

Register of the
Emily Bee Papers
Collection 028

Center for Adventist Research
James White Library
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, Michigan
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Processed by Barbara Stovall

Emily Bee Papers Collection 028

Scope and Content

Emily Bee (1904-1993), Mrs. Clifford Bee, was an educator serving Seventh-day Adventist schools in Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Maryland over a long career. Her primary notoriety was her support for “open education,” a terminology evolving from a philosophy of non-gradedness. involved a pilot program to organize and run a non-graded elementary school. This is an elementary school without the conventional first, second, third, and so on grades. Students were allowed to progress through the elementary school experience at their own pace.

Emily wanted to be a teacher from an early age. She struggled to complete her education at Emmanuel Missionary College due to “rough times.” She finally graduated in 1933. After raising three children—and adopting two more—Emily was asked to be the Educational Supervisor for the Indiana Conference. During this time she earned her master’s degree.

Emily had heard a paper read on non-graded schools. Beginning in the early 1960's, while at the Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Elementary School, Emily, with the support of her supervisor, was able to pioneer the non-graded school concept, based in large measure on principles outlined by Ellen G. White in *Education*. According to the biography in this collection, “her success was phenomenal. Beginning with 27 students it [the school] increased in size to nearly 80 students 6 years later. To visitors the most talked about characteristic was the cooperative family spirit. The older students were helping the young and everyone was important in the scheme of the school.”

After nine years, Emily resigned from the Carlisle School and moved with her husband to Maryland where she served as an educational consultant for the Chesapeake Conference until her retirement.

This collection contains Mrs. Bee’s correspondence for a portion of the time she served as the elementary education superintendent for the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventist as well as after she moved to Pennsylvania and Maryland later in her career. The correspondence encompasses Bee’s time at the Carlisle School as well as her time associated with the Chesapeake Conference in Maryland.

It was while at the Carlisle, Pennsylvania, school that she studied and led out in the non-graded curriculum. The results were widely watched by educators inside and outside of the Adventist Church. Included in this collection are quite a number of documents and reports from the Carlisle School as well as organizational and descriptive documents and evaluative instruments.

Arrangement

The arrangement is in four series as can be seen by reviewing the following collection register.

Provenance

The Emily Bee papers were donated to the Andrews University Adventist Heritage Center in 1979 by Mrs. Bee.

Use

All users of this collection will be required to complete the "Application to Use Unpublished Records," and to observe the regulations specified in the "Patron Agreement" and "Researcher's Code of Conduct." All records in this collection are open and available for research. Citation for this collection:

Box , folder , Emily Bee Papers (Collection 028), Center for Adventist Research, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Emily Bee Papers Collection 028

I. Personal

- Fld 1 Biographical
 - Biography, *Emily Seville Bean Bee*
 - Autobiography, 13 pages
 - Address information
- Fld 2 Educational Plans [2 items]

II. Correspondence

- [Letters to and from Bee and various entities and individuals related to her work in various positions as shown]
- Elementary Education Coordinator, Indiana Conference
 - Fld 3 1956 to 1957 [28 letters]
 - Fld 4 1958 to 1959: [69 letters]
 - Fld 5 1960 to 1961 [38 letters]
- Fair Oaks School, Carlisle, Pennsylvania
 - Fld 6 1962 to 1965 [45 letters]
 - Fld 7 1966 to 1969 [57 letters]
 - Fld 8 1970 to 1972 [78 letters]
- Chesapeake Conference Educational Consultant
 - Fld 9 1972 to 1979 [65 letters]

III. Fair Oaks School [Carlisle, Pennsylvania]

- Fld 10 Documents I
 - A report of the scholastic achievement
 - A Six-Year Report of the *Progress of Graduates from Fair Oaks School
 - Development of the Elementary, Non-Graded Pilot School
 - The Outdoor School [with 5 photographs]
- Fld 11 Documents II [28 items]
- Fld 12 Documents III [15 items]
- Fld 13 Clippings (17) about Fair Oaks School
- Fld 14 Photograph of Mrs. Bee and students at the Pennsylvania state capitol building

IV. Writings

- Fld 15 The Happy Road to Learning [study guide, 3rd edition, 1973
- Fld 16 The Light That Beckons, 1968
- Fld 17 Study Guide For Innovative Schools & Manual and Study
Guide for Innovations Schools
- Fld 18 School Entrance Age As A Factor in Academic
Achievement, 1960
- Fld 19 Whose Purpose?, 1967

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