K0028
Charles Bertan Wheeler, Jr. (1926- ) Papers
1964-1979
124 cubic feet, 11 volumes (MICROFILMED), 10 oversize items

*Personal papers for Wheeler's service as Mayor of Kansas City and a small portion as Western Judge of the Jackson County Court and as Jackson County Coroner.*

**BIOGRAPHY:**

Charles Bertan Wheeler, Jr. was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on August 10, 1926. After receiving his A.B. from the University of Louisville in 1946, Wheeler entered the University of Kansas Medical School, graduating in 1950. He served as a flight surgeon in the United States Air Force during the Korean War and afterwards, returned to Kansas City to begin work as a pathologist. He attended evening classes at the University of Kansas City Law School and earned a J.D. in 1959.

Wheeler entered the world of elected politics as a successful candidate for Jackson County Coroner in 1964. After his initial victory in the political arena, Wheeler ran for and was elected to the office of Western Judge of the Jackson County Court. He held that office for two terms. Following a primary election defeat for the post of Presiding Judge of the Jackson County Court in 1970, Wheeler opted to run for Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri. He was successful in 1971 and held the post for two terms.

Following his defeat for reelection in 1979, Wheeler returned full-time to his position as Director of the Wheeler Medical Laboratories in Kansas City, Missouri.
PROVENANCE:

These papers were received as accession KA0001 from Dr. Charles B. Wheeler, Jr. under the terms of a contract signed March 23, 1979.

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PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; Charles Bertan Wheeler, Jr. (1926- ) Papers (K0028); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

CONTACT:

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DESCRIPTION:

These papers were donated at the time Wheeler left office as Mayor of Kansas City. They consist of Wheeler's personal papers for his period of public service. A small portion of the collection is from his days as Western Judge of the Jackson County Court and his service as Jackson County Coroner. The bulk of the papers, however, relate to his time spent as Mayor of Kansas City. The scrapbook volumes have been microfilmed.

The papers have been arranged in the following manner:

Boxes 001-002 Correspondence and miscellaneous files relating to Wheeler's service as Western Judge for Jackson County.

Boxes 003-051 Correspondence relating to Wheeler's daily schedule as Mayor of Kansas City. These papers date from 1971-1979 and include invitations for Wheeler to appear at various public events. These include Wheeler's response to the invitation.
Boxes 052-058  Correspondence files for the period ca. 1971-ca. 1975. These files are subject and individual files arranged in an alphabetical sequence for the years given.

Boxes 059-085  Correspondence files which have been arranged by subject categories. These files usually relate to issues confronting the city government or activities of particular departments of the city government.

Boxes 086-090  Notebook collections of information of various topics which served in essence as briefing books which kept Wheeler appraised of the latest information on a variety of topics of interest to the city or to his medical practice.

Boxes 095-098  Obligation notebooks consisting of thank you letters to Wheeler in response to his various activities and public appearances.

Boxes 099-101  Press conferences and press statements made by or released by Wheeler for the period 1971-1978.

Box 102  Speeches delivered by Wheeler. This box also includes invitations to Wheeler to deliver speeches and indications that he would indeed speak. Speech texts are not available for all of Wheeler's speeches.

Boxes 103-110  City Council Dockets for the period 1971-1979. There are some gaps in the series.

Boxes 111-118  City Council Proceedings for the period 1970-1979. Some copies of the proceedings are missing.

Boxes 119  City Council miscellaneous papers.

Boxes 120-124  Miscellaneous

Volumes 1-14  Scrapbooks and photograph albums

INVENTORY:

