



Grosse Pointe Historical Society

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SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT ARCHIVES

(S of G)

1940-Present

3 Linear Feet

File IV, Drawer 1

Acc No. 2001.003

The School of Government Archives were placed on permanent loan at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society Resource Center in October 2001. Once the collection had been organized and a finding aid completed, the collection was opened for public use without restriction in March 2003.

Concerned since its inception with the discussion of topical, government-related issues, the School of Government was founded as the School of Government of Wayne County in 1940 by Clara Hantel Brucker (1897-1980). She was the wife of Wilbur M. Brucker, a Grosse Pointe Farms resident, former Michigan Governor and Secretary of the Army under President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Though at first there was limited, local interest in forming a political study group, Mrs. Brucker was able to attract sufficient women to create an independent, non-partisan club for the purpose of studying legislation and government at all levels. Mrs. Brucker served as the group's first president and continued throughout her life as its Educational Director. The club's first event, a mock presidential convention scripted by Wilbur Brucker, attracted 1,000 women to the Book Cadillac Hotel.

From its inception, the Club drew its membership, which today numbers over 200, from all parts of metropolitan Detroit. It has always been run as traditional organization with a President, Officers and Standing Committees. The latter include Membership, Press Relations, Legislative, Social Affairs, Telephone, Projects (usually fundraisers), Yearbook (membership directory) and Reception (event hospitality). Since 1941, the Club has been a member of the Detroit Federation of Women's Clubs.

Over the years, membership meetings, on the second Wednesday of each month from September to April, have been held in a variety of locations. The Downtown YWCA was the club's meeting place until 1958, when members transferred to the Detroit Historical Museum. From 1962 to 1964, meetings were held in the Veteran's Memorial Building on Jefferson Avenue in Downtown Detroit but in the latter year were moved to the Women's City Club. From 1976 to 1980, the Detroit Athletic Club, with some visits to the Detroit Boat Club, was a favorite gathering place. In more recent times, members have assembled in a variety of metropolitan area private clubs or in private homes.

Topics for General Membership Meetings have usually related to issues of the day. Speakers have frequently had a national reputation. Both the Hon. Wilbur Brucker and Mrs. Brucker spoke several times over the years. General Maxwell Taylor was a lecturer in 1956 followed soon after by

Mme Chiang Kai Shek . Sen. Margaret Chase Smith spoke in 1977. Other presenters have included scholars, judges, politicians and community leaders. As a beginning for its 50th Anniversary celebration, the Club arranged for a special day at Selfridge National Guard Base near Mt. Clemens, MI. In addition to regular meetings, the Club has also held occasional special events such the 1965 Lecture Series on Foreign Policy co-sponsored with the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

The School of Government Archives is made up primarily of meeting, membership and photographic materials as well as some minutes. There are announcements, programs, some resumes, newspaper clippings, correspondence, brochures, photographs and some memorabilia. Scrapbooks developed over the years have been photocopied and pertinent items removed to appropriate files. Where feasible, photographs have been removed from scrapbooks, placed in polyester sleeves and filed in chronological order as a separate series. Scrapbooks containing clippings from 1940 to 1980 have been retained. The scrapbook for the 1980s has been retained in its entirety.

The Following Are Individuals and Organizations of Interest:

Hon. & Mrs. Wilbur M. Brucker	Gen. S. K. Hu, National Chinese Air Force
Mme. Chiang Kai Shek	Sen. Margaret Chase Smith
Mme. Anna Chennault	Mary Ellen Stempfle
Detroit Federation of Women's Clubs	Gen. Maxwell Taylor
Republican Party	Women's Internat'l League of Peace & Freedom
Lenore Romney	

The Following Are Topics Covered:

Conventions	Judicial Issues
Government, Regional	Politics
Education	U.S. Military
International Relations	Women's Organizations

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SERIES I: Administration 1947-2000

This small series pertains to the running of the School of Government. There are only a few sets of minutes from recent years. However, there are copies of the club's constitution and bylaws as well as revisions. Of interest are two awards from the Detroit Federation of Women's Clubs.

File IV, Drawer 1

1. Board & Committee Meeting Minutes 1998-2000
2. Legal - Constitution & Bylaws 1947; 1971-1972
3. Awards to / Donations from 1960; 1993; 1999

SERIES II: Membership 1947-1997

This series is made up primarily of membership directories which include not only lists of members and officers but also past club presidents and program dates. Information about the Brucker family is found here as is data concerning various long time club members. The latter are arranged alphabetically by last name.

File IV, Drawer 1

1. Directories 1947-1957
2. Directories 1960-1972
3. Directories 1996
4. Individuals - Brucker Family 1969-1991
5. Individuals - General 1970-1997

SERIES III: Programs 1940s-2001

The largest in the collection, this series includes a variety of information about club monthly membership meetings, special events such as mock conventions and workshops, annual Friendship Teas and fundraisers. Included are meeting announcement cards, brochures, programs, publicity, speaker resumes, a few speech transcriptions and some memorabilia. Information about activities during the 1980s is found in the Scrapbook covering that time.

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File IV, Drawer 1

1. 1940s
2. 1950s
3. 1960s
4. 1970s
5. 1990-1991 (50th Anniversary)
6. 1991-1992
7. 1992-1994
8. 1994-1995
9. 1996-1997
10. 1998-1999
11. 1999-2000
12. October 2001 Detroit Edison

SERIES IV: Photographs 1950s-1998

Primarily removed from previously created scrapbooks, these photos document the club's activities and members. In addition, the series contains some publicity photos for speakers and Mrs Brucker. No photos were found for the club's earliest years.

File IV, Drawer 1

1. 1950s-1960s
2. 1990-1995
3. 1996-1997
4. 1997-1998

SERIES V: Scrapbooks 1940-1996

Traditionally, club members created scrapbooks as a method of preserving the organization's history. These included among other items important documents, correspondence, directories, announcements, photos and clippings. These scrapbooks have been photocopied and the photocopies saved. Except for the 1980s Scrapbook which was retained in its entirety, documents as well as photos have been removed, wherever possible, for relocation in files within appropriate series. Only the clippings in the first two scrapbooks have been preserved in their original format.

File IV, Drawer 1

1. 1940-1960 Photocopy
2. 1940-1960 Original Scrapbook(mainly clippings)
3. 1960-1980 Photocopy
4. 1960-1980 Original Scrapbook(mainly clippings)
5. 1980-1989 Original Scrapbook incl.

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photos

6. 1990-1992 Photocopy
7. 1992-1993 Photocopy
8. 1994-1996 Photocopy