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## Frank E. Denholm Papers

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# Frank E. Denholm Papers

Finding Aid



Dust and time shall decay principalities, mansions, and men, but the measure of ever having been is the legacy of each generation to the next again and again.

Frank E. Denholm

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections  
Briggs Library (SBL) Room 241 Box 2114  
1300 North Campus Drive  
Brookings, SD 57007  
Phone: 605-688-5094  
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# Collection Summary

## *Identifier*

MA 74

## *Title*

Frank E. Denholm Papers

## *Creator*

Frank E. Denholm

## *Dates*

1934-2016

## *Extent*

17.39 linear feet – 11 records center boxes, 3 oversize boxes, 4 framed items, photographs

## *Language*

English

## *Repository*

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

## *Access note*

This collection is open to researchers without restrictions. The materials in the Archives do not circulate and may be used in-house only.

## *Preferred Citation*

*Name of item.* Frank E. Denholm Papers. MA 74. South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

## *Abstract*

Frank E. Denholm was born on his parents' homestead in Scotland Township in Day County, South Dakota on November 29, 1923. During his life, he held several positions such as farmer, auctioneer, F.B.I. agent, lawyer, and United States Congressman from South Dakota's First Congressional District from 1971 to 1975. The papers consist mostly of materials created during the time he served in Congress. These items document his campaigns for Congress, and his work for rural America, particularly his effort to reinstate the Rural Electrification Act and numerous legislation regarding agriculture, rural water,

and rural development. Information regarding Denholm's wife, Mildred Niehaus Denholm, is included in the collection. The Frank E. Denholm Papers contain press releases, newspaper clippings, correspondence, photographs, audio and video recordings, and campaign artifacts.

## **Biographical Note**

Franklin Edvard Denholm was born on November 29, 1923 to John J. and Laura Anna (Mathias) Denholm on his parents' homestead in Scotland Township in Day County, South Dakota. He farmed, operated an interstate truck transport business, and became well-known as an auctioneer after he finished his education in public schools. He married Mildred T. Niehaus on June 12, 1950 in Webster, South Dakota. Denholm was elected and served as Day County Sheriff from 1950-1952 and was a delegate to the South Dakota State Democratic conventions from 1950-1952.

Frank Denholm received a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science in 1956 from South Dakota State College in Brookings, South Dakota. He also had sufficient academic credit hours for majors in economics, history, and speech. While a student at SDSU he won first place in Men's Oratory in South Dakota Intercollegiate Forensics and in Men's Original Oratory in national competition at Redlands University in California. Denholm was also a member of numerous student organizations including Delta Sigma Alpha, Toastmasters, Ag Econ Club, International Relations, and served as President of the Blue Key National Honors Society. He was nominated to "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities" during his last year at SDSU.

Frank Denholm then pursued a Master's degree at the University of Minnesota, which was interrupted by his appointment as a Special Agent of the FBI by J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C. He accepted the appointment as an FBI Agent, serving from 1956 to 1961.

Denholm received his Jurist Doctorate degree of law from the University of South Dakota and was admitted to the South Dakota bar in 1962. He practiced law in Brookings, South Dakota as corporate counsel for the cities of Brookings, Volga, and White from 1962 to 1971. He was also admitted and authorized to practice law in Federal District Court (Southern Division); U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit, St. Louis, MO; the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Washington, D.C.; the Supreme Court of the United States; and the Tax Courts of the United States. Denholm was also a lecturer in economics, law, and political science at South Dakota State University from 1962 to 1966 and a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1968.

Frank E. Denholm was elected to the Ninety-second and Ninety-third Congresses and served from January 3, 1971 to January 3, 1975. Some of the legislation he

sponsored and supported that was enacted into law are: The Rural Telephone Act of 1971, The Rural Development Act of 1972, and the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974. The Senate version of the "Denholm Bill" reinstated the Rural Electrification Act in 1973 after President Nixon ceased to uphold the provisions of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

Denholm resumed his Brookings legal practice after an unsuccessful campaign for Congress in 1974. He was a member of the International Fraternity of Phi Kappa Delta, the American Bar Association, the American Trial Lawyers Association, South Dakota Peace Officers Association, the Isaac Walton League, and the St. Thomas More Catholic Parish. Denholm also served as Kiwanis President and Trustee of the Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks. He received numerous honors including being named in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in Government*, *Personalities in the West* and in the *Mid-West*, and *Men of Achievement*. He died on April 7, 2016 in Brookings, South Dakota.

