

Finding aid for the Western Michigan Chapter of the Navy Mothers' Club of America records Collection 209

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
February 1998
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49503
616-988-5400
localhis@grpl.org

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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	Navy Mothers' Club #61 (Western Michigan).
Title	Western Michigan Chapter, Navy Mothers' Club of America records
Date [inclusive]	1930-1965
Extent	1.8 Linear feet Two boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Navy Mother's Club of America provided for the welfare of the men of the United States Navy. The Western Michigan chapter was founded in 1937. This collection includes scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, certificates, minutes, pamphlets and photographs relating to the Navy Mothers' welfare work. There are also historical reviews, programs from state and national conventions, newsletters and other literature. Three large group photographs from the Eleventh National Convention in New York, as well as a framed photograph of the founder, are also included.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

The Navy Mothers' Club of America was founded in 1930 by Mrs. Emma Jones of Texas in order to provide for the welfare of the men of the U.S. Navy and her son. Its purpose was to promote a program of education, welfare and social interest between parents of navy men and enlisted personnel and to encourage contentment, efficiency, patriotism and pride among those serving in the navy. The club was limited to natural or legal mothers of men in active service in the U.S. Navy.

Between 1930 and 1950, 724 charters were approved to organize clubs across the country. On November 11, 1937, the West Michigan branch of the Navy Mothers was formed. A majority of the NMCA's volunteer work was done in Naval and Veteran's Hospitals, providing comfort, companionship and entertainment to the sailors. The Navy Mothers were actively involved in fund raising to support their projects. In 1943, the NMCA was selected by President Franklin Roosevelt as one of twenty organizations on the President's War Relief Control Board.

The NMCA's activities peaked during wartime and slowed during times of peace. When the club officially disbanded is not evident in the collection but it was probably in the late 1960's as the military assumed more responsibility for the welfare of its men.

Scope and Contents note

The collection contains two scrapbooks from the West Michigan chapter of the Navy Mothers' Club: one which contains the minutes from meetings and social events from 1940 to 1961, the other contains photos, newspaper clippings, programs and pamphlets from 1937 to 1959.

Other forms of literature in the collection include correspondences from 1947-1963, Navy Mothers' News (1950-1953), minutes and programs to state conventions (1955-1965), certificates honoring their outstanding welfare work (1946-1964), a Twentieth Anniversary Historical Review (1930-1950) with supplements in 1956 and 1958, a History of the West Michigan club (1937-1940), newspaper clippings from the late 1950s to early 1960s, and miscellaneous papers, programs, and cards.

The collection also includes photographs of people from conventions and socials, as well as a photo of the founder, Mrs. Emma Jones.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department February 1998

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Anonymous, accession number 1996.017

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Navy Mothers' Club #61 (Western Michigan).
- United States. Navy.

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Subject(s)

- Families of military personnel -- Michigan -- History
- Women -- Michigan -- Societies and clubs

Papers

Collection Inventory

Papers		
	Box	Folder
History of the Club 1937-1940	1	1
Historical Review and Supplements 1930-1950, 1956, 1958	1	2
Navy Mothers' News 1950-1953	1	3
State conventions 1955-1965	1	4
Correspondences 1947-1963	1	5
Scrapbook-Minutes 1940-1961	2	1
Ephemera		
	Box	Folder
Certificates 1946-1964	1	6
Newspaper Clippings 1950s-1960s	1	7

Photographs

Miscellaneous: Greeting Cards, Newsletter, Programs, Navy Art Book, Telegrams, Membership Card	1	10
Scrapbook-Photos and Clippings 1937-1959	2	2
Photographs		
	Box	Folder
Photographs, People-Unidentified ca.1950-1960, n.d.	1	8
Photographs, People-Identified, n.d. Including Emma Jones, Ira Nelson, Neva Partridge, Flossie D., Elizabeth Sch., Grace Hekker	1	9
		Drawer
Photographs; Group of People-Unidentified Eleventh National Convention in New York-Banquet and Opening Session / Drucker - Wilbert, NYC [photographer] 6833-1, 6838-3, 6838-4 July 9-10, 1946		FFVII B