

McLean County Museum of History

Auth Family Collection

Processed by
Carol Straka
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1934-2008
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

Brief History

The Auth family opened a grocery in Bloomington around 1931 and operated it for many years at 1401 W. Market Street, Bloomington. They later added a restaurant/bar at the same address.

Two members of the third generation to work in the family grocery are primarily represented in this collection. Both were born and raised in Bloomington:

Phil Auth (1922-2013) served in the Army Air Corps during WWII. After the war, he studied aviation maintenance engineering at Lewis College. Returning to Bloomington, he worked in the family grocery store and later managed Auth's Restaurant, another family-owned business. Politically active, Phil served as chair of the McLean County Democratic County Central Committee in the 1940s. He continued his fascination with aviation and engaged in it full time after moving to Idaho in 1972.

Robert R. "Bob" Auth (1926-2011) served in the US Navy during WWII; earned a BFA from Illinois Wesleyan in 1953; worked in the family restaurant and grocery; and then moved to Idaho in 1959 where he taught art in public schools for many years. Bob earned an MFA

from Washington State University in 1963. He sent a number of people in this area handmade greeting cards featuring nostalgic McLean County scenes and even treated the mailing envelopes as art works.

Scope

The collection includes largely materials related to politics and elections such as Democratic Central Committee correspondence, precinct canvassing materials, election judge instructions, campaign materials, etc. Most of these materials are from the 1930s, 1940s, and 1960s.

Also included are a few items from the Auth family businesses. One of Robert Auth's holiday cards is inventoried along with some articles about his work and recollections of his days in Bloomington.

Folder Inventory

Local Political and Election Materials (Folders 1-12)

Folder 1: Democratic Central Committee Lists, 1930s

- 1.1 Democratic County Central Committee's lists by Bloomington ward showing aldermen, precinct captains, and precinct committeewomen by precinct, undated. Preprinted stationery also lists city and county committeemen. 7 pp. Ward list of employees (6)
- 1.2 Two lists of name, undated.
- 1.3 List of Bloomington precinct captains and their addresses and phone numbers, undated, 2 pp.
- 1.4 List of candidates for 6 November 1934 election showing the office pursued (both state and county) and home town of each, undated, 3 copies.
- 1.5 Lists for each ward showing government (state and federal) employees by precinct, undated but includes many WPA employees. For Bloomington Wards 1,3,4,5,6

Folder 2: Democratic Central Committee Correspondence 1944-45

- 2.1 Telegram from Bruce A. Campbell Chair Downstate Campaign Committee to Phil Auth asking his phone number on election night 5 November 1944.
- 2.2 Handwritten letter from Mrs. L.B. Tunks asking how to get reimbursement for gasoline, 15 Nov 1944. Receipt attached.
- 2.3 Letter to all Bloomington precinct committeemen from Secretary Arther Armbruster calling a meeting of Bloomington Committeemen about a write-in campaign, 12 January 1945.
- 2.4 Handwritten note from Bellflower Pct Comm. D. Frank McCorkle endorsing E.D. Stricklin for Postmaster of Osman, IL, 24 Aug 1945.
- 2.5 Letter from Campbell Holton to Phil Auth concerning securing the US Secretary of Agriculture (Clinton Anderson) to speak in town, 25 September 1946.
- 2.6 Telegram from Major Chalmer Taylor to Phil Auth explaining why Taylor will not participate in the campaign, 29 May 1945.

- 2.7 Letter from Bill Vicars, Pontiac attorney, to Phil Auth concerning attending a Democratic meeting in Bloomington, 29 October 1946.
- 2.8 Letter from Everett Smith, State Committeeman 17th District, on Democratic State Central Committee of Illinois letterhead concerning contributions to Carl Vrooman's campaign fund, 30 October 1946.
- 2.9 Letter to the Editor of Pantagraph from E.W.K. supporting the bonus for veterans, undated. Two copies: one handwritten and one typed.
- 2.10 Typed note from Central Committee explaining that they have contributed an advertisement supporting for Branson Wright for judge, undated.
- 2.11 McLean County Democratic County Central Committee stationary, Phil C. Auth, chairman, blank, undated.
- 2.12 McLean County Democratic County Central Committee stationary, Charles Crumbaugh, chairman, blank, undated.

