

## Summary Information:

**Collection Title:** Joliet Township High School Collection

**Collection Number:** MSS.03

**Date Range:** 1881-2003, 2012

**Size:** 10 Linear Feet

**Location:** RR.7.2-4, NR.OS.1-2

**Creator:** Joliet Township High School

**Abstract:** The Joliet Township High School Collection contains materials relating to the history of Joliet Township High School, including the East, West and Central campuses. The collection contains printed materials, photographs, newspaper clippings, alumni records, scrapbooks, and materials relating to clubs and organizations at the high school.

**Acquisition Information:** This collection has been composed from various accessions relating to the history of Joliet Township High School. There was no reasonable original order to these materials, so an order has been created for research purposes. All materials are appropriately labeled with their accession numbers, and more information regarding acquisition can be provided if requested.

**Separated Materials:** None

**Citation:** Item Description. MSS.03 Joliet Township High School Collection, Joliet Area Historical Museum. Box #, Folder #. Date Accessed.

**Restrictions:** None

**Processed by:** Kailee Lowry

## Background Information:

### History:

The first high school in Joliet, Joliet High School, founded in 1880, was located on the upper story of the Eastern Ave grade school. It was formed from the West and East side schools and placed under superintendent Colonel D.H. Darling. In 1882 the school relocated to the upper floor of the Central School at the corner of Chicago and Webster. Classes were held in the upper story of the eight room school house with a faculty of five and around 200 students enrolled. In the summer of 1899 Joliet High School was made into a Township High School (JTHS) and two years later was relocated to the present site of Joliet Township Central High School on Jefferson St. When JTHS first opened, the building housed the high school, as well as Joliet Junior College (JJC). Students were offered six years of education in the building. High School seniors would graduate and were able to enter directly into JJC at no cost to their families. JJC remained in the building until 1969 when it was relocated to its present day location on Houbolt Ave.

The new high school building, constructed in 1901, was built from Joliet limestone in the Tudor Gothic style of architecture and designed by architect F.S. Allen. The detailing, including the caps on the parapets, window sills, and arches are in cut Bedford stone. The solid oak doors and paneling used throughout the building were hand carved by a Swiss wood carver and mimic the Tudor Gothic style chosen by Allen. The hardware used in the original building was specially designed by Allen and furnished through Barret's Hardware Store of Joliet.

The structure takes up nearly half a block and was originally thought capable of holding 1200 to 1400 students. With an enrollment of 581 students in 1901, the Board believed the building large enough to hold a growing enrollment for some time. However, by 1935 enrollment at the high school was over 4,000 students. To accommodate the increase in students four new additions were added; Junior College addition in 1915, shops and gymnasium in 1922, auditorium in 1924, and a gymnasium for girls in 1931. Additionally, a new heating plant was added in 1953, and a Vocational building added in 1957.

In order to accommodate a growing number of students, two additional Joliet Township schools were opened in 1964 on the East and West sides of town. The JTHS East Campus was located at 1101 Mills Road, and the JTHS West Campus was located at its present-day location at 401 N. Larkin Ave. That same year Joliet Township High School was renamed Joliet Central High School. The JTHS East Campus only remained open for 20 years. Due to a low enrollment the school closed in 1983, and the building was purchased by the Joliet Job Corps.

### **Scope and Content Arrangement:**

The Joliet Township High School Collection contains school records and printed materials, newspaper clippings, commencement programs, various club programs, alumni reunion programs, photographs, scrapbooks, and other materials relating to the history of the Joliet Township High Schools. The collection has been arranged into 7 series by the content of the documents, and the materials in each series are arranged chronologically, with the exclusions listed below.

Series 3: Clubs and Organizations is the only series arranged first by club or organization title, and then chronologically.

Series 4: Alumni is arranged chronologically by the Class graduation date, not by the date the materials were produced.

Series 5: Photographs are arranged following the Series arrangement of the collection, and from there the photographs are arranged chronologically.

There are a small number of oversized materials in the collection. They have been listed in Series 7 of the collection and are listed in the finding aid with their original series number as well. All oversized materials for this collection are in oversize storage drawer 1 and 2 located in the North Room of the basement.

