

MS-409, Congressman Edward G. Breen Collection

Collection Number: MS-409

Title: Congressman Edward G. Breen Collection

Dates: 1908-2013 (Bulk 1940-1950)

Creator: Breen, Edward G., 1908-1991

Summary/Abstract:

This collection contains the papers of Edward G. Breen, a Dayton, Ohio native and Democratic Congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives for the third district of Ohio from 1949-1951. Before being elected to Congress, Breen served in the Air Force during World War II, he then served as mayor for the city of Dayton upon his return home from war. After serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, Breen was elected to the Board of Commissioners for Montgomery County. Three scrapbooks of newspaper clippings from the 1940s document Breen's media coverage as hotel manager, Dayton mayor, and Montgomery County Commissioner. A fourth scrapbook contains materials relating to the family life of the Breen's, including wedding photos, newspaper clippings, and family photos. The collection also contains a variety of memorabilia including personal photographs, awards, certificates, posters and a Silent Butler.

Quantity/Physical Description: 7.75 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-000, (937) 775-2092.

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, date, box #, folder #], MS-409, Congressman Edward G. Breen Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Acquisition: Donated by Edward F. Breen, son of Congressman Breen, on April 9, 2009.

Accruals: Further accruals are expected.

Related Material:

MS-2 James Middleton Cox Papers
MS-278 Frank Krebs Collection
Ms-280 Marguerite Parrish Papers
MS-341 Tony Hall Papers
MS-419 Congressman David Hobson Collection
MS-458 Dayton Daily News Archives

Publication Note:

Breen, Focke Edward. *Lucky Eddie: The Life, Times and Family of Former U.S. Congressman, Edward G. Breen*. The Local History Company: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2008.

Processing Information:

The scrapbooks were in a much deteriorated condition, with the attached articles and other materials falling out continuously. As a result, every article was photocopied and returned to as close to its original place in the scrapbooks as possible. The fourth scrapbook was inter-leaved with acid-free paper to protect each page.

Processed by: David P. Brownell, winter 2010.

Additions processed by Lynda Phillips Kachurek, February 2012.

Additions processed by Patricia A. McEldowney, May 2012.

Additions processed by Adam Becker, November 2014.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged in 2 series:

Series I: Personal Papers, 1902-2013

Series II: Scrapbooks and Memorabilia, 1908-1984

Biographical Note:

Edward G. Breen was born on June 10, 1908, to John and Katherine Breen. His father was manager of the Philips House Hotel in downtown Dayton, Ohio where Edward was born in one of the rooms there. Edward earned a bachelor's degree from University of Dayton, then went on to continue his studies at the Ohio State University. He returned to Dayton to manage the Hilton Biltmore and later the Van Cleves Hotel.

During World War II Breen served in the Air Force at the rank of Major, seeing active duty in North Africa and Italy. After release from active duty, he was awarded the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Infantry Reserve. Upon his return from the war, he was elected to the Dayton City Board of Commissioners in 1945, who appointed him Mayor.

He resigned his position in 1948 in order to be nominated by the Democratic Party for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was elected over incumbent Raymond Burke, a Republican, and then in 1950, re-won his seat against the Republican challenger Paul Schenck. However, health issues forced Breen to resign from office on October 1, 1951.

After his return to Dayton, Breen worked in real estate and insurance until re-entering public service as a member of the Board of Commissioners for Montgomery County, Ohio. He served from 1955-1960. During this time he also got married to Constance Focke on November 10, 1956. Edward and Constance had three children, one of whom, Edward F. Breen, wrote a biography of his father, *Lucky Eddie*, and donated the collection to Wright State. Edward G. Breen passed away on May 8, 1991 in Dayton.

Scope and Content:

This collection documents Edward G. Breen as a U.S. Congressman in the House of Representatives from 1949-1951, his service as the mayor of Dayton, Ohio and on the Board of Commissioners for Montgomery County. This collection includes newspaper clippings, photographs, awards, certificates, posters and other memorabilia. The materials in the collection have been divided into two series.

Series I, Personal Papers, contains all personal documents and materials related to Edward G. Breen. This includes a collection of photographs, some taken by William Preston Mayfield, photos of E. G. Breen's sister Mary Louise Breen, materials from his military career, personal papers including the Montgomery Co. Annual Report of 1958, and newspapers that are related to important events that occurred during his life including the Dayton Flood, World War I, and World War II.

