

McLean County Museum of History

Preston Ensign Poster Collection

Processed by
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Fall 2017

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 Boxes
COLLECTION DATES:	1930s, 1940s
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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

Preston Ensign, 1912 - 2006, graduated from University High School and Illinois State Normal University. He began his career in 1935 making theater posters with a friend. He founded "States Display" a commercial art business. He lectured on the silk screen process and its use by manufacturers, the textile field, and that the army used the method to make posters. In 1944, he accepted a position as business manager at Illinois State University and remained there until retirement in 1977. During this time he helped with the expansion of the campus and became known among his colleagues as the "idea man." Ensign's hobby was photography and belonged to the Koda Roamers Club. He was an active member of the community, serving as chairman of the Normal Planning Commission, and the Y.M.C.A.

The posters in this collection are from the 1930s and 1940s.

Scope

The collection contains folders of newspaper clippings and small posters. There are 80 posters listed in the categories of events, fund raiser, community, and business/products.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Newspaper Clippings, *Pantagraph* unless noted, miscellaneous

- 1.1 "Clubs Hear ISNU Business Manager." Preston Ensign gave talk on the silk screen process of reproducing design, March 22, 1964.
- 1.2 "Preston Marshall Ensign" died May 8, 2006, age 94, w/photo, May 11, 2006.
- 1.3 Handwritten list of posters

Folder 2: Small Posters

- 2.1 "States Display Art Service," 7 ½ x 3 ¾, blue and white color.
- 2.2 "An old Favorite," 3 ½ x 5 ½, grey/blue and white color, notations reverse side.
- 2.3 "Roland's Air Conditioned Restaurant and Fountain Lunch," 7 x 11, beige and light blue.
- 2.4 "Quick Energy For Any Emergency Bike Whiz" 6 x 9 ¼, red, white, blue main colors.
- 2.5 "Pecan Pete," 9 ¼ x 6, red, white, blue, beige.

Event Posters

1. "I.S.N.U. homecoming, Oct. 28-29-30," 22 x 14, black, white and red.
2. "Bloomington Welcomes The Illinois Life Underwriters Association," 22 x 14, beige and black.
3. "Get Going Today *Annual* Membership Drive at the Y.M.C.A. Feb.3rd to 10th," 22 x 14, beige and green.
4. "I.S.N.U. Homecoming Oct. 20-21-22," 22 x 14, black, beige and red.
5. "Season's Greetings," Santa head image, 14 x 11, blue, white, red, green.
6. "Exercise! Join the Y.M.C.A. Annual Membership Drive Feb. 18 to 25," 22 x 14, beige, red, and black.
7. "I.S.N.U. Homecoming Oct. 20-21-22," 22 x 14, red, white and black. (2 posters)
8. "Freddy Funk Swing Band" Funk (?) head image, 22 x 14, beige, red, light blue.

9. "Central Illinois Art Exposition Old Masters and Moderns, Mar. 19 to Apr. 8," purple, black, yellow, white.
10. "Welcome Passion Play Visitors to Bloomington," 14 x 11, black and yellow. (2 posters)
11. "3rd Annual Happy Hour Food Show Free, Tues. Jan. 17." 22 x 14, black, white, orange.

Fund Raiser

1. "Bloomington 1941 YMCA Circus Mar. 26," 22 x 14, brown, orange, beige.
2. "Carl Whitmer's 1939 Hollywood Revue, Majestic Theatre May 11 and 12," 22 x 14, black, blue and white.
3. "Y.M.C.A Baseball Booster Day, Sun. May 1st." 22 x 14, beige and red.
4. "The Corn Belt Boy Scout Merit Badge Exposition April 22-23," 22 x 14, blue and beige.
5. "Automobile Show Sponsored by Louis E. Davis Post American Legion," Nov. 24-25-26, 14 x 11, beige, black, red.
6. Give Mennonite St. Joseph Building Fund, 14 x 11, orange, navy, beige.
7. "1940 Bloomington YMCA Circus Mar. 25," acrobat illustration, 22 x 14, red, black, blue, and white.
8. "McLean County 4H Club Fair August 13-14-15," 22 x 14, black, beige and red.

