

## **Marysville Convent Archives**

The collection has been divided into two sections:

### **Convent and Sisters' Records**

### **School and Student Records**

### **Convent and Sisters' Records**

#### **Historical Information Records 1871-2008. 3 lin. Inches. R2 Unit 8 B Box 1**

Arranged by an alpha-numeric filing system.

Each of the older school convents started in the 19th century through the early 20th century have a group of files gathered together which provide historical background information about the school and convent and the city or town where they were located.

Marysville was the first school and convent established outside of San Jose in 1856 which was quite a distance from that city. These historical files include the list of superiors appointed to Marysville and in later years the letters of appointments, assorted articles about the town and the school published in various publications, a sister's memoir of her assignments in Marysville, the introduction chapter to Sr. Barbara Hannigan's thesis of the history of the institution and two letters written by Pope Pius IX to two students in response to their greeting to him in 1871. The next section of this series includes the memoirs of former students from the Galligan family which given to the sisters for their benefit. Included are the research notes from Sr. Mary Dominica McNamee for her book, *The Light in the Valley*. The third section of this series is a listing of the clergy that served the parish of St. Joseph's in Marysville located across the street from the school, a photograph published a promotion of the towns of Marysville and Yuba City and clippings and photos of the Christmas flood of 1955.

#### **Annals, 1856-1969 [Bulk 1915-169]. 3 lin. Inches. R2 Unit 8 B Box 1 -2**

Arranged chronologically by dates and years of the annals.

The original annals were written in French probably up to 1900. After that year they were written in English. The extract of the bits and pieces from the years of 1856, 1868, and 1875 are the only originals that were found. These have been translated into English.

The convent annals were mandated to record the main events of each year in each convent.

These were recorded in a narrative form by the year or by noting significant events by the month or by the dates under each month. In 1868 the College of Notre Dame in San Jose was chartered as a higher education institution for women, the Marysville and San Francisco academies seemed to assume the same name but were considered only high schools.

The annals recorded significant events such as a sister's death, a student's death, major climate events especially flooding, a temporary halt to the school because of flooding and other events, deaths and funerals of priests and pastors and the beginning of the sainthood process for Julie Billiart in solicit testimony from older sisters. The major repetitive events recorded are school openings and closings, vacation times, comings and goings of prominent visitors, visitations of provincial and MA Mere over the years, feast days, Christmas and Easter celebrations, school fund raising events, student enrollment numbers, and anniversaries of the sisters, the province,

the school and the parish. Worldly events such as war and the flu pandemic were noted as well. Also included is a narrative "Movie" account of the move from the older building to a newer school and convent buildings taking place 1951-1952.

**Journals, 1929-1969 with some years missing. 2 lin. Inches. R 2 Unit 8 C Box 2**

Arranged chronologically by date of entry.

These journals start much later than the actual convent's existence. These books and later typed pages record the comings and goings of sisters for various appointments and outings. The main events recorded are, funerals of sisters and priests, fund raising events at the school and the parish, school plays, Christmas programs, school openings and closings, sports games from the 1940s onward, major weather events such heavy rains and floods, retreats and days of recollections, improvements to the buildings and new buildings going up, and internal convents like recreations hours and overnight sisters visits and visitations by the California Provincial and the Mother General. In the later years, the changes in the habits, religious life and the attendance of the sisters at professional conferences.

**Community [Council] Meeting Minutes. 1925-1971. 2 lin. Inches. R 2 Unit 8 Box 2**

Arranged by date of meeting.

As a result of the 1917 revised canon law and an updated governance structures directives from Namur, convents created community councils to discuss financial matters initially and later decisions to be made on behalf of the convent community such as renovations and other household matters. The minutes indicate that the meetings happened as needed to verify the house accounts, generally once a quarter. The superior and the treasurer were members of the as well as one elected member of the community.

