

S. J. McKee Archives



Joseph H. Hughes collection - photographs

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions8344>

Part Of: Joseph H. Hughes collection

Description Level: Series

Series Number: 3-1997.1

Accession Number: 3-1997

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 1886-1960

Physical Description: 84 photographs

Scope and Content:

Accession 3-1997 (84 photographs, various diplomas; 1886-1960) contains a variety of photographs of buildings and streetscapes of the 100 block of Tenth Street and various Hughes properties in the city. In addition, there are photographs of the "Founders of Hughes and Co," a parade on Tenth Street in 1924, the Wheat City Business College Hockey Team 1912, three photographs of the Port of Churchill in 1931, three photographs of threshing crews on Hughes and Company property, a Great War military contingent from Brandon including JRC Evans, and four family photographs.

Notes: Initial processing Jessica Taylor (winter 2007).

Storage Location: RG 5 photograph storage drawer and oversize

Storage Range: RG 5 photograph storage drawer and oversize



Joseph H. Hughes collection - Hughes & Co. business correspondence

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions8975>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Series

Series Number: 3-1997.3

Accession Number: 21-2008, 6-2009

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1882-1920

History /

Biographical:

See collection level description of the Joseph H. Hughes collection for biographical information.

Custodial History:

See collection level description of the Joseph H. Hughes collection for custodial history.

Scope and Content:

Accession 1-2008 (32 cm textual records and 1 map: 1906-1916; predominant 1909-1915).

Accession 1-2000 (2.5 m textual records and 1 map; 1882-1919; predominant 1882-1919). As mayor, city Alderman and prominent city businessman, J.H. Hughes came into possession of many city government, civic, and business records during the first decade and a half of the twentieth century.

The accession consists of city records, information on contemporary city utility services and companies including tenders for the construction of the Brandon street railway, documents concerning grain elevators, lumber production, newspaper clippings, as well as personal and city correspondence - including a proposal from the Canadian Northern Railway to construct the Prince Edward Hotel.

Accession 6-2009 (2.26 m textual records; 1882-1920). Records in the accession deal with the business affairs of Hughes & Company. Accession also contains records related to the personal affairs of J.H. Hughes.

Records from 1882-1889; predominant 1882 include: business correspondence. Much of the correspondence is between Hughes and his business associates T.T. Atkinson and Mr. Kennedy at Rat Portage in Ontario. Mr. Bambridge, who ran the Souris Yard is also mentioned frequently. There is also correspondence related to the Reid Farm, Hughes' first commercial farming venture. Various documents are concerned with J.H. Ashtown Hardware, the Manitoba Government Immigration and Intelligence Office, Butler Paper & Co., Canadian Pacific Rail, Boston and Maine Rail, Keewatin Mills, Charmichael Clothing, The Hudson's Bay Company and the City of Brandon

Records from 1889-1893 include: financial records including debts owed to or by J.H. Hughes & Company; correspondence between the company and partners and employees regarding the running of the lumber company in Brandon, Souris, Rat Portage and Rainy River (shipping of goods, camp supplies, maintenance of mills, ordering of goods, trade with other lumber companies); legal records pertaining to litigation regarding debts; correspondence with the Department of the Interior, the Department of Crown Lands, and the Department of Indian Affairs; correspondence regarding real estate in Brandon and land sales in the various regions of the lumber and grain company's operation; correspondence between J.H. Hughes and his brothers A.J. Hughes, Charles B. Hughes, his cousin J.R. Hughes and his father J.C. Hughes regarding both business and personal matters. Also includes telegraphs, postcards, magazine subscriptions, and Masonic brochures.

Records from 1893-1895 include: business correspondence between Hughes & Atkinson Co. and lumber suppliers in Ontario and the midwestern United States. The records deal with the activities of the company, including payment of accounts, ordering and shipping of lumber and lumber related goods.

Records from 1897-1901 include: business letters, postcards, telegrams and memorandum of the Hughes and Long Lumber Company.

Records from 1907, 1913-1915; predominant 1914 include: business correspondence, product information and legal correspondence generated and/or received during business activities. There are also a series of miscellaneous files containing material related to Brandon municipal politics.

Records from 1915 include: business and personal correspondence to Hughes & Company pertaining to the J.H. Hughes Lumber Co. and farming ventures in Saskatchewan.

Records from 1911-1920; predominant 1919 include: business receipts and correspondence of Hughes & Company under the management of Willard C. Hughes, as well as family correspondence that is both personal and business-related. Business activities are largely related to the company's rental property in Brandon and farms in south eastern Saskatchewan, including Storybooks, ASK. It also includes some correspondence related to the Brandon Board of Trade and Cities (Willard Hughes was Chairman of the Board Committee). Records

Board of Trade and Civics (willed Hughes was Chairman of the Power Committee). Records also include correspondence urging the province to construct an electrical transmission line to Brandon from Winnipeg, the possibility of a detachment of the Royal North West Mounted Police re-locating to Brandon, the operation of the Soldiers Re-Settlement Board, and the vacating of the Winter Fair building, which had been used to house interned World War I prisoners starting in the spring of 1915. References to the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919 and the Teamsters Strike in Brandon of 1919 also occur in the correspondence.

Notes: Accession 21-2008 was processed and described as part of a Historiography class assignment in September and October 2008. The fonds was broken down into smaller components (1-3 boxes of records) spanning a few years and each student was assigned all the records in a particular time frame. Description by Christy Henry, Tom Mitchell, Andrew Dagley, Jill Sutherland, Laurel Neustaedter, Kylie Staslia, Tim Banman, Christine Shumay, Aimee Brown and Erica Smith.

Finding Aid: Inventory for Accession 1-2008.

Storage Location: 2008 accessions



Lawrence Stuckey slide collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions9512>

Part Of: RG 11 Lawrence Stuckey fonds

Description Level: Series

Series Number: 2

Accession Number: 1-2002

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 1954-1982

Physical Description: approximately 3838 colour slides

History /

Biographical:

For history/bio information see the collection level description of the Lawrence Stuckey collection.

Custodial History:

For custodial history see the collection level description of the Lawrence Stuckey collection.

Scope and Content:

Series consists of slides created from photographs taken by Lawrence Stuckey during his travels throughout Manitoba, other parts of Canada and the United States. Although Lawrence and his wife Mavis travelled for pleasure, their destinations were often chosen deliberately to enable Lawrence to explore and photograph specific landscapes, flora and fauna.

Name Access: Glendenning

Assiniboine River

Souris River

Sidney

Manitoba

Whiteshell

Carberry Hills

Baldhead Hills

Sprucewoods

Duck Mountains
Rossburn
Thompson
Kelsey Trail
E.T. Seton Park
Steeprock Bay
Steeprock River
Flin Flon
Rocky Lake
Lake Winnipegosis
Turtle Mountains
Riding Mountain National Park
Moon Lake
Lake Katherine
Clear Lake
Arrowhead Trail
B&B Trail
Ominik Trail
Gorge Creek
Scarborough
Ontario
Edwards Gardens
Royal Botanical Gardens
Prince Albert
Saskatoon
Lake Madge
Winnipeg
Saskatchewan
International Peace Gardens
South Dakota
Black Hills
North Dakota
Quebec
Kenora
Qu'Appelle Valley
Theodore Roosevelt National Monument
Toronto
Point Pelee
Port Dover
Windsor
Yellowstone National Park
Wyoming
Ottawa
Scotsbluff
Nebraska

Mt. Evans Road
Colorado
Berthoud Pass
Milner Pass
Dinosaur Park
Trail Ridge
Rollins Pass
Grand Teton
Beartooth Pass
Craters of the Moon
Idaho
Medicine Bow National Fort
Michigan
Wisconsin
Quebec City
Mont. Tremblant Park
Sugar Camp
Satine-Anne-de-Bellevue Canal
Montreal
Banff National Park
Larch Valley
Sentinel Pass
Lake Louise
Moraine Lake
Athabaska River
Plain of Six
Columbia Icefields
Bow River
Victoria Glacier
Yoho Pass
Yoho National Park
Wapta Falls
Hoodoo Park
Waterfall Valley
Highline Trail
Burgess Pass
Takakaw Falls
Kicking Horse
Skyline Trail
Waterton Lakes National Park
Emerald Lake
Yoho Valley
Twin Falls Creek
Trans Canada Highway

Subject Access:	geographic features
	manmade geographic features
	natural geographic features
	political geographic features
	natural phenomena
	natural waterways
	bridges
	canals
	mines
	roads
	trails
	monuments
	historical markers
	lakes
	mountains
	national parks
	parks
	hills
	valleys
	Rivers
	cities
	towns
	landscapes
	creeks
	gardens
	Plants
	trees
	badlands
	glaciers
	icefields
	hoodoos
	waterfalls
	beaches
	forests
Accruals:	Additional slides of flora and fauna taken by Stuckey during his travels are housed in the McKee Archives. Those slides are unprocessed at present.
Repro Restriction:	The McKee Archives is the copyright holder for the Stuckey materials.
Storage Location:	Lawrence Stuckey collection



Music and the Brandon Community fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14430>

Part Of: MG 4 Brandon University Students

Description Level: Fonds
 Accession Number: 8-2015
 GMD: multiple media
 Date Range: 2015
 Physical Description: 5 audio recordings
 1 cm textual records
 6 electronic documents
 Material Details: WAV files
 Word documents

History /

Biographical:

Music in the Brandon Community was created by Brandon University student Richard Bee for the course Advanced Topics in Oral History. The project was conducted under advisement from Dr. Rhonda Hinthier, BU History Department. Interviews were conducted by Bee with members of the Brandon community - Bill Campbell, Elizabeth Grant, Bill and Sue-On Hillman, Ian Robinson and Bill Turner - between June 9-July 7, 2015, about their experiences in the local musical community.

Following the completion of the interviews, Bee created a transcript of the Hillman interview, at their request. Interview logs were created for all other interviews. Bee used the interviews to write an essay titled "Oral History and Community Music: A Case Study of Brandon, MB," which he submitted to Hinthier to meet course requirements.

Custodial History:

As part of the ethics approval for the project, records created were slated for donation to the SJ McKee Archives. Bee donated the materials to the McKee Archives in July 2015.

Scope and Content:

The collection consists of consent forms, interview logs, one interview transcript, a copy of Bee's case study and the six audio recordings of interviews conducted with community members.

All of the interviews detail the interviewee's experiences in and around Brandon regarding music in the community; Brent Campbell's interview discusses his life as a music teacher in Brandon, his life, and his participation in Brandon Jazz; Dr. Elizabeth Grant's interview discusses her life, her teaching career at Brandon University and her musical career, including the Brandon Conservatory Chorale, which she founded; Bill and Sue-On Hillman's interview discusses their lives individually and together, their careers, and how music influenced their lives; Ian Robinson's interview discusses the operation of Ted Good Music, his life and performances in Brandon; and Bill Turner's interview discusses his life, radio career, and the Brandon community.

Bee's case study primarily covers first-person accounts of people in the Brandon Community involved in music. It includes topics such as faculty at BU's School of Music, performance experiences, and personal experiences of interviewees in and around Brandon and Canada.

Notes: Description by Hope Penner (September 2018) and Christy Henry
 Finding Aid: The interviews and interview logs are available in Brandon University's institutional repository, IRBU at:
<https://irbu.arcabc.ca/islandora/object/irbu%3ARBeeC>
 Storage Location: 2015 accessions, Archives server, IRBU
 Related Material: Western Manitoba Philharmonic fonds (8-2001)
 Brandon Folk, Music & Art Society fonds (17-2008)



RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4722>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Fonds

Fonds Number: RG 5

GMD: multiple media

History /

Biographical:

This record group was artificially created in January 2007 by Tom Mitchell and Christy Henry of the McKee Archives.

Scope and Content:

The record group consists of various fonds and collections concerned with the political, cultural, social, and educational life of western Manitoba. See the Subject Access field for a list of titles.

Notes: Description written by Christy Henry (2007).

Subject Access:

- Joseph H. Hughes
- Canadian Federation of University Women
- Verna Gamey
- Brandon Cinema Club
- Birtle Indian Residential School
- Brandon Assisted Passage Association
- Binscarth Women's Institute
- Griswold School District
- Manitoba School Trustees Regional Association
- Riverbank/Berbank Red Cross
- A.C. Miller
- C.J. Barnes
- David Sommerville Charleson
- Southwest A Region Manitoba Women's Institute
- Berbank Ladies Aid
- Berbank Church
- Blyth Protestant School District #471
- Crown Protestant School District #184
- Ward Watson
- Laurie V. Smith
- Marion Doig
- Elm Creek/Wingham Branch United Farmers of Manitoba
- Roseland Church
- Fairfax United Church
- Humesville & Forrest Women's Missionary Society
- Chater Protestant School District
- William Wallace
- United Grain Growers

