



University of Victoria Archives

AR351

Andy Bigg fonds

1. Fonds-level description

Title

Andy Bigg fonds

Dates

1930-1995

Extent

90 cm of textual records, 85 photographs, 1 audio cassette

Biographical sketch

Andy Bigg was born in Brighton, England in 1915, and later entered the newspaper industry on Fleet Street, specializing in promotion and photojournalism. In 1938, Andy and Irene Bigg were married and later had three children: Carol, Michael, and Pamela. In 1948, the Bigg family emigrated to the interior of British Columbia (Wilsons Landing, Christina Lake) where Bigg worked in a variety of jobs in logging and construction. He finally got a permanent job at the BC Cement Company at Bamberton and began publishing the Western Advocate in his spare time. In 1960, he became editor of the West Coast Advocate in Port Alberni, then production manager of the Twin Cities Times, and continued his interest in photography. In 1966, Bigg moved to Duncan to publish his own newspaper, The Cowichan Pictorial, 1966-69. He then purchased the Cowichan Leader and ran it until his retirement in 1979. From 1948 to 1994, Bigg wrote plays, poetry, stories, and many drafts of his autobiography, focusing on his family's experience of emigration and life in British Columbia. Bigg died in 2003.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of the following series: Correspondence, 1947-1995; Autobiography manuscripts, 1948-1995; Photographs, 1948-1980; Writing, 1940-1996; Subject files; Newspaper subject files; Newspaper reprints; Newspapers, 1958-1978; Scrapbook of B.C. provincial campaign, 1975; Recording of meeting with Andy Bigg and staff of Cowichan Pictorial regarding joining Union, 1973. The Newspapers include: a complete set of the Western Advocate, 1958-1959, and a complete set of front covers of the Cowichan Pictorial, 1966-1978.

Notes

Gift of Andy Bigg, December 2001.

2. Structure

Series 1. Correspondence. 1947-1995. (folder 1.1-1.14)

Series 2. Autobiography. 1948-1999. (folder 1.15-1.28)

Series 3. Photographs. 1948-1980. (folder 1.29-1.31)

Series 4. Writing. 1940-1990. (folder 2.1-2.12)

Series 5. Subject files. (folder 2.13-2.30)

Series 6. Newspaper subject files. (folder 2.31-2.40)

Series 7 Newspaper reprints. (folder 2.41-2.44)

Series 8. Newspapers, 1958-1978. (folder 2.45-3.8)

Series 9. B.C. Provincial campaign. 1975. (folder 3.9)

Series 10. Audiocassette of staff meeting. 1973. (folder 3.10)

3. Inventory

Accession 2001-062

Box 1

- 1.1 Andy Bigg biographical information
- 1.2 Correspondence -- Immigration, 1947-49
- 1.3 Correspondence -- References, 1930-52
- 1.4 Correspondence -- General, 1955
- 1.5 Correspondence -- Western Advocate, 1957-58
- 1.6 Correspondence -- Richard Thomas, 1958
- 1.7 Correspondence -- West Coast Advocate, 1961-63
- 1.8 Correspondence -- The Twin Cities, 1964
- 1.9 Correspondence -- Cowichan Pictorial, 1966-69
- 1.10 Correspondence -- Virgil Pinkley, 1971-73
- 1.11 Correspondence -- Cowichan Leader and Pictorial, 1970-79
- 1.12 Correspondence -- Greeting cards and certificates, 1945-77
- 1.13 Correspondence -- Autobiography publication, 1953-95
- 1.14 Correspondence -- General, 1983-95
- 1.15 Autobiography -- Draft 1, 1948, pp. 1-160 (handwritten)
- 1.16 Autobiography -- Draft 1, 1948, pp. 1-41 (handwritten)
- 1.17 Autobiography -- Draft 1, 1948, pp. 1-142 (handwritten)
- 1.18 Autobiography -- Draft 1, 1949-50, pp. 1-163 (handwritten)
- 1.19 Autobiography -- Draft 2, "Greener Pastures Grow," 1953, pp. 1-158
- 1.20 Autobiography -- Draft 2, "Greener Pastures Grow," 1953, pp. 159-343
- 1.21 Autobiography -- Draft 3, "Sparrows in the Dogwood Tree," 1959, pp. 1-122
- 1.22 Autobiography -- Draft 3, "Sparrows in the Dogwood Tree," 1959, pp. 1-122 (copy 2)
- 1.23 Autobiography -- Draft 3, "Sparrows in the Dogwood Tree," 1959, printer's copy, pp. 1-28
- 1.24 Autobiography -- Draft 4, "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," 1989, pp. 1-70
- 1.26 Autobiography -- Draft 4, "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," 1989, pp. 1-142
- 1.25 Autobiography -- Draft 4, "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," 1989, pp. 143-272
- 1.27 Autobiography -- Draft 5, "Survivor of the Second Wave," 1994, pp. 1.1-8.12
- 1.28 Autobiography -- Draft 5, "Survivor of the Second Wave," 1994, pp. 9.1-16.2
- 1.28a Autobiography -- Draft 6, "Adventures to Success," 1999, pp. 1-143.
- 1.29 Photographs -- Family homes, 1948-64, 32 photos
 - 2001.062.01 Wilson's Landing, 1948.
 - 2001.062.02 Wilson's Landing, 1948.
 - 2001.062.03 Wilson's Landing, 1948.
 - 2001.062.04 Wilson's Landing, 1948.
 - 2001.062.05 Wilson's Landing, 1948, cabin interior.
 - 2001.062.06 Wilson's Landing, 1948, cabin interior.

