

O.J. Morrison Department Stores Company (West Virginia and Ohio) Records A&M 1486

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1910-1985



Title Statement

O.J. Morrison Department Stores Company (West Virginia and Ohio) Records A&M 1486

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Descriptive Summary

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English .

Abstract

O.J. Morrison (b. 1869) was the founder and manager of the O.J. Morrison Department Store Company in West Virginia and Ohio. Collection chiefly includes correspondence and financial and legal papers that document the operation of Morrison's stores throughout West Virginia. Correspondence is a mix of personal and business letters, primarily from the 1940s, that document the management of the stores and Morrison's life in the community. There are a few personal letters from family and friends as well as correspondence with Rush Holt. More than twenty volumes contain stockholders and directors' meeting minutes for almost all of the department stores in West Virginia and the Ohio store. These financial ledgers typically date from the 1920s to the 1980s, though dates vary depending on the store location. Also includes a photograph of O.J. Morrison and biographical pamphlets written about Morrison and by Morrison about his stores and business philosophy.

Creator

O.J. Morrison Department Stores Company

Extent

5.98 Linear Feet 4 records cartons, 15 in. each; 2 document cases, 5 in. each; 1 reel of microfilm, 1.75 in.

Physical Location

West Virginia and Regional History Center / West Virginia University / 1549 University Avenue / P.O. Box 6069 / Morgantown, WV 26506-6069 / Phone: 304-293-3536 / URL: West Virginia & Regional History Center

Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

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Biographical / Historical

O. J. Morrison was born and raised on a farm near Ripley, Jackson County, West Virginia, on March 10, 1869, the son of Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Morrison. In 1891 O. J. Morrison married Cora A. Harpold. The Morrises had five children: Freda, Fay, Johnson O., Carl H., and Charles W. O. J. Morrison established his first general goods business in Kenna, West Virginia, in 1890, but eventually moved the business to Ripley. He later opened shops in Beckley, Charleston, Clarksburg, Clendenin, Huntington, Fairmont, Huntington, Logan, Morgantown, Point Pleasant, Spencer, and West Union, West Virginia, as well as one in Columbus, Ohio, and did a combined business of more than two million dollars annually in 1940. In 1945, Morrison moved to Florida due to poor health.

Scope and Contents

O.J. Morrison (b. 1869) was the founder and manager of the O.J. Morrison Department Stores in West Virginia and Ohio. Collection chiefly includes correspondence and financial and legal papers that document the operation of Morrison's stores. Correspondence is a mix of personal and business letters, primarily from the 1940s. Letters about the management of his stores, including issues with personnel and vendors, recommendations for friends and former employees, requests for charitable donations, letters to and from manufacturers, and correspondence about Morrison's health in the mid-1940s and efforts to have his son released from the army to take over the company are mixed with invoices and receipts of bills paid, tax information, and real estate transactions. There are a few personal letters from family and friends as well as

correspondence with Rush Holt.

More than twenty volumes contain stockholders and directors' meeting minutes for almost all of the department stores in West Virginia and the Ohio store. These financial ledgers typically date from the 1920s to the 1980s, though dates vary depending on the store location. Topics include the financial status of the company, financial statements for individual stores, operating expenses, and by-laws dictating the organization and management of the corporation. Also includes a photograph of O.J. Morrison and biographical pamphlets written about Morrison and by Morrison about his stores and business philosophy.

Keywords

Retail trade -- Charleston

Department stores

Retail trade -- Charleston

O.J. Morrison Department Store

Morrison, Okey J.