



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 (bulk dates: 1904-1915, 1940-1982)

CATALOG NUMBER YELL 147386

VOLUME 2.5 LF

DESCRIPTION This collection consists of the administrative records of Aerie #669 including meeting minutes, certificates, and deeds. It also contains a list of cemetery burials as well as photographs and a scrapbook. Additionally, there is one ledger containing the minutes of the auxiliary's meetings (1967-1979).

The aerie's meeting minutes are for the years 1904-1915, 1940-1982, and often include the names of members and officers.

The certificates include the original charters for both the aerie (1904) and its auxiliary (1967) and contain the names of the founding members. The 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. A deed from 2009, transferring title from the aerie to Post 118 of the American Legion, can be found with these older deeds.

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

ORGANIZATION This collection is organized into two series: Series I, Administrative Records, and Series II, Photographs and Scrapbook. Within the series, the materials are arranged 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 frontals, or drapery coverings for the front of an altar (YELL 90012 and YELL 90013); a patch (YELL 90014); and a banner (YELL 200394).

CONTAINER LIST

Series Number	Series Title
001	Administrative Records
Folder Number	Title
01	Meeting Minutes, 1904-1907
02	Meeting Minutes, 1909-1915
03	Meeting Minutes, 1940-1948
04	Meeting Minutes, 1948-1956
05	Meeting Minutes, 1956-1965
06	Meeting Minutes, 1965-1975
07	Meeting Minutes, 1976-1982
08	Officers Roll Calls, 1947-1980
09	Ladies Auxiliary Meeting Minutes, 1967-1979
10	Cemetery Burials
11	Deeds
12	Certificates
13	Livingston Aerie #273 Meeting Minutes, 1910-1923

Series Number	Series Title
002	Photograph Albums and Scrapbook
Folder Number	Title
01	Aerie #669 Photograph, 1913
02	Photo of Skit/Play, 1980?
03	Ladies Auxiliary Scrapbook and Photo Album, 1960s-1980s
04	Ladies Auxiliary Photo Album, 1980s-1994