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DuPage County Centennial - 1939
Name of the Collection

118
Collection Number

1937--1939
Date Range

5"/1	16/162	BW/July 19, 2011
Linear Feet/Boxes	***Number of Folders/Items***	***Processed by/Date***

Description

The history of Naperville and the history of DuPage County are tightly intertwined. Captain Joseph Naper was instrumental in having DuPage County carved out of Cook County in 1839 by the Illinois Legislature. Naperville served as the county seat with the first election held in the Pre-Emption House. Naperville citizens raised $5,000 to build the first county courthouse. In 1868 the county seat was moved to Wheaton, much to the chagrin of Napervillians. By 1939 DuPage County's population was 100,000 with twenty-four cities and villages. Naperville's population of 5,500 put it in eighth place among the twenty largest municipalities. Elmhurst topped the list with 15,000 inhabitants. However, Naperville spearheaded the DuPage County Centennial celebration from its formal opening February 9 at the Wheaton Courthouse to its grand finale in Naperville September 9--16 with a Centennial Week Pageant and Historical Parade.

The driving force behind the Centennial events was Judge Win G. Knoch, born May 24, 1895 in Naperville. As the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Judge Knoch had years of experience in political and civic affairs in Naperville and DuPage County. After law school and service in World War I he entered a law partnership with future congressman Chauncey Reed, which led to his position as Assistant State's Attorney for DuPage County in 1920. He was DuPage County Judge from 1930--1942, U. S. District Court Judge for the 16th Judicial Circuit 1939--1957, and appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in 1958. Judge Knoch led many civic organizations and was General Chairman of the Naperville Centennial in 1931. He was instrumental in developing Centennial Beach as a memorial of the 1931 celebration, organized Naperville National Bank in 1934 in the depths of the Depression, helped establish Edward Hospital and worked with Caroline Martin--Mitchell to donate her estate to the City of Naperville. Active in Republican party politics in DuPage County, he had extensive connections throughout the county enabling him to co-ordinate Centennial activities. Judge Knoch died May 23, 1983, hailed as "Mr. Naperville" for all his contributions to the community.

This collection contains official ribbons and programs for the various events, lists of committee members, poems for the towns written by Frank Earl Herrick, expense and budget reports, Judge

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Knoch's correspondence to invited guests including Illinois politicans, notes on DuPage County Queen contestants, thank you letters to supporters and participants, letters to mayors checking on the progress of the celebration, and many examples of Judge Knoch's persuasive abilities in his leadership of the DuPage County Centennial celebration of 1939.

Inventory

*Two pieces of DuPage County Centennial stationery
*Two copies of the DuPage County Centennial brochure with the tentative program outline and a request for contributions, with a list of the members by city of the DuPage County Centennial Association Finance Committee
*Naperville City Council proclamation inviting the DuPage County Centennial Association to use Central Park and other city parks as well as the Field House and Athletic Field of North Central College as part of the Centennial celebration. Includes Naperville's part in establishing DuPage County.
*Bumper sticker for the DuPage County Centennial
*Proclamation for the DuPage County Centennial Celebration which could be used by any participating community (oversize on parchment)
*Ribbon for DuPage County Centennial Week, worn by Win G. Knoch of the Executive Committee
*Two DuPage County Centennial Week ribbons worn by Committee Chairmen
*Two DuPage County Centennial Week ribbons worn by Committeemen. One is for Mrs. Hornback.
*Program for the formal opening of the DuPage County Centennial in Wheaton, February 9, 1939
*Two copies of the Morton Arboretum Bulletin of Popular Information for the DuPage County Centennial Tree Planting on Arbor Day, April 20, 1939
*Card from the DuPage County Centennial Tree Planting explaining "The Meaning of Arbor Day," April 20, 1939
*DuPage County Centennial program of the Arbor Day Celebration, April 20, 1939
*Letter from Win G. Knoch to Clarence D. Godshalk of the Morton Arboretum, thanking him for his cooperation with the County celebration, October 2, 1939
*Program for the Centennial of the first election in DuPage County held at the Wheaton Court House May 6, 1939
*Poem, "The Present Need," by Frank Earl Herrick, July 4, 1937
*Poem, "The Flags along the Street," by Frank Earl Herrick, July 4, 1937
*Poem, "West Chicago," by Frank Earl Herrick, August 27, 1939
*"A Centennial Song, Naperville," by Frank Earl Herrick
*Poem, "Villa Park," by Frank Earl Herrick, Centennial Series
*Poem, "A Psalm of Elmhurst," by Frank Earl Herrick, Centennial Series
*Poem, "Naperville," by Frank Earl Herrick, Centennial Series
*Poem, "Westmont," by Frank Earl Herrick, Centennial Series
*Poem, "The Centennial Overture," by Frank Earl Herrick, February 9, 1939
*Poem, "Winfield," by Frank Earl Herrick, Centennial Series

