

Editha Todd Leonard is well-represented in our collections through ephemera, photographs, and scrapbooks donated to the Archive by her estate after she died in 1999, as well as an oral history interview recorded by Rheba Massey in 1994. She was a performer, teacher, and a trailblazer who loved her community and was very active in local and international clubs and committees.



**Editha Todd Leonard
(1904-1999)**

Her family moved from York, Nebraska to Fort Collins when she was just under one year old, in 1904. Editha's mother was a teacher and her father was a carpenter and a mechanic who built a number of houses in Fort Collins.



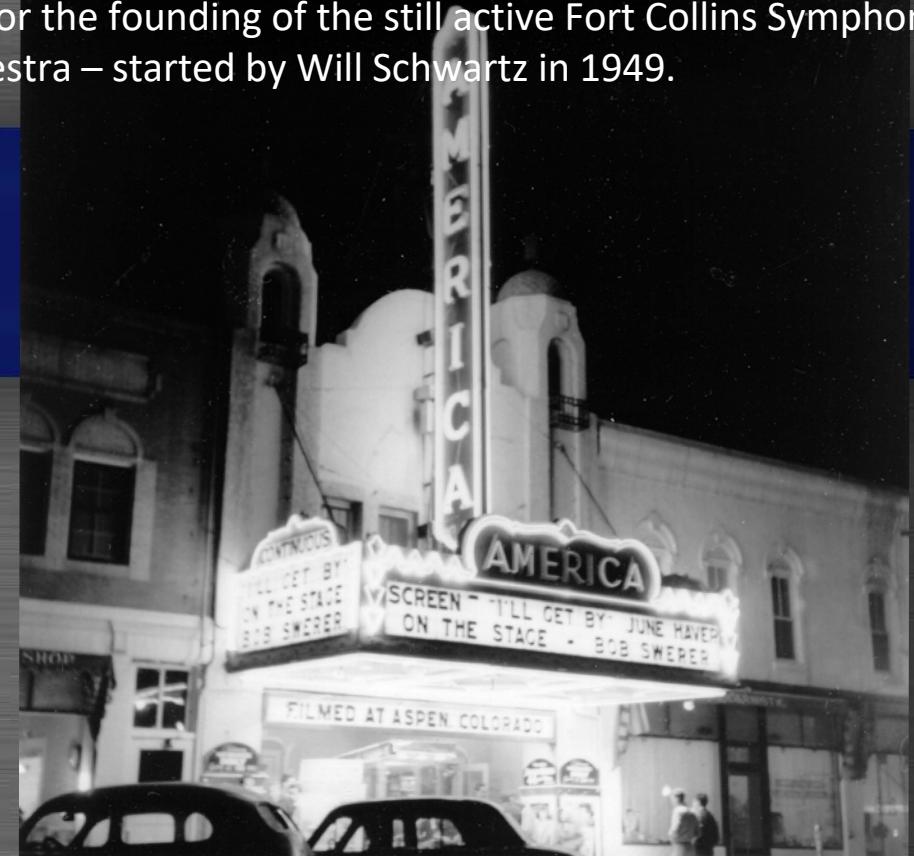
This image on the right is of 600 East Pitkin Street, circa 1908, which was an early residence of the Todd family. The house still stands today, but it has been remodeled and covered with brick.



In her oral history interview housed in the Archive, Editha talks about her love of music beginning at a very young age. She says that she always wanted a violin, even before she could “talk plain.” She remembers her parents buying her a violin from Sears Roebuck for \$10.



She began lessons at Runge Music Company, which shared its space with Brownie's Sport Shop, located at 112 S. College. She performed concerts in library park, at a clubhouse in Livermore, and eventually played for vaudeville and silent movies that were held at the America Theater here in Fort Collins. In 1922, Editha started the first concert orchestra in Fort Collins, which paved the way for the founding of the still active Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra – started by Will Schwartz in 1949.





