

MAJOR V. MEARS PAPERS

AR 230



Rev. Mears baptizing a convert from First Baptist Church, Salt Gap, Texas, 1947.

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Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
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Major V. Mears Papers

AR 230

Summary:

Main Entry: Major V. Mears Papers

Date Span: 1946 – 2004

Abstract: The collection contains sermon notes, lessons, programs, and scrapbooks regarding Rev. Mears' role as a minister and director of associational missions.

Size: 2 linear ft. (three boxes)

Collection #: AR 230

Biographical Sketch

Major V. Mears was the Director of Associational Missions in Northern Arizona for the Home Mission Board from 1960 – 1981. Before becoming director, Rev. Mears worked as a rancher and pastor in Texas and Arizona. A United States Air Force pilot during World War II, Rev. Mears was a POW in a German camp near the Russian border after his plane was shot down. While in the camp, he was the unofficial chaplain and minister to both prisoners and guards. Rev. Mears received an honorable discharge, his Wings, the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters, European and North African theatre ribbon with three Battle Stars, Mechanic Medal with two bars, Expert Gunnery Medal, and the Purple Heart.

Major V. Mears was born in 1919 in Rogers, Texas, and had three brothers and one sister. He married Ophelia O. Keener on November 6, 1937, and the Mearses had a son and daughter, Connally and Sonya. Ordained by the Melwood Baptist Church in Brownwood, Texas in December, 1941, Rev. Mears received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Howard Payne University in 1948 and later attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Rev. Mears retired in 1981 and continued to preach in churches around Arizona. He died in Phoenix, Arizona January 6, 2004.

Scope and Content Note

The Major V. Mears Papers (1946 – 2004) contains two linear feet of material in three document boxes and one records center box. Materials include certificates, clippings, lessons, programs, scrapbooks, and sermons.

The collection primarily reflects Rev. Mears' role as a minister, with occasional references to his work as the Home Mission Board's Director of Associational Missions for Northern Arizona. Sermon notes form a majority of the collection and are arranged

alphabetically by title. Two scrapbooks document Rev. Mears's time as pastor and Associational Missions Director and include clippings and photographs. Researchers should note that there are intermittent descriptions in the scrapbooks that explain a photograph series.

Rev. Mears's children, Sonya Ulibarri and Connally Mears, and their families donated the collection to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in December, 2006.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by folder title

Provenance

Donated to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in December, 2006 by Rev. Mears' family.

Preferred Citation

Major V. Mears Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Mears, Major V., 1919 – 2004
 Baptists – Arizona
 Missions – Arizona
 Indians of North America – Missions
 Baptists – Sermons

Container List

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- 1.2 Clippings, 1965 – 1978
- 1.3 Hymns
- 1.4 Lessons – The Gospel According to John (Part 1-5)
- 1.5 Lessons – The Gospel According to John (Part 6-10)
- 1.6 Pastoral Records, 1947 – 1982
- 1.7 Photographs – Glorieta Retirees, 1985
- 1.8 Programs – Major V. Mears's Funeral, January 12, 2004
- 1.9 Programs – Miscellaneous
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- 1.11 Sermons – "Attitudes toward Prayer," 1996
- 1.12 Sermons – "Available through Prayer," 1953 – 1993
- 1.13 Sermons – "Baptism Does Not Save," 1958

- 1.14 Sermons – “Baptism & Lord’s Supper,” 1952 – 1957
- 1.15 Sermons – “Be Ye Thankful,” 1950 – 1993
- 1.16 Sermons – “Behold, the Lamb of God,” 1965 – 1994
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