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Elizabeth Nulsen Young Diaries, 1917-1976

2 boxes

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REPOSITORY

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DONOR INFORMATION

Most of the diaries were donated by Elizabeth Nulsen Young in February 1981.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Elizabeth Nulsen was born July 1, 1899, to Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Nulsen in St. Louis, Missouri. As a young woman, Elizabeth attended Vassar College and Washington University in St. Louis. She married W. Ridgely Young of the Maritz & Young architecture firm on June 15, 1921, and the two resided in St. Louis together. They had two children, Elizabeth "Betsy" Young (born in 1922) and Helon Anne Young (born in 1925). The couple divorced on May 6, 1929, and Elizabeth was given custody of her daughters. She then took them to tour Europe for quite some time, living in Paris for a while. They returned to the United States in mid-July 1932 and stayed in Ohio for a short time before heading back to St. Louis by late September 1932. Elizabeth moved again in April 1934 to raise her girls in the suburbs of New York, near New Rochelle. On November 11, 1939 she married her second husband, Clifflen [CFF] but divorced him on April 10, 1942, and moved back to St. Louis in September. Elizabeth's oldest daughter, Betsy, married Paul Youngblood on June 14, 1944, and had two children: Helon Anne "Bun" Youngblood (born January 19, 1947) and Jim "Jr." Youngblood (born July 22, 1948). Elizabeth's first husband, W. Ridgely Young, died December 2, 1948, of liver problems. Betsy divorced her husband on May 20, 1949, and was institutionalized in St. Vincent's Hospital and Macmillan Hospital in St. Louis from April 1950 to June 1953 for her mental health. Elizabeth served as the main caregiver for Bun and Jim while Betsy was hospitalized, and continued to help care for them after Betsy returned home. From June to September 1956, Elizabeth traveled to Europe and recorded her travels in her 1956 travel diary. Her third grandchild was born to Helon on October 16, 1956, and was named Laura Anne. Elizabeth spent much of her life traveling, visiting with friends and family, gardening, playing bridge, and attending lectures. She moved to Friendship Village Retirement Community in St. Louis in September 1975 and died July 5, 1992, in St. Louis.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains 14 diaries written by Elizabeth Nulsen Young. The diaries cover the years 1917 to 1976 and briefly list her day-to-day activities. Each diary includes five years, with the exception of one travel diary of a trip to Europe in 1956 and the last diary

(1976), which only contains one calendar year.

Diary dated 1917-1921

In 1917, Elizabeth begins writing regularly in the fall. She discusses her classes, social outings in New York, her lack of ambition and will to lose weight. In 1918, she continues to document her life at school: cutting classes, tracking how much food she eats, social outings to see movies, picnics, and eating ice cream with friends. April 8, 1918: "Must learn more to eat less" and June 29 of that year, "I'm so fat I look like twins." First mentions "Ridge" on April 26, 1918, receiving a letter from him. On May 16, 1918, she goes to New York to see Earl off to France. On May 23, 1918, she writes that Ridge is going to France and she is scared she won't see him off. She kissed him good-bye on June 2. Identifies her college as "V.C" [Vassar College] on September 16, 1918. On Sept 30 of that year she acknowledges that she hasn't acted "squarely" by writing to Ridge and seeing someone she refers to as "Les." She contemplates future on Oct 2 - "Wonder if I'll be writing 'the babie's crying' in 1921." She writes on November 17, 1918, "War's over! War's over!" On January 13, 1919, she writes, "Great determination. I will get thin and win Les." In early 1920 she discusses how she wants to go to "Washington" and on January 21 - "fixed up my W.U. curriculum." She mentions her first day at Washington on Feb 3. [She transfers to Washington University in St. Louis.] A week later she received her "V.C" [Vassar College] grades. February 17, she says she is glad she isn't at "V.C." April 6, 1920 - went to a dance at the St. Louis Club. She writes plays, gets manicures and shampoos, sees friends, eats ice cream and cake. She goes back to New York area to study in fall of 1920. She goes to Colorado in the end of the summer of 1920. On January 14, 1921, she writes, "think I'm going to announce my engagement." On January 25, writes that she is engaged to "Brigham" and on February 2 says that "Itchie" gave her a ring. On June 13, 1921, gets marriage license; gets married two days later; goes to Europe on honeymoon. Helen, Oscar, Mim and John meet her as she comes back from Europe trip to St. Louis, where she now resides. In the fall she attends Vassar [alumni] meetings and goes to the St. Louis Club. She refers to her husband as "Itchie."

