K0154
Harold Roe Bartle (1901-1974) Papers
1933-1974
20 cubic feet

*Papers of a scout executive, civic leader, public speaker, church leader, educator, and mayor of Kansas City, Missouri.*

PROVENANCE:

Mrs. H. Roe Bartle donated these materials as accession KA0265 on January 17, 1985. Additional materials were received as KA0382 on September 18, 1986; KA055c on February 23, 1990; KA0557 on March 15, 1990; KA0572 on April 27, 1990; KA0591 on July 19, 1990; and KA0840 on November 14, 1994.

BIOGRAPHY:

Harold Roe Bartle was born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1901. Bartle received his preparatory education at Fork Union Military Academy in Virginia. He later received an LL.B. from the University of Chattanooga in 1920 and a J.D. from the Hamilton College of Law in Chicago. He was admitted to the bar in Kentucky in 1920 and entered the firm of Russell and Taylor in Lebanon, Kentucky. In 1921 he entered the Missouri bar but did not practice law in Missouri because he entered professional scouting. As a young attorney and scout executive, he felt that age would help his credibility, so he added ten years to his birth date, saying he was born in 1891.

In 1923 Bartle became a professional scout serving as scout executive in three councils. From 1923-1925 he served in Casper, Wyoming; from 1925-1928 in St. Joseph, Missouri; and from 1928 to 1955 in Kansas City, Missouri. While a scout executive, Bartle served as a public speaker, financial counselor and in public relations. His single greatest source of income was public speaking.
He was active in the Presbyterian Church and served as president of the Board of Trustees and later as president of the Missouri Valley College, a Presbyterian College in Marshall, Missouri.

He founded the American Humanics Foundation, a philanthropic and educational foundation providing specialized education for young people desiring to enter youth agency leadership as a professional field. He served as an administrator for the Foundation until 1957 and then continued as a member of the Board and the Executive Committee until his death. In 1955, Bartle ran for Mayor of Kansas City on the Citizens Association ticket. He had no previous political experience but he ran a successful campaign. He continued in that office until 1963.

On May 9, 1974, Roe Bartle died in Kansas City, Missouri.

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PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; Harold Roe Bartle (1901-1974) Papers (K0154); State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS:

This collection contains biographical material, correspondence files, news clippings, awards and tributes to Bartle, and photographs. Material in the collection refers to Bartle’s career as a scout executive, civic leader, public speaker, mayor, church leader, and educator.

Folders 1-3 include biographical material on Bartle as well as awards and tributes granted to him. The awards and tributes folders include media coverage of his awards.
Folders 4-20a contains correspondence arranged in chronological order. Much of the correspondence relates to his civic activities and affairs.

Folders 21-48 contain speeches and speech material Bartle used in his career as a public speaker.

Folders 56-69 contain speeches, correspondence, and news clippings related to Bartle’s scouting activities.

Folders 70-90 include material related to Bartle’s term as Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri. They include correspondence, speeches, and news clippings related to the period.

Folders 52-55 include material related to Bartle’s work with the Fork Union Military Academy, especially his activities as a member of the Alumni Board of Directors and then as president of the Board.

Folders 91-92 include miscellaneous material related to Bartle and his career.

Folder 93 includes information on Mrs. H. Roe Bartle.

Folders 49-50 and 93a-97 include media coverage of Bartle and his career. Included are news clippings, special publications and assorted other material.

Folders 98-104 are photographs of Bartle and his various activities.

The remainder of the collection is unprocessed but listed.

INVENTORY:

BOX 001

Folder 1. Biographical, personal data - contains fact sheets on history, background, and personality prepared as introductory material.

