Finding Aid to the
North Dakota Children’s Home Finder

North Dakota Children’s Home Finder, 1906-1925
.4 linear ft.
Collection number: Mss 279

Overview

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

Provenance: Donated by Lucy Hall, Fargo, N.D., 1960 (Acc. 1058).

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

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Citation: [Identification of item]. North Dakota Children’s Home Finder, MS 279, Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

History

The North Dakota Children’s Home Society dates its origins to 1891 when an auxiliary society was established for the Children’s Home Society of Minnesota. The first local superintendent was Rev. C.J. McConnehey who in 1895 moved to Montana to organize a similar organization in that state. He was followed by Rev. B.H. Brasted. In 1897 the society was incorporated in North Dakota and plans begun to construct a permanent structure. The new home was completed when Frank Hall took over as superintendent in 1902. Mr. Hall became known as Daddy Hall and personified the work of the society until he was struck with a serious stroke in 1926. He died ten years later in 1936. In 1927 Harold H. Bond guided the society as superintendent and continued in that position until 1951 when he retired. Robert C. Olslund of Fargo was named the next superintendent. In 1956 with the construction of a new facility on
south University Drive, the name of the society was changed to Children’s Village. In 1957 Mr. Olslund resigned and George Jenson was named acting superintendent until James C. Baccus was named superintendent in April 1957. The name was later changed to Village Family Service Center and today its mission is “to improve the quality of life through services designed to strengthen individuals, families and organizations.”

**SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The *North Dakota Children’s Home Finder* was the official publication of the North Dakota Children’s Home Society that was headquartered in Fargo. It apparently began in 1902 shortly before Rev. Brasted resigned. It is unknown when the publication ceased, but this collection ends with April 1925. Individual issues vary as to content, but usually include articles regarding the ongoing work of the children’s home, report of the superintendent, listing of board officers, donations and gifts, an occasional national article, and articles and some photographs of child residents. There are also advertisements primarily of Fargo businesses. Although not consistent, some issues do contain the annual report of the superintendent.

It is not believed there are any additional issues at the society’s successor, Village Family Service Center. The State Historical Society of North Dakota Archives has only four issues, and none duplicate the Institute’s holdings. The society archives issues include: Vol. 1, no. 8 (Aug. 15, 1903); Vol. 5, no. 6 (Feb. 5, 1909); Vol. 10, no. 2 (June 15, 1913); and Vol. 12, no. 6-1 (April-June 1915).

**BOX AND FOLDER LIST**

1/1  Finding aid, and historical information

**North Dakota Children’s Home Finder Issues**

1/2  Vol. 2, no. 6 (Feb. 15, 1906)
1/3  Vol. 4, no. 6 (Feb. 15, 1908)
1/4  Vol. 6, no. 4 (Oct. 15, 1909)
1/5  Vol. 9, no. 3 (Aug. 15, 1912)
1/6  Vol. 13, no. 5 (Feb. 15, 1916)
1/7  Vol. 13, no. 6 (Feb. 15, 1916)
1/11 Vol. 14, no. 5 (Feb. 15, 1917)
1/12 Vol. 14, no. 6 (April 15, 1917)
1/13 Vol. 15, no. 1 (June 15, 1917)
1/14 Vol. 15, no. 2 (Aug. 15, 1917)
1/15 Vol. 15, no. 3 (Oct. 15, 1917)
1/16 Vol. 15, no. 4 (Dec. 15, 1917)