

South Carolina Political Collections

University of South Carolina

Eugene Noel “Nick” Zeigler, Jr.

(b. 1921)

Papers, 1921-2000

Volume:	32.25 linear feet
Processed:	1985 & 1991, by H.J. Hartsook; 2008, by Malisa Lewis
Provenance:	Donated by the Honorable Eugene Noel “Nick” Zeigler, Jr.
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Biographical Note:

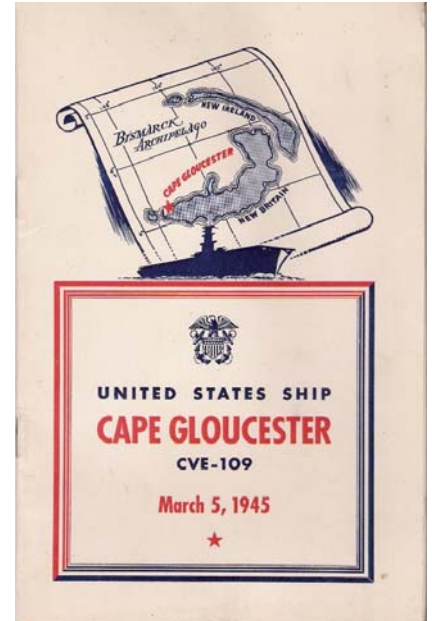
Eugene Noel "Nick" Zeigler, Jr., personifies the concept of the Renaissance man. He has melded careers and interests as an attorney, public servant, naval officer, educator, playwright, gardener, scholar, spouse, and parent. More importantly, he has achieved recognition and success in each of these areas.

Nick Zeigler was born in Florence, South Carolina, in 1921. While attending Florence High School he was active in a number of literary societies. Following graduation in 1938, he entered the University of the South where he majored in English Literature. He received his B.A. degree in 1942 and enlisted in the Naval Reserve in January of that year. Later during 1942, he entered into active duty and during the war served aboard four aircraft carriers in the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters. Following the war, Zeigler remained active in the Naval Reserve until his retirement in 1980 at the rank of Captain.

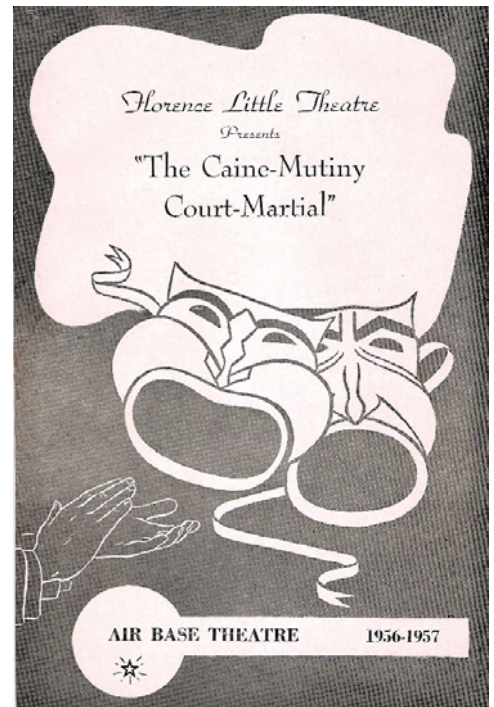
Shortly after leaving naval service, Zeigler enrolled in the Harvard Law School. He graduated early in 1949 and soon joined the Florence law firm of McEachin and Townsend. This was a family firm, founded by Zeigler's uncle and aunt. Peter H. McEachin (1895-1971), was a prominent figure in Florence. McEachin was a graduate of the University of South Carolina and a veteran who had served nearly ten months overseas during the Great War. In 1930, McEachin was elected to the South Carolina Senate. Between 1931 and 1950, McEachin served in that body for some sixteen years. He served as attorney for the Gressette Committee from 1951 to 1966. Leah Townsend (1889-1981) was also a native of Florence. In 1929, Townsend received her Ph.D. in history from the University of South Carolina. Prior to that, her diverse and interesting experience included the processing of South Carolina manuscripts held by the University of Wisconsin. In 1932, at the age of 43, Townsend was admitted to the South Carolina Bar. She remained an active practitioner of the law until her retirement in 1970.



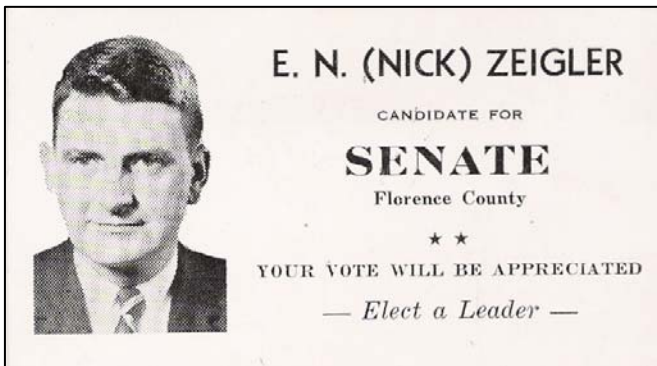
Zeigler has had a distinguished legal career. During the sixties and seventies, his name was frequently mentioned when vacancies arose in South Carolina's federal judiciary. During the seventies, Zeigler was counsel for the plaintiffs in a tobacco anti-trust case, *Windham v. American Brands*. He was also involved in *Eslinger v. Thomas, et al.*, a sex-discrimination case concerning female pages in the South Carolina Senate. He has been an active member of the South Carolina Bar as well, serving on committees such as the Committee on Institutes, Symposiums, and Seminars.