Folder 2. Tributes and awards, 1938-1976

Folder 3. Memorials and tributes (posthumous), 1974-1982

Folder 4. Correspondence, 1942-1955

Folder 5. Correspondence, 1960-1964

Folder 6. Correspondence, 1965

Folder 7. Correspondence, 1966-1968

Folder 8. Correspondence, 1969


Folder 10. Correspondence, August 1970-September 1970

Folder 11. Correspondence, October 1970

Folder 12. Correspondence, November 1970
Folder 13. Correspondence, December 1970
Folder 14. Correspondence, January 1971-February 1971
Folder 15. Correspondence, March 1971
Folder 16. Correspondence, April 1971-June 1971
Folder 17. Correspondence, June 1971
Folder 18. Correspondence, July 1971
Folder 19. Correspondence, August 1971-September 1971
Folder 20. Correspondence, October 1971
Folder 21. Correspondence, November 1971
Folder 22. Correspondence, December 1971
Folder 23. Correspondence, January 1972
Folder 24. Correspondence, February 1972
Folder 25. Correspondence, March 1972-April 1972
Folder 26. Correspondence, May 1972-June 1972
Folder 27. Correspondence, July 1972-September 1972
Folder 28. Correspondence, October 1972-December 1972
Folder 29. Correspondence, 1973
Folder 30. Correspondence, 1974

Speeches

Folder 31. Speech material
Folder 32. “Christian Citizenship” undated
Folder 33. “Applied Christianity” undated
Folder 34. Baker University Commencement - statement for release, undated
Folder 35. Christian Laymen of the World, undated
Folder 36. Speech before a meeting of Presbyterian men - two versions, undated
Folder 37. “America’s Last Opportunity” undated
Folder 38. Business Men’s Bible Class, KMBC, December 8, 1934
Folder 39. National Association of Dyers and Cleaners, January 11-January 14, 1941
Folder 40. “A Prayer for Today,” November 11, 1941
| Folder 42. | Evansville Speech, 1946 |
| Folder 43. | “My America is at the Crossroads” - American Association of School Administrators, February 22, 1948; Wisconsin Education Association, November 5, 1949 |
| Folder 44. | Speech in Iowa, c1948 |
| Folder 45. | “Some Education is a ‘Must’ to Save America”, October 28, 1949 |
| Folder 46. | Presbyterian Laymen’s Conference - Atlanta, Georgia, November 13, 1949 |
| Folder 47. | Rotary International Convention - Detroit, Michigan, c. September 19, 1950 |
| Folder 48. | United Church Men, c1951 |
| Folder 49. | Massachusetts Cooperative Bank League, 1951 |
| Folder 50. | “Constructive Thinking for the Day Ahead” July 5, 1952; notes sent Mr. S.E. Kassman |
| Folder 51. | Massannetta Springs, Virginia, August 18, 1952 |
| Folder 52. | KANU Radio, April 1, 1953 |
| Folder 53. | The Big Selling Job” - Board of National Sales Executives, January 14, 1954 |
| Folder 55. | “Human Values in a Changing World” - Southwest District Convention of Kiwanis, Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 1954 |
| Folder 56. | Truman Library Dinner Celebration, November 6, 1954 |
| Folder 57. | Untitled, September 4, 1955 |
| Folder 58. | Christmas Message, December 1972 |

**SCOUTING**

| Folder 59. | Ernie Mehl address, undated |
| Folder 60. | Scouting, undated |
| Folder 61. | Radio Address on Scouting, KMBC, February 6, 1937 |
| Folder 62. | Radio broadcast - Walter W. Head and H. Roe Bartle, c. February 8, 1939 |
| Folder 63. | Address by H. Roe Bartle, September 6, 1947, two versions |
| Folder 64. | A Scout Leader’s Tribute to the Church, February 4, 1952 |
Folder 66. Correspondence - Scouting, 1943-1946
Folder 67. Correspondence - Scouting, September 9, 1953-September 14, 1953
Folder 68. Correspondence - Scouting, September 15, 1953-September 16, 1953
Folder 69. Correspondence - Scouting, September 17, 1953-September 20, 1953
Folder 70. Correspondence - Scouting, September 21, 1953-September 30, 1953
Folder 71. Telegrams, September 12, 1953-September 18, 1953
Folder 72. Telegrams, September 19, 1953
Folder 73. Telegrams, September 20, 1953-September 22, 1953
Folder 74. Correspondence - Scouting, May 10, 1955-March 31, 1972
Folder 75. Scouting - clippings, programs, etc.

