

MS-396

***Lest We Forget* Collection**

**Special Collections and Archives
Wright State University Libraries**

**Processed by:
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Introduction

The *Lest We Forget* Collection was donated to Wright State University Special Collections and Archives by Judy Leasure, Development Director of Partners for Community Living. The collection was accessioned on 1 July 2008, and additions to the collection were donated on 16 July 2008. The collection consists of five boxes.

The collection includes organizational records and research information such as newspaper clippings and publications; correspondence and legal documents such as emails, letters, and invoices; oral history transcripts; printed materials such as promotional flyers and programs from film festivals; photographs, film, and videotapes. All of the items are directly related to the *Lest We Forget* project.

The *Lest We Forget* Collection dates between 1953 and 2008. However, the vast majority of materials are from 2003 to 2007. This collection documents the *Lest We Forget* project from initial research to completion.

There are no restrictions on the use of the *Lest We Forget* Collection. Distribution of CD/DVD/Audio is prohibited – must go through distribution channels (Fanlight) or through Judy Leasure.

Many of the videos/transcripts in this collection have been digitized and are available online in Wright State University's Campus Online Repository (CORE Scholar): http://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/special_ms396/.

A publication intricately connected to the *Lest We Forget* project, *Home From Purgatory: Freedom, Choice and Life after Christmas in Purgatory* (2017) by Judith Daniel Leasure, can be accessed at the Special Collections and Archives in the cataloged local history book collection.

The *Lest We Forget* Collection is organized into 5 series:

- Series I: Organizational Records and Research Information
- Series II: Correspondence and Legal Documents
- Series III: Oral History Transcripts
- Series IV: Printed or Published Materials
- Series V: Photographs, Film and Videotapes

Biographical Sketch

Lest We Forget was a film and audio project that captured personal and historical reflections and remembrances of people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities, their families, their advocates, and their communities who lived during the decades of statewide institutionalization and subsequent deinstitutionalization in Ohio. The goals of the project were to collect oral, video, and written histories of the personal stories of people with mental retardation who lived in a state institution for any period of time. The project also collected the stories of their family members, professionals who worked in the institutions and advocates who worked toward social and legislative change.

The Oral History Component of the project was managed by disability advocate and musician Jeff Moyer. Moyer managed another similar oral history program at the Western Reserve Historical Society, but the *Lest We Forget* project sought to not only record and preserve oral histories but to expand into written histories, video histories, and a feature-length documentary. *Lest We Forget: Spoken Histories* was released as a two-CD audio documentary accompanied by music provided by Jeff Moyer.

The Video History Component of the project was produced by Judy Leasure and the video production company Fanlight Productions. The video footage from the oral histories was used as well as a variety of other images including family videos, photographs, and historical footage. The Written History Component of the project was edited by Judy Leasure and she also served as the lead writer for this portion of the project.

Initial feasibility discussions were completed in July 2002, and the project development was underway. The oral histories were collected throughout 2003 and 2004, and the marketing of the project began in 2004. The award-winning video documentary *Lest We Forget: Silent Voices*, a Mark R. Lyons film, is now available to purchase on DVD through Fanlight Productions. The film was featured at the Sprout Festival, the Athens International Film Festival, and numerous screenings across Ohio. The film received a 2008 Award of Excellence from Ohio Public Images and a Leadership Award from The Inclusion Network of Cincinnati. *Lest We Forget* was narrated by Julia Reichert and was edited by James Klein. The film was a production by Partners for Community Living. The 42-minute documentary was completed in 2007.

Scope and Content Note

The papers for the *Lest We Forget* Collection contain background and research information about the project, correspondence, transcripts, and photographs and videotapes from the documentary project. These papers have a wealth of information about the project and would be useful for researchers who want to continue research on this subject and need a starting place for sources or to view the finished product.

Series I: Organizational Records and Research Information

Series I, Organizational Records and Research Information, is the largest series in the collection. This series includes documents related to the formation of the project. It contains a large amount of research information and leads that helped form the project, as well as some of the administrative issues that arose during the formation of the project. There are also documents related to the initial recordings and information about the various participants in the program.

