

McLean County Museum of History
Nelle Steele Theater Collection

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1919-1970
RESTRICTIONS:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

Brief History

Nelle Hefner Steele (1902-1985) was born in Lexington and began teaching in 1933 in rural schools with 8-15 students. Later she taught in Unit 5, retiring in 1968. She held a bachelor's degree in education from Illinois State Normal University. Steele served on the founding committee of the Friends of the Normal Public Library in 1969 and was active with the organization for years. She also was elected to the Normal Public Library Board. She was involved in a variety of community organizations and sororities, including Community Players and its affiliated Playcrafters.

Scope

This collection contains local theater programs, scripts, newspaper articles, etc. once belonging to Nelle Steele.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Community Players Theatre Programs

- 1.1 *Big Hearted Herbert* at The Majestic, January 1935.
- 1.2 *Peg O' My Heart* at Majestic, February 1938. With many autographs.

- 1.3 *Passing of Third Floor Back* at Majestic Theatre, March 1937.
- 1.4 *Susan and God* at Majestic Theatre, October 1939.
- 1.5 *Our Town* at Majestic Theatre. Nov/Dec 1939.
- 1.6 *George Washington Slept Here* at Majestic Theatre, October 1941.
- 1.7 *The Man Who Came to Dinner* at Majestic Theatre, November 1941.
- 1.8 *Arsenic and Old Lace* at Majestic Theatre, February 1943. 2 copies.
- 1.9 *Tovarich* at Majestic Theatre, June 1943.
- 1.10 *Janie* at Scottish Rite Temple, December 1945.
- 1.11 *Guest in the House* at Scottish Rite Temple, February 1946.
- 1.12 *Theatre* at Scottish Rite Temple, March 1946.
- 1.13 *The Enchanted Cottage*, Scottish Rite Temple, December 1947.
- 1.14 *Time for Elizabeth* at Scottish Rite Auditorium, December 1949. 2 copies.
- 1.15 Playbill for *For Her Che'ild's Sake*, undated.

Folder 2: Scripts

- 2.1 *The Tragedy of MacBeth*
- 2.2 *Belonging to Jane* by Eula Brown O'Neill. A children's play.
- 2.3 *A Chance*, by Mrs. Louis Moore for Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society. First produced April 1937.
- 2.4 *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Includes set of note cards with typed dialog.
- 2.5 *One Fine Day*, by Louis Sublette Perry
- 2.6 *Mennemen Inn*.

Folder 3: Playcrafters

- 3.1 "Cast Review" a poem. Undated.
- 3.2 Letter advertising seventh season of Playcrafters, 1939.
- 3.3 Playbill for *The Taming of the Shrew*, undated.
- 3.4 Playcrafters member list, 1936-37. 2 pp.
- 3.5 Constitution of The Children's Theatre of Normal, Illinois. Undated. 2 pp.

Folder 4: Scrapbook

- 4.1 Pages from scrapbook containing local newspaper clippings mostly about Community Players and Playcrafters,
- 4.2 Letter advertising seventh season of Playcrafters, 1939.
- 4.3 Playbill for *The Taming of the Shrew*, undated.

Folder 5: Newspaper Clippings

- 5.1 Clippings from local newspaper focused mostly on local theatre and theatre topics.
- 5.2 Playbill for *The Taming of the Shrew*, undated.

Folder 6: Miscellaneous

- 6.1 "Greetings" with excerpt from Wylie McCracken Dimmett's "I Remember Grove Street" essay.
- 6.2 Seasons' Greetings poem about local theatre offerings, undated.
- 6.3 Newspaper article on holiday floral arrangements, undated. 2 pp.
- 6.4 Miscellaneous notes and cards.

Loose Items

Published play scripts:

Blihe Spirit by Noel Coward

The Laughing Cure by Edith F. A. U. Panton

Mennmen Inn by Elsie West Quaife

Our Town by Thornton Wilder

January Thaw by Wm Roos

The Birds Christmas Carol by Kate Douglas Wiggin

Peg O' My Heart by J. Hartley Manners

The Country Cousin by Booth Tarkington & Julian Street

The Passing of the Third Floor Back by Jerome K. Jerome