Box 001.  Western Judge - Correspondence and miscellaneous files.
Box 002.  Western Judge - Correspondence and miscellaneous files.
Box 003.  Scheduling, April - August 1971
Box 004.  Scheduling, September - November 1971
Box 005.  Scheduling, December 1971 - February 1972
Box 006.  Scheduling, March - April 1972
Box 007.  Scheduling, May - July 1972
Box 008.  Scheduling, August - October 1972
| Box 009 | Scheduling, November 1972 - January 1973 |
| Box 010 | Scheduling, February - April 1973 |
| Box 011 | Scheduling, May - June 1973 |
| Box 012 | Scheduling, July - September 1973 |
| Box 013 | Scheduling, October - November 1973 |
| Box 014 | Scheduling, December 1973 - January 1974 |
| Box 015 | Scheduling, February - March 1974 |
| Box 016 | Scheduling, March 1974 - April 1974 |
| Box 017 | Scheduling, March 28, 1974, May 1974 - June 1-8, 1974 |
| Box 018 | Scheduling, June 9 - July 1974 |
| Box 019 | Scheduling, August - September 1974 |
| Box 020 | Scheduling, October 1974 |
| Box 021 | Scheduling, November - December 1974 |
| Box 022 | Scheduling, January - February 1975 |
| Box 023 | Scheduling, March - April 1975 |
| Box 024 | Scheduling, April - May 1975 |
| Box 025 | Scheduling, June - July 1975 |
| Box 026 | Scheduling, August - September 20, 1975 |
| Box 027 | Scheduling, September 21, 1975 - October 17, 1975 |
| Box 028 | Scheduling, October 18, 1975 - November 1975 |
| Box 029 | Scheduling, December 1975 - January 1976 |
| Box 030 | Scheduling, February - March 17, 1976 |
| Box 031 | Scheduling, March 18, 1976 - April 1976 |
| Box 032 | Scheduling, April - May 1976 |
| Box 033 | Scheduling, June 1976 |
| Box 034 | Scheduling, July - August 17, 1976 |
| Box 035 | Scheduling, August 18 - September 21, 1976 |
| Box 036 | Scheduling, September 22 - October 23, 1976 |
| Box 037 | Scheduling, October 24 – November 19, 1976 (November 20, 1976 - January 17, 1977 in Box 088.) |
| Box 038 | Scheduling, January 18 - March 15, 1977 |
| Box 039 | Scheduling, March 16 - April 30, 1977 |
Box 040. Scheduling, May - June 1977
Box 041. Scheduling, July - September 15, 1977
Box 042. Scheduling, September 16 - October 1977
Box 043. Scheduling, November - December 1977
Box 044. Scheduling, January - February 1978
Box 045. Scheduling, March - April 1978
Box 046. Scheduling, May - June 1978
Box 047. Scheduling, July - September 15, 1978
Box 048. Scheduling, September 16 - October 1978
Box 049. Scheduling, November - December 1978
Box 050. Scheduling, January - February 1979
Box 051. Scheduling, March 1 - March 15, 1979
  Telephone call sheets for January - March 1979
  Correspondence--Narcotics and Drug Abuse 1972-1973, Dept. of
  Commerce 1975, 1976, Planning Grant Funding, Employment and
  Training Consortium Administration 1977, Proposal Northeast
  Owl Center 1975, Appraisal Folly Theatre 1974, Hill-Burton Grant
  Application for Neighborhood Health Center 1975 v. 1 & 2

