

Millikin University Archives: Staley Library

Paul Leonard McKay Papers

Collection Number: 3.09.100

Inclusive Dates: 1957 – 1972

Bulk Dates: 1957 – 1972

Quantity: 6 series within 48 folders split between 5 boxes.

Acquisition Information: Unknown.

Access Restrictions: This collection is open for research

Copyright: Millikin University, Decatur Review, Top Teen News, Time Magazine, The Tattler, Journal of the International City Managers' Association, Decatur Herald, Akron Beacon Journal

Photographs: Yes. Black and white, color, and tinted. Numerous photonegatives are also present.

Condition Notes: Condition is varied. Overall, papers are in good condition, with some tears and slight staining. Some paper is brittle and delicate. Some newspaper clippings are torn and crumpled.

Processed by: Lisa Hill, May 2018.

Biographical Note

Dr. Paul Leonard McKay was Millikin University president from 1957-1971. He was born in Laclede, Illinois and graduated from Greenville College in 1935. He received simultaneously a Ph.D. in education from New York University and a bachelor of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in 1945. In 1944, McKay was ordained as a minister by the Free Methodist Church. Two years after this, McKay transferred to the Presbyterian faith. He served as an associate pastor of the Marble Collegiate Church in New York and then served as a minister for twelve years at the First Presbyterian Church in Akron, Ohio. McKay resigned his position in Akron to become the youngest president in Millikin's history, at 39 years old. During his time as Millikin president, several new buildings were developed and completed, including Kirkland Fine Arts Center, Griswold Physical Education Center, the University Center, Mills Hall, Walker Hall, Blackburn Hall, Hessler Hall, and a new power plant. In addition to reorganizing Millikin's governing boards and creating a template for Millikin's future growth, McKay was involved in other areas of community enrichment. He was chairman of the Illinois Committee on Higher Education, chairman of the board of the Associated Colleges of Illinois for two years, president of the Presbyterian College Union, chairman of the board of the Central States College Association, and a regent of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois. McKay also served for nine years as a trustee of Decatur Memorial Hospital and

as a trustee of the Decatur Association of Commerce. McKay received an honorary doctor of laws degree from Lincoln University and a Distinguished Educator Award from Loyola University. He died on February 2, 1971, at the age of 53.

Scope and Content Note

This collection has materials dating from McKay's installation as Millikin President to the time of his death. The bulk of this collection is photographs of and addresses by McKay during his presidential term.

Series Notes

Series 1: Administrative Papers

4 folders

Administrative papers of arrangements between the City of Decatur and Millikin University and Cabinet Meeting Minutes are within this series. Arranged by chronologically.

Series 2: Correspondence

3 folders

Typed correspondence between President McKay and various other universities, state organizations, faculty members, and the campus community. Arranged by correspondent.

Series 3: Addresses

18 folders

This series contains addresses given by McKay for his installation, Millikin commencements, convocations, local organizations, and associations. Arranged by event and chronologically.

Series 4: Biographical Info

5 folders

This series contains McKay's professional profile, items relating to his installation, and materials relating to his death and funeral.

Series 5: Personal Papers and Family Materials

16 folders

This series contains photographs from McKay's time at Millikin, family photographs, a photograph album, and many photonegatives.

Series 6: Clippings

2 folders

News clippings relating to McKay's work at Millikin, with a few clippings relating to his family.

Collection Inventory

Folder/Item Title	Container #	Folder/Item #	Description
Administrative Papers	A-0009	1-4	Agreements, plans, and projections between the City of Decatur and Millikin University. These papers date from 1961 and 1963; arranged chronologically. Cabinet meeting minutes from 1968 to 1971, arranged in chronological order.
Correspondence	A-0009	6-7	Includes a 1967 Millikin Case Study done by the University of Denver, grant applications, project cost projections, and communications between Millikin and the State of Illinois Board of Higher Education. All materials arranged chronologically.

Addresses	A-0009 A-0010 A-0011	8-25	Contains a number of typed addresses given by President McKay, along with handwritten notes. These addresses were given at Alumni Dinners, Baccalaureate Celebrations, Founder's Days, School Dedications, and at many other local organizations.
Biographical Info	A-0012	26-30	McKay's professional résumé, biographical information, invitations and programs to his Presidential Installation. In addition to his funeral program, included are words of condolence and obituaries.
Personal Papers and Family Materials	A-0012 A-0013	31-46	Contains a photo scrapbook, a case of color slides, and 9 envelopes of photographs. These photographs are of McKay and his family, his time as Millikin President, and his funeral. 2 folders within this series contain photonegatives.
Clippings	A-0011	47-48	These clippings focus on the beginning of McKay's presidency and his arrival in

			Decatur. Also present are McKay's obituaries from multiple newspapers. This series also contains his daughter's wedding announcement, and a few other family related clippings.
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