

mssc196

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Ruth Peeler, papers, .5 l.f, 1948-1979

Abstract: An activist for state parks and historic sites, Ruth Peeler served as vice-chair of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission from 1947 to 1953, during which time the Commission obtained and dedicated 32 parks and historical sites around the state.

Background: Immediately after World War II, Ruth Peeler undertook a one-woman crusade to investigate and call public attention to the deteriorating conditions of the state parks and historical sites. With the results of her investigation, Peeler was invited by the Park committees of the house and senate to advise the 1947 session of state legislature on needs and policies. The result was the formation of the State Parks and Recreation Commission, to which Peeler was appointed as vice-chair in 1947. By 1950, largely through her efforts, park revenue was increased to \$1.2 million each biennium by increasing driver's license fees to \$3. By the time Peeler resigned in 1953, the Commission had obtained and dedicated 32 historical parks and recreation areas around the state. In 1955, The American Scenic and Historic Society awarded her the Pugsley Silver award for service. Again, in 1979 Ruth was honored at Gingko State Park, in Vantage, Washington, when they named a view spot Ruth Peeler Vista.

Scope and content: The collection consists of correspondence during her time as vice-chair; correspondence congratulating her on the Pugsley award; publications she is featured in; and newspaper clippings from the 1940s and 1950s about various state parks.

Inclusive dates: 1948- 1979

Restrictions: None

Volume: .5 l.f

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Box 1

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