

McLean County Museum of History

Lincoln School Collection

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Processed by
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1901 - 1993
PROVENANCE:	
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	None

Historical Sketch

This collection consists of a series of albums and notebooks relating to Abraham Lincoln Elementary School in Bloomington.

The original school opened late in 1895, relieving other crowded public schools in the city. At the time it was the only modern school building because of its well-lit and ventilated interior rooms and exterior brick walls.

During the Great Depression, the federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) provided grants and bonds to fund school renovation and construction. A new Lincoln School was built with WPA support, and it remained an elementary school until it was closed in 1993. The building now serves as a “leisure center” for the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department.

Scope and Content Note

The Lincoln School collection consists mostly of photo albums of elementary school classes and the meeting minutes of the parent-teacher organizations. There are also numerous documents, including those on the history of Bloomington Public Schools; founders’ day addresses and programs; and related newsletters.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: History I

- 1.1.1 A document describing the Lincoln School PTO by-laws, voted and approved April 11, 1991. Articles cover the purpose, membership, officer duties, meetings, and finances of the PTO.
- 1.1.2 Letters from June-July 1945 from the Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers concerning bulletins and improvement suggestions for the Lincoln School PTO.

Folder 2: History II

- 1.2.1 Information from a former student, circa. 1925, including descriptions of teachers, local families, students and programs, as well as recollections of the wider community, local businesses and schools.
- 1.2.2 Two packets of information on the history of local schools by the McLean County Historical Society.
- 1.2.3 “This Is Your Life, Lincoln School” script, includes brief history of Lincoln School.
- 1.2.4 February 1959 Founders Day address for the Lincoln School PTA. References are made to significant events of 1954-1958, including McCarthyism; the introduction of televisions into homes; Roger Bannister’s four-minute mile; school integration in the South; Sputnik and the Space Race; and the generation gap in music (Elvis Presley versus Lawrence Welk).

- 1.2.5 April 16, 1963, Founders Day address for the Lincoln School PTA. Brief overview of PTA and previous eras.
- 1.2.6 February 1966, Founders Day address for the Lincoln School PTA. Brief overview of PTA and previous eras.
- 1.2.7 Undated Founders Day program containing brief resumes of past presidents, 1935-61.

Folder 3: Members and Presidents

- 1.3.1 Envelope containing list of Lincoln School PTA presidents, 1931-1974, with mailing addresses; miscellaneous highlights of events and dates from 1902-1932; two sheets listing board members from 1956-66; a stapled list of presidents and addresses from 1919-1970; and a separate stapled list of past presidents and addresses from 1919-1965.
- 1.3.2 Handwritten copy of Lincoln School PTA presidents, 1897-1993.
- 1.3.3 Copy of Lincoln School PTA presidents, 1897-1993.
- 1.3.4 Handwritten list of Lincoln PTA officers, 1898-1953.
- 1.3.5 Document containing a brief description of past presidents: Priller, Thomas, Wines, Neal, Nance, and Crutcher.
- 1.3.6 Letter on the formation of Mothers Club organizations across the Bloomington area, 1901-1936.
- 1.3.7 List of Lincoln School teachers , 1966-1974.
- 1.3.8 Unspecified list of Bloomington area residents.
- 1.3.9 Handwritten list of past members and presidents of the PTA, 1898-1930.

Folder 4: General Documents

- 1.4.1 Three cards giving homecoming welcome, reminder about "The Inquiring Parent" program on WJBC, and a letter of gratitude from a Mr. and Mrs. Bryant.
- 1.4.2 Invitation booklet to join the Lincoln School PTA.
- 1.4.3 Constitution and by-laws booklet for the Lincoln School PTA.
- 1.4.4 District 6 PTA notification of the Fall Conference in September 1969.

- 1.4.5 Newsletter from Lincoln School on Halloween festivities and report card meetings.
- 1.4.6 Lincoln School PTO logo mascot voting, 1990-1991.
- 1.4.7 Letter from Lincoln School PTO board members to the superintendent of Bloomington Public Schools on the allocation of Lincoln School items after its closure in 1993.
- 1.4.8 Document concerning gift of Lincoln School dishes to the Home Sweet Home City Mission.
- 1.4.9 Document detailing various publications and emblems of the Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers, 1945.
- 1.4.10 Speech concerning the history of mothers associated with the Lincoln School PTA.
- 1.4.11 Newspaper articles describing burglary at Lincoln School; Mrs. Lloyd Brown as the new Lincoln School president; and Benjamin Cottone as the new McLean County district PTA director.
- 1.4.12 Bloomington Public Schools newsletter from January 1963 detailing history of local school taxes since 1955, and call for improvements to public schools.

