

McLean County Museum of History

Klemm's Department Store Collection

Processed by
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES	1883-1999
PROVENANCE	Gift
RESTRICTIONS	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History.
ALTERNATE FORMATS	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS	None
LOCATION	Archives
NOTES	See Photos – Klemm's Dept Store; Business Interiors-Klemms; Klemm Picnic.

Historical Sketch

C. W. Klemm came to Bloomington in 1873 after having spent five years in Springfield, IL in the employ of the C.A. Gehrman Company, which was owned by a cousin. He was a German immigrant who arrived in this country alone and unable to speak English. At the age of approximately 22, Klemm had already served a 12-year apprenticeship in retail business in Potsdam, Germany.

Klemm's first store was in a rented building at Center and Jefferson streets in downtown Bloomington. Klemm received financial backing from William Peake of New York to open his own store. Sometime later he purchased a building from A. Fitzwilliam, and that building was destroyed in the Great Bloomington Fire of June 19, 1900. After the fire Klemm built a new building and within seven months had reopened his store. The business was incorporated in 1917.

Klemm married Augustana Seibel in 1874. They had three children: Helen, Clara and Carl H. Augustana died in 1886 and Klemm married Emilia Bender of Peoria. They had one child, Julius. Carl, Julius and Klemm's sons in law, Charles Agle and E. Howard, were all officers of the corporation. Klemm's manufactured Jumbo Jake overalls in Bloomington. According to one advertisement, Klemm's had a buying department in New York City. George H. Miller designed and built a three story addition to a building on Center Street between Monroe and Jefferson, where the Jumbo Jakes were manufactured by over 80 seamstresses.

The Klemm's department store continued in operation for over 100 years. It last appeared in the Bloomington Normal City Directory in 1981.

Scope and Content Note

The C.W. Klemm's Inc. collection consists of one box with ten folders. It contains promotional items, leases, correspondence, newspaper articles and financial information and other miscellaneous items.

Folder 1 contains newspaper articles that give a brief history of Klemm's. Folder 2 contains newspaper advertisements and promotional items for Klemm's and Jumbo Jake. Folders 3 and 4 include a financial statement for Klemm's from 1929 and financial statements from lessees in the store and insurance policies. Folders 5 and 6 have business correspondence from 1915 to 1933. Folders 7 to 10 have lessee bankruptcy documents, leases, miscellaneous ephemera and C.W. Klemm's personal income tax records and the tax report on C.W. Klemm's estate.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Newspaper articles:

- 1.1 "C.W. Klemm's New Factory and Wholesale Building," January 20, 1915
- 1.2 "Klemm Firm Incorporates," Daily Bulletin, May 2, 1917.
- 1.3 "C.W. Klemm, Pioneer Merchant Here, Dies," February 23, 1930
- 1.4 "German Youth Successful Here," April 10, 1949
- 1.5 "50 Years Ago July 20, 1918," date and paper unknown
- 1.6 "Old Pilot Seeks Date He Landed on Klemm's Store," Pantagraph January 22, 1950
- 1.7 "To Pilot: It was in 1910," Pantagraph January 25, 1950 (2 copies)
- 1.8 "C.W. Klemm Inc. closed Mrs. Helen Howard," Pantagraph March 10, 1959
- 1.9 "C.W. Klemm Inc. Closed Edward L. Howard," Pantagraph February 22, 1962
- 1.10 "Michigan Family Buys Klemm's," Pantagraph July 1, 1964
- 1.11 "Remodeling Task at Klemm's Told," Pantagraph October 5, 1964
- 1.12 "Klemm's Store Begins \$30,000 Remodeling Job," Pantagraph November 4, 1965
- 1.13 "Downtown Store Closing Doors," Pantagraph November 3, 1973 and "Klemm's to Mark Centennial Year," Pantagraph October 18, 1973
- 1.14 "Confidence Downtown: 2nd in a Series Under Downtown Council Auspices," Pantagraph March 13, 1977
- 1.15 "Klemm Company Survived Calamities," Pantagraph Back Then Section October 10, 1999

