



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Walter P. Reuther Library

Guide to the Boys Republic Records UR000914

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Walter P. Reuther Library
Creator:	Boys and Girls Republic (Juvenile Home)
Title:	Boys Republic Records
ID:	UR000914
Date [inclusive]:	1890-1983
Physical Description:	6.75 Linear Feet (10 MB, 2 OS)
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	Material entirely in English.
Abstract:	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. Around 1909, the Home acquired the unofficial name, Ford Republic. This reflected 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. The records of Boys Republic document the history of 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.

Citation Style

"Boys Republic Records, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

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History

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. It began to accept neglected and delinquent boys referred by the courts and other agencies.

Around 1909, the Home acquired the unofficial name, Ford Republic. This reflected 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 (now Farmington Hills), 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, Boys 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.

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Scope and Content

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

Series Description: Series 1, Correspondence, 1906-1973: Administrative correspondence and reports related primarily to daily business operations and secondarily to board and professional matters.

Series 2, Minutes, 1896-1978: Primarily board and executive committee meeting minutes and attachments.

Series 3, Financial Records, 1898-1976: Data compiled as part of the United Community Services budgetary process and for auditing purposes.

Series 4, General Files, 1890-1980: 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 5, Historical Files, 1902-1983: Newspaper clippings, magazine articles, unpublished studies and theses, and speeches and draft manuscripts describing the historical development of Boys Republic and its programs.

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Arrangement

Arranged in 5 series: Series 1 (Boxes 1-2), Series 2 (Boxes 2-5), Series 3 (Boxes 6-7), Series 4 (Boxes 8-10), Series 5 (Boxes 10-12). Folders are arranged alphabetically or chronologically, depending upon the series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Acquisition

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

Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Walter P. Reuther Library in May 1998.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials." Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

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Related Materials

Transfers

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.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Child welfare
- Child psychology
- Juvenile delinquency
- Problem youth

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Correspondence, 1906-1976

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, undated	Box 1	Folder 1
Correspondence, 1906-1907	Box 1	Folder 2
Correspondence, 1908	Box 1	Folder 3
Correspondence, 1909	Box 1	Folder 4-14
Correspondence, 1910 January-August	Box 1	Folder 15-21
Correspondence, 1920-1922	Box 1	Folder 22
Correspondence, 1936, 1946-1953	Box 1	Folder 23
Correspondence, 1955-1963 November	Box 1	Folder 24-25
Correspondence, 1964-1965	Box 1	Folder 26-30
Correspondence, 1966-1967	Box 2	Folder 1
Correspondence, 1969-1971, 1973	Box 2	Folder 2-3
Correspondence; Child Welfare League, 1965-1968	Box 2	Folder 4-5
Correspondence; Ruth Colebank, 1950, 1954-1956	Box 2	Folder 6-7
Correspondence re fiftieth anniversary, 1957 September	Box 2	Folder 8
Correspondence; foreign visitors, 1952, 1954-1955	Box 2	Folder 9
Correspondence re E.P. Lovejoy Memorial Fund, 1953-1954	Box 2	Folder 10-11
Correspondence re residents, 1909-1911, 1954-1957	Box 2	Folder 12-15
Correspondence; United Community Services (UCS), 1962-1968	Box 2	Folder 16
Correspondence re Wayne University research, 1950-1952	Box 2	Folder 17-19

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Series 2: Minutes, 1896-1978

Title/Description	Instances	
Minutes; Home of Industry board, 1896 April-1901 April	Box 2	Folder 20
Proceedings; board meeting, 1943 August 12	Box 2	Folder 21
Minutes; board and executive committee meetings, bound volume, 1909 July-1928 February	Box 3	Item 1

Minutes; board and executive committee meetings, bound volume, 1928 March-1950 June	Box 3	Item 2
Minutes; board meetings, bound volume, 1950 September-1959 October	Box 4	Item 1
Minutes; Ford Sunday School, 1910 September-1912 March	Box 5	Folder 1
Minutes; meeting re care of children under new Juvenile Court Act, 1907 December	Box 5	Folder 2
Minutes; miscellaneous committees, 1974	Box 5	Folder 3
Minutes; UCS-sponsored meeting re future of Boys Republic, 1954 January	Box 5	Folder 4
Minutes, reports; board meetings, 1966-1967	Box 5	Folder 5
Minutes, reports, 1969-1972 November	Box 5	Folder 6-10
Minutes, reports, 1973-1974 February	Box 5	Folder 11-13
Minutes, reports, 1975 January-May	Box 5	Folder 14
Minutes, reports, 1975 July-November	Box 5	Folder 15
Minutes, reports, 1976 January-May	Box 5	Folder 16
Minutes, reports, 1976 July-November	Box 5	Folder 17
Minutes, reports, 1977	Box 5	Folder 18-19
Minutes, reports, 1978 January	Box 5	Folder 20
Minutes, reports; executive committee meetings, 1908, 1910, 1919-1921, 1924	Box 5	Folder 21

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Series 3: Financial Records, 1898-1976