In the 1930s, the meetings were held on a monthly basis. In the years prior Vatican II, discussion topics included planning feast days, liturgical feasts and other celebrations, extra recreation hours, school events, gifts to pastors and priests, boarders' events before closing out that service, and all the events regarding a brand new school and convent building. In the 1960s the minutes reflect that the whole community was part of the meetings. The discussions expanded to include meal schedules, planning prayers, clothing changes, professional teacher meetings attendance and other topics.

Included are the minutes of meetings to elect delegates from the convent to the Provincial Chapters from 1922-1962.

**Correspondence, 1872-1876; 1938-1972. 2 lin. Inches. R 2 Unit 8 B Box 2**

Arranged in rough date order.

This correspondence series has older letters dating from the 1870s, detailing the conditions and health concerns for the sisters from Ma Mere Constantine and the bishop of Sacramento with English translations. The rest of the correspondence dates from the 1930s to 1960s and covers the usual topics such as the assignment of priests as confessors, directives the diocese, participation in the Marysville 1956 Centennial celebrations, directives for the sisters from the province and from Namur about habit modifications, teacher contracts, and assignments of sisters going down due to the lack of vocations.

**House Accounts, 1857-1946. 2 lin. Inches.** R2 Unit 8 B Box 3

Arranged by dates of entry.

These accounts detail the expenses of this first separate convent of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in California. These ledgers and reports list the items they brought for themselves and the students especially boarders. Debit and credit detailing did not start until the later 1910s -1920s. The expenses listed include food, clothing, bedding, heating, lighting, books, repairs and other work done by local workmen. Later financial information is in the Provincial Records at Saratoga.

**Reports to Sacramento Diocese, 1941-1970. 1/2 inch.** R2 Unit8 B Box 3

These are pre-printed form reports sent to the diocese every year. The convent gives the number of students, grade levels, teacher assignments, and other statistics about the school. Also included are the statistical report forms on the sisters and the convent.

**Taxes and Tax Exemption Records, 1939-1972. 2.5 lin. Inches.** R2 Unit 8 B box 3

Arranged in groups of years.

Catholic schools and sisters' convents were taxable properties until a proposition voted in the mid-1950s declared such properties tax -exempt. The sisters paid the local property taxes until 1955. Each convent had to submit documentation to the State of California for the tax-exempt status. This documentation was very detailed snapshots of the finances of the convent in that particular year.

**Novitiate Instructions, Retreats and Conferences, 1868-1926. 6 lin. inches [in volumes].** R2 Unit 8 B-C Boxes 6-7

Arranged in rough chronological order by date of entry and by volume numbers.

These volumes of instructions followed two different organizational patterns, The first set of instructions was based on the Constitution and Rules of the Institute following each article and then giving commentary based on the writings and conferences of St. Julie and Mother St. Joseph- Françoise de Blin- and on the writings and conferences of the Mother Superiors based in Namur and some of the writings and conferences of the local superiors in California and in Ohio, The second set of instructions was based on the topical breakdown of the writings of St. Julie touching on the everyday living out the charism of the Institute. The first set of instructions takes the legal mind-set of the Constitution and the Rule and adds the daily lived experiences to these requirements. The second set touches on the spirituality of St. Julie's writings through prayer, feast day celebrations, and obligations to obedience. The dates of each set of the instructions are overlapping. The two sets may belong to two different novice mistresses.

These sets of instructions include a very wide range of topics based on Julie's writings, conferences that were given by the superiors of the house, the Sister superiors of California and Ohio and the Mother General in Namur and retreats given by priests. The various topics include discussions on the vows of poverty, obedience, and chastity, the virtues of humility and religious like behaviors, and the conduct of prayers - what type and at what times-, and the importance of adhering to schedules for meal times, prayers, tasks and duties.

Also included are instructions for the novice mistresses and information on counsel elections in the late 19th century.

**Convent Sister's Statistics, 1930s-1972. 1.5 lin. Inch.** R2 Unit 8 C Box 7

Arranged by type of records.

One folder is the in-house register of sisters living in the convent with basic biographical information on each sister and the nearest relative contact information. The other folder contains the general statistics for the convent sent to Namur from 1937-70s, the list of sisters buried in the local cemetery when the graves were moved to another local cemetery and a list of former pupils who became Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and former elementary school pupils who became priests.

