

## **Boys Republic Collection**

**Records, 1890-1983**

**6.25 linear feet**

Accession # 914

DALNET #

OCLC #

The records of Boys Republic were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in increments between 1979 and 1987 by former superintendent and chair of the Boys Republic Historical Committee, Clyde L. Reed, and others and were opened for research in May of 1998.

Boys Republic was originally incorporated in 1890 as the Home of Industry with the express purpose of providing food, clothing, shelter and employment to prisoners discharged from Michigan correctional institutions. In 1906, after the state took responsibility for assisting these men, the Home formalized what had become a growing emphasis on preventative work among “wayward and criminally inclined” boys and first offenders by changing its name to Boys’ Home and d’Arcambal Association and beginning to accept neglected and delinquent boys referred by the courts and other agencies.

Around 1909, the Home acquired the unofficial name, Ford Republic, reflecting both the generosity of Mrs. E. L. Ford and her daughters, who provided money for a dormitory, power plant and water and sewage systems at the Home’s new 70-acre farm northwest of Detroit, and the treatment theories of its new superintendent, Homer T. Lane, a proponent of self-government and character-building in the institutionalized care of problem boys. It was officially renamed Boys Republic in 1944. By the 1960s, the Republic had changed from a self-governing family and work-training facility for wards of the court to a residential, clinically-oriented treatment facility for boys with more serious emotional disturbances.

The records of Boys Republic document the history of Homer T. Lane’s innovative approach to the institutional care of anti-social and emotionally disturbed children. They also provide insight into the social and moral issues raised by the debate, especially among members of the social welfare establishment, over the cause and treatment of juvenile delinquency.

**Important subjects covered in the collection are:**

Child care--Psychological aspects--Michigan  
Child welfare--Michigan  
Children--Institutional care--Michigan  
Detroit (Mich.)--Social problems  
Drug abuse--Michigan  
Family services--Michigan  
Juvenile delinquency--Michigan  
Lane, Homer T.  
Poor--Michigan--Detroit  
Reformatories--Michigan  
Social work with youth  
Student government--Michigan  
Wayne County (Mich.) Juvenile Court  
Youth--Services for--Michigan

**Among the important correspondents are:**

Boring, Gordon K.  
Butzel, Fred M.  
Colebank, Ruth  
Henry, Charles E.  
Huber, Milton  
Hulbert, Henry S.  
Lane, Homer T.  
McIndoo, J. M.  
Reed, Clyde L.

**Contents**

**9 manuscript boxes**  
**1 half manuscript box**  
**2 clamshell boxes**

**Series I, Correspondence**, 1906-1973, Boxes 1-2:

Administrative correspondence and reports related primarily to daily business operations and secondarily to board and professional matters.

**Series II, Minutes**, 1896-1978, Boxes 2-5:

Primarily board and executive committee meeting minutes and attachments.

**Series III, Financial Records**, 1898-1976, Boxes 6-7:

Data compiled as part of the United Community Services budgetary process and for auditing purposes.

**Series IV, General Files**, 1890-1980, Boxes 8-10:

Files on a wide range of subjects and organizations relating to the organization and administration of Boys Republic and to the care and treatment of neglected and delinquent youth in general.

**Series V, Historical Files**, 1902-1983, Boxes 10-12:

Newspaper clippings, magazine articles, unpublished studies and theses, and speeches and draft manuscripts describing the historical development of Boys Republic and its programs.

**Non-manuscript Material:**

A large number of photographic negatives and prints, filmstrips of Dedication Day ceremonies in 1957, 6 reels of 16mm film, and miscellaneous other material have been transferred to the Archives Audiovisual Collection. A copy of W. David Wills's biography of Homer Lane has been placed in the Archives Library.

**Series I**  
**Correspondence, 1906-1973**  
**Boxes 1-2**

**Box 1**

1. Correspondence, n. d.
2. , 1906-07
3. , 1908
- 4-14. , 1909
- 15-21. , Jan-Aug 1910
22. , Jun, Sep-Nov 1911, Oct 1913
23. , 1920-22
- 24-25. , 1936, 1946-53
- 26-30. , 1955-Nov 1963
31. , 1964-65

