

THE JEAN SHEILS—BEN SWANKEY ON-TO-OTTOAWA RESEARCH COLLECTION

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AN INVENTORY

IN

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RARE BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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April, 2003  
Updated by Nicole Maunsell  
September, 2008

**Title:** The Jean Shiels-Ben Swankey On-to-Ottawa Research Collection

**Dates of creation:** 1886 – 1995, predominant 1985 – 1995

**Physical description:** 53 cm of textual records and other material

**Fonds description:** See individual accession descriptions (below).

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## JEAN SHEILS FONDS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

**Title:** Jean Sheils fonds

**Dates of creation:** 1886 – 1995, predominant 1985 – 1995

**Physical description:** 27 cm of textual records and other material.

**Biographical sketch:**

Jean Stewart Sheils was born Jean Stewart Evans on 12 February 1927 in Vancouver, British Columbia. She was the second child of Ethel and Arthur “Slim” Evans. Her older brother Stewart was born on 13 April 1922 and died in 1925 during the diphtheria epidemic in Vancouver. Ethel Jane Evans (nee Hawkins) was from Drumheller, Alberta and Arthur Herbert Evans was a well-known labour rights organizer originally from Toronto, Ontario. He led the 1935 On-to-Ottawa Trek during which over 1,000 unemployed men rode the rails to Ottawa to appeal to the government for better working conditions at the government organized labour relief camps. This Trek ended in Regina on 1 July 1935 when a riot broke out among Trekkers, supporters, local police, and the RCMP.

Jean attended numerous public schools in British Columbia. After high school she worked in a variety of jobs including employment as a stewardess on Canadian Pacific Railroad steamships, waitress, sales clerk, and manager of numerous bakeries for a leading grocery chain. She was working on a CPR ship in Victoria when her father was struck by a car while he was crossing the street on 23 January 1944. Jean returned to Vancouver to be with him through his hospital stay, before he passed away on 13 February 1944 at Vancouver General Hospital from injuries sustained from the accident.

On 13 June 1947 Jean married Seaman Les Sheils of Hornby Island. He later became a Mate and then a Master of deep sea towing vessels and worked in the North Atlantic, North Pacific, the Arctic, and the Caribbean. Later he worked for BC Ferries. They had two children: Jane, who died two days after being born, and Arthur, who was born in 1949 and died in 1984 in a car accident.

Jean devoted her adult life to the cause her father had believed in: fair work and wages. She was a founding member of the On-to-Ottawa Trek Committee which was formed in 1985 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Trek. This Committee was the predecessor to the On-to-Ottawa Historical Society which produced a video in addition to organizing the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Trek. As well as performing volunteer work for the labour rights cause, Jean and Ben Swankey co-wrote a book in 1977 entitled *Work and Wages!*, a semi-account of the life of Arthur “Slim” Evans. Through her work she maintained close relationships with several of the original Trekkers, notably Bob “Doc” Savage and Bobbie Jackson. Jean was also involved in the Hornby Island community, serving on the Co-op Board of Directors and on several ratepayer boards, as well as being involved with the Hornby Recycling Depot.

Jean passed away on 27 December 1995 at Saint Joseph’s Hospital, Comox, British Columbia, at the age of 68 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

**Custodial history:** The fonds of Jean Sheils was brought to the Special Collections and Rare Books Branch of the University of British Columbia Library on 4 November 1998 by Head Curator George Brandak. The fonds, originally housed in a large tin trunk, was donated by Robert Ralston, Literary Executor of the estate of Les Sheils, Jean Sheils’ husband.

**Scope and content:** The fonds consists of textual material, newspaper clippings, photographs, audio cassettes, and a VHS video cassette. The records pertain to Jean's work in the area of labour rights, the book she co-authored titled *Work and Wages!*. The records date from 1886 – 1995, although the vast majority of records were created between 1985 and 1995. These two dates coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the On-to-Ottawa Trek. Most of the records relate directly to British Columbia, with some records relating to labour rights issues in North America in general. This fonds consists of six series:

- A. Jean Sheils series
- B. Arthur and Ethel Evans series
- C. Les Sheils series
- D. *Work and Wages!* series
- E. Photographs series
- F. Ephemera series

This fonds also contains a sous-fonds, which is the On-to-Ottawa Historical Society.

