

McLean County Museum of History

Normal Avenue Neighborhood Club Collection

Processed by
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1940 to present
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:	

Brief History

The Normal Avenue Neighborhood Club was formed in the Spring of 1931 by Irene Buzzard and Elsie Popejoy. Limited to women in the neighborhood, the club's purpose was informal diversions and connecting with other women in the neighborhood. Since this was at the beginning of the Depression, women often used the meeting times for productive and inexpensive activities, such as mending, knitting, and other needlework, in addition to visiting. During the December 11, 1936, meeting, for example, they listened to Edward VIII make his famous abdication speech "for the woman I love."

Membership in the Normal Avenue Neighborhood Club originally was open to women in the 600 and 700 blocks of the street, though those on Gregory were also invited. The geographic limits of the club were set from Bowles north to the apartments and the four houses on Gregory. Presently, it is open to women on the 800 block of Normal Avenue as well.

The original members of the Club, according to the history written by Elsie Popejoy, included Elsie Popejoy, Irene Buzzard, Bertha Hudelson, Alma King, Audrey Beckman, Esther Ireland, Nita Gray Lusher, Lucille Homes, Maude Harper, Grace Anderson, Minta Stephens, Clara Meyer, Betty Ridenour, and Lelia Odell, with Garnetta Horton joining in the second year.

Scope

The collection includes the Club's directories from 1951, minutes of the monthly meetings from 1940 to present, and ephemera.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: History

- 1.1 "Organization and Early Days of the Normal Avenue Neighborhood Club," 2pp, typescript carbon copy.
- 1.2 List of Past Officers of the Normal Avenue Neighborhood Club 1940-1979.
- 1.3 "Neighborhood club observing anniversary" - Newspaper clipping about the 50th anniversary observation; handwritten list of those who attended.
- 1.4 Note from Hazel M. Rice with regrets, dated April 29, 1981.

Folder 2: Directories 1951-1952, 1954-1976

Folder includes directories for the following years based on the academic calendar:

- 2.1 1951-52
- 2.2 1954-55
- 2.3 1955-56
- 2.4 1956-57
- 2.5 1957-58
- 2.6 1958-59
- 2.7 1959-60

- 2.8 1960-61
- 2.9 1961-62
- 2.10 1962-63
- 2.11 1963-64
- 2.12 1964-65
- 2.13 1965-66
- 2.14 1966-67
- 2.15 1967-68
- 2.16 1968-69
- 2.17 1969-70
- 2.18 1970-71
- 2.19 1971-72
- 2.20 1972-73
- 2.21 1973-74
- 2.22 1974-75
- 2.23 1975-76

Folder 3: Directories 1977-1990; 1991-1999

Folder includes directories for the following years based on the academic calendar

- 3.1 1976-77
- 3.2 1977-78
- 3.3 1978-79
- 3.4 1979-80
- 3.5 1980-81
- 3.6 1981-82
- 3.7 1982-83
- 3.8 1983-84
- 3.9 1984-85
- 3.10 1985-86
- 3.11 1986-87
- 3.12 1987-88
- 3.13 1988-89
- 3.14 1989-90
- 3.15 1991-92
- 3.16 1992-93
- 3.17 1993-94
- 3.18 1994-95
- 3.19 1995-96
- 3.20 1996-97
- 3.21 1998-99

Folder 4: Directories 2000-present

Folder includes directories for the following years based on the academic calendar

- 4.1 2000-01
- 4.2 2001-02
- 4.3 2002-03

- 4.4 2003-04
- 4.5 2004-05
- 4.6 2005-06
- 4.7 2006-07
- 4.8 2007-08
- 4.9 2008-09
- 4.10 2009-10
- 4.11 2010-11
- 4.12 2011-12
- 4.13 2012-13
- 4.14 2013-14
- 4.15 2014-15

Folder 5: Meeting Minutes – Nov. 1940-April 1956

Folder 6: Meeting Minutes – Oct. 1956-May 1972

Folder 7: Meeting Minutes – Oct. 1972-May 1989

Folder 8: Meeting Minutes – Sept. 1989-May 2001

Folder 9: Meeting Minutes – Sept. 2001- May 2008

Folder 10: Meeting Minutes – Sept. 2008-May 2013

Folder 11: Meeting Minutes – Sept. 2013-Present

Folder 12: Miscellaneous and Ephemera

- 12.1 Letter to Illinois State University Foundation with donation made in memory of Jean Cramer, Sept. 24, 2007.
- 12.2 ISU Foundation gift form concerning donation made in memory of Jean Cramer.
- 12.3 Letter from ISU Foundation acknowledging donation made in memory of Jean Cramer, Sept. 27, 2007.
- 12.4 Letter from Chair, Dept. of Family and Consumer Sciences, thanking the Normal Avenue Neighborhood Club for donation made in memory of Jean Cramer, Nov. 12, 2007.
- 12.5 Copy of obituary for Mary Jean Cramer, *Pantagraph*, August 12, 2007.
- 12.6 Card from funeral of Mary Jean Cramer, August 15, 2007.
- 12.7 Thank-you card from Jean Cramer's family, with envelope, postmarked Oct. 11, 2007.
- 12.8 Acknowledgement from ISU Foundation for Normal Avenue Neighborhood Club's donation in memory of Hal Gilmore, husband to club member Anita Gilmore, Nov. 3, 2010.
- 12.9 Letter of thanks from Anita Gilmore to Neighborhood Club, Nov. 10, 2010, with notecard and envelope.
- 12.10 Thank-you note from Mike Francisco, husband of Karen Francisco, for the Club's card of condolence, Feb. 28, 2011.