



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Walter P. Reuther Library

Guide to the Estelle Wolf photographs UAV000898

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on December 18, 2019.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

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

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Summary Information

Repository:	Walter P. Reuther Library
Creator:	Wolf, Estelle
Title:	Estelle Wolf photographs
ID:	UAV000898
Date [inclusive]:	1935-1937
Physical Description:	.5 Linear Feet 1 MB Black and white photo prints
Physical Location:	3W-D-7(4)
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	Material entirely in English.
Abstract:	<p>The Estelle Wolf collection consists of 280 photographs Ms. Wolf took during her tenure as a WPA photographer in Detroit. Under the WPA, her assignments involved taking photos of workers on federally funded projects or of the people who benefited from these projects. The collection was originally housed in three scrapbooks. The photographs have been removed from the books, placed on archival backings, and are numbered by the original order. Some of the photographs in this collection were published within Progress in Michigan, a newsletter issued by the Michigan Works Progress Administration. Copies of Progress in Michigan can be found at the Bentley Historical Library of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Other examples of Wolf's work can be found within the collections of the New York Public Library and the Library of Congress.</p>

Citation Style

"Estelle Wolf photographs, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

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History

Estelle Wolfe was born on July 21, 1886 in Ewart, MI. She graduated from Grand Rapids High School in 1905 and went on to study at Simmons College in Boston (1905-1907), and the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy (1919). From 1916-1918 she worked at the Neighborhood House in Louisville, KY, a settlement house providing services to immigrants and children. After the end of the war, Wolf relocated to Chicago to serve as a social worker for the American Red Cross at the Veteran's Hospital (1918-1921). Following this, she returned to Grand Rapids where she worked for the Family Service Society and served as the manager of the Grand Rapids Women's City Club.

In 1931, Wolf moved to New York City to attend the Clarence H. White School of Photography. Founded by Pictorialist master photographer Clarence H. White, the school was the first in America to teach photography as an art form, and heavily influenced Ms. Wolf's later work. From 1935 to 1937, Wolf served as a photographer for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in Detroit, MI. Throughout the remainder of her life, Wolf worked both as a free-lance photographer, and as a fervent community activist. She died September 18, 1988, in New York City, at the age of 102.

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Scope and Content

280 black and white photo prints

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Arrangement

The collection was originally housed in three scrapbooks. The photographs have been removed from the books, placed on archival backings, and are numbered by the original order.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

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

Acquisition

Materials were donated to the Walter P. Reuther Library by Estelle Wolf in December of 1978.

Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Elizabeth Clemens on April 10, 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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Controlled Access Headings

- Great Depression
- Detroit (Mich.)
- United States. Works Progress Administration

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Book One	Box 1	Folder 1

Portrait of two unidentified Works Progress Administration (WPA) administrators looking over issues of Progress in Michigan magazine.	Folder 1	Item 1
Portrait of unidentified Works Progress Administration (WPA) administrator at his desk.	Folder 1	Item 2
Portrait of a bandage maker employed through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division.	Folder 1	Item 3
A woman employed through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division sews a dress on a manual machine.	Folder 1	Item 4
An African American woman employed through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division cuts patterns for use in sewing projects.	Folder 1	Item 5
Women stand in a line, possibly waiting to apply for work with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division.	Folder 1	Item 6
Women repair books for use in local libraries and schools.	Folder 1	Item 7
Women repair books for use in local libraries and schools.	Folder 1	Item 8
Women repair books for use in local libraries and schools.	Folder 1	Item 9
A woman rebinds a book for use in local schools and libraries, possibly in the Studebaker Plant.	Folder 1	Item 10
A woman rebinds a book for use in local schools and libraries, possibly in the Studebaker Plant.	Folder 1	Item 11
A woman rebinds a book for use in local schools and libraries, possibly in the Studebaker Plant.	Folder 1	Item 12
A woman rebinds a book for use in local schools and libraries, possibly in the Studebaker Plant.	Folder 1	Item 13
A woman rebinds a book for use in local schools and libraries, possibly in the Studebaker Plant.	Folder 1	Item 14
A woman rebinds a book for use in local schools and libraries, possibly in the Studebaker Plant.	Folder 1	Item 15
Women employed through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division make bandages for use in local hospitals and clinics.	Folder 1	Item 16
Women employed through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division sew gowns for use in local hospitals and clinics.	Folder 1	Item 17
Women employed through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division make bandages for use in local hospitals and clinics.	Folder 1	Item 18
Women employed through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division make bandages for use in local hospitals and clinics.	Folder 1	Item 19

