

C Carnahan, Mel, Papers, 1980-1984
4085 .4 cubic feet, 4 video tapes, 2 audio tapes

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

The papers of Mel Carnahan contain election materials from his state treasurer's race in 1980 and governor's race in 1984.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Mel Carnahan on 20 December 1984 (Accession No. 4588).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Melvin E. Carnahan was born in Birch Tree, Missouri, on February 11, 1934, and had a long career in Missouri Democratic politics. His father was Congressman A. S. J. Carnahan. After graduating from George Washington University and time in the Air Force, Carnahan came back to Missouri to attend the University of Missouri Law School, graduating in 1959. He began his career in politics as a judge in Rolla, Missouri, and was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives from Phelps County in 1962 and 1964.

Carnahan went back to Rolla to practice law and in 1980 he ran for Missouri State Treasurer and won. In 1984, Carnahan ran for governor and lost to Lt. Governor Kenneth Rothman in the primary. He returned to public life in 1988, winning the election for Missouri Lt. Governor. Carnahan was elected Governor of Missouri in 1992 and served for two terms. On October 16, 2000, while campaigning for the U.S. Senate, Carnahan's plane went down south of St. Louis and he died, along with his son Randy and campaign advisor Chris Sifford. Mel won the U.S. Senate election, prompting Missouri Governor Roger Wilson to appoint his wife Jean to the seat. She ran in 2002 against James Talent and lost.

Carnahan married Jean Carpenter in 1954 and the couple had four children, Russ, Randy, Robin, and Tom.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers have been arranged into two series. The **Campaign** series contains information pertaining to Carnahan's race for state treasurer in 1980 and governor in 1984 and includes press releases, itinerary, publicity files, and photographs. The **Audio/Video** series includes radio and TV advertising spots used in Carnahan's race for state treasurer.

FOLDER LIST

Campaign Series

- f. 1-2 State treasurer race, 1980
- f. 3 Photographs, Mel Carnahan, n.d.

- f. 4-5 Carnahan for Governor, 1984
- f. 6 Governor race publicity, 1984
- f. 7 Campaign methods, manuals, n.d.

Audio/Visual Series

- a.t. 1-2 30 second radio spot-Mel Carnahan, Democrat, for State Treasurer
- v.t. 1-2 Carnahan for State Treasurer, 9 cuts
- v.t. 3-4 Carnahan for State Treasurer, 2 cuts

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