Finding Aid to the
Herschel Lashkowitz Photograph Collection

Lashkowitz, Herschel, 1918-1993
Herschel Lashkowitz Photograph Collection, 1940s-1980s
1006 photographic prints
239 negatives
Collection number: Photo 2107

Biography

OVERVIEW

Links: Finding aid for Herschel Lashkowitz Papers
Finding aid to earlier accession of Herschel Lashkowitz Photograph Collection
View images on Digital Horizons

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Citation: Institute for Regional Studies, NDSU, Fargo (item number)

BIOGRAPHY

Herschel Irving Lashkowitz was born April 2, 1918 in Fargo, N.D., the oldest child of Harry and Etta (Levitz) Lashkowitz. In 1940 he graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.A. degree. After attending Harvard University for a year, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served overseas in the Aleutian Islands and Canal Zone during World War II for three and a half years. After the war in 1946 he moved to
Los Angeles to write for the motion picture industry. Also that year Herschel legally changed his last name to Lash. In 1948 he graduated from the University of Minnesota with a LLB degree. After passing both the Minnesota and North Dakota bar examinations, he established a law practice with his father in Fargo.

In 1950 Herschel became the Cass County chairman of the Democratic Party. It was also during this time that he changed his name back to Lashkowitz. In 1954 he ran and was elected mayor of Fargo. He served as mayor for twenty years. During his tenure Fargo had two urban renewal projects (Fourth Street and Main Ave.), suffered the worst tornado in 1957 in the city’s history, and was named an All-American City in 1962.

Herschel ran for North Dakota governor in 1960 as an independent but lost. In 1964 he was elected to the North Dakota Senate. In 1966 he did not seek re-election to the senate but rather sought the endorsement of the Democratic-NPL Party for the East District Congressmen seat. After retiring as Fargo mayor in 1974 Herschel Lashkowitz returned to full-time practice of law. That fall he successfully ran for the North Dakota Senate and served until his health forced him to seek hospitalization in March 1989 during the legislative session. He did not return to the legislature. He died September 7, 1993 at Fargo.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This Herschel Lashkowitz Photograph Collection complements an earlier accession of photographs (processed as Photo 2049) documenting his long career as mayor of Fargo, N.D. and service in the North Dakota Legislature. Only a limited amount of time has been devoted to verifying any duplication between the two collections. This later accession contains a large amount of gelatin silver prints as well as a limited number of color photographs, ranging in sizes from 3x2 inch snapshots to large portfolio size images, as well as an album documenting his service during World War II in the Aleutian Islands.

There is a wide variety of topics and people documented in this collection, from more personal family photographs to many of Herschel Lashkowitz’s many duties as mayor. Some of the activities documented include his political campaigns, disaster images of Fargo, benefits and speeches made to the public, as well as a wide variety of people Lashkowitz encountered along the way. Very few are dated, and there was little to no organization scheme to the original collection when accessioned. The collection had been organized into eleven series: Herschel Lashkowitz Portraits, Political Career, Organizations, People, Fargo, Natural Disasters, Urban renewal, Trips, Religious, U.S. Army and Negatives.

In the Herschel Lashkowitz Portrait Series includes a wide variety of professional and other images of Herschel, ranging from his youth to the time when he served in the North Dakota Senate. It includes two images of Herschel with his father Harry, and a series of color snapshots of the dedication of a spruce grove in Fargo in 1983.

The Political Career Series documents Lashkowitz’s duties while Fargo mayor of speeches, ribbon cuttings, conventions, meetings and political events. The images have been organized alphabetical by name of the event or primary person. Of particular note is a series of images of a visit to Radio Free Europe headquarters.
The Organizations Series encompasses a number of organizations that Lashkowitz belonged to or attended events sponsored by a particular organization. Of particular interest is the series of images taken at the dedication of a Ten Commandments monument at the International Peace Garden at which Charlton Heston was a speaker. There is also a substantial series of snapshots of Fargo Moose Lodge function.

The People Series includes photographs of Lashkowitz with many of the people he met during his time as mayor, and to a lesser extent as state senator. The series is organized alphabetically by the name of the person with him in the image. The series includes a substantial number of unidentified images that are at the end of the series. The larger files include Lashkowitz with Hubert H. Humphrey, Richard Nixon, W. Averell Harriman, John V. Lindsay, as well as of Roger Maris.

The Fargo, N.D. Series focuses on main events that happened in the Fargo area, including street openings, dedications, as well as a view looking north up Broadway, a group image of the Fargo Police Department personnel, and construction of a dike and flood control in general.

