

A Guide to the Polly Ney Zindler Correspondence, 1922-1958 SC 0360

Polly Ney Zindler correspondence
1922-1958



Title Statement

A Guide to the Polly Ney Zindler Correspondence, 1922-1958 SC 0360

Author: Tiffany Cole

Publication Statement

Publisher: James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

820 Madison Drive
MSC 1706
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807
Telephone: (540) 568-3612
library-special@jmu.edu
URL: <https://www.lib.jmu.edu/special/>



February 2024

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-10-08 07:07:46 -0400.

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

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0360

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/740

Unit Date

1922-1958

Language

English

Abstract

The collection primarily consists of general correspondence and love letters written to Polly Ney Zindler of Harrisonburg. Correspondents include friends, family, and admirers specifically men attending Vanderbilt University who wrote to Polly while she was a student at Ward-Belmont College in Nashville. Love letters from Leo Zindler, Polly's future husband, are included.

Creator

Zindler, Polly Ney (1907-2002)

source

Green Valley Auctions, Inc.

source

Bowman, Douglas, 1948-2023

Extent

1.16 cubic feet 4 boxes

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collections Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk (library-special@jmu.edu).

Acquisition Information

Purchased at Green Valley Auctions December 5th, 2023 sale of the Doug Bowman Estate.

Processing Information

All folders of correspondence comprise letters written to Polly by various correspondents unless labeled otherwise. Letters from Leo Zindler to Polly and from Polly to Leo are foldered separately.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Polly Ney Zindler Correspondence, 1922-1958, SC 0360, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Biographical / Historical

Pauline "Polly" Ney was born in Harrisonburg in 1907 to Jewish parents Annie Sanders Ney and Alfred H. Ney. She attended public schools in the city and Ward-Belmont College in Nashville, Tennessee from 1925-1927. Polly was engaged to Leo Zindler (1900-1968), a businessman based out of Houston, Texas, circa September 1927. They married the following February. The couple lived in Houston after their wedding but eventually took up permanent residence in Harrisonburg. She was active in the Ney family's retail clothing business, specifically Alfred Ney's where she worked for decades alongside her husband and later her son Leo Zindler Jr. In 1958, the Zindlers opened a Waynesboro location of Alfred Ney's. Polly died in 2002 and is buried in Beth El Cemetery, Harrisonburg's historic Jewish cemetery.

Scope and Contents

The collection primarily consists of general correspondence and love letters written to Polly Ney Zindler of Harrisonburg. Correspondents include friends, family, and admirers specifically men attending Vanderbilt University who wrote to Polly while she was a student at Ward-Belmont College in Nashville. Love letters from Leo Zindler, Polly's future husband, are included.

Many of the correspondents who wrote to Polly attended Vanderbilt University and were members of the Alpha Gamma chapter of Zeta Beta Tau (ZBT), the first Jewish fraternity. These letters discuss family, school, exams, dating, gossip, and social life. There are also references to going to temple. A frequent correspondent was Joseph Leon Cohen who signed his letters "Jelly" and typically wrote to Polly on ZBT stationery. A photograph of "Jelly" and Polly is included in his March 23, 1927 letter to her.

Love letters from Leo Zindler, which begin in August 1927, discuss the couple's courtship, family and community news, their upcoming wedding, and Polly's wedding ring (size 5 3/4, platinum, heart-shaped, diamonds all around, per February 4, 1928 letter). Zindler frequently wrote from Houston on Ben Zindler's Sons (men and boys clothier) letterhead. The collection also includes letters Polly wrote to Leo in August-September 1928 while she was in Harrisonburg and he was in Houston.

Other correspondents include Polly's parents. Many of these letters are dated 1928 and addressed jointly to Polly and Leo Zindler. Letters from Joseph Ney, Polly's brother, are occasionally interfiled and provide updates on his schooling while he was a student at the University of Virginia. A folders of letters written to Joseph Ney are also included.

Florist cards date to 1958 and offer the Zindlers congratulations and well wishes on the occasion of opening a Waynesboro location of Alfred Ney's.

Keywords

Letters (correspondence)
Love letters
Photographs
City and town life -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg
Department stores -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg
Family-owned business enterprises -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg
Jewish families -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg
Harrisonburg (Va.) -- History
Harrisonburg (Va.) -- Social life and customs
Green Valley Auctions, Inc.
Bowman, Douglas, 1948-2023
Ward-Belmont College (Nashville, Tenn.)
Vanderbilt University
Zeta Beta Tau (Fraternity)
University of Virginia

Bibliography

Obituary for Pauline N. Zindler, *Daily News-Record*, June 8, 2002.

Provenance

From the estate of Doug Bowman, local collector of Harrisonburg memorabilia.

Description of Subordinate Components

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29379

Unit Date 1922

Mixed Materials [1000897428] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Letter addressed to Polly Ney and others, written on Camp Shenandoah (Island Ford, Virginia) letterhead.

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29340

Unit Date 1923-1924

Mixed Materials [1000897428] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents

All letters written by Clarence May, a student at Bridgewater College.

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29338

Unit Date 1925

Mixed Materials [1000897428] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29335

Unit Date 1926 (folder 1 of 5)

Mixed Materials [1000897428] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29380

Unit Date 1926 (folder 2 of 5)

Mixed Materials [1000897428] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29376

Unit Date 1926 (folder 3 of 5)

Mixed Materials [1000897428] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29384

Unit Date 1926 (folder 4 of 5)

Mixed Materials [1000897428] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29404

Unit Date 1926 (folder 5 of 5)

Mixed Materials [1000897428] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29336

Unit Date 1927 (folder 1 of 4)

Mixed Materials [1000897429] 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29377

Unit Date 1927 (folder 2 of 4)

Mixed Materials [1000897429] 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29381

Unit Date 1927 (folder 3 of 4)

Mixed Materials [1000897429] 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29405

Unit Date 1927 (folder 4 of 4)

Mixed Materials [1000897429] 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29337

Unit Date 1928 (folder 1 of 3)

Mixed Materials [1000897429] 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29402

Unit Date 1928 (folder 2 of 3)

Mixed Materials [1000897429] 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29406

Unit Date 1928 (folder 3 of 3)

Mixed Materials [1000897429] 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29339

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000897430] 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Includes undated envelope with photographs and negatives.

From Leo Zindler (folder 1 of 4)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29374

Unit Date 1927

Mixed Materials [1000897430] 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

From Leo Zindler (folder 2 of 4)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29408

Unit Date 1927

Mixed Materials [1000897430] 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

From Leo Zindler (folder 3 of 4)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29382

Unit Date 1927

Mixed Materials [1000897430] 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

From Leo Zindler (folder 4 of 4)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29409

Unit Date 1927

Mixed Materials [1000897430] 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

From Leo Zindler (folder 1 of 2)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29375

Unit Date 1928

Mixed Materials [1000897430] 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

From Leo Zindler (folder 2 of 2)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29383

Unit Date 1928

Mixed Materials [10008977626] 4 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

To Leo Zindler

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29407

Unit Date 1928

Mixed Materials [10008977626] 4 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Joseph Ney**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/29866**Unit Date** 1939-1940, undated**Mixed Materials [10008977626]** 4 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Congratulatory florist cards****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/29864**Unit Date** 1958**Mixed Materials [10008977626]** 4 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Scope and Contents**

Cards that accompanied floral arrangements to congratulate the Zindlers on opening a second Alfred Ney's location in Waynesboro, Virginia in 1958.

Receipts**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/29865**Unit Date** 1928-1932**Mixed Materials [10008977626]** 4 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)