## **Contents Note**

The Frank E. Denholm Papers consist mostly of materials generated during the time he served as the representative to South Dakota's First Congressional District, from 1971 to 1975. These materials document his work for rural America, particularly his effort to reinstate the Rural Electrification Act and numerous legislation regarding agriculture, rural water, and rural development. Press releases and newspaper clippings about his activities in Congress can be found in the papers. The collection also includes scrapbooks and memorabilia about his campaigns for Congress. In addition, there are several files of correspondence, some of which was with members of Congress and other notable people such as George McGovern and Richard Kneip. The collection includes nearly 1,500 photographs and slides, most of which relate to his campaigns for Congress. There are reel-to-reel audio recordings and video recordings on 2-inch quad video tape that consist of campaign advertisements and his work in Congress. The collection also documents Denholm's career as a sheriff, auctioneer, F.B.I. agent, and lawyer.

The papers also contain documents relating to Frank Denholm's wife, Mildred Niehaus Denholm. Mrs. Denholm was born May 9, 1927 to Frank F. and Elizabeth C. (Schuring) Niehaus from Andover, South Dakota. She married Frank Denholm on June 12, 1950 in Webster, South Dakota. She attended Northern State Teachers College in Aberdeen, SD and taught in rural schools. Mrs. Denholm also went to the Aberdeen School of Business, the Strayer Business College in Washington, D.C., and the University of Utah where she studied music. She worked as a medical and legal secretary. Mrs. Denholm actively campaigned for her husband. She was involved in the Congressional Women's Club while Denholm was in office. Mrs. Denholm passed away August 14, 2014. The collection includes correspondence

between Frank and Mildred Denholm and her activities with the Congressional Women's Club.

## **Key Words**

Agricultural laws and legislation -- United States

Auctioneers

Campaign advertising

Denholm, Frank E. (Frank Edvard), 1923-2016

Denholm, Mildred

Federal Bureau of Investigation (U.S.)

Rural electrification

Sheriffs (Day County : S.D.)

South Dakota – History

South Dakota -- Politics and government

United States. Congress. House

United States. House of Representatives

## **Administrative Information**

### *Conditions Governing Access*

This collection is open to researchers without restrictions. The materials in the Archives do not circulate and may be used in-house only.

Researchers conducting extensive research are asked to make an advance appointment to access archival material. Please call or e-mail prior to visiting the collection and indicate as much detail as possible about a particular topic and intended use.

South Dakota State University supports access to the materials, published and unpublished, in its collections. Nonetheless, access to some items may be restricted as a result of their fragile condition or by contractual agreements with donors.

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*Arranged and Described by*

Michele Christian, Archivist, October 2016

## Container List

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
6	19	Andover High School Class of 1941 Round Robin	1989-2012
8	2	Audio recordings: Denholm (2 reel-to-reel audio tapes)	1970, undated
8	3	Audio recordings: Denholm (2 reel-to-reel audio tapes)	undated
8	4	Audio recordings: Denholm (4 reel-to-reel audio tapes)	1971, undated
8	5	Audio recordings: Denholm (4 reel-to-reel audio tapes)	undated
8	1	Audio recordings: Denholm for Congress radio advertising (4 reel-to-reel audio tapes)	1974, undated
8	6	Audio recordings: Grant Association meeting (3 reel-to-reel audio tapes)	1968
1	4	Biographical information: Education	1956-1962
1	1	Biographical information: Autobiography of Frank Denholm	1997, undated
1	2	Biographical information: Biographies	1963-2000
1	5	Biographical information: Memorials and obituaries	2016
1	3	Biographical information: Denholm Family history	1969-2013
1	6	Calendars	1955
1	7	Calendars	1962
1	8	Calendars	1971
1	9	Calendars	1971
1	10	Calendars	1972
1	11	Calendars	1973
1	12	Calendars	1974
1	13	Calendars	1975
1	14	Calendars	1975
14	4	Certificates (Oversize)	1948-1996
1	15	Congress: 1972 General Election in South Dakota: an Analysis by the South Dakota Farmer's Union	1972

