Guide to the Tilman “Tillie” Bishop papers

Collection Identifier: CMU-SCA-004

Preferred Citation: [description of item, including box and folder], Tilman “Tillie” Bishop papers, Tomlinson Library Special Collections and Archives, Colorado Mesa University.

Abstract: The Tilman Bishop papers contain correspondence, annual reports, and other administrative records related to admissions and student services at Mesa College/Mesa State College and documents related to his legislative career, especially water resource management.

Creator: Bishop, Tilman

Dates (inclusive): 1960-2001

Extent: 6 linear feet; 6 record boxes

Repository: Special Collections and Archives
Tomlinson Library
Colorado Mesa University
1100 North Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81504

Historical Note: Tilman “Tillie” Bishop was born in 1933 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Bishop received his bachelor of arts and masters of arts degrees in education at Colorado State College (now Northern Colorado University), Greeley, Colorado. He worked as an administrator in various capacities at Mesa College (and subsequently Mesa State College, now Colorado Mesa University) in Grand Junction, Colorado. His many positions included Director of Counseling, Guidance, and Testing (1962); associate dean, associate director, and then director of students; and Director of Testing and International Student Services. His long service in the Colorado legislature included four years in the Colorado House of Representatives and twenty-four years in the Colorado Senate, with the final six of those as president pro tem. He also served as a Mesa County Commissioner, a regent for the University of Colorado, and a Colorado Mesa University trustee. He died in Grand Junction, Colorado in 2019.

Scope and Contents: The Tilman “Tillie” Bishop papers contain files from Bishop’s tenure as an administrator at Mesa College/Mesa State College and his time serving as Colorado State Representative (four years) and State Senator (twenty-four years). Records from Mesa College/Mesa State College include correspondence, student reports, freshman research, high school ranks, and faculty advisor booklets covering the years 1962-1993. Documents from his time in the Colorado General Assembly include water related materials, correspondence, legislative reports, and bills that date from 1960 to 2001 with the majority falling between 1984 and 1989.
Arrangement: The Tilman “Tillie” Bishop papers are organized into two series. The first series includes the records from his tenure as an administrator at Mesa College and Mesa State College. The second series contains documents from his twenty-eight years of service in the Colorado legislature.

Access: Open for research in Special Collections and Archives (does not include Restricted files)

Use: It is the responsibility of the user to obtain permission to publish from the owner of the copyright (the institution, the creator of the record, the author or his/her transferees, heirs, legates, or literary executors). The user agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Colorado Mesa University, Tomlinson Library, its administrators, employees, and agents from and against all claims made by any person asserting that he or she is an owner of copyright.

Subjects: Water resources development -- Colorado; Community college students -- Services for; Students, Foreign -- Services for; Mesa College -- Foreign students

Names: Mesa College; Mesa State College; Lamm, Richard D.; Colorado. General Assembly

Finding Aid Author: James Dildine (2014); revisions by Amber J. D’Ambrosio (2021)

Collection Description

Series I: Mesa College and Mesa State College records, 1962-1993

Box 1

Folder 1: Summary Reports on disciplinary cases, 1962-1967

F2: Class Statistics, 1963

F3: Mesa Jr. College enrollment rank in High School, 1963-1964


F5: Mesa County Junior College – class of 1965, Freshman Research Information

F6: Mesa County Junior College – class of 1966, Freshman Research Information

F7: Tilman Bishop Correspondence, 1967-1983

F8: Tilman Bishop Correspondence, 1984-1991

F9: Prediction of Academic Achievement (2 & 4-year Colorado colleges), Fall 1968
F10: Faculty Preference scales/Student Preference scale/Enrollment scales, circa 1965

F11: Survey of high school ranks, 1961-1974

F12: Survey of high school ranks, 1974-1982

F13: Student evaluation of the orientation program & addendum, 1967

F14: Disciplinary cases, 1963-1965 (Restricted)

F15: Mesa College, speaker’s directory, 1973-1974

F16: Manuals for group leader’s student orientation, 1972-1977

F17: Faculty advisor booklets, 1969-1992

Box 2

Folder 1: Student survey forms, circa 1970s-1980s

F2: Mesa College Follow-up Study Forms, 1964

F3: Annual reports – Student personnel services, 1965-1966


F5: Instructions for interpreting class profile reports, circa 1968

F6: Mesa College Student Profiles, 1974

F7: Sen. Tilman Bishop – “Minority Statement in support of Individuals”, 1975 March 7

