

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT SPRINGFIELD
Archives/Special Collections

MC 32

Hagler-Milner Families
Papers and Memorabilia, 1935-1971
1.82 cu ft

Scope and Content

The Hagler and Milner families' papers consist of 2.83 cubic feet of photographs, news clippings, letters and memorabilia, most of it originally compiled in scrapbooks. The principal value of the collection is in its documentation of the activities (at local, state and national levels) of the American Legion, the Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion and the Junior Auxiliary in Springfield, Illinois. Of particular note are two photographs of Charles Lindbergh with local and state dignitaries on the occasion of Lindbergh's visit to Springfield in 1937. The collection is divided into three series: The American Legion Auxiliary Papers, 1935-1956; The American Legion Papers, 1937-1938; Family Papers, 1935-1967.

SERIES I

The American Legion Auxiliary Papers, 1935-1936, (Boxes 1 and 2), consist of chronologically arranged scrapbooks, photographs, publications (national, state and local) and memorabilia. The series documents the regular and special activities of the American Legion Auxiliary (1939-1940), the Junior Auxiliary (1939), the Eight and Forty (1935-1940) and Illini Girls' State (1948-1956).

Of particular note are the minutes of meetings of the 21st District, American Legion Auxiliary (Box 1), the Illini Girls' Stater (June 16-24, 1953), the day-to-day schedule of the 1953 Illini Girls' State, and The Hatbox (national newsletter for the Eight and Forty), 1939-1940 (Box 2).

SERIES II

The American Legion Papers, 1937-1951 (Box 2), consist of topically arranged items from a disassembled scrapbook, photographs, and a publication documenting the activities of the American Legion, the Chow Club and the Sons of the Legion. Of particular interest are photographs of local and state dignitaries, including Walter Hagler, with Charles Lindbergh (Box 3, Folder 4).

SERIES III

The Family Papers, 1935-1971 (Box 2), consist of topically arranged letters, photographs and memorabilia concerning the families' participation local politics, social and religious functions in Sangamon County, and national affairs. There is also a scrapbook, 1935-1949, which contains a series of newspaper columns, "Making Conversation," by J. Emil Smith, reporting the exploits of Lt. Harold Hagler, a wartime Air Force pilot. Some of the photographs, letters and memorabilia in this series were originally placed loose inside the back cover of the American Legion Auxiliary Eight and Forty Scrapbook, 1936-1937.

Box 1

Folders

1. Blue Book of Annual Reports, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois, 1940-1941 and 1942-1943.
2. The Auxiliary News, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois, Sept.-Oct.-Nov.1949, Dec.-Jan.-Feb. 1950 [sic]
3. Items from scrapbook, Eight-plus-Forty Auxiliary, Springfield, Illinois, 1937-38, 1938-39. (Scrapbook disassembled and photocopied)
4. Group photographs, undated, Legion Auxiliary Items from scrapbook, Eight-plus-Forty Auxiliary, Springfield, 1939-1940

Box 2

Folders

1. Newsletters from scrapbooks, 1939-1940
2. Photographs from scrapbooks, 1939-1940
3. Roster, Girls' State, 1948
4. " , 1949
5. " , 1950
6. " , 1951
7. Roster, Newsletters, Girls' State, 1952
8. Roster, Girl' State, 1953
9. Newsletter, Daily Schedule, Girls' State, 1953
10. Roster, list of officers, Girls' State, 1954
11. Roster, Girls' State, 1955
12. Roster, Girls' State, 1956
13. Memorabilia, Girls' State
14. Photographs, Girls' State, c1953
15. Scrapbook items, photocopied, 1937-1938

Box 3

Folders

1. Memorabilia from scrapbook, 1937=1938
2. Clippings, letters from scrapbook, 1937-1938
3. Photographs from scrapbook, 1937-1938
4. Photographs from scrapbook, 1937-1938
5. Family photographs from scrapbook, 1937-1938

Oversize boxes (4)

Four scrapbooks, c1940: news clippings, letters, photographs, greeting cards, programs, membership lists and other memorabilia, almost all having to do with the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary in Springfield, Illinois.

Re-ordering the Collection

Two scrapbooks in the collection (The American Legion, Springfield Post and the 21st District Legion Auxiliary) were in extremely poor condition, too poor for conservation. They were photocopied, then disassembled. Items in fair condition were placed in topical files.

Several items were inside the covers of the scrapbooks but not affixed to pages. Apparently they were put there merely for transportation to the SSU Archives. These items were not left where found but placed in topical files.