

Sister Mary Louise Vachon Papers

Finding Aid

CONTENTS

Overview of Records.....	2
Biographical Note	2
Arrangement.....	3
Administrative Information	3
Box and Folder List	4
Biographical Information	4
Family Papers	4
Correspondence.....	4
Writing	5
Sub-series: Famous Writers School Correspondence Courses	5
Sub-series: Short narratives and plays	5
Sub-series: Poetry.....	6
Sub-series: <i>The Dear Sourdoughs</i>	6
Sub-series: Journals	7
Alaska Research	9
Sub-series: Scrapbooks	9
Sub-series: Subject Files	9
Sub-series: Collected Publications.....	10
Sub-series: Ephemera	10

Providence ARCHIVES

Serving the Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province
and Providence Health & Services

OVERVIEW OF RECORDS

Repository: Providence Archives, Mother Joseph Province, Seattle, Washington

Creator: Sister Mary Louise Vachon, SP

Record Group Name: Sister Mary Louise Vachon Papers

Record Group Number: SP3903

Dates: 1911-1984

Scope and Content: Contains the personal papers of Sister Mary Louise Vachon, SP. Includes family papers, correspondence, published and unpublished poetry and prose, as well as collected research and ephemera about the state of Alaska.

Extent: Approximately 21 linear feet

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Sister Mary Louise (Merilu) Vachon, SP (3903),¹ author of *The Dear Sourdoughs*, a history of the Sisters of Providence in Alaska, had a long career as a Sister of Providence. In addition to writing published poetry and prose, Sr. Merilu worked in both the education and health care ministries. Her deep connection with Alaska and with the Sisters of Providence endured throughout her life.

On October 1, 1910, the Sisters of Providence opened St. Joseph Hospital in Fairbanks, Alaska. Shortly after, on October 10, 1910, the Tolovana Trading Post operated by William and Louise Vachon was destroyed by a fire. Of the four Vachon children, the three youngest died in the accident, and the eldest child, Hayden, was unconscious for four days due to smoke inhalation. After the fire, the Vachons traveled three days to reach St. Joseph Hospital where the Sisters of Providence provided medical care and spiritual solace.

Just over a year later on November 26, 1911, William and Louise Vachon's daughter Mary Louise was born at St. Joseph Hospital, Fairbanks. A family story related that as an infant she held onto the pectoral cross of the Sister of Providence who was holding her, leading the sister to predict that the little girl would grow up to join the religious community. Mary Louise was baptized on December 3, 1911 at Immaculate Conception Church in Fairbanks. Her mother named Mary Louise in memory of her two older daughters who had died in the fire, using the first name of one sister, Mary Josephine, and the middle name of the other sister, Margaret Louise. Mary Louise's father died when she was eight years old, and her mother later married Major E.R. McFarland, the head of the local U.S. government telegraph station.

In 1926, Mary Louise traveled from Alaska to attend boarding school at Providence Academy, Vancouver, Washington. She received confirmation at St. James Church in Vancouver on May 13, 1928. Graduating in 1930, she attended Holy Names Normal School in Spokane, Washington for teacher training. Mary Louise entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Providence at Mount St. Vincent, Seattle, Washington on July 13, 1931. She made her first profession on July 19, 1933, and received her name in religion: Hubert of Jesus. After the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, she chose to use her birth name. She was often called by her nickname and pen name: Merilu.

Sr. Merilu worked as a teacher of English and Drama for 37 years in Sisters of Providence schools. She undertook her first teaching work at Holy Family School, Seattle, and then attended the College of Great Falls, Montana to get further teacher training in 1935-1936. During summer

¹ Any reference to a Sister will be indicated with the placement of "Sister" or "Mother" before her name. Unless otherwise indicated, these Sisters can be assumed to be Sisters of Providence. Men and women religious who are members of other religious communities are identified by the initials of that community. Sisters of Providence each receive an identifying number upon professing their first vows; this number is indicated in parentheses after each Sister's name.

breaks, Sr. Merilu attended college; she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1940 from Seattle University, then known as Seattle College. Over her teaching career, she worked in schools in Moxee, Yakima, Walla Walla, and Vancouver, Washington, and in schools in Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska. In 1970, she transitioned to work as Coordinator of the Adult Volunteer Program at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Yakima, Washington. Later she worked in the Public Relations department at the hospital where she edited the monthly newsletter, *The Hypo*. In 1975, she left hospital work to focus on historical research and writing.

