



ArchivesSpace

Guide to the SWE: Emma Barth Diaries LP001953

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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

Repository:	Walter P. Reuther Library
Creator:	Barth, Emma C.
Title:	SWE: Emma Barth Diaries
ID:	LP001953
Date [inclusive]:	1939-1979
Physical Description:	6.5 Linear Feet (3 MB, 5 SB)
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	Material entirely in English.
Abstract:	<p>The Society of Women Engineers: Emma Barth Diaries include over 160 diaries Barth wrote between 1939 and 1979. These diaries chronicle the 35 years Barth spent working as a mechanical engineer and her involvement in the Society of Women Engineers and the Society of Professional Engineers, as well as her outside activities and interests. Barth began her career as an engineer in 1942, when she enrolled in drafting courses at the Pittsburgh Aeronautics Institute and took a job as draftman for the H. J. Heinz Company. In 1944 she accepted a draftsman position at the East Pittsburgh office of the Westinghouse Electric Co., where she was one of just 18 women in the Turbine Generator Division. After joining Westinghouse, Barth took night classes at the University of Pittsburgh for seven years, graduating with a B.S. in General Engineering in 1951. Barth was a founding member and later the president of the Pittsburgh Section of the Society of Women Engineers, and served as the first editor of the SWE Newsletter. She became a member of the Society of Professional Engineers in 1952 and obtained her Pennsylvania Professional Engineers License 1961. Upon her retirement from Westinghouse in 1977, Barth received the Westinghouse Community Service Award, the first woman to ever do so.</p>

Citation Style

"SWE: Emma Barth Diaries, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

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History

Mechanical engineer Emma C. Barth, PE, was part of the 20th-century generation of women who faced unprecedented employment opportunities as a result of World War II. Wartime circumstances created new organizations and programs specifically designed to recruit women into service, and in the call for womanpower, science and engineering played a central role. It was in this atmosphere that Emma Barth capitalized on her interest in engineering. Prior to the war, during the Depression years, she received her education from the University of Pittsburgh, earning both a B.A. (1931) and an M.A. (1937) in German, and an M.A. in Education. Employment at that time, however, was scarce: the only teaching work available was part-time work in evening and summer schools. Anxious for full-time work, and interested in engineering because that was her brother's field of study, Barth enrolled in drafting courses at the Pittsburgh Aeronautics Institute in 1942. She secured a job as a draftsman for the H.J. Heinz Co. that same year. For both women educated in engineering before the war, and women like Barth who took courses as part of a wartime training program, wartime labor shortages created opportunities to apply technical skill in the workplace. As a draftsman for Heinz, Barth worked in the canning plant, which was temporarily converted into a drafting office, and there she drafted wooden wings for gliders. Following her position at Heinz, she joined Westinghouse Electric as a draftsman in 1944, in the Turbine Generator Division at Westinghouse's East Pittsburgh Office. Emma Barth's experience as a draftsman for Westinghouse, working in industry, inspired her to pursue a degree in engineering, in the hopes that she could remain employed in the field. When she began her job in 1944 there were 18 women in her department—which she believed was a fairly common number of women in drafting at the time. Barth, however, had hopes for advancing out of the women's drafting department. On the advice of a friend in the engineering department, she enrolled in engineering classes at the University of Pittsburgh in 1944. Paying for the classes herself, she went to school in the evening for seven years and in 1951 graduated with a B.S. in General Engineering—the only female in her class and the first woman to graduate in engineering from the University of Pittsburgh Evening School. An ambitious engineer, Emma Barth was committed to professional development. She was a founding member and later president of the SWE Pittsburgh Section, and was also the first editor of the SWE Newsletter. In 1952, she became an engineer-in-training and joined the Society of Professional Engineers. She obtained her Pennsylvania Professional Engineers License in 1961, and after she retired in 1977, she became a PSPE life member. For her years of service and encouragement to young women, she received the Westinghouse Community Service Award in 1977, the first woman to receive that award. Engineering wasn't her only passion, however; she was a serious drama student, who practiced voice exercises daily and participated in a local theatre group.

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Scope and Content

The Emma Barth Diaries chronicle the daily life of a woman engineer, 1939-1979 (not all years are covered). Series 1, arranged chronologically, consists of the original preserved diaries. A separate collection of user copies—photocopied and enlarged pages of each diary—is available as Series 2 of this collection.

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Arrangement

Arranged in 2 series - Series 1 (Boxes 1-3), and Series 2 (Boxes 4-8). Material arranged chronologically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

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

Acquisition

The Emma Barth Diaries were deposited to the Society of Women Engineers archival collection in May of 1999.

Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Walter P. Reuther Library in June 2003.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Use

Please note: for general use, researchers are first directed to user copies in Series 2. Original diaries are available for special use only, please see reference archivist for more information.

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials." Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

SWE collections

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Controlled Access Headings

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

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Original Diaries

Title/Description	Instances	
February 1939; Diary 129	Box 1	Folder 1
October 1951; Diary 281	Box 1	Folder 2

April 1954; Diary 311	Box 1	Folder 3
June 1954; Diary 313	Box 1	Folder 4
July 1954; Diary 314	Box 1	Folder 5
September 1954; Diary 316	Box 1	Folder 6
October 1954; Diary 317	Box 1	Folder 7
November 1954; Diary 318	Box 1	Folder 8
December 1954; Diary 319	Box 1	Folder 9
January 1955; Diary 320	Box 1	Folder 10
February 1955; Diary 321	Box 1	Folder 11
March 1955; Diary 322	Box 1	Folder 12
April 1955; Diary 323	Box 1	Folder 13
May 1955; Diary 324	Box 1	Folder 14
June 1955; Diary 325	Box 1	Folder 15
July 1955; Diary 326; mostly written in shorthand	Box 1	Folder 16
August 1955; Diary 327; mostly written in shorthand	Box 1	Folder 17
September 1955; Diary 328; mostly written in shorthand	Box 1	Folder 18
October 1955; Diary 329; mostly written in shorthand	Box 1	Folder 19
November 1955; Diary 330; mostly written in shorthand	Box 1	Folder 20
December 1955; Diary 331; mostly written in shorthand	Box 1	Folder 21
January 1956; Diary 332; mostly written in shorthand	Box 1	Folder 22
February 1956; Diary 333; mostly written in shorthand	Box 1	Folder 23
March 1956; Diary 334; mostly written in shorthand	Box 1	Folder 24
April 1956; Diary 335; mostly written in shorthand	Box 1	Folder 25
May 1956; Diary 336; mostly written in shorthand	Box 1	Folder 26
June 1956; Diary 337; mostly written in shorthand	Box 1	Folder 27
July 1956; Diary 338; mostly written in shorthand	Box 1	Folder 28
August 1956; Diary 339; mostly written in shorthand	Box 1	Folder 29
September 1956; Diary 340; mostly written in shorthand	Box 1	Folder 30
September and October 1957; Diaries 352 and 353; mostly written in shorthand	Box 1	Folder 31
November and December 1957; Diaries 354 and 355; mostly written in shorthand	Box 1	Folder 32
April 1958; Diary 359; mostly written in shorthand	Box 1	Folder 33

May 1958; Diary 360; some shorthand	Box 1	Folder 34
July 1958; Diary 362; some shorthand	Box 1	Folder 35
August 1958; Diary 363; some shorthand	Box 1	Folder 36
September 1958; Diary 364; some shorthand	Box 1	Folder 37
October 1958; Diary 365; some shorthand	Box 1	Folder 38
November 1958; Diary 366; some shorthand	Box 1	Folder 39
December 1958; Diary 367	Box 1	Folder 40
January 1959; Diary 368	Box 1	Folder 41
February 1959; Diary 369	Box 1	Folder 42
March 1959; Diary 370	Box 1	Folder 43
April 1959; Diary 371	Box 1	Folder 44
May 1959; Diary 372	Box 1	Folder 45
June 1959; Diary 373	Box 1	Folder 46
July 1959; Diary 374	Box 2	Folder 47
August 1959; Diary 375	Box 2	Folder 48
September 1959; Diary 376	Box 2	Folder 49
October 1959; Diary 377	Box 2	Folder 50
November 1959; Diary 378	Box 2	Folder 51
December 1959; Diary 379	Box 2	Folder 52
January and February 1961; Diaries 392 and 393	Box 2	Folder 53
March and April 1961; Diaries 394 and 395	Box 2	Folder 54
May and June 1961; Diaries 396 and 397	Box 2	Folder 55
July and August 1961; Diaries 398 and 399	Box 2	Folder 56
September and October 1961; Diaries 400 and 401	Box 2	Folder 57
November and December 1961; Diaries 402 and 403	Box 2	Folder 58
January and February 1962; Diaries 404 and 405	Box 2	Folder 59
March and April 1962; Diaries 406 and 407	Box 2	Folder 60
May and June 1962; Diaries 408 and 409	Box 2	Folder 61
July and August 1962; Diaries 410 and 411	Box 2	Folder 62
October 1962; Diary 413	Box 2	Folder 63
November 1962; Diary 414	Box 2	Folder 64
December 1962; Diary 415	Box 2	Folder 65

