

Malvin Morton

Malvin Morton combined a talent for writing with an interest in people in her career in public relations for social welfare organizations. Her training and experience in both communications and social work provided her with an expertise which made her uniquely qualified to explain social welfare to the general public.

She was born in Tenaha Texas June 24, 1906, the daughter of a Methodist minister. She graduated with honors from Texas Woman's College (now Texas Wesleyan College) in 1933 with a BA in english and education. Upon graduation she worked for 2 years as a case worker for the Texas Relief Commission. During her college years she had worked at the YWCA in Fort Worth Texas, and when she decided to pursue a career in social welfare work she turned to the YWCA again. She was hired by the YWCA in Greensboro, North Carolina as a group activities secretary where she worked from 1935 to 1940. She left there to become Girl Reserve Executive in Indianapolis, Indiana. Her work with the YWCA was successful and in 1943 the Department of Study of the National YWCA recommended her for a fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh. Based on that recommendation Ms. Morton applied to the School of Applied Social Sciences of the University of Pittsburgh and was accepted. While attending graduate school she received several fellowships. She graduated with a Masters Degree in Social Service Administration in 1945 and began to work for the Joint Public Relations Department, Community Chest and Federation of Social Agencies of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Pennsylvania.

She came to Chicago in 1947 to be the Director of Public relations for United Charities of Chicago. In that capacity she wrote and edited annual reports and newsletters, was a publicity liaison with various agencies, planned newspaper publicity and wrote numerous appeal letters. In 1952 United Charities re-defined the position to include responsibility for major fund-raising event and Ms. Morton left the agency. In November of that year she became Executive Director of the Chicago Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers. She was responsible for administering the programs and services of the Federation for its 31 member agencies, helping to co-ordinate their own programs and supervising publicity.

By 1961 she was ready for a change in direction in her career, and began to work for the American Public Welfare Association as the Publications Associate. She worked on public relations and publicity, but her primary function was to supervise publications of the organization. Within a year she was editor of its journal Public Welfare, and wrote a "message from the director" for each issue. She was named Director o Publications and as such co-ordinated and edited all material published by the American Public Welfare Association including occasional papers, booklets, reprints, brochure and directories. She officially retired at age 65 in June of 1971, but she remained at the organization until March of 1972 to insure a smooth transition.

However, Malvin Morton did not remain retired for long. In January of 1972 she became a public relations consultant for the Florence Crittenton Association of America. She edited its bi-monthly publication, the Field Reporter, supervised and edited all publications issued by the agency, participated in planning activities of the FCAA, was responsible for all publicity, and helped plan its 90th anniversary activities.

Malvin Morton has also been active outside of her jobs. She edited numerous books and articles in the social welfare field (see folders 95-123) including reprints of Neva Leona Boyd studies. She served as a consultant for local settlements, urban social welfare agencies and the National Association of Mental Health. She was Secretary of Chicago's Jane Addams Centennial Committee. She belonged to, and was active in various national social welfare organizations and was a delegate to several international conferences as well as the Mid-Century White House Conference on Children and Youth. In her personal life Ms. Morton is no less active. She worked with the Citizenship Council of Metropolitan Chicago, an organization which co-ordinates activities for new citizens such as receptions after their swearing-in ceremonies. She belongs to Friends of Literature, the Lyric Opera Guild and the Chicago Symphony Society. Throughout her life Ms. Morton has written poetry and several of her early poems were set to music and published. Finally, as a member of the Welfare Public Relations Council of Chicago, Malvin Morton helped establish the Helen Cody Baker Award in 1952, which recognizes contributions to promote understanding of social welfare. She subsequently won the award three times.

Malvin Morton's Papers have been arranged by the cataloger in alphabetical order. Within each folder the arrangement is chronological. Correspondence originally filed with related material has been retained with that material and not separately listed. An asterisk identifies those folder headings which were assigned by the cataloger.

The collection includes correspondence, scrapbooks, memorabilia, photographs, radio scripts, annual reports, conference programs, newsletters, brochures, reprints, speech notes, poems, resumes, booklets.

The papers, comprising 6.25 ft., were donated to the University of Illinois Library at Chicago Circle by Malvin Morton on July 23, 1976.

