

**Roanoke Public Libraries  
Virginia Room  
Junior Woman's Club of Roanoke Collection**

**Collection Description:**

**Repository:** Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

**Accession Number:** 2014.8.23

**Title:** Junior Woman's Club of Roanoke Collection

**Physical Characteristics:** 1 document storage case, 1 flat storage box

**Donated by:** Unknown

**Arrangement:** Documents are arranged chronologically

**Creator:** Junior Woman's Club of Roanoke / Sue McKeller Swartz

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

**Processor:** Angela Stiefbold, August 2024

**Historical Note:**

The Junior Woman's Club of Roanoke, for women 18-35 years of age, organized as a branch of the Woman's Club of Roanoke in January, 1929. By the early 1940s, its membership was approximately 150. The purpose of the club was to expand members' knowledge, to sponsor fine arts, and to give aid to the community. Beginning in 1930, the organization's primary charity was establishing and maintaining a school, later a class within the city schools, for "crippled children." In 1941 the club took on two new projects, Americanization classes and naturalization ceremonies for those desiring to become citizens and efforts to support national defense and service. The club president for the 1941-42 year was Suelle McKeller Swartz (Mrs. William P. Swartz Jr.).

**Scope and Content:**

The collection primarily covers activities of the organization in the early 1940s, with a focus on their efforts to encourage and support the naturalization of immigrants. It includes club yearbooks from 1940-41, 1941-42, 1944-45, 1945-46, 1949-50, 1950-51, and 1956-57, a club scrapbook from 1941-42, and club newsletters from 1939-42. Additional ephemera, correspondence, and newspaper clippings focus on the establishment of the Americanization Association of Roanoke in 1941, the sponsorship of naturalization ceremonies in the early 1940s, and observance of the I Am an American Day in 1944.

**Container List:**

**Box 1**

Folder 1: Yearbooks – Club yearbooks for 1940-41, 1941-42, 1944-45, 1945-46, 1949-50, 1950-51, and 1956-57. Yearbooks list club officers, club history, activities of and budget from the prior year, planned activities for the coming year, membership directory, club constitution, by-laws, and related information; they also include a list of the children enrolled in the

crippled children's school/class. Some yearbooks also include photographs of club presidents and executive board.

- Folder 2: The Snooperzette, 1939-40 – Produced by club members, this monthly newsletter reported on club business as well as personal and social activities of members.
- Folder 3: The Snooperzette, 1940-41
- Folder 4: The Snooperzette, 1941-42
- Folder 5: Naturalization Ceremony Ephemera, 1941-45
- Folder 6: Naturalization Ceremony Newspaper Clippings, 1941-43
- Folder 7: I Am an American Day, 1944, Ephemera
- Folder 8: I Am an American Day, 1944, Newspaper Clippings
- Folder 9: Americanization Association of Roanoke – Ephemera and Correspondence. Includes constitution and by-laws, as well as a newsletter issue that documents the history of the first year of the organization
- Folder 10: Americanization Association, Newspaper Clippings (1942-43)
- Folder 11: Newspaper Clippings – Documents activities of club members and Roanoke organizations
- Folder 12: 1941-42 Scrapbook, Loose Items – Non-newspaper items that were loose or easily removed from the scrapbook. [1941-42 Yearbook was moved to Box 1 Folder 1]. Awards certificate, telegrams, and ephemera from club-sponsored events, including naturalization ceremonies and district and national Women's Club events.
- Folder 13: 1941-42 Scrapbook, Inserted Items – Items placed within the back cover of the scrapbook. Ephemera from district and state meetings, portion of *The Virginia Club Woman*, Oct. 1942, with article about Roanoke club member Sue Swartz (Mrs. William P Swartz Jr.).
- Folder 14: Photograph Negative – Unidentified men and women. Negative was in envelope from the Society Dept. of the Roanoke Times sent to Mrs. W. P. Swartz.

## **Box 2**

1941-42 Scrapbook, Junior Woman's Club — The scrapbook includes sections on the monthly activities of the club, as well as on the activities of the district, state, and national organization, and on members' individual activities in the community. These are documented primarily through newspaper and magazine clippings and club ephemera. Many clippings include photographic images. Club activities included: attending state and national conventions, sponsoring concerts and children's theater, work with educating "crippled children," supporting fine arts, purchasing defense stamps, public health, education of and naturalization ceremony for new citizens, local defense planning, and sponsoring Business Women's Week. Information is also provided on the meeting of the Virginia Federation of Woman's Clubs in Roanoke in April, 1942. Hand-drawn and painted illustrations are used as dividers throughout the scrapbook, in a national defense theme. The 1941-42 Scrapbook Committee was: Lou Temple, Chairman; Althea Long; Frances Womack; Betty Terrell; Virginia Montague, Artist. Loose

items were removed to Box 1, Folder 12; items inserted in the back of the scrapbook were removed to Box 1, Folder 13. Researchers should primarily consult the digital copy of this item.