



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Sumner Hosiery Mill Records

NMAH.AC.0719

Alison Oswald

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Sumner Hosiery Mill Records
Date:	1946-1957
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0719
Creator:	Sumner, Harold Townsend (Donor) Sumner Hosiery Mill (Creator)
Extent:	0.3 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The collection documents Sumner Hosiery Mill through articles, newspaper clippings, publications, advertisements, and photographs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection was donated to the Archives Center, national Museum of American History by Harold Townsend Sumner on February 9, 2000.

Separated Materials

Samples of Sumner Hosiery were donated to the Division of Social History(now the Division of Home and Community Life, now Division of Cultural and Community Life), National Museum of American History.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Alison Oswald, undated.

Preferred Citation

Sumner Hosiery Mill Records, 1946-1957, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270. `

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Harold Sumner, along with his brother Hubert, founded Sumner Hosiery Mill in Gastonia, North Carolina in 1946. The Sumner's joined a booming hosiery business and with their Government Issue (G.I) priority status (Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944), they ordered two hosiery machines. The machines were set-up in the Wisteria Hosiery Mill, but were moved in 1947 to create the Sumner Hosiery Mill. The Sumner's distinguished themselves from other hosiery mills by introducing colorful innovations and styles that were created to match shoes and outfits. In 1957, Sumner Hosiery sold their machines and shipped them to Chile.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of one scrapbook (16" x 18" pages), from 1946 to 1957, documenting Sumner Hosiery Mill through articles, newspaper clippings, publications, advertisements, and photographs. There is one product booklet, Sumner See-Shells, Fall and Winter Shades, 1952 with samples of hosiery.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Fashion
- Hosiery
- Hosiery, Nylon
- Knitting companies (Mills)
- Textile industry
- advertising

Types of Materials:

- Advertisements -- 20th century
- Articles
- Photographs -- 20th century
- Scrapbooks -- 20th century

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Sumner See-Shells, Fall and Winter Shades, (product booklet), 1952 - 1952, 1946 - 1957
Box 1, Folder 2	Scrapbook, (pages 1-22), 1946 - 1957
Box 1, Folder 3	Scrapbook, (pages 23-42), 1946 - 1957
Box 1, Folder 4	Scrapbook, (pages 43-62), 1946 - 1957
Box 1, Folder 5	Scrapbook, (pages 63-80), 1946 - 1957
Box 1, Folder 6	Scrapbook, (pages 81-100), 1946 - 1957
Box 1, Folder 7	Scrapbook, (cover and loose material), 1946 - 1957