#### **Note area**

***Source of supplied title proper:*** Title based on content of fonds and name of creator.

***Physical description:*** Includes 1 VHS video cassette, 13 audio cassette tapes, and ca. 150 photographs and negatives

***Physical condition:*** Many of these records are very brittle and fragile. They should be handled with utmost care and when time and resources permit, a set of

photocopies for users should be made. Also, the transcripts of the Regina Riot Inquiry are prone to severe curling and should be routinely flattened.

**Arrangement:** The fonds of Jean Sheils appeared to be contents of desk drawers dumped into the trunk. They had no particular order and have therefore been arranged as Erin Coulter, the archival student, saw fitting. Approximately half of the records have yet to be processed, so changes will be made to this description in the future to reflect the remaining material.

**Restrictions on access:** No restrictions on access.

**Finding aid:** A box file list is available for this fonds.

**Accruals:** The creator is deceased and no further accruals are expected.

**Related groups of different records in other fonds:** Records of Willis Sharpala, an original Trekker who was also present at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in Vancouver, are located in the On-to-Ottawa Trek Collection/Willis Sharpala (collector).

**General note:** Arrangement and description performed by Erin Coulter, February – April 2003 and April 2004. During the arrangement, a good deal of material was removed and shredded. This material was copied as well as records so faded as to be unreadable.

## **SERIES A**

### **JEAN SHEILS SERIES DESCRIPTION**

**Title:** Jean Sheils series

**Dates of creation:** 1938 – 1995

**Physical description:** 6 cm of textual records.

**Scope and content:** Series consists of records about the life of Jean Sheils, apart from her work with the On-to-Ottawa Historical Society and the writing of *Work and Wages!* Files consist of childhood records, personal effects, correspondence (both incoming and outgoing), newsletters, conferences and events, associations, clippings and printed material, obituary, receipts, and primary reports.

#### **Notes**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of fonds.

*Dates of creation:* The predominant dates of this series are 1985 – 1995. A few items have been added after Jean's death including the death certificate and copies of the eulogy.

## **SERIES B**

### **ARTHUR AND ETHEL EVANS SERIES DESCRIPTION**

**Title:** Arthur and Ethel Evans series

**Dates of creation:** 1920 – 1944

**Physical description:** 2 cm textual records.

**Biographical sketch:** This series contains files regarding Arthur and Ethel Evans. Arthur was born on 24 April 1890 in Toronto, Ontario to English and Irish immigrant parents Samuel and Mary Ann Evans (nee Bryan). Arthur left school at age 13 to support both of his parents, who were of ill health. He worked at a variety of jobs including selling newspapers, driving a team of horses, and apprenticing as a carpenter. He left Toronto in 1911, at that time a journeyman carpenter. He travelled west working on farms in Saskatchewan. He also travelled to the United States where he became involved

in labour rights movements. He was arrested and jailed for three years in Kansas City for reading the Declaration of Independence at a free speech rally. In 1913, Arthur was shot in the leg by a machine gun at a coal mine strike in Ludlow, Colorado.

Ethel and Arthur meet while Arthur was working in Drumheller. Ethel had four sisters and six brothers, and the family was involved in militant movements to establish a union in the coal mining community. Ethel and Arthur married on 4 August 1920 in Drumheller. They had their first child, a son named Stewart who was born on 13 April 1922 and died in 1925 during the diphtheria epidemic in Vancouver. Their daughter Jean Stewart was born on 12 February 1927.

Arthur joined the Communist Party in 1926. In 1932 he became the British Columbia organizer of the National Unemployment Association, and later leader of the Workers' Unity League. His opinions of workers' rights were not always popular and throughout his career he was kidnapped, jailed, shot, and had his car demolished. Arthur Evans is most well-known for leading the On-to-Ottawa Trek in 1935.

On 23 January 1944 he stepped off a street car and was struck by an automobile while crossing the street at Kingsway and Joyce, Vancouver. At the time of the accident, he was employed at West Coast Shipyards as the shop steward in the Amalgamated Shipwright's Union. He died on 13 February 1944 at the age of 54.

Ethel was 68 when she died on 31 May 1965 at Vancouver General Hospital from bone cancer. During her life she had sometimes worked as a waitress and cook. **Scope and content:** Series consists of four files of information created during 1920 and 1944. The files contain an article written by Arthur; marriage certificate; a file with a land deed receipt in Ethel's name; and a file of items related to Arthur's death including

cards from flowers sent to the funeral, sympathy cards, copies of obituaries, two official death certificates, list of injuries, bill and account statement from hospital. **Notes**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series.

