

Montana Children's Center records, 1894-1984

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Montana Children's Center
Title	Montana Children's Center records
Dates	1894-1984 (inclusive) 1894 1984
Quantity	13.5 linear feet of shelf space
Collection Number	RS 95
Summary	These records (1894-1975) of the Montana Children's Center in Twin Bridges, and of its predecessor the State Orphans' Home, consist of executive board minutes, indexed records of children received at the center, financial records, blueprints, and miscellany.
Repository	Montana Historical Society, Research Center Archives Montana Historical Society Research Center Archives 225 North Roberts PO Box 201201 Helena MT 59620-1201 Telephone: 406-444-2681 Fax: 406-444-5297 mhslibrary@mt.gov
Access Restrictions	Administrative records are open for research. RESTRICTION: Access to children's records limited to individual or closest living relative. Access to adoption records allowed only with a court order from a Montana District Court. Contact State Archivist for details of access.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Historical Note

The Montana State Orphan's Asylum was established by the 1893 legislature for the "care and education of orphans, foundlings, and destitute children". The Asylum was governed by a board of five trustees, who were empowered to select a suitable site at Twin Bridges, to adopt rules for the governance of the home, and to hire a superintendent and a matron. The superintendent would, in turn, hire nurses, attendants, and others. The trustees were also authorized to establish schools and vocational training shops.

Any child under the age of 12 was eligible for admission, and children 12 and over if it was deemed advisable by the Board. When the Board determined it was suitable, children could be placed in private homes. Over the years, a large percentage of children at the home were not orphans, but were children who for a variety of reasons could not be cared for by their parents.

In 1959 the home was renamed the Montana Children's Center. The Center closed in 1979.

Content Description

Records include financial records (1894-1973) including cash books, journals, ledgers, trial balances, voucher registers, etc.; board of trustees minutes (1893-1955); copies of minutes of the State Board of Education (1944-1962) and the State Board of Institutions (1965-1974); annual reports (1910-1951) and other reports; subject files; and children's records (1894-1975)

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

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Preferred Citation

item description and date. Collection Title. Collection Number. Box and Folder numbers. Montana Historical Society Research Center, Archives, Helena, Montana.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The collection is arranged by series.

Location of Collection

20:2-2

Acquisition Information

Acquisition information is available upon request

Detailed Description of the Collection

General Correspondence

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1 / 1	Miscellaneous	1919-1973

Financial Records

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1 / 1a	Account book	1917-1924
1 / 2	Appropriations	1897-1915, 1926
1 / 3	Budgets (proposed)	1955-1961
Volume		
1-5	Cash books	1917-1968
Box/Folder		
1 / 4	Classification of Accounts and Manual of Accounting Procedures	1921
1 / 5	Expenses	1894-1895
1 / 6-11	Financial reports	1928-1961
1 / 12	Financial reports: State Examiner	1962-1967
1 / 13	Journal	1894-1899
Volume		
6-7	Journals	1898-1909
Box/Folder		
1 / 14	Journal	1909-1915
Volume		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
8	Journal	1915-1928
Box/Folder		
1 / 15	Ledger	1894-1899
Volume		
9	Ledger	1900-1905
Box/Folder		
1 / 16	Ledger	1909-1915
Volume		
10-11	Ledgers	1915-1927
Box/Folder		
2 / 1-8	Ledgers	1928-1957
2 / 9	Ledgers: monthly totals	1935-1955
3 / 1-2	Petty ledgers	1915-1923
3 / 3-5	Payroll books	1912-1928
Volume		
12-13	Payroll books	1929-1941
Box/Folder		
3 / 6-9	Payroll books	1941-1955
3 / 10-14	Payroll sheets	1955-1967
4 / 1	Revolving fund	1965-1973
4 / 2	Trial balance	1917

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4 / 3-8	Trial balances, financial statements, etc.	1953-1973
Volume		
14	Voucher register #1-3175	1909-1915
15	Voucher register #3176-7108	1915-1920
16	Voucher register #7109-9560	1920-1924
17	Voucher register #9561-11394	1925-1928
18	Voucher register #11395-12238; 1-11061	1928-1950
19	Voucher register #11062-12806; 1-1216	1950-1955
20	Voucher register #1199-5500; 1-1120; 1-306	1955-1960
21	Voucher register (separate run)	1917-1928

Minutes

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
4 / 9-13	Board minutes	1893-1955
4 / 14	Council of Superintendents of Children's Institutions	1956
4 / 15	Council of Superintendents of Juvenile Institutions	1966-1972
5 / 1-4	State Board of Education (copies)	1944-1962
5 / 5-6	State Board of Institutions (copies)	1965-1974

Printed Materials

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5 / 6a	<i>The Home Echo</i> (newsletter)	1949

Reports

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
5 / 7	Annual reports of Department of Institutions	1967-1974
5 / 8-10	Annual reports of Executive Board	1910-1951
5 / 11	Biennial reports of Executive Board	1914, 1918, 1932
5 / 12-13a	Quarterly reports of Executive Board	1932-1962
5 / 14	School year reports	1942-1950
5 / 15	Semi-annual reports of Executive Board	1910-1919
5 / 16	Special Report on Education Bond Fund Account	1924
5 / 17	Special reports: miscellaneous	1921-1923
5 / 18	Statistical reports	1918-1967
5 / 19	Studies and reports	1963-1971

