

A2963

Martin L. Neaf Papers, 1905-1992

1 box; 1 oversize folder

Processed by Dennis Northcott, October 2012

REPOSITORY

Missouri History Museum Archives

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DONOR INFORMATION

Collection was donated by Christine Human Hughes in December 2009.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Martin L. Neaf was born September 21, 1891, in Clayton, St. Louis County, Missouri. He served as St. Louis County assessor from 1933 to 1941, and later worked as a real estate and insurance broker and appraiser. He married Elsie Human (1897-1985). Martin L. Neaf died August 23, 1969, in St. Louis.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains financial statements of St. Joseph's Catholic Church (Clayton, Mo.), 1923-1936; papers relating to the St. Louis Ordnance Plant Powder Storage Area, 1942; papers and photocopies of newspaper clippings mostly relating to Martin L. Neaf's work as St. Louis County assessor, 1932-1956; photographs; and typescript reminiscences of Martin L. Neaf's daughter Genevieve Neaf, circa 1992.

The papers are arranged in the following five series: St. Joseph's Catholic Church Papers Series, St. Louis Ordnance Plant Powder Storage Area Papers Series, Newspaper Clippings Series, Photographs Series, and General Papers Series.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church Papers Series

Folder 1

- 1923 Financial statement of St. Joseph's Catholic Church (Clayton, Mo.) for the year 1923. Includes envelope collection from parishioners, receipts, and expenses.
- 1925 Financial statement of St. Joseph's Church (Clayton, Mo.) for the year 1925. Includes accounts of receipts from parishioners, donations to the church, other receipts, and expenses.
- 1929 Financial statement of St. Joseph's Church (Clayton, Mo.) for the year 1929. Includes statement of envelope collection from parishioners for 1929, school building fund for 1927-1930, receipts for 1929, and expenses for 1929.
- 1935 St. Joseph's Parish Bulletin, 106 North Meramec Avenue, Clayton, Mo. Includes statement of envelope collection and pew rents from parishioners, receipts, and expenses for 1934.
- 1936 Financial statement of St. Joseph's Church (Clayton, Mo.) for the year 1936. Includes statement of envelope collection from parishioners, receipts, and expenses for 1936.

St. Louis Ordinance Plant Powder Storage Area Papers Series

Folder 2

- 1942 Feb Typescript Instructions of the Court to the Commissioners in the case of United States of America, plaintiff, vs. 2,350 acres of land, more or less, situated in St. Louis County, Mo., and the Ranken Estate et al., defendants, Docket No. 940, at law, in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Missouri, Eastern Division. (5 pages)

Folder 3

- 1942 Feb 2 Typescript Interlocutory Order Appointing Commissioners, amended description of the land, and judgment of the court in the case of United States of America, plaintiff, vs. 2,350 acres of land, more or less, situated in St. Louis County, Mo. et al., defendants, Docket No. 940, in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Missouri, Eastern Division. (9 pages)

Folder 4

- 1942 Feb 19 Typescript Notice to Commissioners in the case of United States of America, plaintiff, vs. 2,350 acres of land, more or less, situated in St. Louis County, Mo., and the Ranken Estate et al., defendants, Docket No. 940, at law, in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Missouri, Eastern Division. Commissioners are William H. Tegethoff, 7407 Stratford; Charles Zeibig, Denny Road; and Martin L. Neaf, 225 North Bemiston. (2 pages)

Folder 5

1942 Apr 20

Copy of typescript letter of Enno Kraehe, acquisition project manager, St. Louis Ordnance Plant, to Lt. Colonel David L. Van Syckle, commanding officer, St. Louis Ordnance Plant, St. Louis, Mo. "We are in receipt of a communication from Mr. M.L. Neaf one of the commissioners appointed by the Court to assess damages by reason of our taking of the Ranken Tract which comprises part of the St. Louis Ordnance Plant Powder Storage Area. . . ." Mr. Neaf asked several questions regarding danger to adjoining property in the event of an explosion.

