

Finding Aid for Joe D. Hanna Jr. Collection, 1930-1979; undated



Record Group Number RG #77/6/4

University Archives and Special Collections
William F. Maag , Jr. Library
Youngstown State University
One University Plaza Youngstown, OH 44555
www.maag.ysu.edu/archives

Descriptive Summary

Title: The Joe D. Hanna Jr. Collection, 1930-1979; undated

Creator: Joe D. Hanna Jr.

Extent: 1.72 cubic feet (5 document boxes and one oversize folder)

Abstract: Materials saved by YSU Alumnus Joe D. Hanna Jr. (BA '40), most of them relating to his life and particularly his time as a college student at Youngstown College.

Administrative Information

Provenance: Donated by Penny Hanna, daughter of Joe D. Hanna Jr.

Preferred Citation: Youngstown State University, Joe D. Hanna Jr. Collection, 1930-1979, undated RG #77/6/4, Archives & Special Collections, William F. Maag, Jr. Library, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio.

Restrictions: None

Processing : Processed by Lisa Marie Garofali February 2022

Finding Aid: Written by Lisa Marie Garofali March 2022

Historical Background

Joe D. Hanna Jr. was born on October 25, 1916 in Tampa, Florida to Judge Josiah Donothan Hanna (Joe D. Hanna) and Dorothy Olive Thayer Hanna. His family came “up north” after WWI; however he still maintained connections to Florida, often visiting family or attending school there. According to one of his essays, he attended primary school in Youngstown, returned to Florida, then returned back to Youngstown for his schooling.¹ Joe’s first job was a water boy with William T. Makay Construction Co. He became a timekeeper and clerk, and then left to finish high school at 15 years old.

Joe attended South High School in Youngstown, Ohio. He was very active in the school’s debate team and theater productions. He was also editor of the school newspaper, “The South High Voice.”

After graduating from South High School, Joe attended Youngstown College (now Youngstown State University). He also worked while attending classes. His jobs included being a sales clerk for Isaly Dairy Co. (1936) and working at Youngstown Sheet and Tube Co. (1936). At Youngstown College, he was very active in student life. He played varsity tennis, participated on the debate team, and performed in theater productions. He was part of Phi Epsilon (honorary chemistry fraternity), Sigma Tau Delta (honorary English fraternity), and Alpha Psi Omega (honorary dramatics fraternity). He was editor of “The Jambar” during the years 1936-1937, 1939-1940 and received the Louis B. Seltzer Award for Editorial Excellence in 1940 during the Ohio College Newspaper Association convention. He was also selected for the “Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities.”

During his college years of Fall 1937 to spring of 1939, he attended Rollins College in Florida. Similar to his time at Youngstown College, Joe was active in debate, tennis, dramatics, and chapel. He was editor of the Rollins College student paper, “The Sandspur,” and was a member of Kappa Alpha.

During his time going back and forth between Youngstown and Florida for college, Joe held several jobs in the field of editing and reporting. He was the society correspondent for the “New York Herald Tribune” (1937), reporter for the Struthers, Ohio “Journal” (June 1938), news correspondent for the “United Press” (Oct. 1938), editor of the Struthers’ Ohio “Journal” (1939), and editorial associate for the “College Years” magazine (1939).

After returning to Youngstown College, Joe graduated in Spring 1940 with a Bachelors in Arts in English and Chemistry. He worked at Youngstown Sheet and Tube until 1941, when he was accepted into the U.S. Army Air Corps (later the U.S. Air Force). He graduated in February 1942 as a 2nd Lt. bomber pilot. In March of that year, he married Phyllis Arleen Hull in the chapel at Rollins College, before being sent to serve in the American, European and African theaters.

¹ Material from Box 2, folder 9. College Life, Youngstown College. Speeches and papers. 1935-1940.

After his active duty ended in October 1945, he rejoined Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company as a sales representative for the Grand Rapids, Michigan area, a position he held until 1963. While in Grand Rapids, Hanna was very active. He served as a Commanding Officer of the Air Reserve training units for western Michigan from 1948-1953. He was President of the Reserve Officers Association for the State of Michigan in 1949 and National Councilman for Air Force Affairs. He was honorably discharged from the service in 1953 with the rank of Major. Beside his Reserve Officers Association in Michigan, Hanna was also the Official Greeter of the Mayor's Committee in Grand Rapids from 1946-1963.

