

## Janet Eisner Collection

### Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Emily Menendez

**Creator/Corporate Name:** Janet Eisner, Eisner Food Stores

**Inclusive Dates:** ca. 1860-2003

**Physical Description:** 5 boxes, 1 oversize box (3.5 linear ft.)

**Provenance:** Items in this collection were donated on June 13, 2005.

**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:** Janet Elizabeth Eisner was born on May 10, 1912 to Albert and Elizabeth Eisner. Albert Eisner, Sr. began a grocery store business known as Eisner Food Stores in 1901. Janet's brother, Albert Eisner, Jr. became president of the company in 1926 after Albert, Sr.'s passing. Janet earned her Master's degree in History from the University of Illinois while her brothers operated the business. She was a member of the Thirty Club and Art Club in Champaign, Illinois for many years until her death on April 8, 2004. Albert Eisner, Jr. expanded Eisner Food Stores by turning Piggly Wiggly stores into Eisner stores in Central Illinois. By 1946, the notable achievements of the business included lower grocery prices and a self-service meat department. In 1957, the grocery store was transferred to the Jewel Company in order to compete with larger chain grocery stores.

**Scope and Content Note:** The Janet Eisner Collection includes items from the Eisner Food Store and her personal family life. The Eisner grocery business includes various financial statements and transactions, newspaper articles, periodicals, and photographs. These items encompass the history and operations of the store during the early to mid-twentieth century. A few printed ephemeral items from the store include a poster, envelopes, and grocery store shopping bags. Janet Eisner's personal portion of the collection contains newspaper articles of the Eisner family, and personal documents such as certificates, correspondence, travel brochures, and report cards. Additionally, the collection contains Albert Eisner, Jr.'s daybooks, an autograph book, Regina Eisner McCumber's wedding preparations, photographs, and societal organization programs from the Art Club, Rotary Club, and Thirty Club. This collection specifically holds Art Club programs from the 1950s, 1980s, and 1990s and duplicates from earlier decades containing Mrs. Eisner's notes. A full list of programs may be found in the *Art Club of Champaign* collection in the Local History Online database.

**Arrangement:** Series 1: Eisner Grocery Store (alphabetical order)

Series 2: Personal Items (alphabetical order)

#### **Subject Terms:**

Grocery trade

Photographs

## Supermarkets

### **Names:**

Art Club of Champaign  
Champaign Rotary Club  
Eisner, Albert, Sr.  
Eisner family  
Eisner, Janet Elizabeth, 1912-2004  
McCumber, Regina Eisner  
Piggly Wiggly (Firm)  
Thirty Club  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### **Container List:**

#### **Box 01**

##### **Series 1: Eisner Grocery Store**

Folder 1: Advertisement draft, ca. 1940s  
Folder 2: Albert Eisner, Jr. correspondence, 1963  
Folder 3: Business Statement, 1913  
Folder 4: Business Statement, 1915-1916  
Folder 5: Business Statement, 1917  
Folder 6: Business Statement, 1918-1919  
Folder 7: Business Statement, 1920-1922  
Folder 8: Business Statement, 1924-1926  
Folder 9: Business Statement, 1933-1935  
Folder 10: Business Statement, 1938-1939  
Folder 11: Business Transactions – Eisner and Fisher Partnership, 1943  
Folder 12: Business Transactions – Eisner and Fisher Partnership Agreement, 1950  
Folder 13: Business Transactions – Eisner and Fisher Partnership Returns, 1946-1951  
Folder 14: Peter Henderson and Co. Seedsmen and Florists receipt, 1920  
Folder 15: Saunders-Blackburn Grocery Co. Suppliers receipt, 1918  
Folder 16: Complimentary dinner program for store opening, 1901  
Folder 17: “Eisner Food Store” poster, undated  
Folder 18: Employee call to voting, 1954  
Folder 19: Employees Vote Against Union Membership, 1950  
Folder 20: Envelopes, undated  
Folder 21: History Essay drafts, 1966  
Folder 22: Newspapers and Periodicals – Clippings (1 of 4), undated  
Folder 23: Newspapers and Periodicals – Clippings (2 of 4), 1951, 1957  
Folder 24: Newspapers and Periodicals – Clippings (3 of 4), 1965, 1968, 1971, 1974  
Folder 25: Newspapers and Periodicals – Clippings (4 of 4), 1984, 1998  
Folder 26: Newspapers and Periodicals – News Gazette Advertisement, 1950  
Folder 27: Newspapers and Periodicals – The Extra, vol. 19, no. 7, 1975  
Folder 28: Newspapers and Periodicals – The Jewel Crusader magazine, 1967

Folder 29: Photographs (1 of 3), undated  
Folder 30: Photographs (2 of 3), 1901  
Folder 31: Photographs – Decatur Store (3 of 3), 1954

**Series 2: Personal Items**

Folder 32: Albert Eisner, Jr. correspondence, ca. 1940s  
Folder 33: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1948

