



The Wittliff Collections

Guide to the Nadine Eckhardt Papers 1920-2009 (Bulk dates: 1944-2009)

Collection SWWC-105

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Eckhardt, Nadine, 1931-
Title:	Guide to the Nadine Eckhardt Papers
Dates:	1920-2009 (Bulk dates: 1944-2009)
Abstract:	Correspondence, photographs, personal papers, and other research materials represent the life of Nadine Eckhardt, author of <i>Duchess of Palms</i> . The materials were collected over the life span of Eckhardt, born in 1931, and were used in research for her memoir. The materials are arranged into five series: Personal Papers, Correspondence, Photographs, Printed Materials and <i>Dutchess of Palms</i> .
Identification:	SWWC-105
Extent:	6 Linear Feet, 14 boxes
Language:	English
Repository:	The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

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Biographical Notes

Nadine Ellen Cannon was born in McAllen, Texas on January 20, 1931. After graduating from high school in 1948, Eckhardt enrolled in North Texas State College in Denton, Texas to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree. While there she met her first husband, writer Billy Lee Brammer, whom she married in 1950 when she was nineteen years old. In 1951, she and Brammer moved to Austin where she worked for the University of Texas and briefly at the *Austin American-Statesman* newspaper. Two daughters, Sidney and Shelby, were born during this time. After several years in Austin, she and Brammer moved to Washington D.C. in 1955 to work on the staff of Texas Senator Lyndon B. Johnson. The marriage to Brammer began to deteriorate, and she moved back to Austin pregnant with their third child, William. The couple eventually divorced in 1961. During this time, Brammer released his critically acclaimed, but controversial book, *The Gay Place*, a fictional account of Texas politics.

Now single and working at the State Capitol, Nadine met Robert “Bob” Eckhardt, a Texas state representative from Houston, whom she married in 1962. The couple moved to Houston, Eckhardt’s hometown, and the birthplace of their only child, daughter Sarah. In 1966, Bob Eckhardt ran for Congress. Eckhardt won, and Nadine moved to Washington, D.C. There she performed the duties of a congressman’s wife as well as helping to manage Eckhardt’s congressional staff. She became involved in women’s rights issues and the Civil Rights movement of Dr. Martin Luther King. The Eckhardts separated in 1976 and divorced in 1977. Nadine moved back to Austin, Texas. After her divorce from Bob Eckhardt, Nadine opened a restaurant in east Austin – Nadine’s, and she ran it for a year and a half. She moved to New York City and worked for another restaurant, also named Nadine’s, owned by her daughter Sarah’s boyfriend. In 1991, Nadine moved back to Austin permanently. While living in Austin, Eckhardt worked as an assistant to writer Molly Ivins, in real estate, and worked on Ann Richards’ gubernatorial campaign in 1992. In 2009, Eckhardt released, *Duchess of Palms*, a memoir of her life and work in Washington D.C. and Austin, Texas. The title was inspired by a beauty pageant she had won as a teenager.

Eckhardt passed away on December 8, 2018.

Scope and Contents

The Nadine Eckhardt Collection spans from the 1920s-2009. The collection is comprised of photographs, correspondence, business materials, newspapers clippings and early and final versions of *Duchess of Palms*. The original order of the Nadine Eckhardt Collection was maintained with minimal changes. The collection was originally arranged chronologically by *Duchess of Palms* materials, correspondence between Nadine and Billy Lee Brammer 1956-1968, correspondence between Bob, Nadine, and her family 1970s-1983, and Nadine's personal correspondence, 1944 through 1999. The chronological order was maintained, but the materials were organized into five series: Personal Papers - restaurant and scrapbook materials, Family Papers - Billy Lee Brammer, Bob Eckhardt, family, and personal, Photographs - organized chronologically, Print Materials - newspapers and other articles, and *Duchess of Palms* Materials - drafts, timelines and notes.

Original folder titles are in quotation marks.

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Nadine Eckhardt, 2010.

Related Materials

For additional Billy Lee Brammer material, see the Billy Lee Brammer Papers (Collection 007).

Additional Bob Eckhardt papers can be found at the Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin.

Preferred Citation

Nadine Eckhardt Papers, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.

Conditions Governing Use

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<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/visit/policies/publication.html>

Physical Location

Materials may be stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use:

<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/makearesearchappointment.html>.