In addition to his legal work, Zeigler has contributed widely to furthering social and cultural interests, particularly in the Florence area. Beginning in 1950, he taught Sunday school at the South Carolina Industrial School for Boys. In 1951, the same year he was named a full partner in the firm of McEachin, Townsend and Zeigler, he was elected President of the Florence Museum. In 1953, shortly after his marriage to Anne Marian Lide, he organized the Big Brothers Association of the Pee Dee. The following year he founded the Florence Fine Arts Council. Zeigler also served as a board member for many regional organizations and was an active member of the Kiwanis Club and Masterworks Choir. As a writer, he composed many plays, short stories, and books. A production of his play, "The Cult," was produced at the Florence Little Theatre, circa 1959. Zeigler also wrote *Florence: a Renaissance Spirit*, published in 1996, and most recently *When Conscience and Power Meet: A Memoir*, published in 2008. Zeigler has also served on the South Carolina Inter-Agency Council of Arts and Humanities, South Carolina Commission on Human Affairs, and the State Board of Corrections. During Zeigler's sixteen years on the Board of Corrections, he continuously fought for better prison conditions and alleviation of problems such as overcrowding. He was also involved in two legal cases against the Board of Corrections.



His public service began with his election to the South Carolina House in 1960. In 1966, Zeigler was elected to the Senate, where he served until November of 1972. As Senator, Zeigler worked towards the passage of a bill to create the South Carolina Arts Commission, which was signed by Governor McNair in 1967. After serving in the South Carolina Legislature, Zeigler ran two unsuccessful campaigns, first running for the United States Senate, opposing incumbent Strom Thurmond in 1972, and second as a candidate in the 1974 Democratic gubernatorial primary.



Scope and Content Note:

The collection consists of 32.25 ft. of material, 1921-2000, relating to all aspects of Zeigler's life, from his high school days in Florence through the late 1970s. The collection ably documents his life and interests and is particularly valuable in providing insight into the development of Florence's cultural institutions. Arranged in eight series, the collection includes Calendars, Campaign Files, Legal Files, Legislative Files, Personal Papers, Audio-Visual, Clippings, and Speeches.

Series:

<i>Calendars</i>	<i>Boxes 1 - 2</i>
<i>Campaign Files</i>	<i>Boxes 2-7</i>
<i>Legal Files:</i>	
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<i>Clippings</i>	<i>Boxes 30 - 31</i>
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 - Educators for Zeigler Committee Box 4
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Bamberg
Barnwell
Beaufort
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Colleton
Darlington
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Kershaw
Lancaster
Laurens
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Lexington

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Chester
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Colleton
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Fairfield
Florence
Georgetown
Greenville
Hampton
Horry
Jasper
Kershaw
Lancaster
Laurens

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Marion
Marlboro
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Pickens
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Chamber Orchestra
Democratic Party:
General:
1956, 1962 - 1973
1974 - 1984

Democratic Women's Council
Federation of Museums, 1969 - 1973
Industrial School, 1951 - 1955, 1957 - 1959
State Museum Foundation
United Way
University of South Carolina

Speaking Engagements
Spoleto Festival, Planning Committee

Writings:
General
Plays:
And It Came to Pass, c. 1941

Box 29

As An American Should, c. 1938
In Sheep's Clothing, n.d.
Pastoral Call, n.d.
St. Judas, c. 1947
Saint Judas or the Twelfth

The Sea Between, n.d.
The Songless Dance, n.d.
Vlinsflanx the Villain, c. 1935
Wind Up Santa Claus, n.d.
With Unmoistened Foot, c. 1940
Miscellaneous, 1937 - 1938 & n.d.

Box 30

Rome, Amalfi and Sicily

Seeds and Time: A Narrative of My Life (When Conscience and Power Meet: A Memoir)

Audio-Visual:

Photographs:

General (3)
Awards and Certificates
Big Brothers, 1986 Kick Off
Campaign, 1974, Governor, Publicity, Press Releases
Lide, Maxwell
Sexton-Shealy Dental Clinic
Zeigler, Ann Lide

Reels, Street Corner and Steel Mill

Clippings:

General:

1897 - 1917
1935 - 1949
1950 - 1955
1956
1957 - 1958
1959
1960
1961
1962
1963
1964
1965
1966
1967
1968
1969
1970
1971:
 Jan. - June

 July - Dec.
1972:
 Jan. - Mar.
 Apr. - Aug.
 Sept. - Oct.
 Nov.
 c. 1972
1973
1974
1975 - 1976
1977 - 1979

Box 31

1980 - 1988

1989 - 1996

No date

Topical:

Art

Big Brothers, 1950s - 1960s

Board of Corrections

Campaign:

1972, Muskie Presidential

1974, Governor (4)

Civil Rights

Culbertson, John Bolt

Dozier, James (Gasque Trial)

Florence:

General

County Accounting System, 1970 - 1972

County Annexation of Hemingway, Proposed (3)

Voter Registration

“Harvard Law School Records, The”

Juvenile Offenders

Lake City

Palmer, Kate Salley

Smith, Tom

South Carolina:

American Revolution Bicentennial Commission

Commission on Human Affairs

Tricentennial Commission

University of the South, Sewanee:

1938 - 1940

1941

1942 - 1965 & No Date

Zeigler Family:

General

McEachin, Peter H.

Townsend, Leah

Speeches:

General:

1938 - 1972

1973 - 1974

1980 - 1982

1984 - 1986

1987 - 1995

1997 - 2000

No date

Jack Bass Interview, 1974