*Physical condition:* Several items are very fragile, specifically the marriage certificate of Arthur and Ethel. It is extremely brittle and has broken in half into two large pieces. Erin Coulter, the archival student, has encased it in Mylar and it should be handled carefully.

*Dates of accumulation:* It has been assumed by Erin Coulter that these records were left to Jean when her father and later her mother passed away. They were used in her volunteer work as well as research for her writing, and have become integrated into her own records.

## **SERIES C**

### **LES SHEILS SERIES DESCRIPTION**

**Title:** Les Sheils series

**Dates of creation:**

**Physical description:** One folder of textual material.

**Scope and content:** Series consists of material created by or relating to Les Sheils, Jean's husband. Series consists of a letter, receipt, agreement, and report. Records were created in British Columbia between 1992 and 1994.

## **SERIES D**

### **WORK AND WAGES! SERIES DESCRIPTION**

**Title:** *Work and Wages!* series

**Dates of creation:** 1974 – 1977

**Physical description:** 2.5 cm of textual records. -- 12 audio cassettes.

**Scope and content:** Series consists of material generated through the research and writing of *Work and Wages!*, a semi-account of the life of Arthur “Slim” Evans, Jean’s father. The material was created from 1974 -1977 and the book was published in 1977 by Trade Union Research Bureau in Vancouver. The files in this series contain rough drafts, interviews, correspondence (both incoming and outgoing), research notes and material, lists of names of Trekkers and their current addresses, and two copies of the published book. Cassette tapes are labelled with names of Trekkers, and are therefore assumed to be interviews.

**Notes:**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series.

## **SUBSERIES 1**

### **REGINA RIOT INQUIRY TRANSCRIPTS SUBSERIES DESCRIPTION**

**Title:** Regina Riot Inquiry transcripts subseries

**Dates of creation:** 1935 - 1936

**Physical description:** 9 folders of textual material.

**Scope and content:** Subseries consists of Xeroxed copies of the Regina Riot Inquiry transcripts.

## Notes

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of subseries. *Conservation:*

The Regina Riot Inquiry transcripts are in an early form of Xerox paper and are prone to severe curling. They have been removed for flattening.

## SERIES E

### PHOTOGRAPHS SERIES DESCRIPTION

**Title:** Photographs series

**Dates of creation:** ca.1890 – 1995

**Physical description:** ca. 150 photographs and negatives : b&w and col.

**Scope and content:** Series consists of photographs and negatives found in the fonds of Jean Sheils. Several of the photographs were used in *Work and Wages!* and are copies from the National Archives of Canada. These photographs and negatives document a variety of people and activities and span from ca. 1890 to 1995. Many of the photographs belonged to Jean's parents, as they show Jean's older brother Stewart, Arthur as a child with his parents in Toronto, and Ethel and Arthur at outings like Communist Party picnics. Most of the photographs relate to Vancouver specifically with some images documenting Arthur's union activities across British Columbia. **Notes**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series.

*Physical condition:* The items are in a variety of conditions—some of the older items are crumpled, stained, or showing signs of deterioration. All of the photos and

negatives have been placed in individual buffered paper envelopes until further conservation and description work can take place.

## **SERIES F**

### **EPHEMERA SERIES DESCRIPTION**

**Title:** Ephemera series

**Dates of creation:** 1955 – 1991

**Physical description:** 5cm. -- textual materials. -- newspaper clippings.

**Scope and content:** Series consists of several files that relate to labour and union subject matter. The material dates from 1955 – 1991 and generally pertain to Vancouver and British Columbia. Files contain song books and lyric sheets (union songs sung at memorial services and rallies); newspaper clippings generally related to labour rights; newspaper clippings specifically related to Arthur Evans or the Trek; and files of printed material such as essays about Arthur Evans, poverty, unions, and the economic situation in British Columbia.

