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Smither, Ethel Schwab, Manuscript, MS 331

The Ethel Schwab Smither Collection

Collection Number	MS 331
Title	Ethel Schwab Smither Manuscript
Repository	Pittsburg State University, Special Collections & University Archives, Pittsburg, Kansas 1701 S. Broadway Pittsburg, Kansas 66762 (620) 235-4883 speccoll@pittstate.edu
Dates	1986-1995
Collection Size	.4 linear feet
Creator	Ethel Schwab Smither
Scope and Content	A manuscript of Ethel Schwab Smither's novel, <i>The Yielding Years</i> (Edgemoor Publishers, 1995).
Access Restrictions	This collection is open for access. 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	Ethel Schwab Smither (1893-1969) was born near Cherokee, Kansas, the eldest of seven children. She and her husband Elbert raised three children. Smither was always interested in writing, possibly using it as an escape during difficult times like the Great Depression. Her interest in writing led her to become a member of the Kansas Authors Society. By the time of her death in 1969, Smither had a large collection of completed poems and a typewritten manuscript, <i>The Yielding Years</i> , which was her only novel. <i>The Yielding Years</i> is an historical novel, set in Southeast Kansas from 1869 to 1912. It follows two families, based on her own, who migrated from Illinois to Kansas. The story centers around the development of the area, especially in the coal mining industry. Smither describes the poverty and strife of coal miners through one of the families in the novel. She also highlights nature, "customs, manners, simple pleasures of rural and village life, and the industrial milieu of the period." According to her children, Smither wrote the novel as a way to conceptualize her experiences and to provide a historical account of the coal mining industry through the eyes of her family. To write the novel, Smither and her husband conducted research within the Kansas

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Historical Society. The book was not complete by the time of her passing. Her children, William, Mary, and Howard, completed and published the novel for their mother as a memorial.

Processing Note

Papers processed in December 2020

Content Description

A manuscript for Ethel Schwab Smither's novel *The Yielding Years* (1995).