

Collection #: 208

Collection Title: Earl Blair Collection of Pen Sketches

Dates: 1980's and 1990s

Quantity: 2 flat binders; 1 flat file box (); 1 flat file box ()

Arrangement One page autobiography, list of all sketches.

Background Note: Earl Blair was born July 4, 1920, "thirteen miles from a RR crossing in Montana". His family moved to Iowa from Montana when Earl was six months old. He grew up in Paton, Iowa and graduated from high school in Paton. He worked for Allis-Chalmers and moved to Grinnell in 1962 when he was transferred by the company.

Container List:

Earl Blair Collection of Pen & Ink Sketches

Sleeve Number	Building Name	House Number	Street Address	Type
1	Seaman Building	817	Commercial Street	Commercial
1	Grinnell General Hospital	210	Fourth Avenue	Public
2	Poweshiek Mutual Insurance	923	Main Street	Commercial
2	Poweshiek Mutual Insurance	923	Main Street	Commercial
3	Grinnell State Bank	814	Fourth Avenue	Commercial
3	Grinnell State Bank	814	Fourth Avenue	Commercial
4	Grinnell State Bank	814	Fourth Avenue	Commercial
4	Cunningham Drug Store	823	Fourth Avenue	Commercial
5	Citizens Bank-1899	815	Fourth Avenue	Commercial
5	Hamman's Apparel	922	Main Street	Commercial
6	Coast to Coast Store	1013	Broad Street	Commercial
6	Community Building	927	Fourth Avenue	Public
7	Mental Health Center	200	Fourth Avenue	Public
7	Park Place Condominiums	2005	Spring Street	Residential
8	First United Methodist Church	916	Fifth Avenue	Church
8	First United Methodist Church	916	Fifth Avenue	Church
9	First Baptist Church	925	East Street	Church
9	First Baptist Church	925	East Street	Church
10	Trinity Lutheran Church		Rural Malcom	Church
10	Immanuel Lutheran Church	229	Eleventh Avenue West	Church
11	First Presbyterian Church	1025	Fifth Avenue	Church
11	First Presbyterian Church	1025	Fifth Avenue	Church

12	United Church of Christ-Congregational	902	Broad Street	Church
12	First Friends Church	1115	West Street South	Church
13	St. Mary's Catholic Church	1002	Broad Street	Church
13				
14	Poweshiek Mutual	224	West Street	Commercial
14	The Medicine Store	415	Sixth Avenue	Commercial
15	Spaulding Manufacturing	829	Spring Street	Commercial
15	Grinnell Middle School		East Street	Public
16	Grinnell Family Care	217	Fourth Avenue	Commercial
16	Grinnell General Hospital	210	Fourth Avenue	Public
17	Gearhart Machine & Welding			Commercial
17	Gearhart Machine & Welding			Commercial
18	Latcham Enterprises			Vehicle
18				
19	Oakland Acres Golf Course		Jasper County	Commercial
19				
20	Grinnell Free Trolley			Vehicle
20				
21	PT-17 Primary Trainer			Airplane
21	Billy Robinson in his airplane			
22	Union Depot		Third Avenue & Park Street	Public
22	Spaulding "30" Touring Car			Vehicle
23	Jewel Box Bank	833	Fourth Avenue	Commercial
24	Stewart Library	926	Broad Street	Public
24	Downtown buildings-placemat template		Downtown	Various
25	Spencer Building	801	Main Street	Commercial
25	Masonic Temple	928	Main Street	Commercial
26	Bates Flowers	1012	Broad Street	Commercial
26	Maid-Rite	712	Sixth Avenue	Commercial
27	Proctor Building	825	Broad Street	Commercial
27	Cornerstone Building (Grinnell Register)		5 th & Broad Street	Commercial
28	Grinnell Herald-Register (Grinnell Herald)	813	Fifth Avenue	Commercial
28	Cunningham Drug	827	Fourth Avenue	Commercial
29	Gates-Rawson Towers		9 th and Park Street	Campus
29	Herrick Chapel		7 th and Park Street	Campus
30	Mears Cottage		North of Sixth Avenue	College
30	Mears Cottage		North of Sixth Avenue	College
1R	Bill Weeks	1824	Manor Drive	Residential
1R	Pam & Glen Sieck			Residential
2R	Methodist Parsonage (1995)	110	Fourteenth Avenue	Residential
2R			Country Club Drive	Residential
3R	Gary's-Grinnell			Residential