Folder 3: Letter on Federal Education Issue

- 3.1 A citizen's typed letter to "dear sir" requesting amendment to federal education bill S.181 to avoid disadvantaging parochial schools, undated and unsigned.
Upside down on front side: handwritten note from County Chair Phil C. Auth requesting meeting to Democratic Committeemen, 1946.
On back side: handwritten list of individual's names, addresses, and phone numbers, presumably one for each Bloomington precinct, undated.

Folder 4: Lists of McLean County Democratic Central Committeemen, 1930-40s

- 4.1 List of Democratic Central Committeemen compiled by County Clerk C.B. Carlock, 1934-35.
- 4.2 List of Democratic Central Committeemen compiled by County Clerk C.B. Carlock, 1940-41. 3 copies.
- 4.3 List of Democratic Central Committeemen compiled by County Clerk Willis A. Burkholder, 1944-45.

Folder 5: Unused Polling Books

- 5.1 Canvassing books 1940, 3 copies.
- 5.2 Canvassing books, undated 3 copies.

Folder 6: Democratic Clubs

- 6.1 Certificate that the Young People's Democratic Club of McLean County is a part of the Roosevelt-Wallace Clubs, 1940.
- 6.2 List of 5 individuals and addresses on Jackson Club letterhead, undated.
- 6.3 McLean County Jackson Club letterhead. 7 sheets..
- 6.4 McLean County Jackson Club membership cards, 1946-47. 3 items.

Folder 7: McLean County Democratic Central Committee Invoices & Receipts, 1940s

Nine invoices and payment checks for services and goods such as advertising, printing, and hall rental. Plus one receipt for donation. 1944-46.

Folder 8: Specimen Ballots

- 8.1 Bloomington Specimen Official Ballot for judicial election, 4 June 1945.
- 8.2 Bloomington Specimen Ballot for primary election for candidates for Constitutional Convention from 37th senatorial district, 23 Sep 1969.

Folder 9: Bloomington Precinct 7 Committeeman's Papers, 1960s

These items appear to have belonged to Phil Auth as a precinct committeeman.

- 9.1 Precinct map by Board of Election Commissioners, Oct 1966. Attached list of polling places.
- 9.2 *Pantagraph* clipping with map of Bloomington's New Precincts, undated. 2 copies.
- 9.3 Registered Voters, Precinct No.7, 8 Nov 1966, 3 pp.
- 9.4 Registered Voters, Precinct No.7, 7 Feb 1968, 5 pp.
- 9.5 Registered Voters, Precinct No.7, 11 Jun 1968, 4 pp. 3 copies, two with notes on voting results, etc.
- 9.6 List of polling places.
- 9.7 Precinct Report General Election to be submitted to state central committee, 5 Nov 1968. Begun by Pct Committeemen Phil Auth but not completed.
- 9.8 McLean County Democratic Central Committee letter to Committeemen with instructions on how voters cast votes for county write-in candidates, 1968.
- 9.9 Certificate of Election as Democratic Precinct Committeeman (Pct 7) from County Clerk Paul D. Morris, 21 Jun 1968.
- 9.10 Primary and Election Calendar, Illinois, 1968, issued by County Clerk Paul D. Morris, 32pp.

Folder 10: Party Challenger Credentials, 1968

- 10.1 Party Challenger's or Watcher's Credential Form, blank, undated.
- 10.2 Authority for Party Challenger by Democratic Central Committee Chair, 5 Nov 1968. No challenger name written.
- 10.3 Challenger's or Watcher's Credential Form from Wm. G. Clark, Democratic candidate for senator, blank.
- 10.4 Letter to all the Precinct Committeemen concerning precinct watchers and election day reports from Democratic State Central Committee Chair James Ronan, 28 Oct 1968.

Folder 11: Election Judge Papers 1964-1970

- 11.1 Letter from Chief Clerk Louise B. Muxfeld to Mrs. Frances E. Auth advising that her test scores were too low to qualify as election judge and how to remediate, 8 Jan 1964.
- 11.2 Notification on individual and overall election judge test results, no addressee specified, 29 Jan 1964.
- 11.3 Typed note reporting on grade for training course, 26 May 1966.
- 11.4 Card from Bloomington Board of Election Commissioners: Frances E. Auth completed training course for election judges, 7 May 1968.
- 11.5 Notice from Chief Clerk Louise B. Muxfeld to all Bloomington election judges of upcoming IBM School of Instruction on 28 May 1968.
- 11.6 Postcard: from Chief Clerk Louise B. Muxfeld to election judges on upcoming IBM School of Instruction on 25 Oct 1968.
- 11.7 Special Instructions for election judges, for 5 Nov 1968 election.

- 11.8 Book of instructions from Bloomington Board of Election Commissioners for 1968-69 assigned to Mrs. Frances E. Auth. 20 pp.
- 11.9 Form 87, second section: instructions for judges, pp21-27, undated.
- 11.10 Form 87, third section: Supplemental Instructions for General Election, 5 Nov 1968. pp 28-32. Includes handwritten notes.
- 11.11 Form 87, fourth section: Supplemental Instructions for City and Town Primary, 11 Feb 1969. pp 33-38.
- 11.12 Form 87, fifth section: Supplemental Instructions for City and Town Election, 1 Apr 1969. pp 39-42.
- 11.13 Notice to Mrs. Frances E. Auth of her selection as judge for Bloomington Pct 7 from Chief Clerk Louise B. Muxfeld, 20 Jan 1970.

Folder 12: Campaign literature

- 12.1 Notice of upcoming public meeting on *The Future of the Farmer* by Clinton Anderson and Carl Vrooman, October 15, year unspecified.
- 12.2 Bumper sticker: Re-elect Gerald A. Bradley for State Representative, undated.
- 12.3 Brochure: Re-elect Democrat Gerald A. Bradley for State Representative in 47th District, undated.
- 12.4 Letter from sheriff's candidate Bernard G. McElvaney to Phil C. Auth, 2 March 1970.
- 12.5 *What's the Voting Record of our Congressman?* Published by Melbourne Sharples, Colfax, Illinois, undated. 2 pp. Focuses on votes cast by Les Arends of 17th Illinois and why he ought not be reelected. 2 copies.
- 12.6 Campaign cards, all undated:
 - Bernard J. Hughes, Democrat for U.S. House of Representatives, 17th District.
 - Lawrence W. Turpin, Republican for re-election to Ward 2 alderman.
 - Leo B. Hemmele, Democrat for Sheriff.
 - James E. Boylan, Republican for Treasurer, 4 copies.

State and National Political and Election Materials (Folders 13-14)

Folder 13: State of Illinois

- 13.1 Democratic Party Year Book compiled by Edward J. Barrett, Secretary of State 1946-47. 202 pp.
- 13.2 Primary and Election Calendar compiled Edward J. Barrett, Secretary of State, 1945. 29 pp.
- 13.3 Official List of Candidates for the Primary Election compiled by Edward J. Barrett, Secretary of State, 1946. 32 pp. 2 copies.
- 13.4 Illustrations and Law Applicable to Counting Votes Cast at the General Election for Candidates for Representative in the General Assembly compiled by Edward J. Barrett, Secretary of State, undated. 14 pp.
- 13.5 Counting and Tallying of Ballots at Primary and General Elections for Representatives in the General Assembly compiled by Charles F. Carpentier, Secretary of State, 1967. 27 pp.
- 13.6 7th General Assembly list of Senator plus maps of senate districts throughout Illinois.
- 13.7 Blank county registration report for Democratic State Central Committee, due 6 Oct 1946.