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1	16	Congress: Asia delegation trip	1971
1	17	Congress: Asia delegation trip	1971
2	1	Congress: Campaign	1968
2	2	Congress: Campaign	1972
2	3	Congress: Campaign advertising on radio and television	1970
2	4	Congress: Campaign buttons and bumper stickers	1970-1974
2	5	Congress: Campaign certificate of nomination	1970-1974
2	6	Congress: Campaign finance report	1970
2	7	Congress: Campaign finance report	1971
2	8	Congress: Campaign finance report	1972
2	9	Congress: Campaign finance report	1973
2	10	Congress: Campaign finance report	1974
10		Congress: Campaign hats (4 Denholm for Congress hats)	undated
2	11	Congress: Campaign materials	1970-1974
14	2	Congress: Campaign newspaper advertisements (Oversize)	1970, 1972
14	3	Congress: Campaign posters (Oversize)	undated
2	12	Congress: Campaign South Dakota Counties, Duel County	undated
2	13	Congress: Campaign South Dakota Counties, Kingsbury County	1971
2	14	Congress: Campaign South Dakota Counties, McCook County	1972
2	15	Congress: Campaign South Dakota Counties, Turner County	undated
2	16	Congress: Campaign South Dakota Counties, Union County	undated
2	17	Congress: Certificate for Election	1970, 1972
2	18	Congress: Congress to the Country, Tip O'Neill visit to South Dakota	1973
2	19	Congress: Democratic Congress Dinner	1971
2	20	Congress: Democratic study group	1973-1974
2	21	Congress: Democrats Picked the Winners, Democratic Headquarters, Kingsbury County, Lake Preston, South Dakota	1970
2	22	Congress: Directory and information booklet	1970, 1971
2	23	Congress: Financial disclosure reports	1971-1974
2	24	Congress: Huber, Royce	1973
2	25	Congress: Issues: Agriculture	1971-1974
2	26	Congress: Issues: Agriculture	1971-1975
2	27	Congress: Issues: Rural electrification	1971



<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
2	28	Congress: Issues: Vietnam	1973
2	29	Congress: Issues: Water resource development	1972
3	2	Congress: Know Your Congress, 92nd Congress	1971
2	30	Congress: Legislation sponsored and co-sponsored	1971-1972
2	31	Congress: Legislation sponsored and co-sponsored	1971-1973
3	1	Congress: Legislation sponsored and co-sponsored	1973-1974
3	3	Congress: Office finances	1971-1974
3	4	Congress: Office memorandum	1974
3	5	Congress: Office staff	1974
3	6	Congress: Planning calendar	1972
3	7	Congress: Press releases	1968
3	8	Congress: Press releases	1969
3	9	Congress: Press releases	1970
3	10	Congress: Press releases	1971
3	11	Congress: Press releases	1971
3	12	Congress: Press releases	1971
3	13	Congress: Press releases	1972
3	14	Congress: Press releases	1972
3	15	Congress: Press releases	1972
3	16	Congress: Press releases	1972
3	17	Congress: Press releases	1973
3	18	Congress: Press releases	1973
3	19	Congress: Press releases	1973
3	20	Congress: Press releases	1974
3	21	Congress: Press releases	1974
3	22	Congress: Press releases	1974
3	23	Congress: Pressler, Larry	1974-1975
4	1	Congress: Rural caucus	1973-1974
4	2	Congress: Social events and memorials	1971-1974
4	3	Congress: South Dakota license plate	1974
4	4	Congress: Stationary	1971-1974
4	5	Congress: Voting record	1971-1972
4	6	Correspondence	1943-1948
4	9	Correspondence	1995-2005
4	11	Correspondence: Hoover, J. Edgar (includes memorial)	1962, 1972
4	7	Correspondence: A-M	1962-1987
4	10	Correspondence: Daschle, Tom	1972
4	12	Correspondence: Kneip, Richard	1974-1977
4	13	Correspondence: McGovern, George	1967-1975