**Celebrations Records, 1877; 1942-2002. 1.5 lin. Inches.** R2 Unit 8 C Box 7

Arranged by years of events.

These records document the participation of the Marysville convent sisters in various anniversary celebrations around California including the Centennial of the arrival in California, the centennial of the arrival year in Marysville and other types of celebrations. The Marysville Centennial documentation includes the planning documentation, the invitations, clippings about the events guestbook, letters and telegrams of greetings and congratulations. The other celebrations noted are the liturgies for these events, the dedication of the Grotto at Marysville and some school events.

**Scrapbooks of Clippings and Photographs, 1874-1980s. 11 volumes/folders** 8 lin. Inches. Boxes 13-15; 18.

Arranged by record type and years.

These scrapbooks were created by the sisters along with 3 volumes created by others. The scrapbooks document the people, families and the surroundings that the sisters lived in and with over the many years that they resided in Marysville. Some the scrapbooks were dismantled and their pages are in folders in the order that they were present in the books. There are several of these groups of clippings that overlap in the years covered because each had a specific subject or time frame that they covered. Each scrapbook and folders will be described as items to enhance availability.

Box 13

III A 13e; Scrapbook of Clippings 1931; Scrapbook of Clippings and Photos, ca. 1940s. 1 volume  
The first scrapbook group was created in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Marysville Schools. The clippings and photos document the programs, and events planned for that year of 1931. The activities of the grammar and high school are also documented. Many of the items are dated and it is assumed that many of the clippings come from the local newspaper, the "Appeal Democrat".

The second group of clippings document the events and activities of the two schools over the decade of the 1940s with programs from various events also are included. The growth of girl's sports is also noted as well.

III A 13e: Scrapbook of Clippings and Photos, 1956 Centennial. 1955-1956.

This scrapbook documents the planning and events of the 100th Anniversary of the Marysville schools run by the Sisters. This includes some of the planning details of the celebration, coverage of events thru the local newspaper, the diocesan paper, photos, and cards sent to the sisters. The coverage includes school events for the schools and the community at large as well. Some of photographs have some identification attached to them.

Box 14

III A 13e 1) -3 Souvenirs of Notre Dame 1876 "A Collection of Poems and Dramas" by Mrs. Mary C. Monroe.

This book of collected dramas and poems was published to honor the history of the sisters in Ohio, the first place settled by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in the United States. The author, Mrs. Mary C. Monroe collected and published the plays and poems written by the sisters and students as a tribute to the sisters.

III A 13e 1)-4 Scrapbook of Wildflowers 1888. Folder 2

This scrapbook contains pressed plants and flowers from the Little Grass Valley. It was presented to Sr. Anna Rafael as a present in honor of her birthday in the year of 1888. There are 51 pages of specimens with much of the color and pollen pods still intact. The specimens are not identified except that they came from "Little Grass Valley".

III A 13e 1) 5 Scrapbook of Clippings, 1876-1917.

This volume of clippings include poetry clippings, obituaries of local pioneer families, families and events in Marysville as well as sisters' obituaries and Sister Anna Rafael poems. Other items include former student's wedding announcements, information on the Harney family of one of the sisters, deaths of Us Presidents and school plays and fundraising events.

III A 13e -6 Scrapbook of Clippings, 1956-1970s.

The big event documented in this scrapbook is the Christmas Flood of 1956-57. The other topics include the school and sister's events of a social and religious nature, alumni association of the school, solidarity and graduate activities, school plays and programs and the major anniversaries of the school, the town and others as well.

III A 13e 3) 1 Clippings Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, 1956-1976.

This volume includes events about the sisters and their history in Marysville, visits over the years from the Mother General of the order from Belgium and other topics.

Box 15

III A 13e 3) 2 Clippings Notre Dame School Beginnings to Closing, 1936-1986.

These clippings document the Notre Dame High School from the beginnings to the closing in the local newspapers especially during significant anniversaries. Also included are articles written by the sisters for the local newspapers.