2001.062.07 West Bank, Kelowna Ferry wharf, 1948.
 2001.062.08 West Bank, Kelowna, Ferry wharf, 1948.
 2001.062.09 Okanagan mission, 1948. Bigg's home and children.
 2001.062.10 Trappers cabin at Fife, B.C., 1949 (side view)
 2001.062.11 Trappers cabin at Fife, B.C., 1949.
 2001.062.12 Trappers cabin at Fife, B.C., 1949.
 2001.062.13 Fife, B.C., 1949 - our nearest neighbor about 1.2 miles away.
 2001.062.14 Irene - sitting on log in the forest.
 2001.062.15 Doug Gore and Michael in Fife, B.C., 1949.
 2001.062.16 Bill, the family dog.
 2001.062.17 Female on the horse.
 2001.062.18 Family home on North Blaff Road, White Rock, B.C., 1949.
 2001.062.19 Michael and Pamela playing on the snow, White Rock, B.C.
 2001.062.20 Michael and Pamela in front of a family house, White Rock, B.C.
 2001.062.21 Children on North Bluff Road, White Rock, B.C., 1948/49.
 2001.062.22 Family home on North Bluff Road, White Rock, 1949.
 2001.062.23 Family home on North Bluff Road, White Rock, 1949.
 2001.062.24 Bigg's home in Bamberton, ca 1950 (front of the house)
 2001.062.25 Panoramic view and Bigg's home in Bamberton, ca 1950.
 2001.062.26 Bigg's home in Bamberton, ca. 1950 (back of the house)
 2001.062.27 Bigg's residence at Mill Bay, 1950.
 2001.062.28 Bigg's home under construction in Port Alberni, ca. 1960.
 2001.062.29 Bigg's home under construction in Port Alberni, ca. 1960.
 2001.062.30 Bigg's home nearly finished in Port Alberni, ca. 1960.
 2001.062.31 Bigg's home finished in Port Alberni, ca. 1960.
 2001.062.32 The house Bigg built out of an old cabin in Port Alberni, 1960/65.

1.30 Photographs -- Cowichan Pictorial, 1966-75, 24 photos

2001.062.33 Pictorial being prepared for distribution, ca. 1966.
 2001.062.34 Pictorial being prepared for distribution, ca. 1966.
 2001.062.35 Pictorial being prepared for distribution, ca. 1966.
 2001.062.36 Pictorial distribution in front of Post Office.
 2001.062.37 Pictorial distribution (Snowman with Pictorial)
 2001.062.38 Empty Distribution box for Pictorial.
 2001.062.39 Distribution box being filled with Pictorial.
 2001.062.40 Distribution box being filled with Pictorial.
 2001.062.41 Box full of Pictorial ready for distribution.
 2001.062.42 Gentleman helping himself with Pictorial.
 2001.062.43 Andy Bigg with Pictorial, issue with signatures of astronauts, 1969.
 2001.062.44 Pictorial staff, ca. 1970.
 2001.062.45 Pictorial staff, ca. 1970.
 2001.062.46 Pictorial staff, ca. 1970.
 2001.062.47 Unloading paper rolls.