3R		1703	Park Street	Residential
4R	Duane Dufoe		Prairie Street	Residential
4R	Robert Ashby		Rural Grinnell	Residential
5R	Ruth & Ellis Brown		Rural Grinnell	Residential
5R	Billings	1011	Broad Street (moved in	REsidential
5R	Sue & Barry Olson	1221	Broad Street	Residential
6R	Harry & Evelyn Taylor		Grinnell	Residential
6R	Brooke		Grinnell	Residential
7R	Marsh House	833	East Street	Residential
7R		1415	Broad Street	Residential
8R	Morrison		Eighth Avenue	Residential
8R				
9R	Park Place Condominiums	2005	Spring Street	Residential
9R	Chong & Brenda -----		Grinnell	Residential
10R	Chris Nolte (aka Seeland)	803	Tenth Avenue	Residential
10R	Francesca Cunningham	#7	Beck Court	Residential
11R	Ron Thomas		West Street?	Residential
11R	Ron & Dixie Thomas	415	Fifteenth Avenue	Residential
12R	Abe Bryan	1425	Spring Street	Residential
12R	Mrs. Don Cunningham	909	Eighth Avenue	Residential
13R	Clair Wilson	602	Eleventh Avenue	Residential
13R	Dave Jones	715	Ninth Avenue	Residential
14R	Robert & Valeta Brown		Oakland Acres	Residential
14R	Dick Poynter (2 sketches)	5	College Park Circle	Residential
15R	Madison Tomfeld	1116	Summer Street	Residential
16R	Jacoby	1526	Summer Street	Residential
16R	Orval Meyer	407	Eleventh Avenue	Residential
17R	Dr. Paulson (aka Danforth)	1332	Broad Street	Residential
17R	Israel	928	High Street	Residential
18R	Luverne Oleson (1996)		Seventh Avenue	REsidential
18R	Pepper & Phyllis Saunders (1996)	1907	Belmont Drive	Residential
19R	Dwight Dufoe (1995)	1821	Reed Street	Residential
19R	Glen & Pam Sieck (1995)	1120	Prairie Street	Residential
20R	Myron Heneke	525	Thirteenth Avenue	Residential
20R	Marlene Toney		Rural Grinnell	Residential
21R	Harvey Harris		Rural Grinnell	Residential
21R	Roger & Janice Stewart	1611	Spencer Street	Residential
22R	Roger Zimmerman	1526	Broad Street	Residential
22R	Bud Cox	1135	Reed Street	Residential
23R	Warren & Clara Ryan		RR Malcom	Residential
23R		1209	Broad Street	Residential
24R	David Cunningham	97	Fourteenth Avenue	Residential
24R	Marg Apostle (Brande)	817	East Street	Residential
25R		1433	West Street	Residential
25R	Rev. Lott (Carney)	1133	Broad Street	Residential

26R	John McDonald	2	College Park Road	Residential
26R	Delores & Darrell Stimson	1824	West Street	Residential
27R	George & Ferne Norris	12	Eagle Drive (Oakland Acres)	Residential
27R	Eleanor Wozny	1910	Country Club Drive	Residential
28R	Parslow	1222	Broad Street	Residential
28R	Betty & Monte Hammond (Spaulding)	1103	Main Street	Residential
29R	Spaulding	1109	Main Street	Residential
29R		1405	Broad Street	Residential
30R	Jim Cunningham	1811	Tenth Avenue	Residential
30R	Wellborn (1997)	1420	Ninth Avenue Lane	Residential
31R	John deMeulenaere	1521	Park Street	Residential
31R	Sharp Lannom (Morse)		4 th & High Street	Residential
32R	J. B. Grinnell house	800 block	Park Street (east of Central Park)	Residential
32R				
33R	Ed Brand	917	Prairie Street	Residential
33R	Al Ahrens			Residential
34R	Glenn Leggett	6	College Park Road	Residential
34R	Bob & Audrey Mills	102	Fourteenth Avenue	Residential
35R			Highway 146-Gilman	Residential
35R	Bill Weeks		13 th & Reed	Residential
36R	Delmar & Ruth Atkins		Rural Brooklyn	Residential
36R	John Kleinschmidt (Spencer)	1206	Broad Street	Residential
37R	Bill & Suzi Hansen	1008	Elm Street	Residential
37R	Gary Sieck	918	Reed Street	Residential
38R	Krumm	903	East Street	Residential
38R	Sterk		Rural Montezuma	Residential
39R	Krumm	903	East Street	Residential
39R	Sterk		Rural Montezuma	Residential
40R	Manly or Strand		Rural Grinnell	Residential
40R	Harry Ryan		Grinnell	Residential
41R	Marlene Toney	1616	Prairie Street	Residential
41R	Lenna Halstead	524	Tenth Avenue	Residential
42R	Darrell & Sue Rojohn	335	Eleventh Avenue	Residential
42R	Ray & Delores Koger		Rural Grinnell	Residential
43R	Bill Smith	423	Twelfth Avenue	Residential
43R	Madge Johnson	1710	Country Club Drive	Residential
44R	Al Pinder	1714	Country Club Drive	Residential
44R	Laverne Lamb		Highway 6-Grinnell	Residential
45R	George Hansen	811	East Street	Residential
45R	Joe Buffum	934	East Street	Residential
46R	Mary D. Donahoe		Rural Grinnell-southeast	Residential
46R	Vern & Marilyn Brooke	1705	Reed Street	Residential

