Guide to the Ambrosia Wysinger Jones Papers

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Guide to the Ambrosia Wysinger Jones Papers

Collection number: MS 27

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Ambrosia Wysinger Jones papers
Dates: circa 1860s-1991
Collection number: MS 27
Creator: Jones, Hillarie, 1918-1975.
Collection Size: 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes + 1 oversized box)
Repository: African American Museum and Library at Oakland (Oakland, Calif.)
Oakland, CA 94612
Abstract: Ambrosia Wysinger Jones Papers includes photographs, scrapbooks, correspondence, newspaper clippings, legal documents, and ephemera that document the various business activities and family history of Ambrosia Wysinger Jones.
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Access
No access restrictions. Collection is open to the public.
Access Restrictions
Materials are for use in-library only, non-circulating.
Publication Rights
Permission to publish from the Ambrosia Wysinger Jones Papers must be obtained from the African American Museum and Library at Oakland.
Preferred Citation
Ambrosia Wysinger Jones papers, MS 27, African American Museum and Library at Oakland, Oakland Public Library.
Oakland, California.
Acquisition Information
Papers donated to the Northern California Center for Afro-American History and Life by Ambrosia Jones on December 20, 1993.
Processing Information
Processed by Sean Heyliger, Archivist, April 18, 2013.
Biography / Administrative History
Ambrosia Wysinger Jones (1905-1999) was born on August 30, 1905 in Oakland, California. She was the granddaughter of the noted civil rights activist, Edmond Wysinger, an early advocate of desegregating the California public school system in the 1890s. In the 1940s, she married Hillarie Jones and the two owned and operated a number of business enterprises, including a chain of barbershops in Oakland and ‘The Alameda’ Barbeque Pit and Union Barbershop in Alameda, California. In 1960, they started Charm Beauty College in Oakland becoming the first African Americans to own and operate a beauty college in Northern California. They also operated an additional beauty school in Richmond and started the first black travel agency, Charm Travel Agency, that catered to African Americans looking to vacation in Africa and the Caribbean.
Scope and Content of Collection
Ambrosia Wysinger Jones Papers includes photographs, scrapbooks, correspondence, newspaper clippings, legal documents, and ephemera that document the various business activities and family history of Ambrosia Wysinger Jones. A majority of the papers are family photographs of the Jones and Wysinger families and Jones' beauty school and travel agency businesses. The papers also include four scrapbooks with assorted cards, photographs, and newspaper clippings related to the Jones family and business activities, as well as two guest books with signatures of visitors to the Jones home. Correspondence in the collection is most related to scholarships given to students attending the Charm beauty school, and a small number of assorted programs.

Arrangement
Series I. Photographs Series II. Correspondence Series III. Newspaper clippings Series IV. Ephemera Series V. Programs Series VI. Legal records

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Charm Beauty School (Oakland, Calif.).
Charm Travel Agency (Oakland, Calif.).
Beauty culture--United States--History--20th century.
Beauty culture--Study and teaching--California.
Hairdressing of African Americans--History.
African American businesspeople--History--Sources.
Photographs.

Photographs
Physical Description: 106 photographs
Series Scope and Content Summary
Includes photographs of the Jones and Wysinger families and also of the Jones' Charm Beauty School and Charm Travel Agency.
Arrangement
Arranged by photograph identification number.

