

John Brooke Fink papers

Inventory

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John Brooke Fink Inventory

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John Brooke Fink

Biographical Data

John Brooke Fink was born on September 7, 1883, in Westminster, Maryland. He graduated from Rock Hill College in Maryland in 1903 with an AB degree. After graduation he was first employed in the office of the clerk of the Circuit Court. During 1903 he also worked with a bank and trust company and with a bonding company.

From 1904 to 1907 he was employed by the Maryland State Highway Department attaining the position of Assistant Highway Engineer. At this time Fink left the Highway Department for a job managing slate mines in northern Maryland and southern Pennsylvania for the trust company controlled by his father and associates.

Following his marriage on March 11, 1911, to Marceline MacSparren Pue, he rehabilitated a large plantation on the James River in Virginia which he and his father sold in 1912. In March 1912 Fink moved to the Yakima Valley where he developed and managed a 1000 acre apple orchard and irrigation project in which his father and approximately 60 other eastern businessmen had invested three-quarters of a million dollars. Most of this project was abandoned in 1919 because of court decisions on water rights.

From 1917 to 1933 Fink operated his own diversified (horticulture, livestock and general farming) 135 acre ranch near Wenas in the Yakima Valley. He was one of the organizers of the Wenas Irrigation District and was elected President of it on January 12, 1926. While President of the district there was much litigation concerning water rights, and he became more familiar with irrigation laws.

For a short time in 1932 Fink sold life insurance, but this was forgotten when he became involved in Democratic Party politics. In the summer of 1932, Fink managed C. D. Martin's gubernatorial campaign in central Washington.

Mr. Martin was elected governor and credit was given Fink for the Democratic victory in the previously Republican central Washington counties. Fink was endorsed by many factions in Yakima for the position of State Director of Agriculture but lacked the support of the various farm organizations.

In April 1933 Martin appointed Fink Assistant Director of the two State departments of Agriculture and of Conservation and Development. Fink sold all of his property except his Yakima residence and moved to Olympia. Subsequently he was able to place a large number of Yakima County people in State positions.

From April 1933 to August 1936 Fink served as Assistant Director of these two State Departments. There was a movement in 1933 to draft Fink for the Congressional race against Knute Hill, but this came to nothing. In 1934 he was mentioned as a compromise candidate for Postmaster of Yakima, but no support was forthcoming from Hill and Fink denied having ambition for this position.

On August 15, 1936, Fink was appointed Acting Director of the State Department of Conservation and Development upon the resignation of E. F. Banker. After serving a year as Acting Director, Fink was appointed Director by Martin. Fink, as Director of this department, was also ex-officio Chairman of the Columbia Basin Commission, the State agency for development of the Columbia Basin Project.

During the period August 15, 1936, to April 30, 1941, Fink was also Chairman of the Mines-to-Markets Road Commission and a member of the State Planning Council, the State Water Pollution Commission, the State Forest Board, and the Pacific Northwest Drainage Basin Commission.

Although he had the support of many Republicans, Fink was asked to resign his post when Langlie defeated Martin for Governor in 1941. Langlie had made repeated public statements that there would be no change in department administration where "efficiency and honesty were demonstrated." The final report of the Thurston County Grand Jury investigation dated February 13, 1940, stated: "The Jury commends both the Director and his department for efficient administration and outstanding achievements within its field." p. 4

Fink resigned his post and went to Arizona for a vacation and recuperation. While there Fink, whose wife Marceline had died a number of years before, remarried. He returned to Washington and unsuccessfully tried to find a place in the new administration.

Fink died in Washington in 1968 survived by his wife, Ruth, and his two children, Marceline and John Brooke Fink, Jr.

