



St. Louis Public Schools Power Plants Struggle Manuscript (S0095)

Collection Number: S0095

Collection Title: St. Louis Public Power Plants Struggle Manuscript

Dates: 1982

Creator: Young, Frank Weldon, 1902-1996

Abstract: This collection contains an autobiography titled *The 30's: Donnybrook Decade in St. Louis Public School Power Plants (A Geechee Maverick's Quest in a Jim Crow City)*, written by Frank Weldon Young. Young wrote the manuscript to discuss his life as the first African American to receive their stationary engineer's license in the city of St. Louis.

Collection Size: 0.1 cubic foot
(1 folder)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *St. Louis Public Schools Power Plants Struggle Manuscript* (S0095); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The manuscript was donated to the University of Missouri by Frank Weldon Young on December 23, 1982 (Accession No. SA2497).

Processed by: Processed by Rachel Heriford, February 2023.

Biographical Note:

Frank Weldon Young was born on January 3, 1902, in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He migrated to St. Louis in 1920 to work as a projectionist for a local movie theater. Young subsequently moved to New York City the following year, enrolling in a technical course in Practical Electrical Engineering at the New York Electrical School. In 1923, he returned to St. Louis, registering in stationary engineering classes at the American Correspondence School in 1926. After serving a two-year apprenticeship, the St. Louis City Board of Education hired Young as an oiler at Vashon High School on September 1, 1928. After graduating from the American Correspondence School in 1930, Young became one of the first licensed African American engineers in St. Louis and transferred to Sumner High School in September of that year to work in the school's power plant. Throughout his career, he coached and tutored other African Americans in St. Louis to achieve their engineer license and become successfully employed at other African American high schools throughout St. Louis City. Frank Weldon Young died in St. Louis City on January 4, 1996.

Arrangement:

The collection has been maintained in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

The 30's: Donnybrook Decade in St. Louis Public School Power Plants (A Geechee Maverick's Quest in a Jim-Crow City) was written by Frank Weldon Young in 1982. Young recounts conflicts between his white co-workers and school administrators regarding his professional competency; his collaborations with local African American leaders, such as D.R. Clark, rector of the All-Saints Episcopal Church, to lobby St. Louis Public Schools to hire and promote African American engineers at predominantly Black schools, and pushback he received from his fellow community members jealous of his career advancements.

Container List:

- f. 1 *The 30's: Donnybrook Decade in St. Louis Public Power Plants.
(A Geechee Maverick's Quest in a Jim-Crow City), 1982*

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