

Joan Finney Papers

Finding Aid

Haskell Cultural Center and Museum

Date Range: 1958-1995

Created By Governor Joan Finney

Finding Aid Created by Brianna Mitchell

Summary Information

Repository: Haskell Cultural Center and Museum, 155 Indian Ave., Lawrence, KS 64046

Creator: Governor Joan Finney 1926 – 2009

Title: Joan Finney Collection

ID: 2005.FIC.1

Date [inclusive]: 1970-1995

Date [Bulk]: 1958-1995

Physical description: 6 boxes (.25 linear foot), 2 shelves for collection

Language: English

Biographical Information:

Joan M. Finney was the 42nd governor of the state of Kansas being the first woman to hold that position in office from 1991 to 1995. Prior she was the Kansas State Treasurer from 1957 to 1991 also being the first woman to hold that position. She received her bachelors in Economic History from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas. Starting out her career as a Republican, she served under many commissions in Kansas but would eventually lose the 1972 election for a House of Representatives seat. Later, switching to the Democratic Party, she was elected to serve as the Kansas State treasurer, eventually winning the governor's election. She was a trailblazer and American politician in Kansas politics.

Access and Use:

This collection can be used as a source of information on the records of Joan Finney relating to her political and personal career. Joan Finney, the former governor of Kansas. All items may be available for research.

Acquisition information:

Joan Finney donated these documents to the Haskell Cultural Center and Museum in 2005.

Access Restrictions:

This collection is open for research.

Copyright:

There is no copyright of this collection.

Cite as:

Collection number: 2005.FIC. 1 Joan Finney Collection, Haskell Cultural Center and Museum, Haskell Indian Nations University

Background Information:

This collection was compiled by Governor Joan Finney, who served as the first women Governor of Kansas from 1991 to 1995. The records were donated in 2005 to the Haskell Cultural Center, which depicts pivotal moments in Joan Finney's personal and political career. This collection includes a variety of items from photographs to paper documents. It relays important history about the state of Kansas and the progressive movement of having the first woman governor as well as the Indian affairs handled at that time. Though there are many varieties within this collection, the common theme among them all is Joan Finney's contribution to the State of Kansas as governor and treasurer.

Scope and Content:

This collection includes photographs, photograph albums, framed photographs, personal/political paper documents, VHS tapes, and cassettes tapes. All include a variety of personal and political relations to Joan Finney, all relevant to her progression in her career.

The photograph range include a variety of subject such as campaign, Native American related, personal, political, presidential, self-portrait, and unidentified. These are loose cut photographs organized through the subject.

Framed photographs include professional portraits of Joan Finney in specific frames which may have been used to decorate her office or house, but each photograph has significant meaning to this collection with the demonstration of her journey.

Photograph albums have more of a personal relation to Joan Finney and her life with a total of 14 albums. Each album has family, friends, and events that all tell the personal story of Joan Finney.

Personal and political paper documents range with a variety of subjects and dates which have many important relations mainly politically with documents ranging from Joan Finney's treasury and governor's career.

VHS and cassettes tapes include political events during Joan Finney's career dates ranging from 1975 to 1996 with a total of 10 items and 3 of them being undated.

Subject terms:

- Governors – Kansas
- State Government – Kansas
- Kansas – Politics and Government

Related materials:

Institutional records that may be held at the Kansas Governor's Office Records, Kansas State Treasurer's Office records, and the papers of Governor Bill Graves. Additional related materials may be found in the Kansas Democratic Party records and in oral history collections documenting Kansas political history.

Contents listing:**Box Joan Finney Collection****Joan Finney Paper Documents:****Series: Photographs and VHS Tapes 1/6**

These files include a variety of photographs stretching through Joan Finney's life and career. The file arrangement includes her personal, political, campaign, presidential, self-portrait, unidentified and Native American related photographs spanning through multiple parts of her life. The photographs are arranged by function and subject rather than chronological due to the lack of dates throughout the photograph collection. This box also contains a total of 10 VHS tapes

1. Campaign photographs demonstrate the promotional images, rallies, and state campaigns of Joan Finney. They also may include public photographs.
2. Native American related photographs of Joan Finney document the interactions with Native American tribes, individuals, and organizations. They include public appearances at Native led events such as Pow Wows, official visits, and meetings for her public service to this community.

