

**McLean County Museum of History**

**Cold War Collection**

Processed by  
Julia Perez  
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**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1955-87; mostly 1955-62.
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also Photograph Collection for recordings of training program for graduate nurses on radiation effects & treatment, 1952.

## Brief History

The Cold War was an ongoing political rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union and their respective allies that developed after World War II, from 1945-1991. While no battle took place during The Cold War, the threat of nuclear attacks had a great impact on American domestic life. Civilians, including those in McLean County, built bomb shelters in their backyards and practiced attack drills in schools. A distaste towards Communism in America was also present locally, as evident by some of the materials in this collection.

## Scope

This collection includes resources about preparedness and protection in the case of a nuclear attack, including materials about building fallout shelters, creating emergency food storage and first aid kits, and how to determine radiation risk. Other materials highlight individuals and organizations that were deemed loyal or subversive to the American cause.

## Box and Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: Newspaper Articles (*Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- 1.1 "CDO Tells 6 Ways to Survive Atom Attack," *McLean County Courier*, March 30, 1951
- 1.2 Photo of men on rooftop pointing and using binoculars with caption, "First overnight practice since the Ground Observation Corps was organized...", *Bloomington-Normal Labor News*, July 1951
- 1.3 "You can Survive the H-Bomb," March 23, 1955
- 1.4 "World Order Study Conference - Moscow's Mouthpiece," *News and Views of Wheaton, Ill.*; Feb 1960
- 1.5 "Twin City Survey Shows Few Prepared fo Fallout," Aug. 14, 1961
- 1.6 "Fallout Shelters on Farms Goal of Livingston Survey," Aug. 17, 1961
- 1.7 "D.Chief's Own Fallout Shelter: Livingston County's Steichen Builds House Over His," Aug. 20, 1961, includes interior photos of fallout shelter
- 1.8 "Stock These Items in Fallout Shelter," Aug. 27, 1961
- 1.9 "Seeks Shelter from Deluge of Calls on Fallout Shelters," Sept. 9, 1961
- 1.10 "Cerf Pooh-Pooh's World Crises, Fallout Shelters," Oct. 25, 1961, includes photo of Bennett Cerf signing autographs after ISU lecture
- 1.11 "What About Fallout? You'll Survive, CD Official Says," Oct. 26, 1961, includes photo of a civil defense education class held for adults at Bloomington High School
- 1.12 "200 Parents Hear School, City Civil Defense Plans," Nov. 17, 1961
- 1.13 "Doctors Call for Shelters in All New Public Buildings," Nov. 21, 1961
- 1.14 "'Blackout' Brings Attack Home to Shelter Dwellers," Dec. 14, 1961
- 1.15 "Survey of Fallout Shelter Sites Planned in Twin Cities," Dec. 22, 1961
- 1.16 "Science, Economics Shift Emphasis to Group Shelters," Jan. 18, 1962
- 1.17 Photo of two men, Delmer Smock and Ed Sanders, building a model fallout shelter, March 1, 1962
- 1.18 "Signs Mark City Fallout Shelters," March 13, 1963, includes photo of Robert Gaiboud nailing fallout shelter sign at Peoples Bank of Bloomington
- 1.19 "8 Shelters OK'd in Normal; All But One at University," April 2, 1963

- 1.20 "Nuclear Shelters Survived in Area," Jan. 11, 1978
- 1.21 "Seeking Shelter: Where would you go if the bomb were dropped?," Sept. 6, 1987, includes list of Twin City fallout shelter locations with capacity and protection factor range
- 1.22 "Gridley offered guidance for nuclear attacked back in 1961," source unknown, no date.

**Folder 2: Booklets / Pamphlets / Brochures from Office of Civil Defense**

- 2.1 Facts About Fallout Protection, August 1959
- 2.2 A Special Citation for Families that Acquire Fallout Shelters, September 1959
- 2.3 Home Protection Exercises, November 1959
- 2.4 How to Earn Your Home Preparedness Award, includes checklist, 1959
- 2.5 First Aid, June 1960
- 2.6 Between You and Disaster, A Civil Defense Home Food Storage Program, September 1960
- 2.7 The Family Fallout Shelter, November 1960
- 2.8 Civil Defense Technical Bulletin, two identical copies from February 1960 and May 1962

**Folder 3: Local Civil Defense and Radiation Preparedness**

- 3.1 Civil Defense Preparedness card with instructions on how to react to bomb warning
- 3.2 Stanford-Allin Township Civil Defense preparedness guide with local contact information
- 3.3 McLean County Civil Defense Radiation Decay Calculator
- 3.4 McLean County Civil Defense Facts about Fallout, Radiation, and Shelters
- 3.5 McLean County Civil Defense Preparations & Procedures for Emergencies
- 3.6 McLean County Civil Defense, explains radiation dose rate based on exposure, symptoms, December 15, 1962
- 3.7 Emergency Food Supply Suggested by Jacksonville-Duval County Civil Defense Council
- 3.8 Radiological Defense - instructor booklet, Dose and Dose Rate Calculations
- 3.9 Protective Planning Actions for Family Preparedness
- 3.10 Letter from Tom W. White to Cindy Nafziger of Stanford regarding a bomb shelter designed and built by his grandfather Charles B. "Doc" White at his family home in Stanford, letter is dated April 14, 2007; includes photos of the shelter construction

**Folder 4: Anti-Communism/Socialism Booklets**

- 4.1 "Is This Tomorrow? America Under Communism," comic book published by the Catechetical Guild Educational Society, 1947
- 4.2 "The Shocking Truth About Communist Penetration of our Newest State Hawaii" by W.S. McBirnie, approximately 1965
- 4.3 "Songs of Subversion" by W.S. McBirnie, approximately 1965
- 4.4 "Government Guaranteed Income?" by W.S. McBirnie, approximately 1968
- 4.5 "What Kind of a Country Are You Leaving to Us? undated.

