

McLean County Museum of History

Adlai E. Stevenson II Miscellaneous Collection

Processed September 2021

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1912-2006
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also: Stevenson, Adlai II Collection Stevenson, Adlai II Boyhood Home Coll. Stevenson, Adlai II Newspaper Clippings Collection Photo Collections – People – Stevenson

Brief History

Adlai Ewing Stevenson II was born in Los Angeles, California on February 5, 1900, the grandson of Vice President Adlai E. Stevenson I. Adlai Stevenson II grew up in Bloomington on East Washington Street, attended University High School in Normal, and then attended the Choate Preparatory School.

Stevenson graduated from Princeton and earned a law degree from Northwestern University. During World War II, he worked for the U.S. Navy and State Department. He also played a leading role in establishing the United Nations. In 1948, Adlai was elected governor of Illinois. As governor, he helped clean up government by reducing politics in state hiring practices. He also opposed the anti-communist hysteria of "McCarthyism."

Stevenson ran for US president in 1952 and 1956, both times successfully opposed by Dwight D. Eisenhower. After Stevenson's unsuccessful attempt at the 1960 Democratic nomination for president, John F. Kennedy appointed him US Ambassador to the United Nations. Stevenson was known as an eloquent orator and speech writer.

In 1928, Stevenson wed Ellen Borden and eventually built a home in Libertyville, Illinois. The couple divorced in 1949. Adlai Ewing Stevenson II suffered a heart attack and died on July 14, 1965, in London, England. He is buried at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in Bloomington.

Scope

This collection contains newspaper articles, correspondence, campaign materials, political cartoons, FBI memos, play scripts, and other materials from during and after Stevenson's lifetime

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Early Years

Accidental Shooting

- 1.1 "Ruth Merwin Victim of a Tragic Accident," *Pantagraph*, Dec 31, 1912.
- 1.2 "Jury Find it a Tragic Accident," *Bulletin*, Dec 31, 1912 or Jan 3, 1913.
- 1.3 "Cleared of Blame in Merwin Tragedy," *Pantagraph*, Jan 1, 1913.

Elementary School

- 1.4 Photocopy of handwritten notes from Bessie McReynolds Moore, former schoolteacher to Adlai, attaching article. March 29, 1954.
- 1.5 Carbon copy of typed letter from Bessie McReynolds Moore to Owen E Peterson at DePauw University regarding Adlai in her fifth-grade class decades earlier, Mar 17, 1953. 3 pp.
- 1.6 Handwritten school attendance record for Adlai, 1908-1913. On verso, assorted newspaper clippings.

Folder 2: Journalism Career

- 2.1 Letter from E. Sinclair (Pantagraph Librarian) containing information about stories by Stevenson about the Murphysboro tornado, dated January 4, 1955 (2 copies)
- #### The Scopes Trial:
- 2.2 Letter from Ethel Sinclair (Pantagraph Librarian) to Carol Evans (Stevenson's personal secretary) dated January 2, 1953 (2 copies)
 - 2.3 Letter from Carol Evans to Ethel Sinclair dated January 5, 1953 (2 copies)
 - 2.4 "Articles about the Scopes trial in Dayton, Tennessee, July 1925" card catalog entry
 - 2.5 "The Big Case is On," July 11, 1925, p. 4, col. 1
 - 2.6 "Genesis vs. Evolution," July 20, 1925, p. 4, col. 1

- 2.7 "Man and Beast," July 21, 1925, p. 4, col. 1
- 2.8 "\$100 Fine," July 22, 1925, p. 4, col. 1
- 2.9 "Evolution in the Federal Courts," July 24, 1925, p. 4, col. 1
- Italian Government:**
- 2.10 "'Italian Observations' by Adlai E. Stevenson" card catalog entry
- 2.11 "Italian Observations," November 27, 1926, p. 4-A
- 2.12 "Beneficent Tyranny," November 29, 1926, p. 4
- Stevenson's Journalism Career:**
- 2.13 "Young Journalist," *Chicago*, June 1956
- 2.14 *The Family Circle*, August 1, 1965 (*Pantagraph* employee newsletter—coverage of Stevenson's death with articles "Adlai Recalls Days on Paper" and "Newspapering Not for Adlai.")

