

Inventory of the

Flora Grange, No. 1762
Boone County, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 263

INTRODUCTION

Thomas Ratcliffe, Master of the Flora Grange, donated the records for the Grange to the Regional History Center on May 26, 2004.

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

Linear feet of shelf space: 2.75
Number of containers: 4 + 3 volumes
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 263

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records for the Flora Grange date from 1894 to 2002 and consists of meeting minutes, communications, membership records, and scrapbooks. The meeting minutes date from August 17, 1956 through November 2000 with the earliest records missing from the collection. The meeting minutes contains information on the activities of the Flora Grange, the Flora Junior Grange, and the Boone County Fair and fairgrounds. The scrapbooks give a great deal of information on the activities of the Flora Junior Grange during the 1970's.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Flora Grange No. 526 organized in 1873. Until the meeting hall was built in the fall of 1873 they met in a schoolhouse. The grange disbanded in 1889 due to non-payment of dues to the State Grange. In 1910 Flora Grange No. 1762 was organized. A new hall was built on Stone Quarry Road in 1946 due to the condition of the old Grange building. On October 12, 1978 a fire caused approximately \$35,000 in damage to the Grange Hall. The insurance company totaled the building so the Grange demolished it and rebuilt a new wood structure. On April 18, 1980 the new building was dedicated. Pancake, chicken and roast beef dinners were served to pay for the hall. They also earned money by hosting dances, serving dinner to other organizations, bake sales, and food stands at sales and at the Boone County Fair.

In April 1998 the Grange passed a Vision Program that included eight items. Included in the eight items were the following: to promote the grass roots legislation policy to area residents and community members, to publicize the Grange to the community, to have more community service projects working as a team, and to change the obligation ceremony to be more user friendly with easier words to understand and speak and with a more comfortable approach in presentation.

Resolutions for the Flora Grange included changing fees for personal truck licenses to be less than the fees for trucks for hire, putting up county roads signs and marking them on maps, keeping a six day mail delivery service, having farmers start conserving soil before the government enforces strict measures, and promoting the use of ethanol as a gasoline additive because of the great market for corn and the ability it has to decrease our dependency for oil from other countries. Also included in the Grange's resolutions were the concern for energy conservation and for land preservation due to the loss of prime farm land to urbanization energy conservation

Flora Grange was involved in many community service projects such as taking boxes of cookies to shut-ins for Christmas, sending Christmas bags to the men over seas, ringing bells for the Salvation Army, delivering meals on wheels, participating in CROP Walks, keeping Bloods Point Cemetery trimmed and mowed, collecting newspapers, bottles, and cans for recycling, saving used eyeglasses, hearing aids and hearing aid batteries, assisting local families with their electric bills, and collecting canned goods for distribution to needy families. As with all Boone County granges, the Flora Grange is involved in the running of the Boone County Fair every year.

Many charities benefitted by receiving cash donations from the Grange. Some of the donations went to the Red Cross, the Arthritis Foundation, March of Dimes, CARE, Muscular Dystrophy, Goldie Floberg Children's Home, Belvidere Park District, the Grange Deaf Fund, and the St. Joseph's and Highland Hospitals in Belvidere. Money was also donated to the Belvidere Tornado Disaster Relief Fund organized by the Pomona Grange, Xenia, Ohio Tornado Disaster Fund, and to the Oklahoma City rescue workers through the Red Cross.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Boone County
Flora Grange
Good Roads Movement
Grange
World War II

COLLECTION INVENTORY

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> |
|------------|---------------|--|
| 1 | 1 | Boone County Heritage Days Souvenir Booklet, 1977 (Includes Grange History) |
| | 2-5 | Minutebooks, August 17, 1956-November 18, 1977 |
| 2 | 1-3 | Minutebooks, December 2, 1977-November 2000 |
| | 4 | Secretary's Quarterly Report, 1895-1926 |
| | 5 | Fees and Dues to Illinois State Grange Receipts, 1919-1925 |
| | 6 | Yearly Report, 1933 |
| 3 | 1 | Rollbook, 1922-1955 |
| | 2 | Membership Applications, February 1919, July 1922- June 17, 1924 |
| | 3 | Secretary's Individual Membership Records Book, 1937-2002 |
| | 4 | 25 and 50 Year Members List, n.d. |
| | 5 | Membership and Dues, 1894-1896 |
| | 6 | Dues Account Book, 1951-1974 |
| | 7 | Financial Reports, 1895-1896, 1926 |
| | 8 | Correspondence, 1944-1945, n.d. |
| | 9 | Resolutions, 1896, 1912, 1917, n.d. |
| | 10 | Grange Bond, n.d. |
| | 11 | Flora Grange 60 th Anniversary Program, 1970 |
| | 12 | Bonus and Flora Granges 75 th Anniversary Program, October 13, 1985 |
| | 13 | Certificates, 1973, 1976, n.d. |
| | 14 | Proposed Lowden Memorial State Park, 1944 |
| | Oversize | 1 volume |
| 15 | | Women's Activities Committee, "Happiness is . . . " Scrapbook, 1973 Flora Junior Grange: |
| Oversize | 16 | "Flora Juniors Grow" Scrapbook, 1970-1971 |
| Oversize | 1 volume | Flora Junior Grange Scrapbook, 1970-1971 |
| Oversize | 1 volume | Flora Junior Grange "Build A Better You" Scrapbook, 1971-1972 |
| | 17 | "Image 75" Scrapbook, 1974-1975 |
| | 18 | Community Service Scrapbook, 1976-1977 |
| | 19 | "ABC's of Music" Exhibit Scrapbook, 1977 |
| 4 | 1 | "JG Basics for '77" Scrapbook, 1977 |

| <u>BOX</u> | <u>FOLDER</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | 4 |
|------------|---------------|---|---|
| 4 | 2 | Illinois State Grange, By-laws and Rules of Order, 1985 | |
| | | National Grange: | |
| | 3 | <u>National Grange Newsletter</u> , (July/August 1989-May/June 1992) | |
| | 4 | <u>Grange Today</u> , December 1995-October/November 1998 | |
| | 5 | “The Grange as a Pioneer in the Good Roads Movement, April 25, 1944 | |
| | 6 | Celebrate Grange, 125 th Anniversary Brochure, 1992 | |
| | 7 | Welcome to the Grange Brochure, n.d. | |
| | 8 | The Patron, The Official Song Book of the Grange, 1974; Let’s All Sing!, n.d. | |