



ArchivesSpace

## **Guide to the Ada I. Pressman Papers LP001944**

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <http://reuther.wayne.edu>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Walter P. Reuther Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Pressman, Ada Irene
<b>Title:</b>	Ada I. Pressman Papers
<b>ID:</b>	LP001944
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1950-1985
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	bulk
<b>Physical Description:</b>	.5 Linear Feet (1 MB), 1 OS flat
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	Material entirely in English.
<b>Abstract:</b>	Ada Irene Pressman was a mechanical engineer who specialized in developing emergency safety systems for fossil-fired and nuclear power plants. Pressman was a registered Professional Engineer in both Arizona and California, where she worked for Bechtel Corporation for 32 years in various positions. Pressman was actively involved in professional engineering organizations, including serving as president of the Society of Women Engineers from 1979 to 1980. The material in these papers represent Pressman's education and professional career at Bechtel, as well as her involvement in the SWE and other organizations. Materials from Pressman's tenure as the president of SWE can be found in the Society of Women Engineers National Records.

### Citation Style

"Ada I. Pressman Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

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## History

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Ada Irene Pressman, formerly Ada Irene Richardson, was a mechanical engineer who specialized in developing emergency safety systems for fossil-fired and nuclear power plants. She was born March 3, 1927 in Sidney, Ohio. In 1950 she received a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering and began working as a project engineer for Bailey Meter Company in Cleveland. She moved to Los Angeles in 1955 to work for Bechtel Corporation, again as a project engineer. She married Marvin Pressman in 1969, however he passed away the following year. During her career at Bechtel, Pressman worked at numerous sites on the West Coast and was a Registered Professional Engineer in Arizona and California. After receiving a Master of Business Administration from Golden Gate University in 1974 she was promoted to Chief Control Systems Engineer at Bechtel. Pressman was named an Engineering Manager for Bechtel in 1979, a position she held until her retirement in 1987. Pressman was actively involved in professional organizations. She was a member of the American Nuclear Society, a Fellow of the Institute for the Advancement of Engineering, and served as the vice president of the Instrument Society of America from 1973 to 1978. Additionally, Pressman was an honored and influential member of the Society of Women Engineers. She received the prestigious SWE Achievement Award in 1976 and served as the Society's president from 1979 to 1980. In 1983 Pressman was named a SWE Fellow and was elected to the SWE Board of Trustees, a position she retained until her death in July of 2003.

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## Scope and Content

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The material in these papers represent Pressman's education and professional career at Bechtel, as well as her involvement in the Society of Women Engineers, the Instrument Society of America, and the Young Women's Christian Association. Materials from Pressman's tenure as the president of the SWE can be found in the Society of Women Engineers Collection. Papers consist of correspondence, certificates, clippings, speeches, educational records, awards, and artifacts. Slides, photographs, and photographic negatives have been transferred to the SWE Photograph Collection. Important Subjects: Bechtel Corporation Engineering Instrument Society of America Society of Women Engineers Women engineers Young Women's Christian Association

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## Arrangement

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Box 1 contains files arranged alphabetically, with the actual papers within the files arranged chronologically. Box 2 contains artifacts.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <http://reuther.wayne.edu>

### Acquisition

The papers of Ada Irene Pressman were placed in the Walter P. Reuther Library February of 2004 by Marge Inden and Jaclyn Spear.

### Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Troy Eller on October 6, 2008.

### Access

Collection is open for research.

### Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials."

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

SWE National Records, Walter P. Reuther Library: covers the entire history of the organization, including Pressman's involvement in the organization.

### Transfers

Photographs of Pressman have been placed in the SWE Photograph Collection.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Engineering
- Engineering Societies, etc.
- Women
- Women engineers
- Society of Women Engineers

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances	
Bechtel, 1963-1987	Box 1	Item 1
Certificates, 1971-1992	Box 1	Item 2
Education, 1950-1975	Box 1	Item 3
Education, Ohio State University lab book, 1950	Box 1	Item 4
Instrument Society of America, 1974-1985	Box 1	Item 5
Presentations and publishing, 1979-1986	Box 1	Item 6
Clippings, 1967-1986	Box 1	Item 7
Society of Women Engineers, 1972-2000	Box 1	Item 8
YWCA, 1976-1981	Box 1	Item 9
Society of Women Engineers Achievement Award, 1976	Box 2	Item 1

Slide rule	Box 2	Item 2
SWE pin	Box 2	Item 3
Steuben prism and base	Box 2	Item 4
Arizona Registered Professional Engineer stamp	Box 2	Item 5
California Registered Professional Engineer stamp	Box 2	Item 6