Material is filed under the following titles:

- *1. American Medical Writers Association, certificate of membership
March 23, 1970
- *2. American Public Welfare Association
June 9, 1961 - December 1977
- *3. American Public Welfare Association, conference programs
- *4. American Public Welfare Association, Letter to Members
March 1966 - March 3, 1971
- *5. American Public Welfare Association, recruitment brochure
March 8, 1968 - December 4, 1968

6. American Public Welfare Association, Round Table Scrapbook
April 1969 - January 1970
7. Chicago Federation of Settlements
May 13, 1954 - October 25, 1975
8. Citizenship Council of Metropolitan Chicago
December 28, 1944
- *9. Community Chest - Pittsburgh
December 28, 1944 - May 1, 1948
10. Consultation: Des Moines, Iowa Council of Social Agencies
March 31, 1961 - August 9, 1961
11. Consultation: Directory for National Association of Mental Health
January 23, 1963 - January 27, 1965
12. Consultation: Illinois civil service interviews
May 21, 1952 - August 28, 1972
- *13. Consultation: Klinger manuscript "Nutrition and Pregnancy"
June 13, 1975 - July 9, 1976
14. Consultation: Neva Leona Boyd reprints
1971 - 1975
15. Consultation: Peoria Neighborhood House
March 9, 1961 - May 20, 1976
- *16. Correspondence
July 3, 1947 - July 16, 1977
17. Correspondence: Virgil Martin
December 16, 1960 - December 1963
18. Darrow Center
June 29, 1962 - September 10, 1974
- *19. Education
1929 - February 3, 1945
- *20. Equal Rights Amendment
July 7, 1972, & n.d.

21. Family Service Association of America
November 18, 1948 - September 15, 1952
22. Florence Crittenton Association of America, articles by Griffin, and Barglow, Istiphan, Bedger, and Welbourne
1962, 1974
23. Florence Crittenton Association of America, Bilnnial conference-working folder 90th anniversary
January 15, 1973 - October 1973
24. Florence Crittenton Association of America, Chicago Child Care Society and the 40's
1972 - August 15, 1975
- *25. Florence Crittenton Association of America, copyright information for The Vulnerable
May 10, 1973 - October 12, 1973
26. Florence Crittenton Association of America, correspondence about employment of Malvin Morton
January 19, 1972 - July 22, 1974
27. Florence Crittenton Association of America, correspondence about film "It happens to us"
June 13, 1974 - October 18, 1974
- *28. Florence Crittenton Association of America, correspondence - miscellany
October 9, 1972 - march 25, 1974
29. Florence Crittenton Association of America, Crittenton Comprehensive Care Centers (40's)
March 28, 1973 - November 19, 1973
30. Florence Crittenton Association of America, Fact Book
September 1973
31. Florence Crittenton Association of America, Field Reporter
January 1972 - Fall 1976
32. Florence Crittenton Association of America, films - Teenage Sexuality
August 19, 1970 - February 5, 1973
33. Florence Crittenton Association of America, Fund raising
1973 - 1977
34. Florence Crittenton Association of America, historical material
1950 - March 4, 1976

- *35. Florence Crittenton Association of America, Lula Belle Stewart Center, Detroit Michigan
1974 - March 1975
- 36. Florence Crittenton Association of America, printed pieces by Malvin Morton
1971 - 1975
- *37. Florence Crittenton Association of America, publicity about closing the Anchorage
July 31, 1973 - August 8, 1973
- 38. Florence Crittenton Association of America, "The Reactions of Adolescents to Birth Control
and abortion" by Gloria Burger
June 1974
- 39. Florence Crittenton Association of America, scrapbook-newspaper series and Field Reporter
November 3, 1972 - Holidays 1973
- 40. Florence Crittenton Association of America, scrapbook public relations program for 90th
anniversary
January 15, 1973 - December 1973
- *41. Friends of Literature
May 1978
- 42. Helen Cody Baker Awards
February 7, 1952 - June 19, 1976
- 43. Helen Cody Baker Award winning annual reports
1957 - 1960
- 44. Hull House
June 1962 - May 28, 1974
- 45. Illinois certificate of registration
May 2, 1969
- 46. Institute on Interpretation in Social Work at Western Reserve University
April 1949
- 47. International conferences
June 15, 1956 - August 1968
- 48. Jane Addams Centennial
November 1951 - February 18, 1972

