

SOMERSET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PAPERS (2004.31)

Date Span: 1949-2004; bulk dates: 1953-2003

Somerset Elementary School opened in 1953 in Prairie Village, Kansas. Grades in attendance were Kindergarten through sixth grade. The two largest series contains materials related to the Parent Teacher Association. Smaller series contain yearbooks, printed matter, scrapbooks, photographs, and items from two time capsules.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Source: Somerset Elementary School

Size: 5.5 linear feet

Access: Open

Processed by: Erica Flanagan, 2009, as part of an internship program at the Johnson County Museum, funded by the Johnson County Heritage Trust Fund.

Supervising Archivists: Russ Czaplewski and Kathy Daniels

INSTITUTIONAL SKETCH

1934	Corinth Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) established
1953	Somerset Elementary School opened at Belinder Rd. and Somerset Dr. (Nov.)
1953	Corinth; Somerset PTA is created
1954	Addition to Somerset constructed on the North side, including nine classrooms
1955	PTA was modified to Corinth – Somerset – Ridgeview after Ridgeview Elementary opened
1956	Somerset PTA became a distinct organization
1956	Addition to Somerset constructed adding five classrooms, a library, and parking lot
1961	Corinth School District began offering Spanish classes to 3 rd and 4 th graders ¹
1968	Underground storm shelters constructed at Somerset
1969	Corinth School District No. 32 was consolidated and became Shawnee Mission Unified District No. 512
1993	Named one of six 1992-93 “focus schools” by the Kansas Association of Elementary School Principals ²
1993	40 th anniversary celebrated (Nov.) ³
1994	Fitness trail installed at Somerset
2001	Named by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a Blue Ribbon School, a

¹ “Corinth Students Starting Early,” *The News*, October, 25 1961

² “Somerset Elementary School Celebrates 40th Anniversary,” *The Sun Newspaper*, October 29, 1993

³ Ibid.

- 2002 national honor bestowed upon only 223 public schools that year
Awarded certificate for *Standard of Excellence* by the Kansas State Board of Education
- 2003 Received *Friends of Special Education Building Award* by the Shawnee Mission School District
- 2004 Somerset Elementary School closed at the end of the school year⁴

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Somerset Elementary School collection documents the history of the school located in Prairie Village, Kansas from its founding in 1953 to its closing in 2004, and the proceedings of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at Somerset.

The collection is composed primarily of directories, PTA reports and meeting minutes, school yearbooks, booklets, programs, records, scrapbooks, and photo albums.

The collection is arranged chronologically at the item level, alphabetically at the folder level, and according to subject matter at the series level. There are seven series in the collection: Combined Schools PTA, 1949-56; Somerset PTA, 1956-2003; Yearbooks, 1954-2004; Certificates, 1996-2002; Printed Matter, 1954-2004; PTA Scrapbooks, 1956-2003; Time Capsules, 1993 and 1999; and Photo Albums, 1981-2003.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Box Nos.

- 1 COMBINED SCHOOLS PTA, 1949-56
This series contains materials related to the combined PTA of Corinth, Somerset, and Ridgeview elementary schools, including directories, ledgers, newsletters, records, and committee reports. In 1956, the combined PTA separated into distinct organizations for each school.
- 1-2 SOMERSET PTA, 1956-2003
This series contains materials produced by the PTA of Somerset Elementary, including cookbooks, district directories (3 per folder), meeting ledgers, programs, and notebooks containing minutes, agendas, and budgets. The Somerset PTA became its own entity in 1956 after having been part of the Corinth-Somerset-Ridgeview PTA.
- 2 YEARBOOKS, 1954-2004
This series contains the 1954 yearbook from the Corinth District Schools (Corinth and Somerset), and every yearbook from 1985 to 2004, except two. The

⁴ "Somerset closing saddens parents" *The Kansas City Star* January 28, 2004

- yearbooks from school years 1990-91 and 1991-92 are absent. It is unknown if the school produced yearbooks between 1954 and 1985.
- 2 CERTIFICATES, 1996-2002
This series contains certificates awarded to the school by various institutions including the State of Kansas and the Shawnee Mission School District.
- 2 PRINTED MATTER, 1954-2004
This series contains materials relating primarily to Somerset Elementary, and also district and state information. It includes guest books, newspaper clippings, district directories, memory booklets, and programs of events presented at the school.
- 3-5 PTA SCRAPBOOKS, 1956-2003
This series contains scrapbooks made by the Somerset PTA. The scrapbooks feature school happenings and PTA events, lunch menus, PTA directories, and kindergarten booklets.
- 6 TIME CAPSULES, 1992-1999
This series is comprised of the contents of two time capsules assembled by students in honor of Somerset's 40th Anniversary (1993) and 45th Anniversary (1999). The series contains booklets, scrapbooks, documents, and other related material that detail various subjects such as students and their future goals, current events, and an average day in a class at Somerset.