Folder 2: Advertisements/ Promotional items:

- 2.1 January 6, 1929, Pantagraph, January Clearance: Dresses Coats and Furs
- 2.2. August 26, 1930, Klemm's New York City buying department.
- 2.3 January 19, 1981, Winter White Sale, Pantagraph, p. 2.
- 2.4 November, 16, 1901, Mass mailing re linens.
- 2.5 Mme. Demorest's Miniature Monitor of Fashions, June 1883
- 2.6 Trade Circular, October 1884
- 2.7 Klemm's "Wish List" Booklet, C. 1915
- 2.8 Klemm's Magazine, published monthly, September 1924, 20 pgs.
- 2.9 Photograph, Bloomington High School students modeling, from 1941 Purple and Gold Pictorial, Bloomington High School
- 2.10 Eight (8) Jumbo Jake coupons, signed by purchasers
- 2.11 Four (4) Jumbo Jake postcard coupons, signed by purchasers
- 2.12 Advert for x-ray lighting (2)
- 2.13 C.W. Klemm letterhead with calling postcard included, date unknown
- 2.14 C.W. Klemm store display signage five (5)
- 2.15 Klemm Overalls advertisement January 15, 1927
- 2.16 C.W. Klemm magazine November 1924, pg. 9 and 12.

- 2.17 C.W. Klemm centennial anniversary calendar 1973 two (2) copies
- 2.18 Klemms "Merchandise of Quality" bags eighteen (18)
- 2.19 Label from Klemm's wrapping paper, undated.

Folder 3: Financial/business associates:

- 3.1 Financial Statement C.W. Klemm Inc. – 1929
- 3.2 Financial Statement, O'Conner Millinery Company, Peoria, Il (enclosed in Sardeson Hovland Co. envelope)
- 3.3 Letter and financial statement re: Liquidation of First National Bank and First Trust and Savings Bank, May 1, 1931.
- 3.4 Goldstein Millinery Co., History and Financial Statement, Dec 1, 1930.
- 3.5 June 18, 1931 Statement re: John Aellig
- 3.6 Jun. 3, 1931 Ledger notes re payment on notes held by family members

Folder 4: Insurance:

- 4.1 Fire Insurance Policy: New York Reciprocal Underwriters, April 1, 1927
- 4.2 Fire Insurance Policy: New York Reciprocal Underwriters, August 1, 1926
- 4.3 Combination Binder: Ernest W. Brown, Inc. May 21, 1931.
- 4.4 May 18, 1931 Worksheet re: Insurance.

Folder 5: Correspondence:

- 5.1 Mar. 30, 1915, Omo Manufacturing Company re Middlesex Banking Co.'s bonds.
- 5.2 April 2, 1915, To Attorney John Merrill re Middlesex Banking Co.'s bonds.
- 5.3 April 2, 1915, To Thomas Barbour re Middlesex Banking Co.'s bonds.
- 5.4 April 19, 1921, Middleton Trust Company account re dividends paid.
- 5.5 July 5, 1923, To Middleton Trust Company re payment of dividends.
- 5.6 Feb 16, 1926, Letter Ernest w. Brown re: Division of Account between C.W.Klemm, Inc. and C.W. Klemm.
- 5.7 Feb 16, 1927 Letter Ernest W. Brown re: Statement of Accounts New York Reciprocal Underwriters.
- 5.8 Dec. 31, 1927 Re: Lease Agreement re Goldstein Millinery Co.
- 5.9 August 23, 1928, Sears Roebuck and Co., to J.P. Klemm, August 23, 1928, in re lease of 312-4 Center Street and 316 Center Street
- 5.10 Nov. 16, 1928 Re: Sears Roebuck Lease
- 5.11 June 18, 1929 Re: Sears Roebuck Lease
- 5.12 June 23, 1929 Re: Sears Roebuck Lease
- 5.13 July 9, 1929 Re: Sears Roebuck Lease
- 5.14 July 17, 1929 Re: Sears Roebuck Lease
- 5.15 Sept. 26, 1929 Re: Invoice and reply money owed Klemm
- 5.16 Nov. 19, 1929 Re: New York Underwriters re: insurance loss