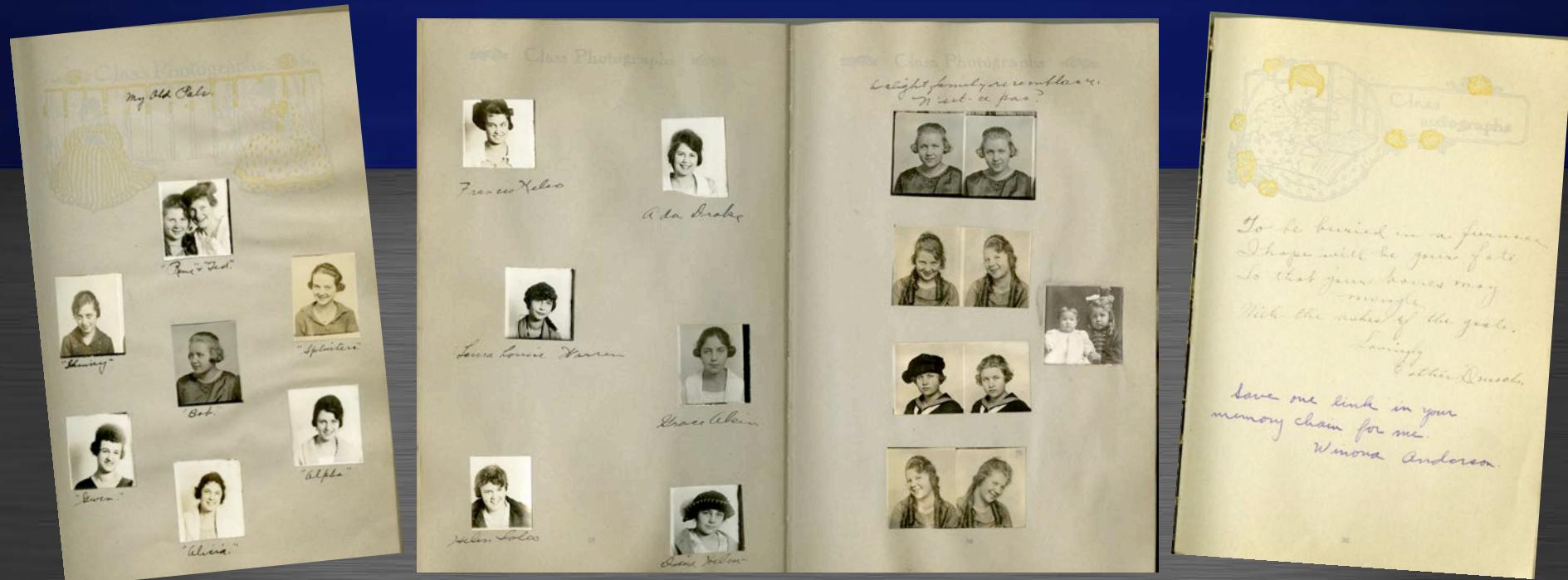
The photo on the left is in the old Methodist-Episcopal Church with the Fort Collins Concert Orchestra - Editha in the back row, center. Below, here she is many years later with Will Schwartz. Editha was concertmaster of the Fort Collins Symphony for 14 years, and then their business manager for another 5 years.



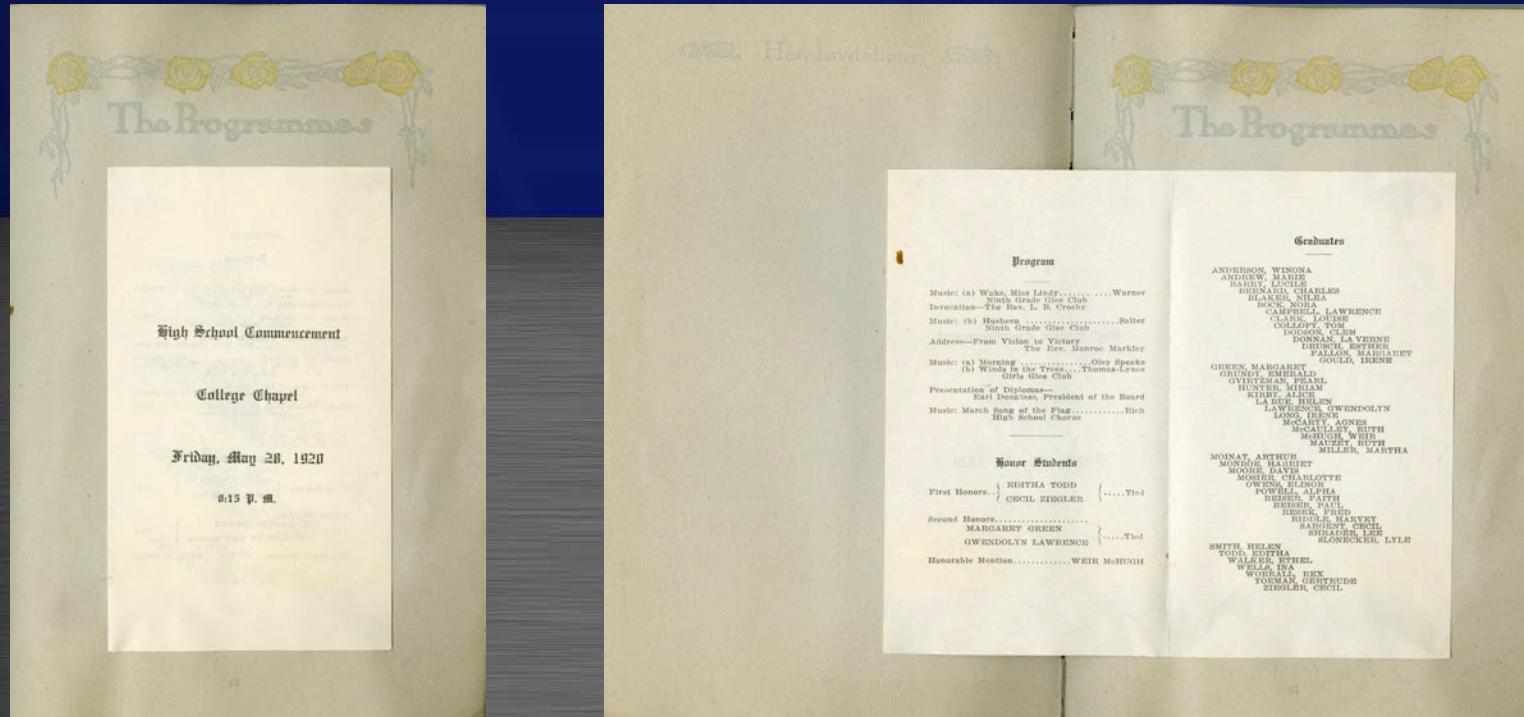
It includes things like photos of her friends and “class autographs” which are mostly all short poems.

One says: “To be buried in a furnace, I hope will be your fate, so that your bones may mingle, with the ashes of the grate.”

Another says: “Save one link in your memory chain for me.” There are pages and pages of these little poems.



Editha also kept programs from concerts and events she attended; here's one from commencement.



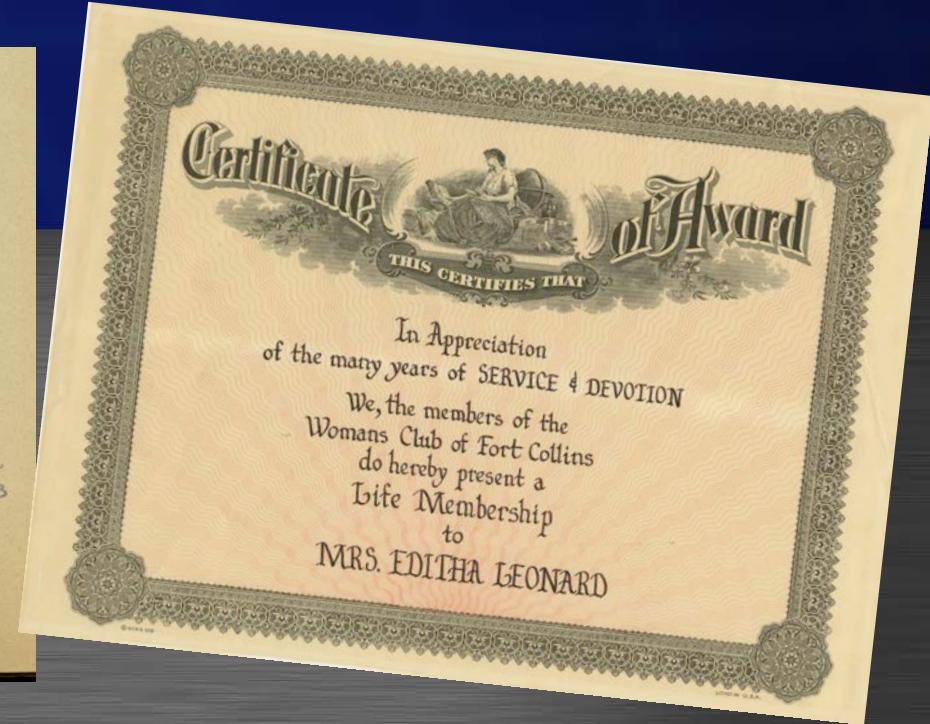
More photos and memorabilia, including some from when she was a Campfire Girl. And photos of her "dog friends" as she calls them.



