

Collection Summary

Title

Joseph Nesbit Collection

Date

1950s to 1990s

Extent

1 archival box and 1 oversize archival box

Name and Location of Repository

Midwest Genealogy Center, Independence (Mo.)

Reference code: MGC 1166-JNC

Processed by: Jolene Clark, 2018; finding aid created by Jolene Clark, 2018

Name of Creator

Joseph and Della Mae Trout Nesbit

Biographical History

Joseph Nesbit was born November 15, 1915 near Clinton, Missouri. After serving in World War II, he used the G.I. Bill to complete his education. In 1948, he was a principal at Butler (MO) Elementary School where he met Della Mae Trout, the music teacher. They were married in 1952 and had two children. In 1954, Joseph came to work for the Hickman Mills School District (Consolidated School District Number 1) where he stayed until his retirement in 1979. He held many positions in the school district including principal of Burke Elementary, supervisor of elementary schools, Director of Curriculum, Assistant Superintendent of Schools. In 1976, he became the Superintendent of Schools and held that position until he retired. During the time Joseph Nesbit worked for the school district, the district grew from about 1,700 students to over 15,000 students. Joseph died on February 3, 2006.

Scope and Content

Items in the collection connect Joseph Nesbit and his family to the Hickman Mills School District. Much of the collection pertains to his time as principal or superintendent. The collection is comprised of programs, newspapers, newspaper clippings, histories of the schools, and photographs. Former President Harry S. Truman signed Joseph Nesbit's copy of the program from the dedication of three schools. The family witnessed the Ruskin Heights tornado in 1957. A photograph of Ruskin High School after the tornado as well as a disaster card filled out by the Nesbit family are among the items in this collection. Other items in the collection relate to the schools that the Nesbit children attended including a private school, Barstow School. The collection is arranged in two series, the first relating to the schools and the second relating to the Hickman Mills area where the family lived.



Collection Inventory

System of Arrangement

These records are arranged in 2 series.

Box 1

Series 1, Schools

- Folder 1, C. A. Burke Elementary School, Kansas City, MO
 - Item 1, Pendant flags (2)
 - Item 2, "Remember the Times" 40th Birthday program
 - Item 3, *C.A. Burke Elementary School* [Removed to book collection]
 - Item 4, Photograph of Lillian Williams 6th grade teacher, 1964-1965
 - Item 5, Photograph outside of C.A. Burke Elementary, 1965
 - Item 6, Song lyrics for district choir, 1965 or 1966 [accretion, May 2019]
- Folder 2, Ruskin High School, Kansas City, MO
 - Item 1, Photograph of damage to Ruskin High School following tornado, 1957
 - Item 2, Resident Disaster Card for Nesbit family, 1957
 - Item 3, Ruskin High School Baccalaureate program, 1959
 - Item 4, Newspaper article Baccalaureate and commencement, 1959 [copy]
- Folder 3, Barstow School, Kansas City, MO
 - Item 1, Commencement program, 1972
 - Item 2, Commencement program, 1971
 - Item 3, Graduation announcement for Mary Jane Nesbit, 1972
 - Item 4, Baccalaureate program, 1972
 - Item 5, Barstow Song Book
 - Item 6, *The Messiah* program, 1971
 - Item 7, Class photo, 1972
 - Item 8, *The B-Line*, Vol. X, No. 12, June 2, 1971
 - Item 9, *The B-Line*, Vol XI, No. 9, June 7, 1972
 - Item 10, *The Weathercock* yearbook [Removed to book collection]
- Folder 4, Hickman Elementary School, Kansas City, MO
 - Item 1, Kindergarten progress report for Jane Nesbit
 - Item 2, Envelope
- Folder 5, Newspapers
 - Item 1, Newspaper clippings [copies]
 - Item 2, *Your School Report*, Consolidated School District Number 1, Vol. 1, No. 3, January 1966
 - Item 3, *Your School Report*, Consolidated School District Number 1, Vol. XV, No. 4, March 1979 [oversized]
 - Item 4, *Your School Report*, Consolidated School District Number 1, Vol. XV, No. 5, May 1979 [oversized]
 - Item 5, *Jackson County Advocate*, Vol. 105, No. 28, August 10, 1995 [oversized]
- Folder 6, Photographs
 - Item 1, Joe Nesbit at desk
 - Item 2, Mr. Foraker and Mr. Nesbit at desk
- Folder 7, Retirement



