

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY
K0069 (KA0121)
OSCAR DAVID NELSON (1895-1981) PAPERS, 1914-1980

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shsmo.org.

Introduction

Approximately 58 cubic feet.

This collection consists of the personal papers, including the philanthropic work, of Oscar David Nelson. Materials within this collection include personal investments in real estate, farms, oil corporations, and stocks; interest in the Republican Party; correspondence regarding education, health services, churches, and travel; and professional papers from his time as the chairman of the board of the Butler Manufacturing Company.

Biographical Statement

Oscar David Nelson, son of Swedish immigrants, was raised on a dairy farm in Johnson County, Kansas. At fifteen, Nelson left high school to work as an office boy for the Butler Manufacturing Company, a large steel fabricating firm. While there, Nelson studied bookkeeping at a night school, by twenty-eight he had become the treasurer of the company, and later, the general manager.

In the late 1930s, Oscar Nelson was instrumental in winning a major government contract for the building of grain storage bins. This accomplishment was credited with helping the Butler Manufacturing company survive the Great Depression. Nelson was named the president of the Butler Manufacturing company, a position he held until 1957. He would go on to serve as the chairman of the board from 1957 until his retirement in 1961.

Oscar Nelson served on the boards of the Commerce Trust Company, the Marsh Steel Corporation, and the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. He also served on the executive committee for the Midwest Research Institute. His civic and charitable activities were numerous. He was a major benefactor for the Rehabilitation Institute and served as its president. He also held leadership positions with the Trinity Lutheran and Children's Mercy Hospitals, the United Way, and the Country Club Christian Church.

Oscar David Nelson died on October 8, 1981, at the age of eighty-six.

Donor Information

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Ms. Gloria Nelson on November 19, 1981 (Accession No. KA0121). An addition was made on January 3, 2012, by Ms. Jeanette Sutor (Accession No. KA2002).

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K0069 (KA0121)
Oscar David Nelson (1895-1981) Papers

Box List

Box 001

Alphabetical files, A-D

Materials related to the Butler Manufacturing Company, clubs, art, and antiques

Box 002

Alphabetical files, E-M

Materials related to Florence L. Nelson, equipment, the University of Kansas City, and magazines

Box 003

Alphabetical file, I

Materials related to investments in oil, Carter-Waters, and insurance

Box 004

Alphabetical files, R, materials related to the Republican Party such as: campaigns, fund raisers, and correspondence

Box 005

Alphabetical files, G-M, materials related to Children's Mercy Hospital, 1011, Kansas City Foundation for Private Colleges, insurance, and Dr. Holmes

Box 006

Alphabetical files, M-XYZ, materials related to Children's Mercy Hospital, Byron Wolfe, ODN Retirement, and individuals filed by their last names

Box 007-008

Britain files, A-O, materials related to a trip to Great Britain around 1954, the Butler Manufacturing Company, maps, and individuals by their last names

Box 009

Alphabetical files, 1914-1966

Materials related to the Butler Manufacturing Company, investments, and the John Nelson estate

Box 010

Alphabetical files, 1914-1966, F-H, materials related to nursery data, foods, and individuals by their last name

Box 011

Alphabetical files, 1914-1966, H-N, materials related to the Butler Manufacturing Company, notes payable, and personal mementos and treasures

Box 012

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Alphabetical files, 1914-1966, materials related to the Butler Manufacturing Company and files on individuals

Box 013

Alphabetical files, 1914-1966, P-V, materials related to nursery bills, Pennsylvania, Mid Continent Development Council, and Marsh Steel

Box 014

Alphabetical files, 1914-1966, materials related to Marsh Steel and insurance policies

Box 015

Personal accounts, bills paid, and real estate, 1960s

Box 016

Personal accounts, bills paid, contributions, and meeting notices, 1956-1960s

Box 017

Alphabetical files, M-S, materials related to Nelson's career

Box 018

Alphabetical files, S-W, materials related to Nelson's career

Box 019

Marsh Steel and financial statements, 1951-1960

Box 020

Nelson's investments in oil companies, E bonds, real estate, and farms, 1956-1961