Boxes 15 and 18

IIIA 13e 3) 3 Clippings, 1907-1971. Boxes 15 and 18

These clippings are filed by subjects: Clergy, 1955-68; Students, 1912-64; Parents' Activities, 1907-1954; Alumnae, 1957-60 and Weddings, Births and obituaries 1907-71. The clergy are mostly about parish priests and bishops. The students cover accidents, student activities, games and plays. The section on parents covers participation in festivals and fund raising events. The alumnae section covers reunions. Finally the last section covers the personal milestones of the former students.

In box 18 there are four albums covering the years 1950s and groups of years in the 1960s covering activities of the high school and the students' lives after high school. Most of the clippings come from the local paper "Marysville Appeal Democrat" and "Marysville Daily Appeal" with dates as well.

**Photographic Records, 1860-1980s. One linear foot. Boxes 15-18. 500 items.**

Arranged by general subjects and in rough chronological order.

These photographic records record the efforts of the sisters to continue their mission of girl's education in the first town away from the proximity of the bustling Bay Area of the 1850s through the 1970s. They also give visual representation to the conditions and efforts the sisters made to secure their mission in the foothills of the Sierra Mountains.

The general subjects of these photographs are the students and their activities, the school and convent buildings, the social and educational activities of the school and the parish, the clergy and last but not least the sisters themselves. The sisters didn't have their own cameras until after 1940s. Most of the early photographs were taken by photographers as works for hire and after the early 20th century by the students themselves. After the 1950s, most of the candid shots were taken by the sisters, by friends by students and their families.

There are all sizes of photos ranging from 1 inch by 1 inch to almost poster sized. Overall about 50-60% of the individual items have some form of identification on the photo or on the folder. Each folder description will include item counts, types and sizes and a description of the subjects of the folder.

Folders: Box 15

III A 13e 4-1 Community; Centennial; Dedication of new high school; Clergy; St. Joseph Church. 1885-1961. 38 items varying sizes 3 x4 to 8 x10

This folder has multiple photos of this community of sisters. Also included are picture of the clergy over the years, the parish church and the new high school. 90 % of these photos have some form of identification.

III A 13e 4 -2 New Chapel; Gate and Grounds; Notre Dame School (Grammar); Construction of the new high school - interiors and exteriors. 1950-1980. 98 items size from 2x3 to 8x10 with some in color

This folder contains photographs of the new construction of buildings that comprised of the Marysville complex, the convent the grammar and the high school. Many of these photos were taken by parishioners and the sisters as well professional photographers.

III A 13 e 4-3 Original Chapel in older convent; Convent and schools and Grotto and overview. 1890 to 1946. 33 items, 3 x4 to 11x 14.

These photos document the older buildings, the convent, and the schools built in the 19th century and some of the interiors as well. Most of the photos were works of hire for the prospectus, a school publication used to advertise the schools.

Box 16

III A 13e 4 -4 Groups of students and Convent Pupils 6th grade. 1865-1900. 20 items 7 x7 sized images some mounted on larger board.

These are the earliest group photographs of the students in Marysville. In the 1865 photos student are numbered and their names are listed on the back or another piece of paper. The

second set of photos are of students attending the schools in the year 1899-1900. Most are identified.

III A 13e 4 -5 Whole school by grade. 1880s 12 items 5x7 to 8x10

The whole school was photographed by grades. 50% to 70% of the individuals are identified.

III A 13e 4 -6 Boarders and groups of students. 1890s -1908 12 items 5x7 - 8x10. All Black and white.

These photographs document the boarders and other groups of students. Most of the individual students in these groups are identified.

III A 13e 4 -7 Senior Classes; High School Graduation Classes and other high school groups. 1893; 1911; 1913, 1945-67; and 1930s 1963. 50 items mostly 8 x10s.

These photographic items document the various graduation classes over most of the 20th century. The graduation pictures from 1945-67 are the 8x10 size of the larger pictures that hung up on the walls of the school so they are completely identified. The other groups are mainly of athletic teams in the 1930s to 1963.

