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Kaufman's Men's Store

Collection 130

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Christine Willson

**Creator/Corporate name:** Kaufman's Men's Store

**Inclusive Dates:** 1935-1966

**Physical Description:** 1 box, plus oversized material, (1.5 linear ft.)

**Provenance:**

Kaufman's Men's Store materials were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

**Access:**

The 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/Historical Note:**

Jacob McClellan Kaufman was a prominent citizen of Champaign and was active in both his business and his social activities. He was born in Windfall, Ind. on July 19, 1865 to Simon and Fannie Kaufman. He came to Champaign, Ill. in 1881 to join his brother Aaron in running a clothing store he had opened in 1879. In 1884, they took positions at their uncle's store at 18 Main Street, which later became J. M. Kaufman and Company; Jacob was the sole owner of the store by 1899, and successfully expanded the family's business interests in Champaign and elsewhere. Jacob married Hattie Fruedenstein in 1896, and they had one son together, Stanley. Jacob died on February 10, 1921.

Stanley Kaufman was born on June 18, 1900. He owned and operated Kaufman's, Inc. from 1921 to 1966, when the store was sold to Karoll's of Chicago. He married Josephine Hart in 1925 and they had one daughter, Joan K., who married Irving Donn Schwartz. Irving was born on June 11, 1927 in Chicago and was involved in some business operations of his father-in-law's. He was a national award-winning architect and interior designer. He also served as an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois Graduate School Of Architecture. He died on February 1, 2007.

The materials in this box pertain to Kaufman's Men's Store in Champaign (later Karoll-Kaufman's) and Kaufman's Country Fair Shopping Center in Champaign, as well as McWilliams & Peterson Millinery, which was located in Kaufman's Men's Store in Champaign.

**Scope and Content Note:** The collection contains correspondence, financial documents, legal documents, photographs, ledgers, blueprints, plats, and other documents relating to the business operations of the two Kaufman's locations. Materials date from 1935 to 1966.

**Subject and Name Terms:**

Business records

Clothing trade

J.M. Kaufman and Co. Clothiers (Champaign, Ill.)

Kaufman, Jacob McClellan

Men's clothing industry



**Container List:**

**Box 1**

Folder 1: Tax Documents

- 1955-1961
- Correspondences with Seidman & Seidman Certified Public Accountants.
- Individual Income Tax Return forms for Irving and Joan Schwartz.
- Declaration of Estimated Tax forms.
- Statements of Account Estimated Income Tax forms.

Folder 2: Annual Reports, Store Lease, Tax Returns

- 1936-1945: Annual Reports of Schumacher and Kaufman Inc.
- 1933-1945: Return of Capital-Stock tax forms.
- 1942-1945: Tax receipts.
- 1937-1938: Census Survey of Business.
- 1936: Sublease agreements.
- 1947-1950: Lease extension notices.

Folder 3: Customer Correspondence

- 1959-1966 (bulk 1966): Receipts, promotional material, customer complaints, requests for item exchanges or modifications, and gift certificates for Kaufman's Inc. and Karoll's.

Folder 4: Clinton Montgomery Ward 1957-1958

- Letters regarding repairs to building in Clinton, IL by insurance company Montgomery Ward.
- 1961-1963: Insurance papers for Clinton building.

Folder 5: Country Fair Shopping Center

- 1955-1963
- Correspondence concerning proposed construction on the Country Fair Shopping Center Annex.
- Estimated cost of construction calculations.

Folder 6: Barber Shop Sketch

- No date
- Sketch on transparent paper. Caption reads "One Chair Barber Shop – Kaufman's Country Fair Shopping Cent".

Folder 7: Shopping Center Real Estate Research Corp.

- 1955-1960
- Shopping Center Analysis by Real Estate Research Corp.
- Correspondence with Real Estate Research Corp. regarding the location and planning of the construction of the Country Fair Shopping Center.

Folder 8: Clinton, Illinois 1962 Wards Spurgeons

- 1960-1963
- Correspondence with the insurance company Montgomery Ward & Co. and documents concerning insurance coverage, policies, and lease.
- Letters concerning the Clinton building damage.



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- Photographs of damage between Montgomery Ward building and Woolworth Co.
- Letters from company Surgeon's Mercantile Company about renting and store location.

Folder 9: Zayre

- 1962-1963
- Topographic maps between Springfield and Country Fair Drive.
- Plat of Survey for shopping center.
- Amendment notes to Schwartz lease.
- Correspondence letters concerning Zayre building construction.

Folder 10: Misc.

- 1955-1962
- Sept. 22, 1961: Advertisement for Kaufman's use of National Cash Registers and Accounting Machines. Includes pictures.
- Letters concerning selling Kaufman's.
- 1955: Drafts of article for Illinois MAC News about clothing furnishing colors and styles.
- 1959: Letters about the IL State Fair.

Folder 11: Stables

- 1961-1962
- Statement for Stonegate Farms to Joan Schwartz.
- Letters about bills on barn construction at Stone Gate and stable interest.

**Oversized**

- May 31, 1961: Booklet "Specifications for Unit II of Country Fair Shopping Center Annex for Mr. Irving D. Schwartz on West Springfield Avenue Champaign, Illinois".
- Nov. 1939- May 1940: McWilliams & Peterson Exclusive Millinery book (hat orders).
- Aug. 1945- Mar. 1946: McWilliams & Peterson Exclusive Millinery book (hat orders).

**Pictures**

- 6 Photographs of storefront displays of "J.M. Kaufman and Company the Clothiers".
- Watercolor of Shoe Display West Wall.
- Print of photographs of building interior (hair salon?)
- Print of photographs of building interior: clothes store.