177 Folders, 96 Photographs

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HISTORY

The Normandy School District - University of Missouri - St. Louis Founding Records were donated to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection on February 21, 1992 by Bruce Smith of the Normandy School District.

The papers document the efforts of various individuals and the Normandy School District to establish the University of Missouri - St. Louis on the former site of the Bellerive Country Club. By 1957, some of the younger members and some of the older and more progressive members of the Bellerive Country Club had become discontent with their 53 year old club site and club house. They wanted larger grounds where members could build homes on the perimeter of the golf course and they desired a modern club house adapted to their unique social demands. Thus, in 1957 the Bellerive Country Club made it known that it was placing the 128 acre club site on the market with an asking price of $1,300,000. Many prospectors looked over the grounds with an eye toward potential use, a public golf course, sub-dividing for real estate development, commercial enterprises and many others.

At this point the officials of the Normandy School District, alert to the impact on the schools that the development of a subdivision would have, went to the Board of Directors of the Bellerive Country Club and requested that the school district be permitted to purchase 8 or 10 acres of ground for a future eight room elementary school building which would be needed if the site were subdivided. Such a school plant would have cost about $400,000. The club officials indicated that they would not be in a position to sell a portion of the site and suggested that the school officials contact any buyer who might be successful in purchasing the entire site at a later date.

The property remained on the market for several months. Although the club grounds were most attractive to real estate promoters and others interested in varied commercial projects, zoning restrictions of the municipality were so restrictive in nature that it became apparent that sale was going to be difficult. About this time there had been a revival of the often talked about need of a junior college for the district.

Hearing of this interest the officials of the Bellerive Country Club contacted the school officials to see if they would be interested in the club site for a junior college campus. The school officials indicated that they would not be interested if the price remained at $1,300,000. With certain concessions, the right to continue to occupy the club grounds for a period not to exceed three years while a new golf course and club house could be constructed and other minor considerations, the club officials indicated that they would consider a much more reasonable sale price. After some further discussion it was agreed that if the school were interested the price would be $600,000.
More serious thought and planning was now given to the possibility of a junior college and citizens of the community were called in by the Normandy Board of Education during the spring and summer of 1958, to discuss the possibility, with the end in view of finally submitting the matter of the establishment of a junior college to the Normandy electorate in the form of a bond issue to purchase the property. After indications of strong interest and support for the project by the citizens a bond issue was submitted on September 30, 1958. The bond issue received more than the two-thirds majority required for approval. The cost of retiring the bonds was figured at the time at five cents on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation, so that on a $15,000 home (the average for the district) which was assessed at $5,000 the cost would be $2.50 per year. The purchase was completed with the agreement for limited continued occupancy be the club. In October of 1959 the Bellerive Club officials notified the Normandy Board of Education that it would turn the full facilities of the club to the school district on May 31, 1960.

The long discussed opportunity to develop a junior college for the Normandy School District was a reality. The Board of Education called in a group of citizens to participate in the planning and development of this project. Twenty-eight men and women representing the many facets of the Normandy School District citizenry became known as "The Committee of Twenty-eight" and immediately set up the criteria that they wanted in this new educational institution. They began a series of visitations to near-by junior colleges to gain insight and knowledge for their planning. In the early stages of this visitation one of the conferences was held in Columbia with Dr. Elmer Ellis, president of the University of Missouri, and members of his staff. This conference was considered to be one of major importance because the University of Missouri then had the sole responsibility of accrediting all junior colleges in the State of Missouri and could offer the best counsel to the committee in laying sound plans.

During the course of this conference Dr. Ellis suggested that one way in which the school district could get this project under way would be to establish and maintain all the physical requirements for the residence center and the University would provide and supervise the educational program; students would pay to the University a fee of $15.00 a semester hour ($225 for a full semester load) for all college work taken, this fee to pay the cost of staffing; non-resident students would pay an additional fee of $90.00 per semester to the Normandy School District as their share of cost of operating and maintaining the facilities; Normandy students paid only the University fee. This plan had many features which seemed to answer all the problems and hopes of the Committee of Twenty-eight: 1. immediate accreditation, since all course work would be provided by University- Columbia campus, 2. the lowest possible cost to all students for high quality instruction, 3. the means of providing this educational opportunity to Normandy students at a very minimal cost to the tax payers of the school district, 4. the very definite possibility of getting the plan into operation by September of 1960 - just a few months away.

