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# Lucy Gwin Papers

1968-2009

6 boxes (9 linear ft.)

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[Series 1. Mouth Magazine](#)

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Born in Indiana, the writer Lucy Gwin (1943-2014) lived "a lot of lives," in her own words, working in advertising, as a dairy farmer, civil rights activist, and deckhand on ships servicing oil rigs, all before the age of 40. While living in Rochester, N.Y., in 1989, however, her life took a sudden turn. After a head-on collision with a drunk driver left her with traumatic brain injury, Gwin was remanded for care to the New Medico Brain Rehabilitation Center, where she witnessed a world of isolation, patient abuse, and powerlessness. Never one to shrink from a challenge, she escaped from the Center and used her skills as an organizer and writer to expose conditions at New Medico and shut the facility down. Through her experiences, Gwin emerged as a powerful, often

acerbic voice in all-disability rights advocacy, becoming the founder, designer, and editor of the influential *Mouth Magazine* in 1990.

Lucy Gwin's papers document the advocacy of an important figure in the disability rights movement. The rich documentation for *Mouth Magazine* includes comprehensive editorial files arranged issue by issue, some correspondence with authors and supporters, and copies of the published issue. The balance of the collection contains Gwin's other work as a writer, personal correspondence, and materials relating to her experiences with and campaign against New Medico.

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## Background on Lucy Gwin

As a writer, editor, and activist, Lucy Gwin had a profound impact on the disability rights movement. Her sharp wit and even sharper analytical skills became the driving force behind *Mouth*, the magazine she produced for nearly twenty years and which reflected her unwavering commitment to the principle that disability rights was an essential part of the civil rights movement.

Born in Indiana in 1943, Gwin lived "a lot of lives," in her own estimation, working in advertising, as a dairy farmer, civil rights activist, a writer, mother, and laborer on oil rig support boats in Louisiana, all before the age of 40. While living in Rochester, N.Y., in 1989, however, her life took a sudden turn. After a head-on collision with a drunk driver left her in a coma for three weeks, Gwin was remanded to the New Medico Brain Rehabilitation Center for care for traumatic brain injury. According to her own account, however instead of care, she discovered a world of isolation, patient abuse, and powerlessness, asserting that New Medico would not release her until her health insurance funds ran out. Enlisting a friend to help her escape from the facility, she went on to hone her skills as an organizer and writer while confronting the health care system that had held her against her will. Working with Ken Collins and other brain injury survivors, she pushed the Brain Injury Association of America into becoming a more consumer-oriented agency and she waged a untiring campaign to expose conditions at New Medico, eventually contributing to the closure of the facility.

In her efforts to build a grassroots movement, Gwin increasingly advocated for a cross-disability approach predicated on the recognition that arguments for disability rights were fundamentally arguments for civil rights. To provide a voice for the movement, she founded the influential *Mouth Magazine* in 1990, becoming not only its primary writer, but its designer, publisher, and editor. Through the often acerbic pages of *Mouth* and her other activism, Gwin took on a wide range of issues over the next twenty years, insisting on the necessity of an all-disability rights approach, advocating for home- and community-based services, critiquing the concept of "normality" and the myriad systemic failures to cope with disability. As a supporter of the group Not Dead Yet, she became a vocal opponent of the concept of "death with dignity" and physician-assisted suicide, arguing they were a threat to the disability community by privileging cost reduction over human lives.

After years of struggle with her health, Gwin died at her home in Washington, Pa., on Oct. 30, 2014.

## Scope of collection

Lucy Gwin's papers document the advocacy of an important figure in the disability rights movement. The rich documentation for *Mouth Magazine* includes comprehensive editorial files arranged issue by issue, correspondence with authors and supporters, and copies of each published issue. The balance of the collection contains Gwin's other work as a writer, personal correspondence, and materials relating to her experiences with and campaign against New Medico.

## Series descriptions

### Series 1. Mouth Magazine

1990-2008

2.25 boxes

Enter series description here.

### Series 2. Correspondence and Subject Files

1968-2009

3.75 boxes

Enter series description here.

