Register of the Stockton (Calif.) School District Truancy & Absence Records, 1912-1917

Collection number: Mss160

Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections
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Biography
The public school system of Stockton (Calif.) was organized officially by an act of the Common Council in the fall of 1852. Nearly fifty years later, Stockton voters approved formation of a separate high school district encompassing an area larger than the existing Stockton School District (1900). As a result of enabling legislation passed in 1935, the two systems were automatically unified in July 1936 creating the present Stockton Unified School District.

The elementary school attendance officer, J. A. "Gus" Workings, (ca. 1863-1944) kept written attendance and truancy records and also served as a custodian in the Stockton schools for 27 years. Schools listed in Workings' records include: Franklin; Annex North Stockton (later Woodrow Wilson); Jefferson; South; Jackson; Monroe; Lafayette; Washington Grammar; El Dorado; Fremont; Fair Oaks; Lincoln; Weber Grammar; Hazelton; and Pre-vocational (at Jefferson). Other schools mentioned include: Convent; Brothers; McGowen Primary; Garretson and Banta Primary.

Scope and Content
Ledger entries include: dates (from January 1912 through March 1917), name of student, address, school, and cause of absence. A compendium of excuses--absences range from childhood illnesses, truancy, illnesses of parents, accidents, toothaches, out for the circus, has no shoes, gone to the City, and so on. Family names of ethnic and religious groups can be sometimes ascertained from absences on special holidays. The collection includes some additional notes tallying records and listing truancies.

**BOX 1: STOCKTON UNIFIED SCHOOLS TRUANCY & ABSENCE RECORDS, 1912-17**

1.1: LEDGER [273 pp. with entries on numbered pp. 1 through 271; entries include name of student, date, address, school, and cause of absence]

1.2: ITEMS FOUND BETWEEN PAGES OF LEDGER

- Notes tallying excuses for several months [year not indicated]
- Notes on truants, 1 p.
- Truants at Lafayette School, 1 p.
- Application for money order [printed form]
- Weber School truant; tally of truants, n.d. [torn note]
- Notes on truants; letter inquiring about lots, n.d.
- The Lea Lecture--illustrated, Yuma Indians, Weber Grammar School, Friday, January 9, 1914; notes on back about a truancy case [printed adv. card]
- Stockton City Schools Attendance Officers Report [printed card; blank]
- Tally notes for January 1915 [281 cases]
- Truants, Stockton City Schools, Nov 1915
- Truants for Dec 1915 [two students]
- Notes on truants, Lafayette School, March 1916
- List of Truants, June 1916
- Stockton City Schools, Yearly report, Sept. 1915 to June 1916, 1 pg. [total cases 1705]
- Printed card [as above] filled out for student (March 6, 1917)