

Hynes, Emerson, 1915-1971.

Papers, 1934-2014

SJU Manuscript Collection 7

Location: 060/2-4, 060/6

7.6 cubic ft. (19 archival boxes)

ABSTRACT: Papers of Saint John's University professor Emerson Hynes.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: The collection includes correspondence, newspaper and magazine articles, and various other materials, including Jeanne Cofell's Ed.D. dissertation on Hynes. The focus of the collection is Emerson Hynes' work at Saint John's, his work with Senator Eugene McCarthy, and his family life.

ARRANGEMENT: The files have been arranged in a manner that reflects their original arrangement. The collection was first stored in plastic tote bins. Box and folder separations were made for the purpose of proper storage, except in cases where there were already labeled folders within the collection.

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: There are no access restrictions on the materials, and the collection is open to all members of the public.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Emerson Hynes was born in 1915, the youngest of nine (living) children of Muerton and Mary Hynes in Winnebago, Minnesota. He attended Saint John's University, where he befriended the future senator Eugene McCarthy, and graduated in 1937. He then went on to the University of Notre Dame, where he earned his master's degree in apologetics in 1939.

After graduate school, Hynes returned to Saint John's to teach. There, he taught sociology and philosophy from 1939 to 1959.

He married Arleen McCarty in 1941, and over the next several years, the couple had ten children and established their five-acre Collegetown homestead, which they named Kilfenora.

During these years he and Arleen became active in the rural life movement. They worked closely with the National Catholic Rural Life Conference and published numerous articles and pamphlets on the themes of rural and Catholic life. They also traveled to attend workshops and give presentations.

In 1959, Hynes left St. John's to become a legislative aide to Senator Eugene McCarthy. He remained in Washington, D.C. through McCarthy's 1968 presidential campaign, and left along with Senator McCarthy in 1971. He died in D.C. on July 29 of that year.

Arleen returned to Minnesota, where, in 1979, she entered Saint Benedict's Monastery. She passed away on September 5, 2006.

In 2014, Jeanne Cofell completed her Ed.D. dissertation on Hynes and his life, titled ["Closest to the Heart—The Life of Emerson Hynes: A Biographical Study of Human Goodness with a Focus on the College Years."](#)

COLLECTION CITATION: This collection should be cited as:

Hynes, Emerson, 1915-1971. Papers, 1934-2014. SJU Manuscript Collection 7. St. John's University (Collegeville, Minn.).

RELATED COLLECTIONS: Further materials in the St. John's University Archives related to Hynes can be found by [searching for "Hynes" in the Saint John's University and Special Collections database.](#)

ACQUISITION: The collection was first donated to the Archives in 2011 by Hynes' daughter, Mary Hynes-Berry, and additional materials were delivered to the Archives by Jeanne Cofell in 2022. The accession numbers are 2021-010 and 2022-004.

PROCESSING: The collection was processed by Olivia Schleper in 2020 and 2023.

SUBJECT TERMS:

- Hynes, Emerson, 1915-1971
 - St. John's University (Collegeville, Minn.)
 - McCarthy, Eugene
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INVENTORY: For contents, see the ["Hynes, Emerson Papers"](#) collection in the Saint John's University Archives and Special Collections database.