Sr. Merilu enjoyed writing throughout her life. She was a prolific correspondent with friends and family. Her short stories and poetry appeared in magazines such as *Scholastic* and *Better Homes & Gardens*. She published her work under the name "Huberto" while she was still known by her name in religion, and later under the name "Merilu, SP." To improve her writing skills, Sr. Merilu took the Famous Writer Correspondence course between 1969 and 1971. She wrote many volumes of personal journals, poetry, fictional narratives and historical accounts. Her book of poems, *Silent Keening and Other Poems*, was published by the Sisters of Providence in 1975. Sr. Merilu's best known work is her history of the Sisters of Providence in Alaska, *The Dear Sourdoughs*, which was published just before her death in 1984.

Sr. Merilu died on March 22, 1984 from cancer.

ARRANGEMENT

The record group is divided into five series: *Biographical Information*; *Family Papers*; *Correspondence*; *Writing*; and *Alaska Research*.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Restrictions: Providence Archives is a private repository. Access to some records is at the discretion of the archivist.

Preferred Citation: [Title of cited item]. [Series Name]. Sister Mary Louise Vachon Papers. SP3903. Providence Archives, Seattle, Washington.

Acquisition Information: Includes accessions 1975-211; 1975-226; 1975-227; 1975-333; 1975-335; 1975-340; 1976-042; 1976-170; 1977-032; 1977-069; 1978-153; 1979-007; 1979-063; 1980-037; 1980-113; 1980-256; 1982-004; 1982-058; 1982-061; 1982-062; 1982-070; 1982-128; 1982-133; 1983-033; 1983-049; and 1983-128.

Related Record Groups and Other Collections: Sister Personnel files also include information about Sr. Mary Louise Vachon.

In addition to the paper records, Providence Archives holds a photograph collection and artifact collection.

Processing Information: Records arranged and described by Elizabeth Russell, Associate Archivist; completed in October 2017.

Audio cassette tapes in the collection were transferred to digital format. One audio cassette recording of a 1981 Mass celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Sisters of Providence arrival in the West was separated and added to Sacred Heart Province audio recordings.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Biographical Information

This series contains some personal memorabilia of Sr. Merilu. The virtue and beatitude cards were made by Sr. Dorothea Courtney (4993) for Epiphany Eve and All Saints Eve respectively. They were used in a tradition in which the card picked by a sister would inspire an intention to live out that virtue or beatitude in the year ahead. The hand-colored book plate was created as a gift for Sr. Mary Louise. It pictures a stag, the symbol of St. Hubert who was the patron saint for Sr. Merilu's name in religion of Hubert of Jesus.

For biographical data, see Sr. Merilu's personnel file in the Sister Personnel records.

Box	Folder Title
1	1 "Our Baby's Book" for Mary Louise Vachon, St. Joseph Hospital, Fairbanks, Alaska, 1911
	2 Business card: Sr. Mary Louise Vachon
	3 Virtue and beatitude cards, undated
	Hand-painted book plate made by Mr. and Mrs. Bob Shinn, undated
	4 News clippings, Sr. Merilu, 1966-1975

Family Papers

Family papers, including genealogical research and correspondence, collected by Sr. Merilu, much of which may have passed to her after the death of her mother, Louise Vachon McFarland, and her brother, Father Hayden Vachon, SJ. A copy of a lengthy genealogy study commissioned by Msgr. Alexandre Vachon is written in both French and English. Genealogical material also includes correspondence and other material compiled by Fr. Hayden Vachon. Father Vachon's correspondence includes letters he wrote to his mother. The series also contains some letters written to Louise Vachon by her brother-in-law Monsignor Alexander Vachon, Archbishop of Ottawa; one letter was written by Alexander Vachon on his mother's behalf to Louise Vachon. The series also contains Christmas cards designed by Father Andrew Vachon, SJ, Sr. Merilu's cousin.