In the series titled Natural Disasters, there are many images of floods, and tornados that affect primarily the Fargo area. Many of these images are aerial views of the region, as well as an array of different streets, buildings and landmarks. Many of these images are however, residential areas, showing the disasters impact. The 1957 Fargo tornado is particularly well documenting through several series of images. Also of interest are color aerial images of the 1969 Red River flood in Fargo.

The Urban Renewal Series shows several urban renewal projects that were occurring in Fargo. It also includes images documenting Lashkowitz’s visit to San Francisco inspecting its urban renewal project. Of particular interest are the series of images documenting the Main Avenue and Golden Ridge areas of Fargo prior to urban renewal. The negatives for the Golden Ridge neighborhood are on Sheets 22-23. It also includes a series of images showing the destruction of the Moody’s department store building in Fargo.

The Trips Series includes Herschel Lashkowitz’s various photographs of his trips, including Europe, Hawaii and two sets of images marked simply Tucson and Rio Grande.

The Religious Series includes various religious event photographs. Some of the events included are Lashkowitz with Pope Paul, church services, and a funeral.

The U.S. Army Series includes snapshots of Herschel’s time spent in the military. There are many photographs of wildlife, and unidentified servicemen carrying out daily activities. Many if not all of the Aleutian Island images are duplicated in the album. These snapshots document his time serving in the Aleutian Islands during World War II. The negatives for the album prints are preserved in the Negative Series. A second series of negatives (Sheets 20 & 21) also appear to be taken in the Aleutian Islands, although they were found in a packet with other family negatives.

The Negative Series includes three distinct sets of negatives. The first eight negatives are of President Harry S. Truman’s whistle stop at Fargo in 1952 campaigning for the Adlai Stevenson – John Sparkman
ticket. Herschel Lashkowitz is on the train with Truman. The second set contains nine negatives of a mayor’s trip to Munich, Germany in October 1961. Herschel Lashkowitz is on a number of the images. The largest set is images taken during World War II on the Aleutian Islands where Herschel Lashkowitz was stationed for part of the war. This series includes 177 negatives, most in 120mm format. These negatives are for most if not all the snapshots and in the album describes in the U.S. Army Series.

The final series of sheets are contact prints made from various 35mm negatives. Although the negatives are not in the collection, some of the prints are scattered throughout the collection. Subject covered include visit to Fargo by Richard Nixon, Robert Kennedy and King Olav of Norway; and also of a special appreciation dinner for Herschel Lashkowitz held at the Fargo Civic Center. These contact prints do provide a chronological sequence to the images taken and help to provide additional context to individual images.

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**Herschel Lashkowitz Portraits Series**

| 2      | Herschel Lashkowitz as a young man (7) |
| 3      | Campaign Headshots (9) |
| 4      | Senate Headshots (3) |
| 4a     | General portraits (8) |
| 107    | Portraits (2) |
| 4b     | Dedication of Spruce grove, 1983 (12) |
| 4c     | Family snapshots (15) |
| 4d     | With father, Harry Lashkowitz (2) |

**Political Career Series**

| 5      | Appreciation Night – Aug. 1964 (21) |
| 6      | Awards- Unidentified (5) |
| 7      | Banquets- Unidentified (10) |
| 8      | City Hall Activities (7) |
| 9      | Community Homes Groundbreaking (15) |
| 10     | Conference of Mayors (6) |
| 11     | Friendly American Visitors Day (Winnipeg Canada 1957) (2) |
| 12     | Governor Rolvaag Election 1966 (2) |
| 13     | Grain Dealers Association 50th Anniversary 1961 (2) |
| 14     | Groundbreaking ABC Theatres – Aug 1970 (2) |
| 15     | Hector International Airport- Ribbon Cutting- Nov 1970 (5) |
| 16     | Honorary Recruiter Card Presented to US Marine Corps. ) 2) |
17 “I Will Vote, How About You?” Campaign (1)
18 Lashkowitz for Governor (6)
19 Lopez, Ruben – Distinguished Service Award (2)
20 Mali Delegation Visiting – Jan 1962 (8)
21 Public Events- Unidentified (15)
22 Rally- Unidentified (5)
23 Radio Free Europe (38)
24 Roger Maris Dedication (4)
25 Speeches – Unidentified (9)
26 Study Mission to Europe (5)
27 Ribbon Cuttings- Unidentified (5)
28 World Book Encyclopedia Speech (2)

