

Swink, Earl T. Papers

Earl T. Swink Papers

1949-1972



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Revision Description

2020-08-31 Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags

2021-04-28 LM Rozema added missing notes for an unprocessed collection (abstract, source, processing, bio note), added FA title, added FA date from EAD, and added component with instances previously attached to collection level.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1989.036

Unit Date

1949-1972

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

Papers of Earl Thomas Swink, Sr. (1907-1996), professor of agricultural engineering (1935-1970) at Virginia Tech, including presentation texts, printed materials, a biographical sketch, and a paper by Chas. E. Seitz entitled "Agricultural Engineering at V.P.I."

Creator

Swink, Earl T., 1907-1996

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Earl T. Swink Papers were donated to Special Collections and University Archives in 1989.

Processing Information

The processing and description of the Earl T. Swink Papers commenced and was completed in January 2022.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Earl T. Swink Papers, Ms1989-036, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Earl Thomas Swink, Sr., son of Wallace M. and Lucy May Burton Swink, was born in Churchville (Augusta County), Virginia on September 7, 1907. He obtained a B.A. (1930) and M.S. (1939) in agricultural engineering at Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute (now Virginia Tech). He also held a certificate in commercial engineering from the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company (1931). After working as district agricultural engineer for Virginia Electric and Power Company (Suffolk, Virginia) from 1932 to 1935, Swink returned to Virginia Tech as assistant professor of agricultural engineering; he was later named associate professor and, in 1954 became professor and head of the Agricultural Engineering Department. From 1967 until his retirement in 1970, Swink worked as the leader of special programs for Virginia Tech's Extension Division. Swink also held memberships and offices in a number of organizations. Among these were the Agricultural Board, National Academy of Sciences; American Society of Agricultural Engineers; American Society for Engineering Education; Virginia Academy of Science; and Virginia Farm and Home Electrification Council (co-founder). Swink married Louise Presson, and the couple had two children. Earl T. Swink died in Montgomery County, Virginia, on September 10, 1996, and was buried in Union Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Churchville.

Scope and Content

This collection contains papers of Earl T. Swink, professor of agricultural engineering at Virginia Tech from 1935 to 1970. The collection contains texts of several presentations by Swink relating to rural electrification, the agricultural engineering profession, and environmental control. Also included are a 1963 editorial by Swink on environmental control, two newsclippings, a program for a Delaware-Maryland-Virginia Congressional dinner at which Swink was honored; a biographical sketch of Swink; and a typescript history, "Agricultural Engineering at V. P. I." by Chas. E. Seitz.

Keywords

Agricultural engineering
Faculty and staff

University History
Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1944-1970)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (1970-)

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General

This collection had originally been assigned the title "Earl T. Swink Speeches," but it was determined during processing that "Earl T. Swink Papers" would be a more accurate title.

Description of Subordinate Components

Papers

Unit Date 1949-1972

folder 1