

McLean County Museum of History

Robert N. Knight Collection

Processed by
Jana Kiefer
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1950 - 1993
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
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also

Brief History

Robert N. Knight, also known as “Mr. Junior High School,” was a much loved and admired principal at Bloomington Junior High School for much of his career. He graduated from Illinois State Normal University with a B.A. in Education in 1950. He received his Master’s Degree in Education the following year. His entire career was teaching, beginning at Irving Junior High School where he served as a teacher and counselor, then at Franklin Grade School. In 1959 he was named Assistant Principal for Curriculum at Bloomington Junior High School. He served as Principal at the same school from 1963 until his retirement in 1987. Robert was very involved in his community, serving on many professional and community boards such as Salvation Army, Kiwanis, McLean County Mental Health Board, Illinois Principals Association, and many more. He was a member of First United Methodist Church in Normal where he taught Sunday school classes for more than 20 years. He was the recipient of many awards honoring his service.

Scope

The collection includes reports and booklets from Bloomington Junior High School, policies and procedures, Junior Achievement program activities, newspaper clippings, awards and recognitions, correspondence, and photo album.

Box and Folder Inventory

Box 1

Folder 1: Biographical Material

- 1.1 Typed page outlining Robert’s personal information, birth, education, work history, awards, community involvement, death.

Folder 2: Miscellany

- 2.1 “Bloomington Junior High School Schedule for Teachers – 1967-1968”

Folder 3: Annual Reports

- 3.1 “Annual Report To Our Stockholders, Bloomington Public Schools, 1973-1974”

Folder 4: Progress Reports

- 4.1 “These Are Your Schools, A Progress Report, Board of Education, Bloomington, Illinois,” 1949 (2 copies) “Annual Report To Our Stockholders, Bloomington Public Schools, 1973-1974”.

Folder 5: Teachers' Salary Report

- 5.1 A Report by The Teachers' Salary Schedule Study Committee, Bloomington Public Schools, Booklet, 68 pp. Presented to the Board of Education, May 28, 1964.

Folder 6: Policies and Procedures

- 6.1 *Policies and Procedures of the Board of Education*, Administrative Organization of the Bloomington Public Schools. Booklet, 62 pp. May, 1959.

Folder 7: Long Range Facility Study

- 7.1 *A Long Range Facility Study*, Prepared for the Board of Education, Bound copy, 44 pp. June, 1982.

Folder 8: Educational Plan, 1985

- 8.1 *Educational Plan for the Future*, Bound copy. 49 pp. October, 1985. T

Folder 9: A Study of Middle Level Education

- 9.1 *Bloomington Public Schools, A Study of Middle Level Education in Grades 5-9*, Bound copy, 44 pp. May, 1985.

Folder 10: Dropout and Graduates Study

- 10.1 *A Study of Selected Characteristics of Dropouts and Graduates of the Bloomington Public Schools*. 54 pp.

Folder 11: Junior Achievement Activity

- 11.1 Stock Certificate issued to Robert N. Knight by the company URWILCO. Par value \$1.00, October 23, 1970.
- 11.2 Stock Certificate issued to Robert N. Knight by the company Tri-Stone. Par value \$1.00, October 29 1970.
- 11.3 Stock Certificate issued to Catherine Knight by the company Tri Stone. Par value \$1.00, November 5, 1970.
- 11.4 Letter from William M. Briggs to Parents of Junior Achievement advising parents other child's acceptance into the Junior Achievement program. October, 1970.
- 11.5 Pamphlet "Prospectus for Investors" in Junior Achievement Companies. n.d.
- 11.6 Letter from Rick Weaber, President of TriStone informing stockholders of the company's liquidation and issuance of dividend check. May 5, 1971.

Folder 12: Miscellaneous Correspondence

- 12.1 Letter to Mr. Bob Knight from Mayor Richard Buchanan, and Jack King of the Bloomington Sister Cities Committee thanking Mr. Knight for his participation in "Sister Cities Day." n.d.
- 12.2 Letter from Sharon Ray, Linda Dryes, and Charlotte King thanking Mr. Knight for his participation in a school assembly at Irving School celebrating Abraham Lincoln's birth. March 4 1959.