**Box 02**

**Series 2: Personal Items (cont.)**

Folder 1: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1950  
Folder 2: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1951  
Folder 3: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1952  
Folder 4: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1953  
Folder 5: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1954  
Folder 6: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1955  
Folder 7: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1956  
Folder 8: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1957  
Folder 9: Albert Eisner, Jr. Daybook, 1958  
Folder 10: Albert Eisner, Jr. tax receipt, 1920  
Folder 11: Autographs book, ca. 1926  
Folder 12: Bert Eisner correspondence, 1905  
Folder 13: Bess and Bert Eisner marriage license, 1911  
Folder 14: Burial and birth certificates and family burial plots, 1959, 1977  
Folder 15: Central Illinois Gazette, vol. 3, no.5, 1860  
Folder 16: Champaign High School Commencement, 1905  
Folder 17: Christmas card and Thomas Eisner business card, ca. 1950s, 1980s  
Folder 18: Correspondence, undated - 1978  
Folder 19: Down in the Hills O'Brown County, 1952  
Folder 20: El Paso County Hounds correspondence, ca. 1970s  
Folder 21: Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae program, 1922-1935  
Folder 22: Musical Arts Society of Champaign-Urbana programs, 1933-1939  
Folder 23: Newspaper Clippings, 1926

**Box 3**

**Series 2: Personal Items (cont.)**

Folder 1: Newspaper Clippings, ca. 1940s  
Folder 2: Newspaper Clippings, ca. 1940-1970  
Folder 3: Newspaper Clippings, 1948  
Folder 4: Newspaper Clippings, 1956, 1958  
Folder 5: Newspaper Clippings, 1966  
Folder 6: Newspaper Clippings, 1994, 2003  
Folder 7: Photographs – Bass Fishing Trip in Tennessee, 1929  
Folder 8: Photographs – Days to Remember, undated  
Folder 9: Photographs – Eisner and Fisher families, undated  
Folder 10: Photographs – Eisner, McCumber, and Rowling families, undated

Folder 11: Photographs – Personal Family (1 of 12), undated  
Folder 12: Photographs – Personal Family (2 of 12), undated  
Folder 13: Photographs – Personal Family (3 of 12), undated  
Folder 14: Photographs – Personal Family (4 of 12), undated  
Folder 15: Photographs – Personal Family (5 of 12) – Arthur Beauford, 1910  
Folder 16: Photographs – Personal Family (6 of 12) – Albert Eisner, ca. 1930  
Folder 17: Photographs – Personal Family (7 of 12) – Bert Eisner, undated  
Folder 18: Photographs – Personal Family (8 of 12) – Edward and Harry Eisner, undated  
Folder 19: Photographs – Personal Family (9 of 12) – Jennie and Elizabeth Laflin, undated  
Folder 20: Photographs – Personal Family (10 of 12) – John McCumber, 1955  
Folder 21: Photographs – Personal Family (11 of 12) – Phoebe Carry, undated  
Folder 22: Photographs – Personal Family (12 of 12) – Robert and Edward Eisner, undated

#### **Box 4**

##### **Series 2: Personal Items (cont.)**

Folder 1: Photographs – Scrapbook, ca. 1920s  
Folder 2: Regina and Janet Eisner Report Cards, ca. 1920s  
Folder 3: Regina Eisner and Dean Rice McCumber Wedding materials, ca. 1940s  
Folder 4: Rotary Club – Albert Eisner, Jr. speech, 1968  
Folder 5: Rotary Club – Brochures and pamphlets, ca. 1967  
Folder 6: Rotary Club – Football dinner programs, 1925-1967  
Folder 7: Rotary Club – Newspaper clippings, ca. 1950s  
Folder 8: The Art Club Constitution, ca. 1920s  
Folder 9: The Art Club programs, 1922-1929  
Folder 10: The Art Club programs, 1930-1939  
Folder 11: The Art Club programs, 1940-1949  
Folder 12: The Art Club programs, 1950-1958  
Folder 13: The Art Club programs, 1976

#### **Box 5**

##### **Series 2: Personal Items (cont.)**

Folder 1: The Art Club programs, 1981, 1985, 1991-1992  
Folder 2: The Union, vol. 16, 1935  
Folder 3: Thirty Club programs, 1921-1928  
Folder 4: Thirty Club programs, 1928-1934  
Folder 5: Thirty Club programs, 1934-1940  
Folder 6: Thirty Club programs, 1940-1945  
Folder 7: Travel brochures and postcards, ca. 1950s-1980s  
Folder 8: University of Illinois – Agriculture photographs, 1955  
Folder 9: University of Illinois – Building photographs, ca. 1940  
Folder 10: University of Illinois – Elizabeth Eisner 50 Year Illini certificate, ca. 1970s  
Folder 11: University of Illinois – Sports cards, 1986-1987  
Folder 12: World War I draft registration cards, 1918

#### **Box 6 (Oversized materials)**

1. Eisner Grocery Store shopping bags, plastic and paper, undated

2. Poster, undated

3. Regina McCumber – University of Illinois plaques, undated