

McKenney-Mills Collection Finding Aid MS413

McKenney-Mills Collection (MS413)

2000



Title Statement

McKenney-Mills Collection Finding Aid MS413

Publication Statement

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS413

Unit Date

2000

Language

English .

Creator

McKenney, Ashton N. (Mike), 1921-2005

Creator

Mills, Thomas E., III (Thomas Edward), 1935-

Creator

Mills, Thomas E., Jr. (Thomas Edward), 1912-1999

Creator

Moore, C. Bennett (Charles Bennett), 1904-1966

Extent

3 Cubic Feet

Repository

Local History and Special Collections Branch, Alexandria Library

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[item identification], McKenney-Mills Collection, MS413, Alexandria Library, Local History and Special Collections, Alexandria, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

Ashton "Mike" McKenney was a long time member of the Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department, starting in 1940. Later in his career, he worked as the historian for the AFD and wrote A History of the Relief Truck and Engine Company No. 1 of the Alexandria Fire Department (1788-1958). In 1956, Mike moved in with close friend Thomas Mills, Jr. and his family. He retired in 1972 from the Dulles International Airport Fire Department, and lived out his days with the Mills family in Colonial Beach where he was a charter member of the Colonial Yacht Club.

Thomas Mills III was a firefighter with the Alexandria Fire Department. Both he and his father had a penchant for grabbing their camera while headed to a fire, in order to capture the efforts of the fire companies. Tom also loved fire trucks and engines and documented that love with research and photographs, while both Mills and McKenney collected photos that documented the history of the AFD.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains research materials, ephemera, and photographs collected by or created by Mike McKenney, Thomas Mills Jr., and Thomas Mills III, that document the Alexandria Fire Department.

Keywords

Fire departments -- Virginia -- Alexandria
Fires -- Virginia -- Alexandria
Railroad trains.
Fire engines.
Fire departments -- Officials and employees.
Fire fighting equipment industry
Fire stations.
Train stations
Photographs.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: Mike McKenney Papers

Relief Fire Company History

Text 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Folder contains various notes and writings on the Alexandria Relief Fire Company written by Mike McKenney. Much of this material led to the publishing of his book on the subject.

Research: Newspaper Photocopies

Unit Date 1855-1935

Text 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

This folder contains many various photocopies of newspapers taken from microfilm, from 1855-1935

newspapers. The subject matter collected by McKenney is anything fire department related.

Seaport in Virginia and Permission Letter

Unit Date July 2, 1987

Text 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Folder contains photocopies of portions of Seaport in Virginia by Gay Montague Moore, along with a letter from her nephew, F. Breckenridge Montague, granting permission to use portions of the article.

Notes, Correspondence, and Photos Regarding the Ivy Hill Monument

Unit Date April - August, 1987

Text 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

This folder contains photocopied newspapers from 1855-1856, along with correspondence between McKenney and Harold J. Seibert, and photographic negatives surrounding the firefighters memorial at Ivy Hill Cemetery.

Notes on the Great Fire of 1827

Text 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Folder contains handwritten notes and photocopies of an unidentified publication on the Great Fire of 1827 in Alexandria.

Miscellaneous Notes

Text 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Folder contains various notes and transcriptions related to the history of the Alexandria Fire Department.

Notes on State Conventions

Text 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Folder contains notes on fire department state conventions in the nineteenth century.

Photocopied News and Notes on George Whalen

Unit Date 1924

Text 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Folder contains photocopied newspapers and notes about the injury and death of the "Baby Fireman" George Whalen, who was severely injured in a fall while fighting a fire.

Article by Ashton McKenny

Text 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Folder contains a photocopied article written by Ashton "Mike" McKenney.

200th Anniversary Program Designs

Unit Date 1987

Text 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

This folder contains several mock-ups of the program for the 200th anniversary of the Relief Truck and Engine Company No. 1, in 1988.

Newspaper Clippings on Volunteers in the Alexandria Fire Department

Unit Date 1985

Text 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Folder contains several newspaper articles about whether or not the AFD should be able to utilize volunteers in the fire department.

