

Louise Murphy Papers & Masquers Dramatic Club  
Accession #2009-06

Item 1 of 4

Oversized image: KKKK Group [1920's]

Box 2 of 4 (Archive box)

Items removed from green vinyl 3-ring binder. All enclosed in mylar sheet protectors including:

*A Short History of Friendly House Davenport, Iowa 1946* [a photocopy of this is being cataloged as of 4/2009 for the public shelf]

Newspaper clippings

Photographs, some identified

Book: *The Modern Method of Preparing Delightful Foods* by Ida Bailey Allen [1927]

With notation: "See inside front cover ad "Arlington Grocery""

Vital records for Paul Murphy and Louise Murphy

Davenport High School Class Reunion booklets for 1924-25, 1927, 1929, 1931, 1933

White 3-ring binder containing photographs and information about Myron Vincent MUDD, WWII Army Air Corps and later photos and clippings regarding a MUDD business in California. (Louise's sister, Arlie, married Mr. Mudd.)

Box 3 of 4 (Archive box)

Photographs, some identified, some still in frames

Creative writing of Louise Murphy, possibly for "Famous Writers School" correspondence course

Box 4 of 4 (record center carton)

Scrapbooks [1933-1944] of news clippings and photographs as well as some personal memorabilia, ephemera and cards pertaining to Louise Murphy, her siblings, and the Masquers Dramatic Club, a theatre group that put on plays at the Friendly House in Davenport, Iowa. Louise Murphy was a frequent director of the plays as well as an actor. Mary Fluhrer Nighswander later became involved with this group.

Personal Information – Louise MURPHY

Louise MURPHY graduated from Davenport High School in 1927. She attended the Columbia School of Speech Arts in Chicago.

1930 census, Davenport Iowa, Kirkwood Blvd. lists parents as Dennis J. (51) and Hulda (49) with daughters Louise C. (20), Rosalie (18), Edith E. (15) and Arlie F. (13).

1938 newsclipping "Named Recreation Supervisor in Ames"

Miss Louise Murphy, supervisor of WPA recreation in Scott county, is leaving next week for Ames, Ia., where she has been appointed supervisor of the WPA recreation project.

Miss Murphy is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. D. J. Murphy, 919 Kirkwood boulevard. She is director of the Masquers drama group of the Friendly House, and has been outstanding in various dramatic and recreational projects here.

Saturday Miss Murphy will go to Charleston, ILL., to appear in the annual masque arranged by the Illinois Friends of Our Native Landscape. She will portray "The Spirit of the Wild" in the masque "The Beauty of the Wild" by Kenneth Sawyer Goodman.

The production will be given at sunset. This is the eighth year that Miss Murphy has appeared in these annual presentations.

Louise Murphy married Paul Murphy at Sacred Heart Cathedral in 1943. In a newsclipping regarding their wedding it states she was "prominent in Tri-City dramatic circles. She is a charter member of the Masquers drama club of the Friendly House. She is also active in the Unitarian drama club."

Louise Christine (Murphy) Murphy died July 8, 2003 in Moline, IL. Her obituary can be found in the *Quad City Times* on July 9, 2003, page C5. It states she was a member of the Unitarian Church and the Music Guild in Moline. She was survived by sisters Arlie Mudd and Edith Griffin, both of Davenport. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Paul; and sister, Rosalie Murphy.

Information regarding the Masquers and other theater groups:

Source: *The Democrat and Leader*, Sunday Morning, September 8, 1946; section 3 page 1

Masquers began in October 1931 when Harry Downer directed Miss Louise Murphy to open an evening class of dramatics. Downer and Murphy trained members for a year and then organized the group into a club, electing officers and becoming known as "The Masquers". They started a seasonal schedule in 1935.

Source: *The Democrat and Leader*, Sunday Morning, February 22, 1948; section 3 page 1

First dramatic club in Davenport and oldest dramatic group in Tri-cities "The Playcrafters" [sic-based on later statement in article, believe this should be The Friendly House Players"] organized in 1913 by Mrs. Agnes Montanus. Composed of small group of theater minded Davenporters with the old Friendly House as their headquarters. Their first presentation was the German operetta, "Preciosa".

In Jan. 1925 the Friendly House building was destroyed by fire and the Players lost all of their equipment and properties. Despite that loss the Friendly House Players remained active until 1932.

The following year a group taking a course in dramatics at the new Friendly House organized the Masquers Dramatic Club.

...only Rock Island boasts of an organized club, "The Playcrafters" in existence since 1920....