G.R. Rowe
Cecil Herbert Edward Johnston
Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium
Brandon Art Club
James Duncan McGregor
Stephan Adolph Magnacca
Harry "Hap" Fraser
Leslie Victor Robson
Bertha School District #861
Manitoba Genealogical Society
Brandon Golf & Country Club
Keystone Centre Development and Construction
Manitoba Elevator Company
B.J. Hales
Brandon Council of Women
Westman Oral History
Mildred (Mollie) Kellet
Gerald McKinney
Janet Donnelly
Minnedosa OddFellows
Basswood OddFellows
Archibald E. Wilson
Audrey Silvius
Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir
Lawrence Stuckey
Minnedosa Women's Institute
Clanwilliam Women's Institute
Cordova Women's Institute
Crocus Women's Institute
Rathwell Women's Institute
Strathclair Women's Institute
Manitoba Women's Institute
Brandon Business & Professional Women's Club
Minnedosa Business & Professional Women's Club
Neepawa Business & Professional Women's Club
Brandon Women's Musical Club
International Toastmistress Club - Land O'Lakes Region
Fred McGuinness
Reg Forbes
Jack Stothard
Janet Louisa May More
William J. Birtles
Ruby Miles
Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women
Canadian Union of Public Employees

Brandon & District Labour Council (CLC)
Westman Multi-Cultural Council
Westman Coalition on Equality Rights
Martin Kavanagh
James Buckley
James Douglas Wall
Brandon Women's Institute
Trillium Business & Professional Women's Club
Westridge Senior Citizens
Kodaly in Manitoba
WARUCC - Western Association of Registrars of the Universities and
Colleges of Canada
Margaret Laurence Endowment
Douglas Women's Institute
Albert Angus Murray McPherson
Edward Walker
Alexander MacPhail
Inventory of Archival Material in Western Manitoba Project
Greenway Fair
Brandon Hills Busy Bees
Prairie Horizons Toastmistress Club
Grand Valley School District #206
Douglas Brolund
Norma Laird
Brandon Square Dancing Club
Tully McKenzie
Basswood School District
Anna Enns
Frank Robb
Bankburn School District
John Crawford
J.C. Cousins
William Ridley Sheridan Wade
Mary Schwalm
Robert (Bert) Lane
Ross Hume
Quincy H. Martinson
Helen Dutka
Dorothy Frances Davidson
Brandon Sno-Goers Snowmobile Club
Brandon Folk, Music & Art Society, Inc.
Baker family
Brandon Daily Sun microfilm
Western Manitoba Home Economic Association
Hubert Weidenhamer

Len Evans

Henry Hlady

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Westman Recycling Council

Herbert Goodland

Storage Location: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Storage Range: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Arrangement:

The fonds and collections in RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript collection have been arranged primarily by accession number.



Norma Laird collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4793>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection
Description Level: Fonds
Accession Number: 05-2007
GMD: multiple media
Date Range: 1880-1972
Physical Description: 2 photographs
6 cm textual records, including architectural plans

History /

Biographical:

Norma Laird's mother, Irene Clarke, was a daughter of Mr and Mrs John Clarke, who were pioneers in the Brandon region. Irene married David Black. Norma Laird was their daughter.

Custodial History:

The records passed from Irene Clarke to her daughter Norma, who donated them to the McKee Archives on January 15, 2007.

Scope and Content:

Collection consists of two historical accounts, one of the beginnings of Grand Valley, and a second of the Grand Valley School (author(s) unknown); architectural plans for the brick residence of Mr. Clarke, Farmer on section 35, township 10, range 19, county of Brandon by W. Richard Marshall, Architect, Brandon (1892); a newspaper clipping from the Brandon Sun, June 8, 1972 depicting the fire that destroyed the Clarke residence; a Three-Quarter Century Farm Ownership certificate to M. Irene Black from the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba (1967); a certificate to John T. Clarke to honour the significant contribution the family had made to the founding of Brandon from the Brandon Centennial Board (1982); two Grand Valley honorary Goodwill Ambassador of Grand Valley certificates for Mrs. J. Clarke and Mr. D. Black (1970).

