

Barbara Flanagan Collection
M/A 1994.16.01-78

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

August 01, 2015

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
Creator	Flanagan, Barbara, 1924-
Title	Barbara Flanagan Collection
Date	1945-2001
Extent	78.0 boxes
Language	English

Biography

Minneapolis newspaper columnist for the Minneapolis Star and Tribune beginning in the 1940s, author, city promoter extraordinaire. Barbara Flanagan was born in Des Moines, Iowa and attended Drake University from 1942-1945, where she pursued a major in drama. After a summer at the Minneapolis Times, she left college and began working in the promotion department from 1945 to 1947. Flanagan was a reporter for the Minneapolis Tribune from 1947-1958. In 1958 she was named the women's editor for the Minneapolis Star and Tribune and worked in that capacity until 1965 when she was named a columnist for the Star. She wrote about "interesting personalities and colorful events." She also used the column as a "constant and effective crusade for city beautification and for the preservation of historic buildings."

Flanagan also authored three books: *Minneapolis* (1973), *Ovation: a Partnership Between a Great Orchestra and a Great Audience* (1977), and *Minneapolis-St. Paul: Linked to the Future*(1997). Her career also involved significant membership participation in various Twin Cities area clubs and organizations. Some memberships included: Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts, Minneapolis Institute of Arts(founding Minnesota Arts Forum), Minneapolis Club, Minikahda Club, Kappa Alpha Theta, Sigma Delta Chi, American Swedish Institute, and Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library. She continued to work for both papers and retired from the combined Star Tribune in 1988. After retirement, Flanagan continues to write her "Flanagan Memo" for the Star Tribune in which she promotes the city of Minneapolis and its civic treasures.

Description of the Collection

The collection contains fifty nine boxes and nineteen scrapbooks of Flanagan's personal papers, documents, records, ephemera, photographs, slides, and audio-visual materials. Biographical information through magazines, newspaper clippings, and ephemera are present.

Notes, drafts, interview transcripts, correspondence, and manuscripts for two of her books are also included in the collection. Further, fashion show scripts, columns, fan letters, research materials, club and organization materials, press releases and event announcements, awards, and scrapbooks are also among the collection's contents.

The collection contains materials that start from the beginning of her journalism career in the early 1940s to 2001. Flanagan's collection contains a wealth of materials on Minneapolis and the greater Twin Cities area initiatives for urban development, city beautification, and historic preservation, which she accumulated through her personal research, or was sent to her personally by interested public and private agencies. The collection also provides significant materials about clubs, organization, and other private agencies within the Twin Cities. These materials include reports, surveys, press releases, articles,

correspondence, and proposals. Copies of her personal column span the years 1947-2001. Fan letters and responses to her columns also span the years 1950-2001 within the collection. The awards consist of various certificates, proclamations, plaques, and letters presented to Flanagan.

The photographs within this collection consists mostly of Flanagan engaged with civic ceremonies, events, celebrities, politicians(local and national), and husband Earl Sanford. Architectural photographs, artist photographs, prominent Minnesotans photographs, and Minneapolis photographs are also among this section. Lastly, the audiovisual materials and slides consists of one reel-to-reel audio tape, and color slides.

The collection is arranged by the following thirteen series:

- I. Biographical Sketches, Clippings, and Retirement Materials 1945-2001
- II. Correspondence, Notes, Research Manuscript, for Book Minneapolis (1973)
- III. Correspondence, Notes, Research, Manuscript for Book Ovation: a Partnership Between a Great Orhcestra and a Great Audience (1976-1977)
- IV. Downtown Fashion Show Scripts 1960-1981
- V. Columns 1947-1981
- VI. Letters from her readers
- VII. Research
- VIII. Clubs and Organizations
- IX. Press Releases and Event Announcements
- X. Awards
- XI. Photographs
- XII. Audio-visual and Slides
- XIII. Scrapbooks 1964-1988

Administrative Information

Publication Information

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

Revision Description

March 1, 2013

Related Materials

Related Materials

Books written by Barbara Flanagan are available at Special Collections Minneapolis Collection:

Ovation: a partnership between a great orchestra and a great audience. **ML200.8.M52F53**

Minneapolis. **F614.M5F5 1975**

Minneapolis-St. Paul: linked to the future. **F614.M6F53 1997**

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Minneapolis Morning Tribune (Minneapolis, Minn. : 1909)..
- Minneapolis Star and Tribune..
- Star Tribune (Minneapolis, Minn.).

Genre(s)

- Audiotapes.
- Photographs.

Subject(s)

- American newspapers -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
- City planning -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
- Clubs -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
- Community development -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
- Community newspapers.
- Community organization -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis -- Citizen participation.
- Historic buildings -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis -- Conservation and restoration.
- Historic preservation -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.

