

LGBT-081 Robert “Bob” Deibler Collection

LGBT Center of Central PA History Project
Archives and Special Collections
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COLLECTION REGISTER

Name:	Deibler, Robert “Bob”	LGBT-081
Material:	Papers (1959-2007)	
Volume:	0.5 linear feet (1 document box, 2 oversized folders, 5 VHS tapes, 9 artifacts)	
Donation:	Donated by Robert “Bob” Deibler, 2018, 2024	
Usage:	These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.	
Processor:	Sarah Wakefield, December 2020; Simone Gillespie, October 2024	
Support:	Funding to process this collection was provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Schlegel Deibler Foundation.	

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Robert “Bob” Deibler was born on January 20, 1940 in upper Paxton Township in Dauphin County, PA. He graduated from Millersburg Area High School and went on to attend Bloomsburg University with majors in social science and English. He later went on to teach English at Millersburg Area High School from 1961 to 1991, where he was also the musical director.

Besides teaching, Deibler was an active member in two men’s clubs, the Pennsmen and the Satyr Men. After meeting his long-term partner, Ronn Fink, in 1985 and retiring from teaching in 1991, Deibler decided to move to Harrisburg, PA. While in Harrisburg, Deibler supported Fink in the running of the Bare Wall, a gift shop and video rental store and local landmark for the gay community in Harrisburg. Fink was diagnosed with bladder cancer and passed away two years after his diagnosis, at which time Deibler took over running the Bare Wall. After six months, he was unable to keep the Bare Wall running. He sold the business but stayed in Harrisburg.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Robert “Bob” Deibler’s papers include five categories: Bare Wall, Articles and Newspaper Clippings, Pennsmen, Media, and Artifacts. The Bare Wall category includes business cards for the Bare Wall and Ronn Fink. The Articles and Newspaper Clippings group includes articles about the Bare Wall, the Pennsmen, and an article authored by Fink. The Pennsmen series is comprised of event programs and

photographs, with a focus on the Keystone Capital Run events. For preservation reasons the photographs have been removed from their original photo album and housed in photo sleeves. The photos are organized in the original order in which they appeared in the album. The Media series includes VHS tape recordings of the annual Mr. Harrisburg contest sponsored by The Pennsmen. Lastly, the Artifacts series is composed of Pennsmen and Satyr Men membership pins and a leather bracelet.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1 Bare Wall

- 1.01 Business card for The Bare Wall – undated
- 1.02 Ronn Fink’s business card – undated

Series 2 Articles and Newspaper Clippings

- 2.01 “Captain Phillips Saga Filled with Many Historic Milestones,” *Bedford County Press*, written by Ron Fink – Aug. 2, 1959 (see oversized OBL)
- 2.02 *Crossroads* magazine, “The Pennsman and All Things Leather,” Bob Deibler interviewed – Feb./Mar. 1997
- 2.03 Bare Wall newspaper clipping – circa 2006 (see oversized OBS)
- 2.04 “Business Spotlight: The Bare Wall,” *Panzee Press* – 2007

Series 3 Pennsmen

- 3.01 Keystone Capital Run program – Feb. 13-15, 1998
- 3.02 21st Anniversary Banquet and Mr. Harrisburg Contest flyer – Feb. 14, 1998
- 3.03 Keystone Capital Run program – Feb. 12-14, 1999
- 3.04 Keystone Capital Run 22nd Anniversary Banquet and Mr. Harrisburg Contest mini program – 1999
- 3.05 Mr. Harrisburg Contest program – 1999
- 3.06 Keystone Capital Run program – Feb. 11-13, 2000
- 3.07 Keystone Capital Run Anniversary Banquet and Mr. Harrisburg Contest mini programs – Feb. 12, 2000
- 3.08 Keystone Capital Run and Mr. Harrisburg Contest program – Feb. 10-11, 2001
- 3.09 Ron’s Rainbow Raffle program with ticket attached – undated
- 3.10 Manhunt Raffle Ticket instructions pamphlet – undated
- 3.11 Photos (#01-15) from Pennsmen Mr. Harrisburg Contest album – circa 2000
- 3.12 Photos (#16-30) from Pennsmen Mr. Harrisburg Contest album – circa 2000
- 3.13 Photos (#31-45) from Pennsmen Mr. Harrisburg Contest album – circa 2000
- 3.14 Photos (#46-63) from Pennsmen Mr. Harrisburg Contest album – circa 2000
- 3.15 Photos (#64-84) from Pennsmen Mr. Harrisburg Contest album – circa 2000

Series 4 Media

- LGBT-081-V01 Mr. Harrisburg Contest vhs tape – 1995
- LGBT-081-V02 Mr. Harrisburg Contest vhs tape – 1997

LGBT-081 – Robert “Bob” Deibler (cont.)

- LGBT-081-V03 Mr. Harrisburg Contest vhs tape – 1998
- LGBT-081-V04 Mr. Harrisburg Contest vhs tape – 1999
- LGBT-081-V05 Mr. Harrisburg Contest vhs tape – 2000

Series 5 Artifacts

- LGBT-081-AC01 Satyr Men 15 Years pin – 1992
- LGBT-081-AC02 Pennsmen 1977-1997 pin – 1997
- LGBT-081-AC03 Pennsmen 1977-1999 22nd Anniversary pin – 1999
- LGBT-081-AC04 Pennsmen Keystone Capital Run pin – 2001
- LGBT-081-AC05 Satyr Men 25 Years pin – 2002
- LGBT-081-AC06 Millersburg Ferry pin – undated
- LGBT-081-AC07 Highway T.N.T 18 pin – undated
- LGBT-081-AC08 Entre Nous Boston, Massachusetts pin – undated
- LGBT-081-AC09 Leather beaded bracelet – undated