

# Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School and Camp Archives

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## The Institution

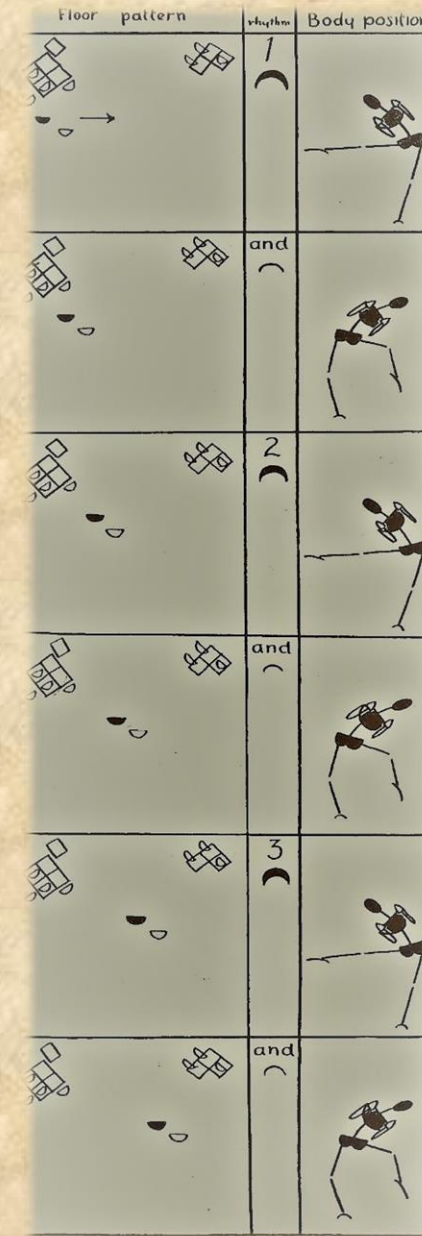
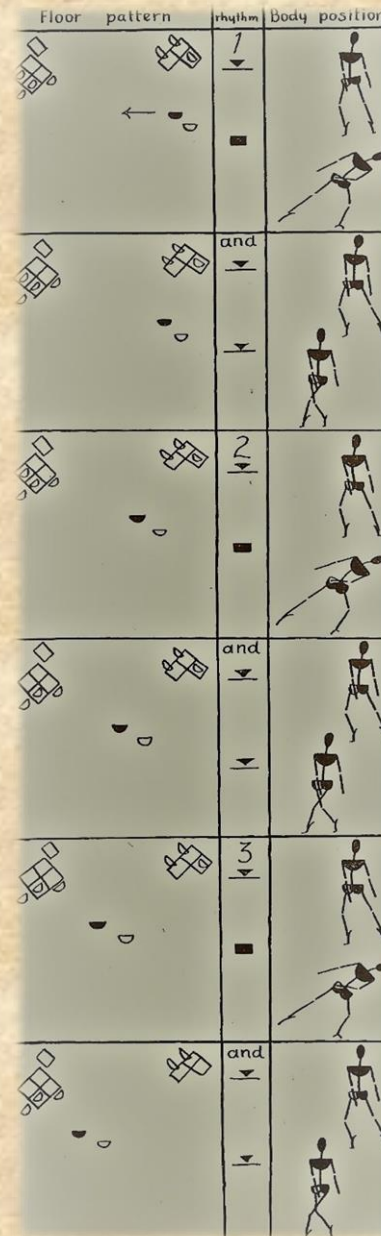
Founded in 1914 by Charlotte Perry and Portia Mansfield, the Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School and Camp (PMPASC) is one of the longest-running performance arts camps in the United States. From 1914 to the present, the camp has offered studies in dance and theatre, and supplemented with equestrian and camping activities.

Located in Strawberry Park, outside Steamboat Springs, Colorado, it remains a cultural nexus of Routt County and contributor to the study of modern dance. The annual performances continue to play a vital role in the Routt County community.

## The Collection

The PMPASC Archive consists of ~40 linear feet of materials, including correspondence, programs, and ephemera. Formats include paper documents and photographs from 1918 to the present.

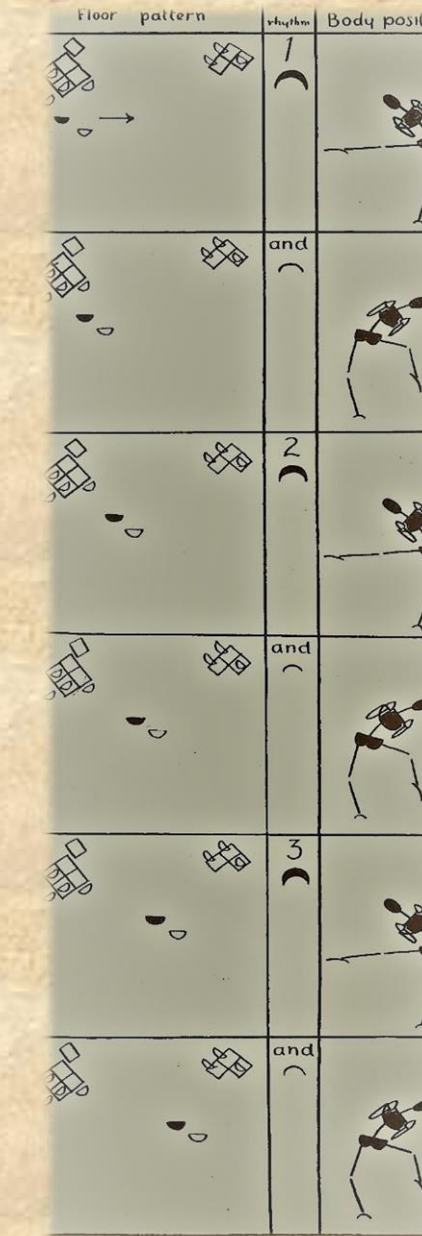
The value of this collection lies in the scrapbooks of the camp founders, councilors, and students/campers. Included are photographs of individuals like Jose Limon, Agnes DeMille, Harriet Ann Gray, and Routt County residents like Farrington "Ferry" Carpenter, and Eleanor Bliss. These materials were the focus of this preservation and arrangement effort.



## The Problem

These items—especially those created between 1918 and 1944—exhibited cursory description and possessed basic defenses against continued deterioration. However, their continued viability, and access to stakeholders like PMPASC staff and researchers, was questionable.

Some level of arrangement, description, and a few container lists did exist. Former camp counselor and historian, T. Ray Faulkner (1931-2016), provided container-level arrangement and photograph identification, which has proven invaluable.



## The Process

### Step 1: Research

Related collections held by the Denver Public Library and the Stephen H. Hart Research Center were studied and their finding aids referred to throughout the project.

### Step 2: Preservation

Materials in need of immediate preservation efforts were identified and rehoused using Society of American Archivist standards.

### Step 3: Access

Scrapbooks were arranged by date and contents. A finding aid and institutional profile was created to facilitate future access.

## The Result

- All scrapbooks created between 1918 and 1993 have been described, rehoused, and select contents identified for eventual digitization.
- Necessary archival quality folders, containers, etc. have been acquired.
- Funding sources for future phases of the have been explored.
- Partnerships between PMPASC, The Tread of Pioneers Museum, and the Bud Werner Memorial Library have grown.

