GOODWIN, MELVIN H.
Melvin H. Goodwin papers, 1938-1991

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Goodwin, Melvin H.
Title: Melvin H. Goodwin papers, 1938-1991
Call Number: Series No. 138
Extent: 3.25 linear ft. (7 boxes and 2 OPs [oversized papers])
Abstract: The papers of epidemiologist, malaria researcher, and university professor, Melvin Harris Goodwin, consist of photographs, slides, reports, autobiographical and professional memoranda, scholarly research materials, and other items related to the life and career of this Emory University alumnus. Materials related to Goodwin’s work at the Emory University Field Station at Ichauway Plantation in Baker County, Georgia comprise a large portion of the collection. The United States Public Health Service first operated Ichauway Plantation as a research site, followed later by the Office of Malaria Control in War Areas and its successor organizations, the Communicable Disease Center and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
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Melvin Harris Goodwin, Jr., was an epidemiologist, malaria researcher, and alumnus of Emory University. Born on January 9, 1917 in Thomasville, Georgia, Goodwin enrolled in the University of Georgia, and from 1936 to 1938 worked intermittently for physician Roy A. Hill, treating malarious plantation workers throughout the Thomasville-Tallahassee region of Georgia and North Florida.

From October 1938 through the following spring, Goodwin worked as a laboratory technician with the Georgia Department of Public Health in Atlanta, where he assisted primarily in virological experiments. At the same time, Goodwin had been involved in the early planning of the Emory University Field Station at Coca-Cola executive Robert W. Woodruff’s Ichauway Plantation in Baker County, Georgia. After learning of Hill and Goodwin’s work near Thomasville, Woodruff expressed interest in further research on hookworm control, malaria epidemiology, and drug (atabrine) prophylaxis in the region. Beginning in April 1939, Goodwin served as a biologist and Assistant Director of the newly established Field Station, where he would remain in various capacities until 1957.

While research at the Emory University Field Station was briefly curtailed after the American entry into the Second World War, activities were expanded beginning in 1944, and Goodwin assumed further responsibilities during this period. In January 1944, he became a commissioned officer in the United States Public Health Service, occupying administrative roles in the Entomology division and Library and Reports division of the Malaria Control in War Areas (MCWA) unit in Atlanta. The MCWA was the predecessor organization of the Communicable Disease Center (CDC), now known as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 1948, he returned to Newton, Georgia as chief of the Malaria Investigation Section of the CDC, charged with overseeing research at three field stations in malarious areas. He returned to Atlanta in 1953 as assistant chief of the Technology Branch and chief of the Ecology Section of the CDC.

Goodwin moved to Phoenix, Arizona in 1957 as chief of a newly developed CDC field station there. From 1966 to 1974, Goodwin was employed by the Arizona State Department of Health and the Arizona Health Planning Authority as an administrator. He took a position as Professor in the School of Medicine at the University of Arizona in 1977, where he remained until 1984. Goodwin died in 2004 at the age of 87.

Papers include reports, memoranda, research materials and publications, photographs and slides, and personal and professional correspondence. Records predominately span the period
1939-1957 when Goodwin served in several positions at the United States Public Health Service, the Office of Malaria in War Areas, and the Communicable Disease Center, both in their Atlanta offices and at the Field Station in Newton, Baker County, Georgia. Collection also includes material predating Goodwin’s 1939 association with the Emory University Field Station. In addition, the collection includes autobiographical materials mostly edited after Goodwin’s 1984 retirement, lecture materials, and materials relating to international World Health Organization consultations. Material is organized in subject files; files labeled with personal names contain correspondence with and publications by that individual.

**Arrangement Note**
Arranged alphabetically in subject files.
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