Box 021

Farm records
Midwest Research Institute

Box 022

Farm records, 1953-1954

Box 023

Farm records
Insurance
Government programs
Herefords
Seeds
Plans for years 1953-1961

Box 024

Gardner farm for 1944-1950
Butler Manufacturing Company, depression data, 1931-1933

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O. D. Nelson's awards, affiliations, invitations, and an article, "Leaders in our Town"
Charles R. Butler, 1923-1951

Box 025

Jacomo farm
Community Blood Bank
Rehabilitation Institute
United Funds campaigns, 1955-1956
Midwest Research Institute
Earnings taxes
Citizens for Eisenhower, 1956

Box 026

Farm operations, 159-1969
Mrs. Nelson
Maps
John Anderson, 1960
Commerce Trust Company

Box 027

Historical materials collected by Nelson on the company and its employees, contracts,
and personnel files

Box 028

Butler Manufacturing Company materials, 1937-1966
Includes correspondence, statements, divisions, foundation, "landing mat," and the *Butler Bee* newsletter

Box 029

Butler Manufacturing Company materials, 1947-1955
Includes army, Navy "E" Bonds, Kate Butler, division reports, and publicity
advertisements

Box 030

Butler Manufacturing Company materials, 1942-1950's
Includes World War II production, tests, clippings, and photograph notebooks

Box 031

Butler Manufacturing Company materials, 1954-1964
Includes photographs, reports, and sales books

Box 032

Butler Manufacturing Company materials, 1935-1960's
Includes, letters, reports, and clippings
Butler Bee newsletter, 1953-1960's

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Box 033

Variety of papers concerning Mrs. Nelson, Marsh Steel, equipment, clubs, farm feed, and entertainment, 1950's-1960's

Box 034

Materials related to insurance, real estate, taxes, and personal papers, 1940's-1950's

Box 035

Materials related to Lion's Club Welfare Committee of 1938, Republican Party, Missouri Society for Crippled Children, DeLano School, Butler Manufacturing Company, George B. Young, Killbride, Scotland, and clubs, 1938-1960's

Box 036

Materials related to the Kansas City Area Hospital Association, Kansas, Kemp, maps and charts, and a file pertaining to "ODN: Talks and Writings," 1950-1963

Box 037

Materials related to Mr. Nelson's trips to:

Boston, 1957

Florida, 1959

Europe, 1965

Materials related to a F. L. Nelson's trip to Europe, 1961

Other materials included are information and guide books for Australia, Austria, Mexico, Switzerland, Germany, England, France, Spain, Scotland, and the United State

Box 038

Materials related to Mr. Nelson's trips to Europe, 1970-1971

Additional materials related to Mr. Nelson's travel which, includes: travel Planners, requests, lists, and letters to Butler shareholders

Butler Manufacturing Company literature

Butler Manufacturing Company, Annual Report, 1956

Box 039

Christmas list, 1953-1971

Purchasing information

Decorations

Holiday Season cards

Box 040

The United Fund and Fund Raising, 1953-1955

Take information, 1973-1974

Bills Paid

Additional materials related to Mr. Nelson

Box 041

Contents of this box contain documents written in Swedish.

