

Jerry Parker Life and Casualty Collection

Collection Summary

Title: Jerry Parker Life and Casualty Collection

Summary: A collection of photographs and printed materials relating mainly to Life and Casualty Insurance Company, with some materials relating to National Life and Accident Insurance Company. Dates range between 1899 and 1990, with bulk dates between 1925 and 1980.

Physical Description: 4 boxes; 1.7 linear feet.

Language: English

Stack Location: Closed Stacks; section 11, shelf 14.

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

Historical Note:

The Life and Casualty Insurance Company, founded and financed by A.M. Burton, Helena Haralson, Guilford Dudley, P.M. Estes, and Dr. J.C. Franklin, began business on September 12, 1903 in Nashville, Tennessee. It operated as an assessment company until 1909, when it moved to a legal reserve basis of operations. During that year, the company moved from a one-room office into its new home office in the Chamber of Commerce Building near the corner of 4th Avenue, North and Church Street. In 1910, Life & Casualty began to expand its operations outside of Tennessee. Later, the company acquired the WLAC radio station.

Though severely affected by the Depression in the early 1930s, Life and Casualty managed to grow by the end of the decade under the leadership of Guilford Dudley, Jr., purchasing Great Southern Life in 1939, and later purchasing the Texas Industrial Division of Franklin Life Insurance Company in 1953. Construction on a new home office, known as the L&C Tower, was completed in 1957. The building, containing 30 floors and standing 409 feet tall, was Nashville's first true skyscraper and the tallest commercial structure in the Southeastern United States until 100 North Main Street in Memphis surpassed it in 1965. It remains a prominent downtown Nashville landmark.

In the mid-1960s, the company was sold to American General Insurance Company of Texas, but operations remained largely unchanged until the early 1980s. American General later acquired Life and Casualty's longtime rival, National Life and Accident Insurance Company, in a hostile takeover in the 1980s, and the two companies were merged by the end of the 1980s. Life and Casualty went through a number of mergers and acquisitions that now form

American General Life and Accident, which is part of American International Group (AIG).

Scope and Contents of the Collection:

This collection contains photographs and printed materials relating chiefly to the Life and Casualty Insurance Company of Tennessee, with some materials relating to the company's longtime competitor, National Life and Accident Insurance Company. Dates range from 1899 to approximately 1990, with bulk dates between 1925 and 1980. Materials include photographs of Life and Casualty presidents, board members, and staff, insurance manuals from National Life and Accident, and numerous publications from both insurance companies. This collection contains vital information about the history of one of Nashville's most prominent businesses, its founding, and the insurance industry in the South.

Index Terms:

Subjects:

American General Life Insurance Company

Insurance companies.

Insurance companies--United States.

Life and Casualty Insurance Company of Tennessee

National Life & Accident Insurance Company, Inc. (Nashville, Tenn.)

Related Collections:

Life & Casualty Collection

Robinson-Craig National Life & Accident Collection

Vertical Files--Buildings--Life and Casualty Tower

Vertical Files--Businesses--Life and Casualty Insurance Co.

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged alphabetically into two series: *Photographs* and *Printed Materials*.

The *Photographs* series is further divided into four sub-series: *Buildings*, *Events*, *Historical*, and *People*.

The *Buildings* sub-series contains photographs of different structures in Nashville, including the L&C Tower, interior and exterior images of the Ryman Auditorium, the old National Life building, and other landmarks in the city.

Events contains photographs taken at anniversary celebrations, manager meetings, and sales conferences.

The *Historical* sub-series includes photographs of different departments at Life and Casualty, photographs from the 1900s-1950s, and images of World War II activities.

The *People* sub-series contains photographs of founders, presidents, board members, and staff members of Life and Casualty Insurance Company, and group photographs.

The *Printed Materials* series is further divided into three sub-series: *Manuals*, *Miscellaneous*, and *Publications*.

The *Manuals* sub-series includes sales manuals, manager guides, and instruction books printed by both National Life and Accident Insurance company as well as Life and Casualty Insurance Company.

The *Miscellaneous* sub-series contains various printed materials, including ephemera, publicity materials for National Life and Life and Casualty, copies of insurance policies, and programs from several events given by National Life.

Publications includes company newsletters, brochures, anniversary booklets, and articles published either by Life and Casualty or National Life. This sub-series also includes a book written by Era Emmons (editor of all of Life and Casualty's company publications), *The Thrift Family*, which contains the history of the company from 1903-1943.

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- Fol. 2: Photographs--Buildings--Chamber of Commerce Building (n.d.)
- Fol. 3: Photographs--Buildings--Downtown Nashville (n.d.)
- Fol. 4: Photographs--Buildings--Equitable Life Building (1942)
- Fol. 5: Photographs--Buildings--Fort Nashborough (n.d.)
- Fol. 6: Photographs--Buildings--Fort Negley (n.d.)
- Fol. 7: Photographs--Buildings--Grand Ole Opry House, Opryland (c.1970s)
- Fol. 8: Photographs--Buildings--L&C Tower (n.d.)
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- Fol. 15: Photographs--Buildings--Presbyterian Building (c. early 1900s)

- Fol. 16: Photographs--Buildings--Riverfront (c.1900)
- Fol. 17: Photographs--Buildings--Ryman Auditorium, Exterior (1972)
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- Fol. 27: Photographs--Events--L&C 60th Anniversary (1963)
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- Fol. 19: Photographs--People--Anderson, Arnold (n.d.)
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- Fol. 1: Printed Materials--Miscellaneous--History of Life and Casualty (c.1960s-1980s)
- Fol. 2: Printed Materials--Miscellaneous--Insurance Policies (1899-1905)
- Fol. 3: Printed Materials--Miscellaneous--Programs (1916-1977)
- Fol. 4: Printed Materials--Miscellaneous--Publicity Materials, L&C (1935-1978)
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- Fol. 6: Printed Materials--Publications--From Acorn to Oak (1926)
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- Fol. 9: Printed Materials--Publications--L'n C'ean, The (1953, 1960)
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- Fol. 11: Printed Materials--Publications--National Life Center (c.1960s)
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- Fol. 14: Printed Materials--Publications--Progress Report, L&C (1938)
- Fol. 15: Printed Materials--Publications--Report for the Year, L&C (1977)
- Fol. 16: Printed Materials--Publications--Services Directory (Oct. 1981)
- Fol. 17: Printed Materials--Publications--Shareowners Quarterly (1965)
- Fol. 18: Printed Materials--Publications--Skyline is a Promise, The (1965)
- Fol. 19: Printed Materials--Publications--Standing Tall at 60 (1963)
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- Fol. 22: Printed Materials--Publications--Towergram, The (1978, 1983)

Restrictions:

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Administrative Information:

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Provenance: Donated to Metro Archives by Jerry Parker, September 1999.

Processing Information: Processed by Kelley Sirko, October 2022.

Accruals: No further accruals expected.