Guide to the Clarabelle Decker Papers

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Summary Information

Title: Clarabelle Decker Papers
ID: MS-00258
Date [inclusive]: 1926-1980
Physical Description: 0.46 Cubic Feet (1 box and 1 flat file)
Physical Description: 2.09 Linear Feet
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: Clarabelle Decker Papers (1926-1980) reflect her career as a teacher, librarian, and writer who worked in Nevada, Northern Arizona, and Southern California. Materials include Decker's writings and other published works, including books, booklets, posters, and fliers, as well as teaching aids, a grammar guide, and poems by Decker. Teaching materials primarily date from 1926 to 1952, while her library and writing materials date from 1954 to 1980.

Preferred Citation

Biographical Note
Teacher, librarian, and writer Clarabelle Decker was born Clarabelle Douglas in Bellevue, Colorado on November 3, 1908. She and her family later moved to Oatman, Arizona. Eventually Decker would attend Northern Arizona State Teachers College (now Northern Arizona University) where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree. She earned a Master of Arts degree in English and School Supervision from the University of Washington and a degree in library sciences from the University of Southern California.

Decker's educational experience prepared her for a career as a teacher and as a librarian. She taught school in Arizona, Nevada, and California. She also worked as a librarian in Northern Arizona. Decker later became the first Clark County Supervisor of Libraries and assisted in setting up forty libraries in this county.

Decker's other accomplishments include her writing and her involvement in professional organizations. As an author, Clarabelle Decker contributed articles to the Nevada Educational Bulletin and to the Wilson Library Bulletin. Decker's other works include a booklet "Old Oatman, Arizona", published in 1970, and her

Decker was also active in several professional organizations, including the Las Vegas Business and Professional Women's Club and the Las Vegas Education Association. Decker helped organize the Nevada Library Association. The Clarabelle Decker Elementary School is named after her.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Clarabelle Decker Papers (1926-1980) contain materials that reflect her life as a teacher, librarian, and writer. This material includes printed teaching aids such as children's books and coloring posters. It also includes a copy of the Nevada Education Bulletin and Directory collection. The collection contains a book, manuscript, booklets, and (1953) and directories published by the Retired Teachers' Association. The papers include Decker's guide for junior high school libraries, some poems she wrote, and two short biographies of her. Also included are materials from the Clarabelle Decker Elementary School and a 1977 letter from Governor Mike O'Callahan congratulating her for the school being named in her honor.

The majority of the teaching materials in this collection date from 1926-1952. Some of these materials came from the Nelson School, Nevada. Clarabelle Decker's writings date from 1954-1980, including her manual for junior high libraries. The various directories were published by the Retired Teacher's Association from 1979-1980. Miscellaneous fliers on the Clarabelle Decker Elementary School are from 1978. Most of the materials in the collection are published works, including books, booklets, posters, and fliers.

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Arrangement

The papers are arranged by the different careers of Decker and the materials are in chronological order within each career.

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Administrative Information

Access
This collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See Reproductions and Use on the UNLV Special Collections website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note
Materials were donated in 1992 by Donna Andress; accession number 86-09.

Processing Note
Material was processed in 1995 by Donna Crail-Rugotzke. In 2017 Joyce Moore edited and published the ASpace finding aid.

Related Materials

Separated Materials
The books that were acquired as part of this collection have been separated and described individually in the University Libraries' catalog.

Names and Subjects

- Teachers – Nevada -- Biography
- School librarians – Nevada -- Biography
- Women -- Nevada
- Education – Nevada -- History
- School libraries – Nevada --Clark County -- History
- Elementary schools
• Decker, Clarabelle D.
• Andress, Donna
• Nevada Library Association -- History
• Nevada Women's Archives

Collection Inventory

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Containers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Biographies on Decker (2), 1976</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Materials: &quot;Health Heroes&quot;, 1926-1937</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Teaching Materials: Coloring Posters, 1929</td>
<td>box 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Materials: &quot;Dick and Jane&quot; book, 1936</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Materials: First Days in School: Children's Book, 1942</td>
<td>box 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Materials: &quot;Your Teeth&quot; booklet, 1944</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Materials: The Doing Art Books</td>
<td>box 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Materials: Audubon booklet and newsletter, 1950</td>
<td>box 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Materials: music book, undated</td>
<td>box 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Materials: State of Nevada Price List, 1952</td>
<td>box 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education: University of Nevada, Southern Campus Course List, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Handbook and Course of Study for Junior High School, 1966</td>
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<td>Poetry- Newspaper clippings of Decker's poems, 1950s</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;String of Lights&quot;: booklet of Decker's poetry, 1970</td>
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<td>&quot;Old Oatman&quot;- booklet by Decker on her family and an Arizona, 1970</td>
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<td>Letter from Nevada Governor Mike O'Callahan, Dec. 29, 1977</td>
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<td>C. H. Decker Elementary School Information Guides for Parents, 1978</td>
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<td>Common Sense Grammar, typed manuscript and published book, 1980.</td>
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<td>Old Oatman printing plates, 1970</td>
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