Baylor University. Baylor Collections of Political Materials
Edmund L. Nichols papers. circa 1913-2010

Summary Information
Creator
Nichols, Edmund L.
Extent (quantity/size)
14 document boxes and 7 oversized boxes
Language
The collection is primarily in English. Danish; English; French; Italian; Spanish
Media
35 mm negative film (color); Photographic print
Abstract
The Edmund L. Nichols papers encompass the government career of Ed Nichols, including his service with the Texas Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and diplomatic service abroad as a U.S. agricultural counselor in several European countries. The collection also includes personal papers and correspondence.

Administrative Information
Restrictions on Access and Use
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Preferred Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is:
Edmund L. Nichols papers, Accession #64, Box #, Folder #, Baylor Collections of Political Materials, W. R. Poage Legislative Library, Baylor University.

Processing Information
Described by Amanda Fisher and released on 2017-09-05.

Scope and Content
The Edmund L. Nichols papers range from 1931-2009, and cover a significant span of Nichols’ public and personal life. This content includes Nichols’ education and reunion mementos from high school and college, public and personal correspondence and photographs, and public service materials related to the Department of Agriculture in Texas, Washington, D.C., and U.S.D.A. Foreign Agricultural Service in Italy, Denmark, Norway, Spain, and Belgium. The papers contain many foreign mementos, including items and photos from trips taken to China, Japan, and Europe during public service in Austin and Washington, D.C., and from diplomatic service in Europe.

The papers are arranged topically and loosely chronologically using the principle of original order in which they arrived. There are four series: I. Texas Department of Agriculture, II. U.S. Department of Agriculture, III. Diplomatic Service, IV. Personal.

Series III, Diplomatic Service, is the largest in the collection and covers Nichols’s roles as U.S. Agricultural Counselor in various European countries. It has five subseries: I. General, II. Rome, Italy, III. Copenhagen, Denmark, IV. Madrid, Spain, and V. Brussels, Belgium. Series IV, Personal, has two subseries: I. General and II. Correspondence.

Administrative/Biographical History
Edmund L. Nichols was born in Throckmorton, Texas, December 18, 1931. He attended Throckmorton High School, graduating in 1949, and then furthered his education in music at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, 1953. He is recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus at both schools.

Nichols then attended the University of Texas at Austin, earning a master’s degree in music education, 1957. He married Sandra K. Heiligman in 1964, and they have three children: Dr. Jill E. Nichols, James E. Nichols, and Kelly R. Nichols Jones. They have six grandchildren and live in Austin.

During his undergraduate years at Hardin-Simmons, Nichols gained parallel experience in journalism, working full-time at the Abilene Reporter-News. After a brief period of teaching choral music in Pampa, Texas, he was employed by United Press news wire service, first in Dallas and then, in early 1955, to help cover the Texas legislative session and the inauguration of Governor Allan Shivers in Austin. As that session ended, Nichols was invited to join the staff of Texas Agriculture Commissioner John C. White as a technical writer.

After a brief hiatus from 1959 to 1961, when Nichols lived and worked in Hawaii, he rejoined the staff of Commissioner White, working from 1961 to 1965 as Administrative Assistant, then as Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture for Texas, 1965-1977. In 1977, White moved to Washington, D.C. and Nichols followed suit as the newly appointed Assistant Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. His D.C. career also included
serving as the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Information and Legislative Officer, 1978-1979. He also represented Agriculture on President Carter’s Export Policy Task Force and was named by President Carter to be a charter member of the U.S. Senior Executive Service.

The next chapter in Nichols’ agriculture career involved his appointment by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to several overseas posts. Nichols moved to Rome, Italy in 1979 as the U.S. Agricultural Counselor to Italy and was commissioned by President Reagan to the rank of Minister-Counselor in the U.S. Senior Foreign Service. The President of Italy decorated Nichols as Commendatore of the Italian Republic for his role in advancing U.S.-Italian trade relations. In 1982, Nichols transferred to Copenhagen to serve as U.S. Agricultural Counselor to Denmark and Norway, and again in 1985 to Madrid, Spain. From 1989-1992, he served as Agricultural Minister-Counselor to the U.S. Mission to the European Communities in Brussels, Belgium. His last assignment in Europe before retiring involved one more year as U.S. Agricultural Counselor in Madrid, 1992-1993. During the course of his service in Europe, Nichols served as chairman of the NATO Food and Agriculture Planning Committee, formed to plan security for Europe and America in the event of war.

