

McLean County Museum of History

Mary Selk Collection

Processed by
Carol Straka
December 2023

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1939-2023
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	
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

Born in Peoria, Mary Ellen Selk (1921-2023) graduated El Paso High in 1939, attended Illinois Wesleyan University, and earned both BA (1944) and MA (1954) from Illinois State University.

She taught K-12 vocal music in Yorkville and Woodstock before starting a long career at Bloomington High School in 1949. She directed vocal music at BHS until 1967 when she became Director of Music Activities for District 87, retiring in 1980.

Selk was known for her dry sense of humor and her “tireless devotion to her chosen profession.”

Scope

The collection includes four scrapbooks, newspaper articles, an oral history interview, etc.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: General

- 1.1 Oral history interview, Nov 2013, 26pp plus summary, release, and photograph.
- 1.2 Obituary: *Pantagraph*, Apr 21, 1923.
- 1.3 Obituary from funeral home posting, April 2023. 2 copies.
- 1.4 "Blast from the past," *Pantagraph*, Sep 28, 2013.
- 1.5 Gift agreement and related correspondence, Nov 2023.

Loose Scrapbooks:

1. 1939-1945 Red cover.
Primarily student days at Illinois Wesleyan (1939-41) and Illinois State (1941-44) Universities. Includes photos, newspaper articles, musical and theatrical programs including recitals by famous visiting artists and university functions but seldom focusing on Selk herself. Non-musical events include Womens' Day at ISNU, swim team events, faculty, etc.
2. 1959-1960. Black cover.
Includes program for dedication of new Bloomington High School (Oct 1959), concert programs, newspaper coverage of BHS musical events, appreciative correspondence from the community for Selk's musical groups.
3. 1965-1966. Red cover.
Similar to #2 above with focus on BHS choral groups including regional and state music festivals.
4. 1966-1967. Dark red cover.
Similar to #2 & #3 above. Includes BHS production of *Sound of Music* (1966), newspaper coverage of Selk's appointment as District 87's director of music, newspaper articles about students' participation in other activities such as speech, etc.