

Finding Aid to the Amelia (“Millie”) McCarthy Papers, 1959-2021

Summary Information

Title: Amelia (“Millie”) McCarthy papers

Creator: Amelia McCarthy, Victor McCarthy (primary)

ID: 121.4250

Date: 1959-2021 (inclusive)

Extent: 0.2 linear feet

Language: The materials in this collection are in English.

Abstract: The Amelia (“Millie”) McCarthy papers are a compilation of writings, memorabilia, publicity clippings, and other documentation related to her involvement in the coin-op industry. Many materials are undated, though the bulk of them are likely from the 1990s.

Repository:

Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

One Manhattan Square

Rochester, New York 14607

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Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Use: This collection is open for research use by staff of The Strong and by users of its library and archives. Though the donor has not transferred intellectual property rights (including, but not limited to any copyright, trademark, and associated rights therein) to The Strong, he has given permission for The Strong to make copies in all media for museum, educational, and research purposes.

Custodial History: The Amelia (“Millie”) McCarthy papers were donated to The Strong in July 2021 as a gift of The McCarthy Family in honor of Millie McCarthy. The papers were accessioned by The Strong under Object ID 121.4250 and were received from Victor McCarthy.

Preferred citation for publication: Amelia (“Millie”) McCarthy papers, Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

Processed by: Julia Novakovic, November 2021

Controlled Access Terms

Personal Names

- McCarthy, Amelia (“Millie”)
- McCarthy, Victor

Corporate Names

- AMOA (Association)
- New York State Coin Machine Association

- United States. Congress. Senate. Special Committee to Investigate Organized Crime in Interstate Commerce

Subjects

- Arcades
- Arcades -- Equipment and supplies
- Coin-operated machines
- Gambling industry
- Mafia -- United States -- History
- Pinball machines -- History
- Video arcades
- Video games -- History
- Women in Games

Biographical Note

Amelia (“Millie”) McCarthy (1917-2014) was an accomplished American businesswoman who operated several coin machine industry companies, led professional gaming-related organizations, and lobbied for related causes.

One of a small number of women in a largely male-dominated field, McCarthy ran Catskill Amusements, Inc. and Binghamton Amusement Co., Inc. for many years. She was the first woman to be named a director in the Amusement and Music Operators of America (AMOA), and she helmed the New York State Coin Machine Association for 25 years. McCarthy advocated for the coin machine industry, regularly serving as a public face for industry lobbying efforts. As an operator, McCarthy played an important role in championing the expansion of video games into electromechanical- or pinball-focused arcades during the 1970s and beyond. McCarthy also was a strong advocate for women’s rights and social justice reforms. She passed away in 2014 at age 96.

For more information on McCarthy’s impactful career, see also [“Ronnie, Millie, Lila – Women’s History for Games: A Manifesto and a Way Forward”](#) by Carly Kocurek in the *American Journal of Play* (Volume 10, Number 1).

Collection Scope and Content Note

The Amelia (“Millie”) McCarthy papers are a compilation of writings, memorabilia, publicity clippings, and other documentation related to her involvement in the coin-op industry. Many materials are undated, though the bulk of them are likely from the 1990s. Also included in this collection are an oral history interview with her son Victor and a U-matic tape produced by the NYS Coin Association on how to promote a pinball tournament.

The Amelia (“Millie”) McCarthy papers have been arranged into two series. The physical materials are housed in one archival document box and one AV box.

System of Arrangement

Series I: Amelia (“Millie”) McCarthy papers, 1959-2021

Series II: Victor McCarthy oral history interview, 2021

Contents List

Series I: Amelia (“Millie”) McCarthy papers, 1959-2021

Scope and Content Note: This series holds copies of McCarthy’s writing (letters, recollections, and marketing materials), memorabilia, publicity clippings, and a U-matic video about promoting pinball tournaments. Also included in this series are notes and reference materials about organized crime in America, which McCarthy researched in association with gambling and laws surrounding pinball and coin-operated games. Some annotations by her son, Victor McCarthy, are included within associated folders and are indicated as such on the reverse.

Box 1

- Folder 1 “Of Tom Laverne, ASCAP, AMOA, and our own 30 years,” Millie McCarthy, October 1987
- Folder 2 Letter to Ron Koppelman from Millie McCarthy, December 7, 1987
- Folder 3 “The Gambling Debate,” Millie McCarthy, May 1994
- Folder 4 Letter to Assemblyman Sullivan from Millie McCarthy, June 18, 1996
- Folder 5 Letter to Millie McCarthy from Danny Frank, AMOA, and photograph, March 15, 2009
- Folder 6 Letter with timeline narrative to “Eddie” from Millie McCarthy, n.d.
- Folder 7 “I grew up on a farm...,” Millie McCarthy, n.d.
- Folder 8 “As a child on our farm...,” Millie McCarthy, n.d. [c. 1990s?]
- Folder 9 “After our discussion...,” Millie McCarthy, n.d. [c. 1990s?]
- Folder 10 “Memories of Great Boxing Champions,” Millie McCarthy, n.d. [c. 1990s?]
- Folder 11 “Government and the Mafia,” Millie McCarthy, n.d. [c. 1998-1999?]
- Folder 12 New York State Coin Machine Association, Inc. membership directory, 1983
- Folder 13 Publicity clippings, 1959-1993 and n.d.
- Folder 14 Organized crime notes and reference, 2006-2012 and n.d. [c. 1990s-2000s?]

AV Box 1

- Object 1 U-matic tape: “Pinball Movie Produced for Millie McCarthy, New York State Coin Association, n.d. [c. 1976?] (05:54) [associated with digital files housed in “Folder 02_U-matic tape”]

Digital - I

- Folder 2 *Folder 02_U-matic tape*
- “Umatic_MillieMcCarthy_NYS Coin Assoc_c-1976_052721” - .avi and .mp4 [video produced by the NYS Coin Association to show how to promote a pinball tournament, c. 1976]

Series II: Victor McCarthy oral history interview, 2021

Scope and Content Note: This series contains the transcript and audio recording of an interview conducted by Jeremy Saucier (Assistant Vice President for Interpretation and Electronic Games at The Strong) with Victor McCarthy (son of Millie McCarthy).

Box 1

Folder 15 Victor McCarthy oral history interview transcript, Jeremy Saucier, April 16, 2021 [associated with digital files housed in “Folder 01_Victor McCarthy interview”]

Digital - II

Folder 1 *Folder 01_Victor McCarthy interview*

- “01. Victor McCarthy Interview 4-16-2021” - .docx [transcript of oral history interview between Jeremy Saucier and Victor McCarthy]
- “02. Victor McCarthy 4-16-2021” - .wav [audio recording of oral history interview between Jeremy Saucier and Victor McCarthy (52:44)]