Controlled Access Headings

- Authors' spouses -- Texas
- Autobiography
- Political campaigns -- United States
- Politicians' spouses
- Women authors, American -- Texas -- 20th century

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Personal Papers, 1950-2008

Box	Folder	
1	1	"Bob Eckhardt list of invites"
1	2	Drawings
1	3	"Grandma"
1	4	"Nadine's Restaurant"

Series II: Correspondence , 1944-2008

Billy Lee Brammer, 1951-1970

1	5	Billy Lee Brammer, 1951
1	6	Billy Lee Brammer, 1952
1	7	Billy Lee Brammer, 1956
1	8	Billy Lee Brammer, 1957
1	9	Billy Lee Brammer, 1958
1	10	Billy Lee Brammer, 1959
1	11	Billy Lee Brammer, 1960
1	12	Billy Lee Brammer, 1961
1	13	Billy Lee Brammer, 1970

Bob Eckhardt, 1961-1987

1	14	Bob Eckhardt, 1961
1	15	Bob Eckhardt, 1962
1	16	Bob Eckhardt, 1965
1	17	Bob Eckhardt, 1966
1	18	Bob Eckhardt, 1968
1	19	Bob Eckhardt, 1969
1	20	Bob Eckhardt, 1972
1	21	Bob Eckhardt, 1974
1	22	Bob Eckhardt, 1975
1	23	Bob Eckhardt, 1987

Family, 1956-2006

2	1	Family, 1956
2	2	Family, 1957

2	3	Family, 1960
2	4	Family, 1961
2	5	Family, 1962
2	6	Family, 1963
2	7	Family, 1964
2	8	Family, 1966
2	9	Family, 1967
2	10	Family, 1969
2	11	Family, 1970
2	12	Family, 1971
2	13	Family, 1972
2	14	Family, 1973
2	15	Family, 1974-1975
2	16	Family, 1976-1977
2	17	Family, 1978
2	18	Family, 1979
2	19	Family, 1980
2	20	Family, 1981
2	21	Family, 1982
2	22	Family, 1983
2	23	Family, 1984
2	24	Family, 1985
2	25	Family, 1986
2	26	Family, 1987
2	27	Family, 1988
2	28	Family, 1990
2	29	Family, 1998
2	30	Family, 2005
2	31	Family, 2006

Other/Unidentified, 1944-2008, undated

3	1	Other/Unidentified, 1944
3	2	Other/Unidentified, 1945
3	3	Other/Unidentified, 1946
3	4	Other/Unidentified, 1947-1948
3	5	Other/Unidentified, 1956
3	6	Other/Unidentified, 1957
3	7	Other/Unidentified, 1961-1962
3	8	Other/Unidentified, 1962-1963
3	9	Other/Unidentified, 1964-1965
3	10	Other/Unidentified, 1966
3	11	Other/Unidentified, 1967

3	12	Other/Unidentified, 1968
4	1	Other/Unidentified, 1969
4	2	Other/Unidentified, 1970
4	3	Other/Unidentified, 1971
4	4	Other/Unidentified, 1972
4	5	Other/Unidentified, 1973
4	6	Other/Unidentified, 1974
4	7	Other/Unidentified, 1975
5	2	Other/Unidentified, 1976
5	3	Other/Unidentified, 1977
5	4	Other/Unidentified, 1978
5	5	Other/Unidentified, 1979
5	6	Other/Unidentified, 1980
5	7	Other/Unidentified, 1981-1982
5	8	Other/Unidentified, 1983
5	9	Other/Unidentified, 1984
6	1	Other/Unidentified, 1985
6	2	Other/Unidentified, 1986
6	3	Other/Unidentified, 1987
6	4	Other/Unidentified, 1988
6	5	Other/Unidentified, 1989
6	6	Other/Unidentified, 1990
7	1	Other/Unidentified, 1991
7	2	Other/Unidentified, 1992-1993
7	3	Other/Unidentified, 1994-1995
7	4	Other/Unidentified, 1996
7	5	Other/Unidentified, 1997
7	6	Other/Unidentified, 1998
7	7	Other/Unidentified, 1999
7	8	Other/Unidentified, 2003
7	9	Other/Unidentified, 2004
7	10	Other/Unidentified, 2005
7	11	Other/Unidentified, 2006
7	12	Other/Unidentified, 2008
7	13	Other/Unidentified, undated