Series II: Correspondence and Legal Documents

Series II, Correspondence and Legal Documents, includes documents related to the legal and financial aspects of the project. Invoices from editing, equipment, and food costs are included as well as distribution agreements and service agreements. Within the correspondence, there are emails and letters referencing every aspect of the project from financial and legal issues to praise for the finished product.

Series III: Oral History Transcripts

Series III, Oral History Transcripts, contains the full transcripts of interviews used in the project. Each of the seventeen interviews is represented in their transcribed entirety. These transcriptions are helpful to anyone studying oral history or who is interested in personal and first-person accounts. Many of the transcripts can be viewed online through CORE. For those available online there will be a live link following the transcript listing in this finding aid.

Series IV: Printed or Published Materials

Series IV, Printed or Published Materials, contains a variety of materials related to the publicity of the *Lest We Forget* project. Included in this series are advertisements of the project, promotional flyers, and reviews of the project. There are also programs from the film festivals and conferences where the *Lest We Forget* project participated.

Series V: Photographs, Film and Videotapes

Series V, Photographs, Film and Videotapes, includes a variety of photographs from local institutions and others that document the project. There are DVDs of the documentary as well as the marketed audio CD of the interviews. There are 32 DVCAM tapes of the oral histories that are excellent companions to the oral history transcripts.

Many of the videos/transcripts in this collection have been digitized and are available online in Wright State University's Campus Online Repository (CORE Scholar): http://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/special_ms396/. For those available online there will be a live link following the tape/transcript listing in this finding aid. Also included in this series are three 16mm films related to the project and two of those films are also available on VHS format within the collection.

Container Listing

Series I Organizational Records and Research Information

Box	File	Item	Date
1	1	Participant Contact Information – Narrators, Production Staff, Research Assistants	Undated
	2	<i>Lest We Forget</i> Surveys – Before and After Feedback	Undated
	3	Project Descriptions	Undated
	4	Presentation Scripts	Undated
	5	Audio Description Script and Audio Information	Feb 29, 2008
	6	Production Notes	2003-2007
	7	Research – Newsletters and Publications	1953 – 2007
	8	Research – Personal Stories	Undated
	9	Research – Online Articles	1999 – 2007
	10	Research – Newspaper Clippings	1968 – 1999, Undated
	11	Research – Miscellaneous Research Materials	Undated

Series II Correspondence and Legal Documents

Box	File	Item	Date
1	12	Invoices	Jun 1998 – Mar 2008
	13	Legal Documents	2005, 2007, 2008
	14	Correspondence – Email	May 30, 2003 – Jul 20, 2007
	15	Correspondence – Email	Jul 26, 2007 – Apr 21, 2008
	16	Correspondence – Letters	Jan 2, 2007 – Feb 13, 2008

Series III Oral History Transcripts

All of these transcripts are available in CORE Scholar:
http://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/special_ms396/.

Box	File	Item	Date
1	17	Interview with John Gill	Jul 14, 2003
	18	Interview with Jack Carroll	Jul 14, 2003
	19	Interview with Marcia Dufore	Jul 14, 2003
	20	Interview with Mary Beth Mitchell	Jul 15, 2003
	21	Interview with Cynthia Foster	Jul 15, 2003
	22	Interview with Betty Weatherly	Jul 15, 2003
	23	Interview with Terry Alexander	Jul 14, 2003
	24	Interview with Ray Thomas	Jul 15, 2003
	25	Interview with Jean Tydings	Jul 15, 2003
	26	Interview with Bob O’Callaghan	Jul 15, 2003
	27	Interview with Dan and Eunice Powell	Undated
	28	Interview with Paul Young	Undated

29	Interview with Francis and Roy Miller	Undated
30	Interview with John Kolarovski	Undated
31	Interview with Julia Bell	Undated
32	Interview with John Pratt	Undated
33	Interview with Mark Gerhardstein	Undated
34	Interview with Ken Richey	Undated