#### **Note**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series.

## **ON-TO-OTTAWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY SOUS-FONDS**

### **DESCRIPTION**

**Title:** On-to-Ottawa Historical Society sous-fonds

**Dates of creation:** 1985 – 1995

**Physical description:** 5 cm of textual records. -- one VHS video cassette.

**Administrative history:**

The On-to-Ottawa Trek Committee was formed in 1985 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Trek. The On-to-Ottawa Historical Society was established in 1988 as a non-profit organization to preserve the memory of labour rights movements, specifically the On-to-Ottawa Trek of 1935. The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Trek occurred in 1995. The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour organized a week-long commemoration of the Trek, which included a declaration of good will from the Mayor, a walking tour of the area where the Regina Riot occurred, and various speakers and workshops. Several men from the 1935 Trek attended as well as Jean Sheils. **Scope and content:** This sous-fonds consists of material generated by the On-to-Ottawa Historical Society and its predecessor organization, the On-to-Ottawa Trek Committee. The material was created and used between 1985 and 1995, corresponding with the 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the original Trek. This Trek grew out of discontent about the poor wages and working conditions that were present at military-run relief camps. In the 1930s unemployment was rampant and 20,000 men across Canada were stationed at relief camps throughout BC interior and Northern Ontario. Dissatisfied with pay (20 cents a day) and working conditions, workers began walkouts and left the camps to come to Vancouver to make their demands heard. There were many protest and rallies in Vancouver which led up to the Trek. At the time of the Trek, Arthur Evans was District Organizer of the Workers' Unity League, and was leader of its affiliated union, the Relief Camp Workers' Union (RCWU). He was instrumental in organizing the plan to travel to Ottawa to voice their concerns to Prime Minister R. B. Bennett. The Trek set out from Vancouver on 3 June 1935 with an estimated 1,000 men riding on top of railway cars.

They made several stops along the way in communities such as Kamloops, Field, Golden, and Moose Jaw, picking up more supporters as they went. 2,000 Trekkers arrived in Regina in mid-June and were detained there for several weeks. They were not allowed to travel onwards to Ottawa nor were they allowed to leave. On 22 June Evans led a delegation of eight men to Ottawa where they met with Prime Minister Bennett. These discussions did not go well and the group returned to Regina. On 1 July, at a peaceful protest, this tension culminated in what is now known as the Regina Riot, in which 3,000 Trekkers and supporters engaged in hours of street fighting with local police and the RCMP. The Riot left one police officer dead, several hundred people injured, and thousands of dollars of damage to downtown Regina.

The Trekkers returned to Vancouver and four men, including Evans, were charged for belonging to an unlawful organization, the Relief Camp Workers Association. Charges were later dropped, due in part to massive public protest against the Riot.

Sous-fonds consists of correspondence, minutes, financial records, mailing list, advertisements and printed material. The sous-fonds is divided into three series:

- A. On-to-Ottawa Trek Committee
- B. On-to-Ottawa Historical Society
- C. On-to-Ottawa Historical Society 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## **Notes**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of fonds.

## **ON-TO-OTTAWA TREK COMMITTEE SERIES DESCRIPTION**

**Title:** On-to-Ottawa Trek Committee Series

**Date of creation:** 1985

**Physical description:** 7 cm textual records.

**Scope and content:** Series consists of material generated by the On-to-Ottawa Trek Committee and their plans to organize a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in Vancouver of the 1935 Trek. The series contains files of general information, financial records (general); financial records (donations), outgoing correspondence, and printed material. **Notes**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series.

## **SERIES B**

### **ON-TO-OTTAWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY SERIES DESCRIPTION**

**Title:** On-to-Ottawa Historical Society series

**Dates of creation:** 1985 – 1992

**Physical description:** 6 cm of textual records.

**Scope and content:** Series consists of material generated by the On-to-Ottawa Historical Society while carrying out their activities as a non-profit organization. The series also includes a sub-series for the 1992 production of the *On-to-Ottawa* video. The series consists of a general file, mailing list, minutes, correspondence (incoming). **Note**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of series

## **SUBSERIES 1**

### **ON-TO-OTTAWA VIDEO SUBSERIES DESCRIPTION**

**Title:** On-to-Ottawa Video subseries

**Dates:**

**Physical description:**

**Scope and content:** Subseries consists of records generated during the creation of the On-to-Ottawa video, which was directed by Sara Diamond and co-produced with the Women's Labour History Project. The On-to-Ottawa Historical Society was involved in researching and fundraising efforts. Subseries consists of files related to the production of the On-to-Ottawa video: correspondence (incoming), advertisements for fundraising, production team, and a VHS copy of the video.

**Notes**

*Source of supplied title proper:* Title based on content of subseries.