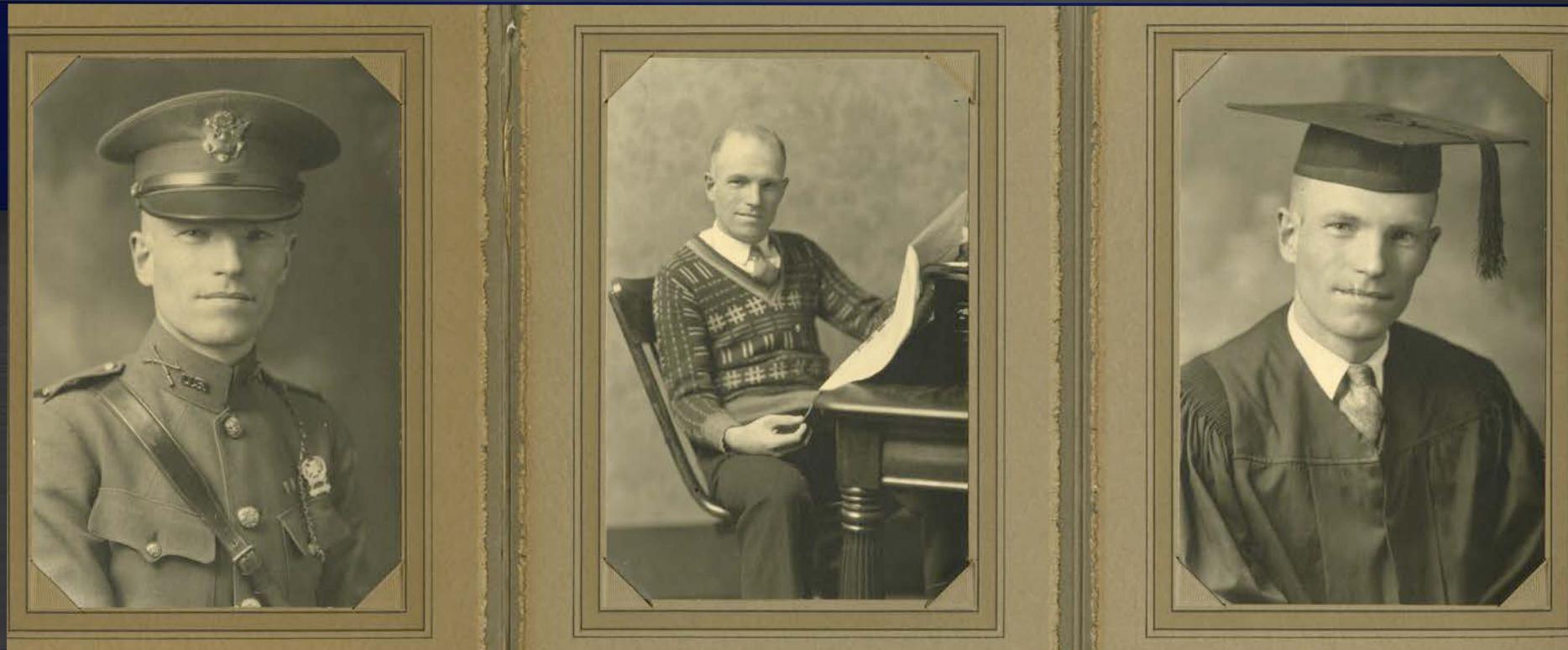
There's even a lock of her hair in this book, along with the note: "They say freshmen are foolish, and it must be so or I would never have banged my hair." So she kept some of the hair she cut off when she decided to get bangs.



Editha was very involved many clubs, and was in fact the founder of many women's clubs. President multiple times of the Woman's Club of Fort Collins and started the Junior Woman's Club. She organized, federated, and served as president of the Woman's Roundtable Club of Japan.



Editha met her husband, Warren H. Leonard, while they were both part of the “Scribbler’s Club” at Colorado Agricultural College. He was an agronomist – he worked with plant genetics, soil management, and crop production. They were married June 4, 1931. They had their first and only child, Kay, in 1933.



Editha sometimes brought Baby Kay along to rehearsals.





