

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Special Collections Department

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RS 21/7/92

Gunderson, Helen D. (1945-)

Papers, 1854-[ongoing]

Descriptive summary

creator: Gunderson, Helen DeElda (1945-)

title: Papers

dates: 1854-[ongoing]

extent: 69.32 linear feet (3 half-document boxes, 66 document boxes, 2 records center cartons, 19 oversize boxes, 1 photo box, and 11 shoe boxes)

collection number: RS 21/7/92

repository: University Archives, Special Collections Department, Iowa State University.

Administrative information

access: Open for research

publication rights: Copies cannot be made without the written consent of Helen Gunderson. Consult Head, Special Collections Department.

preferred citation: Helen D. Gunderson Papers, RS 21/7/92, Special Collections Department, Iowa State University Library.

Biographical note

Independent photographer, video producer, and regional historian, Helen DeElda Gunderson, was born in Black Hawk County, Iowa, and reared in Pocahontas County, Iowa. "The Road I Grew Up On". She received a B.S. from Iowa State University in 1967. She received an M.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Stout in 1975, and a master of divinity degree from the San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1985.

Ms. Gunderson grew up on a farm operated by her mother and father in Roosevelt Township, Pocahontas County, Iowa. She developed an interest in agriculture and an appreciation for rural life. As Ms. Gunderson matured she began to photograph people and rural scenes in Pocahontas County. The Gunderson family filmed aspects of rural life in the early 1970s, and Helen photographed activity in the county. Ms. Gunderson occasionally returned to Iowa while she lived in California in the 1980s and attended seminary. In 1989 she began to photograph rural scenes across the state, and has continued to collect materials. The majority of the post-1990 material is collected from Pocahontas County.

Ms. Gunderson became interested in the social, demographic, and agricultural change in rural communities when she realized that the bus route of her youth no longer operated because of the aging rural population and out-migration. She wished to document the experiences of the people of rural Iowa based on information provided by current and former residents of Roosevelt and Garfield Townships in Pocahontas County, Iowa. In 1994 she returned to Iowa and operates Gunder-friend Productions. Among her works are videos she produced for the Wallace's Farmer and the Britt Draft Horse Show.

Collection Description

The collection (1854-[ongoing]) consists primarily of materials from Gunderson's "The Road I Grew Up On" project documenting social change from 1854-1997 in rural Iowa. In addition to the Road material the project was based primarily on events in Roosevelt and Garfield Townships, Pocahontas County, though it includes material gathered across the state of Iowa.

The series of Photographic Negatives and Photographic Prints, Slides, SVHS and VHS Videotapes; and Audiotapes are arranged alphabetically by topic or family association, then by date. Families included are the Brinkman, Cornwell, Dahl, George, Grant, Gunderson, Harrold, Hodgell, Howard, Howland, Ives, Jordan, Riegelsberger, Sefcik, and Shimon. Other subheadings for the material include Pocahontas, Roads, and Rolfe.

The Biographical Series contains material related to the Gunderson family, and

specifically Helen Gunderson. Boxes 1-8 contain a biographical summary of Helen Gunderson, manuscripts, correspondence, and printed material related to the Gunderson family. A biographical press release and news clippings of Helen Gunderson may be found in 1/1.

The audiotapes consist of oral histories of the Gunderson family (1981) and individuals who lived in the Rolfe, Iowa, area (1980-1995). The videotapes include material transferred from film and direct recordings created by Helen Gunderson (1970-1997) and oral histories and footage of events in Pocahontas County and the state of Iowa from 1989-1997. They include Gunderson's work to produce a video for the Britt Draft Horse Show. The photographic material includes copy negatives and prints from photographs dating from 1900, but is largely the original work of Gunderson from 1970-1997. The collection also includes some transcripts of audiotapes and other manuscripts created or collected by Gunderson.

Restrictions

Researchers using any item(s) from the Helen D. Gunderson Collection for the purpose of their reproduction, publication or any form of public exhibition and distribution must gain prior written approval from Helen DeElda Gunderson to do so. The personal journal microcassettes and audiocassettes in boxes 52-53 and 94 are restricted until ten years after Helen Gunderson's death.

Organization

The Helen Gunderson collection is arranged by media, then by family association or topic, and then by chronology. The formats are manuscripts, photocopies, negatives, photographic prints, slides, SVHS and VHS tapes, audio cassettes, ephemera, and film.

The collection is comprised of the following series of media: **Biographical Information** boxes 1-8 (Box 7 oversize, Box 8 oversize and map case); **Photographic Negatives and Prints** boxes 9-12 (oversize); **Slides** boxes 13-17; **SVHS Master Tapes** boxes 18-30; **Edited Show Masters, Program Master, and Edited Masters** boxes 31-32; **Edited Masters, Movie Transfers and Photo Copy, and Dub of Edit Master** box 33; **Hi-8 mm Video Cassettes (Masters)** box 34; **VHS Videotape Viewing Copies** Boxes 35-46; **Oral History Audio Tape Masters** Boxes 47-48; **Oral History Audio Tape Dubs** Boxes 49-50; **Oral History Transcripts** (Gunderson Family, et al) Box 51; **Personal Journal Micro Cassettes and Audio Cassettes** Box 52-53; **Miscellaneous Mixed Formats: Computer Disks, Photo Compact Discs, and Tractor Cards** Box 54; **Hi 8 and Super 8 mm Films** Box 55 (oversize).