

Royal Oak Historical Society

Royal Oak Kiwanis Club Records, 1927-1962, 1977

Accession #: 2005.036.3250

Extent: 1.25 cubic feet

Creator: Royal Oak Kiwanis Club

Provenance: Donated by the City of Royal Oak

Access Restrictions: The collection is open for research. The scrapbooks may not be scanned, though digital images with a camera or iPad are allowed.

Preferred Citation: Royal Oak Kiwanis Club Records, Royal Oak Historical Society

History:

Kiwanis International, originally called the Supreme Lodge Benevolent Order of Brothers, was founded in 1915 in Detroit, Michigan. A year later, the name was changed to Kiwanis, selected by the founders based on their understanding that the word translated to “we build” from the Algonquian language family. In 1919, the Kiwanis changed their mission to make positive influences in the lives of children and empower communities to improve the world. The Royal Oak Kiwanis Club was organized in 1927 as Royal Oak’s third service club for men. In 1931, the Kiwanians began sponsoring an annual Thanksgiving Day football game between Royal Oak High School and Birmingham High School.

Scope and Content:

The collection consists of by-laws, meeting minutes, annual club achievement reports, ephemera, and scrapbooks. The ephemera includes a sheet from the 1951 *Kiwanis Courier* in Royal Oak. It lists committee chairmen and a roster of the members with their company affiliation and address. Also included is a program from a 1945 football game. The reports list clubs that members visited, activities they were involved in, and social events including fundraisers, youth center projects, swim lessons for children, and a Victory Garden during WWII. Of particular interest may be the membership proposal cards.

The scrapbooks primarily contain news clippings of club events, including guest speakers, luncheons, and community projects the club members were involved with. The scrapbook dated 1938-1962 was created by past president Watson Brown. Subjects of the clippings include sponsorship of the General Motors Truck chorus, annual Christmas theater parties for children, and luncheons with speakers on topics ranging from psychiatry, law and medicine to religion and finance, and sending children to the Fresh Air and Salvation Army camps. In addition to the clippings, it contains event programs, membership rosters, and some photographs. One of the photographs features Dwight D. Eisenhower and an unidentified man.

The collection is arranged in alphabetical order. The scrapbooks are housed with the society’s scrapbook collection.

Box 1

- 1:1 By-laws, 1927
- 1:2 Ephemera, 1945-1951
- 1:3 History - The First 25 Years, 1927-1952
- 1:4 Meeting Minutes, 1927-1929
- 1:5 Meeting Minutes, 1930-1931
- 1:6 Meeting Minutes, 1932-1933
- 1:7 Meeting Minutes, 1934-1935
- 1:8 Meeting Minutes, 1938-1939
- 1:9 Meeting Minutes, 1940-1942
- 1:10 Meeting Minutes, 1947-1948
- 1:11 Reports – Annual Club Achievements, 1939-1940
- 1:12 Reports – Annual Club Achievements, 1943-1945
- 1:13 Reports – Annual Club Achievements, 1948-1950
- 1:14 Photographs – Fiftieth Anniversary, 1977

Oversize

- Scrapbook, 1935-1938
- Scrapbook, 1938-1940, 1947-1962