

McLean County Museum of History

Ada Finley Collection

Processed by
Mary Alice Wills
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1960 -1987
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	Gift of granddaughter Megan Riley in August 2022
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

Brief History

Ada was born in Hudson, Illinois, to George and Josie Lentz on July 19, 1898. She married Stephen Eugene (Gene) Finley on September 8, 1920. They had two sons and lived in Lexington. She was a member of several community organizations: Women's Welfare Home Extension of Lexington, Thursday Coffee Club, DAR, and the Lexington Historical and Genealogical Society/ Every year starting in 1960 she kept a diary, one for the trips she took and one for day-to-day life. On September 8, 1970, Ada and Gene Finley celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by taking a month-long trip with their friends Russell and Anna who were celebrating their 48th anniversary. Ada kept an extensive diary of the trip and expenses. Gene died in December 1974. She kept her diaries through July 1987. Ada died on October 22, 1987.

Scope

The collection includes 31 diaries, her obituary, souvenirs, brochures, and postcards from her trips. An extensive account of the 50th anniversary trip in 1970 is separate along with the diary for that trip. Her diaries include every year from 1960 (except 1961 and 1986) through mid-1987. All are records of daily life, and many of the years have a separate diary for trips taken and their travel expenses.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Finley Collection

- 1.1 "Ada Finley Collection," list of box components, 2 copies.
- 1.2 Handwritten list of materials donated, presumably from donor.

Folder 2: Obituary

- 1.2.1 Ada L. Finley, *The Pantagraph*, October 24, 1987, p. C8.

Folder 3: Travel Guides, Maps, Brochures & Miscellaneous

- 1.3.1 Yosemite National Park map and brochure.
- 1.3.2 "Ye Olde Hoosier Inn," Stockton, California, menu, 2 copies.
- 1.3.3 "Thoughts To Live By," "Ye Olde Hoosier Inn" brochure.
- 1.3.4 "Ye Olde Hoosier Inn," location map.
- 1.3.5 "Old Faithful," one page brochure.
- 1.3.6 "Natural History Notes," BANFF National Park, Canada, brochure w/photo.
- 1.3.7 "A Brief Guide To The Butchart Gardens," British Columbia, Canada, brochure w/map, 2 copies.
- 1.3.8 "The Space Needle Restaurant," souvenir.
- 1.3.9 "Greater Vancouver," map and brochure.
- 1.3.10 "Colored Ears, Changed Yearly, Decorate Exterior of Hall," one page article w/photo.

Folder 4: Anniversary Trip

- 1.4.1 "Travelling with Anna and Russell," typed account of the 50th-anniversary trip, 38 pages.
- 1.4.2 Day-by-day diary of anniversary trip from September 8, 1970, to October 4, 1970.

Folder 5: Postcards from Anniversary Trip

- 1.5.1 Saskatchewan River Bungalows, picture postcard mailed to George Lentz from Ada & Gene, September 15, 1970.
- 1.5.2 Glasgow, Montana, picture postcard, not posted.
- 1.5.3 Trick Falls - Glacier National Park, Montana, picture postcard mailed to George Lentz from Ada & Gene, September 17, 1970.
- 1.5.4 Antelope, Montana, picture postcard, not posted.
- 1.5.5 LeBarrow's Coffee Shop, Idaho Falls, Idaho, mileage pocket card w/ picture.
- 1.5.6 Haven Motel, Idaho Falls, Idaho, picture postcard mailed to George Lentz from Ada & Gene, September 29, 1970.
- 1.5.7 Craters of the Moon National Monument, picture postcard, not posted.
- 1.5.9 Charburger Restaurants, Oregon, picture postcard, not posted.
- 1.5.10 Ecola Park Looking South - Oregon Coast, picture postcard mailed to George Lentz from Ada & Gene.
- 1.5.11 Space Needle, Seattle, U.S.A., picture postcard mailed to George Lentz from Ada & Gene, September 20, 1970.
- 1.5.12 Ye Olde Hoosier Inn, Stockton, California, exterior picture postcard, not posted.
- 1.5.13 Ye Olde Hoosier Inn, Stockton, California, dining room picture postcard, not posted.
- 1.5.14 Ye Olde Hoosier Inn, Stockton, California, dining room picture postcard mailed to George Lentz from Ada & Gene, September 24, 1970.
- 1.5.15 Towne House Motel, Stockton, California, picture postcard, not posted.
- 1.5.16 Glacier Point, Mariposa, California, picture postcard mailed to George Lentz from Ada & Gene, September 25, 1970.
- 1.5.17 Overhanging Rock, Yosemite National Park, California, picture postcard mailed to George Lentz from Ada & Gene, September 27, 1970.
- 1.5.18 Astoria Bridge, picture postcard, not posted.

Diaries – 1960s

- 1960 Small pocket-size memo booklet, trip, financial info.
- 1962 Small pocket-size memo booklet, trips and expenses.
- 1966 Small pocket-size memo booklet, trip, info.
- 1966 Daily reminder/desk calendar – daily living entries.
- 1967 Larger pocket-size memo booklet, trips, mileage, expenses.
- 1968 Small pocket-size memo booklet, trips and expenses.
- 1968 Daily reminder/desk calendar – daily living entries.
- 1969 Daily reminder/desk calendar – daily living entries.

Diaries – 1970s

- 1970 Year Book diary – daily living entries.
- 1970/71 Travel Log – trips and expenses.
- 1971 Calendar diary – daily living entries.
- 1972 Desk Diary – daily living entries.
- 1973 Memo Book – trips and expenses.
- 1973 Diary – daily living entries.
- 1974 Diary – daily living entries (Gene dies December 6).
- 1975 Diary - daily living entries.
- 1976 Year Book diary – daily living entries.
- 1977 One Year Diary – daily living entries.
- 1978 Notes – trips and expenses.
- 1978 Diary – daily living entries.
- 1979 Week at a Glance – daily living entries.

Diaries – 1980s

- 1980 Trip Diary – trips and expenses.
- 1980 My Daily Journal – daily living entries.
- 1981 Diary – daily living entries.
- 1982 Diary – daily living entries.
- 1983 Diary - daily living entries (begins with the end of December 1982).
- 1984 Diary - daily living entries to April 26.
- 1984 Diary – daily living entries starting April 28.
- 1985 One Year Diary – daily living entries.
- 1987 Diary – daily living expenses (2 entries from 1986).