



ArchivesSpace

Guide to the Ellen Hippeli Papers LP002182

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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:	Hippeli, Ellen
Title:	Ellen Hippeli Papers
ID:	LP002182
Date [inclusive]:	1922-2007
Physical Description:	5.2 Linear Feet (2 MB, 3 OS)
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	Material entirely in English.
Abstract:	<p>Ellen Hippeli taught high school mathematics for nearly a decade and had just received her masters degree in education when, in 1952, she left her civilian career to join the United States Air Force. Following basic training, she was sent to the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School and in 1955 earned a bachelors degree in physics, specializing in nuclear engineering effects. Hippeli spent several years at the USAF Special Weapons Center, where she tested the effects of nuclear radiation on humans. She was also sent to Washington D.C. to assist in planning South Pacific nuclear testing projects. In the late 1960s she studied the effects of radiation on electrical equipment and weapons systems at the Nevada Test Site, where she was the first female program director. Hippeli received the Joint Services Commendation Medal for her work at the Nevada Test Site and the Air Force Commendation with First Oak Leave Cluster. She retired from the Air Force in 1973, having reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. The Ellen Hippeli Papers include awards and commendations, clippings, correspondence, military records, and photographs. The records document the trajectory of her career and her military assignments, but do not include records related to her specific research.</p>

Citation Style

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

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History

Ellen Hippeli was born October 18, 1922 in Hartford, Connecticut. Following her graduation in 1939 in Bristol, Connecticut, she attended the Teachers College of Connecticut, from which she received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1943. She taught mathematics at Freshman High School in Bristol until 1952. During the summers she worked as a Girl Scouts leader at camps around the country. In 1952, shortly after receiving a Master of Education degree from Hillyer College, Hippeli left her teaching career to join the United States Air Force.

After completing basic training, Hippeli was sent to the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. In 1955 she earned a bachelor's degree in physics, specializing in nuclear engineering effects. She graduated from the Squadron Officer School in 1956. Hippeli spent five years assigned to projects at the Special Weapons Center in Albuquerque, where she tested the effects of nuclear weapons on humans. She was also sent to Washington D.C. to assist in planning South Pacific nuclear testing projects. In the late 1960s she studied the effects of radiation on electrical equipment and weapons systems at the Nevada Test Site, where she was the first female program director, and at the Norton Air Force Base in California. During her service, Hippeli received the Joint Services Commendation Medal for her work at the Nevada Test Site and the Air Force Commendation with First Oak Leave Cluster. She retired from the Air Force in 1973, having reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After returning to civilian life she became a manager at Mountain States Bell Telephone and later at the Hanford Westinghouse Fast Flux Reactor facility. She retired from Westinghouse in September 1979.

Hippeli joined the Society of Women Engineers in 1965 and was a charter member of the Central New Mexico Section. She was actively involved in the section's outreach activities to young women, and was named a Fellow of SWE in 1998. Hippeli was also active in the Air Force Women Officer Associates and the Retired Officers Association, served as the president of the local chapter of Quota International, and was actively involved in her church. Hippeli passed away on September 27, 2006.

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Scope and Content

The Ellen Hippeli Papers include awards and commendations, clippings, correspondence, military records, and photographs. The records document the trajectory of her career and her military assignments, but do not include records related to her specific research.

Important Subjects: Air Force Special Weapons Center (U.S.) Nevada Test Site (Nev.) Society of Women Engineers United States. Air Force. United States--Armed Forces--Women. Women engineers Women in engineering

Series I: Papers, 1922-2007 Correspondence and records related to Hippeli's education, military service, and involvement in volunteer organizations.

Series II: Photographs, 1922-1990s Photographs taken during Hippeli's childhood through her retirement.

Series III: Artifacts, 1932-1973 Scrapbooks Hippeli created to document her early career and travels, a high school diploma, military medals, and a Squadron Officers School pennant.

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Arrangement

Arranged in three series – Series I (Box 1), Series II (Box 2) and Series III (Boxes 3- 5). Folders are arranged alphabetically by subject and then chronologically by calendar year.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Acquisition

The Ellen Hippeli Papers were deposited at the Reuther Library on September 13, 2010 by family friend Margaret Magee.

Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Troy Eller-English on April 1, 2011.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Use

No personal data found in the papers may be used.

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

Reuther Library Collections: American Society of Women Engineers and Architects Records, Society of Women Engineers National Records, SWE: Emma Barth Diaries, 1939-1975 (SWE member), SWE Oral History Collection (interviews with SWE pioneers and members), Ada Pressman Papers (past president of SWE), International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists Records (founded by SWE), and SWE Detroit Records (SWE section)

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Controlled Access Headings

- Nevada Test Site (Nev.)
- Women
- Women engineers
- Society of Women Engineers
- United States. Air Force

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Papers, 1922-2007

Title/Description	Instances	
Clippings, 1939-1977	Box 1	Folder 1
Primary and secondary school, 1932-1939	Box 1	Folder 2
Teachers College of Connecticut, 1943	Box 1	Folder 3
Teaching career, 1946-1952	Box 1	Folder 4
U.S. Air Force, 1952-1955	Box 1	Folder 5
U.S. Air Force, Squadron Officer School yearbook, 1956	Box 1	Folder 6
U.S. Air Force, 1955-1962	Box 1	Folder 7
U.S. Air Force, 1962-1965	Box 1	Folder 8
U.S. Air Force, 1966-1973	Box 1	Folder 9
Volunteer organizations, 1964-2007	Box 1	Folder 10

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Series 2: Photographs, 1922-1990s

Title/Description	Instances	
Photographs, childhood, 1922-1930s	Box 2	Folder 1
Photographs, childhood, 1935-1939	Box 2	Folder 2
Photographs, portraits, 1950s-1990s	Box 2	Folder 3
Photographs, teaching career, 1940s-1950s	Box 2	Folder 4
Photographs, U.S. Air Force, 1950s-1970s	Box 2	Folder 5
Photographs, U.S. Air Force, 1950s-1970s	Box 2	Folder 6

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Series 3: Artifacts, 1932-1973

Title/Description	Instances	
Scrapbook, 1939-1946	Box 3	Item 1
Scrapbook, 1932-1952	Box 4	Item 2

High school diploma	Box 5	Item 1
Military medals	Box 5	Item 2
Squadron Officer School pennant	Box 5	Item 3

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