemasons, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Boy Scouts Council, and the Fraternal Order of Elks. The Bailey Papers primarily document his service as a state legislator for the Third Congressional District in Pacific and Grays Harbor Counties. Bailey spent almost half of his life serving in state government, assisting a multitude of constituents who frequently wrote to him about topics of concern or interest.

Bailey was born the son of Arthur and Asenath, in Raymond, Washington, on May 31, 1918. He grew up in Pacific County and graduated from South Bend High School in June 1935. During school, he worked nights as a printer's apprentice, until 1939, reaching the rank of journeyman printer. In October 1941, Bailey volunteered for US naval service and served aboard the *USS Fond Du Lac*, an attack transport that carried supplies, equipment, and personnel to engagements in the Pacific Theatre. Bailey was honorably discharged as a Chief Petty Officer in 1946.

After the war, Bailey returned home and was elected Pacific County Clerk in 1947. During his term as Clerk, Bailey and his father purchased the Raymond weekly newspaper, *The Advertiser*. In 1951, instead of seeking re-election as County Clerk, Bailey decided to run for the "part-time" job of State Representative, enabling him to continue his career and passion in journalism. By this time, he sold *The Advertiser* and worked as a linotype operator for *The Aberdeen Daily World*. Bailey served as a Representative until he was elected State Senator in 1957. In 1966, Bailey resigned from the paper and became the Western Administrative Assistant to Congresswoman Julia Butler Hansen. While in the Senate, Bailey held the position of Majority Caucus Chairman for eighteen years. Upon the retirement of Hansen in 1974, Bailey campaigned for Congress but lost in the Democratic primary to Don Bonker. While still a Senator, Bailey was appointed manager of the Port of Willapa Harbor in 1975 and chairperson of the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission in 1977. In addition, Bailey was among the first members to be selected to participate in the Washington State Oral History program. After decades of public service, Bailey retired in 1983.

About one year after his wife, Lee, passed away, Robert Bailey died in his sleep of natural causes at the age of 87 on August 14, 2005. They were married for 51 years. Bailey spent over forty years of his life participating in public service representing southwest Washington and is credited with keeping the Senate's majority caucus together during difficult times and power struggles. He urged people to "take part and do things in their own communities - be a part of wherever they are."

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

Scope and Content:

This collection documents the activities of Robert C. Bailey. The majority of Bailey's Papers are from his tenure as a legislator from 1950-1977 in the Pacific and Grays Harbor Counties. However, there are a few interesting newspaper articles from the late 19th and 20th centuries and other documents outside this range. The records are arranged into four series. The Subject and Correspondence Files primarily illuminate the concerns of voters from the late 1950s to the late 1970s. Citizens of the State of Washington, from students to seniors, wrote to him about issues of concern. Bailey took the time to answer almost all of those who wrote him. The second series, Scrapbooks, contains invitations, photographs, artifacts, newspaper clippings, and letters from a multitude of functions he attended or was associated with. Campaign Materials, the third series, contains flyers, matchbooks, bumper stickers, leaflets, buttons, and stickers from many Washington State Governors, Senators, Representatives, and other elected officials. Finally, the Publications series contains a Legislative report on the history of the Transportation Committee, newspapers, and magazine articles Bailey collected.

Arrangement:

The records are arranged in four series. The contents of each series are arranged alphabetically, with the exception of the Campaign Materials. This particular series of records is arranged chronologically for dated materials and then alphabetically by candidate for the non-dated. In addition, the Subject and Correspondence series arrangement scheme was imposed during processing in the absence of a usable original order. The series arrangement of the records is as follows:

- Series 1, Subject and Correspondence Files, 1937-1977
- Series 2, Scrapbooks, 1953-1992
- Series 3, Campaign Materials, 1956-1974
- Series 4, Publications, 1895, 1914, 1965-1968, and 1983

Access Points:

- Subjects:**
- Unemployment
 - Labor
 - Environment
 - Schools
 - Beach
 - Erosion Washington (State)
 - Taxes
 - Transportation

Publication Note: Bridgman, Dianne. 1996. *Robert C. Bailey: An Oral History*. Olympia: Washington State Oral History Program, Office of the Secretary of State.

Related Material: Secretary of State Legislative Oral History Program Transcripts, Utilities and Transportation Commission Reports, Senate Democratic Caucus Press Releases, Senate Administration Administrator Files, and Senate Committee Services Files of Memos, Resolutions, Speeches, and News Clippings.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

1. Subject and Correspondence Files

The subject and correspondence files are primarily from 1950-1977, though there are several letters dating from the 1940s, and one dating from 1937. Those early letters are found in the file folder titled "Bailey Family." The correspondence of Senator Robert Bailey includes material from both his personal and professional life. Much of the correspondence relates to bills and issues he supported. His constituents wrote to him often, urging him to support or oppose bills they considered relevant. Bailey regularly typed to people from his districts about these subjects of concern or just to find out what people were doing. This series covers a wide range of subjects, and the extent of it is twenty cubic feet.

Box 1	File Name	Date Range
	Aberdeen	1967-1977
	Abortion	1968-1974
	Accountants	1969-1975
	Accreted Land	1951-1975
	American Civil Liberties Union	1973-1975
	Advocacy	1957-1977
	Aeronautics	1970-1971
	Aging	1970-1973
	Agriculture	1960-1977
	Air Pollution	1967-1975
	Airlines	1970-1975
	Airports	1969-1970
	Alaska Earthquake	1964
	Alcohol	1965-1977
	Alcoholism	1957-1975
	Allied Daily Newspapers	1964-1970
	Alternatives for Washington	1974-1976
	Aluminum	1967-1975
	Ambulances	1961-1977
	Animal Welfare	1965-1976
	Anniversaries and Birthdays	1962-1976
	Apologies	1965-1977
	Appelo, Carleton	1966-1971
	Arboretum	1972
	Archaeology	1975
	Architects	1959-1977
	Army Corps of Engineers	1966-1968
	Arts	1967-1977

Box 1	File Name	Date Range
	Asian American Affairs	1974
	Assessors	1967-1973
	Association of Washington Industries	1964-1977
	Athletics	1975-1976
	Attorney General	1956-1977
	Attorneys	1959-1977
	Atkinson, George	1955-1959
	Auditors	1961-1976
	Autos	1963-1976
	Bailey Family	1937-1977
	Banks	1958-1976
	Barbers	1967-1977
	Basic Education	1977-1977

Box 2

Beach Driving	1967-1977
Beaches	1957-1977
Bicentennial	1975-1976
Billboards	1961-1969
Black Sands	1963-1971
Blind and Deaf	1965-1977
Boats	1959-1977
Boeing	1970-1971
Boilers	1959-1976
Bond Legislation	1965
Bonker, Don	1973-1976
Book and Letter Clippings	1961-1977
Boundary Commission	1962
Bowden Scholarship	1967-1973
Boy Scouts	1957-1975



Eagle Scout Invitation
 Robert C. Bailey Papers, Subject and Correspondence, Boy Scouts, Box 2