Folder 6

1942 Apr 21

Typescript memorandum signed Lt. Col. D.L. Van Syckle, St. Louis Ordnance Plant, St. Louis, Mo., to Mr. Enno Kraehe, acquisition project manager. Includes answers to questions raised by Mr. M.L. Neaf, one of the commissioners appointed by the court, regarding danger to adjoining property in the event of an explosion at the St. Louis Ordnance Plant Powder Storage Area. (original and contemporary copy)

Folder 7

1942 Apr 22

Typescript letter signed Enno Kraehe, acquisition project manager, St. Louis Ordnance Plant Project, 4300 Goodfellow Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo., to Mr. M.L. Neaf, 42 South Central Avenue, Clayton, Mo., regarding the St. Louis Ordnance Plant Powder Storage Area – Ranken Estate. "Reference is made to your letter of April 18 wherein you propounded eight questions to this office which you say are necessary in order to complete your estimate of the damages in the above captioned case. . . ." Provides answers to three of the questions. Includes original letter and contemporary copy and copy of letter of Enno Kraehe to Lt. Colonel David L. Van Syckle, April 20, 1942.

Folder 8

1942 June 1

Typescript note of Harry C. Blanton, U.S. attorney, Eastern District of Missouri, to Martin L. Neaf, 42 South Central, Clayton, Mo. Encloses attested copy of Additional Instructions to Commissioners in connection with the case regarding the St. Louis Powder Farm, St. Louis County, Mo., Docket No. 490 (Ranken Estate). Enclosure: Additional Instructions to Commissioners, May 29, 1942. (3 pages)

Folder 9

1942 July 3

Typescript letter signed Chas. H. Zeibig [Charles H. Zeibig], Cornet & Zeibig, Inc., real estate and financial agents, 719 Chestnut Street, St. Louis, to Martin L. Neaf, 42 South Central Ave., Clayton, Mo. Offers his thoughts regarding the value of a tract of land in the vicinity of the Ranken Estate, Tyson Farm, Powder Farm, Highway 66, and the Meramec River.

Folder 10

1942 July 14 Typescript note of William H. Tegethoff, Charles Zeibig, and Martin L. Neaf to the clerk of the United States District Court, St. Louis, Mo., regarding St. Louis Powder Farm, Docket No. 490. "We, the undersigned commissioners, are enclosing herewith our report in connection with the above styled case; also statement as to our services in the same case."

Newspaper Clippings Series

Folder 11

1939 Mar 11 Photocopy of incomplete *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* clipping titled "Tax Board Takes County Gas Case in Advisement. Ends Hearing on Assessor's Charge That Company Made Fraudulent Return on Its Property."

1939 Mar 11 Photocopy of *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* clipping titled "Assessor Neaf and the Gas Company."

1939 Oct 12 Photocopy of a newspaper clipping from *The St. Louis Countian* (successor to *The Kirkwood Courier*) titled "Form 'Neaf-for-Assessor' Club."

1949 Mar 3 Photocopy of a newspaper clipping from *The Review* showing a group photograph of the colonels from St. Louis County on Gov. Forrest Smith's staff who were guests at a meeting of the Clayton Optimist Club. Martin L. Neaf is in the photograph.

1956 Apr 24 Photocopy of *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* clipping titled "Former County Assessor Neaf to Run Again."

no date Photocopy of newspaper clipping titled "Why the County Re-assesses," written by Frank George Sieber and addressed to the editor of the *St. Louis Star-Times*.

Photographs Series

Folder 12

circa 1905 Portrait photograph of Martin L. Neaf upon graduating from Clayton Grammar School.

circa 1930s Photograph of approximately 90 men seated at tables for a meal inside Cafferata's, [6853 Olive, University City, Mo.]. Photograph taken by Sievers, commercial photographers, St. Louis. **(oversize)**

1941 Mar 17 Photograph shows several hundred men and women seated for the 21st annual banquet of the Corned Beef and Cabbage Club at the Hotel Jefferson, St. Louis. **(oversize)**

1945 Sept 14 Photograph of a young woman and two young men in military uniforms sitting at a table at the Hotel Chase, St. Louis. Notation on the photograph

reads, "Dave's first night home. 1st furlough Sept. 14, 1945." Another notation suggests that the woman in the photograph may be Mary Hood.

