

George Friend 2011.043

Collection Summary

Title: George Friend, business and personal records

Collection Group: George Friend

Dates: 1940-1998

Location: *Archives B*

Quantity: 1.5 cubic feet in 3 clamshell boxes

Abstract: George Friend was the brother-in-law of Hilbert Meyer, long-time Aurora City councilman.

According to Meyer's oral history taken in 1979, Friend's last name was original Freund, and the building that Friend started his furniture business in on Dallas Street was originally a garage. It later expanded into the old fire department. In the 1968, the subject was an incorporating member of the Downtown Aurora Business Association and served on the board of directors for the first few years of the organization. He was also a member of the American Red Cross and the Kiwanis Club.

Arrangement: This collection is one of two collections acquired under accession number 2011.043, donated by Lisa Friend. Original order has been lost, and the documents are arranged into two series, personal and business documents, and then chronologically within each series.

Contents

Series and Subseries

Box 1 of 1

Series 1: George Friend business documents

Subseries A: Friends 5-and-10 and Friend Furniture

Folder 1: Dates 1939 – 1964, most from 1946-1947. Business records and receipts from Friends 5-and-10 Cent store on the 9000 block of East Colfax. Early business records from around when Friend started the furniture business, including a letter from the Stove Store regarding the 1942 War Production Board ban on installing new plumbing and heating equipment. Price lists from Simmons Company, Zenith Radio, Walter Slagle & Co, Volker, Denver National Mattress Co, ACME, Dexter Washers, Virtue Brothers, Armstrong, B.K. Sweeney, Electrical, Samson, and Travel-Eez. Furniture cleaning pamphlet.

Subseries B: Downtown Revitalization Efforts

Folder 2: Dates late 1960's-1980. Covers the issue of downtown business decline and renewal

efforts, but does not contain many documents specific to the operation of Friends Furniture. Downtown Aurora Development Association campaign Letter from one of Paul Beck's mayoral races (probably late 1960's), news clippings on Aurora Merchants' Association and Aurora Rehabilitation Authority (sources: *Independent Tribune* and the *Denver Post*). Newsletters, fundraising tickets, newsclippings, and fliers for Aurora Rehabilitation Association, Downtown Aurora Business Association, and North Aurora Business Association, Christmas cards from Strait Lumber to the business, Colorado Unclaimed Property law booklet with a section on how changes implemented in 1993 affect small businesses.

Sub-Subseries B.1: Downtown Aurora Business Association

Folder 3: Dates: 1968-1971. Friend served as a founding member and a board member for 1969 and 1970. While the collection does not detail Friend's activities within the organization, it does give a good overall description of the tensions that led to its incorporation and early efforts to band together downtown merchants. Two copies of the 1968 articles of incorporation, applications for membership, a newsletter (issues: military recognition program and Gruen Associates Interim Plan), addresses of headquarters and President Will Phebus, lists of 1969 and 1970 board members, informal notes, copy of minutes from Nov 3, 1979 meeting with City of Aurora sign regulations, 1971 membership roster, and official envelopes and stationery.

Folder 4: Dates: 1971. Marked copy of membership roster with RSVP's for a lunch meeting. Blank account cards for Aurora businesses (with business name and address, some phone numbers). Note: housed in index card box with collection.

Folder 5: Bound ledger book with minutes from 1970-1972 (not chronological).

Folder 6: Dates: 1968-1969. Agenda and minutes for general interest meeting. Attendees and results of first election in February, 1969. Resolution from DABA regarding possible additional runways at Stapleton International Airport. Newsclippings from (*The Denver Post*) on the problem of enforcing bad check laws and the possibility of DABA building a new city hall. General invitations to meetings and introduction letters to prospective members. General responsibilities of the organization, by position. List of requested traffic improvements directed to City Council. Bid letter from KOSI radio for advertisement time.

Folder 7: Dates: 1969. Bound file folder of correspondence produced by first president A. M. Tiren. Main topics include the Serviceman and Airman of the month program (to nominees, commanders, and sponsors), resolutions against expanding Stapleton International due to associated pollution and noise, resolution in favor of maintaining production and a buffer zone at Rocky Mountain Arsenal, internal elections, flood control projects at Sand Creek and Toll Gate Creek. Of interest are Christmas cards from former DABA members serving in Vietnam, and an editorial by DABA member Guido Luna Fedrico de Llinderz criticizing Corky Gonzalez.

Folder 8: Dates: 1990-1998. Downtown Aurora shopping directory published by DABA, and two newsletters from Spring 1998.

Subseries B: George Friend, Personal

Folder 9: Dates: 1955-1965. American Red Cross campaign promotion material, 1955, directed to chairmen of public information. Letter of appointment to the Fire Protection Committee (on the feasibility of a City and County of Aurora) from Aurora Mayor Allen Bradley, 1957. Member update on Kiwanis Kids' Day 1965 along with organizational

outline.

Folder 10: Dates 1986 to 2004. Contains invitations to events and exhibits, thank you notes and class schedules from the Aurora History Museum. Also contains a letter to Mrs. Friend from Preservation Specialist Jim Rakke that 1580 Dallas Street is being considered for Historic Landmark Status. There is no address in this collection for Friends Furniture, but the oral history given by Hilbert Meyer places the store on Dallas Street.

Additional George Friend items in other collections:

- Hilbert Meyer oral history, 2001. Found in Museum computer files.
- See downtown Aurora Business Association collection, BJ1

Books in Aurora History Museum Library:

Books in Aurora Public Library: