

**Roanoke Public Libraries
Virginia Room
Blue Ridge Forum Collection**

Collection Description:

Repository: Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

Accession Number: 2014.08.22

Title: Blue Ridge Forum Collection

Physical Characteristics: 1 document storage case, 2 flat storage boxes

Donated by: Unknown

Arrangement: Documents are arranged chronologically

Creator: Blue Ridge Forum members

Reproduction Restrictions: No known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

Processor: Angela Stiefbold, July 2024.

Historical Note:

The Blue Ridge Forum was a women's educational organization, or study club, founded in Roanoke in 1937. Its membership largely came from the Blue Ridge Chapter of the Delphian Society (one of at least four Delphian chapters in Roanoke), whose members disbanded and formed this group. Members studied social and cultural topics, across the United States and worldwide, at times from courses published by the University of North Carolina extension division. Member-led meetings involved discussions based on readings, as well as individual member reports. The group disbanded in 1997.

Scope and Content:

The collection consists of meeting minutes, scrapbooks, and Delphinian Society charter documents. Meeting minutes range from 1940 through 1959; the club year ran September through May. Minutes also include some newspaper clippings about the meetings. Scrapbooks cover the years 1937-1971 and are closely focused on the activities of the club. The 1937-46 Scrapbook begins with a history the Blue Ridge Chapter of the Delphinian Society, and its transition to the Blue Ridge Forum. Scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings about the club, club ephemera including yearbooks/programs, and some member photographs. Yearbooks found within the scrapbooks cover the years 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1951-52 through 1967-68, as well as 1969-70 and 1970-71. Due to the fragility of the scrapbooks, researchers should primarily consult the available digital versions.

Container List:

Box 1

Folder 1: Constitution and By-Laws (1944)

Folder 2: Meeting Minutes, Sept. 1940 – May 1944

Folder 3: Meeting Minutes, June 1944 – March 1952

Folder 4: Meeting Minutes, April 1952 – May 1959

Folder 5: 1937-1946 Scrapbook, photographs and correspondence – Loose and easily removed items, including correspondence from Elgin Groseclose.

Folder 6: 1952-1962 Scrapbook, photograph – Loose and easily removed items

Folder 7: 1962-1971 Scrapbook, photographs and loose items – Loose and easily removed items.

Box 2

1937-1946 Scrapbook –The scrapbook begins with a history of the founding of the organization. Each subsequent year is documented through newspaper clippings, club ephemera, and correspondence. Many photographs of club and program leaders are included; those that could be removed without damage were placed in Box 1, Folder 5. A digital copy was created and should be primarily used by researchers.

1946-1952 Scrapbook – Club years are documented through newspaper clippings and club ephemera. Includes officer and membership lists for 1946-47 year; yearbooks/program books from 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50, and 1951-52; and a few photographs of program leaders A digital copy was created and should be primarily used by researchers.

Box 3

1952-1962 Scrapbook – Club years are documented through newspaper clippings, club ephemera, and correspondence. Includes yearbooks/program books from 1952-53 through 1961-62, and a few photographs of program leaders. Photographs that could be removed without damage were placed in Box 1, Folder 6. A digital copy was created and should be primarily used by researchers.

1962-1971 Scrapbook – Club years are documented through newspaper clippings, club ephemera, and correspondence. Includes yearbooks/program books from 1962-63 through 1967-68, as well as 1969-70 and 1970-71, and a few photographs (most unidentified). Newspaper clippings also include activities of members outside the organization. Photographs that could be removed without damage and other loose items were placed in Box 1, Folder 7. A digital copy was created and should be primarily used by researchers.

Map Room – G1, Folder 5

Club charters (3)