



Earl J. Reeves Papers (C4378)

Collection Number: C4378

Collection Title: Earl J. Reeves Papers

Dates: 1933-2001

Creator: Reeves, Earl J., 1933-

Abstract: Correspondence (professional and personal), reports, newsletters, teaching material, diaries, education material, genealogical material (Reece and Reeves Families), military service, photographs, publications, scrapbooks, travel and newsletters of a former professor of Political Science, president of Missouri Valley College and co-director (with wife Bette Reeves) of Community Bible Study International (CBSI) for Asia.

Collection Size: 5.4 cubic feet
(143 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English. Some material in Chinese.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is stored off site. Please provide us at least two days advance notice if you would like to research this collection. Call 573-882-1187 or e-mail us at columbia@shsmo.org. If you would like more information, please contact us at. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Folders 3-12 require permission from donor to view until 2022. Researchers interested in the folders should contact staff for donor contact information.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Earl J. Reeves Papers* (C4378); 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 Earl J. Reeves on April 5, 2002 (Accession No. CA5914).

Processed by: Processed by John Konzal, February, 11, 2019

Historical Note:

Earl James Reeves, Jr., was born on March 16, 1933, in Muskogee, Oklahoma, the son of Earl Reeves, Sr., and Bernice Elizabeth Reeves. He had one brother and two sisters. He spent most of his early years in and around Muskogee. During the summer of 1942, his father moved the family to Wichita, Kansas, seeking war production work.

Reeves attended Kansas State University from 1950-1951. While attending there he became involved in a group called Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. He later attended the Friends University, which is a private, non-denominational Christian University in Wichita, Kansas, and attended a number of Inter-Varsity conferences. He also helped create the Wichita Inter-Varsity group. Reeves eventually majored in Bible at Friends University. In his junior and senior years, Reeves attended Wichita University.

In 1954, Earl enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and went through basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. He also took training and later served as an instructor at Tech School at Kelley Air Force Base. In 1956 he was given an assignment at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska, working in Radio Traffic Analysis, and later took an assignment at a camp at Point Barrow, Alaska, and eventually St. Lawrence Island. He was honorably discharged from the Air Force on April 25, 1958. Reeves went back to school, attending the University of Kansas, where he eventually earned his Ph.D. in Political Science in October of 1962.

Reeves met his future wife, Wilma Reece, while attending an Inter-Varsity Fall Conference. The couple were married on August 30, 1959. In 1960 their daughter Barbara was born, followed by their son Greg in 1962. Another daughter, Carolyn, was born in 1964.

Reeves landed a teaching job at the University of Omaha and worked there from 1962-1964. During this time he became involved in civil rights issues and left to work at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. In the spring of 1966, he ran and won a seat on the city council in Berkeley, Missouri. In 1970 Reeves and his family moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he got a job working at the University of Tulsa, and became active in the Presbyterian Church teaching Sunday school. Also at this time he ran for the local public school board but lost mainly over the issue of voluntary desegregation in the school system. He became a Director of an off-campus program called "Special Programs in Urban Studies" which was later incorporated into an on-campus undergraduate program.

For some time, Reeves had been interested in the possibility of becoming president of a college and had made applications to numerous colleges, but with no success. However, on August 1, 1983, he became president of Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Missouri. He served in this position until 1984. Afterward, he served the college in various other capacities. He remained a chancellor at the college.

Earl Reeve's wife, Wilma, passed away in 1993, and Reeves remarried Bette Barnett Cochran in 1994. Earl retired from Missouri Valley College and Bette retired as teaching director for the Community Bible Study class in Columbia, Missouri.

Earl and Bette began travelling to Asia starting in November of 1995 doing mission work for an organization called Community Bible Study International (CBSI), becoming the Regional Directors for Asia. Among the countries they worked in are Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, India, and Cambodia. In September of 2001, they turned the leadership of the Asia region over to Peter and Mathilde Hanscamp of New Zealand.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following 14 series:

Autobiography
Correspondence
CBSI (Community Bible Study International)
Diaries
Educational Material
Genealogical Material
Military Service Material
Photographs
Reports
School Board Election
School Material
Scrapbooks
Travel
Miscellaneous Material

Scope and Content Note:

Autobiography

This series consists of a formal autobiography by Earl J. Reeves, Jr., and a PowerPoint style slideshow composed of the autobiographical material. It covers Reeve's birth and early years growing up in Oklahoma; his college years; Air Force days in Texas and Alaska; marriage, family and career; St. Louis years; years in Tulsa; time as President of Missouri Valley College; death of his first wife Wilma and subsequent remarriage to Bette Cochran; retirement and becoming the Co-Director, with Bette of the CBSI (Community Bible Study International) for Asia. Years covered are 1933-1994.

Correspondence

This series consists of both personal and professional correspondence. The personal correspondence consists of letters between Earl Reeves and his first wife, Wilma, and between their children. The professional correspondence consists of letters between Earl Reeves and numerous members of CBSI. The years covered are 1947-2001.

Please note that the personal correspondence is restricted. Please consult a staff member for further information.