Series III: Photographs , circa 1920-2009

8	1	Photographs , 1920-1929
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Nadine Ellen Thompson (Nadine Eckhardt's mother)(photocopy)

Leslie Wells (Nadine Eckhardt's biological father)(photocopy)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8 | 2 | <p>Photographs , 1930-1939</p> <p>Noah Cannon, Nadine Cannon, Little Nadine, Leslie Cannon; circa 1939 taken by Denson Photo in Dallas, TX (photocopy)</p> |
| 8 | 3 | <p>Photographs , 1940-1949</p> <p>Noah Lee Cannon (Nadine Eckhardt's adoptive father); circa mid 1940s (photocopy)</p> <p>Photo information sheet</p> |
| 8 | 4 | <p>Photographs , 1950-1959</p> <p>"Nadine Cannon modeling underwear and pjs for a Vanity Fair Factory near Denton, TX;"1949 or 1950 (photocopy)</p> <p>Photo information sheet for 1</p> <p>Nadine Cannon; 1949 or 1950(photocopy)</p> <p>Photo Information Sheet for 3</p> <p>Five "Children's Photos," 1950s</p> <p>Sam Rayburn and Ralph Yarborough; early 1950 (photocopy)</p> <p>"Nadine on roof of architecture building" 1951(photocopy)</p> <p>"Stevenson at press conference LBJ Ranch;" Grace Tully, Sam Rayburn, Lyndon Baines Johnson, Adlai; 1955 (photocopy)</p> <p>"Mary Margaret and Nadine sitting on Harry McPherson's knees at Party at Duggers House;" Mary Margaret Wylie, Harry McPherson and Nadine; 1955 (photocopy)</p> <p>"Nadine sitting on Harry McPherson's lap; 1955 (photocopy)</p> <p>"LBJ in majority leader's office; Lyndon Baines Johnson; 1955 or 1956(photocopy)</p> <p>"Nadine in Arlington House"taken by Bill Brammer (photocopy)</p> <p>"Willie Morris, Nadine Brammer with daughters Sydney and Shelby Brammer 1957 in front of house on Enfield Rd. Austin" 1957 (photocopy)</p> <p>"Nadine holding up fish at LBJ Ranch-with daughter Sidney" 1957 or 1958, taken by Bill Brammer (photocopy) Three photocopies taped onto one page</p> <p>"Nadine on NTSC campus. Taken by Bill Brammer 1950" taken by Bill Brammer (photocopy)</p> |
| 8 | 5 | <p>Photographs , 1960-1969</p> <p>"Nadine and Michael Janeway at Paleface Ranch" circa 1960 (3-1 photocopy) "Bob Eckhardt, State Representative from Houston" 1962 or 1963 photograph; taken by</p> |

Russell Lee (2- both photocopies)

Photo information sheet for 4 and 5 “Bob and Nadine 1963 moved into house newly built”

“Bob and Nadine 1963 moved into house” Nadine and Bob Eckhardt “Russell Lee volunteered to take Bob’s photo for his campaign for Congress in 1966”(photocopy)

Photo Information Sheet for 9

“L-R, Norma Eckhardt, Bob’s mother, state rep. Bob Eckhardt who was running for Congress and Nadine Eckhardt, in Bob’s Campaign HDQTRS. In 1966” 1966 (photocopy)

“Congressman Bob Eckhardt and Nadine on Air Force One en route to Party in Austin with LBJ in June 16, 1967” (photocopy)

“Bob Eckhardt, Bob Pierpoint (Newsman, deceased), Barbara Bush, Nadine, Jessica Hobby Cato, Cong. George Bush, Bill Hobby on Capitol Steps 1967” (photocopy)

“Photo: L-R Paul (deceased), LBJ, Nadine, Bob Eckhardt, Bayou Club, Houston, at party in honor of John Connally 1969 Feb. 13” (photocopy)

8 6 Photographs , 1970-1979

“Taken in District?,” Sarah Eckhardt (8 yrs old); April 30, 1973

“Nadine, Bob and Sarah at reception in Bob’s District Office for federal employees” April 30, 1973 (photocopy)

“L-R Unknown, Unknown, Nadine, Beulah Shepard, 1973”(photocopy)

“L-R: Grace Tully, Nadine, State Senator Walter Richter, Nadine, Bob Eckhardt, Cong. Chick Kazen, at Andrews AFB, waiting for LBJs body to arrive” 1973 (3)

