

TITLE: Isabel Burgess Collection

DATE RANGE: 1900-1999

CALL NUMBER: FM MSS #127

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 16.5 linear feet (30 boxes)

PROVENANCE: Donated by Susan B. Cordson, daughter of Isabel Burgess, 2000

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PROCESSED BY: Neil E. Millican, December 2009

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Isabel Anderson Burgess was born in Cleveland, Ohio on April 3, 1912 to William Anderson and Alice Ball Anderson. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, she attended one year of college at Ohio and Mills College in Oakland, California and one year at Western Reserve University in Cleveland where her major was art history. In 1939, Isabel married Richard Burgess a certified public accountant and managing partner of Alexander Grant Company. They had three children, Richard B. Burgess, Jr., Thomas H. Burgess and Susan Burgess Cordson. They divorced in 1967.

Art and public service were abiding interests throughout her life. In Ohio, she was active in the League of Women Voters and became a local chapter president. After the Burgess family relocated to Phoenix in 1948, she served as LWV secretary and president of the Visiting Nurses Services auxiliary. She also volunteered at the Heard Museum where she was elected Secretary to the Board of Directors. Isabel's love for art and culture lead to her involvement in other arts organizations. She was a founder of the Phoenix Arts Council, a member of the Phoenix Art Museum and a charter member of the Phoenix Symphony Guild.

Isabel also became active in Republican politics and began a Republican Party Group within her district. This was a time of increased activism and influence of the Republican Party in the state. She became well known in Republican circles and was encouraged to run for the Arizona State Legislature in 1952. She was elected to the Arizona House of Representative where she served five successive terms. During the 10 years in the Arizona House of Representatives she served as Chairman of the Highways and Transportation Committee and as Chairman of the Joint Senate and House Interim Transportation Committee. These committees introduced her to the inner workings and

technical aspects of the State Highway Department, Arizona Highway Patrol, railroad systems, interstate trucking, airport operators and civil and military aviation. Isabel Burgess also served on the Board of Governors for the Council of State Governments and was a member of the National Legislative Transportation Committee.

In 1966, she became the first Republican woman elected to the Arizona State Senate. During her tenure, Isabel was Chairman of the Arizona State Senate Highway and Transportation Committee. As chairman she oversaw all aspects of transportation within Arizona including highway construction and design, highway patrol, highway safety programs standards, truck bus and rail transportation and airport design.

In 1969, Isabel Burgess was nominated by President Richard Nixon to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). At the time, there was considerable interest in nominating politicians and civil servants from varied backgrounds for federal appointments. Her record as chairman of the National Legislative Transportation Committee and the fact that she was a woman made her an ideal candidate. She attributed her successful appointment to the support of Senator Barry M. Goldwater and Representative John Rhodes.

As a member of the NTSB, Isabel Burgess was involved in many on-the-scene accident investigations and chaired several public hearings related to transportation accidents. These ranged from bus accidents and aviation crashes to vehicular collisions and car gas tank explosions. Overall, she conducted 17 investigations and was involved in 12 hearings. As a member of NTSB she traveled extensively both within the United States and abroad delivering speeches advocating transportation safety issues at numerous conferences sponsored by transportation companies, industry associations, and transportation specialists.

Each member of NTSB had an area of specialized interest. Mrs. Burgess worked primarily with aircraft cabin safety, security of galleys and galley equipment, proper jumpseats, improvement of interior emergency lighting materials and evacuation slides. She was named "Outstanding Woman in the Field of Life Support" in 1971 by the Survival and Flight Equipment Association. She was also awarded honorary membership in the Flight Attendants Association in 1972. Mrs. Burgess was seen by many members of the flight industry as being an advocate for transportation safety which is clearly documented in her correspondence. For additional related materials, view the McDermott Library General Aviation collection at the University of Texas at Dallas. (<http://www.utdallas.edu/library/uniquecoll/speccoll/hacpdf.htm>)

Following her appointment to the NTSB, Mrs. Burgess worked as a Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Energy and Minerals within the Department of Interior from 1976 to 1977. She was responsible for developing and coordinating the Task Force on Availability of Federally Owned Mineral Land established by the Secretary of the Interior.

