
Guide to the John W. Geary School PTA Records, 1930-1974

Collection number: MS 3595

California Historical Society

North Baker Research Library
San Francisco, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: John W. Geary School PTA Records,

Date (inclusive): 1930-1974

Collection number: MS 3595

Creator: John W. Geary School

Extent: 2 linear feet

Repository: California Historical Society, North Baker Library
San Francisco, California 94105-4014

Language: English

Access

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History

The John W. Geary School, a small elementary school (200-300 students) located on Cook and Geary Streets in San Francisco, opened on March 31, 1930. It was named for the last Alcalde of San Francisco, who was also the City's first mayor.

The J.W. Geary School PTA was organized in February, 1930. Before World War II, the PTA's activities included clothing, newspaper and tinfoil collections, card and sewing parties, and creation of school holiday festivals and festivities. In 1940, members went to the convention of the California Congress of Parents and Teachers in Los Angeles. During and after the War, changes occurred in the way in which the PTA mothers related to their children's school. There was an apparent decline in the importance of the PTA, perhaps relative to the opening of other choices of activity and work for women. Also, the mothers appear to have entered into a more equal partnership with school personnel. For example, while there were still luncheons, fund-raising food sales and festivals, a bookfair was added, and the mothers evidently assumed much responsibility for its contents. Programs show increased awareness of health, safety and racial issues.

Fathers had only the most peripheral of roles in relationship to this PTA. Rather, the records reflect the changing role of women between 1930 and 1974. This is shown both by the decline of interest in recording minute details of small events, and by the improved intellectual content of the programs. However, it should be noted that, throughout the entire history of this organization, it exists almost entirely apart from major community and world concerns.

In 1974-75, the J.W. Geary School was expected to close because of the need to earthquake proof the building, which would have necessitated evacuation while the repairs were being made. The repairs were not made, the last class was graduated on June 11, 1977, and the school was subsequently demolished.

Scope and Contents

The records of the John W. Geary School PTA begin in April 1930. Included are correspondence, minutes, flyers, programs, newsletters, and scrapbooks. The most revealing and complete materials from the early days of the school are the publicity scrapbooks which were, for the most part, meticulously kept. During and after World War II, the record-keeping became more fragmentary, and there are no records after 1974.

- California Congress of Parents & Teachers
- John W. Geary School
- Education-San Francisco
- Public Schools
- San Francisco Public Schools
- San Francisco--Social Life & Customs
- Schools
- Women in California
- Community Organizations

Materials Transferred

A few photographs and pamphlets have been transferred to the photography and ephemera collections.

GENERAL

Box 1, Folder 1	By-Laws 1953-61
Folder 2	Insurance 1952-59
Folder 3	Correspondence 1939-45
Folder 4	Correspondence 1946-49
Folder 5	Correspondence 1951-70, nd
Folder 6	Minutes 1935-40
Folder 7	Minutes 1950-63
Folder 8	Minutes 1963-69
Folder 9	Executive Board Minutes 1947
Folder 10	Executive Board Minutes 1956-63
Folder 11	Executive Board Minutes 1966-71
Folder 12	President's Report 1932-33
Folder 13	Financial (misc.)
Folder 14	Board Roster 1945-46
Folder 15	Membership Roster 1946-47
Folder 16	Attendance Roster 1942-43
Folder 17	Guest Roster 1958-63
Folder 18	Newsletter 1945-49

- Folder 19 **History Highlights 1943-46**
- Folder 20 **History Report (annual) 1964-67**
- Folder 21 **History Report (annual) 1967-74**
- Folder 22 **History Book, 1930-1945 1930-38**

 Physical Description: (1)

- Folder 23 **History Book, 1930-1945 1938-41**

 Physical Description: (2)

- Folder 24 **History Book, 1930-1945 1941-45**

 Physical Description: (3)

- Folder 25 **History Book, 1930-1945**

 Physical Description: (4) loose pages

- Folder 26 **Publicity Procedure Book 1931-36**
- Folder 27 **Announcements, Programs 1942-48, 1953-54**

EVENTS

- Folder 28 **Book Fairs 1970-73**
- Folder 29 **Christmas Parties 1958-64**
- Folder 30 **Founder's Day**
- Folder 31 **Graduation Parties 1951-70**
- Folder 32 **Installation Lunches 1954-64**
- Folder 33 **May Festival 1961-74**
- Folder 34 **May Festival-games & booths 1964-70**
- Folder 35 **October Food Sales 1960-63**
- Folder 36 **Teacher's Luncheons 1955-65**
- Folder 37 **Theater Party nd**

SCRAPBOOKS

- Folder 38 **Publicity Record Book 1930-31**
- Folder 38 **Publicity Record Book 1931-32**

 Physical Description: (1)

- Folder 40 **Publicity Record Book 1931-32**

 Physical Description: (2)

- Box 2, Folder 41 **Publicity Record Book 1931-32**

 Physical Description: (3)

- Folder 42 **Publicity Record Book 1932-34**

 Physical Description: (1)

- Folder 43 **Publicity Record Book 1932-34**

 Physical Description: (2)

- Folder 44 **Publicity Record Book 1934-35**

 Physical Description: (1)

- Folder 45 **Publicity Record Book 1934-35**
Physical Description: (2)
- Folder 46 **Publicity Record Book 1934-35**
Physical Description: (loose pages)
- Folder 47 **Publicity Record Book 1935-36**
Physical Description: (1)
- Folder 48 **Publicity Record Book 1935-36**
Physical Description: (2)
- Folder 49 **Publicity Record Book 1936-37**
Physical Description: (1)
- Folder 50 **Publicity Record Book 1936-37**
Physical Description: (2)
- Folder 51 **Publicity Record Books 1937-38**
Physical Description: (1)
- Folder 52 **Publicity Record Books 1937-38**
Physical Description: (2)
- Folder 53 **Publicity Record Books 1938-39**
Physical Description: (1)
- Folder 54 **Publicity Record Books 1938-39**
Physical Description: (2)
- Folder 55 **Publicity Record Books 1940-41**
Physical Description: (1)
- Folder 56 **Publicity Record Books 1940-41**
Physical Description: (2)
- Folder 57 **Publicity Record Books 1943**
Folder 58 **Publicity Record Books 1945-53**
Physical Description: (1)
- Folder 59 **Publicity Record Books 1945-53**
Physical Description: (2)
- Folder 60 **Publicity Record Books 1945-53**
Physical Description: (3)

Folder 61	Publicity Record Books 1945-53 Physical Description: (4)
Folder 62	Publicity Record Books 1945-53 Physical Description: (5)
Folder 63	Publicity Record Books 1945-53 Physical Description: (6)
Folder 64	Publicity Record Books 1956-61 Physical Description: (1)
Folder 65	Publicity Record Books 1956-61 Physical Description: (2)
Folder 66	Publicity Record Books 1956-61 Physical Description: (3)
Folder 67	Publicity Record Books 1956-61 Physical Description: (4)
Folder 68	Publicity Record Books 1956-61 Physical Description: (5)
Folder 69	Publicity Record Books 1962-63
Folder 70	Publicity Record Books 1968
Folder 71	California PTA (printed material)
Folder 72	Other PTA Chapters (misc)
Folder 73	California Congress of Parents & Teachers (reports)
Folder 74	California Congress of Parents & Teachers (procedures)
Folder 75	California Congress of Parents & Teachers (publications)