Research indicates that Kay's life became complicated as she got older. She was hospitalized in Denver for a short time. She also had polio and had to undergo many surgeries later in life so that she could walk.



Nevertheless, she loved music and was drawn to it at a young age, just as her mother was. Editha owned and operated the “Fort Collins Academy of Fine Arts” from 1926-1939, and later the “Leonard Music Studios” that was operated out of their house at 1603 W. Mulberry. Both Editha and Kay taught lessons and performed there.



THE LEONARD MUSIC STUDIOS
1603 West Mulberry

Our new location finds us equipped with two pianos in one studio and a large salon with a grand piano for ensembles, club meetings and recitals.

We offer private instruction for both young and adult music students on piano, flute, reeds, brass, violin, viola, cello and classical guitar.

Students are schooled in basic technic, theory and performance to build capable, well rounded musicians.

Kay Leonard, instructor of piano, wind instruments and guitar is a teacher of twenty years' experience. Her students have won many excellent and superior ratings in Piano Guild and Federated Music Club Festivals.

Miss Leonard, a native of Fort Collins, started her music career at age three, studying both violin and piano at the Fort Collins Academy of Fine Arts. She continued her music study in Denver, Tokyo, Japan, and at the University of Texas for a B.A. degree. A Master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado was followed by a year at Indiana University.

As a student in the Fort Collins schools, Miss Leonard studied bassoon in Denver and played in the school bands. She was a flutist in the Pueblo Wind Ensemble and as a violist played in the Fort Collins Symphony, the Texas University Symphony, the Greeley Philharmonic and the Indiana University Ballet orchestra. She is presently a church organist and is wholly devoted to the advancement of her music students.

1603 W. MULBERRY
TEL. 482-6528

Editha Leonard, instructor of strings, has long been recognized as one of the leading violinists of northern Colorado. She was Director of the Fort Collins Academy of Fine Arts and of the Denver College of Music.

Since establishing the LEONARD MUSIC STUDIOS with her daughter, she has continued to develop good string players. Her students have had many scholarships at Colorado University, University of Northern Colorado, Michigan University, Eastman School of Music, Manhattan School of Music and Julliard. Many of her former students are now employed in major symphonies and teaching positions.

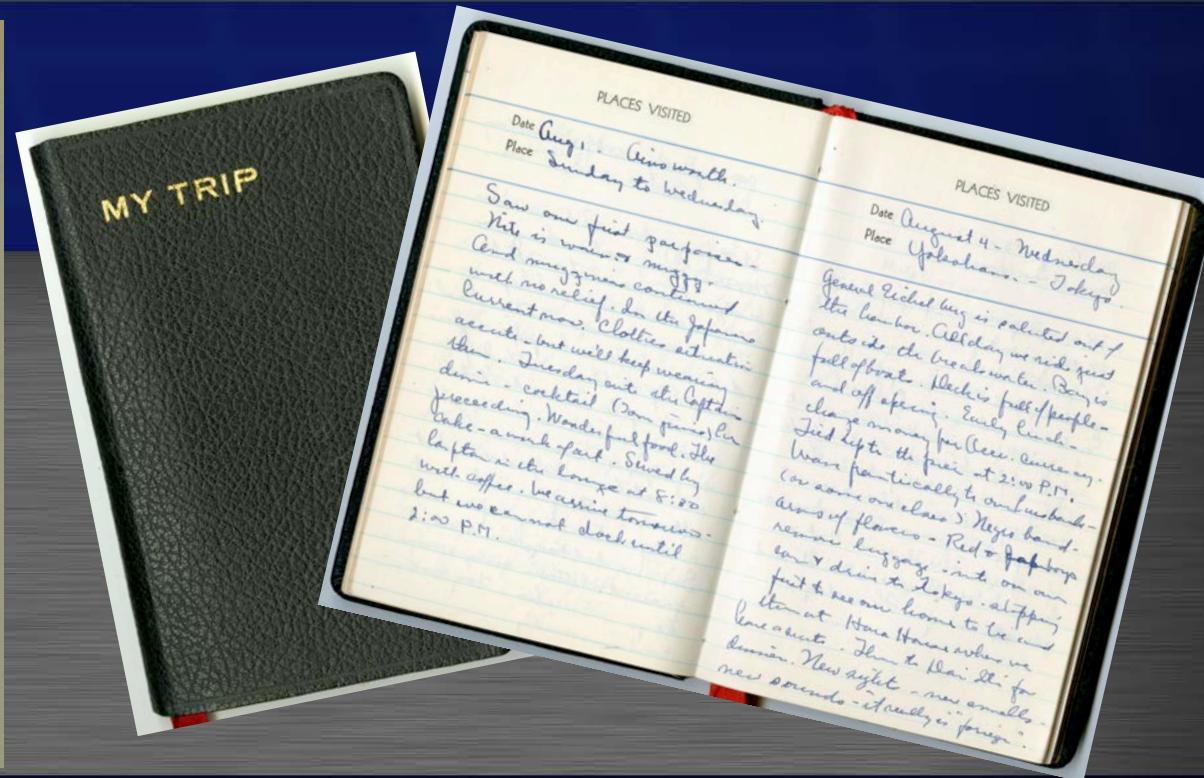
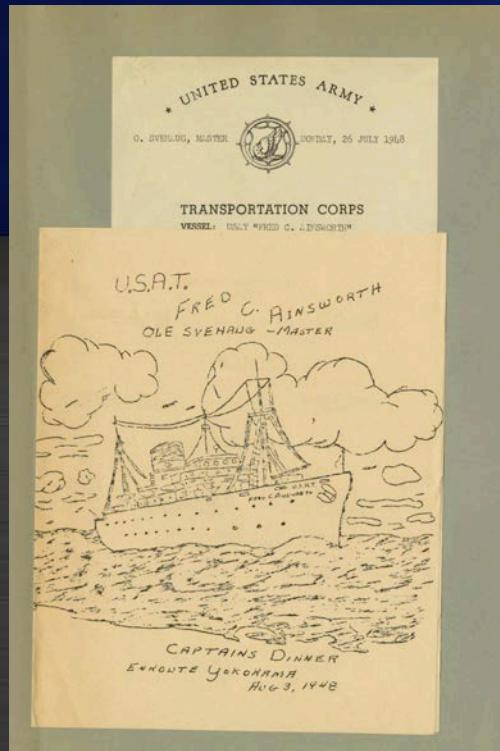
Mrs. Leonard received the Fort Collins Symphony Association award for 1983, recognizing her many years as concertmaster of the Symphony. She has a B.M. degree from Chicago Musical College where she was a scholarship student under such