Subject Files

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
6 / 1	American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees	1969-1970
6 / 2	Architects' drawings (sketches): boilers	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
6 / OVSZ	Blueprints of buildings (cottages, gymnasium, Moler Memorial Building, boiler room, kitchen, recreation center, laundry building, grounds)	1905-1968
6 / 3	Capital building projects	1967
6 / 4	Casey Family program	1973-1975
6 / 5	Chaplains	1967-1972
6 / 6	Children's accounts	1965-1966
6 / 7	Constitutional Convention	1971
6 / 8	Crime Control Commission	1973
6 / 9	Elementary school accreditation	1964-1975
6 / 10-11	Employee memos	1964-1975
6 / 12	Estates: Wilbur C. Cook	1956
6 / 13	Estates: Bertha B. Larter	1962
6 / 14-15	Estates: John W. Moler	1932-1953
6 / 16	Fire drills and regulations	undated
6 / 17	Fire inspection	1960-1973
6 / 18	Fishing licenses	1969
6 / 19	Hammond - Everly Engineering Company: report on water and heating system	1963
6 / 20	M. A. Harmon	1964
6 / 21	Senator Frank Hazelbaker	1967-1970
6 / 22	Inventory and appraisal of land and buildings	1960s
6 / 23	Investigation of charge of tainted meat	1915

Container(s)	Description	Dates
6 / 24	Bob Jensen, State Training Coordinator	1971-1972
6 / 25	Edwin G. Kellner	1969-1975
6 / 26	Laws pertaining to Department of Institutions	1962-1971, undated
6 / 27	Legal custody	1959-1965
6 / 28	Long-range building program	1968-1972
6 / 29	Montana Aeronautics Commission	1967-1969
6 / 30	Montana Attorney General	1962-1971
6 / 31	Montana Council on Human Resources	1969
7 / 1	Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences	1960-1974
7 / 2-5	Montana Department of Institutions	1964-1974
7 / 6	Montana Department of Institutions reorganization	1971-1972
7 / 7	Montana Department of Public Welfare	1958-1938
7 / 8	Montana Governor's Committee on Mental Health	1963
7 / 9	Montana Industrial Accident Board: building inspection	1963-1972
7 / 10	Montana Law Enforcement Planning Committee	1969
7 / 11	Montana Legislative Council	1963-1974
7 / 12	Montana State University (Bozeman): Children's Center Needs Assessment Study	1973-1974
7 / 13	Montana Federation of Teachers	1974-1975
7 / 14	Repair and renovation: cottages and gymnasium	1966-1967
7 / 15	Repair and renovation: miscellaneous projects	1975

Container(s)	Description	Dates
7 / 16	Selective Service system	1972
7 / 17	School district state impact aid	1966-1974
7 / 18	Senate bill 52: establishing state orphan home	1893
7 / 19	Specifications on building	1922, undated
7 / 20	Speed control, Highway 91	1970
7 / 21	State Orphan's Home information: miscellaneous (speeches, history, reports)	1920s-1960s
7 / 22	Twin Bridges High School	1971-1974
7 / 23	Twin Bridges High School: tuition	1966-1972
7 / 24	U.S. Department of Agriculture. Farm Home Administration	1967
7 / 25	U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Master Facility inventory	1967
7 / 26	Vocational education	1971
7 / 27	Vocational rehabilitation	1968
7 / 28	Youth Forest Camp, Swan Rivers	1966
7 / 29	Miscellaneous (includes interoffice memos, payroll sheets (1912-1922))	1912-1967

Children's Records (Restricted: see restriction statement above)

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
8 / 1	List of deceased residents	1895-1944
8 / 2-4	Record of children admitted and released	1908-1975
8 / 5	Visitors' register	1927-1952

Container(s)	Description	Dates
9a / 1	Children's record (loose sheets)	1894-1896
9a / 2	Children's record I	1894-1916
9a / 3	Children's record I: index	undated
9a / 4	Children's record II	1914-1927
9a / 5	Children's record II: index	undated
Volume		
24	Children's record: A - G	circa 1923-1955
25	Children's record: H - P	circa 1923-1955
26	Children's record: P - Z	circa 1923-1955
27	Children's record: A - Z	circa 1953-1957
Box/Folder		
9b / 6	Children's register: A - Z	1894-1914
9b / 7	Children's register: A - Z	1908-1911
9b / 8	Children returned to parents, sent to reform school, etc.	1912
9b / 9	Discipline problems	1963-1974
9b / 10-11	Hospital record	1907-1943
9b / 12	IQs of children	1963
9b / 13	Record of children returned and replaced (also deaths and adoptions)	1928-1943
9b / 14	Reports on children	circa 1930
9b / 15	Reports on children (for committee of 39th Legislature)	1965

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Abused children--Montana

Orphanages--Montana--Twin Bridges

Youth --Montana

Corporate Names :

Montana State Orphans' Home.

Geographical Names :

Twin Bridges (Mont.)--Education

Finding aid prepared by Ellie Arguimbau, 1982
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