Series 1: JTHS Records and Printed Materials, 1903, 1914-1991, 2000

Series 2: Commencement Programs, 1881-2001

Series 3: Clubs and Organizations, 1904, 1928-2002, 2012

Series 4: Alumni, 1929-1979

Series 5: Photographs, 1894, 1918-1990, 2003

Series 6: Scrapbooks, 1912-1990

Series 7: Oversized Materials

### **Related Materials:**

#### *Archival Collections*

MSS.06 Joliet Public Schools Collection

MSS.12 Joliet Colleges and University Collection

#### *Artifact Holdings*

2013.40B – Drum Major Plume, ER

2013.35.01C – Drum Major Plume, ER

2004.163 – Door Knob from Joliet Central High School, ER

2002.18.04 – JTHS Pin, ER

2002.18.03 – JTHS Pin, ER

2004.70.57 – Joliet City Lines Coin for students, ER

2001.158.02 – JTHS Band Clipboard, ER

2012.16.22A-B – Band Gloves, ER

2004.07.126 – JTHS Notebook, ER

2012.19.05 – JTHS Baseball Patches, ER

2010.42 – JTHS Commemorative Silver Spoon, ER

2003.147.03 – JTHS Steelmen Keychain Lanyard, ER

2004.135.03 – JTHS Save Central Pin, ER

2012.49.02 – JTHS Strike up the Band, 100 Years Commemorative Pin, ER

1991.100.63-67 – JTHS Pins, ER

1991.100.54-56 – JTHS Pins, ER

1991.100.58-59 – JTHS Pins, ER

1991.100.68-70 – JTHS Pins, ER

1991.100.61 – JTHS Pin, ER

1991.100.72-73 – JTHS Keychains, ER

2005.60.27 – JTHS Band Pin, ER

2001.158.03 and 2012.16.27 – Decorative band lanyard braids, ER

1991.100.49-51 – Cassette Tape of Joliet Central Band Performance, ER

2013.33.36B – 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Tape, ER

#### *Library Holdings*

*Jollier*, Joliet Township High School Yearbooks, 1906-1907, 1910, 1916

*The J*, Joliet Township High School Yearbooks, 1918-1964

*The J*, Joliet Central High School Yearbooks, 1967, 1971-1988, 1990, 1993, 2010

*Alpha Omega*, Joliet Township High School, West Campus Yearbooks, 1971, 1977-1978, 1984-1985

*The Crown*, Joliet Township High School, East Campus Yearbooks, 1965-1982.

“Joliet Township High Schools Joliet, Illinois: Alumni Directory,” Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company; White Plains, NY, 1993.

“Joliet Township High Schools Alumni Directory,” Alumni Research Incorporated; Holiday, FL, 2004.

### *Reference Materials*

Louise Lentz Woodruff research binder, all materials compiled by R.A. Crombie and photocopied for use by the JAHM.

## **Content Listing:**

**Series 1** : JTHS Records and Printed Materials, 1903, 1914-1991, 2000

**Location:** RR.7.2

**Scope:** The materials contained in this series include historical records, diplomas, student directories, student publications, student handbooks, and newspaper clippings. Of note is a copy of the history of Joliet Township High School from 1879 to 1903, discussing the original Joliet High School and the creation of present-day Central High School.

Additionally, materials regarding Louise Lentz Woodruff, a former Joliet Central student, and her creation of the Joliet Central mascot, the Steelmens. Woodruff originally created the sculpture for the 1933 Chicago’s World Fair, *A Century of Progress*. The piece stood outside of the main entrance to the Hall of Science and is titled *Science Advancing Mankind*. The sculpture featured the Steelmens hovering above a man and woman to guide their steps forward. After the closing of the World’s Fair, Woodruff presented her sculpture to Joliet Central High School in 1935 and in December of the same year the Steelman figure was adopted as the school’s official mascot.

<b>Folder Title:</b>	<b>Folder #:</b>	<b>Box #:</b>
JTHS Historical Background Records, 1903	1	1
JTHS Misc. Papers, 1914, 1935-1991	2	1
JTHS Student Directories, 1915-1916, 1946-1953, 1959	3	1
JTHS Certificates and Diplomas, 1915, 1931, 1943, 1985, and 1991	4	1
JTHS “The J” Publication, 1922-1924	5	1
Joliet Township High School Bulletin, 1922-1926	6	1
JTHS Report Cards, 1924-1928, 1959, 1972	7	1
JTHS Student Handbooks, 1942-1949	8	1
JTHS Student Handbooks, 1954-1963	9	1
JTHS Student Handbooks, 1983-1991	10	1

JTHS Newspaper Clippings, 1942-2001	1	2
JTHS East Campus Papers, 1964-1970	2	2
JTHS West Campus "Accent" Publication, 1967-1968	3	2
JTHS West Campus Papers, 1965-1972	4	2
JTHS West, Tiger Tales, 1965-1966	5	2
JTHS East Campus Newspaper Clippings, 1969-1989	6	2
Louise Lentz Woodruff, Steelmen Sculpture, 1971-2000	7	2
"The Blue Banner" from Joliet Central, 1981-1983	8	2
The JTC Journal from Joliet Central, 1984-1991	9	2
JTHS Calendars, 1985, 1990-91	10	2
JTHS Central Floor Plans, Undated	11	2

**Series 2:** Commencement Programs, 1881-2001

**Locations:** RR.7.2

**Scope :** This series contains JTHS Commencement Programs from 1881 through 2001. The programs have been arranged chronologically. The programs include commencement programs for Joliet Township High School, Joliet Central High School, Joliet West High School, and Joliet East High School.