**Box 2**

1. Correspondence, 1966-67
- 2-3. , 1969-71, 1973
- 4-5. ; Child Welfare League, 1965-68
- 6-7. ; Colebank, Ruth, 1950, 1954-56
8. ; [re] fiftieth anniversary, Sep 1957
9. ; foreign visitors, 1952, 1954-55
- 10-11. ; [re] Lovejoy, E. P., Memorial Fund, 1953-54
- 12-15. ; [re] residents, 1909-11, 1954-57
16. ; United Community Services [UCS], 1962-68
- 17-19. ; [re] Wayne University research, 1950-52

**Series II**  
**Minutes, 1896-1978**  
**Boxes 2-5**

**Box 2**

- 20. Minutes; Home of Industry board, Apr 1896-Apr 1901
- 21. Proceedings; board meeting, 12 Aug 1943

**Box 3**

- Bound volume Minutes; board & executive committee meetings, Jul 1909-Feb 1928
- Bound volume Minutes; board & executive committee meetings, Mar 1928-Jun 1950

**Box 4**

- Bound volume Minutes, board meetings, Sep 1950-Oct 1959

**Box 5**

- 1. Minutes; Ford Sunday School, Sep 1910-Mar 1912
- 2. ; mtg. [re] care of children under new Juvenile Court Act, Dec 1907
- 3. ; miscellaneous committees, 1974
- 4. ; UCS-sponsored meeting [re] future of Boys Republic, Jan 1954
- 5. Minutes & reports; board meetings, 1966-67
- 6-10. , 1969-Nov 1972
- 11-13. , 1973-Feb 1974
- 14. , Jan-May 1975
- 15. , Jul-Nov 1975
- 16. , Jan-May 1976
- 17. , Jul-Nov 1976
- 18-19. , 1977
- 20. , Jan 1978
- 21. Minutes & reports; executive committee mtgs., 1908, 1910, 1919-21, 1924

**Series III**  
**Financial Records, 1898-1976**  
**Boxes 6-7**

**Box 6**

1. Financial records, 1898-1912
2. Financial records; statements, 1919-30, 1940s
- 3-11. , 1950-58
12. Financial records; budget & statements, 1959
13. ; Metropolitan Detroit Building Fund application, 1959
14. ; budget & statements, 1960
15. ; budget & statements, 1961
16. ; budget, 1962
17. ; budget-salaries, 1962
18. ; statements, 1962
19. ; budget, 1963
20. ; statements, 1963
21. ; budget, 1964
22. ; budget-salaries, 1964

**Box 7**

1. Financial records; statements, 1964
2. ; budget, 1965
3. ; budget-salaries, 1965
4. ; statements, 1965
- 5-6. Financial records, 1966-67
7. Financial records; budget, 1968
8. ; budget-salaries, 1968
9. ; statements, 1968
- 10-11. ; budget, 1969-70
12. ; United Foundation Capital Fund application, 1970
13. ; budget, 1971
14. ; statements, 1971
15. ; budget, 1972
16. ; statements, 1972
17. ; budget, 1973
18. ; statements, 1973
- 19-20. ; budget, 1974-75
- 21-22. ; statements, 1975-76

**Series IV**  
**General Files, 1890-1980**  
**Boxes 8-10**

**Box 8**

1. Aftercare program, 1959, 1963, 1966
2. Articles of Association & Amended Articles, 7 May 1890, 12 May 1906
3. Bequest; Baldwin, Gertrude H., 1921, 1944
4. ; Hickok, Arthur S., 1963-67
5. ; McGraw, Arthur, Memorial Fund, 1924-56
6. ; Radford, John, 1902
7. Board member lists, c. 1909, 1969-72
8. By-laws, c. 1890-1954
9. Citizen self-government; Citizens' Court, c. 1906-10, 1941
10. ; committee reports to the board, n. d.
11. ; constitution & laws, 1925
12. ; Diploma of Citizenship, 1950
13. ; House of Representatives meeting minutes, Jul-Aug  
1961
14. ; laws, 1916, c. 1950s-1960s
15. ; Mushroom Club meeting minutes, Sep-Oct 1920
16. ; State meeting minutes, Mar-Jul 1909
17. ; State meeting minutes, Apr 1920-Oct 1921
18. Connecticut Junior Republic, 1980
19. Discharge reports, 1912-24
20. George (N. Y.) Junior Republic, 1980
21. Hypnosis as treatment method at Boys Republic, c. 1958
22. Intake policy & classification systems, c. 1960s
23. Juvenile delinquency; articles & other publications [re], 1907, 1948, 1950s
24. ; newspaper clippings, 1950s
25. ; papers delivered at Statewide Crime Conference in  
E. Lansing, Mich., Oct 1935
26. ; *Saturday Evening Post* series, 1955
27. Kansas Boys Industrial School, n. d.
28. Legislation; Michigan House Bill 22, 1956
29. ; Michigan House Bill 821, 1964

