Summary

Size: 8 linear feet

Geographic Locations: Louisiana


Summary: Records primarily concerned with Francis C. Grevemberg's career as Superintendent of the Louisiana State Police during the administration of Governor Robert Kennon (1952-1956) and his unsuccessful candidacy for governor in 1956 and 1960; mainly correspondence, clippings, photographs, tape recordings, and miscellany.

Related Collections: Grevemberg/Carpenter Collection (Mss 242); Francis C. Grevemberg Collection, Addendum 1 (Mss 299)
A descendant of an old Louisiana family, Francis C. Grevemberg was born June 4, 1914. His father's business failure forced him to leave school and go to work for Security Bankers Management Corporation. His military career began with his enlistment in 1932 in a National Guard cavalry unit. Thereafter he rose through the non-commissioned ranks until January 1941 when he was commissioned as a lieutenant. Shipped overseas to England in 1942 with an antiaircraft unit, he saw combat in North Africa in November 1942, in Sicily in 1943, and at Anzio, Italy in 1944. Later he took part in the invasion of Southern France and in the drive up through France and into Germany near Alsace-Lorraine. By the end of World War II he had risen to the rank of colonel.

Following the war Grevemberg was employed in the sale of real estate, insurance, stocks and bonds, and in the building of homes on speculation. Appointed Superintendent of the State Police in 1952 by Governor Robert Kennon, Grevemberg's strict enforcement of state laws, in particular those prohibiting gambling, prostitution, and narcotics trafficking, quickly earned him a reputation for honesty.

In 1956 Grevemberg ran as a Democrat for governor and lost. Four years later, after switching his registration from Democrat to Republican in 1959, he again ran unsuccessfully for governor.

List of Series

Series I. Artifacts
Series II. Clippings
Series III. Correspondence
Series IV. General Miscellany
Series V. Serials
Series VI. Speeches and Interviews
Series VII. Subject Files

Container List

Series I. Artifacts

211-20 Political campaign buttons, lottery tickets, marked playing cards, prints, and stationery with French Quarter scenes drawn by Grevenberg.

Series II. Clippings


211-22 unidentified source, undated; 1930 - 1953
211-23 unidentified source, 1954-1960
211-24 identified source, undated
211-25 identified source, 1941-1953
211-26 identified source, 1954
211-27 identified source, 1954
211-28 identified source, 1955
211-29 identified source, 1955
211-30 identified source, 1955
211-31 identified source, 1955

Series III. Correspondence

Correspondence to and from Grevenberg and others; includes attachments (undated; 1948; 1951-1958). For additional correspondence, see Subject files.

211-1 undated; 1948; May 9, 1951 - April 14, 1953
April 15, 1953 - January 11, 1954
January 13 - October 6, 1954
October 11, 1954 - September 14, 1955
September 15, 1955 - February 15, 1958

Series IV. General Miscellany

Resolutions and certificates of appreciation (1952-1954).
Affidavits and typescript statements (undated; 1950; 1952; 1953; 1955).
Transcripts and "Audograph" recordings of conversations (undated; 1954; 1955).
Audio cassette copy of aforelisted "Audograph" recordings (produced by Media Resources Department, University of New Orleans, 1990).
State Police arrest reports; personnel statistics; raid procedures with related "wanted" lists; traffic enforcement handbills, memoranda, pamphlets, statistics; related miscellany (undated; 1952-1955).
Documents from state election campaigns of 1956 and 1960, including affidavit of candidacy, press releases, lists of campaign officials and supporters, appearance schedules, handbills and stickers, platform pamphlet.
U.S. War Departments travel voucher (1945).
Photographs of Colonel Grevemberg and state police activities, including views of slot machine destruction, traffic law enforcement, raids against gambling, narcotic and prostitution activities (undated; 1952-1955; 1957; 1959; 1960; 1962).

Index Terms

Elections—Louisiana
Grevemberg, Francis C.
Louisiana State Police
Louisiana—Politics and government