1	5-6 Family genealogy research, photocopy of <i>Genealogy of Monsignor Alexandre Vachon</i> compiled by Joseph Drouin, Montreal, 1937
	7 Family genealogy research, research on MacLellan and Vachon families compiled by Father Hayden Vachon, SJ, 1952-1968 and undated
	8 Family genealogy research, Clay Street Cemetery plat map, Fairbanks, Alaska, circa 1973
	9 Letters from Msgr. Alexandre Vachon to Louise McFarland, 1921
	10 American Legion Auxiliary membership cards of Louise McFarland, 1938-1952
	11 Correspondence of Fr. Hayden Vachon, SJ, 1965-1966
	12 News clippings, Fr. Hayden Vachon, SJ, 1969 and undated
	13 Information on Msgr. Alexandre Vachon, circa 1963
	14 News clippings, Msgr. Alexandre Vachon, 1936
	15 Christmas cards designed by Fr. Andrew Vachon, SJ, undated

Correspondence

Much of the correspondence in this series is outgoing. Letters written by Sr. Merilu to her mother (Mrs. Louise Vachon McFarland), stepfather and other family members when she was a student at Providence Academy, Vancouver were saved by her mother. Sr. Merilu gave the letters to Providence Archives after her mother's death. Other outgoing letters were given by correspondents to Providence Archives after the sister's death in 1984.

Incoming letters include letters from Provincial Superior Mother Judith (3294, Teresa Lang), who gave permission for Sr. Merilu to submit poetry to publishers, and in her letters, offers encouragement on Sr. Merilu's writing. The series also includes ingoing and outgoing correspondence with magazine editors, primarily staff at *Scholastic Magazine*.

In 1961, Maria von Trapp wrote to Sr. Merilu in response to a letter (not available in the collection) in which the sister shared her appreciation of Mrs. von Trapp's books, which she apparently used in teaching English classes. The letter contains references to the von Trapp children, who were portrayed along with Maria von Trapp in the film, *The Sound of Music*.

For other correspondence, see Volume 15F of Sr. Merilu's journal, which contains letters from Sisters of Providence and others in Fairbanks, Alaska.

For the most part, the series is arranged alphabetically by last name of correspondent.

Box	Folder	Title
2	1	Sr. Rita Bergamini (4963), 1973-1978
	2	Mrs. Fabian Cottnair, 1969
	3	Fr. Harold Greif, SJ, 1974-1982
	4	Mother Judith Lang, 1960-1961
	5	Louise and E.R. McFarland and family, 1926-1927
	6	Louise and E.R. McFarland and family, 1927-1928
	7	Louise and E.R. McFarland and family, 1928-1929
	8	Louise and E.R. McFarland and family, 1929-1930
	9	Louise McFarland, 1959-1967
	10	Publishing companies, 1960-1961, 1967
	11	Sisters of Providence community members (various), 1973-1982
	12	J. W. "Bill" Tobin, 1974-1975
	13	Maria A. von Trapp, 1961
	14	Msgr. Alexander Vachon, 1947 and undated
	15	Fr. Andrew Vachon, SJ, 1972
	16	Fr. Hayden Vachon, SJ, 1947
	17	Form letter by Sr. Mary Louise explaining her terminal illness, 1983-1984

Writing

This series contains five sub-series representing Sr. Merilu's writing course through the Famous Writers School, her short prose narratives, her poetry, the book *The Dear Sourdoughs*, and her many volumes of personal journals.

