

Mayor James H. Ross Collection, 1933-1937

Object ID: MG0058

2 boxes 10 folders, 1 scrapbook 1 cubic ft.

Repository: LancasterHistory (Organization); PV7

Shelving Location: Archives South, Side 2

Scope and Content Note: The Mayor James H. Ross Collection documents Ross's political career from 1933-1937. James Ross, a businessman and civic leader, served as mayor of Lancaster from 1934-1938. The collection consists primarily of correspondence and a scrapbook. The letters are related to his mayoral election and responsibilities, the James H. Ross Ready to Wear Department Store, and personal matters. The scrapbook, compiled by his wife, contains information about his political career, the department store, and other local merchants, and provides a good background on the housing issues that threatened Lancaster City. The collection gives a fragmented picture of life in Lancaster in the 1930s, including commercial transactions, the Depression, religious charitable organizations, politics, and the Democratic Party.

Creator: Ross, James Hubert, 1875-1962; Ross, Ethel E. Dietrich, 1892-1977

Conditions for Access: Please make an appointment with the Director of Archival Services to view scrapbook.

Conditions Governing Reproductions: Collection may not be photocopied. Please contact Research Staff or Archives Staff with questions.

Language: English

Biographical and Historical Note: James H. Ross was born in Green County, Ohio. When he was six, Ross's family moved to Monroe County, West Virginia where he attended school until he was seventeen. His family moved back to Ohio where he finished his schooling at Bowersville High School. After graduating, Ross moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania and began working for M. T. Garvin & Co. Ross left M. T. Garvin & Co. in 1928 and established his own store, James H. Ross Ready to Wear Department Store, in December of that same year. James H. Ross was elected Mayor of Lancaster as a Democrat in 1934.

Source of Acquisition: Unknown.

Custodial History (Provenance): Scrapbook, *Career of James Ross, Former Merchant and Mayor*, was previously housed in the Scrapbook Collection, Book 121. Scrapbook, *Career of James Ross, Former Merchant and Mayor*, was cataloged and preserved with



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funding from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, ME60112, 2007-2008.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Preferred Citation: Mayor James H. Ross Collection (MG-58), Folder #, LancasterHistory, Lancaster, Pa.

Subject Headings:

Business records (LHo-LOC sh 85018316)
Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc) (LHo-LOC sh 85027084)
Lancaster (Pa.)--Politics and government
Letters
Local elections (LHo-LOC sh 85077914)
Local taxation (LHo-LOC sh 85077943)
Mayors (LHo-LOC sh 85082436)
Scrapbooks (LHo-LOC sh 85118923)
Speeches (LHo-LOC gf2011026363)

Search Terms:

Business records
Church of Our Father Unitarian
Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
Correspondence
Elections
James H. Ross Ready to Wear Department Store
Letters
M. J. Brecht School
Mayors
Newspaper clippings
Politics
Schools
Scrapbooks
Speeches
Taxes
Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster
Wheatland
Young Men's Democratic Club

Related Materials:

Processing History: This collection has been documented, preserved and managed according to professional museum and archives standards. The finding aid was updated using DACS conventions.



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Folder 1 Brief sketch of the life of Mayor James H. Ross as requested by students from M. J. Brecht School, Manheim Township, Lancaster County, Pa. for a 7th grade Biography project, 1934.

Folder 2 Letters of congratulations related to James H. Ross's mayoral election Nov. 8, 1933.

Folder 3 Letters of congratulations related to James H. Ross's mayoral election. Nov. 9, 1933 to Nov. 15, 1933

Folder 4 Letters of congratulations related to James H. Ross's mayoral election. Nov. 13, 1933 to Dec. 8, 1933

Folder 5 Letters of congratulations related to James H. Ross's mayoral election. Jan. 1, 1934 to March 20, 1934.

Folder 6 Correspondence related to mayoral matters. Sept. 15, 1933 to Oct. 16, 1936.

Folder 7 Invitations- Jan. 29, 1934 to Dec. 18, 1934.

Folder 8 Personal correspondence including bulletins from the Lancaster Unitarian Church of Our Father, 1930. Nov. 29, 1933 to Jan. 5, 1937.

Folder 9 James H. Ross Ready to Wear Department Store correspondence. Dec. 8, 1933 to June 26, 1934.

Folder 10 James H. Ross Ready to Wear Department Store correspondence. July 10, 1934 to Nov. 24, 1936.

Scrapbook *Career of James Ross, Former Merchant and Mayor, 1933-1937.*

Compiled by Mrs. James H. Ross. Former Mayor James H. Ross's political career is established within this scrapbook. Containing overlapping newspaper clippings, the articles document Ross's speeches and locations, legislation and other political moves. In addition to newspaper clippings, the scrapbook contains programs, photographs and correspondence. Some of the photographs are identified as members of Ross's family; however, the majority of the photographs are not identified. Some articles contain information about Ross's department store, as well as other local merchants. The scrapbook also provides a good background on the housing issues that threatened Lancaster City.

