



Guide to the Hermine Tobolowsky Papers

Collection Overview

Identifier	A.86.48
Creator	Tobolowsky, Hermine, 1921-1995
Title	Hermine Tobolowsky papers
Dates	1957-1974
Extent	1.04 linear feet (3 boxes)
Language	The materials are in English.
Repository	Dallas Historical Society
Source	Gift of Hermine Tobolowsky, 1978.

Abstract

The Hermine Tobolowsky papers document Tobolowsky's involvement with the Texas Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs (TFBPWC), and her work with that organization in support of the Texas Equal Rights Amendment.

Biographical Note

Hermine Dalkowitz Tobolowsky was born in San Antonio, Texas, on January 13, 1921. After earning her bachelor's degree from Trinity University, Tobolowsky enrolled at the University of Texas School of Law and graduated in 1943 at the top of her class.

Despite her academic achievements, Tobolowsky faced sexual discrimination from several potential employers early on in her career. Eventually, she began her own practice, and in 1951, she moved the law offices to Dallas. Around this time, Tobolowsky also became an advocate for women's rights, arguing in favor of granting women in Texas the same legal privileges as their male counterparts. She joined the Texas Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs (TFBPWC) and gave lectures, organized demonstrations, and participated in rallies and fundraisers.

By 1959, in addition to her role as legislation chairman and legal advisor for the TFBPWC, Tobolowsky was also appointed president of the organization. Tobolowsky's determination to end sex-based discriminatory practices in Texas led to a fifteen-year campaign to get the Texas Equal

Rights Amendment passed. Tobolowsky's efforts finally paid off when the legislation went through on November 7, 1972. For her dedication to championing the rights of women, Tobolowsky is remembered as the "Mother of the Texas Equal Rights Amendment."

Hermine Tobolowsky died on July 25, 1995.

Scope and Content

This collection chronicles attorney Hermine Tobolowsky's involvement in the movement for equal rights for women in Texas. As an active member of the TFBPWC, Tobolowsky helped garner support and spread awareness for the plight of women on both a local and national level. Moreover, her campaigning efforts contributed to the passing of the Texas Equal Rights Amendment in 1972. The materials in this collection date from 1957 through 1974, while Tobolowsky took on various leadership roles within the TFBPWC.

The collection primarily consists of Tobolowsky's correspondence with TFBPWC cohorts, legal peers, and contemporaneous political figures. Tobolowsky's papers also include internal bulletins, reports, and other documents pertaining to the organization. There are also speeches, essays, and skits written by Tobolowsky, or in collaboration with a TFBPWC member. Finally, the collection contains promotional materials, legislative documents, and a few newspaper clippings.

Subjects

People

Tobolowsky, Hermine, 1921-1995

Topics

Equal rights amendments -- United States

20th Century (1900-1999), United States -- Texas

Feminists -- United States

Women -- Political activity -- United States -- 20th century

Women's rights -- United States -- 20th century

Organizations

National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs

Places

Dallas, Texas -- History

Arrangement

This collection is organized into eight series. The documents are arranged by topic.

Series I. Correspondence, 1957-1974

Series II. Administrative Reports, 1958-1967

Series III. Speeches, 1957-1967, undated

Series IV. Writings, 1962-1965, undated

Series V. Promotional Materials, 1963-1973, undated

Series VI. Theatrical Productions, 1958-1973, undated

Series VII. Legislative Documents, 1958-1972, undated

Series VIII. Miscellaneous, 1957-1974, undated

Access Restrictions

Open for research by appointment only.

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Preferred Citation

This collection should be cited as: [Identification of Item], Hermine Tobolowsky papers, A.86.48, Dallas Historical Society.

Revision Note

Revised finding aid created by Yaima Villarreal.

Container List

Series I: Correspondence, 1957-1974

This series is divided into three subseries: Correspondence with Congress, TFBPWC External Correspondence, and TFBPWC Internal Correspondence. These documents consist primarily of letters to and from Tobolowsky herself, but also includes bulletins and memos from other members of the TFBPWC.

