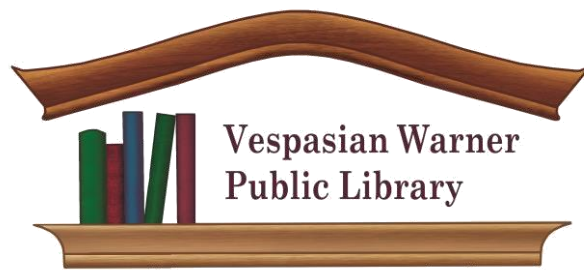


## COLLECTION SUMMARY

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Collection title:</b>   | George Spray Collection                        |
| <b>Dates:</b>              | Various  |
| <b>Size:</b>               | 2 boxes  |
| <b>Shelf location:</b>     |  |
| <b>Creator/Collector:</b>  | George Spray                                   |
| <b>Acquisition info.:</b>  | Donated to the library by George Spray in 2022 |
| <b>Accruals:</b>           | None   |
| <b>Custodial history:</b>  | Unknown  |
| <b>Language(s):</b>        | English  |
| <b>Repository:</b>         | Vespasian Warner Public Library District       |
| <b>Processed by:</b>       | Trisha Benedict, 2022                          |
| <b>Conservation notes:</b> | None   |



## **George Spray Collection**

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### **RIGHTS AND ACCESS**

#### **Access restrictions**

Collection is open for research. The collection or parts of the collection may not leave the library building.

#### **Physical access restrictions**

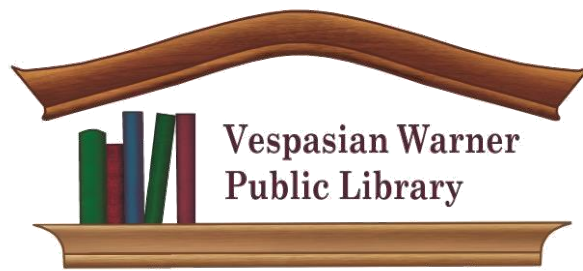
None

#### **Technical access restrictions**

None

#### **Publication rights**

The Vespasian Warner Public Library does not establish copyright for items.



**George Spray Collection**

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## **INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS**

### **Preferred citation**

[item identification], Blanche Krey Collection, Vespasian Warner Public Library  
District, Clinton, Illinois

### **Related collections**

Wapella Tornado Collection

### **Separated material**

None

### **Published descriptions**

Not applicable

### **Location of originals**

Not applicable

### **Location of copies**

Not applicable

### **Publication note**

Not applicable

### **Subject headings**

Wapella (Ill.) -- Biography  
Korean War, 1950-1953 -- Biography  
Photographers -- Biography

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

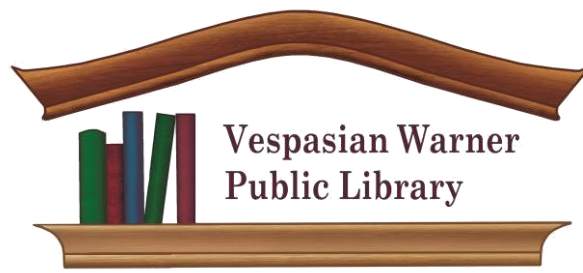
Photographs, newspaper clippings, certificates, and other documents from the life of George Spray.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

George Spray was born January 21, 1930 in rural DeWitt County, Illinois, the son of Lyle and Ethel Underwood Spray. He grew up in and near Wapella, Illinois and graduated from Wapella High School in 1948. Spray developed an interest in photography as a child. As a senior in high school, the *Pantagraph* hired him as the newspaper's Wapella correspondent based on photographs he had taken.

In 1951, Spray was drafted into the United States Army and he served in on the front lines during the Korean War. He was mustered out in 1953 and moved back to Illinois. After the war, he worked as a photographer in Illinois and California. He documented the tornado that devastated Wapella in 1968.

As of 2022, Spray is retired and lives in Texas.



**George Spray Collection**

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**COLLECTION INVENTORY**

| Photographs/Articles  | <b><u>Box<br/>Number</u></b> | <b><u>Folder<br/>Number</u></b> |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| *Undated will appear with no date   |                              |                                 |
| Photograph: WCHS Senior Class Play & names, 1948  | 1                            | 1                               |
| 7 Post Cards: Spray Photos- 1 John Warner Hospital, 2 rustic Polynesian bungalows in Tahiti, & 4 bar and restaurant Hotel Te Puna Bel Air in Tahiti | 1                            | 2                               |
| Photographs: Photos of family with name list, 1836-1888   | 1                            | 3                               |
| Photos: Wapella Community High School Class of 1948- school photos, reunion, and note from George Spray, 1948-1998                                  | 1                            | 4                               |
| Lg Photograph: Junior Class Play, 1847 (2) with name list   | 1                            | 5                               |
| Photographs: George with famous people (names on back), 1958  | 1                            | 6                               |
| Photographs: George Spray & negative, undated & 2004  | 1                            | 7                               |
| Business Card- All Color Studio Spray Photos, undated   | 1                            | 8                               |
| Photographs: Two photographs of George Spray, Governor Strahon, & Fruin Rousey, 1954  | 1                            | 9                               |
| Photograph: Marv Dutloff, Ralph Edwards, & George Spray   | 1                            | 10                              |
| Photograph: George Spray with Rick Nelson, 1958   | 1                            | 11                              |
| Photographs: George Spray and Tony Dow; G Spray with Tony Dow and Luaren Dow  | 1                            | 12                              |
| Photograph: Ethel Spray (George's mother  | 1                            | 13                              |
| Newspaper Clip (& copy)- <u>Clinton Daily Journal</u> <i>Spray's Volunteer Work Could Help Draw Tourists</i> , 1977 (?)                             | 1                            | 14                              |
| Letter: with envelope from George Spray to friend folded in pamphlet style with photo, 2022   | 1                            | 15                              |
| Photographs: Negatives of the Grand Canyon, 1967-1991   | 1                            | 16                              |
| Newspaper: <u>Wapella News</u> volume 1 number 1, 2007  | 1                            | 17                              |

