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Papers, 1917-2006. 0.50 linear ft.



Abstract

Ekdal John Buys graduated from Grand Rapids Central High School in 1933, and was a Hope College graduate with the class of 1937. While at Hope College, he participated in organizations like Blue Key, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) cabinet, debating team, the Pull tug-of-war and was a member of the Fraternal Society. He was a multiple letter winner in football and track, co-captained the 1936 football team, and held the college's shot-put record for 33 years. After college, he served on the Hope College Board of Trustees from 1955 to 1966, and chaired the board from 1961 to 1966. He also served as an honorary trustee, and remained actively involved in the life of the college. He was a founding member of the college's Second Century Club. He played leadership roles in a variety of fund drives and projects, including chairing the college's "Build Hope" capital campaign in the early 1970s. He received an honorary degree from Hope in 1966. The college named the athletic fields near Holland Municipal Stadium in his honor in 1982. In October of 1994, the college's Alumni H-Club presented him with its "Hope for Humanity" award in recognition of his service to others and consistency of commitment. Buys was chairman of the board emeritus of the investment banking firm Buys-MacGregor-MacNoughton-Greenwalt and Company, an organization he founded in 1955. He also served as an officer in the United States Navy in the Pacific Theater during World War II. A long-time leader in community and church affairs in Western Michigan, he had served local congregations and the denomination of the Reformed Church in America (RCA) through the years. He has been president of the Board of North American Missions of the RCA, and active with the Pine Rest Foundation and Western Theological Seminary. He was a member of Hope Church in Holland. The collection is largely made up of materials concerning Ekdal J. Buys and includes biographical materials, correspondence, Hope College sports and events, and photographs.

Accession No: H95-1255
Provenance: Ekdal J. Buys
Donor: Mina Buys
Photographs: 86 images (includes 20 slides)
Processed by: Michael Douma, November 2003

Biography

Ekdal John Buys was born in 1915. He attended Grand Rapids schools and graduated from Grand Rapids Central High School in 1933. He entered Hope College the following fall and graduated from there in 1937 with a history major. While there, he met his wife, Hermina Becker, a member of the Hope College High School class of 1932, and Hope College class of 1936 graduate. His co-curricular activities at Hope College included Blue Key, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) cabinet, debating team and the Pull tug-of-war, and he was a member of the Fraternal Society. He was a multiple letter winner in football and track, co-captained the 1936 football team, and held the college's shot-put record for 33 years.

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Ekdal J. Buys passed away in Holland, Michigan, on March 27, 2002, at the age of 86 years. His wife, Mina, passed away in Holland, Michigan, on May 27, 2006, at the age of 91 years.

Scope and Content

The collection is largely made up of materials concerning Ekdal J. Buys and includes biographical materials, correspondence, Hope College sports and events, and photographs. The collection is organized alphabetically by topic and chronologically within folders.

Container List

- Biographical, Ekdal J. Buys and Hermina R. Buys, n.d., 1932-2006
- Century Club, Membership Card, n.d.
- Correspondence, 1932-1999 (2 folders)
- Hope College
 - Banquets, Convocations, etc., 1962-1988
 - Commencement, 1937
 - Dedication Services, 1976, 1981
 - Football
 - Photographs, 1935-1937 (36 images)
 - Who's Who in Michigan Football*, 1936, 1967
 - Speeches, 1978
 - Memories (includes many classmates), 1936-ca. 1937
 - Track, Photograph, n.d. (1 image)
- Photographs
 - 1960-1991 (16 images)
 - Annville Institute Basketball Team, 1965-1966 (2 images)

Hope Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1935 (1 image)
Kodaikanal, India, n.d. (1 image)
President Gerald Ford at Pine Rest, n.d. (1 image)
The Pull, 1937, 1997 (8 images)
Pin Award, Michigan Colleges Foundation, 1972-1973
Slides, General, 1957 (18 images)
Speech delivered on WHTC Radio for Lenten Series, 1954

Oversized (stored in Hope College Oversized Drawer)

Grand Rapids Central High School Diploma for Ekdal Buys, 1933
Hope College Diploma for Ekdal Buys, 1937
Hope College Diploma for Hermina Becker, 1936