

Osterhouse Dance Studio scrapbooks

Finding aid prepared by Julie Dolegowski

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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	Osterhouse Dance Studio scrapbooks
Date	June 1930 to November 1958
Extent	2.0 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Phil Osterhouse owned and operated several dance studios in Grand Rapids and the surrounding areas. He was passionate about dance and grew to become one of the leading dance masters in the United States at the time. He was constantly on the forefront of the dance industry, traveling to Chicago to keep his repertoire up to date with the most popular dances. He also pioneered several dances of his own, which were demonstrated in magazines and newspaper. His passion for dance led to him becoming president of the Dance Masters of Michigan, and eventually Dance Masters of the United States.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

Phil Osterhouse was born and raised in Grand Rapids, MI. In his early life he trained as a locomotive machinist and eventually moved to Las Angeles. It was here that he began taking dance classes and taking an interest in dance. In California, he opened and taught at a small dance studio for a year. He soon made his way back to Grand Rapids and opened the Phil Osterhouse Dance Studio. Due to his persistence in advertizing, the studios patronage grew rapidly and additional locations were opened. The main studio was located on the corner of Fulton and Division and at it's height served nearly 500 students.

Phil grew his business by constantly learning new and popular dances in Chicago and bringing them back to his studio. He also choreographed several of his own dances. Being on the forefront of the dance industry, Phil Osterhouse was a member the Dance Masters of Michigan and Dance Masters of America. He would eventually go on to become president of both organizations, as well as become a faculty of many other state dance associations.

Scope and Contents note

This collection of scrapbooks collected by Phil Osterhouse carefully details the importance of dance in the 1930's and 40's. It especially shows the strength of the dance scene in Grand Rapids through the success of dance studios such as Phil Osterhouse Dance Studio and others. The scrapbooks contain many articles related to dance in Grand Rapids, including announcements, reviews, ads, articles and pictures.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

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

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- scrapbooks

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Personal Name(s)

- Osterhouse, Mrs. Phil
- Osterhouse, Phil

Subject(s)

- Dance schools -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

Scrapbooks

Collection Inventory

Scrapbooks		
	Box	
Scrapbook 1927	1	
Scrapbook June 1930-October 1932	1	
Scrapbook January 1933-November 1935	1	
Scrapbook December 1934-April 1939	2	
Scrapbook November 1936-February 1941	2	
Scrapbook September 1941-September 1943	2	
Scrapbook October 1942- July 1948	2	
Scrapbook July 1953-November 1958	2	
Miscellaneous		
	Box	Folder
"Third Annual Dinner and Vaudeville" Program February 12, 1927	2	1

Miscellaneous

Phil Osterhouse Presents "Mardi Gras" program June 6, 1935	2	1
Phil Osterhouse Presents "Spring Time in Swing Time" program May 26-27, 1937	2	1
Grand Rapids Junior Association of Commerce Presents " Cheers for Victory" July 1, 1942	2	1
"Regent Revels" newsletter. 2 copies. November 16, 1926	2	1
Newspaper clipping "Pantlind to Stage Party" Date Unknown	2	1