Women employed through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division make bandages for use in local hospitals and clinics.	Folder 1	Item 20
A Nurse employed through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division bandages the head of a child in a hospital bed.	Folder 1	Item 21
A Nurse employed through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division bandages the wrist of a child in a hospital bed.	Folder 1	Item 22
Women employed through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division make supplies for use in area hospitals and clinics.	Folder 1	Item 23
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A housekeeping aide trained through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) washes a window.	Folder 1	Item 26
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A housekeeping aide trained through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) uses an ironing machine to dry linens.	Folder 1	Item 28
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A seamstress employed through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division fits an unfinished dress on another seamstress.	Folder 1	Item 34
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A woman irons textiles, possibly as part of the Housekeeping Aide training project.	Folder 1	Item 37

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Women employed through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division quilt a blanket.	Folder 1	Item 38
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Typists employed through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division work in an office.	Folder 1	Item 43
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Children at a Works Progress Administration (WPA) nursery school eat a meal.	Folder 1	Item 55
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Children at a Works Progress Administration (WPA) nursery school play on ladders outside.	Folder 1	Item 57

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hospitals. Photograph possibly taken at 900 Harper Ave, Detroit, 1935.

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Men employed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) update plumbing in an unidentified building.	Folder 2	Item 7
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Man demonstrates the incorrect way to sharpen a pick-axe. Image was used in a worker-safety column for Progress in Michigan magazine.	Folder 2	Item 28
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Man with pick-axe working in a trench on an unidentified Works Progress Administration (WPA) sponsored public works project.	Folder 2	Item 32
Man smoothing cement on a newly completed curb for an unidentified Works Progress Administration (WPA) sponsored public works project, c. 1935.	Folder 2	Item 33
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Mrs. Margaret Houselander, an employee of the Federal Writers Project, holds an autographed photograph of George Bernard Shaw. The photo was sent to her after she wrote the writer to inform him he had been misquoted in an American magazine.	Folder 2	Item 51
Federal Art Project muralist and child looking at a panel of a mural in progress. Artist and mural unidentified.	Folder 2	Item 52
Federal Art Project muralist painting a panel of a work in progress. Artist and mural unidentified.	Folder 2	Item 53
Federal Art Project muralist painting a panel of a work in progress. Artist and mural unidentified.	Folder 2	Item 54
Hands of a child playing with a truck in the sand, presumably those of a child in a WPA nursery or recreation program.	Folder 2	Item 55

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Hands of two children playing with trucks in the sand, presumably those of a child in a WPA nursery or recreation program.	Folder 2	Item 56
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Photo Missing	Folder 2	Item 58
Photo Missing	Folder 2	Item 59
Photograph showing the hands of a member of the Federal Writers Project proofing an essay.	Folder 2	Item 60
Photograph of the hands of a draftsman marking out the street grid of downtown Detroit for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) sponsored Traffic Survey Project.	Folder 2	Item 61
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Photograph of the hands of an African American worker using a pick-axe to break apart a street.	Folder 2	Item 63
Photograph of the hands of an African American worker using a shovel to clear rocks.	Folder 2	Item 64
Photograph of the hands of an African American worker using a shovel to dig a trench.	Folder 2	Item 65
Photograph of the hands of a worker sewing a hospital gown.	Folder 2	Item 66
Photograph of the hands of a worker assembling a quilt.	Folder 2	Item 67
Photograph of the hands of a worker cutting a pattern.	Folder 2	Item 68
Photograph of the hands of a worker sewing buttons on a shirt.	Folder 2	Item 69
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Publicity shot of Jay Michaels and Harriet Curingstone (?) from the WPA theatre production of I Confess!, Spring 1936.	Folder 2	Item 73
Portrait of Jay Michaels, an actor for Detroit's Federal Theatre Project company, c. 1936.	Folder 2	Item 74
Portrait of Dorothy Fenn, an actress for Detroit's Federal Theatre Project company, c. 1936.	Folder 2	Item 75
Portrait of Douglas Wright (?), an actor for Detroit's Federal Theatre Project company, c. 1936.	Folder 2	Item 76
Portrait of an unidentified actress for Detroit's Federal Theatre Project company, c. 1936.	Folder 2	Item 77