Box 1:1 Ambrosia Jones standing with man and women in tent [005] 1966
Box 1:1 Class photograph, Frick School, Oakland, California [011] circa 1910
Box 1:1 Ambrosia Jones seated with man at dining table aboard the Queen Elizabeth II [013] 1991
Box 1:1 Portrait of man in suit [014] circa 1910s
Box 1:1 Al Barros, Ambrosia Jones, and unidentified man at banquet [015] 1992
Box 1:1 Ambrosia Jones shaking hands with ship's captain [016] undated
Box 1:1 Two women standing on sidewalk, caption: ‘Twins? Oh yes’ [017] 1923
Box 1:1 Man and woman standing in front of car, caption: ‘Happy, Ruth? Nice, isn’t it Ralph’ [018] circa 1920s
Box 1:1 Two women and a man standing on the sidewalk, caption: ‘Nell, Fresno do you like the Oakland [--]’ [019] circa 1920s
Box 1:1 Portrait of Miley Hunter, singer in Oakland [020] circa 1920s
Box 1:1 Portrait of John Moore in suit holding a cane [021] undated
Box 1:1 Baby portrait of Ambrosia Jones [022] circa 1905
Box 1:1 Family portrait Miley Hunter and three unidentified persons [023] circa 1920s
Box 1:1 Tintype portrait of woman in pin-striped dress [024] circa 1860s
Box 1:1 Portrait of woman seated wearing pancake straw hat [025] undated
Box 1:1 Class portrait in classroom under photographs of Franklin D. Roosevelt, reverse: ‘$3.50 the grand ave. cyclery $1.25 tube Berkeley cyclery’ [026] circa 1930s
Box 1:1 Portrait of woman in cap and gown leaning on balustrade [027] undated
Box 1:1 Cabinet card with miniature portraits of two men and a woman [028] undated
Box 1:1 Three portraits of a girl with pig-tails and ribbons in hair [029] undated
Box 1:2  Teacher and student working on woman's hair, Charm Beauty School, Oakland, California [030] undated
Box 1:2  Erroll Garner at piano, Columbia records publicity photograph [031] circa 1950s
Box 1:2  Portrait of woman [032] 1944
Box 1:2  Massage machine, Charm Beauty School [033] undated
Box 1:2  Ambrosia Jones standing outside with two men and a woman [034] circa 1950s
Box 1:2  Young girl in white dress standing next to infant seated on chair in front yard [035] circa 1900s
Box 1:2  Four men standing outside [036] undated
Box 1:2  Man standing in front of tree, reverse: ‘cousin of Ambrosia’s ‘Neely’ [037] undated
Box 1:2  Cabinet card portrait of man with mutton chop beard, Vaughn’s photograph gallery, San Francisco, California [038] circa 1880s
Box 1:2  Ambrosia and Hillarie Jones in group photograph under patio umbrella, reverse: ‘pictures by Nick at home of Mr. and Mrs. Whallon [?], Omaha, Nebraska’ [039] 1953
Box 1:2  Cabinet card portrait of man in pin-striped suit holding a cane, Imperial Gallery, Oakland, California [040] undated
Box 1:2  Cabinet card with four miniature portraits, reverse: ‘Florence Moore’ [042] undated
Box 1:2  Portrait postcard of Aunt Mary [043] circa 1910s
Box 1:2  Cabinet card portrait of woman, Taber photographer, San Francisco, California [045] circa 1880s
Box 1:2  Cabinet card portrait of woman in black dress, N.Y. photo co., Providence, Rhode Island [046] undated
Box 1:2  Cabinet card portrait of woman in black dress, J.W. Krieg, Cincinnati, Ohio [047] circa 1890s
Box 1:2  Cabinet card portrait of woman in white dress and cravat, Huddlestons, Oakland, California [048] undated
Box 1:2  Hillarie and Ambrosia Jones [049] circa 1950s
Box 1:2  Sepia portrait of man in suit, James & Merrihew, Tacoma, Washington [050-051] circa 1920s
Box 1:3  Classroom photograph [052] undated
Box 1:3  Men and women sitting on carriage, reverse: ‘Ambrosia’s mother, Florence Moore Wysinger, center’ [053] undated
Box 1:3  Two women and a dog standing next to shed [054] undated
Box 1:3  Two women at picnic [055] undated
Box 1:3  Souvenir photographs, Hillarie and Ambrosia Jones with friend at White Sulphur Springs, Napa Sun Valley, St. Helena, California [056-057] circa 1950s
Box 1:3  Florence Moore Wysinger and unidentified woman [058] circa 1950s
Box 1:3  Portrait of young girl in chair, F.A. Webster photographer, Oakland, California [059] circa 1900s
Box 1:3  Sepia portrait of woman standing next to chair [060] circa 1900s
Box 1:3  Portrait of man in tuxedo [061] undated
Box 1:3  Portrait of man in suit, caption: ‘To a swell pal -Nick’ [062] undated
Box 1:3  Students at the Charm Beauty School, reverse: ‘Doris Willis, L. Jackson, M. Barnes, seated, Jackie Figgins, Mrs. Clark, J. Andrews’ [063] undated
Box 1:3  Ambrosia Jones and unidentified woman sitting on Niblack Slendering System equipment, reverse: ‘first black reducing salon in Berkeley’ [064] circa 1959
Box 1:4  Ambrosia Jones and two unidentified women standing in front of Niblack Slendering System equipment [065] circa 1959
Box 1:4  Ambrosia Jones in group photograph with group of women [066] undated
Box 1:4  Group photograph [067] circa 1940s
Box 1:4  Ambrosia Jones cutting cake next to her sister Edna Wysinger Black [068] circa 1950s
Box 1:4  Ambrosia Jones standing next to two women [069] circa 1959
Box 1:4  Ambrosia Jones inside slendizing reducing machine [070] circa 1950s
Box 1:4  Ambrosia Jones with group of women looking at Niblack Slendering System Equipment [071] circa 1950s
Box 1:4  Group photograph of women seated around dining table [072] circa 1940s
Box 1:4  Ambrosia Jones in group photograph [073] 1956
Box 1:4  Ambrosia and Hillarie Jones receiving an award [074] undated
| Box 1:4 | Ambrosia and Hillarie Jones seated on couch surrounded by men and women [075/078] circa 1950s |
| Box 1:4 | Hillarie Jones and postmen, reverse: ‘Hillarie and postmen in first black restaurant in Alameda’ [076] undated |
| Box 1:4 | Group photograph in banquet hall [077] undated |
| Box 1:4 | Hillarie and Ambrosia Jones in bar [079] undated |
| Box 1:4 | Rosita Myers Jones (second on right), granddaughter of Ambrosia Jones, on children’s morning television program ‘The Romper Room’ [080] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Hillarie Jones and group of men on horses, reverse: ‘Hillarie Jones in his riding club in Richmond ca. 1945 he came here from Alexandria, Louisiana during the war’ [081] circa 1945 |
| Box 1:5 | Florence Moore in class photograph [082] circa 1890 |
| Box 1:5 | Ambrosia Jones and unidentified woman [083] circa 1950s |
| Box 1:5 | Seven women in formal wear [084] 1956 |
| Box 1:5 | Members of the Barbers Union standing around banquet table [085] 1944 |
| Box 1:5 | Ambrosia Jones and woman standing outside [086] 1960 |
| Box 1:5 | Men and women standing around table looking at book [087] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Three girls in white dresses [088] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Beauty school students in salon classroom [089] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Hillarie Jones standing outside [098] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Ambrosia Jones two women holding champagne glasses [099] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Four girls wearing leis in Hawaii [100] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Hillarie Jones at banquet table with group of women [101] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Hillarie Jones in banquet hall with two women and man [102] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Ambrosia and Hillarie Jones dancing in banquet hall [103] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Two women wearing corsages [104] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Group photograph of girls in standing [105] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Ambrosia and Hillarie Jones in group photograph at dinner party [107] 1955 |
| Box 1:5 | Ambrosia Jones at office desk [108] circa 1950s |
| Box 1:5 | Students of Charm Beauty School, reverse: ‘Mrs. Webb teacher trainee, Richmond school; Miss Provost, former store clerk, graduate; Joy Onyenku, Nigerian foreign student; Jean Burns, graduate in shop in S.F.; Mrs. Yarborough, freshman teacher at Charm’ [109] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Contact print, beauty school students [6]/Rosita Myers Jones in polka-dot dress [5]/exterior of Gus Kroesen jewelry store [110] undated |
| Box OM 6 | Ambrosia Jones sitting on stool surrounded by massage tables [111] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Man in tuxedo at table, reverse: ‘Lemuel at Captain Bill’s party’ [112] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Hillarie Jones and unidentified woman seated outside [113] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Unidentified woman and girl seated outside [114] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Man, woman, and girl standing outside [115] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Ambrosia Jones, Florence Wysinger Allen, and Edna Wysinger Ellis reading Chicago Defender with ‘London GI Riots Mount’ headline [116] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Ambrosia Jones with two unidentified women [117] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Ambrosia Jones standing on boat with three girls [118] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Ambrosia Jones seated on dais at banquet at Fairmont Hotel [119] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Hillarie and Ambrosia Jones at desk at the Charm Travel Agency [120] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Ambrosia Jones with four women at banquet [121] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Ambrosia Jones in group photograph in front of hotel in India, reverse: ‘With personal compliments from Narain Sinha Director, Sales and Marketing Clarks Group of Hotels’ [122] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Ambrosia and Hillarie Jones receiving an award [123] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Group photograph at birthday party for Alicia Hinds at the home of Hillarie and Ambrosia Jones [124] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Students inside Charm Beauty School [125] undated |
| Box 1:5 | Hillarie Jones standing with bowling team [126] undated |
| Box 1:6 | Ambrosia Jones seated on lounge chair with women [127] undated |
| Box 1:6 | Students cutting hair at Charm Beauty School [128] undated |
Photographs

