



Robert K. McCandless
Collection, 1965-2011

Collection 36

Champaign County Historical Archives

Processed by: Laura Buchholz, 2012; Amy Bishop, 2013

Creator/Corporate Name: Robert K. McCandless; McCandless Photography

Inclusive Dates: 1965-2011

Physical Description: 128 boxes (87 linear ft.)

Language: English

Provenance:

The McCandless Collection materials were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives by Robert K. McCandless in January 2012.

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.

Biographical Note:

Robert K. McCandless was owner and photographer of McCandless Photography, a studio in Urbana and Champaign, Illinois, specializing in portraits including school, baby, family, and wedding portraits. Born in Hershey, Pennsylvania, McCandless worked at the Evening Standard in Uniontown, Pennsylvania and in the Air Force from 1951-1953 (in Korea from 1952-1953) as a public information officer. He was a district chairman and later national chairman for the Freedom of Information Committee of National Press Photographers Association. In April 1956 he joined the *Urbana Courier* as a photographer. In 1965 he left the *Courier* and opened McCandless Photography at Washington and Race Streets in Urbana. He moved the studio to 113 W. University Avenue in Champaign in 1974-1975, and moved to Lincoln Square Mall in 1983. He closed the studio in 2011. He served as a member of the Urbana Free Library Board of Trustees and an active member of the First Methodist Church in Champaign.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection consists largely of studio and outdoor portraits of residents of Urbana, Champaign, and nearby towns. Dates range from January 1965 to March 2011. McCandless photographed groups such as the Urbana Police, Urbana Firemen, Champaign County Bar Association, and the First Christian Church for directories, as well as other organizations such as Boy Scouts and fraternities and sororities. The collection consists largely of negatives (probably acetate) and prints in envelopes. A typical envelope might include an order form or receipt, mask with negative, other negatives (sometimes in plastic covering), and one or more printed proofs. There are both color and black and white negatives and proofs. Each envelope typically has identifying information written or typed on the envelope including customer name, date, address, phone number, and customer number. There are 14 boxes containing index cards which provide cross reference to the negative envelopes in some series. There are 2.5 boxes of CDs, each CD contains approximately 1-10 TIFF or JPEG files. Files range in



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date from January 2007 to March 2011. After the studio closed and before transfer to the archives, McCandless sold some but not many of the negative envelopes to the subjects.

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged into five series: Early White (01/1965-12/1976); General (12/10/1976-03/2011); Schools (1978-1988); Kidz Club (c.1995-c.2005); and Miscellaneous Projects and Notable Individuals, which is further organized into six subseries.

Arrangement follows McCandless' order, and series are reflective of different project types as well as his method of organization (in some series, cards provide an alphabetical cross reference through customer numbers to negative envelopes). When envelopes are arranged by customer number, note that customer numbers typically—but not always—correspond to a chronological order of arrangement. It appears that customer numbers correspond to customers, though in some cases it appears that numbers correspond to the sitting.

Series 1: Early White (01/1965-12/1976)

Photographs taken in the early years of McCandless' studio career. Envelopes are arranged by customer number; index cards are arranged alphabetically by customer's last name and can be cross referenced to the envelopes through their order numbers. The cards are physically separate from boxes containing envelopes. This series includes portraits of individuals of the following groups throughout the series: 4-H House; 52 E. Armory; abe-u; Acacia; Chi Omega; Alpha Delta Kappa; Alpha Kappa Lambda; Alpha Phi Delta; Carle Clinic Dris; Champaign County Bar; DSPHI Comp.; Kappa Alpha Theta; Kappa Delta; Kappa Kappa Gamma; Kiwanis Club; Regacia; Phi Delta Theta; Tri Delta; TRI Delta Cord; Urbana Police; WKID; Zeta Tea Alpha.

Note: This series contains a logical overlap in the numbering order which affects numbers between 8507-8905. Previous to number 8507, customer numbers were four digit numbers. Beginning with 8507, it appears that the person stamping customer numbers began stamping a zero in front of some numbers (creating a five digit number). However, the four digit numbers also continued, creating different but numerically parallel customer numbers. Hence, number 8507 is a different portrait, sitting, and date than number 08507. Order between 8507-8905 (and 08507-08905) are affected. After 8905/08905, the number stamping continues with only five digit numbers. The affected dates are between 2/28/1972 and 9/5/1974.

