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National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Cozy Inn Collection

NMAH.AC.1345

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Cozy Inn Collection
Date:	1885-2015, undated
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1345
Creator:	Freeze, Gerald (Donor) Cozy Inn (Thurmont, Md.)
Extent:	2.75 Cubic feet (8 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The collection documents the history of the Cozy Inn and Restaurant in Thurmont, Maryland.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Gerald G. Freeze, 2015

Processing Information

Processed by Eric Ross, intern, 2018; Catarina Hurtado, intern, 2018; and Bryanna Bauer, intern, 2018; supervised by Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, supervisory archivist.

Preferred Citation

Cozy Inn Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

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Biographical / Historical

The Cozy Inn was an eighty five year old business when it closed in 2014. Located on a major highway near Gettysburg and the Catoclin Mountains, Wilbur Freeze started what was then called Camp Cozy in 1929, with just three cabins, later adding a gas station to attract tourists, and in the 1930s, he added in a small lunch counter, and eventually a full service restaurant. It is an excellent example of a 20th century business that started small and grew large, increasing the services offered over time. The Inn grew both in size and popularity, and the Freezes added entertainment attractions in order to increase business, including festivals

and special offerings for various holidays. Some of the attractions were eccentric, such as hot air balloons and live animal shows.

In 1942, the presidential retreat Camp David (then known as Shangri-La) was established just six miles away. This led to the Cozy Inn becoming the headquarters for Secret Service agents, reporters and photographers during events that occurred at Camp David. Sometimes foreign dignitaries stayed there. State and local politicians such as members of the Senate, governors of states, cabinet members, and Presidents' family members, also were guests.

The Freezes were fond of boasting that they were the oldest family-run restaurant in the state. They also capitalized on their proximity to Camp David, using the fact in their advertising and naming the Inn's rooms after presidents. In 2005, they started a small Museum on the history of the Inn, its famous guests, and its connection to Camp David. They also sold souvenirs that related to that connection. They regularly hosted weddings and other events and were famous for their lavish holiday decorations. At Christmas they set up gingerbread houses, multiple Christmas trees, a miniature railroad village, etc. The Cozy Inn's restaurant cultivated a large number of repeat, loyal customers with its family atmosphere and comfort food. Some of its dishes became locally famous, like its clam chowder.

Scope and Contents

Collection documents the management, day-to-day operations, activities, and history of the Cozy Inn business. Materials include registration records; accounting papers and other business records; correspondence, including some fan mail; internal employee newsletters; the restaurant's menus for ordinary days, and for special occasions and holidays; take-out and catering menus; recipes; placemats; handbooks for employees; internal memos and instructions about hiring procedures, employee comportment and protocol; and advertising and promotional materials. It is evident that the Cozy Inn's owners were aware of its historical significance and they saved advertising brochures from various time periods, newspaper clippings and magazine advertisements, certificates, honors and awards, photograph albums, a scrapbook, and voluminous amounts of clippings. The photographs contained in the collection are extremely rich, documenting both the physical changes in the hotel and restaurant over the years, entertainment activities, and several celebrity guests who stayed there. The collection is arranged into five series: Series 1, Administrative Files, 1885-2014, undated; Series 2, Menus, 1943-2015, undated; Series 3, Printed Advertisements and Ephemera, 1932-2014, undated; Series 4, Magazine Articles and Newspaper Clippings, 1935-2013, undated; and Series 5, Photographic Materials, 1920-2009, undated.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into five series.

