

Gruening Papers In UA Archives

COLLEGE — Sen. Ernest Gruening's collection of personal papers, photographs, documents, and other memorabilia, accumulated during his 23 years in Alaska public service as territorial governor from 1939 to 1953 and as U.S. Senator since statehood, represent a wealth of Alaskanana measuring more than 400 cubic feet.

The Senator recently donated his papers to the University of Alaska archives and manuscript collections, and UA Archivist Paul H. McCarthy spent a week in Washington, D.C. working on transfer arrangements and preliminary sorting with members of the senator's staff.

The first cases of the Gruening papers arrived at the university this week.

As the largest document collection thus far donated to the archives, the Gruening papers are expected to fill more than 800 standard archival filing boxes, according to McCarthy.

Even with the advent of computer indexing, he anticipates it will take at least two years to accurately catalog and file Sen. Gruening's collection.

The papers, McCarthy said, will be an outstanding resource for the study of Alaska's history, economic development, and political growth, as well as its social and cultural change.

Acquisition of the Gruening papers brings to four the number of Alaskan delegates to the U.S. Congress whose papers are filed in the UA archives.

The others are Ralph Rivers, U.S. Representative to Congress from 1959 to 1966; Anthony J. Diamond, Delegate to Congress from 1933 to 1945; and Daniel Sutherland, Delegate to Congress from 1921 to 1931.