ALTA M. (ALTA MARGARET) JETT PAPERS, 1916–1986

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes, 1 bound volume, 1 photograph folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1916-1986

PROVENANCE: Alta M. Jett, Richmond, Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1985.0621

NOTES:
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Alta M. Boatwright Jett was born on April 2, 1920 in Lancaster, Kentucky. She was the first child of Annie and Charles Boatwright's three children. During her early infancy, the Boatwrights moved to Richmond, Indiana. She attended both Earlham College in Richmond and Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis. Later she married Richard E. Jett, who was a carpenter and a musician. For the most part, Jett lived her life in Richmond. She has had a variety of occupations throughout her life. During the 1930s, Alta Jett was a domestic servant, and at the outbreak of World War II she began to work in a factory. In 1966 she was employed in the credit office of Montgomery Wards until 1967 when she started doing part-time janitorial work for People's Federal Savings and Loan in Richmond. She retired in 1985.

Church activities kept Alta Jett very busy. She belonged to Mount Moriah Baptist Church from 1952 to 1973; she then became a member of New Hope Baptist Church until 1974. She went back to Mount Moriah in 1974 and is still a member today. Her church activities included Sunday school, choir, missionary society, and vacation bible school. She has also been the church clerk and church anniversary chairperson.

Alta Jett was also very busy in the Richmond community. She has been president of the Mary B. Talbert Club and Vice Precinct Committeeman for the Democratic Party. She has also been associated with the Girl Scouts, Mental Health Board, Block mothers, mother's study group, the YMCA board, C.R. Richardson board, and the Townsend Center Board. She writes obituaries and is interested in Black history. Mrs. Jett has given a number of public addresses on the subject.

Source: The Black Women in the Middle West Project: A Comprehensive Guide Illinois and Indiana, p. 44
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains the following:

There are six manuscript boxes with material from Alta Jett's personal life, newspaper clippings from the Richmond area, church programs, club programs and records, and material donated by three residents of Richmond. There is also material dealing exclusively with the Margaret Smith and Mary Hill nursing homes in Richmond, Indiana.

Box 1, Folders 1-7 contains some of Alta Jett's private correspondence and some miscellaneous programs and documents. Financial records, political posters, and funeral programs with obituaries written by Mrs. Jett, can also be found here, along with a scrapbook of Indiana Black Women. The scrapbook contains brief biographies of socially active women, as well as media personalities.

Box 1, Folders 8-15 includes service programs, documents, anniversary programs, newspaper clippings concerning the Mount Moriah Baptist Church from 1956 to 1981. The box also contains miscellaneous church programs from Second Baptist, Bethel AME, Missionary Baptist, and other religious organizations. A scrapbook of Mount Moriah Church and obituaries, 1958-1985 is also included--See BV 2686.

Box 2, Folders 1-6 has material from the Townsend Community Center from 1956 to 1985. In addition, notes and minutes, as well as newspaper clippings can be found for the Mary B. Talbert Club from 1953 to 1983. Programs for the convention of the Indiana Federation of Colored Women's Clubs from 1962 to 1985 are also included.

Box 2, Folders 7-10 contain materials donated by Marjorie Bradford, Esther Vandlingham, and Christella Kelly. At the time of collection, all were residents of Richmond, Indiana. The Bradford collection consists of mainly church programs from the Greater Second Missionary Baptist Church in Richmond. The Vanlandingham collection contains material concerning the Vanlandingham singers. The Kelly collection consists of clippings from the Richmond area newspaper.

Box 2, Folders 11-16 and Box 3, Folders 1-2 hold the records of both the Margaret Smith Nursing Home and the Mary E. Hill Home for Aged Women.

Box 3, Folders 3-7 has newspaper clippings from the Richmond area from as early as 1916 up until 1986.

There is a folder of photographs stored in visual collections relating to Celia Ross.
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