



Bernard Sanderson Collection, 1929-2001

Collection Summary:

Title: Bernard Sanderson Collection

Summary: A collection of printed documents, photographs, ephemera, and writing pertaining to the personal and professional life of Bernard Sanderson ranging between 1929 and 2001.

Physical Description: 3 boxes; 2.3 linear feet, plus two yard-long photographs and one yard-long map (loose).

Language: English

Stack Location: 16.32

Repository: Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County, 615 Church St., Nashville, TN 37219

Biographical Note:

Bernard Sanderson was born November 19, 1921, in Nashville, Tennessee to Rose and William Sanderson. He graduated from East Nashville High School and went on to study at Vanderbilt University (1939-1941). He transferred to the University of Tennessee in 1941 where he received his B.S. in Animal Husbandry in 1947 after serving in the Army Air Corp (1942-1945). His time in the Air Corps began July 27, 1942, leading him to complete basic training in Robinson, AR in 1943 whereafter he began active duty. During his time served, he completed Aerial Gunnery and Aircraft Armament service schools. He departed for Europe to fight in WWII on September 11, 1944, and returned to the United States on June 18, 1945, with honorable discharge. He received a multitude of honors and awards for his time served including a Good Conduct medal and an EAME Campaign medal.

Upon finishing his degree, Sanderson took up work in the agricultural sector for the first few years of his career before moving into entrepreneurial endeavors. He owned and operated Hermitage Hardware (1949-1952) before opening Sanderson's Variety Store (1953-1966). The rest of his career was spent in real estate, where he won the Million Dollar Sales Award many times, and retired in 2004. Bernard was active in many organizations throughout his lifetime including the Donelson Lion's Club, Toastmasters, and Gordon Jewish Community Center.

He enjoyed retirement for six years before his death on June 5, 2010.

Scope and Contents of the Collection:

The Bernard Sanderson Collection contains approximately 40 items ranging from 1929-2001, with most of the materials covering the span of 1943 to about 1975.

This collection provides a general overview of the life of Bernard, as well as the 454th Bomber Group, Hermitage Hardware, and Sanderson's Variety Store. It also includes a wide variety of pictures from his time in the Army and life and career in Donelson.

Index Terms:

Subjects:

World War II

454th Bombardment Group – 1944-1945 Army Air Corps – 1943-1945

University of Tennessee Knoxville 1941-1947

Hermitage Hardware Store – 1952-1966

Merry Oaks Shopping Center – 1950-1964 Sanderson's Variety Store

Toastmaster Club

Related Collections:

Genevieve Baird Farris Collection

Raymond Whitaker Papers

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged into four series, including military, education, career, and ephemera. Series are arranged generally in order of date; however, the size of many items caused a slight disorganization since they had to be placed into a different, larger box.

The *military* series ranges from 1942 to the mid-2000s, documenting Bernard's service in the Air Corp during World War II as a member of the 454th Bomber Group. It also contains documents, photographs, and ephemera from group reunions, memorabilia from his time abroad, as well as two historical books documenting the experiences of soldiers during the period.

The *education* series ranges from 1929 to 1947 containing photos and official documents from his primary through college education. This includes his UTK diploma and yearbook.

The *career* series ranges from 1949 to 1975 documenting Bernard's ownership of Hermitage Hardware, Sanderson's Variety Store, and his success at multiple realty companies. There are two subseries within this series – variety store and realty, for the sake of organization.

The *ephemera* series ranges from 1951 to 1980 and contains a variety of keepsakes including Toastmasters Club memorabilia and information from the 1980 Mount St. Helens eruption.

Contents Listing:

Box 1:

Folder 1: Military--Life Resume

Folder 2: Military--Army Training Portrait

Folder 3: Military--Flight Records and Records of Missions

Folder 4: Military-- Postcards and Photographs from Italy

Folder 5: Military--WWII Currency Garland and Signatures

Folder 6: Military--WWII Foreign Currency Assortment

Folder 7: Military--Photos of Soldiers and Stories of Munich

Folder 8: Military--Flying Scarf and European Lapel Bar

Folder 9: Military – 454th Reunion Photos and Memorabilia

Folder 10: Military--WWII Memories DVD and CD

Folder 11: Military--General Marshall Discharge Letter

Folder 12: Military--“Flight of the Liberators” book

Folder 13: Military--“454th Memories” book

Folder 14: Education--Warner Elementary Class Photo

Box 2:

Folder 1: Education--UTK Yearbook

Folder 2: Education--UTK Photo and Memorabilia

Folder 3: Career--Hermitage Hardware Store Scrapbook Pages

Folder 4: Career--Variety Store--Merry Oaks Grand Opening

Folder 5: Career--Variety Store--Photos

Folder 6: Career--Variety Store--Newspaper Clippings

Folder 7: Career--Variety Store--Reopening Photos

Folder 8: Career--Realty--Irwin Wolf Employee Portrait

Folder 9: Career--Realty--France Vacation Memorabilia

Folder 10: Career--Realty--Newspaper Clippings from Million Dollar Sales Award

Folder 11: Career--Realty--Photos of Receiving Award from Blair Realtors

Folder 12: Career – 80th Birthday

Folder 13: Career--Fishing

Folder 14: Ephemera--West Point Memorabilia

Folder 15: Ephemera--Toastmaster Club Materials and Yearbook

Box 3 (Oversized):

Folder 1: Military – 454th Crew Photo

Folder 2: Military--Aerial Photos of Bombings

Folder 3: Military--Photo of “nic crew”

Folder 4: Career--Variety Store--Merry Oaks Grand Opening Photo

Folder 5: Career--Realty--Million Dollar Sales Club Plaque

Folder 6: Ephemera--Mount St. Helens Eruption Memorabilia

Folder 7: Education--UTK Diploma

Oversized Items:

- 1: Education--East High School ROTC Group Photo
- 2: Military--Basic Training Group Photo
- 3: Military--Mapping of Locations Bernard Fought

Restrictions:

Restrictions on Access: In-library use only.

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Administrative Information:

Copyright: The Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County retains intellectual property rights to this collection. Some restrictions may apply.

Provenance: Family of Bernard Sanderson, see Donor files

Processing Information: Processed by Sami Olesen, February 2022.

Accruals: No further accruals expected.