

McLean County Museum of History

Helen Larkin Matchbook Collection

Processed Fall 2025

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	Mostly 1970s and 1980s; most undated.
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	Gift of grandson Adam Bandeko, October 2025.
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

Brief History

Helen Joann Feger Larkin (1929-2011) graduated from Trinity High School in Bloomington and then St. Joseph School of Nursing. She worked as a floor nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital for more than 25 years. She married John "Paul" Larkin in 1951, and they had four children survive into adulthood. Helen Larkin passed away on July 10, 2011, at the age of 81. She was a member of the Homemakers Extension (Dry Grove Unit), and she and her husband Paul were the first club presidents for Epiphany School in Normal. She was also a member of Antique Study Club I.

Scope

The collection includes matchbooks gathered and organized by Helen Larkin. Most of the matchbooks are from Bloomington-Normal, McLean County, and the surrounding counties, though there are selections from Corn Belt farm and farm-related businesses, Chicago, Las Vegas, and Hawaii, as well as a sampling of "vintage" matchbooks.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: General Information

- 1.1 Gift Agreement, copy, Adam Bendelo, October 16, 2025 (copy).
- 1.2 Obituary, Helen J. Larkin, *Pantagraph*, July 12, 2011.
- 1.3 Promotional piece, "BFA 16mm Films for Ethnic Studies," (designed to look like a colorful matchbook).
- 1.4 Email exchange November 2025, between Museum and Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, regarding transfer of Springfield matchbooks.
- 1.5 Email exchange, November 2025, between Museum and the Livingston County Historical Society, Pontiac, regarding the transfer of Livingston County matchbooks.

Matchbooks

Folder 2: Bloomington I

Folder 3: Bloomington II

Folder 4: Normal

Folder 5: McLean County and area

Folder 6: Lexington

Folder 7: Political

Folder 8: Agribusiness

Folder 9: Vintage

Folder 10: Vegas, Hawaii, etc.

Folder 11: Chicago