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*Note card with qualifications for Centennial Queen of Virginia Anderson of Glen Ellyn
*Note card with qualifications for Centennial Queen of Bernice Carlson of Wheaton
*Note card congratulating Shirley Nelson of Downers Grove as Centennial Queen of DuPage County
*Note card for Shirley Chindlund, Queen of Elmhurst for the DuPage County Centennial
*Note card for Nancy Nichols, Queen of Naperville for the DuPage County Centennial
*Receipt for Win G. Knoch from the N.Y. Costume Co. for coat, pants, vest, shirtfront and hat, May 29, 1939
*Business card from Empire Flag Decorating Company, Chicago
*Business card from Meyer Subovitz, Professional Decorator, for flags and bunting, Chicago, glued on postcard, July 15, 1939
*Announcement for the start of the DuPage Centennial fund drive
*Invitation to Hon. Win G. Knoch for the formal opening program of the DuPage County Centennial in Wheaton, February 9, 1939
*"A Neighborly Christmas Greeting" from the DuPage County Centennial Association
*Letter of regret to an invitation to the Centennial from Congressman Everett M. Dirksen to Win G. Knoch, August 29, 1939
*Follow-up letter to the invitation to attend the DuPage County Centennial from Congressman Everett M. Dirksen to Win G. Knoch, August 30, 1939
*Letter from Win G. Knoch acknowledging Congressman Everett M. Dirksen's inabilty to attend the DuPage County Centennial Celebration, September 1, 1939
*Outline of major U.S. and DuPage County events from 1620 to 1939
*Centennial Committees as of July 24, 1939
*Statement of condition and tentative budget of DuPage County Centennial Association, July 25, 1939 (two copies)
*Statement of expenses and receipts of the DuPage County Centennial Association as of July 25, 1939
*Drum and Bugle Corps participants
*Statement of expenses and receipts of the DuPage County Centennial Association as of July 31, 1939
*Estimated budget for Centennial Week at Naperville
*List of contact people by suburb for the DuPage County Centennial
*Envelope and letter to Judge Win G. Knock from Jack DeRosa, Treasurer, DuPage County Centennial Association, August 2, 1939, explaining that a statement as of July 31 is attached
*List of members of the Historical Committee and the Centennial Committee of the DuPage County Centennial
*Budget for DuPage County Centennial Week and balance on hand as of August 18, 1939
*Statement of expenses and receipts of the DuPage County Centennial Association as of August 18, 1939
*Claims submitted, Executive Committee Meeting, August 28, 1939
*Statement of expenses and receipts of the DuPage County Centennial Association as of August 31, 1939
*Claims submitted Executive Meeting, September 6, 1939