|  |   |    |
|--|---|----|
| Photographs: 6 signed photos of famous people  | 1 | 18 |
| Newspapers: <u>DeWitt County Constitution</u> , "Miscellaneous Reports" & <u>Pantagraph</u> articles and pictures by G. Spray, 1930-2007 | 1 | 19 |
| Program: Clinton Sesquicentennial souvenir program (in plastic), 1985  | 1 | 20 |
| Photograph: Negative of George Spray with Tony Dow in envelope   | 1 | 21 |
| Photograph: Negative of George Spray with James Garner in envelope   | 1 | 22 |
| Photograph: Negative of George Spray print order for Pounds Photographic Labs, INC in envelope   | 1 | 23 |
| Photographs: 2 negatives of George Spray with Rick Nelson in envelope  | 1 | 24 |
| Book: Photobook created by Mr. Spray of himself, 1930-2008   | 1 | 25 |
| Photographs: Class photos (and copies), 1937 & 1941  | 1 | 26 |
| Photographs: Photos taped to paper with names next to them, multiple dates   | 1 | 27 |
| Photographs: George Spray with Dwayne Hickman aka Dobbie Gillis  | 1 | 28 |
| Photograph: George Spray with Jack Kelly & the negative  | 1 | 29 |
| Photograph: Winona School of Professional Photography, 1981  | 1 | 30 |
| Photograph: Wind surfing out at Clinton Lake   | 1 | 31 |
| Photographs: Tombstones of Lyle & Ethel Spray and Marline and Bill Spray   | 1 | 32 |
| Photographs: Negatives-B&W Bobby Vinton  | 1 | 33 |
| Photographs: Negatives of Rick Beaupre & Tony Dow ft Leonard Wood, 1967  | 1 | 34 |
| Photograph: Wapella Grade School 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade (with list of names) in envelope, 1936                          | 1 | 35 |
| Photographs: Negatives of the state capitol  | 1 | 36 |
| Photograph: Eddie Fisher and George Spray in Korea in envelope, 1952   | 1 | 37 |
| Photograph: George Spray with his brother Bill Spray (and dog) in envelope   | 1 | 38 |
| Photograph: Negative of Bobby Vinton in envelope, 1964   | 1 | 39 |
| Photograph: Negative of the Cast of Bonanza  | 1 | 40 |

|   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
| Pamphlets: photos done by George Spray in 3 pamphlets | 1 | 41 |
| Book: Honor Flight DFW #42 photograph book, 2019      | 1 | 42 |

| Documents/Articles  | <u>Box Number</u> | <u>Folder Number</u> |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|
| Newspaper: Clipping- “Our Team Finishes Big Tally—and Vice Versa”<br><u>Pantagraph</u> , 1964   | 2                 | 1                    |
| Death Register and Death Record lists-2 pgs, 1940-2021  | 2                 | 2                    |
| Formal invite to Telecast of the Presentation of 32 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Awards of Merit at the PKO Patages Theatre, 1960                         | 2                 | 3                    |
| Personal History print off-Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark, (printed off) 2011   | 2                 | 4                    |
| School certificates and awards, 1938-1948   | 2                 | 5                    |
| Korean War Honor Flight-Certificate of Achievement-Challenge Coin, 2019   | 2                 | 6                    |
| Letter of Appreciation from the Republic of Korea on the 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war,(envelope inside envelope) 2000                  | 2                 | 7                    |
| Certificate of Election certifying G. Spray was elected to office of Trustee of Wapella, 1983   | 2                 | 8                    |
| Wapella Wall of Honor Book name list  | 2                 | 9                    |
| Short Biography of his life, 1930-1968  | 2                 | 10                   |
| Birth Certificate envelope-inside: Bridal bond, 2 bills from funeral home, letter from social security adm. & burial vault certificate, 1929-1968 | 2                 | 11                   |
| Luster Color Service for photographers, 1976 (original and copy)  | 2                 | 12                   |
| Thank you sent from the family of Ralph Livingstone Edwards, 2006   | 2                 | 13                   |
| Thank you for your service: from American Legion Family (written on kerchief) and United States Senate, 2019                                      | 2                 | 14                   |
| Letter from Melaine “Tudy” Giordano MS, RN <u>Honor Flight DFW</u> President of the Board, 2019   | 2                 | 15                   |
| Paperwork on the deaths of G. Sprays family members, 1976-2021  | 2                 | 16                   |
| News Clips: articles printed off by Logan Redman with Spray mentioned, (printed in) 2021  | 2                 | 17                   |