F8: Mesa College Institutional and Student Profiles, 1975-1976

F9: Statistics (over-head transparencies), 1976-1977

F10: Student services – guidance and testing annual reports, 1976-1981

F11: Mesa College – Financial and Statistical Analysis, 1977


F15: Making advising work and serving the undecided students, 1981
F16: Student Confidential Information, 1981
F17: Student retention reports and statistics, circa 1982
F18: Mesa College Cumulative grade averages, 1981-1982
F19: Retention task force meetings, 1981-1982
F20: Review of retention and attrition, circa 1982
F21: Director of Student Services – annual reports, 1981-1987
F22: Mesa College – Feeder High Schools, 1983
F23: Sub-committee of the retention committee, 1983
F24: Mesa College, applicant/admit summary, 1983-1986
F25: Mesa College Consortium Programs/Head Count, 1983-1986
F26: Comparative Fall semester off-site pre-registration report, 1985-1986
F28: Tilman Bishop, State Hospital - Tim Mosby (Restricted)
F29: International Students, 1988
F30: MSC handicapped student scholarship Association, 1991
F31: Daily Sentinel, 1993 May 30; Article on Bishop’s retirement

Box 3

Folder 1: Correspondence, Foreign student requests, often through embassies—Kuwait, Pakistan, Indonesia, United Kingdom, Iran, etc.; as well as local correspondence, 1973
F2: Correspondence, selective service letters, etc., 1972
F3: Correspondence, Foreign student requests, often through embassies—Kuwait, Pakistan, Indonesia, United Kingdom, Iran, etc., as well as local correspondence, selective service letters, etc., 1971

F4: Correspondence, selective service letters, etc., 1970

F5: Correspondence, selective service letters, etc., 1969

F6: Correspondence, 1967

F7: Correspondence, 1968

F8: Correspondence, 1969

F9: Correspondence, 1964-1965

F10: Correspondence, 1964-1965

F11: Correspondence; learning resource center, circa 1985

F12: Correspondence, 1962-1963

F13: Correspondence, 1963-1964

F14: Correspondence, 1964-1965

F15: Correspondence, 1966

F16: Correspondence regarding disciplinary action, 1966-1967

F17: Correspondence, circa 1987-1989

F18: Immigration, naturalization service – rules and regulations, 1975

F19: Foreign Student Correspondence, 1975

F20: Foreign Student Correspondence, 1988

F21: Foreign Student Correspondence, 1976

F22: Foreign Student Correspondence, 1977

F23: Foreign Student Correspondence (Zambia, Hong Kong, etc.) 1988
F24: Foreign Student Correspondence, 1989
F25: Foreign Student Correspondence, 1989
F26: Foreign Student Correspondence, October 1 - December 31
F27: Foreign Student Correspondence, 1988 April 1 - June 30
F28: Foreign Student Correspondence, 1988-1989
F29: Foreign Student Correspondence, 1987
F30: Foreign Student Correspondence, 1981
F31: Foreign Student Correspondence, 1988
F32: Foreign Student Correspondence, 1978
F33: Foreign Student Correspondence, 1981
F34: Admissions Committee, 1963-1964
F35: Admissions Committee, 1972
F36: Admissions Committee, 1972-1974
F37: Conference on Graduate education access for Western Colorado, 1989 November
F40: Goals and Objectives, school year, 1989
F41: Admissions Policy, etc., 1985-1990
F44: Incident Report, miscellaneous, 1988 (Restricted)
F45: ACT/SAT score comparisons, circa 1985-1986; 1992
F46: Foreign student correspondence, 1989 October 1 - December 31

F47: Foreign student correspondence, 1989 July 1 - September 30

Series II: Colorado General Assembly documents, 1960-2001

Box 4

Folder 1: Memorandum – Legislative Council Staff – State Tax Provisions, 1992 September 28

F2: Long’s Peak Working Group on National Water Policy, 1993; Long’s Peak report to City of Colorado Springs; Hobbs, Trout & Raley law firm legal report to State Legislature; Letter to Bruce Babbitt

F3: Letters of support for school financing to Tilman Bishop from Grand Junction citizens, 1991 September


F5: Legislative reports regarding native fish recovery in upper Colorado River Basin, 1989


F7: “Presentations for Interim Legislative Committee on Water, July 12, 1989”

F8: Water reports, State’s litigation, Correspondence, Water Bills, Colorado Water Development reports, circa 1989

F9: Water reports: Gunnison water quality; Senate Bill 181; Non-profit source program; ammonia study; organic standards; legislative studies, circa 1989

F10: Oil and Gas Conservation Commission; Application to drill; Senate Bill 181 (water quality), circa 1989