# Inventory

Series 1. Mouth Magazine

1990-2008

2.25 boxes

*Mouth* Premiere Issue: vol. 1, no. 1

1990 July-Aug.

Box 1: 1

*Mouth* issue 2: vol. 1, no. 2

1990 Aug.-Sept.

Box 1: 2

*Mouth* issue 3: vol. 1, no. 3

1990 Sept.-Oct

Box 1: 3

*Mouth* issue 4: vol. 1, no. 4

1990 Nov.-Dec.

Box 1: 4

*Mouth* issue 5: vol. 1, no. 5

1991 Jan.-Feb.

Box 1: 5

*Mouth* issue 6: vol. 1, no. 6

1991 Mar.-Apr.

Box 1: 6

*Mouth* issue 7: Special Professional Issue: vol. 2, no. 1

1991 May-June

Box 1: 7

*Mouth* issue 8: Identity Issue: vol. 2, no. 2

1991 July-Aug.

Box 1: 8

*Mouth* issue 9: Get A Job Issue: vol. 2, no. 3

1991 Sept.-Oct.

Box 1: 9

*Mouth* issue 10: Comedy Issue: vol. 2, no. 4

1991 Nov.-Dec.

Box 1: 10

*Mouth* issue 11: Crime Issue: vol. 2, no. 5

1992 Jan.-Feb.

Box 1: 11

*Mouth* issue 12: The Drugs Issue: vol. 2, no. 6

1992 Mar.-Apr.

Box 1: 12

*Mouth* issue 13: The Gratitude Issue: vol. 3, no. 1

1992 May-June

Box 1: 13

*Mouth* issue 14: Independence Issue: vol. 3, no. 2

1992 July-Aug.

Box 1: 14

*Mouth* issue 15: Speak Out Issue: vol. 3, no. 3

1992 Sept.-Oct.

Box 1: 15

*Mouth* issue 16: The Green Book: vol. 3, no. 4

1992 Nov.-Dec.

Box 1: 16

*Mouth* issue 17: Steam Issue: vol. 3, no. 5

1993 Jan.-Feb.

Box 1: 17

*Mouth* issue 18: vol. 3, no. 6

1993 Mar.-Apr.

Box 1: 18

*Mouth* issue 19: vol. 4, no. 1

1993 May-June  
Box 1: 19  
*Mouth* issue 20: vol. 4, no. 2  
1993 July-Aug.  
Box 1: 20  
*Mouth* issue 21: vol. 4, no. 3  
1993 Sept.-Oct.  
Box 1: 21  
*Mouth* issue 22: The Sorta Funny Issue: vol. 4, no. 4  
1993 Nov.-Dec.  
Box 1: 22  
*Mouth* issue 23: vol. 4, no. 5  
1994 Jan.-Feb.  
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*Mouth* issue 24: vol. 4, no. 6  
1994 Mar.-Apr.  
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*Mouth* issue 35: vol. 5, no. 1  
1994 May-June  
Box 1: 25  
*Mouth* issue 26: vol. 5, no. 2  
1994 July-Aug.  
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*Mouth* issue: 27: The Getting Wise Issue: vol. 5, no. 3  
1994 Sept.-Oct.  
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*Mouth* issue 28: vol. 5, no. 4  
1994 Nov.-Dec.  
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*Mouth* issue 29: vol. 5, no. 5  
1995 Jan.-Feb.  
Box 1: 29  
*Mouth* issue 30: vol. 5, no. 6  
1995 Mar.-Apr.  
Box 1: 30  
*Mouth* issue 31: vol. 6, no. 1  
1995 May-June  
Box 1: 31  
*Mouth* issue 32: vol. 6, no. 2  
1995 July-Aug.  
Box 1: 32  
*Mouth* issue 33: vol. 6, no. 3  
1995 Sept.-Oct.  
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*Mouth* issue 34: vol. 6, no. 4  
1995 Nov.-Dec.  
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*Mouth* issue 35: vol. 6, no. 5  
1996 Jan.-Feb.  
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*Mouth* issue 36: vol. 6, no. 6  
1996 Mar.-Apr.  
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*Mouth* issue 37: vol. 7, no. 1  
1996 May-June  
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*Mouth* issue 38: vol. 7, no. 2  
1996 July-Aug.  
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*Mouth* issue 39: vol. 7, no. 2  
1996 Sept.-Oct.  
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*Mouth* issue 40: vol. 7, no. 3  
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*Mouth* issue 41: vol. 7, no. 5 and 6  
1997 Jan.-Mar.  
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*Mouth* issue 42: vol. 8, no. 1  
1997 May-June  
Box 1: 42

