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EMENS, JOHN R. (1901-1976), PAPERS, 1926-1981

Biography

John R. Emens was born on a farm near Prattville, Michigan, on October 10, 1901. He became the principal of the Defer Road Junior High School in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, in 1920. Three years later, he was named principal of East Detroit High School in East Detroit, Michigan. In 1926, Emens received a bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University. The next year, he received a master's degree from the University of Michigan, and served as an instructor at Eastern Michigan. In 1928, Emens was principal and athletic coach at Plymouth High School in Plymouth, Michigan. He held these posts until 1930 when he was named assistant principal and director of vocational and educational guidance at Jackson (Michigan) High School.

In 1935, Emens served as director of teacher education and certification in the Michigan state department of public education. The next year, he received his doctorate from Michigan and became Assistant of Public instruction in Michigan. From 1938 to 1945, Emens held the positions of Deputy Superintendent of Michigan's schools, associate professor of Secondary Education at Wayne State University, and the Director of Personnel in the Detroit Public Schools.

On August 1, 1945, Emens was inaugurated as President of Ball State Teachers' College. During Emens' tenure as president (1945 to 1968), enrollment at Ball State grew from 1,000 to over 13,000; colleges in architecture, business, fine arts, education, and science and humanities were established. Through an act of the Indiana General Assembly, Ball State became a university in 1965. Besides serving as President of Ball State, Emens was President of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in 1947 and the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education in 1967. After his retirement in 1968, Emens helped form the Stock Watchers of Muncie, an investment club, and also was a fund raiser for the Muncie Civic Theater from 1974 to 1976. Emens died in Muncie on October 25, 1976.

Scope and Content

The materials in this collection cover the life of John R. Emens from his career as an educator and administrator in Michigan to his tenure as president of Ball State University to his professional and civic activities after his retirement in 1968.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF TEACHER EDUCATION files have by laws, memoranda, letters, and reports.

The BALL STATE TEACHERS' COLLEGE files have information about the construction of new facilities, student enrollments, capital outlays, and the future of the college.

Brief biographical sketches of Emens' life along with photographs, letters, and the lyrics to the song "As Time Goes By" are found in the BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL files.

The CIVIC THEATER file has materials about Emens' involvement with the Muncie Civic Theater.

Articles from Muncie and Indianapolis newspapers about Emens' presidential inauguration, retirement, and death are found in NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS AND PHOTOS.

EMENS RECOGNITION files have letters, invitations, and correspondence pertaining to Emens' retirement as president of Ball State University on February 8, 1968.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY files have materials about Ball State University's fiftieth anniversary celebration in 1968.

FALL CONVOCATION AND FRESHMAN ORIENTATION have notes of speeches Emens made at the annual fall convocations.

Materials about Emens' inauguration as president of Ball State are found in the INAGURATION file.

Files on INDIA pertain to Emens' trip to India in the fall of 1953.

MEDICAL SCHOOL files describe Ball State University's unsuccessful efforts during the 1960's to establish a medical school.

MICHIGAN materials include correspondence and reports made by Emens when he a professor at Wayne State University and director of personnel for the Detroit Public Schools.

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES, QUOTES, AND REFLECTIONS materials include speeches Emens made at football games, newspaper and periodical articles, and notes.

The NORTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION files have newsletters, annual meeting programs,

badges, minutes, budgets, and newspaper articles on the accreditation of Chicago's schools in 1947.

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION files have reports, transcripts of proceedings, and a copy of a letter written by Harry S Truman to Emens.

PRESIDENT'S SPRING CONVOCATION has materials about the annual Spring Convocations from 1947 to 1961.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS files deal with the addresses Emens made at colleges and universities, high school commencements, and business and civic organizations.

Materials on a variety of speeches Emens while he was president of Ball State can be found in the SPEECHES files.

SPEECH MATERIALS contain rough drafts and notes of Emens' speeches.

STOCK WATCHERS OF MUNCIE and MEAD ANNUAL REPORTS have information about Emens' role in the Stock Watchers of Muncie investment club.

STUDIES IN JACKSON AND PLYMOUTH feature data and reports concerning elementary and high schools in two Michigan cities.

UNIVERSITY WEEK CONFERENCE materials include programs, correspondence, guest list, and space requisition forms.

Materials on the WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION include information about the conference, an invitation from President Lyndon B. Johnson, and a letter signed by Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey.

The WRITINGS files have a collection of articles Emens wrote for education periodicals.

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Revised: D. Hartwig 12/21/2004