

Collection #
M 1311

**STELLA RUTH PURKISS
SCRAPBOOK AND PAPERS, CA. 1912-1957**

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Processed by

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 half-size manuscript box, 1 flat manuscript box, 1 photograph folder

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1912-1957

PROVENANCE: Roberta Campbell, 10545 Windjammer Ct., Indianapolis IN, 46236

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2015.0256

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Stella Ruth (Simpson) Purkiss

Stella Ruth (Simpson) Purkiss was born in 1897 in Pennsylvania (d. 1962 in Indiana). She was married to design engineer, Robert B. Purkiss (b. 1894 in Pennsylvania), and they had one child, Dorothy (Purkiss) Linke (b. 1922 in Pennsylvania). The couple moved to Indiana sometime between 1935 and 1940, first residing in Batesville, Indiana and later moving to Indianapolis. Mrs. Purkiss was very active in the Indianapolis community. She was a member of several clubs and organizations including: Woman's Department Club, Indiana Federation of Clubs, the May Wright Sewall Council, American Association of Retired Persons, 11th District American Legion Auxiliary Past Presidents Parley, the Riviera Club, and the Speakers Bureau of the International Travel Study Club. Mrs. Purkiss served as Chairman of the Broad Ripple Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary and Vice-President of the Indianapolis Historical Council. She served as President for the Indianapolis Council of United Church Women as well as the Business and Professional Grandmothers' Club. Mrs. Purkiss was also elected President of the Indianapolis Council of Women in the 1950s.

Indianapolis Council of Women

The Indianapolis Council of Women formed after their first meeting in 1891 at the Propylaeum. The meeting was led by May Wright Sewall with the goal of forming a local Indianapolis level of the National Council of Women. The council, originally called Local Council of Women, officially began in 1892 with a group of forty-nine clubs, institutions, and associations, and became incorporated in 1902. Jumping ahead to 1994, the council increased from forty-nine participating groups to 135 groups. Through their long history, the Indianapolis Council of Women focused their attention on addressing civic issues relating to women and children. They also founded other local groups and hosted social gatherings such as their Founder's Day Luncheon.

Sources:

Ancestry.com

Bodenhamer, David J., and David Gordon. Vanderstel. *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994.

Materials in collection

Obituaries. *Indianapolis Star*: Page 6, 21 April 1962.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains a spiral notebook/scrapbook of materials relating to Stella Ruth (Simpson) Purkiss. The materials cover her time living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Indianapolis, Indiana (ca. 1912-1951) and includes news clippings, photographs, correspondence, reports, certificates (Broad Ripple American Legion Auxiliary Unit 312 Volunteer Certification), and programs for the Women's Missionary Society Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1928-1935).

There is also a scrapbook of "Council of Women of Indianapolis" materials compiled by Stella Ruth (Simpson) Purkiss while she served as the council's President. It include photographs, news clippings, programs, greeting cards, and other misc. papers (ca. 1955-1957).

In addition to these two scrapbooks, there are 5 loose scrapbook pages which contain news clippings and photographs related to the Indianapolis Council of Women as well as other women's groups (ca. 1951-1953). There is also a program from the "Liberace in Concert" event in Indianapolis as well as a photo of Liberace in Indianapolis (ca. 1950s).

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"Liberace in Concert", Program, ca. 1950s

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Liberace in Indianapolis, ca. 1950s

Photograph:
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