III A 13e 4 -8 First Communions, 1891-1916; 1950. 18 items 2in x 3 in to 3 x5.

These photographs document first communions of students over the years and given to the sisters as mementos. They are about 75% identified.

IIIA 13e 4 -9 Individuals and small groups, 1860-1900s. 34 items ranging in size from 1/2 inch X 1. 1/2 inches to 3 x5 inches.

These small to medium sized photos of individuals and small groups are mostly from former students given to the sisters as reminders of the inspiration that these students felt toward the sisters.

Box 17

IIIA 13e 4 10 Individual young ladies former students, 1861- 1898. 70 items 1/2 x 1 inch to 8 x 10.

These are individual photographs given to the sisters over the years by former students from 1861 to 1898.

IIIA 13e 4 11 Individual young women photographs, 1900-1910. 18 items 2x3 -5x7

Photographs of former students given to the sisters as mementoes for the teachers.

III A 13e 4 12 Photographs of young women -former students, 1912-1930s; 1960s. 20 items 2x3 to 8x10s

These are more photographs of young women former students given to sisters over the years. About 90 % are identified.

III A 13e 4 13 Babies of Former Students, 1877-1948. 22 items 1/2-inch x 2 to 3 x 5.

These are photographs of babies of former Students. Most have some type of identification.

III A 13e 4 14 Family Groups, Reunions and benefactors, 190-1983. 23 items 2x3 to 5x7. Color

This folder contains an assortment of photographs of family groups, reunions, and benefactors of the schools and the sisters. About 50 % are identified.

III A 13e 4 15 Notre Dame School Grammar School, 1930s -1964. 46 items 8x10

These photographs document various activities and classes of the grammar school over the years.

III A 13e 4 16 Camp Beale and Vacation Bible school, 1940s-1950s. 11 items 8 x 10

This folder holds photographs of the activities at Camp Beale and the vacation bible schools.  
Box 18 Flat box

III A 13e Scrapbook Botany "The Specimens of Our Northern Flora", 1875-1876. One item, 102 pages of botanical specimens

This scrapbook is entitled "The Specimens of Our Northern Flora" was created by Mrs. Pulister Ames to honor Sister Mary of St. George Harney. Mrs. Ames was a former student of this sister. The specimens were collected in 1875-1876 but the album was given to the sister much later as a gift.

There are 102 pages of specimens collected from Taylorsville/ Indian Valley in Plumas County. All but the last two are completely identified and the color of the specimens are still vibrant.

## **School and Student Records**

**Student Accounts, 1858-1972. 11 lin. Inches.** R2 Unit 8 B Box 4-6.

Grouped together by type of students and thereunder by years of entries.

These accounts are split up by the following types; Boarder's Accounts, Day Student's Accounts and the modern Elementary and High School Combined School Accounts.

The Boarder's Accounts start in 1858 to the mid-1930s using a variety of formats and details.

They include payments for tuition, room and board, sundries, clothing accounts and extra payments for music, art, doctors and travel. There are no indices by student names.

The Day Student [Paying] Accounts record the cost of tuition, sundries, music, art and books. In later years high school day expenses are recorded as well. There are no indices by student names.

From 1951 onward the expenses for the elementary and high school was combined. These accounts detail the expenses for running both schools such as taxes, water, etc., and the school related expenses for books, paper, art and music supplies and office supplies. These are notes that some of the expenses were sometimes covered by the parish.

**Property and Legacy Records, 1856-1971. 1 lin. Inch.** 2R Unit 8 B Box 6

Arranged by topics and thereunder by years.

The property file documents the property deeds, permits for various construction projects, and the progress of the fund raising for the new buildings in the 1950s. The legacy file documents gifts of money and bonds through various settlements of estates and wills over the years.

**Alumni Records, 1938-1994. 1 lin. Inch.** R2 Unit 8 C Box 8

These records include the constitution and by-laws of this unit of the larger Notre Dame Alumnae Association. Included are the booklets and handouts of various reunions over the years and correspondence of coming to the reunions and the updates provided by women for the class directories,

**Academic Records Elementary School, 1908-1940. 5 lin. Inches.** R 2 Unit 8 C Boxes 8-9

Arranged in groups of years thereunder by grouping of class groups.

