

McLean County Museum of History

Ethel Pearle Smith Jones Collection

Processed by
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August 2012

Reprocessed by
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November 2012

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	One box
COLLECTION DATES:	1929-2005
PROVENANCE:	Gift of Olive Jones, daughter-in-law
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	Booklet of Jones poetry cataloged in Museum Library stacks; additional material in the John Henry Jones family Collection in PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION PEOPLE

Historical Sketch

Ethel Pearle Smith (June 8, 1892 – July 12, 1952) married Albert Green Jones (August 12, 1887 – July 3, 1959) on September 10, 1910. Albert was the son of John Henry Jones and Sarah Davis; Pearle was the daughter of Martin and Elsie Smith and was born in Clinton, Illinois. They had four children: Forrest T., born ca. 1913, Elsie Marie born ca. 1917, Carl C. born ca. 1922, and Ernest Martin born May 3, 1924. They divorced March 5, 1945. Albert's second wife was Elta Avalon Campbell; they married ca. 1945/46.

Albert was a machinist and worked for the Alton Railroad company, retiring in 1946.

According to the Bloomington-Normal Directory Ethel Pearle Jones lived at 210 Albert Street in 1943/44, 1307 N. Roosevelt Street in 1946 and 1304 N. Oak Street from 1951 until her death in 1952.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains the prose, poetry and plays written by Ethel Pearle Smith Jones, and some biographical information. The prose includes short stories, household hints, and some religious items. The poems include single poems and a manuscript for a small book of poetry. This collection also includes divorce and mortgage documents, the school records of Ernest Jones and his wife Olive Douglas as well as genealogical information on the Smith family.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Biographical information

- 1.1 Gift agreement
- 1.2 Obituary.
- 1.3 Notes from search of Bloomington/Normal City Directories

Folder 2: Prose I

- 2.1 "True Love Never Dies, It Lives Forever" 16 sheets, hand written
- 2.2 "True Love Never Dies" typed version, 33 sheets. See also a play version in Folder 9.
- 2.3 "A Rose Between Two Thorns" 11 sheets, typed

Folder 3: Prose II

- 3.1 "Cupid Scores Again or Cupid works over-time" typed, includes pages 1-2, a duplicate 2, and pages 6-20.
- 3.2 "Cupid Works Overtime," typed, pages 1-4, slightly different wording.
- 3.3 Story fragment, hand written, 5 sheets, one unnumbered, remainder numbered 13-16.
- 3.4 "A Soldier's Wife," handwritten, 15 sheets, signed on p. 15

Folder 4: Prose III

- 4.1 "No Mistake" typed, 7 sheets (two are numbered 5), Story appears incomplete.
- 4.2 "Right or Wrong," typed, 1 sheet. Beginning of a story.
- 4.3 Household Hints, typed, 4 sheets.
- 4.4 Untitled story, typed, 11 sheets, 2 versions of p.10. Begins "'Made it!' exclaimed

- Wilbert Jenkins...”
- 4.5 “Veretta’s New Hat” 4 sheets, typed, 3 versions of p.1 and one sheet numbered 3.
 - 4.6 “And It Was Love” 9 sheets, typed, plus a letter of submission, March 28, 1944, to *Variety Love*, Rose Wyn, editor, and a letter of rejection (undated).
 - 4.7 “Playmates,” by Ethel Smith, 4 typed sheets, 8 1/2 by 12, onion skin carbon copy.
 - 4.8 “Sonster,” a short story by Ernest M. Jones, December 31, 2010, two yellow lined sheets 5 x 7
 - 4.9 “Thanksgiving,” typed on one half of an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet, penciled notes on the other half. The verso of the sheet is State Farm Mutual Insurance letterhead.
 - 4.10 “Mother’s Hour of Rest” 1 sheet, handwritten, 8 1/2 x 6 1/2.

Folder 5: Prose IV

- 5.1 “An Encore,” 3 sheets, handwritten, 8 1/2 x 6 1/2
- 5.2 March 11, 1945. Possible sermon or speech to a religious group, including songs and page numbers, Psalter and page number. 5 sheets, typed, 3 pages are numbered “3.”
- 5.3 “A Coward Who Was a Hero,” 4 sheets, typed, appears complete. Could be a sermon, note on back of p. 3 about a hymn to sing.
- 5.4 “Preacher Said To Be Able to Say Why You Are Saved.” 1 sheet, handwritten in two column list format, quite wrinkled and torn but legible. In a protective sleeve.
- 5.5 “Do You Doubt God?” 3 sheets, typed, two versions of p.1.

Folder 6: Prose V

- 6.1 “No Greater Love,” 117 numbered sheets, typed.