“Hofneinz Pavilion in Houston, Mack Hofheinz was Mayor’s wife;” 1974 (2- both photocopies)

“Photos of Nadine, Betty Dooley and Ann Brinkley and Bob in front of house in Georgetown 1975” (photocopy)

“1975” (33) “1976” (12) “1977” (5) “1979” (7)

8 7 Photographs , 1978

“from 1978” (55)

“from 1978” Duplicates of photos taken in Nadine’s Restaurant (43)

“from 1978” Funerals (9)

8 8 Photographs , 1970-1979

“1970s photos” (38)

8 9 Photographs , 1980-1989

“1980s” (9)

“1981s” (23)

“1981” “Photo of Nadine and Ann Richards Fundraiser at Nadine’s in NYC October 30, 1989”

“1981” “Nadine’s in NYC 1988 or ’89” (3)

- | | | |
|---|----|---|
| 8 | 10 | “Nadine/Personal/Photos” , 2006 |
| 8 | 11 | “Additional Scrapbook Materials” (10 family photos), undated |
| 8 | 12 | “Pics of Texas Capital by Rosalind Eckhardt plus photos of Bob”, 1970-1975, undated |

“Roy and Lil at Ann Richards political Party - 9 Dec 1975”

“Texas Capital by Rosalind Eckhardt in mid 70s” (19)

Unidentified photos (14)

- | | | |
|---|----|------------------------------------|
| 8 | 13 | Miscellaneous , 1967-1989, undated |
|---|----|------------------------------------|

“George Crane 1971 Georgetown University Student”

“G.W. Bush at dedication of LBJ Library, Austin 1967, taken by Eckhardt

“Curtis Graves 68 and 89”(3)

NASA Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, TX; L-R Mrs. Robert Turner, Robert Tuner, Mrs. Bob Eckhardt, Astronaut Michael Collins; January 27, 1967 (3)

Unidentified photos (14)

Series IV: Printed Material, 1955-2008

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 9 | 1 | Articles, Billy Lee Brammer |
| 9 | 2 | Articles, Bob Eckhardt |
| 9 | 3 | Articles, Nadine |
| 9 | 4 | Articles, Related Resources |
| 9 | 5 | Documents |
| 9 | 6 | Articles, Event Programs |
| 9 | 7 | Articles, Travels |

Series V: Duchess of Palms , 1970-2009

Correspondence

10	1	A-Z
10	2	Donegan, Craig
10	3	Harpers & Row Publishers
10	4	Texas Monthly Press
10	5	University of Texas Press
10	6	Copyrights
10	7	Photographs

Timelines

10	8	“Summaries on timelines by year”
10	9	“BLB, Late fifties and early sixties”
10	10	“1961-66”
10	11	1966-1977”
10	12	“Written in 1976 by BLB and Nadine”
10	13	“1977-1988”
10	14	“1988-1989”

Notes

11	1	“Transcripts of Interviews”
11	2	“Chronology of 55, 56, 57 Furnished by LBJ Library”
11	3	“List of possible readers to read manuscript”
11	4	“Used while ending my book, brainstormed, 10-28-04”
11	5	“Suggested titles”
11	6	“Articles Re: What publishers are looking for”
11	7	“The 60’s”
11	8	“Articles about women to read for ideas”
11	9	“50’s notes I used in chap.1”
11	10	“Writing styles/suggestions”
11	11	“To myself, 1989, 87, 88”
11	12	“To myself 1982, 83, 90’s”
11	13	“Scrapbook material 40’s, 50’s, 60’s”
11	14	"Re 1973”
11	15	“On the 90’s and earlier (70’s, 60’s)”
11	16	“End of book and epilogue”
11	17	“Epilogue”

Drafts

12	1	“Early Manuscripts”
12	2	“7-16-07, with revisions sent to Allison Faust”
12	3	“Notes and revisions”
12	4	“Includes schedule as of 3/12”

13	1	“Copy of M.S. sent to Tim and Library of Congress”
13	2	“Craig Donegan’s efforts”
13	3	“Mother, Grandma, family”
13	4	“LBJ”
13	5	“Removed from Binder”
13	6	“M.S.S.”
14	1	“Printed 6/16/05”
14	2	“Selected chapters with notes from Tim”
14	3	“Cleaned up M.S. 8-2-07 by KMJ”
14	4	“Cleaned up M.S. 8-16-07 by KMJ”
14	5	“Cleaned up MS 8-16-07”