Folder 5: Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers

- 1.5.1 A music education pamphlet published by the Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers (ICPT), 6 North Michigan Avenue Chicago 2, Illinois.
- 1.5.2 An art education pamphlet published by the ICPT, 6 North Michigan Avenue Chicago 2, Illinois.
- 1.5.3 A safety manual for PTAs published by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 600 S. Michigan Boulevard Chicago 5, Illinois.
- 1.5.4 A song booklet containing lyrics published by the ICPT, 6 North Michigan Avenue Chicago 2, Illinois.
- 1.5.5 A parliamentary procedure pamphlet addressed to the ICPT, published by National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 1201 Sixteenth St. N W Washington D.C.
- 1.5.6 The program for the 65th annual state convention for the Illinois PTA.

- 1.5.7 Program for 65th annual state convention for the Illinois PTA.
- 1.5.8 Official ICPT publication, vol. 51, no. 6 / February 1968.
- 1.5.9 Program keys of the ICPT, 1967.
- 1.5.10 Pamphlet for the National Congress PTA founders day, 1967.

Folder 6: Album 1972 - 1973

- 1.3.1 Photo album of class pictures containing grades kindergarten through sixth.

Loose Items (8 photo albums, 2 large ledgers, 10 meeting books, 1 box)

Photo Albums: 1973 - 1974; 1974 - 1975; 1976 Bicentennial; 1976-1977; 1977 - 1978; 1978 - 1979; 1979 - 1980

Ledger: 1933 to 1939 "Cash"
Undated bills, April to June (no year given); receipts and disbursements, October 1933 to January of 1939.

Ledger: 1939 to 1943 "Single Entry Ledger"
Membership booklets for the Lincoln School PTA, 1938-1942; receipts and disbursements, February 1939 to November 1943.

Journal: 1905 - 14, Meeting Minutes
Meeting minutes of the Lincoln School PTA. Includes by-laws of the Lincoln School Mothers Club, November 14, 1913.

Journal: 1914 - 1918, Meeting Minutes
Meeting minutes of the Lincoln PTA. Includes information on standing committees; treasurer reports; finance reports; annual report of PTA; and an E. R. Darlington Lumber Co. receipt.

Journal: 1918 - 26, Meeting Minutes
Meeting minutes of the Lincoln Parent-Teacher Association. Includes separate list of PTA "Don'ts;" treasurer reports; report of the Lincoln School Garden Club; and charter of the Illinois Council of Parent Teacher Associations.

Journal: 1929 - 37, Meeting Minutes
Meeting minutes of the Lincoln PTA. Includes a tribute to PTA member Ethel Bleavins, and a treasurer's record of membership for 1935-1936 year.

- Journal:** **1937 - 43, Meeting Minutes**
Meeting minutes of the Lincoln PTA. Includes envelope labeled "Canceled Vouchers returned by The Peoples Bank," November 1937, containing receipts and checks from the Lincoln PTA to Peoples Bank; a record of membership, 1938-1939; treasurer's record of membership for 1942-1943; and program for a "Georgia Camp Meeting" sponsored by the Lincoln School PT, undated.
- Journal:** **1943 - 50, Meeting Minutes**
Meeting minutes of the Lincoln PTA. Includes separate book labeled "Bloomington Wonder Composition" detailing meeting minutes of the PTA from January to March 1943; a treasurer's record of membership for 1943-1944; letter of resignation from PTA treasurer Louise Robinson, October 8, 1946; and an outline of plans for the Selective Teacher Recruitment Meetings at ISNU, March, 19, 1947.
- Journal:** **1956 - 1963, Meeting Minutes**
Meeting minutes of the Lincoln School PTA. Includes the by-laws of the Abraham Lincoln Parent-Teacher Association as of September 1960 and 1962.
- Journal:** **1963 to 1983, Meeting Minutes**
Meeting minutes of the Lincoln School PTA. Includes the by-laws of the Abraham Lincoln Parent-Teacher Association as of February 1967 and March 1969.
- Journal:** **1901 - 05, Meeting Minutes**
Meeting minutes of the Lincoln School PTA.
- Journal:** **Black "Roll Book"**
List of members of the Lincoln School Mothers Club, undated.
- Box:** **May 23, 1993 Open House**
Open house guest book for Lincoln Elementary school with list of attendees. May 23, 1993.