



BHC-MSS 0173
Guide to the Papers of Lucille Viets
by Meg Rinn
November 2021

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Viets, Lucille

Title: Papers of Lucille Viets

Dates: 1951-1977

Quantity: .8 linear feet, 2 manuscript boxes

Abstract Lucille Ohland, later Lucille Viets, was born in Saginaw, Michigan in 1901. She came to Bridgeport in the late 1930s as a volunteer with the United Way. She was active within that organization and a large number of other Bridgeport non-profits. This collection contains a sampling of some of her work.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History:

Lucille Ohland, later Lucille Viets, was born in Saginaw, Michigan in 1901. She attended the University Michigan, where she received her bachelor's degree in nursing. She came to Bridgeport in the late 1930s, originally as a part of a volunteer group with what her obituary identifies as United Community Services, but was originally called the Community Chest. The organization is known today as United Way of Coastal Fairfield County.

Lucille was a part of the United's volunteer board, which she helped to form in 1941. She served as a part of it in some capacity, including as executive director, until 1974.

As a nurse, Viets was involved in the Bridgeport chapter of the American Red Cross. She was director of nursing services for the Bridgeport chapter during World War II, and she was active in the Civil Defense during the Cold War.

Lucille was active in numerous Bridgeport organizations, and wrote a weekly column in the *Bridgeport Post* that highlighted local volunteer opportunities. Some of her commitments include the Girl Scout Council, Connecticut Gerontology Society, and the Employ the Handicapped committee. She was also an honorary member of the Optimists club, and was named Woman of the Year in 1961 by the Bridgeport and Professional Woman's Club

Her husband was Elton Viets. Lucille died on June 10, 1977.

Scope and Content note:

The material within the collection does not correspond with Lucille's extensive civic engagement. There are some reports and working files from her time with the Community Chest and the Holiday Exchange, but nothing regarding her work with the Civic Defense or the American Red Cross. Some of her speeches have been preserved, as have numerous photographs, most of which are unidentified.

Arrangement Note:

Material has been arranged in two series. Series I contains reports and activities including reports generated by the Community Chest, as well as speeches given. Series II, additional material, contains newspaper clippings, cards received, and photographs.

Administrative information:

Provenance: 1977.62, gift of her sister, Edith Lewis

Preferred Citation:

Papers of Lucille Viets (BHC-MSS 0173), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Names and Subject Tracings*Personal names*

Viets, Lucille

Corporate names

United Way of Coastal Fairfield County

Subject tracings

Nonprofits

Detailed box/folder listing

Box 1

Series I, Reports and activities

1. Holiday exchange reports, 1958-1968
2. Holiday exchange reports, 1958-1968
3. Holiday exchange publicity and clippings, 1955-1968
4. Public Health in Bridgeport, vol. 1-2, 1959
5. Public Health in Bridgeport, vol. 3, 1959
6. Speeches, 1958-1977
7. Viets testimonials, 1959-1977

Box 2

Series II, Additional material

1. Misc., 1960-1972
2. Newspaper clippings, 1951-1976
3. Cards, 1950s-1970s
4. Mrs. Viet's photographs, 1962, undated
5. Group photographs, 1962-1964
6. Photographs, general, 1954-1975

Flat file F

Drawer 5, folder21, awards, 1946-1977