

**S0169 Greer, Paul (1887-1980),  
Papers, 1900-1977  
31 Folders, 2 Scrapbooks**

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri). If you would like more information, please contact us at [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).

Mary Greer Ross donated her father's papers to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection on February 26, 1984. The donor requested that all family letters be returned along with two copies of the register. It was decided to return the two scrapbooks as well, although copies of letters, clippings, and other documents in them were xeroxed.

Paul Greer was the editor of the Complete Edition, the out-state paper of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, from 1924-1953. Under him, this rural edition specialized in covering the news of groups-working for community improvement in Missouri and Illinois. Greer supported such programs as rural electrification, and credit and health cooperatives for farmers. After his retirement in 1953, he continued to write about the cooperative movement and to work for several other causes, most notably consumerism, fair housing, and the interests of senior citizens.

Greer was born in Emporium, Kansas on December 23, 1887. After graduating from the University of Michigan in 1910, he became assistant telegram editor of the morning edition of the Kansas City Star. An interest in agricultural reform and liberal journalism led Greer to move to St. Paul, Minnesota in 1919, where he became associate editor of the Non-Partisan League's Leader. He later moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota to set up and edit a small daily newspaper, The American. The American was financed by contributions from farmers who were members of the Non-Partisan League. The newspaper also published a weekly, in Norwegian.

With the gradual decline of the northwestern farm movement, Greer became financial and agricultural editor of the Omaha Bee and later its managing editor and chief editorial writer. His 1922 series on the improving agricultural condition in Nebraska was reprinted in the Chicago Tribune and the New York Times and brought him to the attention of Joseph Pulitzer, publisher of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Pulitzer invited Greer to join the Post-Dispatch as editor of the Complete Edition in June 1924. Greer also edited the First Sunday and Night Sport Special sections. In 1928 he started the Missouri and Illinois Sunday tabloid rotogravure sections which he filled with pictures from rural areas. The tabloids were discontinued in 1937. Between 1936 and 1946, the Complete Edition reached a peak circulation and in effect, became a full scale morning edition. For a time, Greer served as the educational director of the St. Louis Newspaper Guild.

Greer retired from the Post-Dispatch in 1953 after 29 years as editor of the Complete Edition. He spent the next two years researching and writing a book, Cooperatives: The British Achievement, published by Harper and Brothers in 1955. He also wrote about cooperative ventures in the New Republic, the Nation and Progressive Magazine and, for a time, considered a second book on the American consumer movement. Unfortunately, his first book was not a commercial success and Greer abandoned his second book to write a satiric

novel on the space program entitled, "Professor Singlefree's Figleaf," (1963) which was never published. He also wrote the sections on Missouri, St. Louis and Kansas City for the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Greer continued to work for liberal and social causes. He became editor of the Sanitary Milk Bulletin and served on the board of the Liberal Voters' League, the directorate of the Adult Education Council, as president of the Citizens' Council on Housing and Community Planning, on the board of Delmo Housing Project and was a member of Friends of the Land and Cooperative Services. He was also a ruling elder of the First United Kingshighway Presbyterian Church. After retirement, Greer became especially interested in senior citizen concerns, contributing numerous articles on the subject to area newspapers and serving on the boards of the Older Adult Community Action Center in University City and the University City Senior Service Board. He was honored for his work on behalf of senior citizens by the University City Chamber of Commerce and in 1978 the Missouri State Senate passed a resolution praising him for creative community service. Paul Greer died October 101, 1980.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The Greer papers contain correspondence (8 folders); subject files (7 folders); Greer's writing, including drafts of his two books, articles and book reviews (12 folders); articles about Greer (1 folder); and photographs and memorabilia (2 folders). Copies of material from the scrapbooks were integrated into these series.

The collection documents Greer's work in the cooperative movement and with senior citizens, his concern over integration, housing, agricultural conditions, and conservation. His writings are well represented in the collection but there is little documentation of his editorship of the out-state edition of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. References to his work with other newspapers and to his initial contacts with Joseph Pulitzer exist as do letters from colleagues in journalism, in particular Ollie Fink, who worked for Greer at the Post-Dispatch and was the son-in-law of John Neihardt; Dorothy O. Moore, editor of the St. Clair Chronicle; L.S. Herron, editor of the Nebraska Co-Operator; Harold Callander, New York Times journalist; and Bjorn Johannson, editor of New Church Messenger. Other correspondents include: the author John T. Neihardt; James Peter Warbasse, Director of the Rochdale Institute of the Cooperative League of the USA; Ordway Tead of Harper and Brothers; Charles E. Lively, of the department of Rural Sociology at UM-Columbia; the author Leonard Hall; Colston E. Warne, president of the Consumers Union Cooperative; and Jerry Voorhis, Executive Director of the Cooperative League. Many of these letters contain rich reflections on politics, literature, and issues of the day, such as civil rights, the Vietnam War, and the problems of youth and old age.

