

Smith, Audra Ann, Collection MS 117

Audra Ann Smith Collection

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Audra Ann Smith
Title	The Audra Ann Smith Collection
Dates	1913-1985
Quantity	.3 linear foot
Collection Number	MS 117
Summary	Mrs. Audra Smith, a native of Kansas, took a tour in 1974 through the Soviet Union with the Farm Bureau's Farmer-to-Farmer. This collection includes biographical information, her travel journals, newspaper clippings, and photographs.
Repository	Pittsburg State University, Leonard H. Axe Library, Special Collections & University Archives 1701 S. Broadway Pittsburg, Kansas 66762 (620) 235-4883 speccoll@pittstate.edu
Access Restrictions	There are no restrictions and the collection is open for research. Researchers must use the collection in accordance with the policies of the Special Collections & University Archives, Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University
Languages	English
Biographical Note	<p>Audra Ann Long was born December 22, 1913 at Pawnee Station in Bourbon County, Kansas to William Henry Long and Hattie Stewart Long. She attended school in a small two-room school house in Pawnee Station and graduated from Fort Scott High School in 1932, and Fort Scott Junior College in 1934. In 1933 her family moved to Girard, Kansas to be close to doctors for her mother, who was diabetic.</p> <p>On June 5, 1935 Audra married Ned Eugene Smith, from Wichita, Kansas. Three and half years later she gave birth to their first son, Ned Eugene Smith Jr. In August of 1946, Ned, Audra, and Ned Jr. moved to Nebraska for nine months, for Ned's job at Spencer Chemical, and then to Kansas City in May of 1947. Their second</p>

Smith, Audra Ann, Collection MS 117

child Nicholas Smith was born in 1949. On June 21, 1973, at the age of 59, Ned Smith died from a heart attack.

In May 1974, Audra, through the Farm Bureau, took a Farm-to-Farmer tour of the U.S.S.R. Entering at the port of Nakhodka, their tour group rode the Trans-Siberian Railroad, visiting the towns of Khabarovsk, Irkutsk, Tashkent, Bukhara, Samarkand, Tashkent, Alma Ata, Dushanbe, Yalta, Rostov, Moscow, and Leningrad. From Leningrad they flew to London, England back to America. In 1987, Audra wrote and published her autobiography, *Thanks God... I Was a Country Kid*. Audra passed away July 16, 2000 at the age of 86 at Mt. Carmel Medical Center.

Content Description

The Audra Ann Smith Collection is arranged into six series: **Biographical, Correspondence, Travel, Newspaper Clippings, Photographs, and Ephemera.**

The **Biographical Series** is Audra's biography documents her life from birth to 1985, and includes her growing up in Kansas, getting married, having children, and her trip to the Soviet Union in 1974.

The **Correspondence Series** contains two postcards, one from Audra's children and another from Audra's Russian guide during her tour in 1974, and a letter to the *Kansas City Star*.

The **Travel Series** is divided into two subseries. The first is Audra's travel documents and the second in her travel journals written during and after her trip.

The **Newspaper Clippings Series** contains newspaper articles that are about Audra's trip to the Soviet Union from the *Kansas City Star* and the *Pittsburg Morning Sun* from 1974 to 1977.

The **Photographs Series** has three photos and description of Audra and of other people in the Soviet Union.

The **Ephemera Series** has four little pins that Audra brought back from the Soviet Union.

FOLDER LIST

Biographical

f. 1 Biography of Audra Smith.

Correspondence

f. 2 Postcard to Audra from her children June 3, 1974; Russia postcard to Audra from her Russia Guide December 11, 1974; and Letter to *Kansas City Star* August 15, 1977 from Audra

Smith, Audra Ann, Collection MS 117

Travel

Travel Documents

f. 3 Trips official itinerary, Audra's plane tickets, and information brochure.

Travel Journals

f. 4 Audra's journals from May to June 1974 about the Russian city she visited.

Newspaper Clippings

f. 5 Newspaper about Audra – three n.d., three of the same September 15, 1974 *Morning Sun*, one August 17, 1975 *Kansas City Star*, one September 4, 1977 *Morning Sun*.

Photographs

f. 6 Three photographs – Audra Ann Smith; Russian school children; a horse drawn cart.

Six slide projectors with slides.

Ephemera

f. 7 Four Russian pins from different cities.