

Hilbert Meyer 2011.043

Collection Summary

Title: Hilbert Meyer, political and personal documents

Collection Group: Hilbert Meyer

Dates: 1940-1991

Location: *Archives B*

Quantity: 1.5 cubic feet in 3 clamshell boxes

Abstract: Hilbert Meyer and his wife Eva May moved to Aurora, Colorado in 1937, where Meyer established himself as a housepainter before becoming heavily involved in city and county politics. He ran for Ward 1 City Councilman in November 1952 and stayed on the city Council until defeated by Dennis Chapine in 1975. He served on simultaneous term as Arapahoe County Commissioner from 1958 to 1962. Following his time as councilman, he helped found the Aurora Housing Authority, dedicated to zoning and providing affordable housing for families and seniors. He consistently advocated for long-term planning for a growing region, and was involved with the Denver Regional Council of Governments, both while he was a councilman and after, receiving the John Christensen award for service in 1973. He initiated the acquisition of the Homestake Water rights projects and was a proponent of public service energy. He also rejected annexation of Aurora by Denver. Meyer and his wife did not have any children, but were actively involved in the Aurora Catholic community, both as founding members of the St. Therese Parish, and then as member of the church of St. Pious X when it was inaugurated in 1956. Documents in this collection begin shortly after the Meyer's move to Aurora and cover the span of Meyer's political career.

Arrangement: This collection is one of two collections acquired under accession number 2011.043. The documents were collected and saved by Meyer, but organization has been lost over the years. In separating the Hilbert Meyer documents from the accession, they have been organized into two series, one for his personal life and another for his role as a politician in Aurora, Arapahoe County, and the Denver Metro area. The political series has been subdivided into subseries based on his chronological political position or by specific projects. Box 1 covers Meyer's terms as a city councilman and county commissioner, mostly in the form of news clippings and short administrative documents. Box 2 covered his political involvement in DRCOG, the National League of cities, and the Aurora Housing Authority in news clippings, organizational newsletters and publications and organizational reports. Box 3 covers Meyer's long term involvement with the Democratic Party and miscellaneous Aurora current events through news clippings and campaign letters, as well as his personal life through correspondence, financial documents, and parish newsletters. Box 4 contains bound reports, cassette tapes, and photographic slides.

Contents

Series and Subseries

Box 1 of 4

Series 1: Civic Involvement

Subseries A: City Councilman

Folder 1: Dates 1952-1956. Covers Meyer's first two terms as a councilman in Ward 1. Booklet on city manager system of municipal government, council campaign cards, clippings on 1956 election results and the first city manager in Aurora, Earl Sandquist. 1955 clippings focus on issues of city growth, paving ordinances, city annexation of Fitzsimmons and Hoffman Heights, city manager roles, water, AND school and park bonds for a new junior high and public swimming pool.

Folder 2: Dates 1957-1962. Newsclippings on the city council race 1957, oath of office for councilman Ward 1, and letter from Gov. McNichols. District ward map and council nomination petitions for both Meyer and (former) Mayor Allen Bradley. News clippings cover the following main issues: "lewd magazines," purchase of Buckley field, new community buildings and store openings, "home rule for Aurora" and proposed suburban annexation by Denver, city vs. county status, the removal of City Manager Earl Sandquist in 1958, and Mayor Bradley's resignation in 1959.

Folder 3: Dates 1965-1970. Campaign cards, candidate interviews, and installation program for city council race 1965 of Ward III. Resignation letter to Aurora Hospital District Board of Directors. City of Aurora citizen's guide to city government pamphlet. News clippings and constituent letters on the following issues: a play area in the Burns area, golf course proposed for Windsor Heights, decreasing council salaries, creating a police and fire commission separate from the city manager, Highway 225, the Arapahoe County airport, new dog leash laws, City manager Robert Wright and his resignation, municipal electricity, the proposed closure of the Denver Mint, housing around Buckley, and joining the Denver metro sewer co-op. Legal correspondence regarding "MGT vs. Cities of Aurora and Colorado Springs," regarding public utilities.

Sub-subseries: Norma Walker

Folder 4: News clippings about Walker's election as Aurora's first woman mayor.

Folder 5: Dates 1971-1973. Sample ballot from 1971 city council race, Meyer running for Ward III; stationery selection from City Hall; clippings on Extencicare General hospital construction; copy "Colorado Liquor and Beer Licensing Law and Practice" pertinent to home-rule discussion.

Folder 6: Dates 1937-1977. Clippings concerning possible annexation by Denver and thank-you card from Adams county resident V. June for voting against the proposal; constituent letters; photos of new commerce and industry; student government day

program; invitations. From 1975, campaign ad receipts, clippings of Meyer' defeat to Dennis Champine in the council race, letters of thanks and congratulations for service and retirement from council politics including a council resolution in his honor. 1976 Aurora Human Relations Commission annual report and list of interview questions. Map of 1977 city wards. Clippings regarding water negotiations, Proposition 10, and city employee strike.

Subseries B: Arapahoe County Commissioner

Folder 7: Dates 1958-1962. Letter of intent, nomination documents, campaign ads, and 1958 elections news clippings. Interview on bringing industry to Arapahoe, artist's rendition of Buckley Industrial Plaza, clippings of public building dedications, magazine photos at the Colorado Association of County Commissioners, published list of officials' salaries, re-election ads in 1962, and 1962 editorial by J.L Ryan of the Government Action Council accusing the subject of Democratic partisanship in the position.