| Box 1:6 | Group photograph at Hillarie and Ambrosia Jones' 20th wedding anniversary party [129] undated |
| Box 1:6 | Hillarie and Ambrosia Jones having drinks with friends at Tonga Room at the Fairmount Hotel [134] 1953 |
| Box 1:6 | Portrait of Susan Wilson [reproduction] undated |
| Box 2:1 |

Correspondence 1945-1987

Box 2:2

Newspaper clippings 1951-1987

Scrapbooks

Physical Description: 4 volumes

Series Scope and Content Summary

Includes four volumes of scrapbooks related to the Jones and Wysinger families. Two of the scrapbooks contain guest signatures of visitors to the Jones home.

| Box 2:3 | Volume I 1906-1957 |
| Box 2:4 | Volume II 1972-1977 |
| Box 3 | Housing-warming guestbook/scrapbook 1942-1944, 1972 |
| Box 3 | Housing-warming guestbook/scrapbook 1970-1986 |

Box 2:5

Programs 1945-1993

Ephemera

| Box 2:6 | Yuletide bonus stamp booklet 1950 |
| Box 2:6 | Gold Arrow Trading Company stamp booklet undated |
| Box 2:6 | Kool cigarettes card deck undated |
| Box 2:9 | Ambrosia Jones name plate undated |

Legal records

| Box 2:10 | Articles of Incorporation, Projectors Associated Loans 1968 |
| Box 2:11 | Release of claim for back interest 1977 |