

Speas Company Collection (SC200)

Introduction

The Speas Company was a vinegar manufacturer located in the East Bottoms of Kansas City at 2400 Nicholson Ave. This collection consists of company correspondence from other businesses, news clippings, advertisements, product labels, and photographs.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Speas Company
Title: Speas Company Collection
Dates: 1904-2000 and n.d.
Size: 1.67 linear feet, 2 boxes
Collection Number: SC200

Donor Information

Gift, Spencer Heddens, 2011.

Citation Note

Speas Company Collection (SC200), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information

Related Collections: Additional items originally donated with this material have been processed as a separate collection and are in SC201 First National Bank Collection.

Additional forms available: Some items from this collection have been digitized and are available to view at [KCHistory.org](http://kchistory.org).

Historical Sketch

John Wesley Speas bought the Monarch Vinegar Company in 1888 and became president of the company in 1895. In 1909 his son Victor Speas took over and renamed it as Speas Vinegar Company in 1918. In 1959, Speas began bottling apple juice as well as vinegar and by the 1970s the company had expanded to include 21 plants throughout the United States. The plant in Sebastopol, California also produced apple jack brandy. Victor Speas died in 1971, and the company was then managed by a trust until it sold to Pillsbury in 1978. Bank of America, formerly First National Bank of Kansas City, was the trustee of the Speas foundation.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains items from throughout the company's duration as Monarch, Speas, and Pillsbury. It includes correspondence from other businesses, a sales

manual, news clippings, advertisements, product labels, and photographs of the company's owners, employees, work events, and factories. Items in the collection are arranged by item type and subject. Some photographs have been digitized.

Collection Inventory

Folders with an "OS" notation have items that have been withdrawn to an oversize box.

- f. 1 Correspondence and News, 1913-1915, 1965-1988
- f. 2 Speas Company Product Knowledge Sales Manual, 1976
- f. 3 Advertisements and Labels, n.d. (OS)
- f. 4 Advertisement Newspaper Clippings, 1934-1939, 2000
- f. 5 Photographs – Early Photos of Factory and Office Interiors, n.d.
- f. 6 Photographs – Portraits, 1904-1908
- f. 7 Photographs – Factory Buildings, ca. 1930-1940
- f. 8 Photographs – Victor Speas, 1941
- f. 9 Photographs – Sebastapol, CA, Brandy Mfg., n.d.
- f. 10 Photographs – Unidentified Factory, n.d.
- f. 11 Photographs – Meeting and Events, 1960-1979
- f. 12 Photographs – Customers on Fishing Trips, Canada, 1969
- f. 13-14 Photograph Scrapbooks – Dallas Construction, 1938
- f. 15-17 Photograph Scrapbooks, ca. 1920-1987

Index

A. Bologna and Co.	3
Adams and Sons Grocer Company	1
Ambrose and Co.	3
Armour and Company	1
Carroll, Brough, Robinson, and Humphrey, Wholesale Grocers	1
Egerstrom, Paul L.	1
Epperson Megaphone Minstrels	6
First National Bank of Kansas City, MO	1
Fleischmann's Vinegar	3
Inter-State Grocer Company	1
Kansas City Distilling Company	5
Leroux and Co.	3
Miller, M. J. (Joe)	1
Monarch Vinegar Works, Manufacturers of High Grade Vinegars	1, 3, 5
Muskogee Wholesale Grocer Company	1
National Beverage and Wine Co.	3
O. L. Gregory Vinegar Company	7
Photographic and View Co.	5, 7
Ranney-Davis Mercantile Company	1
Ridenour-Baker Grocery Company	1
Ryley-Wilson Grocer Company	1
Spatola Importing Co.	3
Stockton, Andy	2
Thomson, D. P., Photographer	5, 6
Wood, Michael D.	1

Processed by Kara Evans, Special Collections Librarian/Archivist, February 2017.