INTRODUCTION

The papers of Clara Louise Myers consist mainly of professional material, including course materials for classes she taught at the University of Missouri’s School of Social Work. The collection also documents her participation in a variety of professional and community organizations, as well as aspects of her personal life, including her graduate education in social work.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Clara Louise Myers on August 27, 1981 (Accession No. 4356). Additions to the collection were made on September 19, 1986 (Accession No. 4740), November 3, 1986 (Accession No. 4748), and September 27, 1988 (Accession No. 4748).

RESTRICTIONS

Consult the reference staff about the restriction on this collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Clara Louise Hanser was born January 22, 1911 to Otto C. Hanser and Clara L. Faudi. In 1932, she received her B.S. in Education from the University of Missouri. She attended Washington University in St. Louis, where she received a Master’s degree in Education in 1933. At this time, she began working as a caseworker for the Children’s Aid Society in St. Louis County. She married William Bryan Myers on September 30, 1936 and together they had a son, William Bryan Myers II, born in 1944. Her husband died in 1946.

From 1938 to 1943, Clara Louise Myers was a supervisor and administrator for Child Welfare Services in St. Louis County. After taking time off to have her son, she returned to work at Child Welfare Services in 1946, this time working for the city of St. Louis and remaining there until 1950. Myers also worked as a field instructor for Washington University and St. Louis University from 1937 to 1950. Throughout this period she continued her education and received a second Master’s in Social Work from Washington University in 1948.

After the death of her son in 1950, Myers moved to Columbia and began teaching at the University of Missouri’s School of Social Work as an assistant professor and Director of Field Instruction. She eventually became a full professor and served as Associate Director of the department from 1970 to 1974. In 1966, Myers completed her Doctor of Social Work at Washington University. In 1972, Myers took a year-long sabbatical in Africa and South America. During this time, she visited and lectured at a variety of social work schools and agencies.
Myers was actively involved in a variety of local, state, and national social work organizations and programs, including the Missouri Association for Social Welfare, the National Association of Social Workers, and the White House Conference on Children and Youth. She was also highly active within the University of Missouri community, participating on a variety of committees, as well as the Graduate Faculty Senate and the Graduate Council. Other community organizations in which she participated included the Altrusa Club and An Ecumenical Ministry in Higher Education.

Myers retired from the University of Missouri in 1981, at which time she donated $10,000 to the School of Social Work to establish the William Bryan Myers II Memorial Scholarship in memory of her son. In 1990, the School of Social Work created the Clara Louise Myers Lectureship Series in her honor. She died on November 24, 1991.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Clara Louise Myers Papers consist mainly of professional materials relating to her work at the University of Missouri’s School of Social Work and her participation in a variety of professional and social work organizations. The collection also includes a small amount of personal material. The papers have been arranged into the following eight series with three subseries:

- University of Missouri, School of Social Work
  - Public Welfare Training Center
- Course Materials
- Field Instruction
- Professional
- University of Missouri
- Social Work Agencies and Organizations
- Resources and Subject Files
- Personal
- Student and Personnel Files
- Audio

The University of Missouri, School of Social Work series contains materials relating to Myers’ work as a social work educator at the University of Missouri, including her involvement on curriculum committees and with the school’s accreditation. The Public Welfare Training Center (PWTC) subseries contains material relating to an extension service offered by the School of Social Work for the professional development of social workers. The PWTC changed its name to Public Welfare Staff Development Center before becoming the Family Services Staff Development Center.

The Course Materials series contains lecture notes, syllabi, course handouts and other material from classes taught by Myers at the MU School of Social Work. A handful of the classes appear to have been taught by other faculty members. Social Casework Seminar was briefly re-titled Seminar in Social Work Practice in 1973, before becoming Professional Practice Seminar. The Field Instruction subseries consists of course and administrative material relating to the School of Social Work’s field instruction class, and includes manuals, committee materials, and correspondence.
Instruction also went by the following titles: Field Work, Field Practice, and Professional Leadership Practice.

The Professional series contains material relating to Myers’ involvement in professional organizations such as the National Association of Social Workers and the Council on Social Work Education, as well as correspondence, notebooks, and notes for numerous speeches and presentations that Myers gave. Included in this section is a draft report Myers wrote on “Female Offenders in Missouri” and a copy of the paper, “How Social Work Education May More Effectively Serve Nonurban America,” written by Myers and Arthur J. Robins. The University of Missouri subseries contains material relating to Myers’ involvement on a variety of university-wide committees, as well as the Graduate Faculty Senate and the Graduate Council. This subseries also contains material concerning the School of Social and Community Services, which later became the College of Public and Community Services.

The Social Work Agencies and Organizations series consists of material relating to local and state organizations in which Myers was involved, including United Fund and Family Service of Columbia, as well as the Missouri Division of Welfare.

The Resources and Subject Files series contains numerous resources accumulated by Myers concerning social work and social work education, ranging from child welfare and juvenile delinquency to field instruction, behavior modification, and social casework, among many others.

The Personal series contains correspondence, photographs, and materials relating to Myers’ education in social work at Washington University. Also included are materials concerning her involvement in Altrusa Club, the American Association of University Professors, and An Ecumenical Ministry in Higher Education.

The Student and Personnel Files are restricted. This series contains advising and other administrative materials concerning students, as well as material generated by students in Myers’ classes, including their field instruction assignments. Also included in this series are materials relating to university personnel, most of which originated from promotion and tenure committees that Myers participated on for both the School of Social Work and the University of Missouri as a whole.

The Audio series contains reel-to-reel audio tapes which include recordings from functions relating to the Centennial Anniversary of the Admission of Women to the University of Missouri, as well as an interview with a gang member from Columbia, Missouri, and a seminar given by John Ham, a psychiatric social worker from the University of Chicago.
FOLDER LIST

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