

Felix H. Payne Collection (AC47)

Introduction

The Felix H. Payne Collection contains materials related to the business activities of the *Kansas City American* newspaper and personal papers of Felix H. Payne, Sr.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Felix H. Payne, Sr.
Title: Felix H. Payne Collection
Dates: 1927-1942
Size: 0.5 linear feet, 2 boxes
Collection Number: AC47

Donor Information

Found in collection.

Citation Note

Felix H. Payne Collection (AC47), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information

Reproduction Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Access Restrictions: Due to extensive water damage, access to the original items in the collection is only granted with the permission of the collection librarian. Researchers are asked to use photocopies or the digital copy of the collection.

Additional Forms Available: The entire collection has been digitized and is available for viewing in the reading room.

Biographical Sketch

Felix H. Payne, Sr., was a prominent African American Kansas City businessman. Born in 1884 in Marshall, Missouri, Payne came to Kansas City in the early 1900s. He was active in community affairs, participating in the founding of the Paseo YMCA and serving on the board of Wheatley-Provident Hospital. Payne owned numerous night clubs, including the Chauffeurs Club and the Sunset Club. Payne was also active in Democratic politics and organized a number of Democratic clubs throughout Missouri. Payne died in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1962.

The *Kansas City American* newspaper was co-founded by Payne and Dr. William J. Thompkins in 1928 as a Democratic-leaning rival to Chester A. Franklin's Republican-leaning *Call* newspaper. Dr. Thompkins supervised the day-to-day operations of the newspaper while Payne provided financial backing. The *Kansas City American* closed in 1943.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of two series: materials related to the *Kansas City American* and personal papers of Felix H. Payne, Sr. Items within each series have been arranged by subject and date where possible.

Series 1: The Kansas City American, 1928-1940

Series 1 contains items concerning the business activities of the *Kansas City American* newspaper. The series includes correspondence, a certificate of registration with the state of Missouri, a federal statement of ownership form, circulation statistics, United States Postal Service forms, and advertising orders. The series includes financial documents, such as account statements, invoices, and receipts. Additional items include a bill of sale, court documents, blank stationary and forms, and an undated photograph for the newspaper.

Series 2: Personal Papers, 1927-1942

Series 2 consists of personal papers of Felix H. Payne, Sr. The series includes correspondence; documents related to the Chauffeurs Club, financial documents, such as account statements, tax forms, invoices, and receipts; and a landlord's complaint against Payne and B. and W. Employment Agency. Additional items include Democratic Party campaign materials; ephemera, such as business and funeral cards and pamphlets; and an undated photograph of an unidentified woman and child.

Collection Inventory

Original items are housed in Box 1; photocopies are housed in Box 2.

Series 1: The Kansas City American, 1928-1940

- f. 1 Correspondence, 1930-1940, n.d.
- f. 2 Certificate of registration, 1929
- f. 3 Statement of ownership, 1938
- f. 4 Circulation statistics, 1933
- f. 5 United States Postal Service forms, 1937-1939, n.d.
- f. 6 Advertising orders, 1931-1936, n.d.
- f. 7 Missouri Pacific Railroad advertising, 1933
- f. 8 Financial account book, 1936-1939
- f. 9 Invoices received, 1931-1939, n.d.
- f. 10 Invoices sent, 1937-1939
- f. 11 Financial documents, 1928-1939, n.d.
- f. 12 Legal documents, 1928, 1937
- f. 13 Blank stationary and forms, n.d.
- f. 14 Photograph, n.d.

Series 2: Personal Papers, 1927-1942

- f. 15 Correspondence, 1936-1942
- f. 16 Chauffeurs Club, 1940-1941
- f. 17 Financial documents, 1931-1942, n.d.
- f. 18 Landlord's complaint, 1937
- f. 19 Jackson County Democratic Organization, ca. 1932
- f. 20 Bernard F. Dickman campaign material, 1936
- f. 21 Felix H. Payne, Jr., business card, n.d.
- f. 22 Ephemera, 1927-1940, n.d.
- f. 23 Photograph, n.d.

Series 1: The Kansas City American, 1928-1940

- f. 24 Correspondence, 1930-1940, n.d. (photocopies)
- f. 25 Certificate of registration, 1929 (photocopy)
- f. 26 Statement of ownership, 1938 (photocopy)
- f. 27 Circulation statistics, 1933 (photocopy)
- f. 28 United States Postal Service forms, 1937-1939, n.d. (photocopies)
- f. 29 Advertising orders, 1931-1936, n.d. (photocopies)
- f. 30 Missouri Pacific Railroad advertising, 1933 (photocopies)
- f. 31 Financial account book, 1936-1939 (photocopies)
- f. 32 Invoices received, 1931-1939, n.d. (photocopies)
- f. 33 Invoices sent, 1937-1939 (photocopies)
- f. 34 Financial documents, 1928-1939, n.d. (photocopies)
- f. 35 Legal documents, 1928, 1937 (photocopies)
- f. 36 Blank stationery and forms, n.d. (photocopies)
- f. 37 Photograph, n.d. (photocopy)

Series 2: Personal Papers, 1927-1942

- f. 38 Correspondence, 1936-1942 (photocopies)
- f. 39 Chauffeurs Club, 1940-1941 (photocopies)
- f. 40 Financial documents, 1931-1942, n.d. (photocopies)
- f. 41 Landlord's complaint, 1937 (photocopies)
- f. 42 Jackson County Democratic Organization, ca. 1932 (photocopies)
- f. 43 Bernard F. Dickman campaign material, 1936 (photocopies)
- f. 44 Felix H. Payne, Jr., business card, n.d. (photocopies)
- f. 45 Ephemera, 1927-1940, n.d. (photocopies)
- f. 46 Photograph, n.d. (photocopy)

Processed by Michael Sweeney, Collection Librarian, April 2015.