Diary dated 1922-1926

In 1922, she spends her days doing housework, playing bridge, sewing, and taking care of "the kids," younger family members. She mentions registering at "Washington

U” courses on January 26, 1922. She writes about the weather, parties, and doing puzzles; she also continues to get manicures, shop for clothes, and get her hair done. She writes that her husband, “Itch,” works a lot. She no longer writes about dieting and food. On July 1, 1922, she writes she is 23 now. Elizabeth had baby Betsy Jane Young October 30, 1922. On November 6, she writes, “Well the infant is a wee old and lookin beautifulous.” In March 1923, she writes that “Bitsy Bet weighs 15 pounds!” Later that year she puts an advertisement out for a nurse for her daughter. She goes to New York in April 1924 to shop, get manicures, see entertainment, and visit Vassar College. On May 31, 1924, she writes that it was a “sad and lonely eve.” On June 15, 1924, she and her husband celebrate their third wedding anniversary with flowers and dining. Betsy has grippe in March 1925 and later that spring, in May, “Itchy” buys Elizabeth a new car, a “cute Buick coupe.” On June 19, 1925, she describes her “usual day of shopping and having trouble finding what I wanted.” Many of her entries also describe her housework and chores, or the weather. Betsy had her tonsils out in June 1925. On October 4, 1925, Elizabeth writes that she is mad at her husband for his “condition last night.” Elizabeth gives birth to her second daughter, Helon, on December 28, 1925. Elizabeth’s parents present Helon with \$5,000 on January 1, 1926. On October 10, 1926, she writes that she had a big celebration due to the Cardinals winning the World Series. On December 28, 1926, she writes that her husband got mad because she objected to his sleeping late. Her last entry: “And the old year went out in the accepted fashion – a blare of horns, tins whistles and revelry, wine, woman, and song. With hardly a thought in passing.”

Diary dated 1927-1931

Elizabeth begins this diary by writing, “And now begins it another 5 years – a new baby, a new home? More happiness? Less? What price, progress? Anyhow it started with a hangover and weariness.” She calls baby Helon “Spitty.” She continues to care for her children and spend much of her time on chores, socializing, and as she writes on February 8, “to get beautified.” She shops and goes to the Chase and Forest Park for entertainment. She also visits her parents and goes to the dentist’s office frequently. She socializes at the Chase and Busch’s Grove. In July 1928, Elizabeth goes to Poughkeepsie to the Vassar College Alumnae House. On July 27, 1928, she writes, “Tackled

Itchy this morning about our troubles. Got nowhere.” On January 22, 1928, Elizabeth writes that she had a fight with her husband because he was late. She fights with him again on April 7 of that year. On December 30, 1928, she writes, “Took it comparatively easy this year.” Elizabeth writes that she went to “the shop” frequently in 1929. On March 23, 1929, she writes, “I was in an all night brawl.” [On May 6 of 1929, Elizabeth filed a petition for divorce.] On May 10, 1929, she sails for Paris, France, with her daughters and parents. She spends most of her time traveling around Europe. “Itchy” comes to Europe on August 13 and the next day she writes that she had it out with Ridge, but will try again. On September 6, she writes that she found a school in Paris where she thinks her girls would be happy. She also finds an apartment to rent and spends her time going to the dentist, giving parties, and getting facials. She sails back to the U.S. in late October. She stops writing from October 26, 1929, through December 7, 1929. Writes on February 20, 1929, that “the money I spend is scandalous.” On April 3, 1930, she writes that R [Ridge] “to gather belongings.” On April 15, she writes that she “entertained my ex-husband at luncheon.” In June 1930, she travels to Cleveland, then Buffalo, then to Poughkeepsie (her college town) where she attends classes and sees friends. On August 1, 1930, she writes that she “picked me up a gent” on her way back home. She visits New York again that fall, and then on to Paris again. She leaves for Paris with her daughters on February 3, 1931. Her parents come to visit and the family explores Europe again. She begins typing short stories. She begins spending much time with a man named “Naly” in the fall of 1931, still in France.

Diary dated 1932-1936

Elizabeth begins this diary by stating: “A rather momentous undertaking – to start a new diary to wonder what changes the next five years will bring. Success at writing is my hope.” She is still living in France with her girls. In 1932 and 1933 she is still spending time with Naly, who is helping to critique her plays. She goes to a gym regularly and sees exhibits. She worries about her finances in March 1932. She visits Casablanca in April 1932. On May 22, 1932, she writes that Naly had cholera. In mid-July 1932, she returns to the United States, to Ohio. She makes her way to St. Louis by late September, and Ridge spends time with her daughters on September 22. She gets sick [after

surgery] in a hospital in late March 1933. On March 31, 1933, she writes, "Scared stiff. Out between 10 and 1. Had private nurse and cling to her skirts thru rough passage." She travels to Rome with her daughters and parents in May 1933, then on to Florence. She keeps writing and looks for work in New York in early October 1933, without success. She moves to the New York suburbs in April 1934. Mentions going to the movies in New Rochelle, New York, on April 15. She spends the next couple months getting settled in her new home, hiring a cook, finding a doctor for her daughters, and enrolling them in French lessons. Elizabeth's father dies in the middle of August 1934. She writes on August 15, "Mom and I both dragging at the feet." She returns to New York after the funeral, where she spends most of her time running errands, sewing, reading and doing housework. She goes back to St. Louis in October to support her mother, who was having surgery, which was successful. Soon Elizabeth takes up golf and dance lessons back in New York, and her girls take riding lessons. She mentions many of the "Norwesters" she gets in New York. She writes that she had dinner at Pat Farrell's on January 1, 1935. On the following day, she writes, "Oh dear, oh dear! Never again!" She buys a new Ford coupe in May 1935. On October 8, 1935, Elizabeth writes that she went to get a massage and gained three pounds, despite her masseuse's earlier warning to lose 15 pounds. She starts seeing a man named Bob Williams in the early spring of 1936, whom she refers to as her "boyfriend" by June. In April 1936, Elizabeth's daughter, Betsy, catches "German measles." She continues to have dental troubles throughout her life, writing on July 13, 1936, "Two hours in dentist chair nearly ruined me." She spends time in the summer in Duluth in both 1935 and 1936; she picnics and throws parties quite often. On October 26, 1936, Elizabeth writes that her mom drove her to the hospital. The following day she writes that she was "sawed open," but "no cancer." She finishes the year at Bob's house.

Diary dated 1937-1941

Elizabeth continues to date Bob through 1937. She gets regular massages, does chores, rides horses, and cares for her girls. She attends church on Easter. She often writes, "Did odd jobs." She goes to "Pea Island" on June 26 with her girls and then to Lake Placid on July 30. She cooks chicken and waffles often for meals. The next year, Elizabeth continues to see Bob, plan and attend parties, and

raise her girls in the New York suburbs, getting Helen a permanent wave and Betsy an evening gown. On August 5, 1938, Elizabeth writes, "Hellie kept us up till 12 by running away." Later that year, she visits her mother in St. Louis, who is in the hospital. On December 17, 1938, Elizabeth writes, "made whoopee with a coupla young lads." She travels with Bob to Miami in February 1939. Her February 25, 1939, entry: "Very sad – stayed in bed till noon and wandered lonely as a cloud. Then got a facial and attended the Boiler Maker's Ball." Her daughter Betsy is told by her doctor on June 20, 1939, to lose 15 pounds. On August 9 that year, Betsy cut her hand "to the bone." She visits her mother in St. Louis in October again for a few days and they attend the V.P. [Veiled Prophet] Ball on October 11. She continues to attend Vassar alumni functions in New York. She spends time with a man named "Cliff," that fall; on November 10, 1939, she writes, "announced my coming marriage to family." The following day she writes that "Cliffen arrived at noon and we settled the license, wrote letters and did errands . . . were married at 9:00 chez Judge Sherman." She and Cliff share meals, travel and talk together. On July 12, 1940, she helps her daughter, Betsy, buy a car. She writes on September 8 of that year, "Cliff started on a binge that lasted till 6 AM." On September 21, 1940, she writes, "rested from my job as warden and chauffeur." She and Cliff attempt to rehabilitate/refurbish a farm in the fall of 1940. She goes to Key West on January 16, 1941. The family continues to fix up the farm, with help, throughout the spring, summer, and fall, in between her usual social schedule. She writes in late September about spending time with a "cowboy." She visits her mother in St. Louis again that fall and then they travel to Ft. Myers, Florida. On November 12, 1941, she "saw a lawyer about a divorce."

Diary dated 1942-1946

The diary dated 1957-1960 contains several entries for the year 1942 that have been crossed out.

She begins attending Red Cross meetings and studying a Red Cross manual in order to pass a first aid exam in January 1942 in Ft. Myers. She sees her lawyer again on February 13. On March 11, 1942, she writes, "house robbed." On April 10 she writes, "Had a 20 minute talk with the Judge and got my divorce. Saw a movie and that's that." She returns to New York in May. On June 24, she

writes of a date with “the cow-boy.” She settles a land transfer on July 28, 1942, and then moves; she writes on August 1, “moved in on Alma and Worthy” [around/in?] Hartford. She spends much of the summer getting facials, shopping, reading, and seeing movies. In late September she drives to St. Louis to look for an apartment. She begins volunteering at Barnes Hospital. In late January 1943 she departs St. Louis for Phoenix. Helly, her seventeen-year-old daughter, begins to date. Elizabeth writes that Betsy saw her father on April 16, 1943, and again on May 4, June 23, and September 24. She visits Hartford and New York for two weeks in late May/early June to visit friends, see shows, and shop. She returns to New York in August. On August 14, 1943, she writes of her daughter’s aspirations, “Betts has new notion – flying.” Betsy begins flying school on September 2. On November 5, Elizabeth writes that she went to an apple orchard in Illinois and was “arrested on way home.” In December she sees an oculist to “cure miopia.” On January 17, 1944, Elizabeth writes that her daughter, Betsy, wants to get married; two days later Elizabeth is making wedding plans. Elizabeth continues to volunteer at the hospital. Betsy announces her engagement on May 25, 1944. The next couple weeks are spent ordering bridesmaid dresses, wedding cake, and receiving gifts. Betsy married on June 14, 1944. On August 18, 1944, Helly sees a doctor about cramps. Elizabeth continues to volunteer at a hospital and spends the rest of her time doing chores, riding horses, and socializing. Elizabeth’s mother goes into the hospital in January of 1945. Elizabeth visits New Orleans on March 1, 1945. On April 14, 1945, a horse tossed Elizabeth onto her back while she was riding, hurting her. She writes on May 7, 1945, “News of surrender came at 8:15, but nobody would believe it officially except Hellie who cut school.” On May 21, she learns that her mother had a stroke. On August 10, she writes, “Much good news about Jap surrender.” The next day, she writes, “Still no surrender.” On the following day, she writes, “Surrender news at 1 a.m. – still not confirmed . . . News confirmed at 6 p.m. & all town went wild.” On December 13, 1945, she writes that she entertained a League of Women Voters meeting, and again on January 8 of the following year. On January 20, she takes a train to Mexico with family. She continues to have League of Women Voters meetings throughout the year, along with seeing family members, socializing, and riding her horse,

“Walter.” She also attends events at “Bellerive” [Country Club]. Elizabeth goes to Vancouver in late August 1946.

Diary dated 1947-1951

Elizabeth’s daughter, Betsy, gives birth to Helon Anne on January 19, 1947, whom she calls, “Bunny.” Elizabeth begins “doing baby chores” for Betsy. She puts stickers in this diary to remind her of family members’ birthdays, and Betsy’s wedding anniversary. On May 11, 1947, Elizabeth writes that her daughter, Helly, is engaged to Bob Alcott. She goes to Vassar on May 16 and has trouble recognizing her old friends. On June 16, 1947, she writes, “No maid account bus strike.” Her mother is in and out of the hospital all year. In late November she goes to Havana, Guatemala City, and Antigua as a tourist. Her mother dies on March 18, 1948. She wrote, “Went to hospital at 4 & found Mom very low. Returned to stay till she died at 2:30.” On April 8, she writes, “Went to Dr. B at 2:30 but he found no heart trouble.” On July 22, 1948, Betsy’s second child is born, “Jr” [Jim]. On November 3, 1948, Elizabeth writes “Dewey conceded election at 11 – great gloom.” On December 3, she writes, “Had news of Ridges death. To Undertakers.” In early February 1949, Elizabeth goes to Panama, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile as a tourist, with her daughter, Hellie. On March 24, she writes, “These days on shipboard blend into a lazy haze and its hard to distinguish one from the other.” She arrives home on April 8. On May 20, 1949, Elizabeth writes, “the divorce was granted” [Betsy?]. In mid September 1949, Elizabeth sees her horse, Walter; soon he is put to sleep. Elizabeth’s first entry in 1950 reads: “Started off on wrong foot by getting mad at Betts because she stayed out all nite.” She embarks the next week for a trip to Madeira, Algiers, Malta, Cairo, Istanbul, Athens and Naples; Dale Carnegie is on board. Elizabeth rides a camel on January 26 to see pyramids. Elizabeth sees her former boyfriend, Naly, in Montmartre on March 1. On March 10, she goes to Dior and orders a dress called “Escapade.” She then sees Naly again. She attends Easter services on April 9 at Notre Dame. She arrives home on April 23. On the following day, she writes, “Worried about Betsy’s state of mind.” On April 28, she writes, “Down to Dr. Baumgarten for a talk about Betsy.” The following day Elizabeth takes Betsy to St. Vincents. Elizabeth cleans Betsy’s house while she is in the hospital. In June, Elizabeth begins bringing Betsy back home for visits. In August, Elizabeth spends time watching “the U.N. meeting,” and continues to care

for Betsy's children. On August 22, she writes, "off to country with Betts. She rested . . ." She puts her house up for sale, and on September 5 a contract is signed for "\$15,250." On September 10, Betsy is entered at McMillan [Hospital]. On September 16, Elizabeth is shown how to use a dish washer in her new home. Elizabeth begins seeing a new "beau" that fall. On November 16, Elizabeth writes, "Took off for lawyer's office with Helly & John. Talked over an hour – no conclusions." The next day she goes to get Betsy but then writes, "It fizzled." On January 25, Elizabeth goes to Mexico to tour for two weeks.

Diary dated 1952-1956

In this diary Elizabeth begins writing about the horrible weather. On January 5, 1952, she writes that "All watched T.V." Nearly every journal entry, from January 5 onward, mentions watching television. From January 13 to March 1 she writes about a road trip to Phoenix, Arizona. While on vacation, Elizabeth went square dancing, played canasta, went to local tourist attractions and saw movies a lot. On August 21, she writes, "Also [went] to fair in Fergus to try to win a car." On September 30, while on vacation for 15 days, she writes, "Took a 'Nature Walk' that was mostly looking at trees and swallowing flies." On October 23, she writes, "Helly went to help at Eisenhower headquarters." Elizabeth went on another vacation to Arizona and to California for the first month and a half of 1953. On March 3, Elizabeth writes, "Helly and I went out to see about silver for a bride." On March 12, she writes, "Got a social security card and lunch in Clayton." Throughout the year Elizabeth visits Pere Marquette several times. On June 13, she writes, "Betsy was excused from St. V [St. Vincents]." From July 1 to August 15 she went on a vacation of sorts to New York and Baltimore. During the vacation she was in a trial that involved Betsy. She writes on July 16, "Betts was on stand most of the day and did better towards the end. Judge handed her the case – we were sunk." On September 18, she had over her "Vassar friends and played charades." On September 27, she writes that Henny "went to buy a dog, instead of a Boxer it was a Chihuahua." They named the dog Chewy. Elizabeth continues to watch "the kids," who are her daughters' children, and uses the phrase "had a siesta" for much of the year. From January 8 to February 19, 1954, Elizabeth went on a vacation to Mexico. On February 15, while still on vacation, she writes, "Got a telegram saying my car had been stolen!" On February 23,

she got her car back. Elizabeth spent the first half of the year hanging around her house, gardening, painting outside, and sewing dresses. The majority of her diary entries end with “peaceful P.M.” From June 25 to September 12 she went to Europe and took tours of Lisbon, London, Paris and many more cities. On October 5, she went to the “VP ball – took Smiths and Knight[y].” [Veiled Prophet Ball] On November 20, Elizabeth writes, “Started to learn Spanish.” She studies Spanish until the end of the year. On January 2, 1955, she writes, took Knighty to St. Genevieve for a drive.” Elizabeth goes places with her friend Knighty throughout the year. From February 5 to March 4 she went on a trip to Florida. On March 30, she writes, “Watched ‘Oscars’ presented on TV.” On June 17 she left for a trip to Vassar College. On July 3, she started studying Spanish again. Throughout Elizabeth’s diary, she mentions getting hair-dos, facials and face lifts [makeup?]. On September 16, she writes, “Had a metabolism test and then downtown to shop and have a Slenderella Treatment.” She goes to these treatments into 1956. On October 25, Elizabeth writes, “Met H [Henny] at Montaldo’s to select wedding dress.” On March 23, 1956, she went on another trip to Naples and Miami, Florida. Most of the year she was at home babysitting, cleaning the house, hosting dinner parties, taking Bunny to riding lessons, and going to her Slenderella treatments. On June 5 Elizabeth leaves for a trip to Europe and she returns September 5. Her record of this trip is in her travel diary. On October 16 Henny has a baby girl named Laura Anne. At the end of 1956 Elizabeth had her house up for sale and bought a new one.

Travel Diary dated 1956

This diary covers June 5 to September 5, 1956. Elizabeth’s travels start in Paris, France, where she stayed at the Hotel Castille. From June 6 to July 2 she went on tours of Paris, saw a ballet, visited Coco and Andre [friends?], went to the Russian Embassy for visas and saw tombs of French royalty. On June 18, she wrote, “Had snails at ‘Pied du Cochon.’” By June 21 she was still being denied a visa. While in Paris she dines quite often with the Graillot family. From July 3 to July 5 she visits Copenhagen. Elizabeth took a tour of the city, went to a museum with crown jewels, saw a castle, and met another tourist, Marjorie Rose. July 6-8: she traveled to Gothenburg and Oslo. July 9-11: she stopped at tourist attractions in Karlstad and Falun. On July 10, Elizabeth writes, “Stopped

for visit to home of writer Selma Lagerlof – a surprisingly pretty country house.” On July 12 she arrived at the Carlton Hotel in Stockholm and stayed there until July 16. While there she toured the city on boat. July 16-19: she stopped at many small towns on a trip to Amsterdam. July 19-26: Elizabeth stayed at Hotel Fleissig in Amsterdam. When she arrived she wasn’t impressed by the hotel and called it an “expensive dump.” While there, she went to a cheese auction, saw Rembrandt pictures and house, Van Gogh sketches, Franz Halz Museum, and a ballet. From July 26 to August 2 Elizabeth traveled to many cities, including Brussels, Paris, Champagnole, Montreux, and Stresa. On August 3 she toured Milano. She stayed at the Hotel Cavaliere and saw the cathedral, Opera Museum, the cemetery, and Da Vinci’s “Last Supper.” From August 3 to August 10 she stays in Venice. While there she stayed in a hotel on the canal then moved to a cabin, where she shared a room with a Miss Schnabel. On August 5, Elizabeth writes, “Home at 7 to eat in room and watch the people – 4 boys jumped off the bridge!” She saw a concert, movies, went to the beach, and bought gifts for Bunny and other family members. On August 11 and 12, she was on a steamer bound for Dubrovnik. When she arrived she stayed at the Hotel Excelsion from August 12 to August 18. She writes, “Most beautiful spot. Hotel is on blue ocean framed by mountains, an island and a walled mediaeval city.” On August 18 she boards a boat she calls the “SS Stinko,” where she rooms with a 12-year-old German girl. On August 21, Elizabeth arrives at Athens and takes a tour of the Acropolis. From August 25 to August 31, she went on a cruise of the Greek Islands, including Patmos, Tenos, Melos, Thiera, Rhodes, and Myconos. While touring Rhodes, she writes, “I rode a donkey and got a flea bite – also bruises.” On September 1, she arrives in Athens and shares a room with a Miss Miller and two other ladies. On September 2 and 3, she visits Nauplia, where she stays at Venetian prison that had been changed into a hotel, then back to Athens the next day. On September 5 she flies back home. The last sentence Elizabeth writes in her diary is “Home is quiet but spacious.”

The back of Elizabeth’s travel diary includes different sections such as articles purchased, expenses, people met, autographs, friends to write to and memos. On her articles purchased list she lists things like scarves, a dress and necklaces. She lists where the items were purchased, how

much they were, and who they were for. The friends to write section includes the names of people that she met and wants to keep in touch with. Under the memos section she writes all of her family and friends names who she got gifts for. Next to their name is the gift she bought them. [Under the list of names is what looks like books she may have read while on vacation and a list of numbers and prices.]