## **SERIES C**

### **ON-TO-OTTAWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SERIES DESCRIPTION**

**Title:** On-to-Ottawa Historical Society 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary series

**Date of creation:** 1995

**Physical description:** 4 cm of textual records.

**Scope and content:** Series consists of a general file, agenda and events, correspondence (incoming and outgoing), members list, file concerning the Saskatchewan Federation of

## Box File List for Jean Sheils fonds

### Jean Sheils series A

Box – File Number	Title and contents	Dates
1 – 1	General [receipt, letter, deed of land, primary report]	1978 – 94
1 – 2	Speeches	n/d
1 – 3	Obituary & related [death certificate, letter, obituary, eulogy]	1995 – 96
1 – 4	Personal records [certificates, letter, membership cards]	1938 – 68 [and undated]
1 – 5	Correspondence – incoming	1976 – 95 [and undated]
1 – 6	Correspondence – outgoing	N/d
1 – 7	Newsletters – incoming	1983 – 90
1 – 8	Conferences & events [biographies of speakers, agendas, letter, applications, forms, expenses, receipt, evaluations]	1983 – 95
1 – 9	Associations	1985, 90, 93
1 – 10	Clippings and printed material	1985
1 – 11	On-to-Ottawa Live Performance Script	1990
1 – 12	On-to-Ottawa Trek Show [flyers, playbills, correspondence]	1987 [most undated]
1 – 13	Les Sheils [letter, receipt, agreement, report]	1992 – 4

### Arthur and Ethel Evans series B

Box – File Number	Title and contents	Dates
1 – 14	General [agreement, letter, certificate, article]	1932, 36, 42
1 – 15	Spain [resolution, brochure, petition]	N/d
1 – 16	Labour work & On-to-Ottawa Trek [receipts, list of tour dates, pencil crayon drawing]	1934 – 44
1 – 17	Marriage certificate	1920
1 – 18	Death [sympathy cards, hospital bills, letters, order for headstone, death certificate, newspaper clippings]	1944
1 – 19	Personal records [letters, certificate]	1942, 44, 50

**Photographs series E**  
**Box – File Number**

**Title and contents**

**Dates**

7 folders	Photographs	
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**Box 2**

Box 2 contains *Work and Wages!* Book, the On-to-Ottawa video, audiocassettes from interviews, a copy of *Labour History* (Winter 1993), *The Communist International* (May 1938), and an audiocassette entitled *Hold the Fort*.

**On-to-Ottawa sous-fonds****On-to-Ottawa Trek Committee Series A**

<b>Box – File Number</b>	<b>Title and contents</b>	<b>Dates</b>
3 – 1	On-to-Ottawa Trek Committee 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary – general	1985 and undated
3 – 2	On-to-Ottawa Trek Committee 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary – financial records	1985 – 6
3 – 3	On-to-Ottawa Trek Committee 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary – financial records – donations	1985
3 – 4	On-to-Ottawa Trek Committee 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary – printed material	1985
3 – 5	On-to-Ottawa Trek Committee 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary – outgoing correspondence	1985
3 – 6	On-to-Ottawa Trek Committee 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary – ephemera	1985

**On-to-Ottawa Historical Society series B**

<b>Box – File Number</b>	<b>Title and contents</b>	<b>Dates</b>
3 – 7	On-to-Ottawa Historical Society – general [letterhead]	N/d
3 – 8	On-to-Ottawa Historical Society - minutes	1992
3 – 9	On-to-Ottawa Historical Society - mailing list	1985 and undated
3 – 10	On-to-Ottawa Historical Society - correspondence – incoming	1985 & 87

**On-to-Ottawa Historical Society – On-to-Ottawa video – subseries 1**

<b>Box – File Number</b>	<b>Title and contents</b>	<b>Dates</b>
3 – 11	On-to-Ottawa Historical Society – On-to- Ottawa video – correspondence – incoming	1992
3 – 12	On-to-Ottawa Historical Society – On-to- Ottawa video – fundraising	N/d
3 – 13	On-to-Ottawa Historical Society – On-to- Ottawa video – production team	1984 and undated
3 – 14	On-to-Ottawa Historical Society – On-to- Ottawa video – correspondence – outgoing	1990 & 91