The first photograph is a 8x10 b&w mounted photo of the counsellors of the Municipality of Elton with names on the back (1912). The second photograph is a 5.5 x 3.5 b&w postcard of a bus of some kind with numerous men and women standing in front of it (ca. 1914).

Accruals: The Archives anticipates the donation of a photograph of the Clarke residence from Norma Laird at a later date.

Storage Location: 2007 accessions



Alf Fowler collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4794>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection
Creator: Davidson & Gowen
Description Level: Fonds
Accession Number: 6-1999
GMD: graphic
Date Range: 1912
Physical Description: 105 b/w photographs

History /

Biographical:

Alfred Fowler was born in 1903, in Toronto, Ontario. At the age of 23 he began working for Canadian National Railways (C.N.R.) in the company's telegraph accounting department. He remained employed there for 45 years, with the exception of the years 1940-45 when he served with the Royal Canadian Artillery during World War II. During his service he was stationed at Shilo, Manitoba, where he met his future wife, Elsie Bowen. They were married late in 1944, and in 1945 returned to Toronto. Fowler remained in Toronto until his death in 1969. Throughout his life, Mr. Fowler was an ardent amateur photographer.

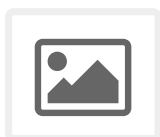
Custodial History:

All 105 prints in this collection were created by Davidson & Gowen, a photography business located in Brandon. It seems likely that they were created for display and/or for commercial sale as part of the November 7, 1912 "Harvest" edition of The Brandon Sun. Alfred Fowler acquired a copy of the Davidson and Gowen prints during his stay at C.F.B. Shilo during the Second World War. In 1946 Alfred Fowler left Brandon returning to his home in Toronto. With the death of Alfred in 1969 the collection passed to his wife, Elsie Fowler. Elsie died in 1987, also in Toronto. Her estate passed to her nephew, Byron Forsyth, a Brandon resident. Byron brought the collection back to Brandon and in 1999 donated it to the McKee Archives.

Scope and Content:

The prints concern various subjects in Brandon, Manitoba c. 1911-1912 including Brandon residences, store fronts/businesses, streetscapes, churches, the Brandon Fair, parks, hotels, institutional structures (ie hospitals, City Hall) and rail yards (both Canadian Northern and Canadian Pacific) in the city. These images provide a visual record of Brandon in the years just before the Great War.

Notes: CAIN No. 202647. All addresses listed for photographs in the Fowler collection were derived from Henderson's Directories (1911, 1913).
Location Copy: Copies of the photographs are in the green binder on the reference shelf in the reading room. Negatives for CPR photographs have been placed with 6-1999.10 (CPR Railway depot).
Storage Location: RG 5 photograph storage drawer.



Lawrence Stuckey photograph collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4796>

Part Of: RG 11 Lawrence Stuckey fonds
Description Level: Series
Series Number: 3

Accession Number: 1-2002
GMD: graphic
Date Range: ca. 1885 to 1991; predominantly 1960-1991
Physical Description: c. 2700 photograph negatives;
c. 100 b/w prints

History /
Biographical:

For history/bio information see the fonds level description of the Lawrence Stuckey collection.

Custodial History:

The entire collection was housed in Mr. Stuckey's residence at 658 11th St. Brandon, Manitoba, prior to its transfer to the McKee Archives. The balance of the materials, including the photograph negative collection, was deposited in the Archives following Mr. Stuckey's death. Some of the negatives came into Mr. Stuckey's possession when he acquired the Clark J. Smith Studio, Brandon, Man.

Scope and Content:

Created by Lawrence A. Stuckey, the collection includes some of his own photography. Stuckey took many of the photos during his travels in Southwestern Manitoba and further afield. As well, he acquired copies of negatives that fit his interest from friends, contemporaries, and other professional photographers. The majority of these copies are of photographs that predate Stuckey's era.

The collection includes various subjects from Brandon's history (including people, buildings, transportation, railways, and institutions) 1879 to 1992; surrounding communities, railway lines and trains 1925 to 1989; agriculture ca. 1890 to 1983; railway photographs including the Prairie Dog Central, grain cars and various railways, including Canadian Pacific, Canadian National, Great Northern, and Brandon, Saskatchewan & Hudson's Bay, ca. 1900 to 1992; vehicles, planes, and ships ca. 1940 to 1981; personal photographs including friends, travel and other personal interests.