Mrs. Burgess retired from public service in January of 1977. She died September 17, 1999 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

This collection documents Isabel Burgess’s personal and public life which includes her association with the Episcopal Church, awards, friends, travels, biographical files, an oral history of her time with the Heard Museum in Phoenix and her work within the NTSB. She was well-connected socially and politically as is evident in the personal and NTSB correspondence with such prominent individuals as Barry Goldwater and Sandra Day O’Connor. Burgess maintained contact with numerous federal officials and Washington DC colleagues long after her tenure in public service.

Notable materials include the death of stewardess Margareth Abraham on the DC-9 crash of flight 980 near Saint Croix; dedication of the Margareth Abraham Plaza; the DC-9 airplane crash wreckage near Boston, Massachusetts; and the NTSB Midway A737 crash hearing. Airline safety and professional associations related to the airline industry; information on hazardous materials; the Alaskan pipeline; U.S-Russian conferences on transportation; hearings related to NTSB and reports on the availability of mineral lands are represented here.

Original order is unknown. Folder titles reflect original folder labels. This collection was traditionally processed and weeded of duplicates and extraneous material not pertaining to Isabel Burgess. The overall condition of the materials is good. Mrs. Burgess simultaneously kept multiple journals and photograph albums. As a result some journals and albums overlap chronologically.

Arranged in seven series, alphabetically and chronological within except as noted. **Series I:** Personal, **Series II:** Personal Correspondence, **Series III:** NTSB, **Series IV:** NTSB Correspondence **Series V:** Personal Journals; **Series VI:** Newsclippings, **Series VII:** Photographs

CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
1	1	Personal: Arizona State Senate, House of Representatives	1962-1969
	2	Personal: Arizona Town Hall Meeting of the Arizona Academy	1974
	3	Personal: Awards	1967-1987
	4	Personal: Biography	N.D.
	5	Personal: Birthday Book (83rd birthday)	1995
	6	Personal: Burgess, Richard, Jr. Candidate Information	1970
	7	Personal: China Romania Trip	1978
	8	Personal: Class Reunions	1979-1987
	9	Personal: Clean Air Conservationist	1967-1969

	10	Personal: Ecuador Peru Trip	1975
	11	Personal: Harper, John C. Reverend of Saint John's Church, Lafayette Square, Washington	1984-1993
	12	Personal: Heard Museum, Director's Circle (oral history)	1993-1996
	13	Personal: League of Women Voters, Phoenix and East Maricopa County	1968
	14	Personal: McDowell Mountains: Proposition 400	1995
	15	Personal: Memorabilia (includes theater programs)	N.D.
2	1	Personal: Presidential Inauguration Invitations	1969-1981
	2	Personal: Retirement Documents	1977
	3	Personal: River Trips	1969
	4	Personal: South American Trip, S.S. Britanis	1974
	5	Personal: Watergate Residence (includes one photograph of a view from Isabel Burgess Watergate apartment in 1971)	1971
	6	Personal: Who's Who of American Women	1972-1978
	7	Personal Correspondence: Author Unknown	1959-1999
	8	Personal Correspondence: "A"	1969-1976
	9	Personal Correspondence: "B"	1969-1999
	10	Personal Correspondence: "C"	1968-1999
	11	Personal Correspondence: "D"	1969-2000
	12	Personal Correspondence: "E"	1969-1999
3	1	Personal Correspondence: "F"	1967-1999
	2	Personal Correspondence: Family	1994
	3	Personal Correspondence: "G"	1966-1999
	4	Personal Correspondence: "H-I"	1967-1999
	5	Personal Correspondence: "J"	1969-1999
	6	Personal Correspondence: "K"	1969-1999
	7	Personal Correspondence: "L"	1969-1999
	8	Personal Correspondence: "M"	1969-1999
	9	Personal Correspondence: "N"	1967-1999
	10	Personal Correspondence: "O"	1967-2000
	11	Personal Correspondence: O'Connor, Sandra Day (support of nomination)	1981
	12	Personal Correspondence: "P-Q"	1967-1999
	13	Personal Correspondence: "R"	1962-1999
	14	Personal Correspondence: "S"	1969-1999
	15	Personal Correspondence: "T"	1969-1999
	16	Personal Correspondence: "U-V"	1969-1986
	17	Personal Correspondence: "W"	1967-1999
	18	Personal Correspondence: "X-Z"	1969
4	1	NTSB: Abraham, Margareth Flight 980, DC-9 Crash, May 2, 1970, Saint Croix	1970-1972

