

Information Sheet

R **Voight, Harry Anton, 1893-1950.**
1166 **Papers, 1918-1951.**
 Nine folders.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are the papers of a marine engineer, steamboat inspector, and Coast Guard officer who spent most of his career working on the Ohio River. Included are applications for federal positions, papers concerning service in the Marine Inspection Service and Coast Guard, photographs of the Ohio River flood of 1945, and miscellaneous papers.

Harry Anton "Dick" Voight was born on 19 February 1893 in Paducah, Kentucky, where his father, Emory A. Voight, was a steamboat owner and master. He attended grammar and high school in Paducah; he married Ethel Corine Cross, also of Paducah, in 1925. Voight grew up with marine engines and equipment and became an apprentice machinist in 1913, beginning his own career on the rivers. He worked on the Great Lakes and with his father before becoming the assistant engineer of a Pittsburgh coal company. He attended special engineering classes at the Case School of Applied Science in Cleveland at the beginning of World War One and received a wartime commission as commissioned lieutenant commander in the U. S. Navy. He served as an engineering officer with the U. S. Shipping Board, delivering newly-built ocean-going and riverine vessels to various ports.

Voight held various engineering positions following the war, including master mechanic for the Woods Brothers Construction Company in Nebraska and superintendent of the Louisville Sand & Gravel Company in Louisville, Kentucky. In 1938, he received an appointment as assistant inspector of the U. S. Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation, serving at Pittsburgh and St. Louis. During World War Two, the Marine Inspection Service came under the aegis of the U. S. Coast Guard Reserve. Voight was commissioned lieutenant in the U. S. Coast Guard Reserve in 1943. Later, he was promoted to lieutenant commander and served as senior engineering officer at Pittsburg, St. Louis, and Cincinnati. He received a regular commission in the Coast Guard in 1948, was promoted to commander in 1950, and became officer in charge of the Coast Guard station at Cincinnati. Voight died of a heart attack 31 October 1950 while visiting St. Louis. He is buried in Paducah.

Folders 1-5 of the Voight collection contain personal papers and service records pertaining to his career on inland waters in civilian and military capacities. His personal history and marine experience is detailed out in applications and correspondence regarding appointments to the Marine Inspection Service and the U. S. Coast Guard (folders 1-2). Particular facets of his work in the Coast Guard are illustrated by views of the Ohio River flood of 1945 at Portsmouth and Vanceburg, Ohio, personal photographs, and a daily logbook for 1946-1947 (folders 3-5).

Folders 6-7 contain various printed materials pertaining to western rivers such as *Down Memory Lane with Billy Lepper* (1949), a reminiscence of a veteran riverman and friend of Voight's; *The Pilot Wheel*, the publication of the St. Louis Propeller Club; and *The Waterways Journal*, a weekly magazine devoted to inland river commerce. Voight's obituary appeared in *The Waterways Journal* on 4 November 1950. Folder 8 contains prayer and song books for the

Army and Navy, 1942. Folder 9 contains "GI Cartoons featuring the Green Girl," a commercially-produced packet of cartoons billed as the "funniest cartoons of the war" perfect for friends in the service.

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10 June 2005

Kristen A. Morrow

Gift

Shelf List

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- F. 01: Papers, 1918-1950 (photocopies)
- F. 02: Commissions (photocopies)
- F. 03: Journal, 1946-1947
- F. 04: Photographs: Ohio River flood, 1945
- F. 05: Photographs: miscellaneous
- F. 06: Billy Lepper, *Down Memory Lane with Billy Lepper* (1949)
- F. 07: Magazines and printed materials, 1950-1951
- F. 08: Song and service books for the Army and Navy, 1942
- F. 09: *The Newswheel* (Houston, Texas), G. I. cartoons and jokes, 1943-1944

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