3. Personal photographs of Joan Finney's husband, family, and friends. They also contain moments of travel through her life, with the oldest photo dated back to 1971 demonstrates her personal connections throughout her life.
4. Political photographs include governmental photos such as official events, legislative settings, and public appearances. These demonstrate pivotal moments in her political career and journey while demonstrating political standards of that time.
5. Presidential photographs are pictures of Joan Finney with President Bill Clinton. They include appearances with the president and events involving the president.
6. Self- Portrait photographs of Joan Finney with just her personal pictures in both a professional and unprofessional setting commissioned by her.
7. Unidentified photographs were pictures with unclear significance or subject.

VHS Tapes 1975-1996:

8. 1975 Frank Carlson Program by Tom Taylor, Wren radio interview conducted in September.
9. 1990 Rehearsal for general election debate.
10. 1990 Jackson County executive debate conducted October 6th.
11. 1991 "Polski Parade" sponsored by the Polish American Men's and Women's club of Kansas City of Joan Finney Grand Marshall on May 4th.
12. 1991 Kansas City Department of Commerce Year review video.
13. 1995 AIB Flatbread Conference on June 2nd.
14. 1996 Joan Finney for U.S Senate on July 19th.
15. Undated Governor Joan Finney: The First Year.
16. Undated Prairie Village Television.
17. Undated Finney.

Series Frames Photographs 2/6

These photographs include framed photographs of Joan Finney with a variety of personal, professional, and political aspects. These are significant because they highlight Joan Finney's career in a professional and unprofessional setting in specific frames of photography. Framed photographs vary in size and materials, and some may include inscriptions that tell dates, but not all are dated.

Dated 1970-1990: Some framed photographs include dates, including images documenting a groundbreaking ceremony at the Kickapoo Reservation (March 30, 1977), family photographs (September 8, 1991), Project Topeka (1993), and a political event titled "Bows Out in '94" (1994).

18. Ground-Breaking Ceremony Kickapoo Reservation March 30, 1977. Joan Finney on a tractor digging into the ground.
19. The Lanyos George, Gia, Lisa, and Stephen September 8, 1991. Picture of Joan Finney with what seems to be family friends which include children.
20. Project Topeka 1993. Joan Finney's husband gave a speech with her in the background, presenting "Project Topeka" to an audience.
21. Bows Out in '94 1994. A newspaper article that was clipped and framed by Joan Finney in the governor's office with the quote, "I have kept my word".

Undated:

22. Joan Finney recognized as Time Woman of the Year.
23. Group photograph with Joan Finney in the center of a large building.
24. Joan Finney fishing on a boat with two companions.
25. Formal portrait of Joan Finney with her husband.
26. United States President Bill Clinton with Joan Finney, her husband, and two other individuals.
27. Joan Finney and her husband meeting President Jimmy C. Carter.
28. Joan Finney with a male companion at a golf course.

29. Joan Finney at an apparent Airforce base.
30. Joan Finney delivers a speech outdoors.
31. Group photograph of Joan Finney as a guest at an event.
32. Informal photograph of Joan Finney with her husband later life.

Series: Photograph Albums 3/6

The arrangement of photograph albums demonstrates different periods of time through Joan Finney life and career. There is a total of 14 photograph albums that all highlight the different themes, some relevant to political aspects and some to personal aspects. Albums contain primarily black-and-white and color photographs, with occasional captions and ephemera.