Sub-series: Famous Writers School Correspondence Courses

Box	Folder	Title
3	1-2	Letters, course materials, and course work, 1969-1970, 1971

Sub-series: Short narratives and plays

Sr. Merilu evidently used her own writing as a teaching tool in her English and drama classes. This sub-series includes *Puppeteer Paradise*, a collection of her scripts that were probably used with students for puppet productions. Published stories included in the sub-series are "Incident at Tolovana" published in *Alaska Trails Magazine*, Winter 1975 (reprinted in the *Daily News Miner*, Fairbanks, Alaska, December 24, 1975) and "Sourdoughs All" printed in *Alaska Trails Magazine*, Summer 1976.

Box	Folder	Title
3	3	Collection of short plays or puppet show scripts labeled <i>Puppeteer Paradise</i> , 1968 and undated
	4	Published stories, 1975-1976
	5	Collection of short narratives (some for writing courses), 1960 and undated
	6	Loose short narratives (some for writing courses), undated

Sub-series: Poetry

Sr. Merilu wrote many poems, some which were published in national magazines and by the Sisters of Providence.

This sub-series includes originals from the limited edition project, *Prayers from a Western Roadside*, which involved three Sisters of Providence. In 1964, Sr. Merilu and Sr. Mary Florence Gaetz (4031), both on retreat at Providence Heights, Issaquah, Washington, were inspired to create an illustrated book of paintings in sympathy for Provincial Superior Mother Judith, who was enduring the summer heat of Montreal, Canada during the General Chapter of the Sisters of Providence. The book was meant as a memento of the Pacific Northwest. They completed two originals, one for Mother Judith and one for the library at Catholic Junior High School, Anchorage, Alaska, where the two sisters taught. Mother Judith's copy has a cover created by Sr. Lucy Villanova (4921). In circa 1975, a printed version of the book was made.

In 1975, the Sisters of Providence published a volume of poetry by Sr. Merilu entitled *Silent Keening and Other Poems*, which included poems of personal reflection, poems dedicated to some of her students, and nature poems.

"Pioneer Nun," a poem about Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart (13), was used during the dedication ceremony for the statue of Mother Joseph in Statuary Hall, Washington, D.C., 1981.

Lumara, or *Lumara Idyll*, was Sister Merilu's epic narrative poem inspired by Alfred, Lord Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*. The collection contains her working notes and draft as well as the completed but unpublished work.

Box	Folder	Title
4	1-2	<i>Prayers from a Western Roadside</i> , original two copies, 1964
	3	<i>Prayers from a Western Roadside</i> , letter of explanation, 1975
	3	<i>Prayers from a Western Roadside</i> , two printed copies, circa 1975
	4	<i>Silent Keening and Other Poems</i> , published work, 1975
	5	"Pioneer Nun" (about Mother Joseph), 1977
	6	<i>Lumara</i> , working papers, circa 1976
	7	<i>Lumara</i> , work copy, 1971-1981
	8	<i>Lumara</i> , finished work, 1981
	9-10	Poetry notebooks, 1974-1980, 1981-1983
	11	Collected poems, Vol. 1, circa 1958-1969
	5	1
2		Loose poems, 1982-1983, undated
3		Poetry references and poems by other writers, 1954-1977
4		Copy of <i>Longfellow's Poems</i> , copyrighted 1900