CBSI

This series contains Bible study guides; newsletters; instruction manuals; lectures; reports and updates; teaching material; challenges; correspondence; travel; notes; meetings; ministry guides and summaries; policy manuals; directors and class lists focusing on the work of the Community Bible Study International organization for Asia, 1990-2001.

Diaries

This series contains the diaries of Earl J. Reeves, Jr., and Frances Reece. Topics discussed are work, school, weather and social events, 1944-1980.

Educational Material

This series contains a University of Wichita 28th Annual Commencement, 1954, and the Summer Commencement Program, 1959; Reeve's student assistant applications to the University of Kansas; assorted news clippings, with articles on Reeve's tenure as Director of Urban Studies at the University of Tulsa, including articles he wrote; his position as Dean of Chapel at the University of Tulsa; a guestbook from his inauguration as President of Missouri Valley College, along with copies of the *Viking News*, the Missouri Valley College newsletter. Also included is a copy of the *Gallery Report*, a special report submitted by the community relations commission regarding an incident involving the arrest of three black citizens in August of 1972. Reeves was an acting member of this commission while serving as Director of Urban Studies at the University of Tulsa. 1959-1993.

Genealogical Material

This series includes a scrapbook containing the birth records of Earl J. Reeves, Jr., along with cards and photographs up through his young adulthood; a hospital birth certificate; school awards and certificates; an autobiography of Bette Barnett Cochran Reeves, including photographs; baby book of Wilma Gale Reece, including birth certificate; birth records; listings of illnesses, and photographs of Wilma and Reece family. 1935-1949; Earl J. Reeves, Jr., Kiddie Club of Muskogee Daily Phoenix membership certificate; Wichita Elementary School Report to Parents, Wichita, Kansas; childhood art; membership in National Honor Society, Wichita High School; cards; elementary school exercises; letters to parents. 1939-1950; letters of Carolyn, Barbara and Greg Reeves to their father, Earl J. Reeves, Jr., written when they were children. Years covered are 1933-1998.

Military Service Material

This series covers Earl Reeve's service in the U.S. Air Force mainly while stationed in Alaska, working in Radio Traffic Analysis. Includes movement orders/communications; personnel rosters; special orders; Kelly Air Force Base Military Clearance; a copy of the *Sourdough Sentinel* newsletter, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska; *A Pocket Guide to Alaska*, prepared by the Office of Armed Forces Information and Education, Department of Defense, 1954; travel postcards; Air Force Airman insignia, and discharge orders from the Air Force Reserve, along with report of medical examination, 1954-1962.

Photographs

This series contains photographs of Wilma Gail Reece, also including other members of the Reece family, friends and animals, and Earl J. Reeves, Jr., and Wilma's engagement picture, 1935-1959. The second portion of this series contains photographs of Bette, Earl's second wife, and Earl, along with various family members. 1998.

Reports

This series consists mainly of reports and conference papers written by Reeves while he was the Associate Director of Community and Metropolitan Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Some book reviews and a few published items are also included. Also Tulsa Community Relations complaint reports and a Tulsa Police Department Special Report prepared at the request of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners. This later material was created when Reeve's was a member of the Tulsa Community Relations Commission, 1964-1981.

School Board Election

This series contains studies and statements regarding the issue of desegregation in the Tulsa School District and statements by Dr. Reeves, Professor of Political Science and Director of Urban Studies at the University of Tulsa when he ran as candidate for the Tulsa School Board; League of Women Voters School Integration Plan. Also included are newspaper articles covering the election and magazine articles; community relations newsletters; handwritten notes; correspondence; publications regarding school district financing and improving school programs; a copy of *Impact* magazine, dealing with issues of concern to black Americans; a publication by the Educational Policy and Research Center, and a campaign volunteer handbook, 1972.

School Material

This series consists of the elementary schoolwork, progress reports, workbooks and test results of Barbara, Carolyn and Greg Reeves, the children of Earl and Wilma Reeves. There is also some school work and grade reports of Wilma Reece-Reeves, 1941-1983.

Scrapbooks

This series contains two scrapbooks with letters, cards, newspaper clippings and photographs of Wilma Reece and Earl Reeve's courtship and marriage, along with Wilma Reece's bridal shower, 1959.

Travel

This series consists of the travel logs of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Reece, parents of Wilma Reece, describing their trips to Denver, Colorado, Lawrence, Kansas, the Ozarks, and California to see their children and new grandchildren and to visit with family, 1953-1968.

Miscellaneous Material

This series includes assorted souvenir books; commencement programs; Barbara Reeves newspaper photos and clippings; Carolyn Reeves news photo; obituary of Earl J. Reeves, Sr.; desk calendars; poetry; application material for U.S. Civil Service position; paper art; newspaper

clippings; information material on various Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship conferences. Also included are photographs of members of the Missouri Boy's State for 1967. The remaining portion of this series consists of material dealing with the Presbyterian Church and various political groups and viewpoints contained in newsletters and programs, including the Christian Anti-Communist Crusade and the American Nazi Party. 1938-2000.

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