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**Helen Delores Nunamaker Collection,
1948-1952, c. 2010**
(Part of the Kathleen Bertrand and Linda Lundin,
Honoring Women in Sports Collection)
(MSS-049.01.03)

*Finding Aid Compiled by
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Helen Delores Nunamaker Biographical Sketch

Helen Delores Nunamaker was born on March 8, 1928 in New Stanton, Pennsylvania. She was born to Daniel Roy Nunamaker and Mary Jane (Johnson) Nunamaker. During childhood she participated in a variety of sports, including golf, bowling, and baseball. As a young adult, Nunamaker played for the National Girls Baseball League (NGBL), a league that existed from 1944-1954 in competition with the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. In 1959, four years after retiring from professional baseball, Nunamaker married A. Lee Swogger. In her obituary she is named Helen N. Swogger.

From 1952-1986, Nunamaker was employed at Ohio Lamp General Electric working in quality control. In late adulthood Nunamaker was confined to a wheelchair due to a variety of health problems. According to her sister, Bonnie, Nunamaker kept in touch with her NGBL teammates until her death. Nunamaker died at the age of 78 on April 19, 2006.

Helen Delores Nunamaker Scope and Content Note

This small collection contains a variety of items relating to Helen Nunamaker, including player documentation and league affiliations, news clippings, one scrapbook, and a multitude of photographs. Folder seven contains 15 (majority signed) photographs of Parichy Bloomer Girl players from the 1947 NGBL championship team. All but two of these signatures have been deciphered. The biographical sketch of Nunamaker largely derived from the letter her sister, Bonnie, wrote in 2010 to the donors of this collection (located in folder one).

Related collections include: The many sub-collections within the *Kathleen Bertrand and Linda Lundin, Honoring Women in Sports Collection*, specifically, the Joanne "Jo" Winter Collection.

Helen Delores Nunamaker Box and Folder List

Box 1

Folder

1. Three photos of Nunamaker with a note from her sister Bonnie, photos c. 1950, note c. 2010, includes provenance
2. Documentation on Nunamaker's rights transferred to Chicago Cardinals, Feb 14, 1950
3. Nunamaker's National Girls Baseball League contract, 1951
4. Letter to Nunamaker, possibly from Robert "Bob" Wilkie, Oct. 30, 1952 (see transcription at end of finding aid)
5. Bloomer Girl news, Vol. 2 No. 1, Feb. 22, 1949
6. Scrapbook of NGBL news clippings from the 1950 season, 1950
7. Individual Parichy Bloomer Girls player photos wearing patches for 1947 NGBL Champions, (15 photos, 14 signed, two illegible), 1948
Signatures include:
 - 1) *Hedy Crawley*
 - 2) *Irene "Citation" Chromcik*
 - 3) *Unknown*
 - 4) *Unknown*
 - 5) *Nira "Ni" Jo Deputy*
 - 6) *Irene "Bubbles" Klowas*
 - 7) *Alyce "Johnnie" Reagor*
 - 8) *Jean "Jeanie" Sample*
 - 9) *Katherine "Kotchy" Kowell*
 - 10) *Norma "Eby"*
 - 11) *Wilda Mae "Willie" Turner*
 - 12) *Lillian Lopez*
 - 13) *Unsigned*
 - 14) *Alice "Jorgie" Jorgensen*
 - 15) *Vivian Pierce*
8. Action photos involving The Chicago/Thillens Checashers, c. 1950
9. 27 unidentified photos of individual players and managers of the Parichy Bloomer Girls, c. 1950
10. Four team photographs, including the Parichy Bloomer Girls, c. 1950
11. Postcard with Bonnie Huesser picture on front, message from Huesser to Nunamaker on back, c. 1949
12. Two photos of unidentified players/friends of Helen Nunamaker, c. 1950
13. Twelve photos of players not in uniform, c. 1950
14. Two game photos of Frances Morlock of the Parichy Bloomer Girls and Loretta Davis of the Chicago Bluebirds, 1952

Folder 4

Transcription of letter to Nunamaker, possibly from Robert "Bob" Wilkie, Oct. 30, 1952

Date Oct 30, 1952
1102 North 7th Ave
Marywood, ILL

Dear Helen,

I talked to Mr. Frett this morning and the church is still outstanding though he has cancelled the dd check and is sending a money order of the same amount which will probably be easier to cash than a check.

I haven't heard anything new, but we definitely are going to reorganize our league and get some real fellows in it instead of what we had. I told you I had talked to Corby, Doris Neal, Jo Winters, Joan Bockney, Sophie Kurys about playing for us next year. They are all interested but please keep it on the quiet.

I do not know how the money will hold out on that Florida venture but just so you do not tie yourself up for the summer I do not think it will be bad for you. **[new page]** Be sure you get your money because I do not trust the fellows you will play for.

I am very interested in you contacting the young pitcher and I feel sure she will be in good hands with you and Mackie. If you send me her name and address or if you want to talk to her about playing it is O.K. I know we will be (?) about her salary and will be able to pay her fare in, as it is her 1st year in the league. I would like to get her a contract as soon as possible. If there are any other prospects out there, let me know on them also as I know our league will be looking for a lot of new talent.

I am sorry that Sherty did not make out very well in (?) and she probably will be back in our league next season. She sure would have helped us this past season.

I would like to get Jean Sample back for one more season. With Jo Winters, Jean and that new girl I think we would have the makings of a real pitching staff.

Mack stopped over last Friday and we went over to watch Joyce Rosen(?). She is getting ready to play basketball with Frett.

[new page] Lee Bates is also with the same team. Joan Beckman is going to play if she doesn't go to Florida to play ball. She is undecided what to do. What does your contract call for and when do your report?

I do not have your record here at work but I know you did very well. I think Nunny you are finally learning and I think you will be one of the top players in the league. I was particularly proud at some of the hard line drives that you hit. Now you can only learn the drag bunt on a (?) they will have a hard time getting you out.

Drop me a line and let me know when you receive your money and also let me know your plans about Florida.

Sincerely,
Bob