



Janet Eisner
Collection, circa 1860s-2003

Collection 81

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Emily Menendez

Creator/Corporate Name: Janet Eisner; Eisner Food Stores

Inclusive Dates: circa 1860-2003

Physical Description: 5 boxes, 1 oversize box (3.5 linear ft.)

Language: English

Provenance:

The Janet Eisner and Eisner Food Store collection materials were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives in June 2005.

Access:

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of the Urbana Free Library.

Biographical Note:

Janet Elizabeth Eisner was born on May 10, 1912 to Albert Eisner, Jr. and Elizabeth Eisner. Albert Eisner, Sr. began a grocery store business known as Eisner Food Stores in 1901. Janet's father, Albert Eisner, Jr. became president of the company in 1926 after his father's death. He expanded Eisner Food Stores by turning Piggly Wiggly stores into Eisner stores in Central Illinois. By 1946, the notable achievements of the business included lower grocery prices and a self-service meat department. In 1957, the grocery store was transferred to the Jewel Company in order to compete with larger chain grocery stores.

Janet Eisner earned her Master's degree in history from the University of Illinois. She was a member of the Thirty Club and Art Club in Champaign for many years until her death on April 8, 2004.

Scope and Content Note:

The Janet Eisner Collection includes items from the Eisner Food Store and her personal family life. The Eisner grocery business includes various financial statements and transactions, newspaper articles, periodicals, and photographs. These items encompass the history and operations of the store during the early to mid-twentieth century. A few printed ephemeral items from the store include a poster, envelopes, and grocery store shopping bags.

Janet Eisner's personal portion of the collection contains newspaper articles of the Eisner family, and personal documents such as certificates, correspondence, travel brochures, and report cards. Additionally, the collection contains Albert Eisner, Jr.'s daybooks, an autograph book, Regina Eisner McCumber's wedding preparations, photographs, and societal organization programs from the Art Club, Rotary Club, and Thirty Club. This collection specifically holds Art Club programs from the 1950s, 1980s, and 1990s and duplicates from earlier decades containing Ms. Eisner's notes. A full list of programs may be found in the *Art Club of Champaign* collection in the Local History Online database.



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Arrangement:

This collection is divided into two series: Eisner Grocery Store and Personal Items. Both series are arranged in alphabetical order.

Subject Terms:

Grocery trade
Photographs
Supermarkets

Name Terms:

Art Club of Champaign
Champaign Rotary Club
Eisner, Albert, Sr.
Eisner family
Eisner, Janet Elizabeth, 1912-2004
McCumber, Regina Eisner
Piggly Wiggly (Firm)
Thirty Club
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Container List:

Box 1

Series 1: Eisner Grocery Store

Folder 1: Advertisement draft, ca. 1940s
Folder 2: Albert Eisner, Jr. correspondence, 1963
Folder 3: Business Statement, 1913
Folder 4: Business Statement, 1915-1916
Folder 5: Business Statement, 1917
Folder 6: Business Statement, 1918-1919
Folder 7: Business Statement, 1920-1922
Folder 8: Business Statement, 1924-1926
Folder 9: Business Statement, 1933-1935
Folder 10: Business Statement, 1938-1939
Folder 11: Business Transactions – Eisner and Fisher Partnership, 1943
Folder 12: Business Transactions – Eisner and Fisher Partnership Agreement, 1950
Folder 13: Business Transactions – Eisner and Fisher Partnership Returns, 1946-1951
Folder 14: Peter Henderson and Co. Seedsman and Florists receipt, 1920
Folder 15: Saunders-Blackburn Grocery Co. Suppliers receipt, 1918
Folder 16: Complimentary dinner program for store opening, 1901
Folder 17: "Eisner Food Store" poster, undated
Folder 18: Employee call to voting, 1954
Folder 19: Employees Vote Against Union Membership, 1950



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- Folder 20: Envelopes, undated
- Folder 21: History Essay drafts, 1966
- Folder 22: Newspapers and Periodicals – Clippings (1 of 4), undated
- Folder 23: Newspapers and Periodicals – Clippings (2 of 4), 1951, 1957
- Folder 24: Newspapers and Periodicals – Clippings (3 of 4), 1965, 1968, 1971, 1974
- Folder 25: Newspapers and Periodicals – Clippings (4 of 4), 1984, 1998
- Folder 26: Newspapers and Periodicals – News Gazette Advertisement, 1950
- Folder 27: Newspapers and Periodicals – The Extra, vol. 19, no. 7, 1975
- Folder 28: Newspapers and Periodicals – The Jewel Crusader magazine, 1967
- Folder 29: Photographs (1 of 3), undated
- Folder 30: Photographs (2 of 3), 1901
- Folder 31: Photographs – Decatur Store (3 of 3), 1954

Series 2: Personal Items

- Folder 32: Albert Eisner, Jr. correspondence, ca. 1940s
- Folder 33: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1948

Box 2

Series 2: Personal Items (cont.)