In 1963, Youngstown Sheet and Tube sent Joe to their new sales branch in St. Louis, Missouri. By 1967, he was appointed assistant district manager.²

Throughout this time, Joe was very active in the field of Gemology. He held degrees from the Gemological Institute of America, Los Angeles, and from Gemological Association of Great Britain where he was also an elected Fellow. He taught several classes at Washington University, in St. Louis and was a contributor to various magazines and technical journals on gemology. He was a board member of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies, president of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society, a member of the Smithsonian Institution and a member of the Siam Society, under royal patronage.³

Joe D. Hanna Jr. passed away on December 16, 1981. He left behind his wife, Phyllis A. Hanna and their three children: Patricia Reynolds, Penny Hanna, and Joe D. Hanna III.⁴

Scope and Content

This collection is arranged maintaining the original grouping the materials as it was when donated by Penny Hanna. Materials are arranged according to phases of the life of Joe D. Hanna Jr., including his education, military work, career, and gemology. Most of the materials range from 1930 to 1970. The largest series is on Youngstown College, which Joe attended from 1935-1937, and from 1939-1940.

Colophon

The materials in this collection were donated by Penny Hanna, daughter of Joe D. Hanna Jr. She contacted the Archives and Special Collections in regards to her father's materials concerning Youngstown college and the local area, including his time at Youngstown Sheet and Tube. Most of the genealogical information regarding the Hanna family went to the Rollins University Archives, where Joe also attended and where his aunt Kathryn Abby and Uncle AJ Hanna taught history. The only separations from the collection were the books, which were separately catalogued for the Special Collections. These items may be located under related material and are marked in the catalogue as originating from this collection.

² Material from Box 2, Folder 14. Career. Resumes and other related materials. 1940-1971

³ Material from Box 3, Folder 3. Interest. Gemology. 1950-1971

⁴ Joe D. Hanna Jr. Obituary from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. St. Louis, Missouri. 17 December 1981. Pg. 65.

This collection was processed and finding aid was written by Lisa Marie Garofali, who has a M.A. in History and nearly 15 years of experience working in the YSU Archives and Special Collections.

Series Description

Series I : Personal/Family

Series II: :High School

Series III: College Life

Series IV: Air Force and the Reserve Officers Association

Series V: Career

Series VI: Interests

Related Materials

Books located in the Archives & Special Collections Stacks (5th Floor)

Draw Comics! Here's how : [a complete book on cartooning] / by George Leonard Carlson.
NC1320 .C348 1933x

Tennyson's Idylls of the king; ed. with introduction and notes by William T. Vlymen.
PR5558.A3 B2 1907x

The last days of Pompeii. Lytton, Edward Bulwer Lytton, Baron, 1803-1873.
PZ3.L998 La20x

Whittier day by day / ed. by Annie Russell Marble.
Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892.
PS3251 .M3 c.2

Pinocchio; the story of a puppet, by "C. Collodi" (Carlo Lorenzini), with illustrations in color by Maria L. Kirk. PZ8.L887 P2

Archival Collections

Howard Rempes, Jr. Collection, Archives & Special Collections, William F. Maag, Jr. Library, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio

Jambar Records, Archives & Special Collections, William F. Maag, Jr. Library, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio.

Index Terms

Cartooning

Editing

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Gemology
Gerald Ford
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Phyllis Arleen Hull (Hanna)
Reserve Officers Association
Rollins University
South High School, Youngstown, Ohio
St. Louis, Missouri
The Jambar
The Vindicator
Wendell Willkie
Youngstown College
Youngstown Sheet and Tube

BOX 1

SERIES I: Family/Personal

This series contains some personal and family information. The most notable are the love letters Joe wrote to his future wife, Phyllis Arleen Hull. The newspaper clippings feature his daughters, Patricia and Penny. The photographs included nature photos (including a photo of the Maid of the Mist at Niagara Falls) friends of the family, and a parade.

Folder No. Contents

- 1 Correspondence. 1940-1967
- 2 Letters to Phyllis Hull (wife). 1940-1942. Pt. 1 of 2
- 3 Letters to Phyllis Hull (wife). 1940-1942. Pt. 2 of 2
- 4 Newspaper Clippings. 1947, 1960-1962
- 5 Photographs. Undated

SERIES II: High School

This series contains items from Joe Hanna's time at South High School in Youngstown, Ohio. Most of the materials are from his senior year. Items include: graduation cards, programs, commencement materials, photographs of friends, and some assignments. Stored separately from this series is his high school diploma which is located in the oversized folder, a patch for South High School in the artifacts box, and the South High Newsletter "The Voice", which is located in the legal sized size box.

Folder No. Contents

- 6 Certificates, programs and Commencement materials. 1930-1935
- 7 Photographs. High School Friends. 1935; undated
- 8 South High School Papers/Essays/Speech. 1935; undated

BOX 2

SERIES III: College Life

This series contains the largest amount of material in the collection. It pertains mostly to his time at Youngstown College. He attended Youngstown College (or YoCo) for two years, from Fall of 1935-Spring 1937. He then attended Rollins University from Fall 1937-Spring 1939. He returned to Youngstown College for his final year, starting Fall 1939 and graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Spring 1940. There are several newspaper clippings from “The Jambar” and the “Youngstown Vindicator” which have reference to campus events or classmates. It also includes his essays/assignments, programs, and college bulletins. Some correspondences and photographs are also mixed with the materials. The most interesting things in the college series are materials from his “I Want to Be a Captain Club,” which was an anti-FDR campaign that includes some poetry, a pamphlet and a button. Also of interest are his journal entries which describe a few weeks of his everyday life as a college student. Other items included in this series are several patches which are located in the artifacts box (YoCo Tennis and Sigma Tau Delta) as well as a green freshman beanie. There is the certificate from the Ohio College Newspaper Association for Best Newspaper (The Jambar) 1940 which he received as a Jambar representative and editor-in-chief that year.

