



# THE URBANA FREE LIBRARY

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Gliessman Studio  
Collection, 1876-1994

Collection 390

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Sherrie Bowser, October 2024

**Creator/Corporate Name:** Gliessman Studio

**Inclusive Dates:** 1876-1994

**Physical Description:** 1 box, (0.5 linear ft.)

**Provenance:**

The Gliessman Studio collection materials were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives in December 2010.

**Access:**

These 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.

**Harmful Language in Archives:**

The Champaign County Historical Archives at The Urbana Free Library is committed to developing inclusive collections that capture the diverse history of our communities. However, some language used in our collections and collection descriptions may be outdated or harmful. Please refer to our statement on [Harmful Language in Archives](#) to learn how we address language concerns in our collections.

**Historical Note:**

Gliessman Studio was a photography studio specializing in commercial, illustrative, and color work. It was established by Perry F. Gliessman in 1947 at 114 N. Walnut Street, Champaign. Gliessman relocated from Galesburg, IL, where he had a similar studio.

Perry F. Gliessman was born to Frederick and Mary Lewis Gliessman on March 9, 1909, in Hinsdale, IL. He married Helen Hoyt in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1932. Gliessman was active in advertising and commercial photography since 1932, handling work in communities throughout Illinois and Missouri. In 1962, he was qualified by the Professional Photographers of America in general commercial photography. Gliessman died June 22, 1965, at the age of 56. His widow, Helen Gliessman, took over as president of Gliessman Studio.

Over the years, the studio had several locations in downtown Champaign, including 114 N. Walnut Street, 113 N. Market Street, and 112 N. Walnut Street. In April 1968, the studio was sold to William Morrow and Mark Anderson. William Morrow went on to own Gliessman Studio for 35 years. In 2003, he sold the building and its contents to the owners of Esquire Lounge, located at 106 N Walnut St. Morrow died on October 29, 2005.



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**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection contains photographs from Gliessman Studio and other photographic prints perhaps collected by or found in the studio. There is also a film from the late 1990s to early 2000s that appears to show the interior and exterior of Gliessman Studio, 112 N. Walnut Street. The film has been digitized. It is relatively dark and of poor quality, but some stills have been captured.

**Arrangement:**

The collection is arranged into two series: Photographs and Audio-Visual Materials. Within each series, the collection is organized alphabetically.

**Business Names:**

Busey Bank (Urbana, Ill.)  
C.A. Haines Dairy (Champaign, Ill.)  
Champaign (Ill.) Fire Dept.  
Farmers Feed Barn (Champaign, Ill.)  
First Baptist Church (Champaign, Ill.)  
Flat Iron Building (Urbana, Ill.)  
Gliessman Studio (Champaign, Ill.)  
Homestead Tavern  
Illinois Traction Co. System  
Newell and Pendergast Groceries  
Schwarzchild and Sulzberger Co.  
Seoco (Champaign, Ill.)  
Textile Manufacturing Co. (Champaign, Ill.)  
University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign campus)  
WILL (Television station: Urbana, Ill.)  
West Side Park (Champaign, Ill.)

**Name Terms:**

Anderson, Mark  
Askins, Maurice  
Fancher, Gale  
Gildewell, Opal  
Gliessman, Helen  
Gliessman, Perry F.  
Morrow, William F.  
Munter, Mildred  
Patton, Robert  
Wilson, Florence

**Subject Terms:**

Agricultural laborers



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Commercial Photography – Illinois – Champaign  
Fires  
Market St (Champaign), North, 113  
Parades  
Philo, Ill.  
Video Recordings Industry – Illinois -- Champaign  
Walnut St (Champaign), North, 112  
Walnut St (Champaign), North, 114  
Women baseball players

## Container List

### Box 1

#### Series 1: Photographs, 1876-1994

- Envelope 1: Aerial views, Champaign County, undated
- Envelope 2: Automobiles, early 1900s
- Envelope 3: Buildings, unidentified, undated
- Envelope 4: Business buildings, identified, ca. 1900s-1980s  
[includes Maurice Askins, Gale Fancher, Opal Gildewell, Mildred Munter, Robert Patton, and Florence Wilson in the Busey Bank photograph]  
named individuals are in the Busey Bank photograph]
- Envelope 5: Champaign Fire Department, early 1900s
- Envelope 6: Champaign Street Scenes, early 1900s
- Envelope 7: Churches, undated
- Envelope 8: Circus parade, Champaign, 1909
- Envelope 9: Crystal Lake Park pool, undated
- Envelope 10: Ditches, early 1900s
- Envelope 11: Family photos, unidentified, ca. 1910s-1940s
- Envelope 12: Farm scenes, early 1900s
- Envelope 13: Female Baseball Players, [1876?]
- Envelope 14: Fires, 1912-1948  
[includes Flat Iron Building (Urbana) and Textile Manufacturing Co.]
- Envelope 15: Group photos, unidentified, undated
- Envelope 16: Houses, undated
- Envelope 17: Illinois Traction System, ca. 1900-1936
- Envelope 18: Military, unidentified, ca. 1940s
- Envelope 19: Parade, Champaign, early 1900s
- Envelope 20: Political events, ca. 1950s-1970s
- Envelope 21: Portraits, unidentified, undated
- Envelope 22: Railroads, undated
- Envelope 23: School classroom, undated
- Envelope 24: Switchboard operators, undated



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Envelope 25: Theatrical groups, undated  
Envelope 26: Tour group in China, 1994  
Envelope 27: University of Illinois athletics, ca. 1920s-1980s  
Envelope 28: University of Illinois students and buildings, 1892-ca.1950s  
Envelope 29: Utility plant, undated  
Envelope 30: WILL, ca. 1930s-1960s  
Envelope 31: West Side Park Champaign, undated  
Envelope 32: "Yankee" haulage locomotive, undated

## **Series 2: Audio-Visual Materials, [late 1990s-early 2000s]**

The film has been digitized and added to our digital collection, number D118. Archives staff will need to be consulted for access.