

Summary Information:

Collection Title: Mayor Arthur Janke Collection

Collection Number: MSS.20

Date Range: 1918, 1940-1961

Size: 1 Linear Foot

Location: RR.6.3, NR, CO.OS.06, CO.OS.07

Creator: Arthur Janke, Helen Janke

Abstract: The Mayor Arthur Janke Collection includes documents and photographs relating to Janke's time as Mayor of Joliet. Materials include newspaper articles, municipal publications, campaign cards, conference materials, photographs, and other items relating to the history of Janke's time in office. Select materials extend outside of this time frame, but the bulk of the materials in this collection range from the early 1940s through the 1950s.

Acquisition Information: The materials in this collection were donated by Jimmy Oberg under accession number 2010.04. Oberg was the son-in-law of Arthur Janke having married Janke's daughter, Marianne.

Separated Materials: The donated materials included several items relating to the history of the Old Joliet Prison. Oberg's mother, Martha Hall, worked at the Prison in the 1940s under Warden Ragen as a stenographer. The donated materials include her Employee Card, diploma from the Gallagher School, a photograph of the Diagnostic Depot from the Joliet Branch of the Illinois State Penitentiary, and other related items. These materials have been removed from the donation and added to the Old Joliet Prison Collection.

Citation: Item Description. MSS.20 Mayor Arthur Janke Collection, Joliet Area Historical Museum. Box #, Folder #. Date Accessed.

Restrictions: None

Processed by: Kailee Lowry

Background Information:

History: Arthur O. Janke was first elected mayor of Joliet in 1943 and was re-elected twice, serving 12 years in total, until May of 1955. Janke's third re-election in 1951 was unheard of in Joliet's history under the commission form of government in place at the time. Janke was Joliet's last mayor under the commission form of government after voters approved a change to the present council-manager. Due to this change Janke declined to seek a fourth term.

Janke was born in Joliet, one of 12 children, to William and Emilie Janke. Janke attended Farragut Elementary and the Lutheran School and graduated from Joliet Township High School in 1921. He attended the Lewis School of Aeronautics, today's Lewis University, and earned a commercial pilot's license.

Janke married Helen Mallon and together they had 5 children: Arthur M., Carol (Cenar), Marianne (Oberg), Thomas W., and Susan (O'Keefe). Prior to being elected Mayor, Janke owned and operated a local grocery store located at 414 W. Marion St. as well as a real estate and insurance firm at 101 Pleasant St. Janke also presided on the Joliet Park Board and was elected president prior to becoming mayor, and for a second term in 1944.

Scope and Content Arrangement: The Mayor Arthur Janke Collection includes documents and photographs relating to Janke's time as Mayor of Joliet. Select materials including grade school diplomas, and his funeral card extend outside of Janke's time in office, but the bulk of the items in this collection range from the early 1940s through the 1950s. Materials include newspaper articles, municipal publications, campaign cards, conference materials, various government committee records, and photographs. The collection has been separated into 4 series, with each series being arranged chronologically. The collection contains a small amount of oversized materials, which have been added to Series 4: Oversized Materials. These items are listed below with their original series included. All oversized materials are stored in oversize storage located in the Curator's Office. All scrapbooks listed in Series 3 of the collection are stored in the North Room of the basement.

Series 1: Janke Documents and Records, 1918, 1940-1954

Series 2: Photographs, 1940-1961

Series 3: Janke Scrapbooks, 1947-1955

Series 4: Oversized Materials

Related Materials:

Content Listing:

Series 1: Janke Documents and Records, 1918, 1940-1954

Location: RR.6.3

Scope: This series contains Arthur Janke's grade school diploma, passport, newspaper articles regarding his campaign for mayor and time in office, copies of the Illinois Municipal Review featuring Janke, certificates of merit, campaign cards, materials from Janke's involvement in the United States Conference of Mayors in 1953, as well as his trip to London to attend the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth. The materials in this series have been arranged chronologically.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Biographical Records, 1918, 1942-1945, 1967	1	1
Newspaper Articles, 1943, 1953-1954, 1967	2	1
Helen Janke Newspaper Articles, 1944	3	1
Illinois Municipal Review Magazine, 1945, 1950-1954	4	1
Advance Gifts Committee, The Salvation Army, 1946	5	1
Certificates of Merit and Recognition, 1949, 1953-1954	6	1
Campaign Materials, 1951	7	1
London Trip, Documents, 1953	8	1

United States Conference of Mayors, 1953	9	1
Misc. Records, 1953	10	1
Governor's Committee on Metropolitan Water and Sanitation, 1954	11	1

Series 2: Photographs, 1940-1961

Location: RR.6.3

Scope: This series contains photographs of Arthur Janke during his time as Mayor of Joliet through the 1940s and 1950s. Photographs include social events, public appearances, Janke at the International Congress of Cities and Communities in Vienna, Italy in 1944, as well as the launching ceremony of the S.S. Joliet Victory in Portland, Oregon. Of note is an image of Helen Janke breaking the ceremonial bottle of champagne on the side of the ship to christen the vessel. Materials in this series have been arranged chronologically.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Arthur Janke Photographs, C. 1940s-1950s	12	1
Ceremonial Photo Opportunities, C. 1940s-1950s	13	1
Social Events, C. 1940s-1950s	14	1
Public Appearances, C. 1940s-1950s	15	1
S.S. Joliet Victory Battleship Launching Ceremony Photographs, 1944	16	1
Helen Janke Photographs, 1944-1955	17	1
Public Appearances, Pageants, C. 1950s	18	1
Indianapolis Speedway Classic, 1952	19	1
Sportsman's Park Chicago, 1952	20	1
International Congress of Cities and Communities, 1953	21	1
Bowling League, 1959-1961	22	1

Series 3: Scrapbooks, 1947-1955

Location: NR

Scope: This series contains scrapbooks compiled during the time Mayor Janke was in office, ranging from 1947 until the end of his third term in 1955. The scrapbooks are made up primarily of newspaper clippings. Scrapbooks are arranged chronologically.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Janke Scrapbook, 1947-1948	N/A	2
Janke Scrapbook, 1948-1951	N/A	2
Janke Scrapbook, 1951	N/A	2
Janke Scrapbook, 1951-1952	N/A	2
Janke Scrapbook, 1953-1954	N/A	2
Janke Scrapbook, 1954-1955	N/A	2

Series 4: Oversized Materials

Location: CO.OS.06, CO.OS.07

Item:	Original Series:	Location:
Newspaper Articles	Series 1	CO.OS.06
City of Joliet Primary Municipal Election, 1947	Series 1	CO.OS.07
United States Conference of Mayors, 1953	Series 1	CO.OS.07
Member of the Governor's Committee on Metropolitan Water and Sanitation,	Series 1	CO.OS.07
Campaign Posters, C. 1940s-1950s	Series 1	CO.OS.07
Palmer Method of Business Writing Certificate, 1918	Series 1	CO.OS.07
Mayor Arthur Janke and Governor Dwight H Green, C. 1950s	Series 2	CO.OS.07
The Joliet Stakes, First Division Photograph	Series 2	CO.OS.07