Series IV Printed or Published Materials

Box	File	Item	Date
1	35	Audio and Film Reviews	2003, 2007, 2008
	36	<i>Home Address</i>	2007, 2008
	37	<i>Choices' Voices</i>	2007, 2008
	38	Promotional Flyers and Programs	2007, 2008
	39	Press Releases	2008
	40	Remembrance Sculpture Dedication	2 Jun 2004
	41	Programs from Film Festivals and Conferences	Oct 2007-Oct 2008
	42	WSU Premiere	Oct 7, 2007

Series V Photographs, Film and Videotapes

Box	File	Item	Date
1	43	Photographs at The Neon movie theatre, Dayton, Ohio	Undated
	44	Photographs: Greenhill Home, Dayton, Ohio	May 22-23, 2003
	45	Photographs: Orient Development Center, Ohio	Jun 1983
	46	Photographs: ACDC and MacIntosh	Undated
	47	Photographs: Underground Storage by Power House	Undated
	48	Miscellaneous Photographs	Undated
	49	Miscellaneous Photographs	Undated
	50	Miscellaneous Photographs	Undated
	51	Miscellaneous Photographs	Undated
	52	Miscellaneous Negatives	Undated
	53	<i>Lest We Forget</i> DVDs and CDs	2005/2007/undated
1	54	<i>Lest We Forget</i> DV Master (WSU Premiere)	2007
	55	Photos on CD, Brochures on disk, Partners Presentation	Undated
	56	VHS: Silent Footage (12:46); <i>MERCY</i> (9:50); <i>Moments of Joy</i> (25:57)	1972, 1973
	57	VHS: <i>Off A Cement Floor</i> (54:04)	1984
2		DVCAM 40: <i>Lest We Forget</i> FLA	Mar 22, 2007
		DVCAM 64: Re-Creation #1	Jun 23, 2007
		DVCAM 64: Re-Creation #2	Jun 23, 2007

Most of the following videos are in CORE Scholar:

http://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/special_ms396/

DVCAM 64: #1 Connie Mack	May 22, 2003
DVCAM 64: #2 Elvia Thomas	May 22, 2003
DVCAM 64: #3 Elvia Thomas, Jeff Moyer	May 22, 2003

	DVCAM 64: #4 David Johnson and Robert Olinger	May 22, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #5 Dan Powell	May 23, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #6 Dan Powell, Tom Weaver	May 23, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #7 Elgertha Hall, Brenda Whitney	May 23, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #8 James Tuck	May 23, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #9 Brenda Whitney, Jeff Moyer	May 23, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #10 Barb Jones	Jul 14, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #11 Terry Alexander, Marcia Dufore	Jul 14, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #12 Jack Carroll	Jul 14, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #13 Wayne Alexander, Judy Walker Cunningham	Jul 14, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #14 John Gill	Jul 15, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #15 Jean Tydings	Jul 15, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #16 Bob O'Callaghan	Jul 15, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #17 Betty Weatherly	Jul 15, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #18 Ray Thomas	Jul 15, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #19 Mary Beth Mitchell, Cynthia Foster	Jul 15, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #20 Jack Carroll (at work)	Jul 15, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #21 Dan and Eunice Powell	Dec 9, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #22 Dan and Eunice Powell, Paul Young	Dec 9-10, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #23 Paul Young	Dec 10, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #24 Paul Young	Dec 10, 2003
	DVCAM 64: #25 Roy and Francis Miller, James and Carol Osburn	Undated
1	54 DVCAM 64: #26 James and Carol Osburn, John Kolarovsky	Undated
	DVCAM 64: #27 John Kolarovsky	Undated
	DVCAM 64: #28 Julia Bell	Nov 3, 2004
	DVCAM 64: #29 Julia Bell, John Pratt	Nov 3, 2004
	DVCAM 64: #30 John Pratt, Mark Gerhardstein	Nov 3, 2004
	DVCAM 64: #31 Ken Ritchie	Nov 3, 2004
	DVCAM 64: #32 James Osburn (at work)	Aug 13, 2007
3	16mm Film: <i>MERCY</i>	Undated
4	16mm Film: <i>The Cottage "A" Story</i>	Undated
5	16mm Film: <i>Moments of Joy</i>	Undated