



## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K1199

Southwest High School Collection

1943-2007 (bulk 1968-2007)

.3 cubic feet

*Books and documents relating to Southwest High School of the Kansas City, MO, School District and its alumni.*

### HISTORY:

Southwest High School was built in 1925 on Wornall Road and 65<sup>th</sup> Street. The cornerstone of the new building was laid by real estate developer J.C. Nichols on June 11, 1925. It was located in the new Country Club District. That fall, 951 students and 31 faculty members began classes in the unfinished school.

By 1930 Southwest's enrollment had grown to 1450, and it had become a nationally respected college-preparatory institution. By 1963, many of the faculty members belonged to the Phi Beta Kappa honorary scholastic organization. That year 10 percent of the graduates maintained at least a 4.0 average. Enrollment by 1965 had reached a peak of 2489.

Several Supreme Court decisions regarding desegregation greatly affected the Kansas City Missouri School district, and in 1977, Southwest High School began busing students. With busing came a decline in before and after school activities for the students, and a decline in parental involvement in the school. Enrollment declined, the School District re-organized and in 1988, Southwest was renamed the Southwest Science and Mathematics Magnet School. Difficulties continued, and the Kansas City School District voted to close Southwest High School after the school year 1997-1998.

### PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from George L. MacCurdy as accession KA1682 on February 2, 2009.

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Specific item; folder number; *Southwest High School Collection (K1199)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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**DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS:**

This collection consists of books and documents relating to the history of Southwest High School, Kansas City, Missouri.

**INVENTORY:****BOX 001**

- Folder 1. "Rise and Fall of Excellence" by Edward T. Matheny, Jr.
- Folder 2. Southwest class of 1943, 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion. 1968
- Folder 3. Southwest High School, 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion. 1942-1992
- Folder 4. Sachem 1943-1993, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion
- Folder 5. Sachem 1943-1993, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion (2<sup>nd</sup> copy)
- Folder 6. Southwest High School class of 1944, 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion. 1994
- Folder 7. Sachem, 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion. 1998
- Folder 8. Sachem, 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion. 2003
- Folder 9. Southwest High School, Hall of Fame Dinner. 2007