

BUFFUM FAMILY PAPERS

1913 - 1991

FINDING AID

The Sherman Library
614 Dahlia Avenue
Corona del Mar, CA 92625
(949) 673-1880

Administrative Information

Extent: 1 document box and 2 flat oversize boxes.

Date Span: 1913-1991.

Provenance: The collection was donated to the Sherman Library by Richard Buffum, 2001.

Citation information: [identification of item], Folder [#], Box [#], Buffum Family Papers, Sherman Library, Corona del Mar, California.

Processed by: Jennifer L. Martinez, July 2006. Revised September 2006.

Historical Note

Brothers Charles Abel Buffum and Edwin Emery Buffum came to Long Beach, California, in 1904 and co-founded The Mercantile Company, which they renamed Buffums' Department Store in 1912. C.A. Buffum also served as mayor of Long Beach from 1921-1924, and he died in 1936; his brother, E.E. Buffum, died twenty years later. It was under the leadership of C.A. Buffum's son, Harry Buffum, that the company expanded into Santa Ana with an additional store in 1950, later growing to become a chain of sixteen department stores throughout Southern California. David Jones Ltd., an Australian retailer, acquired Buffums' in 1974, and due to financial difficulties Buffums' closed its doors in 1991.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of correspondence, reports, ephemera, photographs and clippings related to the business interests and activities of various members of the Buffum family and the Buffums' Department Store. A majority of the materials in the collection relate to Harry Buffum, the son of Charles Abel Buffum, who served as president of the company for thirty years. Of note in the collection are a large number of photographs and 35 mm slides depicting various window displays, models, and stores. There is also a sizeable leather-bound scrapbook filled with clippings which span the years 1935-1960.

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
1	1	Correspondence	1929-1968
1	2	Buffum, Harry. "Destiny" [poem]	1913
1	3	Reports - Annual reports	1964-1965
1	4	Reports - Buffums' spring 1954 fashion campaign	1953
1	5	Reports - 50 th anniversary audit report	1954
1	6	Reports - Rotary Club of Long Beach, Calif.	1955
1	7	Anniversary card for Harry Buffum	n.d.

1	8	California Retailers Association. Resolution of Appreciation to Harry Buffum	n.d.
1	9	Christmas greetings from Harry Buffum	1957?-1965, n.d.
1	10	City of Hope. The Torch of Hope Award - Harry Buffum	1961
1	11	Photograph of Harry Buffum	n.d.
1	12	Photographs - Buffums'	1953, n.d.
1	13	Photographs - Buffums' - Window displays - 1940s	1940s
1	14	Photographs - Buffums' - Window displays - 1950s	1950s
1	15	Photographs - Buffums' - Window displays - n.d.	n.d.
1	16	Photographs - Buffums' - Interior views	1946-1951, n.d.
1	17	Photographs - Buffums' - Interior views of holiday decorations	n.d.
1	18	Photographs - Buffums' - Exterior views	n.d.
1	19	Photographs - Buffums' delivery cars	n.d.
1	20	Architectural renderings - Buffums'	1978, n.d.
1	21	Ephemera	1936-1989, n.d.
1	22	Buffums' scrapbook – Part 1 [disbound]	1963-1986, n.d.
2	1	Buffums' scrapbook – Part 2 [disbound]	1985-1989, n.d.
2	--	Scrapbook	1935-1960
3	1	Slides (286)	1953-1974, n.d.
3	2	Clippings	1928-1991, n.d.
3	--	Newspapers and oversize clippings (Long Beach Daily Telegram, Long Beach Independent, Long Beach Press, Long Beach Press-Telegram, and the Los Angeles Times)	1917-1991

Subjects

Buffum, Charles Abel, d. 1936.

Buffum, Edwin Emery, d. 1956.

Buffum, Harry.

Buffums' (department store) - History - Sources.

Department stores - California, Southern - History - Sources.

Department stores - California, Southern - Photographs.

Long Beach (Calif.) - History - 20th century.