	2	NTSB: Air Force Industry Midair Collision Prevention Conference	1976
	3	NTSB: Airline Pilots Association (ALPA)	1989-1991
	4	NTSB: Airline Pilots Association (ALPA) Review of the 7 th Access to Skies Conference	1992
	5	NTSB: Airline Pilots Association (ALPA), 18 th Air Safety Forum	1971
	6	NTSB: Airline Reports	1974
	7	NTSB: Alaskan Land Mineral Availability Task Force	1976
	8	NTSB: Alyeska Pipeline Service Company	1969-1976
	9	NTSB: American Gas Association: 5 th Annual Symposium on Pipeline Research	1974
	10	NTSB: American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, San Francisco	1972
	11	NTSB: American Short Line Railroad Association Pacific Regional Meeting, Park City, Utah	1973
	12	NTSB: American Trucking Association	1973
	13	NTSB: Association of Flight Attendants, Washington D.C.	1974
	14	NTSB: Association of Local Transportation Airlines (ALTA) Meeting, Toronto	1974
	15	NTSB: Association of the National Defense Executive Reserves Membership List	1989
	16	NTSB: <i>Aviation Daily</i>	1969
	17	NTSB: Binder (various materials)	1975
	18	NTSB: Burgess, Isabel Swearing in Ceremony of Attendee List	1969
	19	NTSB: Burgess, Isabel Testimony on Aviation Oversight Hearings on Activities of the National Transportation Safety Board	1973
	20	NTSB: Federal Requirement for Crash Fire Services at all Air Carrier Airports	N.D.
	21	NTSB: Federally Employed Women, Northern Virginia Chapter (includes photographs and speech)	1972
	22	NTSB: Final Report of the Task Force on the Availability of Owned Mineral Lands	N.D.
5	1	NTSB: Hazardous Materials Disaster Planning Conference, Denver, Colorado	1975
	2	NTSB: Inter-Service Study Group	1972
	3	NTSB: Itinerary: London, Dublin, Madrid	1972
	4	NTSB: Jordan: Explosafe	1980-1981
	5	NTSB: Lawyer Pilots Bar Association	1974
	6	NTSB: Maritime Administration Eastern Region Radar School Opening, New York	1972

