Ellison-White Chautauqua Bureau records, 1912-1928

Overview of the Collection

Title  Ellison-White Chautauqua Bureau records
Dates  1912-1928 (inclusive)
1912 1928
Quantity  0.25 linear feet, (1 container)
Collection Number  B 075
Summary  Travelling chautauqua shows offered lectures, plays, and concerts of religious, classical, and popular music, and in 1912, J.R. Ellison joined with Clarence H. White in establishing the Ellison-White Chautauqua Bureau, headquartered in Portland, Oregon. The collection contains articles of incorporation, bylaws, minutes, articles, and programs, 1912-1928.
Repository  University of Oregon Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives.
UO Libraries--SCUA
1299 University of Oregon
Eugene OR
97403-1299
Telephone: 541-346-3068
spcarref@uoregon.edu
Access Restrictions  Collection is open to the public.
Collection must be used in Special Collections & University Archives Reading Room.
Languages  English
Sponsor  Funding for production of this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

Historical Note

According to the Canadian Encyclopedia online Chautauqua was "the name given to travelling tent shows which originated in the USA and flourished in Canada 1917-35.

A summer school, established in 1874 on Lake Chautauqua, NY, with an eye to combining adult education and morally uplifting recreation, adopted the name from its location, and gradually the name came to represent the type of recreation offered. In Canada a similar type of organization - a Methodist camp - had been established in 1859 at Grimsby Park in Lincoln County, Ont, but by 1900 interest had declined and by 1909 it had ceased. In the USA, however, 'chautauquas' flourished: by 1900 there
were some 200 independent chautauquas serving 31 states, almost all held in permanent pavilions close to lakes and offering lectures, plays, and concerts of religious, classical, and popular music.

The notion of making the chautauquas more accessible by sending them on the road was conceived by the US entrepreneurs Keith Vawter and J.R. Ellison, and in 1904 the first of the 'circuit' chautauquas, housed in portable brown tents, began its tour in the mid-west. The second circuit took place in 1907, and from then until 1932 the tours were annual. Charles F. Thiele and his family performed on the US circuit.

"Roy J. Ellison left the Vawter-Redpath bureau in 1912 and joined Clarence H. White in establishing the Ellison-White Chautauqua Bureau, headquartered in Portland, Oregon" (Tapia, 81).

The bureau was known in Canada as Dominion Chautauquas. The firm may have also been incorporated as the Elwyn Concert Bureau, Inc.

[Source: http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/articles/emc/chautauqua]


Content Description

The collection contains articles of incorporation, bylaws, minutes, articles, and programs, 1912-1928. There is one volume and one folder of information within a box shared with other collections. The folder contains loose items including articles of incorporation, minutes of stockholders and directors, and programs. The volume also contains articles of incorporation, bylaws, and minutes.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

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If a researcher finds sensitive personal information in a collection, please bring it to the attention of the reading room staff.
Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Ellison-White Chautauqua Bureau records, B 075, Special Collections & University Archives, University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene, Oregon.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Material within this collection is minimally arranged. Any arrangement is either derived from the records’ creators or custodians or from staff at the time of initial processing. It may be necessary to look in multiple places for the same types of materials.

Processing Note

Collection processed by staff.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

This collection received a basic level of processing including minimal to no organization and rehousing.

Description information is drawn in part from information supplied with the collection and initial surveys of the contents.

Related Materials

Other collections relating to Ellison-White Chautauqua Bureau at Special Collections and University Archives include: Ellison-White Chautauqua Bureau scrapbooks, CA El59

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms:
Chautauquas
Chautauquas--Oregon--Portland
Lyceums
Lyceums--Oregon--Portland

Personal Names:
Ellison, J. Roy
White, Clarence H., 1874-1945

Corporate Names:
Ellison-White Chautauqua Bureau--Records and correspondence.
Ellison-White Chautauqua System--Records and correspondence.

Form or Genre Terms:
Articles of incorporation
Bylaws (administrative records)
Minutes
Programs