

Millikin University Archives: Staley Library

Chester “Chet” Malins Collection

Collection Number: 4.07.120

Inclusive Dates: 1930 – 1992

Bulk Dates: late 1930s – early 1940s

Quantity: 1 box- 2 tissue paper parcels, 2 folders, 1 tie box and 9 envelopes.

Acquisition Information: Unknown.

Access Restrictions: This collection is open for research.

Copyright: Millikin University, Bill Caldwell Photo.

Photographs: Yes, varied in size (from 2.25”x 3.25” to 5.5”x 4.5”), black and white.

Condition Notes: Good condition on most items within the collection. The photographs are slightly concave from storage, with many still having adhesive corner mountings attached.

Processed by: Lisa Hill, February 2018.

Biographical Note

Chester “Chet” Malins was from Chicago, Illinois; he attended Kelly High School. While at Millikin, Malins was a clarinet soloist, worked in Aston Hall, was a star member of Millikin’s varsity track team, and was active in the music fraternity of Phi Mu Alpha. Malins also played in the Millikin band and orchestra, and was a member of the College All-star band that played at Soldier Field. Outside of school, Malins was active in a Decatur dance band where he played clarinet, saxophone, oboe, and English horn. Malins graduated from Millikin in 1942. Shortly before his graduation, Malins signed up with the Naval Reserve, where he went into service in June of 1942. In May of 1944, Malins married Helen Toinette Placek, of Chicago. After their wedding they stayed in Miami Beach, Florida.

Scope and Content Note

Collection is predominately photographs from Malins’ time at Millikin, with a focus on the School of Music and campus life. There is also a folder of correspondence between Malins and a previous Millikin voice instructor, Carl Van Buskirk. This collection contains very little personal information on Malins, with some details regarding his family within the correspondences between him and Van Buskirk. Lastly, this collection contains a few reunion /commemorative items with handwritten contextual notes from Malins.

Series Notes

Series 1: Ephemera

4 items

An assorted group of ephemera including commemorative items from Millikin reunions

Series 2: Correspondence

1 item

This contains a cassette recording of Van Buskirk. Some information about Van Buskirk and Malins' personal lives and families is mentioned, but limited.

Series 3: Photographs

9 items

A collection of 9 envelopes containing an assortment of photographs. Photographs are organized by location, year, photographer, or are untitled.

Collection Inventory

Folder/Item Title	Container #	Folder/Item #	Description
Millikin towers neck tie	E-0006	1	Commemorative blue and white neck tie featuring the Millikin towers. Presented to Malins in 1992, to celebrate the golden anniversary of his graduation. Includes handwritten note from Malins.
Ashtray	E-0006	2	Commemorative Millikin ashtray featuring motto "Design for excellence." Roughly 7" in diameter.
Millikin Button	E-0006	3	Blue button reading "I gave to Millikin, have you?"
Varsity letter	E-0006	4	Track varsity letter from June 1941. With original paper sack.
Correspondence with Van Buskirk	E-0006	5	A collection of handwritten letters between Malins and

			Van Buskirk. Also includes a cassette, and a contextual note from Malins.
Photographs: Dennis Elementary Student Teaching	E-0006	6	7 sepia photographs. Contextual note on envelope
Photographs: Conservatory of Music	E-0006	7	19 photographs, some handwritten notes on back of photographs
Photographs: Conservatory of Music - Snow	E-0006	8	15 photographs of snowfall and campus candid.
Photographs: campus candid – early 1940s	E-0006	9	10 photographs of various scenes. Information handwritten on back
Photographs: Aston Hall Kitchen Crew	E-0006	10	12 photographs. Handwritten contextual notes on backs of photos
Photographs: campus candid- Early 1940s	E-0006	11	9 photographs of assorted scenes. Handwritten notes on reverse sides.
Photographs: Hargis Manor House with tenants 1938-1939	E-0006	12	1 photograph of Malins, torn corner.
Photographs: October 1938 Homecoming decorations	E-0006	13	7 photographs taken by Vic Corrado.
Photographs: Big Blue Band 1930s- 1940s	E-0006	14	9 photographs of band on football fields and at games.