MAYORAL MATERIAL

Folder 76. Campaign - correspondence, ca. January 1- January 20, 1955
Folder 77. Campaign - correspondence, January 26-January 31, 1955
Folder 78. Campaign - correspondence, February 1-May 10, 1955
Folder 79. Telegrams - congratulatory, June 18-March 29, 1955
Folder 80. Telegrams - congratulatory, March 30, 1955
Folder 81. Telegrams - congratulatory, March 31-April 5, 1955
Folder 82. “Stand Up and Be Counted” ca. 1955
Folder 83. Inaugural Address, April 11, 1955 (two versions)
Folder 84. Chamber of Commerce, April 27, 1955
Folder 85. Rockhurst Day Dinner, May 24, 1955
Folder 86. Commencement Speech, Pittsburgh, Kansas, June 2, 1955
Folder 87. California Bankers, May 20, 1956
Folder 88. Ruskin Heights Tornado, May 27, 1957
Folder 89. Rotary Club of Kansas City, May 29, 1958
Folder 90. Advertising and Sales Executive Club, June 30, 1958
Folder 91. Introduction of Bartle to Chamber of Commerce, ca. April 1959
Folder 92. City Council of Kansas City, April 3, 1959
Folder 93. Optimist Youth Association, November 13, 1959
Folder 94. National Housing Conference, March 14, 1960
Folder 95. Address on First Anniversary of City Administration, April 11, 1960
Folder 96. Kansas City Sertoma Club, October 11, 1960
Folder 97. Engineers Club, March 5, 1962
Folder 98. Announcement of Candidacy for Reelection, December 31, 1962
Folder 99. Visits of Foreign Dignitaries
Folder 100. Latin America Tour

**BOX 002**

**FORK UNION MILITARY ACADEMY**

Folder 101. Fork Union Military Academy - correspondence and related material, June 1968-July 1968
Folder 102. Fork Union Military Academy - correspondence and related material, August 1968-September 1968
Folder 103. Fork Union Military Academy - correspondence and related material, October 1968-November 1969
Folder 104. Fork Union Military Academy - correspondence and related material, 1970-1971

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Folder 105. Miscellaneous, 1955-1958
Folder 106. Miscellaneous, 1961-1970

**MRS. H. ROE BARTLE**

Folder 107. Margaret Bartle

**MEDIA COVERAGE**

Folder 108. Publications, including programs of events, 1939-1959
Folder 109. Publications, including programs of events, 1961-1972
Folder 110. *Saturday Evening Post* - correspondence and article, 1956
Folder 111. Clippings, 1955
Folder 112. Clippings, 1956-1959
Folder 113. Clippings, 1960-1963

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Folder 115. Photographs, twelve 8 x 10 photos
Folder 116. Photographs, fifteen 8 x 10 photos
Folder 117. Photographs, eight 8 x 10 photos
Folder 118. Photographs, photocopies of oversized photos, 19 photos removed to oversize storage.
Folder 119. Photographs, three 5 x 7; two 2 x 3, two 3 x 5; two snapshots; one color in folder
Folder 120. Photographs, personal photo album pages
Folder 121. Photographs, four 8 x 10 photos related to scouting
Folder 122. American Humanics Foundation, 1969
Folder 123. Statement to the Bureau of the Budget, Washington, D.C., 1955
Folder 124. Statement to the Editor of the *Kansas City Call*, 1965

**NO BOXES 003 OR 004**

**BOX 005 (KA0552, KA0572)**

Photos--Stuart Symington; Fortes Furlclo (?) and Bartle; Bartle Interviewed on KCKN Radio; Bartle in Parade; Navy Club Breakfast 1957; Elmer Rhoden and Roe Bartle; Bartle with Children

