

Shawnee Optimist Club Records (2008.025)
Date Span: 1954-1993

The records of the Shawnee Optimist Club document the club's membership. The donor of the collection is a member of the club. The largest portion of the collection is a series of semi-annual attendance records, beginning with the formation of the club.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Source: Gay Clemenson

Size: .25 linear foot

Access: Open

Processed by: Russ Czaplewski

Supervising Archivists: Russ Czaplewski and Kathy Daniels

ADMINISTRATIVE SKETCH

- 1954 Shawnee Optimist Club chartered with Raymond Marsh as president; Meetings were each Thursday at noon at Shawnee Methodist Church (January 5)¹
Shawnee Noon Optimist Club formed by three members of the Argentine Optimist Club²
- 1957 Articles of incorporation filed by W. H. Palmer, William R. Lauderbaugh, J. Kenneth Thomas, C. D. Joy, John Creten.; purposes: "To promote Boys Work;" "To organize Boys Clubs for the furtherance of citizenship ideals and oratory;" "To organize baseball clubs and leagues." (December 10)³
- 1960 Purchased land (March 11)⁴
- 1975 Land sold to 3 & 2 Baseball Club of Johnson County (May 15)⁵
- 1979 25th anniversary celebrated (January)⁶
Club members work with male and female baseball programs and sponsor The Optimist Oratorical Contest for boys and girls under 16⁷

¹ "An Optimist Club Comes to Shawnee" *Johnson County Herald* January 21, 1954

² "Optimists mark 25th year" *Shawnee Journal-Herald* January 31, 1979. Variations in the club name are common—Shawnee Optimists, Optimist Club of Shawnee, etc.

³ Shawnee Optimists Club; Johnson County Tax and Records Administration; miscellaneous vol. 92, pp. 110-114; Instrument #195712180554429.

⁴ Johnson County Tax and Records Administration; southeast quarter of section 9, township 12, range 24

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ *Shawnee Journal-Herald* January 31, 1979

⁷ Ibid.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The records of the Shawnee Optimist Club, incomplete as they are, document several decades of the group's membership at weekly meetings. The attendance grew from just over 30 in 1954 to 50 by the late 1960s. Minutes are not present in the collection. The group had a special interest in the support of boys' clubs, baseball clubs in particular.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

SERIES 1: MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

Attendance sheets, membership lists 1954-1993

SERIES 2: PRINTED MATTER

Single sample bylaws form, undated

FOLDER TITLE LIST

Series 1: Membership records

Folder 1) Attendance; sheets recording members; forms filled in with typewritten and handwritten information; January 1954-October 1990; several months on forms

Folder 2) Rosters; membership lists; handwritten and typewritten; some pages are forms; one list with notations of deceased members; 1954-May 1993

Folder 3) Form, membership; Elmer E. Ehlers; 1974

Series 2: Printed matter

Folder 1) Bylaws; sample form with handwritten entries; undated