

Julian Stopyra Polish American Veterans Post Collection

Repository: Lawrence History Center

Accession Numbers: 2019.026 (previous number was 2018.061)

Access: Majority of the Collection is open for research; some material in Box 3 is restricted / not available to the public, and will be removed before access to the collection is given.

Quantity: 5 record storage boxes in closed stacks and binder full of photocopied photographs

Processed and Inventoried by: Mary Pannos

Finding Aid by: Amita Kiley

Provenance: The material in this collection was donated by members of the Julian Stopyra Polish American Veterans Post before they vacated their headquarters at 23 Monmouth Street in Lawrence in December, 2018. Some material was dropped off at the Lawrence History Center by Post members, but the majority was picked up at the Post by Amita Kiley and Jonas Stundzia in November and December, 2018 and transported to Lawrence History Center in Amita's car. The members of the Post allowed Amita and Jonas the opportunity to explore the entire building and take any desired items. The building was sold in November, 2018.

Historical note: Lawrence was once home to dozens of ethnic groups, most of whom formed clubs and societies to keep their vibrant cultures alive even while they assimilated to life in the USA. These clubs provided camaraderie, comfort and assistance to newly arriving immigrants, or even provided respite to the newcomers who were simply homesick. The clubs also served as a gathering space for soldiers returning home from war. According to Louise Sandberg, archivist at the Lawrence Public Library, the Julian Stopyra Post was so named in honor of Julian Stopyra, the first Lawrence serviceman to die in service during World War II. Stopyra was a radioman aboard the USS Arizona. When the Japanese attacked the fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, he went down with the ship. The Polish American Veterans named their post after Stopyra in 1945. A stone marker was originally at the intersection of Avon and Trinity Streets (a few blocks over from the Post and Holy Trinity Church, a Polish church) dedicated to Chief Petty Officer Julian Stopyra, USN. The stone marker is now at Bellevue Cemetery and has been replaced by a sign.

Although their building was sold in November 2018, the Post remains an active organization and participates in many veterans' activities as well as donating to veterans' causes.

Scope and Content: The Collection consists of 5 boxes of original material from the Post as well as the Ladies Auxiliary. Material includes organizational history and information on activities, finances, personnel, veterans, scholarships awarded and social events, as well as textiles and trophies. There are over 1,000 photographs chronicling these events; photocopies are available within the collection and the original photographs have been removed to the general

photograph collection. Oversized signs are noted in the finding aid and have been placed with LHC's framed material.

Series Arrangement:

Box 1-History and Daily Activities

Box 2-Financial Records

Box 3-Assorted Items

Box 4-Textiles

Box 5-Trophies, Signs, Oversized Photographs

Box 1-History and Daily Activities

Ladies Auxiliary Meeting Minutes Ledgers:

1959-1974

1974-1993

1993-2002

2002-2006

Stopyra Post Constitution and By-Laws

Business Cards and Ticket Stubs

Julian Stopyra's Personal History and Enlistment Information

Registry of Deeds Plan of Monmouth Street dated November 1965

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Certificate dated April 15, 1955

Note: Records in this box include but are not limited to:

“Navy Recruiting Station” form (photocopy) signed by Augustine Stopyra

United States Navy Enlistment Form (photocopy) for J. Stopyra March 25, 1940

Box 2-Financial Records

Accounting Ledger 1949-1968

Bay State Merchants Statements and Cancelled Vouchers 1950-1957

Cash Receipt Books 1950-1955

Bar Receipts and Paperwork

Council Meeting Expenses and Paid Dues

Stopyra Hall Cash Receipts

Lawrence Area Business Invoices

Financial Reports 2001-2004

Note: Records in this box include but are not limited to:

“Bartender on Duty/Sign In-Out Sheets”

Box 3-Assorted Items

Scrapbooks (6) (All photographs have been removed to the Photo Collection)

Various Plaques and Trophy Nameplates

“Welcome! PAV Lawrence” Signs (2)

Various Citations

“The American Weekly Newspaper” week of January 10, 1943

“The Evening Tribune” laminated clipping dated June 7, 1950

Assorted Brochures

Massachusetts Car Titles (2)

“Julian Stopyra Post Ladies’ Auxiliary” Stationary (1 piece)

Miscellaneous Papers

Convention Materials

Children’s Christmas Party Sign-up Sheet dated December 10, 2005

Rental Hall Agreement Sample

Scholarship Applications (Restricted Access)

Note: Records in this box include but are not limited to:

Poczatek Scholarship Fund Charity Dinner Dance Booklet

54th Annual Convention Schedule dated June 2002

Receipts from the Licensing Commission of the City of Lawrence

Bartenders’ Names and Telephone Numbers

List of Video Machines

“In Memory of Juliaan Stopyra” Nameplate

“Remember the Arizona” Print

Polish American Veterans 57th Annual State Convention Booklets dated June 2005 (3)

“The New March of Dimes Certificate of Appreciation” Plaque

“In Memoriam Polish Americans Veterans” Photograph

Box 4-Textiles

American Flag

“Certificate of Flag Presentation” from the Department of the Navy dated November 23, 1988

Polish American Veterans Banner

Red Band Uniform Pants (3)

Uniform Shirt (Front “Stopyra Post”/”Back “White Eagle Lunch”)

Box 5-Trophies, Signs, Oversized Photographs

“Holy Trinity 58-59 Winner/Julian Stopyra Post” Bowling Trophy

“Sutherland’s 1961 Santa Claus Parade/1st Prize/Miscellaneous Category/Julian Stopyra Post/White Eagles Junior Drum and Bugle Corps” Trophy (this trophy is disassembled).

“Polish Club/Welcome for Polish Beer Vodka and Good Friends” Canvas Sign

Note: This sign is housed in closed stacks on top of shelving lying flat.

“Julian Stopyra Post” Sign

Note: This sign is housed with framed photos in basement.

“1947-1967/Polish American Veterans/Est. 1947/Julian Stopyra Post” Sign

Note: This sign is housed with framed photos in basement.

Black and White Photographs (3) of Men in Uniform

Note: These photographs have been removed to Photo Collection.

Photograph of U.S.S. Arizona

Note: This photograph has been removed to Photo Collection.

Framed Photograph of Julian Stopyra with Nameplate

Note: This photograph is housed with framed photos in basement.