

Collection #
M 0498

**EMMA LEE CHESTER
PAPERS, 1962–1985**

Collection Information	1
Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript boxes, 1 photograph folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1962-1985

PROVENANCE: Mrs. Emma Lee Chester, Indianapolis, Ind.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: M 0499, Black Women In The Middle West Project--Miscellaneous; M 0530, Black Women In The Middle West Project Records

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1984.1110

NOTES: Photographs stored in Visual Collections

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Emma Lee Chester, nee Devine, was born in Starkville, Mississippi on November 8, 1942. The oldest of Aron and Teadie Devine's ten children has been a resident of Indianapolis since 1972. She married Elder E. Chester, a minister and a teacher. Emma Chester received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Mississippi State University in 1970. In 1978, she graduated from Indiana University at Indianapolis with her Master of Science diploma. Chester has also attended Los Angeles City College, Jackson State University, and Los Angeles Trade-Technical College. In 1972, Emma Chester became a teacher for the Indianapolis Public Schools, a position she still holds today.

She has a long list of honors and awards, including the Mary McLeod Bethune Achievement Award from the National Council of Negro Women, a proclamation from Mayor Hudnut of Indianapolis, and a series of Who's Who biographies (including *Who's Who in the Midwest* and *Who's Who in the World*). Chester has been a member of the Foursquare Tabernacle Church of God in Christ since 1971. Her service includes the founding of the Tabernacle's radio ministry in 1981. Emma Chester's community activities are the Urban League, NAACP, Word Women International, Indianapolis Zoological Society, Black History Committee, 15,000 Club (for the needy), National Association of Biology Teachers, Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, and American Biographical Institute Research Association.

Source: *The Black Women in the Middle West Project: A Comprehensive Resource Guide Illinois and Indiana*, p. 96

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains the personal papers of Emma Lee Chester. The material was gathered under the auspices of the Black Women in the Middle West project. The papers span a period of time from 1962 to 1985, with a heavy concentration of material from 1984. The collection consists of letters, newspaper clippings, award certificates, poems, church newsletters, photographs, and programs, and material concerning the Indiana Education Association and the Indiana State Teachers Association. Included in this collection are the papers of Julia Davis, a worker for the Marion County Department of Public Welfare. The collection consists of mainly letters, memoranda, and certificates.

Box 1 has the background information of Emma Lee Chester. Included in this box are letters, awards, and a tape of one of Chester's speeches. There is also material dealing with the National Council of Negro Women and other service organizations. It also contains material from Chester's community and religious activities. There is information of Foursquare Tabernacle Church, including *The Foursquare Messenger*, the church newsletter. Also in this box are records of her teaching activities and the various educational organizations she belonged to.

Box 2 holds Julia Davis' papers. Included is background information, memoranda, correspondence from 1982 to 1984, awards, and material concerning her religious life.

CONTENTS

BOX 1: Emma Lee Chester Papers; Church and Educational Activities

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Emma Lee Chester: family	Box 1, Folder 1
Emma Lee Chester: Who's Who Listings 1984	Box 1, Folder 2
Emma Lee Chester: correspondence 1962-1985	Box 1, Folder 3
Emma Lee Chester: certificates and awards	Box 1, Folder 4
Emma Lee Chester: writings and speech tape	Box 1, Folder 5
Emma Lee Chester: National Council of Negro Women 1984	Box 1, Folder 6
Emma Lee Chester: other organizations	Box 1, Folder 7
Emma Lee Chester: miscellaneous	Box 1, Folder 8
Emma Lee Chester: church activities 1965-1984	Box 1, Folder 9
Foursquare Tabernacle Messenger May 1983-Nov 1984	Box 1, Folder 10
Foursquare Tabernacle Programs 1983-1984	Box 1, Folder 11
Program for the 27th Women's International Convention of the Church of God in Christ, May 10-15, 1977	Box 1, Folder 12
Emma Lee Chester: teaching related activities	Box 1, Folder 13
Emma Lee Chester: educational organizations 1983-1985	Box 1, Folder 14
Indiana Educational Association 1983-1984	Box 1, Folder 15
Indiana State Teachers Association 1983-1984	Box 1, Folder 16
ISTA Fall Assembly Reports 1984	Box 1, Folder 17
Emma Lee Chester, Photographs	Visual Collection: Photographs, Folder 1

BOX 2: Julia Davis' Papers

CONTENTS

Background

Memoranda 1972-1983

Correspondence 1982-1984

Certificates 1982-1984

Religious material

CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 1

Box 2, Folder 2

Box 2, Folder 3

Box 2, Folder 4

Box 2, Folder 5