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Guide to Claude B. Hudspeth papers, MS135

Mildred Torok

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Guide to
MS 135
Claude B. Hudspeth papers

Span Dates, 1919-1931

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C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department
University of Texas at El Paso

Biographical Sketch

Claude Benton Hudspeth was a newspaperman, rancher, lawyer, and representative from the 16th Congressional District of Texas. He was born in Medina, Texas on May 12, 1877 to Elizabeth Anna and H.S. Hudspeth, then sheriff of Bandera County. By his own account, he never received any formal education. As a teenager, Hudspeth worked for a number of ranchers, and published a newspaper with his brother Roy, the *Ozona Kicker*. He settled in El Paso, and married Marie Cliborne in 1902. They had one son and one daughter. Hudspeth was elected to the state House of Representatives in 1902 and to the state Senate in 1906. He served in the state Senate until 1918, when he was elected to the United States House of Representatives. Hudspeth retired from the House of Representatives in 1930. In 1909 he was admitted to the bar and joined the El Paso law firm of Nealon, Hudspeth, and McGill. Apart from his public and legal duties, Hudspeth also owned and operated a large cattle ranch in Crockett County. In 1940 he became a director of an oil firm and moved to San Antonio. He died in 1941.

Series Description or Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series: Personal Affairs and Political Affairs. Series I (Personal Affairs) includes biographical information, business and professional activities, and general correspondence. Series II (Political Affairs) includes congressional activities and subject files.

Scope and Content Notes

The papers consist chiefly of correspondence, but also include biographical information and financial records. Dates covered are 1919-1931. The papers help document Hudspeth's livestock ranches, business enterprises, legal career in El Paso, Texas, and political activities as a congressional representative from the 16th Congressional District of Texas. Notable correspondents are Tom Lea, Sr., Plutarco Elias Calles, Sam Rayburn, and Albert B. Fall. Topics include ranching in West Texas, smuggling in the El Paso area, the Teapot Dome scandal, the 1920 U.S. Census, and expropriation of lands belonging to U.S. citizens in Mexico.

Provenance Statement

Unknown provenance. Papers were donated in 1969.

Restrictions

No deed of gift – no rights to materials.

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Container List

| Series | I | Personal Affairs | |
|--------|----------|--|------------------------------------|
| Box # | Folder # | Description | Date |
| 1 | 1 | Biographical Material | 1941, 1927, 1928 |
| 1 | 2 | Agricultural Livestock Finance Corporation | December 31, 1923-January 20, 1927 |
| 1 | 3 | Commercial National Bank of San Antonio | March 29, 1919-July 27, 1927 |
| 1 | 4 | First National Bank of El Paso | February 29, 1923 – April 2, 1930 |
| 1 | 5 | Franklin National Bank, Washington, D.C. Cancelled Checks | 1920-1922 |
| 1 | 6 | Franklin National Bank, Washington D.C. | December 23, 1919-October 20, 1925 |
| 1 | 7 | Chas. Schreiner Bank, Checking Account, Kerville, TX | 1923-1930 |
| 1 | 8 | Chas. Schreiner Bank of Kerville, TX (Re/ Bank Loans, Federal Post Office Bldg. Etc) | April 4, 1919-June 21, 1930 |
| 1 | 9 | First Texas Stock Land Bank | January 8, 1924-August 19, 1930 |
| 2 | 1 | Marr-Piper Co., El Paso Insurance, Rentals, Investments, Loans. | December 10, 1924-January 21, 1929 |
| 2 | 2 | Monte Cristo Mining Co. Investment El Paso | May 31, 1924-April 8, 1925 |
| 2 | 3 | Mortgage Investment Co. El Paso | October 27, 1924-January 20, 1927 |
| 2 | 4 | Financial Affairs –Personal (alphabetically arranged) | 1919-1923 |
| 2 | 5 | Financial Affairs -- Personal Business (alphabetically arranged) | 1924 |
| 2 | 6 | Financial Affairs – Personal Business | 1925 |
| 2 | 7 | Financial Affairs – Personal Business | 1926 |