Series 2: General (12/10/1976-03/2011)

Envelopes are arranged by customer number; index cards are arranged alphabetically by customer's last name and can be cross referenced to the envelopes through their numbers. The cards are physically separate from boxes containing envelopes. Includes 2.5 boxes of CDs.

Series 3: Schools (1978-1988)

School portraits of students at SJO (St. Joseph, IL), Unity (Tolono, IL), ABL (Allerton-Broadlands-Longview, Broadlands, IL), JAM (Jamaica, Sidell, IL), and Uni (Urbana-Champaign, IL). Arranged by school, year, and then customer numbers. Cards are placed within each box.



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Series 4: Kidz Club (c.1995-c.2005)

Kidz Club was a program by McCandless to photograph infants at 3 months, 6 months, and 1 year of age. Arranged alphabetically by child's last name.

Series 5: Miscellaneous Projects and Notable Individuals

This series contains one-time projects as well as envelopes selected by McCandless of notable individuals.

Subseries 5.1: Notable Individuals (1966-1972)

Envelopes and cards of notable people selected by McCandless after closing the studio. Included is a printed paper written by McCandless with the envelope number, name, and remarks about the subjects. Arranged alphabetically by last name; cards are included in the box as well as loose proofs.

Subseries 5.2: Champaign County Bar Association (1967)

Approximately 250 envelopes of Champaign County Bar members. Arranged by customer number.

Subseries 5.3: Urbana Police (1969)

Approximately 31 envelopes of Urbana Police officers for a composite. Arranged by customer number.

Subseries 5.4: First Christian Church (7/7/1972)

McCandless photographed church members for a directory. Arranged by customer number.

Subseries 5.5: Provena (11/1998-07/2003)

A program with Provena to photograph infants at 3 months, 6 months, 1 year of age. Arranged by customer number.

Subseries 5.5.1: Provena DNF (Did Not Finish [program]) (12/02/1998-7/24/2003)

This subseries contains envelopes of those who did not complete the Provena program, separated from the Provena series by McCandless. Arranged by customer number.

Subseries 5.6: Urbana Firemen (c.2007)

Approximately 60 envelopes of Urbana Firemen. 3" x 2" color prints, no negatives. Arranged in no discernible order.

Subject Terms:

Portrait photography
Portrait photography--20th century
Portrait photography--Children

Name Terms:

McCandless, Robert K., 1928-
Provena Covenant Medical Center (Urbana, Ill.)
First Christian Church (Urbana, Ill.)
Urbana (Ill.). Fire Dept.
Urbana (Ill.). Police Dept.--Officials And Employees
Champaign County Bar Association
Saint Joseph Public School (St. Joseph, Ill.)
Unity School (Tolono, Ill.)



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Allerton-Broadlands-Longview Community Junior-Senior High School (Broadlands, Ill.)
Jamaica School (Sidell, Ill.)
University Laboratory High School (Urbana, Ill.)

Container List:

- Box 1:** Series 1, cards A-R
- Box 2:** Series 1, cards R-Z & A-B
- Box 3:** Series 1, cards B-C
- Box 4:** Series 1, cards C-F
- Box 5:** Series 1, cards G-H
- Box 6:** Series 1, cards H-L
- Box 7:** Series 1, cards L-Mc
- Box 8:** Series 1, cards Mc-R
- Box 9:** Series 1, cards R-S
- Box 10:** Series 1, cards S-W
- Box 11:** Series 1, cards W-Z
- Box 12:** Series 1, envelopes 286-621
- Box 13:** Series 1, envelopes 622-0996
- Box 14:** Series 1, envelopes 0997-1309
- Box 15:** Series 1, envelopes 1310-1692
- Box 16:** Series 1, envelopes 1693-2051
- Box 17:** Series 1, envelopes 2052-2381
- Box 18:** Series 1, envelopes 2382-2877
- Box 19:** Series 1, envelopes 2879-3355
- Box 20:** Series 1, envelopes 3359-3656
- Box 21:** Series 1, envelopes 3657-3879
- Box 22:** Series 1, envelopes 3881-4182
- Box 23:** Series 1, envelopes 4183-4643
- Box 24:** Series 1, envelopes 4644-4941
- Box 25:** Series 1, envelopes 4942-5134
- Box 26:** Series 1, envelopes 5135-5327
- Box 27:** Series 1, envelopes 5328-5569
- Box 28:** Series 1, envelopes 5570-5898
- Box 29:** Series 1, envelopes 5899-6191
- Box 30:** Series 1, envelopes 6192-6479
- Box 31:** Series 1, envelopes 6480-6754
- Box 32:** Series 1, envelopes 6756-6957
- Box 33:** Series 1, envelopes 6958-7187
- Box 34:** Series 1, envelopes 7188-7415
- Box 35:** Series 1, envelopes 7416-7764
- Box 36:** Series 1, envelopes 7766-8069
- Box 37:** Series 1, envelopes 8070-8321



