Guide to the Carita Gertrude Smith Papers, 1912-1942

Manuscript Collection 002, MtLPH, US
Lone Pine Historical Society Archives
PO Box 225
Lone Pine, MT 59921

Finding aid prepared by Jodi Allison-Bunnell, 2002

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Overview of the Collection
Smith, Carita Gertrude, 1912-2003
Carita Gertrude Smith Papers, 1912-1942
1 linear foot

Language
The collection is in English.

Summary
Carita Gertrude Smith was a resident of Big Sandy, Montana, and taught in small schools in north and south central Montana. The collection contains her personal papers.

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Biographical Note
Carita Gertrude Smith was born in Bottineau County, North Dakota, on December 7, 1912 to Thomas and Bertha Smith. She was followed by a brother, Samuel, in 1913. The Smiths relocated to Big Sandy, Montana, in 1917, where they homesteaded. He ran a barber shop in town; she was a midwife. Carita attended Big Sandy schools, graduating in 1930 from Big Sandy High School. She earned a teaching certificate from the normal school in Havre in 1931 and went on to teach in a variety of Montana schools, including Toston and Whitefish. Between 1942 and 1943, she married Arden William “Bunny” Bunnell of North Platte, Nebraska. They lived in a number of locations in the eastern United States before setting in Pocatello, Idaho. They had two sons, Roy and Jon. Mr. Bunnell died in 1978; Mrs. Bunnell died in 2003.

Content Description of Collection
The collection consists of Smith’s personal and professional papers. They document her high school career in Big Sandy and time teaching in one-room schools in Montana.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged in three series:
Series I: Personal Papers
Series II: School Papers
Series III: Photographs

Use of the Collection
Restrictions on Access
The collection is open for research.

Administrative Information
Acquisition Information
Processing Information
The collection was processed for the first time in 2003.

Separated Material
Two Big Sandy High School yearbooks were removed to the library collection.

Subjects
Smith, Carita Gertrude, 1912-2003 – Archives.
Big Sandy (Mont.)
Schoolteachers – Montana.
Midwives – Montana.

Container List
Series I: Personal Papers, 1912-1930
This series includes musical programs from Big Sandy High School, a brief daily diary, and a few items related to her Bertha Smith’s midwifery practice in Big Sandy.

Box/Folder
1/1 Musical programs, Big Sandy High School, 1926-1930
1/2 Diary, 1912-1930
1/3 Midwifery work, Bertha Smith, 1920-1930

Series II: School Papers, 1930-1942
This series includes school records from Toston and Whitefish that show the names of pupils, examples of writing and history exercises, and miscellaneous printed materials distributed by the Montana State Board of Education.

Box/Folder
1/4 Toston school, 1940-1942
1/5 Whitefish school, 1935-1936
1/6 Miscellaneous, undated

Series III: Photographs, 1913-1940
This series contains photographs of Smith, her brother, and her pupils in Toston and Whitefish.

Box/Folder
1/7
Items
002(III): 1 High school graduation portrait, 1930
002(III): 2 Toston School, 1940
002(III): 3 Whitefish School, 1935
002(III): 4 Smith and brother, 1931