

Collection: Louise and Leonard Singer Collection**Accession Number:** 2013.014.001

Finding Aid

Date Range: 1951-2007**Bulk Date:** 1955-1979**Creator:** Louise Singer**Containers:** 30 letter size, flip-top boxes, containing 133 files; 1 map box; 1 oversize box**Size:** 10 ¼ x 12 ¼ x 5 each box**Storage location:** Off-site Storage**Aid Created By:** Helen F. Berkenbush, volunteer

Biographical Information:

Louise M. (Bitterman) Singer was born in Jersey City, New Jersey on April 9, 1916. Her family moved to Wood-Ridge, New Jersey where she met and married Leonard M. Singer, born in NYC on January 3, 1915. After their marriage October 9, 1940 they lived in Wood-Ridge, later moving to Wayne, New Jersey and raised two daughters. Together they became co-owners of the Technical Home Studies Schools, a division of Singer Communications Corp in Little Falls, New Jersey where Leonard founded a publishing house in 1939, printing such manuals as the Locksmith Ledger and Auto Glass Journal. According to a dedication letter printed in the March 1988 Vol. 48 #4 edition of the Locksmith Ledger, Mr. Singer was held in great esteem by people all over the world in his position. Leonard led his Locksmith School, among others, and Louise maintained a Millinery School. Both Louise and Leonard were life members of the Board of Directors of the Lock Museum of America, Terryville Connecticut.

Louise became a member of Zonta of Paterson, a group formed for professional women in the area, in 1963. Correspondence related to Zonta within this collection begins on April 18, 1955, which leads one to believe Louise had an interest in the group before she became a member. In 1969 she was elected President of her chapter. In 1972 she initiated great interest in forming "Z" Clubs in area high schools, for young ladies in their senior year seeking to become active professional women upon completing college. She had a deep interest in the Amelia Earhart Awards offered by Zonta to Z Club members through fellowships for those going into the aerospace field.

Mrs. Singer traveled world-wide to attend meetings and conventions for the Z Club. She was active until her death of the Local Paterson Zonta, receiving awards and commendations for her efforts through the years.

Louise also became very active in the Parent Teacher Associations, starting in Wood-Ridge and continuing until her death as a Life Member of the National Parent Teacher Association. She held many positions from member to president of the Local Anthony Wayne High School PTA, County of Passaic PTA, State of New Jersey Congress of PTA and the National Council of PTA receiving many awards and commendations for her efforts on behalf of students. She was a Life Member of the PTA.

Her accomplishments in the home study school of Millinery have been memorialized by letters she received from students all over the world – Africa and Australia most notably.

Louise Singer passed away on September 4, 2008 at the age of 92. Leonard Singer passed away on December 30, 1987 at the age of 72.

Scope Notes and Content:

This collection contains correspondence, newspaper clippings, official organizational publications, handbooks etc. as well as some photographs, most of the prints being black and white. Some correspondence and backs of convention papers are handwritten notes by Mrs. Singer

This collection has been subdivided into several sections. The first 33 files pertain to Mrs. Singer's involvement in Zonta. The second section of the collection (files 34- 120) pertain the Mrs. Singer's involvement in the PTA, on all levels. In addition to Zonta and PTA, files 121-124 contain materials related to other service clubs to which Mrs. Singer belonged..

Materials related to Mrs. Singer's millinery school are also contained in the collection, in files 125-135. These materials include periodicals related to millenary and copies of the course handbook used by Mrs.Singer.

While the majority of the material in this collection relates to the activities of Mrs. Singer, some material related to Mr. Singer is also included. Files 136-138, as well as plans and blue prints contained in the map box, related directly to Singer Communication Inc.

Series:

Upon the creation of this box list, most of the material was organized in loosely chronological order. This is assumed to be the order Mrs. Singer must have kept it for her own use. While compiling this list, it became necessary to create a more exact chronology, within sections, however the distinct sections (mentioned above) were maintained as they were received. In addition to chronology, the collection is organized into files within the boxes by subject matter. Pieces received in albums and scrapbooks were gently removed and photocopied where necessary. Scrapbooks from both Mrs. Singer's tenure with Zonta and PTA have been dissected and filed in files within the collection boxes as well as photographs of various functions and personalities who were vital to the organizations at the time.