33. Album 1: Personal photos and letters from family. 1958-1986
34. Album 2: Campaign events and public appearances. 1990-1991
35. Album 3: Public appearances as Governor. 1991
36. Album 4: 28th Annual Midwestern Governors Conference. 1991
37. Album 5: 83rd Annual National Governors Association. 1991
38. Album 6: Governor inauguration of Joan Finney. 1992
39. Album 7: Campaign efforts with Motor Freight. 1992
40. Album 8: State of Kansas employees at Project Topeka. 1992
41. Album 9: 84th Annual National Governors Association. 1992
42. Album 10: Compliments of graduation at Washburn. 1995

43. Album 11: Commencement of Washburn University. 1995
44. Album 12: Public appearances and project review. Undated
45. Album 13: Political Conference at the Mirage. Undated
46. Album 14: Personal family photographs. Undated

Series: Paper Documentation 4/6

These paper documents consist of many official documents which have mainly political purposes within these documents. Some are personal, but the filing arrangement consists of subject within dates though some documents were undated. There are significant subjects relating to governmental letters, autobiography, postcards, personal notes, financial statements, and newspapers.

47. Autobiography 1 is personally accounted for Joan Finney's life written by Joan Finney herself, which includes packets titled of a book she was trying to write. It may include a rough draft, but all subjects related to Joan Finney's life, experiences, and career moments throughout her life.
48. Autobiography 2 is more personally accounted by Joan Finney because there are a lot of documents another folder had to be created to keep the organization of the actual book she wrote versus the personal notes and accounts.
49. Campaign Posters and items contain political significance to Joan Finney through her campaigns for Kansas State Treasurer and Kansas Governor. Some items may include stickers, magnets, and posters. They are categorized by campaign events such as the ones for treasurers and governors.
50. Certificates include items such as high school diploma, awards, and recognition.
51. Finances include documents that relate to financial audits through both her treasury and governor career, whether that be bank statements and governing budgeting. Though some do not have dates, they are organized by the subject.

52. Government is related subjects for Joan Finney's time as governor which contain documents relating to official reports addressing issues of that time. These documents are sorted by subjects such as the official documents of Kansas State.
53. Letters are categorized by letter sent to Joan Finney and where documented. It was letters received and most had unknown dates which is why it's organized by subject. Letters contain thank you letters, government documents, and reminders.
54. Letters sent from Joan Finney are in their own separate category which contains subject reminders, thank you letters, requests, organizing events, and governmental subjects. These were either personally or professionally sent by Joan Finney.
55. Native American affairs documents are personal accounts by Joan Finney about Native American related events, political appearances, and addressing issues within the tribes of Kansas which includes the Kickapoo, Prairie Band Potawatomi, Sac and Fox, and Iowa.
56. Newspaper articles and clippings are organized by dates ranging from 1969 through 1995 with some that have no known date. These articles contain periods of Joan Finney in her career depicting her time as treasurer and governor. Most contain official political statements from Joan Finney that address the needs of the people, speeches, events, campaigns, and more. These newspaper articles and clippings have significant findings in pivotal moments of Joan Finney's career and the accomplishments she has done. They are organized by date, and the undated articles have their own separate section.
57. Personal notes and mementos are documents kept by Joan Finney relating to personal notes, memoirs, and things she saved that had a significant meaning to her. Some may just be reminder notes and personal reflection of herself.
58. Speeches include notes, rough drafts, and final drafts of speeches for and by Joan Finney for different purposes throughout her governing career.
59. There is a total of 21 Kansas Motor Carriers Association personal notepads which contain the schedules and calendars for Joan Finney. The dates range from 1974 to 1991.

Additional Items: 5/6

These include additional photo albums and campaign items such as stickers. Such items may contain more personal references to Joan Finney. Photo albums did not contain dates, though these photo albums are personal aspects of Joan Finney rather than the politically related. Photos

contain pictures of family, friends, and memories from her past. The stickers contain the statement “I love Joan Finney” which could have been used for campaign events whether that be for her treasurer or governor career they seem significant to her political journey.