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- Box 38:** Series 1, envelopes 8322-8544
- Box 39:** Series 1, envelopes 8545-8760
- Box 40:** Series 1, envelopes 8762-10956
- Box 41:** Series 1, envelopes 10957-11148
- Box 42:** Series 1, envelopes 11149-11424
- Box 43:** Series 1, envelopes 11425-11709
- Box 44:** Series 1, envelopes 11710-11994
- Box 45:** Series 1, envelopes 11995-12292
- Box 46:** Series 1, envelopes 12294-12475, 08507-08612
- Box 47:** Series 1, envelopes 08613-08872
- Box 48:** Series 1, envelopes 08873-09342
- Box 49:** Series 1, envelopes 09343-09572
- Box 50:** Series 1, envelopes 09573-09871
- Box 51:** Series 1, envelopes 09873-10141
- Box 52:** Series 1, envelopes 10142-10355
- Box 53:** Series 1, envelopes 10356-10599
- Box 54:** Series 1, envelopes 10600-10797
- Box 55:** Series 1, envelopes 10798-10849
- Box 56:** Series 1, Oversized envelopes 327-1527
- Box 57:** Series 1, Oversized envelopes 1533-1971
- Box 58:** Series 1, Oversized envelopes 2046-3334
- Box 59:** Series 1, Oversized envelopes 3358-12469, 08768-10843
- Box 60:** Series 2, cards Abbott-Burke
- Box 61:** Series 2, cards Burkett-Diveley
- Box 62:** Series 2, cards Dixon-Graffis
- Box 63:** Series 2, cards Graham-Johnston
- Box 64:** Series 2, cards Johnston-Martin
- Box 65:** Series 2, cards Martin-Palit
- Box 66:** Series 2, cards Palit-Schroeder
- Box 67:** Series 2, cards Schroeder-Trail
- Box 68:** Series 2, cards Trame-Zvonar
- Box 69:** Series 2, envelopes 0106-0297
- Box 70:** Series 2, envelopes 0298-0618
- Box 71:** Series 2, envelopes 0619-1031
- Box 72:** Series 2, envelopes 1034-1269
- Box 73:** Series 2, envelopes 1270-1550
- Box 74:** Series 2, envelopes 1551-1948
- Box 75:** Series 2, envelopes 1949-2130
- Box 76:** Series 2, envelopes 2131-2357
- Box 77:** Series 2, envelopes 2360-2611
- Box 78:** Series 2, envelopes 2612-2815
- Box 79:** Series 2, envelopes 2816-3073
- Box 80:** Series 2, envelopes 3077-3321



