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0736: James D. Francis Film Collection, 1932-1954

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James D. Francis Film Collection, 1932-1954

ACC 2004/07.0736



Special Collections Department
James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University
Huntington, West Virginia
2019

James D. Francis Film Collection, 1932-1954

Summary:

Title: James D. Francis Film Collection

Span Dates: 1932-1954

Creator: Various

Repository: Marshall University Special Collections, Morrow Library (Huntington, WV)

Processed by: Elizabeth James, 2019

Accession Number: 2004/07.0736

Date Completed: December, 2019

Access to Collection: Open

Extent: 57 film reels and oversize items

Donor: Mary C. Brown

Search terms:

16mm film

Home movies

Vacation film

1937 Flood film

Biographical Notes:

James Draper Francis (February 25, 1884-January 8, 1958) was president of the Island Creek Coal Company and a Huntington, West Virginia resident. His wife was Permele (Elliot) Francis (September 11, 1884-August 19, 1974).

“The predecessor to Island Creek Coal Company was founded by Huntington lawyer Z. T. Vinson and other investors as a West Virginia enterprise. They sold their firm to U.S. Coal & Oil Company, backed by Northern capital and managed by William H. Coolidge and Albert F. Holden. In 1902, Holden and Coolidge spent their summer in Logan County, inspecting a 30,000-acre land tract owned by the heirs of James Andrew Nighbert on Copperas Fork of Island Creek. The company bought that tract for \$600,000 in cash and stock in their company. They built a railroad line from the city of Logan, where the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad had completed its Guyan Valley Extension, and Island Creek shipped its first trainload of coal in December 1904. During the same years, the company built the town of Holden as a model coal town, four miles from Logan.

The firm grew quickly, opening 10 mines within three years and employing thousands of immigrant miners. U.S. Coal & Oil was soon renamed Island Creek Coal Company and, working three of Logan County's six coal seams, became a leader in the industry. Soon it expanded into Mingo, Wyoming, McDowell, and Fayette counties. In following years, it also bought other firms and opened mines in other states in the

eastern U.S. The first company president was Holden, who died young. He was followed by Thomas B. Davis, James Draper Francis, Raymond Salvati, and Stonie Barker.”

The above information about the Island Creek Coal Company was taken from Spence, Robert Y. "Island Creek Coal Company." e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia. 30 May 2019. Web. 12 December 2019.

Scope and Content:

This collection consists of 57 reels of 16 mm film primarily of family activities and travels abroad dating from 1932 until 1952. Special films of note include footage of coal mines and footage of the 1937 flood in Huntington, West Virginia. Also included are an Eiki film projector, VHS and DVD copies of selected film, and oversize family and business related photographs.

Note: As of 12/03/2020, most film and copies of film are missing with the exception of the following:

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Reel 47 | Francis Family, Miss Whiting | 1932-1934 |
| Reel 49 | Yale (1935), Graduation of David (1937) Yale 1935, Moon [Harmon?] Block and W, Yale Views, 1937 Colored Pictures, Yard at home [Other?], Gallagher [Flemers?], Pictures Yale 37 Grounds, David - Nick Nichols, Joe Farley, Betsy Shartel, [Permile?] Mother, Graduation Exercises | |
| Reel 52 | Home Home , Family [Yard?] John and David [Pemile?] [Yrd?] | 1931-1932 |
| Reel 53 | Charleston, S.C. | |
| Reel 55 | England, part 1 | |
| Reel 56 | Naples; Rome | |

All oversize items are available.

Processing Notes:

This collection was already processed at the time the finding aid was created. Minimal changes to folder titles, order, or content were made.

Preferred Citation:

James D. Francis Film Collection, Accession No. 2004/07.0736, Special Collections Department, Marshall University, Huntington, WV.

Access and Use:

For more information or to use any collection, contact:

Special Collections, Morrow Library
Marshall University
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755
(304) 696-2343
speccoll@marshall.edu

Container

Contents

57 Reels of Film, described on the following two pages.

Container List

2004/07.0736 ~ Film ~ James D. Francis film collection.

07/27/2004

| Container | Folder | Location | Title | Description |
|-----------|--------|----------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Reel 01 | | | Asheville, N. C. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 02 | | | Point Pleasant, W. Va. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 03 | | | Home and boats. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 04 | | | Interior of home. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 05 | | | John's last picture; fishing. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 06 | | | Home. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 07 | | | July | 4" reel. |
| Reel 08 | | | First colored spring | 4" reel. |
| Reel 09 | | | Bermuda. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 10 | | | Palm Beach. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 11 | | | Panama. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 12 | | | March. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 13 | | | Pool (250 Ridgewood Road) March. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 14 | | | River, children. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 15 | | | Shark in Bermuda. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 16 | | | Cliff Lake. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 17 | | | Coal pictures, Oct. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 18 | | | Cliff Lake and golf. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 19 | | | Poca mine, May. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 20 | | | [Untitled]. | 4" reel. Date from postmark |
| Reel 21 | | | Pool, home. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 22 | | | Flood | 4" reel. |
| Reel 23 | | | July. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 24 | | | David jumping Permele's horse. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 25 | | | Oct. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 26 | | | Pond Creek. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 27 | | | Dinner. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 28 | | | Home. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 29 | | | July. | 4" reel. |

