



AHSGR Archives
Collection: AR0290
Welfare Society, Inc. (Lincoln, Neb.)

Title: Welfare Society, Inc. (Lincoln, Neb.)

Collection Number: AR0290

Creator: Welfare Society, Inc.

Dates: 1941-1984

Quantity: .5 cu. Ft.

Language: English

Restrictions: None

Processed By: Karen Keehr

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Biography:

In 1901, there was a call for a social club in the North Bottoms of Lincoln, Nebraska. The North Bottoms neighborhood was settled by Germans from Russia beginning in the 1870s. It encompassed 7th to 14th Streets and from the Railroad tracts to the Lincoln city limits, a triangular district half of a 7 block square). Under the leadership of Reverend Andrew Suffa, pastor of the Salem Congregational Church on 9th and Charleston Streets, two lots were purchased at the corner of 9th and New Hampshire Streets in December 1906. The new building dubbed the Green House was completed in 1907 and the Northside Christian Association was born. It contained a basement with showers, a small auditorium, reading room, and sleeping rooms on the second floor. One of their important services was teaching German Russian children English. Rev. Suffa was called to Hastings, Nebraska and Miss Helen Gregory took charge of the organization. The name was changed to the Neighborhood House. In July 1917, the society's name was changed again to the Welfare Society.

In 1926, the Lincoln Board of Education desired to acquire the property for use as a playground for the Hayward School. The title was relinquished, and new property was purchased at 1430 North 10th Street, the site of the current building, on June 16, 1926. The new facility contained a large basement with a kitchen and community hall. The main level boasted a dance floor/auditorium and stage. Rooms behind the stage could be used as classrooms. The Hall has long been a favorite spot for wedding receptions, anniversary dances, dinners, and family reunions. The rental income from these events was used for the upkeep of the building. The Society was well known for its soup suppers, German sausage dinners, public bazaars, and Wednesday morning coffee club. Some of their other activities include payments of Death Dollars to deceased family members families, monthly meetings, contributions to numerous charities, children's Christmas parties, and New Year's Eve parties.

In November 1952, they officially changed their name from Welfare Society of Lincoln to Welfare Society, Inc. In 1984, the membership approved \$20,000 for remodeling of the building. More money was later allocated for additional remodeling. The total cost of the major repairs was \$42,192.69 which included insulating the attic, new suspended ceilings, three rooftop HVAC units, triple pane windows, refinishing of the floors, basement kitchen renovation, and new tables for the upstairs.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains three minute books dating from 1941-1984 and a member's book from about 1941 relating to the Welfare Society, Inc. of Lincoln Nebraska.

Subjects:

North Bottoms (Lincoln, Neb)
Lincoln (Neb.)
Fraternal organizations

Series Description:

Series 1: Minute Books
Series 2: Member Book

Box 1

Series 1: Minute Books

Book 1: Regular meeting minutes from May 1, 1941 to November 4, 1946.

Loose in the minute book:

Application for Membership for John Henry Hahler, Feb. 4, 1946
Two copies of the rental agreement with handwritten notes on back
Yellow receipt for \$1.00 to Harry Kolb dated Nov. 4, 1946

Book 2: Regular meeting minutes from January 6, 1956 to April 2, 1968

Loose in minute book 2:

Letter to Herman Koehler, Con Schleiger, and Vic Hergenrader thanking them for their service to the Welfare Society

Book 3: Regular meetings minutes from May 7, 1968-January 3, 1984

Loose in minute book 3:

List of 25 names to give \$10.00 at Christmas

Series 2: Members Book

Alphabetical list, ca. 1930s-1940s

Loose in the members book

- Envelop 1:
 - Solicitations Permit dated November 20, 1941 for Andrew Suffa for Christmas baskets valid November 24-December 27, 1941
 - Permit for Welfare Society to solicit for Christmas baskets
 - Letter from Solicitations Commission granting permission for the Welfare society to solicit for Christmas baskets.
- Envelop 2:

- Copies of Applications for Solicitations. Includes a list of Welfare Society officers and Board of Directors
- Envelop 3:
 - Bids for Agreements for Custodian, 1941
 - Aug F. Gesch
 - John Bohl
 - Jacob Heidereich
- Envelop 4:
 - Two Copies of prices for various rentals available at the Welfare Society, Inc.