Subseries I: Correspondence with Congress, 1959-1973

- Box 1, Folder 1: Correspondence with congress, 1959
- Box 1, Folder 2: Correspondence with congress, 1960-1963
- Box 1, Folder 3: Correspondence with congress, 1965
- Box 1, Folder 4: Correspondence with congress, 1967-1968
- Box 1, Folder 5: Correspondence with congress, 1969
- Box 1, Folder 6: Correspondence with congress, 1970
- Box 1, Folder 7: Correspondence with congress, 1971
- Box 1, Folder 8: Correspondence with congress, 1972-1973

Subseries II. TFBPWC External Correspondence, 1957-1973

- Box 1, Folder 9: TFBPWC external correspondence, 1957-1959
- Box 1, Folder 10: TFBPWC external correspondence, 1960
- Box 1, Folder 11: TFBPWC external correspondence, 1961-1963
- Box 1, Folder 12: TFBPWC external correspondence, 1965

Box 1, Folder 13: TFBPWC external correspondence, 1966

Box 1, Folder 14: TFBPWC external correspondence, 1967-1968

Box 1, Folder 15: TFBPWC external correspondence, 1970-1971

Box 1, Folder 16: TFBPWC external correspondence, 1972-1973

Subseries III. TFBPWC Internal Correspondence, 1957-1974

Box 2, Folder 17: TFBPWC internal correspondence, 1957-1958

Box 2, Folder 18: TFBPWC internal correspondence, 1959-1960

Box 2, Folder 19: TFBPWC internal correspondence, 1961-1962

Box 2, Folder 20: TFBPWC internal correspondence, 1963

Box 2, Folder 21: TFBPWC internal correspondence, 1965-1966

Box 2, Folder 22: TFBPWC internal correspondence, 1967

Box 2, Folder 23: TFBPWC internal correspondence, 1968-1969

Box 2, Folder 24: TFBPWC internal correspondence, 1970

Box 2, Folder 25: TFBPWC internal correspondence, 1971

Box 2, Folder 26: TFBPWC internal correspondence, 1972

Box 2, Folder 27: TFBPWC internal correspondence, 1973-1974

Series II: Administrative Reports, 1958-1973

This series is made up of administrative reports relating to the TFBPWC.

Box 2, Folder 28: TFBPWC reports 1958-1967

Box 2, Folder 29: TFBPWC reports, 1968-1973

Series III: Speeches, 1957-1967

This series is made up of Tobolowsky's speeches on the topic of women's rights, specifically women in Texas.

Box 2, Folder 30: Speeches, 1957-1967

Series IV: Writings, 1962-1965, undated

This series consists of essays and other writings by Tobolowsky in which she makes a case for equal rights for women in Texas.

Box 2, Folder 31: Essays and notes, 1962-1965, undated

Series V: Promotional Materials, 1963-1973, undated

This series contains publicity materials drafted by Tobolowsky and the TFBPWC to spread awareness about the Texas Equal Rights Amendment.

Box 2, Folder 32: TFBPWC promotional materials, 1963-1973, undated

Series VI: Theatrical Productions, 1958-1973, undated

This series contains skits and short plays created by Tobolowsky and the TFBPWC. The common theme is equality for women.

Box 2, Folder 33: Skits and plays, 1958-1973, undated

Series VII: Legislative Documents, 1958-1972, undated

This series contains various resolutions, bills, and legal memos.

Box 2, Folder 34: Legislative documents, 1958-1972

Box 2, Folder 35: Legislative documents, undated

Series VIII: Miscellaneous, 1957-1974, undated

This series contains various documents including newspaper clippings, copies of writings from Tobolowsky's peers, portions of letters, undated bulletins, and handwritten notes.

Box 2, Folder 36: Newspaper clippings, 1960-1974

Box 2, Folder 37: TFBPWC correspondence, undated

Box 2, Folder 38: Miscellaneous documents, undated