Related Citations
Edmund L. Nichols papers, Accession #64, Baylor Collections of Political Materials, W. R. Poage Legislative Library, Baylor University.

Archival Arrangement
The Edmund L. Nichols papers are arranged in four series: I. Texas Department of Agriculture, II. U.S. Department of Agriculture, III. Diplomatic Service, IV. Personal. The last two series have subseries. The collection has been arranged primarily by its original order.

Series 1: Texas Department of Agriculture. 1955-1978, undated

Administrative/Biographical History
This series contains materials relating to Nichols’ roles in the Texas Department of Agriculture in Austin as Administrative Assistant, 1961-1965, and Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture for Texas, 1965-1977. As Assistant Commissioner to John C. White, he played a key role in promoting Texas food products, including the launch of the Texas Agricultural Products (TAP) export marketing program which hosted “Taste of Texas” events in other states. He also traveled widely, marketing Texas produce and meat products in Japan and Europe. Of notable interest in this series are biographies, speeches, photographs, office stationery, event nametags, and items related to a People-to-People tour and the Japan-Texas Association Conference. This series is in good condition.

Inventory
Box 1. Folder 1. Biographical, Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture for Texas, 1974
Box 1. Folder 2. Biographical, Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture for Texas, 1955-1976
Box 1. Folder 3. Speeches and Press Releases, circa 1975
Box 1. Folder 5. Photographs of Ed Nichols, circa 1963-1975
Box 1. Folder 6. Credential Cards, 1957
Box 1. Folder 7. Stationery, undated
Box 1. Folder 8. Event Nametags, Badges, Ribbons, 1974-1976, undated
Box 1. Folder 10. Texas State Agricultural Leaders People-to-People Travel to Europe and the Soviet Union, 1967 July 26-August 27
Box 1. Folder 11. Texas State Agricultural Leaders People-to-People Travel to Europe and the Soviet Union Photographs, 1967 July 26-August 27
Box 1. Folder 12. Japan-Texas Association Conference, 1972 September 13
Box 1. Folder 17. Southern Commissioners of Agriculture, 1974-1977
Box 2. Folder 1. Texas State Agency Business Administrators Association President, undated
Box 2. Folder 2. Certificates, 1971-1976
Box 18 OVZ. Folder 1. Texas Department of Agriculture yellow ballpoint pen, undated
Box 18 OVZ. Folder 2. Ed Nichols Business Card Holder, black leather, undated


Administrative/Biographical History
This series holds items related to Nichols’ roles in the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. as Assistant to the Deputy Secretary, 1977-1978, and U.S.D.A. Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Information and Legislative Officer, 1978-1979. As Assistant to the Deputy Secretary, he again worked for John C. White and traveled widely, including to China in 1978 to assist in normalization of trade relations. Notably, Nichols worked with Congressman W. R. Poage to pass the U.S. Agricultural Trade Act of 1978, which improved diplomatic relations for the U.S.D.A. internationally.
Within this series are biographies, correspondence, administrative materials, photographs, event nametags, speeches, memos, and items related to Nichols’s trip to China. This series is in good condition.