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
4	8	Correspondence: N-Z	1962-1982
4	14	Denholm, Mildred: Autobiography	1972-1992, undated
4	15	Denholm, Mildred: Biographical information	1934-1949
4	18	Denholm, Mildred: Congressional wives organizations	1971-1974
4	19	Denholm, Mildred: Congressional wives organizations	1971-1975
4	17	Denholm, Mildred: Correspondence between Frank and Mildred	1972
4	16	Denholm, Mildred: Correspondence between Frank and Mildred	1946-1956
4	20	Denholm, Mildred: Letters to Mildred	1971-2000
4	21	Denholm, Mildred: Obituary and memorial	2014
4	22	Denholm, Mildred: Political Wife, by Mildred Denholm	undated
4	23	Kiwanis Club	1962-2010
4	26	Newspaper clippings	1967
4	27	Newspaper clippings	1967
4	28	Newspaper clippings	1968
4	29	Newspaper clippings	1968
4	30	Newspaper clippings	1969
4	31	Newspaper clippings	1969
5	1	Newspaper clippings	1970
5	2	Newspaper clippings	1970
5	3	Newspaper clippings	1971
5	4	Newspaper clippings	1971
5	5	Newspaper clippings	1972
5	6	Newspaper clippings	1972
5	7	Newspaper clippings	1973
5	8	Newspaper clippings	1973
5	9	Newspaper clippings	1974
5	10	Newspaper clippings	1974
5	11	Newspaper clippings	1975
5	12	Newspaper clippings	1975
5	13	Newspaper clippings	1976
5	14	Newspaper clippings	1976
5	15	Newspaper clippings	1977
5	16	Newspaper clippings	1977
5	17	Newspaper clippings	1978
5	18	Newspaper clippings	1978
5	19	Newspaper clippings	1979
5	20	Newspaper clippings	1979

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
5	21	Newspaper clippings	1980
5	22	Newspaper clippings	1980
5	23	Newspaper clippings	1984
5	24	Newspaper clippings	1984
4	24	Newspaper clippings	1948-1965
4	25	Newspaper clippings	1948-1966
5	25	Newspaper clippings	1994-2012
5	26	Newspaper clippings	undated
5	27	Newspaper clippings	undated
14	5	Newspapers (Oversize)	1971-1974
5	28	Non-congressional career: Auctioneer	undated
14	1	Non-congressional career: Auctioneer posters (Oversize)	1955, undated
5	29	Non-congressional career: Federal Bureau of Investigations, news clippings	1958
5	30	Non-congressional career: Federal Bureau of Investigations, reunion	2004
5	31	Non-congressional career: Ledger book	1949-1952
5	32	Non-congressional career: Sheriff of Day County, South Dakota	1951-1952
5	33	Non-congressional career: Trucking Company owner	1945-1948
5	34	Other politicians: Campaign materials for other candidates	1970-1976
5	35	Other politicians: Inauguration of Governor Richard Kneip	1971
5	36	Other politicians: Inauguration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower	1957
5	37	Other politicians: Inauguration of President Jimmy Carter	1977
5	38	Other politicians: Inauguration of President Richard Nixon	1973
5	39	Other politicians: Robert Kennedy Memorial	1968
11		Pen from the Nixon Whitehouse	
7	4	Photographs	1968
7	5	Photographs	1968
7	6	Photographs	1968
7	12	Photographs	1970
7	42	Photographs	1974
7	43	Photographs	1977
7	44	Photographs	1978
7	45	Photographs	1979
7	46	Photographs	1981