- 2001.062.48 Truck and trailer for hauling newsprint from the States to Duncan.
- 2001.062.49 Delivery trucks (delivering paper rolls)
- 2001.062.50 Andy's truck and 5th wheel trailer.
- 2001.062.51 Pictorial Christmas party, ca. 1970.
- 2001.062.52 Pictorial Christmas party, ca. 1970. A Bigg as Santa.
- 2001.062.53 Pictorial Christmas party, ca. 1970. A Bigg as Santa.
- 2001.062.54 Pictorial Christmas party, ca. 1970 plus Santa Andy Bigg.
- 2001.062.55 Cowichan Leader office, ca. 1975.
- 2001.062.56 Cowichan Leader staff, ca. 1975.
- 1.31 Photographs -- General, 1930-1980, 27 photos, 2 klechergraphs, 3 postcards
 - 2001.062.57 Andy Bigg car 1936 Plymouth.
 - 2001.062.58 Andy Bigg car 1969/70 Jaguar.
 - 2001.062.59 Postcard -- Watson Island near Prince Rupert, B.C., 1949.
 - 2001.062.60 Postcard -- Grand Forks, B.C., 1948.
 - 2001.062.61 Postcard -- Christina Lake, 1949.
 - 2001.062.62 Panoramic view of Bamberton Plant.
 - 2001.062.63 Mel West, Quarry worker at Bamberton Plant.
 - 2001.062.64 Employees at Bamberton Plant.
 - 2001.062.65 Rock blasting at Bamberton Plant.
 - 2001.062.66 Rock blasting at Bamberton Plant.
 - 2001.062.67 Billy Lewis of Nanaimo, 101 years old. Published in the Twin Cities Times.
 - 2001.062.68 Andy Bigg photo of farm animals "Friendly Neighbors" published in Pictorial, ca. 1972.
 - 2001.062.69 Docked Navy ships.
 - 2001.062.70 Pollution in Port Alberni.
 - 2001.062.71 A snowfall in Port Alberni, 1964 or 1965.
 - 2001.062.72 Andy Bigg on the telephone.
 - 2001.062.73 Andy Bigg in his office.
 - 2001.062.74 Andy Bigg working in his office.
 - 2001.062.75 Andy Bigg in his office.
 - 2001.062.76 Andy Bigg.
 - 2001.062.77 Andy Bigg with Birthday cake.
 - 2001.062.78 Andy Bigg in front of "Pioneer Used Office Furnishings, Whippletree, Junction, ca. 1980.
 - 2001.062.79 Guitar built by Andy Bigg.
 - 2001.062.80 Andy Bigg in front of Totem pole.
 - 2001.062.81 Andy Bigg's father.
 - 2001.062.82 Andy Bigg.
 - 2001.062.83 Army photo of Andy Bigg.
 - 2001.062.84 Andy Bigg in front of Army tent.
 - 2001.062.85 Cloverdale Rodeo racing, 1949.
 - 2001.062.86 Trees brown down in Cathedral Grove.

- 2001.062.87 Klechergraph - unidentified person.
- 2001.062.88 Klechergraph -- Snow in the forest.

Box 2

- 2.1 Writing -- Editorials and articles, 1965-96
- 2.2 Writing -- Pamphlets: Swiftsure Accounts Control, 1979
- 2.3 Writing -- Plays, 1955 and 1984
 - Three Days of Progress, 1955
 - Considerations of Retirement, 1984
- 2.4 Writing -- Poetry, 1940-91
 - A Soldier's Lament, 1940
 - Bushfield Camp, 1940
 - Holidays with Pay, 1950
 - The Cockney Cowboy, 1951
 - Bambertitous, 1952
 - Vancouver Island, BC, 1953
 - What the Smart Men Wear, 1953
 - Birds of Paradise, 1954
 - The Mystery of BC Cement, 1955
 - Safety First, 1956
 - Coronation Day, n.d.
 - I'd Rather See a Sermon, n.d.
 - The Ballad of Yukon Joe, n.d.
 - Memories of My Younger Days, n.d.
 - The Storms of Life, n.d.
- 2.5 Writing -- Stories: Malahat Lookout, 1952
- 2.6 Writing -- Stories: My Visit to Castlegar, BC
- 2.7 Writing -- Stories: The Necktie
- 2.8 Writing -- Stories: Riel's Rebellion
- 2.9 Writing -- Stories: Trapped in a Deadly Avalanche
- 2.10 Writing -- Stories: Whatever Happened to Nils Wiemer
- 2.11 Writing -- Stories: You Have Not Lived Until You've Visited Zeballos
- 2.12 Writing -- Travels of a Mini-Adventurer, 1990
 - Memories from a Modern Ghost Town
 - Fourteen Days in Arizona with a Snow Bird
 - Proposed Auto Tour from Duncan to Las Vegas
- 2.13 Subject files -- Aquitania
- 2.14 Subject files -- Bamberton, BC Cement Company
- 2.15 Subject files -- BC poll tax
- 2.16 Subject files -- Black Saturday
- 2.17 Subject files -- Capital punishment