## **FOLDER LISTING**

1: Correspondence, 1918-1950. Correspondents and subjects include:

\*O.K. Bovard

\*Harold Callander, journalist, New York Times

Cooperatives

\*Floyd Dell, managing editor, The Masses

\*Robert Hallowell

\*Bjorn Johannson, journalist

\*W.D. Meng, assistant sgt. at arms, U.S. Senate  
John Neihardt  
The New Republic  
National Tax Equality Association  
Non-Partisan League  
Omaha Bee  
\*Joseph Pulitzer  
\*Ben Reese, managing editor, St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
Socialism  
\*J.P. Warbasse, director of Rochdale Institute Cooperative League of the USA  
\*Lee A. White, journalist  
Woodrow Wilson

Folder 2: Correspondence, 1953-1955. Correspondents \*and topics include:

\*F.A. Behymer, St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
\*Marquis Childs  
Cooperative League of the USA  
Cooperative Movement - Britain  
Cooperative Union of Canada  
"Cooperatives, A British Achievement"  
Genealogy  
L.S. Herron, The Nebraska Co-operator  
\*Bjorn Johansson  
\*Charles E. Lively (UMC), department of Rural Sociology  
The Progressive Magazine  
\*Morris H. Rubin, editor of the Progressive Magazine  
\*Ordway Tead, Harper Brothers  
\*Jerry Voorhis, executive director, The Cooperative League  
\*James Peter Warbasse, director, Rochdale Institute

Folder 3: Correspondence, 1956-1960. Correspondents\* and topics include:

Blue Ridge, Missouri  
Consumerism  
Consumers Cooperative Council of Greater St. Louis  
The Cooperative League of the USA  
Cooperatives  
Howard A. Cowden, president, Consumers Cooperative Association of Kansas City  
Encyclopedia Britannica  
Estes Kefauver, U.S. senator  
German Community in St. Louis vs. the Hill \*Leonard Hall  
\*Dorothy Moore  
Problems of Youth St. Clair, Missouri  
\*Ordway Tead, Harper Brothers  
\*Jerry Voorhis, executive director, Cooperative League of USA  
\*James Peter Warbasse  
\*Colton E. Warne, president, Consumers Union Cooperative

Folder 4: Correspondence, 1961-1965. Correspondents\*and topics include:

\*Curtis A. Betts

Cooperatives

Richard Dudman

Family Genealogy

Harper and Row

Noel Hubbard

Bjorn Johannson, editor, New Church Messenger

Metropolitan Church Federation

Missouri Conservation Commission

Dorothy O. Moore

Presby,tery of St. Louis

Professor Singlefree's Fig Leaf

Max Putzel

C.B. Ratchford

St. Clair Chronicle

St. Louis Post-DispAtch

Jerry Voorhis, Cooperative League of USA

Folder 5: Correspondence, 1966-1976. Correspondents\*and topics include:

Afro-Americans

' David Angevine, administrator, Farmer Cooperative Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

Cooperative Movement

Cooperative Union Ltd (Great Britain)

Family

Kinloch, Missouri

' Wayne Leeman, Post-Dispatch

' Dorothy Moore, editor of the St. Clair Chronicle

' Selwyn Pepper, Post-DispAtch

Older Adult Community Action Program - University City

Retirement and Senior Citizens

The St. Clair Chronicle

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

White House Conference on Aging

Harriett Woods

Youth

Folder 6: Ollie Fink Correspondence, 1957-1972. Topics include:

Civil Rights Movement

Delmo Housing

Elmer Ellis

Dick Greer

Enid Neihardt Fink

John Neihardt

Richard Nixon

UMC, includes Campus Protest, 1970

Vietnam War

Earl Weaver

Folder 7: Bob Hunt (Worthington) Correspondence, 1961-1964  
Poetry  
Springfield, Missouri

Folder 8: John G. Neihardt - 3 letters (1923-1967). Topics include:  
Aging  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Folder 9. Consumerism, including prospectus for book on American consumers

Folder 10. Cooperative Planning Council - St. Louis  
Workbook and Brochure

Folder 11. Delmo Housing Project  
Brochures, policy statement, correspondence, and history

Folder 12. Housing, including Citizens Council on Housing and Community Planning

Folder 13. Older Adult Community Action Program - University City Progress report, project descriptions

Folder 14. University City Senior Service Board Creative retirement Newsletter of University City Senior Service Board, 1973-1975

Folder 15. University City Senior Service Board Minutes, bylaws, 1972-1974

Folder 16. Draft, "Cooperatives: The British Achievement"

Folder 17. 1963 or 1964 typewritten text, "Professor Singlefreels Fig Leaf"

Folder 18. Journal of an Untired Man - articles on aging and retirement

Folder 19. Greer's writings on retirement and old age, including "First Aid to the Age Lorn"  
Retirement  
Old Age  
Job Exchanges

Folder 20. Prospectus, Making the Most of Retirement

Folder 21. Churches and Older Adults articles - some by Greer  
Metropolitan Church Federation  
Trinity

Folder 22. Writings on Youth

Folder 23. Published articles written by Greer on Cooperatives Consumer Cooperatives

Folder 24. Published newspaper and journal articles by Greer on retirement

Folder 25. Published "Between Book End" - book reviews by Greer

Folder 26. Published articles by Greer - General

Folder 27. "The Sight of Blood," The Masses - May 1916, by Greer

Folder 28. Greer articles in Encyclopedia Britannica on St. Louis, Kansas City, and Missouri

Folder 29. Newspaper articles about Greer

Folder 30. Photographs of Greer, 5374-5378

Folder 31. Memorabilia, including war ration book (World War II) and certificates of appreciation

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