



FINDING AID

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES, AERIE #669 (GARDINER, MT) RECORDS 1904-2009 (bulk dates: 1904-1915, 1940-1982)

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HISTORY

The Fraternal Order of Eagles was founded in 1898. Gardiner's chapter, known as an "aerie," was established six years later in 1904 and dubbed Aerie #669. Many of the town's early residents were members of the organization including Lawrence "Larry" Link and W.A. Hall. Meetings were held in the Gardiner opera house on Main Street, and the Eagles eventually gained the title to this building.

The early success of the Eagles is sometimes attributed to its funeral benefits. Aerie #669 acquired the town's cemetery in 1933 and held the title until 2009 when the land was deeded to the local branch of the American Legion. This cemetery is noteworthy as it is the only private in-holding within Yellowstone National Park.

While ladies auxiliaries were known to have existed within the Eagles since the 1920s, auxiliaries were officially recognized in 1951. Aerie #669's ladies auxiliary was formed in Gardiner in 1967.

Aerie #669 and its auxiliary seem to have suffered from declining membership in the 1990s and 2000s until the chapter finally disbanded about 2009.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES, AERIE #669 (GARDINER, MT) RECORDS 1904-2009

***CATALOG
NUMBER*** MSC 74 (YELL 147386)

VOLUME 2.5 LF (4 boxes, 2 oversized folders)

DESCRIPTION This collection consists of the administrative records of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #669 (Gardiner, Montana), including meeting minutes, certificates, correspondence, deeds, financial records, and membership rolls listing officers. There are also photographs, a scrapbook, and a list of known burials at the Gardiner Cemetery (also called Tinker's Hill Cemetery).

The aerie's meeting minutes are for the years 1904-1915, 1940-1982, and often include the names of members and officers. Additionally, there is one ledger containing the minutes of the auxiliary's meetings (1967-1979) and one ledger of meeting minutes for the Livingston (Montana) Aerie #273 (1910-1923), which may have contained members from Yellowstone National Park and Gardiner who lived in Livingston in the off-season.

The certificates include the original charters for both the aerie (1904) and its auxiliary (1967) and contain the names of the founding members. A 1907 certificate includes its original frame. There are also certificates pertaining membership enrollment, mainly from the 1970s and 1980s.

The aerie acquired the Gardiner opera house and cemetery, and deeds for these properties are also found in this collection. There is also a deed from 2009, transferring title from the aerie to American Legion Post 118.

Correspondence is limited, dating from 1972 to 1974, and consists primarily of donations acknowledgements for benefit funds managed by the Ladies Auxiliary. Financial records include quarterly and biannual fund reports for the years 1945-1952. Clarence "Pop" Scoyen served as treasurer during this time.

The photographs and scrapbook are mainly devoted to the ladies auxiliary and their involvement in community events such as parades, although one photograph from 1913 is of the aerie and identifies the members.

- ORGANIZATION* The materials are arranged alphabetically by format and then chronologically.
- PROVENANCE* Gift of Harvey Yanc, last aerie president, on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, 2010.
- RESTRICTIONS* NO
- ASSOCIATED MATERIALS* Four artifacts: two drapery coverings for the front of an altar (YELL 90012 and YELL 90013); a patch (YELL 90014); and a banner (YELL 200394) are housed in the Yellowstone National Park Museum Collection.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

Folder Number	Title
01	Cemetery Burials, circa 2005
02	Certificates, 1904-1986
03	Correspondence, Ladies Auxiliary, 1972-1974
04	Deeds, 1910, 1928-1933, 2009
05	Financial Reports, 1945-1949
06	Financial Reports, 1950-1952
07	Meeting Minutes, 1904-1907
08	Meeting Minutes, 1909-1915
09	Meeting Minutes, 1940-1948

Box 2

Folder Number	Title
01	Meeting Minutes, 1948-1956
02	Meeting Minutes, 1956-1965
03	Meeting Minutes, 1965-1975
04	Meeting Minutes, 1976-1982
05	Meeting Minutes, Ladies Auxiliary, 1967-1979
06	Meeting Minutes, Livingston Aerie #273, 1910-1923
07	Officers Roll Calls, 1947-1980

Box 3

Folder Number	Title
01	Photograph, Aerie #669, 1913
02	Photographs, Ladies Auxiliary Album, 1980s-1994 (1 of 2)
03	Photographs, Ladies Auxiliary Album, 1980s-1994 (2 of 2)
04	Photographs, Play, 1980?

Box 4

Folder Number	Title
01	Scrapbook, Ladies Auxiliary, 1960s-1980s

Box 5 (oversized materials)

Folder Number	Title
01	Separated Materials-Certificates, 1904-1986
02	Separated Materials-Frame, 1904