Box 2 of 4

Subseries C: Homestake Water Development Project

Folder 8: Dates 1964-1974. Contains Denver Post news clippings covering the construction progress on Homestake Dam and the Homestake River Diversion Project to the dedication of the Leonard R. Kuiper water treatment facility (1967), a memo regarding delays, and a progress report. Of interest is a photo of Hilbert Meyer and officials at the waterworks during construction. Two bound feasibility reports on the Quincy Dam project (1972) and the Spinney Mountain Project (1974), which both increased the storage capacity for water collected through the Homestake System and expanded water rights along the South Platte river. Reports stored in Box 4.

Subseries D: Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG)

Folder 9: Dates 1967-1980. One promotional sticker, two copies of housing pamphlet, water advisory committee water policy, annual meeting program 1974, national conference programs. News clippings on metropolitan highway planning and senior services. Clippings, speech from DRCOG chairman, and letter of recognition from Rep Gerard Frank from the conferral of the John Christensen award on Meyer in 1973 (sources: *Denver Post*, *Aurora Sentinel*, *Aurora Sun*). Hearing committee notes on the Denver Regional Airport System plan.

Folder 10: Three issues of Regional Housing News and Views (1970-1971), one issue Regional Review Quarterly, 35 issues of the monthly publication *DRCOG Note* (1971-1980), one copy of DRCOG glossy publication "Mobility 1979."

Subseries E: National League of Cities

Folder 11: Dates 1967- 1974. Appointment and acceptance letter for membership on the Public safety commission 1967, conference badges (one undated, one from the 50th anniversary in 1974). Three cassette tapes: two copies of "Decreasing Energy Consumption," one copy of "Community Development: Where have we been? Where are we now? Where are we going?" with 66 accompanying color slides. Cassettes and slides stored in Box 4.

Subseries F: Aurora Housing Authority (AHA)

Folder 12: Dates 1978-1989. Spiral-bound copy of the Colorado Housing Authorities Law which justified the creation of AHA. Three AHA Board Meeting minutes and presented documents regarding low rent development at 6th and Potomac, Fletcher Gardens, and Buckingham Gardens.

Folder 13: Dates 1978-1991. Covers Meyer' time as both the chairman and a commissioner. Copy of educational pamphlet on housing needs put out by DRCOG; minutes of a 1975 committee meeting; correspondence and resolutions between city council and the AHA; six issues of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Organizations newsletter 1978-1979; AHA internal updates, budgets, contacts and minutes; welcome packet for Fletcher Gardens opening, AHA finance corporation bylaws, retirement letter (1981) from Mayor Dennis Champine and certificates of appreciation; Homeownership Assistance Program pamphlets (1991).

Box 3 of 4

Subseries G: Democratic Party

Folder 14: Dates 1955-1980. Covers Meyer' involvement with local, state, and national Democratic campaigns. Newsprint copy of the Bill of Rights, two copies of the Aurora Democrat newspaper (1955), Denver Post coverage of Gov McNichols assuming office, Democratic party programs, ads for Democratic candidates, form letter from John F. Kennedy, Kennedy/Johnson campaign stickers Colorado Democrat state assembly coverage 1966, letters from sons of soldiers in Vietnam who received Colorado flags from local Democratic Party, 1967 candidate state booklet, form letter from Senator Muskie's campaign 1968, signed letter from congressional candidate Roy McVicker 1968, clippings covering the 1976 national and state election results, Democratic Times of Colorado 1971 on state committee meeting, invitations, Common Cause newsletter 1980, two 8x10 signed color photos of Walter Mondale.

Subseries H: Miscellaneous Aurora Development Policies

Folder 15: Dates late 1960's 1980. Downtown Aurora Development Association campaign letter, news clippings on Aurora Merchants' Association and Aurora Rehabilitation Authority (sources: *Independent Tribune* and the *Denver Post*).

Folder 16: Dates 1990-1999. Aurora Community profile brochure; Fitzsimmons Restoration Authority meeting announcements and newsletters; "Aurora: Do you call it home?" third grade social studies booklet; Aurora Public Education committee meeting announcement; Chamber of Commerce banquet program 1990.

Subseries I: Miscellaneous Colorado Politics

Folder 17: Draft copy of constitutional amendment to establish a Colorado Public Service Energy Authority, 1982.

Series 2: Personal Life

Subseries A: Catholic Life

Folder 18: Dates 1948-1976. Details the Meyer' involvement with the Catholic community at both the Church of St. Pious Tenth and as part of the St. Therese parish. Includes church bulletins, and city and national Catholic newsletters. Of interest are letters of condolence from Father John Regan at the death of Meyer' father in 1956, correspondence regarding the funding for a Catholic high school, and a program honoring the Meyer' golden anniversary in 1975.

Subseries B: Personal documents

Folder 19: Contains miscellanea. Invitations, get-well cards, news clippings on the Kennedy's political lives, a deed to the house at 1256 Clinton Road , water bills from 1940.

Subseries C: Local news

Folder 20: Dates 1960-1990. General collection of newspaper clippings covering Denver metro current events, with a focus on the City of Aurora. (Sources: Denver Post, Aurora Sentinel, Independent Tribune, Gateway Gazette, the Southeast Aurora Villager, and the Aurora Villager). Also contains series of Aurora Gateway Gazette community newsletters.

Additional Hilbert Meyer items in other collections:

- Hilbert Meyer Files, located in Archives BF1, BF2, and BG1.
- Hilbert Meyer Magazines, located in Archives B, BF3. See "Magazines from Meyer's Collection"
- Hilbert Meyer oral history, 2001. Found in Museum computer files.

Also check accession # in the Objects file, particularly for additional copies of political campaign cards, ballots, parish programs, and nametags from various positions.

Books in Aurora History Museum Library:

Books in Aurora Public Library: