

Collection #
SC 3669

**JOANNE ROTHWELL
AUTOBIOGRAPHY, C. 1933**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder, 2 photographs

COLLECTION DATES: Circa 1933

PROVENANCE: Peggy Korsmo-Kennon, 2024

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Sarah Hill Fletcher diaries, BV2187-BV2192

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2024.0106

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Joanne Elizabeth Rothwell was born 2 October 1919 in Indianapolis. Her parents were Joseph and Laura [Manigold] Rothwell. She had an older sister, Wilma, and brother, Charles. When Joanne was four years old, her family was preparing to move to South Bend. The night before they were to leave, a homemade bomb or grenade was thrown at the house of a next-door neighbor, slightly damaging both houses but injuring no one. The neighbors, a Black family, were being pressured by white residents to leave the neighborhood.

Joanne grew up in South Bend and attended Central High School. She was a good student and excelled in mathematics and chemistry. After high school she worked as a laboratory technician. Just after her 21st birthday in 1940, she married Edgar Robert Noland, a young Navy recruit from South Bend. Joanne herself joined the WAVES Naval women's reserves in 1944, serving as a hospital apprentice. But by 1945 her marriage with Noland had dissolved and she married Donald I. Tufts, a pharmacist's mate from Massachusetts.

After her discharge in 1945, she spent the rest of her life in Massachusetts with her husband and daughter DonAnne, born in 1946. Joanne died in 1985.

Sources:

Ancestry.com library edition

"Bomb Thrown at Home of Colored Family," *Indianapolis Times*, 10 July 1924

Materials in the collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of a short handwritten autobiography by Joanne Rothwell at the age of thirteen. It was suggested to her by A. Stoll, to whom the work is dedicated. Chapter titles are 1. Parentage, 2. Memories, 3. School, 4. Vacations, and 5. Ambitions and Favorites.

Two photographs of Joanne at ages 18 months and thirteen years were included as frontispieces.

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CONTENTS

My Autobiography, circa 1933

Portraits, circa 1921; circa 1933

CONTAINER

Folder 1

Photographs,
Folder 1