These grade reports are grouped together by grades- 7th and 8th, 5th and 6th and 3rd and 4th and cover the years 1911- 1940 though not all years in sequence. Each class is listed by

student's name, subject and grades, some by numbers 100-1 and some by a-f grades. These can be opened after 100 years after the last entry. Included in this group is a ledger volume of boarders' discipline and behavior notations. At the end of this ledger are some high school time schedules for the 1910s. In the last folder are some sample report cards with no dates, and copies of high school diplomas.

**Prospectus and Catalogues, 1861-1914. 1.5 Lin. Inches.** R 2 Unit 8 C Box 9.

Arranged by type of record and then in year of publication order.

These prospectuses/ catalogs detail the courses of study and the progression needed for graduation. That information includes a listing of rules and regulations for both boarders and day students. All costs are clearly stated for all students and the full costs of all the extra materials needed for painting, music, drama and other courses requiring such materials. In the later year's publications, there are photographs of the school, the grounds, the classrooms and the boarding students' areas. This school had no post-secondary courses.

**High School Yearbooks, 1929-33; 1951-54. 1.5 inches.** R 2 Unit 8 C Box 10.

Arranged by date of publication.

These are printed paper yearbooks. These publications document the activities of the students throughout the year. The yearbooks include photos of the students by class year, activities such as sports , retreats and outings listed and the traditional last will and testaments to senior class members and others.

**Registration Records and a Graduate list. 1900ca-1969. 2.5 lin. Inches.** R 2 Unit 8 C Box 10

Arranged by groups of years listed.

These registration records are primarily for the grammar school from the early 1900s to 1969 with significant gaps of years not recorded. By the 1920s boys were accepted in the grammar school as students. These records include the student's names, addresses, parent's names, birth dates and other biographical information. The last folder lists all of the graduates of the high school from 1856 to 1970.

**Programs, Recitals and Commencement Programs, 1887-1970. 1 inch.** R 2 Unit 8 C Box 10

Arranged by type of record.

These programs and recitals show the depth of music education the students were receiving from the sisters. The commencement programs list the graduates, the awards given out but not specifically which student won the awards. There are significant gaps of missing programs.

**School Administration Records, 1966-67. 1 inch.** R 2 Unit 8 C Box 10

These administration records document the last WASC accreditations before closing and a manual for the supervising principal and the improvement of instruction to guide the teachers.

**Columbian Exhibition Exercise Books, 1893. 7 lin. inches 10 volumes.** R2 Unit 8 Boxes 12-13

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

These volumes of writings, problem solving exercises and subject explanations were submitted to the 1893 Columbian Exposition held in Chicago for Catholic Schools Day. Each subject entry is

approximately one to four pages long and each entry is signed by the student and her age. The age ranges of the students is from 10 to 16 years of age.

The topics covered are Christian Doctrine, Bible Study classes, 8sentences, language and grammar exercises, geography, mathematics, algebra, athematic, bookkeeping, history, literature, chemistry and samples of typing.

**Registration Cards, 1920s to 1945. 11 lin. Inches. Box 11.**

Arranged alphabetically by student's last name.

Preprinted registration cards that followed a student in Grammar school and through high School. These 4 x 6 cards include the following information: name, birthplace, date of birth, religion, school attended before Marysville, date of entry , leaving date and reason if before graduation, and father's and mother's name. On the back of the card are listed grades attended, addresses and phone numbers.

**Incorporation, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes and Correspondence Records. 1858-1983.**

3 lin. Inches. Box 13

Arranged type of documents thereunder chronologically by dates.

These records include various versions of the incorporations for Maryville, the Board of Directors meeting minutes detailing the governing decisions for the schools including both the high school and grammar school years apart, the correspondence between the convent and the parish and the correspondence between the school and the sisters. Included in the last category are teacher evaluations covered by privacy restrictions. The correspondence is mostly about changes in the hierarchy and changes in the sister's assignments.