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George R. Heusinkveld Diaries

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Finding Aid

GEORGE R. HEUSINKVELD DIARIES

1887-1936

MS 18

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- Introduction
- Historical Notes
- Related Materials
- Arrangement

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Introduction

The George R. Heusinkveld diaries document the life of George R. Heusinkveld through his graduation from Northwestern Junior College (NWJC). The diaries also provide information and perspective into Heusinkveld's family, his friends, NWJC, and the public schools, Reformed churches, farms, and towns of Sioux County. Collectively, these diaries provide detailed evidence of Dutch-American Reformed Church in America (RCA) life in Sioux County, Iowa in the 1920s and 1930s from the vantage point of a curious and articulate male teenager.

Size: 6.5 cm

Provenance: Diaries created by George R. Heusinkveld. They were donated to the college, with some accompanying material, by his widow, Emma Lou Becker Heusinkveld, in 1981.

Restrictions: No restrictions.

Copying: Single photocopies may be made for research purposes.

Permission to Publish and Citations: Written permission to publish material in these archives must be requested of the Director of the Library. Citations should include the following information and acknowledgements:

George R. Heusinkveld; date of entry; George R. Heusinkveld Diaries, volume number; MS 18; Northwestern College Archives and Special Collections.

Processing Notes: The collection's arrangement and this finding aid were completed in April 2015 by Doug Anderson.

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Historical Notes

George Richard Heusinkveld was born in Hull, Iowa on May 31, 1917. His parents, Dick (Derk) and Ella DeBoer Heusinkveld, were charter members of the American Reformed Church of Hull, where George was baptized. He graduated from Hull Public High School in 1934; Northwestern Junior College, Orange City in 1936; Central College, Pella in 1938, and, in 1939, from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, where he earned a master's degree in journalism.

During World War II, Heusinkveld served in the U.S. Naval Reserve. In 1944 he married Emma Lou Becker in San Diego, California. George and Emma had three daughters: Paula, Myra, and Ginger.

As a journalist, Heusinkveld worked for newspapers in Oklahoma and Iowa, most notably as the farm and area editor for the *Oskaloosa Daily Herald*, Oskaloosa (1954-1964). Between 1964 and his retirement in 1972 (due to declining health from a brain tumor), he was a social worker for Marion County, Iowa, a director of Camp Sunnyside, Des Moines, and a salesperson for the American Automobile Association (AAA). He died in Des Moines at the V.A. Medical Center on May 26, 1981, a few days short of his sixty-fourth birthday. Funeral services were held at the Second Reformed Church, Pella, and he was buried in Pella's Oakwood Cemetery.

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Related Materials

See the Northwestern Junior College Archive (NWJC) for materials about the college during Heusinkveld's time there. Further, at the time Northwestern College received the northwest Iowa related volumes, the remaining volumes of his diaries were donated to Central College.

See also various other publications by and/or about Heusinkveld relatives in the Northwestern College DeWitt Library, such as

- [Heusinkveld, Henry](#). *The Corner Post: The Heusinkveld Memoirs*. [California]: Cornerpost Authors Association, 1980.
- [Heusinkveld, Henry J.](#) *Heusinkvelds in America: A Genealogy of the Descendants of Evert Heusinkveld, Wisconsin and Minnesota, Gerrit Heusinkvelt, Princeton, Nebraska, Derk Heusinkveld, S.E. South Dakota and N.W. Iowa, Willem Heusinkveld, Lynden, Washington*. [Iowa]: [publisher not identified], 1991.

- [Heusinkveld, Willis M.](#) *Heusinkvelds in America: A Genealogy of the Descendants of Dirk Heusinkveld, Harrison, South Dakota, Evert Heusinkveld, Wisconsin and Minnesota, Willem Heusinkveld, Lynden, Washington, Gerrit Heusinkveld, Princeton, Nebraska.* Centerville, Iowa: Star Printing, 1966.

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Arrangement

The George R. Heusinkveld Diaries are in four volumes. The detailed arrangement is as follows:

GEORGE R. HEUSINKVELD DIARIES, 1887-1936			
BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS	DATES
1	1	Obituary; correspondence about the collection; excerpts from the diaries; clipping of a column by Heusinkveld	1962; 1981
	2 (notebook)	[Diary, volume 1, 188 pages]	1887- Jan. 31, 1935
	3 (notebook)	[Diary, volume 2, 184 pages]	Feb. 1- July 21, 1935
	4 (notebook)	[Diary, volume 3, 157 pages]	July 22- Dec. 31, 1935
	5 (notebook)	[Diary, volume 4, 200 pages]	Jan. 1- Aug. 31, 1936