**Inventory**

Box 2. Folder 3. John C. White, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Promotion, 1977
Box 2. Folder 5. Business Cards and Office Nameplates, circa 1977-1979
Box 2. Folder 6. Résumés, 1978
Box 2. Folder 7. Nichols and White Memos, 1977 June-October
Box 2. Folder 8. Photographs in Office of the Secretary of Agriculture, 1977
Box 2. Folder 12. Certificates, Foreign Service Institute, Department of State, 1979 June
Box 2. Folder 14. Positive Incoming Correspondence, 1977-1978
Box 2. Folder 15. Speaking Engagements and Speeches, 1977-1978
Box 2. Folder 17. Western U.S. Agriculture Trip with Vice President Walter Mondale, 1987 January
Box 2. Folder 18. Senior Executive Service Management System, 1979
Box 2. Folder 19. Visit to People’s Republic of China (1 of 4), 1978-1979
Box 2. Folder 20. Visit to People’s Republic of China (2 of 4), 1978-1979
Box 3. Folder 1. Visit to People’s Republic of China (3 of 4), 1978-1979
Box 3. Folder 2. Visit to People’s Republic of China (4 of 4), 1978-1979
Box 3. Folder 4. Assistant to the Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), 1978
Box 3. Folder 5. Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Memos, 1978 May-November
Box 16 OVZ. Folder 1. U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3-D official seal, undated
Box 18 OVZ. Folder 3. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture clear digital thermometer and silver pen in brown box, undated
Box 18 OVZ. Folder 4. National Potato Council silver foldable pocket-knife and nail file, 1977 December
Box 18 OVZ. Folder 5. U.S. Department of Agriculture Seal gold-plated medallion, Compliments of the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng, undated
Box 18 OVZ. Folder 6. U.S. Department of Agriculture Seal pin in white box, undated
Box 18 OVZ. Folder 7. Compliments of U.S. Secretary of Agriculture black and silver ballpoint pen, undated

**Series 3: Diplomatic Service. 1967-2010, undated**

**Administrative/Biographical History**

This series encompasses Nichols’s diplomatic service with the U.S. Foreign Agricultural Service as U.S. Agricultural Counselor. He served in this capacity in four locations: Rome, Italy; Copenhagen, Denmark and Oslo, Norway; Madrid, Spain; and Brussels, Belgium.

**Subseries 1. General. 1967-2008, undated**

**Administrative/Biographical History**


**Inventory**

Box 3. Folder 13. Food Purchase Orders and Planning, 1988, undated
Box 3. Folder 17. Diplomatic Identity Cards, 1979-1997
Box 3. Folder 18. Diplomatic Passports and Identification, 1979-2008
Subseries 2. Rome, Italy. 1978-1988, undated

Administrative/Biographical History
Subseries II. Rome, Italy, spans 1979-1982, and covers Nichols’ first foreign diplomatic service abroad as U.S. Agricultural Counselor to Italy. He was decorated by the President of Italy in 1982, as Commendatore (a high Italian honorific title) for advancing U.S. – Italian trade relations. Nichols successfully deliberated with the Italian Minister of Agriculture about not raising tariffs on U.S. exports. Of interest in this subseries are invitations and guest lists for parties and events, travel mementos, public correspondence and official business documents, and personal correspondence and photographs. Subseries II contains some Italian language material.

Inventory
Box 4. Folder 7. Appointment to Counselor for Agricultural Affairs, 1981 October
Box 4. Folder 8. Invitations and Guest Lists, 1979-1983
Box 4. Folder 10. Palazzo Della Valle Booklet, undated
Box 4. Folder 15. U.S. Agricultural Counselor Correspondence and Work (1 of 2), 1979-1982
Box 5. Folder 2. Personal Correspondence and Photographs, 1979-1981
Box 5. Folder 3. Personal Correspondence, 1981-1983
Box 5. Folder 4. Photographs, circa 1979-1982
Box 5. Folder 5. Correspondence and Mementos, 1979-1981
Box 5. Folder 6. Auto Papers, 1982-1985
Box 5. Folder 7. Personal Correspondence and Photographs, 1982-1984
Box 5. Folder 8. BP Language Book, undated
Box 5. Folder 9. Personal Correspondence, 1982-1984
Box 5. Folder 10. Personal Correspondence, 1985
Box 5. Folder 11. Vice President George H. W. Bush Visits Denmark, 1983

Subseries 3. Copenhagen, Denmark. 1982-1986, undated

Administrative/Biographical History
Subseries III. Copenhagen, Denmark, spans Nichols’ role as U.S. Agricultural Counselor to Denmark and Norway from 1982-1985. Of notable interest in this subseries are invitations and guest lists for parties and events, travel mementos, public correspondence and official business documents, and personal correspondence and photographs. Furthermore, two interesting folders cover Vice President George H. W. Bush’s visit to Denmark, and a visit to Lapland in northern Norway. Subseries III contains some Danish language material.

