

Belt, Mae Alvan Diaries

Mae Alvan Belt Diaries

1933-1943



WILLIAM
& MARY

CHARTERED 1693

Title Statement

Belt, Mae Alvan DiariesGuide to the Mae Alvan Belt Diaries MS 00155

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS 00155

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/1001

Unit Date

1933-1943

Language

English

Creator

Belt, Mae Alvan, b. circa 1916

Extent

0.25 Linear Feet

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access:

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Acquisition Information:

Purchase.

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Biographical Information:

Further information about this individual or organization may be available in the Special Collections Research Center Wiki: http://scdbwiki.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/Mae_Alvan_Belt.

Scope and Contents

3 Diaries, 1933, 1936-1940 and 1941-1943 of Mae Alvan Belt of Rockville, Maryland. The 1933 girl scout diary was written while Mae Belt was a teenager and contains brief entries that mention school, house work, and social life. The 1936-1940 diary contains brief daily entries. Mae Belt seems to live with her parents and mentions going to work, working some evenings, helping with Red Cross work, doing house hold chores, but also comments on her social life and particular her courtship with a man named Frank, whom she should marry in the early 1940s.

The 1941-1943 volume also contains brief daily entries relating to her work, her relationship with Frank, and social activities. At some time she was enrolled in Red Cross nursing classes and also mentions her engagement to Frank and moving into a room of her own.

The following description was provided by the seller:

"The diaries represent the years 1933 (Girl Scout diary), 1936-1940 (5 year diary) and 1941-1943 (Another 5 year diary but only 3 years written on). By the time the 1936 diary begins, Mae is in her early 20's, dating a man by the name of Frank, either is in or has been to college and wonders if Frank and her will be married before he gets drafted. They also take a 2 week road trip at the end of summer in 1940 to Yellowstone Park and I believe that is where she buys her Yellowstone diary. I've taken most of my quotes from that particular trip. The Girl Scout diary has entries from March 17th through November 1st. The entries have to do with her time as a teenage girl but there are no entries about the girl scouts. There were also 6 postcards with this lot and 1 photo (found in one of the diaries). All of the postcards date between 1937-1941 [addressed to Mae Belt."

For selected excerpts, also provided by the seller, see finding aid link below.

Keywords

Clippings (information artifacts)

Diaries

Photographs

Postcards

Maryland--Social life and customs--20th century

Courtship--United States--History--20th century

Women--Diaries

Description of Subordinate Components

Diary

Unit ID id70540

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/98361

Unit Date 1933

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

The following excerpts were provided by the seller: "Went to church. Slept on wedding cake and dreamed silliest dream. Lewis and Bob came down and we played Hi Spy. Everything ok.....Went to church and studied all afternoon. At night Claude, Lewis, Bob and Virginia were out with us. Played spin the bottle and truth and consequences.....Met and played truth and consequences. Some awful consequences. I dislike Bob more and more. I like Claude a little more.....Mother went away. Claude spend afternoon here. We found a dead man in the street. Will came down... Went to the beach with Manard, Tucker, Violet and some others. Went to Arundel on the bay.....At beach. Went swimming at 4:45 a.m. Ate breakfast and went in again. The man in charge made me do a least 4 tricks. Had great time.....Went to the medicine show and also to the Olney picnic. Had a good time.....Went up in the mountains and in Virginia. Had a right good time. Spent the night a Miss Helen.....Went to Stronghold, the estate of a rich man. Plenty of hard mountain climbing. Beautiful and wonderful view....."

Diary

Unit ID id70541

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/98362

Unit Date 1936-1940

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents

The following excerpts were provided by the seller: 1940 "June 19th, Went to work. Just another day. At night went to movies at Bethesda with Frank. Saw "High School" and "Adventure in Diamonds." Jehovah's Witness raid tonight in Rockville." "August 26th, Started on our trip. Miserable weather. Saw Ocie in Leesburg. Hot lunch in Clarksburg, W. Va. At night ate and slept at Columbus, Ohio." "August 28th, Had breakfast in Hannibal Mo. Saw Quaker Oats, Swift and Armour buildings at St. Joseph, Mo. Had lunch in Perry Kansas and spent the night in Stockton, Kansas." "August 30th, Shopped in Denver for souvenirs. In afternoon went up on Mt. Evans (14,283 ft.) over longest and highest mountain road in the world. Got caught in snowstorm and mixed up with electricity. Had dinner at Aunt Mamies." "September 1st, Left early for Estes Park. Dad, mother, Uncle Claude, Leonard, Eleanor and I went. Took lots of snapshots. Had dinner at Grand Lake, highest yacht anchorage in the world. Bought more souvenirs. After dinner at Aunt Mamie's. Went to bed early." "September 2nd, Visited the Henry's. Left for Yellowstone. Had lunch in Laramie, Wyo. and spent the night at Pinedale, Wyo. in the desert a hundred miles from nearest town. All buildings and even our beds made of logs." "September 3rd, Drove 89 miles through Hoback Canyon to breakfast in Jackson Hole. Did Yellowstone quickly. Saw Old Faithful twice. Spent the night in Cody, Wyoming. A real Western town. Went through Teton National Park. Wonderful." "September 4th, Drove through the Big Horn Mountains. Beautiful but nerve wracking. Bought myself a ring in Sheridan, Wyo. Spent the night in Rapid City S. Dak. Went through the Black Hills today." "September 5th, Had horrible breakfast after riding a hundred miles in the desert. Had lunch in Mitchell, S.D. and saw the corn castles. Drove late. Had supper in Mapleton Ia. and spent the night in Denison Iowa."

Diary, 1941-1943 and loose items

Unit ID id70542

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/98363

Unit Date 1938-1943

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Loose items include postcards, a photograph, news clipping and dried flowers.