The Committee of Twenty-eight returned from the Columbia conference highly enthusiastic and determined to make effort to proceed with the establishment of a "Normandy Residence Center" in the facilities of the newly acquired country club property. The project was not entirely without its problems - the University would require a minimum initial enrollment of 100 students to make the school financially possible, the old club house would have to be remodeled to accommodate the new usage as a school building, and many other details of importance had to be worked out. The first and immediate challenge was to ascertain the
possibility of securing 100 students. A questionnaire was sent to all junior and senior students in the Normandy High School to determine their interest, this netted about 75 potential students for the fall term. Monsignor Hoflich, Superintendent of the Diocesan High Schools, expressed an interest in this project when it was presented to him by Mr. Barnes and Mr. Potter. Through his interest and assistance a meeting was arranged in the office of Monsignor Sprenke with all the Parish Priests of the Normandy School District, at which time arrangements were made to send the questionnaire to all junior and senior students attending parochial high schools whose homes were in the Normandy School District. The results of this questionnaire indicated that there was a very distinct possibility of obtaining more than the required 100 students.

In May of 1960 it was announced that a registration period would be held for students interested in attending the proposed Normandy Residence Center. At the close of the first day of the registration some 140 prospective students had enrolled and paid an initial "good faith" fee of $50.00. By the close of the second and third day of the registration period the enrollment soared to 180 students and further enrollments were turned away -- instead of having too few students the problem was with having too many, and it is estimated that more than 100 students applied that summer and could not be accepted.

The next major project was the rehabilitation of the old clubhouse to accommodate a new and very different clientele. Architects remodeled it, creating 15 classrooms, two laboratories, a large lecture room, a library and a cafeteria. Funds for the remodeling were entirely from non-tax money, coming from interest accumulated on building bonds from years past. September of 1960 saw the opening of the new Normandy Residence Center under the auspices of the University of Missouri.

In the second year of operations, the enrollments were closed after numbering over 300 students. More experience and a strong desire to try to accommodate the very largest number possible pushed the enrollment to 550 students in September 1962.

Studies made of the future needs for higher education in the State of Missouri by the University of Missouri indicated that even with the two large, long established universities in the St. Louis area, the potential demand for college education in the metropolitan area would exceed the number of students than on the Columbia campus. Recognizing this tremendous potential demand the officials of the University of Missouri, in the fall of 1961, began discussing the possibility of acquiring the site of the Normandy Residence Center, with its burgeoning enrollment, with the Normandy School officials. The University officials expressed the feeling that the 128 acre site appeared adequate for the future development of a full four year branch of the University of Missouri and pointed out that if given this site it would set out to develop a full branch of the University of Missouri which would not only provide the two years of college which the Normandy community had aspired to provide but would develop the full four-year university curriculum with the strong possibility that graduate work in education and business administration could soon follow the establishment of the four-year basic institution. The Normandy Board of Education recognized in this not only a vastly greater educational opportunity for its students than had ever been dreamed of, (and, this with no further outlay for future buildings and operational costs which would have had to have been borne by local property taxes) but also a tremendous stabilizing and economic factor for the whole community. Property values, in a community that was growing
old, would tend to be maintained at a high level for many, many years to come; thousands of dollars that would otherwise have gone to the Columbia and Rolla areas would be retained here through local merchants; hundreds of service jobs would become available as the University grows in size, bringing added payrolls to the community. These and many other factors caused the Normandy Board of Education to consider very seriously the suggestion of the University. After thorough deliberation and consultation the Board decided that if for no other consideration than the vastly greater educational advantages that would accrue to our college bound children, it could not afford to do anything but move toward the greater goal of a four-year university.

Legal problems in transferring the property to the University arose; the statutes provided that the school district could not make an outright gift of the property and if it were to be sold it seemed apparent that it would be necessary to advertise and sell to the highest bidder, with the one slight hope that one provision of the law might provide a negotiated sale between two agencies of the state government. To test this in the state Supreme Court a test case was instituted and the Supreme Court ruled 4 to 3 that the school district could not dispose of the property this way.