Title/Description	Instances	
Financial records, 1898-1912	Box 6	Folder 1
Financial records; statements, 1919-1930, 1940s	Box 6	Folder 2
Financial records; statements, 1950-1958	Box 6	Folder 3-11
Financial records; budget and statements, 1959	Box 6	Folder 12
Financial records; Metropolitan Detroit Building Fund application, 1959	Box 6	Folder 13
Financial records; budget and statements, 1960	Box 6	Folder 14
Financial records; budget and statements, 1961	Box 6	Folder 15
Financial records; budget, 1962	Box 6	Folder 16

Financial records; budget-salaries, 1962	Box 6	Folder 17
Financial records; statements, 1962	Box 6	Folder 18
Financial records; budget, 1963	Box 6	Folder 19
Financial records; statements, 1963	Box 6	Folder 20
Financial records; budget, 1964	Box 6	Folder 21
Financial records; budget-salaries, 1964	Box 6	Folder 22
Financial records; statements, 1964	Box 7	Folder 1
Financial records; budget, 1965	Box 7	Folder 2
Financial records; budget-salaries, 1965	Box 7	Folder 3
Financial records; statements, 1965	Box 7	Folder 4
Financial records, 1966-1967	Box 7	Folder 5-6
Financial records; budget, 1968	Box 7	Folder 7
Financial records; budget-salaries, 1968	Box 7	Folder 8
Financial records; statements, 1968	Box 7	Folder 9
Financial records; budget, 1969-1970	Box 7	Folder 10-11
Financial records; United Foundation Capital Fund application, 1970	Box 7	Folder 12
Financial records; budget, 1971	Box 7	Folder 13
Financial records; statements, 1971	Box 7	Folder 14
Financial records; budget, 1972	Box 7	Folder 15
Financial records; statements, 1972	Box 7	Folder 16
Financial records; budget, 1973	Box 7	Folder 17
Financial records; statements, 1973	Box 7	Folder 18
Financial records; budget, 1974-1975	Box 7	Folder 19-20
Financial records; statements, 1975-1976	Box 7	Folder 21-22

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Series 4: General Files, 1890-1980

Title/Description	Instances	
Aftercare program, 1959, 1963, 1966	Box 8	Folder 1
Articles of Association and amended articles, 1890 May 7, 1906 May 12	Box 8	Folder 2
Bequest; Baldwin, Gertrude H., 1921, 1944		

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	Box 8	Folder 3
Bequest; Hickok, Arthur S., 1963-1967	Box 8	Folder 4
Bequest; Arthur McGraw Memorial Fund, 1924-1956	Box 8	Folder 5
Bequest; Radford, John, 1902	Box 8	Folder 6
Board member lists, circa 1909, 1969-1972	Box 8	Folder 7
By-laws, circa 1890-1954	Box 8	Folder 8
Citizen self-government; Citizens' Court, circa 1906-1910, 1941	Box 8	Folder 9
Citizen self-government; committee reports to the board, undated	Box 8	Folder 10
Citizen self-government; constitution and laws, 1925	Box 8	Folder 11
Citizen self-government; Diploma of Citizenship, 1950	Box 8	Folder 12
Citizen self-government; House of Representatives meeting minutes, 1961 July-August	Box 8	Folder 13
Citizen self-government; laws, 1916, circa 1950s-1960s	Box 8	Folder 14
Citizen self-government; Mushroom Club meeting minutes, 1920 September-October	Box 8	Folder 15
Citizen self-government; State meeting minutes, 1909 March-July	Box 8	Folder 16
Citizen self-government; State meeting minutes, 1920 April-1921 October	Box 8	Folder 17
Connecticut Junior Republic, 1980	Box 8	Folder 18
Discharge reports, 1912-1924	Box 8	Folder 19
George (New York) Junior Republic, 1980	Box 8	Folder 20
Hypnosis as treatment method at Boys Republic, circa 1958	Box 8	Folder 21
Intake policy and classification systems, circa 1960s	Box 8	Folder 22
Juvenile delinquency; articles and other publications, 1907, 1948, 1950s	Box 8	Folder 23
Juvenile delinquency; newspaper clippings, 1950s	Box 8	Folder 24
Juvenile delinquency; papers delivered at Statewide Crime Conference, East Lansing, Michigan, 1935 October	Box 8	Folder 25
Juvenile delinquency; Saturday Evening Post series, 1955	Box 8	Folder 26
Kansas Boys Industrial School, undated	Box 8	Folder 27
Legislation; Michigan House Bill 22, 1956	Box 8	Folder 28
Legislation; Michigan House Bill 821, 1964	Box 8	Folder 29
Legislation; Michigan Senate Bill 165, 1965	Box 9	Folder 1
Menus, 1972	Box 9	Folder 2

