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.


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

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<th>Box</th>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
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<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>Reports - Annual reports</td>
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<td>Reports - Buffums’ spring 1954 fashion campaign</td>
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<td>Reports - 50th anniversary audit report</td>
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<td>Reports - Rotary Club of Long Beach, Calif.</td>
<td>1955</td>
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<td>Anniversary card for Harry Buffum</td>
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California Retailers Association. Resolution of Appreciation to Harry Buffum

Christmas greetings from Harry Buffum

City of Hope. The Torch of Hope Award - Harry Buffum

Photograph of Harry Buffum

Photographs - Buffums’

Photographs - Buffums’ - Window displays - 1940s

Photographs - Buffums’ - Window displays - 1950s

Photographs - Buffums’ - Window displays - n.d.

Photographs - Buffums’ - Interior views

Photographs - Buffums’ - Interior views of holiday decorations

Photographs - Buffums’ - Exterior views

Photographs - Buffums’ delivery cars

Architectural renderings - Buffums’

Ephemera

Buffums’ scrapbook – Part 1 [disbound]

Buffums’ scrapbook – Part 2 [disbound]

Scrapbook

Slides (286)

Clippings


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.