

## **Notre Dame Moreland Academy/ School, Watsonville Finding Aid, 1898-2004.**

The Notre Dame Moreland Academy in Watsonville was started to provide premier education to the girls in the Watsonville area at the urging of Mrs. Moreland. Her daughter Josie attended the College in San Jose because there were no comparable schools in their area of Watsonville and the rest of the Pajaro Valley. Josie died at the college just short of graduating from the high school section. Mrs. Moreland asked and funded the sisters to start an academy and donated her mansion for that purpose. The academy started in 1899 to provide girls education in the elementary and high school grades.

Over the years the academy morphed into a coed elementary school and a girl's high school until the mid-1960s and is still coed elementary co-sponsored school of the Sisters.

### **Convent Records**

#### **Historical Data Records, 1898-2000. 2 lin. Inches. R2 Unit 10 D Box 1**

Arranged by archival filing system.

This record series includes the letter from Mrs. Moreland to Sister Superior to start a school in Watsonville area for the Catholic families in the area. She sent her daughter Josie to San Jose because it was the only Catholic girls' school close to her where her daughter died just short of her graduation. The Christmas letters document the start of the school which was a combination elementary and high school Academy. Included is an extensive obituary for Mrs. Moreland, a list of donors, copies from the book "Light in The Valley" and a short history written for the centennial in 1999-2000. As a tribute to Josie Moreland, a book of her poems was published. Two published histories of the St. Patrick's Parish and Monterey County are part of this collection as well.

#### **Annals, 1899-1979. 3 lin. Inches. R2 Unit 10 Shelf D Boxes 1-2**

Arranged in chronological order by groups of years.

These annals describe the internal convent events of interest and note the various programs put on by the school and other events at the schools. In the beginning the annals were written in a narrative form for each year. In later years, the annals were written in daily journal form.

The convent events that were noted are feast days of sisters and the congregation, days of adoration and Benediction, visits by sister Superior of California and the Mother General from Namur, visits by priests and special masses for holidays like Christmas and Easter and sister's jubilees and deaths.

Also noted school events such as music programs, commencements, later sport events and fund-raising events for the school and the sisters. Student's deaths were noted, especially if they were sudden events like car accidents and the like. There is extensive coverage of the 1906 Earthquake which affected Watsonville as well as lesser-known earthquake in later years. The

high school closed in 1957 and there is much detail about the opening of More Central High School which the sisters staffed until; it's closing in the 1970s.

**Journals, 1936-1961. 1.5 lin. inches.** R2 Unit 10 D Box 2

Arranged chronologically by date of entry.

These journals note the comings and goings of the sisters for vacation, events, doctor's appointments, opening and closing school events, feast days, and preparation for major holidays such as Christmas and Easter. Also noted are assignments for convent sisters, vacations, home visits and sisters' summer school places. During the summer, this convent was used for other sister's vacation location.

**Community Council Meeting Minutes, 1922-1967. 1 lin. Inch.** R2 Unit 10 D Box 2

Arranged by date of Meeting.

These meeting minutes detail the discussions on monthly accounts, dates for vacations, rules for boarding students, religious practices of silence and prayer, building expenses, tuition raises, and renewal of vows. The council consisted of the convent superior, the treasurer, and one elected member. After 1965, the council meetings included all sisters living in the convent and the discussions covered deeper discussions of prayer, reading the theology of Vatican II , and more mundane topics such as schedules of meals, times of prayer and the tasks of everyday living.

**Internal Convent Business Records, 1898-2000. 4 lin. Inches.** R2 Unit 10 D Boxes 2,3, and 6

Arranged by the archival filing plan.

These records document the business activities of the convent. These files include correspondence on insurance policies, deed of gift from Mrs. Moreland, congregational rules and regulations for convent living, conferences of the Superior on living life in post Vatican II and parish and school celebrations. The Community Register gives the basic biographical information on each sister living in the convent and Community Lists after 1962.

**Clippings, 1950s-1990s. 1 lin. Inch.** R2 Unit 10 E Box 7

Arranged by the archival filing plan.

These clippings come from the local paper and document the public coverage of incidents involving students, the withdrawal from Central Mora High School and 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and other natural events in the area.

**Photographic Records, 1890s- 1990s. 233 items.** R2 Unit 10 E Box 7

Arranged by the archival filing plan.

These photographs cover the Watsonville school and convent over the years. They are mostly black and white with an occasional color items ranging in size from 2 by 2 inches to 11x 14 inches. The subjects include: 1) Mrs. Moreland and Josie Moreland; 2) exterior and interior views of the mansion converted to a school; 3) views of the grounds; 4) St. Patrick's church; 5) Sisters before the 1950s; 6) Groups of students over the years from the Elementary and High Schools; 7) Graduation and First Communion groups and; 8) local area photos by a local resident. Fifty percent of the photos have some type of identification on them.