Box 052 – Correspondence, ca. 1971 - ca. 1975, A-E
Folder 52:1. Allied Services Project
Folder 52:2. Alternative Futures Program – steering committee
Folder 52:3. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees,
  Local #500
Folder 52:4. Area Transit Authority
Folder 52:5. Arterbery, Karl
Folder 52:6. Baker, Bruce
Folder 52:7. Bittner, E.L.
Folder 52:8. Breeze, George
Folder 52:9. Bradley, Tom
Folder 52:10. Bluhm, Maurice
Folder 52:11. Benton, Rita (Mrs. Thomas Hart)
Folder 52:12. Benson, Arthur A. II
Folder 52:13. Burke, Jim
Folder 52:14. Bumpers, Dale (Arkansas Governor)
Folder 52:15.  Bauman, Edward J.
Folder 52:16.  Carpenter, Shirley
Folder 52:17.  Carnes, William Kenneth – Sheriff Patrol Headquarters
Folder 52:18.  Caudle, Don (TWA)
Folder 52:19.  Christy, John G.
Folder 52:20.  Cusick, Leo
Folder 52:21.  Curran, Kevin E., M.D.
Folder 52:22.  Curran, Dr. Charles (Chuck)
Folder 52:23.  Crawford, H.R. (HUD)
Folder 52:24.  Coulson, Fred
Folder 52:25.  Coughlin, Gerald
Folder 52:26.  Corzo, Guillermo
Folder 52:27.  Cortina, Don Pedro
Folder 52:28.  Capital Improvements
Folder 52:29.  Centropolis Crusher, Inc.
Folder 52:30.  City Beautification
Folder 52:31.  Coro
Folder 52:32.  Canizaro, Joseph (River Quay)
Folder 52:33.  Central Industrial District Association
Folder 52:34.  Community Development Act
Folder 52:35.  Docking, Robert (Kansas Governor)
Folder 52:36.  Donegan, George J.
Folder 52:37.  DeMaria, Edith M.
Folder 52:38.  Daw, John Lawrence
Folder 52:39.  Davis, Robert R.
Folder 52:40.  Davis, Dorothy B.
Folder 52:41.  Dancy, W.F.
Folder 52:42.  Drost, Robert B.
Folder 52:43.  Donnelly, Robert
Folder 52:44.  Donnelly, Dave (Missouri State Democratic Committee)
Folder 52:45.  Dimond, E. Grey
Folder 52:46.  Dye, Lamar (Attorney)
Folder 52:47. Dial-A-Ride letters
Folder 52:48. Missouri Democratic Committee
Folder 52:49. Democratic National Committee
Folder 52:50. Democratic City Committee
Folder 52:51. Democratic Convention
Folder 52:52. Democratic Club
Folder 52:53. Democratic Planning Group
Folder 52:54. Democratic Telethon
Folder 52:55. Mid-Term Conference
Folder 52:56. Mid-Term Conference – thank you letters
Folder 52:57. Drug Abuse Project
Folder 52:58. Drugs
Folder 52:59. Coordination of Drug Abuse Prevention Meeting
Folder 52:60. Economic Development Corporation
Folder 52:61. Emergency Employment Act Funds
Folder 52:62. Emergency Employment Act – Full Funding
Folder 52:63. Environmental Protection Agency
Folder 52:64. Energy Crisis – letters
Folder 52:65. Energy Crisis
Folder 52:66. Energy – letters from Federal officials
Folder 52:67. Ervin, Samuel J.

Box 053. Correspondence, ca. 1971 - ca. 1975, F-H
Box 054. Correspondence, ca. 1971 - ca. 1975, I-K
Box 055. Correspondence, ca. 1971 - ca. 1975, M
Box 056. Correspondence, ca. 1971 - ca. 1975, N - P
Box 057. Correspondence, ca. 1971 - ca. 1975, R - S
Box 058. Correspondence, ca. 1971 - ca. 1975, T
Miscellaneous Materials, political, minority, enterprise project (1975), volunteer service questionnaire (1974), Correspondence, Memos and Reports 1975-1977
Box 059. Correspondence
Miscellaneous correspondence and reports from agencies and interdepartmental files, unsorted.
Box 060. Correspondence, (Miscellaneous correspondence and reports from agencies and interdepartmental files, unsorted.)

Box 061. Correspondence, (Civic Groups)

Box 062. Correspondence, (Civic Groups)

Box 063. Correspondence, (Civic Groups)

Box 064.

Folder 64:1 Council committees – Miscellaneous, ca.1971-1973:
Policy and Rules Committee
Liquor Control Hearing
Building Code Board of Appeals
Community Meeting: Housing Code
Sister City Committee
HUD Task Force

Folder 64:2 Water Rate Committee

Folder 64:3. Information Directory for the City of Kansas City, Missouri

Folder 64:4-5. Operations Committee, 1972-1974

Folder 64:6-7. Finance and Audit Committee

Folder 64:8. Community Development


Folder 65:10-11. Planning and Zoning

Box 065. Correspondence, (Boards, Commissions and Departments including rosters of members, reports, correspondence and the like.)

Box 066. Correspondence, (Board, Commissions and Departments including rosters of members, reports, correspondence and the like.)