**On-to-Ottawa Historical Society 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary series C**

<b>Box – File Number</b>	<b>Title and contents</b>	<b>Dates</b>
3 – 15	On-to-Ottawa Historical Society 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary – general	1995 and undated
3 – 16	On-to-Ottawa Historical Society 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary - agenda & events	1995
3 – 17	On-to-Ottawa Historical Society 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary - correspondence – incoming	1994 – 5
3 – 18	On-to-Ottawa Historical Society 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary - correspondence – outgoing	1995
3 – 19	On-to-Ottawa Historical Society 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary - SK Federation of Labour [receipt, letter, news release, pamphlet/brochure]	1995
3 – 20	On-to-Ottawa Historical Society 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary - members' list	1985 & 95
3 – 21	On-to-Ottawa Historical Society 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary - petition	1995
3 – 22	On-to-Ottawa Historical Society 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary - printed material	1995

**Ephemera series F**

<b>Box – File Number</b>	<b>Title and contents</b>	<b>Dates</b>
3 – 23	Song books & lyric sheets	1986 – 95 and undated
3 – 24	Newspaper clippings – generally related	1955, 85 – 95
3 – 25	Newspaper clippings – specifically related	1933, 85 & 95
3 – 26	Printed material	1985 – 89
3 – 27	Printed material	1990 – 95
4 – 1	Printed material	Pre 1890s
4 – 2	Printed material	Undated

**Work and Wages! Series D**

<b>Box – File Number</b>	<b>Title and contents</b>	<b>Dates</b>
4 – 3	Material from City of Vancouver police department	1935
4 – 4	The Labour Gazette	1920
4 – 5	Report on the interview between delegation of strikers and Dominion Government	22 Jun. 1935
4 – 6	Regina Riot Inquiry Commission report	1935
4 – 7	Interviews	1974
4 – 8	Interviews	1974, 1976
4 – 9	Correspondence – incoming – addressed to Ben Swankey	N/d
4 – 10	Correspondence – incoming	1974 – 7



Addendum September 2008  
Prepared by Nicole Maunsell

**Accession description:** The Jean Shiels fonds was donated to UBC Rare Books and Special Collections in 1998, and described in 2003. A large part of the fonds consisted of Shiels' work on a book she co-authored with Ben Swankey about her father, Arthur "Slim" Evans and the On-to-Ottawa Trek that he led in 1935.

In 2008, an accrual was made to this fonds of papers that had been used by both Swankey and Shiels. The accrual was donated by David Yorke of the On-to-Ottawa Historical Society. The files were not organized, and were received by the Historical Society intermingled with files earlier created and assembled by Arthur Evans. David Yorke has attempted to return the files to their original order when possible, though some remain incomplete. When no original order could be ascertained, Yorke organized the papers in a way which reflects the nature of the documents, their origin, and the relationship to Evans' life story. The documents created or assembled by Arthur Evans were removed and consist of a separate fonds (see below). The fonds was renamed the The Jean Shiels—Ben Swankey On-to-Ottawa Research Collection, and an addendum to the original description was created by Nicole Maunsell.

**Dates of Creation: 1920-1995**

**Physical description:** 26 cm of textual material

**Scope and content:** Accession consists of newspaper clippings, correspondence, publications, and other textual material used by Ben Swankey and Jean Shiels both when writing *Work and Wages!* and when participating in later events commemorating the On-to-Ottawa Trek.

**Physical condition:** Some of the records in this fonds are fragile and had deteriorated before their arrival. They should be handled with care.

**Source of supplied title:** title based on contents of the fonds

**Related Materials note:**

1. The papers of Arthur H. Evans, which came intermingled with the second accrual to this fonds, comprise the Arthur H. Evans fonds housed at UBC Rare Books and Special Collections.
2. The papers of Robert Jackson, an On-to-Ottawa Trek participant and activist in the On-to-Ottawa Historical Society are located at Simon Fraser University, comprising a complementary collection.

## **Series descriptions**

### **Photocopies of Materials created in Evans' Lifetime Series G**

**5 cm of textual material**

**1920-1937**

Series contains photocopies of research material: newspaper articles, correspondence, and other material related to events Arthur Evans was involved in. These files were used by Shiels and Swankey when researching and writing *Work and Wages!* It has been arranged by David Yorke into files by subject.

### ***Work and Wages!:* Interviews by Jean Shiels Series H**

**12 cm of textual material**

**1974-1976**

Series consists of transcripts of interviews that Shiels conducted with members of the On-to-Ottawa trek, and correspondence and other material related to the production of *Work and Wages!*

### **Commemoration and education re: the On-to-Ottawa Trek, subsequent to 1984 Series I**

**9 cm of textual material**

**1982-1995**

Series consists of newspaper clippings, correspondence and other materials related to the activities of Shiels and Swankey in connection to the commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the On-to-Ottawa Trek, as well as projects of the On-to-Ottawa Historical Society.

