

## Preliminary Finding Aid to the Communication, Speech and Theatre Association of North Dakota Records

### Communication, Speech and Theatre Association of North Dakota

Communication, Speech and Theatre Association of North Dakota Records, 1953 -2007

ca. 5 linear ft.

Collection number: Accession 2907

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### OVERVIEW

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

**Provenance:** Donated by Robert Littlefield, 2009, 2010 (Acc. 2907 & 2945).

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

**Copyrights:** Copyrights to this collection is held by the Institute.

**Citation:** [Identification of item]. Communication, Speech and Theatre Association of North Dakota Records (Acc. 2907), Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

### HISTORY

The origins of the North Dakota Speech and Theatre Association date to the early 1950s and the activities of the North Dakota Association of Speech Teachers. It appears that in 1953 the *Speech and Drama Bulletin* newsletter began publication by members of the Speech Advisory Committee of the North Dakota High School Activities Association. The newsletter became a way to communicate announcements and information to the teachers in the state who worked with forensic and theatre activities. At the 1952 North Dakota Teachers' Convention Dr. John Penn of the University of North Dakota chaired the Speech Advisory Committee and out of that meeting became the first president of the newly organized North Dakota Speech and Theatre Association.

“Planning programs for the teachers’ convention in the fall and spring meetings; promoting debate, speech, and drama activities; scheduling tournaments; and encouraging forensic and dramatic coaches to participate fully appear to be the main purposes around which the activities of the Association revolved.”

At the 1985 biennial meeting of the NDSTA it was approved to hold an annual convention for teachers and coaches involved with speech communication and theatre arts activities, and the first convention was held in 1986. In 1987 the first annual issue of the association’s *North Dakota Journal of Speech and Theatre* was published. In 2006-2007 the name of the association was changed to Communication, Speech and Theatre Association of North Dakota.

History based upon information obtained from:

Littlefield, Robert S. *Voices on the Prairie: Bringing Speech and Theatre to North Dakota*. Fargo, N.D.: Institute for Regional Studies, 1998.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The Communication, Speech and Theatre Association of North Dakota Records primarily document the history and activities of the association from its beginnings as the North Dakota Speech and Theater Association from the early 1950s to the 2000s, with the majority of the records ending in the late 1990s. The initial records accessioned consist largely of photocopies of documents apparently compiled by Robert Littlefield related to speech and theatre activities in the state and no doubt used in the research for his book *Voices on the Prairie*. There are also incomplete sets of the newsletters, its annual journal, and the annual convention from 1986 to 2007. Also of note are five photograph albums of snapshots taken likely at the annual conventions of members, banquets and events.

## **BOX AND FOLDER LIST**

### **Box/Folder      Content**

1/1      Finding aid

#### **Accession 2907 Series**

1/1      Accordion folder (30 files) of photocopies of historical documents related to music, speech and drama events in North Dakota. (no file listing)

1/2      Accordion folder (26 files) with following file listing:

1. Intercollegiate State Organization
2. Dickinson State University
3. Jamestown College
4. Mayville State University
5. Minot State University
6. North Dakota State University

7. North Dakota State University
8. University of North Dakota
9. University of North Dakota
10. Valley City State University
11. Richardton Abbey
12. Other College Activity
13. Bismarck High School
14. Fargo High School
15. Grand Forks High School
16. Minot High School
17. Community theatre & pageants
18. Fred Walsh memories of 1952-55 LCT
19. Administrative Manual for North Dakota High School
20. Dakota Playmakers, 1918
21. Student Congress, 1964
22. Results for Debate, Declam, Topics
23. Robert Burr
24. Request for Photos, ND Hist. Society
25. Ellendale
26. Fargo College

Box 2

- 2/1      Accordion folder (21 files) with following file listing:
1. NDSTA, 1950s
  2. NDSTA, 1960s
  3. NDSTA, 1970s
  4. NDSTA, 1980-1984
  5. NDSTA, 1985-1989
  6. NDSTA, 1990-1994
  7. NDSTA, 1995-
  8. Constitution
  9. Hall of Fame
  10. Awards
  11. Officers & Advisory Committee
  12. Tournament of Champions
  13. Heiman Papers, 1970s
  14. LCID
  15. F.U. Smith Speeches
  16. NFL in N.D.
  17. Hall of Fame Inductees (Arnold-Littlefield)
  18. Hall of Fame (Wilson, present w/missing)
  20. Various Award nominations
  21. People to acknowledge

### 31. Book orders and Info

- 2/2 National Forensic League activity in North Dakota (listing by school)
- 2/3 *OnState North Dakota*, vol. 1, no. 6 (April 1991)
- 2/4 North Dakota Speech & Theatre convention program, 1997
- 2/5 Misc. photocopies of clippings and documents

#### Box 3

- 3/1-5 5 Photograph albums of b&w and color snapshots of association members, banquets, meetings, etc. (none dated or identified)

#### Box 4

- 4/1 Binder of association newsletters, 1953-1997 (*Speech and Drama Bulletin*, *NDSTA Newsletter*, and *North Dakota Speech and Theatre Association Newsletter*)
- 4/2 Binder of issues of *North Dakota Journal of Speech and Theatre*, Vol. 2 - Vol. 10 (1989-1997)

#### **Accession Addition 2945 Series**

- 1/1 'Archival records, start of NDSTA 1985 to 1996'
- 1/2 Binder of various constitutions
- 1/3 Folder of association newsletters. 1986-2006
- 1/4 'NDSTA Awards records' folder
- 1/5 'NDSTA Board' folder
- 1/6-9 Miscellaneous folders
- 1/10 American Forensic Association 12<sup>th</sup> Annual National Individual Events Tournament, Fargo, N.D., 1989 (1 folder)
- 1/11 Northern Lights Nationals, NDSU, 1992 program and issue of *Rostrum*, April 1992
- 1/12 Various packets of snapshots
- 1/13 NDSTA convention programs, 1986-1996, 1998-1999, 2001-2007
- 1/14 *North Dakota Journal of Speech and Theatre*, Vol. 1, 12-14, 17-18, 20 (1987, 1999-2001, 2004-2005, 2007)