*Mouth* issue 43: vol. 8, no. 2  
1997 July-Aug.  
Box 1: 43

*Mouth* issue 44: vol. 8, no. 3  
1997 Sept.-Oct.  
Box 1: 44

*Mouth* issue 45: vol. 8, no. 4  
1997 Nov.-Dec.  
Box 1: 45

*Mouth* issue 46: vol. 8, no. 5 and 6  
1998 Mar.-Apr.  
Box 1: 46

*Mouth* issue 47: vol. 9, no. 1  
1998 May-June  
Box 1: 47

*Mouth* issue 48: vol. 9, no. 2  
1998 July-Aug.  
Box 1: 48

*Mouth* issue 49: vol. 9, no. 3  
1998 Sept.-Oct.  
Box 2: 1

*Mouth* issue 50: vol. 9, no. 4  
1998 Nov.-Dec.  
Box 2: 2

*Mouth* issue 51: vol. 9, no. 5  
1999 Jan.-Feb.  
Box 2: 3

*Mouth* issue 52: vol. 9, no. 6  
1999 Mar.-Apr.  
Box 2: 4

*Mouth* issue 53: vol. 10, no. 1  
1999 May-June  
Box 2: 5

*Mouth* issue 54: vol. 10, no. 2  
1999 July-Aug.  
Box 2: 6

*Mouth* issue 55: vol. 10., no. 3  
1999 Sept.-Oct.  
Box 2: 7

*Mouth* issue 56: vol. 10, no. 4  
1999 Nov.-Dec.  
Box 2: 8

*Mouth* issue 57: vol. 10, no. 5  
2000 Jan.-Feb.  
Box 2: 9

*Mouth* issue 58: vol. 10, no. 6  
2000 Mar.-Apr.

