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Semans (Mary) Telegram

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Item previously catalogued as part of Small Manuscripts Collection with various processors.
Small Manuscripts Collection finding aid updated by Amy McDonald, 2012.

North Carolina Collection Archives

300 N. Roxboro Street

Durham, NC 27701

ncc@dconc.gov

URL: <https://durhamcountylibrary.org/ncc>

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Summary Information

Repository:	North Carolina Collection Archives
Creator:	Semans, Mary Duke Biddle Trent
Title:	Mary Semans telegram
ID:	NCC.0246
Date:	1959
Physical Description:	.08 Linear Feet (1 folder)
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

[Item, folder, and box information], Mary Semans telegram (NCC.0246), North Carolina Collection, Durham County Library, NC.

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Biographical / Historical

Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans was the great granddaughter of tobacco manufacturer Washington Duke and benefactor of multiple organizations. Semans was elected in 1951 as one of the first two women to serve on Durham's city council, and served as mayor pro tempore from 1953 to 1955. Subsequent to the August 1959 telegram, a February 3, 1961 ruling by the North Carolina Supreme Court in *State v. Southern Railway Company*, 118 S.E.2d 21 (N.C. 1961) affirmed a lower court's ruling against the Southern Railway Company. Semans was named in the court case as part of the group headed by the North Carolina Utilities Commission opposed to the Southern Railway Company's petition for stopping all service on the Greensboro-Goldsboro line.

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Scope and Contents

The collection consists of a Western Union telegram sent by Mary Semans on August 3, 1959 to Frank Kenan, care of County Commissioners Office in Durham, North Carolina, instructing Kenan to go "on record" that the commissioner's office did not want passenger trains discontinued on the Southern Railway. Also included is the telegram's envelope with note written by Kenan.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Unknown

Conditions Governing Use

There are no restrictions on the use of this material except where previously copyrighted material is concerned. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain all permissions.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Frank H. Kenan Papers, 1937-1996 (UNC Chapel Hill – Wilson Library)

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Controlled Access Headings

- Durham County (N.C.) -- Politics and government
- Railroads -- United States -- Passenger traffic
- Durham and Southern Railway Company
- Kenan, Frank H. (Frank Hawkins)
- Semans, Mary Duke Biddle Trent

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Mary Semans telegram, 1959	box 10 - Small Collections	folder 8