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Box 81: Series 2, envelopes 3322-3485
Box 82: Series 2, envelopes 3486-3724
Box 83: Series 2, envelopes 3727-3965
Box 84: Series 2, envelopes 3966-4137
Box 85: Series 2, envelopes 4138-4285
Box 86: Series 2, envelopes 4286-4487
Box 87: Series 2, envelopes 4490-4662
Box 88: Series 2, envelopes 4663-4830
Box 89: Series 2, envelopes 4831-5100
Box 90: Series 2, envelopes 5102-5222
Box 91: Series 2, envelopes 5223-5358
Box 92: Series 2, envelopes 5359-5505
Box 93: Series 2, envelopes 5506-5750
Box 94: Series 2, envelopes 5751-5824
Box 95: Series 2, envelopes 5825-5973
Box 96: Series 2, envelopes 5974-6116
Box 97: Series 2, envelopes 6117-6381
Box 98: Series 2, envelopes 6382-6563
Box 99: Series 2, envelopes 6564-6816
Box 100: Series 2, envelopes 6819-7042
Box 101: Series 2, envelopes 7043-7221
Box 102: Series 2, envelopes 7222-7413
Box 103: Series 2, envelopes 7415-7619
Box 104: Series 2, envelopes 7624-7752
Box 105: Series 2, envelopes 7753-7884
Box 106: Series 2, envelopes 7885-8104
Box 107: Series 2, envelopes 8105-8301
Box 108: Series 2, envelopes 8302-8452
Box 109: Series 2, envelopes 8453-8613
Box 110: Series 2, envelopes 8614-8785
Box 111: Series 2, envelopes 8788-8999
Box 112: Series 2, envelopes 9005-9138
Box 113: Series 2, envelopes 9139-9237
Box 114: Series 2, envelopes 9238-9335
Box 115: Series 2, envelopes 9336-9457
Box 116: Series 2, envelopes 9459-9634
Box 117: Series 2, envelopes 9636-9867
Box 118: Series 2, envelopes 9871-9995
Box 119: Series 2, envelopes 9996-10133
Box 120: Series 2, envelopes 10134-10292
Box 121: Series 2, envelopes 10293-10491
Box 122: Series 2, envelopes 10492-10677
Box 123: Series 2, envelopes 10679-10826



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- Box 124:** Series 2, envelopes 10827-10950
- Box 125:** Series 2, envelopes 10952-11071
- Box 126:** Series 2, envelopes 11072-11253
- Box 127:** Series 2, envelopes 11254-11460
- Box 128:** Series 2, envelopes 11461-11642
- Box 129:** Series 2, envelopes 11643-11755
- Box 130:** Series 2, envelopes 11756-11913
- Box 131:** Series 2, envelopes 11914-12121
- Box 132:** Series 2, envelopes 12126-12310
- Box 133:** Series 2, envelopes 12311-12420
- Box 134:** Series 2, envelopes 12422-12638
- Box 135:** Series 2, envelopes 12640-12843
- Box 136:** Series 2, envelopes 12844-13079
- Box 137:** Series 2, envelopes 13080-13319
- Box 138:** Series 2, envelopes 13327-13596
- Box 139:** Series 2, envelopes 13597-13778
- Box 140:** Series 2, envelopes 13779-14033
- Box 141:** Series 2, envelopes 14034-14304
- Box 142:** Series 2, envelopes 14310-14562
- Box 143:** Series 2, envelopes 14564-14834
- Box 144:** Series 2, envelopes 14851-15109
- Box 145:** Series 2, envelopes 15113-15390
- Box 146:** Series 2, envelopes 15390-15678
- Box 147:** Series 2, envelopes 15679-16007
- Box 148:** Series 2, envelopes 16015-16322
- Box 149:** Series 2, envelopes 16327-16567
- Box 150:** Series 2, envelopes 16570-16782
- Box 151:** Series 2, envelopes 16783-17063
- Box 152:** Series 2, envelopes 17064-17269
- Box 153:** Series 2, envelopes 17273-17471
- Box 154:** Series 2, envelopes 17472-17622
- Box 155:** Series 2, envelopes 17623-17712
- Box 156:** Series 2, envelopes 17713-17950
- Box 157:** Series 2, envelopes 17952-18141
- Box 158:** Series 2, Oversized envelopes 1535-10316
- Box 159:** Series 2, Oversized envelopes 10325-13005
- Box 160:** Series 2, Oversized envelopes 13024-13652
- Box 161:** Series 2, Oversized envelopes 13655-14696
- Box 162:** Series 2, Oversized envelopes 14723-15698
- Box 163:** Series 2, Oversized envelopes 15734-16060
- Box 164:** Series 2, Oversized envelopes 16071-16521
- Box 165:** Series 2, Oversized envelopes 16654-17302
- Box 166:** Series 2, Oversized envelopes 17308-17652