Box 2: 10

*Mouth* issue 59: vol. 11, no. 1

2000 May-June

Box 2: 11

*Mouth* issue 60: vol. 11, no. 2

2000 July-Aug.

Box 2: 12

*Mouth* issue 61: vol. 11, no. 3

2000 Sept.-Oct.

Box 2: 13

*Mouth* issue 62: vol. 11, no. 4

2000 Nov.-Dec.

Box 2: 14

*Mouth* issue 63: vol. 11, no. 5

2001 Jan.-Feb.

Box 2: 15

*Mouth* issue 64: vol. 11, no. 6

2001 Mar.-Apr.

Box 2: 16

*Mouth* issue 65: vol. 12, no. 1

2001 May-June

Box 2: 17

*Mouth* issue 66: vol. 12, no. 2

2001 July-Aug.

Box 2: 18

*Mouth* issue 67: vol. 12, no. 3

2001 Sept.-Oct.

Box 2: 19

*Mouth* issue 68: vol. 12, no. 4

2001 Nov.-Dec.

Box 2: 20

*Mouth* issue 69: vol. 12, no. 5

2002 Jan.-Feb.

Box 2: 21

*Mouth* issue 70: vol. 12, no. 6

2002 Mar.-Apr.

Box 2: 22

*Mouth* issue 71: vol. 13, no. 1

2002 May-June

Box 2: 23

*Mouth* issue 72: vol. 13, no. 2

2002 July-Aug.

Box 2: 24

*Mouth* issue 73: vol. 13, no. 3

2002 Sept.-Oct.

Box 2: 25

*Mouth* issue 74: vol. 13, no. 4

2002 Nov.-Dec.

Box 2: 26

*Mouth* issue 75: vol. 13, no. 5

2003 Jan.-Feb.

Box 2: 27

*Mouth* issue 76: vol. 13, no. 6

2003 Mar.-Apr.

Box 2: 28

*Mouth* issue 77: vol. 14, no. 1

2003 May-June

Box 2: 29

*Mouth* issue 78: vol. 14, no. 2

2003 July-Aug.  
Box 2: 30  
*Mouth* issue 79: vol. 14, no. 3  
2003 Sept.-Oct.  
Box 2: 31  
*Mouth* issue 80: vol. 14, no. 4  
2003 Nov.-Dec.  
Box 2: 32  
*Mouth* issue 81: vol. 14, no. 5  
2004 Jan.-Feb.  
Box 2: 33  
*Mouth* issue 82: vol. 14, no. 6  
2004 Mar.-Apr.  
Box 2: 34  
*Mouth* issue 83: vol. 15, no. 1  
2004 May-June  
Box 2: 35  
*Mouth* issue 84: vol. 15, no. 2  
2004 July-Aug.  
Box 2: 36  
*Mouth* issue 85: vol. 15, no. 3  
2004 Sept.-Oct.  
Box 2: 37  
*Mouth* issue 86: vol. 15, no. 4  
2004 Nov.-Dec.  
Box 2: 38  
*Mouth* issue 87: vol. 15, no. 5  
2005 Jan.-Feb.  
Box 2: 39  
*Mouth* issue 88: vol. 15, no. 6  
2005 Mar.-Apr.  
Box 2: 40  
*Mouth* issue 89: vol. 16, no. 1  
2005 May-June  
Box 2: 41  
*Mouth* issue 90: vol. 16, no. 2  
2005 July-Aug.  
Box 2: 42  
*Mouth* issue 91: vol. 16, no. 3  
2005 Sept.-Oct.  
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*Mouth* issue 92: vol. 16, no. 4  
2005 Nov.-Dec.  
Box 2: 44  
*Mouth* issues 93-94: vol. 16, no. 5 and 6  
2005 Jan-Apr  
Box 2: 45  
*Mouth* issues 95-96: vol. 17, no. 1 and 2  
2006 May-Aug.  
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*Mouth* issues 97-98: vol. 17, no. 3 and 4  
2006 Sept.-Dec  
Box 3: 1  
*Mouth* issue 99: vol. 17, no. 5  
2007 Jan.-Feb.  
Box 3: 2  
*Mouth* issue 100: vol. 17., no. 6  
2007 Mar.-Apr.  
Box 3: 3

*Mouth* issues 101-102: vol. 18, no. 1 and 2  
2007 May-Aug.  
Box 3: 4  
*Mouth* issue 103: vol. 18, no. 3  
2007 Sept.-Oct.  
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*Mouth* issues 104-105: vol. 18, no. 4 and 5  
2007 Nov - 2008 Feb  
Box 3: 6  
*Mouth* issue 106: vol. 18, no. 6  
2008 Mar.-Apr.  
Box 3: 7  
*Mouth* issues 107-109: vol. 19, no. 1  
2008 May-Jun  
Box 3: 8  
Series 2. Correspondence and Subject Files  
1968-2009  
3.75 boxes  
A Chance to be Made Whole  
undated  
Box 3: 9  
Adrian, Paul: Preface: New Medico Preface  
1992 Mar.  
Box 3: 10  
Alabama Law Review: Disability, Equality, and Identity  
2004  
Box 3: 11  
Ambulance and Hospital Costs  
1989  
Box 3: 12  
Amis, Martin: Nuke City  
1987 Oct.  
Box 3: 13  
"As Others See Us": Disability Articles  
2006-2007  
Box 3: 17  
"As Others See Us: More Disability Articles  
2006-2007  
Box 3: 18  
Attending to America: World Institute on Disability  
1987 Apr.  
Box 3: 19  
Attitude Adjustment Stickers  
undated  
Box 3: 20  
Austin Conference Notes  
1990 Mar.  
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Automotive: Accident and Correspondence  
undated  
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Baby Bloc  
2003-2004  
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Bang on the Head  
1990  
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Bang on the Head: Drafts and Notes  
1990