The only course left open was to have a special act of the Missouri Legislature passed to enable the transaction to be carried out. In January of 1963 when the 72nd General Assembly convened a bill was introduced by Representative Wayne Goode which would permit the Normandy School District to convey title to the property to the University of Missouri. The bill passed both the House of Representatives and the Senate with only one dissenting vote which was cast in the House. The bill was subsequently signed into law by Governor John Dalton, and became effective October 13, 1963.

Since the law provided that the school district could not make a gift of the property, the two parties had to arrive at a token price that would in the eyes of the law be a "reasonable consideration". The University, whenever it had moved any of its services or activities into a new community, was always given the necessary property by the community or an agency in the community; this is true of the branches at Rolla and Kansas City. By virtue of this precedent a substantial payment for the Normandy property could not be made. The University could not use any funds that had been appropriated by the General Assembly for this purpose. There was available in un-allocated funds of the University $60,000 and it was agreed that this sum would constitute reasonable consideration.

The University took title to the property in the fall of 1963 and with an appropriation that had been made by the 72nd General Assembly, construction began on a $3,500,000 building, the first of many to house an expected enrollment of 25,000 by 1985.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS


This large series consists of letters to and from various individuals involved in the establishment of U.M.-St. Louis -Normandy Residence Center at the Bellerive Country Club. The material is processed chronologically from earliest to most recent.

This series includes general documents such as brochures, flyers, course listings, and other materials regarding the Normandy Residence Center. The material is processed chronologically from earliest to most recent.


This large series documents the various bond issues, policies, and committees which were involved in the establishment of the Normandy School District - U.M.S.L. The material is processed chronologically from earliest to most recent.


This small series documents several surveys which were conducted in an effort to support the need for higher education in the Normandy area. The material is processed chronologically from earliest to most recent.


This series documents the press releases regarding the sale of Bellerive Country Club to the University of Missouri. The material is processed chronologically from earliest to most recent.


This series consists of newspapers, clippings, and photocopies of articles. The material is processed alphabetically and chronologically from earliest to most recent.


This series consists of photocopies, fragments, and complete publications regarding the Normandy School District and U.M.S.L. The material is processed chronologically from earliest to most recent.


This collection is processed chronologically from earliest to most recent.


The photographs in this large series have been washed, repaired and entered into a database. The material is processed chronologically from earliest to most recent.

FOLDER LIST

BOX 1


2. Invitation to Former Board Members to attend meeting at Bellerive Country Club, July 28, 1958.

3. Invitations to Presidents to attend meeting at Bellerive Country Club, July 30, 1958.


5. Mr. Small's letter thanking committee members for accepting appointment on Committee for Higher Education...Bellerive Country Club, July - Oct., 1959.


8. Members Committee to study the need for higher education facilities in Normandy, Nov. 13, 1959.


13. Meeting Notice - Committee to Study Needs of Higher Education... 2/23/60.

14. Letters to Parents from Ward E. Barnes, 3-28-60.

15. Letter to Board of Education from Monaco, 4-14-60.

16. Meeting Notice of the St. Louis County Conference Committee on Higher Education, 5-7-60.

17. Correspondence from Jacob M. Lashly, May 13, 1960.

18. Letter to Superintendents of Schools in St. Louis and St. Louis County RE: Admissions, 5/16/60.

19. Letter to Committee on Higher Education Meeting, 5-21-60.


22. Letter to Committee of 28 from Barnes, 1-6-61.

23. Letter to Committee of 28 from Monaco, 1-17-61.

24. Letter from Ellis to Barnes, 5-17-61.


29. Letter to Ministers, Realtors, etc.,...10/24/61.

30. Letters to Barnes regarding teaching positions, 10/26/61.


32. Letters to Mrs. True Davis and Others RE: M.U. Junior College District, 11-29-61.

33. Photocopies of correspondence and petitions regarding need for a junior college district. Nov. 1961.


**BOX 2**


39. Committee of 28, Mr. Monaco's Letter to Board Members, 6-1-62.


41. Letter "Committee of 28" from Monaco, 11-1-62.


44. Letter from Dr. Nicholas RE: University and Resolution - University of Missouri, July, 1963.


46. From Mr. Barnes' File: Letters from Dr. Ellis, Governor Dalton, June-July, 1963.

47. Documents regarding Lease and Agreement Between Normandy School District and University of Missouri, August 1-5, 1963.