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- Box 167:** Series 2, Oversized envelopes 17653-18256
- Box 168:** Series 2, CDs 4030-18187
- Box 169:** Series 2, CDs 18188-18398
- Box 170:** Series 2, CDs 18399-18601
- Box 171:** Series 3, Uni 1978, JAM 1984
- Box 172:** Series 3, JAM 1985, 1986 (part 1)
- Box 173:** Series 3, JAM 1986 (part 2), 1987 (part 1)
- Box 174:** Series 3, JAM 1987 (part 2), 1988
- Box 175:** Series 3, ABL 1978, 1979, 1980 (part 1)
- Box 176:** Series 3, ABL 1980 (part 2), 1981, 1982 (part 1)
- Box 177:** Series 3, ABL 1982 (part 2), 1983, 1984, 1985 (part 1)
- Box 178:** Series 3, ABL 1985 (part 2), 1986, 1987, 1988 (part 1)
- Box 179:** Series 3, ABL 1988 (part 2), SJO 1979 cards + envelopes 1501-1752
- Box 180:** Series 3, SJO 1979 envelopes 1755-2270
- Box 181:** Series 3, SJO 1980 cards + envelopes 2313-2456
- Box 182:** Series 3, SJO 1980 envelopes 2458-2554, 1981 cards and envelopes 2949-2981
- Box 183:** Series 3, SJO 1981 envelopes 2983-3170
- Box 184:** Series 3, SJO 1981 envelopes 3173-3251, 1982 cards and envelopes 3641-3776
- Box 185:** Series 3, SJO 1982 envelopes 3777-3961, 1983 cards and envelopes 4210-4229
- Box 186:** Series 3, SJO 1983 envelopes 4236-4399
- Box 187:** Series 3, SJO 1983 envelopes 4400-4470, 1984 cards and envelopes 4834-4909
- Box 188:** Series 3, SJO 1984 envelopes 4914-5020
- Box 189:** Series 3, SJO 1984 envelopes 5021-5089, 1985 cards and envelopes 5403-5568
- Box 190:** Series 3, SJO 1985 envelopes 5572-5650
- Box 191:** Series 3, SJO 1985 envelopes 5651-5770, 1986 cards and envelopes 6085-6202
- Box 192:** Series 3, SJO 1986 envelopes 6203-6255
- Box 193:** Series 3, SJO 1986 envelopes 6257-6289, SJO 1978 cards + envelopes 820-881
- Box 194:** Series 3, SJO 1978 envelopes 882-983
- Box 195:** Series 3, SJO 1984-1987, SJO 1987 cards + envelopes 6699-6823
- Box 196:** Series 3, SJO 1987 envelopes 6833-6934
- Box 197:** Series 3, SJO 1987 envelopes 6941-7041, Unity 1982 cards + envelopes 3608-3658
- Box 198:** Series 3, Unity 1982 envelopes 3662-3803
- Box 199:** Series 3, Unity 1982 envelopes 3813-3948
 - Series 5.1 (Notable Individuals) cards + envelopes A-S (Sholem)
- Box 200:** Series 4, A-H
- Box 201:** Series 4, J-O
- Box 202:** Series 4, P-Z
- Box 203:** Series 5.1 (Notable Individuals) envelopes S (Skadden)-W
- Box 204:** Series 5.2 (Champaign County Bar Assoc., 1967)
 - Series 5.3 (Urbana Police, 1969)
 - Series 5.4 (First Christian Church, 1972) envelopes 08865-09021
- Box 205:** Series 5.4 (First Christian Church, 1972) envelopes 09022-09055
 - [Series 1 or 2?] "To Refile in General" envelopes 397-09415



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- Box 206:** Series 5.5 (Provena) envelopes 15484-15728
- Box 207:** Series 5.5 (Provena) envelopes 15735-15913
- Box 208:** Series 5.5 (Provena) envelopes 15917-16086
- Box 209:** Series 5.5 (Provena) envelopes 16091-16200
- Box 210:** Series 5.5 (Provena) envelopes 16205-16390
- Box 211:** Series 5.5 (Provena) envelopes 16391-16599
- Box 212:** Series 5.5 (Provena) envelopes 16608-16829
- Box 213:** Series 5.5 (Provena) envelopes 16834-17056
- Box 214:** Series 5.5 (Provena) envelopes 17058-17333
- Box 215:** Series 5.5 (Provena) envelopes 17334-17442
 - Series 5.5.1 (Provena DNF) envelopes 15493-16716
- Box 216:** Series 5.5.1 (Provena DNF) envelopes 16721-17502
- Box 217:** Series 5.5.1 (Provena DNF) envelopes 17526-17606
 - Series 5.6 (Urbana Firemen)
 - [Series 1 or 2?] "To Refile—Holding for Deposit"