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EHRENSPERGER, EDWARD CHARLES 1895-1984

PAPERS, 1925-1969
(bulk dates, 1950-1959)
Quantity .75 linear ft.

ACCESS: This collection is open for research without restrictions.

PRINTED MATERIAL: Printed Materials are located in Box 1.

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PROCESSED BY: Anne Hinseth, November 2000

History

Edward Charles Ehrensperger was born May 23, 1895 in Indianapolis, Indiana to Charles Louis and Louise Elvis Ehrensperger. Ehrensperger earned A.B. in 1916, A.M. in 1918 and a PhD in 1921 at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

After studying in Europe, Ehrensperger taught at Northwestern University and Wellesley College. In 1932 Ehrensperger came to Vermillion, South Dakota to teach at the University of South Dakota. He was head of the English department until 1964, when he became head of English department at Yankton College. He taught at Yankton College until 1972. A consummate professional, Ehrensperger helped established the South Dakota Council of Teachers of English and The American Name Society. He was the project leader for the Work Projects Administration publishing project *South Dakota Place Names*. Ehrensperger was also an involved member of the United Church of Christ and wrote a history of the church in Vermillion. He also served as editor of the church's state history.

Ehrensperger married Helen Elizabeth Swezey on June 19, 1931 in Boston Massachusetts. They had two children Charles Dwight and Donald Edward, both born in Vermillion, South Dakota. Ehrensperger died on April 18, 1984.

Scope and Content Note

The Edward Charles Ehrensperger Collection is made up of five series: **Correspondence, Manuscripts, Printed Materials, Typescripts and Ephemera**. The bulk of material in the collection is scholarly and professional. There is little personal material in this collection.

The **Correspondence** series contains a small number of professional letters concerning linguistics and several scholarly publications.

The **Manuscript** series contains hand written notes and note cards. The note cards are citations for various sources. The notes may have been preparation for a speech or a class lecture.

The largest series in this collection is the **Printed Materials**. This series contains booklets from the Correspondence courses and Independent Study programs at USD. They are mainly English Classes but there is one describing a Psychology class. Also included in this series are programs from the Vermillion Community Artist Series and other various arts organizations, English and linguistics pamphlets; a religious newsletter entitled *Pilgrims Herald*, published by the Congregation Conference in Huron, SD, and news clippings about academic topics such as Basic English.

The **Typescripts** series contains assignments for correspondence courses, several essays and other writings by several writers about English topics. Also include are eight Thesis Plans that Ehrensperger either directed or for which he was on the committee and a tribute booklet about Ehrensperger by Thomas Gasque.

The **Ephemera** series contains a pamphlet with the Ehrensperger family history. It gives dates and places for when and where immediate family was born. It also records the death of Ehrensperger's mother. Also included are a grade book and various items from the University of South Dakota and Vermillion Community Artist Series.

Additional Resources

Ehrensperger, Edward Charles Papers 1945-1983 .5 linear ft. Center for Western Studies Augustana College

Gasque, Thomas J.

Dakota Images: Edward Charles Ehrensperger *South Dakota History* v. 15 no. 1&2 1985 Spring and Summer, Pierre: South Dakota State Historical Society, p.176-177

Ehrensperger, Edward Charles

The odyssey of an English teacher. Vermillion, S.D.: College of Arts and Sciences, State University South Dakota; 1961.

A little church on the prairie. Vermillion, S.D.: [s.n.], 1970.

United Church of Christ in South Dakota Historical Task Force

History of the United Church of Christ in South Dakota, 1869-1976. compiled by the Historical Task Force; Edward C. Ehrensperger, editor. Freeman, S.D.: Pine Hill Press, c1977.

Writers' Program South Dakota.

South Dakota place-names. Compiled by workers of the Writers' program of the Work projects administration in the state of South Dakota. Sponsored by E. C. Ehrensperger, PH. D., head of the English department, University of South Dakota. Vermillion, University of South Dakota, 1940-

Box No. Description**Box 1**

CORRESPONDENCE (1 folder)

Incoming

Gove, P. B.