Diary dated 1957-1960

This volume includes several entries for the year 1942 that have been crossed out.

In early January 1957 Elizabeth buys a new home, and throughout January and February writes much about packing, moving, purchasing items for her new house, and doing repairs and renovations. On February 11, 1957, she writes, “kids called from 8-11 on house deal – sold for \$38,000.” Multiple entries in January and February also mention spending time with friend Mary and dining with the Bernoudys. On March 28, 1957, she goes to the St. Louis Art Museum for a talk by Betty Grossman on porcelain and then “delivered dolls to Hist. Society.” In August 1957 takes family road trip out west where she sees Mt. Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Monument, and stays at a cabin in Deadwood. In January 1958, Elizabeth and her family vacation in Florida; in March and April 1958, she visits the Virgin Islands and the Caribbean; and in June 1958, she takes a train trip west where she visits Logan’s Pass in Montana and the Prince of Wales Hotel in Alberta, Canada. Then, she and family drove to Minnesota for vacationing in late June to early July. They took a train home from Minneapolis. Much of time spent babysitting her grandchildren, socializing with friends, gardening, playing Monopoly, and doing household chores. She often goes to the movies; on November 17, 1957, she writes of going to see *The Birth of a Nation*, of which she says, “Most revealing of progress in movies since 1915.” She also continues to write of doing “odd jobs” and errands, shopping, getting “Slenderellas” and facials, and watching television. On October 3, 1958, she took a trip to Van Buren, about 4.5 hours away. Took a boat ride on the Current River and returned home on October 5, just in time for lunch. In mid-October, the exhibit “Illuminations” was at the Art Museum and her family members went to see it. On November 18, joined her family for “Rigolitto,” a music league opera. Began to get ready for Christmas by

mid November. About a foot of snow fell on the ground after Thanksgiving. Visited Bells and Jim in St. Paul, Minnesota, on December 24. Returned sometime before New Year's Eve. She returns home from holiday on January 2, 1959. Talks a lot about taking Bunny and others, including herself to "Dr. Painter." She continues to do bookkeeping, cleaning, "Slenderellas" and facials, playing games, dining with friends, and playing chauffeur to the grandchildren and their friends, taking them to the roller rink and bowling. Her dress didn't turn out as she had planned, so she has to fix it. Has been watching "Playhouse 90." Also helps Bunny with her lessons and corrects her homework. On January 23, she attended a lecture on the Panama Canal. Henny called on February 10 to tell Elizabeth that there had been a tornado and a lot of damage in the city. On February 23, she took a trip to Shaw's Garden to see the orchids; also saw Campbell House. Bunny has been selling Girl Scout cookies. March 7, planted a "virburnum burkwood." Attended Red Carpet party at Historical Society. March 20, she attended a lecture on Mexico. Took trip to Natchez, Mississippi, from March 22 to March 27. Saw the gardens and houses there. Then took two segments to get back; the last segment taken on the Illinois Central. Easter on March 29, had party for family, which included Easter egg hunt and chicken waffles. Bunny delivered her Girl Scout cookies on April 3. Saw a Civic Music Concert on April 7. On April 13, fasted and went to Dr. Jasper to get 3 "pearlies" (teeth) pulled. On April 27 might have gotten new dentures. On May 16 had car washed and marketed. On June 12, she saw "House on Haunted Hill" and described it as "most spooky." On June 18, she saw opera "King and I." On June 24, she saw "Sleeping Beauty." During the summer of 1959 they installed a fountain. Year ended with typical family gathering. January 25, 1960, went traveling until May 15—directions say to look in travel book to see what she has done; however, this travel book is not part of the collection. May 15, returns and mentions Jo, possible travel companion. In July she mentions a Japanese garden that becomes part of her house. Traveled to Minnesota in late August to see family. Saw the movie "Psycho" on September 17. "Home & Garden" editors came to visit and see house. Watched Nixon and Kennedy on television on September 26. Political rallies and wrote addresses for the GOP [Republican party] and phoned for election. Went on

tour of Hermann, Missouri, planned by the Historical Society. Bought beagle puppy named Mildred (Milly).