Drawing of Bartle
Bartle Family Crest
*Banquet of the Golden Plate* book 1972
Letters from notebook labeled “His Worship the Honorable H. Roe Bartle”
Certificates ca. 1950’s-1970’s
Awards ca. 1966-1973
Plaque Photocopies
Accountant’s Report 1962
Division Accounts 1961
Robert Adams 1960-1962
Agricultural Hall of Fame, Aug. 29, 1962
Barney Allis Plaza Ceremony, Oct. 15, 1962
Ambassadors 1961-1962
American Municipal Association December 1960-January 1963
American Legion 1962-1963
American Field Service April 1962
American Institute of Park Executives’ Convention 1962
Armed Forces Council 1962
American Royal 1962
American Red Cross 1961 to 1963
Assessor 1961-1962
Auditor’s Reports ca. 1959-1963
Auditorium Plaza Garage 1961-1962
Aviation 1961-1963
Aviation Advisory Board 1942, 1946-1947, 1949, 1963
Baptist Memorial Hospital 1962
Baseball 1962
Basketball 1962
Better Business Bureau 1961-1963
Blue Laws 1962
Blue Parkway Improvement Association 1962
Blue Ridge Shopping Center 1962
Board of Education 1961-1963
Broadway Bridge 1960-1963
Budget 1961-1962
Budget Adjustments May 1, 1957 - April 30, 1958
Monthly Budget Statements January-July 1961
Buildings and Inspections 1962-1963
Building Code 1962
Request for Budget Adjustment Feb. 15, 1961-Feb. 19, 1963
Business and Industrial Development Commission 1959-1963

BOX 006

Daily Budget Records 1960, 1961
Capital Outlay 1960, 1961
Chamber of Commerce 1961-1963
Junior Chamber of Commerce 1960, 1961
Changes in Employees’ Leave Status 1961-1963
Civil Defense 1961-1963
Country Club Freeway 1961-1962
Council Minutes July-August 1962
Council Matters January 1961-March 1963
Codification of Accounts 1947
Charitable Solicitations 1961-1963
Charter Review Committee 1961-1962
Cities Service Gas Rates 1961
City Auditor 1961-1962
City Clerk 1961-1963
City Counselor 1961-1963
City Hall 1962
City Hall High School Day 1963
City Manager 1961-1963
City Miscellaneous 1957-1963
City Plan Commission 1961-1963
City Planning Department 1961-1962
Conventions 1962-1963
Council Docket October 1961, February, April, May, September, November 1962
County Board of Visitors 1959
President DeGaulle 1962
Diplomatic Ball 1962-1963
Diplomatic Corps 1962
Disaster Warming 1957-1960
Dog Ordinance 1962, 1963
Downtown Committee 1961-1962
Duplicating 1960-1963
Engineering-Highways, etc. 1960-1962
Fairyland Park 1962
letter concerning discrimination
Finance Department 1961-1963

BOX 007

KCMO Financial Report September 1959
KCMO Financial Report February 1960
KCMO Financial Report January 1963
Finance Annual Report 1961-1962
Fire 1961-1963
Fireman’s Pension System 1962
Fluoridation 1961-1962
Professional Football 1962-1963
Forms and Printing Requisitions 1961-1963
Mo. State Gasoline Tax 1961-1963
General Hospital 1962
General Hospital Survey 1958
Consolidation of General Hospital 1957-1958
Girl Scouts of America 1962
Gladden Bombing 1961
Greek Consul General Visit 1962
Hall of Fame 1962
Health Department 1962
Public Health Engineering 1962, 1963
Historical Data on Kansas City and Missouri 1958, 1962
Honorary Citizenship 1961-1963
Housing Appeal Board 1954
National Housing Conference Inc. 1962
Housing and Home Finance Agency 1962
Poverty 1964
Advisory Traffic Commission 1956-1960
Coordinating Committee on Traffic Safety 1958-1959
Warm Air Heating Examiners Board 1960, 1962
Photos ca. 1930’s-1970’s
Photo Negatives ca. 1950’s
Photos--First Airman of the Year Banquet 1962
Speakers Committee Report 1949
Truman Biography Program 1948, 1954, 1966
Mercantile Bank and Trust Co., KCMO “Our Silver Anniversary Story” 1933-1958
Ruskin Heights Tornado Brochure 1957
KCMO “Facts and Figures 1962”
Petition for Appointment of Board of County Visitors 1943
Rockhurst College Honorary Directors 1972-1973
Receipts 1948, 1956
Correspondence from H. Roe Bartle 1959, undated
Correspondence to Bartles from Grandchildren 1958, undated
Press Releases 1971, undated
Speech - Truman Library Dinner 1954
Rotary Programs 1939, 1943
Rotary Clippings 1940, undated
Airlines magazine July 1955
Slices of meeting, ca. 1960