	7	NTSB: Motorist's Aid System	1974-1975
	8	NTSB: National Association of Motor Bus Owners (NAMBO), 42 nd Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California	1971
	9	NTSB: National Conference of Governors' Highway Safety Representatives, Lake Tahoe, Nevada	1974
	10	NTSB: National Transportation Safety Board Visit to the Association of American Railroads Technical Center, Chicago, Illinois	1974
	11	NTSB: New York State Annual Legislative Conference on Transportation	1974
	12	NTSB: Notes, Memos	N.D.
	13	NTSB: Notes Activities, Engagements, Schedules	1970-1974
	14	NTSB: National Transportation Safety Board Nomination Hearing (<i>Congressional Record</i>)	1969-1975
	15	NTSB: Pipeline Accident Report, Long Beach, California	1981
	16	NTSB: Private Truck Council of America 34 th Annual Meeting	1973
	17	NTSB: Publications, Aerospace , Airline Industry, Pilots	1968-1975
	18	NTSB: Publications, National Transportation Safety Board	1967-1976
	19	NTSB: Publications, Railroad Industry and Trucking Industry	1969-1970
	20	NTSB: Publications, Teton Dam	1976
6	1	NTSB: Reed, John S., National Transportation Safety Board Chairman	1972
	2	NTSB: Regular Common Carrier Conference Maintenance Committee, Phoenix, Arizona	1974
	3	NTSB: Releases, Announcements, Memorandums	1969-1972
	4	NTSB: Russia Trip U.S.-USSR Committee Meetings on Transportation	1974
	5	NTSB: Sherman H. Skolnick vs. Isabel Burgess, Cook County	1973
	6	NTSB: Society of British Aerospace Companies Flying Display and Exhibition, Farnborough, Hampshire	1972
	7	NTSB: Society of Senior Aerospace Executives (SSAE)	1990-1996
	8	NTSB: Speeches	1970-1972
	9	NTSB: Speeches	1973
	10	NTSB: Speeches	1974-1975
	11	NTSB: Survival Flight Equipment Association (SAFE) 11 th Annual Symposium, Phoenix, Arizona	1973
	12	NTSB: Survival Flight Equipment Association (SAFE)	1973

		Management Conference, Monterey, California	
	13	NTSB: United States Air Force Academy, Dining-in, Program	1969
	14	NTSB: United States Air Force Air Training Command Information Kit	1969
7	1	NTSB Correspondence: “A”	1970-1976
	2	NTSB Correspondence: “B”	1969-1986
	3	NTSB Correspondence: “C”	1970-1976
	4	NTSB Correspondence: “D-E”	1970-1985
	5	NTSB Correspondence: “F”	1969-1996
	6	NTSB Correspondence: “G”	1969-1981
	7	NTSB Correspondence: “H”	1968-1999
	8	NTSB Correspondence: “I-J”	1970-1976
	9	NTSB Correspondence: “K”	1969-1979
	10	NTSB Correspondence: “L”	1969-1976
	11	NTSB Correspondence: “M”	1968-1982
	12	NTSB Correspondence: “N”	1969-1981
	13	NTSB Correspondence: “O-P”	1970-1992
	14	NTSB Correspondence: “R”	1971-1977
	15	NTSB Correspondence: “S”	1969-1993
	16	NTSB Correspondence: “T-V”	1970-1976
	17	NTSB Correspondence: “W”	1970-1984
	18	Personal Journals	1967
8	1	Personal Journals	September 1969- January 1970
	2	Personal Journals	January-April 1970
	3	Personal Journals	April-May 1970
	4	Personal Journals	May-July 1970
	5	Personal Journals	July-October 1970
9	1	Personal Journals	October 1970 – June 1971
	2	Personal Journals	January-April 1971
	3	Personal Journals	April-June 1971
	4	Personal Journals	June–September 1971
10	1	Personal Journals	September 1971- January 1972
	2	Personal Journals	January-April 1972
	3	Personal Journals	April-July

			1972
	4	Personal Journals	July-October 1972
11	1	Personal Journals	March-October 1973
	2	Personal Journals	October 1973 – March 1974
	3	Personal Journals	November 1973 – March 1974
12	1	Personal Journals	March-October 1974
	2	Personal Journals	October 1974 – September 1975
	3	Personal Journals	August 1975 – June 1976
	4	Personal Journals	1978
13	1	Personal Journals	August 1978 – November 1981
	2	Personal Journals	February-December 1979
	3	Personal Journals	January-July 1980
	4	Personal Journals	1980
	5	Personal Journals	1981
14	1	Personal Journals	January-May 1981
	2	Personal Journals	May-October 1981
	3	Personal Journals	1982
	4	Personal Journals	April-November 1982
	5	Personal Journals	November 1982 – July 1983
	6	Personal Journals	January-August 1983
	7	Personal Journals	July 1983 – January 1984
	8	Personal Journals	March 1982 – December 1984
	9	Personal Journals	January 1984 – February 1985
15	1	Personal Journals	May 1985 – August 1986
	2	Personal Journals	August 1986 – May 1988

