

Kansas City Regional Oral History Project

The five oral histories in this collection were created as a pilot project which was to serve as the model for a larger Kansas City Regional History Project.

Descriptive Summary

Creators: Genevieve Robinson, O.S.B.; William J. Ryan

Title: Kansas City regional oral history project

Date: 1988

Size: 2 boxes, 8 sound cassette tapes (ca. 60 minutes), 4 typescripts; 8 CDs, 8 preservation CDs

Location: SC69-3

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Acquisition information: The collection was given to the Kansas City Public Library, Missouri Valley Special Collections by Mr. Bill Ryan on December 12, 2005, Accession #2005-55. Cassette tapes transferred to CD format, November 2008.

Custodial information: Professors Robinson and Ryan held portions of the collection until it was donated to the Library.

Citation note: Kansas City regional oral history project (SC69-3), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical Note

The five oral histories in this collection were created as a pilot project which was to serve as the model for a larger Kansas City Regional History Project. The project was funded by a 1988 Presidential Grant awarded by Rockhurst University. Project coordinators were Dr. Genevieve Robinson, O.S.B., Assistant Professor of History at Rockhurst University and Professor William J. Ryan, Assistant Professor of Communication at Rockhurst. Professor Ryan had retired by the time the collection was donated to the Library but Dr. Robinson was still teaching as of this date.

Objectives of the pilot project were:

- To investigate the feasibility of a regional oral history project that would be done in conjunction with an area museum or archives.
- To develop a model project of five interviews that would provide a model for such a project.
- To prepare a manual of oral history techniques that could be used by students of social history.

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The grant, for \$2,500, was awarded March 21, 1988 and the project was completed in the fall of that year. Professors Robinson and Ryan conducted the interviews together and Karen Waldron transcribed them.

The subjects of the oral histories were selected as representatives of either ethnic minorities or immigrant groups in Kansas City. Arthur Brand was a leader in the Jewish community. The Hon. Howard Sachs was also a leader in the Jewish community and was a United States District Court judge. Samuel U. Rodgers, M.D., was an African American physician and the first director of the Wayne Miner Health Center which was renamed the Samuel U. Rodgers Community Health Center in 1988. Geneva Mingrone and Rosalie Strada were both the children of Italian immigrants who grew up in the city's Northeast neighborhood.

Scope and Content Note

The collection includes extensive documentation of the project including the grant application, correspondence with narrators, handwritten questions and notes, and receipts. Supplementary materials in the folders for Mr. Brand, Mr. Sachs and Dr. Rodgers provide information about the social and historical context of their lives.

Collection Inventory

Box #1

Folder 1 Miscellaneous items

- General information on grant including application and award.
- Typescript of a 1987 article by William Ryan that was submitted for a Brenner Scholarly Achievement Award.

Folder 2 Planning materials and documentation for project

- Drafts of release forms
- Budget estimates
- Receipts
- Letter to Dr. Marion E. Jones, who was not interviewed

Folder 3 Arthur Brand documentation

- Contact and thank you letters
- Draft of questions
- Article: "*Transmitting the Heritage: Jewish Education in Kansas City.*"

Folder 4 Samuel U. Rodgers, M.D. documentation

- Contact letter
- Draft of questions
- Background materials and article written by Dr. Rodgers - "Kansas City General Hospital No. 2."

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Folder 5 Howard Sachs documentation

- Contact and thank you letters
- Draft of questions
- Biographical notes by Howard Sachs
- Manuscript: "Hearsay and Impressions –The Alex Sachs Family and Harry S. Truman" by Howard F. Sachs

Folder 6 Transcript of interview with Arthur Brand, typed, 31 pages.

Folder 7 Transcript of interview with Geneva Mingrone, typed, 29 pages.

Folder 8 Transcript of interview with Howard Sachs, typed, 26 pages.

Folder 9 Transcript of interview with Rosalie Strada, typed, 75 pages.

Box #2

Cassette tapes and CDs of interviews

Arthur Brand, August 3, 1988. 1 tape, 1 CD

Geneva Mingrone, July 11, 1988. 1 tape, 1 CD

Samuel U. Rodgers, August 2, 1988 . 1 tape, 1 CD

August 8, 1988. 2 tapes, 2 CDs

Howard F. Sachs, August 6, 1988. 1 tape, 1 CD

Rosalie Strada, July 11, 1988, 1 tape, 1 CD

August 1, 1988, 1 tape, 1 CD

Processed by Missouri Valley Special Collections Manager, Mary Beveridge, 2006.