Folder 3: Gubernatorial Campaign

- 3.1 "Biographical Sketch of Adlai E. Stevenson Democratic Candidate for Governor of Illinois," news release from Stevenson-for-Governor Committee in Chicago, undated. 2pp. plus 2 pp "April copy" of similar biography.
- 3.2 Brochure: "The Facts about Adlai E. Stevenson" from Stevenson for Governor Committee.
- 3.3 "Vote! Vote! Vote!" brochure including "The Pirate Story" issued by Stevenson for Governor, Non-Partisan Independent McLean County Committee.
- 3.4 Four unused envelopes with return address of Stevenson for Governor in Bloomington
- 3.5 "Address at the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Citizens Schools Committee," in Chicago: typescript of Stevenson speech acknowledging education's contributions and outlining plans for the American Education system in Illinois, February 11th, 1948, 6pp.
- 3.6 "Political Broadcasts that are Fact-Packed and Different, featuring Adlai E. Stevenson" outlining various dates Stevenson will be featured on WMAQ 670 Chicago radio, plus list of Stevenson's other television and radio appearances 2pp. *Dates correspond to 1948.*
- 3.7 "He Looks Good to Me" political cartoon from *Chicago Daily News*, Oct 21, 1948.
- 3.8 Reprint of front page of *St Louis Post-Dispatch* for Sep 1, 1948 with political cartoons and articles on Dwight Green's involvement with gambling payoffs, etc.
- 3.9 Stevenson's hand printed letter to editor of Daily Pantagraph, about endorsement of senatorial candidates, Oct 7, 1948.

Folder 4: Gubernatorial Years (Jan 1949-Jan 1953)

- 4.1 Press Release (Illinois State News) about new Governor travelling by air to save time, undated.
- 4.2 Clipping featuring Gov. Stevenson headshot, etc. from *Welfare Bulletin (Ill.)*, Jan 1949. On verso, assorted news clippings from 1949.
- 4.3 "Stevenson & the Independent Cat" (probably reprinted from Harpers Magazine) with colorful illustrations with veto text and signed by Stevenson. One of twenty signed in fall 1949 and sold at Unitarian Church Fair. Plus typed note from Rev. Ken Walker sharing background on the Fair item and related anecdote, undated.
- 4.4 Printed edition of "Stevenson & the Independent Cat", April 23, 1949, executive veto.

- 4.5 "A Problem of Law Enforcement: The Alliance of Crime and Politics" by Adlai E Stevenson as published in *American Bar Association Journal*, Vol. 36, No. 12 (Dec 1950) pp 994-98.
- 4.6 Signed note on Executive Mansion stationery expressing thanks to Mr. Nathan, Dec 1, 1952. Plus envelope.

Folder 5: 1952 Presidential Campaign

- 5.1 Unused form letter on McLean County Chapter of Volunteers for Stevenson stationery asking recipient to vote for Stevenson, 1952. Verso has volunteer's Instruction sheet.
- 5.2 Biography of Stevenson, Mar 2, 1952. 5pp. Appears to be a campaign release.
- 5.3 Photocopy of advertisement for Stevenson and Sparkman from *The Democrat* of Washington DC, Nov 1, 1952.
- 5.4 Photo of Adlai in MI with hole in shoe sole accompanied by typed commentary signed by Ernest L. Ives, nd.
- 5.5 Receipt for North Carolina Fund for Stevenson and Sparkman for \$5 donation from W.L. Wooten, Oct 28, 1952.
- 5.6 Text of radio broadcast by Mrs. Arthur R. Williams (Gertrude N. Williams) titled "Bringing in the Verdict on Nov. 4th" on WJBC, 1952. 4 page typescript.

Folder 6: Political Newspaper Cartoons

Twenty cartoons from various newspapers. Most or all are from the 1956 campaign season.

Folder 7: Sun Times Cartoons

- 7.1 "The Stevenson Story" a 24-part series (part 4 missing), Aug 3-Aug 26, 1952. Also includes an editorial and a small news article. 7 sheets.

Folder 8: 1956 Presidential Campaign

- 8.1 "The White Special on the Democratic Railroad," song lyrics by Clayton A, Sanders for the campaign.
- 8.2 Handwritten note from Stevenson to Whitney Bates of Maryland plus campaign donation receipt, Oct 1956. Plus headshot of recipient and email from recipient's descendant.

Folder 9: 1960 Presidential Campaign

- 9.1 "Madly for Adlai," by Thomas B. Morgan. Published in *American Heritage*, Aug/Sep 1984 Vol. 35. No.5. pp49-64.
- 9.2 MAD Magazine, July '60. Comic rendition of Democratic National Convention on cover, with Stevenson at center.
- 9.3 Proposed *Time* magazine cover mockup in event of Democratic Party triumph, dated Nov 12, 1956. Plus gift agreement from son of Max Berking.
- 9.4 Carbon copy of letter from Max Berking discussing points to consider (Ike's health, Nixon's past behaviors, etc.) before election voting, Nov 4, 1956. 2 pp. And, obituary of Max Berking, 2 pp. Sep 1997.