- *49. Lea Taylor
July 27, 1961 - January 12, 1976
- *50. Malvin Morton miscellaneous writings and speeches
1942 - May 8, 1953
- 51. Manuscript, The Expendable Poor
1976
- *52. Memorabilia
n.d.
- *53. Mid-Century White House Conference on children and youth, notes
August 18, 1951
- 54. Mid-Century White House Conference on children and youth, scrapbook
November 20, 1950 - March 7, 1951
- 55. Mid-Century White House Conference on children and youth, scrapbook
November 28, 1950 - April 30, 1951
- 56. Mid-Century White House Conference on children and youth, scrapbook
December 1950 - January 30, 1951
- *57. National Association of Social Workers
August 31, 1948 - May 1978
- 58. National Conference on Social Welfare
August 15, 1961 - Fall 1977
- 59. National Conference on Social Welfare bibliography prepared for Malvin Morton
January 1966
- 60. National Federation of Settlements
June 12, 1967 - January 17, 1974
- *61. Photographs
May 15, 1935 - 1973
- *62. Poetry, Christmas poems
1939 - 1976
- *63. Poetry, scrapbook
1932-1940

64. Presidential Inauguration invitations
January 1961, January 1977
- *65. Publicity about Malvin Morton
July 16, 1973, n.d.
66. Research: Bernadette W. Hoyle articles
March 1962 - September 30, 1967
67. Research: Edgar may reprints
1960-1961
68. Research: Gisela Konopka articles
January 1961 - May 15, 1973
69. Research: "How to Interpret Social Work" by Helen Cody Baker and Mary Swain Routyahn
1937
70. Research: miscellaneous articles
August 27, 1934 - Summer 1974
71. Research: poverty and race
February 13, 1964 - April 25, 1968
72. Research: public relations
June 14, 1945 - 1974
73. Research: "Report of the Advisory Council on Public Welfare"
June 22, 1966
74. Research: "Report on the use of group methods at Children's Division, Department of Public Aid of Cook County"
ca. 1965
75. Research: Social Action "Graham Taylor, Prophet of Democracy"
February 15, 1939
76. Research: Social Work
November 20, 1944 - December 1973
77. Research: The Survey
June 1951 - October 1951
- *78. Resumes, vitae
ca. 1960-1961

79. United Charities
September 11, 1946 - June 12, 1963
80. United Charities, Family Service
Spring 1947 - July 1952
81. United Charities, publication
1947 - 1951
- *82. Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago
August 15, 1961 - October 27, 1961
- *83. Welfare Public Relations Council
June 8, 1949 - January 5, 1966
- *84. Welfare Public Relations Forum, beginning draft of manuscript and correspondence
February 27, 1966 - February 15, 1967
- *85. Welfare Public Relations Forum, radio program
1938 - June 14, 1966
86. Welfare Public Relations Forum, research for book
July 8, 1964 - May 10, 1966
87. White House Conference
March 1959 - April 1960
- *88. Young Women's Christian Association, general
April 18, 1944 - 1963
- *89. Young Women's Christian Association, Greensboro, North Carolina
September 6, 1935 - March 5, 1948
- *90. Young Women's Christian Association, Indianapolis, Indiana
May 3, 1940 - September 7, 1944
91. Framed objects: Graham Taylor card
1932
92. Framed objects: Helen Cody Baker award
1974
93. Framed objects: Kenwood Ellis Community Center Brotherhood award
1958

94. Framed objects: Picture of Edith Abbott
n.d.
95. Can Public Welfare Keep Pace, New York, Columbia University Press
1969
96. Caseworker...Person With Value by Mary Overholt Peters, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association\
1967
97. Chronic Disease; A HANDBOOK for Public Welfare Workers, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
December 1966
98. Designing Social Service Systems by Bloedorn, MacLatchie, Friedlander, and Wedemeyer, Chicago, American Public Welfare Associate
1970
99. Developing Services For Older Persons by Mel Spear, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
1967
100. Equal Justice, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
May 1965
101. Essential Supports For the Case of Mentally Impaired Aged Persons, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
May 1967
102. Families Are For Children, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
1962
103. Group Work in Public Welfare by William Schwartz, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
October 1968
104. The Homemaker in Public Welfare, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
May 1962
105. Let's Understand Home Care, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
September 1964
106. Mandate For Research, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
1965

