

Finding Aid – W.Va. Academy of Science Collection 1926-1944 “Secretary Marvin Lewis Vest Papers”

Title: W.Va. Academy of Science Collection 1926-1944 “Secretary Marvin Lewis Vest Papers”
Donor: Collection Located in a Science Hall Storage Closet by 2010 Science Faculty
A & M Box #: **GSC20100312**
No. of Boxes: 1
Inclusive Dates: 1926-1944
Bulk Dates: 1935-1938

Description: This collection contains correspondences associated with the W.Va. Academy of Science, membership records, reports, notes, and programs. The material was most likely collected by Marvin L. Vest during his time as secretary of the organization. Although Mr. Vest was both a professor at Davis & Elkins College and West Virginia University, these papers were located in a Science Department storage closet at Glenville State College. Two Glenville State Normal School professors were members of the Academy at this time. Their names are John R. Wagner, who was a chemistry, physics, and math professor, and Goldie C. James, who was a biology and hygiene instructor. The bulk of this material covers 1935-1938. Processing of the collection involved removing the files from acidic wooden containers (wooden Hoosier containers remain in archive’s office old frame area). The documents were originally divided into ‘Correspondences,’ which were separated by dividers, and ‘Reports and Records.’ In the process all metal items were removed and acid-free file folders and polyurethane sleeves were used to help preserve the items. Some organization techniques were used in the filing process, but the papers are mostly filed in original order. A Physical Laboratory Notebook also accompanies this collection. The notebook held several loose papers that are filed in File Folders 14 and 15 of this collection. It is shelved beside the collection box, but contains only a few notes.

Source: **GSC Archives**
Dates: 1926-1944
Size: 1 box, 4.8 in. (.4 linear feet)
A & M Box #: GSC20100312

Index Names:

Marvin L. Vest, A.M. Reese, Jennings Randolph, Wallace Smith, H.W. Straley, W.W. Trent, P.D. Strausbaugh, Gov. Herman G. Kemp, Frank Cutright, G.S. Dodds, Jerome Arnett, Henry Ward, James Allen, Gerald Jenny, Paul Price, Robert Dustman, Robert Patterson

Index Terms:

West Virginia Academy of Science, West Virginia University, Davis and Elkins College, Weston State Hospital, Carnegie Museum, Wesleyan State College, University of Chicago, Columbia University, New River State College, Kent State University, Bethany State College, Concord State College, Oklahoma City University, Chi Beta Phi, Marshall University

Box Contents:

File Folder 1: Programs and Member Nomination Cards from 1931-1940
File Folder 2: Membership Records “incomplete” from 1930-1946
File Folder 3: Original Correspondences File A
File Folder 4: Original Correspondences File B
File Folder 5: Original Correspondences File C
File Folder 6: Original Correspondences File D
File Folder 7: Original Correspondences Files E, F, G, H, I, J
File Folder 8: Original Correspondences Files K, L, M, N
File Folder 9: Original Correspondences Files O, P, Q, R
File Folder 10: Original Correspondences File S
File Folder 11: Original Correspondences Files T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

File Folder 12: Reports and Notes File 1

File Folder 13: Reports and Notes File 2

File Folder 14: Physical Laboratory Notebook Contents 1

File Folder 15: Physical Laboratory Notebook Contents 2

File Folder 16: Typed Notes

Organizational/Historical Note: West Virginia Academy of Science

The West Virginia Academy of Science was founded at West Virginia University on November 28, 1924. This new organization was the creation of the West Virginia Scientific Society. The idea to start the academy was credited to a Mr. J. A. Eisland. He pointed out that academies of science are automatically affiliated with the American Association for the Advancement of Science and that such a plan would give our state organization national status. A committee was formed with the purpose of bringing about a closer affiliation among scientists of the state and to organize as a group to national recognition. This would allow for West Virginia members to have closer contacts with other individuals in the same area of study and be better equipped to explore all aspects of their field.

This first conference of 1924 delved into such subject matter as oil, gas, mining coal, soil classification, the conglomerate of rocks, fresh water mussels, the breeding of corn, and smoke injury to vegetation. These subjects were covered in the form of oral presentations from experts in each area of study. Officers for the academy were also elected, which included a Dr. Bancroft as president of the scientific body. The first conference also offered a trip to a local mine to learn about the processes of coal mining firsthand.

In 2009, the 84th annual meeting of the West Virginia Academy of Science was held at Glenville State College. This conference was organized in very much the same manner as the first meeting. The biggest difference was the subject matter that was covered. Oral presentations included information on the crayfishes of the Cheat River, tomato genetics, the threatened salamander, chemical data of surface waters, effects of acid rain, and astronomy.