"Years Ago" Newspaper Clippings

Text 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

This folder contains several small articles from the Alexandria Gazette's "Years Ago" series. These were compiled by Ashton "Mike" McKenney and mostly focus on the Alexandria Fire Department's history. These articles were kept in the order they appeared in McKenney's notebook, along with the black sheets that some of them are still taped to.

Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings

Unit Date 1969-1988

Text 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

This folder contains miscellaneous newspaper clippings curated by Ashton "Mike" McKenney.

Ephemera

Unit Date 1921-1981

Text 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

This folder contains several miscellaneous items including a ticket to the Annual Escursion of the Columbia Engine and Motor Co. No. 4 on July 26, 1921, a constitution and by-laws of the Friendship Veteran Fire Association, newspaper clippings of articles written by J. H. Mansfield, programs for the first annual retirement banquet from December 10, 1970, and stamps from 1981 commemorating the 1860

fire pumpers.

Series II: Thomas Mills III Papers

Research Materials: Fire Trucks

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This folder contains various note and research materials about fire trucks, especially in the Alexandria fire department. It also contains 3 larger photographs of Alexandria fire trucks.

Research Materials: Fire Truck Correspondence

Unit Date 1980-1982

Text 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This folder contains letters written by and to Thomas Mills III, regarding his research on fire trucks.

Research Materials: Miscellaneous Fire Department

Text 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

"The Surveyor", George Washington High School Newsletter

Unit Date 1953-1954

Text 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

George Washington High School Ephemera

Unit Date 1953-1957

Text 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This folder contains football programs and tickets along with a program for a play called Crew Follies.

Thomas Mills Jr.'s Alexandria High School Ephemera

Unit Date 1928-1930

Text 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This folder contains a ticket for a play called Out of the Stillness, a football schedule for the 1928 season, programs for a play called A Dweller in the Darkness and a play called When the Clock Strikes Twelve, and several issues of The Last Lap Alexandria High School newsletter dating from October 12, 1928 to April 16, 1930.

Series III: Ephemera and Books

Scope and Contents

This series consists of a scrapbook, pamphlets, brochures, copies of Ashton McKenney's book, and a Bible donated to the fire department by the Ku Klux Klan.

America-La France 700 Operator's Manuals

Text 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Folder contains two operator's manuals and a small booklet on the history of America-LaFrance.

Convention Booklets

Unit Date 1927, 1932, and 1958

Books 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This folder contains 3 convention booklets. One is for the 41st Annual Convention and Tournament of the Virginia State Firemen's Association from August, 1927. Another is for the Annual Convention of Virginia State and Cumberland Valley Firemen's Associations, the Lady's Auxiliary to Virginia State Firemen's Association, and the State Fire Chiefs' Association of Virginia from 1932. The third is one for the same 3 conventions in 1958.

McKenney's Friendship Veterans Fire Association Booklets

Unit Date 1973-2001

Books 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This folder contains several programs from past ceremonies of the Friendship Veterans Fire Association, often signed by the guest speaker of each ceremony. Signatures included are Gov. Mills E. Goodwin, Senator and astronaut John Glenn, Jeff Bostic, Bobby Beathard, and one signed by some of the people released in the Iran Hostage Crisis in 1981.

A History of the Relief Truck and Engine Company No. 1 of the Alexandria Fire Department

Books 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Folder contains several copies of A History of the Relief Truck and Engine Company No. 1 of the Alexandria Fire Department, written by Ashton "Mike" McKenney.

Klan Bible

Books 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Scope and Contents

This folder contains a Bible donated by the Alexandria Ku Klux Klan No. 47 to the No 1. Relief Engine Company.

Series IV: Photographs

Sub-Series I: Firefighting Apparatus

Scope and Contents

This sub-series of photographs features photos of firefighting apparatuses such as fire engines, hose wagons, steam pumps, fire trucks, and rescue vehicles. The separation of these materials from other photos was based on Thomas Mills III's study of these machines. On some photos in the collection, he would name everyone in the photo. Others, he would describe the apparatus, including the date in which it was ordered, the date in which it was shipped, the model and serial number, and which unit utilized it. If it was clear that the notation on the back was aimed at the apparatus, then it was placed in this sub-series.