Inventory
Box 5. Folder 6. Auto Papers, 1982-1985
Box 5. Folder 7. Personal Correspondence and Photographs, 1982-1984
Box 5. Folder 8. BP Language Book, undated
Box 5. Folder 9. Personal Correspondence, 1982-1984
Box 5. Folder 10. Personal Correspondence, 1985
Box 5. Folder 11. Vice President George H. W. Bush Visits Denmark, 1983

**Administrative/Biographical History**

Subseries IV. Madrid, Spain, covers both of Nichols’ appointments as U.S. Agricultural Counselor to Spain, 1985-1989 and 1992-1993. Both appointments are arranged together in this subseries and can be distinguished by the folder and document dates. Materials in this subseries include biographies, invitations and guest lists for parties and events, travel mementos, public correspondence and official business documents, activities reports, and personal correspondence and photographs. Subseries IV contains some Spanish language material.

**Inventory**

Box 7. Folder 5. Biographical, 1985
Box 7. Folder 8. Pet Vaccination Information, 1993
Box 7. Folder 12. News Clippings, 1986
Box 7. Folder 13. Position Papers, 1984-1986
Box 8. Folder 2. Personal Correspondence and Mementos, 1982-1992
Box 8. Folder 3. Invitations and Guest Lists, 1985-1989
Box 8. Folder 4. Rioja Weekend Trip, 1993-2010
Box 8. Folder 5. U.S. Agricultural Counselor Correspondence, 1986-1989
Box 8. Folder 7. Calle Velazquez Newspapers, 1993 March-June
Box 18 OVZ. Folder 12. Juan Carlos I y Sofia Reyes de Espana silver medallion keychain, undated
Box 18 OVZ. Folder 13. Congreso de los Diputados, Madrid, bronze medallion in leather pouch, 1985
Box 19 OVZ. Folder 1. Meritorious Honor Award, Department of State, Sandra Nichols, framed, 1989 October
Box 20 OVZ. Folder 7. Canary Islands Agricultural Appreciation wooden and silver plaque, 1989 September 12


**Administrative/Biographical History**

Subseries V. Brussels, Belgium, spans Nichols’ second-to-last overseas role from 1989-1992, as U.S. Agricultural Minister-Counselor, U.S. Mission to the European Communities. This subseries contains speeches, invitations and
guest lists for parties and events, public correspondence and official business documents, travel mementos, and personal correspondence and photographs. Subseries V. contains some French language material.

Inventory

Box 8. Folder 12. Resumé, circa 1989
Box 9. Folder 1. Personal Correspondence and Mementos, 1990-1993
Box 9. Folder 2. Appointment to Agricultural Minister-Counselor to the European Community, 1989

Series 4: Personal. circa 1913-2009, undated

Administrative/Biographical History

This series contains material relating to the life and family of Ed Nichols. It is arranged in two subseries: General and Correspondence. Subseries I. General, holds personal items that are not correspondence, namely photographs, materials relating to life events, high school and college education, reunions, family history, music and drama, speeches and essays, and other memorabilia. Subseries II. Correspondence, contains letters to and from the Nichols family, relatives, and friends. The majority of this correspondence is from Nichols’ diplomatic service abroad and may contain duplicated material from Series III.

