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Rantoul United Services Organization (USO)
Rantoul Armed Services YMCA, 1917-1991

Collection 137

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Cassie Ward, March 2019

Creator/Corporate name: Rantoul United Services Organization (USO) Rantoul Armed Services YMCA

Inclusive Dates: 1917-1991, bulk 1955-1985

Physical Description: 4 boxes, 2 linear feet

Provenance:

Rantoul United Services Organization (USO) Rantoul Armed Services YMCA was donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

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.

Biographical/Historical Note:

The Armed Services YMCA was built at Chanute Field at the beginning of World War I to service the service men at the base. The Rantoul USO was created during the Second World War when the National USO notified the city it had been selected as a host town. During the 1950s and 1960s, the Rantoul USO held many events for the service men at Chanute, including the ABC Triplets, three identical women who performed for USOs. Also active in the Rantoul USO were Junior volunteers and the Girl's Service Organization, started by Lucy Goff. These clubs helped with activities and presented shows for the servicemen in the USO. Annual Balls were held beginning in 1953 where Volunteer Queens were crowned. Beginning in 1962 King Balls were held as well to crown a USO King.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains scrapbooks, Army Wives' Club meeting minutes, newspaper clippings, calendars, and correspondence from the beginning of the USO through the 1980s. The bulk of the collection pertains to the Rantoul USO and newspapers concerning the USO. The Administration and Ephemera series documents the Armed Services YMCA Board, the Army Wives Club, and has monthly calendars and scrapbooks. The Newspapers Collection documents the activities of the Rantoul USO through newspaper clippings spanning from the 1940s to the 1980s. Included in both series are documents and newspapers pertaining to the USO and GSO King and Queen balls.

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged into two series and files are arranged alphabetically within those series. The Administration and Ephemera series includes records pertaining to the administration of the Armed Services YMCA and the Rantoul USO, as well as ephemera including scrapbooks, monthly calendars, and programs. The Newspapers series includes newspaper clippings about the Rantoul USO and the Armed Services YMCA. These newspapers are grouped and labeled how they were originally organized.

Name Terms:

Chanute Air Force Base (Ill.)



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Goff, Lucy
Rantoul Armed Services YMCA
United Services Organization (Rantoul, Ill.)

Subject Terms:

Army spouses

Container list:

Box 1

Series 1: Administration and Ephemera

- Folder 1: Armed Services YMCA Board Materials, 1984-1986
- Folder 2: Army Wives Club Minutes, 1943-1944
- Folder 3: Awards Banquets, 1961-1965, 1967-1969, 1971
- Folder 4: Community Calendars, 1985-1988
- Folder 5: Correspondence, 1970, 1974-1977, 1985
- Folder 6: Ephemera, 1961-1962, 1964-1968, 1970, 1976, 1978, 1987
- Folder 7: Heroes on the Homefront, 1917-1990
- Folder 8: Monthly Calendars, 1975, 1978-1986
- Folder 9: News Releases, 1964-1967, 1970-1973
- Folder 10: Pictures with Commentary, undated
- Folder 11: Scrapbook, August 1963 – January 1964
- Folder 12: Scrapbook, January – April 1964
- Folder 13: Scrapbook, April – August 1964
- Folder 14: Scrapbook, August – December 1964
- Folder 15: Scrapbook, December 1964 – February 1965
- Folder 16: Scrapbook, 1968
- Folder 17: Scrapbook - 25th Anniversary Rantoul USO, 1967-1968
- Folder 18: Scrapbook – 25th and 30th Anniversary and “Music through the Years” Show, 1966, 1971
- Folder 19: Scrapbook – Activities, 1954-1956

Box 2

Series 1:

- Folder 1: Scrapbook – Activities, 1962
- Folder 2: Scrapbook – GSO Awards Dinner, 1967-1969
- Folder 3: Scrapbook – King Ball, 1964
- Folder 4: Scrapbook – Queen, 1967
- Folder 5: Scrapbook – Queen, 1969
- Folder 6: Scrapbook – Queen, 1970
- Folder 7: USO and GSO King and Queen Balls, 1965, 1969-1975
- Folder 8: USO Junior Volunteers, 1969, 1971, 1973



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Folder 9: USO Monthly Report, December 1961
Folder 10: USO Monthly Reports, 1962
Folder 11: USO Monthly Reports, 1963
Folder 12: USO Monthly Reports, 1964
Folder 13: USO Monthly Reports, 1967
Folder 14: YMCA Miscellaneous, 1981, 1985

Box 3

Series 2: Newspapers

Folder 1: Activities, 1966-1967
Folder 2: Awards Banquet Newspaper, 1966-1967
Folder 3: Blue ribbon and USO Gifts, 1964-1966
Folder 4: Inaugural Ball, 1969
Folder 5: King Ball Newspaper, 1972
Folder 6: King Ball Newspapers, 1973
Folder 7: King Ball Newspapers, 1974
Folder 8: King Ball Newspaper, 1975
Folder 9: Lucy Goff, 1969
Folder 10: Newspaper Clippings, 1940s (Copied)
Folder 11: Newspaper Clippings, 1940s
Folder 12: Newspaper Clippings, 1950s (Copied)
Folder 13: Newspaper Clippings, 1950s
Folder 14: Newspaper Clippings, 1960-1965
Folder 15: Newspaper Clippings, 1963
Folder 16: Newspaper Clippings, 1966-1970
Folder 17: Newspaper Clippings, 1966
Folder 18: Newspaper Clippings, 1967
Folder 19: Newspaper Clippings, 1968

Box 4

Series 2: Newspapers

Folder 1: Newspaper Clippings, 1969
Folder 2: Newspaper Clippings, 1970
Folder 3: Newspaper Clippings, 1971
Folder 4: Newspaper Clippings, 1972
Folder 5: Newspaper Clippings, 1973
Folder 6: Newspaper Clippings, 1981
Folder 7: Newspaper Clippings, 1983
Folder 8: Newspaper Clippings, 1984
Folder 9: Newspaper Clippings, 1985



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Folder 10: Newspaper Clippings, 1986
Folder 11: Newspaper Clippings, 1987
Folder 12: Newspaper Clippings, 1988, 1991
Folder 13: Newspaper Clippings, undated
Folder 14: Queen Ball, 1968
Folder 15: Queen Ball, 1972
Folder 16: Queen Ball, 1974