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Guide to the Wadsworth S. Kokernak Photograph Collection, 1904-ca. 1950 (2012.94)

Creator: Kokernak, Wadsworth (Walter) S.

Accession Number: 2012.94

Extent: 1 photograph album and 58 digital images

Source: Donated by Michael Kokernak, 27 July 2012

Inclusive Dates: 1904-ca. 1950

Bulk Dates: 1920s

Access: Access to this collection is unrestricted.

Abstract: The collection comprises photographs created and compiled by Wadsworth (Walter) S. Kokernak.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection comprises photographs created and compiled by Wadsworth (Walter) S. Kokernak, a photographer and for many years a lithographer for the Maqua Company. Subjects include GE outdoor lighting, family photographs, amateur and school sports, and Schenectady during the 1920s.

Biographical Note:

Wadsworth (Walter) S. Kokernak was born in Schenectady in 1908, to Stanley J. and Antoinette (Edna) Witkowski Kokernak. He had one sister, Frances. Mr. Kokernak attended St. Adalbert's grammar schools and Mont Pleasant High School, graduating in 1926. He was an avid athlete, playing hockey, football, baseball, and basketball. He was also an excellent swimmer and lifeguard. At age 16, in 1924, Mr. Kokernak began an apprenticeship with the General Electric Company, eventually becoming a commercial photographer. In 1934 he joined the Maqua Printing Company (owned by General Electric) as a lithographer, where he operated the dark room copy camera until his death in 1969. Mr. Kokernak also served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 – 1945 as a Photographer's Mate Third Class. For most of his life, Kokernak resided on 780-782 Bailey Street, in the Bellevue section of Schenectady; from 1951 until the end of his life, he lived at 1909 Bentley Road in Niskayuna. Kokernak married Naomi Adams and had two children, Stephanie and Michael. He was a member of the General Electric Quarter

Century Club and Polish National Alliance (PNA), serving as recording secretary and treasurer. He also served as treasurer for the Lithographers Union and coached Little League baseball. Kokernak died in 1969 at the age of 60. He is buried in St. Adalbert's Cemetery. (Biographical note submitted by donor, Michael Kokernak)

Finding Aid Created By/Date: Melissa Tacke, 12 September 2012

Photographs in photograph album:

Description
Photograph of GE parking lot – ca. 1930
Underside of a car over a greasing pit. Illuminated by two GE Novalux handy floodlights – 1931
Operating room illumination – Holophane 15 lens system. Schenectady Works, General Electric Company – 1930
Union Street, Schenectady, N.Y. Illuminated by GE form 32 Novalux pendent units with 10,000-lumen series lamps – 1930
Altamont Gun Club, Altamont, N.Y. GE projectors arranged for night shooting. 8 type L-31-A with 1,000-watt Mazda lamps – 1930
Altamont Gun Club, Altamont, N.Y. Shooting at night by GE floodlighting – 1930
Altamont Gun Club, Altamont, N.Y. GE floodlighting arranged for night shooting – 1930
Union Street, Schenectady, N.Y. Illuminated by GE form 32 Novalux luminaires, 10,000 lumen Mazda lamps. Spacing 100 ft., height 20 ft. – 1930
Union Street, Schenectady, N.Y. Illuminated by GE form 32 Novalux luminaires, 10,000 lumen Mazda lamps. Spacing 100 ft., height 20 ft. – 1930 [different street view]
Socony gasoline service station equipped with 4 GE form L-31-A Novalux floodlighting projectors with 1,000-watt Mazda lamps, Standard Oil Company of New York, Union Street and Brandywine Avenue, Schenectady, N.Y. – 1930
Socony gasoline service station lighted by 4 GE form L-31-A Novalux floodlighting projectors with 1,000-watt Mazda lamps, Standard Oil Company of New York, Union Street and Brandywine Avenue, Schenectady, N.Y. – 1930
Socony gasoline service station equipped with 4 GE form L-31-A Novalux floodlighting projectors with 1,000-watt Mazda lamps, Standard Oil Company of New York, State and Church Streets, Schenectady, N.Y. – 1930
Socony gasoline service station lighted by 4 GE form L-31-A Novalux floodlighting projectors with 1,000-watt Mazda lamps, Standard Oil Company of New York, State and Church Streets, Schenectady, N.Y. – 1930
Socony gasoline service station equipped with 4 GE form L-31-A Novalux floodlighting projectors with 1,000-watt Mazda lamps, Standard Oil Company of New York, State Street and Brandywine Avenue, Schenectady, N.Y. – 1930
Socony gasoline service station lighted by 4 GE form L-31-A Novalux floodlighting projectors with 1,000-watt Mazda lamps, Standard Oil Company of New York, State Street and Brandywine Avenue, Schenectady, N.Y. – 1930
[Hawkins Stadium, Albany, N.Y., lighted for night game, view from outfield toward bleachers – ca. 1930]
[Hawkins Stadium, Albany, N.Y., lighted for night game, view of diamond from

bleachers – ca. 1930]
[lighting apparatus for Hawkins Stadium, Albany, N.Y. – ca. 1930]
[men working on lighting apparatus at Hawkins Stadium, Albany, N.Y. – ca. 1930]
Hawkins Stadium, Albany, N.Y. Baseball illumination by General Electric. View of grandstand – 1930
Menands, N.Y. Miniature golf course. GE L-51 floodlights, using 1,000-watt white bowl Mazda C lamps – 1930
Menands, N.Y. Miniature golf course. Lighted by GE L-51 floodlights, using 1,000-watt white bowl Mazda C lamps – 1930
Menands, N.Y. Golf driving range. 20 GE type L-31 floodlights using 1,000 watt Mazda lamps. Steve A. Brodie – designer and builder – 1930
[night view of same Menands miniature golf course as above, with lighting – 1930]
[night view of same Menands miniature golf course as above, with lighting (different view) – 1930]
[appears to be photograph of same driving range in Menands as above. Night view with lighting – 1930]
[5 views of unidentified football field in daytime and nighttime with lighting – ca. 1930]
See also disc in album containing digital copies of all images.

