

Edward P. Brynn (1942-)
Early Papers, 1947-1992, bulk: 1953-1961
MSA 664 & 665

Introduction

This collection consists of documents and photographs from the early life of diplomat, Edward P. Brynn, of Montpelier, Vermont. The papers were given to the Vermont Historical Society by Edward P. Brynn in 2006. The collection is housed in two archival flip-top boxes and consumes .75 linear feet of shelf space.

Biographical Note

Edward P. Brynn was born on August 1, 1942 in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, the son of Walter and Mary C. Brynn. He grew up in West Springfield, Massachusetts, and Montpelier, Vermont. He was an Eagle Scout and was active in the Catholic Church in Montpelier. In 1959, he travelled to Washington, D.C., and met with the Vermont congressional delegation and President Eisenhower as part of the Boy Scout's "Report to the Nation" program. He was valedictorian of his graduating class at St. Michael's High School in 1960. Brynn continued his education at Georgetown University, graduating with a B.A. in 1964. He received his M.A. from Stanford University in 1965 and earned a Ph.D. from Stanford in 1968.

Edward Brynn served in the U.S. Air Force from 1968 to 1972, before joining the U.S. Foreign Service in 1973. He served as a political and economic officer in Sri Lanka from 1973-1975, as foreign service officer in residence at the U.S. Air Force Academy from 1976-1978, and as a political officer in Mali from 1978-1980. He worked at the Bureau of African Affairs in Washington from 1980-1981 and was a staff member on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence from 1981-1982. He then served as deputy chief of mission to Mauritania from 1982-1985, Chargé d'Affaires to the Comoros Islands from 1985-1987, and deputy chief of mission in Cameroon from 1987-1989.

On July 24, 1990, President George H. W. Bush nominated Brynn to be the United States Ambassador to Burkina Faso where he served from January 1, 1991 until April 17, 1993. On October 3, 1993, President Bill Clinton nominated him to be ambassador to Ghana, a post he occupied from December 19, 1995 to July 10, 1998.

Following his diplomatic career, Edward P. Brynn went on to teach history and politics at the University of North Carolina, where he was also an associate provost for international programs between 2000 and 2005 and a professor from 2005 to 2009. In addition to his accomplishments as an educator, Edward Brynn also became a historian for the U.S. State Department in his later career.

Scope and Content

This collection contains documents and photographs from the early life of

diplomat Edward P. Brynn, of Montpelier, Vermont. The collection includes Brynn's elementary school papers, diaries from 1958 to 1961 and Boy Scout materials from 1953 to 1957 as well as newspaper clippings and other miscellaneous letters and documents, with the bulk of the material centering on the period of Brynn's high school experience. Brynn's participation in the Boy Scout's "Report to the Nation" program in 1959, as the sole Explorer Scout representing the six New England States, is heavily documented. The 12 scouts in the program went to New York City, West Point, Annapolis, and Washington, D.C. A highlight of the trip was visiting with U.S. Senator George D. Aiken and President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The collection also includes scans and photocopies of images from scrapbooks, with scenes in and around Montpelier in the 1950s featuring prominently. Among these images are photographs of the the Brynn family at Smuggler's Notch and of the sub-primary class at St. Michael's School, ca. 1947-48. Others include Edward Brynn on a new bike on Elm Street in 1950, altar boys in 1951, Ed on College Street in 1955, Montpelier Square Dancers in 1955, suburban style houses on Walker Terrace around 1956-58, house interiors including a game room and study room in 1959, Brynn and his date for prom, Brynn with political dignitaries in Washington, D.C. in 1959, St. Michael's graduating class in 1960, and the Montpelier pool in 1961. Also included are some family photographs from Lake Elmore in 1938.

Other materials in the collection include a few items from Brynn's undergraduate days at Georgetown University and two folders with miscellaneous personal materials from the period of 1966 to 1992. This collection does not include any material from Brynn's diplomatic career.

Most items in the collection have small slips of paper attached to them as identifiers. These were created by Mr. Brynn and have been preserved in the organization of the papers.

Inventory

- MSA 664: 1 Diaries, 1958-1959
- 2 _____, 1960-1961
- 3 Elementary school papers, ca. 1947-1954
- 4 _____, _____
- 5 Cards to Mother, 1940s (?)
- 6 Letter to "Gramma"
- 7 Cub Scout certificate, 1953
- 8 Boy Scout Jamboree, booklet, July 1957
- 9 _____, July 1957
- 10 Diocesan Youth Council, 1959
- 11 Report to the Nation Program, 1959
- 12 Letters Governor's Conference on Recreation, letters and program, 1958-1960
- 13 Newspaper clippings, 1955, 1960

- 14 Newspaper article re: Catholic Church in Ireland, 1960s (?)
- MSA 665:1 Personal Letters, June 1960-December 1960
- 2 Photocopies of scrapbook pages, 1959-1960
- 3 Scans from scrapbooks, 1938, 1950-1961, 1966 (includes two CDs)
- 4 Georgetown University, Class 1964
- 5 Miscellaneous letters and documents, 1966-1985
- 6 Miscellaneous correspondence, 1974-1992

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brynn.doc