PHOTO ALBUMS, 1981-2003

This series contains photos selected from photo albums that were disassembled and not retained. The photos document school events, and include photographs of classes and students.

FOLDER TITLE LIST

Box 1

Series 1: Combined Schools PTA, 1949-56

Directory; Corinth-Somerset; 1954-1955
 Directory; Corinth-Somerset-Ridgeview; 1955-1956
 Ledger; Meeting Minutes; 1952-56
 Ledger; Meeting Minutes; Executive Board; 1952-1956 [oversized]
 Monograph; History of Corinth School and Its P.T.A.; 1956 [oversized]
 Newsletter; Corinth-Somerset News & Views; May 1955 [oversized]
 Newsletter; Corinth-Somerset News; 1953-55 [oversized]
 Records; Corinth-Somerset committee reports; 1953-56 [oversized]
 Records; Membership Committee Corinth; 1949-56
 Records; National Magazine subscriptions; 1949-55

Records; Past publicity; 1949-53
Reports; Budget Committee; 1950-56
Reports; Hospitality Committee; 1955-56
Reports; Health Chairman; 1950-56
Reports; Library Committee; 1950-56
Reports; Program Chairman; 1950-53

Series 2: Somerset PTA, 1956-2003

Booklet; Savings Account; 1970-78
Cookbook; Somerset School; 1978
Cookbook; Somerset School; 1953-1993
Directories; Somerset; 1963-1966
Directories; Somerset; 1967-1970
Directories; Somerset; 1970-1973
Directories; Somerset; 1973-1976
Directories; Somerset; 1976-1979
Directories; Somerset; 1979-1982
Directories; Somerset; 1982-1985
Directories; Somerset; 1985-1987
Directory; Somerset; 1992-1993
Directories; Somerset; 1995-1998
Directories; Somerset; 1998-2001
Directories; Somerset; 2001-2003
Ledger; meetings – Secretary's Reports; 1956-61
Ledger; meetings – Secretary's Reports; 1961-68
Ledger; meetings – Secretary's Reports; 1968-72
Ledger; meetings – Secretary's Reports; 1972-77

Box 2

Minutes, Agendas, and Budgets; 1989-90
Minutes, Agendas, and Budgets; 1990-91
Minutes, Agendas, and Budgets; 1991-92
President's records; 1958-61
Program; Old Leawood Homes Tour; 2001
Program; Old Leawood Homes Tour; 2003
Roster; Somerset Officers and Chairmen; 1971-74
Roster; Somerset Officers and Chairmen; 1975-78

Series 3: Yearbooks, 1954-2004 (bulk 1985-2004)

Yearbook; Corinth District Schools; 1954 [Somerset School and Corinth School]
Yearbook; Somerset Elementary; 1985-1986
Yearbook; Somerset Elementary; 1987

Yearbook; Somerset Elementary; 1988-1989
Yearbook; Somerset Elementary; 1989-1990
Yearbook; Somerset Elementary; 1992-1993
Yearbook; Somerset Elementary; 1993-1994
Yearbook; Somerset Elementary; 1994-1995
Yearbook; Somerset Elementary; 1995-1996
Yearbook; Somerset Elementary; 1996-1997
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Yearbook; Somerset Elementary; 2000-2001
Yearbook; Somerset Elementary; 2001-2002
Yearbook; Somerset Elementary; 2002-2003
Yearbook; Somerset Elementary; 2003-2004

Series 4: Certificates, 1996-2002

Certificate, Recycling; 1996-97
Certificate; State; 2001-02
Certificates; District; 2001-02

Series 5: Printed Matter, 1954-2004

Book, Guest; Somerset School 25th anniversary; 1978
Book, Guest; Somerset School 40th anniversary; November 7, 1993
Booklet; Welcome to Kindergarten at Corinth Schools
Booklet; Class Memory Book; 1998
Booklet; Class Memory Book; 1999
Booklet; Class Memory Book; 2001
Booklet; Somerset 6th Grade Graduation; 1995
Booklet; Somerset memories; 1999
Booklet; Somerset memories; 2000
Booklet; Ms. Fuller's 5th grade; 2000
Calendar; 2000
Directory; Johnson County Educational Directory; 1959-1960
Directory; Johnson County Educational Directory; 1960-1961
Directory; Johnson County Educational Directory; 1962-1963
Directory; Johnson County Educational Directory; 1965-1966
Documents; Extracted from photo album 2004.31.9; 1984-87
Documents; Extracted from photo album 2004.31.10; 1988-89
Documents; Extracted from photo album 2004.31.12; 2001-02
Documents; Extracted from photo album 2004.31.13; 2002-03
Documents; Extracted from photo album 2004.31.23; 1992-93
Newsletter; *The Legislative News* – Kansas State Teachers Assn.; 1954-1955
Newspaper clippings; 1991-2001
Notebook; Policies and Regulations of the Board of Education; 1960-61