Sub-series: The Dear Sourdoughs

This sub-series contains research, drafts, and finished work of *The Dear Sourdoughs*, Sr. Merilu's history of the Sisters of Providence in Alaska commissioned by the Sacred Heart Province Provincial Council in 1974. *The Dear Sourdoughs* project followed logically from guidance issued

by the General Administration in Montreal to document the history of the religious community. Circular X, issued by Mother Cecile Fournier (4242), Superior General, on March 4, 1974 includes information about the history writing project begun by Sr. Antoinette St. Louis (3265) and continued by Sr. Irene Richer (4695). A community-wide history, *The History of the Institute* by Mother Marie Antoinette (302), had been published in six volumes between 1927 and 1958. By the 1970s, however, the General Councilors felt it was time for an updated history since the Second Vatican Council reforms had resulted in substantial change for the religious community. Circular X encourages all community members to participate in the process, and states that "Irene Richer, Community historian, is in the process of making contacts with the Provincial Councils and the sisters of both eastern and western provinces. It is hoped that the meetings with these groups will promote a greater interest among the members of the Institute for the work of research and writing of our history, as well as a possible collaboration in this Community project." Sacred Heart Provincial Council minutes for April 30, 1974 note approval for Sr. Irene Richer's request that Sr. Merilu be assigned to the history writing team. Subsequently, Sr. Dorothy Lentz (2982) was also named as an historian, and later published *The Way It Was in Providence Schools*.

Research includes a 1976 oral history interview with Sr. Bernard Desveaux (2316) who worked as a nursing supervisor at St. Joseph Hospital, Fairbanks between 1926 and 1939. In another audio recording, Sr. Merilu reads a story about "Blind Joe" Terrigluck, a blind Eskimo man who worked at St. Joseph Hospital. The story she reads is not contained in the published version of *The Dear Sourdoughs*; it was perhaps from an earlier draft of the book.

Box	Folder	Title
6	1	Correspondence with Sr. Rita Bergamini re: photographs, 1976-1980
	2	Correspondence with friends who reviewed drafts, 1980-1983
	3	Correspondence re: permission to quote from other works, 1981
	4	Correspondence re: printing, 1980-1983
	5	Announcements re: publication from Provincial Administration, 1978, 1983
	6-8	Research notes and working papers, undated
	9-10	Drafts, undated
	11	Draft, 1981
	12	Published work (2 signed copies)
6		Oral history interview about "Blind Joe" and other Fairbanks, Alaska memories of Sister Bernard Desveaux, Everett, Wash., June 20, 1976 (Digital audio file created from original cassette tape)
		Recording of Sister Mary Louise reading a narrative about "Blind Joe," undated (Digital audio file created from original cassette tape)

Sub-series: Journals

Beginning in 1970, Sr. Merilu wrote personal journals. The journals are typed, are often decorated with illustrated borders, and frequently include related newspaper clippings and ephemera scattered throughout. By Sr. Merilu's written direction, the journals were intended to be available to authorized readers at Providence Archives after 2004. Since the journals were intended to be read by others, their tone is more similar to an autobiographical narrative than to a personal diary. They contain details about Sisters of Providence community life as well as Sr. Merilu's reflections on her experiences.

Box	Title
7	Volume 1: <i>Stranger on the Shore</i> , July 1, 1970 – Dec. 29, 1970
	Volume 2: <i>Chanson de Bon Coeur</i> , Jan. 3, 1971 – June 30, 1971
	Volume 3: <i>The Green Bough</i> , July 1, 1971 – Oct. 8, 1971
	Volume 4: <i>Unnamed</i> , Oct. 10, 1971 – Dec. 31, 1971