Cartoon Sketches by Earl Blair

No.	Name of Cartoon Character(s)	Medium	Notes
1	Various	Ink	Template for placemat
2	Garfield	Ink	
3	Popeye	Ink	
4	Olive Oyl	Ink	
5	Maggie & Jiggs	Ink	
6	Jeff	Ink	
7	Mutt	Ink	
8	Toonerville Trolley	Ink	
9	Batman	Ink	
10	Superman	Ink	
11	Barney Google	Ink	
12	Pinocchio	Pencil	
13	Bambi	Pencil	
14	Brer Fox	Pencil	
15	The Katzenjammer Kids	Ink	
16	Donald Duck	Pencil	
17	Pluto	Pencil	
18	Dumbo	Pencil	
19	Lil Abner & Daisy	Ink	
20	Marmaduke	Ink	
21	Buck Rogers	Pencil	
22	Tiller the Toiler	Pencil	By Russ Westmore
23	Peanuts Gang	Ink	
24	The Family Circus	Ink	
25	Blondie	Ink	
26	Dagwood	Ink	
27	Dennis the Menace	Pencil	
28	Little Orphan Annie & Sandy	Ink	
29	Dick Tracy	Ink	
30	Peter Pan	Pencil	
31	Goofy	Pencil	
32	Sleeping Beauty	Pencil	
33	Brer Bear	Pencil	
34	Brer Rabbit	Pencil	

Earl Blair-Blue Binder #1 of Identified Buildings and sketches

Name	City/State	Notes
Dr. Lynn McDonald	Madison, WI	
Christel McDonald	Chevy Chase, MD	2 sketches
James & Kitty McDonald	Salisbury, MD	
Karl & Gertrud Meyer	Hamburg, Germany	3 sketches
Hopkins Relative		Cape cod
Hopkins Relative		1 ½ storey ranch
A. Hunziker	Ankeny, IA	
Sue Gibbons	Ankeny, IA	
Bob Stewart	Des Moines, IA	
Mike & Nancy Hopkins	Durham, NH	Sloped back roof
Jim Cunningham's Daughter (Diane)		
Friends of Mike Hopkins	New Hampshire	
	Vancouver, BC	
Methodist Church [First United]	Ankeny, IA	2 sketches
Marengo Bank	Marengo, IA	2 sketches
Frosty Mitchell home	Florida	2 sketches
Mother of Francesca Cunningham	Ohio	2 sketches
Friend of Cindy Manly	Burlington, IA	
Stan Stewart	Indianapolis, IN	Sloped roof
Betty Mertens	Minnesota	
Done for Sue Graham	Minnesota	
Laura & Bernie Schneider	Gresham, OR	
Art Boeke		
John Ludden	Des Moines, IA	
Robert Kurtz	Des Moines, IA	Relative of Cindy Ludden
Mother of Cindy Ludden	Florida	
Stan Stewart	Indianapolis, IN	Ranch style
Mrs. Jack Matheny	Morton, IL	2 sketches
Joan Cunningham's parents		4 sketches
Mike Hopkins	Durham, NH	Colonial style, end gables
Jim Cunningham's daughter (Diane)	Texas	2 sketches
Bart's Parents	West Virginia	
Composite of the several homes of a lady	Cedar Rapids, IA	3 sketches
Cymanskis	Cleveland, OH	December 1995
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Nolte	Fairmont, MN	Chris Nolte's parents
Cindy Ludden's mother's home	Canton, IL	
Dwight Carter	Des Moines, IA	Mrs. Ludden's parents
Spencer's Grove Church	Rural Walker, IA	
Loucks	SW of Newton, IA	
Donny Blair	Paton, IA	