The series has been divided into nine sub-series, including: (1) Brandon history; (2) Westbran project parks; (3) Rural archives; (4) History - miscellaneous (including Walker collection); (5) Grain cars; (6) The prairie dog; (7) Personal interests; (8) Lawrence Stuckey; and (9) Unsorted.

Notes: Funding for series three level descriptions and digitizing of the Lawrence Stuckey fonds has been provided courtesy of a generous grant from the Heritage Grants Advisory Council of the Manitoba Government 2009.

Repro Restriction: The McKee Archives is the copyright holder for the Stuckey materials.

Finding Aid: A copy of the photograph inventory is in the blue binder on the reference shelf in the reading room.

Storage Location: Lawrence Stuckey collection

Arrangement:

Subseries 1 - Brandon History

- A. People
- B. Bridges
- C. Streets
- D. Buildings
- E. Business
- F. Fire Dept.
- G. Hospitals
- H. Industries
- I. Streetcars
- J. Utilities
- K. Construction

- L. Transportation (other than rail)
- M. Exhibition
- N. Misc. History
- O. Environs
- P. Railroads

Subseries 2 - Westbran Project Parks

Subseries 3 - Rural Archives

1. CPR

- North branches
- Broadview Sub. (Brandon-Broadview)
- CPR lines south of mainline
- Carberry Sub. (Winnipeg-Brandon)
- Minnedosa & Bredenbury Sub's (Ex. Man. & N.W. Ry.) (Portage la Prairie-Minnedosa-Bredenbury)

2. CNR

- Mainline, Rivers Sub. (Winnipeg-Melville)
- Gladstone Sub. (Portage-Neepawa)
- Wawanesa Sub. (Brandon [M&B Jct]-Belmont)
- Rapid City Sub. (Hallboro-Beulah)
- Rossburn Sub. (Neepawa-Russell)

3. Surrounding Communities

- Brandon NW
- Brandon NE
- Brandon SW
- Brandon SE

4. Agriculture (Steam)

5. Agriculture (Horse & Misc)

6. Agriculture (Miscellaneous)

Subseries 4 - History - Miscellaneous (inc. Walker Collection)

Subseries 5 - Grain Cars

Subseries 6 - The Prairie Dog

Subseries 7 - Personal Interests

Subseries 8 - Lawrence Stuckey

- Friends & Personal 1975-
- Travel
- Cars & Planes
- Ships
- Ships & Boats
- Great Lakes Seaway
- Ships & Canal, Duluth, Minn. Sept. 1980
- Windsor & Toronto 1980, 1981
- Welland Canal 1981



George E. Thorman School Textbook Collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/specialcollections1406>

Part Of: MG 2 2.15 George E Thorman Collection
Collection: George E Thorman School Textbook Collection
Description Level: Fonds



Manitoba Pool Elevator Library collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/specialcollections1407>

Part Of: RG 4 Manitoba Pool Elevator fonds
Collection: Manitoba Pool Elevator Library collection
Description Level: Series
Series Number: MPE E
GMD: textual records
Date Range: 1888-1998
Physical Description: 13.7 m

History /

Biographical:

The importance of knowledge and education to the Manitoba Wheat Pool is made clear in the *The Scoop Shovel*, the official organ of the Manitoba Wheat Pool and other co-operatives in Manitoba. Established in the 1920s, *The Scoop Shovel* owed its existence to a decision by the directors of the Pool to set aside small percentage of income per bushel for educational purposes. R.A. Hoey began to hold meetings to discuss the idea that the Pool was about more than just marketing grain, and in 1926 a Department of Education and Publicity was organized within the Pool. It was directed by J.T. Hull and advised by R.A. Hoey; they expanded and supervised *The Scoop Shovel*.

They also began to accumulate the educational volumes that would become the Pool library. Hull announced in November of 1926 that the library would be open by the end of the month and reported that: "We have a good representation of works on sociology... On co-operation we have about every book that we can find published in the English language. We have also a good selection of books on economics, history, science, general literature, and rural life. In a word, we have tried to make the library one of usefulness to people whose life is on the land."

He also encouraged Pool members—who were the only ones allowed to use the library at this time—to utilize the library to educate themselves, saying "Use it, for knowledge is power". Once the library was open to all Pool members, Hull wrote a regular column for *The Scoop Shovel* called "In the Library", in which he would review books and recommend reading in response to frequent questions from members. When the library gained new books, which was almost continually, he would list them and sometimes discuss them.