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| 2 | 8 | Financial Affairs – Personal Business | 1927-1930 |
| 2 | 9 | Ranch Affairs (G-Z) | 1926 |
| 3 | 1 | Ranch Affairs | 1927 |
| 3 | 2 | Ranch Affairs | 1927 |
| 3 | 3 | Ranch Affairs | 1924 |
| 3 | 4 | Ranch Affairs | 1925 |
| 3 | 5 | Ranch Affairs | 1926 |
| 3 | 6 | Ranch Affairs | 1919-1923 |
| 3 | 7 | Ranch Affairs | 1928 |
| 3 | 8 | Ranch Affairs | 1929 |
| 3 | 9 | Law Practice: Hudspeth, Wallace, and Harper | 1919-1925 |
| 3 | 10 | Law Practice: Nelson, Hudspeth, and McGill | 1922-1927 |
| 3 | 11 | Law Practice: Nelson, Hudspeth and McGill | 1922-1927 |
| 4 | 1 | Bob Campbell Sheep Dealer | 1924-1927 |
| 4 | 2 | Roy Hudspeth (Brother) | 1921-1927 |
| 4 | 3 | Barry Hagedon | 1928 |
| 4 | 4 | Heid Bros. Inc. | January 13, 1926- June 24, 1930 |
| 4 | 5 | Knights of Pythias | December 23, 1924 - February 22, 1927 |
| 4 | 6 | Tom Lea Jr. and Sr. | 1928 |
| 4 | 7 | Lee Livestock Commission Company | 1925 |
| 4 | 8 | National Petroleum and Refining Company | 1925 |
| 4 | 9 | Parker Gordon Cigar Company | 1924-1926 |
| 4 | 10 | Pictures | 1920 |
| 4 | 11 | San Antonio Machine and Supply Company | 1924-1929 |
| 4 | 12 | Scheiner Wool and Mohair Commission Company | 1919-1930 |
| 4 | 13 | Texan Oil and Land Company | 1919-1925 |

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| 4 | 14 | Texan Oil and Land Company | 1925-1926 |
| 5 | 1 | White House Dept. Store El Paso | 1921-1926 |
| 5 | 2 | Ysleta Farm, Ysleta, TX | 1923-1926 |
| 5 | 3 | Miscellaneous Correspondence | 1919-1924 |
| 5 | 4 | Miscellaneous Correspondence | 1925 |
| 5 | 5 | Miscellaneous Correspondence | 1926 |
| 5 | 6 | Miscellaneous Correspondence | 1927 |
| 5 | 7 | Miscellaneous Correspondence | 1928 |
| 5 | 8 | Miscellaneous Correspondence | 1929-1931 |
| 5 | 9 | Correspondence while in John Hopkins Hospital (A-J) | 1927 |
| 6 | 1 | Correspondence while in John Hopkins Hospital (K-Z) | |
| 6 | 2 | Operation – John Hopkins | 1925 |
| Series | II | Political Affairs | |
| Box # | Folder # | Description | Date |
| 6 | 3 | Armed service | 1919-1928 |
| 6 | 4 | Plutarco Elias Calles, President of Mexico, letter from Calles to Hudspeth | March 18, 1925 |
| 6 | 5 | Bank Charter, Pecos and Loraine, TX | 1920-1927 |
| 6 | 6 | Charles L. Brachfield, Candidate for Texas attorney General | 1926 |
| 6 | 7 | Capper Johnson universal draft Bill Correspondence | 1928 |
| 6 | 8 | Census – Correspondence regarding populations of Texas cities | 1920 |
| 6 | 9 | Claims, American-German Mixed Claims Commission; fraud case against S.C. Pondalfo of St. Cloud, Minnesota | 1920, 1919-1928 |
| 6 | 10 | Confiscation of American property by Mexico; letter to W.E. Weatherbee of Del Rio, TX | December 28, 1923 |
| 6 | 11 | Congressional bills (Correspondence regarding) | 1919-1928 |
| 6 | 12 | Congressional record | January 26, 1931 |
| 7 | 1 | Corpus Christi Pass, blueprint, | 1926, 1928 |