Box 067. Correspondence, (Park Board)

Box 068. Correspondence, (Zoning and Plans Commission)

Box 069. Correspondence, (Sports Complex construction)

Box 070.

Folder 70:1. Convention Center, 1973

Folder 70:2. Convention Center Associates, 1973

Folder 70:3. Convention Center, 1974
American Royal Arena
Folder 70:5. American Royal Arena Corporation – meeting, April 15, 1975
Folder 70:6. American Royal Association, 1974
Folder 70:9. American Royal Arena
Folder 70:10. American Royal Board – minutes, 1973-1976
Folder 70:11. Central Industrial District, 1973
Folder 70:12. Contracts
Folder 70:13. Groundbreaking, April 14, 1973
Folder 70:14. Lawsuit, 1973
Folder 70:15. Tour information, 1973
Folder 70:18. Potential exhibitors, 1973
Folder 70:19. Parking facility
Folder 70:21. Insurance program, 1973
Folder 70:22. Clippings
Folder 70:23. Correspondence, 1973
Folder 70:24. Meetings and minutes, 1973-1974
Folder 70:26. Ordinances Resolutions
Folder 70:27. Pro Forma Post Statement
Folder 70:28. Progress estimates
Folder 70:29. Revenue of Expense estimate
Folder 70:30. Stearn Brothers and Co., 1974
Folder 70:31. Site selection and property purchase
Folder 70:32. Sports arena, 1972-1973
Folder 70:33. Architectural plan (revised) – convention center catering kitchen, 1974
Folder 70:34. Kemper Arena – seating proposal, 1973
Box 071. Correspondence, (KCI construction)
Box 072. Correspondence, (KCI construction)

Box 073

Chamber of Commerce
Folder 73:1. Board of Directors – minutes, agendas, notices, 1975-1976
Folder 73:2. Federal Highway Act – correspondence, 1974
Folder 73:3. Midland Transportation Associates – thank you letters, 1975
Folder 73:4. International Affairs, 1975
Folder 73:5. International Affairs, 1971-1975
Folder 73:7. Correspondence, 1975
Folder 73:8-9. Letter promoting KC to former University of Missouri students, September 15, 1975

Convention and Visitors Bureau
Folder 73:12. Correspondence re: events, invitations to businesses
Folder 73:13. USTS Foreign Travel Writers convention, June 30-July 5, 1972

1973 Convention Calendar
Box 074. Correspondence, (Law enforcement, LEAA and Northwest Missouri Law Enforcement Assistance Council)
Box 075. Correspondence, (MARC)
Box 076. Correspondence, (MARC)
Box 077. Correspondence, (MARC)
Box 078. Correspondence, (MARC and Human Resources Corporation, 1971-1972)
Box 081. Materials in Box 081 were moved to Box 080, so Box 081 is now empty.

Box 082. Correspondence—Department of Labor, ca. 1974-1977; land and boundary agreements; agreements—General Hospital, UMKC; Grants as awarded by and received by the city as well as grant applications; Youth and Summer Programs, 1971-1973.

Box 083. Materials in Box 083 were moved to Boxes 051 and 082, so Box 083 now empty.

Box 084. Correspondence, (Seminars and conference, correspondence and information related to seminars and conferences and materials received while attending seminars and conferences)

Box 085. Correspondence, (Seminars and conferences, correspondence and information related to seminars and conferences and materials received while attending seminars and conferences.)

Box 086. Notebooks, (Assorted information compiled in notebook form on taxes, welfare, civil rights, the federal government, Nixon and revenue sharing. Miscellaneous articles and information on schools, city taxes, UMKC, UMC, Westport community, transportation and the housing center proposal of 1971. Bulletins of educational institutions, information on the sports complex, business and industry, CATV, civic affairs, the fire department and health agencies, city council and city government, data processing.)