- Newspapers -- Sections, columns, etc.
- Press releases -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.

Series I: Biographical Sketches, Clippings, and Retirement Materials

Collection Inventory

Series I: Biographical Sketches, Clippings, and Retirement Materials 1945-2001	Box 1-A	Box 1
Scope and Contents note		
<p>Boxes 1 and 1A. This series provides biographical information on Flanagan's career and overall involvement in the greater Twin Cities region. This series contains short biographies written in regional sources such as the Mpls. St. Paul Magazine, Twin Cities Magazine, the Star Tribune, and private institutions within Minnesota. Ephemera and correspondence from her 1988 retirement are also present in this series. The series also holds clippings from 1947-2001 that are either written by her or about her. Finally, a court deposition for Flanagan from the District Court of Hawaii is also present.</p>		
	Box	Folder
Biographical sketches	1	1
Clippings 1949-1988	1	2
Flanagan ephemera	1	3
Clippings 1947-1988	1	4
League of Women Voters of Minneapolis (Minneapolis Voter, 3, 1990)	1	5
Retirement correspondence 1988	1	6

Series II: Correspondence, Notes, Research Manuscript, for Book Minneapolis...

Retirement correspondence continued 1988	1-A	1
Retirement correspondence continued 1988	1-A	2
Retirement material 1988	1- A	3
Clippings 1949-1969	1-A	4
Clippings continued 1949-1969	1-A	5
Clippings 1970-1988	1-A	6
Clippings continued 1970-1988	1-A	7
Clippings 1988-2001	1-A	8
US District Court for the District of Hawaii-Court Deposition 1990	1-A	9
Series II: Correspondence, Notes, Research Manuscript, for Book <i>Minneapolis</i> (1973)		Box 2
Scope and Contents note		
<p>Box 2. This series contains the materials for Flanagan's first book <i>Minneapolis</i>(1973). She published this book through St. Martin's Press of New York. The series provides the correspondence, notes, memoranda, research, drafts, and manuscripts for this book. It also holds response questionnaire transcripts that were given to prominent members of the Minneapolis community by Flanagan.</p>		
	Box	Folder

Series II: Correspondence, Notes, Research Manuscript, for Book Minneapolis...

St. Martin's Press, Incorporated correspondence 1971-1973	2	1
Notes and memos 1971-1973	2	2
Correspondence 1970-1971	2	3
Minneapolis manuscript	2	4
Interviews	2	5
Charles H. Bell response questionnaire October 15, 1970	2	6
Ben Berger response questionnaire October 20, 1970	2	7
Marvin Borman response questionnaire October 20, 1970	2	8
Howard Conn response questionnaire November 23, 1970	2	9
John Cowles Sr. and Jr., and Roger Baker response questionnaires N.D.	2	10
Kenneth and Bruce Dayton response questionnaires October 27, 1970, and November 17, 1970	2	11
Amos S. Deinard response questionnaire November 14, 1970	2	12
Hugh Galusha response questionnaire October 16, 1970	2	13

Series II: Correspondence, Notes, Research Manuscript, for Book Minneapolis...

Henry T McKnight response questionnaire N.D.	2	14
Mann Theater response questionnaire November 5, 1970	2	15
Rabbi Albert G. Minda response questionnaire October 8, 1970	2	16
Clinton Morrison response questionnaire October 7, 1970	2	17
Walter C. Nelson response questionnaire October 8, 1970	2	18
Leslie C. Park response questionnaire October 25, 1970	2	19
Jay Phillips response questionnaire October 16, 1970	2	20
John S. Pillsbury Jr. response questionnaire November 16, 1970	2	21
Phillip W. Pillsbury response questionnaire October 30, 1970	2	22
Raymond Plank response questionnaire October 7, 1970	2	23
Walter G. Robinson response questionnaire October 19, 1970	2	24
Wayne E. Thompson response questionnaire October 15, 1970	2	25
Archie Walker response questionnaire N.D.	2	26
John Warder response questionnaire December 7, 1970	2	27

Series III: Correspondence, Notes, Research, Manuscript for Book *Ovation: a Partnership Between a Great Orchestra and a Great Audience* 1976-1977

Box
3

Scope and Contents note

Box 3. This series covers the second book by Flanagan entitled *Ovation: A Partnership Between a Great Orchestra and a Great Audience*(1977). The content of this book chronicles the history of the Minnesota Orchestra. The series contains notes, drafts, interview transcripts, correspondence, clippings, and research for this book. It also provides committee lists and meeting minutes for involved parties in this book.

