

Edith McCroskey Zears Papers 1934-1941, undated

Creator: Edith McCroskey Zears (1890-1993)

Extent: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Please contact wlarchives@luc.edu regarding use.

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Copyright to materials is held by original owner.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Edith McCroskey Zears Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Provenance: Katherine Durack donated her great-aunt's papers to the Women and Leadership Archives in 2004 (WLA2004.06).

Processor: Sutton Skowron, August 2010

Processing Information: Finding aid updated January 2026.

Separations: 0.08 linear feet of extraneous material was removed.

See Also: Agatha Rossetti Hessley Papers and Homemakers Equal Rights Association Records at the Women and Leadership Archives.

Biographical History

Edith McCroskey was born in Nebraska on January 12, 1890 to Harvey and Flora McCroskey. As a child, she moved with her family to Oklahoma in 1895. An independent and civic-minded woman, Edith was 30 years old in 1920 when women finally received the right to vote and opened her home as a polling place. Edith married Charles R. Zears on January 23, 1921 in Stillwater, Oklahoma. In the 1930s she was very involved with The Speakers Institute, a women's home study course in public speaking, storytelling, and elocution. Edith died in Colorado Springs May 31, 1993 at the age of 103 and is buried in Oklahoma City, where she spent most of her life.

Scope and Content

The Edith McCroskey Zears Papers consist of material relating to Edith's involvement in The Speakers Institute, as well as grammatical information and home economics tips from the 1930s. These documents include course manuals and lesson plans, newspaper articles, and household advice from the now-defunct U.S. Bureau of Home Economics. Materials are arranged alphabetically within each series and chronologically within each folder.

Series 1: Personal, 1934-1941, undated, Box 1

This series contains items relating to Edith's interest in speaking and home economics, touching briefly on some politics of the time. These documents include newspaper articles, notes of speeches, speech course materials, and grammatical exercises.

Series 2: Visual and Bound Items, 1935-1939, undated, Box 1

This series contains a pictorial reproduction of a painting, as well as bound course materials and a course manual for The Speakers Institute.

Subjects:

- Grammar
- Home economics
- Public speaking
- Speakers Institute, Chicago
- Zears, Edith McCroskey (1890-1993)

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		<i>Edith McCroskey Zears Papers 1934-1941, undated</i>	
		Series 1: Personal, 1934-1941, undated	
1	1	Grammar	1941, undated
1	2	Home Economics	1934-1937, undated
1	3	Magic of Speech	1937
1	4	Newspaper Articles	1938, undated
1	5	Notes, Programs, and Speeches	1936-1939, undated
1	6	The Speakers Institute	1936-1938, undated
		Series 2: Visual and Bound Items, 1935-1939, undated	
1	7	Copy of Thayer Painting	undated
1	8	Course Manual	1935
1	9	Extension Course, Part A	1935
1	10	Extension Course, Part B	1935-1937
1	11	Topics for Discussion	1936-1939