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*Statement of expenses and receipts of the DuPage County Centennial Association as of September 30, 1939
*Statement on proposed expenditures for demonstration at Lisle, Illinois
*Final report of receipts and disbursements for Naperville Week, DuPage County Centennial by the Naperville Centennial Committee
*Certificate resolving that the corporate enterprise known as DuPage County Centennial Association be abandoned and that the said corporation be dissolved, November 13, 1939
*Letter from L. S. Whitbeck of Lombard Publishing Co. to Judge Win G. Knoch accepting an invitation of a meeting of DuPage County publishers relative to the Centennial Program, January 16, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Laura Plamondon regarding a letter sent to garden club presidents in DuPage County for a Show as part of the DuPage County Centennial, January 17, 1939
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Laura Plamondon of Wheaton, accepting her invitation to meet with Garden Club representatives for the DuPage County Centennial, January 21, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Frederick C. Harbour, President, DuPage County Bar Association, inviting him to be chairman of a Bar Association committee as part of the DuPage County Centennial
*Letter to Mason Taylor at the Wheaton Court House from Judge Win G. Knoch suggesting he look at a collection of old guns owned by Charlie Miller, who offered to have them used as part of the DuPage County Centennial, February 7, 1939
*Letter to Frederick C. Harbour, President of the DuPage County Bar Association, from Judge Win G. Knoch, declining the chairmanship of the Bar Association's committee for the DuPage County Centennial, February 11, 1939
*Letter to Hon. J. L. Nichols from Judge Win G. Knoch stating that he would submit a sketch to the Executive Board at their next meeting, April 14, 1939
*Letter to the Executive Committee, DuPage County Centennial, from Judge Win G. Knoch, explaining that he could not attend their meeting, but furnishing some information, May 8, 1939
*Invoice from St. Procopius College Press, Lisle, to the DuPage County Centennial Corp., for Mother's Day Centennial Programs, May 16, 1939
*Letter to Clarence V. Wagemann, Secretary, DuPage County Centennial, from John P. Lawton, attaching a Liability Policy from the Fidelity Casualty Company, May 15. 1939
*Letter to Hugh Dugan of Hinsdale from Marshal Keig, with copy sent to Judge Win G. Knoch, sending a donation of $25.00 and declining serving on a committee, June 30, 1939
*Letter to Marshall Keig, Hinsdale, from Judge Win G. Knoch, thanking him for his contribution toward the success of the Centennial, July 3, 1939
*Letter to Col. R. R. McCormick, Publisher of the Chicago Tribune, from Judge Win G. Knoch, thanking him for his keynote address on the 4th of July, July 6, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Robert R. McCormick of the Chicago Tribune thanking him for a picture taken at a celebration, July 7, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Harry Hill, Colonel Infantry, Chief of Staff, Headquarters Thirty-Third Division, Chicago, thanking him for his copy of a letter sent to General Keehn of the National Guard regarding the 4th of July celebration at Downers Grove, July 7, 1939

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*Letter to Judge and Mrs. Win G. Knoch from Congressman J. M. Robsion thanking them and the Centennial Association for their hospitality, July 7, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Emma M. Krurger, chairman of the Bloomingdale Township Centennial Committee, inviting him to the DuPage County Old Settlers Picnic in Roselle, July 15, dated July 8, 1939
*Letter to Honorable Chauncy W. Reed in Washington from Mason E. Taylor, Executive Secretary, DuPage County Centennial, concerning a possible debate between Senator Taft and Congressman T. V. Smith to be held August 27 in West Chicago, July 19, 1939
*Letter to Hon. John M. Robsion from Judge Win G. Knoch, acknowledging his letter of July 7th, and thanking him for a Congressional Booklet, July 22, 1939
*Letter to L. C. Meyer, District Manager, Western United Gas and Electric Co. in Downers Grove, from the Chairman of the Centennial Parade, Utilities Division, inviting his company to provide a float for the DuPage County Centennial parade on September 16, dated July 26, 1939
*Letter to Raymond Maxon, District Manager, Public Service Co., Maywood, from the Chairman of the Centennial Parade, Utilities Division, inviting his company to provide a float for the DuPage County Centennial parade on September 16, dated July 26, 1939
*Letter to Frank Tarr, District Manager, Illinois Bell Telephone Co., Glen Ellyn, from the chairman of the Centennial Parade, Utilities Division, inviting his company to participate in the Centennial Parade, July 26, 1939
*Western Union telegram to Mason E. Taylor, Executive Secretary, DuPage County Central Committee, from Chauncey W. Reed, Member of Congress, stating that Senator Taft would not be available as debator, August 1, 1939
*Note from Chauncey W. Reed, Congressman, to Mason E. Taylor stating that Congressman Smith from West Chicago would be the Democratic debator, August 1, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Herman J. Zimmerman Jr., Westmont Village Clerk, requesting a speaker for September 4th for the Westmont Centennial celebration, August 1, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Judge Frank W. Shepherd regreting that he could not attend Bar Association exercises in Geneva August 10, dated August 8, 1939
*Letter to Mrs. William Collins of Westmont from Judge Win G. Knoch thanking her for a contribution to the Centennial Lore of DuPage County, August 10, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Jack De Rosa, DuPage County Centennial Treasurer, with a financial statement as of July 31, 1939, dated August 11, 1939
*Scratch paper with financial numbers for the DuPage County Centennial
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Arthur B. Beidelman regarding the plans to create a large boulder in Central Park commemorating the DuPage County Centennial, August 18, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from H. Zimmerman Jr., Chairman Program Committee for Westmont, asking again for the name of a speaker for their Centennial program, dated August 19, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Senator Scott W. Lucas of Illinois, accepting an invitation to speak at a DuPage County Centennial event September 15, dated August 22, 1939
*Note written by Mason E. Taylor regarding a West Chicago Centennial program August 27 and the progress of negotiations with Senator Taft

