



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Jacob Aloysius Dorf Papers

NMAH.AC.0193

Don Darroch

1986

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Jacob Aloysius Dorf Papers
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0193
Date:	1909-1972.
Creator:	Haviland, Opal Dorf Dorf, Jacob Aloysius, 1879-1965 (blacksmith, businessman)
Extent:	0.15 Cubic feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Opal Dorf Haviland (daughter), 1986, January 16.

Ownership and Custodial History

Donated by Dorf's daughter.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Don Darroch, 1986

Preferred Citation

Jacob Aloysius Dorf Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History. Gift of Opal Dorf Haviland.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical Note

Jacob A. Dorf was born in Cedar Hill, Missouri. His name was originally Blittersdorf. To Anaconda, Missouri in 1901, where he owned and operated a blacksmith shop. In 1911 he purchased a hardware store in Cuba, Missouri, which he operated for more than 49 years. Throughout his long business career he was an innovative advertiser in the local press and elsewhere, sponsoring a radio program in 1924 which stimulated letters from thirty states and Canada. Dorf was active in community affairs, particularly during the depressed 1930s. In 1933 he led an effort which saved the local bank from failing. He branched into other business lines, including real estate, and once financed the purchase of a better breed of cattle for local farmers.

Scope and Contents

Newspaper clippings and correspondence relating to Dorf's activities, particularly in the hardware business. Biographical information and obituaries are included as well as samples of his unusual advertising.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Blacksmiths
- Depressions -- 1929 -- United States
- Hardware stores -- 1900-1970 -- Missouri
- Storekeepers
- advertising -- 1930-1940 -- California

Types of Materials:

- Advertisements
- Clippings
- Correspondence -- 20th century
- Obituaries

Places:

- Missouri -- 20th century