**Box 9**

1. Legislation; Michigan Senate Bill 165, 1965
2. Menus, 1972
- 3-8. Michigan Association of Children's Agencies; corres., minutes & reports,  
Dec 1963-1967
9. Michigan Federation of Private Children's Agencies, 1971

10. Ohio programs for treatment of juvenile delinquents, 1956
11. Pennsylvania George Junior Republic, 1950s-1960s
12. Personnel matters, n. d., 1941-69
13. Physical plant, n. d., 1951, 1957, 1959, 1967
- 14-15. Property matters, 1940s-1950s, 1963
16. Reports to Board of Directors Planning Committee, 1963-64
17. Staff meeting minutes & memos, n. d., 1959-69
18. Starr Commonwealth for Boys, 1950s
19. Statistical reports on residents, 1902-10, 1929, 1933, 1938

**Box 9 (cont'd)**

20. Testimony in court hearing [re] drug use at Boys Republic, 1955
21. Title I program requests, 1967-68
22. UCS Executives of Child Care Institutions' Self-Study of Rejected Applications, 1962-64

**Box 10**

1. Visitors books, 1939, 1947, 1949-56
2. Wayne Co. Juvenile Court; capital needs survey, 1928-30
3. ; clippings, 1905-16, 1930
4. ; services provided & reimbursement, 1908-10
5. ; services provided & reimbursement, 1961-63
6. ; services provided & reimbursement, 1965-66, 1973
- 7-9. Wayne Co. Juvenile Court wards at Boys Republic; reports, 1952, 1954-58
10. White House Conference on Children & Youth - Region XI, 1959
11. Youth Anonymous; board corres., reports & meeting minutes, 1956-59
- 12-13. ; Boys Republic Group meeting reports, 1955-56
14. ; Camp Brighton Group meeting reports, 1956
15. ; executive director's report, 1957
16. ; personnel code, 1957
17. ; program, 1955-57
18. ; Southwest & Starr Commonwealth Groups meeting reports, 1956

**Series V**  
**Historical Files, 1902-1983**  
**Boxes 10-12**

**Box 10**

19. "Boys Republic - A School for Problem Boys," 1948
20. "Boys Republic - Information for Social Agencies," 1947
21. Boys Republic; agency manual, 1969, 1978
22. ; annual reports & monthly work summaries, 1902-11, 1928
23. ; fiftieth anniversary filmscript, 1957

**Box 11**

1. Boys Republic; clippings [re], c. 1905-c. 1912
- 2-7. ; clippings, 1920s-1963
8. ; guides & manuals, misc., 1940s-1950s
9. ; newsletters, 1940s
10. ; program descriptions & short histories, 1929, 1940s-1950s, 1961
11. ; promotional brochures, n. d., 1940s-1950s
12. ; publicity, n. d., 1908, 1940s-1950s
- 13-15. "A Case Study of 7 Boys Republic Graduates, Their Post-Institutional Adjustment and Conceptions of Boys Republic" (MSW thesis), 1955
16. Colebank, Ruth; history of Boys Republic (draft manuscript), c. 1956
17. "Definite Needs of the Ford Republic," 1909
18. "Ford Republic" by William J. Norton, Jr. in *Children's Institutions*, 1941
19. "The Ford Republic - A Boy Community," c. 1910, c. 1914, c. 1929

**Box 12**

1. Ford Republic; field work report & student visitors' observations, 1937
2. Graduates' accounts of their experiences at Boys Republic, n. d.
3. Lane, Homer T.; articles [re], 1982-83
4. Meredith, Esther; remarks on Boys Republic to Methodist church study group, c. 1960
5. "Self-Government As a Character Builder" in *Woman's Bulletin*, 1929
6. "Self-Government for Problem Boys" by Clyde Reed in *Delinquency News Letter*, 1936
7. "A Statistical Study of One Thousand Consecutive Admissions to the Ford Republic" by Courtlandt Van Vechten, Jr., 1930
8. "The Story of Ford Republic" by Clyde Reed, 1935
9. "A Study of Success and Failure of One Thousand Delinquents Committed to a Boys' Republic" by Courtlandt Van Vechten, Jr.  
(dissertation), 1935

10. "Survey of the Boys' Home and d'Arcambal Association" by the Child Welfare League, 1941