

Helen Holt Papers regarding Federal Housing Administration and Other Material A&M 4039

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1927-2013



Title Statement

Helen Holt Papers regarding Federal Housing Administration and Other Material A&M 4039

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A&M 4039

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

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Unit ID

[Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

[Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

[Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/3372

Unit Date

1927-2013

Unit Date

1960-1963

Language

English

Creator

Holt, Helen Louise Froelich, 1913-2015

Extent

0.83 Linear Feet 10 in. (2 document cases, 5 in.)

Physical Location

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Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

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Biographical / Historical

Helen Louise Holt was born in Gridley, Illinois, in 1913, the daughter of William and Edna Froelich, a well respected farming family. William Froelich served several terms as mayor of Gridley. Helen graduated from high school in 1930; attended Stephens College, receiving an A.A. degree in 1932; and attended Northwestern University, earning a B.A. in 1934 and a M.S. in Biology in 1938. Later Helen started working toward a doctorate at University of Missouri and University of North Carolina. She was a science librarian and teaching assistant at Stephens College and taught Biology at National Park College near Washington D.C., 1938-1941. In 1940, Helen Froelich was introduced to the junior Senator from West Virginia, Rush Dew Holt by Senator Holt's sister, Jane, after the Senator saw Helen's picture in Life Magazine. The article refuted a letter written by a reader claiming female teachers were 'ugly' by publishing photographs of attractive, intelligent women educators. All the photographs were sent to the magazine by students, including Helen Froelich's. Senator Holt and Helen Froelich were married a year later.

The couple moved to West Virginia after Senator Holt lost his bid for renomination to retain his senate seat. Two children were born to the couple, Helen Jane Holt and Rush Dew Holt, Jr. During this period, Mrs. Holt described herself as a homemaker while Senator Holt worked on restoring his political career and running for office. Helen Holt was involved in the inner circle of her husband's campaigns and during his service in the West Virginia legislature. In 1955, Rush Dew Holt died of cancer, and Helen Holt was appointed by the governor to fulfill her late husband's term in the House of Delegates. In 1957, after the death of the Secretary of State, Governor Cecil Underwood appointed Helen Holt to the office of Secretary of State, making her the first woman to hold that position in West Virginia history. After losing to Joe F. Burdett for election to the office in 1958, Mrs. Holt continued to break the gender barrier: she was the first woman appointed assistant commissioner of public institutions in West Virginia, she was voted to serve as a delegate at large at the Republican Convention, and she was later the first woman to serve as a trustee on the Board of the National Presbyterian Church in Washington. In 1960, Helen Holt received a Presidential appointment as Special

Assistant to the Commissioner of the Federal Housing Administration. She was later made the Director of Mortgage Insurance for Nursing Homes, and assistant to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Helen Froelich Holt retired from government service in 1983, but still remains active in her church, family and public service.

Scope and Contents

Papers of Helen (Froelich) Holt, wife of West Virginia Senator Rush D. Holt, Sr. who later become involved with state and national politics. Contains a scrapbook of material documenting Holt's work with the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) regarding nursing home reform. Scrapbook includes newspaper clippings, photographs, pamphlets, programs, and other material (1960-1963). Also contains items regarding the National Park Seminary at Forest Glen, where Holt had taught at the National Park College for Women (2008-2013); schools attended by Holt, including an autograph book, scrapbook, and yearbook (1927-1932); a congressional directory (1938); and an album of photographs from Rush and Helen Holt's wedding (1941).

Related A&M Collections

0873, 1858, 3001, 3943, 4218

Keywords

Nursing Homes -- United States
Politicians -- United States
Politics and government.
Gridley High School (Gridley, Ill.)
National Park College (Forest Glen, Silver Spring, Md.)
National Park Seminary (Forest Glen, Silver Spring, Md.)
Stephens College
Holt, Helen Louise Froelich, 1913-2015
Holt, Rush Dew, 1905-1955
United States. Federal Housing Administration

Description of Subordinate Components

Federal Housing Administration scrapbook items 1-25

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/192459

Unit Date 1960-1961

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Federal Housing Administration scrapbook items 26-52

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/192460

Unit Date 1960-1961

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Federal Housing Administration scrapbook items 53-75

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/192462

Unit Date 1960-1962

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Federal Housing Administration scrapbook items 76-100

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/192463

Unit Date 1962

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Federal Housing Administration scrapbook items 101-125

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/192464

Unit Date 1962-1963

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Federal Housing Administration scrapbook items 126-150

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/192465

Unit Date 1961-1963

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Federal Housing Administration scrapbook items 151-165

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/192466

Unit Date 1961-1963

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Federal Housing Administration scrapbook item 166

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/192467

Unit Date 1961

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Federal Housing Administration scrapbook items 167-172

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/192468

Unit Date 1961

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

Federal Housing Administration scrapbook item 173

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/192469

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Federal Housing Administration scrapbook item 174-189

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/192470

Unit Date 1962-1963

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

"Enchanted Forest Glen: The Endangered Legacy of National Park Seminary Historic District"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/192471

Unit Date 2004

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Publications, DVD, and photocopy regarding National Park College for Women

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/192472

Unit Date 2008-2013

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 13 (Folder)

Autograph book kept by Holt

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/192473

Unit Date 1927-1928

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

"The Girl Graduate's Journal" scrapbook kept by Holt regarding Gridley High School, Girdley, Illinois (with original cardboard box)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/192461

Unit Date 1930

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

"Stephensophia" yearbook of Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/192474

Unit Date 1932

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Congressional Directory

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/192475

Unit Date 1938

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Photograph album of wedding of Rush and Helen Holt

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/192476

Unit Date 1941

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)