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**Descriptive Summary**

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

**Date:** 1935

**Collection Number:** MS-S028

**Creator:** Smith, Esther.

**Extent:** 0.8 linear feet (2 boxes)

**Languages:** The collection is in English

**Repository:** University of California, Irvine. Library. Special Collections and Archives.  
Irvine, California 92623-9557

**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.

**Access**

The collection is open for research.

**Publication Rights**

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**Preferred Citation**

Esther Smith Scrapbooks of a Bus Tour of the American West. MS-S028. Special Collections and Archives, The UC Irvine Libraries, Irvine, California.

**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.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

**Subjects**

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Bus travel -- United States -- Archives.  
Indians of North America -- West (U.S.) -- Anecdotes -- Archives.  
West (U.S.) -- Description and travel -- Archives.  
San Francisco (Calif.) -- Description and travel -- Archives.  
Yosemite National Park (Calif.) -- Description and travel -- Archives.  
Los Angeles (Calif.) -- Description and travel -- Archives.  
California -- Description and travel -- Archives.  
West (U.S.) -- Tours -- Archives.

**Genres and Formats of Materials**

Scrapbooks -- West (U.S.) -- 20th century.  
Diaries -- West (U.S.) -- 20th century.  
Photographic prints -- West (U.S.) -- 20th century.  
Postcards -- West (U.S.) -- 20th century.  
Promotional materials -- West (U.S.) -- 20th century.  
Ephemera -- West (U.S.) -- 20th century.  
Clippings -- West (U.S.) -- 20th century.  
Tickets -- West (U.S.) -- 20th century.  
Tokens -- West (U.S.) -- 20th century.