



The Urbana Free Library

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**Race Inn and the “Chickens Come to Roost”
Records, 1941-1978**

COLLECTION 10

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Sarah Lubelski, April 2017

Creator/Corporate name: Champaign-Urbana Community Chest Association.

Inclusive Dates: 1941-1978, bulk 1944-1969

Physical Description: 1 box, (0.5 linear feet).

Provenance: Gift.

Access:

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Historical Note:

Founded in 1939, the social group “Chickens Come to Roost” was a loose organization of Champaign-Urbana businessmen and –women, reporters, and civic leaders. The group met weekday mornings at the Race Inn (115 S. Race St., Urbana) for coffee and rolls. The original members were Harry Bigler, Lester “Lum” Corrie, Mal Hickman, Roy Horn, and Oscar Steer, but an open invitation stood for anyone to join them. The group took their name from the game played at the end of meetings which determined who would pay the bill for the group. Attendance ran anywhere from 25 to 50 regular attendees, but guests were often not counted. As well as being a social gathering, the members often contributed anonymously to charitable causes, such as providing meals to housebound individuals.

Scope and content:

This collection contains daily attendance records for the social/civic organization “Chickens Come to Roost” (1941-1977). The correspondence in this collection is comprised of short notes, post cards, and birthday cards to and from individual members. A small number of photographs date from 1949, and newspaper clippings span 1948-1978. Also included are the following artifacts: a rooster comb hat, an ashtray, and a menu from Race Inn.

Related Resources:

Race Inn: Oral History, 1979.

Race Inn and the chickens come home to roost: Oral History, 1977.

Subjects:

Clubs--Urbana.

Restaurants -- Illinois -- Urbana.

Names:

Bigler, Harry

Corrie, Lester.
Dillavou, Ann.
Ellsworth, Ellen.
Ewing, Wallace H.
Green, Henry I.
Hickman, Mal.
Horn, Roy.
Slade, Les.
Steer, Oscar.
Urbana Association of Commerce.

Container list

Box 1

Caricature of Oscar Steer
Chickens Come to Roost Attendance Records, 1941-1977 (8 folders)
Chickens Come to Roost Correspondence, 1940-1976 (4 folders)
Chickens Come to Roost Photographs, 1949 (1 envelope)
Newspaper Clippings (1 folder)
Artifacts:
 Chicken Hat
 Race Inn Ashtray
 Race Inn Menu