January and February 1963; Diaries 416 and 417	Box 2	Folder 66
March and April 1963; Diaries 418 and 419	Box 2	Folder 67
May and June 1963; Diaries 420 and 421	Box 2	Folder 68
July and August 1963; Diaries 422 and 423	Box 2	Folder 69
September and October 1963; Diaries 424 and 425	Box 2	Folder 70
November and December 1963; Diaries 426 and 427	Box 2	Folder 71
November and December 1964; Diaries 438 and 439	Box 2	Folder 72
July and August 1969; Diaries 494 and 495	Box 2	Folder 73
September and October 1969; Diaries 496 and 497	Box 2	Folder 74
November and December 1969; Diaries 498 and 499	Box 2	Folder 75
January and February 1970; Diaries 500 and 501	Box 2	Folder 76
March and April 1970; Diaries 502 and 503	Box 2	Folder 77
May 1970; Diary 504	Box 2	Folder 78
June 1970; Diary 505	Box 2	Folder 79
July and August 1970; Diaries 506 and 507	Box 2	Folder 80
September 1970; Diary 508	Box 2	Folder 81
October 1970; Diary 509	Box 2	Folder 82
November 1970; Diary 510	Box 2	Folder 83
December 1970; Diary 511	Box 2	Folder 84
January and February 1971; Diaries 512 and 513	Box 2	Folder 85
March 1971; Diary 514	Box 2	Folder 86
April 1971; Diary 515	Box 2	Folder 87
May 1971; Diary 516	Box 2	Folder 88
June 1971; Diary 517	Box 2	Folder 89
July 1971; Diary 518	Box 3	Folder 90
August 1971; Diary 519	Box 3	Folder 91
September 1971; Diary 520	Box 3	Folder 92
October 1971; Diary 521	Box 3	Folder 93
November 1971; Diary 522	Box 3	Folder 94
December 1971; Diary 523	Box 3	Folder 95
January 1972; Diary 524	Box 3	Folder 96
February 1972; Diary 525	Box 3	Folder 97

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April 1972; Diary 527	Box 3	Folder 99
May 1972; Diary 528	Box 3	Folder 100
June 1972; Diary 529	Box 3	Folder 101
July 1972; Diary 530	Box 3	Folder 102
August 1972; Diary 531	Box 3	Folder 103
September 1972; Diary 532	Box 3	Folder 104
October 1972; Diary 533	Box 3	Folder 105
November 1972; Diary 534	Box 3	Folder 106
December 1972; Diary 535	Box 3	Folder 107
January 1973; Diary 536	Box 3	Folder 108
February 1973; Diary 537	Box 3	Folder 109
March 1973; Diary 538	Box 3	Folder 110
April 1973; Diary 539	Box 3	Folder 111
May 1973; Diary 540	Box 3	Folder 112
June 1973; Diary 541	Box 3	Folder 113
July 1973; Diary 542	Box 3	Folder 114
August 1973; Diary 543	Box 3	Folder 115
September 1973; Diary 544	Box 3	Folder 116
October 1973; Diary 545	Box 3	Folder 117
November 1973; Diary 546	Box 3	Folder 118
January 1974; Diary 548	Box 3	Folder 119
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March 1974; Diary 550	Box 3	Folder 121
April 1974; Diary 551	Box 3	Folder 122
May 1974; Diary 552	Box 3	Folder 123
June 1974; Diary 553	Box 3	Folder 124
July 1974; Diary 554	Box 3	Folder 125
August 1974; Diary 555	Box 3	Folder 126
September 1974; Diary 556	Box 3	Folder 127
December 1974; Diary 559	Box 3	Folder 128
January 1975; Diary 560	Box 3	Folder 129

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April 1975; Diary 563	Box 3	Folder 131
May 1975; Diary 564	Box 3	Folder 132
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February 1976; Diary 573	Box 3	Folder 137
March 1976; Diary 574	Box 3	Folder 138
June 1976; Diary 577	Box 3	Folder 139
July 1976; Diary 578	Box 3	Folder 140
August 1976; Diary 579	Box 3	Folder 141
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April 1954; Diary 311	Box 4	Folder 3
June 1954; Diary 313	Box 4	Folder 4
July 1954; Diary 314	Box 4	Folder 5
September 1954; Diary 316	Box 4	Folder 6
October 1954; Diary 317	Box 4	Folder 7
November 1954; Diary 318	Box 4	Folder 8
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March 1956; Diary 334; mostly written in shorthand	Box 4	Folder 24
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