Subseries 1. General. circa 1913-2009, undated

Inventory

Box 10. Folder 1. Texas State Democratic Convention, 1974 September 17
Box 10. Folder 3. Hardin-Simmons University, Bachelor of Music, 1953
Box 10. Folder 4. Hardin-Simmons University Photographs, circa 1953-2004
Box 10. Folder 5. Agricultural Policy and Economics Speeches, undated
Box 10. Folder 7. Selective Service Identification Cards and Austin Federation of Musicians Card, 1949-1967
Box 10. Folder 8. Grade School Certificates, 1943-2004
Box 10. Folder 10. Nichols Family History, undated
Box 10. Folder 11. Nichols’ Writings for the Throckmorton Tribune, 1997-2004
Box 10. Folder 12. Family Photographs, circa 1913-2005
Box 10. Folder 15. Throckmorton High Mementos, 1947-1949
Box 10. Folder 16. Throckmorton High Mementos, 1941-2004
Box 10. Folder 17. Throckmorton High Mementos, 1979-2008
Box 10. Folder 18. Throckmorton High 50th Anniversary Reunion, 1999
Box 10. Folder 19. Throckmorton High 60th Anniversary Reunion, 2009
Box 10. Folder 20. Throckmorton High 60th Anniversary Reunion Show and Tell, 1948-2009
Box 10. Folder 21. Throckmorton High 61st Anniversary Reunion, 2000 June
Box 10. Folder 22. Throckmorton High, Everybody’s Crazy Script, undated
Box 11. Folder 1. Degree Transcripts, 1947-1962
Box 11. Folder 2. Hardin-Simmons University Mementos (1 of 4), 1950-2004, undated
Box 11. Folder 3. Hardin-Simmons University Mementos (2 of 4), 1950-2004, undated
Box 11. Folder 4. Hardin-Simmons University Mementos (3 of 4), 1950-2004, undated
Box 11. Folder 5. Hardin-Simmons University Mementos (4 of 4), 1950-2004, undated
Box 11. Folder 8. Alpha Chi, 1953
Box 12. Folder 5. Throckmorton High, School Textbooks (1 of 3), 1942-1945
Box 12. Folder 6. Throckmorton High, School Textbooks (2 of 3), 1942-1945
Box 12. Folder 7. Throckmorton High, School Textbooks (3 of 3), 1942-1945
Box 13. Folder 5. Throckmorton High, School Textbooks (1 of 3), 1942-1945
Box 13. Folder 6. Throckmorton High, School Textbooks (2 of 3), 1942-1945
Box 13. Folder 7. Throckmorton High, School Textbooks (3 of 3), 1942-1945
Box 13. Folder 8. The Face of Rural America photographs, undated
Box 13. Folder 10. The University of Texas Master of Music Diploma, 1958 May 31
Box 20 OVZ. Folder 1. *The President’s House, Washington*: framed painting signed by Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, circa 1977
Box 20 OVZ. Folder 2. *The Face of Rural America* negatives, undated
Box 20 OVZ. Folder 3. Hardin-Simmons University Distinguished Alumni Award, purple and gold wooden plaque, 2000 October 20
Box 20 OVZ. Folder 4. Throckmorton High School Distinguished Alumnus Award, wooden plaque, 2004 October 23
Box 20 OVZ. Folder 5. Nameplate wooden block, undated
Box 20 OVZ. Folder 6. Toastmasters International, Club Past President Outstanding Service Award, wooden plaque, 1972
Box 20 OVZ. Folder 7. Throckmorton High School Diploma, 1949 May 24
Box 20 OVZ. Folder 10. The University of Texas Master of Music Diploma, 1958 May 31
Box 20 OVZ. Folder 11. Jack Daniel Distillery Souvenir Deed, 1983
Box 20 OVZ. Folder 12. European Union: 20th Century and Beyond Lecture Poster, 1995 February 28
Box 20 OVZ. Folder 13. *The Face of Rural America* photographs, undated
Box 20 OVZ. Folder 14. *The Face of Rural America* negatives, undated
Box 21 OVZ. Folder 1. *TIME* Magazine “Man on the Moon”, 1969 July 25
Box 21 OVZ. Folder 2. *The Texas Observer* “I. Frank Dobie of Texas”, 1964 July 24
Box 21 OVZ. Folder 3. *Throckmorton Tribune* “The Hometown” Part One, 2004 October 15
Box 21 OVZ. Folder 5. *The Austin American* “Kennedy in Peacemaker Role”, 1963 November 22
Box 21 OVZ. Folder 6. *Austin American-Statesman* “Young Suspect is Captured in Kennedy’s Assassination”, 1963 November 23
Box 21 OVZ. Folder 7. *Austin American-Statesman* “A President Resigns”, 1974 August 10
Box 21 OVZ. Folder 8. *Austin American-Statesman* “Nixon Resigns”, 1974 August 9
Box 21 OVZ. Folder 9. *Dallas Morning News* “Kennedy Slain on Dallas Street”, 1963 November 23

Subseries 2. Correspondence. 1961-1993

Inventory

Box 13. Folder 5. Hawaii, 1961
Box 13. Folder 6. Family, undated
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 13. Folder 11.</th>
<th>Texas Governor, undated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 13. Folder 15.</td>
<td>Vice President Walter Mondale, 1976-1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 14. Folder 12.</td>
<td>Friends, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 14. Folder 17.</td>
<td>Overseas, General, 1979-1993</td>
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