Charles H. Callison Papers  
(C4029)

Collection Number: C4029

Collection Title: Charles H. Callison Papers

Dates: 1927-1995

Creator: Callison, Charles H., 1913-1993

Abstract: The papers of an environmentalist, editor of the Missouri Conservationist, conservation director of the National Wildlife Federation, chairman of the Natural Resources Council of America, and executive vice president of the National Audubon Society. The papers contain correspondence, newsletters, meeting minutes, photographs, and other materials documenting Callison’s work as a conservationist.

Collection Size: 11.5 cubic feet, 3 audio cassettes  
(276 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] Charles H. Callison Papers (C4029); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by his wife, Amelia (Amy) Callison, on September 29, 1999 (Accession No. CA5822).

Biographical Note:

Charles H. Callison was born on November 6, 1913, in Lousana, Alberta, Canada, to Guy and Dorinda Stuart Callison. He was married on June 7, 1951, to Amelia (Amy) Ferguson, and they had one son, C. Stuart Callison, and three daughters, Joyce Melville, Karen Bater, and Bettye Callison-Palermo. He moved to Missouri at age five and graduated from the University of Missouri School of Journalism in 1937.

From 1941 to 1946, he served as chief of information and editor of the Missouri Conservationist for the Missouri Conservation Commission. He then became executive secretary of the Conservation Federation of Missouri. He moved to Washington, D.C. in 1951 to become secretary and conservation director of the National Wildlife Federation, serving as chairman of the Natural Resources Council of America from 1957 to 1959. During that time, he assisted in drafting important conservation bills including the Wilderness Act, the Golden Eagle Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

He joined the staff of the National Audubon Society in 1960, becoming executive vice president in 1966. He wrote “National Outlook,” a regular column in Audubon Magazine. In 1977, he founded the Public Lands Institute, a research and conservation organization, serving as president until 1986. He was also founder, president, and legislative leader of the Missouri Parks Association, and a lobbyist for the Missouri Audubon Council.

He was the author and editor of several books, newsletters, articles, and reviews. He was granted the Audubon Medal of the National Audubon Society in 1978, and honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1979. He was also the first recipient of the Charles Callison award of the Missouri Parks Association in 1992. He died in Jefferson City on February 23, 1993, due to complications following open-heart surgery.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following five series:

Audubon Society
Subject Files
House and Senate Bills and Journals
Photographs and Slides
Publications

Scope and Content Note:

The Audubon Society series consists of newsletters, correspondence, notes, memos, board and staff material, special projects, meeting minutes, and portions of the Audubon magazine, containing articles by Charles Callison, who was on the Audubon editorial board. Also included are issues of the Audubon Leader, formerly called the Audubon Leader’s Conservation Guide. This material is arranged alphabetically by subject, except for the magazines, which are arranged chronologically.

The Subject Files series comprises the bulk of the collection and includes a mix of Callison’s personal and professional papers including family genealogy, speech material, drafts and reports on numerous conservation issues, surveys, fund-raising proposals, petitions, campaigns, and
The series also contains pieces of legislation dealing with conservation, such as the Natural Streams Act and Septic Tank Bill. There is much material generated from Callison’s interaction with conservation groups, as well as governmental departments, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Public Interest Research Group, and the Conservation Federation of Missouri. This material is arranged alphabetically by topic.

The **House and Senate Bills and Journals** series consists of legislation dealing with conservation issues in the early 1990s. This material is in the form of pamphlets published during sessions of the Missouri legislature and is arranged in chronological order.

The **Photographs and Slides** series consists of personal and professional photos. The personal photographs depict Callison, his wife and family, and the awards he earned or those which were created in his honor. The professional photographs include beautification projects, dedications, conferences, presentations, and meetings with President Lyndon B. Johnson and other politicians. Images of former strip-mine pits, events sponsored by the Boonville Rod and Gun Club, and slides for a program entitled, “Parks and Soils: A Plan for the Future,” are also included. In addition, there is an audiocassette which accompanies an Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) slide program. The photographs and slides are arranged chronologically.

The **Publications** series consists of various reports, newsletters, journals, and periodicals covering nature conservation. Some titles include, *Sierra Club, Public Lands Institute, Natural Resources Council of America, The Amicus Journal, Journal of Forest History, National Parks and Conservation Magazine, Missouri Conservationist, America’s Natural Resources, and Man and Wildlife in Missouri*. This series is arranged alphabetically by topic, and then chronologically.