Community

1. "Vote For Sanatorium Tax," 22 x 14, red, white, blue
2. "Health Talks over WJBC," 14 x 11, light blue, dark blue, white
3. "B.P.O.E.," 15 14 x 12 navy, beige (felt lettering)
4. "Davis Kerber Post No. 653," 14 ½ x 12

Product/Business

1. "Save Through A Local Low Cost Automobile Financing Plan, State Farm Mutual Auto Ins. Co." 22 x 14 fold out, red, white, gold.
2. "The Best And Finest Angel Cake In Town Gronemeier Bakery, 11 x 21, beige, red and blue.
3. "A Luxury Within Your Reach Fresh Prairie Farms Butter," 22 x 14, brown green and yellow (2 copies)
4. "Prairie Farms Butter," 22 x 14, blue, yellow and ochre, (3 copies)
5. "Prairie Farms Butter," 22 x 14, brown, yellow and green
6. "Prairie Farms Butter," 22 x 14, yellow blue and red.
7. "For Sale, W. F. Costigan and Son ...," 26 ¾ x 14 ½, white, green and black
8. "Beich Chocolates *always* Please, 22 x 14, pink, blue and white
9. "Beich Chocolates *always* Please, 22 x 14, white, brown and green
10. "Prairie Farms Butter," 22 x 14, white, green, black, (2 copies)"
11. "Free Playing Cards *with* Happy Hour Coffee," 24 x 16, red, black and beige
12. "Lucky Boy Milk Bread," 22 x 14, blue orange and white
13. "Lucky Boy Milk bread," 20 ½ x 10 ¼, white, blue, orange, (2 copies)
14. "Lucky Boy Raisin Loaf," 10 x 7, white, green, red, brown, tan, 92 copies)
15. "Purity," 21 x 12 ½, white. blue, red
16. "Normal Sanitary Dairy Buttermilk" 13 ¾ x 11, white, black, red, green
17. "Funks 'G'" 17 x 6, red, white, black, (printed both sides)
18. "Thelan's Savoy Satin," 13 x 11 ½

19. "25th Anniversary ...Lucky Boy," 22 x 11 $\frac{3}{4}$, red, white, blue, yellow, beige.
20. "Lucky Boy Heart of the Wheat," 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, red, white, blue
21. "The Satin Lustre Enamel," 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 13, red, white, and, blue
22. "Prairie Farms Butter," 22 x 14, black, yellow, pink, (2 copies)
23. "Prairie Farms Butter," 22 x 14, yellow, red blue, (2 copies)
24. "Bike Whiz," 22 x 14, red, white, blue, brown, yellow
25. "Keith's Butter and egg Bread," 22 x 14, yellow, purple, brown
26. "Whiz Quiz," 22 x 14, beige, blue, red, white
27. "Prairie Farms Butter," 22 x 14, black, yellow, pink, (2 copies)
28. "Dipsy Doodle Candy," 22 x 14, red, beige, yellow, brown, blue.
29. "Prairie Farms," 22 x 14, yellow, blue, pink
30. "Heart of the Wheat Lucky Boy," 22 x 7, red, white, blue
31. "Prairie Farms Butter," 22 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$, red, white, blue, green
32. No Wording, image of hamburger, glass of water, catsup dispenser, etc., with penciled notes at top, 18 x 14, green, red, beige, brown
33. "Feed – Mineral-Fortified Challenger," 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 17 $\frac{1}{2}$, white, green, yellow, beige
34. "Dipsy Doodle Pecan Cashew Roll," 22 x 14, red, green, yellow, blue
35. "Whiz" 22 x 14, red, white, blue, green, brown
36. "Purity Ann," 20 x 14 (cut in modified triangle), beige, red, blue, yellow
37. "Murray and Carmody Funeral Home," 22 x 11, blue, brown, green,
38. "Evans-O-Matic," 22 x 14, red, black, beige
39. "Whiz, America's Favorite Energy Candy," 22 x 14, red, white, blue, green, brown, beige
40. "Happy Hour Coffee," 22 x 14, black, yellow, purple, pink.
41. "Prairie Farms Butter," 22 x 14, yellow, navy blue, red
42. "Whiz Candy Nut Candy," 22 x 14, red, white, green, black
43. "Happy Hour Time," 22x 14, black, gray,
44. "Lake Bloomington, Beach" 22 x 14, black, red, beige
45. "Pecan Pete," 22 x 14, navy blue, brown, white, beige
46. "Whiz, *America's Favorite Candy*," 22 x 14, navy blue, brown, white, beige, red
47. "Any Hour Coffee distributed by The Happy Hour Stores," 31 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$, red, beige, blue
48. "This Store *is cooperating with* National Defense Program," 14 x 11, red, white blue
49. "Pat Harkins," 14 x 11, red, blue, beige felt printing, w/pencil notes. (Downtown bowling alley.)
50. "Happy Hour Coffee," 28 $\frac{5}{8}$ x 12 $\frac{3}{4}$, red, white
51. "Gronemeier Bakery," 22x 11, red, white, beige, brown, blue.
52. "Purity Baking Co." yellow, black, green, red, brown, 22 x 14
53. "Farm Gate," 22 x 14, black, white, gray, orange
54. "Davis Lodge, Lake Bloomington," 22 x 14, black, red, beige
55. "For Rent, Louis W. Dael Co," 22 x 14, beige, red, blue
56. "Bevan's Pasteurized Dairy Product's" 22 x 14, beige, brown, white, red
57. "For Rent, Burt F. Harrison," 22 x 14, black, beige, red, and (reverse side).