

**Edith McCroskey Zears Papers**  
**1934-1941, n.d.**

**Creator:** Zears, Edith McCroskey (1890-1993)

**Extent:** .5 linear ft.

**Processor:** Sutton Skowron, August 2010

**Administration Information**

**Access Restrictions:** None.

**Usage Restrictions:** Copyright to materials is held by original owner.

**Preferred Citation:** Loyola University Chicago. Women and Leadership Archives. Edith McCroskey Zears Papers. Box #, Folder #.

**Provenance:** Katherine Durack donated her great-aunt's papers to the Women and Leadership Archives in 2004 (WLA2004.06).

**Separations:** .08 linear feet of extraneous material was removed.

**Biographical History**

Edith McCroskey Zears was born in Nebraska in 1890 to Harvey and Flora McCroskey. As a child, she moved with her family to Oklahoma City, where she passed most of the remainder of her life. An independent and civic-minded woman, she was 30 years old in 1920 when women finally received the right to vote and opened her home as a polling place. In the 1930s she was very involved with The Speakers Institute, a women's home study course in public speaking, storytelling, and elocution. Edith died in Oklahoma City in 1993 at the age of 103.

**Scope and Content**

The Edith McCroskey Zears Papers consist of material relating to Edith's involvement in The Speakers Institute, as well as grammatical information and home economics tips from the 1930s. These documents include course manuals and lesson plans, newspaper articles, and household advice from the now-defunct U.S. Bureau of Home Economics. Material is arranged alphabetically within each series and chronologically within each folder.

**Series 1: Personal, 1934-1941, n.d., Box 1**

This series contains items relating to Edith's interest in speaking and home economics, touching briefly on some politics of the time. These documents include newspaper articles, notes of speeches, speech course materials, and grammatical exercises.

**Series 2: Visual and Bound Items, 1935-1939, n.d., Box 1**

This series contains a pictorial reproduction of a painting, as well as bound course materials and a course manual for The Speakers Institute.

*Women and Leadership Archives*  
*Loyola University Chicago*

**Subjects:**

Grammar

Home economics

Public speaking

Speakers Institute, Chicago

*Women and Leadership Archives*  
*Loyola University Chicago*

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
<b>Series 1: Personal, 1934-1941, n.d.</b>			
1	1	Grammar	1941, n.d.
	2	Home Economics	1934-1937, n.d.
	3	Magic of Speech	1937
	4	Newspaper Articles	1938, n.d.
	5	Notes, Programs, and Speeches	1936-1939, n.d.
	6	The Speakers Institute	1936-1938, n.d.
<b>Series 2: Visual and Bound Items, 1935-1939, n.d.</b>			
	7	Copy of Thayer Painting	n.d.
	8	Course Manual	1935
	9	Extension Course, Part A	1935
	10	Extension Course, Part B	1935-1937
	11	Topics for Discussion	1936-1939