



Race Inn and the “Chickens Come to Roost”  
Records, 1941-1978

Collection 10

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Sarah Lubelski, April 2017

**Creator/Corporate Name:** Chickens Come to Roost Club

**Inclusive Dates:** 1941-1978, bulk 1944-1969

**Physical Description:** 1 box (0.5 linear ft.)

**Language:** English

**Provenance:**

The Race Inn and the “Chickens Come to Roost” records were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

**Access:**

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

**Historical Note:**

Founded in 1939, the social group “Chickens Come to Roost” was a loose organization of Champaign-Urbana businesspeople, reporters, and civic leaders. The group met weekday mornings at the Race Inn (115 S. Race St., Urbana) for coffee and rolls. The original members were Harry Bigler, Lester “Lum” Corrie, Mal Hickman, Roy Horn, and Oscar Steer, but an open invitation stood for anyone to join them. The group took their name from the game played at the end of meetings which determined who would pay the bill for the group. Attendance ran anywhere from 25 to 50 regular attendees, but guests were often not counted. As well as being a social gathering, the members often contributed anonymously to charitable causes, such as providing meals to housebound individuals.

**Scope and Content:**

This collection contains daily attendance records for the social/civic organization “Chickens Come to Roost” (1941-1977). The correspondence in this collection is comprised of short notes, post cards, and birthday cards to and from individual members. A small number of photographs date from 1949, and newspaper clippings span 1948-1978. Also included are the following artifacts: a rooster comb hat, an ashtray, and a menu from Race Inn.

**Related Material:**

Book: Race Inn and the Chickens Come Home to Roost: Oral History, 1977.

Call number: A ILLINOIS (Champ) URB

Also digitized: click [here](#).

Book: Race Inn: Oral History, 1979.

Call number: A Cassette ILLINOIS (Champ) URB

Also digitized: click [here](#) to listen.



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**Subject Terms:**

Clubs--Urbana.

Restaurants -- Illinois -- Urbana.

**Name Terms:**

Bigler, Harry

Corrie, Lester.

Dillavou, Ann.

Ellsworth, Ellen.

Ewing, Wallace H.

Green, Henry I.

Hickman, Mal.

Horn, Roy.

Slade, Les.

Steer, Oscar.

Urbana Association of Commerce.

**Container List:**

**Box 1**

Ephemera: Caricature of Oscar Steer

Folders 1-8: Chickens Come to Roost Attendance Records, 1941-1977

Folder 9-12: Chickens Come to Roost Correspondence, 1940-1976

Photograph Envelope: Chickens Come to Roost Photographs, 1949

Folder 13: Newspaper clippings

Ephemera: Chicken Hat, Race Inn ashtray, Race Inn Menu