

Beryl Stewart Papers

Collection Summary

Identifier:	MA 14
Title:	Beryl Stewart Papers
Dates:	1946-1959
Extent:	27.44 linear feet (19 oversize boxes, 1 document case, 1 card file box)
Creator:	Stewart, Beryl DeHaven, 1899-1960
Language:	English

Repository: South Dakota State University Archives & Special Collections, University Station, Box 2115, 1300 North Campus Drive, Brookings, South Dakota, 57007

Access Note: Open. Materials must be used in-house and do not circulate.

Preferred Citation: Title or description of item, date, MA 14, box number, folder number, Beryl Stewart Papers, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Brookings, South Dakota.

Abstract

Rhea Beryl Stewart was a South Dakota educator, writer, and literary leader whose career bridged teaching, creative writing, and public service. Educated at Northern States Teachers' College and the State University of Iowa, she taught English in Aberdeen, directed secondary English programs, and advised student literary activities before later serving on the South Dakota Board of Education. A prolific poet and essayist, Stewart published widely, received recognition in state and national literary competitions, and held leadership roles in professional writing organizations. The collection contains manuscripts, correspondence, publications, and scrapbooks that document her literary output, professional networks, and contributions to education and letters in South Dakota.

Biography

Rhea Beryl DeHaven Stewart (1899–) was an educator, writer, and active member of South Dakota's literary and educational communities. Born on September 2, 1899, in Linden, Iowa, she moved with her family to homestead near Capa, South Dakota, in 1907 and later to Wessington, South Dakota, in 1915.

Stewart began teaching at a rural school while still in high school. She completed her high school education at Northern States Teachers' College in Aberdeen, South Dakota, and earned a Bachelor of Science in Education, followed by a Master of Arts in English Literature from the State University of Iowa in 1932. She held teaching positions at Roosevelt and Simmons Junior High Schools and became Director of the English Department at Central High School in Aberdeen, where she also advised the Drama Club and initiated the student publication *Word Craft*.

On January 24, 1943, she married Chase David Stewart and became a farm homemaker near Wessington. Stewart was a prolific poet and writer, contributing to numerous publications and receiving awards in national competitions and state literature contests. She was a member of the South Dakota Press Women and the National League of American Pen Women, serving as state president of the latter.

Stewart remained active in education through service on the South Dakota Board of Education (1947–1959) and participation in President Eisenhower's Conference on Education in 1955. Her achievements are recognized in *Who's Who of American Women*, *Who's Who in South Dakota*, and *International Who's Who in Poetry*.

Scope and Content

This collection is comprised of manuscripts, published works, and personal archives of Beryl Stewart, reflecting her contributions to literature and education. It includes newspaper clippings referencing Stewart, a book mentioning her, and multiple issues of *Word Craft*, a publication from Aberdeen Central High School where she served as an adviser. Her correspondence (1923-1942) contains reference letters and exchanges with publishers, offering insight into her professional relationships.

Stewart's manuscripts consist of essays, poems, and short stories, including entries for the South Dakota State Fair literature contests, some with critiques and awarded ribbons. Her

published works appeared in various literary and rural publications, demonstrating her influence in both creative writing and regional literature. The scrapbooks, spanning multiple decades, preserve correspondence, publication clippings, and personal reflections, highlighting the breadth of her literary career and the reception of her work. This collection serves as a resource for understanding Stewart's impact on South Dakota's literary and educational landscape.

Access Points

Subjects

- Poetry
- Poets, American
- Women educators

Names

- Stewart, Beryl DeHaven, 1899-1961

Places

- South Dakota

Genre

- Scrapbooks
-

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Container List

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1	1	International Who's Who in Poetry, volume 2	1958
1	2	Language Arts Course of Study for SD High Schools - Bulletin 8B/8D : 10th & 12th year	1947
1	3	The Mirror	1933-1934
1	4	Newspaper clippings	1960, 1981, undated
1	5	Word Craft	1937
1	6	Word Craft	1941
1	7	Word Craft	1942
1	8	Word Craft	1944
1	9	Word Craft	1949
1	10	Correspondence	1923-1942
1	11	Manuscripts: Booklet - Wild Plum	undated
1	12	Manuscripts: English Course of Study	1939
1	13	Manuscripts: Essays	undated
1	14	Manuscripts: Poems	1960, undated
2	1	Manuscripts: Short stories	1960, undated
2	2	Manuscripts: State Fair Ribbons	1960
2	3	Manuscripts: Thesis	1932
2	4	Published works: The American Bard	1960
2	5	Published works: The Archer	1951-1953
2	6	Published works: Blue Moon	1952, 1954-1956
2	7	Published works: Candor	1956
2	8	Published works: The Christian Science Monitor	1953-1955, 1957-1960
2	9	Published works: The Country Poet	1951-1952
2	10	Published works: The English Journal	1936
2	11	Published works: Epos	1950
2	12	Published works: The Farmer	1950, 1952-1954, 1956, 1962
2	13	Published works: Florida Magazine of Verse	1951-1952
2	14	Published works: From Sea to Sea in Song	1954
2	15	Published works: Ideals	1951-1952, 1954, 1956, 1961

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
2	16	Published works: The Improvement ERA	1954, 1956, 1961
2	17	Published works: Kaleidograph	1950-1951
2	18	Published works: Midwest Chaporrol	undated
2	19	Published works: The Muse	1958-1959
2	20	Published works: New Athenaeum	1950
2	21	Published works: New Verse Magazine	1950-1951
2	22	Published works: Palmetto Voices	1951
2	23	Published works: Paramount Collector-Hobbyist	1946-1947
2	24	Published works: Pasque Petals	1949-1950, 1958-1959
2	25	Published works: The Pen Woman	1955
2	26	Published works: Prairie Winds	1952
2	27	Published works: Reflections	1954
2	28	Published works: SDEA Journal	1955-1956
2	29	Published works: Seydel Quarterly	1956, 1960
2	30	Published works: The Sioux City Journal	1955, 1960
2	31	Published works: Stanza	1949
2	32	Published works: Unknown	undated
3	3	Scrapbook 1	1946-1959
4	4	Scrapbook 2	1947-1957
5	5	Scrapbook 3	1947-1959
6	6	Scrapbook 4	1947-1960
7	7	Scrapbook 5	1950-1953
8	8	Scrapbook 6	1951-1957
9	9	Scrapbook 7	1951-1959
10	10	Scrapbook 8	1951-1959
11	11	Scrapbook 9	1952-1955
12	12	Scrapbook 10	1952-1959
13	13	Scrapbook 11	1953-1956
14	14	Scrapbook 12	1953-1959
15	15	Scrapbook 13	1953-1960
16	16	Scrapbook 14	1954-1959
17	17	Scrapbook 15	1954-1960
18	18	Scrapbook 16	1955-1959

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
19	19	Scrapbook 17	1957-1960
20	20	Scrapbook 18	1959
21	21	Scrapbook 19	undated