Box 087. Notebooks, (Hospital and medical school, KCIA, Midtown Freeway and Model Cities, Missouri Valley Association, Senate Report Newsletter and disaster planning and operations news, miscellaneous publication, college and university bulletins and publications. Newspaper summaries, January and February 1977, MARC, MidAmerica Health System Agency, HMO, Mayor's Windshield Tour, Newscloppings January 1 - 15, 1975 [photocopied])

Box 088. Scheduling, November 20, 1976 - January 17, 1977

Box 089. Original Boxes 89 and 90 were combined to create Box 087 so there is no 89 at this time (September 9, 1991). Original Boxes 086, 087, 088 were merged and formed Box 086

Box 090. See explanation under Box 089.

Box 091. Newsclippings, (January 16 - March 31, 1974)

Box 092. Newsclippings, (April - June 1974)

Box 093. Newsclippings, (on Democratic Mini Conference December 1974. Clips prepared by a news clipping service.)
Box 094. Newsclippings, (on Democratic Mini Conference December 1974. Clips prepared by a news clipping service.)


Box 098. Proclamations, 1972-1975 and Commendations, 1974-1976

Box 099. Press Conferences and Press Statements, May 1971 - August 1976

Box 100. Press Conferences and Press Statements September 1976 - December 1977

Box 101. Press Conferences and Press Statements, 1978

Box 102. Speeches, (Texts of some speeches and correspondence folders with invitations to speak with acceptances, but without the speeches.)


Box 104. City Council Dockets, June 1, 1973 - January 4, 1974


Box 106. City Council Dockets, October 4, 1974 - June 27, 1975

Box 107. City Council Dockets, July 17, 1975 - June 24, 1975


Box 109. City Council Dockets, May 12, 1977 - December 29, 1977 (also includes correspondence to the Council from E. Richard Brenneman 1977 & correspondence to the Council from the Mayor through June 1977.)


Box 111. City Council Proceedings, January 8, 1970 - November 23, 1970

Box 112. City Council Proceedings, November 25, 1970 - September 17, 1971


Box 114. City Council Proceedings, July 7, 1972 - May 11, 1973

Box 115. City Council Proceedings, May 18, 1973 - March 9, 1974
Box 116. City Council Proceedings, March 14, 1974 - December 27, 1974
Box 117. City Council Proceedings, January 3, 1975 - November 26, 1975
Box 119. City Council Proceedings April 7, 1971 - December 20, 1972; City Council Financial Forms 1972, 1973
Box 120. Miscellaneous, (Newspaper clippings 1964-1978)
Box 121. Miscellaneous, (Assorted certificates given to Wheeler in commemoration of speeches and other services. Photographs of Wheeler at various functions and with numerous personalities.)
Box 122. Miscellaneous, (Eleven video tapes relating to Wheeler’s career in politics.)
Box 123. Miscellaneous Photos: (1/3-ft. gray box, not a cubic foot box)
F.1 Photograph album one: Undated and unidentified photographs.
F.2 Photograph album two: Undated and unidentified photographs
F.3 Photograph album three: Given to Wheeler by Nan-Chang Su, Mayor of Taiwan, Taiwan in memory of the Kansas City/Taiwan Sister City Affiliation.
F.4 Photos removed from the scrapbook Vol.3, 1967
Box 124. Miscellaneous, includes items removed from scrapbooks
F.1 Vol.1, 1964
F.2 Vol. 2, 1966
F.3 Vol. 3, 1967
F.4 Vol.5
F.5 Vol. 10, folder 1, 1977-1979
F.6 Vol. 10, folder 2
F.7 Vol. 10, folder 2
F.8 Vol. 11
F.9 Various items removed from scrapbooks

Scrapbooks and Photograph Albums
Collected congratulatory letters and newspaper clippings relating to
all aspects of Wheeler's campaign for election to the office of Jackson County Coroner. Also includes clippings related to reform of the Coroner’s office such as salary, locations, and laboratories for example. Information on blood banks and an anti-trust law is also discussed.

This scrapbook contains newspaper clippings covering the Democratic candidates for the 1966 local and county elections. Includes articles on the Clint Kanaga Jr. campaign, George Lehr, Charles Curry, Alex M. Petrovic, Harlan Moody Murry, and Charles Wheeler campaigns. Tax money wasted by the government is incorporated also. March 20, 1966 - January 2, 1967 are the dates covered.