**Container List:**

**Audubon Society** Series

f. 1 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Notes  
f. 2-5 *Audubon*, 1963-1976  
f. 6-12 *Audubon Leader’s Conservation Guide*, 1960-1969  
f. 19 Audubon Regional Council  
f. 20 Board, Committees, By-Laws, etc.  
f. 21 Board and Staff  
f. 22 Buchheister Bird Garden, 1986-1988  
f. 23 Burroughs Audubon Society  
f. 24 Chapter Letters  
f. 25 Chapter Lists  
f. 26 Charles H. Callison Comments on ACEC, 1986  
f. 27-29 Correspondence, 1965-1992  
f. 30 Institute for Conservation Leadership  
f. 31 Klataske  
f. 32 Literature  
f. 33-35 Missouri Audubon Council
f. 36 Missouri Audubon Council, Chapter Leaders
f. 37 Missouri Audubon Council, Chapter Newsletters
f. 38 Missouri Audubon Council, Forestry
f. 41 National, Correspondence, Budget, etc.
f. 42 Procedures
f. 42a Proxy Campaign
f. 43-46 Public Lands Institute
f. 47 Public Lands Institute, Board of Directors, Master
f. 48 Public Lands Institute, Newsletter, 1978-1986
f. 49 Retirees
f. 50 River Bluffs Audubon Society
f. 51 Staff Memos and Letters

**Subject Files** Series

f. 52 Acts of Congress
f. 53 Adirondack Papers
f. 54 A.I.D. Program
f. 55 Applications to Community Service Council, Supporting Letters and Reports
f. 56 ACEC
f. 57 ACEC Article, 1987
f. 58 ACEC, California
f. 59 ACEC Leaflet
f. 60 ACEC Material/Letterhead, 1986-1987
f. 61 Aerojet
f. 62 Article/Speech on ACEC’s
f. 63 Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks
f. 64 Awards, etc., 1970s-1990s
f. 65 Big Horn Waterfall Project
f. 66 Book Reviews
f. 67 Briefing Book, Commission on New Directions for National Wildlife Refuge System, c. 1990
f. 68 Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
f. 69-71 BLM Wilderness Program
f. 72 Casper and Oregon Speech Material
f. 73 Chevron Awards Committee
f. 74 Chevron Conservation Awards Program
f. 75 Citizens for Clean Air
f. 76 Citizen’s Committee, Campaign Reports and Legalities
f. 77 Citizen’s Committee, Miscellaneous Notes and Records
f. 78-79 Citizen’s Committee for Soil, Water, and State Parks
f. 80-81 Citizen’s Committee for Soil, Water, and State Parks, Receipts for Disbursement, Bills Paid
f. 82 Clean Air Laws
f. 83 Committees, Hearings, Yard Waste Composting
f. 84 Committee to Preserve Hillside Woods
f. 85 Committee for a Responsible Conservation Commission
f. 86-88 Conservation Federation of Missouri
f. 89 Conservation Foundation
f. 90 Conservation Material, 1970s-1980s
f. 91-93 Conservation Program in Missouri, 1969-1970
f. 94 Conservation Sermons for Book
f. 95-96 Correspondence, 1960s-1989
f. 97 Cultural Resources Brochure Material
f. 98 Democratic National Committee, 1981
f. 99 Dilks/Presley Correspondence, 1990
f. 100 Eulogies
f. 101 Faith Thompson Campbell, ACEC Draft and Report
f. 102 Fire Island Clippings, 1963
f. 103 Forest Conservation Stamp, 1958
f. 104 Forests for the Future Conference, 1991
f. 105-109 Garrison Diversion
f. 110-111 Genealogy
f. 112 General History, 1956
f. 113 Global Warming Report
f. 114 Greens
f. 115 Grolier Article
f. 116 Hastings-On-Hudson, Miscellaneous, 1960s-1980s
f. 117 Hastings-On-Hudson Nature Program Committee
f. 118 Hillside Park Maps
f. 120 Initiative Campaign
f. 121 Initiative Petition Campaign
f. 122 Management of Fish and Wildlife Service, 1989
f. 123-126 Mining Law
f. 127-129 Miscellaneous, 1970s-1990s
f. 130 Miscellaneous Articles and Letters, 1970s-1980s
f. 131 Miscellaneous Correspondence and Articles, 1960-1977
f. 132-139 Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1960s-1990s, n.d.
f. 140-147 Miscellaneous Public Lands Background Materials
f. 148 Miscellaneous, Scrapbook, 1961-1964
f. 149 Missouri Coalition for Environment, R. Roger Pryor
f. 150 Missouri Conservation Commission, 1953, 1966-1969
f. 151 Missouri Conservation Commission, Powell Controversy
f. 152 Missouri Department of Conservation
f. 153 Missouri Department of Conservation, Kerr-McGee Tract
f. 154 Missouri Department of Natural Resources
f. 155 Missouri Parks Association
f. 156 Missouri Parks and Soil Sales Tax
f. 157 Missouri Public Interest Research Group
f. 158 Missouri River State Trail
f. 159 Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts
f. 160 Missouri Wilderness Statement
f. 161 Nagel Booklet
f. 162 National Association of State Archaeologists Membership List
f. 163-164 National Wildlife Federation, Board of Directors Meetings, 1956-1958
f. 166 National Wildlife Federation Litigation
f. 167-179 National Wildlife Refuge System
f. 180  Native Wildflowers
f. 181  Natural Resources Defense Council, 1987
f. 182  Natural Streams Act
f. 183  Nature Program Committee, 1963-1965
f. 184  News Articles, 1920s-1930s
f. 185  Non-Point Source Water Pollution in Missouri
f. 186  Notes on 1989 ACEA Update
f. 187  Notes and Correspondence
f. 188  Notes for Slide Presentation
f. 189  ORVs, ATVs, Mark Twain National Forest
f. 190  On-Site Sewage
f. 191  On-Site Sewage Coalition
f. 192-194  Overlooked In America
f. 195  Pearson Correspondence, Garrison Diversion
f. 196  Philosophical Papers, 1956-1960
f. 197  Public Land Policy
f. 198  Public Lands Institute, and Miscellaneous
f. 199  Religion and Environment
f. 200  Sagebrush Rebellion, Article and Working Papers
f. 201  Septic Tank Bill
f. 202  Sierra Club
f. 203  Society of American Travel Writers, 1988
f. 204-212  Soils/Parks
  f. 204  Accounts and Campaign Reports
  f. 205  C/E Proposals and Plans
  f. 206  Committee, Current Campaign Material, Endorsements, etc.
  f. 207  Correspondence, General
  f. 208  Executive Committee Lists, Meetings, etc.
  f. 209  Full Committee, 1987-1989
  f. 210  Fund-Raising Letters
  f. 211  Lists and Labels
  f. 212  Newsletters
f. 213  Soil and Water Districts Commission/County Coordinators
f. 214  Speeches, Audubon, etc.
f. 215  State Park Book Material
f. 216  Statements, Jay House, Aerojet, Federal Land Policy and Management Act
f. 216a  Speech Material at National Audubon Society Convention, 1981
f. 217  Trail Guides
f. 218  Trails, Money
f. 219  U.S. Department of the Interior
f. 220  Unpublished Manuscripts
f. 221  Water Quality Standards
f. 222  Water Quality Standards Advisory Committee
f. 223  Wetlands
f. 224  Wilderness Society Council, 1982-1983
f. 225  Wildflower Survey