53. Correspondence to Mr. Barnes RE: Publicity of Normandy Schools Development, n.d.

SERIES 2. NORMANDY RESIDENCE CENTER - NEW UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI, FOLDERS 54-69. BOX 2.

54. "What is a Junior College?" File II, 11-24-59.


56. Open House Sunday Oct. 2, 1960. 1:00-7:00 p.m. (2200 attended)

57. Adult Education Flyer - Normandy Senior High School, Fall, 1960.

58. List of Courses Offered Fall, 1960.


60. U.M. Normandy Residence Center General Information, 2nd Semester, Jan., 1962.


71. Committee of 14, 6-3-58.


BOX 3

77. Minutes of Committee for Study of Educational Needs, etc.,

78. Committee to study the Use of Bellerive for Educational Purposes - Documents, 1959.


82. Note of Committee of 28 from Barnes, 1-6-60.
83. N.S.D. - Normandy High School Parent - Teacher Association Meeting Notes, 2-4-60.


85. Minutes of the Committee to Study the Needs of Education Beyond the High School in Normandy, 4-28-1960.

86. Report from Committee to study the Need for Higher Educational Facilities in Normandy and Resolution, 5-3-60.


88. Report to Committee of 28 from Monaco, 6-17-60.

89. Report to the Committee of Higher Education of the Normandy School District, 9-14-60.


91. Resolution regarding offer by Board of Curators, 1961.

92. Minutes of Adjourned Meeting of Board of Education Accepting offer from Missouri University, Nov. 4, 1961.

93. Application of Petition for Alternative Writ of Mandamus presented to the Supreme Court, Judge Hyde, 11-7-61.

94. Suit by Mrs. Davidson RE: Prohibit Board from Sell of Bellerive Property, 12-5-61.


97. Brief of Amicus Curiae Mrs. Davidson, and Normandy Residence Center, Jan., 1962

98. U.S. Supreme Court of Missouri Relator's Statement, Brief and Argument, No. 49,117, Jan. 1962.


100. Meeting Mayor or Representative of Villages of Normandy RE: Residence Center, 1-29-63.

101. U.M.-Normandy Residence Center House Bill 672-P. Wayne Goode, State Representative 5th District St. Louis County,, 4-10-63.

102. Motion for Rehearing Lashly, 4-24-62.

103. Resolution of Normandy School District of St. Louis Missouri, 6-10-63.

105. Copies of: Resolution to lease R.C. to Univ. of Missouri; Agreement of Property Maintenance; Lease of Property; and Agreement. From Mr. Barnes' File, June-July, 1963.


114. Projection of College Age (18-21) yrs. Students Based on School Enumeration St. Louis County, c. 1958.

115. Results of Higher Education Committee Survey, 3-25-60.


117. Suggested Improvements on Residence Center, April, 1961.


118. Copy of Mr. Hanson's News Release Regarding Sale of Property UM & Residence Center, 11-6-61.


120. Newspaper Publicity, $625,000 Bond Issue Purchase Bellerive Country Club Special Election, Tuesday, Sept. 30, 1958, Vol. I.

BOX 4

121. Newspaper Publicity, $625,000 Bond Issue Purchase Bellerive Country Club Special
Election, Tuesday, Sept. 30, 1958, Vol. II.


128. Photocopied article from Normandy Courier, RE: Junior College at Bellerive, April 14, 1960.


BOX 5


170. UMSL The Young Years, 1967.


BOX 6


176. Identified Photographs, n.d. 533.78-533.93.


INDEX

Alexander, Kathy P.533.23.
Andrae, Henry P. 533.40-533.41, 533.43.
Barnes, Ward E. f. 14, 24, 30, 104, 106; P. 533.3, 533.7, 533.12, 533.40, 533.41, 533.48-533.50, 533.57, 533.70-533.72.
Barnett, Audry P. 533.5, 533.7
Batcheldeo, Lois P.533.24.
Bellerive Country Club f. 1-77
Bennet, Elaine P.533.31, 533.75
Better Homes and Gardens f. 160.
Bezoni, R.H. f. 43
Bildner, Barbara P.533.47.
Bleckschmidt, H.C. P.533.8-533.9, 533.67.
Bower, Connie P.533.66.
Bruce, Cheryl P.533.47.
Bux, Janet P.533.47.
Camp Viking P.533.18-533.19.
Carr, Linda P. 533.68.
Caruthers, J.A. P. 533.40, 533.41, 533.423.
Committee on Higher Education Needs of Metropolitan St. Louis f. 5-8, 12, 16, 19.