"Amy's Girlhood Home," Act 1, Scene 2, from the Detroit WPA theatre group production of I Confess!, April 28, 1936.	Folder 2	Item 78
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A scene from the Detroit WPA theatre production of The Road to Rome. Left to right: Hershell Mayall as Fabius Maximus), unidentified, actor Helen Budd, Harriet Curringstone (?), and Peggy Fenn (as the wife of Maximus), July 13, 1936.	Folder 2	Item 84
A scene from the Detroit WPA theatre production of The Road to Rome, July 13, 1936. Second from the right is Jay Michaels as Hannibal.	Folder 2	Item 85
"A Movie," Act I, Scene 4, from the Detroit WPA theatre group production of I Confess!, April 28, 1936.	Folder 2	Item 86
Book Three	Box 1	Folder 3
Administrator for the Works Progress Administration (WPA), labeled as "The Boss."	Folder 3	Item 1
Works Progress Administration (WPA) Division Heads: Lee S. Palmer, Operations; WB Leaser, Employment; FC Watters, Finance; Miss Murray, Women's Work.	Folder 3	Item 2
Works Progress Administration (WPA) District Directors (left to right): L.E. Fisher, F.L. Fulton, A.D. MacRae, H.R. Loudon, RA Lawson, M.A. Holland, H.W. Clark, F.S. Benjamin.	Folder 3	Item 3
Employees of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division bind and repair books, possibly at the Studebaker Plant.	Folder 3	Item 4
Employees of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division repair damaged sheet music, possibly at the Studebaker Plant .	Folder 3	Item 5
Employee of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division repairs damaged books, possibly at the Studebaker Plant .	Folder 3	Item 6
Employees of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division repair damaged books, possibly at the Studebaker Plant.	Folder 3	Item 7

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Hospital aides from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division make beds at a Detroit Hospital.	Folder 3	Item 8
A hospital aide from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division distributes water to patients at a Detroit Hospital.	Folder 3	Item 9
A hospital aide from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division cleans a bedside table at a Detroit Hospital.	Folder 3	Item 10
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Employees of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Women's Division organize note cards.	Folder 3	Item 16
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Woman training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project irons a shirt.	Folder 3	Item 18
Woman training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project sifts flour while learning how to bake.	Folder 3	Item 19
Woman training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project works at the stove while a supervisor looks on.	Folder 3	Item 20
Women training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project study in the library.	Folder 3	Item 21
Woman training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project demonstrates how to answer the door correctly.	Folder 3	Item 22
Woman training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project pushes a baby in a carriage in a park.	Folder 3	Item 23
African American women training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project practice serving tea.	Folder 3	Item 24
African American women training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project practice making a bed.	Folder 3	Item 25

African American woman training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project serves breakfast in bed to another trainee.	Folder 3	Item 26
African American woman training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project demonstrates how to correctly take phone messages.	Folder 3	Item 27
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African American women training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project bake and wash dishes in the kitchen.	Folder 3	Item 29
African American woman training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project bake in the kitchen.	Folder 3	Item 30
African American man training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project demonstrates how to iron towels.	Folder 3	Item 31
Portrait of African American man training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project.	Folder 3	Item 32
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African American men training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project demonstrate how to serve tea.	Folder 3	Item 34
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African Americans man training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project serves a meal.	Folder 3	Item 38
African American man training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project serves a meal.	Folder 3	Item 39
African American man training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project washes hands at sink.	Folder 3	Item 40
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African American man training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project bakes muffins.	Folder 3	Item 43
African Americans man training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project bakes muffins.	Folder 3	Item 44

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African American woman training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project read magazines, such as Better Homes and Gardens, with a project supervisor.	Folder 3	Item 48
African American woman training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project read magazines, such as Better Homes and Gardens, with a project supervisor.	Folder 3	Item 49
African American women training under the State Household Training Demonstration Project work in the kitchen.	Folder 3	Item 50
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Children play baseball, presumably under the supervision of a Works Progress Administration Recreation Project employee.	Folder 3	Item 54
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Children play tennis, presumably under the supervision of a Works Progress Administration Recreation Project employee.	Folder 3	Item 56
Children play baseball, presumably under the supervision of a Works Progress Administration Recreation Project employee.	Folder 3	Item 57
Children play baseball, presumably under the supervision of a Works Progress Administration Recreation Project employee.	Folder 3	Item 58
Children play a game, perhaps "London Bridge" or "Sparrows" under the supervision of a Works Progress Administration Recreation Project employee.	Folder 3	Item 59
Children climb on wooden blocks, presumably at a Works Progress Administration (WPA) nursery school.	Folder 3	Item 60
Child playing on a wagon, presumably at a Works Progress Administration (WPA) nursery school .	Folder 3	Item 61
Children playing on a wagon, presumably at a Works Progress Administration (WPA) nursery school.	Folder 3	Item 62

