

C Bedell, Ralph C. (1904-1991), Papers, 1929-1986  
2543 50.25 linear feet, 36 audio tapes, 2 films, 1 filmstrip

## **RESTRICTED**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Papers of an educator and psychologist who specialized in counseling and guidance. Bedell directed NDEA Counseling and Guidance Institutes, taught at the Universities of Nebraska and Missouri, and served as secretary-general of the South Pacific Commission. Collection includes materials from Counseling and Guidance Institutes, counseling case files, and papers of South Pacific Commission.

### **DONOR INFORMATION**

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Ralph C. Bedell on 14 January 1985 (Accession No. 4601). An addition was made on 11 June 1986 by Ralph C. Bedell (Accession No. 4717).

### **RESTRICTIONS**

Folders 99-221 are closed until 2030.

### **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Ralph Clairon Bedell was born in 1904 in Hale, Missouri. He graduated from Central Missouri State College in 1926 and received his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri in 1932. After teaching at high schools in Hale and Kansas City, he taught educational psychology at Central Missouri State College (1934-1938), the University of Nebraska (1938-1950), and the American University, Washington, D.C., (1950-1952). His area of expertise became educational counseling and vocational guidance. In 1952 he began his career with the Office of Education in Washington, D.C., serving for three years as director, Program Planning and Review Branch, Bureau of International Education.

He was a U.S. delegate to the Caribbean Commission and West Indies Conference in 1952 and 1953 and the educational specialist for the Foreign Operations Administration study group in Surinam in 1954. From 1955 to 1958 he served as secretary-general of the South Pacific Commission in Noumea, New Caledonia.

In 1958 he resumed working with the U.S. Office of Education and served as director of the Counseling and Guidance Institutes from 1959 to 1966, when he retired from government service. In 1967 he was named professor of education and director of national education studies, and in 1974 professor emeritus in the Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology, University of Missouri-Columbia.

Bedell was married to Stella Virginia Bales from 1929 until her death in 1967. In 1968 he married Ann Barclay Sorency, who died in 1975. He married Myra Jervy Hoyle in 1976. Bedell died on October 28, 1991, in Columbia, Missouri

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection of papers and correspondence covers most phases of Bedell's academic and governmental careers. All correspondence is grouped chronologically at the beginning of the collection. The exception is the correspondence that has been retained within the guidance case files from the University of Nebraska.

The Nebraska case files, which include letters, interview reports, and test results, have been closed until the year 2030 to protect the privacy of the student participants in the guidance program. The files present insights into the family and school lives of Nebraska teenagers in the 1930s and 1940s. The educational and vocational advice given to the students reflect the social standards and economic conditions of the time and the different options open to boys and girls.

The correspondence covering Bedell's service as secretary-general of the South Pacific Commission does not give a comprehensive view of Bedell's activities or of the work of the commission. The South Pacific Commission series, which contains reports and publications by officials and councils, describes the economic and social activities of the commission.

The bulk of the collection dates from Bedell's years in Washington, D.C., as director of the NDEA Counseling and Guidance Institutes. The correspondence and office files describe Bedell's activities in organizing the training sessions, hiring directors, and making arrangements with local colleges and universities to hold the institutes that trained high school and college teachers and guidance counselors in effective counseling skills. The correspondence, publications related to the National Defense Education Act and the Counseling and Guidance Institutes, and the proposals and reports prepared by the participating institutions provide an exceptionally complete picture of one segment of the government's role in education and of Bedell's role in establishing guidance counselors in American schools.

In several series of this collection, reports, articles, and academic research papers about not only the NDEA Counseling and Guidance Institutes but also counseling, guidance, and education in general, constitute an important resource for the researcher.

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a.t. 1-36	NDEA Counseling and Guidance Institutes Films and Audio Tapes, 1959-1964

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Film reel 2	Oklahoma State University, Counseling and Guidance Training Institute, Summer 1959.
Film strip 3	Oregon State System of Higher Education, Counseling and Guidance Training Institute, Summer 1959. Script. Filmstrip gives overview of program.

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