- Volume 5: *It's Such a Pretty World Today*, Jan. 2, 1972 – Apr. 30, 1972
Volume 6: *Po'pourri*, June 5, 1972 – Dec. 25, 1972
Volume 7: *Watergate, Inflation, and Me!*, Jan. 1, 1973 – May 23, 1973
Volume 8: *We've Only Just Begun!*, May 24, 1973 – Sept. 3, 1973
Volume 9: *Looking Homeward*, Sept. 4, 1973 – Nov. 1, 1973
Volume 10: *This Land Is My Land*, Nov. 2, 1973 – Dec. 31, 1973
Volume 11: *I've Been There and Back*, Jan. 1, 1974 – Mar. 19, 1974
Volume 12: *Ice and Snow Bless the Lord*, Mar. 21, 1974 – Apr. 30, 1974
Volume 13: *And Now What, Merilu*, May 1, 1974 – July 9, 1974
Volume 14A: *Gaudeamus Igitur* [So let us rejoice], July 18, 1974 – Oct. 14, 1974
Volume 14B: *Gaudeamus Igitur*, Oct. 14, 1974 – Dec. 17, 1974
- 8 Volume 15A: *Camelot!*, Jan. 6, 1975 – Jan. 25, 1975
Volume 15B: *Camelot!*, Jan. 27, 1975 – Mar. 9, 1975
Volume 15C: *Camelot!*, Mar. 11, 1975 – Apr. 27, 1975
Volume 15D: *Camelot!*, Apr. 29, 1975 – June 30, 1975
Volume 15E: *Camelot!*, July 2, 1975 – Aug. 13, 1975
Volume 15F: *Alaska Letters*, 1975-1979
Volume 16A: *Sagittarian Seattleite*, Aug. 21, 1975 – Nov. 11, 1975
Volume 16B: *Sagittarian Seattleite*, Nov. 17, 1975 – Sept. 3, 1976
Volume 16C: *Sagittarian Seattleite*, Jan. 1, 1976 – Feb. 27, 1976
Volume 16D: *Sagittarian Seattleite*, Mar. 1, 1976 – Apr. 5, 1976
Volume 16E: *Sagittarian Seattleite*, Apr. 6, 1976 – May 19, 1976
Volume 17A: *Cause for More Joy*, May 22, 1976 – July 29, 1976
- 9 Volume 17B: *Cause for More Joy*, Aug. 3, 1976 – Sept. 24, 1976
Volume 17C: *Cause for More Joy*, Sept. 25, 1976 – Nov. 28, 1976
Volume 17D: *Cause for More Joy*, Nov. 29, 1976 – Dec. 24, 1976
Volume 18A: *Windmills of My Mind*, Jan. 7, 1977 – Mar. 10, 1977
Volume 18B: *Windmills of My Mind*, Mar. 13, 1977 – May 12, 1977
Volume 18C: *Windmills of My Mind*, May 13, 1977 – July 12, 1977
Volume 18D: *Windmills of My Mind*, July 14, 1977 – July 29, 1977
Volume 18E: *Windmills of My Mind*, Aug. 5 – Nov. 4, 1977
Volume 18F: *Windmills of My Mind*, Nov. 11 – Dec. 31, 1977
Volume 19A: *History Spindle*, Jan. 1 – Mar. 4, 1978
Volume 19B: *History Spindle*, Mar. 8 – May 7, 1978
- 10 Volume 19C: *History Spindle*, May 9 – July 19, 1978
Volume 19D: *History Spindle*, July 22 – Sept. 8, 1978
Volume 19E: *History Spindle*, Sept. 9 – Oct. 8, 1978
Volume 19F: *History Spindle*, Oct. 15 – Dec. 27, 1978
Volume 20A: *Kookie Kronikles*, Jan. 7 – Mar. 9, 1979
Volume 20B: *Kookie Kronikles*, Mar. 17 – May 31, 1979
Volume 20C: *Kookie Kronikles*, June 2 – July 27, 1979
Volume 20D: *Kookie Kronikles*, July 30 – Aug. 30, 1979
Volume 20E: *Kookie Kronikles*, Sept. 5 – Oct. 31, 1979
Volume 20F: *Kookie Kronikles*, Nov. 3 – Dec. 31, 1979
- 11 Volume 21A: *Jupiter's Child*, Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, 1980
Volume 21B: *Jupiter's Child*, Mar. 2 – Apr. 15, 1980
Volume 21C: *Jupiter's Child*, Apr. 17 – May 10, 1980
Volume 21D: *Jupiter's Child*, May 13 – May 27, 1980
Volume 21E: *Jupiter's Child*, June 2 – July 10, 1980

