

2015

Caro Lane Collection

Georgia College and State University

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Caro Lane Collection

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Georgia College Special Collections
CBX 043
Georgia College
Milledgeville
478-445-0988
scinfo@gcsu.edu

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Summary Information

Repository	Georgia College Special Collections
Title	Caro Lane Collection
Dates	1905-1990
Extent	2.5 Cubic feet
Dimensions note	2.5 cubic feet
Language	English

Preferred Citation note

Caro Lane Collection. Special Collections, Ina Dillard Russell Library, Georgia College & State University.

Biographical/Historical note

Carolynne Chamberlin Lane, known affectionately as "Miss Caro," was born on Sept. 12, 1894, in Milledgeville, Georgia. Her grandfather migrated to Milledgeville from Maine to design and build the original Oglethorpe University; he also did carpentry work on the Governor's Mansion.

Lane attended high school in Milledgeville before going on to earn her B.S. from Georgia State College for Women, now Georgia College & State University, in 1924. In 1925, she earned an M.A. from Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee. During the next few years she was able to take courses at Columbia University, the University of North Carolina and Louisiana State University.

Lane began her teaching career in the public schools of Georgia in 1913. In 1917, she was appointed by the Georgia Department of Education as Supervisor of Health and Physical Education, a position she held until 1932, when she moved to Statesboro to become the Director of Health and Physical Education for Women at South Georgia Teachers College, now Georgia Southern University. She also helped establish a health and physical education department at the college.

While at South Georgia Teachers College, Lane noticed that some students were unable to afford a college education, especially when the Great Depression paralyzed the nation and its economy. Willing to help, Lane opened her home to a few of those students and helped them finish their college education. Before the end of her life, she helped over fifty students through college by allowing them to stay in her home while they attended classes, or paying for their education herself. One such student was J.D. Purvis who became an FBI agent. Purvis has written several books, one of which was dedicated to Lane, a woman he called his "Fairy Godmother."

In 1936, Lane left Statesboro and moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana to become an Assistant Professor of Health and Physical Education at Louisiana State University. She remained in this position for eight years before joining the Louisiana State Department of Education. In Louisiana, she was the Acting Supervisor of Health and Physical Education, a position in which she served from 1944-1947. In 1947, she became a consultant in the Louisiana Department of Education in the area of exceptional children. In 1953, she was again promoted by the State Department of Education when she was named the Director of Special Education. In 1953, Lane moved from the Louisiana Department of Education to the Department of Health where she served as a school health consultant. She served in this position until her retirement in 1970.

In Georgia she was a pioneer in the establishment of health and physical education in the public schools. She was also instrumental in the formation of the Georgia Association for Health and Physical Education. She helped form a counterpart for the organization in Louisiana, as well as played a significant role in the formation of the Southern District Association for Health and Physical Education. While in Louisiana she was instrumental

in creating the positions of Supervisor of Safety Education and Consultant in Health Education. She was also responsible for the creation of the first program for exceptional children in the state.

Lane was also active in securing more opportunities for women in the fields of athletics and education. She was the organizer and first chairwoman of the Advisory Council on Women's Athletics for the state of Louisiana. She was also a member of the P.E.O.- a philanthropic and educational organization that brought increased opportunities to women in higher education through its philanthropic projects. She served as an officer in the Baton Rouge chapter of the organization and participated in fundraising in the chapter that helped fund scholarships and loans to deserving young women seeking a college education. In 1976, Lane was honored by the City of Baton Rouge with its Golden Deeds Award, an honor given to members of the community who give unselfishly to their fellow citizens. She died in 1993 at the age of 99. In keeping with her affection for education and scientific inquiry, Lane's body was donated to medical science for research.

Scope and Contents note

The collection contains newspaper clippings from the 1976 Golden Deeds Award Banquet in Baton Rouge, Louisiana when Lane received the honor; photographs of Lane, J.D. Purvis and family, friends, family members, and her 90th birthday celebration; articles written about Lane at her 90th birthday; articles written in various college magazines about Lane; speeches given in her honor; various awards and citations she received; personal items such as invitations, checks, receipts and notes; the Golden Deeds Award plaque; her Paul Harris Fellow certificate and medal; personal scrapbooks and photo albums; and her personal Bible.

The brunt of this collection centers on the Golden Deeds Award she won in 1976, although there is a folder containing reports on special education that were produced during her tenure with the Louisiana Department of Education. Much of the newspaper clippings focus on the Golden Deeds Awards with a few focusing on how her life was spent at the time of her 90th birthday. Of special interest in the collection are letters from former GC President Guy Wells, as well as a letter from Robert F. Kennon, a former governor of Louisiana.