John Brooke Fink Inventory

<u>Folder no.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. of items</u>
1-1	BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL	n.d.	5
	INCOMING LETTERS		
1-2	American Planning and Civic Assn	n.d.	1
	Associated Press	1934	1
	Benedict, A H	n.d.	1
	Boettiger, John	1939	1
	Chamber of Commerce, Bellingham	1938	1
	Chamber of Commerce, Spokane	1938	1
	Cheney, Joseph C	1935-1937	3
	Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company	1938	1
	Coffey, Robert C.	1931	1
	Columbia River Development League	1937	1
	Commonwealth Club, Richmond, Va.	1914	1
	Cunningham, Fred J.	n.d.	1
1-3	Democratic Party. National Committee	1934	1
	Diking Improvement District No. 15 of Cowlitz County	1937	1
	Dorman, Orris	1935	1
	Earling, H B	1939	1
	Garrison, A M	1936	1
	Goerling, E G	1959	1
	Grady Studio, Seattle	1935	1
1-4	Hamilton, Richard	1932-1938	18
	Haw, John W.	1939	2
	Hill, Knute	1937	1
	Hughes, Mary Emma	1954	3
	Huse, Harry C.	1932	2
1-5	Knowles, Paul H.	1940	1
	La Berge, H A	1932	1
	Langlie, Arthur B	1941	1
	Langloe, Lars	1941	1
	McCollister, Dave	1915	2
	Marine Bancorporation	1937	1
	Martin, Albert C.	1936	1
	Martin, Clarence D.	1932-1940	13
	Martin, F M	1951	1
	Meachall, J N	1918	1
	Miller, Don T.	1941	1
	Moran, C H	1934-1937	2
	Moulton, Mark M.	1940-1941	3

1-6	National Reclamation Association	1939	1
	Perham, Ben A	1940-1949	5
	Proctor, Mr and Mrs	1938	1
	Puget Sound Power and Light Company	1938	1
1-7	Reardon, Keiron W.	1939	1
	Ritchie, Albert C.	1932	1
	Robinson, Harold A.	1938	1
	Ross, Fred S.	1931	1
	Schwellenbach, Lewis B.	1945	1
	Scruby, Wilbur W.	1948	1
	Tri-State Wheat Transportation Council	1937	1
1-8	U.S. Attorney	1943	1
	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	1937-1939	8
	U.S. Work Projects Administration	1940	1
1-9	Walla Walla (City). [govt]	1937	1
	Walla Walla County. [govt]	1937	1
	Wash. Agriculture Department	1933	1
	Wash. Conservation and Development Dept.	1933-1940	5
	Wash. Emergency Relief Administration	1933	1
	Wash. Executive Department	1938	1
	Wash. Finance, Budget and Business Dept.	1941	1
	Wash. State Palnning Council	1936-1940	8
	Washington Legislative League, Inc.	1936	1
	<u>Wenatchee Daily World</u>	1937	1
	Wende, Henry H.	1934	1
	Williamson, Ralph B.	1931	1
	Wright, Beals	1918	5
	Yakima Real Estate Company	1937	1
1-10	Unidentified	1932-1953	7
1-(11-12)	Political endorsements	1932-1942	43
1-(13-15)	OUTGOING LETTERS	1917-1951	45
	SPEECHES AND WRITINGS		
1-(16-19)/ 2-(1-7)	JBF	1936-1940, n.d.	60
2-8	Published	1937-1939, n.d.	5
2-9	Programs and clippings	1937-1940	17
2-10-12)	Others	1935-1962	28
2-13	NOTES	n.d.	10
2-14	REPORTS (others)	1936-1940	6
2-15	MINUTES	1939-1940, n.d.	4

2-16	LEGAL DOCUMENTS	1918, 1934	2
2-17	PERSONAL DOCUMENTS	1935, 1937, 1940	3
2-18	COURT PAPERS	1940	1
MEMORABILIA			
3-1-2)	Career-connected	1935-1945, n.d.	14
3-3	Family	1935-1940, n.d.	6
3-4	Governor C. D. Martin	1932-1940	8
3-5	Maryland	1931-1937	3
3-6	EPHEMERA	1938-1953, n.d.	8
PRINTED MATERIAL			
Columbia Basin Project sa: Maps			
3-7	U.S. Publications	1938-1962, n.d.	9
3-8	State Publications	1933-1937, n.d.	6
3-9	Private Publications	1938-1939	2
3-10	Annotated Maps	1935-1940, n.d.	7
3-11	Maps	1936-1940, n.d.	11
3-12/4-1	State Publications bearing Fink's Name	1934-1940	11
4-(2-3)	State Publications	1932-1940	12
4-4	Government Publications (Tourist info on Washington)	1940, n.d.	9
PHOTOGRAPHS			
4-5	Fink and friends	1913-1940, n.d.	42
4-6	Governor C. D. Martin	1935-1940	13
4-7	Grand Coulee Dam	1936-1940, n.d.	39
4-8	Miscellaneous	1937-1939, n.d.	22