- Volume 21F: *Jupiter's Child*, July 11 – Sept. 26, 1980
 Volume 21G: *Jupiter's Child*, Sept. 29 – Oct. 31, 1980
 Volume 21H: *Jupiter's Child*, Nov. 1 – Jan. 5, 1981
- 12 Volume 22A: *Patches of Hope*, Jan. 9 – Feb. 27, 1981
 Volume 22B: *Patches of Hope*, Mar. 1 – Apr. 30, 1981
 Volume 22C: *Patches of Hope*, May 1 – June 30, 1981
 Volume 22D: *Patches of Hope*, July 1- Sept. 1, 1981
 Volume 22E: *Patches of Hope*, Sept. 5 – Nov. 1, 1981
 Volume 22F: *Patches of Hope*, Nov. 3 – Dec. 9, 1981
 Volume 22G: *Patches of Hope*, Dec. 9 – Jan. 8, 1981
 Volume 23A: *Serendipity-Do-Dah!*, Jan. 11 – Feb. 28, 1982
 Volume 23B: *Serendipity-Do-Dah!*, Mar. 1 – Apr. 29, 1982
- 13 Volume 23C: *Serendipity-Do-Dah!*, May 4 – June 24, 1982
 Volume 23D: *Serendipity-Do-Dah!*, July 13 – Aug. 19, 1982
 Volume 23E: *Serendipity-Do-Dah!*, Sept. 1 – Sept. 22, 1982
 Volume 23F: *Serendipity-Do-Dah!*, Sept. 1982
 Volume 23G: *Serendipity-Do-Dah!*, Oct. 15 – Dec. 9, 1982
 Volume 24A: *Love, Graces and Other Happy Things*, Dec. 20, 1982 – Feb. 25, 1983
 Volume 24B: *Love, Graces and Other Happy Things*, Feb. 28 – Apr. 26, 1983
 Volume 24C: *Love, Graces and Other Happy Things*, Apr. 27 – June 17, 1983
- 14 Volume 24D: *Love, Graces and Other Happy Things*, June 17 - Aug. 15, 1983
 Index
 Decorated pages and ephemera for journal preparation, undated

Alaska Research

Sr. Merilu remained interested in her home state of Alaska throughout her life. In addition to writing *The Dear Sourdoughs* about the Sisters of Providence history in Alaska, she also compiled scrapbooks, research files, publications and ephemera on general Alaska topics which are included in this series.

Sub-series: Scrapbooks

Box	Title
15	"Alaska Wildlife," 1975
	"Alaska Contemporary History, October 13, 1975 – August 10, 1977", 1977
	The Trans-Alaska Pipeline, Vol. I, 1974-1975
	"Thar She Flows! (Alyeska Pipeline carries crude oil from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez, Alaska)," 1979

Sub-series: Subject Files

Subject files arranged in order created by Sr. Merilu.

Box	Title
15	Aviation
	Animals
	Cities
	"Characters"
	Discovery of Gold
	Education
	History

Pipeline
Politics
Religion in Alaska
Scenery
Sports
Miscellaneous

Sub-series: Collected Publications

The sub-series includes: *The Alaskan Shepherd*, a “newsletter to friends and benefactors of the developing church in Alaska”; *Alaska on Alaska*, a newsletter published by Alaska Airlines; and *Alaska’s Historic Roadhouses*, published by the Alaska Division of Parks.

Box	Folder	Title
16	1	Issues of <i>The Alaskan Shepherd</i> , 1972-1983
	2	Issues of <i>Alaska on Alaska</i> , 1977-1979
	3	<i>Alaska’s Historic Roadhouses</i> , October 1974
	4	“Stickdance” story by Carmen and Janie, Nulato High School, circa 1980

Sub-series: Ephemera

Box	Folder	Title
16	5	Alaska Steamship Company maps of Alaska, undated
	6	Alaska Steamship Company menu covers (Alaska dog series), 1941
	7	Gift calendars of the Bishop of Northern Alaska, 1977, 1979