- 5.17 Jan. 23, 1930 Re: Sears Roebuck re Elevator Accident and Repair bill
- 5.18 April 16, 1930 Re: Sears Roebuck Lease
- 5.19 August 3, 1930 C. C. Smith to A. E. Dawson, handwritten, re debt owed by Johnson.
Enclosure: Monthly statement for C.W. Johnson and Co. Chandersville, IL, Sept 1, 1930

Folder 6: Correspondence:

- 6.1 Feb 27, 1931 Re: O'Connor Millinery Co. Contract.
- 6.2 May 12, 1931 Re: O'Connor Millinery Co. re payment dispute.
Supporting monthly statements
- 6.3 May 12, 1931 Telegram O'Connor Millinery Co. re request payment.
- 6.4 May 13, 1931 Re: O'Connor Millinery Co. re payment.
- 6.5 May 23, 1931 Re: O'Connor Millinery Co. re payments.
- 6.6 July 20, 1931 Re: T.A. Chenowith, MD re: money owed
- 6.7 Aug. 1, 1931 Letter Morrissey & Morrissey re Sears Roebuck Lease
- 6.8 Aug. 25, 1931 Re: Sardeson-Hoveland re sales.
- 6.9 Oct. 8, 1931 Re: Sears Roebuck Lease.
- 6.10 Oct. 21, 1931 Re: O'Conner Millinery Company contract.
- 6.11 Oct. 26, 1931 Re: O'Connor Millinery company re cancelling contract.
- 6.12 Nov. 3, 1931 Re: O'Connor Millinery company re cancelling contract.
- 6.13 Nov. 17, 1931 Re: O'Connor Millinery Company lease.
- 6.14 Nov. 18, 1931 Morrissey & Morrissey to O'Connor Millinery Co. re lease.
- 6.15 Nov. 21, 1931 Re: O'Connor Millinery Co. lease conditions.
- 6.16 Dec. 31, 1931 Re: Sears Roebuck Lease.
- 6.17 May 7, 1932 Re: Sears Roebuck Lease.
- 6.18 July 6, 1932 Re: re Sardeson-Hovland Co. lease.
- 6.19 July 18, 1932 Re: re Sardeson-Hovland Co. lease.
- 6.20 July 26, 1932 Re: re Sardeson-Hovland Co. lease.
- 6.21 Aug. 1, 1932 Re: O'Connor Allowing adjustment to lease conditions.
- 6.22 Aug. 4, 1932 Re: Sardeson-Hoveland from Morrissey & Morrissey re cancellation of lease.
- 6.23 Aug. 24, 1932 O'Connor Millinery Co. to Morrissey & Morrissey
- 6.24 Sept. 26, 1932 Re: O'Connor Millinery Company Contract
- 6.25 Oct. 25, 1932 Re: Sardeson-Hoveland involuntary bankruptcy filed.
- 6.26 Feb. 27, 1933 Re: D. Miller & Sons new lease.
- 6.27 Mar. 2, 1933 Re: D. Miller & Sons forming new corporation.
- 6.28 Mar. 8, 1933 Re: from Morrissey & Morrissey re D. Miller & Sons Bankruptcy
- 6.29 Mar 9, 1933 Re: O'Connor Millinery Company
- 6.30 Mar. 13, 1933 Re: D. Miller & Sons to Morrissey lease.
- 6.31 Mar. 18, 1933 Telegram Norman Cassidy to J. O'Connor
- 6.32 May 16, 1933 Morrissey & Morrissey to Bankruptcy Clerk re Cohen v. Miller

- 6.33 May 16, 1933 Morrissey & Morrissey to Busch & Harrington re Miller lease
- 6.34 May 16, 1933 Morrissey & Morrissey to Harry A. Frankel re rent and receivership
- 6.35 May 16, 1933 Morrissey & Morrissey to Jack Miller re January rent.
- 6.36 May 16, 1933 Morrissey & Morrissey Lewis Pounds re rent and receivership
- 6.37 Oct. 30, 1933 Re: Sardeson-Hovland Co. lease.