## File lists

### Photocopies of Materials created in Evans' Lifetime Series G

Box—File Number	Title and Contents	Dates
6 – 1	Drumheller Strike	1920
6 – 2	Vancouver Unemployed Demonstrations	1930, 1932
6 – 3	Anyox Strike	1933
6 – 4	Princeton Mine Strike	1933
6 – 5	Unemployed Worker—Condition note: fragile silver photocopies; handle at edges only	1933
6 – 6	Relief Camp Strike	1935
6 – 7	Regina Riot	1935
6 – 8	Regina Defence work	1935
6 – 9	Vancouver Longshoremen's Strike	1935
6 – 10	Mine Mill and Smelter Workers organizing	1938-9
6 – 11	Arthur Evans Memorial	1944
6 – 12	Miscellaneous—union lists; labour gazette; Lillooet people	1922-1937

### Work and Wages!: Interviews by Jean Shiels Series H

Box—File Number	Title and Contents	Dates
6 – 13	Robert "Doc" Savage: handwritten transcript/notes, photocopies of Savage's speeches given in the 1980s	August 14, 1974; 1980s
6 – 14	Steve Brodie: handwritten transcript/notes and fragments of photocopies cut up by subject	November 7, 1974
6 – 15	Mike McCauley: handwritten transcript/notes	August 25, 1974
6 – 16	Gerry Tellier: handwritten transcript/notes	November 28, 1974
6 – 17	Perry Hilton: typescript	Undated
6 – 18	Garfield Belanger: handwritten transcript/notes	Undated.
6 – 18	Harvey Murphy: handwritten transcript/notes	November 28, 1974
6 – 18	Leo Nimsick: handwritten transcript/notes	Undated
6 – 18	Cedric Cox: handwritten transcript/notes	Undated
6 – 18	Kitty Fordham: handwritten transcript/notes	Undated
6 – 19	Bob Hamilton: handwritten transcript/notes; typescript	September 17, 1975
6 – 20	Tom McEwen: handwritten transcript/notes	Undated
6 – 21	John "Paddy" McElligott	December 3, 1974
6 – 22	Stan "Pete" Lowe: handwritten transcript/notes; photocopy of 1985 memoir by Lowe: Echoes from the Past	November 15, 1974; 1985
7 – 1	Harold Pritchett: handwritten transcript/notes	May 24, 1976
7 – 1	Peder "Pete" Rost: handwritten transcript/notes	August 12, 1974

7-2	Hal Griffin: handwritten transcript/notes (fragment)	Undated
7-2	Jim "Red" Walsh handwritten transcript/notes (fragment)	Undated
7-2	Fragments of other interviews	1974-76
7-3	Jean Shiels notes from newspaper research on Arthur Evans	Undated
7-4	Correspondence regarding research and publication of <i>Work and Wages!</i>	1974
7-4	Vol. 1 No. 3 of Labour History, (BCTF), including review of <i>Work and Wages!</i>	1977

**Commemoration and education re: the On-to-Otta Trek, subsequent to 1984 Series I**

<b>Box—File Number</b>	<b>Title and Contents</b>	<b>Dates</b>
7-5	1985 Commemoration of the On-to-Ottawa Trek; 1986 Expo presentation	1985; 1986
7-6	Later commemoration, including Saskatchewan Federation of Labour 1995	1985-95
7-7	Lists of members of the Trek and supporters of the activities commemorating the Trek	c. 1985-1986
7-8	Newspaper clippings	1982; 1985; 1995
7-9	Texts of presentations regarding the Trek and the depression	Undated
7-9	Script of an early version of the On-to-Ottawa slide/Trek participant presentation by Tom Hawken (originally presented with Bob Jackson, Willis Sharpala, and Jean Shiels)	Undated
7-9	Pp 65-106 of a screenplay, author/title unknown	Undated
7-9	Other fragments	Undated
7-10	Material regarding reaction to Victor Howard's "We Were the Salt of the Earth"	1985
7-10	Canadian Plains Research Center	1988; 1989
7-11	Assorted material found among the above papers	1985-95
Map cabinet	Oversized certificates (blank) for presentation to surviving of the members of the On-to-Ottawa Trek	1985