
Guide to the Millie Moser Smith Papers, 1971-2003

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Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Millie Moser Smith Papers

Dates: 1971-2003

Identification: URB/MAMS

Creator: Moser Smith, Mildred, 1919-

Physical Description: 0.92 linear feet

Language of Materials: English

Repository: Urban Archives

Abstract: Millie Moser Smith devoted much of her time to social causes, especially those involving farm workers, which she came into contact with through her church membership. The collection consists of articles, booklets, correspondence, ephemera, fliers, journals, membership directories, newsletters, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, photographs, posters, reports, and videocassettes from the National Farm Workers Ministry and related groups that worked on behalf of farm workers.

Note:

Other Information:

The collection was processed in part under a U.S. Department of Education Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Grant.

Biographical Information:

Mildred Alice Ross Moser Smith was born in Iowa on August 11, 1919. Graduating from the University of Iowa in 1936, Millie went to work as a teacher at a junior high school in Dysart, Iowa. After joining her sisters in California, she found employment at Lockheed, where she met and married Ray Moser in 1943. The couple had three children. Ray Moser died in 1979.

For the next ten years, living as a single woman, Moser Smith was able to devote much of her time to social causes in addition to substitute teaching. She came into contact with some of these causes through her church membership and eventually became the representative of Church Women United for the National Farm Worker Ministry (NFWM).

In the 1980s the NFWM supported the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) in a campaign against the Campbell Soup Company. By 1987, the recent increase in birth defects and childhood cancers found in the children of migrant workers forced the NFWM to change its focus once more, this time to an emphasis on the issue of toxic pesticides. In the late 1980s, Moser Smith met and married Sydney Smith, farm worker advocate and author of *The Grapes of Conflict*. The couple continued to be active in their local chapter of Habitat for Humanity, both serving as officers of the organization.

Access Terms

This collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Corporate Name:

National Farm Worker Ministry (U.S.)

United Farm Workers of America

Genre/Form of Material:

Paper records

Photographic material

Publications

Video recordings

Personal Name:

Chavez, Cesar, 1927-1993

Moser Smith, Millie (Mildred), (1919)-

Smith, Sydney D., 1915-

Topical Term:

Agricultural laborers -- California

Boycotts -- California

Church work

Fasts and feasts

Strikes and lockouts -- California

Processing Information:

Rebecca S. Graff, 2003

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Scope and Contents

The *Millie Moser Smith Papers* consist of articles, booklets, correspondence, ephemera, fliers, journals, membership directories, newsletters, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, photographs, posters, reports, and videocassettes from the National Farm Workers Ministry and related groups that worked on behalf of farm workers. Two typescripts by Sydney Smith are also included in this collection, as are items documenting César Chávez's 1988 *Fast for Life*, and an oral history interview conducted with Moser Smith in 2003.

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|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Agricultural Trade Unionism article |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Agroecology Program Report, University of California, Santa Cruz, 1990 |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | American Farmland Trust, <i>No Farms, No Food</i> |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | California Educational Migrant Information Council pamphlets |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Council of Priests of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles proposals, 1986 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Farm Labor Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO: Seventh Constitutional Convention booklet, 1997 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | <i>Facts for Life</i> booklet, 1988 August 21 |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | <i>Facts for Life</i> fliers, 1988 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | General Board of Church and Society pamphlet |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | General Board of Church and Society staff report, 1990 |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Grape Boycott, "Some Endorsements" booklet, 1988 |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Illinois Conference of Churches fliers |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Institute of Human Relations, Loyola University, "Blueprint for Social Justice" newsletter, 1988 |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Michigan Farmworker Minority Coalition fliers and pamphlets |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | Migrant Education Program pamphlets |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | Migrant Labor General newspaper clippings and articles, 1980-1993 |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | National Farm Worker Ministry anniversary book and pamphlet, 1995-1996 |
| Box 1, Folder 18 | National Farm Worker Ministry correspondence, 1982-1992 |
| Box 1, Folder 19 | National Farm Worker Ministry ephemera |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | National Farm Worker Ministry, "History of the Church's Ministry with Farm Workers," 1995 |
| Box 1, Folder 21 | National Farm Worker Ministry membership directories, 1987-1990 |
| Box 1, Folder 22 | National Farm Worker Ministry memoranda, 1988-1989 |
| Box 1, Folder 23 | National Farm Worker Ministry newsletters, 1989-2002 |
| Box 1, Folder 24 | National Farm Worker Ministry fliers, North Carolina Farm Worker |
| Box 1, Folder 25 | National Farm Worker Ministry pamphlets |
| Box 1, Folder 26 | Pavich Family Farms pamphlet |

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| Box 1, Folder 27 | Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noreste (PCUN: Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United) pamphlet |
| Box 1, Folder 28 | Rosales v. United Farm Workers et al memorandum, 1989 November 29 |
| Box 1, Folder 29 | Smith, Sydney, <i>Hearing on Resolution of Support for the Boycott of California Table Grapes</i> , 1988 |
| Box 1, Folder 30 | Smith, Sydney, <i>The Role of the Churches with migratory Farm Labor: An Overview</i> |
| Box 1, Folder 31 | United Auto Workers, <i>Ammo</i>, vol. 25, no. 9, 1988 |
| Box 1, Folder 32 | United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO benefits package |
| Box 1, Folder 33 | United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO ephemera |
| Box 1, Folder 34 | United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, <i>Food and Justice</i>, vol. 2, no. 5 and vol. 4, nos. 7-9, 1985, 1987 |
| Box 1, Folder 35 | United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, <i>Food and Justice</i> , vol. 5, 1988 |
| Box 1, Folder 36 | United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, <i>Food and Justice</i> , vol. 6, nos. 1 and 3, 1989 |
| Box 1, Folder 37 | United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, <i>El Malcriado</i> , vol. 25, no. 8, 1987 |
| Box 1, Folder 38 | United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO memoranda, 1988 |
| Box 1, Folder 39 | United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO pamphlets |
| Box 1, Folder 40 | United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, <i>Solidarity</i> yearbook, 1982 |
| Box 1, Folder 41 | United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, <i>The Wrath of Grapes</i> accompanying materials |
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| Flat File Cabinet 3, Folder 2 | FLOC (Farm Labor Organizing Committee), <i>25 Years of Struggle</i> poster, 1992 |
| Flat File Cabinet 3, Folder 3 | National Farm Worker Ministry, <i>Farm Worker Week Calendar, 1989-1990</i> |
| Flat File Cabinet 3, Folder 4 | United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO bandana |
| Flat File Cabinet 3, Folder 5 | United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, <i>History of Farm Workers Struggle Calendar, 1971</i> |