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GEN MS 68 Lillian E. Brooks Nursing Diary

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**Lillian E. Brooks Diary, 1935-1939
GEN MS0068**

Extent: 2 File Folders

**By
Jill Piekut Roy**

**Portland, Maine
May 2022**

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Administrative Information

Provenance: The diary is part of the the John and Bonnie Fossett History of Nursing Collection received with in 2012. It was formerly cataloged and stored with the collection until May 20, 2022.

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Cite as: GEN MS0068, Lillian E. Brooks Diary, Special Collections, University of Southern Maine Library.

Restrictions on access: This collection is open for research.

Biographical Note

Lillian Elizabeth Brooks was born in West Cape, Prince Edward Island, Canada on September 15, 1916 to George and Annie Brooks. The Brooks family immigrated to Maine in 1923, where they settled in the town of Mexico. Brooks graduated from Mexico High School in 1934. Her yearbook noted her ambition to become a nurse. In 1935 and 1936, Brooks attended nursing school in New York City. She later returned to Maine, where she worked as a store clerk and waitress. She left Maine again in the fall of 1938, returning to New York after a brief time in Boston. She died in New York City on May 30, 1939 at the age of 22.

Description of the Papers

Collection includes a diary kept by Lillian E. Brooks from August 29, 1935 to May 6, 1939, and three accompanying items. The collection documents the daily life and work of a Maine woman who aspired to be a nurse before her untimely death.

Brooks recorded her daily lessons and duties as a nursing student, her work as a store clerk and a waitress, letters from friends and family, illnesses, travel between Maine and New York, shopping trips, outings to the beach, the movies, and other attractions. In the back pages of the diary, Brooks kept lists of books she read, her grades, addresses, and birthdays. A few pages of the Memoranda section include descriptions of the young men she knew.

The diary was published by the Blackstone Press before 1935. The locking blue cloth cover is embossed with the title "My Treasure Chest." Pages are dated and printed with five lined sections, so that each page could show entries for the same date over the course of five years.

Three items accompany the diary: an annotated paper coaster from the Howard Johnson's in Portland, Maine, a newspaper clipping of "Is there a Santa Claus?" reprinted on December 24, 1938, and a numbered list of fourteen New Year's resolutions for 1939.

Folder List

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Dates
FC22	1	Lillian E. Brooks diary	1935-1939
FC22	2	Accompanying materials	1938-1939