Series 1, Administrative Files, 1885-2014, undated

Series 2, Menus, 1943-2015, undated

Series 3, Printed Advertisements and Ephemera, 1932-2014, undated

Series 4, Magazine Articles and Newspaper Clippings, 1935-2013, undated

Series 5, Photographic Materials, 1920-2009, undated

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Handbooks
- Hotels
- Motels
- Restaurants
- Taverns (Inns)

Types of Materials:

- Advertisements
- Articles
- Audiocassettes
- Brochures
- Business records
- Certificates
- Clippings
- DVDs
- Guidebooks
- Letters (correspondence)
- Magazines (periodicals)
- Menus
- Newsletters
- Photograph albums
- Photographs -- 21st century
- Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin -- 20th century
- Placemats
- Postcards
- Programs
- Promotional literature
- Recipes
- Slides (photographs)
- Videocassettes
- Visitors' books

Names:

- Freeze, Wilbur

Places:

- Camp David -- (Md.)

Container Listing

Series 1: Administrative Files, 1885-2014, undated

Scope and Contents: Documents the day-to-day management, operations, and activities of the inn and retail spaces. Materials were created for both staff and guests. Employee related materials include company publications, handbooks, and interview procedures. Guest materials include autographs, check-in procedures, address cards, receipts, registration cards, logbooks, and room rates information. The management of the business is documented in incoming and outgoing correspondence, license applications, operations manuals, proposals, quotes, and reports. In addition, the history and background are recorded in print and on audio tape. Of interest is information relating to the White House Communications Agency. Materials are arranged in alphabetical order.

Box 1, Folder 1	American Automobile Association award, 2011
Box 1, Folder 2	Application for Angler's license, 1929
Box 1, Folder 3	Associate's handbook, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Autographs, 1985-2007
Box 1, Folder 5	Check-in procedures, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, incoming, 1970-1979
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, outgoing, 1970
Box 7, Folder 1	Cozy News, 1981-1986
Box 7, Folder 2	Cozy News, 1994-1998
Box 7, Folder 3	Cozy News, 2000-2004
Box 7, Folder 4	Cozy News, 2004-2005
Box 7, Folder 5	Cozy News, 2006-2007
Box 1, Folder 8	Cozy publication, undated
Box 8, Folder 1	Drawings, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Eli Fry Store, 1885-1985
Box 1, Folder 10	Employee handbook, 1985
Box 1, Folder 11	Frederick County, Maryland Board of Commissioners, 2004

Box 1, Folder 12	Guest address cards, 1992
Box 1, Folder 13	Guest ledger, 1926-1960
Box 1, Folder 14	Guest receipts, 2003
Box 1, Folder 15	Guest registration cards, 2014
Box 8, Folder 2	History and background materials, 1929-1975 History and background materials, 1935-1942
Box 1, Folder 16	History and background materials, 1942-2004
Box 6, Folder 9	History and background, audio cassette tapes, 1981
Box 8, Folder 3	History and background materials, undated
Box 2, Folder 1	Interviewing procedures, undated
Box 2, Folder 2	Log book, 2001-2002
Box 2, Folder 3	Log book, 2003-2004
Box 2, Folder 4	Log book, 2004-2005
Box 2, Folder 5	Marine Corps League, 2007
Box 2, Folder 6	Operations manual, 1994-2002
Box 2, Folder 7	Dress guests, 1963-2002
Box 2, Folder 8	Proposals and quotes, 1994
Box 2, Folder 9	Reports, 2008-2011
Box 2, Folder 10	Restaurant line manual, undated
Box 2, Folder 11	Room rates information, 2003-2004
Box 2, Folder 12	Song for Lions, 1936-1948
Box 2, Folder 13	Thurmont Times, rate card, 2013
Box 2, Folder 14	White House Communications Agency, undated

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Series 2: Menus, 1943-2015, undated

Scope and Contents: Contains over fifty years of printed material relating to the food and services available at the restaurants and bars including the Saloon Room and the Tea Trolley. Most of the menus are static (or general as referred to in the container list) and were not meant to change often. This was an effort to create a consist experience for the in-dining customer base. Included are also menus for groups; on-premises, special, or as part of a bus trip. Menus for different times of the day; brunch and breakfast buffet, family style, and buffet dinners; and for different times of the year; Oriental holiday, Harvest days, Father's Day, and other holidays are also included. In addition to the in restaurant dining options included delivery-only goods to go, or catering; off-premises, picnic, formal affairs, and wedding reception packages. Most of the menus are dated and are arranged in chronological order.