**Annals and Historical Records, 1974-1999. 5 lin. Inches.** R2 Unit 10 E Box 8

Arranged by type of records thereunder chronologically by years.

These annals were written in the form of terse journal entries with some narrative commentary. They document the events of the convent from the early 1970s to 1999. These entries list the jubilees, parish and school celebrations, sacramental events in the parish, class reunions, lists of sisters' charges and some description of the sister's ministries outside of teaching. Other events that were covered were the Papal visit in 1987, obituaries of sisters and others, visitors to the convent and bishop installations over the years. As part of annals other documentation includes community meetings minutes, older photographs, clippings about the sisters and the school and a house accounts ledger.

**Convent External Business Records, 1953-1995. 5 lin. Inches.** R2 Unit 10 E Box 9

Arranged by type of documents and in rough chronological order.

These business record document Loma Prieto earthquake donations received from donors, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) discussions for assistance, Monterey diocesan business dealings and school contracts and salaries. In addition to these concerns also included are new convent construction documents from the mid-1960s, legacy donations from local supporters over the years, and taxation correspondence regarding the California State Welfare Tax Exemptions, reports, and similar correspondence with the IRS. There are files dealing with local city and county taxes as well.

**Provincial and Generalate Notices, 1953-1996. 3 lin. Inches.** R2 Unit 10 E Box 10

Arranged by type of documents.

These are provincial and congregational notes, instructions and information that would impact how an individual convent would govern itself. The topics include budget formulation suggestions, reports to treasurers, formation information and programs, Province Team reports, a personnel handbook for employees and congregation and province statistics

featuring age distributions, jubilees and necrology information. Some of these documents are reports to the tax authorities which give a detailed look at the reporting convent.

**Convent Internal Business Records, 1900-1989. 7 lin. inches [ plus approx. 30 + photographs].**  
R2 Unit 10 E Box 10-11

Arranged alphabetically by topic.

These records document the sisters, their relationships with internal and external organizations, spirituals renewal programs, convent statistics and guest books for the new convent opening and one sister's 90th birthday celebration. Also included are various contracts for the new convent-1963-64, The sisters kept a memorial fund ledger for those asking for the sisters' prayers and remembrances over the years. Some of the files include photographs as well. There are some Moreland Notre Dame Corporation meeting minutes and correspondence which the sisters were part of for years.

### **School Records**

**Alumnae Organization Records, 1907-2004. 5 lin. Inches.** R2 Un it 10 D Box 4

Arranged by archival filing plan.

These alumnae records document the activities and meetings of the local alumnae association. The association drew its members from the high school graduates. These records include extensive membership lists, the constitution, accounts, meeting minutes, and correspondence files about meeting attendance, preparations for reunions and fund-raising events for the sisters and the school. There are records and programs of the California Alumnae Association of California and the international Alumnae Federation meeting through the 1950s. These are a good source of information for students from the early years.

**High School Academic Records, 1911-1939. 1 lin. Inch.** R2 Unit 10 D Box 5

Arranged by archival filing plan.

These record document the attendance and academic achievements of the high school students. The attendance records include student names, addresses, date of birth and other register type of information. The 100-year FERPA {Federal Education Records Protection Act} restrictions will lapse in 2024. The music accounts records are records of attendance, payments and grades for music lessons given to students and parish students, some of whom were boys. The grades are protected under FERPA.

**Student Organization Records, 1931—2003. 1931. 4 lin. Inches.** R2 Unit 10 D Box 5

Arranged by archival filing plan.

These records document the student organizations and their activities. They include the meeting minutes and treasurer's reports for the Sodality, student body treasurer and secretary

reports, and an older ladies' group "Apostleship of Prayer". These include membership lists, treasurer's accounts for various student activities and planning activities for various school events. The student newspapers document class events school events such as sports competitions, honors for the school and individual students, homecoming events for students and alumnae and social events such as dances. There are some issues from Central Mora High School, the newly combined coed high school for the area.

**Programs and Scrapbooks, 1903 -1999. 2 lin. Inches.** R2 Unit 10 D Box 6

Arranged by archival filing system.

This is a collection of programs from the earlier years up to the 1990s. These include poetry written by students for special occasions, music recitals, Christmas plays for the school and outside audiences and commencements. There is one file about the visit of President Eisenhower's visit to the area. The scrapbooks consist of one a gift to the sisters of student photographs and of the surrounding area and the second one details the destruction of the original mansion that was the school from 1899-1964 and building of the new school buildings.

**Selected School Administration Records, 1945-1993. 2 lin. Inches.** R2 Unit 10 D Box 6

Arranged by the archival filing plan.

These records document various administrative tasks for the high school with some elementary school material as well. These include administrative manuals, school calendars and enrollment statistics. Also included are files documenting the sisters' decisions to withdraw from Central Mora High School and the withdrawal of sisters from Moreland Notre Dame School due to a lack of sisters.