107. The Newcomer: Public Welfare's Challenge, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
May 1962
108. The Patient Comes First, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
May 1962
109. Planning Responsibilities of State Departments of Public Welfare, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
1966
110. Potentials For Service Through Group Work in Public Welfare, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
May 1962
111. Program Planning For Strengthening Services To the Aging Through Public Welfare Agencies, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
n.d.
112. Protecting Children, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
1965
113. 1971 Public Welfare Directory, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
July 1971
114. 1970 Public Welfare Directory, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
July 1970
115. Public Welfare Projected, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
July 1966
116. Recording The Client's Health Problems, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
n.d.
117. Round Table Reader 1967, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
1968
118. Selected Biennial Round Table Conference Papers 1963, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
1964
119. Senior Centers, by Virginia O'Neill, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
1978

120. The Social Welfare Forum, 1977, New York, Columbia University Press
1978
121. Supervision, by Eve Kneynek, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
1966
122. The Vulnerable: Crittenton's Concern, Chicago, Florence Crittenton Association of America
1973
123. Working With Older People-A Field Placement Program For Second Year Graduate Students by Jack Brewer, Chicago, American Public Welfare Association
July 1970

Subject Tracing

Jane Addams centennial
American Public Welfare Association
Helen Cody Baker awards
Chicago Child Care Society
Chicago Federation of Settlements
Citizenship Council of Metropolitan Chicago
Darrow Center
Editing
Equal Rights Amendment
Family Service Association of America
Florence Crittenton Association of America
Friends of Literature
Hull House
Manuscripts - Editing
Mid-Century White House Conference on Children and Youth
National Association of Social Workers
National Federation of Settlements
Periodicals, Publishing of
Public relations - Social service
Public relations consultants
Public welfare
Publicity
Radio in publicity
Social service
Social service publicity
Society settlements
Social work as a profession
Social work education
Social workers
Lea Taylor
United Charities of Chicago
Unmarried mothers
Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago
Welfare Public Relations Council
Welfare Public Relations Forum
Young women - charities, protection, etc.
Young Women's Christian Associations

Malvin Morton Papers – Supplement I

Malvin Morton Papers – Supplement I: 1966-1989, 2.25 Linear Feet

File List

Box 1

1. Awards, 1983
2. Chicago Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers, 1978
3. Christmas Cards, 1979-1986
4. Citizenship Council, 1979-1980
5. Conference on Social Welfare - Conference Bulletin, 1978-1981
6. Contact Chicago, 1982-1987
7. First United Methodist Church – Chicago Temple – Lenten Events, 1977-1978
8. Hull House Centennial, 1974; 1989
9. Hyde Park Neighborhood Club, 1984
10. Illinois State Historical Society – Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, 1977
11. Kenopa, Gisela – Retirement, 1978-1979
12. Lutheran Church – Ninth Biennial Convention – Statement; Aging and the Older Adult, 1978
13. Methodist Church – American Bicentennial, 1984
14. Miscellaneous – Speeches, Presentations, Awards, 1982-1987
15. NYA Pressen, Swedish-American newspaper, 1968

Malvin Morton Papers – Supplement I

Box 2

16. National Association of Social Work – Illinois Chapter – Annual Meeting, 1987
17. National Association of Social Work – Illinois Chapter – Third Biennial Symposium, 1984
18. National Conference on Social Welfare – Chicago Delegates, Photo, 1966
19. Symposium VI, Advancement of Social Work with Groups, 1984
20. Texas Wesleyan College – 45th Reunion of Class of 1933, 1978
21. United Methodist Church – Department of Information and Development – Childserv, 1987
22. Welfare Public Relations Forum, 1965-1979
22. Who's Who of American Women – 1981-1982 – Morton Entry, 1979

Oversized Objects

Box 3

Scrapbook - American Public Welfare Association – Malvin Morton's Retirement, 1971

Box 4

Three framed prints, undated and untitled