McLean County Museum of History

Bloomington Public Library—
Cornerstone Time Capsule 1977

Processed by
Museum Librarian Bill Kemp
Winter 2022

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 Boxes
COLLECTION DATES:	1887-1977
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	Gift of Bloomington Public Library, November 2022
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

Brief History

In August 1977, Withers / Bloomington Public Library staff sealed a time capsule at the new library. The contents were opened on November 29, 2022, during the expansion and renovation project of the now "old" building. Illinois State University Archivist April Anderson-Zorn removed the contents of the time capsule with BPL staff in attendance. The contents were then donated to the McLean County Museum of History (which houses the library's historical papers).

Scope

The collection includes items placed in the 1977 Bloomington Public Library cornerstone time capsule, and removed in November 2022. Items include a note from then-Library Director Jim Whitehead, library publications, local university publications, local newspapers, selected menus from Twin City restaurants, a municipal study, and more.

Box and Folder Inventory

Box 1

Folder 1: General Information
1.1.1   "Items for Cornerstone," typed list of 54 items, 2 pp.
1.1.2   Letter, handwritten, Jim Whitehead, BPL Director, August 9, 1977, describing the construction of the new library, and explaining why certain items were clandestinely placed in the time capsule, 1 p. (double-sided).
1.1.3   Advertisement for Virginia Slims cigarettes, magazine and date unknown (reference to pack of cigarettes left in time capsule).
1.1.4   Magazine clipping, likely from *Playboy*, undated, with annotation, left by Leonard Bagosy, Danvers, IL, superintendent air control and engineering, H.V.A.C. contractors.
1.1.5   *Pantagraph* article, from microfilm, of May 19, 1887 public library cornerstone laying, May 20, 1887.

Folder 2: Withers Library Information
1.2.1   Withers Public Library envelope (roughly opened).
1.2.2   Withers stationery, with list of Withers Public Library employees, August 11, 1977.
1.2.3   Withers, Fiscal Year, May 1, 1977-April 30, 1978, report, 7 pp.
1.2.4   Six items relating to new library, including sheet on referendum, Nov. 4, 1975, 4-page fact sheet, and specimen official ballot for referendum.
1.2.5   "Dial a Story" list, Withers and Normal Public Library, 1 p.
1.2.6   One piece of microfiche, Nation al Union Catalog, with handwritten note on sleeve, "a sample of microfiche available in 1977."

Folder 3: Friends of BPL
1.3.1   Bylaws, dated 1976, 3 pp.
1.3.2   Officers of Friends of Bloomington Public Library, organized 1976, 1 p.
1.3.3   Charter Members, handwritten list, 2 pp.

Folder 4: Illinois Bicentennial
1.4.1   Six items relating to Illinois Bicentennial Children's Library Program, including bookmark and schedule of programs.

Folder 5: Program Literature
1.5.1   16 items from manila envelope labeled "Program Literature;" includes material on the Motorcycle Moto Cross Reading Club, Audiovisual Rental Equipment guide, and Withers "New Books, Records, Films for Circulation, July 27, 1977," 1 p.

Folder 6: Corn Belt Area report
1.6.1   "Taking the Library to the People: A Plan for Library Development in the Corn Belt Area," Bloomington, 1977, 64 pp.

Folder 7: Illinois State University
1.7.1   Undergraduate Catalog, 1977-78, 163 pp.
1.7.2   Class Schedule, Fall 1977, 80 pp.

Folder 8: Illinois Wesleyan University

1.8.1   1977/78 Bulletin, 168 pp.
1.8.2   Program of Classes, 1977-78, 42 pp.

Folder 9: Area Schools
1.9.1   Booklet, *Syllabus of Local History*, V.L. Fairfield, 1971, 18 pp.
1.9.2   Course Description Guide, Bloomington High School, 1975-1976, 32 pp.

Folder 10: Unification
1.10.1 "Report to the Councils from the Political Unification Study Committee," June 1977, 18 pp., with 4 p. addendum.

Folder 11: Publications
1.11.1 Booklet, *This Blooming Town*, by Ivan Light (Bloomington: Light House Press, 1956), 47 pp.
1.11.2 Booklet, *McLean County*, Association of Commerce and Industry of McLean County, 1974, 56 pp.
1.11.3 Magazine, *Outdoor Illinois*," May 1976, featuring article on McLean County, 66 pp.
1.11.4 *Little Archie* comic book, November 1976.

Folder 12: Menus I
1.12.1 Central Station
1.12.2 Grand Cafe

1.12.3 Ireland's
1.12.4 Shanigans

Folder13: Menus II
1.13.1 Beningo's
1.13.2 Golden West

Loose items:

Cassette tape, "Aspects of Watergate" (labeled Withers Public Library, TR 75-5 S)

Cassette tape, Dial-A-Story Tape of Harry the Dirty Dog, by Gene Zion.

One reel, Super 8mm film, "Illinois Terminal interurbans," Blackhawk Films.

Hardback book, *Looking Outward: Years of Crisis at the United Nations*, by Adlai E.
Stevenson (Harper & Row, 1963), signed by author.

Paperback book, *1977 Consumer Buying Guide*, with note inside reading, "An example
of the many paperbacks that circulate."

Box 2

Loose Items:

Poster, approx.. 21 by 14 inch, "The earth is a garden, and we are the caretakers," labeled on
reverse, "Young Adult Department Withers Public Library …"

Map, Bloomington-Normal, Mclean County Regional Planning Commission, no date, signed
Jon C. Johnston, Planning Technician

LP, KISS: Rock and Roll Over (33-1/3)

LP, WJBC 50th Anniversary: '74 in Review (33-1/3)

Watercolor print, Withers Library, "about 1885," 9 ½ by 7 ½ inches

District Eighty Seven, Bloomington, Illinois by Dortha Tompkins, 1976, 208 pp.

Newspapers and Newspaper-like publications:

The Normalite, July 1, 1977

Bloomington-Normal Continuing Adult Education, Spring 1977

The Sunday Pantagraph, July 4, 1976

The Daily Pantagraph, July 19, 1977

Post-Amerikan, July-August 1977

Three common books (unsigned with no notes, annotations, etc.) were not retained:

1976 Bloomington-Normal City Directory

Good Old Times in McLean County, Illinois; 1968 reprint

The Way It Was in McLean County 1972-1822, by H. Clay Tate, 1972