Diary dated 1961-1965

January 1961: Bun has been experimenting with baking. Went to talk on antique dolls at the Missouri Historical Society on January 31. Gave up alcohol for Lent on March 7 [suggests that she is Catholic; later mentions attending mass]. On May 9, Mr. B dismissed Bun for a week, but no reason is mentioned. She says the market fell 35 points on May 28 and seems shocked. On June 25, Elizabeth and the girls docked at Cherbourg then left for Southampton. The following day they set off for London. They saw Westminster Abbey, Windsor and Hampton Court, Winchester Cathedral, King Arthur's Castle, and Stonehenge. She describes Luxembourg as "commercial and rather drab" and they continue on to Switzerland, Italy, and France. October 18, 1962, she went to Spring Mill State Park. Next day left for Nashville. Came back October 20. Worked on the GOP [Republican party] campaign. December 10, 1962, Bun was fired from her job and Mr. Bat suggested a boarding school. December 13, Left for Milwaukee Downer School for Bun but was rejected. December 20, Left to visit family in Greenville by plane spent holidays with family. Left January 5, 1963. February 6, took train to Albuquerque and visited Mexico, Redlands; visited with Aunt Tom and Sophie. Traveled around Southwest, including Scottsdale, Arizona. Returned March 10. March 27, Bun tried for driver's license but failed. April 3, checked out property in southern Missouri at Ozarks and Rolla. Traveled to Greenville for Easter holiday. April 11, Drove to South Carolina and visited Ashley Hall School in Charleston for Bun, but no room. On Easter, took a boat trip to Fort Sumter. In early May, took a trip to Excelsior Spring in Arkansas. Signed papers for a new bathroom on May 8. On May 16, listened to Space news. Gardens almost everyday. Bun started volunteering at the hospital. August 6, had Beer Bust for 30 guests and had German songs for entertainment. Had been talking with a lawyer about custody suit. Bun started dating [possibly Carl?]. Aunt Tom died August 17; Elizabeth went to the funeral and memorial service. Early to mid September took a river boat tour. September 26, visited Greenville, South Carolina, and Sam showed her the new home and then left for New York. November 22, looked at new furniture and put down a deposit. Radio broadcast of President

Kennedy's death. January 7, 1964, wants to sell VW and must have since she needed a new one when she returned from the South Pacific. January 24, left for South Pacific. Notation says to look at travel notes for information on her vacation. April 4, returned from trip. Picked up with her gardening, playing bridge, and Republican campaign work: phoning, mailing, and planting propaganda. Went traveling again in Kentucky area in late May. June 5, had x-rays. On June 25 Elizabeth sent Bun to Dr. B for a lump in her breast. Went college touring in Late August on the Northeast Coast for Bun. Returned in early September. Bun chose a college in New York. Early January 1965, left for trip by car to the West. Visited Los Angeles and saw the Wells Fargo Museum. Also rode horses, sometimes as a way to go up a mountain. Visited several sites and cities in Arizona as well. She spent time with the "boys" and the "girls" playing bridge and exploring. Made her way back in late February. Mid March, flies to Naples, Florida, to visit family; Bun joined them in Naples. Elizabeth then flew to Miami. While there, watched space flight. Returned April 6. In mid April, she began taking Spanish lessons. Has been playing bridge all year. Visited Bells in Minnesota in early June. Bun graduated? Also enjoys knitting/crocheting sweaters for Bun.

Diary dated 1966-1970

Dodie got married on January 1, 1966. Took a trip from January 28 to April 17—might have something to do with the Spanish lessons. New yard worker/helper she calls "Mister" in May. Left for Minnesota on June 3. Bought a VW by phone on June 20. Bun tries to get into Washington University's Art Department. In late August, began working the McNary campaign from his lawyer's office [possibly refers Gene McNary who ran for the office of prosecuting attorney in 1966 on Republican ticket]. Bought Korean wear on September 13. Took trips to Ozarks with bridge buddies in late September and mid-October. Bun has to move in October though stops by once in a while for her allowance. Started dieting on Sego around November. There was a tornado on January 24. Went down to Southwest and Mexico in late January for bridge. Went sightseeing and horseback riding and returned in early March. March 18, "Made plans for meeting to get Lafayette Sq. [Lafayette Square] going." Late March took trip to Atlanta to visit family and play bridge. Bun got a job at Woolworth's. Sold her VW for \$875. On September 28,

Elizabeth left for Canada and traveled through Minnesota. She visited Montreal and Toronto and returned on October 15. Met up with family in December for Christmas. On January 1, 1968, talks about colored television. Mid January, got Mexican travel cards and Bun moves again—still in school. January 20, heard Reagan at the Arena. Went to Phoenix on January 29. On February 1, reached Wild Horse. Attended picnics, played bridge, enjoyed visiting attractions. Traveled on to Naples by mid-Feb and socialized with the Yacht Club. Returned to St. Louis on March 13. Had surgery for dead-eye tooth on April 4, Dr. Buehl is introduced. Took off for Naples on April 30 and John met her there. Went to the derby and saw yacht race. Returned home on May 14. May 28, Dr. Buehl drilled a tooth. July 12, bought a 1967 green Rambler. Gathered clothes for Korea from the Scholarshop. Took trip to Boston on August 15 for a wedding, returned just days later. Continued doing more GOP [Republican party] political work and tried to hook up telephone answering “gadget” in mid-October. October 24, left for Savannah for what sounds like a convention. Found out Reagan won on November 6 at 10 am. New dentures two days later. Spent Christmas in Naples and found a “companion” to spend time with. John is having troubles with independence. Decided he needed to go to Cleveland where Eric will fetch him. Elizabeth decided to work on genealogy as John gets sicker. Took plane to see John in hospital in Cleveland in early February 1969. John died February 6. Went to Jamaica on February 14. Enjoyed the warm weather, markets and swimming. Played bridge while there. Returned to the states on March 8. “Mister” still comes to work in the garden. Left for Greece on June 12 and visited various attractions such as, Dodona—shrine for Zeus and temple of Hera. Returned June 29. Visited family in Minnesota in July. Starts planning trips to Europe in mid-November for next year. Bun has first job with a construction company, fill in for a week starting late November. Early February 1970, bought new car and sold Bun’s. Took trip to Naples Florida on March 23 to play more bridge. Visited Caribbean Gardens while there. Returned April 6. She gathered reading materials on Turkey and other Near East countries in early June. Took trip to Minnesota in mid-June for just a day or two. “Mister” became very sick around the end of June; mentioned him again on November 17. On June 30, took trip to Middle East. Returned September 15. Travels to the

Shaw House a lot this year, probably volunteering since she counts the number of guests on December 2.

