

DIANE STRUBLE COLLECTION

OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTS

Repository:	Folklife Center Crandall Public Library Glens Falls, NY
Creator:	Diane Struble and Gwenne Rippon
Title:	Diane Struble Collection
Dates:	1958-2006
Quantity:	1 cubic foot
Identification:	Archives & Manuscripts
Accession #:	ACC 2022.14
Abstract:	This collection consists of materials related to the life and accomplishments of Diane Struble, the first person to swim the entire length of Lake George in August 1958.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Diane Struble (born c. 1933) grew up in Scotia, NY and spent summers in the Adirondacks with her mother and grandmother. She would often swim the length of the lakes they visited while they canoed beside her. She first attempted to swim the length of Lake George in 1950, but failed to complete the trip due to poor weather and planning; Struble made it 25 miles before her mother ordered her to stop. After training with Paul Lukaris and Sylvester Kneeshaw, Struble attempted her swim again on August 22, 1958, covered in grease to guard against the cold. This time, she completed the 41 mile journey in roughly 35.5 hours, with fans and the press waiting at the other side. She was the first person ever to swim the length of Lake George. Struble gained notoriety from this accomplishment, appearing on the Today Show in her bathing suit and receiving sponsorships from Schaefer beer. At the time of her successful swim, Struble was a single mother to three young girls (including Gwenne Rippon, who donated this collection). Struble went on to marry Paul Lukaris (one of three marriages), her trainer and unofficial publicist, and through him became heavily involved with Storytown, U.S.A. and Animal Land in Lake George (which he had opened in 1952 with then wife Marie). She also had three more children. Diane Struble died in 2006.

INDEX TERMS

Topics: Swimming
Long distance swimming
World records
Amusement parks
Tourism

Places: Lake George—Warren—NY

Important People: Struble, Diane
Lukaris, Paul
Lukaris, Marie
Rippon, Gwenne

Form/Genre: Realia

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Diane Struble Collection
Folklife Center
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY

Accession Information: Donated in 2022 by Gwenne Rippon, daughter of Diane Struble

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Amanda Franzoni, August 2022

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS

This collection consists of newspaper clippings and complete papers related to Diane Struble and her record making swim. Also included are materials relating to properties owned by Paul and Marie Lukaris, including Animal Land and Top of the World; Paul went on to become Struble's husband. As of August 2022 the papers are roughly sorted and housed in the plastic bags they were donated in, to be scanned and better organized at a later date.

The collection also includes materials to be digitized, including:

Two 33 1/3 rpm records of Struble's swim around Manhattan, recorded by NBC Monitor

One DVD and four VHS tapes of Struble's interview about her Lake George swim, which appeared on Channel 10 in Albany 8/22/94 and 8/23/94

One DVD of the Animal Land film

One DVD of Struble's interview with WRGB

Two more DVDs and one VHS of unknown origin