**Folder 5: U.S. Loyalty/Subversiveness**

- 5.1 Loyalty Oath signed by William E. Bennington on Aug. 18, 1955, possible Bloomington resident according to Pantagraph obituary, Dec. 23, 1992

- 5.2 Organizations Designated as Subversive by the United States Attorney General, compiled from memorandums dated April 29, 1953, to Jan. 22, 1954, 3 pp.
- 5.3 Petition to President Richard Nixon on behalf of the Committee of One Million to maintain the policies against diplomatic relations with China, signed by 14 residents of Bloomington-Normal; second attached page explains the end of the committee and highlights certain signatories on the petition

**Folder 6: R.J. Havighurst**

- 6.1 "R.J. Havighurst pushed for integrated schools," Chicago Tribune obituary for Robert J. Havighurst, Feb. 1, 1991, clipping and photo copy
- 6.2 Records of University of Chicago education professor Robert J. Havighurst's affiliation with subversive and communist activities from the Church League of America in Wheaton, Ill.; Oct. 20, 1958; 5 pages
- 6.3 University of Chicago professional biography and accomplishments of Robert J. Havighurst, 2 pages
- 6.4 Letter to Verne Gray, Adjutant General of the American Legion State Headquarters in Bloomington, from Alice Schlenker, Assistant Director of Adult Education Program with (likely) Bloomington Public Schools, citing a letter she received from Havighurst regarding a blacklist being used by Legion Posts that questions his loyalty, Feb. 22, 1960
- 6.5 Letter to Verne Gray, Adjutant General of the American Legion State Headquarters in Bloomington from Clyde J. Davis of El Paso, citing concerns over Havighurst's loyalty and referencing above letter from Alice Schlenker, Feb. 23, 1960
- 6.6 Notice that Havighurst will address Bloomington-Normal adult education teachers during Jan. 18 (1960?) event with his remarks titled "Adult Education for Today's Society"; notes he lived in Bloomington during high school years and his parents Dr. and Mrs. Freeman Havighurst live at 304 E. Walnut St. in Bloomington

**Folder 7: Charles A. Morrison**

- 7.1 "C.A. Morrison Writes Booklet on Atom Blast" copy of Pantagraph clipping, outlines Bloomington serving as support city for Peoria in the event of an atomic blast there according to Charles A. Morrison, editor of American Radio Publications, Inc.; he was commissioned to prepare a booklet by civil defense officials titled "The Atom Bomb and Your Survival", Oct. 9, 1950
- 7.2 Photo copy of "Radio-Defense Manual, Including 'The Atom Bomb and Your Survival'" 1950, 12 pages
- 7.3 September 1936 edition of The Globe Circler, with Charles A. Morrison listed as bulletin editor; attached is email from Greg Koos explaining publication importance

**Folder 8: Congressional Committee Reports**

- 9.1 "Analysis of The Khrushchev Speech of January 6, 1961," testimony of Dr. Stefan T. Possony - June 16, 1961. 101 pp
- 9.2 "Rebellion in Russia's Europe: Fact and Fiction," 1965. 28 pp.
- 9.3 Reprint of Congressional Record speech of Hon. Thomas J. Dodd of Connecticut on "The Dangerous Game of Baiting the CIA," Feb. 17, 1964.

**Folder 9:     Miscellaneous**

- 9.1    “Survival Under Atomic Attack,” 15 p. typescript, “This pamphlet mimeographed through the courtesy of McLean County Chapter, American Red Cross, Bloomington, Illinois).
- 9.2    Americanism Day program, September 17, 1950, 1 p., with two articles from *Pantagraph* (September 17 and September 18) reporting on same.
- 9.3    “Hospital Suggested Letter” regarding the Communist “set-up” in “Czecho-Slovakia” and the Prague Municipal Hospital policy of prohibiting visitors, handwritten date November 9, 1956.
- 9.4    Door Hanger “Vote as you think, think when you vote,” from Boy Scouts of America and Freedom Foundation, Inc., undated. Used by Cub Scout Bobby White of Pack 33.
- 9.5    “November 16, 1963” photo booklet of President Kennedy’s last visit to a Navy shop and first Polaris missile firing. 16 pp.
- 9.6    “Bary Goldwater Speaks Out on the Issues,” 1964 presidential campaign booklet, 24 pp., issued by Illinois Citizens for Goldwater-Miller.
- 9.7    Museum email exchange regarding civil defense sirens, May 2025.