

McLean County Museum of History

Illinois Air Force Mothers Club Collection

Processed by
Jana Kiefer
Winter 2018

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1970-1981
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

The Illinois Air Force Mothers Club began in 1970 to support Air Force personnel at bases and hospitals around the world, as well as in Illinois, specifically Chanute Air Force Base at Rantoul. Mothers, daughters, wives, and sisters were welcome in the club by paying nominal monthly dues. The club sent birthday and holiday cards to veterans' hospitals. They also provided small gifts, candy, books, and other needed items for servicemen and women. The club seemed to have been held together by Edna Rudsinski who was instrumental in starting the club, handled the legal incorporation, and served in several offices. She also handled correspondence and publicity for the club. The club was unincorporated and dissolved in 1981 because of low membership.

Scope

The collection includes newspaper articles, hospital and service correspondence, dissolution correspondence, meeting minutes, club rosters, and treasurer's reports.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Miscellany

- 1.1 "Flag presentation for ABWA unit," news clip, unknown source, n.d.
- 1.2 "Air Force mothers to install officers," news clip, unknown source, n.d.
- 1.3 "USO director to be guest speaker," news clip, unknown source, n.d.
- 1.4 Letter from Barbara Dunbar of the McLean County Historical Society to Mrs. M. G. Rudsinski of Illinois Air Force Mothers Club thanking them for a gift of patriotic jewelry. May 2, 1978.
- 1.5 Letter from Edna L. Rudsinski, to the Commander, Department of the Air Force, asking for access to lists of new recruits. October 12, 1978.
- 1.6 Letter from Darwin "Dobbs" Cochran to Whom it may concern, informing them of a joining of patriotic organizations in McLean County to form the Combined Veterans Organization of McLean County, and seeking support to repair the Soldiers Monument at Miller Park and rename a street or highway Veterans Drive. March 6, 1979.
- 1.7 Letter from Darwin Cochran, Chairman, Combined Veterans Organization of McLean County to Mrs. Rudsinski of the Illinois Air Force Mothers Club thanking them for the contribution of patriotic jewelry, the proceeds of which would be used to repair the Soldiers Monument at Miller Park. n.d.
- 1.8 Membership packet from Gertrude N. Williams of McLean County Historical Society to Secretary. Includes note asking for letter to be read at next meeting, card asking for additional \$25, and McLean County Historical Society Newsletter dated September/October 1979.
- 1.9 In Remembrance funeral card for Maj. Carolyn S. Lawhun Hicks. November 25, 1981.
- 1.10 Brochure, "A Commitment to Caring" Air Force Assistance Fund. Lists areas of assistance and suggested giving guide for donations from enlisted men. n.d.
- 1.11 United States Air Force Aerospace Team stick-on patches (13), n.d. "

1.12 Blank sheet of letterhead for Illinois Air Force Mothers Club, Inc. n.d.

Folder 2: Hospital and Service Correspondence

- 2.1 Calendar of Events for September '70 for Trade Winds Service Club.
- 2.2 Photocopy Listing of Fixed USAF Hospitals and Clinics CONUS (stateside). Includes Base & zip code, Operating beds, Unit, Major Comd, and Hospital Code. 6 pp., July 1, 1973.
- 2.3 Correspondence from Helen A. Maslanka, Colonel, USAF, NC to Illinois Air Force Mothers Club thanking club for sending cards to patients at Scott Medical Center. April 22, 1974.
- 2.4 Correspondence from Charles W. Arnett, Field Director, The American National Red Cross, Chanute Air Force Base to Illinois Air Force Mothers Club, c/o Mrs. Edna Rudsinski, regarding a list of items needed by patients at the hospital at Chanute AFB. Includes carbon copy of letter. April 24, 1974.
- 2.5 Correspondence from Lucy Jane Goff, Program Director, Rantoul USO Club to Mrs. M. G. Rudsinski, President, Illinois Air Force Mothers Club. 2 pp. Includes copy of letter Lucy Goff sent to Mr. Green of Paul F Beich Company thanking them for their donation of 4 boxes of candy. May 22, 1974.
- 2.6 Correspondence from Jennie McDuff, Hospital Field Director, U.S. Army Hospital, Seoul, Korea, thanking Illinois Air Force Mothers Club for sending greeting cards. June 6, 1974.
- 2.7 Correspondence from Willis E. Blum, USAF (ret.) to Mrs. Helen Roberts, Chairman, Illinois Air Force Mothers Club, thanking them for the greeting cards he saw in a small military hospital on Lajes, a small island in the mid-Atlantic. 2 pp., includes envelope.
- 2.8 Correspondence from Paul K. Kennedy, Hospital Director, Veterans Administration Hospital, Downey, Illinois to Mrs. Helen Roberts, Sunshine Chairman, thanking Illinois Air Force Mothers Club for sending Get Well and Birthday cards to patients. Includes carbon copy. February 12, 1975.
- 2.9 Photocopy of correspondence from Robert W. Poel, Colonel, USAF to Mrs. Rudsinski re her request for a current listing of Air Force Hospitals stateside. List included. 5 pp. total.
- 2.10 Photocopy correspondence from G. L. Hammett to Mrs. Rudsinski regarding mailing list of naval medical centers and hospitals in U.S. and overseas. List included. 4 pp. April 19, 1976.
- 2.11 Correspondence from Robert Marling, Chief, Voluntary Service, Veterans Administration Hospital, Marion, Illinois to Illinois Air Force Mothers Club thanking them for the birthday cards. May 2, 1977.
- 2.12 Correspondence from Joan C. Gilbertson, Lt. Colonel, USAF, NC to Helen Roberts, Illinois Air Force Mothers Club thanking them for remembering patients at Misawa hospital in Japan. Includes envelope. December 21, 1977.
- 2.13 USO Club in Rantoul, Illinois, serving Chanute Air Force Base, December, 1976 flyer listing activities for the month. n.d.
- 2.14 Photocopy of newspaper article from *THE COURIER*, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois about the YMCA taking over the Rantoul USO. January 9, 1977

