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Mary Ellen Long
Collection, 1932-1943

Collection 370

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Maggie Weimer, July 2023

Creator/Corporate Name: Mary Ellen Long Collection

Inclusive Dates: 1932-1943

Physical Description: 1 box (0.25 linear ft.)

Provenance: The Mary Ellen Long collection was donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

Access: These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Biographical Note:

Mary Ellen Hill Long was born on June 12, 1914 in Maroa, Illinois to Clarence J. and Vera (Wikoff) Hill. She graduated Decatur High School in May 1932. Mary Ellen married Melvin Long in Decatur, Illinois on June 7, 1943. Together, they had two daughters and one son: Mary Kathryn, Patricia Ann, and Melvin George Jr. Mary Ellen was a member of Delta Theta Tau sorority, taking a Pullman train trip across the country to attend the Delta Theta Tau San Francisco Convention in 1939. She was also a member of Holy Cross Church, Altar and Rosary Society, Mother's Club, and Catholic Woman's League. Mary Ellen Long moved from Decatur to Champaign where she lived for 15 years before passing away at age 43 on May 15, 1958.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection includes diary entries about Mary Ellen's train trip on a Pullman to the Delta Theta Tau San Francisco Convention in 1939. On her way to and from the convention, she was able to stop and visit Denver, Colorado; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Salt Lake City, Utah; Los Angeles, California; San Francisco, California; Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Washington; Billings, Montana; and Red Lodge, Montana. She detailed her whole experience – what she saw, what she ate, and who she spent her time with. She even included personal photographs within the diary entries to supplement her writing. In addition to the diary entries are programs, dinner menus, and other ephemera from the trip. Also included in the collection are greeting cards that Mary Ellen and Melvin Long sent to one another. One copy of the Decatur High School newspaper titled *The Observer* is also included, listing Mary Ellen as a graduating senior in May of 1932.

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged chronologically.

Subject Terms:

Delta Theta Tau
Diaries
Greeting cards
Pullman cars



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Name Terms:

Hill, Mary Ellen
Long, Mary Ellen
Long, Melvin

Container List:

Box 1

Folder 1: *The Observer*, 1932

Folder 2: Train Trip to Delta Theta Tau San Francisco Convention, 1939

Folder 3: Greeting cards with their addressed envelopes, 1939-1943

Folder 4: Unmatched greeting cards and addressed envelopes, 1940-1943