

Alfred W. Brink Scrapbook Collection

Collection # 2012.01

Finding Aid prepared by Mary Aylmer



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Prepared October 2013

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Collection Number: 2012.01

Collection Title: Alfred W. Brink Scrapbook Collection

Dates: 1928-1968

Size: 1 box (.5 linear ft.)

Creator/Collector: Alfred W. Brink

Acquisition Information: Gift of John Dunn

Accruals: No accruals are expected

Custodial History: Materials were acquired from collector

Languages: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: Local History Room, Archives and Special Collections Department, Decatur Public Library, Decatur, Illinois.

Processed By: Mary Aylmer, 2013

Conservation Notes: Not Applicable

RIGHTS AND ACCESS

Physical Access Restrictions

None

Technical Access Restrictions

None

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INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Preferred Citation

[item identification], [collection title], [collection number], Decatur Public Library, Department of Archives and Special Collections, Decatur, Illinois.

Related Collections

None.

Separated Material

None.

Published Descriptions

Not applicable

Location of Originals

Not applicable

Location of Copies

Not applicable.

Publication Note

Not applicable

Subject Headings

Alfred W. Brink, Pythian Home, St. Joseph's Hall, Christy and Foltz Construction Company, scrapbook, photographs, Decatur IL

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Alfred "Alf" Brink was born in Quincy, Illinois in 1905 where he attended school, was married and began a family. Sometime after 1930 Alf moved his family to Decatur, Illinois where the family is found in the 1944 Decatur City Directory. The directory lists Alf as a carpenter, and is the profession he worked in throughout his life. He is remembered for his expertise in project management.

It is easy to speculate from artifacts found in this scrapbook that Mr. Brink was faithful and hard working. Photographs and interviews reveal that Alf was as big in stature as he was in heart standing nearly 6 foot 5 inches tall, earning him the nickname "Big Boy."

Alf passed away on January 29, 1986 at the age of 81 and is buried, along with his wife Ella in Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Decatur, Illinois.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Although neither explanation nor description accompanied the scrapbook, the collection contains items which most likely represent Alf's major accomplishments in his life's work as a Project Superintendent with Christy and Foltz Construction Company. Both black and white and Polaroid photographs make up the bulk of the collection and chronicle the changing landscape and evolving culture of Decatur. Along with photographs are also personal documents that provide evidence of Alf's good character and conscientious nature.

The scrapbook was dismantled as a result of deterioration and all items have been re-assembled by Series. In adherence to archival standards established by the National Archives, the scrapbook has been assigned an accession number with series titles and photographs and other documents labeled numerically within each series. All items are now stored individually in polypropylene sleeves and housed in series file folders which are contained in 1 (one) box.

A digital record of the exact original organization is stored in the DPL Local History Room on flash drive for historical reference.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

I. Biographical Information, 1910, 1920

This series contains biography, Certificate of Appreciation (1910), and 1920 US Federal Census.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
Biography	Box 1	FF1

II. Pythian Home for Orphans

This series contains sepia toned photographs of the Pythian Home built by the Knights of Pythias.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
Pythian Home for Orphans		FF 2

III. St. Joseph's Hall

This series contains black and white photographs, color Polaroid photographs, postcards, and a handwritten note.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
St. Joseph's Hall		FF 3

IV. First Bank of Decatur National

This series contains black and white photographs and a magazine article.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
First Bank of Decatur National		FF 4

V. Millikin University – Griswold Athletic Center

This series contains color Polaroid photographs, a newspaper article, and a handwritten letter (Foltz).

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
Millikin University – Griswold Athletic Center		FF 5

VI. Knights of Pythias Research

This series contains information on the Knights of Pythias.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
Knights of Pythias research		FF 6

VII. St. Joseph's Hall Research

This series contains information on St. Joseph's Hall.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
St. Joseph's Hall research		FF 7

VIII. News Articles – Pythian Home

This series contains articles about the Pythian Home.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
News Articles		FF 8

IX. Miscellaneous

This series contains notes and supporting research.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
Miscellaneous		FF 9