- 2.15 Rantoul Armed Services YMCA Flyer Calendar for April, 1977.
- 2.16 Photocopy, mailing list of Naval Medical Centers And Naval Hospitals In The United States. 3 pp. 1977.
- 2.17 Correspondence from John R. Sperandio, Lt. Colonel (P), MSC, Department of the Army, to Mrs. Edna Rudsinski re her request for listing of the US Army Hospitals and Medical Centers in the U.S. and overseas. Includes carbon copy and Hospital listings. 5 pp. March 22, 1979.
- 2.18 Correspondence from Phillip L. Marler, Captain, USAF to Edna L. Rudsinski re her request for current listing of Air Force Hospitals stateside and overseas. Listing included. 4 pp. March 26, 1979.
- 2.19 Photocopy of listing of United States Army Medical Centers And Hospitals In The United States And Overseas. Annotated. 3 pp., n.d.
- 2.20 Christmas card from Nurse Corps Officers at N.R.M.C. Yokosuka, Japan. Lists nurses at three branches. n.d.
- 2.21 Photocopy "What is an Airman" from United Services Organizations Inc., Rantoul USO Club. n.d.

Folder 3: 5th & 10th Anniversary and Membership List

- 3.1 Charter Members list; names, addresses, phone numbers and relation to USAF. April 9, 1969, 2 pp.
- 3.2 Charter Members list; names, addresses, phone numbers. n.d.
- 3.3 Letter from Edna L. Rudsinski to announce 5th Anniversary of Illinois Air Force Mothers Club, Inc. and recruit new members for the club. January 21, 1974.
- 3.4 Announcement on Illinois Air Force Mothers Club, Inc. letterhead announcing 10th Anniversary of club. (3 copies) January 25, 1979.
- 3.5 Letter (draft) to members of Illinois Air Force Mothers Club from the President asking for their continued membership and support. February 1, 1979.
- 3.6 Letter from Esther Hannon, President Illinois Air Force Mothers Club, Inc. to members asking for their continued support and membership. March 5, 1979.
- 3.7 "Air Force Mothers Club to observe 10th year," news clip, unknown source. n.d.
- 3.8 "Air Force Mothers set membership drive," news clip, unknown source, n.d.
- 3.9 "Air Force Mothers - Anniversary," *The Carlock Chronicle*, page 4, March 7, 1974.

Folder 4: Dissolution Correspondence

- 4.1 Letter from IRS to Illinois Air Force Mothers Club asking for documentation to process tax return. October 29, 1980.
- 4.2 Letter to Secretary of State from Edna Rudsinski asking if Air Force Mothers Club, Inc. could unincorporate in order to save money. (3 copies) February 16, 1981.
- 4.3 Letter from State of Illinois, Jim Edgar, Secretary of State, Notice of Delinquency to Illinois Air Force Mothers Club. May 1, 1981.

- 4.4 Letter from State of Illinois Secretary, Jim Edgar of State to Illinois Air Force Mothers Club dissolving the corporation. August 1, 1981.
- 4.5 Letter from Philip Howe of the Office of the Secretary of State to Edna Rudsinski about dissolution of Air Force Mothers Club. August 18, 1981.

Folder 5: Minutes, Lists, Etc.

- 5.1 Bound notebook with meeting minutes, membership lists, dues lists, list of officers. June 4, 1970 - to club year 1983-1984.

Folder 6: Parliamentary Procedure At A Glance

- 6.1 Bound Booklet of Parliamentary Procedures belonging to Edna Rudsinski.

Folder 7: Treasurer's Reports, 1970-1977

- 7.1 Ledger Account Book containing treasurer's reports for Illinois Air Force Mothers Club. April, 1970 - April, 1977.