| Container | Folder | Location | Title | Description |
|-----------|--------|----------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Reel 30 | | | April 1. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 31 | | | Sept. 28. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 32 | | | David's party. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 33 | | | Winter, 250 Ridgewood Road. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 34 | | | Trip to California. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 35 | | | The Homestead. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 36 | | | Sept. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 37 | | | Home, Oct. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 38 | | | Engagement party. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 39 | | | Home, 250 Ridgewood Road, Summer. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 40 | | | Permele's house, Detroit. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 41 | | | Aug. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 42 | | | Summer, 1950; Easter, 1951. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 43 | | | Snow, Huntington. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 44 | | | Caldwell's; Ann Margaret. | 4" reel. |
| Reel 45 | | | "KC 24-5??" | 4" reel. |
| Reel 46 | | | Untitled | 4" reel. Postmarked Rochester, N. Y. |
| Reel 47 | | | Francis family. | 7" reel. |
| Reel 48 | | | Miscellaneous parties. | 7" reel. |
| Reel 49 | | | Yale, 1935; Graduation of David, 1937. | 7" reel. |
| Reel 50 | | | Fall, 1937; Florida, 1938. | 7" reel. |
| Reel 51 | | | Cape Cod. | 7" reel. |
| Reel 52 | | | Home. | 7" reel. |
| Reel 53 | | | Charleston, S. C. | 7" reel. |
| Reel 54 | | | South America. | 7" reel. |
| Reel 55 | | | England, part 1. | 7" reel. |
| Reel 56 | | | Naples; Rome. | 7" reel. |
| Reel 57 | | | [Unidentified]. | 7" reel. |

Oversized Items (located in oversize manuscript case):

- Unlabeled photo of a man with a moustache, seated smoking a cigar
- Photo of same man, standing on crutches. Inscription on back says, "My father after he was paralyzed". Cannot read name.
- Double sided black paper. One side has a photo of a man in a suit and glasses, reverse side is a photo of "Robert E. Dennis Retirement Luncheon Hotel Biltmore, July 1, 1954", with several signatures.
- Double sided black paper with photos. One side has a photo of a man with inscription, "To Mr. James D. Frances, from a sincere friend 5-9-1938". Other photo is of a man with the inscription, "Sincerely yours, H.J. McDonald." Reverse side has a photo of a man standing with his hands in his pockets, and the other photo has a different man seated smoking a pipe.
- Double sided black paper. One side has two unlabeled portraits of two different men. Other photo is of a different man with the inscription, "Sincerely, JN W Harris. 42". Reverse side has a photo of 2 children, a boy and a girl, unlabeled, then a picture of an old man in glasses, also unlabeled.
- Double sided black paper. One photo is unlabeled with a man seated in a suit, and the second photo is maybe the same man, older, seated in a suit, and the inscription says, "to my very dear friend Jim Francis" but the signature is illegible. Reverse side of the paper has 2 pictures; one is a man seated in a suit holding a pipe, the signature is illegible. 2nd photo is of a seated smiling man in a suit, this one may be labeled "Hesson".
- Double sided black paper. Top right photo is of an older gentlemen in a suit, writing is illegible. Top left photo is a group photo, unlabeled. Bottom right photo is of a man with a moustache, unlabeled. Bottom right photo is of a man seated at a desk with the inscription, "with warm regards and best wishes to my old friend Jas. D Francis. Andrew J. May". Reverse side contains a large photo to the left addressed to James D. Francis, but the signature is illegible. The top right photo is labeled, "James Fletcher" and the bottom right photo is of a seated man in a suit, unlabeled.

- Double sided black paper. Top left photo is unlabeled, it's a girl seated wearing a dress. The bottom left photo is unlabeled, it's a laughing baby. The top right photo is unlabeled and it's of an old man in a suit. Bottom right photo is of a woman standing by a fireplace in a dress, unlabeled.
- On the reverse side, top left: diploma from Pikeville College for James Draper Francis. Bottom left: unlabeled photo of a man in a suit. Bottom right: photo of a man with the inscription: "Sincerely, G. J Stallingo"
- Double sided black paper: top photo is unlabeled, and it's of a smiling girl in a dress. Bottom photo is of an unlabeled family portrait. Reverse side is a collage of photos of various people, all unlabeled.
- Photo on thick white paper of a man in a suit, hat, and glasses, unlabeled.