Series II, Scrapbooks and Memorabilia, contains four scrapbooks and other memorabilia related to his political career from the 1940s and 1950s. One scrapbook contains all newspaper clipping pertaining to his term as the Mayor of Dayton, the second contains clippings from his term as a U.S. Congressman, and the third scrapbook contains a collection of all of the invitations, important correspondence, and other materials from Breen's time in Washington, D.C. A fourth scrapbook contains materials relating to the family life of the Breen's. It includes wedding photos and newspaper clippings, family photos and other various photos and materials relating to the life of the Breen family.

Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Breen family
Breen, Edward G., 1908-1991
Breen, Mary Louise -- Photographs
Focke, Constance

Organizations/Corporate Names

Dayton (Ohio). Office of the Mayor
Biltmore Hotel (Dayton, Ohio)
United States. Congress (81st: 1949-1951)

Places

Dayton (Ohio) -- History

Dayton (Ohio) -- Politics and government – 20th century
 Montgomery County (Ohio) -- History

Material Types

Scrapbooks
 Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
 Photographs

Occupations

Hotel keepers
 Politician
 Legislators -- United States
 Mayors – Ohio -- Dayton

Collection Inventory

Series I: Edward G. Breen Personal Papers- 1902-2013

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Edward G. Breen Political Photographs	1937-1948
	2	Edward G. Breen Personal and Family Photographs	1908-1973
	3	Mary Louise Breen Photographs	undated
2	1	<i>Lucky Eddie</i> , book; <i>American Dream</i> video; <i>Eddie's Road Home</i> DVD- sale pitch of movie idea (in e-archives Ms-409_e0001	May 2009
	2	Photocopies and originals newspaper clippings	1902-1946, 2013
	3	Newspapers and clippings related to 1913 Dayton flood (see oversize location 47, file 02)	1913-1914
	4	Newspapers related to Dayton Social Scene 1920s-30s (see oversize location 47, file 02)	1920-1930
	5	Newspapers related to World War I and World War II (see oversize location 47, file 02)	1908-1943
3	1	Biltmore Hotel Opening Program	May 16, 1929
	2	Edward G. Breen Personal Papers	1942-1964
	3	NASA Images	1969
	4	Awards and Certificates	1937-1967
	5	Second Army Maneuvers publication	Aug. 1940
	6	US Navy War Photographs	undated
	7	John Lauffersweiler letter and photograph	1938, 1946

Series II: Scrapbooks and Memorabilia- 1908-1984

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	1	Documents removed from scrapbook #1	1945-1950
	2	Photocopies of newspaper clippings from scrapbook #1	1945-1950
	3	Misc. documents removed from scrapbook #2	1948-1950
	4	Misc. documents removed from scrapbook #2	1948-1950
5	1	Materials removed from scrapbook #3	1936-1950
	2	Materials removed from scrapbook #3	1946-1949
	3	Materials removed from scrapbook #3	1949-1951
	4	Materials removed from scrapbook #3	1949-1951
	5	Materials removed from scrapbook #3	1949-1951
	6	Photocopies of newspaper clippings from scrapbook #3	1920-1960
	7	Photocopies of newspaper clippings from scrapbook #3	1920-1960
	8	Photocopies of newspaper clippings from scrapbook #3	1920-1960
6	1	Autograph Book	1948, 1978, Undated
	2	Scrapbook #4	
	3	Materials removed from scrapbook #4- Front of book	Undated
	4	Materials removed from scrapbook #4- pages 20-21	1956,1978, Undated
	5	Materials removed from scrapbook #4- pages 26-27	1972
	6	Materials removed from scrapbook #4- pages 30-31	Undated
	7	Materials removed from scrapbook #4- pages 34-35	Undated
	8	Materials removed from scrapbook #4- pages 38-39	1908, 1965- 1977
	9	Materials removed from scrapbook #4- pages 42-43	1978, Undated
	10	Materials removed from scrapbook #4- pages 46-47	1927, Undated
	11	Materials removed from scrapbook #4- Back of book	1948-1984, Undated
7	1	Edward G. Breen's "Silent Butler" with explanation	May 4, 1948
		Oversize Materials	
OS Loc 47	2	Newspapers related to Dayton Social Scene	1920-1930
	2	Newspapers related to 1913 Dayton Flood	1913-1914
	2	Newspapers related to World War I	1908-1943
	2	Newspapers related to World War II	1908-1943
	2	Photographs	Undated
OS 47	3	Poster- Holy Angels Church	1986
	3	Poster- Dayton Flood and Fire, 1913	1913