Diary dated 1971-1975

On January 26, 1971, she went to the Missouri Historical Society to copy articles about her grandfathers. January 31, Apollo 14 took off. Watched moon walk on February 5. February 24, took boat trip/tour with Kirklands in late February in Ft. Lauderdale to St. Thomas and Barbados. Continued on to the Panama Canal and Jamaica. Returned to Naples, Florida, in mid March. Returned to St. Louis on March 27. After a short period at home, Elizabeth and Irene left for New Orleans on April 14 where they stayed at the Royal Orleans Hotel. Toured the French Quarter, visited Baton Rouge and St. Francisville. On April 19, toured Vicksburg, which she thought was "rather shabby" and visited the battlefield. Then visited Greenville and dined with Captain Fred Way. Returned to St. Louis on April 22. Continued to work at Shaw House regularly in the spring. "Mister" still pays visits. The first of June began with a visit to Dr. Weinberg where a "depressing interview" ensued. Repeat visit on June 3 then took bus to Poughkeepsie for a campus tour and to see old pals until June 8. She has two more teeth pulled on June 25. Celebrates her 72nd birthday on July 1, 1971. Elizabeth spends most of her days at this age going to the spa, gardening, working at the Shaw House, dining with friends, playing bridge, and watching television. On July 14, she mentions being on a liquid diet and July 17 was a "diet day" but does not complain about her weight. Takes a trip to Minnesota, July 22-27, to visit friends and family. On August 15, she claims that "Nixon tinkered with economy in drastic style." Floated down the Meramec in canoes on September 9 with Irene Carlotta and Lilla Nicolas. Later she attended the V.P. [Veiled Prophet] parade in a downpour on September 25 and watched an African movie at the Art Museum on September 28. She met Jo and a group of travelers at the airport on October 18 to depart for Ireland. There, she visited Dublin Cathedral and Trinity College as well as a host of castles. From Ireland they traveled to England to tour Shakespeare's home, Oxford, and Stonehenge. They flew back to New York on November 8 and Elizabeth arrived home on the 9th. On February 7, 1972, she traveled to Tucson and also visited Disneyland and Universal Studios in California. Elizabeth returned home on February 25 and mentions attending a

meeting of the Shaw House board on April 12. Set sail for a cruise on April 21 with friends to the Azores, Spain, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. Returned on May 30. Left on June 27 for a short Illinois road trip to Kampsville, Jacksonville, New Salem, and Springfield. Got dentures on September 26 after having another tooth pulled. Elizabeth's good friend Carrie died on January 18, 1973, from a stroke. Took trip to Mexico on February 1 to February 21. She listened to the Watergate trial on May 17. Decided to go camping on July 9 at Alley Springs and swam at Johnson Shut-ins on the 30th. Elizabeth is excited to receive a newspaper on October 7 after a long strike ends. January 30, 1974, Elizabeth goes to Tucson Irene, Alicia and Fran. They also toured Arrow Rock, Missouri, on May 5. Traveled to Minnesota on July 19 to visit friends/family. On August 4, she visited Friendship Village and a few days later signed a contract to retire there. On August 9, she "listened to Nixon's 'farewell' and Ford's 'hello.'" January 1975 was spent packing and preparing to move into Friendship Village. On February 5, she says "still a mess on house deal" and frequently mentions "9564" address. Left for Russia on July 27, 1975, and visited places such as Copenhagen, Helsinki, Leningrad, Moscow, and Warsaw. September 20 was labeled as "moving day" [to Friendship Village in St. Louis].

Diary dated 1976

The "Identification" page at the beginning of this diary provides Elizabeth's contact information. It lists her address as 15201 Olive Blvd St. Louis, MO 63017. Her telephone number was 532-4857, and her Social Security number is also listed. This diary does not start in January but rather on December 29, 1975, when Elizabeth leaves for Disneyland and visits with Bun. Elizabeth also visits San Francisco, Stanford, Sea World, and San Diego. She returned to Friendship Village on January 28. On February 25, Elizabeth says that Bun wants her VW and on March 4 she starts making preparations for its shipment. She also bought a yellow rabbit that day. Starts working in a library in the spring (April 19) and taking yoga classes. She visited Betts and Jim at the end of June. Elizabeth went to the Muny's production of "Fiddler on the Roof" on July 8. She later traveled to Philadelphia on October 28 and while there learned that Carter had won the election. Visited Annapolis, Maryland, and toured the United States Naval Academy on November 4 and then went on to Baltimore. Returned home

on the 6th. Left again on December 13 for a trip to Hawaii.
Her diary ends with a day at the beach in Waimea.