

Mike and Nancy Thiessen Yearbook Collection (AC149)

Introduction:

The Mike and Nancy Thiessen Yearbook Collection features the 1964 Pembroke Country Day School Yearbook. This yearbook, from Mike Thiessen's junior year, is commonly referred to as Pem-Day. Pem-Day was known for its rivalry with Central High School and showcased notable students, including basketball athletes

Mike Thiessen and Warren Armstrong. Mike Thiessen is photographed on pages 49, 80-83, and 89.

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: Mike and Nancy Thiessen

Title: Mike and Nancy Thiessen Yearbook Collection

Date Range: 1964

Size: 0.209 Linear Feet (1 box)

Collection Number: AC149

Donor Information:

Mike and Nancy Thiessen, August 22, 2025.

Citation Note:

Mike and Nancy Thiessen Yearbook Collection (AC149), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri.

Related Collections:

AC07 Sumner High School Collection

AC09 Lincoln High School Collection

AC33 Warren (Jabali) Armstrong Collection

AC71 Central High School Yearbooks Collection

AC72 Kansas City Regional High School Yearbooks Collection

AC73 Jackson County Genealogy Collection

Administrative Information:

Reproduction Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Access Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Biographical Sketch:

Michael Robert Thiessen, Jr, was born in March 1947. Nancy E. Thiessen was born in May 1948. As of 2025, they resided in Mission Hills, Kansas. During Mike Thiessen's junior year at Pembroke Country Day School, he was a starter on the basketball team. He was the leading scorer and rebounder. Thiessen averaged 20 points a game. No other information is available currently.

Historical Sketch:***Pembroke Country Day School (Pem-Day)***

Vassie James Ward Hill, a notable Kansas City resident and Vassar College graduate born in 1875, accumulated a substantial fortune after her first husband, Hugh Ward, passed away. She later married Albert Ross Hill, former president of the University of Missouri. During a time when affluent families sent their children to East Coast boarding schools, Hill was determined to provide an equitable education locally.

In 1910, she founded the Country Day School for boys with funding from 12 Kansas City businessmen, starting with 20 students and quickly growing to 52. In 1913, Hill partnered with Ruth Carr Patton and Frances Matteson Bowersock to establish Sunset Hill School, named after her favorite Vassar spot, located south of the Country Club Plaza and incorporating part of the Battle of Westport battlefield. Although a group left to create the Pembroke School for boys in 1925, it failed during the Great Depression, leading to the merger of both schools in 1933 as Pembroke-Country Day School.

The two institutions collaboratively engaged in education, sharing teachers and events, and began coeducational classes in upper levels in 1963. After discussions in the early 1980s, they officially merged in 1984 and were renamed Pembroke Hill School.

In Thiessen's deed of gift, he provided details that Ed Ryan, a Pem-day coach, Coach Jack Bush of Manual High School, and Coach Wilk from Central High School became long-time friends

while they worked at the Kansas City Country Club's swimming pool during the summers. Thiessen related that he benefited from all three coaches while working at the club as a lifeguard.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains a yearbook from 1964 in good condition.

Collection Inventory:

Series 1: Yearbook

f. 1 1964

Processed by: Kat Miller, Assistant Archivist, Dec. 2025.

Sources:

“Pembroke Hill School - Kansas City Independent School, PS-12.” 2025. Pembrokehill.org. 2025. <https://www.pembrokehill.org/>.