

**Collection name:** Matthew McCormack Collection: Carl R. Henry Diaries

**Repository:** Special Collections Department -Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library. 211 First Ave, Alpena, MI 49707.

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**Collection number:** MMC-1

**Dates:** 1907-1911 (originals range from 1901 to 1966)

**Creator Name:** Carl R. Henry

**Quantity:** 1 Linear ft / 2 boxes

**Language:** English

**Biographical & Historical Information:** "Obituary.... Carl R. Henry (Photo on page one)

Death Tuesday, Dec. 13, at the age of 79 ended a 55 - year legal career that led Carl R. Henry of eminence as a corporation counsel, president of the State Bar of Michigan, 43 years as a bank director and officer and nearly three decades of service to the Alpena County Road Commission. Brief illness preceded his death shortly before 6 p.m. Tuesday at U-M Medical Center in Ann Arbor, where he was entered as a surgical patient Dec. 4. His body is to be cremated. A memorial service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Friday at the First Congregational Church by the Rev. Robert M. Barksdale, pastor. Arrangements will be in charge of Bannan Funeral Home.

His family suggests that friends who wish may make contributions in his name to a memorial fund at Alpena Hospital, to be used for purchase of life-saving equipment.

Mrs. Henry, the former Wilma C. Johnson, survives. They were married Oct. 16, 1917, at the First Congregational Church, the Rev. Clarence M. Burkholder officiating. Also surviving are three daughters, Mrs. William C. Lake (Susan), Mrs. Robert G. Silver - jr (Elizabeth) and Mrs. James B. Davison (Mary), all of Alpena; a brother, Guy D. Henry, of Los Angeles; and 13 grandchildren. Son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Henry, he was born Nov. 17, 1887, at AuSable, moving to Alpena in 1898 when his father opened legal offices at 104 Water in the National Bank building. Taking his degree in law at the University of Michigan June 9, 1911, Mr. Henry joined his father and brother in practice here.

(Guy D. Henry was a partner from 1910 to 1918, when he joined a leading Saginaw firm, leaving to practice in Los Angeles in 1930; Charles R. Henry died in 1926; and the firm became Henry & Knapp after William F. Knapp came here 30 years ago).

Carl R. Henry's work as a corporation counsel led to such extended associations as his 51 years as general counsel for General Telephone co, 42 years in a like capacity for the D & M Railway and a half century and more of legal service to Besser Company and to Jesse Besser.

Professional distinction led to his appointment by Gov. Frank Murphy as chairman of the Michigan Public Trust Commission and his advancement in the same period to the presidency of the State Bar of Michigan (1938-39).

Highlight of his term as State Bar president was drafting and passing under his leadership of the Probate Code of 1939, a monumental piece of legislation. Stimulus of his leadership brought registration of 1,400 for the 1939 State Bar convention in Detroit, "largest meeting of lawyers ever held in Michigan," according to the State Bar Journal.

Mr. Henry was admitted to practice and argued cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court, as well as the Michigan Public Service Commission and the State Tax Commission. He was a member of the 26th Judicial Circuit Bar Association and the American Bar Association as well as the State Bar.

The degree of doctor of laws was conferred upon him by the Detroit College of Law on June 19, 1939, when he delivered the commencement address.

He became a director of the Alpena National Bank in January of 1923, continuing until that bank's merger with the Alpena Savings Bank in July of 1931. He continued as counsel and a director of the Savings Bank until his death and also as vice-president, a post to which he was elected Jan. 1, 1945.

On Feb. 5, 1937, he was appointed to the Alpena County Road Commission and served continuously for almost 30 years, becoming chairman in 1956 upon the death of Robert R. Scott. Mr. Henry was the last surviving charter member of the Alpena Rotary Club, which was established Feb. 13, 1922. He was a member of the Alpena Lodge No. 199, F&AM. During World War II he served on the Selective Service Appeals Board. He was also a member of Alpena Lodge Elks. Some of his closest personal associations were formed at the Doctors Hunting Club in southwestern Alpena County, where he was an active member for 53 years. In 52 of those 53 years, his birthday was celebrated at a Doctors Club dinner party in his honor, including the November just past when, as usual, his wit and reminiscence sparkled in an after-dinner talk. A sense of history and a reverence for the past pervaded all his relationships. The decor and furnishings of his law office, in which father and son practiced continuously for 68 years, was virtually unchanged from the beginning. Mementoes of the decades hang from the walls. Another of his interest was the Henry fruit farm in Wilson Township, acquired from his father. For three decades, until he sold it a number of years ago, the orchards were noted for the quality of cherries, apples, pears and plums produced there.

His place of residence was the Henry family home at 303 State, and many summers were spent at the family cottage on the west shore of Hubbard Lake.

Mrs. Henry arrived this morning from Ann Arbor in the Besser Company aircraft. She was accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Ora Roby of Washington, D.C."

Above obituary in the Alpena News, Wednesday, December 14, 1966. [copied from Find A Grave]

**Scope & Content:** Diaries of daily life of Alpena resident Carl Henry

**Acquisition:** Inherited by great-grandson, Matthew McCormack

**Access:** Open to research

**Preferred Citation:** **item, folder, box** Matthew McCormack Collection, Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library. Alpena, MI

**Collection Contents:**

**Box 1 of 2:**

*Folder*

1. Carl R. Henry Diary [copy] (1907)
2. Carl R. Henry Diary [copy] (1908)
3. Carl R. Henry Diary [copy] (1909)

**Box 2 of 2:**

*Folder*

1. Carl R. Henry Diary [copy] (1910)
2. Carl R. Henry Diary [copy] (1911)