

**S0661 Dagen, Margaret And Irvin History Of St. Louis Core Collection, 1941-2000**  
**3 Boxes, 35 Folders, Photographs, Oral History Tapes**

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).

The collection was donated to the University of Missouri-St. Louis at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-St. Louis by Maggie Dagen on February 7, 2000. This material was collected for use in a book titled Victory without Violence by Mary Kimbrough and Margaret W. Dagen.

In 1941, a group of theological seminary students, both African Americans and White, began the committee of Racial Equality at the University of Chicago. They met every Saturday afternoon on campus. The members of the group were primarily concerned about the cause of peace. They had followed with keen interest the Gandhi movement in India and were greatly influenced in their thinking by the power of the nonviolent method as expounded by Gandhi and as practiced by the Indian National Congress.

The St. Louis chapter of CORE started in 1947 with a guest speaker named Bernice Fisher. She galvanized the group into action that was destined to alter the racial climate of St. Louis. Fisher resided in St. Louis and worked as an organizer for the United Wholesale and Distribution Workers of America, which later became the Teamsters Union. She was instrumental in the early discussions held at Irvin and Maggie Dagen's home. The meetings consisted of a diverse group of people, who would be responsible for integrating Washington University, and most St. Louis' public accommodations.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection documents CORE's history, political activities, and service to the community. The records include correspondence, transcripts, oral history tapes, and photographs.

**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

- Series 1 Core's History, 1941-1957, f. 1.
- Series 2 Correspondence, 1954-1957, f. 2. Arranged chronologically.
- Series 3 Fairgrounds Park Incident, f. 3
- Series 4 Irvin Dagen articles from the St. Louis Argus, f. 4
- Series 5 Publications, 1951-1999, f. 5. Arranged chronologically.
- Series 6 Transcripts, f. 6-31, Arranged alphabetically.
- Series 7 Photographs, f. 32-35. Arranged chronologically.
- Series 8 Tapes. Arranged chronologically.

**FOLDER LISTING**

**Box 1**

Series One - CORE'S History

1. CORE'S History, 1941-1957

Series Two - Correspondence

2. Correspondence, 1954-2000

Series Three - Fairgrounds Park Incident

3. Fairgrounds Park Incident, 1949 by George Schermer

Series Four - Irvin Dagen articles from the *St. Louis Argus*

4. Articles from the *St. Louis Argus* by Irvin Dagen

Series Five - Publications

5. Publications, 1951-1999

## **Box 2**

Series Six - Transcripts

6. Joe Ames

7. Joyce Best

8. Steve Best

9. William K. Crosby

10. Irvin and Maggie Dagen

11. Maggie Dagen

12. Vivian Dreer

13. Vernell E. Fuller Sr.

14. Walter L. Hayes

15. Henry Hodge

16. Mary M. McAllister

17. Doris M. Nugent

18. Charles Oldham

19. Marion Oldham

20. Alice M. Parham

21. Al and Ann Park

22. Rose Parnas

23. Wanda Penny

24. Marvin Rich

25. Vera Rhiney

26. Bonnie Rosen

27. Norman Seay

28. Eleanor Smith

29. Billie Teneau

30. Irene M. Williams

31. Norman E. Winkler

Series Seven - Photographs

32. Maggie Dagen and Irvin Dagen, 661.1

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34. Mary McClain and Willie Collins, at a Core sit-in at the downtown Woolworth's lunch counter in the late 1940's, 661.8

35. Connie Williams with daughter Vicky Lynn and Billie Ames with son Gregory in front of Stix Baer and Fuller, "The Grand Leader," after being refused service at the department store's lunch counter, May 12, 1949, 661.9

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661.2 Irvin and Maggie Dagen, August 26, 1995

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661.5 Irvin and Maggie Dagen, August 26, 1995

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661.8 Vernell Fuller, January 26, 1996

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