

McLean County Museum of History

Craig Family Collection

Processed by
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION	1 box
COLLECTION DATES	
PROVENANCE	
RESTRICTIONS	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History.
ALTERNATE FORMATS	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS	None
LOCATION	Archives
NOTES	

Biographical Information

Warren Craig was born Dec. 24, 1920, in Fairbury, Illinois, to Will and Georgia Craig. In 1946 he married Joybelle Dickey, born January 30, 1922. Warren died in May 26, 2015, and Joybelle died December 19, 2015. Their children are Barbara Craig-Schniepp, Shirley Craig, Linda (Craig) Reed, and Paul Craig.

Warren Craig served in the U.S. Army during World War II. After the war he graduated from Illinois State Normal University and earned a master's degree from the University of Illinois. He taught speech, English, reading, and drama in Lincoln, Bloomington, and Normal, serving as Unit 5's first Reading Coordinator. Warren operated Craig Canvas Service for over 50 years. An active member of the North Bridge Baptist Church of Normal, he held many church offices and was part of the American Baptist Men's disaster relief team. He formed the first neighborhood association in Normal and assisted other neighborhoods to do the same.

Joybelle (Joy) Craig graduated from Illinois State Normal University in 1940 and began teaching business courses in Clinton. When her children were older, she returned to part-time secretarial work and then became a valued volunteer with the McLean County Historical Society. She also participated in the Woman's Missionary Society, taught Sunday school and held several American Baptist Association regional offices.

The Craigs became the first off-campus ISU student housing providers to deliberately integrate their rented rooms. In later decades, Joy and Warren hosted international students and foreign exchange teachers in their home. As a result, they traveled to Japan and Germany as invited guests of those students.

(from obituaries in Folder 2)

Scope Note

This collection covers day-to-day events in Warren F. Craig's life starting in the late 1930s to 2015 documented in ledger books, which include his time in the service (1942-46) as well as a scrapbook, notebooks and 3 ledgers of expenses. The scrapbook contains photos and newspaper articles of Craig's time as a high school speech teacher and speech coach. He was also technical director of several Bloomington High School plays.

The collection includes a one-year diary written by Joybelle Craig and 4 spiral notebooks in which she wrote every day from 1982 through March, 2001. The entries include everything from weather and grocery store trips to sponsoring foreign students and volunteer work as well as her comments about whatever happened that day.

The miscellaneous file includes a business card for Craig Canvas Service, additional newspaper articles with photos and the gift agreement listing donation contents.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Scrapbook of Craig's Teaching Memorabilia

- 1.1 Teacher's Contract, July 14, 1948 – 9 months, \$2600, Logan County, Ill.
- 1.2 National Thespian Society, 1948-49, card as sponsor.
- 1.3 "We Shook The Family tree," Lincoln Community H.S program, November 19, 1948, Director – Warren Craig.
- 1.4 Two 4 ½" x 7" and one 9" x 4 ½" glossy photos of stage play
- 1.5 Four 2" x 3" from "Abe Lincoln in Illinois."
- 1.6 "Blow Me Down," Lincoln Community H.S program, February 17, 1949.
- 1.7 Photo 5" x 7" unidentified play. And 10" x 8" unidentified group of 5.
- 1.8 Thespians, 1948-49, glossy 10" x 6 ½"
- 1.9 Contest group – Speech and Dramatists, glossy 8 ½" x 5 ½"
- 1.10 "One Foot in Heaven," Lincoln Community H.S program, May 20, 1949, Director – Warren Craig.
- 1.11 Junior Play Cast – 1949, 8" x 7" glossy
- 1.12 Contract, Bloomington Board of Education June 20, 1949, \$2800.
- 1.13 Color photo (3" x 5 ½") BHS
- 1.14 Three 10" x 7 ½", one 4" x 5" glossy photos of a play.
- 1.15 "The Aegis" BHS newspaper article, February 23, 1950, "Curtin Rises on 'Jane Eyre' Tomorrow Night," w/photo.
- 1.16 One 10" x 7 ½", two 4" x 5" glossy photos of a play.
- 1.17 "The Aegis" BHS newspaper, "Forensic Group Deserves Honor, Praise Of School," article about Warren Craig's new Forensic club.
- 1.18 Constitution and By-Laws for new Forensic club, 2 pages.
- 1.19 "The Four Hearts Mystery," BHS senior class program, April 28, 29, 1950.
- 1.20 One 10" x 7 ½", two 5" x 7 ½", five 4" x 5" glossy photos of a play.
- 1.21 "The Aegis" BHS newspaper article, May 18, 1950, "Girls To Stage Style Parade," w/photos.
- 1.22 Contract, Bloomington Board of Education June 12, 1951, \$3100.
- 1.23 "The Aegis" BHS newspaper articles, November 6, 1950, "Instructors Announce Cast, Committees For Fall Production," "First Production of Dramatic Club To Center Around Gilbreth Family."
- 1.24 "The Aegis" BHS newspaper article, November 9, 1950, "'Cheaper By The Dozen' Cast, Committees Slave In Preparation For Coming Production."
- 1.25 Three 10" x 7 ½", glossy photos of a play.
- 1.26 *Pantagraph* article, February 4, no year. "BHS Debaters Win Annual Big 12 Meet," w/photo including Warren Craig.
- 1.27 "The Aegis" BHS newspaper article, February 8, no year. "Debate Team Wins Big Twelve Debate Conference at Lincoln," w/photo, and "Debate Team To Stage Assembly Program ..."
- 1.28 "The Aegis" BHS newspaper article, February 8, no year. "Dramatic Club Plans Staging Of Winter Play."
- 1.29 "The Aegis" BHS newspaper article, February 15, 1951, "Directors Announce Cast For Winter Play 'Double Door' ..." w/photo.
- 1.30 "McLean County Courier," article, February 23, 1951, "Double Door," w/photo.