- 1946 Feb 11 Photograph of numerous men at groundbreaking ceremony for Clayton Veterans' Village, sponsored by the Veterans' Housing Association of Clayton. Handwritten note on the back of the photograph reads "Clayton's Veteran's Housing." A post-it note stuck to the photograph at the time of the donation identifies the following men in the photograph: Al Kerth, Charlie Block, Chas. Shaw [Charles Shaw], and Father Fechter [Father John A. Fechter?]. **(oversize)**
- circa 1964 Photograph of three men in suits swinging golf clubs at the groundbreaking for Forest Hills Country Club. The men are Francis William Human, Jr. (left), Al Kerth, Jr. (middle), and Clemens Krekeler, Jr. (right).
- no date Photograph of three young couples sitting at a table at Club Plantation, 3617 Delmar Boulevard, St. Louis.
- no date Block Bros. portrait photograph of Martin Neaf.
- no date Portrait photograph of Martin L. Neaf.
- no date Photograph of Martin L. Neaf sitting at a desk surrounded by many flower arrangements.

General Papers Series

Folder 13

- 1912 June 15 St. Louis County Public Schools diploma awarded to Elsie Human. **(oversize)**
- 1931 Jan 15 Typescript letter signed James M. Rohan, president, Land Title Insurance Co. of St. Louis, Clayton, Mo., to Martin L. Neaf, notifying Mr. Neaf that his salary will be reduced.
- 1932 Dec 20 Commission of Martin L. Neaf as assessor of St. Louis County. **(oversize)**
- circa 1936 Leaflet titled "Assessing Property in St. Louis County for the Purpose of Taxation." "This leaflet, briefly explaining the effort being made to equalize assessments in St. Louis County, is presented with the hope of securing your cooperation in this endeavor. . . . Note: This circular is paid for by the 'Neaf for Assessor Club,' and service donated in its distribution by the District Assessors, who are paid only for each assessment sheet served."
- 1936 Dec 8 Commission of Martin L. Neaf as assessor of St. Louis County. **(oversize)**
- 1938 June 8 Copy of typescript letter of Martin L. Neaf to James A. Farley, postmaster-general, Washington, D.C. Regarding the desire of St. Peters Parochial School

to purchase the neighboring Adams School that is slated to be torn down. Includes attached reply of James A. Farley, Democratic National Committee, Washington, June 28, 1938, referring Neaf to Works Progress Administration.

- 1939 Jan 6 Certificate of appointment of Martin L. Neaf as state chairman of the National Association of Assessing Officers in and for the state of Missouri.
- circa 1940 Leaflet titled "Assessing Property in St. Louis County for the Purpose of Taxation." Includes reproductions of St. Louis newspaper articles regarding Martin L. Neaf's work as county assessor. ". . . I am running for re-election as your Assessor for St. Louis County on the Democratic ticket. My campaign will be built around accomplishments of the past, and, if elected, I will continue to live up to my oath of office. . . . Note: This circular is paid for by the 'Neaf for Assessor Club,' and services donated in its distribution by the District Assessors, who are paid only for each assessment sheet served."
- circa 1949-1952 Christmas card of Missouri governor Forrest Smith, which includes a photograph of his family gathered around a Christmas tree.

Folder 14

- circa 1963 MacDonald plaid stamp saver book.
- 1969 Oct 24 Golden Anniversary Member of the American Legion citation awarded to Martin L. Neaf.
- 1991 June 7 Envelope of Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated, 500 North Broadway, St. Louis, Mo. Postmarked June 7, 1991.
- circa 1992 Typescript reminiscences of Genevieve Neaf, daughter of Martin L. Neaf, written for the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph Parish (Clayton, Mo.). Includes account of her family's history in Clayton from the 1890s to the 1940s. Mentions that the Neaf family moved to 221 South Bemiston in Clayton in 1893. (11 pages)
- no date Business card of Martin L. Neaf, president of Neaf-Murmann-Stevens Realty Company, 2 South Central Ave., Clayton, St. Louis County, Mo.
- no date Card promoting the election of Martin L. (Mert) Neaf, Democratic candidate for assessor. Includes a portrait photograph of Neaf.