Folder No. Contents

- 1 Alumni News. Youngstown State University. 1979
- 2 Assignments, Program, and Diploma. Youngstown College. 1936, 1940
- 3 Essays and Expositions. Youngstown College and Rollins University. 1936-1939
- 4 Friends/Articles Scrapbook. Youngstown College. 1934-1938
- 5 Journal Entries. Youngstown College. 1936
- 6 I Want to Be a Captain Club. Youngstown College. 1940
- 7 Jambar Newspaper articles. Youngstown College. 1940
- 8 Vindicator Newspaper clippings. Youngstown College. 1940
- 9 Speeches and Papers. Youngstown College. 1935-1940
- 10 Various. Youngstown College. 1935-1940
- 11 Rollins University Publication Correspondence and Minutes. 1938-1939

SERIES IV: WWII and Reserve Officers Association

Most of this series consists of Joe’s involvement with the Reserve Officers Association. The correspondence are mainly invitations to events for the ROA in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The photographs show Joe in his Army Air Corps uniform with his wife Phyllis, events for the ROA in Grand Rapids Michigan, his ROA membership card, and other related materials. He was honorably discharged in 1953 with the rank of Major.

Folder No. Contents

- 12 Correspondence. 1946-1953
- 13 Photographs, News Clippings and other. 1942-1949, undated

SERIES V: Career

Joe Hanna spent most of his life working for Youngstown Sheet and Tube. He joined the company in 1936 as a weightmaster in the Campbell Bessemer Department while attending college at Youngtown College. He advanced to clerk in No. 1 Machine Shop the next year and in 1940 became clerk in Buttweid Finishing. After a reprieve during the war, Joe returned to Youngstown Sheet and Tube to become a salesman and was transferred to Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1946. He remained in Grand Rapids until the new sales branch offices opened in St. Louis, Missouri in 1963. By 1967, he was promoted to assistant district manager. This series contains his resumes, short bios and various materials relating to his career at Youngstown Sheet and Tube. There are several letters written during the Steel Crisis of 1952, when President Truman seized the steel industry during the Korean War. The Youngstown Sheet and Tube Bulletins (which are found in the legal size box) contain articles which feature Joe D. Hanna, Jr and his family.

Folder No. Contents

- 14 Resumes and related materials. 1940-1971
- 15 "Steel Crisis" related Correspondence. Youngstown Sheet and Tube. 1952
- 16 Various. Youngstown Sheet and Tube. 1960-1970. Undated

BOX 3

SERIES VI: Interest

Most of Joe's writings were in relation to his interest in gemology. There are several articles which he sent to journals and magazines for publication. The correspondence folder are mostly letters to politicians. There are many from Gerald Ford. The gemology folder contains newsclippings about the Grand Rapid Mineral Society and his expertise in gemology. There are course descriptions and articles on the continuing education courses he taught on gemology at Washington University, St. Louis. He had a degree from the Gemological Institute of America and was elected as a Fellow of the Gemological Association of Great Britain. There is a patch from the Grand Rapids Mineral Society in the artifacts box. The last folder contains information about his political interests in Wendell Willkie from 1940. In the legal size box, there is also a folder on cartooning which features several cartoons from his high school years, *Jambar* years, and political cartoons from the early 1940s.

Folder No. Contents

- 1 Writings and Articles. 1953-1978
- 2 Correspondence. Famous People. 1950-1976
- 3 Gemology. 1950-1970
- 4 Republic Youth Movement for Wendell Willkie. 1940

BOX 4

LEGAL SIZE MATERIALS

Folder No. Contents

- 1 High School. The South High Voice Newsletter. 1935
- 2 Career. Youngstown Sheet and Tube Bulletins. 1950-1967
- 3 Interest. Cartooning. 1935-1941

BOX 5

ARTIFACTS BOX

Contents

Freshman Youngstown College Green Beanie, 1935
Patch - South High School
Patch – Yellow Star (possibly military/ROA)
Patch - Grand Rapids Mineral Society
Patch – Sigma Tau Delta
Patch – Youngstown College Tennis

OVERSIZE FOLDER (filed with the rest of the collection/boxes)

Contents

South High School Diploma, 1935
Certificate from the Ohio College Newspaper Association for Best Newspaper (*The Jambar*),
1940