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Larkin, Ethel Estella (1877 – 1971), Papers, 1882 – 1967

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28 Larkin, Ethel Estella (1877 – 1971), Papers, 1882 – 1967
1.2 linear feet

INTRODUCTION

A collection of correspondence, employment and financial records, political documents, photographs, and other materials related to Ethel Larkin's activities in Pittsburg, Kansas, as well as some materials pertaining to her husband, James F. Larkin. See also Collection 27, Orla S. Casad, Collection, 1858-1938.

DONOR INFORMATION

The Ethel Estella Larkin Papers were received by the Leonard H. Axe Library of Pittsburg State University from Gene DeGruson in the early 1980s.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Ethel Estella Casad Larkin was born on December 5, 1877, in Lebanon, Illinois. She was the eldest of five girls born to Orla Samuel Casad and Allie Babcock Casad. In 1879 the Casad family lived in La Mesilla, New Mexico, for a short time. Ethel and her mother soon returned to Summerfield, Illinois, to live with the Babcock family until Orla Casad disposed of his printing business interests in New Mexico. The Casad's soon left Illinois for Kansas. They settled first in Beulah, where Ethel received her early education, and then moved to Pittsburg, where she spent the rest of her life. Ethel married James F. Larkin in 1900. Larkin, born in 1878, began work for the Kansas City Southern Railroad in January of 1898. During his years with the railroad he held the positions of freight brakeman, freight conductor and yardmaster. Larkin was initiated into the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen (B.R.R.T.) on February 12, 1899, and held membership in the Pittsburg Lodge #107. The couple had no children. Ethel Larkin was an active member in the Pittsburg community, holding the positions of Justice of the Peace, secretary of the Board of Public Welfare, and Clerk of the City Court. She was also active in the Republican Party, was a member in several civic and lodge organizations, and a member of the First Methodist Church. James Larkin died in 1919 and Ethel Larkin died in 1971.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Ethel Estella Larkin Papers are comprised primarily of correspondence, employment records, political campaign materials, photographs, and materials related to her public offices. The collection is arranged into seven series: **Correspondence**, **Employment**, **Government**, **Financial**, **Writings**, **Photographs**, and **Miscellaneous**.

The **Correspondence Series** is composed of postcards, with a few letters, arranged chronologically from 1901 to 1967. Before 1920 most of the correspondence is between Ethel and James Larkin – while James is working away from home for the railroad or while Ethel is visiting family in Illinois and other locations. Much of the later correspondence is from family and friends of Ethel Larkin's discussing family or social news. Many of the postcards are from nephews, nieces, and friends on holidays or while they are traveling. Unidentified, undated, and unused postcards and envelopes are filed at the end of the series.

The **Employment Series** is made up of both James' and Ethel's employment records. Kansas City Southern Railway Company documents consisting of envelopes, passes, clearance cards, train orders, business cards, and examination certificates are included. Documents from the Board of Public Welfare in Pittsburg include certificates of appointment, employee passes, monthly reports, applications for permits, and a list of motion pictures reviewed by the Kansas Board of Review. A motion picture review from the Daughters of the American Revolution Society is also included. The Board of Public Welfare materials concern dances, carnivals, vaudeville and stage performances, family visits, arrests, and commitments to state schools. Oversized items in this series are in a separate box and include regulation posters for the Board of Public Welfare and an initiation poster of James F. Larkin into the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, Lodge #107.

The **Government Series** is comprised of both local and national political materials involving Ethel Larkin from 1916 until 1936. The local documents include cards for various Republican candidates throughout the southeast Kansas area, certificates of nomination, and various letters. The national documents, mostly from 1936, include election materials supporting the Republican candidates Alf Landon and Frank Knox. Included are brochures, flyers, and political cartoons.

The **Financial Series** includes various documents and records kept by the Larkins. Included are receipts, payment and expense figures, memorandum on household expenses from 1933 to 1935, an attendance and fee collection book from 1917 and 1918, a sale list for type and printing supplies, as well as war ration booklets from 1941.

The **Writings Series** includes an autobiography of Ethel Larkin written about 1895. Also included are the pledge, bylaws, and minutes of the Pansy Club, a self-betterment club attended by Ethel Larkin. Other materials include poems and essays on the various topics of missionary work in China, King David of Israel, sculpture, and movies of the year.

The **Photographs Series** consists of photographs of James and Ethel Larkin, before their marriage and after, as well as a few later portraits of Ethel Larkin. Also included are images of family and friends, and numerous unidentified photos.

The **Miscellaneous Series** includes local memorabilia, souvenirs, programs, flyers, study materials on writers and musicians, pronouncing calendars, postal regulations, brochures, articles, almanacs, and advertising materials. The contents of this series date from 1882 to 1964. Among the items in the series is a newspaper article on Ethel Larkin celebrating her 87th birthday in 1964.

FOLDER LIST

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f.2	1910 – 1912
f.3	1913 – 1920
f.4	1921 – 1930
f.5	1931 – 1950
f.6	1951 – 1960
f.7	1961 – 1967
f.8	Undated cards, postcards, envelopes
f.9-10	Unused postcards

Employment Series

f.11	Railroad
f.12	Board of Public Welfare
f.13	Oversized materials

Government Series

f.14	Local
f.15	National

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f.16	1903 – 1943
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Writings Series

f.17	Poems, essays and miscellaneous
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Photographs Series

f.18	Ethel and James Larkin
f.19	Ethel Larkin
f.20	Family, miscellaneous and unidentified

Miscellaneous Series

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