Box 3: 25  
Bones  
undated  
Box 3: 26  
Bones: Plot Outline and Notes  
undated  
Box 3: 27  
"Box O' Death": More Death Files  
2006  
Box 3: 28  
Brimstone Bulletin  
2001-2004  
Box 3: 29  
Butler, Clay: Sidewalk Bubblegum Comics  
1993-1996  
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Butler, Clay: Sidewalk Bubblegum Comics  
1997-2000  
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Cardinal Cab Inc. Charge Slips  
1989  
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Cartoons  
undated  
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undated  
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Citicorp Credit Services  
1989 July  
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Class Action Files  
1990  
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Coalition Magazine  
1994 June-1995 Nov.  
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1997 July-1998 Apr.  
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Coalition Magazine  
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2003 Feb.-Nov.  
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Coalition Magazine  
2004 Feb.-Nov.  
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Coalition Magazine  
2005 Feb.-2006 Aug.  
Box 3: 42  
Computers: Handbook and Designs  
1985 Oct.  
Box 3: 43  
"Conversations With Ed"  
1993  
Box 3: 44  
Cooking

undated

Box 3: 45

Correspondence: Anthony, David A.

2005 Mar.

Box 3: 46

Correspondence: Anthony, David A.

2005 May

Box 3: 47

Correspondence: Anthony, David A.

2005 Sept.

Box 3: 48

Correspondence: Anthony, David A.

2005 Oct.

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Correspondence: Anthony, David A.

2005 Dec.

Box 3: 50

Correspondence: Anthony, David A.

2005

Box 4: 1

Correspondence: Anthony, David A.

2006 Jan.-Feb.

Box 4: 2

Correspondence: Anthony, David A.

2006 Mar.

Box 4: 3

Correspondence: Anthony, David A.

2006 June

Box 4: 4

Correspondence: Anthony, David A.

2006 Aug.

Box 4: 5

Correspondence: Anthony, David A.

2006 Sept.

Box 4: 6

Correspondence: Anthony, David A.

2006 Oct.

Box 4: 7

Correspondence: Anthony, David A.

2007 May

Box 4: 8

Correspondence: Anthony, David A.

2007 June

Box 4: 9

Correspondence: Anthony, David A.

2007 July

Box 4: 10

Correspondence: Anthony, David A.

2007 Aug.

Box 4: 11

Correspondence: Anthony, David A.

2007 Sept.

Box 4: 12

Correspondence: Backus, Randy

1990

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Correspondence: Bauer, William; Re: Law Files (accident) and Post

1989-1991

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Correspondence Re: Bills and Expenditures

1989-1990

Box 4: 15

Correspondence: Freelance

1984 Sept.-1986 Jan.

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1987

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Correspondence: Friends: Letters

1987 Feb.-Dec.

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Correspondence: Friends

1989

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Correspondence: Kracht, David

1991-1992

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Correspondence: Hentoff, Nat

1985

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Correspondence: Gwin, Susan

1989

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Correspondence: Letters to Friends

1990

Box 4: 25

Correspondence: "My Injury"

1989 Nov.-1990 Mar.

Box 4: 26

Correspondence: Russo, Manny: Clippings

2006 Oct.

Box 4: 27

Correspondence: Semorile, Trina: Women in Journalism

2005

Box 4: 28

Correspondence: Women in Journalism (Notes and Articles)

2005 May

Box 4: 29

Correspondence: Woods, Oviatt, Gilman, Sturman and Clark: Attorneys

1989-1991

Box 4: 30

Correspondence: Writing

1990 Feb.-July

Box 4: 31

"Death File"

2004-2005

Box 4: 32

Pelka, Fred: "The Humanist"

1995 Apr.

Box 4: 33

Disability and Rutgers University Bureau of Research: The Need for Personal Assistance

undated

Box 4: 34  
Disability Magazines  
1990-1998  
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Disability Magazines  
2001-2003  
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Disability Rag: Issues and Letters  
1984-1991  
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Disability Survival Manual  
2002 Apr.  
Box 4: 37  
Drake, Carrie: "Something Ainn't Right in the Cuckoo's Nest"  
1999  
Box 4: 38  
Dream Logs  
1984-1985  
Box 4: 39  
Edwards, Frank: "Strange People" pp.7-8  
1961  
Box 4: 40  
Euthanasia (Assisted Suicide)  
1994-2004  
Box 4: 41  
Euthanasia (Assisted Suicide)  
2005  
Box 4: 42  
Facts: Data Highlights; Family Support; Healthcare: part 1  
1994  
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Facts: Data Highlights; Family Support; Healthcare: part 2  
1994  
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Family History  
1987 Nov.  
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Freedom Clearinghouse: Letter  
2000 Jan.  
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2000  
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Financial Report Fiscal Year 1994  
1994  
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Funny Times: Comics  
1999 Sept.-Nov.  
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General Disability Articles  
1995  
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Giants: Notes and Articles  
undated  
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Going Overboard

