

McLean County Museum of History

Fred A. Hitch Collection

Processed by
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1898-1947
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also: Photos-People-Hitch

Brief History

Frederick A. Hitch (1882-1947) resided in Bloomington his entire life. After graduating from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1905, he entered business as co-owner, with his father, of the Woolen Mill store. He was a prominent businessman in Bloomington, maintaining this ownership until retiring in 1940 to manage his extensive real estate holdings, which included The Oaks apartments.

Fred Hitch was active in Masonic circles and received the 33rd Degree in 1926. He was a trustee of Illinois Wesleyan University from 1936 until his death. He was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters by Illinois Wesleyan in 1938. He was actively engaged in the community. He was superintendent of Sunday school at the Grace Methodist Church for sixteen years. He also worked for boys in organizations such as the Boy Scouts, the Four Q Square clubs, as well as baseball and basketball groups. He was active in the Amateur Musical Club.

However, Hitch is probably best known locally as the creator of the role of Christ in the Bloomington Consistory Passion Play and for his performance as Scrooge in the Consistory Players 1926 production of "The Christmas Carol."

Fred Hitch was born April 6, 1882, to Allison and Rose Ashton Hitch. He attended Bloomington High School and graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1905. In 1937, he married Pearl Dunn of Bellflower, who was well known locally as a talented violinist. They had no children.

Scope

This collection contains programs from plays and musical performances that Fred Hitch attended between 1904 and 1911, mostly at Bloomington theatres. These materials were donated by the Ames Library archives at Illinois Wesleyan University, from the disbanded scrapbook of Fred Hitch, IWU alumnus.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Newspaper Clippings

(from *The Pantagraph*)

- 1.1 "'The Christmas Carol' Ably Presented Sunday by Consistory Players," December 13, 1926.
- 1.2 "Name of Fred Hitch Put Into Nomination," December 21, 1928.
- 1.3 "Fred A. Hitch Is Married," July 19, 1937.
- 1.4 "Fred Hitch, Passion Play 'Christ,' Dies," March 13, 1947.
- 1.5 "In Memoriam," March 14, 1947.

Folder 2: The Majestic Theatre

- 2.1 Program from Grand Opening, April 18, 1910.
- 2.2 Listings for Week beginning April 25, 1910.
- 2.3 Listings for week beginning May 2, 1910.
- 2.4 Listings for week beginning May 16, 1910.
- 2.5 Listings for week beginning May 23, 1910.
- 2.6 Listings for week beginning August 29, 1910.
- 2.7 Listings for week beginning October 10, 1910.
- 2.8 Listings for week beginning October 24, 1910.
- 2.9 Program for "The Whirlwind" starring Margaret Illington, December 26 and 27, 1910.
- 2.10 Program for "The King's Game" starring James K. Hackett, undated.
- 2.11 Program for Song Recital by Irene Armstrong Funk, assisted by M. Jennette Loudon, June 28, [year?].

Folder 3: The Chatterton Opera House

- 3.1 Program for Opening, April 7, 1910.
- 3.2 Program for "The Girl of My Dreams," October 31, 1910.
- 3.3 Program for "The House Next Door," November 16, 1910. Glued inside is newspaper review. The bottom one inch of program has been cut off.
- 3.4 Program for "What Every Woman Knows," November 17, 1910. The bottom one inch of program has been cut off.
- 3.5 Program for "The Chorus Lady," November 24, 1910. Glued inside is newspaper review.
- 3.6 Program for "Fi Fi of The Toy Shop," presented by Young Woman's Christian Association, May 5, 6, and 7 [year?].

- 3.7 Clipping[?] for "Keppler's Fortune," April 28, [year?].
- 3.8 Program for "Song Hits of the Day," undated, 1910-11 season.
- 3.9 Program for "The Girl in the Taxi," undated, 1910-11 season.
- 3.10 Program for "The Traveling Salesman," undated, 1910-11 season.
- 3.11 Program for "The Climax," undated, 1910-11 season.
- 3.12 Program for "The Golden Girl," undated, 1910-11 season.
- 3.13 Program for "Homecoming Concert," by Minnie Saltzman-Stevens, November 14 and 15, 1910.
Note: This exclusive two-night performance (and Saltzman-Stevens's only public appearance in the United States that year) was dubbed the "greatest musical event of the season." The committee of the AMC in charge of planning the event began negotiations nearly a year prior.
- 3.14 Program for "The Man Who Owns Broadway," January 16, 1911.
- 3.15 Program for "Honeymoon Town," October 21, 1919.
- 3.16 Program for "Katie-Did," April 4, [year?].
- 3.17 Program for "The House Next Door, April 22, [year?], photocopy, 2pp.
- 3.18 Cast and characters for unnamed play, unknown date, photocopy, 2pp.
- 3.19 Program for "The Girl I love," February 3, 1911, photocopy, 4pp.
- 3.20 Ad for "A Broken Idol," September 1910.
- 3.21 Cast and Scenes Synopsis for "The Fortune Hunter, October 12, 1910, photocopy.
- 3.22 Cast and Scenes Synopsis for "My Jim," undated, photocopy.
- 3.23 Ad for "Paid in Full," September 5, 1910, undated, photocopy.
- 3.24 Montage: Cast of "An Actor's Romance," undated; Cast for "My Jim," undated; Ad for "Paid in Full," September 5, 1910; Ad for "The Girl in the Kimona," August 30, 1910; photocopy.

Folder 4: Bloomington Theatres

- 4.1 Program for Grand Opening of Bloomington Coliseum, December 27, 1898.
- 4.2 Program for "Old Innocence," Grand Opera House and Coliseum, December 8, 1902.
- 4.3 Program for "Foxy Quiller," Grand Opera House and Coliseum Theatre, January 29, 1903.
- 4.4 Program for "Janey," Grand Opera House, November 26, 1908.
- 4.5 Program for "Graustark," Grand Opera House, November 30, 1908.
- 4.6 Libretto of the Mammoth Open-Air Spectacle, "The Siege of Jericho, presented by The Business Men's Association, The Three-Eye League Base Ball Park, September 12-17, 1910.
- 4.7 Program for Fashionable Vaudeville, Castle Theatre, for week beginning November 28, 1904.
- 4.8 Program for Fashionable Vaudeville, Castle Theatre, for week beginning March 13, 1905.
- 4.9 Program for fashionable Vaudeville, Castle Theatre, for week beginning April 10, 1905.

Folder 5: Miscellaneous

- 5.1 Program for Reopening Services for Grace Methodist episcopal Church, February 20, 1910.
- 5.2 Bookmark-sized listing for Annual Banquet, Men's Bible Class, Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, March 31, 1910.
- 5.3 Program for morning worship service at Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, April 10, 1910.
- 5.4 Program for "The Slim Princess: A Comic Opera in Three Acts" starring Elsie Janis at The Studebaker theater, Chicago, 1911. Program consists mostly of business advertisements
- 5.5 Six covers from *The Munsey* for October 1901, November 1901, December 1901, January 1902, February 1902, and March 1902. Note: *Munsey's Magazine* was a 36-page quarto American magazine founded by Frank A. Munsey in 1889 and edited by John Kendrick Bangs. Munsey aimed to publish "a magazine of the people and for the people, with pictures and art and good cheer and human interest throughout"