Guide to the Esther Smith Scrapbooks of a Bus Tour of the American West MS.M.051

Audrey Pearson; machine-readable finding aid created by Audrey Pearson; inventory added by Zoe MacLeod, 2020
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**Contributing Institution:** Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries  
**Title:** Esther Smith scrapbooks of a bus tour of the American West  
**Creator:** Smith, Esther  
**Identifier/Call Number:** MS.M.051  
**Physical Description:** 0.8 Linear Feet (2 boxes)  
**Date (inclusive):** 1935

**Abstract:** This collection comprises three scrapbooks and a manuscript journal of Esther Smith, a 23-year-old high school teacher, documenting her three-month bus tour of the American West in 1935. The scrapbooks contain 62 pamphlets, 76 photographs (many with descriptive captions), and 85 postcards, as well as other items such as newspaper clippings, dried flowers, tokens, and tickets. The California portion of the tour included stops in San Francisco, Yosemite, Los Angeles, and San Juan Capistrano.

**General Physical Description note:** (2 boxes)

**Language of Material:** English.

**Access**
The collection is open for research.

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**Preferred Citation**

**Acquisition Information**
Acquired, 2005.

**Processing History**
Processed by Audrey Pearson, 2008.

**Historical Background**
In the summer of 1935, Esther Smith, a 23-year-old high school teacher, was a member of a group of young, professional, single women on a bus tour of the American West. The tour was offered by the summer travel program, "University of Tours." The group was chaperoned by a male college professor, a principal driver, and a back-up driver. The University of Tours was described as "an educational institution on wheels." The California portion of the tour included stops in San Francisco, Yosemite, Los Angeles, and San Juan Capistrano.

**Collection Scope and Content Summary**
This collection comprises three scrapbooks and a manuscript journal of Esther Smith, a 23-year-old high school teacher, documenting a three-month bus tour of the American West in 1935. The scrapbooks contain 62 pamphlets, 76 photographs (many with descriptive captions), and 85 postcards, as well as other items such as newspaper clippings, dried flowers, tokens, and tickets. The 56-page journal recounts the trip in daily entries and includes descriptions of towns and interactions with Native Americans.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
California -- Description and travel  
Los Angeles (Calif.) -- Description and travel  
Ephemera -- West (U.S.) -- 20th century.  
Postcards -- West (U.S.) -- 20th century.  
Promotional materials -- West (U.S.) -- 20th century.  
Diaries -- West (U.S.) -- 20th century.  
Photographic prints -- West (U.S.) -- 20th century.  
Scrapbooks -- West (U.S.) -- 20th century.  
San Francisco (Calif.) -- Description and travel  
Indians of North America -- West (U.S.) -- Anecdotes
West (U.S.) -- Description and travel
Tickets -- West (U.S.) -- 20th century.
Bus travel -- United States -- History -- 20th century -- Sources
Tokens -- West (U.S.) -- 20th century.
Yosemite National Park (Calif.) -- Archives
Smith, Esther -- Archives

box 1            Box 1 1935
box 2            Box 2 1935