BOX 008

Newspaper articles--Bartle 1940’s-1970’s (2 f.)
Programs 1930’s-1970’s (5 f.)
Newspaper articles - Miscellaneous 1940’s-1980’s, undated
Newsletters of organizations and clubs 1940’s-1970’s
Newspaper articles - Boy Scouts 1940’s-1970’s, undated
Invitations 1940’s-1970’s, undated
“Spirit of Kansas City” Helio-Plane for Ecuador 1958 (photos, text)
Photos - Bartle appearances 1950’s
Photos (photocopies) ca. 1950’s
 Knights of Malta, undated
H. Roe Bartle Scholarship, undated
Bartle Grand Jury Subpoena, 1956
Kansas City Information, 1948, 1972, undated
Procedures of KCMO Council re: William Hickinbotham, August 8, 1958
“Gratitude” essay 1969
“Report of the Kansas City Commission for International Relations and Trade
Latin American Fact-Finding Trip February 1956”
Clippings - Lima; Panama; Buenos Aries, Argentina; Santiago, Chile; Rio de
Janeiro and San Paulo, Brazil; Mexico, 1956
Place card; stationary - National Conference of Christians and Jews, Ft. Worth, Texas
Correspondence - Ilus Davis, clippings, 1964
Correspondence - Order of DeMolay, 1961-1962
County Grand Jury Reports 1954, 1959, 1961
1961--includes Kansas City Police Department and organized, also
problems within the Independence Police Department
1959--”Increase of crime” in Jackson County (organized crime),
County Jail, Home for the Aged
1954--number of Emmett Eslinger and Edward Chevlin Bribery;
Prosecutor’s Office, Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, Medical Care
Correspondence - Curator of Archives, 1961-1962
Kansas City Athletics’ Stickers

BOX 009

Plaques

Keys to Cities, etc.--Wayside Waifs; Salem (no state given); Portland, Oregon;
Wilmington, N. C.; Clearwater, Florida

Box 9 has more room for artifacts

BOX 010

Desk Calendars 1940-1942, 1946-1958 (mostly kept by Margaret Halsted)
BOX 011

Desk Calendars 1961-1972 (mostly kept by Margaret Halsted)
Telephone book ca. 1963-1964
(KA0591)
Newspaper articles mostly 1950’s. 1973 article on 50th Wedding Anniversary of Bartles, hospitalization; 1974 article on Bartle’s death.

Also see Oversize on 3/A/15 and 3/A/11

BOX 012 (KA0591)

Clippings, mostly 1950’s, a few early 1970’s

BOXES 013-014 (KA0591)

Programs, newsletters ca. 1940’s-1970’s

BOX 015 (KA0591)

Programs, newsletters, Manana magazine (August 1959)

BOX 016 (KA0591)

Correspondence (mostly to Bartle 1960’s, one from Bartle 1971)
Programs - H. Roe Bartle Exposition Hall Groundbreaking, 1974
Staff Folders - William B. Swindle; Thomson; I.W. Wall; P.L. Williams; Spizziri; Robert Weber

The Squire, May 16, 1974

Town Squire magazine June 1974

BOX 017 (KA0840)

Programs, clippings - speaking engagements, 1941
Correspondence - speaking engagements, 1935-1940
Publications and printed material - local history, 1964
Misc. programs, clippings, printed material
 Scrapbook articles removed
Correspondence - congratulations on re-election, 1959
Wood box containing carved wood recorder, chopsticks, beads
Photographs, ca. 1950s-1960s
Photographs - flower arrangements at funeral home
Negatives - Osceola, ca. 1920s

*Saturday Evening Post* - bound, commemorative issues - January 28, 1956 and September 3, 1960

**OVERSIZE**

Oversize scrapbook, oversize posters, map, resolution

*Here is a listing of Keys to Cities, Etc. that were included. Most were returned to Boy Scouts:*