F11: Summary: Committee on Water; Drought report (1989); Status of Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) construction fund, 1989; other water related reports, circa 1989

F12: Colorado River Water Conservation District, Drought issues, Endangered Species, 1989 July 12; Water related materials

F13: “Colorado Water” Newsletter of the Water Center of Colorado State University, 2001
F14: “Presentation for Interim Legislative Committee on Water, 1989 October 5”

F15: “Water and Sewer Tap Fee Directory, 1986”

F16: “Supply, Demand, and Institutional Needs of Douglas County - May, August 1989 - Water”

F17: Committee on Water – Agenda; Bill on conditional water rights; Reports to interim committee on water; Park County environmental quality report to county commissioners; regarding Senate Bill 141; correspondence from mayor Robert Isaac; engineer’s report on west slope aquifer; Water Conservation Plan of the Denver Water (1986 update of a plan adopted June 20, 1979), Summer 1989; Other water reports, miscellaneous materials

F18: “South Platte River Compact, 1989”; State river conservation programs; House Bill 1319 – Wild Scenic Recreational Waters Systems; Sage of Stagecoach (Dam); Drought update, 1989

F19: Committee on Water, 1989 July 12; Endangered Species Act of 1973; Executive Order: Declaring a Disaster Emergency in Delta, Mesa, and Montrose Counties; drought chart, circa 1989; miscellaneous materials

Box 5


F2: “Western Colorado Projects Review: Summaries of Western Slope Water Projects, June 1985”

F3: Colorado Water Conference; “Staff Summary of Meeting Committee on non-Tributary Ground Water, 1984”

F4: Colorado Water Conservation District, circa 1984

F5: Central Arizona Project (CAP), circa 1984

F6: Paper: “Senator Armstrong Right on Wilderness and Water Rights,” by Tilman Bishop; Ground water conservation; Colorado River Water Conservation District; correspondence; Bill draft, Non-tributary groundwater, circa 1984

F7: Legislative Bill #HB1088, regarding the funding of water resources projects, circa 1985

F8: Water related newspaper clippings, circa 1985

F10: NCCLS Agriculture and Food Policy Committee; County tax statistics, 1985 May 17; Mesa County Today, v.2, no.1, 1985 May (operating budget); Association of American Railroads (list of legislative bills—51); Mesa County Department of Social Services, correspondence regarding disability; miscellaneous materials

F11: “Addressing the Area of Origin Problem”, by the Colorado Water Resource Research Institution (MacDonnell; Corbridge; Ahrens) 1985; EDF, list of members; water related articles and correspondence; “Inter-basin Mitigation” 1985 September 12; Committee on Water and Land resources report, circa 1985

F12: Memorandum(s): Committee on Water and Land Resources (funding water projects, reclamation), circa 1985


F14: Land and Water Resources - various materials, circa 1985

F15: Colorado Water Congress - various materials from the event, 1985 July 25-26

F16: Memorandum: Legislation, Containing Healthcare costs, 1985; Bills Introduced in the House (list), 1985 June 3; Many photocopied articles on water, etc., some written by Bishop, circa 1986; miscellaneous materials

F17: “The Alliance for Colorado’s Future”, by Vanderhoof and Ambrose; Committee on Water and Land Resources, 1985 July - August

F18: Ralph Chantrill, Water in Colorado reports and correspondence to Bishop and also Governor Lamm, circa 1985; DNR Memorandum, David Geches, 1985 March 22; Summary of Transactions, State Board of Land Commissioners, CO, 1983 July 1 to 1984 July 30; Reservoir Evaporation charts, 1975-1984; Committee on Water and Land Resources, Memorandum, 1985 July 11

F19: Water related correspondence from Department of Natural Resources Executive Director, David Getches, 1985; CWCB Water Projects funding chart ($94m); List of Alliance for Colorado’s Future members, circa 1985; List of Federal Projects Sponsored by Colorado Water Conservation Board, circa 1985; Testimony to Legislative Interim Committee on Compensatory Storage, Larry MacDonnell, UC Law; Statement by Virgil Hill, 1985 September 12; Duane Woodard letter to Jeris Danielson; Senate Bill 439, circa 1985; Colorado Water Congress, Resolutions, 1985; Metropolitan Water Providers, statement by Robert McWhinnie; Ruedi Dam
and Reservoir, Colorado, Letter from Acting Secretary of the Interior, 1960 March 7; Bills Concerning Transportation of Hazardous Materials, 1985 legislative session