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Papers of John Nelson
F. L. Nelson Memorial

Box 042

Files on individuals
Materials related to Sweden

Box 043

Various materials, 1960s
Eisenhower family
Children's Mercy Hospital
Trinity Lutheran Hospital
The Kansas City Museum
YWCA

Box 044

Materials related to hospitals in the Kansas City area. Information covers contributions, financial statements, budgets, and fund raising campaigns for Children's Mercy, Trinity, and Wheatley-Provident (King) hospitals, 1953-1970

Box 045

Materials related to Trinity Lutheran Hospital, 1952-1965

Box 046

Children's Mercy Hospital, 1963-1968
Butler Manufacturing Company
Insurance
Shepley for Governor
Biocourt Hunting Association

Box 047

Rehabilitation Institute, 1966
Oscar Nelson soliciting funds and acknowledgment of contributions

Box 048

Rehabilitation Institute, 1956-1969
Nelson Antioch farm, 1949-1953
Quarterly Federal Tax Returns, 1951-1968
File on "Affiliations"

Box 049

Bethany College and Palm Sunday Pilgrimages, 1956, 1958-1959, 1961, and 1968
Basement files

Box 050

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Oscar Nelson's charities and club memberships: 7-11 Club, Man of the Month Club, Scandinavian Club, Biocourt Hunting Association, Country Club Christian Church, Unity, and Magic Valley Christian College.
Materials concerning rationing during World War II

Box 051

Entertainment
Sweden
Fox for Congress
Camp Fire Girls
Commerce Trust Company
Kansas City Parade, 1949

Box 052

Community Blood Bank
Election, 1962
New car purchase
Various other materials, 1960s

Box 053

Children's Mercy Hospital
The Last Supper Sculpture by Domenic Zappia
"1011"
Trinity Lutheran Hospital
Various clippings

Box 054

Jacomo Farm, zoning survey, 1967
Butler Manufacturing Company
Various clippings
Unidentified papers

Box 055

Butler Manufacturing Company, papers and clippings, 1957-1960s
Carter Waters Corporation, 1970s
Children's Mercy Hospital, 1970s

Box 56

Colorado hunting trip, 1942
Litigation from Colorado hunting trip
Various clippings
Butler Manufacturing Company, Fact Book, 1974
IRS reports, 1974
Minutes of the O. D. and F. L. Nelson Fund
Real estate information, 1918
Materials related to Domenic Zappia, Last Supper Sculpture, 1964, 1971

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Condemnation papers related to the Jacomo Farm
Information pertaining to scholarships, colleges, and universities

Box 057

O. D. and F. L. Nelson Fund, 1970-1979
Commerce Trust Company
Children's Mercy Hospital, 1975-1978
Christmas, 1972
Correspondence, 1919-1929

Box 058

Check stubs
Pass books
Banking materials, 1914-1943
f. 1 Photographs, Oscar D. Nelson, George C. Dillon, Marion Reno, Calvin Fentress, Jr., 1955-1956, and 1980
f. 2 Plaque, Oscar D. Nelson, distinguished professorship in business, Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas, 1977
f. 3 Photographs, unidentified wedding, 1970s
f. 4 Postcards, Last Supper sculpture by Domenic Zappia, Kansas City Missouri, New York's World Fair, 1964-1965.
Strauss-Peyton Studios, price list, 1955
f. 5 Butler Manufacturing Company, steel products, partial drawing, 1951

Flat Box 001

f. 1 Materials related to the Army-Navy "E" Award, Butler Manufacturing Company and Galesburg, 1944
f. 2 Photograph and postcard album, 1903
Butler family photographs
Butler Manufacturing Company photographs, John D. Stevens, Butler Business Builders, 1917, Engineering Department, 1941, Basketball team, 1925, Future Planning Group meeting, 1943, various unidentified
Catholic Community Service award, 1953
Remarked by the Most Reverend Edwin V. O'Hare, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City
f. 3 Reprint of painting, "Mount Eisenhower," by Dwight D. Eisenhower, signed on mounting by Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1959
f. 4 Certificate of Appreciation, Oscar Nelson, 1976
Note of thanks and color photographs of Kansas City Mayor, Richard Berkley and Oscar D. Nelson, pertaining to the gift of the rose garden fountain in Loose Park, 1979
Photograph, mounted on board, group of men seated around a table in Oscar D. Nelson's office, 1952
Portrait of Oscar D. Nelson