

Hope College

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**H06-1637. Dethmers, John R. (-2006). Papers, 1860-1944. 0.50 linear ft.**

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**H06-1637.** Dethmers, John R. (1903-2006).  
Papers, 1921-2006. 0.50 linear ft.

### Abstract

John R. Dethmers was born October 15, 1903, in Plessis, Iowa. He graduated from Hope College in 1924 and the University of Michigan Law School in 1927. Admitted to the Michigan Bar that same year, he began practicing law in Holland, Michigan. In addition, he was prosecuting attorney for Ottawa County, 1931 to 1938; chief assistant attorney general of Michigan 1943 to 1944; then Attorney General of Michigan, 1945-1946. In 1946, he was appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court. In 1956, he was named the first permanent chief justice, serving 1956-1962; then again from 1967-1971. He was a member of the American Bar Association, the American Judicature Society, and the National Conference of Chief Justices. He died November 1, 1971.

Accession No: H06-1637  
Provenance: John R. Dethmers  
Donor: Mrs. John R. Dethmers  
Photographs: 6 images  
Processed by: Geoffrey D. Reynolds, November 2006

### Biography

John R. Dethmers was born October 15, 1903, in Plessis, Iowa. He graduated from Hope College in 1924 and the University of Michigan Law School in 1927. Admitted to the Michigan Bar that same year, he began practicing law in Holland, Michigan. In addition, he was prosecuting attorney for Ottawa County, 1931 to 1938; chief assistant attorney general of Michigan 1943 to 1944; then Attorney General of Michigan, 1945-1946.

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### Scope and Content

The collection includes a images of John Dethmers and members of the Cosmopolitan Fraternity, Dethmers and members of the Delta Theta Pi law fraternity at the University of Michigan, and a large photograph of Dethmers; his Hope College Memory Book (scrapbook); Delta Theta Pi law fraternity publications; campaign business card for the January 25, 1940, primary for the Congressional Fifth District; and Michigan Republican Party campaign poster for his campaign for the Michigan Attorney General position in 1944; Hope College student body photograph for the 1922-1923 school year; and a 1938 War Department Corps of Engineers map of Holland Harbor/Lake Macatawa. Oversized materials are stored in the Oversized Horizontal Storage Cabinet.

Container List

Biographical, 1923-2006  
Campaign Business Card, 1940  
Delta Theta Pi Law Fraternity  
    Christiancy Senate, April 21, 1926  
    *The Padded Hammer*, November 2, 1925  
Hope College Memory Book (scrapbook), 1921-1925  
Michigan Republican Party campaign poster for his campaign for the Michigan Attorney  
    General position, 1944 (Oversized)  
Map of Holland Area, ca. 1860s  
Map of Holland Harbor/Lake Macatawa, War Department Corps of Engineers, 1938  
Photographs  
    Cosmopolitan Fraternity, ca. 1921 (2 images)  
    Delta Theta Pi Law Fraternity, ca. 1925 (1 image)  
    Dethmers, John, n.d. (1 image) (Oversized)  
    Dethmers, John, and others, n.d. (1 image)  
    Hope College Student Body, 1922-1923 (1 image) (Oversized)