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Rash, Harry E., collection, 1941-1958

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Rash, Harry E., Collection, MS 271

Harry E. Rash Collection

Collection Number	MS 271
Title	The Harry E. Rash Collection
Repository	Pittsburg State University, Special Collections & University Archives, Pittsburg, Kansas 1701 S. Broadway Pittsburg, Kansas 66762 (620) 235-4883 speccoll@pittstate.edu
Dates	1941-1958
Collection Size	.2 linear feet
Creator	Unknown
Scope and Content	A scrapbook about the history of the banks of Thayer and Stark, Kansas, their fiftieth anniversaries, and Harry E. Rash's career as a banker in the 1940s and 1950s. The scrapbook is comprised of newspaper clippings, photographs, letters, and cards.
Access Restrictions	This collection is open for access. Researchers must use the collection in accordance with the policies of the Special Collections & University Archives, Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University
Languages	English

Biographical Note Harry Edgar Rash was born on November 24, 1910 in Atlanta, Kansas. He began working as a bookkeeper at the First National Bank of Thayer, Kansas on June 1, 1927 and was elected to cashier in 1936. Two years later, following the death of Edgar Rash, his father, Harry was elected president of the First National Bank of Thayer. In the early 1930s Harry married Ruth Julia Pownall and had two children by 1940. In 1944, Harry was elected as President for the Stark State Bank of Kansas and operated as such for both banks. His wife Ruth was the Vice President of the Stark State Bank. Harry passed away in 1995 and Ruth passed away in 1999.

The bank of Thayer, Kansas first opened in 1904 as the Citizens State Bank. In 1907, the bank was bought from the original incorporators by W. H. Slaughter who then sold it in 1908 to S. M. Pickens. In 1909, the bank was nationalized and renamed the First National Bank. After being briefly closed in 1911, the bank reopened with J. A. Alleman as cashier and Edgar Rash, Harry Rash's father, as assistant cashier. To celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1954, the bank was remodeled, updating the entrance, rearranging the entire interior, and modernizing the appearance. A contemporary article states that the bank's goal was to stay as modern as possible in terms of appearance and services.

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Processing Note

Collection processed in December 2019

Content Description

This collection is a primary source and is comprised of the following:

Detailed Description of the Collection

Bank Scrapbook – Newspaper clippings within the scrapbook and in a Graduate School of Banking Catalogue, photographs, letters, and cards about the banks Harry Rash worked at and his career. The scrapbook provides the following information:

Harry Rash was elected the President of Stark State Bank on December 31, 1944 and was the President of the First National Bank of Thayer, Kansas as well in 1958. Ruth J. Rash, Harry's wife, was the Vice President of Stark State Bank. The Stark State Bank was founded in 1903 and the First National Bank was founded in 1904. Both banks celebrated their fiftieth anniversaries and the Stark State Bank celebrated its fifty-fifth anniversary. The scrapbook has many pages of newspaper clippings of businesses and cards from other banks in Kansas sending their congratulations. The book also has newspaper clippings on the history of the Thayer bank and its remodeling for the 50th anniversary.