	Box	Folder
Drafts and notes	3	1
Drafts and notes	3	2
Drafts, notes, and interviews	3	3
Interview transcripts	3	4
Ovation Manuscript 1	3	5
Ovation Manuscript 2	3	6
Drafts and notes	3	7
Correspondence, clippings, committee lists, and minutes	3	8
Series IV: Downtown Fashion Show Scripts 1960-1981		Box 4-5

Series V: Columns**Scope and Contents note**

Boxes 4 and 5. This series contains the programs and scripts from the Downtown Fashion Show of Minneapolis spanning the years 1960-1975. Flanagan personally emceed this event on an annual basis.

Box

1960-1975

4

1976-1981

5

Series V: Columns 1947-1981**Box**

6-10

Scope and Contents note

Boxes 6-10. This series contains printed clippings of Flanagan's columns from the years 1947-1981. In the earlier years, the columns are produced for both the Minneapolis Star and Minneapolis Tribune, before they merged as the Star Tribune.

Box

1947-1958

6

1959-1962

7

1963-1966

8

1967-1969

9

1977-1981

10

Series VI: Letters from her readers**Box**

11-49

Series VI: Letters from her readers

Scope and Contents note

Boxes 11-49. This series contains an extensive assortment of fan letters and correspondence to Barbara Flanagan. Most letters are in response to her columns. These letters span the years 1950-2001. Some letters are also undated.

	Box
1950-1968	11
1969	12
1970	13
1971	14
1972	15
January 1973-May 1973	16

Responses to abortion column

Includes almost 200 responses to May 1 column on abortion.

June 1973-December 1973	17
January 1974-June 1974	18
July 1, 1974-December 31, 1974	19
January 1, 1975-June 20, 1975	20

Series VI: Letters from her readers

July 1, 1975-December 31, 1975	21
January 1976-June 1976	22
July 1976-December 1976	23
January 1977-June 1977	24
July 1977-December 1977	25
January 1978-June 1978	26
July 1978-December 1978	27
January 1979-June 1979	28
July 1979-December 1979	29
January 1980-June 1980	30
July 1980-December 1980	31
January 1981-June 1981	32
July 1981-December 1981	33
January 1982-June 1982	34

Series VI: Letters from her readers

July 1982-December 1982	35
January 1983-June 1983	36
July 1983-December 1983	37
January 1984-June 1984	38
July 1984-December 1984	39
January 1985-June 1985	40
July 1985-December 1985	41
January 1986-June 1986	42
July 1986-December 1986	43
January 1987-June 1987	44
July 1987-December 1987	45
January 1988-December 1988	46
1989-1993	47
1994-1998	48

Series VII: Research

1999-2001, ND

49

Series VII: Research**Box**
50-53**Scope and Contents note**

Boxes 50-53. This series contains materials for major programs, projects, development plans, and events in the Twin Cities metro region. The majority of these initiatives address issues of city beautification, city planning, historical preservation, neighborhood revitalization, and infrastructure design. Arts, education, public health, and social services are also primary focuses of these materials. Flanagan's columns and writings addressed many of these fore mentioned issues directly. The series contain folder files for specific issues or topics. Flanagan took part in many of these initiatives directly, or was simply sought after by interested individuals and agencies for promotional purposes, or support. Minneapolis and St. Paul planning and revitalization projects, mass-transit planning, and private instition projects like the Guthrie Theater and Milwaukee Depot are some examples from this material. Among this series are also drafts of Flanagan's monthly column the Flanagan Memo and historical materials of the Star Tribune. This series provides a wealth of materials on the Twin Cities and shows the depth of Flanagan's community involvement.

	Box	Folder
Gustavus Adolphus College 1997	50	1
St. Andrew's Golf Academy 1998	50	2
College of St. Thomas 1961	50	3
University of Minnesota	50	4
University of Minnesota	50	5

Series VII: Research

University of Minnesota Cancer Center 1995-1998	50	6
Minnesota arts, music, and film	50	7
Minnesota arts, music, and film	50	8
Jungle Theater Project 1996	51	1
People of interest	51	2
People of interest	51	3
Minnesota social services organizations	51	4
Jefferson Elementary Playground Project 1996	51	5
Minneapolis neighborhoods	51	6
Minneapolis planning and revitalization projects 1976-1998	51	7
Minneapolis planning and revitalization projects 1998-2002	51	8
Minneapolis Community Development Agency (MCDA)	51	9
Schubert Theatre Restoration Project 1998	52	1
Orchestra Hall Organ Restoration Project 1996	52	2

Series VII: Research

Minneapolis Warehouse District materials 1990-1991	52	3
Block E and Millenium Project 1996-1997	52	4
Milwaukee Depot 1989-1997	52	5
Pillsbury House 1968	52	6
Minneapolis Park Board 1996-1999	52	7
Calhoun Square Development 1978-1980	52	8
Calhoun Square Development 1978-1980	52	9
Barbara Flanagan Bench Project 1989	52	10
Highway 55/ Camp Coldwater Dispute 1998	52	11
Twin Cities light rail and transportation 1975-2000	52	12
Urban design and traffic design 1993-1999	52	13
St. Paul Revitalization Project 1996	52	14
Historic preservation materials	52	15
Guthrie Theater location proposals 1999	52	16

