

Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Service Men's Center

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of
Alabama 2003

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical/Historical note	3
Scope and Contents note	4
Administrative Information	4
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	5

Summary Information

Repository:	University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama
Title:	Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Service Men's Center Scrapbook
ID:	MSS.1604
Date [inclusive]:	1943-1946
Physical Description:	2.8 Linear feet (1 scrapbook in 2 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	A scrapbook containing photographs, letters, greeting cards, newspaper clippings, activity programs, and other items relating to the Tuscaloosa Service Men's Center for soldiers during World War Two.

Preferred Citation

Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Service Men's Center Scrapbook, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical/Historical note

The Tuscaloosa Junior Chamber of Commerce established the Service Men's Center, a facility for entertaining military personnel stationed in the area, in January 1943. Mrs. Elizabeth Morley was its hostess. The Center was originally intended to host young American, British, and French men who were in the Army Specialized Training Program at the University of Alabama, pilots training at the Van De Graff Airport, and Air Corps cadets training at the University of Alabama. Over one hundred carefully chosen ladies between the ages of eighteen and thirty served as hostesses to these young, healthy men. Soon, however, the healthy men left Tuscaloosa and were replaced by wounded soldiers at the Northington General Hospital in Tuscaloosa. Northington was constructed in 1943 and during the war became the world's largest burn hospital, specializing in plastic surgery. The hostesses not only entertained soldiers at the Service Men's Center, they also visited soldiers at Northington, where the auditorium served as a dance hall. The hostesses offered therapy through kindness to scarred soldiers and helped them re-enter the public world. The service center provided a safe environment for service men to spend time with young ladies from Tuscaloosa and the University of Alabama and to enjoy games, sports, dinners, dances, plays, and other activities. Originally located at 1922 Broad Street,

the Tuscaloosa Service Men's Center moved to what is now the University Club of the University of Alabama on September 1, 1943.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents note

A scrapbook containing photographs, letters, greeting cards, newspaper clippings, activity programs, patches, magazines, military insignia descriptions, and other miscellaneous items. The scrapbook focuses on the activities held at the service men's center rather than Northington Hospital. Some of the newspaper clippings, however, do relate to the latter. The scrapbook is not arranged chronologically.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Box 870266
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Processed by

Donnelly Lancaster, 2003

Provenance

Gift of Mrs. Burton (Elizabeth) Morley, 1967

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Alabama
- War and Military

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Scrapbook, part 1	Box 5980	
Tuscaloosa Service Men's Center Scrapbook, 1943-1946		
<u>Digital Object: u0003_0001604_0000001</u>		
Scrapbook, part 2	Box 6114	
Loose Material (1 of 4)	Box 5980	Folder 1
Loose Material (2 of 4)	Box 5980	Folder 2
Loose Material (3 of 4)	Box 5980	Folder 3
Loose Material (4 of 4)	Box 5980	Folder 4