- Folder 1: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1950
- Folder 2: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1951
- Folder 3: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1952
- Folder 4: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1953
- Folder 5: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1954
- Folder 6: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1955
- Folder 7: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1956
- Folder 8: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1957
- Folder 9: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1958
- Folder 10: Albert Eisner, Jr. tax receipt, 1920
- Folder 11: Autographs book, ca. 1926
- Folder 12: Bert Eisner correspondence, 1905
- Folder 13: Bess and Bert Eisner marriage license, 1911
- Folder 14: Burial and birth certificates and family burial plots, 1959, 1977
- Folder 15: Central Illinois Gazette, vol. 3, no.5, 1860
- Folder 16: Champaign High School Commencement, 1905
- Folder 17: Christmas card and Thomas Eisner business card, ca. 1950s, 1980s
- Folder 18: Correspondence, undated - 1978
- Folder 19: Down in the Hills O'Brown County, 1952
- Folder 20: El Paso County Hounds correspondence, ca. 1970s
- Folder 21: Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae program, 1922-1935
- Folder 22: Musical Arts Society of Champaign-Urbana programs, 1933-1939
- Folder 23: Newspaper Clippings, 1926



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Box 3

Series 2: Personal Items (cont.)

- Folder 1: Newspaper Clippings, ca. 1940s
- Folder 2: Newspaper Clippings, ca. 1940-1970
- Folder 3: Newspaper Clippings, 1948
- Folder 4: Newspaper Clippings, 1956, 1958
- Folder 5: Newspaper Clippings, 1966
- Folder 6: Newspaper Clippings, 1994, 2003
- Folder 7: Photographs – Bass Fishing Trip in Tennessee, 1929
- Folder 8: Photographs – Days to Remember, undated
- Folder 9: Photographs – Eisner and Fisher families, undated
- Folder 10: Photographs – Eisner, McCumber, and Rowling families, undated
- Folder 11: Photographs – Personal Family (1 of 12), undated
- Folder 12: Photographs – Personal Family (2 of 12), undated
- Folder 13: Photographs – Personal Family (3 of 12), undated
- Folder 14: Photographs – Personal Family (4 of 12), undated
- Folder 15: Photographs – Personal Family (5 of 12) – Arthur Beauford, 1910
- Folder 16: Photographs – Personal Family (6 of 12) – Albert Eisner, ca. 1930
- Folder 17: Photographs – Personal Family (7 of 12) – Bert Eisner, undated
- Folder 18: Photographs – Personal Family (8 of 12) – Edward and Harry Eisner, undated
- Folder 19: Photographs – Personal Family (9 of 12) – Jennie and Elizabeth Laflin, undated
- Folder 20: Photographs – Personal Family (10 of 12) – John McCumber, 1955
- Folder 21: Photographs – Personal Family (11 of 12) – Phoebe Carry, undated
- Folder 22: Photographs – Personal Family (12 of 12) – Robert and Edward Eisner, undated

Box 4

Series 2: Personal Items (cont.)

- Folder 1: Photographs – Scrapbook, ca. 1920s
- Folder 2: Regina and Janet Eisner Report Cards, ca. 1920s
- Folder 3: Regina Eisner and Dean Rice McCumber Wedding materials, ca. 1940s
- Folder 4: Rotary Club – Albert Eisner, Jr. speech, 1968
- Folder 5: Rotary Club – Brochures and pamphlets, ca. 1967
- Folder 6: Rotary Club – Football dinner programs, 1925-1967
- Folder 7: Rotary Club – Newspaper clippings, ca. 1950s
- Folder 8: The Art Club Constitution, ca. 1920s
- Folder 9: The Art Club programs, 1922-1929
- Folder 10: The Art Club programs, 1930-1939
- Folder 11: The Art Club programs, 1940-1949
- Folder 12: The Art Club programs, 1950-1958
- Folder 13: The Art Club programs, 1976

Box 5

Series 2: Personal Items (cont.)



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Folder 1: The Art Club programs, 1981, 1985, 1991-1992

Folder 2: The Union, vol. 16, 1935

Folder 3: Thirty Club programs, 1921-1928

Folder 4: Thirty Club programs, 1928-1934

Folder 5: Thirty Club programs, 1934-1940

Folder 6: Thirty Club programs, 1940-1945

Folder 7: Travel brochures and postcards, ca. 1950s-1980s

Folder 8: University of Illinois – Agriculture photographs, 1955

Folder 9: University of Illinois – Building photographs, ca. 1940

Folder 10: University of Illinois – Elizabeth Eisner 50 Year Illini certificate, ca. 1970s

Folder 11: University of Illinois – Sports cards, 1986-1987

Folder 12: World War I draft registration cards, 1918

Box 6 (Oversized materials)

1. Eisner Grocery Store shopping bags, plastic and paper, undated

2. Poster, undated

3. Regina McCumber – University of Illinois plaques, undated