F20: Reports: *The Drought of 1988, Final Report of the President’s Interagency Drought Policy Committee; Recreation Futures for Colorado, BLM, 1989; Colorado West Transportation Plan, 1980*


F23: Brochures and small magazines regarding Colorado River Aqueduct, circa 1986

Box 6

Folder 1: *Colorado Water Congress Seminar on Water Law, 1989 September 28-29* (presented by Tom Pitts, Loveland, CO.); *Federal and State Water Quality Laws*, Tad Foster; photocopied water-related articles; Memorandum to Colorado General Assembly, *The Status of the Water Conservation Construction Fund, 1983 March 8*; miscellaneous materials


F5: Business Viewpoint, Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry, v.7, n.1, 1985 January; Colorado River Water Conservation District, circa 1984 (newsletter); Colorado Water Convention, 1984 (papers); Richard Lamm open letter regarding Senate Joint Resolution No. 14,
concerning Cache la Poudre River; *Status Report: Groundwater Protection in Colorado*, Water Quality Control Division, Colorado Department of Health, September 1984; miscellaneous materials

**F6:** Summary of Meeting, Committee on Non-tributary Ground Water, 1984 August 1; Agriculture Senate Committee, 1983 September 19; Proposal for Groundwater Bill, 1984 September 26; Water editorial, reports, correspondence, circa 1984

**F7:** Statement of Senator William Armstrong before Subcommittee on Public Lands and reserved water, 1984 September 18; Non-Tributary Water reports and correspondence, circa 1984

**F8:** Non-Tributary Water legislation, correspondence, reports, etc., circa 1984

**F9:** Metropolitan Water Providers (MWP), Staff Recommendations of Projects for Permit...Platte And Colorado River Storage Projects Participation Agreement, 1985 August; Newsletters of MWP; Colorado Water Almanac and Directory, 1985; Colorado Water (CSU), July – September 1985; Water permit legislation reports, 1985; correspondence to Bishop, circa 1985; miscellaneous materials

**F10:** Rules and Regulations Applying to Well Permits to Withdraw Groundwater, Section 37-90-137(4), C.R.S, circa 1985; Committee on Water and Land Resources – Staff Summary of Meeting, 1985 November 10; correspondence from William Armstrong to Bishop, 1985 November 8; miscellaneous materials

**F11:** Colorado Water Congress, letter to Sen. William Armstrong, 1985 June 11; Newsletters, 1985; Colorado River Water Conservation District, Memorandum, 1985 December 2, Sierra Club vs Block; correspondence to Governor Richard Lamm, 1986 June 16; miscellaneous materials

**F12:** Report by U.S. Dept. of Interior: “*Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Colorado River Augmentation Demonstration Program, Delta, Gunnison and Mesa Counties, Colorado*”; Correspondence from John Burrett and Brenadine Calhoun to Bishop regarding “Proposal to the Delta County Commissioners for special use permit in the Ward Creek area”; Report by Robert Dickeson, University of Northern Colorado: *Colorado Public Higher Education: Toward a Common Perspective*; Water and Related Land Resources Colorado River Basin in Colorado, report by Colorado Water Conservation Board and U.S. Department of Agriculture; miscellaneous materials

F14: Denver Water Department, 1985 Annual Report; Correspondence from Colorado Water Congress (Curtis, Fecher, Simpson, MacRavey) to Bishop regarding House Bill 1340; Correspondence from Ralph Chantrill to Richard Lamm regarding “Colorado’s Precious Water”; “Metropolitan Denver Water Supply EIS” by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1986 May 27; State Engineer’s Second Annual Report to the General Assembly on Dam Safety, F. Y. 84-85, 1985 November 1, by Jeris A. Danielson, State Engineer; miscellaneous materials

F15: Jim Monaghan correspondence regarding negotiating session at Beaver Creek, 1985 August 2; Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWC) Memorandum, 1985 July 2; Tenth Annual Colorado Water Workshop—Address to Western State College, by Governor Richard Lamm, 1985 July 31; Metropolitan Water Providers, Newsletter, 1985 July 29: West Slope Potential Water Sources – Plus Big Gross; Correspondence from Robert A. Jackson regarding speech review: A State Water Policy for 1985-2010; Staff Summary of the Executive Session of the Committee on Water and Land Resources, 1985 August 15; Agenda: Tenth Annual Colorado Water Workshop, Western State College, 1985 June 3; Central Arizona Project (CAP), regarding public law 90-537; Colorado Satellite linked Water Resources Monitoring System—paper describing system, contract information, photos, charts, circa 1985; Memorandum regarding House Bill 1088; miscellaneous materials