Arrangement note

These papers consist of materials produced by and about Caro Lane. They are divided by physical content, i.e., employment paperwork, newspaper clippings, photographs, letters, articles and personal items. J.D. Purvis, a former student of Lane's at Georgia Southern, donated the collection to Georgia College & State University.

Administrative Information

Indexing Terms

Subjects - Corporate Bodies

- George Peabody College for Teachers.
- Georgia Association of Health and Physical Education.
- Georgia Southern College.
- Georgia State College for Women, 1922 - 1961.
- Georgia. Department of Education.
- Louisiana. Department of Education.
- Louisiana. Department of Health.
- South Georgia Teachers College.

Subjects - Places

- Atlanta (Ga.)
- Baldwin County (Ga.)
- Baton Rouge (La.)
- Collegeboro (Ga.)
- Milledgeville (Ga.)
- Statesboro (Ga.)

Subjects - People

- Lane, Caro, 1894-1993
- Wells, Guy Herbert, 1892-1965

Subjects - Topics

- Lane, Caro, 1894-1993

Collection Inventory

Box	Folder	
1	1	Georgia Southern College publication of article about Caro Lane
1	2	Obituary Information
1	3	Correspondence about the collection
1	4	Letter from Caro Lane about physical condition
1	5	Invitation to Golden Deeds Banquet
1	6	Invitation to her 90th birthday celebration
1	7	Letter from Guy Wells at South Georgia Teachers College
1	8	Reference letter written by E.P. Lane
1	9	Wedding Invitation from 1905
1	10	Photographs
1	11	Additional photographs
1	12	Nomination of Lane for Golden Deeds Award
1	13	Citation from SDA of the American Association of Health, PE and Rec
1	14	Graduation pamphlet from Georgia Military College in 1911

1 15 Speech by J.D. Purvis about Caro Lane in October 1960

1 16 Pamphlet about Senior Tree Planting Ceremony at GNIC, 1913

1 17 Golden Deeds Award Ceremony pamphlet

1 18 Citation Award from SDA 1957 (actual award letter and citation included)

1 19 Article from Savannah Bits and Pieces by Joe Purvis

1 20 Newsletter from Louisiana Public Health (March, 1964)

1 21 Newspaper clipping from 1984 marking Lane's activities at age 90

1 22 Newspaper clipping about Lane and other Golden Deeds Award winners

1 23 Newspaper clipping from Sunday Advocate from Nov. 14, 1984

1 24 Newspaper clipping about Golden Deeds Award 1976

1 25 Article entitled The Golden Gift of Caro Lane

1 26 Receipt given for moving a piano in February 1907

1 27 Receipt for 35.00 for piano on March 2, 1907

1 28 Copy of personal check given to J.D. Purvis

1 29 Congratulatory letter concerning Golden Deeds Award

1 30 Pictures from Golden Deeds Awards Banquet

1 31 Newspaper clippings from Golden Deeds Awards Banquet

1 32 Miscellaneous Photos

1 33 Miscellaneous letters, employment papers, photos and conference item

1 34 Correspondence/Employment material 1936-1957

1 35 Assorted Certificates of Award and Appreciation

1 36 Lane Coat of Arms and Explanation

1 37 Correspondence concerning Caro Lane Scholarship at GSU

1 38 Reports and Materials concerning Special Educatio

1 39 Letter from Japan and other correspondence

2 1 Savannah Bits and Pieces by J.D. Purvis (2 copies)

2 2 Scrapbook containing different items about Caro Lane's Speech and Hearing Assoc.

2 3 Louisiana Assoc. for Health, Phy. Ed. And Rec. Honor Award Certificate and frame

2 4 Visiting Teacher's Association of Louisiana Certificate and frame

2 5 American Assoc. for Health, P.E. and Rec. Honor Award Plaque

2 6 90th Birthday Picture Scrapbook

2 7 Personal scrapbook

2 8 Scrapbook from Golden Deeds Award

3 1 Golden Deeds Award Plaque

3 2 Framed picture of Lane as a baby

3 3 Little Red Picture Book

3 4 Paul Harris Fellow Medal and Pin

3 5 Small notebook of notes about collection

3 6 The Living Bible-personal Bible of Mrs. Lane

3 7 George Peabody College Diploma- Master of Arts

3 8 Framed picture of unidentified man

3 9 The Red Stick-Rotary Newsletter 1989-90

3 10 Paul Harris Fellow Certificate

3 11 Framed Picture of Mrs. Lane as an elderly lady