

Guide to

MS 78

**Helen & Reamy Fitch Collection
1923-1975**

2 Boxes

**Prepared by Jerry Veatch
April, 2009**

Donated by Mrs. Reamy Fitch (Helen), date unknown

**Library and Archives
Arizona Historical Society Museum@Papago Park**

HISTORICAL NOTE

Reamy and Helen Fitch moved from Lawrence Ks. to Phoenix in 1943, because of Reamy's health. Reamy was born in 1903 and obtained a Civil Engineering degree from Kansas U. in 1924. He held a variety of engineering positions from 1924 until his death in 1957, and his consulting engineering firm is credited for completion of the Scottsdale Sewer System. In 1959, a dedication was held in Reamy's honor, and a bronze plaque was donated in his memory.

Helen Fitch was born in 1896 in Iowa, where she completed her Registered Nursing training. In Phoenix, Helen was very involved in Nurse Administration and training and during WWII served as recruitment director for the American Red Cross. An accomplished artist in her spare time, Helen was always available for medically-related volunteer duty and spent an entire year training Nurse's Aids for memorial hospital. She passed away in 1984.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Helen & Reamy Fitch Collection is an assortment of photos and memorabilia reflecting this couple's impressive civic and professional involvement in the Phoenix area. There are several photos of them, appearing as a couple and individually in group photos. There is a large collection of annual Christmas greeting letters dating from 1950 to 1974, which describe the various activities the couple were involved in. An indication of their contributions to the community is shown in the letters of appreciation and commendation they received from recipients of their services. Many of these documents are contained in three scrapbooks prepared by Helen.

(For further information regarding this couple, refer to the Oral History transcript, 1985.148.146, completed with Helen in 1976 and the abstract of this transcript. Both are available in the Library/Archives, Az. Historical Society, Central Az. Division.)

**CONTAINER LIST FOR MS 78
Helen & Reamy Fitch Collection**

Box	Folder
1	<p>1. 1.This folder contains photo copies of Christmas letters from the Fitches to their friends and relatives, spanning a period from 1950 to 1975. Reamy expired in 1957, and the last letter, dated 1975, reflects Mrs. Fitch's numerous health problems. Also included are 12 copies of unidentified photos, and several letters of appreciation and commendation.</p> <p>“</p> <p>“</p> <p>2. This folder contains the <u>original</u> copies of the letters in Folder #1.</p> <p>“</p> <p>3. (Photos) Reamy Fitch Reamy Fitch, military uniform Helen and Reamy Engineer dinner, 1954, Fitches present K.U. Alumni meeting, Phoenix, 1956 Helen Fitch w/painting by her Bronze memorial to Reamy Harmony Club lunch, Helen attending Phoenix lunch, Helen attending Sorority, Helen attending “ “ “ Encanto church Helen and church Reverend “ “ “ Man in front of church “ “ “ People at church Helen, Nursing Services Director Helen, with 2 of her paintings</p> <p>“</p> <p>4. (Photos) Postcard, Beulah, Co. “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “</p>

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 “ Helen & Reamy Xmas card, 1949
 “ “ “ , 1944
 “ Invitation, Del Web model homes
 “ Empty envelope, addressed to Helen
 “ Photo of Helen’s deceased friend
 “ Brochure reg. Beta Sigma Phi sorority

“ 5. This file contains an assortment of letters, commendations, thank you notes, dedication announcements, engineering trade magazines and photos of Luke Air Base, all reflecting the social, civic and professional activities of Helen and Reamy Fitch.

2. 1. This folder contains loose memorabilia items pertaining to Helen Fitch. These are mostly cards and letters received from friends, relatives and professional associates, expressing gratitude for a particular service performed or complimenting Helen for her various acts of kindness and work.

“ 2. Scrapbook #1 containing the following:
 “ Reamy wedding invitation, 1925
 “ Anniversary card, 1950
 “ Congratulatory cards, letters, notes for the
 “ Reamy’s 25th wedding anniversary, 1950.
 “ Invoice for catering service.

2. 3. Scrapbook #2 containing “this & that” in the Life of Helen Fitch:
 “ Newspaper photo of Helen receiving award
 “ Congratulatory letter
 “ Community Chest donation statement,
 “ names of collectors
 “ Community Chest paper
 “ Thank you letter for volunteering
 “ Campaign news letters
 “ Newspaper article, volunteering

“ Thank you letter for volunteers
“ Newspaper article about nurses(Helen)
and nurse graduation announcement, 1923.
“ Various articles,announcements
“ Letters from funeral home
“ Assorted newspaper articles
“ Poem for Reamy’s parents 50th Ann., written
by Helen, and announcement
“ More newspaper articles
“ Photo of Fitch home interior, 1945
“ Phoenix Gazette article, poem by Helen

2. **4.** Assorted letters and articles relating
To the Fitch family

“ **5.** Assorted items relating to the Fitch
Family

“ **6.** Scrapbook#3 containing the following:
Letters, newspaper articles, photos
pertaining to Helen’s career as a Nurse
and Director of Nursing Services in
Phoenix, her Red Cross services,
and recruitment of nurses for the
Armed services.