	3	Personal Journals	July 1988 – September 1989
	4	Personal Journals	September 1989 – January 1991
	5	Personal Journals	April 1989 – February 1991
16	1	Personal Journals	February-September 1991
	2	Personal Journals	January 1991 – May 1992
	3	Personal Journals	July 1992 – May 1993
	4	Personal Journals	May 1993 – July 1995
	5	Personal Journals	December 1995 – July 1996
	6	Personal Journals	September-December 1996
	7	Personal Journals	November 1997 – April 1998
17	1	Personal Journals	August 1997- December 1998
	2	Personal Journals	March – August 1999
	3	Personal Journals	N.D.
	4	Personal Journals: Calendars and Address Books	1969
	5	Personal Journals: Calendars and Address Books	1993
	6	Personal Journals: Calendars and Address Books	1994
	7	Personal Journals: Calendars and Address Books	1995
	8	Personal Journals: Calendars and Address Books	1997
	9	Personal Journals: Calendars and Address Books	1998
18	1	Personal Journals: Calendars and Address Books	N.D.
	2	Personal Journals: Calendars and Address Books	N.D.
	3	Personal Journals: Calendars and Address Books	N.D.
	4	Personal Journals: Calendars and Address Books	N.D.
	5	Personal Journals: Address List	N.D.
	6	Newsclippings: Bennett, Hugh Murder (President of Teledyne McCormick Seth Aeronautics Plant)	1976
	7	Newsclippings: Binder 1 (1 of 3)	1966-1969
	8	Newsclippings: Binder 1 (2 of 3)	1952-1969
	9	Newsclippings: Binder 1 (3 of 3)	1964-1969
19	1	Newsclippings: Binder 2	1966-1968
	2	Newsclippings: Loose	1967-1969
	3	Newsclippings: Loose	1970-1973
	4	Newsclippings: Loose	1974-1979

	5	Photographs: Aerotrains, Orleans France	1970
	6	Photographs: Airline Pilots Association (ALPA) Meeting	1970
	7	Photographs: Airline Pilots Association (ALPA) Meeting, Dallas, Texas	1971
	8	Photographs: Alaska Trip (1 of 2)	1970
20	1	Photographs: Alaska Trip (2 of 2)	1970
	2	Photographs: Alaskan Pipeline Trip	1971
	3	Photographs: Albuquerque, New Mexico Trip (visit as Arizona State Senator)	1967
	4	Photographs: American Association of Motor Vehicles Administrators Meeting, Westward Ho, Phoenix, Arizona	1969
	5	Photographs: Auto Manufacturers Association Luncheon	1971
	6	Photographs: Boeing 747 Plant, Everett, Washington	N.D.
	7	Photographs: Burgess, Isabel (portraits)	1953-1972
	8	Photographs: Burgess, Isabel (portraits)	1957-1998
	9	Photographs: Burgess, Isabel Swearing in Ceremony Reception for the National Transportation Safety Board	1969
	10	Photographs: Cessna Plant, Wichita, Kansas	1971
21	1	Photographs: Colleagues and Employees	1968-1971
	2	Photographs: Copper Mine, Morenci, Arizona	1969
	3	Photographs: Dallas Fort Worth Airport Construction	1972
	4	Photographs: DC9 Airplane Crash Wreckage, Boston, Massachusetts	N.D.
	5	Photographs: Dedication of the Maritime Administrators Eastern Region Training Center's Recertification Facility	1972
	6	Photographs: Europe Trips	1970-1971
	7	Photographs: Europe Trips	1971
	8	Photographs: Family	1962-1965
	9	Photographs: Federal Aviation Association Symposium on Turbulence	1971
	10	Photographs: Flying Farmer's Tours	1966
	11	Photographs: Friends and Parties, Social Events (includes Reg Manning cartoon)	1955-1996
22	1	Photographs: Galveston, Texas	1971
	2	Photographs: Garcia Crespa, Tehuacau, Mexico	N.D.
	3	Photographs: General Electric Company, Phoenix, Arizona	1968
	4	Photographs: Georgetown, Colorado	1971
	5	Photographs: Gulf Stream GAMA Trip, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)	1971

	6	Photographs: Highway and Transportation Interim Study Committee	1967
	7	Photographs: Lake of Ozarks trip	1970
	8	Photographs: Legislative Council of 1969	1969
	9	Photographs: Los Angeles Greyhound Bus Station Opening	1967
	10	Photographs: Malta Trip	1971
	11	Photographs: Margareth Abraham Plaza and Dedication	1972-1973
	12	Photographs: MidAir collision Hearing, National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB)	1969
	13	Photographs: Midway A737 Crash Hearing, National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB)	N.D.
23	1	Photographs: Mockup at Benson, Howard Croft and Isabel Burgess	1973
	2	Photographs: National Drivers Association, Las Vegas, Nevada	1967
	3	Photographs: National Transportation Safety Board Members	N.D.
	4	Photographs: Pan Am Flight Crew	1970
	5	Photographs: Piedmont Aircraft, Flight Demonstration	N.D.
	6	Photographs: Safety Awards	1969
	7	Photographs: Seattle, Washington	1971
	8	Photographs: TWA 747 Proving Flight	1970
Box	Item	Title	Date
24	1	Albums: Family Wedding; Baby Pictures; Family Portraits	1900-1980
	2	Albums: Family Richard and Diane Burgess Wedding 1975	1928-1982
	3	Albums: Family	1940, 1979-1985
	4	Albums: Williams Air Force Base Civic Leader Tour, San Antonio, Texas	1969
	5	Albums: Family Farm; New Years	1970
25	1	Albums: National Transportation Safety Board; Family; Christmas	1970-1978
	2	Albums: Travel Trinidad, Mexico, Cape May, Family and Christmas	1971-1980
	3	Album: Railroad, National Transportation Safety Board	1973
	4	Albums: Family and Travel Southern Pacific Railroad; Leningrad, Russia; Lake Tahoe	1973-1974
	5	Albums: Family and Friends, Travel Peru; Grand Canyon	1975-1978

	6	Albums: Travel Ecuador, Peru, Machu Picchu	1976
26	1	Albums: Family and Friends Tom and Jan Burgess, Wedding, Christmas (includes photos of Sandra Day O'Connor)	1979-1983
	2	Albums: Family Trips New Mexico, Europe	1983-1984
	3	Albums: Family and Friends; Travel; Taliesin West	1984-1986
27	1	Albums: Family Christmas, Halloween Party	1986-1987
	2	Albums: Family and Friends, Travel	1987-1989
	3	Albums: Family and Travel Lake Forest; SR 71 Plane Blackbird; Bloody Basin; Virginia	1989-1990
28	1	Albums: Family Trips (various)	1990-1991
	2	Albums: Family and Friends	1991-1992
	3	Albums: Family and Friends; Travel Obituaries	1993-1994
29	1	Albums: Family and Friends	1994-1995
	2	Albums: Family and Friends, Reunion; Richard Burgess Jr. in Cairo; Castle Hot Springs	1995-1996
30	1	Albums: Travel Semester at Sea Voyage; Japan, China, Vancouver	1996
	2	Albums: Travel Semester at Sea Voyage; India to Morocco, Egypt, Greece and Israel	1996
	3	Albums: Family and Travel Michigan, Oregon, Colorado, Arizona, Hawaii, Vancouver	1997-1998
	4	VHS: S.S. Britanis 1994 Circumnavigation of South America (1 of 2)	1994
	5	VHS: S.S. Britanis 1994 Circumnavigation of South America (2 of 2)	1994
	6	VHS: Fall Semester at Sea World Voyage	1996

