

# Sears, Charles, Oral History Interview

Charles Sears Oral History Interview

1988



## Title Statement

Sears, Charles, Oral History Interview Charles Sears Oral History Interview, 1988 Ms.1988.027

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## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.1988.027

### Unit Date

1988

### Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

### Abstract

Audiocassette tape contains an oral history interview with Virginia Tech Professor Charles Sears, conducted by John Straw, University Archivist. Sears discusses the history of the Virginia Tech Geology Department (today the Department of Geosciences), where he served as a professor and founded the Virginia Tech Seismological Observatory.

### Creator

Sears, Charles, d. 1998

### Creator

Straw, John B.

### Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

## Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

# Administrative Information

## Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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## Source of Acquisition

The Charles Sears Oral History Interview was donated to Special Collections and University Archives in 1988.

## Processing Information

The processing and description of this collection commenced and was completed in April 2021.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Charles Sears Oral History Interview, Ms1988-027, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

# Biographical Note

Charles E. Sears Jr. was born February 3, 1911. He graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute with a degree in mining geology and obtained his master's at VPI in 1935. Three years later, Sears was hired as acting head of mining engineering at his alma mater. In 1942, he was called to active military duty. Sears returned to VPI in 1946 and from 1950 to 1952 attended the Colorado School of Mines, from which he earned a doctoral degree. In addition to instruction and research, he founded and served as director of the Virginia Tech Seismological Observatory. Charles Sears retired from Virginia Tech in 1977 and died on July 8, 1998.

# Scope and Content

The Charles Sears Oral History Interview consists of a single audiocassette containing an interview of Sears performed by University Archivist John Straw. The interview, approximately 55 minutes in length, focuses on Sears' experiences as a student at Virginia Tech in the late 1920s / early 1930s and as a professor in the Geology Department from the 1930s to the 1970s. The interview discusses Sears general student experiences as well as experiences specific to his major; the development and personnel of the Geology Department; and the work of the Virginia Tech Seismological Observatory.

# Keywords

Faculty and staff

Students and alumni

University History

Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1944-1970)

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (1970-)

# Rights Statement for Archival Description

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# Description of Subordinate Components

**Audiocassette tape**

**Unit Date** 1988

**folder** 1