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
7	47	Photographs	1983
7	48	Photographs	1985
7	49	Photographs	1986
7	50	Photographs	1988
7	51	Photographs	1989
7	52	Photographs	1994
7	53	Photographs	1999
7	54	Photographs	2000
7	55	Photographs	2007
7	1	Photographs	1943, 1953, 1956-1958
7	2	Photographs	1960, 1962, 1964
7	3	Photographs	1965-1966
7	11	Photographs	1968 December
7	7	Photographs	1968 May
7	10	Photographs	1968 November
7	9	Photographs	1968 October
7	8	Photographs	1968 September
7	14	Photographs	1970 August
7	17	Photographs	1970 December
7	13	Photographs	1970 July
7	16	Photographs	1970 November
7	15	Photographs	1970 October
7	21	Photographs	1971 April
7	25	Photographs	1971 August
7	28	Photographs	1971 December
7	19	Photographs	1971 February
7	18	Photographs	1971 January
7	24	Photographs	1971 July
7	23	Photographs	1971 June
7	20	Photographs	1971 March
7	22	Photographs	1971 May
7	27	Photographs	1971 November
7	26	Photographs	1971 October
7	34	Photographs	1972 August
7	36	Photographs	1972 December
7	30	Photographs	1972 February
7	29	Photographs	1972 January
7	32	Photographs	1972 June
7	31	Photographs	1972 May
7	35	Photographs	1972 November

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
7	38	Photographs	1973 March-April, July
7	41	Photographs	1973 November
7	40	Photographs	1973 October
7	39	Photographs	1973 September
14	6	Photographs (Oversize)	undated
7	33	Photographs 1972 Rapid City flood scrapbook	1972 June 9
7	56	Photographs Campaigns	undated
7	57	Photographs Campaigns	undated
7	58	Photographs Candid	undated
7	59	Photographs Denholm in Washington D.C.	undated
7	60	Photographs Denholm in Washington D.C.	undated
7	61	Photographs Denholm in Washington D.C.	undated
7	62	Photographs Denholm Seed Co.	undated
7	63	Photographs Denholm Waterfowl Protection Area	undated
7	64	Photographs Events	undated
7	65	Photographs FBI and auctioneer	undated
7	66	Photographs Frank and Mildred Denholm	undated
7	67	Photographs Groups, Etc.	undated
7	37	Photographs Korean Delegation	1973
7	68	Photographs Portraits	undated
7	69	Photographs Portraits	undated
7	70	Photographs Portraits	undated
7	71	Photographs Swearing In	undated
7	72	Photographs Venezuela Delegation	undated
11		Plaques and framed photograph	
5	40	Quotes from Frank E. Denholm	undated
12		Scrapbook (Oversize)	1968
12		Scrapbook (Oversize)	1942-1959
12		Scrapbook (Oversize)	1971-1973
12		Scrapbook (Oversize)	1973-1974
13		Scrapbook Election (Oversize)	1970
13		Scrapbook Election (Oversize)	1972
13		Scrapbook Election (Oversize)	1974
13		Scrapbook Election (Oversize)	1974
6	1	South Dakota State University	1953, 1973
6	2	South Dakota State University Coursework: Freshman Year	1953-1954
6	4	South Dakota State University Coursework: Freshman Year	1953-1954
6	3	South Dakota State University Coursework: Freshman Year	1953-1955

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
6	7	South Dakota State University Coursework: Junior Year	1954-1955
6	8	South Dakota State University Coursework: Junior Year	1954-1955
6	9	South Dakota State University Coursework: Junior Year	1954-1955
6	10	South Dakota State University Coursework: Senior Year	1955-1956
6	11	South Dakota State University Coursework: Senior Year	1955-1956
6	12	South Dakota State University Coursework: Senior Year	1955-1956
6	5	South Dakota State University Coursework: Sophomore Year	1954
6	6	South Dakota State University Coursework: Sophomore Year	1954
6	13	South Dakota State University Denholm Farm Gift	2011
6	14	South Dakota State University Sylvan Circle membership	2003
6	15	Speaking engagements by Denholm	1963-1971
6	16	Speeches by Denholm	1971-1997
6	17	Statement on issues	1978
8	7	Video recordings: Denholm, January 19, 1971 (2 inch quad tape)	1971
9	4	Video recordings: Denholm, July 12, 1971 (2 inch quad tape)	1971
9	2	Video recordings: Denholm, May 11, 1971 (2 inch quad tape)	1971
9	3	Video recordings: Denholm, May 11, 1971 (2 inch quad tape)	1971
8	8	Video recordings: Denholm, November 29, 1971 (2 inch quad tape)	1971
9	1	Video recordings: Denholm, November 29, 1971 (2 inch quad tape)	1971
9	5	Video recordings: Denholm, undated (2 inch quad tape)	undated