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### Benelli Family Business, Collection, 1919-1963

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## Benelli Family Business Collection, MS 132

### Benelli Family Business Collection

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| <b>Collection Number</b>               | MS 132   |
| <b>Title</b>                           | The Benelli Family Business Collection   |
| <b>Name and Location of Repository</b> | Pittsburg State University, Special Collections & University Archives, Pittsburg, Kansas   |
| <b>Dates</b>                           | 1919 - 1963  |
| <b>Collection Size</b>                 | 3 linear feet  |
| <b>Creator</b>                         | Benelli Family   |
| <b>Donor Information</b>               | These papers were donated to the Special Collections by Roger and Heather Horton on August 11, 2010.   |
| <b>Scope and Content</b>               | The Benelli Family Business Papers cover the business lives of Desiderio Pompey Benelli, a Pittsburg, Kansas jeweler and optometrist, and his son David P. Benelli, an optometrist. This collection consists of ledgers of expenses, correspondences, certificates, legal documents, receipts, clippings, a photograph, and miscellaneous items.   |
| <b>Access Restrictions</b>             | This collection is open for access   |
| <b>Languages</b>                       | English  |
| <b>Biographical Note</b>               | Desiderio Pompey Benelli was born on October 29, 1881 in Santa Crocie, Italy. He and his family immigrated to the United States prior to 1894 and settled in Frontenac, Kansas. Desiderio worked as a miner in the mines of southeast Kansas from 1894 to 1901 before starting his jewelry business in 1902 in Frontenac. He graduated from the Needles College of Optometry in Kansas City in 1917 and became an optometrist as well as a jeweler. In 1914, he moved the business to Pittsburg, Kansas. Desiderio married Mary Ziegler on October 22, 1904. They had seven children: Andrew, Charles, John, twins Margaret and Martin, Isabella, and David. Desiderio died on July 13, 1957. David P. Benelli was born on June 7, 1922. His brothers Andrew and Charles took over the jewelry division of their father's business in 1936, when Desiderio decided to focus solely on optometry. David went into optometry and took over the business from his father. David died on September 24, 1991. Desiderio's grandson, Bud Benelli, continues to run the jewelry store on the ground floor of the Hotel Stilwell after the store located at 720 N. Broadway burned down in 2011. |
| <b>Series</b>                          | This collection has eight bound-volume series: Jewelry Expenses, Optometry Expenses, Rent, 311 North Broadway Expenses, Income Tax and Social Security, 720 North Broadway Income and Expenses, Duplicate Lenses, Optical Sales and Repairs. This collection has ten folder series: <b>Bound Volumes, Correspondence, Certificates, Legal Documents, Receipts, Finances, Clippings, Photograph, Advertisements, and Miscellaneous.</b>   |

## **Benelli Family Business Collection, MS 132**

The **Bound Volumes** series contains the folders of loose materials found in the bound volumes. These include hand written notes, receipts, old checks, letters, certificates, and legal documents.

The **Correspondence** series consists of personal and business correspondence.

The **Certificates** series contains certificates of memberships to jeweler's and optometrist's associations, and certificates showing that he Benelli was legally certified to practice optometry.

The **Legal Documents** series includes letters from the Kansas Mutual Credit Association, and a lease contract between David Benelli and J. R. Watson.

The **Receipts** series contains personal and business receipts. This series is arranged chronologically and then alphabetically.

The **Finances** series consists of Benelli's finances during the 1950s.

The **Clippings** series includes biographical information about the Benelli family and their interests. This series is arranged chronologically.

The **Photograph** series contains one undated photograph of an unidentified building.

The **Advertisement** series contains advertisements.

The **Miscellaneous** series includes of laboratory results, hand written notes, and a list of furniture in an apartment.

### **Folder and Volume List Bound Volume List**

#### Bound Volumes

##### Jewelry Expenses

- v. 1 Jewelry and House Rent, 1919-1940
- v. 2 Jewelry and Optometry Expenses, 1936-1942

##### Optometry Expenses

- v. 3 Riggs Optical Company Expenses, 1939-1945
- v. 4 Optometry and House Rent, 1940-1952
- v. 5 Expenses, 1948-1953
- v. 6 Expenses, 1952-1956
- v. 7 Expenses, 1957
- v. 8 Invoices, 1961
- v. 9 Invoices, 1962
- v. 10 Invoices, 1963

##### Rent

- v. 11 1949-1957

## **Benelli Family Business Collection, MS 132**

### 311 North Broadway Expenses

- v. 12 1948
- v. 13 1949
- v. 14 1950
- v. 15 1951
- v. 16 1952
- v. 17 1952
- v. 18 1953
- v. 19 1954-1955
- v. 20 1954-1955

### Income Tax and Social Security

- v. 21 1944
- v. 22 1947-1950, 1953

### 720 North Broadway Income and Expenses

- v. 23 1949-1950
- v. 24 1951
- v. 25 1952
- v. 26 1952
- v. 27 1953
- v. 28 1954-1955
- v. 29 1956

### Duplicate Lenses

- v. 30 1944
- v. 31 1945
- v. 32 1946
- v. 33 1947
- v. 34 1948
- v. 35 1949
- v. 36 1950
- v. 37 1951
- v. 38 1952
- v. 39 1953
- v. 40 1954-1955
- v. 41 1956

### Optical Sales

- v. 42 1944
- v. 43 1945
- v. 44 1946
- v. 45 1947

## **Benelli Family Business Collection, MS 132**

- v. 46 1948
- v. 47 1949
- v. 48 1954-1955
- v. 49 1956-1957

### Repairs

- v. 50 1948
- v. 51 1949
- v. 52 1950
- v. 53 1951
- v. 54 1952
- v. 55 1953
- v. 56 1954

### **Folder List**

#### Bound Volumes Folders

- f. 1 Volume 1
- f. 2 Volume 4
- f. 3 Volume 5
- f. 4 Volume 6
- f. 5 Volume 10
- f. 6 Volume 11

#### Correspondence

- f. 7 1930-1935; Undated

#### Certificates

- f. 8 American Optometrist Association  
Registration to practice  
Jewelers' Security Alliance  
Sales Tax Registration

#### Legal Documents

- f. 9 Kansas Mutual Credit Association  
Lease Contract

#### Receipts

- f. 10 1955
- f. 11 1955
- f. 12 1955
- f. 13 1955
- f. 14 1954
- f. 15 1954

## **Benelli Family Business Collection, MS 132**

- f. 16 1954
- f. 17 1954
- f. 18 1961
- f. 19 1961
- f. 20 1961
- f. 21 1961
- f. 22 1961
- f. 23 Miscellaneous

### Finances

- f. 24 Deposit book, 1952-1957  
Full checkbooks, undated
- f. 25 Cancelled Checks, 1952-1953
- f. 26 Cancelled Checks, 1952-1954
- f. 27 Check Registers, 1952-1953; Undated
- f. 28 Check Registers, 1951-1956

### Clippings

- f. 29 circa mid-1920s – 1956; Undated

### Photograph

- f. 30 Undated

### Advertisements

- f. 31 Political  
Health  
Appliances  
Religious

### Miscellaneous

- f. 32 Lab results  
Hand written notes  
Questionnaire  
Abbreviations for cities  
List of furniture in apartments