GUIDE TO THE WILLIAM C. ZWERLEIN PAPERS

Collection Abstract: The William Zwerlein Papers include post cards, photographs, and newsletters and memorabilia from the Mineola Skating Rink. The post cards include images of Port Washington as well as greeting cards from the early 1900s.

Collection Title: The William C. Zwerlein Papers
Inclusive Dates: ca. 1907- 2009; Bulk dates: ca. 1907-1942
Size: 1 Box & 1 Oversize folder (.5 linear feet)
Source: Gift of Peter J. Zwerlein, 2009
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WILLIAM C. ZWERLEIN PAPERS

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

William (Bill) C. Zwerlein was born in Port Washington on January 10, 1919. A life-long resident of Port Washington, Zwerlein served in the Navy during World War II. He worked as a millwright, steam fitter and heating service mechanic, including some years with the Lewis Oil Company. In 1955 he and his brother Zeke opened a Tastee Freez on Shore Road, a business which they operated for 15 years. Bill Zwerlein began his career as a volunteer firefighter with Protection Engine Company No. 1 of the Port Washington Fire Department in 1946 and continued to serve for 63 years.

Bill Zwerlein and Ruth Sustman (1922-2007) met at the Mineola Skating Rink and were married on August 22, 1941. Bill was an avid skater who at the age of 19 started the Port Rollers skating club, with meetings held at his father's automotive repair garage. After the club dissolved, Bill and some of the other members joined the Silver Streaks club at the Mineola Skating Rink. The Zwerleins had three sons, William G., Peter J., and Robert L. Zwerlein who was killed in Vietnam in 1967 while serving aboard the *USS Forrestal*. Sons Peter and William G. both served as Chiefs of the Port Washington Fire Department. William Zwerlein died on August 1, 2009.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The William Zwerlein Papers include post cards, photographs, and newsletters and memorabilia from the Mineola Skating Rink. Zwerlein's interest in Port's history is evident in his extensive collection of post cards which document the changing views of Port Washington during the early years of the 20th century. The collection also includes 24 post cards (ca. 1907-1909) which were sent as greeting cards for various holidays. Most of the cards are addressed to Miss Viola van Pelt of Port Washington.

Material relating to the Mineola Skating Rink includes issues of the rink's newsletter: *Bumps & Falls*, a 1935 photograph of Silver Streaks club members, and a 1939 list of club members. Zwerlein was a frequent contributor to *Bumps & Falls*, writing under the byline "Cow Bay Pirate".

RELATED COLLECTIONS:

Oral History – PW Firefighters Oral History Collection: Reminiscences of William C. Zwerlein

BOX LIST:

Box 1

Folder	Content
1	Biographical & Obituaries, 1993-2009
2-8	Mineola Skating Rink – *Bumps & Falls*, 1937-1942; 1958-1959
9-10	Mineola Skating Rink – Memorabilia
11	Post Cards – Greeting cards, ca. 1907-1909
12	Post Cards – Port Washington, ca. 1900-1930 Click here to see these Post Cards in the Library's Flickr Collections: http://www.flickr.com/photos/pwpl/sets/72157621955148672/

3 Photographs (Oversized – located in the Map Case in Janet West's office):
Silver Streaks Roller Skating Club, ca. 1935
1944 Soft Ball League, O'Connell's, N. Y. City, Sept. 20, 1944
Lewis Oil Co. Annual Outing, June, 1951