Folder 7: Legal:

- 7.1 In re: Charles Carlson, Sale March 18, 1931, Livingston County, Bankruptcy Auction Announcement.
- 7.2 In Re: Sardeson-Hovland Company, Case No. 51466, US District Court, ND of Illinois Eastern Division, Appointment of Receiver, October 15, 1932.
- 7.3 In re: William Isidore Cohen against D. Miller & Sons, Notice of Appointment of Receiver, US District Court, Eastern Division of New York
- 7.4 In re: W.I. Cohen v. D. Miller & Sons, Petition by Receiver, attached: Offer to purchase Miller assets

Folder 8: Leases:

- 8.1 Goldstein Millinery, January 1, 1926, 105-109 Jefferson Street, portion of 3rd Floor.
- 8.2 Goldstein Millinery, July 13, 1927, 105-109 Jefferson Street, portion of 3rd Floor, Lease extension.
- 8.3 Goldstein Millinery, October 31, 1927, 105-109 Jefferson Street, portion of 3rd Floor.
- 8.4 James Chagares, December 6, 1927, 310 N. Main Street, Basement and 1st Floor.
- 8.5 Sardeson-Hovland Co., July 10, 1931, 105-109 Jefferson Street. Supplemental Agreement.
- 8.6 Sardeson-Hovland Co., Alteration to Lease

Folder 9: Miscellaneous:

- 9.1 Brochure: "Your Home," Alpha Portland Cement Association. (concrete construction of homes)
- 9.2 Letter enclosing "Your Home" booklet. C.A. Irvin, Portland Cement Co., to Frank Irvin, C.W. Klemm's.
- 9.3 Rules and Regulations, February 1915, C.W. Klemm's, employee manual.
- 9.4 Room floor plans
- 9.5 Note: O'Conner Rentals for 1932
- 9.6 Oct 22, 1917, Bond submitted for payment to Middleton Trust Company
- 9.7 April 19, 1921, Middleton Trust Company account re dividends paid. Middleton Trust Company
- 9.8 Liquidation Dividend, No. 3, November 1919
- 9.9 Liquidation Dividend, No. 5, March 1921
- 9.10 Liquidation Dividend, No. 6 March 1922 (2 copies)

- 9.11 Liquidation Dividend, No. 7 May 1923
- 9.12 Liquidation Dividend, No. 8, April 1926
- 9.13 Liquidation Dividend, No. 9, September 1929
- 9.14 Feb. 27, 1932 Petty Cash slip
- 9.15 Check stub for Payment of rentals from January 1932 to July 1932-- \$1365.93
- 9.16 Business card: Robinson Straus & Co. Millinery, Saint Paul (MN)
- 9.17 Miscellaneous note papers with calculations
- 9.18 Receipt for dues to the Masonic Royal & Select Masters, Chap. No. 43
- 9.19 Receipt for dues to the Masonic Royal Arch Masons, Chap. No. 26
- 9.20 Invoice for Napkins to: D. E. Denman, July 1, 1928
- 9.21 C.W. Klemm, Inc. check number 11697 from Corn Belt Bank of Bloomington, IL
- 9.22 C.W. Klemm Inc. Letterhead
- 9.23 Drawing of C.W. Klemm Dry Goods and Millinery Storefront, date unknown.
- 9.24 Receipt for Mrs. Harland Barth, December 23, 1971.

Folder 10: Tax records:

- 10.1 C.W. Klemm, personal income tax records 1926 – 1930.
- 10.2 Inheritance Tax, McLean County Treasurer

Loose Item

Baby Book, "My Story A Baby Record," in original C.W. Klemm box.