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Michigan Association of Children's Agencies; correspondence, minutes, reports, 1963 December-1967	Box 9	Folder 3-8
Michigan Federation of Private Children's Agencies, 1971	Box 9	Folder 9
Ohio programs for treatment of juvenile delinquents, 1956	Box 9	Folder 10
Pennsylvania George Junior Republic, 1950s-1960s	Box 9	Folder 11
Personnel matters, undated and 1941-1969	Box 9	Folder 12
Physical plant, undated and 1950s, 1967	Box 9	Folder 13
Property matters, 1940s-1950s, 1963	Box 9	Folder 14-15
Reports to Board of Directors Planning Committee, 1963-1964	Box 9	Folder 16
Staff meetings: minutes, memos, undated and 1959-1969	Box 9	Folder 17
Starr Commonwealth for Boys, 1950s	Box 9	Folder 18
Statistical reports on residents, 1902-1910, 1929, 1933, 1938	Box 9	Folder 19
Testimony, court hearing re drug use at Boys Republic, 1955	Box 9	Folder 20
Title I program requests, 1967-1968	Box 9	Folder 21
UCS Executives of Child Care Institutions, Self-Study of Rejected Applications, 1962-1964	Box 9	Folder 22
Visitors books, 1939, 1947, 1949-1956	Box 10	Folder 1
Wayne County Juvenile Court; capital needs survey, 1928-1930	Box 10	Folder 2
Wayne County Juvenile Court; clippings, 1905-1916, 1930	Box 10	Folder 3
Wayne County Juvenile Court; services provided, reimbursement, 1908-1910	Box 10	Folder 4
Wayne County Juvenile Court; services provided, reimbursement, 1961-1963	Box 10	Folder 5
Wayne County Juvenile Court; services provided, reimbursement, 1965-1966, 1973	Box 10	Folder 6
Wayne County Juvenile Court, wards at Boys Republic; reports, 1952, 1954-1958	Box 10	Folder 7-9
White House Conference on Children and Youth, Region XI, 1959	Box 10	Folder 10
Youth Anonymous; board correspondence, reports, meeting minutes, 1956-1959	Box 10	Folder 11
Youth Anonymous; Boys Republic Group, meeting reports, 1955-1956	Box 10	Folder 12-13
Youth Anonymous; Camp Brighton Group, meeting reports, 1956	Box 10	Folder 14
Youth Anonymous; executive director's report, 1957	Box 10	Folder 15
Youth Anonymous; personnel code, 1957	Box 10	Folder 16
Youth Anonymous; program, 1955-1957		

	Box 10	Folder 17
Youth Anonymous; Southwest and Starr Commonwealth Groups, meeting reports, 1956	Box 10	Folder 18

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Series 5: Historical Files, 1902-1983

Title/Description	Instances	
"Boys Republic - A School for Problem Boys," 1948	Box 10	Folder 19
"Boys Republic - Information for Social Agencies," 1947	Box 10	Folder 20
Boys Republic; agency manual, 1969, 1978	Box 10	Folder 21
Boys Republic; annual reports, monthly work summaries, 1902-1911, 1928	Box 10	Folder 22
Boys Republic; fiftieth anniversary filmscript, 1957	Box 10	Folder 23
Boys Republic; clippings, circa 1905-1912	Box 11	Folder 1
Boys Republic; clippings, 1920s-1963	Box 11	Folder 2-7
Boys Republic; guides, manuals, various documents, 1940s-1950s	Box 11	Folder 8
Boys Republic; newsletters, 1940s	Box 11	Folder 9
Boys Republic; program descriptions, short histories, 1929, 1940s-1950s, 1961	Box 11	Folder 10
Boys Republic; promotional brochures, undated and 1940s-1950s	Box 11	Folder 11
Boys Republic; publicity, undated and 1908, 1940s-1950s	Box 11	Folder 12
"A Case Study of 7 Boys Republic Graduates, Their Post-Institutional Adjustment and Conceptions of Boys Republic," MSW thesis, 1955	Box 11	Folder 13-15
History of Boys Republic, by Ruth Colebank, draft manuscript, circa 1956	Box 11	Folder 16
"Definite Needs of the Ford Republic," 1909	Box 11	Folder 17
"Ford Republic," by William J. Norton, Jr., in Children's Institutions, 1941	Box 11	Folder 18
"The Ford Republic - A Boy Community," circa 1910, circa 1914, circa 1929	Box 11	Folder 19
Ford Republic; field work report, student visitors' observations, 1937	Box 12	Folder 1
Graduates' accounts of experiences at Boys Republic, undated	Box 12	Folder 2
Homer T. Lane; articles re, 1982-1983	Box 12	Folder 3

Esther Meredith; remarks on Boys Republic to Methodist Church study group, circa 1960	Box 12	Folder 4
"Self-Government as a Character Builder," in Woman's Bulletin, 1929	Box 12	Folder 5
"Self-Government for Problem Boys," by Clyde Reed, in Delinquency News Letter, 1936	Box 12	Folder 6
"A Statistical Study of One Thousand Consecutive Admissions to the Ford Republic," by Courtlandt Van Vechten, Jr., 1930	Box 12	Folder 7
"The Story of Ford Republic," by Clyde Reed, 1935	Box 12	Folder 8
"A Study of Success and Failure of One Thousand Delinquents Committed to a Boys' Republic," by Courtlandt Van Vechten, Jr., dissertation, 1935	Box 12	Folder 9
"Survey of the Boys' Home and d'Arcambal Association," by the Child Welfare League, 1941	Box 12	Folder 10

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