Newspaper clippings discussing the political issues Charles Curry (presiding judge), Alex Petrovic (eastern judge), and Charles Wheeler (western judge) of Missouri were involved with. Harry S. Truman’s 83rd birthday and the political battle between the three judges and Sheriff Arvid (Hippo) Owsley are also included.

Newspaper clippings discussing Jackson County politics for the period June 3, 1968 - December 31, 1968. Among many other items of interest is included the death of Robert F. Kennedy, Sr., The April riots, the 1968 campaigns and elections, and the new stadium proposal.

Volume 5. Scrapbook 1969
Newspaper clippings related to Wheeler's service as Western Judge for Jackson County January - June 1969. A few of the items discussed are the stadium, various taxes, the argument between the legislature and Governor Hearnes, various other politicians, the Black Panther Party, the stand-off between Judge Alex Petrovic, Judge Charles Curry, and Judge Charles Wheeler, ambulance services, and the Missouri school district.

Newspaper clippings related to Wheeler's service as Western Judge for Jackson County June - December 1969. A few of the items discussed are the stadium, various taxes, the argument between the legislature and Governor Hearnes, various other politicians, the Black Panther Party, the stand-off between Judge Alex Petrovic, Judge Charles Curry, and Judge Charles Wheeler, ambulance services, the Missouri school district, drug problems, Hospital Hill, welfare problems, and the New City Plan.
Volume 7. Scrapbook 1976
Personal scrapbook of newspaper clippings for the period January - December 1976. Includes information on unions, “fattened” public pensions, Bartle Hall, Wheeler as Mayor of Kansas City, Wheeler’s race for Senate, and Wheeler’s personal image.

Volume 8. Scrapbook 1976
Newspaper clippings related to the following subjects: the War on Poverty, the U.S. Corps of Engineers, the Hard Hat War, American Women, Neighborhoods, Spotlight on Parenting, Consumer Complaints and the Ford Conference.

Kansas City Flood September 1977

Includes letters at the time of Wheeler's defeat for reelection to Mayor’s office. Also discussed is Proposition 13, cloning (test-tube babies), neighborhoods, schools, health, U.S. Department of Health, education, and welfare (HEW), Brookside, city construction, planning and revitalization, Taiwan and the United States, Freedom Inc., Human Resources Corporation Program (HRC), libraries, Bruce Rice, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), 1980 GOP Convention, Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), ambulance services, 911-telephone service, and American Cablevision.

Volume 11. Scrapbook 1979
Newspaper clippings and material related to the 1979 race for Kansas City Mayor. Includes articles on Charles Wheeler, Bruce Watkins, Richard Berkley, and Joel Pelofsky.

Oversize:

1. Poster
   Framed color poster “How to Build a Winner”

2. Kansas City's Year
   Framed print of the 1972 Southwestern Bell Telephone Directory Cover entitled "Kansas City's Year."

3. Rapid Transit--Kansas City
   Structural design concept by Earl D. Bishop, P. E., concerning the KCATA Metroplan, Project INT-T9-6, for rapid transit service in Kansas City.

4. Certificates
   Twenty-two certificates given to Wheeler in recognition of speeches and services rendered and proclamations signed by the Mayor.
x. 5. Photographs
Thirteen oversized photographs of Wheeler at various public events and with various personalities.

x. 6. Photographs
Four photographs of public buildings in Kansas City and three presentations by Marshall and Brown, architects, apparently relating to transit routes in Kansas City.

(URC Location 110927, x.7-x.10)

x. 7. Site Plan
Four sheets, blackline drawings of site plan for the Kansas City International Airport Dedication on 20-23 October 1972; One sheet Auditorium Garage 1954, 1975.

x. 8. Aerial Photographs
Two sheets aerial photographs of Clay County, Missouri Section 7, Township 50N, Range 32W with annotations.

x. 9. User Parks
Two sheets of renderings of proposed downtown user parks for Kansas City, Missouri. Correspondence related to the plans is also included.

x. 10. Map
One map of Jackson County showing urban and non-urban lands as of ca. 1974.