



MG 600 – Lorne and Mabel Connell Family fonds

Dates: nd, 1942-1979 (inclusive); 1951-1965 (predominant).

Extent: 45.72 cm of textual records, 19 photographs, 1 audio cassette, library, memorabilia and artifacts; plus oversize.

Biographical Note: James Lorne Connell (1894-1965) was born in Manitoba; he enlisted in the CEF on 24 November 1915 (he was a dental student at the time). He married fellow dental student Mabel Gertrude Killins (1894-1963); they settled in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Both continued to practice dentistry; and they had two children, a son, George Edward Connell (1930-2015); and a daughter, Mary Louise Hose (d. 2 July 2001). Mabel Connell served for a time on the Board of Broadcast Governors.

Scope and Content: This fonds contains materials relating to John Diefenbaker's political career and personal friendship with the Connells; and in particular, reflects Diefenbaker's career following his election as leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, and his constituency of Prince Albert.

Arrangement: This fonds has been organized into five series:

- I. Personal
- II. Subject-Nominal
- III. Memorabilia
- IV. Library
- V. Artifacts

Files have been numbered sequentially across all series.

Custodial history: This fonds contains correspondence and photographs sent to members of the Connell family by John Diefenbaker (or his staff), Edna Diefenbaker and Olive Diefenbaker, together with material collected by the Connell family during elections and national conventions. Documents sent to Lorne and Mabel Connell passed to the custody of their daughter, Mary Louise; her husband, Ian Hose, was the direct recipient of some correspondence and donated all of the items some years following Mary Louise's death.

Restrictions: There are no restrictions on access.

Notes:

Title based on contents.

No further accruals are expected

Donated to the University Archives & Special Collections by Ian Hose, 2017.

This guide combines accessions 2017-029 and 2017-090.

Guide prepared by Cheryl Avery, November 2017.

Series I: Personal

1. **Christmas Cards – Diefenbaker, John and Olive.** – [ca. 1957-1967, 197?].
Official cards from 24 Sussex and Stornoway; one likely dating from post-1967. Includes a telegram send in 1965.
2. **Christmas Cards – Whitton, Charlotte.** – nd, 1953, 1964.
“Christmas Greetings in the year of the Coronation.”
3. **Correspondence – Diefenbaker, Edna to Lorne and Mabel Connell.** – [ca. 1944].
4. **Correspondence – Diefenbaker, John to Ian and Mary Louise Hose.** – 1953, 1958-1976.
From either JGD or Marjory (“Bunny”) Pound, an assistant in Diefenbaker’s office. This file includes a telegram to Mary Louise reiterating “your dad and mother did more than I can thank them for to contribute to my return to the House of Commons” (1953); but much relates to a class trip [see below, pamphlets], and includes a photocopy of Western Weekly Reports, re: “Belaney (Grey Owl) Estate: Belaney v. Yvonne Perrier and Shirley Dawn,” sent by Diefenbaker.
5. **Correspondence – Diefenbaker, John to Lorne and Mabel Connell.** – 1951-1965.
These letters provide evidence of an enduring friendship, and political allies. Diefenbaker wrote while on the campaign trail (particularly his enthusiasm in 1957, including a note of gratitude to the Connell’s when St. Laurent went to the Governor General); his increasing stress (over the Coyne affair and other matters in the fall of 1961 through 1962); his comments in 1963 as he was going to the Governor General “with the hope that I shall be able to do what Macdonald and King succeeded in going after a term in opposition!”); issues such as the Hall Commission, the flag debate, Davie Fulton’s move to provincial politics; etc. Throughout the correspondence are comments relating to the PA constituency as well as other matters (advice on appointments, etc); as well as fishing trips, friends, health, etc.
6. **Correspondence – Diefenbaker, Olive to Lorne and Mabel Connell.** – nd, 1958-1961, [?]
7. **Correspondence – Diefenbaker, Olive to Mary Louise Hose (née Connell).** – 1956, [ca. 1963].
Letter following Mary Louise’s marriage [or engagement] to Ian Hose; letter [following the death of Mabel Connell].
8. **Correspondence – Graydon, Gordon.** – 1944.
Letter from acting Leader of the Opposition Gordon Graydon to Lorne Connell, including a reference to “Johnny” and his work in the House.
9. **Correspondence – Healy, Edna.** – 11 June 1957.
Telegram to the Connells “please forward to John delighted congratulations.”

10. **Correspondence – Tyerman, Don.** – 28 May 1957.
“Memogram” with the Press Corps’ song “Diefenbaker’s Band.” [From the Press Gallery dinner].
See also below, Press Gallery Dinner.
11. **Guestbook.** – nd, 1942-1943, 1946-1947.
Includes signatures of Edna Diefenbaker; John Diefenbaker; Charlotte Whitton; Frances Adaskin;
Murray Adaskin; etc.

Series II: Subject-Nominal

12. **Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) - Broadcasting in Canada: History and Development of the National System.** – 1958-1959.
Includes correspondence from Evelyn S. Tufts; Mabel Connell’s notes.
13. **Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) - Summary of Briefs – Toronto Hearing, Board of Broadcast Governors.** – 1959-1960.
Annotated; includes correspondence from Andrew Stewart.
14. **Clippings.** – nd, 1946-1979.
Includes Public Opinion – “Salute to the Men Around John Bracken;” Weekend Magazine, “Canada’s Prime Minister – Leadership in Action, A Government of Achievement;” clipping signed “To Dear Mabel with love Olive Diefenbaker;” clippings relating to the appointment of Mabel Connell to the Board of Broadcast Governors; marriage notice, George Connell; etc.
15. **Coronation - Ticket.** – 1953.
Includes ‘Advice to Ticket Holders.’
16. **Diefenbaker – House.** – June 1969. – 1 audio cassette.
17. **Diefenbaker – Speeches.** – 1956-1962.
“The Role of the University in the Free World;” address to the Canadian Welfare Council;
address to the Albany Club; address at the Diamond Jubilee Convention Banquet of the Zionist
Organization of Canada.
18. **Diefenbaker – State Funeral.** – 1979.
Order of service from Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa, 19 August 1979.
19. **Election Ephemera.** – nd, 1953.
“Diefenbaker Club” invitation with radio broadcasts listed; “East to West, John’s the Best.”
20. **Election – Urban Preliminary List of Electors, Prince Albert.** – 1953.
Annotated copy.

21. **House of Commons.** – 1946-1957.

Includes two commercial photographs of the Speaker's study (signed by Hon. Gaspard Fauteux, speaker 1945-1949) and the Speaker's Chair; pamphlet re: opening of Parliament by HRH Queen Elizabeth II; card with "Prayer of the House of Commons;" ticket for admittance to members' gallery.

22. **House of Commons Debates.** – 1944.

Copies of the daily debates, for April 17th-18th 1944; copy of routine proceedings has been inscribed "To Miss Mary Louise Connell" by JGD; members of the House have autographed the back.

23. **Pamphlets.**

Includes "Educational Tours to Ottawa;" "Good Fences Make Good Neighbours" – JFK's convocation address at UNB, 1960; "Churchill and the Hudson Bay Route;" "Churchill in Ottawa;" "C.D. Looks Ahead" [CD Howe]; "Grassroots Prime Minister" [includes clipping]; "...now show me your belly-button."

24. **Photographs.** – 19 photographs, 1 slide. – see also O/S

1 colour photo – JGD, Edna Diefenbaker, [Mabel Connell?], unidentified woman

1 colour slide – JGD at convocation [Mary Louise Connell?]

1 b&w photo – JGD, Olive, & Charlotte Whitton; signed "Charlotte 1956"

1 colour photo – Mabel & Lorne Connell, [?], 1953.

1 b&w photo – "Saskatchewan for Diefenbaker" – group photo of [1956?] convention delegates

1 b&w photo – Olive Diefenbaker descending stairs

1 b&w photo: JGD, Mabel Connell, Elmer Diefenbaker, [?] Olive Diefenbaker, [?] having luncheon at the Recreation Centre on the day of the PA traffic bridge opening.

1 booklet of 9 b&w photos – behind-the-scenes, candid images at the [1956] convention; at the train station; hotels; etc.

1 b&w photo – Princess Margaret, Olive Diefenbaker and others seated at banquet table.

1 b&w portrait of JGD, signed.

1 b&w photo – JGD, Olive, and McAndy, [ca. 1970s]

1 b&w framed photo – Olive, JGD, HRH Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip

25. **Press Gallery Dinner – "Insanity Night."** – 1950. – see O/S.

Mock version of "Saturday Night." Diefenbaker is pictured as part of the "Hog-calling champs." See also above, Correspondence – Tyerman, Don.

26. **Press Release.** – 1959.

Exchange of greetings with Nikita Khrushchev.

27. **Prince Albert Traffic Bridge - Opening.** – 1960. – textual records.

Programme and dinner menu; informational brochures. All have been signed by Diefenbaker. See also above, Photographs.

28. **Progressive Conservative National Conventions.** – 1948, 1956, 1967. – see also **O/S M-13.**
Includes official ballots (1956); delegate's passes (1948, 1956); guest pass (1967);
"Saskatchewan Delegate voting Diefenbaker" banner.
29. **Report of the Commissioner: The Honourable Frederic Dorion.** – 1965.
30. **Time Magazine.** – 5 August 1957.
Cover story on Diefenbaker and "The New Tory Government."
31. **United Nations Security Conference.** – April 1945.
Ephemera, including Diefenbaker's ticket for admittance to Session 8, and seating ticket stub;
and San Francisco Chronicle "Album of Conference Pictures."
32. **University of Toronto – Special Convocation.** – 1959.
Programme for the conferring of an honorary degree on JG Diefenbaker; together with a copy of
"Varsity Graduate," with Diefenbaker and Dr. Claude Bissell on the cover.

Series III: Memorabilia

33. **Buttons.** – 1948-1967.
PC National Convention buttons for: 1948, 1956, [1967]; "Keep the Chief;" "Fleming;" "Our
Leader / Notre Chef Donald M. Fleming;" "I'm for John Diefenbaker / J'appuie John
Diefenbaker;" "Diefenbaker supporter;" "I Like John;" "George Drew;" "Fulton."
34. **Ribbons.** – 1956.
Diefenbaker and Fleming ribbons; delegate badges with ribbons for Lorne and [Mary Louise]
Connell.

Box 2

Series IV: Library

35. Hillyer, V.M. *A Child's Geography of the World.* London: D. Appleton-Century Company, 1940.
Dust jacket. Signed "To Mary Louise Connell From 'The Diefenbakers' Christmas 1942."
36. Kirk, Lydia. *Postmarked Moscow: An American Ambassador's Wife Looks at Life in Russia Today.*
New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1953.
Dust jacket. Signed "To Mary Louise with my Best Wishes, John Diefenbaker 1952."
37. O'Sullivan, Sean (with Rod McQueen). *Both My Houses: From the Priesthood to Politics.*
Toronto: Key Porter Books, 1986.
38. *Parliamentary Guide*, 1943 and 1959.
39. *Quotations from Chairman Diefenbaker.*

Series V: Artifacts

40. Mantle clock, owned by John Diefenbaker and believed stored by him with the Connells; together with pendulum and keys [separate envelope].