After World War II, Warren Leonard was called to Tokyo, Japan to serve as the head of the Food and Agriculture Division of the Natural Resources Section of the Army of Occupation under General MacArthur. On July 18, 1948, Editha and Kay packed up their bags and left Fort Collins to join Warren in Tokyo.



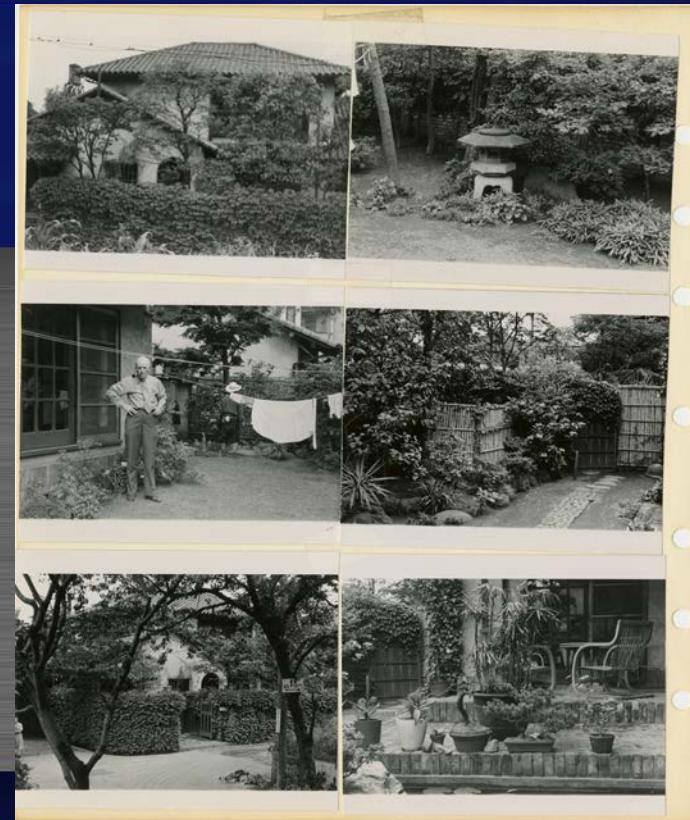
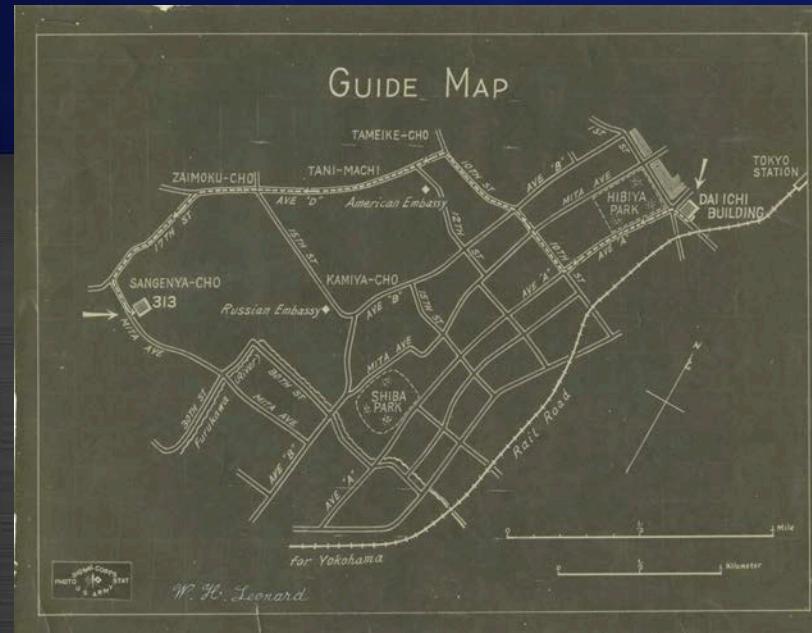
Editha kept a journal during her time traveling from Fort Collins to Tokyo – they traveled from Fort Collins to Seattle by train, then across the Pacific Ocean via the ship Fred C. Ainsworth. They arrived in Yokohama on August 4, 1948.



