Finding Aid to the Henri P. Fugl Papers

Fugl, Henri P., 1881-1979
Henri P. Fugl Papers, 1923-1975
1 linear ft.
MSS 388

OVERVIEW

Links: North Dakota Ephemera Collection, MSS 1598, SP.H86 Hunting and Fishing, North Dakota

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Citation: [Identification of item] Henri P. Fugl Papers, (MSS 388), NDSU Archives, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

BIOGRAPHY

Henri P. Fugl was born in Vardinborg, Denmark, in April 1881. He attended the university in Bingen A. Rhein, Germany, where he was studied in the field of mechanical engineering. In 1904, he immigrated to the United States, arriving in New York where he soon found employment with a patent attorney. Accounts of free land in the Dakotas, as reported in an Iowa-based Danish newspaper, soon lured him west. However, the snows of North Dakota drove him even further west, all the way to California. He landed in a small town outside of San Francisco where he found work in fruit farming. In 1906, when the earthquake rocked the area, Henri was one of those shaken from his bed. Henri left the San Francisco area, and traveled to Iowa and then Montana. In Montana, he and his brother Eigil homesteaded a farm.
Eventually, Henri and his brother Eigil returned to North Dakota and settled in Verona, in LaMoure County, where they farmed.

In 1909 during a trip back to Denmark, Henri met and married Elna Gebauer. He brought his bride back to North Dakota where they continued to farm and had a family of three daughters: Ivy Elise (1911-2002), Ruth Gudrun (1913-1980), and Alice Hedvig (1915-1999). Elna died in 1918 and Henri spent the next few years working in Fargo, Minneapolis and Canada before returning to his farm in Isley township in 1923. In 1924 Henri married again, to Lydia Palmvig, who had emigrated to the U.S. from Denmark. They had two children: Esther Henriette (1925) and Allen Carsten (1927).

Henri practiced soil conservation from the beginning of his farming career, measures which included the planting of thousands of trees; in addition, Henri was an expert gardener. Besides farming, Henri was an inveterate writer, making daily entries into his diaries, writing letters to newspaper editors and wartime correspondence with area servicemen. Henri was active in his community, spearheading the drive to get electrical service to Isley township where he lived; and also served, for 25 years, on the school board for School District No. 15, the Cleveland Community School.

Henri died February 6, 1979; his wife Lydia died June 9, 1985. Both are buried in Lisbon Cemetery.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The *Henri P Fugl Papers* consists of Henri’s diaries and papers. The majority of the collection is comprised of diaries written by Henri and papers the include meeting minutes from the Cleveland School District school board, a membership drive for electrical service for Isley township, correspondence with servicemen during World War II and copies of letters to the editor printed in various newspapers.

The collection is divided into five series:

**Diaries, 1937-1975:** This series contains the five diaries, written in English, along with two addendum dairies, filled with Fugl’s daily observations about farm life, weather, current events and a trip back to Denmark.

**School Board, 1937-1940:** This series contains meeting minutes from the Cleveland Community School board, on which Fugl served as Clerk.

**Rural Electric Association, 1948-1949:** This series contains papers from the membership drive and right of easement for Isley township to join the Cass County Electrical Cooperative.

**Correspondence, 1923-1964:** This series contains various correspondence which includes copies of letters to the editors of various area newspapers, some written by Fugl, and letters written to area servicemen during World War II.

**Ephemera, 1923** which consists of an auction poster.
SEPARATION NOTICE

The following materials have been separated from the collection: a poster advertising a Wolf Hunt annotated with “posted 1908 held at Englevale ND.” The poster has been moved to the North Dakota Ephemera Collection, MSS 1598, folder SP.H86.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

1/1 Finding Aid and biographical information

Diaries

1/2 Diary, 1943-47
1/3 Addendum Diary, 1947; written during Denmark trip
1/4 Diary, 1948-52
1/5 Diary, 1953-63
1/6 Diary, 1963-75, with inserts
1/7 Diary, 1976-79
1/8 Leather Wallet with notes on farming, 1947 Denmark trip

School Board

2/1 Meeting Minutes of School District No. 15, 1937-40

Rural Electric Association (REA) Isley Township

2/2 Cass County Electrical Cooperative paperwork, 1948-49

Correspondence

2/3 Letters to the editors, circa 1923 - 64
2/4 Letters to the editor, circa 1954 - 64
2/5 Correspondence with WWII servicemen, 1944-46

Ephemera

2/6 Poster, 1923

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