Digital photographs:

File name	Description
Kokernak-01	State Street postcard – 1904
Kokernak-02	Dock Street and Erie Canal from intersection of State Street – ca. 1915
Kokernak-03	State Street postcard – 1916 [front and back image]
Kokernak-04	St. Adalbert’s School grade 1-A class (Walter Kokernak pictured) – 1916
Kokernak-05	Walter Kokernak and unidentified child – ca. 1918
Kokernak-06	Kokernak home at 780-782 Bailey Street in Schenectady – ca. 1920s
Kokernak-07	Kokernak home at 780-782 Bailey Street in Schenectady, family on porch – ca. 1920s
Kokernak-08	Bailey Street at railroad tracks – Schenectady – ca. 1920s
Kokernak-09	Erie Boulevard – night view ca. 1920s
Kokernak-10	Automobile accident – ca. 1920s
Kokernak-11	Seven unidentified men waiting by bus “Miss Lindbergh” – ca. 1920s
Kokernak-12	Three unidentified men – Mont Pleasant neighborhood – ca. 1920s
Kokernak-13	Two unidentified girls sitting on rock – ca. 1920s
Kokernak-14	Walter Kokernak and friend – ca. 1921
Kokernak-15	Eighth grade graduates at St. Adalbert’s School (Walter Kokernak pictured) – 1922
Kokernak-16	Schenectady Progress Exposition – 1924
Kokernak-17	Bellevue neighborhood – ca. 1925
Kokernak-18	Bellevue neighborhood – ca. 1925
Kokernak-19	Unidentified couple at car in Schenectady – ca. 1925
Kokernak-20	Unidentified man on street – ca. 1925
Kokernak-21	Men working on platform above railroad tracks – ca. 1925

Kokernak-22	Five unidentified men by bridge – ca. 1925
Kokernak-23	Walter Kokernak and friend on railroad tracks – ca. 1926
Kokernak-24	Walter Kokernak and friend on railroad tracks – ca. 1926
Kokernak-25	Walter Kokernak and two friends on railroad tracks – ca. 1926
Kokernak-26	Walter Kokernak and two friends gambling – ca. 1926
Kokernak-27	Walter Kokernak (left) and father, Stanley Kokernak (right) – 1926
Kokernak-28	Walter Kokernak on railroad tracks (with train coming) – ca. 1926
Kokernak-29	Two unidentified men on railroad tracks – ca. 1926
Kokernak-30	Group of 12 young men (includes Walter Kokernak) in Saratoga – ca. 1926
Kokernak-31	Lifeguard Walter Kokernak and female – ca. 1925
Kokernak-32	Indoor basketball game – ca. 1925
Kokernak-33	Football game – ca. 1925
Kokernak-34	Football team (possibly Mont Pleasant Royals?). Walter Kokernak pictured – ca. 1925
Kokernak-35	Mont Pleasant Royals football team. Walter Kokernak pictured – ca. 1925
Kokernak-36	St. Adalbert's hockey (children's team) – 1926
Kokernak-37	Hogie's All-Stars hockey team. Walter Kokernak pictured. – 1925-1926
Kokernak-38	Hogie's All-Stars / Mont Pleasant Royals hockey team. Walter Kokernak pictured. – 1925-1926
Kokernak-39	Hogie's All-Stars / Mont Pleasant Royals hockey team. Walter Kokernak pictured. – 1925-1926
Kokernak-40	Hockey practice, ca. 1925
Kokernak-41	Mont Pleasant Royals hockey team. Walter Kokernak pictured. – 1925-1926
Kokernak-42	Merrimac amateur baseball team, ca. 1930. Walter Kokernak pictured.
Kokernak-43	Walter Kokernak in baseball uniform leaning on car, ca. 1930
Kokernak-44	St. Adalbert's basketball team. Walter Kokernak pictured – 1930.
Kokernak-45	St. Adalbert's baseball team. Walter Kokernak pictured – n.d.
Kokernak-46	Two unidentified men in St. Adalbert's baseball uniforms – n.d.
Kokernak-47	Two unidentified men in St. Adalbert's baseball uniforms – n.d.
Kokernak-48	3 unidentified women – 1926
Kokernak-49	Railroad track – Mont Pleasant area – 1927
Kokernak-50	Maqua Company – 1927
Kokernak-51	Photograph of GE parking lot – ca. 1930
Kokernak-52	Maqua Company union picnic. Walter Kokernak at bottom center – ca. 1940s
Kokernak-53	Walter Kokernak at work with copy camera, ca. 1950
Kokernak-54	Unidentified dam – n.d.
Kokernak-55	Replica of Dewitt Clinton – n.d.
Kokernak-56	Frances (Kokernak) Grabecki wedding – n.d.
Kokernak-57	Left to right: unidentified, Jeanne Kokernak, unidentified – n.d.
Kokernak-58	Maqua baseball team – n.d.