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| | | correspondence. | |
| 7 | 2 | Cotton – (Establishment of research lab station at Texas A&M,1928) | 1920-1928 |
| 7 | 3 | Dams - Devil's River, Boulder Dam (letters and telegrams) | 1920-1926 |
| 7 | 4 | Charles Davis, President of EP C of C; candidate for major of EP, against R.E. Thomason | 1924-1930 |
| 7 | 5 | Drugs – (opium smuggling at El Paso Border) | 1920 |
| 7 | 6 | Election campaign | 1928 |
| 7 | 7 | Election frauds, dept. of Justice | 1928 |
| 7 | 8 | Election Disputes | 1924-1926 |
| 7 | 9 | Esch Bill, concerned with railroad passes, etc. | 1919-1920 |
| 7 | 10 | A.B. Fall | 1924-1926 |
| 7 | 11 | Farming | 1925-1928 |
| 7 | 12 | Filipino independence, letter to Hudspeth from resident commissioners from the Philippines | November 18, 1920 |
| 7 | 13 | First National Bank of Rocksprings, Texas, charter | 1919-1926 |
| 7 | 14 | Fishing permits - Devil's River Ranch | |
| 7 | 15 | Garner, John Nance | 1924-1927 |
| 7 | 16 | Geological survey | 1925-1928 |
| 7 | 17 | Germany, proposed loans by U.S. | 1928 |
| 7 | 18 | Guns into Mexico | 1920-1928 |
| 7 | 19 | Hayden, Carl | 1928-1929 |
| 7 | 20 | Halliday, Robert J. – correspondence | 1924-1928 |
| 7 | 21 | Hudspeth, Henry and Lee | 1921-1927 |
| 8 | 1 | Hudspeth voting record in Congress | 1919-1930 |
| 8 | 2 | Hudspeth voting records in Congress | 1919-1930 |
| 8 | 3 | Hudspeth voting records in Congress | 1919-1930 |
| 8 | 4 | Immigration (Box bill) | 1924-1928 |
| 8 | 5 | Importation of corn from Mexico | 1920 |

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| 8 | 6 | Indian Affairs (claims, etc.) | 1920-1928 |
| 8 | 7 | Insurance matters | 1925 |
| 8 | 8 | International Brick Co. (A.E. Bartlett) | 1924-1927 |
| 8 | 9 | Interstate Commerce Commission, Kansas City, Mexico and Orient | 1920 |
| 8 | 10 | Johnson, Samuel Ealy (Father of LBJ) | 1927 |
| 8 | 11 | Krupp, Hayman (see also Texan Oil and Land Co. FF 40a & a) | 1922 |
| 8 | 12 | Gompers, Samuel, Labor leader | 1919-1924 |
| 9 | 1 | Labor affairs | 1919- 1925 |
| 9 | 2 | Land office, General. Austin, TX. | 1926- 1928 |
| 9 | 3 | Lanier, TW. (Commissioner of Reclamation) | 1927 |
| 9 | 4 | Libraries, Texas | 1924-1928 |
| 9 | 5 | Liquor | 1920 |
| 9 | 6 | Live Stock (Wool and Mohair) | |
| 9 | 7 | Metcalf, Charles B. (Cotton States protective League) | 1925-1928 |
| 9 | 8 | Metcalf, Charles B. (Lobbyist for Farmers) | 1919-1928 |
| 9 | 9 | Mexico – Imports | 1920-1928 |
| 9 | 10 | Military affairs – Fort Bliss (C.N. Barsett and D. W.) | 1920-1926 |
| 10 | 1 | Miscellaneous correspondence | 1919-1930 |
| 10 | 2 | Oil Expropriation (Mexico) | 1919 |
| 10 | 3 | Patents | 1920-1928 |
| 10 | 4 | Pensions and Retirement | 1920-1929 |
| 10 | 5 | Petitions to CBH to remain in Congress | 1924 |
| 10 | 6 | Political Appointments, candidates and campaigns | 1919-1925 |
| 10 | 7 | Political appointments, candidates and campaigns | 1919-1925 |
| 10 | 8 | Poll lists, Kerr and Mitchell Counties, TX | 1920 |
| 10 | 9 | Predatory animals destruction | 1925-1928 |
| 10 | 10 | Railroad bill (Esch), etc. | 1919-1920 |

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| 11 | 1 | Railroad bill (Cummins) | 1919-1920 |
| 11 | 2 | Railroads | 1919-1926 |
| 11 | 3 | Rayburn, Sam | 1927 |
| 11 | 4 | Red Bluff Reservoir | 1919-1926 |
| 11 | 5 | Re-Mount headquarters | 1927-1928 |
| 11 | 6 | Roads and highways | 1929-1927 |
| 11 | 7 | House of Representatives | 191-1929 |
| 11 | 8 | Tariffs | 1928-1930 |
| 11 | 9 | Teapot Dome | 1928-1930 |
| 11 | 10 | Terrel, TM (regarding federal inheritance tax, states' rights) | 1925-1926 |
| 11 | 11 | Texas Agricultural Experiment Station | 1929 |
| 11 | 12 | Veterans Legislation | 1926-1928 |