

MS-143, Clara E. Weisenborn Papers

Collection Number: MS-143

Title: Clara E. Weisenborn papers

Dates: 1960-1980

Creator: Weisenborn, Clara, 1907-1985

Summary/Abstract: Weisenborn represented Montgomery County in the Ohio State Legislature for over 20 years. Her papers consist primarily of files connected with her legislative career and include working papers, committee reports, bills, correspondence, and newspaper clippings. Weisenborn's most active areas of interest were the environment, health, and education. While detailing her work in the Ohio Legislature, the papers offer very little insight into her personal life.

Quantity/Physical Description: 3.5 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092.

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

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Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-143, Clara E. Weisenborn Papers, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Acquisition: The papers of Clara Weisenborn were accessioned into the Wright State University Department of Archives and Special Collections in August, 1979. They were donated by Clara Weisenborn herself.

Other Finding Aid: The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at

<http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms143.pdf>. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

Processed by: Dawne Dewey, 1989 May

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged into 4 record series as follows:

Series I:	General
Series II:	Legislative Service Commission
Series III:	Education
Series IV:	Health and Medical

Biographical/Historical Note:

Clara E. Weisenborn was born in Dayton, Ohio on February 9, 1907. She was the daughter of William and Edna Nies. She quit school in the eighth grade to help support ten younger children in her family. She married Herbert E. Weisenborn August 8, 1923. She remained at home, raised two sons, served as president of the PTA, was a member of band parents and 4-H. Her husband served as a Wayne Township Trustee, retiring in 1952 to concentrate on his insurance business.

Clara Weisenborn (Republican) was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives in 1952. She was most active in the areas of health, education, and the environment. She served as Chairman of the Health Committee and as a member of the Education Committee until 1966. She was elected to the Ohio Senate in 1966 and served as Chairman of the Education and Health Committee, the first woman to do so. She was a member of the Finance committee and the Agriculture, Conservation, and Environment Committee. She was also an active member of the State and National Legislative Service Commissions. She served as Chairman of the Education Review Committee, which held hearings across the state to gather information concerning education in Ohio.

Mrs. Weisenborn co-sponsored a bill that established Wright State University and was instrumental in the establishment of the Wright State University School of Medicine.

Clara Weisenborn lost her Senate seat to Democrat Neal F. Zimmers in 1974. She was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 1979. Among her other achievements, she was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from Wright State University that same year.

She taught Sunday school for 53 years, sang with the Dayton Mother Singers, and wrote a garden column for the Journal Herald for 42 years.

Clara Weisenborn died of cancer at the age of 77 on January 26, 1985.

Scope and Content

The Clara E. Weisenborn Papers consist of the working files of this long-time Ohio State Senator from Montgomery County. The collection is made up of various committee reports, senate bills she sponsored or co-sponsored, correspondence, and newspaper clippings related to her work in the area of health, education, and the environment. This collection details the interests, projects, and achievements of Mrs. Weisenborn as a legislator, but offers very little insight into her personal life. Her papers do offer insight into the role of a woman legislator during the 1960's and 1970's, the issues at the forefront of Ohio politics, and an in-depth look at her efforts to establish the Wright State University School of Medicine.

Series I, General, contains biographical information, a small amount of personal correspondence, and newspaper clippings concerning women in politics.

Series II, Legislative Service Commission, contains numerous senate bills, meeting minutes, reports, and newspaper clippings detailing her work as a member of this commission and related committees. Environmental issues and the rights of non-smokers are two main issues covered in this series. Also included in this series is a file folder of newspaper clippings describing Edward Orlett's bid for Clara Weisenborn's senate seat.

Series III, Education, consists of reports and minutes from the Education Review Committee and the Citizen's Task Force on Higher Education. Clara Weisenborn served as chairman of the Education Review Committee which traveled around the state holding hearings to gain information and insight into the needs and problems of higher education in Ohio. Hearing reports, related senate bills, and newspaper clippings concerning Ohio education are also included.

