Descriptive Summary

Creator Information  Rerick, Donald J.

Title  Albert H. Rerick and Donald J. Rerick papers, 1915-1986

Collection Identifier  MSA 308

Date Span  1915-1986; predominant 1915-1917, 1968-1973

Abstract  Letters, photographs, clippings, and material artifacts documenting the student life of Albert H. and Donald J. Rerick (1915-1917 and 1968-1973 respectively).

Extent  1.25 cubic feet

Finding Aid Author  Stephen Horrocks, 2015

Languages  English

Repository  Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:  ASC

Access Restrictions:  Collection is open for research.

Acquisition Information:  Donated by Donald J Rerick, September 9, 2014

Accession Number:  20140922

Preferred Citation:  MSA 308, Albert H. Rerick and Donald J. Rerick papers, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries

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Subjects and Genres

Persons
Rerick, Albert H. 1895-1985
Rerick, Donald J.

Topics
Purdue University--Students
Purdue University--Students--Social life and customs--20th century
Purdue Boilermakers (Basketball team)
Purdue Boilermakers (Football team)

Form and Genre Types
Ticket stubs
Correspondence
Buttons (information artifacts)
Newspaper clippings
Aerial photographs
Commemorative spoons
Hatpins
Biography of Albert H. Rerick and Donald J. Rerick

Albert H. Rerick was born on June 27, 1895 in South Bend, Indiana to Joseph and Minnie Rerick. Following the tradition of several generations of Rericks in Northern Indiana, Albert grew up on the family farm on South Bend’s North Prairie Avenue. He attended South Bend Central High School before moving to West Lafayette in 1915 to begin studies at Purdue University. While at Purdue, Albert pursued a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering, a pursuit which was interrupted in late 1917/early 1918 as he left school to fight in World War I. He never returned to Purdue to complete his degree following the war, but instead moved back to South Bend in 1919 and began working for the Studebaker Corporation. Two years later, in 1921, Albert married his long-time sweetheart Samantha “Sammie” A. Sheetz, with whom he had been courting and exchanging correspondence during his time at the University. Albert quickly advanced into executive administration at Studebaker, designing numerous machines for tire assemblies and other production equipment, with several patents developed and assigned to the company. During World War II, Albert worked on the design team assigned to Studebaker’s battle-ready amphibious water-to-land vehicle, the M29 “Weasel,” which was produced in large numbers for the transport of infantry and supplies in snowy conditions. In 1949, the company sent Albert to India to assist in the development of an automobile manufacturing plant for Mr. B. M. Birla, one of the wealthiest men in India. Following this experience abroad, Albert spent time traveling around the world—twice—before retiring from the Studebaker-Packard Corp. after almost 38 years in 1958. Albert and Sammie lived in South Bend together until his death in March of 1985 at the age of 89, and he was laid to rest with five generations of Rerick males at the Sumption Prairie Cemetery.

Donald J. Rerick is the grandson of Albert H. Rerick and a Purdue alumnus. Donald was enrolled in the civil engineering program and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1973. During his time at Purdue, Donald lived in McCutcheon Hall (the Royal Highlanders) and was actively engaged in student activities, especially various sporting events.

Collection Description

Scope

The Albert H. Rerick and Donald J. Rerick papers (1915-1986; 1.25 cubic feet) documents student life of two generations of Purdue University alumni: Albert H. Rerick (1915-1917) and his grandson Donald J. Rerick (1968-1973). This collection includes a handful of Albert’s correspondence and personal artifacts, as well as a more expansive collection of Donald’s papers and artifacts that represent his experience at student events in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Types of materials include: correspondence, ticket stubs, buttons (information artifacts), newspaper clippings, photographs, a commemorative spoon, and a hatpin. The papers are organized into 2 series:

Arrangement

1. Papers, 1915-1981 (.4 cubic feet)
Series 1 includes communications between Albert H. Rerick and his future wife Samantha “Sammie” Sheetz in 1915 and 1917. The remainder of the series documents student life during the late 1960s and early 1970s during Donald J. Rerick’s matriculation at Purdue University. Much of this series focuses on fan materials related to student athletics, including letters from coaches, newspaper clippings, and game programs. Materials in this series are arranged chronologically.

2. Artifacts, 1915-1986 (.85 cubic feet)
Series 2 is comprised of material artifacts from both Rerick generations’ matriculation as students at Purdue University. Albert’s materials include metal commemorative items and an early automotive repair textbook (circa 1915-1917). Donald’s materials include ephemera from various student activities, primarily sporting events. Materials in this series are arranged by type and chronologically.


Processing Information
Whenever possible, original order of the materials has been retained. All materials have been housed in polyester sleeves, acid-free folders, and/or acid-free boxes. All newsprint has been photocopied and in most cases original newspaper clippings have been discarded. Artifacts have been separated and grouped into a separate series for preservation and accessibility purposes.
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

(.4 cubic feet)

Box 1 Correspondence, Clippings, Photos

Folder
1. Correspondence relating to silver teaspoon gift, 1915.
   Photo from new biology building, 1917.
8. Purdue sports clippings, 1972-1981
10. Purdue Football game program, Purdue vs. Michigan, 1929.

(.85 cubic feet)

Box 1 Flat artifacts

Folder

Box 2 Automotive Textbook, 1916

Item

Box 3 Ticket Stubs, 1968-1986

1 Wallet-size athletic calendars, 1968-1986, 23 items.
24 items.

**Box 4**  *Event Pins, 1966-1974*


**Box 5**  McCutcheon Hall “Beanie”, 1968.

**Box 6**  Albert H. Rerick’s Military hatpin, circa 1916-1917.

**Box 7**  “Kewpie doll” Purdue paperweight cast by Albert H. Rerick, circa 1915-1917.

**Box 8**  Sterling silver teaspoon with Purdue “Griffon” seal, gift from Albert H. Rerick to Samantha Sheetz (future wife), 1915.