**Abstract**

**This is a small collection of material documenting the life and career of Jerome Byrne, a 1948 Aquinas College graduate who became an attorney in California and was involved in the campaign of John Kennedy for President and investigated student unrest at the University of California in the mid-1960s.**

**Collection #: 1**

**Donor: Unknown**

**Span dates: 1925-2001**

**Size: approx. 1 linear ft., four boxes**

**Processed by: Jennifer Morrison**

**Biography**

Jerome C. Byrne ’48 graduated from Aquinas College and attended Harvard Law School, where he was editor of The Harvard Law Review before graduating magna cum laude. Moving to Los Angeles, he joined the firm of Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher LLP, and, eventually, became a partner. As a specialist in labor management relations, he headed the firm’s labor and employment department. In his long and distinguished legal career, he practiced before the United States and California Courts of Appeals and before the Supreme Court of the United States. In 1965, he headed a team appointed by the University of California to study the causes of student unrest. The influential Byrne Report recommended sweeping changes to the University of California system. He served for 12 years on the Aquinas College Board of Trustees and endowed the prestigious Byrne Scholarship, awarded annually to the first place finisher in the Spectrum Scholarship Competition. He passed away in October 2001. (From Aquinas College website)

**Scope and Content**

**This small collection contains a nice variety of materials from throughout Byrne’s life. His childhood and career are documented by a representation from several record formats including photographs, newspaper articles, educational and professional certificates and honors, correspondence, and publications. Besides providing information on Byrne himself, the collection covers two subjects of broader interest: the campaign of John F. Kennedy for president of the United States that Byrne actively supported even before Kennedy announced his candidacy and a controversial 1965 report that Byrne authored addressing student unrest at the University of California and advocating for major change.**

**Contents**

**Box Folder Description**

**1943/1944 East Grand Rapids High School yearbook**

**(“The Interlochen”, Byrne’s senior yearbook)**

**1 1 Correspondence, From Byrne: Apr. 29, 1959 to Feb. 20, 1961; n.d.**

**(Including to Robert Kennedy and key members of the John Kennedy for President campaign, most are mimeograph copies)**

**1 2 Correspondence, To Byrne and others: Jan. 9, 1959 to Feb. 14, 1966; n.d.**

**(Including from the Kennedy for President campaign)**

**X x Correspondence, To and From John Kennedy: Feb. 8, 1959 to Dec. 17,**

**1960; n.d.**

**(Includes some mimeograph copies, several signatures, one signed “Jack Kennedy” and one signed “Jack”, plus one Oct. 3, 1960 letter signed by “Ted Kennedy”)**

**X x Lists of names and addresses: n.d.**

**(Some with notations about how the people could be helpful towards the campaign)**

**1 3 Other Kennedy for President campaign material**

**1 4 Clippings: Feb. 5, 1965 to May 12, 1965; n.d.**

**(Most pertain to the “Byrne Report” regarding the University of California)**

**1 5 Publications and Presentations of Byrne’s: 1965, 1967, n.d.**

**(Includes the Byrne Report)**

**X x Pictorial retrospective of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, 1990**

**1 6 Obituaries and Funeral material: Oct. 29 – Nov. 3, 2001**

**2&X Certificates/Honors/Trophies: 1925 – 2000**

**(Relating to personal life, education and career)**

**Photographs and Images**

**1 7 Formal childhood photo, probably of Byrne**

**1 8 4 snapshots, child and young adulthood, probably of Byrne**

**1 9 Snapshots of 735 Gladstone SE**

**X x Group photos (Harvard law school class of 1951 and others)**

**X x Professional photos of Byrne at various ages**

**X x Professional photos of Byrne by Raymond Nash**

**1 10 2 b&w, Byrne in robes near Aquinas College podium**

**1 11 Color photos from Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher alumni event, Apr. 3, 2001**

**1 12 Religious images**

**Note:**

**May 10, 2012, Gary and I “discovered” the collection as he was giving me a tour of the basement storage area. I found three boxes and don’t know if there are/were more. There is no documentation of how the collection came to us or from whom/where. The material was found in deteriorating cardboard boxes (one of which held broken glass from a framed item) sitting on the basement floor. I also found evidence of a slight mold outbreak on one leather item, as well as a bug body. Most items were tagged with a small, sticky note labeled with a one or two digit number from 1 to 97 with some #s missing. After I looked through everything and did not find a corresponding key, I removed the sticky notes as they were placed on delicate items and on the fronts of photos.**

**Sticky note #s 1-6, 8-10, 22-23, 25-26, 28-29, 31-33, 35-85,89, 91-97**