1959, Nov. 18

Hayes, P.B.

1925, Mar. 4

Montgomery, Richard M.

1926, Feb. 10

Moore, E. J.

1958, Sept. 9

Ross, Frank E.

1940, Dec. 14

Outgoing

Ross, Frank E.

1940, Dec. 28

Weidman, Victor

1958, Jan. 6

MANUSCRIPTS (2 folders)

Research Notes

Research Note Cards

PRINTED MATERIALS

Correspondence Department English Courses (1 folder)

English 1aE, English Composition

English 1bE, English Composition

English 10E, Introduction to Literature

English 121E, Shakespeare

Independent Study Courses (2 folders)

English 101, English Composition

1972, Feb.

1975, June

1977, Sept. (2 copies)

English 102, English Composition 1972, Feb. (2 copies)

English 163, English Composition 1977, Oct.

Psychology 321, Child Psychology 1975, June 23

Miscellaneous (1 folder)

Basic English Flyers 1952-1960(6 items)

Minnesota Colleges Conference on English Teachers Preparation

1967, Mar. 10-11

Survey of Teachers of English in South Dakota 1967, Dec 27

News clippings (1 folder)

"Basic English" *Teachers College Journal* by Victor C. Miller 1944,
Sept."Comprendende Vos Interlingua?" *The Rotarian* by Walter D. Head
1952, Dec.

"Purists Rise to Fight Bill on Spelling" 1959, Jan. 18

"Place Names Conference Features Folklore Experts, Word
Scholars' *The Indiana Statesman* 1969, May 10

"Basic English' A Globalanguage" by Lincoln Barnett n.d.

Box No. Description**Box 1, cont.**

PRINTED MATERIALS, cont.

Pamphlets (1 folder)

*The Anglo-American Phonetic Alphabet**The Bible in Basic English a new translation*, 1941*Individuo o Robot*, 1951*Linguistic Bibliography for the Teacher of English by Committee on Curriculum*, 1966*A Note on Basic English*, n.d.*River run*, 1973, Winter Yankton College Student Association*S.P.E. Tract No. LXII Basic*, by G. M. Young, 1946

Pilgrims Herald (1 folder)

1951-1954

Programs (6 folders)

Allied Concert Series, n.d.

Miscellaneous 1951-1967, n.d.

USD-Vermillion Concert and Lecture Series, n.d.

Vermillion Community Artist Series Programs (3 folders)
1949-1965

TYPESCRIPTS (5 folders)

Committee Reports

American Dialect Society Committee on Place Names Eight Report
(2 copies)

Spring Meeting of South Dakota Council of Teachers

Correspondence Department Course Assignments

English 120 (2 copies)

English 121

English 170

Miscellaneous

Gasque, Thomas James "Tribute letters to Edward Charles Ehrensperger", 1985, Oct. 16

Gleason, H.A. Jr. "*What is English?*"Kincaid, Dr. Gerald L. "*A Sense of Direction for the English Language Arts Guidelines for Curriculum Development at Elementary and Secondary Levels*"Larsen, Wava K. "*The Elizabethan Age (excluding Mac Beth) (1485-1625)*"Wuttge, Frank, Jr. "*The Interpretation of Poe*"

Thesis Plans

Freeman, Dallas G., 1964, June 12

Hall, Robert J., 1959, Aug.

Harens, Bonnie L., 1960, Aug. 2

Henseler, Donna L., 1962, Nov. 26

Mongan, Edith F., 1961, Feb. 8

Partio, Ruth, 1960, Apr. 25

Reedy, Jerry E., 1961, May 11

Whalen, Ann T., 1959, Apr. 3

Box No. Description

Box 1, cont.

EPHEMERA (1 folder)
Ehrensperger Family Record
Grade Book
Invitation to Fine Arts Festival Dinner honoring Dean Winfred R.
Colton , 1951, Apr. 22
Vermillion Community Artist Series Financial Statement, 1962-1963
Season
Vermillion Community Artist Series Tickets, 1951-1956(10 items)
University of South Dakota Registrar's office Extension Division –
Correspondence Credit Slip