Committee on Higher Education of the Normandy School Distrist f. 84, 89.

Committee for Study of Educational Need in Normandy f. 10, 13.
Committee for Study of Educational Needs Beyond the High School f. 76-77, 81, 85.

Committee to Study the Need for Higher Eucation Facilities in Normandy f. 86.

Committee to Study the Use of Bellerive for Educational Purposes f. 78.

Cumminskey, James R. P.533.10.
Current f. 126.
Daggs, J.A. P. 533.40-533.41, 533.43.
Dalton, John, Gov. f. 46; P.553.11, 533.52.
Davis, True f. 32.
Dedication p.533.51-533.56.
Diehl, Roland P.533.49.
Eagan, Pat P.533.25.
Ellis, Elmer f. 24, 46; P. 533.12, 533.40, 533.41, 533.43, 533.51, 533,52, 533.73.

Entzerath, Carol P.533.23.
Ernst, Carolyn P.533.47.
Finch, James A. P. 533.41.
Ford, Edward F. Jr. P.533.49.
Gregor, Sandra P.533.31, 533.75.
Hamlin, William P.533.39.
Harris, Thomas B. P. 533.7.
Henry, Carole P.533.25.
Hill, Homer A. P.533.49.
Ibera, Deanne P.533.33.
Joseph, Roger P.533.28.
Kral, Carole P.533.47.
Landis, Sharron P.533.33.
Langhorst, Bob P.533.33.
Lashly, Jacob M. f. 17, 102, 112.
Lettermen, John P. 533.69.
Lock, Sandy P.533.47.
Long, Myrtle P.533.27.
Mallinckrodt Magazine f. 161.
McDaniel P.533.24.
McDonald, David P.533.24.
McKain P.533.3, 533.67.
McLane, Charles W. P.533.5.
Meinhardt, Robert P.533.25, 533.38.
Missouri Alumnus f. 162.
Monaco, Edward f. 15, 23, 86; P.533.3, 533.11-533.15, 533.48, 533.51, 533.52, 533.56.

Neurt, Shirley P.533.28.
Nicholas, f. 44, 48.
Normandy Courier f. 127-128.
Normandy Senior High School f. 57.
Normandy Schools f. 129.
North County Journal f. 130.
Nubb, Marilyn P.533.66.
Nuestare, Marty P.533.66.
Palmquist, Edward P.533.44.
Peck, A. G. f. 4.
Peterson, f. 27.
Phillip, Fred P.533.28.
Potter, C.E. P. 533.7, 533.12, 533.24-533.25, 533.46, 533.48, 533.53.

Rad, Jalalodin Fathi P.533.38.
Regan, Pat P.533.38.
Rice, Brenda P.533.33.
Robertson, Charles P.533.74.
Robinson, Al P.533.20.
Rosenthal, Bob P.533.31, 533.75.
Rulon, Mrs. William E. P. 533.5.
Rulon, William E. f. 50.
St. Louis Commerce f. 163.
St. Louis Globe Democrat f. 131-133.
St. Louis Post-Dispatch f. 135-136.
St. Louis Review f. 137.
Schafer, Sharon P. 533.74.
Schmidt, P.533.3.
Shepherd, Art P.533.19.
Small, Fred R. f. 5; P.533.3, 533.48, 533.53.
Snider, Amos S. P. 533.7.
Stewards, Linda P.533.24.
The Suburban Educator f. 164-165.
Tiger Bug f. 138.
Tiger Cub f. 139-159.
Torres, John P.533.29.
Ulfeld, Joanne P.533.66, 533.68.
University of Missouri f. 1-77.
University of Missouri f. 166.
Uranium Division News f. 167.
UMSL The Young Years f. 170.
Wegman, Walter B. P.533.51.
Weland, Judy P.533.45.
Wheeler, f. 25.
Woo, Shien-Bian P.533.23.
Yates, Ballard A. P.533.3, 533.49.
Zak, Henry P.533.33.
Zumalt, George P.533.27.