<b>Folder Title:</b>	<b>Folder #:</b>	<b>Box #:</b>
Joliet High School Commencement Programs, 1881-1894	12	2
Joliet High School Commencement Programs, 1901-1904	13	2
Joliet High School Commencement Programs, 1914-1937	14	2
Joliet High School Commencement Programs, 1941-1973	15	2
Joliet High School Commencement Programs, 1979, 1991-1998, 2001	16	2

**Series 3:** Clubs and Organizations, 1904, 1928-2002, 2012

**Location:** RR.7.2-3

**Scope:** This series contains materials relating to different clubs and organizations at JTHS including the band, choir, orchestra, drama, and sports. The different campuses largely operated separately until 1993 when all of the Athletic programs at the West and Central campuses were combined due to budget constraints. Due to this, the materials in this series have not been divided by campus. The programs would remain this way until 2011 when the programs were separated again.

Of note this series contains numerous materials relating to the JTHS Band. The band was organized in 1912 and soon rose to international prominence. The late A.R. McAllister was the founder and director of the organization for thirty-two years. Under his direction, the band won the National Championship three years in succession in 1926, 1927 and 1928. Due to these wins, McAllister was given permanent possession of the National Championship Trophy. The band won the National Championship again in 1931 and 1933. The band also won the Division I – Superior Rating in regional contests in 1935, 1938 and 1940.

McAllister took the band on concert tours across the United States. Most notably the band appeared for a week at Radio City Music Hall in New York in 1936. The JTHS Band was also notably invited lead the Illinois section of President Eisenhower's Inaugural Parade. Materials from both trips can be found in this series of the collection.

Under McAllister the JTHS band also had the honor to play for every group of departing servicemen from Joliet for both world wars, and the Korean war.

In 1945, after the passing of McAllister, Bruce H. Houseknecht assumed the direction of the organization and in 1946 he was appointed head of the Department of Music of JTHS. In June of 1969 Houseknecht accepted a position at the Eastman School of Music and resigned from JTHS. Theodore Lega assumed direction of Central's Band.

<b>Folder Title:</b>	<b>Folder #:</b>	<b>Box #:</b>
Band Concert Programs, 1904, 1928-1935	1	3
Band Concert Programs, 1936-1953	2	3
Band Concert Programs, 1954-1962	3	3
Band Concert Programs, 1963-1979	4	3
Band Concert Programs, 1980-1989	5	3
Band Concert Programs, 1990-2002, 2012	6	3
Sheet Music, C. 1927	7	3
Des Moines Band Trip, 1934	8	3
Band Trip to New York and Radio City Music Hall, 1936	9	3
Band Correspondence, 1936-1999	10	3
Band Newspaper Clippings, 1937-1961, 1983	11	3
Band Trip Itineraries, Instructions, and Directories, 1946-1970	1	4
Band Trip to New York and the Inaugural Parade, 1953	2	4
JTHS Band History, Undated	3	4
JTHS Band Notebooks, Undated	4	4
JTHS Choir and Orchestra Programs, 1924-1948, 1974	5	4
JTHS Choir Quill, 1941-1951	6	4
JTHS Musicals and Drama Production Programs, 1919, 1940-1969, 1991	7	4
JTHS Speech Activities Club Performance Programs, 1964-1968	8	4
JTHS Sport Program Papers, 1929, 1951-1967, 1972	9	4

**Series 4: Alumni, 1929-1979**

**Location:** RR.7.3

**Scope:** This series contains reunion programs for alumni from JTHS. This series was organized chronologically by Class graduation date, not by the date materials were created. Of note this series contains copies of the *Class of '27 News*, a publication put out annually by the JTHS Class of 1927. The publications contain information regarding alumni and their successes after high school.

<b>Folder Title:</b>	<b>Folder #:</b>	<b>Box #:</b>
JTHS Alumni Reunion Programs for Class of 1925, 1929-1930, 1934, and 1936	10	4
JTHS Alumni Reunion Programs for Class of 1938, 1939, and 1942	11	4
JTHS Alumni Reunion Programs for Class of 1953	1	5
JTHS Alumni Reunion Programs for Class of 1955 and 1960	2	5
Correspondence Regarding the Class of 1914 Reunions, 1963-1975	3	5
JTHS Class of '27 News, 1963-1979	4	5
JTHS Class of 1930 Directory Cards, A-N	5	5
JTHS Class of 1930 Directory Cards, O-Z	6	5

**Series 5:** Photographs, 1894, 1913-1912, 1918-1990, 2003

**Location:** RR.7.3

**Scope:** This series contains photographs of each JTHS campus, students, alumni, and JTHS clubs and organizations. Of note are two team photographs from the Joliet High School boys Football and Basketball team from 1912 and 1913. Joliet High School teams were known as the "Prison City Boys" prior to the arrival of the Steelmen statue in 1935. The students pictured are wearing uniforms with "The Boys" printed across the front, possibly referring to the name "Prison City Boys". These photographs are housed in oversized storage. The photos are organized similarly to the series of this collection by general school photographs, clubs and organizations, and alumni photographs. From there they are organized chronologically.