Vernon Nolte	Fairmont, MN	2 sketches
Mark & Kelley Cymenski (2 sketches)	Cleveland, OH	December 1995
Sally Whitecotton (2 sketches)	Cedar Rapids, IA	
Cheryl Whitecotton	Cedar Rapids, IA	
Wayne Whitecotton	West Des Moines, IA	
Larry & Jolyne Shockey	East Des Moines, IA	
Hazel Peterson	Sidney, MT	1996
Arden Blair (2 sketches)	Montana	Titled "Paradise"
Donald Blair	Billings, MT	
Lyle Blair (2 sketches)	Paton, IA	
Todd & Mary Wilson	New Jersey	
Mildred & Carlton Laird (2 sketches)	Pittsfield, MA	
Glen Blair	Paton, IA	
Paul Blair	Churdan, IA	
Carlton Laird (3 sketches)	Edwardsville, IL	1992
Mike Laird (3 sketches)	Indianapolis, IN	
Mike & Robin Laird (3 sketches)	Stamford, CT	
Don & Mary Shockey	Salt Lake City, UT	
Curtis & Kate Hanover (2 sketches)	Des Moines, IA	
Mildred Stangl	Lincoln, NE	
Jim & Beverly Walker	Farmingville, Long Island, NY	
Ed & Kay Shockey	Salt Lake City, UT	
John Blair	Seattle, WA	
Virgil & Alma Averill (2 sketches)	Jefferson, IA	
The Piries (3 sketches)	Glendale, CA	
Ray & Doris Pirie (2 sketches)		August 1995
Mrs. Steve Pirie	Fairfield, NE	1995
Tom & Roberta Trumbo	Fairfield, NE	
Darlene Roush-3 cabled building)		April 1998
Darlene Roush-multi-spired church bldg. (2 sketches)	Rockford, IL	December 1997
	Salt Lake City, UT	April 1998
Darlene Roush (2 sketches)	Rockford, IL	
Darlene Roush	Rockford, IL	
Darlene Roush	Rockford, IL	
Darlene Roush	Rockford, IL	December 1997
Town Clock Store	Nauvoo, IL	January 1998
Printing Office	Nauvoo, IL	January 1998
Darlene Roush	Nauvoo, IL	1998
Darlene Roush (2 sketches)		
Blacksmith/Wainwright	Nauvoo, IL (?)	Darlene Roush commissioned
Darlene Roush		April 1998
	Nauvoo, IL	April 1998
Gunsmith/Jonathan Browning	Nauvoo, IL	April 1998
Church building (2 sketches)		Darlene Roush

		commissioned
Small brick building with picket fence		

Back of Blue Binder #1: Transportation Vehicles

Name	Location	Notes
376 Plane	Sunrise	
Pickup truck		Chuck's/1986
Midget sports car		Convertible
Allis-Chalmers tractor		November 1995
Farmall tractor	Barn in background	
Coat of Arms-Van Wechel		

Earl Blair Sketches—non-identified. Blue Binder #2

Autobiography
September 6, 2012

I was asked to write a narrative about how I picked up abilities as an artist. (I really don't consider myself as an artist). However, I always got an "A" in Art classes, and always enjoyed Art.

When I was in the first grade, another class student offered me 25 cents if I would do an art project for him to turn in. (This was my first commercial art.) But when the report cards came out, he got an A and I got a C; never fooled her [the teacher] a bit.

I've never done a whole lot with paint but have mostly done sketches in ink. I must have been born with some talent—I had an aunt that was considered to be an Artist, and my Mother was pretty good with doing little sketches.

When I got to high school a class in Mechanical Drawing was offered, and I signed up for this class for both 9th and 10th grades, but they first refused a 3rd year class, which of course they didn't have.

I was told they couldn't give me credit toward graduation because they had no such class. I assured this teacher that I had taken extra classes previously and I didn't need the extra credit and if they would just let me sit in the back of the room, I would be really quiet and they could just feed me some advanced work. Well, this persuaded them to let me take it another year, but no credit.

I really prefer to be referred to as a sketch artist, as most of my work has been of that nature.

In about the past three years, there has always been a group that has sponsored tours of homes in the community, each tour consisting of 10-12 homes and I have always been asked to do a sketch of each home on the tour. These I have have happily done, and at no charge.

Through the years I have sketched roughly 300 churches, businesses, college buildings and many, many homes, which I have given to the library for preservation.

Now, I need to learn how to write.

Donated by: Earl Blair

Name of Preparer: C. Neubert

Date of Preparation: January/February 2013