

## **“Spiff the Biffs” Collection**

**Collection number:** B600, Accession #: 2021.402.0001

**Collection Repository:** Hennepin History Museum  
2302 Third Ave.  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

**Collection Title:** “Spiff the Biffs” Collection

**Dates:** 1988-2002 (bulk 1997-2002)

**Extent:** 1 box

**Creator:** Spiff the Biffs Committee

**Language of the material:** English

**Processed by:** Katherine Stotis

### **ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY**

“Spiff the Biffs” Project purpose was to restore the historic Lake Harriet bathrooms (1998-2002). Spiff is a term that is defined as improving the appearance of or making presentable. Biffs is a term for a toilet and a Minnesota toilet company. These bathrooms are still in use.

Harry Wild Jones, a Minneapolis architect, designed two bathrooms in 1891. These bathrooms are known for their pagoda-inspired architecture. They were closed in 1990 due to their disrepair. This is listed in the newspaper articles in the research folder. The biffs are one of the oldest buildings that are still in use by the Minneapolis Parks system. In 1998, the local grassroots campaign was successful in collaborating with private donors and neighborhood organizations to restore the bathrooms to their former glory.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The collection is primarily concerned with the fundraising efforts (The garden party) and the opening ceremony (Grand opening). The dates are listed as 1997-2002, but the archivist located some materials from the late 1980s. The archivist added additional research in the “archivist’s notes” folder. This collection detail the work of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation board, neighborhood organizations, Preservation Alliance of Minnesota.

The collection is arranged in three series with no sub-series. The series include:

Series 1: The Garden Party

Series 2: The Grand Opening

### **ACCESS**

The collection is open for researchers and has no restrictions.

## **COPYRIGHT**

The researcher assumes the responsibility for ensuring copyright is followed. When and where possible the archive will provide information related to the copyright owners, but it will be the responsibility of the researcher to ensure copyright laws are followed. Requests for permission to publish material in this collection should be directed to the Archivist.

## **RELATED MATERIAL**

There are relevant clippings about Lake Harriet and the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board in the library.

## **ACQUISITION**

The collection was found in the museum without information about provenance.

## **COLLECTION INVENTORY**

| <u>Box No.</u> | <u>Folder No.</u> |                 |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1              | 1                 | Archivist Notes |
| 1              | 2                 | Proclamation    |

### **Series 1: Garden Party**

| <u>Box No.</u> | <u>Folder No.</u> |                        |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1              | 3                 | “Scrapbook”            |
| 1              | 4                 | Press Releases         |
| 1              | 5                 | Architectural Drawings |
| 1              | 6                 | Media Information      |
| 1              | 7                 | Invites                |
| 1              | 8                 | Budget                 |
| 1              | 9                 | Donors                 |
| 1              | 10                | Invoices               |
| 1              | 11                | Pamphlets              |

### **Series 2: Grand Opening**

| <u>Box No.</u> | <u>Folder No.</u> |  |
|----------------|-------------------|--|
|----------------|-------------------|--|

|   |    |                        |
|---|----|------------------------|
| 1 | 12 | Schedule               |
| 1 | 13 | Opening Ceremony       |
| 1 | 14 | Committee Contacts     |
| 1 | 15 | Minutes                |
| 1 | 16 | Funding                |
| 1 | 17 | Research               |
| 1 | 18 | Architectural drawings |
| 1 | 19 | Landscaping            |
| 1 | 20 | Press Release 1        |
| 1 | 21 | Press Release 2        |
| 1 | 22 | Pictures               |
| 1 | 23 | Miscellaneous          |