Programs; "Anything Goes...a Celebration of Music;" [undated]
Programs; "Celebrate America;" March 7, 1997
Programs; Somerset 6th Grade graduation; 2000
Programs; Somerset D.A.R.E. graduation; 2000
Programs; Somerset Open House Reception; April 14, 2004
Programs; "Talent Unlimited: Music from the 20th Century;" 2000

Box 3

Series 6: Scrapbooks, 1956-2003

Scrapbook; Somerset PTA, 1956-1957 [includes directory & yearbook]
[2004.31.14]
Scrapbook; Somerset PTA, 1957-1958 [includes directory & yearbook]
[2004.31.15]
Scrapbook; Somerset PTA, 1958-1959 [includes directory & yearbook]
[2004.31.16]
Scrapbook; Somerset PTA, 1959-1960 [includes directory & yearbook]
[2004.31.17]
Scrapbook; Somerset PTA, 1961-1962 [includes directory & yearbook]
[2004.31.18]
Scrapbook; Somerset PTA, 1962-1963 [includes directory & yearbook]
[2004.31.19]
Scrapbook; Somerset PTA, 1964-1965 [includes directory & yearbook]
[2004.31.20]
Scrapbook; Somerset PTA, 1965-1966 [includes directory & yearbook]
[2004.31.21]
Scrapbook; Somerset PTA, 1967-1970 [includes directory & yearbook]
[2004.31.22]

Box 4

Scrapbook; Somerest PTA; 1993-94 [2004.31.24]
Scrapbook; Somerset PTA; 1994-95 [2004.31.25]
Scrapbook; Somerset PTA; 1995-96 [2004.31.26]
Scrapbook; Somerset PTA; 1996-97 [2004.31.27]

Box 5

Scrapbook; Somerset PTA; 1999-2000 [2004.31.28]
Scrapbook; Somerset PTA; 2000-01 [2004.31.29]
Scrapbook; Somerset PTA; 2001-03 [2004.31.30]
Scrapbook; Somerset PTA, newspaper clippings; 2000-01 [2004.31.31]

Box 6

Series 7: Time Capsules, 1992-1999

40th Anniversary Bag of Stickers and Note; 1993 ca.
40th Anniversary Booklet; "The Important Things about 3rd Grade;" 1993

40th Anniversary Booklet; "Our Written Time Casule: Mrs. Hayse's 4th Grade;"
1993
40th Anniversary Document; "Dear People of the Future;" November 1993
40th Anniversary Document; "Happy Holidays!" Fourth Grade; 1993
40th Anniversary Document; "We are Learning to Speak French;" 5 November
1993
40th Anniversary Document; "We the First Grade Class of 1993;" 28 October
1993
40th Anniversary Envelope; Second Grade; 5 November 1993
40th Anniversary Newsletter; "What's Hot in 1993"
40th Anniversary Notecard; Velcro, Pre-school; Fall 1993
45th Anniversary Booklet; "Dreams, Hopes, Goals: Ms. Glennon's 6th Gr.;" 1999
45th Anniversary Booklet; "I Like Somerset" Kindergarten; 1999
45th Anniversary Booklet; "Somerset Second Grade;" 1998-99
45th Anniversary Exercise, School; Average Day in 6th Grade; 29 April 1999
45th Anniversary Notecards; 6th Grade; 1998-99
45th Anniversary Poster; Mrs. Neilson 1st Grade; 1998-99
45th Anniversary Poster; "Pilgrims from Plymouth;" 24 November 1998
45th Anniversary Poster; "Somerset Elementary School" 4th Grade; 1998-99
45th Anniversary Roster; Mrs. Norton 2nd Grade; 1998-99
45th Anniversary Scrapbook; Ms. Bruce 3rd Grade; 1999
45th Anniversary Scrapbook; Mrs. Henning 3rd Grade; 1998-99
Print; Somerset Crest; Not Dated
[OVERSIZED MATERIAL]

Photo Albums, 1981-2003

Photo Album; Somerset, 1981-87 [2004.31.9]
Photo Album; Somerset, 1987-89 [2004.31.10]
Photo Album; Somerset; 1997-98 [2004.31.11]
Photo Album; Somerset; 1992-93 [2004.31.23]
Photo Album; Principal's; 2001-02 [2004.31.12]
Photo Album; Principal's; 2002-03 [2004.31.13]
Poster; Somerset Points of Interest [2004.31.32]