1. Side A--"Key to the Twin Cities"
   Side B--"Welcome H. Roe Bartle"
   21” length, Wood

2. “1967 Olathe”
   13 3/4 “ length, Wood

3. “Key to the City of Ottawa, Ill.
   Presented to Mayor H. Roe Bartle
   by Mayor Philip J. Bailey
   October 30, 1962” (all on one side)
   24” length, 2 layers of safety glass

4. “City and County of Honolulu
   Mayor Neal S. Blaisdell Aloha to Women’s Kansas City
   Commission for International Relations and Trade May 1, 1959”
   19” length, Wood

5. “Marysville, Ks.”
   24” length, Wood

6. “June 4th Westminster College
   [had Rotary International Symbol]
   New Wilmington, Penna. 1962
   Hon. H. Roe Bartle”
   24” length, Wood

7. “Aloha Hon. H. Roe Bartle
   Mayor of Kansas City, Mo.
   Chairman Raymond X. Axi
   County of Kauai
   Aug. 16, 1961
   16” length, Wood

8. The City of Lafayette, State of Louisiana Seal
   14” length, Metallic Paper on Wood

9. “Houston Texas, Key to the City”
   22” length, Wood
10. “City of Fort Madison, Ia.”
   19 1/4” length, Wood

11. “Waterloo’s Ambassadors Welcome You to our City”
   13 1/4” length, Wood

12. “Wayside Waifs” (Keep)
   12 1/2” length, Wood

13. Side A “Welcome to Salem” Drawing of Cherries and Building (Keep)
    Side B “H. Roe Bartle”
    11 3/4” length, Wood

14. Side A “Key to the City of San Francisco (Keep)
    Presented to ...Mayor H. Roe Bartle 8-5-56
    George Christopher Mayor
    [San Francisco Seal Painted on] Welcom to San Francisco”
    Side B “Please Come Again”
    21” length, Wood

15. Side A “Welcome to Portland (Keep)
    Portland, Oregon City of Roses”
    Side B “Portland, Oregon
    World Port of the Pacific
    Terry D. Schrunk Mayor”
    6” length, Wood

16. Side A City Seal of Wilmington, State of North Carolina (Keep)
    “Wilmington, N. C. Hon. H. Roe Bartle May 24, 1965”
    Side B “The Azalea Capital of the World”
    8 1/2” length, Metal

17. Side A “Coral Gables the City Beautiful (Keep)
    Coral Gables, Florida”
    Side B Robert L. Searle, Mayor
    City of Coral Gables, Florida”

18. “City of St. Augustine”
    6” length, Metal

19. Side A “City of Clearwater Florida” Seal (Keep)
    “Clearwater, Florida
    Home of Fun ‘N Sun”
    Side B “Mayor of Clearwater”
    5” length, Metal

20. Side A “Seal of the City of Buffalo
    Chester Kowal, Mayor”
    Side B “Chester Kowal, Mayor
    Seal buffalo”
    4” length, Metal
PHONOGRAPh RECORDS

1. KMBC Tornado Disaster Report – Broadcast, Tuesday, May 21, 1957
   Part 1: Governor James T. Blair; Mayor H. Roe Bartle
   Part 2: Lyman Field; Colonel Bernard Brannon
   The KMBC – KFRM Team 33 1/3 RPM 12 inch.

   December 1956. 33 1/3 RPM 12 inch.

   “Were Number One” by Marilyn Maye.
   By Harry Stone Production Co. 45 RPM. 6 inch.


5. John E. Alexander South. Wood County YMCA Community Center.
   (Deteriorated.)


   Part Edwards, WIS. Part 3 & 4. 33 1/3 RPM. 12 inch.
   (Deteriorated.)


   Part Edwards, WIS. Part 5&6. 33 1/3 RPM 12 inch.
   (Deteriorated.)


    Part Edwards, WIS. Part 7&8. 33 1/3 RPM 12 inch.
    (Deteriorated.)

    Chuckwagon Corral. Benjamin Stables. Kansas City, MO.
    Eddie Jester. WDAF. 33 1/3 RPM. 12 inch.