Folder 10: FBI Files

All items in this folder are photocopies. All memos are to various FBI personnel.

- 10.1 Memo summarizing FBI files info on Stevenson, Apr 3, 1952. 13 pp.
- 10.2 Stray pages of FBI memos regarding David Blair Owen, president of Bradley University in Peoria. Undated. 3 pp.
- 10.3 Memo to Director Ladd attaching blind memo alleging Stevenson to be a known homosexual as well as David B. Owen, Jun 24, 1952. 2 pp.
- 10.4 Memo about investigation Bradley University for Communist activity, Mar 3, 1953.
- 10.5 Memo about David Blair Owen – p 2 only.
- 10.6 Memo about Stevenson's employment with Dept of State and Alger Hiss, Nov 1, 1955. 5pp.
- 10.7 Memo about recently deceased David Blair Owen, Apr 12, 1960.
- 10.8 Letter from Vivian Allison Tenney to J Edgar Hoover about Stevenson's apparent support for Communism, Sep 29, 1960. 2 pp.
- 10.9 Letter from J Edgar Hoover to Vivian Allison Tenney acknowledging her letter and enclosing publications on communism, Oct 6, 1960.
- 10.10 Memo about alleged homosexuality of Stevenson, Oct 31, 1964. 2 pp.

Folder 11: Unitarian Church

- 11.1 "Address Delivered by Adlai E. Stevenson Upon the 80th Anniversary of the Unitarian Church of Bloomington, October 22, 1959," 8 pgs.
- 11.2 "Liberalism Versus Competitive Indoctrination, An Address by the Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson, Governor, at the Ninetieth Anniversary Service of the Unitarian Church of Bloomington, Illinois, Sunday, October 30, 1949," 3 pgs, (Two copies).
- 11.3 "Adlai E. Stevenson's Dual Church Membership," by Rev. Kenneth Walker, undated, 3 pgs.
- 11.4 Copy of letter to Adlai E. Stevenson, inviting him to find a Presbyterian church home in Springfield since it lacks a Unitarian Church. From a combination of Presbyterian and Unitarian ministers, Dec 15, 1955.
- 11.5 Carbon copy of letter from Presbyterian minister E. E. Hurst, Bloomington, to Reverend Robert Andrus, Lake Forest, opposing Stevenson being allowed dual membership in Presbyterian and Unitarian churches, Dec 18, 1955.
- 11.6 Letter from Robert G. Andrus for First Presbyterian in Lake Forest, to Mr. E. E. Hurst, Bloomington, regarding Stevenson's Presbyterian and Unitarian memberships, December 21, 1955.
- 11.7 Letter from Adlai E. Stevenson, Chicago, to Mr. E E Hurst, Bloomington, January 3, 1956.
- 11.8 Newspaper article, Indianapolis, undated (perhaps enclosed with January 3, 1956 Stevenson letter?).
- 11.9 *Newsweek* article, March 10, 1958 (perhaps E. E. Hurst clipping?).
- 11.10 "Dissent in the Pulpit" *Newsweek*, March 10, 1958.
- 11.11 Biographical sketch of Stevenson, from Unitarian Universalist Association website, accessed April 25, 2006, 4 pgs.

Folder 12: Miscellaneous

- 12.1 "My Faith in Democratic capitalism," by Adlai E Stevenson. Published in *Fortune*, Oct 1955. 4 sheets.

- 12.2 Announcement of joining of law firms of Adlai E Stevenson and Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, April 1957.
- 12.3 Autographed photo, Bloomington 1958, plus accompanying email, 2023, explaining origin.
- 12.4 Boston University Baccalaureate-Commencement, Jun 3, 1962. 46 pp program.
- 12.5 Commencement Address given by Stevenson at Boston University Jun 3, 1962. 12pp.
- 12.6 Encyclopedia Britannica new release announcing that Stevenson has contributed a biography of Eleanor Roosevelt.
- 12.7 Stationery note pad for Ernest L. Ives of Stevenson Campaign Headquarters in Springfield, IL. Undated.

Folder 13: Dell Comic Book

- 13.1 “An Inspirational Life Story: Adlai Stevenson (1900-1965)” 1966.

Folder 14: Adlai Alone Playscript

- 14.1 Publicity postcard for Sep 2004 performances at Museum of History.
- 14.2 Program for world premiere performances at Museum of History, Sep 2004.

Folder 15: Quiet Tumult Playscript

- 15.1 Script of play by Brian Simpson, 1999. 33pp.
- 15.2 Program for performances held at Museum of History, April 1999.
- 15.3 Publicity, contract for use of Museum, press release, stage layout, correspondence, etc.