**Title:** Esther Smith scrapbooks of a bus tour of the American West

**Identifier/Call Number:** MS.M.051

**Contributing Institution:** Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 0.8 Linear feet

**Date:** 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)

**Creator:** Smith, Esther.

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

**Publication Rights**
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**Preferred Citation**

For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.

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