- Item 1, Joseph H Nesbit retirement program, May 6, 1979
- Item 2, Paul F Province retirement program, May 6, 1979
- Item 3, Photograph retirement reception, May 6, 1979
- Item 4, Missouri House of Representatives Resolution for Superintendent Nesbit, May 3, 1979 [oversized]
- Item 5, Paddle signed by district staff as a gift to Joseph Nesbit [oversized]
- Item 6, Resolution from the Board of Education, July 19, 1979
- Item 6, Blaine E. Steck retirement program, May 3, 1987 [accretion, Nov 2018]

Folder 8, Misc.

- Item 1, Program from dedication of Ruskin High, Harry S. Truman Elementary, and Westridge Elementary signed by Harry S. Truman
- Item 2, Newspaper clipping about Truman dedicating schools [copy]
- Item 3, Suburban Jackson County Missouri teaching recruitment brochure
- Item 4, American Association of University Women Missouri Division Area Conference/History of Hickman Mills, 1962
- Item 5, Achievement in Education Awards and Baptiste Educational Center Open House program, 1997
- Item 6, National AAU/USA-Sears Junior Olympic Girls Basketball Championship program, 1979
- Item 7, *Harry S Truman Elementary School 1956-1996: Celebrating 40 Years of Progress* [Removed to book collection]
- Item 8, *Annual Review*, Consolidated School District No. 1, 1979 [Removed to book collection]
- Item 9, Open House for new Administration Building invitation, 1980 [accretion, Nov 2018]
- Item 10, Open House for new Administration Building program, May 18, 1980 [accretion, Nov 2018]

Series 2, Hickman Mills area

Folder 1, Hickman Mills, Kansas City, MO

- Item 1, Chamber of Commerce directory [circa 1961]
- Item 2, Chamber of Commerce directory [circa 1966]

Folder 2, Churches

- Item 1, Community Christian Church dedication program, 1958
- Item 2, Hickman Mills Community Christian Church bulletin, 1965
- Item 3, St. Luke's United Methodist Church dedication program, 1971

Folder 3, Misc.

- Item 1, Camp Fire Day Camp memento signed by Ben Irvine
- Item 2, Alternative Futures Program for Greater Kansas City resolution, December 4, 1975 [accretion, Nov 2018]
- Item 3, Camp Fire Day Camp songs [accretion, May 2019]
- Item 4, Deeds and real estate contracts [accretion, Oct 2019]



Rights and Access

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use by appointment.

Physical Access

Most records within this collection are housed in file folders.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the Midwest Genealogy Center.

Languages and Scripts of the Material

Materials in the collection are entirely in English.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was donated by Mary Jane Cary.

Accruals

Accretion to collection added 2018, 2019.

Existence and Location of Originals

Originals owned by the Midwest Genealogy Center.

Related Materials

Other items donated by family added to book collection:

Annual Review July 1979 Consolidated School District No. 1.

C.A. Burke Elementary School 1954-1955 to 1994-1995.

Harry S. Truman Elementary School 1956-1996: Celebrating 40 Years of Progress.

Jami Parkison. The Journey to Our Future: The History of the Hickman Mills C-1 School District, 1902-2002. Kansas City, MO: 2002.

The Weathercock, 1972.

Notes

The following sources were consulted during the preparation of the biographical history:

- Retirement program for Joseph Nesbit
- Findagrave.com