

Decatur Public Library Decatur, IL 62523

INVENTORY 2013.02

Alfred W. Brink Scrapbook Collection. .5 linear feet
Dates: 1928 – 1968

Biography

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

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A digital record of the exact original organization is stored in the DPL Local History Room on flash drive for historical reference.

Series Description and Content List

Biographical**ff1**

Biography, Certificate of Appreciation, 1910, 1920 U.S. Federal Census.

Pythian Home for Orphans**ff2**

Sepia toned photographs of home built by the Knights of Pythias.

St. Joseph's Hall**ff3**

Black and white photographs, color Polaroid photographs, postcards, handwritten note.

First Bank of Decatur National**ff4**

Black and white photographs, magazine article.

Millikin University – Griswold Athletic Center**ff5**

Color Polaroid photographs, newspaper article, handwritten letter (Foltz).

Knights of Pythias research**ff6**

City Directory (1871-1872), Register of Old Buildings (Meyer) Vol. 15, Decatur Tribune Article (Osborne),
History of Macon County (pp 181-187) "Fraternal Organizations), "The Pythian Children's Home" Haunted Decatur (Taylor), "The Pythian Story" Supreme Lodge Knights of Pythias (web), Centennial History of Decatur and Macon County (pp 185-187), "Like neglected castle, group fights to survive," The Toledo Blade (Henry), personal correspondence.

St. Joseph's Hall**ff7**

Newspaper article, Description of Tertianship & Final Vows from Jesuits website, Woodstock Letter, Vol. 79, No. 4, Nov. 1950 "New Fields for Tertianship and Retreats."

News Articles – Pythian Home**ff8**

"Pythian Home Stood Tall" – Decatur Tribune, Wednesday, July 16, 2014

Miscellaneous**ff9**

Notes, supporting research.