Series IV, Health and Medical, contains meeting minutes and reports from the Governor's Task Force on Health Care, senate bills resulting from Clara Weisenborn's work against drugs and for TB testing in the schools. Other issues covered in this series include treatment of venereal disease, Vietnam Veteran's benefits, and handicapped and crippled children's services.

A major portion of this series and the most relevant to Wright State University is material relating to Senator Weisenborn's work for the establishment of Wright State University School of Medicine. These materials include correspondence, editorials, petitions and letters of support, newspaper clippings a WSU promotional brochure for the School of Medicine, and the Senate bill sponsored by Clara Weisenborn to create the School of Medicine.

Subject Terms:

Persons/Families

Weisenborn, Clara, 1907-1985 – Manuscripts

Organizations/Corporations

Wright State University. School of Medicine -- History
Ohio. General Assembly. Senate

Places

Montgomery County (Ohio) – Politics and government

Collection Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
Series I:		General	
1	1	Biographical	1907-1985
1	2	Altrusa Club	1971-1975
1	3	Campaign Materials	1972, 1974
1	4	Personal	1970-1974
1	5	Women in Politics	1969-1974
Series II:		Legislative Service Commission	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	1	Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations	1974
2	2	<u>The Column</u> : A weekly summary of statehouse Activities	Sept. 26, 1973
2	3	<u>Congressional Record</u>	May 4, 1972
2	4	Correspondence – Miscellaneous	1971-1973
2	5	Council of State Governments	August 3, 1973
2	6	Dunbar High School, Resolution Honoring	1972
2	7	Environment – Audubon	February 1970
2	8	Environment – Endangered Species, Senate Bill 35	1973
2	9	Environment – Ground Water Report	December 1974
2	10	Environment – Mining, Reclamation	1971
2	11	Environment – Nature Preserve Offenses, Senate Bill 463	1972
2	12	Environment – Pesticides, Senate Bill 445	1970-1971
2	13	Environment – Preservation of Natural Areas, Report No. 89	1969
2	14	Environment – Preservation of Natural Areas, Senate Bill No. 113	1970
2	15	Environment – Strip Mining, Reclamation of Land, LSC 254	1971-1972
2	16	Environment – Wastewater Report, Environmental Health Committee	Jan. 8, 1974
2	17	Environment – Water Management Study, Hearings And Report Senate Joint Resolution No. 28	1974
2	18	Environment – Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Areas Bill LSC 480	1971
2	19	Equal Rights Bill, Ohio Vote	1974
2	20	Gas Station Give-aways, Senate Bill No. 284	1966-1969
2	21	Government Relations Council, Minutes	1975

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	22	Governor John J. Gilligan, State of the State Message	Jan. 15, 1974
2	23	Judges Selection	1974
2	24	Keiter, Bernard-Sheriff of Montgomery County, Resolution honoring	1974
2	25	Legislative Auditor Report	1974
2	26	Legislative Information – General	undated
2	27	National Conference of State Legislative Leaders	1973-1974
2	28	National Conference of State Legislative Leaders	1973-1974
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	1	News Releases	1969, 1974
3	2	Newspaper Clippings – Various Issues	1968-1973
3	3	Non-Smokers’ Rights, Senate Bill No. 459	1974
3	4	Public School Finance Report No. 106	October 1972
3	5	Property Tax, Reform and Relief	1973
3	6	Senate Bills - Miscellaneous	1969-1970
3	7	Senate Bills - Miscellaneous	1969-1970
3	8	Senate Bills - Miscellaneous	1971-1972
3	9	Senate Bills - Miscellaneous	1971-1972
3	10	Senate Journal	May 1969
3	11	Study – Correction, Probation, Parole Laws, and Administration	1970
3	12	Tax Issues	1969, 1971
3	13	Vietnam Veterans Compensation, LSC 731	1971
3	14	Washington Report	1969
3	15	Weisenborn, as legislator; Orlett bid for Weisenborn Senate seat	undated
Series III:		Education	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	1	Citizen’s Task Force on Higher Education	1973-1974
4	2	Citizen’s Task Force on Higher Education	1973-1974
4	3	Citizen’s Task Force on Higher Education, final report	May 1, 1974
4	4	Education Resource Districts, Senate Bill No. 207	1974
4	5	Graduate Education in Ohio	1974
4	6	Joint Legislative Committee	1971
4	7	House Bills	1974
4	8	Newspaper Clippings, Various Issues	1969-1974
4	9	Ohio Council on Higher Continuing Education	1974
4	10	Women’s’ Rights Committee, The Time is Now, Education Report A	1973

