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Chute, William D. and Hazel Angwin, collection

William D. Chute

Hazel Angwin Chute

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MS 441 William D. and Hazel Chute-Angwin Collection

Introduction

A collection of letters dated between the years of 1946-1948 from both William D. and Hazel Chute while living in Austria.

Descriptive Summary

Creators: William D. and Hazel Chute-Angwin
Title: William D. and Hazel Chute-Angwin Collection
Dates: 1946-1948
Size: 1 linear foot
Collection Number: 441

Donor Information

Donated by Sue Angwin Heflin in 2024.

Citation Note

William D. and Hazel Chute-Angwin Collection (MS 441), Special Collections and University Archives, Pittsburg State University Axe Library, Pittsburg, Kansas.

Administrative Information

Language: Contains English with some letters containing written German.
Restrictions: None

Biographical Sketch

William Deward Chute was born on January 30, 1909, in Missouri, to Bert Chute (1880-1959) and Lois Ramey (1883-1966). William had one sister, Maxine Chute (1912-1990). William's family lived in the Pittsburg area for several years, and in 1938, William married Hazel Angwin. Hazel was born on August 17, 1905, in Christian, Missouri, to Frederick Angwin (1874-1929) and Lucy May Vaughan (1883-1966). She spent some years studying at the Kansas State Teachers College, now called Pittsburg State University, to get her teaching degree. William also studied at the KSTC, going to school for premed.

In the year 1940, William enlisted in the military, serving on reserve while he attended medical school. In 1944, William published a thesis to gain his MD titled, “Psychosomatic approach to the etiology of ulcerative colitis” at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

In May 1946, William was sent to Camp Kilmer in New Jersey to await orders on relocation. He was to be sent overseas to work at an army hospital, but his orders for departure were continually delayed. Finally, in late June 1946, William was sent to France and then Austria. William writes home to his wife, Hazel, telling of his experiences. Later in 1946, after being put on the waitlist, Hazel finally receives the green light to move to Austria to live with William.

In January 1947, Hazel departs from New York to reunite with William. Throughout the year of 1947, Hazel writes home to her mother, Lucy May. She describes how daily life is like for the wife of an army physician, as well as culture shock moments. The next year, in January of 1948, the couple received word that they may be moving back to the United States soon.

After leaving Austria, William and Hazel move to Randolph, Missouri, where they resided for many years. William passed away in April 1986 and Hazel passed away a few years later on November 12, 1998.

Scope and Content Note

There are 247 letters in total written between the years 1946 and 1948. The letters written in 1946 were between William D. Chute to his wife Hazel Chute. He wrote about his experiences within the hospital, as well as various recreational activities he would partake in. In some of his letters, he described attending the Nuremberg Trials. A majority of the letters written in the years 1947 and 1948 were written by Hazel Chute to her mother, Lucy May Angwin. Hazel would write about her experiences joining William in Austria, visiting different countries and even touring Hitler’s abandoned home, the Eagle’s Nest. A few of the letters contained various items such as orchestra tickets, German currency, flyers, and receipts.

Collection Inventory

--Box 1—

f.1-5 Letters, undated

f.6-11 Letters, c.1946

--Box 2—

f.12-13 Letters, c. 1946

f.14-21 Letters, c. 1947

f.22 Letters, c. 1948

Processed by Cadence Gaines, 7/24/2024

