

**Finding Aid to the
Emerson H. Smith Parent-Teacher Association Records**

Emerson H. Smith Parent-Teacher Association

Emerson H. Smith Parent-Teacher Association Records, 1922-1957

1.6 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 268

Mss 1571 (scrapbook)

[History](#)

[Scope and Content](#)

[Box and Folder List](#)

OVERVIEW

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

Provenance: Accessioned as part of the Fargo Public School District records, 2002 (Acc. 2670).

Property rights: The Institute for Regional Studies owns the property rights to this collection.

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Citation: [Identification of item]. Emerson H. Smith Parent-Teacher Association Records, MS 268.
Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

HISTORY

Mrs. J. G. Moore, the wife of the superintendent of Fargo schools, organized the Parent-Teacher's Club of the Central School in May of 1922. The first president was Mrs. Harry Alsop. In November of that year the club voted to join the National Parent-Teachers Association.

In the fall of 1930, the Central Elementary school was moved into a new building, the Emerson H. Smith Elementary School. The Central Parent-Teachers Association (P.T.A.) also moved into the new building

and the association's name was changed to the Emerson H. Smith Parent-Teacher Association. The first president was Mrs. George M. Black.

Membership in the P.T.A. was open to anyone who was interested in the organization, but most members were teachers at Emerson school or parents of the Emerson school children. The P.T.A. was involved in a variety of programs such as fundraisers for items needed by the school, items for needy families, and community programs such as paper drives and working with the Red Cross. Working as family advocates, the P.T.A. involved themselves in both local and national political issues. The organization issued statements regarding the issues they supported and were active in. Some issues that they involved themselves in included prohibition, children's welfare, children's hygiene, movie censorship, and promoting literacy.

In 1957 the use of Emerson School as an elementary school was discontinued. The elementary pupils were transferred to Jefferson and Hawthorne elementary schools and Central High later used the building as part of the high school. As Emerson H. Smith was no longer an elementary school, the P.T.A. was disbanded.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Emerson H. Smith Parent-Teacher Association Records** are organized into five series: Charter Certificate, Meeting Minutes, Treasurer's Reports, Subject Files, and Scrapbooks.

The [Charter Certificate and Constitution Series](#) consists of the original document from the North Dakota Congress of Parents and Teachers recognizing the Emerson H. Smith P.T.A. It also contains the 1922 constitution for the Parent-Teacher's Club of the Central School.

The [Meeting Minutes Series](#) consist of ledgers and loose documents. This is an incomplete series that contains minutes from 1922 to 1944 and 1950 to 1957. The minutes include information such as membership lists, financial information (usually pertaining to fundraising activities), and social activities the P.T.A. participated in.

The [Treasurer's Reports Series](#) consists of two ledgers containing the complete treasurer's reports from 1933 to 1957. Membership lists are also included in the ledgers.

The [Subject Files Series](#) includes a variety of documents pertaining to the P.T.A., its members, and their activities. This includes a few documents related to the P.T.A.'s involvement in the Boy Scouts and the Campfire Girls; a finance report for one of the carnival fundraisers; a variety of certificates awarded to the P.T.A.; correspondence and memos regarding general activities of the P.T.A.; invitations to parents regarding various meetings and activities sponsored by the P.T.A.; a membership list; newspaper clippings related to members of the P.T.A. and students from Emerson H. Smith elementary school; organizational brochures from the national P.T.A.; a memo promoting a paper drive during World War II; and some annual program booklets that list the scheduled activities and events of the P.T.A. for various school years.

The [Scrapbooks Series](#) consists of several scrapbooks created and maintained by the P.T.A.'s official historian for the purposes of tracking publicity. Information found in the scrapbooks includes photographs, yearly programs listing scheduled activities, certificates, newspaper clippings, and correspondence and memos. The 1956-1957 scrapbook contains a copy of the P.T.A.'s by-laws. The books were intended for display at regional and national P.T.A. meetings and the local associations often competed with each other for scrapbook awards. The series includes scrapbooks for the years 1932-1937, 1946-1947, and 1952-1957. It is important to note that the scrapbooks are at varying degrees of completeness; some books contain relatively little information while other books are full.

SEPARATION RECORD

Photographs (Institute Photo 51.204)

- There are five photographs for the Emerson Smith P.T.A. records. These are all photographs of various children's activities.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Contents
1/1	Historical material, and Finding aid
1/2	Charter and Constitution
Meeting Minutes Series	
1/3	May 1922-April 1931
1/4	September 1931-May 1942
1/5	October 1942-May 1945
1/6	May 1950-October 1953
1/7	November 1954-May 1955
1/8	September 1955-May 1957
Treasurer's Reports Series	
1/9	1933-1953
1/10	1953-1957
Subject Files Series	
1/11	Boy Scouts
1/12	Campfire Girls

1/13	Carnival financial reports, 1951, 1952
1/14	Certificates
1/15	Correspondence and memos, 1930-1947
1/16	Invitations
1/17	Membership lists
1/18	Newspaper clippings
1/19	Organizational brochures
1/20	Paper Drive, World War II
1/21	Programs

Scrapbooks Series

2/1	1932-1933
2/2	1933-1934
2/3	1934-1935
2/4	1935-1936
3/1	1936-1937
3/2	1946-1947
3/3	1952-1953
4/1	1954-1955
Mss 1571	1955-1956
4/2	1956-1957