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*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Eugene L. Gates, DuPage County Superintendent of Highways, regarding fencing and paving, and work to the entrance of Central Park, August 28, 1939
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Admiral Williamm Watts, Great Lakes, Illinois, requesting that the Navy band play in Naperville for the DuPage County Centennial September 15, dated August 28, 1939
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Congressman Everett Dirksen, Peoria, requesting that he would be the speaker at the DuPage County Centennial grand finale September 16, dated August 28, 1939
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Lieutentant-General Stanley H. Ford, Sixth Corps Headquarters, Chicago, requesting that the regular Army band of Fort Sheridan lead the DuPage County Centennial parade and participate in a concert, September 16, dated August 28, 1939
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Senator Scott W. Lucas of Havana, Illinois, thanking him for accepting the invitation to speak at a DuPage County Centennial event, September 15, dated August 28, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Louis J. Ceithaml, President of the Westmont Centennial Committee, inviting Judge Knoch to join in their parade September 4, dated August 28, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Major J. G. Brackinridge, Headquarters Sixth Corps Area, declining an invitation for the Fort Sheridan band to participate in the DuPage County Centennial parade on September 16, dated August 29, 1939, two copies
*Form letter to Catholic pastors in DuPage County that the Lisle service for Church Day as part of the DuPage County Centennial would be abandoned in favor of a combined service at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Naperville, September 10, dated August 30, 1939, two copies
*Form letter to Anton Ziegweid, Jr. inviting him to a meeting to make final arrangements for the Catholic representation on Church Day of the DuPage County Centennial, August 30, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Claude L. Van Auken, mayor of Elmhurst, regarding the return of DuPage County Centennial materials, August 31, 1939
*Program for the Village of Westmont DuPage County Centennial celebration, September 2-4, 1939
*Letter from Francis LaMere of the Dells Boat Company to Judge Win G. Knoch offering to sing at the DuPage County Centennial celebration in Naperville, September 1939
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Francis LaMere declining his application to sing at the DuPage County Centennial, September 8, 1939
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Frank Tarr, District Manager, Illinois Bell Telephone Co., Glen Ellyn, urging him to participate in the DuPage County Centennial Parade, September 9, 1939
*Letter to William R. Friedrich of Naperville from Miss D. Farrell of the Chicago Regional Planning Association stating that Mr. Kingery could not attend the dedication of the Mitchell Museum on September 14 due to his daughter's wedding, September 8, 1939
*Note that the Centennial Ball account has $637 in the bank
*List of people and what cities they represent for the DuPage County Centennial
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to L. C. Meyer, District Manager, Western United Gas and Electric Co., Downers Grove, urging him to participate in the DuPage County Centennial Parade, September 9, 1939