Editha kept beautiful scrapbooks during their time in Japan; several images are included here.



Though Editha claimed in her oral history that her house in Japan was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, we cannot find evidence of this. Wright did visit Japan and did design and construct some buildings there, but there is no record of this house being one of his. However, Editha mentions that she stayed in the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo which was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, so perhaps that's what stuck in her mind. It's more likely that their house here on 313 Mita Avenue was housing that was confiscated at the beginning of the occupation and turned into US army housing.



Shown are more photos of the Leonard family's life in Japan.

Picnic - Chiba Prefecture



Here are more images from the scrapbooks, including a photograph of some of the women in the Woman's Roundtable Club of Japan.



Editha remarks in her oral history interview that the people of Japan never treated her family with anything but respect and kindness, despite the war. She said she often was showered with gifts and flowers, and she made many friends.



GOVERNOR OF KANAGAWA PREFECTURE
AND MAYOR OF YOKOHAMA CITY
REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard





Kamakura, Japan on the left, near Tokyo. On the right they are playing *hanetsuki* which is a traditional Japanese game similar to badminton, but instead of a net there's a rope between the two poles.

Old Imperial
Palace in
Kyoto,
Kiyomizu-dera
Temple in
Kyoto.

Old Imperial Palace - Kyoto -



Residence of Emperor 1836 - 1868 When all emperors are



Gardens Surrounding Imperial Palace

Kiu Miza Shrine Kyoto



Toys on Teapot Lane



Todai-ji - Great Eastern Temple
Houses Largest Buddha in Japan

The Great Bell
of Todai-ji -
Cast in 752
13'5" high -
10" thick at rim -
27" in air circumference
10 men a boom to make
your ancestor rise & bow



Old Bronze lantern
before Todai-ji.



In the roots of an
ancient cryptomeria -
1000 years old.

