

Other#
Refer code NjFIHi5380
Accession# 2015.462.001
Received as
Source
Creditline
Home loc Doric House:Hallway:01, 02

Object name 2
Object name 3
Received date

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Quinn, Barbara

Identity Statement:

Title: Hunterdon County Democrat Morgue File "People Files"
 Extent of the unit of description: 21 containers; 20.5 linear feet

Scope & Content / Abstract:

This collection is comprised of a series of reference files established by the staff of the Hunterdon County Democrat Newspaper and used in conjunction with their photograph library.

The collection is composed of slightly over 3,500 files of individuals. The files are biographical, referred to at the Democrat as the "People Files." The files are alphabetical. The individuals in the files are people who had stories published about them in some way in local news, or who had more than one story written about them over the years. The journalists and editorial staff of the Democrat would use these files for research, fact checking, or background material.

The file typically contains an article (or more than one) written about that person that appeared in the Democrat, along with an image from a photograph that was used in the newspaper. Sometimes the image is clipped from the paper, and sometimes it is the original source image. Some of the files have extra material included, such as correspondence, notes, or other clippings from other sources.

This collection should make a valuable resource for conducting secondary source research about figures from Hunterdon County History. The fact that most files have an associated image adds to the usefulness of the collection.

Context:

Dates of accumulation: 1940-2015

Name of Creator: Hunterdon County Democrat

Administrative / Biographical history: The Hunterdon County Democrat began as a struggling newspaper in 1825, called the Hunterdon Gazette and Farmer's Weekly Advertiser. Owned by Charles George, the newspaper covered both national and local events, along with advertisements. In 1838, another paper opened in Flemington, The Hunterdon Democrat, by Josephus Shann. The two newspapers, always struggling, went through several changes in ownership and name changes and eventually merged into one publication that published under the current name in 1867.

At that time the Killgore family owned and edited the newspaper. First was Robert K. Killgore, followed by his son Anthony Killgore, who owned and edited the paper until 1922. In that year, Alex and D. Howard Moreau purchased the newspaper. Alex was editor until 1933, and then D. Howard Moeau ran the newspaper during its heyday from 1933 to 1963. Under the Moreau leadership, the Democrat purchased many of the smaller municipal newspapers in the region and converted their periodical into the undisputedly largest and most preeminent in the county.

Various members of the Moreau family continued to own and operate the newspaper until 2001, when the interest in the newspaper was purchased by Penn Jersey Advance, Inc., of the Advance Group of Newspapers. The newspaper continues publication to this day, operating in a consortium with NJ Advance Media in association with NJ.com.

In 2014, NJ Advance media decided that the newspaper no longer needed its morgue file. A morgue file is a technical term in the newspaper industry, meaning a set of files containing old article clippings, photographs, and notes kept by newspaper reporters, which became of later use as an internal research collection. The older the newspaper, the larger the morgue file. The NJ Advance group donated the morgue file to the Society in 2015, so that the reference and research value, as well as the wealth of photographs in the collection, could be preserved and shared with the residents of Hunterdon County and beyond.

The morgue file, in total, is a huge collection, spanning almost 100 cubic feet of reference files, photographs, negatives, CD's and DVD's of electronic files, microfilm, glass plates, and original newspapers and other publications. This biographical file is the first portion of that morgue file to be arranged, described, and released for research.

Structure:

System of Arrangement: Alphabetical

Disposition:

Disposition date:

Conditions of Access & Use:

Access conditions: HCHS manuscript collections are available for in-person research only during the open library hours of the Society. Please contact the Society for current schedule of open hours.

Repository: Hunterdon County Historical Society, 114 Main Street, Flemington, NJ, 08822.

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Language of material: English

Finding Aids: In Vertical File

Allied Materials:

Location of originals: Doric House

Related units of description in this repository: Hunterdon County Democrat Newspaper, 1828-present, original, bound, and microfilm formats

3.002.1747; Scrapbook, "Historically Speaking" by Hubert Schmidt, 1946-1947

Collection HCHS Manuscript Collection

Event
Medium

Catdate 10/21/2019

Status date 10/21/2019

Catby Cornelius, Donald

Status by Cornelius, Donald

Display value

Status Processed

Condition
Condition by

Cond date
Cond notes

Appraisor
App notes

Acq value **Current value min**
Value date **Current value max**

Ins policy#
Ins company
Ins rep

Ins phone#
Ins premium **Policy exp date**
Ins value

Temp loc
Date
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By/Until
Invn by

Subjects Newspapers
Newspaper reporters
Newspaper reporting
Newspaper clippings
News photography
News & news events
Records (Information)
Index
Biography

Classification

Search terms Hunterdon County Democrat

People

Notes

Updated/by 10/26/2019 12:35 PM Unknown

Dataset