<b>Folder Title:</b>	<b>Folder #:</b>	<b>Box #:</b>
Joliet High School Class Photo, 1894	1	6
JTHS Student Photos, 1918, 1926	2	6
Joliet Central Extension, Construction Photograph, 1921-1924	3	6
Joliet Central Extension, Construction Photographs, 1924-1930	4	6
JTHS Student Photos, 1932-1933	5	6
JTHS Student Photos, 1934-1936	1	7
Joliet Central Student Photographs, 1941-1977	2	7
JTHS West Student Photographs, C. 1960s	3	7
JTHS West Campus Exterior Photographs, Undated	4	7
JTHS East Women's Basketball Photographs, 1979-1980	5	7
JTHS East Campus Exterior Photographs, Undated	6	7
Band Photographs, 1925-1991	7	7
Band Photographs, Joliet West Campus Football Field, C. 1960s	8	7
Band Photographs, Undated	9	7
JTHS Choir Photographs, 1930, C. 1960s	10	7
JTHS Drama Production Photographs, 1952-1967	11	7
JTHS Alumni Reunion Class of 1914 Photos, 1971	12	7

JTHS Class of 1927 Reunion Photographs, 1978-1981	13	7
JTHS Alumni Reunion Photographs, 1960-1986	14	7
JTHS Class of 1930 58 <sup>th</sup> Reunion Photo Album, 1988	1	8
JTHS Class of 1930 60 <sup>th</sup> Reunion Photo Album, 1990	2	8
Joliet Central Interior Photographs, 2003	3	8
Joliet Central Exterior Photographs, 2003	4	8
Monday Nite Club, Alumni Organization, Photograph, 1963	5	8

**Series 6:** Scrapbooks, 1912-1990

**Location:** RR.7.3-4

**Scope:** This series includes a variety of scrapbooks put together by students at JTHS, alumni, and band members. Each scrapbook highlights different aspects of school life at JTHS for the students who created the pieces. As well as providing additional materials on the JTHS Band and their trip to New York in 1936.

<b>Folder Title:</b>	<b>Folder #:</b>	<b>Box #:</b>
Elanor Butler JTHS Scrapbook, 1912-1917	6	8
Loose Newspaper Clippings from Elanor Butler JTHS Scrapbook, 1912-1917	1	9
Loose Papers from Elanor Butler JTHS Scrapbook, 1912-1917	2	9
Evelyn Gertrude Anderson JTHS Scrapbook, 1923-1927	3	9
Loose Papers from Evelyn Gertrude Anderson JTHS Scrapbook, 1923-1927	4	9
Loose papers from the Class of 1930 Scrapbook, 1930-1990	5	9
Class of 1930 Scrapbook, 1930-1990	N/A	10
Class of 1930 15 <sup>th</sup> Reunion Scrapbook, 1945	N/A	10
JTHS Band Scrapbook, 1935-1939	N/A	10
JTHS Band Trip to New York Scrapbook, April 1936	N/A	10
Dean Hicks Scrapbook, 1961-1965	N/A	10
Bruce Houseknect Scrapbook, 1936-1944	N/A	10

**Series 7:** Oversized Materials

**Location:** NR.OS.1-2

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Original Series:</b>
The J High Journal, 1928-1957	Series 1
JTHS Diplomas, 1893-1924	Series 1
Daily Program Schedules, 1945-46 and 1954-55	Series 1
JTHS West, Tiger Tales, 1964-1969	Series 1
JTHS East, Kingsmen Courier, 1966-1978	Series 1
JTHS Band Newspaper Articles, 1928-1953, 1996	Series 3



JTHS Band and Drama Flyers, 1938-1940	Series 3
Scheherazade Full Score by Bruce Houseknect, Undated	Series 3
JTHS East Women's Basketball Herald News Article Layouts, 1980-1981	Series 3
JTHS Class of 1895 Photographs, 1895	Series 5
JTHS Class of 1905 Photograph, 1905	Series 5
JTHS Class of 1914 Photograph, 1914	Series 5
JTHS Class of 1915 Photograph, 1915	Series 5
JTHS Graduating Class of 1925 Photo, 1925	Series 5
JTHS Band Photos, 1931-1946, 1997	Series 5
JTHS East Women's Basketball Photos, 1980-1981	Series 5
Joliet High School, "The Boys", Sports Photos, 1912-1913	Series 5