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KLEIN, HARRY
(1908-1987)
PAPERS
1944-1949

Processed by:

Harry A. Stokes
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INTRODUCTION

This finding aid focuses on the papers of Harry Klein, businessman, born in Epes (Sumter County), Alabama. Spanning the years 1943-1949, the papers contain numerous correspondence involving Klein and the operation of department stores in Nashville, Tennessee, and Jackson, Mississippi, in the early years following the end of World War II. Also contained within the collection are account books and accounts relating to the Klein stores, and the Woodmont Country Club in Nashville. In addition, there is correspondence concerning the 6th War Loan Drive of 1945.

The materials were donated by Max Mendelsohn, a friend of the Klein family. The materials in this finding aid measure 2.5 cubic feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Harry Klein Papers may be made for scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Harry Klein Papers, containing approximately 575 items, span the period 1944-1949. The collection is composed of account books, accounts, correspondence, financial documents, tax records, World War II documents, and several miscellaneous items.

A major portion of the collection consists of correspondence. The correspondence has been arranged into two parts: business/general and family. Business/general correspondence largely relates to the orders of Harry Klein to his suppliers of ladies apparel items and the replies of these wholesale distributors. Of particular interest are Klein's frequent requests for nylon hosiery after World War II. Demand for nylons exceeded the supply which was available for retailers. This aspect of the collection should be of considerable value to the prospective researcher whose interest is in the economic history of retailing in the postwar period in America.

Another valuable portion of the Klein Papers are the documents relating to the World War II Loan Drives. Harry Klein was general chairman of the Sixth War Loan drive in Davidson County, Tennessee. The collection contains newsletters, plans, correspondence, and reports of the committee chairman which helped make this drive a huge success.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Harry Klein

- 1908 March 14, born in Epes (Sumter County), Alabama, the son of Issac and Rose Botnick Klein.
- 1923 Opened Klein's Department Store in Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1929 August 11, married in Kentucky to Esther Schwartz; remarried on August 16 at the Vine Street Temple in Nashville.
- 1944 Chaired 6th War Loan Drive in Davidson County, Tennessee.
- 1945 Opened Barton's Ladies Apparel store in Nashville.
- 1946 Opened Klein's Ladies Apparel store in Jackson, Mississippi.
- 1987 June 13, died in Nashville, Tennessee, and interred at K. K. A. I. Cemetery.

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Roll #1

Box 1

1. Account books—Allen's Fifth Avenue, 1944-1946
2. Account books—Harry Klein
3. Account books—Miscellaneous
4. Account books—Barton's Ladies Apparel
5. Account books—Bills, notes, receipts—Woodmont County Club, 1948-1949

Box 2

1. Accounts—Klein's Mississippi Stores, 1946-1947
2. Cards—Business—Harry Klein
3. Cards—Membership—Miscellaneous
4. Cards—Social Security—Harry Klein
5. Certificates—Auto registration—Harry and Esther Klein, 1944-1952
6. Certificates—Bail bond—Harry Klein, 1945-1946
7. Clippings—Leslie M. Avery
8. Clippings—Harry Klein
9. Correspondence—Business/General—"A"
10. Correspondence—Business/General—"B"
11. Correspondence—Business/General—"C"
12. Correspondence—Business/General—"D"
13. Correspondence—Business/General—"E"
14. Correspondence—Business/General—Fred W. Finter, 1944-1949
15. Correspondence—Business/General—Chas. Gillenson, 1944-1949

Microfilm Roll #2

16. Correspondence—Business/General—"F-G"
17. Correspondence—Business/General—"H"

Box 3

Correspondence

1. Business/general—Khal Kodesh Adath Israel, 1944-1945
2. Business/general—Klein's Mississippi Dept. Store, 1947-1949
3. Business/general—"I-J-K"
4. Business/general—"L"
5. Business/general—"M"
6. Business/general—Nebel Knitting Co., 1944-1949
7. Business/general—"N-O"
8. Business/general—"P-Q"
9. Business/general—"R"

10. Business/general—Selective Service Bd., Davidson Co., Tenn.
11. Business/general—The Simon's Co., 1944-1949
12. Business/general—"S"
13. Business/general—"T-V"
14. Business/general—"W-X-Y-Z"
15. Family—Dave Barton, 1947
16. Family—Charles and Adele Botnick, 1945
17. Family—Irene (Klein) Gillenson, [1945]
18. Family—Sandra (Klein) Goldstein, 1947-1949
19. Family—Jerry Klein
20. Family—Rose Klein, 1946-1947
21. Miscellaneous

Box 4

Financial Documents

1. Bank books—Harry Klein
2. Bank books—Rose Klein
3. Bank books—Sandra Ruth Klein
4. Canceled checks—Harry Klein, 1943-1952

Microfilm Roll #3

5. Canceled checks—Mrs. I Klein, 1943-1944
6. Contributions/donations—Harry Klein, 1945-1946
7. Genealogical data—Isaac Klein
8. Promissory notes—Rose/Harry Klein
9. Sales reports, 1943-1945
10. Stocks and bonds, 1944-1946

Box 5

1. Insurance papers—Harry and Esther Klein
2. Inventories—Wearing apparel, 1947
3. Land records—Seller's statement—Mrs. Mary Schwartz, July 9, 1946
4. Legal documents—Charter—Theatrical Films, Inc., 1946
5. Licenses—Hunting and fishing—Harry/Esther Klein
6. Photographs—Miscellaneous--Unknown
7. School records—Sandra Klein
8. Tax records—Harry/Esther Klein
9. Tax records—Maurice/Helen Klein
10. Tax records—Rose/I. Klein
11. Tributes—Manuel Eskin
12. World War II—Office of Price Administration—Mileage rationing record
13. World War II—Thayer General Hospital—Golden gloves tournament, 1945

14. World War II—War Loan Drive—2, 3, 4, 5
15. World War II—War Loan Drive—6th, 1944
16. Writings—Harry Klein