

Collection:
Harold W. Colmery

Series: 4
Civic Involvement

Number of Boxes:
3 cubic foot boxes (1 of them not full)
2 legal sized document boxes

Arrangement:
Files are arranged by subject and sometimes date. Items in the files *appear* to be filed according to date, back (earliest) to front (latest).
Note: All attempts were made to maintain original order within the series.

Processed and Described by:
Sheryl Baber Evans

Scope of Series:

Topeka Chamber of Commerce-“Prior to 1960” (1930’s & 1950’s)

According the Topeka Chamber of Commerce website, “The membership of the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce represents the entire community with members from business and industry, private associations, civic organizations, home based businesses, social service agencies, education, government, and individuals. Over 1,400 member firms, representing over 2,000 individuals, believe Chamber membership is one of the best ways to help develop jobs in our community and grow their businesses!”

In 1940 Harold W. Colmery agreed to serve as the Chairman of the Aviation Committee. In this capacity he worked to bring a 1,000-bed Veterans Administration hospital to Topeka, KS.

Institute of Logopedics-1958-1960

This sub series represents Harold W. Colmery’s service as a member of the Board of Trustees. The Institute of Logopedics, located in Wichita, KS., is the “principle training center for logopedists and technicians working in this specialized field. Several hundred have been trained to date. The training program and research go hand in hand with the clinical services for children and adults with speech and hearing difficulties (*The Log*, v. 4).” This collection includes Board of Trustees minutes and financial reports, as well as correspondence, promotional brochures and a hand made Christmas Scrapbook. The name of the Institute was changed to Heartspring in 1993, to view the history of Institute of Logopedics/Heartspring go to: <http://www.heartspring.org/index.php>

Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army-1950-1960

Harold W. Colmery acted as the Kansas Civilian Aide for close to a decade. Extensive amounts of correspondence, various periodicals, meeting agendas, and visits to military bases comprise a large portion of this series. As defined by the Secretary of the Army

found at http://www.army.mil/usapa/epubs/pdf/r1_15.pdf , “Civilian aides are special government employees (SGE’s) who agree to serve as representatives of the SA without salary, wages, or related benefits. An SGE is defined in 18 USC 202(a) as "an officer or employee who is retained, designated, appointed, or employed by the Government to perform temporary duties, with or without compensation, for not more than 130 days during any period of 365 consecutive days." Civilian aides are in SGE status only when serving in an official status pursuant to invitational travel authorization (ITA). At all other times, civilian aides are in an unofficial status, but must always consider the public’s perception whenever they represent themselves, or are held out as representing the Army, as civilian aides.” Thus his responsibilities included the expectation to be on top of the various military associations. His correspondence reveals the personal connections he made as well as military. An example of his passion for helping the military can be found in copies of letters sent to congressman and senators in 1957.

These sub series within the collection have been described as they are found:

Military Order of the World War(s) 1943-1967

A “perpetual member” of the Topeka Chapter of the MOWW, he stayed abreast of meetings and news. Correspondence, meeting agendas and periodicals reveal the extent of his involvement in this particular branch of civilian aide. As defined: “The Military Order of the World War was established in 1920 by commissioned officers of the first World War; founded and organized by fighting men vigorously advocating preparedness and adequate national defense who ardently sought to prevent another war. Its membership is select, discriminating, and forceful. Through local Chapters, stretching from Coast to Coast, through local, regional and national meetings and conventions this membership determines policies in a democratic way and elects the officers to pursue them.”

Defense Orientation Conference Association 1958-1960’s

This particular branch within civilian aide focuses on national defense without the advocacy focus. Large amounts of correspondence, meeting agendas, and newsletters fill this portion of the collection. The “Defense Orientation Conference Association (DOCA) was founded in 1952 by participants in the Joint Civilian Orientation Conferences. DOCA is a non-political, non-partisan, non-profit association directed toward the interest of national defense without special advocacy of any particular service or defense concept, and is not sponsored by the Department of Defense.... membership is a personal privilege, completely restricted to the comparatively few men who have been carefully selected by the Secretary of Defense and invited to participate in a JCOC.

Association of the United States Army 1960’s

Harold W Colmery was the Director of the Topeka Chapter in 1963; correspondence reveals his active involvement with the AUSA, the Fifth Army, and XVI US Army Corps (reserves). This sub series also reveals the amount of military information he needed to know through newsletters and periodicals from different chapters. Included in the collection are: *From the Office of the President*, *The Plainsman*, *The Compass* (XVI US Army Corps), and *Bulletins: Fact Sheet* (Fifth Army). AUSA’s “purpose is ...an organization of American citizens who manifest their interest in a strong United states Army by actively supporting an organization established to contribute it full

resources and capabilities to advance the security of the United States. Its purpose is to foster, advocate and support the legitimate role of the US Army and all of its components as an integral part of a sound national defense of our country.”

Kiwanis Club-1924-1950's

Harold W. Colmery served as the President of the Topeka Kiwanis Club in the 1920's, and later served on the Laws and Regulations Committee in the 1950's. This file contains correspondence, board minutes and By-Laws. The history of the Topeka Kiwanis Club can be seen at <http://www.kansaskiwanis.org/about-kiwanis/history/>.

Jayhawk Council, BSA-1938

Harold W. Colmery served on the advisory committee on the Jayhawk Council, representing the Topeka Chamber of Commerce. This sub-series file contains executive board minutes and correspondence from various board members. A special note: William C. Menninger, M. D. was the Jayhawk Council BSA president, therefore the file contains correspondence both to and from Dr Menninger.

Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)-1932-1941

Harold W. Colmery served on the Board of Directors and on the Chairman of Committees. This sub-series includes board agendas, proposed budgets, YMCA summer schedules, reports, correspondence and propaganda about what the Y offers.

Circus Saints and Sinners Club-1950's

Harold W. Colmery served as a member of the P. T. Barnum Tent as a "Sinner" for this club. The purpose of the Circus Saints and Sinners Club is primarily to aid circus performers, who through illness, unemployment, or old age are in need of financial assistance. The general definition of a "Saint" is one who has actually performed professionally in a circus, while a "Sinner" is a good-natured fellow who never performed in a circus but probably wished he had. This sub-series mainly contains correspondence, newsletters and directories listing whom their members were.

Boy's Club of America

Harold W. Colmery contributed to the organization monetarily. Correspondence includes letters to Herbert Hoover, chairman of the board and received the newsletter *The Boy's Club Bulletin*. While not extensive it is another example of his belief in supporting organizations that invest in the underprivileged.

Topeka Knife and Fork Club 1944-1950

Harold W. Colmery apparently was one of seven directors in this club. The Knife and Fork Club is "a member of the associated clubs: world's largest organization for better acquaintance of local and national leaders." There is little correspondence with this very small sub series or defining notes.

Note: A website from the Kansas City Knife and Fork Club arranged like a scrapbook does a nice job explaining their particular by-laws and constitution, go to:

<http://www.vintagekansascity.com/organizations/knifeandforkclub/frontpage.html>