- 2.18 Subject files -- Churchill
- 2.19 Subject files -- Corfield Store, Duncan
- 2.20 Subject files -- Cowichan flagpole
- 2.21 Subject files -- England (Mrs. Marshall and Alex Smith)
- 2.22 Subject files -- Gambling
- 2.23 Subject files -- Immigration, 1950s
- 2.24 Subject files -- Macmillan (of Macmillan-Bloedel)
- 2.25 Subject files -- Painting of "The King and the Volunteer"
- 2.26 Subject files -- SS Beaver
- 2.27 Subject files -- Suez crisis, 1956-57
- 2.28 Subject files -- Unions
- 2.29 Subject files -- Victoria Press
- 2.30 Subject files -- Writing
- 2.31 Newspaper subject files -- General
- 2.32 Newspaper subject files -- The Citizen
- 2.33 Newspaper subject files -- Cowichan Leader
- 2.34 Newspaper subject files -- Pictorial
- 2.35 Newspaper subject files -- Pictorial advertising
- 2.36 Newspaper subject files -- Pictorial humour (production)
- 2.37 Newspaper subject files -- Pictorial humour (purchase)
- 2.38 Newspaper subject files -- Pictorial franchise plan
- 2.39 Newspaper subject files -- Twin Cities Times
- 2.40 Newspaper subject files -- West Coast Advocate
- 2.41 Newspaper reprints -- The Crofton Gazette and Cowichan News, Vol. 1, No 6.
- 2.42 Newspaper reprints -- The Cowichan Leader, Vol. 1, No 1.
- 2.43 Newspaper reprints -- Duncan Enterprise, Vol. 1, No 1-26, 1900.
- 2.44 Newspaper reprints -- Duncan Enterprise, Vol. 2, No 1-24, 1900.
- 2.45 Newspapers -- Quesnel Advertiser, Vol. 6, No 46-47, 1958
- 2.46 Newspapers -- Western Advocate: A Digest of Opinion, Vol. 1, No 1-11, 1958 (complete set)
- 2.47 Newspapers -- Western Advocate: A Digest of Opinion, Vol.2, No 1-2, 1959 (complete set)
- 2.48 Newspapers -- Cowichan Pictorial (front covers), 1966 Vol. 1, No. 1 -37.
- 2.49 Newspapers -- Cowichan Pictorial (front covers), 1967 Vol. 2, No. 1-52.
- 2.50 Newspapers -- Cowichan Pictorial (front covers), 1968 Vol. 3, No. 1-51.
- 2.51 Newspapers -- Cowichan Pictorial (front covers), 1969 Vol. 4, No. 1-53.
- 2.52 Newspapers -- The Pictorial (front covers), 1970 Vol. 5, No. 1-52.
- 2.53 Newspapers -- The Pictorial (front covers), 1971 Vol. 6, No. 1-52.
- 2.54 Newspapers -- The Pictorial (front covers), 1972 Vol. 7, No. 1-52.

Box 3

- 3.1 Newspapers -- The Pictorial (front covers), 1973 Vol. 8, No. 1-52.
- 3.2 Newspapers -- The Pictorial (front covers), 1974 Vol. 9, No. 1-52.
- 3.3 Newspapers -- The Pictorial (front covers), 1975 Vol. 10, No. 1-52.
- 3.4 Newspapers -- The Pictorial (front covers), 1976 Vol. 11, No. 1-52.
- 3.5 Newspapers -- The Pictorial (front covers), 1977 Vol. 12, No. 1-52.
- 3.6 Newspapers -- The Pictorial (front covers), 1978 Vol. 13, No. 1-52 (the end).
- 3.7 Newspapers -- Alberni Valley Courier Vol. 1, No 1-35, 1960-61 (partial issues)
Articles by Bigg marked with an "X".
- 3.8 Newspapers -- The Pictorial Vol. 1, No 29, 1966
The Pictorial Vol. 3, No 46, 1968
Cowichan Pictorial May 1, 1968 - 1 page only
The Pictorial Vol. 4, No 52, 1969
The Pictorial Vol. 5, No 31, 1970 (first page only) - "Leader joins Pictorial"
Cowichan Leader Vol. 68, No 14, 1971 (front cover only)
Cowichan Leader and Pictorial Silver Jubilee Supplement, 1977
The Pictorial Vol. 13, No 23, June 6, 1978, Bigg's final issue
- 3.9 B.C. Provincial Campaign -- Scrapbook documenting Bigg's campaign to run as a non-partisan independent for the Cowichan-Malahat Constituency, 1975.
- 3.10 Audiocassette
2001-062-01-A Audiocassette recording a meeting with Andy Bigg and staff of Cowichan-Pictorial regarding concerns about joining the Union, February 16, 1973.