J. C. Nichols Collection

This is an artificial collection containing items formerly housed in different areas of Missouri Valley Special Collections. The contents of the collection contain some of Mr. Nichols’ speeches, handwritten papers, newspaper clippings, etc.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Missouri Valley Special Collections
Title: J.C. Nichols collection
Dates: 1912-circa 1960s, bulk 1922-1950
Size: 1 box, 1 folder, 1 microfilm reel
Location: SC48

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Related collections in other repositories: J. C. Nichols Company records (KC0106) and J. C. Nichols Company scrapbooks (KC0054), Western Historical Manuscripts Collection-Kansas City.

Acquisition information: Unknown

Custodial history: Microfilm reel formerly located in the department’s microfilm cabinet, filmed 6/3/1964 for Richard Sealock (library director); three items came from the Vertical Files—Nichols, J. C.

Citation note: J. C. Nichols collection (SC48), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical note

J. C. Nichols was born in 1880 in Olathe, Kansas and died in 1950 in Kansas City, Missouri. He was a major residential land developer in the Kansas City metropolitan area. He is well known for his development of the Country Club Plaza shopping area as well as having personal involvement in the cultural, educational and business concerns of the area.

Scope and content note

The J. C. Nichols Collection is an artificial collection containing materials formerly housed in the department’s vertical files and microfilm collection. It includes one 35 mm microfilm reel which contains principally speeches delivered by Nichols in various venues, usually business related. These items are in published form as well as typescripts, some having handwritten annotations.

The vertical file contents include magazine articles and newspaper clippings as well as a pamphlet. Missouri Valley Special Collections contains other sources of information on Nichols found in books, pamphlets, the Local History Database, newspaper clippings in the newspaper clipping collection, maps of his developments, photographs, a biography, the postcard collection, etc.
Collection Inventory

Vertical File Contents - 1 folder

- Pamphlet - *A Tribute to J. C. Nichols* – circa 1960s

- Newspaper article - "Lake Sacajawea Drive Renamed to Honor J. C. Nichols" - *Longview Daily News*, V.3, #149, Longview, Washington, September 30, 1925, article and photocopy (Also on the microfilm roll).


Microfilm Contents - 1 roll - Filmed June 3, 1964, American Micro.

- The items contained on the microfilm appear to be from Missouri Valley Special Collections as well as typed, handwritten and printed speeches and notes of Nichols which were obtained from somewhere else. The documentation on the microfilming contents was not available at the time of processing.

- The film starts with a printed speech dated 1912 and contains material in chronological order, ending in 1950, the year Nichols died. The majority of speeches include topics related to city planning and real estate development concerns which were delivered to national and area meetings.


- When the filming was done, the departments mounted newspaper clippings, which pertained to a given speech or event, were filmed with that topic and are thus interspersed on the microfilm.

Processed by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman, February 1995.