

# **Finding aid for the Santa Claus Girls collection Collection 180**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

July 1995

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Creator</b>	Santa Claus Girls (Kent County, Mich.).
<b>Title</b>	Santa Claus Girls collection
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1941-2000
<b>Extent</b>	18.1 Linear feet 15 boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The Santa Claus Girls is a non-profit organization that provides gifts for children in Kent County, Michigan for Christmas. The collection primarily consists of newspaper clippings scrapbooks, documenting the organization from 1941 to 2000. Also included are four versions of the group's constitution and occasional photographs, ephemera and correspondence. The organization was founded in 1908 by Adriana VanDoorn with the help of Senator Arthur Vandenberg. It was sponsored by the Grand Rapids Herald and now by the Grand Rapids Press.</p>

## Biographical/Historical note

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The Santa Claus Girls were founded by Adriana VanDoorn in 1908 with the help of Senator Arthur Vandenberg, then editor of the Grand Rapids Herald. VanDoorn and other Sunday School teachers from Park Congregational Church became the first volunteers for the organization. Since the Herald closed, the organization has been sponsored by the Grand Rapids Press.

The Herald requested letters addressed to "Santa Claus" to be sent to them. The Girls then went through the letters and determined, with the help of social agencies, which children were in need. The community was encouraged to send money, clothes, toys and candies. In return for each donation the donor would see their name appear in the paper.

Local organizations aid in the Girls efforts as well. And many men assist each year, though the group has continued to retain the title "Santa Claus Girls."

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## Scope and Contents note

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The collection as initially processed was said to contain 37 scrapbooks. 17 brown envelopes of Grand Rapids Press newspaper clippings about the Santa Claus Girls, 1959-1968, were found in Box 4. Also found was 1 brown envelope of Grand Rapids Herald clippings 1954-1958, re the Santa Claus Girls. It was discovered that these envelopes of general file clippings from the publishers had been called [vol. 16], 1954-1968, as previously processed.

These general clippings from the publishers files themselves have been placed in other collections, as follows:

Coll. 297, the Grand Rapids Press Collection, in process 6/18/2003. Coll. 259, the Grand Rapids Public Library Newspaper Collection. Herald Clippings Series. Box 111.

Thus, as of June 2003, the collection contained 36 scrapbooks from the initial accession and 16 scrapbooks from accession 2003.052. While there are a total of 52 scrapbooks, the numbering remains [v.1] to [v. 53], using the [v.16] as a cross reference to the new location of the general clippings.

The collection now covers the period 1941-2000.

The scrapbooks are predominately newspaper clippings. However, there are black & white or color photos in some books, as well as ephemera, some correspondence, and club documents, such as the various constitutions.

Scrapbooks [v. 32] is missing the cover.

Additionally, loose items found in the new accession, and small folder of early constitutions found in Box 1, were moved to new box 1.5.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department July 1995

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Santa Claus Girls, accession numbers 00.000 and 2003.052

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials note**

Scattered representation of this group may be found in other collections, particularly those related to women's clubs or club women. For example:

Collection 032, the East Side Ladies Literary Club, includes the Constitution and By Laws of this group, as well as 1991/1994 yearbooks, received with the documents of the East Side Club.

Collection 125, Robinson Studio Collection.

Collection 297, the Grand Rapids Press Collection. Additional newspaper file clippings on the Santa Claus girls here.

Collection 259, Grand Rapids Newspaper Collection. Grand Rapids Herald Clippings, Box 111.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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**Corporate Name(s)**

- Santa Claus Girls (Kent County, Mich.).

**Genre(s)**

- scrapbooks

**Geographic Name(s)**

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Kent County (Mich.) -- History

**Subject(s)**

- Charities -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

## Series I. Miscellaneous

## Collection Inventory

Series I. Miscellaneous		
Constitutions		
	Box	Folder
Herald Santa Claus Girls of G.R.M. (handwritten version on scrap paper)	1.5	1
Constitution of the Santa Claus Girls of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Oct. 11, 1960.	1.5	1
Amended Feb. 12, 1970 version. (photocopy) 2003.052	1.5	1
Amended Oct. 29, 1975 version. (photocopy) 2003.052	1.5	1
	Box	Folder
Letter, White House, Dec. 15, 1975. From Mrs. Dorothy E. Downton, personal Secretary to the President. RE a donation from the five Ford children. 2003.052	1.5	2
Images		
	Box	Folder

## Series II. Scrapbooks

Santa Claus Girls. Bird's eye view of a group, at a meal, n.d. ca. 1930s-1940s? Copy 1: 8x10 b/w, 2003.052, Copy 2: Kodak digital copy print	1.5	3
"Special. Santa Claus, North Pole" Photo of boy above an enlarged envelop. Image said to be from one of the scrapbooks in this collection, but originating location not documented.	1.5	3
1998 images. 2 contact sheets. Accompanying 35 mm. Negatives housed with copy negatives.	1.5	4
<b>Series II. Scrapbooks</b>		
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
The 1954-1968 scrapbooks in box 16 were actually brown envelopes of general clippings files from the publishers, and have been moved to Colls. 297 and 259. Also, new material (1970-2000) was received June 2003, 2003.052.		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Volume</b>
1941-1942.	1	[1]
1943-1945.	1	[2]
1946-1947.	1	[3]
1946-1947.	1	[4]
1948-1949.	2	[5]



Series II. Scrapbooks

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1949	2	[6]
1950	2	[7]
1950	2	[8]
1950-1951.	2	[9]
1951	3	[10]
1952	3	[11]
1952-1953.	3	[12]
1953	3	[13]
1954	4	[14]
1954-1955.	4	[15]
1955	5	[17]
1955	5	[18]
1956	5	[19]
1956-1957.	6	[20]

Series II. Scrapbooks

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1958-1960.	6	[21]
1959	6	[22]
1960	6	[23]
1961	7	[24]
1961-1963.	7	[25]
1962-1963.	7	[26]
1964	7	[27]
1964-1966.	8	[28]
1964-1970.	8	[29]
1967-1968.	8	[30]
1968	8	[31]
1968	9	[32]
1969-1970.	10	[33]
1969-1971.	10	[34]

Series II. Scrapbooks

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1971	10	[35]
1971-1973.	10	[36]
1973-1974.	10	[37]
1970	11	[38]
1974 thru 1978	11	[39]
1986	11	[40]
1987	12	[41]
1988	12	[42]
1991	12	[45]
1989	13	[43]
1990, with 1991/1992 content	13	[44]
1992	14	[46]
1994	14	[47]
1993 thru 1998	14	[48]

**Series II. Scrapbooks**

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1998	4	[49]
1999-2000	13	[50]
1995, Red GR Press Scrapbook 2003.052	9	[51]
1997, Red GR Press Scrapbook 2003.052	9	[52]
1993-1997, Red GR press Scrapbook 2003.052	9	[53]