Series VII: Research

Greater Minnesota projects and initiatives 1980-2000	52	17
Library materials	52	18
Fashion 1960-1964	52	19
Minnesota television and media	52	20
Scandinavian cultural materials	52	21
Periodicals	52	22
Periodicals	53	23
Periodicals	53	24
Star Tribune historical materials	53	25
Star Tribune historical materials	53	26
Star Tribune historical materials	53	27
Drafts and notes: columns, articles, and playscripts	53	28
Flanagan Memo drafts 1994-1998	53	29
Flanagan Memo drafts 1999-2000	53	30

Series VIII: Clubs and Organizations

Box
54

Scope and Contents note

Box 54. This series contains materials from clubs and organizations that Flanagan held membership in, or collaborated with directly. These clubs and organizations include Minnesota Arts Forum, Minnesota Orchestral Association, Minneapolis Club, Minnesota Opera, Women's Club of Minneapolis, the Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library, Junior League of Minneapolis, and the Women's Association of the Minnesota Orchestra (WAMSO).

	Box	Folder
Minnesota Arts Forum 1964-1966	54	1
Minnesota Orchestral Association 1982-2000	54	2
Women's Association of the Minnesota Orchestra (WAMSO) 1994-1997	54	3
Minnesota Opera 1997	54	4
Junior League Minneapolis	54	5
The Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library 1985-2000	54	6
"Beatle Club"	54	7
Minneapolis Club	54	8
Women's Club of Minneapolis		

Series IX: Press Releases and Event Announcements

Box
55-56B**Scope and Contents note**

Boxes 55, 56A and 56B. This series contains two boxes of press releases and event announcements that were personally sent to Barbara Flanagan. These invitations came from Twin Cities area restaurants, clubs, organizations, institutions, artists, musicians, political leaders, business leaders, sport franchises, and event organizers. Some of the releases and announcements also come from national and international figures. Some notable materials include a press-kit for the Inaugural Committee 1965 for the Democratic presidential candidate of Lyndon Baines Johnson, and press materials for the 1965 World Series between the Minnesota Twins and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Series X: Awards**Box**
57**Scope and Contents note**

Box 57. This series contains the awards given to Barbara Flanagan by various public and private institutions. Most come from state and city political figures, awarding Flanagan for her ongoing efforts to promote urban beautification, design, and community involvement. Other awards include recognitions from charitable organizations, social services agencies, and regional media. Lastly, awards from prominent national figures in government and media are also present in this series. The awards come in the physical forms of plaques, certificates, formal letters, proclamations, ephemera, and articles.

Series XI: Photographs**Box**
58**Scope and Contents note**

Box 58. This series contains photographs of Barbara Flanagan, artists, architects, politicians, and celebrities. The majority of photographs are of the Twin Cities region, Barbara Flanagan, and her husband Earl Sanford. Flanagan is the subject of most of the photographs, posing for ground breaking ceremonies, media events, social events, or personal photographs. The series provides strong photographic documentation of the

Series XII: Audio-visual and Slides

development of Minneapolis downtown and key figures involved, including Flanagan. Further, the series contains photographs from local, national, and international artists and architects. Most of these photographs are of sculptures or civil architecture. Lastly, photographs with celebrities and politicians (city, state, and national) are within this series.

Series XII: Audio-visual and Slides**Box**
59**Scope and Contents note**

Box 59. This series contains one reel-to-reel audio-tape from Garrison Keilor, two sets of color slides for the Minneapolis Fashion Show 1976-1977, and color slides of Leeann Chin (restaurant founder), Lowell Beiland (sculpture artist), and the Minneapolis Hollidazzle Parade.

Series XIII: Scrapbooks 1964-1988**Box-folder**
60-81**Scope and Contents note**

Box-folders 60-78. The scrapbooks are clippings of her columns organized chronologically by the years 1964-1988. For the most part, each scrapbook covers the duration of one year.

1965-1966

1967

1968

1969

1970

Series XIII: Scrapbooks

1971

Flanagan article dated January 8, 1971 entitled "Cousin Minnie was a Lousy Cook."

Flanagan article dated January 15, 1971 entitled "Protest Provokes Parker." January 15, 1971

Scope and Contents

Discusses letter received in response to 1/7/1971 column on University Parking.

1972

1973

1974

1975

1976-1977

1978

1979

1980

1981

Series XIII: Scrapbooks

1982

January-May 1983

May 1983-December 1984

1985

1986

1987

1988