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Helm, Margie May, 1894-1991 (MSS 250)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
Department of Library Special Collections
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 250 HELM, Margie May, 1894-1991

½ box. 5 folders. 93 items. 1922-1962. Originals and photocopies.

2009.30.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Margie May Helm was born in Auburn, Logan County, Kentucky, on 21 August 1894. Her parents were Dr. Thomas Oliver Helm and Nellie (Blakey) Helm. The family, which included brothers Blakey, Tom, and Harold, moved to Bowling Green in 1910 where Margie became one of the members of the first graduating class of Bowling Green High School in 1912. She received her A.B. degree from Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Virginia and a certificate from the Pratt Institute Library School, Brooklyn, New York. In 1933 she received her M.A. from the University of Chicago.

Margie Helm began her long career in library service in 1920 as assistant librarian to Miss Florence Ragland at Western Kentucky State Teachers College. In 1923 she became the college's librarian, a post she held for 48 years. In 1929 she also assumed the position of head of the Department of Library Science. During her tenure she saw the library move from a small collection in the Cedar House to the newly renovated building named in her honor in 1965.

In addition to her work as director of the campus library, she was active on the Board of Trustees of the Bowling Green Public Library from 1938 to 1963, overseeing the library's move to its new building.

Professionally she was a member of the Kentucky Library Association, the Southeast Library Association, and the American Library Association. In 1959 she was included in *Who's Who of American Women* and in 1964 she was named College Librarian of the Year.

She was an active member of the Bowling Green Presbyterian Church where she became the first woman elder. She was also a member of the Twentieth Century Club, XX Club, Samuel Davies Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Inter-Racial Commission.

Margie Helm died 19 December 1991 and is buried in Bowling Green's Fairview Cemetery.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection relates to Margie Helm's activities on behalf of the Bowling Green Public Library and expanded state-wide library service via the Kentucky Bookmobile Project. The

correspondence folder includes communications with local government officials and architects about the proposed Bowling Green Public Library building as well as letters related to the efforts to provide library service throughout Kentucky. Other public library-related materials include budgets, financial reports, and copies of service agreements. There are also copies of news clippings related to bookmobile service in Warren County and elsewhere in the state, and information regarding Friends of Kentucky Libraries.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Margie May Helm	1922-1962	93 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Correspondence	1948-1961	39 items
Folder 3	Information about the operation of the Bowling Green Public Library and other activities of Helm	1943-1953	26 items
Folder 4	News clippings, chiefly about bookmobiles and libraries	1953-1962	19 items
Folder 5	Pamphlets, chiefly related to libraries and Friends of Kentucky Libraries	1922-1954	8 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS HELM, Margie May, 1922-1962
250 1894-1991

Correspondence and business papers related to Helm's role in the establishment of the Bowling Green Public Library, and her involvement in the Kentucky Bookmobile Project.
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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Bingham, Mary, 1904-1995 F2
Bookmobiles, 1953 F2,4,5
Bowling Green – Bookmobiles F2,4,5

Bowling Green – Librarians
Bowling Green – Libraries
Bowling Green Public Library F3
Campbell, Elvis Richard, 1898-1978 – Correspondence F2
Children’s books, 1922 F5
Friends of Kentucky Libraries F2,4-5
Hines, Duncan, 1880-1959 F2
Kentucky Bookmobile Project, 1953 F2,4,5
Librarians – Western Kentucky State College
Librarians – Western Kentucky State Teachers College
Libraries – Kentucky Bookmobile Project, 1953 F2,4,5

SEE and SEE ALSO

Warren County Public Library
See also:
Bowling Green Public Library

Lile/Jeffrey 05/04/2009