**House and Senate Bills and Journals Series**

f. 226-232  1990-1993
Photographs and Slides Series

f. 233  1920s-1990s
f. 234  1940s-1950s
f. 235  1945-1955
f. 236  1960s-1970
f. 237  1984-1987
f. 238  1988
f. 239  ACEC Slide Program, c.1980s

Publications Series

f. 240-241  *America’s Natural Resources*, 1957, 1967
f. 242  *Field and Stream*, 1953
f. 243  *Man and Wildlife in Missouri*, 1953
f. 244-249  *Missouri Conservationist*, 1943-1948, 1971
f. 250  *Missouri Wildlife*, 1947-1951
f. 251-263  *Natural Resources Council of America*, 1958-1972
f. 264-270  *Public Lands Institute*, 1978-1986
f. 271  *Sierra Club, Missouri Legislative Network*, 1992
f. 272-276  Miscellaneous, 1959-1995

Index:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index Terms</th>
<th>Folders</th>
<th>Image</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bond, Christopher S. (1939- )</td>
<td>132</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callison, Charles H. (1913-1993)</td>
<td>233-236</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Federation of Missouri</td>
<td>86-88</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Conservation Foundation</td>
<td>89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation of natural resources</td>
<td>1-99, 101-109, 113-276</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation of natural resources</td>
<td>233-239</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danforth, John C. (1936- )</td>
<td>132</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic National Committee</td>
<td>98</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute for Conservation Leadership</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Lady Bird (1912-2007)</td>
<td>116</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Lady Bird (1912-2007)</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Lyndon B. (1908-1973)</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri Audubon Council</td>
<td>33-40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri Coalition for Environment</td>
<td>149</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri Parks Association</td>
<td>155</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri Public Interest Research Group</td>
<td>157</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri. Conservation Commission</td>
<td>150, 151</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri. Department of Conservation</td>
<td>152, 153</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri. Department of Natural Resources</td>
<td>154</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index Terms</td>
<td>Folders</td>
<td>Image</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Association of State Archaeologists</td>
<td>162</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Audubon Society</td>
<td>1-51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Wildlife Federation</td>
<td>163-166</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources Defense Council</td>
<td>181</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Lands Institute</td>
<td>43-48, 198</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockefeller, Nelson A. (1908-1979)</td>
<td>116</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Club</td>
<td>78, 202</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society of American Travel Writers</td>
<td>203</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Bureau of Land Management</td>
<td>68-71</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Department of the Interior</td>
<td>219</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Department of the Interior. Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
<td>122</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness Society Council</td>
<td>224</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>