

Inventory of the

DeKalb Drama Club

DeKalb, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 214

INTRODUCTION

Marilyn James donated the DeKalb Drama Club records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on August 17, 1993. Jessie Glidden donated an addition to the records on May 5, 1999. Urla Golden donated an addition to the records on March 13, 2001. Additional records were added at later dates.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 4
Number of containers: 8 + 1 volume
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 214

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The DeKalb Drama Club records date from 1914 to 2014 with the majority of the records consisting of minutes and yearbooks. Within the minutes are constitutions and by-laws, treasurer reports, membership lists, newspaper clippings, and theater programs.

Included in the addenda are folders labeled club activities containing meeting minutes, programs, correspondence, newspaper clippings. The two folders entitled "Red Book" include historical information pertaining to the Drama Club. Also added to the records are lists of program participants and their record of service, list of programs and plays, play transcripts, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and photographs.

For further information concerning organizations in DeKalb such as the Stage Coach Players (RC 184) and the DeKalb Women's Club (RC 211), the researcher should consult the Regional Collections Guide.

Scrapbooks in boxes 7 and 8 have been removed from their bindings due the nature and condition of the covers. The original order of the contents were preserved.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The DeKalb Drama Club was organized in September 1914 to study modern drama and for that reason was called the "Reading Circle." The name was soon changed to the Drama Club. There were twelve charter members with Mrs. J. Ellwood Lewis as the first president. The club met once a week on Wednesdays later changing to once a month. Under the leadership of Mrs. Lewis, charity work was performed under the supervision of the philanthropic department of the Women's Club. In 1915, the club performed their own charity work. The club was responsible for such acts as hiring two teachers from Chicago for DeKalb's first public kindergarten, making

layettes, buying milk for needy school children and children's books for the library, giving parties for patients in the tuberculosis sanitarium, aiding needy families and contributing to community organizations.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

DeKalb Drama Club

Societies--DeKalb

Scrapbooks

Theater

Women--Societies and clubs

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Informal Histories, 1937, n.d.
	2	Constitutions, 1962-1997
	3	Charter Members, 1914-1961
	4	Notes from Minutes, Loretta Nolin, 1914-1972
	5-11	Minutes, 1914-1976
2	1-2a	Minutes, 1976-1985, 1989-1994
	3	Bank Books, 1915-1952
	4	Correspondence, 1984, n.d.
	5	Composite Philanthropies, 1984, 1988-1989
	6	Programs, (1984-1989)
	7-11	Yearbooks, 1926-1998
Oversize	1 volume	Scrapbook, 1914-1981

ADDENDUM

3	1-9	Activities, 1989-1998
	10-11	Redbook, 1937-1990
	12	Record of Service, 1969-1994
	13	List of Program Participants, 1969-1983
	14	Correspondence March 1970-March 1998
	15	Newspaper Clippings, 1970-January 14, 1990
	16	50 th Anniversary Program, October 14, 1964
	17	Programs, Club Activities, 1982-1988
	18	Senior Honors Night Awards, May 21, 1991, May 25, 1993
	19	Jane Bradt Eulogy, E. Nelson James, March 19, 1997
20	Ideas for Minstrel Show, n.d.	
4	1	Programs, November 10, 1982-November 14, 1990
	2	List of Programs and Plays, 1916-1997
	3	Poem, Drama Club Presidents, n.d.
		Play Transcripts:
	4	“If Men Played Cards as Women Do,” ca. 1948
	5	“Hats Off to Drama Club,” December 13, 1978
	6	“1956,” n.d.
	7	“Aeschylus,” n.d.
	8	“A Good Woman,” n.d.
9	“Once Upon a Time,” n.d.	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
4	10	“Overtones,” n.d.	
	11	“Rehearsal,” n.d.	
	12	“The Valentines Nobody Wanted,” n.d.	
	13	Picture Book: Philanthropic Work of DeKalb Drama Club, A Summary of Seventy Years, March 13, 1985	
		Photographs:	
	14	50 th Birthday Celebration, April 1965 (1)	
	15-16	Guest Outing, May 9, 1990 (10); November 14, 1990 (4)	
	17	Meeting, October 1990 (10)	
	18	Meeting, January 1991 (2)	
	19	Meeting, February 1991 (7)	
	20	Meeting, December 11, 1991 (5)	
	21-22	Unidentified Photos, November 1989 (9); June 1990, n.d. (8)	
		Audio Cassette:	
	23	Play, February 1979	
		Artifact:	
		“Best Dramatic Actress” Trophy, n.d.	
<u>ADDENDUM</u>			
	24	Minutes, (October 12, 1994-May 19, 1999)	
	25	Afterglow: What Are They Doing Now?, 2000	
	26	Play Transcript: “12 Pound Book”, n.d.	
<u>ADDENDUM</u>			
		Financial Records:	
	27	Treasurer’s Notebooks, 1977-1985 (2)	
	28	Treasurer’s Reports, (1990-2000)	
	29	Proposed Budgets, 1988-1992	
	30	Treasurer’s To Do List, June 17, 1992	
	31	Bank Account Information, 1985	
	32	Bank Merger Correspondence, 1997, 2000	
	33	CD and Tax Statements, (1990-2000)	
	34	Check Registers, 1983-1994 (3)	
	35	Memorial for Jessie A. Wright Fund, (1983-1996)	
	36	Philanthropies, (1991-2000)	
	37	Receipts, Dues and Expenses, 1989-1990, 1994	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
		<u>ADDENDUM</u>	
5	1	DeKalb Drama Club Constitution and Bylaws, 1997-2006	
	2	DeKalb Drama Club Agendas, Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Reports, 2001-2006	
	3	President's Calendars, Correspondence, and Other Files, 2000-2006	
	4	Committee Selection Forms and Files, 1994-2001	
	5	Guest Day Presentation Files, 2001-2005	
	6	New Member Selection Files, 1997-2001	
	7	Resignations, 2002-2003	
	8	Correspondence, 1999-2006	
	9	Newspaper Articles, 1971-2006	
	10	Awards, 1984-2006	
	11	Informal History: Autobiography of Alva Cleveland Oderkirk, June 1985	
	12	Brown Paper Bag with Artwork: "DeKalb Drama Club: March 14, 1990: SPRING 1915" Photographs:	
	13	DeKalb Drama Club 70 th Anniversary, October 1984 (26)	
	14	Publishing Free-Lance Writing - Mary Ann Ziemer, at the Home of Marie Williams, Betty Brayfield, & Helene Kirken, April 8, 1987 (3)	
	15	"A Window on the Past" Program, by Annette Johns, at the Home of Diane Thomas with Dottie Ball & Melba Dill Assisting, January 13, 1988 (4)	
	16	DeKalb Drama Club Meeting, at the Home of Mitzie Katz on Arrowhead Lane, March 9, 1988 (7)	
	17	DeKalb Drama Club Luncheon, May 1988 (6)	
	18	Drama Club (Mary Lou), October 1988 (6)	
	19	DeKalb Drama Club Guest Day, November 9, 1988 (4)	
	20	DeKalb Drama Club Guest Day (Oak Crest Play), November 1988 (13)	
	21	DeKalb Drama Club Meeting, at the Home of Mrs. O.Wm. Nelson on Somonauk Road (Program: Phyllis Kelley), October 11, 1995 (18)	
	22	At the Home of Dottie Ball, January 1996 (5)	
	23	DeKalb Drama Club 90 th Anniversary Celebration, November 2004 (9)	
	24	DeKalb Drama Club, Unknown Event (Likely from or before December 1980), n.d. (3)	
	25	DeKalb Drama Club, Unknown Event, n.d. (9)	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	6
		Play Transcripts:	
5	26	"Coming Through the Rye," by William Saroyan, 1942	
	27	"The Curious Savage," Acts II & III, by John Patrick, 1950	
	28	"Ex-President's Wives Sharing," with Author's Notes, 1993	
	29	"For Starters Or One Stop Serves All Your Needs," n.d.	
	30	"Havana Moon," a Comedy in One Act, by Glenn Hughes, Circa 1950	
	31	"Leave it to Me, Sweetheart," a Melodrama in One Act, Dir. Mavis Williams, Brookside Theater, February 11, 1987	
	32	"The Morning After," n.d.	
	33	"The Morning After Or Three Pages from the Gold Box," a Comedy in One Act, by E. Nelson James, 1989	
	34	"Murder at Mrs. Loring's," a Melodrama in One Act, by S. Sylvan Simon, 1937, with Cast from Guest Day at Oak Crest, November 9, 1988	
	35	"The Romancers," by Edmond Rostand, n.d.	
	36	"The Twelve Pound Look," by J.M. Barrie, n.d.	
	37	"The Unseen," by Alice Gerstenberg, n.d.	
	38	"Together We Share, For This We Live," a Program Compiled by DiAnne Thomas, et al, for the Meeting of March 13, 1985	
	39	"Philanthropic Work of the DeKalb Drama Club: A Summary of Seventy Years," by Lucille Aikins, Chr., et al, for the Program "Together We Share, For This We Live," March 13, 1985	
6	1	Programs of the DeKalb Drama Club and Other Special Events, 1984-2005	
	2-3	DeKalb Drama Club Yearbooks, 1988-2006	
	4	"Chicago Tribune Magazine," March 20, 2005	

ADDENDUM

5	DeKalb Area Drama Club 'The Arts' Scrapbook, 2006-2007
6	Minutes, May 2007- May 2011
7	By-Laws, September 2010
8	Newspaper clippings on members, n.d.
9	Directories, 2008-2014
10	Newspaper clippings, 2014, n.d.
11	Member correspondence, 2014
12	Community support, n.d.

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	7
7	1-2	Drama Club Memories, 2007-2010, 2009-2012	
8	2 volumes	Scrapbooks, 1980-2006	