Folder 7: Poetry I

- 7.1 “Mother Dear Mother of Mine,” 1 sheet, handwritten
- 7.2 2 poems, handwritten on an envelope, 9 1/4 x 7, post marked May 13, 1952; includes a birthday poem and an anniversary poem.
- 7.3 “A Birthday Toast,” Sept. 20, 1941, dedicated to Mrs. Ruth Jump, 1 folded sheet, typed.
- 7.4 Untitled poem begins “Twenty years ago today, A Dear little Babe,” 1 sheet, typed.
- 7.5 “Happy Anniversary,” Oct. 19th/41, 1 sheet 5 1/2 x 7 1/4, handwritten.
- 7.6 “Telling Dolly,” a Christmas poem, 1 sheet, typed.
- 7.7 “Why Do I Bother,” 1 sheet, typed.
- 7.8 “Time Was,” 1 sheet, typed

Folder 8: Poetry II

- 8.1 Collection of poems typed on folded 8 1/2 x 11 sheets and collated together to form a booklet. Some are originals, some are carbon copies. On the second leaf: “In memory of my dear departed Mother and dedicated to my beloved Children and Grandchildren.” Note: A published version of this project (8.1) is in booklet form and available in Museum Library stacks.
- 8.2 Jumbo Composition Book containing handwritten poetry, greeting card sales figures, and verses written on loose scraps of paper, ca. 1950’s
- 8.3 “My Son” poem, n.d.
- 8.4 “My Darling Son” poem, n.d.
- 8.5 “Happy Birthday, Son Ernest” poem written on back of greeting card, n.d.

Folder 9: Plays

- 9.1 "The Most Joy for the Money." A one act play. 6 sheets, typed.
- 9.2 "True Love Never Dies." First sheet lists characters; remainder is a synopsis of the play. 17 sheets, handwritten. The same characters and story appear in two prose versions in Folder 2.
- 9.3 The beginning of a play with description "A young couple have just come to a strange town to live," two characters, "husband" and "wife." 1 sheet.
- 9.4 "And the Lamp Went Out." 2 sheets, 8 ½ x 14, typed.

Folder 10: Jones, Albert Green

- 10.1 Silver Veteran Badge certificate awarded by the International Association of Machinists, 1944
- 10.2 Application for Annuity under the Railroad Retirement Act, August 26, 1946
- 10.3 Correspondence to John W. Callender, Railroad Retirement Board, October 6, 1946
- 10.4 Correspondence to Mr. S.M. Boyd, General Foreman, Alton Railroad, January 10, 1947
- 10.5 Railroad Retirement Board Certificate of Annuity, January 24, 1947
- 10.6 Two (2) Social Security documents, including certificate of Social Insurance award, December 1, 1954; certificate of Social Insurance award, December 7, 1954; in envelope
- 10.7 Correspondence from Railroad Retirement Board, April 1957

Folder 11: Jones, Ernest Martin

- 11.1 Correspondence to Ernest from his Grandma, May 3, 1929
- 11.2 Bloomington Public School, Elementary grades report, 1931/32; includes Certificate of Honor for Perfect Attendance
- 11.3 Bloomington High School Directory of Students, 1938
- 11.4 Correspondence to Mrs. Carl C. Jones, May 21, 1945
- 11.5 Correspondence from PFC, Carl C. Jones, June 24, 1945
- 11.6 Correspondence from George A. Richter, jr., 1st Lt. CAC, Adjutant, concerning Special Orders #99, November 6, 1945
- 11.7 Personal History Statement, January 19, 1948
- 11.8 American Bowling Congress Membership Card, 1960/61
- 11.9 Personal Bowling Record, 1960/61
- 11.10 "The Fez-Sez" Bloomington Shrine Club Newsletter, 1966
- 11.11 Correspondence to All Legion of Honor Members, March 9, 1973
- 11.12 Bloomington High School 45th class reunion, September 19, 1987
- 11.13 Bloomington Junior High School Open House Program, 1990
- 11.14 Correspondence to Bloomington Elks Lodge #281 members, April 14, 1993
- 11.15 Correspondence from John Peiffer and LuAnne Stoller, November 1997
- 11.16 Correspondence from John Peiffer and LuAnne Stoller, December 31, 1998
- 11.17 Friends of Dan Brady Chicken Fry, 2002, advertisement
- 11.18 Letterhead portion of correspondence from the Congress of the United States, House of Representatives, October 7, 2005
- 11.19 Oakland Bowl Mixed League prize list, n.d.

Folder 12: Jones, Forrest T.

- 12.1 "Forrest T. Jones Insurance Inc., Low-key, Little Known Giant," *The National Underwriter*, August 15, 1981

Folder 13: Jones, Olive C. Douglas

- 13.1 Vacation Bible School certificate, 1932
- 13.2 McLean County Final Report Card, 1937/38
- 13.3 Diploma, 8th grade, 1938
- 13.4 Illinois Pupils Reading Circle diploma, 1938
- 13.5 Commencement invitation, 1942
- 13.6 *Torch 1976*, 60 pages
- 13.7 Downs High School 2003 Reunion Committee notes, 5 pages

Folder 14: Legal Documents

- 14.1 Separation Agreement, June 26, 1943
- 14.2 Deed, September 10, 1943
- 14.3 Decree of Divorce, March 5, 1945
- 14.4 Decree of Divorce, March 5, 1945 (copy)
- 14.5 Mortgage, March 6, 1945
- 14.6 Court Order, n.d.

Folder 15: Smith Genealogy

- 15.1 William Smith descendants, 3 typewritten pages, n.d.
- 15.2 William Smith descendants, 5 handwritten pages (photocopy), n.d.