- 13.8 Blanket letter from Campaign Manager F. Lynden Smith of Democratic State Campaign Organization to committeemen urging their continued support and enclosing instructions (missing), 25 Oct 1936.

Folder 14: National

- 14.1 *The New Deal as It Looks to a Farmer* by Wilson Winslow, undated. 9 pp.
- 14.2 Report of The Executive Secretary of the Executive Council to the President, 25 August 1934. Government Printing Office. Covers objectives and results of economic recovery measures. 111pp.
- 14.3 *The Democrat*, Vol. 1, No. 11, November 1946 edition. 8 pp tabloid.
- 14.4 *How Your Congressman Voted* by Voters Research Institute of America, 1946. 32 pp.
- 14.5 In Defense of Politicians by Claude G. Bowers, undated. Democratic National Committee, Washington D.C. 14pp.
- 14.6 Letter of recognition to credit unions on International Credit Union Day from President Eisenhower, 20 October 1960.
- 14.7 Letter to Credit Union Members from Presidential Candidate John F. Kennedy, 20 October 1960.

Other (Folders 15-17)

Folder 15: Robert Auth

- 15.1 Hand printed info on Robert and Phil Auth, undated. Presumably from Bob Auth.
- 15.2 Reprint of Bob Auth's painting of C&A Union Depot in McLean County Museum of History *On the Square* newsletter, Feb 2007, p 1.
- 15.3 "A Christmas Dispatch" article by Robert R. Auth in *News & Reviews*, by the Bloomington Public Library, Winter 2006 vol 17, no 1. Includes his reminiscences of Bloomington as well as some of his art.
- 15.4 Letter from Barbara Workman Thatcher of Shirley, IL, to Mr. Robert Auth on recent article from Bloomington Public Library newsletter and her reminiscences, 12 Feb 2006.
- 15.5 Hand printed letter from Bob Auth to Barbara sharing further reminiscences, undated.
- 15.6 Letter from Barbara Workman Thatcher of Shirley, IL, to Bob Auth with further reminiscences, 24 Jul 2006.
- 15.7 Hand printed letter from Bob Auth to Barbara, 30 May 2007. 2pp.
- 15.8 Hand printed letter from Bob Auth to Barbara, 30 Aug 2007. 2pp.
- 15.9 Three accompanying envelopes to Barbara Thatcher with Auth's illustrations, 2006-07.
- 15.10 Custom made Christmas card from Bob Auth to Barbara Thatcher with Bloomington Airport illustration, photo of yr old Bob as aviator, with notes and envelope, 4 Jan 2009.
- 15.11 "Artistic Connection," *Pantagraph*, 12 Jan 2009, discussing above Christmas card and Auth's history.
- 15.12 Winter scene illustration plus photo of "Hobo" from Bob Auth, undated.
- 15.13 Illustration of old fashioned airmail dispatch (Ozark Airliner) by Auth addressed to Barbra Thatcher, undated.
- 15.14 Two envelopes from Auth, one to Barbara Thatcher (2007?) and one to McLean County Museum of History (2004)
- 15.15 *Pantagraph* obituary for Robert R. Auth, 15 May 2011. Added by staff in 2014. 2pp.
- 15.16 Hand-printed letter to Theora Stark and accompanying envelope, 19 Sep 2009.

15.17 "Postcard" from Auth to Theora Stark featuring Ozark Airlines image, 2009.

Folder 16: Family Grocery Business

- 16.1 Auth's unused business letterhead, circa 1938.
- 16.2 Notice to File Contribution and/or Wage Reports by the Illinois Department of Labor, 29 May 1944
- 16.3 Employer's Contribution Report for Auth's Grocery & Tavern, 1944. Not completed.

Folder 17: Miscellaneous

- 17.1 Phil Auth's obituary, *Pantagraph*, 1 Nov 2013. Added by staff in 2014.
- 17.2 Business cards, undated:
 - Sidney Harrison Co., Complete Equipment, Peoria, IL
 - Twin City Delivery Co., Light or Heavy Moving, Fred Graining, Bloomington, IL.