Nikko

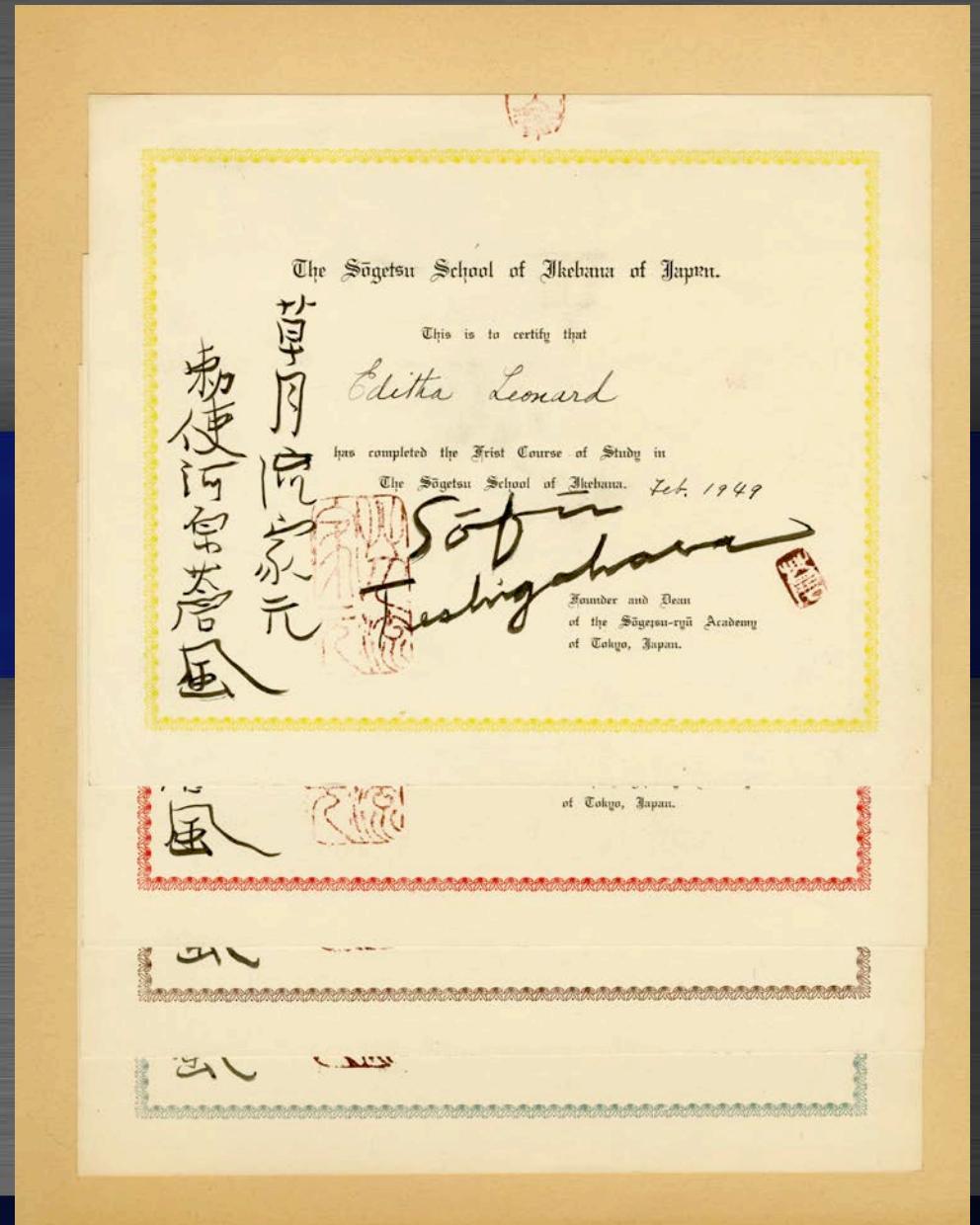


The Original of the Three Monkeys

Todai-ji Temple
in Nara.
Toshogu Shrine
in Nikko. In the
image on the
bottom right
are three
carved
monkeys. These
monkeys at the
Toshogu shrine
are what
popularized the
philosophy,
"see no evil,
hear no evil,
speak no evil."



While in Japan, Editha studied Ikebana in the Sogetsu School of Flower Arranging and holds a teacher's certificate from Sofu Teshigahara, pictured here.



Here is one of Editha's Ikebana arrangements that was on exhibit in a department store.



My arrangement in the
Sogetsu School Exhibition at
Matsuyakaya Department Store.

第二十五回草月流いけばな展出品

DODSON SEISHŪ



Editha was a very independent woman who traveled frequently, especially after her husband died in 1966. Here she is in Teotihuacan in 1974, and at Walt Disney World in 1980.



Editha Leonard gave so much to her community here in Fort Collins, through her music, her volunteer work, and through all the groups she organized and led. Her legacy is apparent in the still-active groups she participated in and in our robust musical community.



Learn more about local history by visiting the Archive at Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, visiting the Poudre River Public Library District, and by checking us out online at the Fort Collins History Connection.