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
5	1	Education Review Committee Budget	1974
5	2	Cincinnati Hearing	1974
5	3	Citizens' Task Force on Higher Education Final Report	1974
5	4	Cleveland Hearing	1974
5	5	Correspondence	Feb.-Dec. 1974
5	6	Education Commissioners Poll	1974
5	7	Education News Sheet	Mar.-Jun. 1974
5	8	Higher Education	1974
5	9	Legislative Service Commission	1973
5	10	Lima Hearing Report	1974
5	11	Meeting Minutes and Agendas	Oct. 1973-May 1974
5	12	Members	1974
5	13	Memorandums – Study Issues	Oct. 1973-May 1974
5	14	Montgomery County Schools	n.d.
5	15	News Releases	Jan.-Feb. 1974
5	16	Purpose Description and Act Creating	1974
5	17	Year Round School Feasibility Study	1972
Series IV:		Health and Medical	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
6	1	Children's Medical Center	1974
6	2	Governor's Task Force on Health Care	1973
6	3	Governor's Task Force on Health Care, Final Report	1973
6	4	Governor's Task Force on Health Care Appendices	1974
6	5	Governor John Gilligan, Response to the Governor's Task Force on Health Care	1974
6	6	House Bill – Crippled Children's Services	1974
6	7	House Bill – Dangerous Drug Bill	1962
6	8	House Bill – Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Laws Of Ohio	1974
6	9	Newspaper Clippings – Various Issues	1968-1974
6	10	Ohio Comprehensive Health Planning Advisory Council	1974
6	11	Senate Bill – Burial of County Home Residents	1974
6	12	Senate Bill – County Health Authorities	1969
6	13	Senate Bill – Education for Handicapped Children	1972
6	14	Senate Bill – Hazardous Household Substances	1974
6	15	Milk Standards	1974
6	16	Senate Bill – Syphilis Tests	1974
6	17	Senate Bill – Transfer of responsibility for services and Facilities for mentally retarded and Developmentally disabled to county boards	1973
6	18	Senate Bill – Tuberculosis Testing	1969

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
6	19	Senate Bill – Venereal Diseases, Treatment	1971
6	20	Senate Bill – Vietnam Veterans’ Benefits	1973
Series IV:		Health and Medical: WSU School of Medicine	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
7	1	Correspondence	Jun. 1969 - Jun. 1974
7	2	Correspondence Governor Gilligan	1979
7	3	Costs of Medical Education	1973
7	4	Editorials – Television	1973
7	5	Frederick White Endorsement, Acting President	undated
7	6	Letters of Support	1973
7	7	Letters of Support	1973
7	8	Letters of Support	1973
7	9	Minority Report to the Report of the Governor’s Task Force on Health	undated
7	10	News Release	1973
7	11	Newspaper Clippings	1969-1973
7	12	Ohio Academy of family Physicians	1973
7	13	Petitions supporting Medical School	1974
7	14	Physician Demography in Ohio	1971
7	15	Planning Study for Medical Education at WSU	1973
7	16	Promotional Brochure	1973
7	17	Recommendations of the Legislative Service Commission	undated
7	18	Report on Medical Education by the Ohio Board of Regents	1971
7	19	Senate Bills to create medical school	1970,1972
7	20	Study on Expanded Medical Education	1972