Children painting at easels, presumably at a Works Progress Administration (WPA) nursery school.	Folder 3	Item 63
Children playing outdoors, presumably at a Works Progress Administration (WPA) nursery school.	Folder 3	Item 64
Child painting at easel, presumably at a Works Progress Administration (WPA) nursery school.	Folder 3	Item 65
Children playing outdoors, presumably at a Works Progress Administration (WPA) nursery school.	Folder 3	Item 66
Children read magazines in a storefront library sponsored through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Library Project.	Folder 3	Item 67
Children read books and converse with a librarian in a storefront library sponsored through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Library Project.	Folder 3	Item 68
Children read books near a stove as a librarian shelves books in a storefront library sponsored through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Library Project.	Folder 3	Item 69
Children read books and converse with a librarian in a storefront library sponsored through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Library Project.	Folder 3	Item 70
Scene of children in a classroom. In the rear a woman employed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) repairs worn schoolbooks.	Folder 3	Item 71
A woman employed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) repairs worn schoolbooks.	Folder 3	Item 72
Exterior of a one room schoolhouse with children standing on front steps.	Folder 3	Item 73
Interior of a one room schoolhouse with children reading books near an open bookcase.	Folder 3	Item 74
Interior of a one room schoolhouse with children reading books at their desks.	Folder 3	Item 75
Exterior of one room schoolhouse with children playing in front yard.	Folder 3	Item 76
Interior of a home of a social aide client showing a front room in disarray.	Folder 3	Item 77
Interior of a home of a social aide client showing a front room after being cleaned by a Works Progress Administration Household Aide.	Folder 3	Item 78
Interior of a home of a social aide client showing a front room after being cleaned by a Works Progress Administration Household Aide. Shows child sitting net to a stove.	Folder 3	Item 79
Interior of a home of a social aide client showing a bedroom in disarray before being cleaned by a Works Progress Administration Household Aide.	Folder 3	Item 80

Interior of a home of a social aide client showing a bedroom after being cleaned by a Works Progress Administration Household Aide. Also shows an elderly woman in a wheelchair.	Folder 3	Item 81
Household Aide trained through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) hangs laundry in a client's backyard.	Folder 3	Item 82
Interior of the home of a social aide client showing an invalid man in a bed.	Folder 3	Item 83
Interior of the home of a social aide client showing an invalid woman in a wheelchair.	Folder 3	Item 84
Interior of the home of a social aide client showing a kitchen.	Folder 3	Item 85
Household Aide trained through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) hangs laundry in a client's backyard.	Folder 3	Item 86
Interior of the home of a social aide client showing a kitchen.	Folder 3	Item 87
Interior of the home of a social aide client showing a bathroom / washroom in disarray.	Folder 3	Item 88
Interior of the home of a social aide client showing a bathroom / washroom after being cleaned by a Works Progress Administration (WPA) Household Aide.	Folder 3	Item 89
Interior of the home of a social aide client showing a bedroom in disarray.	Folder 3	Item 90
Interior of the home of a social aide client showing a bedroom cleaned by a Works Progress Administration (WPA) Household Aide.	Folder 3	Item 91
Children sitting outside of a home on a stack of tires.	Folder 3	Item 92
Children playing on a fence next to a gas station.	Folder 3	Item 93
Child sitting at a table with a glass of milk.	Folder 3	Item 94
Young girl sitting with her father at a table.	Folder 3	Item 95
Interior of the home of a social aide client showing a room in disarray.	Folder 3	Item 96
Portrait of a bedridden woman.	Folder 3	Item 97
Two small girls sit on a front porch with a dog.	Folder 3	Item 98
Portrait of a bedridden woman and child.	Folder 3	Item 99
Two small girls sit on a backyard stoop with a dog.	Folder 3	Item 100
Portrait of a small girl standing against a fence.	Folder 3	Item 101
Woman trained through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Household Training Project cleans the kitchen of a social aide client.	Folder 3	Item 102
A child sits at a table set for breakfast.	Folder 3	Item 103

