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Tulip Festival Scrapbook Collection

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Finding Aid

TULIP FESTIVAL SCRAPBOOK COLLECTION

1936 - 1992

RA1.3.1

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- Introduction
- Historical Notes
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Introduction

The Tulip Festival Scrapbook Collection documents the Orange City Tulip Festival. The scrapbooks consist largely of newspaper clippings, but also include various brochures, programs, photographs, notes, and other documents. Collectively, these scrapbooks provide evidence for the origins and development of the Orange City Tulip Festival (OCTF) from the mid- to late-twentieth century. Indirectly, the scrapbooks suggest how a Midwestern town adapted its ethnic origins for twentieth-century uses for local identity and economic vitality.

Size: 1.98 m

Provenance: Leona Vander Stoep created these scrapbooks. She donated them to the Northwestern College Archives and Special Collections in January, 1993.

Restrictions: No restrictions.

Copying: Due to the fragility of much of the material, no copying or photography without permission from the Director of the Library.

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Processing Notes: This finding aid was completed in February 2016 by Doug Anderson.

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Historical Notes (adapted from *Orange City*, by Doug Anderson et al.)

Orange City was founded by Dutch American colonists from Pella, Iowa in 1870. It was not until the 1930s, however, that the town began what became the Orange City Tulip Festival (OCTF).

Local clubs sponsored an annual tulip show starting in 1933. The newly organized Orange City Chamber of Commerce in 1935 supported expanded tulip plantings in town, and in 1936 they led in creating the Spring or May Festival. Over a single day (May 14), the festival featured (besides tulips) a parade, a costume contest, window displays, and an evening concert by the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra. Some 3,500 visitors reportedly came for the day.

With hearty public support, the festival was staged again in 1937 with the addition of not only more tulips but also a festival queen. In 1938, the OCTF became a two-day event, with a locally produced musical program presented in the evening. World War II demands cut the 1942 festival back to one day, and the event was put on hold between 1943 and 1946. When the OCTF resumed in 1947, the celebrations soon grew to three days on the third weekend in May. Regular events include parades, street inspection and scrubbing, Dutch folk dancing, ceremonies with the festival queen and court, and an evening musical.

Orange City is not the only Dutch American town to offer such a festival. The two Dutch colonies of 1847 each launched a tulip festival before Orange City: Holland, Michigan, in 1929, and Pella, Iowa, in 1935. Orange City's festival has become a way for the town's citizens to celebrate a Dutch identity that is intended to be inclusive and unifying.

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Related Materials

There are other OCTF materials under the RA 1.3 numbering, such as the William Kalsbeek Research Collection (see [finding aid](#)).

For online photographs and documents representative of the holdings of the Northwestern College and Special Collections, see the Orange City Tulip Festival digital collection on NWCommons: <http://nwcommons.nwciowa.edu/tulipfestivalcollection/>.

For studies of Orange City, the OCTF, and other Dutch American festivals, see these items:

- Anderson, Doug, Tim Schlak, Greta Grond, and Sarah Kaltenbach. [*Orange City*](#). Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2014.
- Kalsbeek, William D. [*Celebrating our Dutch Heritage: The Story of the Orange City Tulip Festival*](#). [Orange City, IA:] Friends of the Festival Foundation, 2015.

- Schoone-Jongen, Terence G. [*The Dutch American Identity: Staging Memory and Ethnicity in Community Celebrations*](#). Amherst, NY: Cambria Press, 2008.
- Vander Stoep, Arie. [*History of the Orange City Tulip Festival*](#). [Orange City: typescript by author, 1973?].

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Arrangement

The Tulip Festival Scrapbook Collection consists of 17 scrapbooks of varying sizes and conditions. They are housed in six cartons, as follows:

TULIP FESTIVAL SCRAPBOOKS, 1936-1992		
CARTON	SCRAPBOOK	DATES
1	1	1936
	2	1936, 1937, 1938
	3	1939, 1940, 1941, 1942
2	4	1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951
	5	1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956
3	6	1957, 1958, 1959, 1960
	7	1961, 1962, 1963, 1964
	8	1965, 1966, 1967, 1968
4	9	1969, 1970, 1971
	10	1972, 1973, 1974
	11	1975, 1976, 1977
5	12	1978, 1979, 1980
	13	1981, 1982, 1983
	14	1984, 1985, 1986
6	15	1987, 1988
	16	1989, 1990
	17	1991, partial 1992