**Organizations Series**

28a Cerebral Palsy (1)
29 Epilepsy Foundation of America, 1971 (1)
30 International Peace Garden Ten Commandments dedication, June 10, 1956 (13)
31 Lions Club, Fargo, N.D., March 10, 1969 (1)
32 Meal Magic, Martha Logan show, 1955 (2)
33 Minnesota Society of Architects, Oct. 7, 1964 (1)
34 Moose Lodge group & banquet, Gardner Hotel, Fargo, N.D. (35)
35 Parade of Homes, 1962 (1)

**People Series**

36 Agnew, Spiro, 1969 (1)
37 Beach Boys (1)
38 Belafonte, Harry (1)
39 Celebrezze, Anthony, 1962 (1)
40 Charles, Ray, 1966 (4)
41 Daly, Richard, Mayor of Chicago, & Jim Reed 1970 (3)
42 Dernier, Jay, Miami Beach, Florida Mayor, 1968 (1)
43 Durante, Jimmy (2)
44 Freeman, Orville (1)
45 Guy, William L., 1967 (2)
46 Harriman, W. Averell (8)
47 Hoffa, Jimmy (1)
48 Humphrey, Hubert H. (8)
49 Johnson, Lyndon B. (3)
50 Johnson, William B. (3)
51 Kaye, Danny, 1968 (1)
52 Kefauver, Estes, 1952 (2)
53 Kennedy, Robert (5)
54   Kennedy, Ted (4)
55   Kuchcinski, Dan (5)
56   Langer, William (1)
57   Lindsay, John V. (4)
58   Maris, Roger (2)
59   Nixon, Richard M. & Patricia, 1970 (7)
60   Olav, King of Norway (1)
61   Peale, Norman Vincent (2)
62   Pearl, Minnie (2)
63   Philbrick, Herbert A. (5)
64   Reagan, Ronald (2)
65   Rockefeller, Nelson (2)
66   Roen, Jim, KXJB-TV (2)
67   Salinger, Pierre (1)
68   Sanders, Gov. & Sam Massell, 1964 (1)
69   Seibel, Albert, 1971 (1)
69a  Slayton, William L. (1)
70   Stevenson, Adlai (5)
71   Sullivan, Ed (1)
72   Truman, Harry S. (8)
73   Vogel, Charles J. (1)
74   Wagner, Robert (2)
75   Young, Milton R. (1)
76   Miss Fargo, beauty queen (3)
77   Airport & airplane groups (16)
78   Unidentified groups (69)
79   Unidentified groups (color) (6)

**Fargo, N.D. Series**

80   All America City banquet, 1960 (1)
81   City Commission meeting room (1)
82   Dike groundbreaking, May 25, 1959 (10)
107  Fargo Police Dept. (1)
83   Flood Control Project groundbreaking, Feb. 13, 1968 (22)
84   Fourth Street Project, Urban Renewal (10)
85   I94 dedication in Fargo, Nov. 30, 1967, with Walter Hjelle (1)
86   Second Street grade separation opening (6)

**Natural Disasters Series**

Fargo Tornado, June 1957—
87   Snapshots (40)
88   General views (8 x 10) (29)
89   Relief (3)
90  Red River Flood, 1969 (color) (6)
91  Red River Flood – Rural area, undated (24)

**Urban Renewal Series**

92  General Fargo views (5)
93  Golden Ridge neighborhood (11)
94  Houses in Main Avenue Urban Renewal, Summer 1958 (24)
95  Moody’s Store demolition, Oct. 1968 (8)
96  San Francisco urban renewal visit, July 25, 1967 (13)

**Trips Series**

97  European trip, including with Ed Loon, 1969 (9)
98  Hawaii, 1963 (color) (22)
99  Rio Grande (27)
100  Tucson, Arizona – Jr. Chamber of Commerce (4)

**Religious Activities Series**

101  Bishop Dibelius, 1961 (1)
102  Cardinal J. Beran, May 1966, & funeral at Lankin, N.D. (3)
103  Funeral scenes (3)
104  Pope Paul, 1969 (1)

**U.S. Army Series**

105  Herschel Lashkowitz in Aleutian Islands, World War II (62)
106  General images (8)
108  Album of Aleutian Island scenes, World War II (153)

**Sheet Negatives Series**

1-3  Whistle stop visit by President Harry S. Truman (8 4x6 negatives)
4-6  Mayors group at Munich, Germany, Oct. 3, 1961 (9 4x5 negatives)
7-21  Aleutian Island during World War II (210 120mm negatives)
22-23  Golden Ridge Neighborhood, Fargo (prints in file 93) (12 120mm negatives)
24-34  Contact prints of 35mm negatives