The library service was a mailing one; the main collection was kept at the Manitoba Wheat Pool central office in Winnipeg and members could request a catalogue of all the library holdings. If they wanted to borrow a book or books on a specific topic, they could write to Hull and the books would be mailed out to the member and returned by mail, all postage costs covered by the Pool Library.

During the crisis of the early 1930s, the library was saved because the Manitoba Co-operative Conference believed it was vital to the success of the Pools and the co-operative movement.

The Conference took over administration of the Pool library in 1931, leasing the books and equipment from the Wheat Pool. The library was formally incorporated under a charter after it changed hands, the other charters members being the Co-operative Marketing Board and the United Farmers of Manitoba.

In 1935 the service was made available free of charge to all rural Manitobans with the financial support of the Co-op Marketing Board. By 1939, Manitoba Pool Elevators had begun to prosper again, and took back responsibility for the administration and housing of the library. The traveling library was also established around this time, and hundreds of boxes were distributed to all MPE points. The boxes were rotated and refreshed twice a year.

In 1942 Hull estimated that there were approximately 4,700 books in the Pool Library with an annual circulation of 4,000 to 5,000 books. Operating the library cost around two thousand dollars per year, although the cost was split between the members of the Manitoba Co-operative Conference, at least it was in theory. The Pool library ran as a free service to all rural Manitobans, regardless of whether they were members of the Pool, and the federal government census in 1941 indicates that over half of Manitoba's population (56%) still lived in rural areas. In 1948, the majority of the Pool Library's services were rendered unnecessary by an act called the "Public Libraries Act" that had been passed by the Manitoba legislature on April 22, 1948, and would go into effect July 1, 1948. The act provided for the establishing of a provincial "Public Library Advisory Board" that would be appointed by the government. Once the board had been established, the act allowed for the establishment of municipal and regional libraries that would be the administrative responsibility of the municipality or region they served and would be supported by a land tax levied on the population that would have access to the library. All employees of the central provincial library would be considered civil servants.

When the Provincial Library was being established in 1949, the Minister in charge of education—Ivan Shultz—actively sought both the advice of those who operated the Pool Library and the physical resources of the Library. In a letter to W.J. Parker, the President of Manitoba Pool Elevators, Shultz wrote that: "We find that in looking at the province as a whole that the box library service of the Manitoba Pool Elevators is the best developed and the best distributed within the province... We would feel that to a considerable extent you had pioneered in this field and we would be using your accomplishments as a springboard for a wider coverage of the province and an enlargement of the service."

He also requested that Miss E.L. Shields—the Pool Librarian—be released from Pool employment so that the Provincial Library could hire her for a year to aid in setting up the new library system.

An agreement was reached between MPE and the Provincial Library, and the bulk of the Pool Library was transferred to the province. The Pool retained the volumes it wished to keep as reference for its employees, and donated the rest of the open shelf library to the province. The traveling library service was sold at a discount to the province, with the caveat that service not be interrupted during the transfer and that the quality of service to rural Manitoba not diminish once the Library had been entirely transferred to the government. In a letter to Ivan Shultz after the agreement to sell the traveling library had been reached, W.J. Parker wrote that: "...Manitoba Pool Elevators has maintained an open shelf library for a period of some twenty years. These books have been made available to anyone in Manitoba, outside the City of Winnipeg, and the postage both ways was paid by the Pool. We feel it has served a very useful purpose, but that it is not primarily our function and if the government proposes to offer a more complete and universal service we are prepared to retire from the field and avoid what might be considered unnecessary duplication."

Scope and Content:

Series contains items once held as part of the Manitoba Pool Library. It has been divided into the following four sub-series: (1) MPE E 1 Manitoba Pool Library publications; (2) MPE E 2 The Scoop Shovel; (3) MPE E 3 The Manitoba Cooperator; and (4) MPE E 4 Pamphlet collection.

Notes:

Description by Jill Sutherland and Christy Henry



Robert Dudley Howland Fabian Society Collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/specialcollections1408>

Part Of: MG 2 2.16 Robert Dudley Howland Collection
Collection: Robert Dudley Howland Fabian Society Collection
Description Level: Fonds