

Ion Maywood Bethel Memoir: “Tall Pecans on the San Saba,” 1900-1929: A Guide

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Bethel, Ion Maywood

Title: Ion Maywood Bethel Memoir: “Tall Pecans on the San Saba,” 1900-1929

Inclusive Dates: 1900-1929

Abstract: The collection documents the boyhood and young adult activities of Ion Maywood Bethel from 1900 to 1929 in rural Texas and in China while serving with the U.S. Marine Corps. Some of the significant topics represented in the material are attending rural schools, cotton farming and ginning, U.S. Marine Corps training, people and places in China, and attending John Tarleton Agricultural College. The material is comprised of a CD containing a 216 page document and a print copy of the document.

Identification: AR48

Extent: 1 CD, (user copy in paper format)

Shelf location: SC2, Folder 4

Language(s): Collection is in English.

Repository: Tarleton State University, Dick Smith Library, Archives and Special Collections, Stephenville, Texas

Biographical Note

Ion Maywood Bethel (1900-1985), the son of Ion Maywood and Mary Elizabeth Frazier Bethel, was born in Grit, Mason County, Texas on July 8, 1900. His father was a ranch owner, cotton gin owner, and rural school teacher. Bethel attended the local rural schools until the eighth grade. Bethel enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and completed several months training from October 1918 to April 1919 when he was honorably discharged due to the World War I Armistice. Bethel earned an associate degree at John Tarleton Agricultural College (1923) in Stephenville, Texas and a B.A. in agriculture at Texas A&M University (1925). He completed a master's degree in engineering at Lowell Institution of Technology (1939) in Lowell, Massachusetts. Upon graduating from Texas A&M, Bethel was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He served as a supply officer (1925-1943) at Quantico, Virginia; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; San Diego, California; and Puget Sound, Washington. During that time he also served aboard the battleship *USS Nevada* and completed two tours of duty in China with the 4th Marine Regiment. Bethel served (1943-1945) in the Pacific theater during World War II. On his return to the United States, he was stationed in Philadelphia. Bethel was promoted to brigadier general in 1952 and to major general in 1957. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1958. Bethel was married to Lillian A. Fowler and had three sons. He died on January 21, 1985. He is buried in the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California.

Sources:

Bethel, Lillian F. Letter to The President [Barry B. Thompson]. 9 February 1985. Accession folder. AR48 Ion Maywood Bethel Memoir: “Tall Pecans on the San Saba,” 1900-1929. Dick Smith Library Archives and Special Collections, Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX. 29 October 2020.

Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 29 October 2020), memorial page for MG Ion Maywood Bethel (8 Jul 1900–21 Jan 1985), Find a Grave Memorial no. [363618](#), citing Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, Riverside County, California, USA ; Maintained by Bebe Walton (contributor [50421272](#)) .

Rape, Roger. "Bethel, Ion M., MGen – Deceased," *Together We Served*, accessed 27 October 2020,
<https://marines.togetherweserved.com/usmc/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApp?cmd=ShadowBoxProfile&type=Person&ID=317564>.

Scope and Contents

The collection documents the boyhood and young adult activities of Ion Maywood Bethel from 1900 to 1929 in rural Texas and in China while serving with the U.S. Marine Corps. Some of the significant topics represented in the material are attending rural schools, cotton farming and ginning, U.S. Marine Corps training, people and places in China, and attending John Tarleton Agricultural College. The material is comprised of a CD containing a 216 page document and a print copy of the document.

Organization

The Ion Maywood Bethel Memoir: "Tall Pecans on the San Saba," 1900-1929 is organized in two series:

- Series I. CD: "Tall Pecans on the San Saba: The Memoir of Ion M. Bethel"
- Series II. Print copy

Rights and Access

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Physical Access Restrictions

Access to the CD is restricted for preservation purposes. A user copy in paper format is available for research.

Technical Access Restrictions

The Dick Smith Library Archives and Special Collections does not provide playback equipment required for use of CD recordings. A user copy in paper format is available for research.

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Index Terms

Persons

Bethel, Ion Maywood (1900-1985)

Organizations

John Tarleton Agricultural College

Texas A&M University

Subjects

Agricultural machinery
Cotton gins and ginning
Cotton—Irrigation
Cotton—Texas
Country schools
Education, rural
Gin (cotton machinery)
Rural schools
United States. Marine Corps

Places

Beijing (China)
Chang Jiang (China)
Grit (Tex.)
Mason County (Tex.)
Shanghai (China)
Stephenville (Tex.)
Yangtze River (China)

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated to the Dick Smith Library at Tarleton State University by George E. Bethel on June 8, 2007.

Preferred Citation

Ion Maywood Bethel Memoir: "Tall Pecans on the San Saba," 1900-1929, AR48, SC3, Folder 4, Tarleton State University, Dick Smith Library, Archives and Special Collections, Stephenville, Texas.

Processing Information

Finding aid prepared by Phyllis Kinnison, 2020.