Hoses and Pumps

Graphic Materials 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Keywords

Fire departments -- Virginia -- Alexandria

fire departments -- virginia -- Alexandria
Fire departments -- Equipment and supplies.
Fire stations.

Truck 1

Unit Date 1918-1956

Graphic Materials 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Keywords

Fire departments -- Virginia -- Alexandria

Fire stations.

Fire extinction -- Equipment and supplies.

Fire departments -- Equipment and supplies.

Fire trucks

Truck 2

Unit Date 1918-1973

Graphic Materials 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Truck 3

Graphic Materials 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Truck 4

Unit Date 1963

Graphic Materials 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Truck 53

Unit Date 1986

Graphic Materials 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Truck 55

Unit Date 1979

Graphic Materials 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Truck 58

Unit Date 1979

Graphic Materials 3 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Engine 1

Unit Date 1915-1962

Graphic Materials 3 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Engine 2**Unit Date** 1929-1961**Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)**Engine 3****Unit Date** 1925-1972**Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 11 (folder)**Engine 4****Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 12 (folder)**Engine 5****Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 13 (folder)**Engine 6****Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 14 (folder)**Engine 7****Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 15 (folder)**Engine 51****Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 16 (folder)**Engine 52****Unit Date** 1969-1992**Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 17 (folder)**Engine 53****Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 18 (folder)**Engine 54****Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 19 (folder)**Engine 55****Unit Date** 1972-1991**Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 20 (folder)

Engine 56**Unit Date** 1972, 1991**Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 21 (folder)**Engine 57****Unit Date** 1975, 1991**Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 22 (folder)**Engine 58****Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 23 (folder)**Engine 206****Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 24 (folder)**Engine 207****Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 25 (folder)**Engine 208****Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 26 (folder)**Rescue Squad 1****Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 27 (folder)**Ambulances****Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 28 (folder)**Sub-Series II: Personnel and History****Scope and Contents**

This sub-series of photographs covers photos relevant to the history of the Alexandria Fire Department. They were arranged this way, due to their focus on the people of the department.

Arrangement

The arrangement of this collection is based on two categories: Subject and fire company. The first half of the sub-series of mostly group photographs and is arranged by fire company, keeping the Hook and Ladder No. 1, Engine and Truck No. 1, Potomac, Columbia No. 4, and Relief No. 5 together. The rest of the sub-series is arranged by subject, including funerals for specific firemen, Christmas celebrations, and portraits of members of the AFD.

Friendship Fire Co.**Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 29 (folder)**Relief Hook and Ladder Co.****Graphic Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 30 (folder)

Relief Truck and Engine Co. No. 1

Graphic Materials 3 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

Columbia Fire No. 4

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Reliance Co. No. 5

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Potomac Fire Co.

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

AFD, Co. 2, Co. 3, and Unknown Units

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Rescue Squad

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Steamers

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Chief Ogden

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Keywords

Ogden, Kenneth W. (Kenneth William), 1884-1925

Funeral for Chief Grauner

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Funeral for Chief Petty

Unit Date April, 1911

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Funeral for Bill Moore

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Funeral for Chief John E. Posey

Unit Date 1966

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Funeral for Frank Entwistle

Unit Date 1924

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Parades

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Portraits

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Christmas Celebrations

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Water Rescue Training

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Acceptance Test

Unit Date 1935

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Miscellaneous

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Personal Photos of Lt. Tom Mills III

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Keywords

Mills, Thomas E., III (Thomas Edward), 1935-

Sub-Series III: Fires**Smoot Lumber Yard**

Unit Date May 12, 1909

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

100 Block of Commerce

Unit Date December 1912

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Hay Pile Fire**Unit Date** 1919**Graphic Materials** 5 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Charles King Warehouse****Unit Date** 1920**Graphic Materials** 5 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Kirk Warehouse****Unit Date** December 26, 1925**Graphic Materials** 5 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Doniphan Building****Unit Date** January 2, 1929**Graphic Materials** 5 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Texaco Company at Wolfe and Union****Unit Date** February 15, 1930**Graphic Materials** 5 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Cameron Apartments at King and Alfred****Unit Date** December 30, 1933**Graphic Materials** 5 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**100 Block of N. Fayette****Unit Date** May 4, 1937**Graphic Materials** 5 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**Awning Shop at S. Patrick****Unit Date** 1940**Graphic Materials** 5 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)**Monticello Hotel****Unit Date** 1941**Graphic Materials** 5 (box)**Container** 11 (folder)**Colonial Laundry****Unit Date** 1943**Graphic Materials** 5 (box)**Container** 12 (folder)

