Register of the Grabow (Herman G.) Collection, 1922-1987

Collection number: Ms24

San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum

Lodi, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Grabow (Herman G.) Collection,
Date (inclusive): 1922-1987
Collection number: Ms24
Creator: Herman G. Grabow
Extent: 0.5 linear
Repository: San Joaquin County Museum.
Lodi, CA 95241
Language: English.
Access
Collection is open for research by appointment only.

Publication Rights
The library can only claim physical ownership of the collection. Users are responsible for satisfying any claimants of literary property.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Grabow (Herman G.) Collection, Ms24, San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum.

personal name
Grabow, Herman G. (1898-1993)
corporate name
California Dairymen, Inc
California State Grange
Parkers Prairie (Minn.) Cow Testing Association

subject
Dairying - California
Dairy farmers - California
Herman Grabow (1898-1993) was a cow tester, dairyman, radio personality, journalist and lobbyist for the California Grange. Trained as a cow tester at the University of Minnesota, Grabow came to California in 1923, where he found work as a tester in Ventura County. After losing his dairy in the midst of the Great Depression, Grabow came to San Joaquin County where he acquired a spread that was being sold for back taxes. With financial help from Roosevelt’s New Deal, Grabow bought alfalfa seed and twenty cows. By the late 1930s he was well-established and had became Director of the local artificial insemination association. From the 1940s, Grabow also became a farmers’ advocate. He worked for forty years to advance the cause of the California dairy industry through legislation and advertising as President of the California Dairymen, Inc. and as a lobbyist for the California State Grange. Grabow also published a regular column on dairy-related topics in the California Farmer during the 1960s. He will be well-remembered among dairymen in particular for his contributions to the passage of the California Milk Pooling Act (1969), which gave independent dairymen greater protection from milk price fluctuations.

Scope and Content
The Grabow Collection contains biographical materials, correspondence, writings and other memorabilia pertaining to the life and activities of Herman Grabow.

BOX 1: GRABOW COLLECTION
1.1: Biographical Materials
   a-"Herman J. Grabow: Cow Commentator" (n.d.) [Grabow’s autobiography; 110 pp.]
1.2: Scrapbook #1, 1922-1985
   a-Copy incl. materials (corresp., published writings, reports, clippings, etc.) on Parkers Prairie Cow Testing Assn. [MN] (1922); California Milk Pooling Act (1969); and, other aspects of Grabow’s life [124 pp.]
   b-2nd incomplete copy
1.3: Scrapbook #2, 1924; 1962-1986 [2 copies]
1.4: Writings, 1940-1985
   a-Scrapbook of letters, essays, poetry & radio broadcasts [2 copies]
   b-"Food & fiber," Feb. 1967 [radio script; 2 pp.]
   c-Testimony before Assembly Committee on Agriculture, 1976
   d-"My Plea" [poem]
1.5: Correspondence, 1958-1984 [7 items incl. 2 letters from U.S. Rep. John J. McFall]
1.6: Memorabilia [5 items incl. newspaper adv for Grabow’s dairy, Calif. Dairymen, Inc. letterhead, etc.]
1.7: Miscellany
   b-J.E. Stuart. "National Developments as the relate to Animal Disease Control and Meat and Milk Hygiene in California," 1961
   c-Frank H. Burke. "Catalogue of Butter Bred Holstein-Friesian Cattle...,” 1900

e-"The De Laval Milker: The Milker that Pleases the Cow," 1920


g-"Brands get ranchers' stamp of approval," Sacramento Union (10-23-87)