Box 2, Folder 15	General, 1943-05-01
Box 2, Folder 16	General, 1961
Box 2, Folder 17	Special group, 1973
Box 2, Folder 18	General, 1974
Box 8, Folder 4	General, 1975
Box 2, Folder 19	Harvest days, 1975
Box 2, Folder 20	Harvest days, 1977
Box 2, Folder 21	Oriental Holiday, 1977
Box 2, Folder 22	General, 1977
Box 2, Folder 23	General, 1987-10-31
Box 3, Folder 1	General, 1980
Box 8, Folder 5	General, 1981
Box 9, Folder 1	General, 1984
Box 3, Folder 2	General, 1987
Box 3, Folder 3	General, 1987
Box 3, Folder 4	General, 1988-10-31
Box 3, Folder 5	General, 1988-12
Box 3, Folder 6	Bus groups, 1989

Box 3, Folder 7	General, 1990-1991
Box 3, Folder 8	Brunch and breakfast buffet, 1991
Box 3, Folder 9	General, October 31, 1991
Box 3, Folder 10	General, 1992
Box 3, Folder 11	Bartender charges, 1992
Box 3, Folder 12	General, January, 1993
Box 3, Folder 13	General, June, 1994
Box 3, Folder 14	On-premise holiday group, 1994
Box 3, Folder 15	General, 1997
Box 3, Folder 16	General, 1997-10-07
Box 3, Folder 17	General, 2001 (?)
Box 3, Folder 18	General, 2001
Box 3, Folder 19	General, 2002
Box 3, Folder 20	General, 2002-2003
Box 3, Folder 21	Bus groups, 2004
Box 3, Folder 22	Group, 2004
Box 3, Folder 23	Group, 2009
Box 3, Folder 24	General, 2009
Box 3, Folder 25	General, 2011
Box 3, Folder 26	General, 2012-12-31
Box 3, Folder 27	General, 2012
Box 9, Folder 2	General, 2012
Box 3, Folder 28	Catering, weddings and formal affairs, 2013
Box 3, Folder 29	General, January 2014

Box 3, Folder 30	Off-premise catering menu, 2014
Box 3, Folder 31	Specials , 2014
Box 3, Folder 32	Wedding reception package, circa 2015
Box 3, Folder 33	Bus group, undated
Box 3, Folder 34	Catering, undated
Box 3, Folder 35	Catering, delivery-only, undated
Box 3, Folder 36	Catering picnic, undated
Box 3, Folder 37	Father's Day, undated
Box 3, Folder 38	Goods to go and catering, undated
Box 3, Folder 39	Goods to go and catering, undated
Box 3, Folder 40	Group, family style and buffet dinners, undated
Box 3, Folder 41	Holiday, undated
Box 3, Folder 42	Picnic, undated
Box 3, Folder 43	The Saloon Room, undated
Box 3, Folder 44	The Tea Trolley, undated
Box 3, Folder 45	Wedding , undated
Box 3, Folder 46-65	General, undated
Box 4, Folder 1-2	General, undated
Box 4, Folder 3	Menu covers, undated
Box 9, Folder 3-4	General, undated
Box 10, Folder 1	General, undated

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Series 3: Printed Advertisements and Ephemera, 1932-2014, undated

Scope and Contents: Contains material relating to the Cozy Inn and its retail shops and activities including Camp Cozy Night Club, Camp David Museum, Murder Mystery Theater, and Tea Room. Materials include stationary, business cards, signs, printed advertisements, coupons, placemats, advertising proofs, brochures, postcards, room key envelopes, stickers, and thank you cards arranged in alphabetical order by type.