Klipstein's Terrace

Unit Date February 17, 1945

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Scope and Contents

300 Block of S. Patrick

Del Ray Bowling Alley

Unit Date 1945

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Whelan's Drug Store

Unit Date November 17, 1946

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Fruit Growers Explosion

Unit Date April 12, 1947

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Alexandria Recreation Center Bowling Alley

Unit Date January 18, 1949

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Scope and Contents

500 Block of Montgomery

National Electronic Laboratories

Unit Date August 8, 1949

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Corner of King and Lee Streets.

Basement Fire on Vernon Street

Unit Date 1949

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Shack on Duke and Strand

Unit Date 1949

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Palace Cleaners

Unit Date July 21, 1950

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Corner of Prince and Royal Streets

Corner of Prince and Royal Streets.

Sheds at 1900 Duke Street

Unit Date 1950

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Boat Club Flag Pole

Unit Date June 16, 1951

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Robinson Paper Warehouse

Unit Date August 24, 1951

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Paper Warehouse at Princess and Lee

Unit Date November 18, 1951

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

1200 Princess Street

Unit Date April 12, 1952

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

51 E. Rosemont Street

Unit Date October 6, 1952

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Rescue Squad

Unit Date October 12, 1952

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Armory Hall

Unit Date January 21, 1953

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

1400 Block of Duke Street

Unit Date February 18, 1953

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

Temple Foundry

Unit Date April 22, 1953

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

618-620 S. Columbus Street

Unit Date January 10, 1954

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents

618 S. Columbus and 620 S. Columbus Street.

Beach Combers at Prince and Strand

Unit Date January 23, 1954

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

1 Block of S. Fayette Street

Unit Date April 1954

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

1100 Block of Cameron Street

Unit Date August 11, 1954

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Johnson's off Quaker Lane

Unit Date January 29, 1955

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

200 Block of Wilkes Street

Unit Date February 5, 1955

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

700 Block of Gibbon Street

Unit Date February 12, 1955

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Drills at 500 Block of Princess

Unit Date January 15, 1956

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Unknown Fire in Old Town

Unit Date February 1960

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

1016 Duke Street

Unit Date December 1962

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Warehouse at 724 S. Pickett Street

Unit Date August 17, 1963

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

417 N. Pitt Street

Unit Date February 4, 1965

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Safeway Storage

Unit Date December 12, 1965

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

W. M. Linder Lumber at 1215 Wilkes

Unit Date May 30, 1967

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Monticello Hotel

Unit Date August 1971

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Round House

Unit Date August 1971

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Asphalt Truck Explosion

Unit Date 1975

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

S. Royal Street

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Hay Storage at Duke and Union

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

100 Block of S. Henry Street

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

200 Block of S. Patrick Street

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Army Induction Center at Montgomery and N. St. Asaph

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

100 Block of N. St. Asaph Street

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

100 Block of King Street

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Railroad Wreck at Duke and Calahan

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

700 Block of King Street

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

St. Stevens School

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Sexton's House in Bethel Cemetery

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

300 Block of N. Patrick Street

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

331 N. Patrick Street

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

Cabinet Shop at 100 Block of N. Pitt Street

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 32 (folder)

Pepco Plant at N. Royal Street

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 33 (folder)

925 N. Columbus Street

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 34 (folder)

400 Block of N. Columbus Street

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 35 (folder)

900 Block of King Street

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 36 (folder)

Crockett House on High Street

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 37 (folder)

304 E. Alexandria Avenue

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 38 (folder)

800 Block of Duke Street

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 39 (folder)

700 Block of King Street

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 40 (folder)

Russell Road

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 41 (folder)

Banner Laundry

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 42 (folder)

400 Block of S. Alfred Street

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 43 (folder)

Abingdon Apartment House Explosion

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 44 (folder)

100 Block of Princess Street

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 45 (folder)

Lone Star Riding Stables

Graphic Materials 6 (box)

Container 46 (folder)