Folder 13 Newsclippings

- 13.1 "BJHS administrator's heart brings him back." *Pantagraph*, n.d.
- 13.2 "'Mr. Junior High School' calls it quits," *Pantagraph*, January 14, 1987.
- 13.3 "Chamber honors business, youth "spirit" award recipients," *Pantagraph* March 24, 1987.
- 13.4 "Kiwanis honor going to B-N man," *Pantagraph*, December 19, 1992.
- 13.5 Photocopy of obituary of Robert N. Knight, *Pantagraph*, May 30, 1999, 3 pp.

Folder 14 Awards/Recognition

- 14.1 Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers Certificate of Life Membership, May, 1959.
- 14.2 Certificate of initiation into the Zeta Beta Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity, October 11, 1965.
- 14.3 The University of Connecticut Division of Conferences, Institutes, and Non-Credit Extension Certificate for completing all requirements of the Ninth Annual Conference on Junior High School Education. July 10-15, 1966.
- 14.4 Certificate of appreciation for support of YOUTHPOWER, Inc., 1970.
- 14.5 Leaders of American Secondary Education selecting Knight as a Leader of American Secondary Education. Includes letter from Leaders of American Secondary Education Director, V. Gilbert Beers, Ph.D. congratulating Knight on award. August, 1971.
- 14.6 Thank you card from Centrillio Council of Girl Scouts for Knight's help in the Sustaining Membership Effort as Neighborhood Recruiter. 1975.
- 14.7 Program from Teacher's Recognition Dinner during which Knight was a recipient of a Twenty-Five Year Certificate. 1975.
- 14.8 Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers Certificate of Life Membership, May, 1975.
- 14.9 Certificate in appreciation for service to The National Association of Secondary School Principals during the 61st Annual Convention. 1977.
- 14.10 Certificate of recognition and appreciation from Illinois State University College of Education for professional service in the Teacher Preparation Program at the University. May, 1977.
- 14.11 Certificate in appreciation for service to The National Association of Secondary School Principals during the 62nd Annual Convention. 1978.
- 14.12 To Whom it May Concern letter from The Salvation Army Major, Donald G. Wheeler, thanking Robert Knight for sitting on the Advisory Board and serving as Chairman of that board. January 30, 1981.

- 14.13 Distinguished Service Award presented by the Illinois Curriculum Council for Outstanding Service on the Executive Committee 1983-84. May 10, 1984.
- 14.14 Memo from the Office of the Dean, College of Education, Dennis Kelley, congratulating Knight on receiving the Administrator Award during Excellence Week at ISU. March 25, 1985.
- 14.15 Program from the Salvation Army Bloomington Advisory Board Annual Meeting and Civic Dinner, during which Knight is honored with the "OTHERS" award for outstanding service for the Salvation Army and other civic accomplishments. 2 copies. April, 1987.
- 14.16 Certificate of Appreciation from the McLean-DeWitt Regional Office of Education to Knight in appreciation of 37 years of faithful and devoted service to children and youth in the field of education. May, 1987.
- 14.17 Community Builder Award in recognition of Outstanding Service to the Community from Ancient Landmarks, Lodge No. 3579, May 20, 1987.
- 14.18 Certificate of appreciation for serving as visiting committee member for East Maine Public Schools, List. #63, Educational Service Center, Instructional Office, Des Plaines, Illinois. n.d.
- 14.19 Certificate of appreciation presented to Knight from Bloomington Public Schools, in acknowledgment of valuable and dedicated devotion to the teaching profession. n.d.
- 14.20 Citation for Professional Service from National Association of Secondary School Principals for contributions to secondary education while serving NASSP as a national committee members. n.d.

Folder 15 Miscellaneous Programs & Newsletters

- 15.1 Program for Ninety-First Annual Commencement of the Illinois State Normal University, where Knight received a Masters of Science In Education degree. June, 1950.
- 15.2 The Illinois Administrators Communicator newsletter. Knight representing The Junior High School Principals' Association as President present at Traditional IASSP-IJHSPA-IHSA-NCA Conferences, October 4-6. August, 1965.
- 15.3 The Builder, newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Bloomington with Knight featured as "A Kiwanian You Should Know." November 11, 1993.

Loose Item

Photo album of unidentified student classes pictured I at least three locations and perhaps more than one school. Period dress of students suggest date range beginning at turn of the 20th century. Some pictures show students in classes, such as woodworking. One photo shows sign: "F Room Washington School," n.d.