Box 4, Folder 4	Advertisements for Camp Cozy Night Club, 1932-1941
Box 4, Folder 5	Advertising proofs, 2001
Box 4, Folder 6	Brochures, 1995-2012
Box 4, Folder 7	Business cards, 1938-2013
Box 4, Folder 8	Camp David Museum, 2005-2008
Box 4, Folder 9	Cheese cloth, undated
Box 4, Folder 10	Christmas, 1979-2000
Box 4, Folder 11	Coupons, 1996-2013
Box 4, Folder 12	Cozy Club, undated
Box 4, Folder 13	Envelopes, undated
Box 4, Folder 14	Frederick News Post advertisements, 1999-2003, undated
Box 4, Folder 15	General information, 2009-2014, undated
Box 4, Folder 16	Holidays, 1987-2013
Box 4, Folder 17	Magazine advertisements, undated
Box 4, Folder 18	Murder Mystery Theater, undated
Box 4, Folder 19	Newspaper advertisements, 1960-2013
Box 10, Folder 2	Placemats, undated
Box 4, Folder 20	Postcards, 1957-1980
Map-folder 1	Reproductions of advertisements, newspaper clippings, and photographs, 1929, 1935
Box 4, Folder 21	Room key envelopes, undated

Box 4, Folder 22	Shop, 1978-1995
Box 4, Folder 23	Signs, undated
Box 4, Folder 24	Spinner, undated
Box 4, Folder 25	Stationary, undated
Box 4, Folder 26	Stickers, undated
Box 4, Folder 27	Tea Room, undated
Box 4, Folder 28	Thank you cards, undated

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Series 4: Magazine Articles and Newspaper Clippings, 1935-2013, undated

Scope and Contents: Documents the history of the Inn, guests, and social activities. Materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 4, Folder 29	Magazine articles, 1998-2003
Box 4, Folder 30	Magazine article and catering list, 2002-2009
Box 4, Folder 31	Magazine articles, undated
Box 4, Folder 32	Newspaper clippings, 1935
Box 4, Folder 33	Newspaper clippings, 1945
Box 4, Folder 34	Newspaper clippings, 1960-1969
Box 4, Folder 35	Newspaper clippings, 1970-1979
Box 4, Folder 36	Bulletin and newspaper clippings, 1980-1989
Box 4, Folder 37	Newspaper clippings, 1990-1999
Box 5, Folder 1	Album of dress clippings, 2000-2008
Box 5, Folder 2	Newspaper clippings, 2000-2013
Box 5, Folder 3	Newspaper clippings, undated
Box 10, Folder 3	Newspaper clippings, 1935
Box 10, Folder 4	Newspaper clippings, 1986
Box 10, Folder 5	Newspaper clippings, 1995

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Series 5: Photographic Materials, 1920-2009, undated

Scope and Contents: Contains black and white and color photographs, slides, and negatives. Images include the inn, restaurant, and other retail spaces. There are also images of the staff and social events. Of interest are the autographed photographs of previous guests. Most of the images appear to be for publicity, training or to document the history of the inn. Materials are arranged in chronological order.

Box 5, Folder 4	Photographs, 1920-1929
Box 5, Folder 5	Photographs, 1930-1939
Box 5, Folder 6	Photographs, 1940-1949
Box 5, Folder 7	Photographs, 1950-1959
Box 5, Folder 8	Photographs, 1960-1969
Box 5, Folder 9	Photographs, 1970-1979
Box 5, Folder 10	Cozy Saloon, 1972
Box 5, Folder 11	Photographs, 1980-1989
Box 6, Folder 1	Photographs, 1990-1999
Box 6, Folder 2	Photographs, 2000-2009
Box 6, Folder 3	Photographs, autographed, undated
Box 6, Folder 4	Presidential suites, undated
Box 6, Folder 5	Negatives, undated
Box 6, Folder 6	Slides, history, undated
Box 6, Folder 7	Slides, training, undated
Box 6, Folder 8	Slides, Wine: Selling It and Serving It, undated
Box 6, Folder 10	History and background materials, 1986, 1993
Box 6, Folder 11	History and background materials, 2005

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