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*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Governor Horner, Highland Park, inviting him to the closing day ceremony of the DuPage County Centennial, September 16, dated September 9, 1939
*Letter to Raymond Maxon, District Manager, Public Service Co., Maywood, urging him to participate in the DuPage County Centennial parade, September 9, 1939
*List of twenty DuPage County cities and villages with population and monetary donations to the DuPage County Centennial, 1939
*Invitation form letter from Judge Win G. Knoch and his wife to a buffet supper at the Knoch home for County Fair Day September 14 as part of the DuPage County Centennial, September 9, 1939, two copies
*Note to Judge Win G. Knoch from Lawrence Hattendorrf stating that all elected county officials would attend the buffet supper at Judge Knoch's home September 14 as part of the DuPage County Centennial, September 11, 1939
*Note of acceptance from Mr. and Mrs. Gudy E. Oliver to the buffet supper at Judge Knoch's home September 14 as part of the DuPage County Centennial
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Newton E. Matter, Naperville, acknowledging receipt of his biography as a former officer of DuPage County, September 11, 1939
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Judge Frank E. Herrick stating that Newton E. Matter would assist him on Old Settler's Day, dated September 11, 1939
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Theodore F. Hammerschmidt, Lombard, enclosing information on Newton E. Matter, former DuPage County official, September 11, 1939
Form letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Naperville businessmen requesting that they apply to be part of the DuPage County Centennial parade, September 11, 1939, two versions
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Ferre C. Watkins of Watkins and Ten Hoor Law Offices, Chicago, asking for information on Naperville history
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Ferre C. Watkins inviting him and his wife to a buffet supper at his home September 16 as part of the DuPage County Centennial and listing some Naperville historical dates, September 12, 1939
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to L. C. Meyer, District Manager, Western United, Downers Grove, thanking him for his cooperation, September 12, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Theodore F. Hammerschmidt listing attendees of the Knoch buffet supper as part of the DuPage County Centennial, September 14, 1939, two copies
*List of entries in the DuPage County Centennial parade, 1939
*Receipt for Judge Knoch's costume for the DuPage County Centennial, September 18, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Louis Ceithaml, Chairman of the Westmont Centennial Committee, thanking him for his cooperation during the Westmont celebration, September 20, 1939
*Sign for Judge Win G. Knoch for his official car for the DuPage County Centennial, September 1939
*Program for the Naperville events for the DuPage County Centennial, September 9-17, 1939 with hand written notes
*Letter to Bass Camera Company, Chicago, requesting that they deliver to Mason Taylor two film reels, and that they be charged to the account of Judge Win G. Knoch, September 23, 1939
*List of Naperville businesses, September 1939

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*Programs for the Naperville celebration of the DuPage County Centennial, September 9-17, 1939, five copies, two are preliminary, three are final versions
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Henry B. Moy, President of Naperville Home and School Association thanking him for the educational programs of the DuPage County Centennial, September 16, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from T. J. Thomas, Assistant to the President of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, Chicago, stating that he was enclosing a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Pickell, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee for the DuPage County Centennial, September 21, 1939
*Letter to Mark W. Pickell, Chicago, from T. J. Thomas of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, commenting on the replica of trains sent to Naperville for the DuPage County Centennial and complimenting the Naperville parade, September 21, 1939
*Letter to T. J. Thomas, Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, from Judge Win G. Knoch thanking him for his appreciation of the DuPage County Centennial Celebration, October 2, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Fred L. Mihulka, Vice-President of Globe Roofing Products Company, congratulating him on the success of the DuPage County Centennial, September 23, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from Rev. Florian Herides, O.S.B. of St. Procopius College asking that platforms for the DuPage County Centennial be removed, September 25, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from John R. Bensley, Vice-President of Mercury Manufacturing Company, thanking him for his treatment when he operated the Mercury Streamline Trackless Train at the DuPage County Centennial, September 26, 1939
*Note to Judge Win G. Knoch form Adolph Knosher, Naperville, requesting the sign for the First Baptist Church, Organized 1843, used in the DuPage County Centennial, September 29, 1939
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to John R. Bensley, Vice-President of Mercury Manufacturing Company, thanking him for his kind letter regarding the DuPage County Centennial, September 30, 1939
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Col. Charles C. Dawes, Chicago, thanking him for permitting units of his regiment to be part of the DuPage County Centennial, September 30, 1939
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Rev. Florian Herides, O.S.B., St. Procopius College, regarding platform material used for the DuPage County Centennial, September 30, 1939
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Louis J. Ceithaml, Mayor of Westmont, congratulating him on the Westmont events as part of the DuPage County Centennial, September 30, 1939
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to West Chicago Housing Company thanking them for placing one of their houses at the disposal of the Centennial Committee, September 30, 1939
*Scrap of paper with the address and expenses of Col. Charles C. Dawes in Chicago
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Fred L. Mihulka, Globe Roofing Products Company, Chicago, thanking him for his fine letter in reference to the DuPage County Centennial, October 2, 1939
*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Henry B. Moy, President, Naperville Home and School Association, thanking him for his contribution to the DuPage County Centennial, October 2, 1939
*Letter to Judge Win G. Knoch from C. E. Miller, Superintendent of Schools, Westmont, requesting pictures of the DuPage County Centennial Celebration in Westmont, October 9, 1939

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*Letter from Judge Win G. Knoch to Professor C. E. Miller, Superintendent of Schools, Westmont, explaining that DuPage County Centennial films would be turned over to the County Board, October 14, 1939