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Max C. Rheinberger, Jr. Papers

1928-2004
4 boxes (3.45 linear feet)
Call no.: MS 1129



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Background on Max C. Rheinberger, Jr.

Named Handicapped American of the Year in 1968, Max C. Rheinberger, Jr., worked as a community leader to uplift those with disabilities by bringing awareness to and actively deconstructing barriers to access. Rheinberger himself was a quadriplegic as a result of contracting polio in 1952. During rehabilitation he completed a degree in accounting before embarking on a lifelong career as a businessman and distinguished figure in his community.

Beginning with the founding of his first business, Office Services Incorporated, in 1956, Rheinberger worked to empower those with disabilities by providing rehabilitative training for those who were otherwise deemed "unemployable." He founded and held key positions in sixteen businesses throughout his life, each devoted to this mission.

Rheinberger was also active in various civic organizations, including Duluth's City Council, Duluth's Chamber of Commerce, Minnesota's Rehabilitation Association, and the Executive Board of the National President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. His efforts and role as a leader led to recognition from groups including the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, United States Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the International Accountants Society. A recipient of the 1968 President's Award, Golden Plate Award, and Minnesota Governor's Award, Rheinberger was established as a disability rights figure at both a local and national level.

His wife, Marianne, also worked as a disability rights activist and accompanied Max from their marriage in 1964 to his death in 2004.

Scope of collection

The collection details the role of Max C. Rheinberger, Jr., as a recognized disability rights advocate within the United States, primarily through newspaper clippings, certificates and awards, publications, and correspondence. A majority of the material is centered on the 1960s, highlighting both the major and everyday moments of

his life. His involvement with the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped is a key component, as well as other organizations he was affiliated with including the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce, the March of Dimes, and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

A majority of the collection is focused on Rheinberger's achievements for his work in disability rights. Awards he received — including trophies, plaques, certificates, and ribbons—are complimented by photographs and publications describing the ceremonies in which he received them. Letters of nomination for Handicapped American of the Year and invitations to various ceremonies bring different viewpoints into how Rheinberger was regarded by those around him.

Rheinberger was involved in government at both a local and national level, demonstrated by correspondence with officials from Washington, D.C., the state of Minnesota, and other nearby states. Publications and photographs outline his work on Duluth's city council, including the election process and subsequent appointment to the committee. Personal correspondence includes letters and cards from family, friends, and business connections.

A scrapbook represents the rest of the collection in a more condensed form and shows what the Rheinbergers felt best represented Max's life. Focused between 1952 and 1962, it contains newspaper clippings, photographs, cards, congratulations, correspondence, and various personal objects.

Inventory

Awards: Distinguished Service Award
1968
Box 3
Awards: Duluth Chamber of Commerce Recognition Award
1977
Box 3
Awards: The Golden Plate
1968
2561
Awards: March of Dimes
ca.1968
Box 3
Awards: President of City Council, Member of Duluth City Council
1977
Box 3
Awards: Minnesota Governor's Award
1968
2561
Awards: Republicans Care Award
1965
Box 3
Biographical information
1957, 1968
Box 1: 1
Booklet: Concorde
ca.1977
Box 1: 2
Certificates and awards
1956-1985
Box 1: 3
Certificates and awards
1967-1993
Box 1: 4
Certificates and awards
1958-1979
Box 4: 1
Clippings: Awards and honors
1958-1968
Box 1: 5
Clippings: City council
1968-1973
Box 1: 6
Clippings: Family
1928, 1962
Box 1: 7
Clippings: Rheinberger, Max C.
1964/1968, 2004
Box 1: 8
Correspondence: Businesses, universities, and foundations
1965-1968, 1991
Box 1: 9
Correspondence: Minnesota
1967-1973
Box 1: 10
Correspondence: Nomination letters
1967
Box 1: 11
Correspondence: Nomination letters
1967
Box 1: 12
Correspondence: Oberstar, James L.
1974-1979
Box 1: 13
Correspondence: Personal
ca.1967-1968
Box 1: 14
Correspondence: President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped
1967-1975
Box 1: 15
Correspondence: Promotional mail
1969
Box 1: 16
Correspondence: White House
1962-1976
Box 1: 17
Correspondence: Wisconsin, Missouri, North Dakota
1968
Box 1: 18
Marriage certificate
1964
Box 1: 19
Name tags
ca.1967
Box 1: 20
Photographs: Awards
ca.1964
Box 1: 21

Photographs: Awards
ca.1968
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Photographs: City council
ca.1970
Box 1: 23
Photographs: Meeting Pope Paul VI
ca.1968
Box 1: 24
Photographs: Personal
undated
Box 1: 25
Photographs: President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped
ca.1967
Box 1: 26
Photographs: President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped
1967
Box 1: 27
Photographs: President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped
1967
Box 1: 28
Photographs: Publicity
1968
Box 1: 29
Photographs: Publicity
ca.1968, 1974
Box 1: 30
Poster: Duluth Sunday News-Tribune
1967
Map case 09:3
Programs
1958-2004
Box 2: 1
Programs: 1968 Banquet of the Golden Plate
1968
Box 2: 2
Programs: President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped
1968
Box 2: 3
Publications: Colorado, Idaho, North Carolina, Hawaii
1968
Box 2: 4
Publications: Minnesota
1959-1968
Box 2: 5
Publications: Pioneer
1968
Box 2: 6
Publications: Washington, D.C.
1962, 1968
Box 2: 7
Scrapbook
1952-1962
Box 4

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Marianne Rheinberger, 2020.

Processing Information

Processed by Emily Hankins, October 2022.

Language:

English

Copyright and Use ([More information](#))

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Search terms

Subjects

- Minnesota--Duluth
- People with disabilities--Civil rights--United States
- People with disabilities--Employment
- Rheinberger, Max C.
- Vocational rehabilitation

Contributors

- Rheinberger, Max C. [main entry]

Genres and formats

- Awards
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Correspondence
- Photographs



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