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## Guide to the Millie Moser Smith Papers

Special Collections & Archives

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**Contributing Institution:** Special Collections & Archives

**Title:** Millie Moser Smith Papers

**Creator:** Moser Smith, Mildred, 1919-

**Identifier/Call Number:** URB.MAMS

**Extent:** 0.92 linear feet

**Date (inclusive):** 1971-2003

**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.

**Language of Material:** English

**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.

**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.

**Electronic Format:**

Digital reproductions of selected items in this collection are available electronically as a part of the [Latina\(o\) Cultural Heritage Archives](#) project.

**General**

Other Information:

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

**Conditions Governing Access:**

This collection is open for research use.

**Conditions Governing Use:**

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**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Millie Moser Smith and Jan Wilson, 2002

For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the [Citing Archival Materials](#) guide.

**Processing Information:**

Rebecca S. Graff, 2003

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## Subjects and Indexing Terms

Documents  
Photographs  
Audiovisual materials

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Box 1, Folder 1	<b>Agricultural Trade Unionism article</b>
Box 1, Folder 2	<b>Agroecology Program Report, University of California, Santa Cruz, 1990</b>
Box 1, Folder 3	<b>American Farmland Trust, <i>No Farms, No Food</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 4	<b>California Educational Migrant Information Council pamphlets</b>
Box 1, Folder 5	<b>Council of Priests of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles proposals, 1986</b>
Box 1, Folder 6	<b>Farm Labor Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO: Seventh Constitutional Convention booklet, 1997</b>
Box 1, Folder 7	<b><i>Facts for Life</i> booklet, 1988 August 21</b>
Box 1, Folder 8	<b><i>Facts for Life</i> fliers, 1988</b>
Box 1, Folder 9	<b>General Board of Church and Society pamphlet</b>
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Box 1, Folder 12	<b>Illinois Conference of Churches fliers</b>
Box 1, Folder 13	<b>Institute of Human Relations, Loyola University, "Blueprint for Social Justice" newsletter, 1988</b>
Box 1, Folder 14	<b>Michigan Farmworker Minority Coalition fliers and pamphlets</b>
Box 1, Folder 15	<b>Migrant Education Program pamphlets</b>
Box 1, Folder 16	<b>Migrant Labor General newspaper clippings and articles, 1980-1993</b>
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Box 1, Folder 18	<b>National Farm Worker Ministry correspondence, 1982-1992</b>
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Box 1, Folder 26	<b>Pavich Family Farms pamphlet</b>
Box 1, Folder 27	<b>Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noreste (PCUN: Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United) pamphlet</b>
Box 1, Folder 28	<b>Rosales v. United Farm Workers et al memorandum, 1989 November 29</b>
Box 1, Folder 29	<b>Smith, Sydney, <i>Hearing on Resolution of Support for the Boycott of California Table Grapes</i>, 1988</b>
Box 1, Folder 30	<b>Smith, Sydney, <i>The Role of the Churches with migratory Farm Labor: An Overview</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 31	<b>United Auto Workers, <i>Ammo</i>, vol. 25, no. 9, 1988</b>
Box 1, Folder 32	<b>United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO benefits package</b>
Box 1, Folder 33	<b>United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO ephemera</b>
Box 1, Folder 34	<b>United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, <i>Food and Justice</i>, vol. 2, no. 5 and vol. 4, nos. 7-9, 1985, 1987</b>
Box 1, Folder 35	<b>United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, <i>Food and Justice</i>, vol. 5, 1988</b>
Box 1, Folder 36	<b>United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, <i>Food and Justice</i>, vol. 6, nos. 1 and 3, 1989</b>
Box 1, Folder 37	<b>United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, <i>El Malcriado</i>, vol. 25, no. 8, 1987</b>
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Box 1, Folder 39	<b>United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO pamphlets</b>
Box 1, Folder 40	<b>United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, <i>Solidarity</i> yearbook, 1982</b>
Box 1, Folder 41	<b>United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, <i>The Wrath of Grapes</i> accompanying materials</b>
Box 2, Item 1	<b>Cassette Tape - Millie Moser Smith, Tape 1</b>
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Box 2, Item 3	<b>Cassette Tape - Oral History Interview with Millie Moser Smith, Tape 1, 2003 February 21</b>
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Folder 1	<b>American Library Association, <i>Chavez: Great Minds Meet at the Library</i> poster, 1993</b>
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Folder 3	<b>National Farm Worker Ministry, Farm Worker Week Calendar, 1989-1990</b>
Folder 4	<b>United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO bandana</b>
Folder 5	<b>United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, History of Farm Workers Struggle Calendar, 1971</b>