1982  
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Going Overboard Screenplay  
undated  
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Gwin Writings  
undated  
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Hahn, Jessica: Transient Ways  
1996  
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"Hell on Earth" Newspaper Clippings  
1985  
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HCFA Financial Report  
1994  
Box 4: 58  
Hemophilia, HIV, AIDS issues  
undated  
Box 4: 59  
Home Health Medicare by State  
1993  
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Home improvement  
undated  
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Ideas for articles: newspaper clippings  
undated  
Box 4: 62  
Impact Magazine  
2004  
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Indiana, Gary: Memories of the Reagan and Bush Administrations  
1995 Jan.  
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Institutional Digest: First Edition  
1995  
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JHSA Spring  
1995  
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Journal  
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1989 Nov.  
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Journal  
1989 Dec.  
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John, Wayne  
1990  
Box 5: 7  
Keep Mouth Alive  
1998 June  
Box 5: 8  
Kemper, Peter: An Evaluation of the Veterans Administration Housebound and Aid and Attendance Allowance Program  
1987 Apr.  
Box 5: 9  
Legal: Class Action  
1990 Sept.-1993 June  
Box 5: 10  
Legal Correspondence  
1988 Feb.-1994 Mar.  
Box 5: 11  
Legal Notes and Correspondence  
undated  
Box 5: 12  
"Legislation" Notes  
undated  
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Libel Manual  
undated  
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LINK Magazine  
1993 Apr.-July  
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Medicaid Notes  
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Mental Health Communities  
1994-1995  
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Millionaires Club Notes  
undated  
Box 5: 19  
Minnesota Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities: Comedy Network  
1986 June-Oct.  
Box 5: 20  
Minnesota Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities: Comedy Network  
1987 Jan.  
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Minnesota Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities: Comedy Network  
1988 Feb.  
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Minnesota Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities: Comedy Network  
1989-1992  
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Miscellaneous Magazines  
undated  
Box 5: 24  
Miscellaneous Newspapers  
undated  
Box 5: 25  
MLK: Poetry and Note cards  
undated

Box 5: 26  
"Mordrake's Other": Edward Mordrake  
1980

Box 5: 27  
Murderous Science: "Nine Questions"  
undated

Box 5: 28  
"My Vision"  
1989

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National Council on Disability  
2002 Dec.

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"Need For Change"  
1993

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New Medico Notes: Random  
undated

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New Mobility Magazine  
1992-1993

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1997 Nov.

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Newspaper Clippings: Animal Stories  
undated

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Newspaper Clippings: Arts and entertainment  
undated

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Newspaper Clippings: Potential Projects  
1968

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New York Times: Articles and Notes  
1981-1982

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Notebooks  
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Notes  
1989 Sept.-Dec.

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Notes

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undated  
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Nursing Home Facts  
1995  
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O'Brien, Mark: Poetry  
1991-1993  
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Oda, John: "ASL and Deaf Culture" and "Why Do Segregated Vocational Programs Persist?"  
1994 Dec.  
Box 5: 49  
Old Calendars  
undated  
Box 5: 50  
Oregon Department of Human Resources: Senior and Disabled Services Division  
1995  
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Outline: No Title  
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Box 6: 1  
Personal AD #1: Responses  
1984  
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Personal Assistance Services: A Guide to Policy and Action: part 1  
undated  
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Personal Assistance Services: A Guide to Policy and Action: part 2  
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Personals  
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Philosophical Foundation For the Independent Living and Disability Rights Movement: part 1  
1982 Aug.  
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Philosophical Foundation For the Independent Living and Disability Rights Movement: part 2  
1982 Aug.  
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Philosophical Foundation For the Independent Living and Disability Rights Movement: part 3  
1982 Aug.  
Box 3: 16  
Poems  
1990  
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Pollard, Robert: Disability Research  
1992  
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Poole, Dexter: Film: "The Law in Pickens Hollow"  
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