

Myrtle Edwards papers, 1955-1973

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Edwards, Myrtle
Title	Myrtle Edwards papers
Dates	1955-1973 (inclusive) 1955 1973
Quantity	circa 5.43 cubic ft
Collection Number	1391, 1717, 1766
Summary	Correspondence, scrapbooks, literature from trip to Israel, appointment books, photographs, awards and biographical data of a Jewish American
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	Open to all users
Languages	English

Biographical Note

Myrtle Edwards was born in 1894, and studied music as a young women. She studied music at the University of Illinois, where she earned her Bachelor's degree, the American College of Music, and the Illinois College of Music. She became a voice teacher at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, where she met and married Harlan H. Edwards, a civil engineer and the son of the founding family of the American Conservation of Music, in 1918.

The couple moved to Seattle in the early 1940s after living in Illinois and California and had two children. In Seattle, Myrtle became involved in the Seattle and Washington State League of Women Voters, serving as president of both, and the Seattle Council of Churches, where she was a member of the executive board. She was also active in the Municipal League, the American Association of University Women, Business and Professional Women, the Boy Scouts, and the Camp Fire Girls. She and Harlan were also members of the Audubon Society and the Sierra Club. In 1964, Seattle Beautiful Inc. named her Citizen of the Year, for her tireless work with the organization, which promoted public parks, boulevard plantings, and programs that enhanced neighborhood beautification.

Once their youngest child was in college, Myrtle went back to school at the University of Washington to get her degree in political science, and entered politics. In 1955, she was appointed to the Seattle City Council and elected a year later. She later served as president of the City Council. In each of her elections, a time when the council was elected at large, she received the most votes, furthermore, in 1964, she received more votes than any other council candidate had ever received.

She was very committed to parks and green spaces and worked to make these spaces an integral part of the city. She was also a strong supporter of the arts, and was most proud of the remodeled Opera House and the various theaters on its campus. Myrtle Edwards died unexpectedly due to injuries sustained in a car accident in 1969. To honor her legacy, the former Elliot Bay Park was renamed Myrtle Edwards Park. The park, which had been a dumping ground for construction and industrial projects, was transformed into a waterfront park overlooking Puget Sound in honor of the kinds of project she supported throughout her career.

Content Description

Consult the scope and content information for each of the accessions listed below.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Organized into 4 accessions.

Accession No. 1391-001, Myrtle Edwards papers, 1955-1969

Accession No. 1717-001, Myrtle Edwards papers, 1959-1965

Accession No. 1766-001, Myrtle Edwards papers, 1959-1969

Accession No. 1766-002, Myrtle Edwards papers, 1973

Detailed Description of the Collection

Accession No. 1391-001: Myrtle Edwards papers, 1955-1969

4.5' linear (3 boxes)

Scope and Content: Correspondence, scrapbooks, appointment books, photographs, awards, ephemera; 1955-1969.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Acquisition Info: Harlan H. Edwards, 1970-07-23

Accession No. 1717-001: Myrtle Edwards papers, 1959-1965

5" linear.

Myrtle Edwards papers, 1955-1973

<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv02890>

Scope and Content: Ephemera, photographs; ca. 1959-1965.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Acquisition Info: Mr. Harlan H. Edwards. Transferred from Engineering Library by Harold Wiren, 1971-09-13

Accession No. 1766-001: Myrtle Edwards papers, 1959-1969

1.2 cu. ft. (3 boxes)

Scope and Content: Convention literature, 1964, Jerusalem, Israel; literature from trip to Israel; scrapbook of clippings; charter of the City of Seattle.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Acquisition Info: Harlan Edwards, 1971-11-16

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/ Folder	Accession	
1	1766-001 League of Women Voters <u>Scope and Content:</u> Newsletters, current discussions and issues	1962
1	1766-001 Seattle Worlds Fair <u>Scope and Content:</u> Pamphlets, maps, invitations, photographs, publications, ephemera	1962
1	1766-001 Conference Programs and Records	1959-1966
1	1766-001 Newsletters	1962-1966
1	1766-001 Publications and Reports	1959-1966
1	1766-001 Ephemera	undated
2	1766-001 Convention Literature, Jerusalem, Israel	1964
2	1766-001 Literature from Trip to Israel	1964
2	1766-001 Washington State Urban Study Tour of Europe	1966
2	1766-001 27th World Congress, Jerusalem (list of delegates)	1964
2	1766-001 Israel Notes and Gazette	1964, undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2	1766-001 Travel Brochures	undated
3	1766-001 Original Account of Funds for Election Campaign	1964
3	1766-001 Campaign Contributions (cards)	undated
3	1766-001 Memorabilia	undated

[VF:Oversize](#)

Oversize	1766-001 Scrapbook <u>Scope and Content:</u> Clippings and correspondence regarding Myrtle Edwards' accident and death	1969
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Accession No. 1766-002: Myrtle Edwards papers, 1973

1 folder

Scope and Content: Biographical data, Dec 1973.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Acquisition Info: Addition - Biographical data, Acc # 1766-002, Box 1 donor, Harlan Edwards via Mrs. Norris, former Dean of Engineering, 1973-12-01

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Municipal government--Washington (State)
 Voting--Societies, etc
 Voting--Washington (State)
 Women--Political activity--Societies, etc
 Women--Political activity--Washington (State)
 Women--Washington (State)--Societies and clubs

Personal Names :

Edwards, Myrtle--Archives
 Pelly, Thomas M. (Thomas Minor), 1902-1973

Corporate Names :

League of Women Voters of Seattle
 Seattle (Wash.). City Council

Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)--Politics and government
 Washington (State)--Politics and government--1951-

Form or Genre Terms :

Charters
 Scrapbooks

Occupations :

Myrtle Edwards papers, 1955-1973

<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv02890>

City council members--Washington (State)
Civic leaders--Washington (State)
Women city council members--Washington (State)
Women civic leaders--Washington (State)

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Personal Papers/Corporate Records (University of Washington)

2014 (Last modified: 4/13/2018)



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