- 1.31 "The Aegis" BHS newspaper article, February 15, 1951, "'Double Door' Goes On Boards Friday, Saturday," and "Crews, Cast, Directors Work Hard..."

Folder 2: Miscellaneous

- 2.1 Business card "Craig Canvas Service," Warren Craig, owner.
- 2.2 "The Aegis," BHS newspaper photos, "Preparing To Put Show On Road," May 24, 1951.
- 2.3 "Speakers Hold Dinner," 5 ½" x 5 ½" *The Rock Island Argus*, February 2, 1952, newspaper photo of debaters, professors, directors of contest.
- 2.4 "BHS to Defend Big Twelve Debate Title," *Pantagraph*, Feb. 16, 1952.
- 2.5 "BHS Students Direct, Take Roles in 4 One Act Plays," *Pantagraph* w/photo (3 ½ x 6), February 2, 1953.
- 2.6 "LeRoy District Speech Contest Winners Named," *Pantagraph*, March 3, 1952.
- 2.7 "The Aegis" BHS newspaper article "Cohen, Breitweiser, Debating Team Enter Sectional Competition," March 13, 1952.
- 2.8 "The Aegis" BHS newspaper article, "12 Speech Students To Enter Contest In Champaign Saturday," March 26, 1953.
- 2.9 Four undated, short newspaper articles, "Breitweiser Will Enter Speech Meet," "Bill Breitweiser Takes Third In Speech Tourney," "Debaters, Leben Head For State," and "Coach Warren Craig Takes Debate Team To Rock Island Last And Saturday,"
- 2.10 Two undated newspaper articles, "You Tell 'em, Patsy," w/3 x 2 ½ photo and "Hufford, Pietsch, Butler, Joslin Win Sixth Place At State," w/3 x 4 photo.
- 2.11 McLean County Historical Society Gift Agreement signed by Shirley Craig, 6-4-18, including list of items donated, 3 ½ pages.
- 2.12 Scan of Certificate presented to Joy Craig by the First Baptist Church of Normal, December 1987.
- 2.13 "Fuller Brush Man Meets All Types of People During work," *Pantagraph*, undated.
- 2.14 "Disaster Relief Ministry Reactivated," *Mainstream*, June/July 2004.
- 2.15 Obituary for Warren Craig, *Pantagraph*, July 5, 2015.
- 2.16 Obituary for Joybelle D. Craig, *Pantagraph*, December 20, 2015.
- 2.17 Life Insurance policy with Northwestern Mutual for Joybelle D. Craig, effective March 15, 1945.
- 2.18 Life insurance policy with United States (National Service) for Warren Frederick Craig, effective March 1947. Plus change of beneficiary documentation, November 1952,
- 2.18 Life insurance with Travelers Protective Assn of American for Warren F. Craig, March 1954. Plus copy of application, booklet, and constitution applicable then.
- 2.19 Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company convertible life insurance policy for Warren F. Craig, September 1963.

Folder 3: Quote File

- 3.1 Warren's collection of quotes, complete with handwritten index, nd. Originally in a 3 ring binder.

Loose Items

Ledger 1:

The first ledger book begins January 1938, address at Fairbury, Illinois, with entries for all money spent from ice cream and gloves to church. There are credits for a paper route and

other small jobs. In 1941 there are deposits from the Ben Franklin Store, and by May 28, 1941, there are Fuller Brush Com. deposits. The first entry for September 1941 showed Craig had moved to Normal and enrolled at I.S.N.U. This ledger ends with the July 2, 1942 entry.

Ledger 2:

The second ledger book begins on July 11, 1942, address at Normal, Illinois, and includes entries for bus fare, dates, and church. The deposits were for work at Kinney's. The September 24, 1942, entry address changed to U. S. Army. The February 13, 1943, address shows the army address as in the Aleutians. Craig started buying Series E War Bonds in July 1943; he also set money home.

Ledger 3:

The third ledger book begin January 1, 1958, no address. The title names on the Book are Joybelle O. Craig and Warren F. Craig, 1958 – 1980. The entries include house payments, clothing, babysitting, utilities, and household goods.

Diary

The Five-Year Diary was written by Joybelle in 1976. It is a day-to-day account of the weather and what she did for the day. A remembrance card from Calvert & Metzler Memorial Home for Joybelle (deceased December 19, 2015) was in the back of the diary.

Spiral Notebook 1:

The first notebook is labeled Joybelle, 1982. The daily entries include weather, doctor and dental appointments, along with projects that she and others were pursuing. There were also entries for when and where they dined out. The last entry is September 19, 1989.

Spiral Notebook 2:

The second notebook begins September 20, 1989, with the same format as the first with daily weather and grocery shopping. She was taking German classes as they were sponsoring a student from Germany. She also was attending husband's plays and speech contests. The last entry is May 12, 1992.

Spiral Notebook 3:

The third notebook begins on May 13, 1992 with the weather. Joybelle was involved in many community organizations, charities of her church, and clubs. She was also a volunteer at the McLean County Museum of History. She went to many plays at ISU and IWU as well as movies. The last entry is October 13, 1996.

Spiral Notebook 4:

The fourth notebook begins on October 16, 1996, with a description of surgery. She was in St. Joseph's Hospital 5 days resulting in a walker and physical therapy. The entries continue with daily weather, social, and community engagements. She also mentioned researching for the Cemetery Walk. Last entry is March 15, 2001.

Spiral Notebook 5:

The fourth notebook begins on March 16, 2001 and continues through Dec 2010.