

Kenneth Kendal King Scrapbooks

Mss.02649

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Summary Information

Repository	History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center
Title	Kenneth Kendal King Scrapbooks
Date	1901-2005
Extent	6.0 Flat box(s)
Language	English
Collection [Oversize]	6 flat boxes
Abstract	<p>Kenneth Kendal King (1901-1992) was a Denver-based businessman, philanthropist, and traveler. Upon graduation from Denver's East High School, King began his college studies at Northwestern University in the fall of 1918. Upon graduation from Northwestern, King opened a real estate firm in Orlando, Florida. King closed the firm shortly thereafter and returned to Colorado, where he and his brother, Howard Taft King, founded and incorporated Columbia Savings & Loan Associates. King was active in Denver's business and philanthropic communities until his death in 1992. King made several trips to Alaska beginning in the late 1940s. In 1956, he lived with the Diomedes Eskimos on Little Diomedes Island for six weeks. On another of his Alaskan trips, King and a team captured Dall sheep for the Calgary Zoo and the Denver Zoo. The bulk of the collection includes scrapbooks made or rehoused by King's secretary, Bernice Bettis. The scrapbooks contain photographs, correspondence, and printed material from important events in King's life. The collection also contains a biography of King written by Bettis. The collection's significance lies in the scrapbooks' thorough coverage of King's philanthropic endeavours, his work with Columbia Savings, his</p>

family life, and his time spent with the Diomedes Tribe in Alaska and his work with Dall sheep.

Preferred Citation note

Cite as: Kenneth Kendal King Scrapbook Collection, Mss.02649 (2015.23) History Colorado

Biographical note

Kenneth Kendal King (August 12, 1901-April 25, 1992) was born in Nederland, Texas to Clarence Samuel King and Harriet (Chappelle) King. King had three younger brothers: Clarence Donald (Feb. 3, 1903-?), Harold Taft (March 3, 1908-1987), and Ralph Virgil (Jan. 22, 1910-Jan. 15, 1912). King's father died when he was eleven years old. As a result, his mother reentered the work force, purchasing and remodeling hotels in Texas and in Denver, Colorado.

King graduated from Denver's East High School and enrolled at Northwestern University in the fall of 1918. While attending Northwestern, King joined the fraternity Sigma Chi.

Upon graduation from Northwestern, King opened a real estate firm in Orlando, Florida. King closed the firm shortly thereafter and returned to Colorado, where he and his brother, Howard Taft King, founded and incorporated Columbia Savings & Loan Associates.

In 1936, King married Edith Shell (1909-1973). The couple had one son, Alan Shell King (April 23, 1940-May 22, 2004). The marriage ended in divorce several years after Alan King's birth.

In 1949, King began to develop property he had purchased in Estes Park, Colorado, in 1929. On the property, King built a large manor, later to be named KINGSTONE. The manor hosted many retreats for organizations that King was involved in throughout his life, including Sigma Chi fraternity.

In 1957, the Denver Petroleum Club proposed a partnership with Columbia Savings & Loan Associates to erect a 14-story building at 110 16th Street, Denver, Colorado. An agreement between the two companies was reached on September 30, 1957 to build the Petroleum Building, which housed offices for Columbia Savings & Loan Associates as well as King's Denver apartment. In 1963 King was awarded the "Colorado Employer of the Year" from Colorado Governor John Love and received the Distinguished Service award from President Lyndon B. Johnson.

In 1988, Columbia Savings & Loan Associates' largest holding, Music Corporation of America, was sold to a Japanese company. With the proceeds he had earned from the merger, King began forming the Kenneth King Foundation, which was incorporated in 1990. Through his foundation and successful business ventures, King provided scholarships for handicapped individuals. King was also active in his Sigma Chi chapter, Goodwill Industries, Lions Clubs of Denver, Easter Seal Society, and several other philanthropic organizations.

In addition to his business and philanthropic ventures, King made several trips to Alaska. In 1948, King took film and photographic footage of his first trip to Alaska. This footage was later produced into his first colored film, which was screened in several venues including the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. In one trip to Alaska during the spring of 1956, King lived with the Diomedes Eskimos on Little Diomedes Island for six weeks. During his trips to Alaska, King became interested in Dall Sheep and eventually provided both the Calgary Zoo and the Denver Zoo with Dall lambs. Due to his efforts, the two zoos have full time Dall Sheep exhibits.

Approaching his 90th birthday, King was diagnosed with cancer that had infected his spine. He passed away on April 25, 1992. After his death, the Kenneth King Foundation continued providing scholarships and money to several organizations.

Scope and Contents note

This collection contains scrapbooks about Kenneth Kendal King's life. The scrapbooks include photographs, newspaper clippings, speeches, and printed material pertaining to events his company, Columbia Savings & Loan Associates, hosted. Photographs in the scrapbooks include family photos of his son, Alan King; his wife, Edith Weber; and his mother, father, and brothers. Also included in the collection is a biography of King written by his longtime secretary Bernice Bettis. Several of the scrapbooks include Bettis' typescripts of King's handwritten correspondence from his travels. The typed letters were passed around Columbia Savings & Loan Associates for employees to be kept up to date on King's travels.

This collection provides visual insight to King's life, including his philanthropic endeavors, his family life, and his travels to Alaska. One notable set of Alaskan photos in the scrapbooks are from King's time on Little Diomed Island. These photos display the Diomed Eskimos' way of life as well as King's process of capturing Dall lambs for the Denver Zoo and the Calgary Zoo.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center

Provenance

The scrapbooks in this collection were found in the Petroleum Building, Denver, Colorado in an apartment owned by Nadine Lange. Lange gave the scrapbooks to her friend, Natascha Seideneck, a Denver photographer, who offered them to History Colorado in January 2015.

Processing Information note

Processed by Haley Suby, July 2015.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Columbia Savings & Loan Associates.
- Denver Zoo.
- Easter Seal Society for Disabled Children and Adults.
- Goodwill Industries of America .
- Kenneth King Foundation.
- Lions Club of Denver.
- Sigma Chi Fraternity .

Genre(s)

- Birth Certificates.
- Books.
- Correspondence.
- Newspaper clippings.
- Photographs.
- Portraits.
- Scrapbooks.

Geographic Name(s)

- Alaska--Photographs
- Alaska.
- Denver (Colo.)
- Diomedes (Alaska)
- Estes Park (Colo.)

Personal Name(s)

- Bettis, Bernice A., b. 1915
- King, Alan Shell, 1940-2004
- King, Harold Taft, 1908-1987
- King, Kenneth Kendal, 1901-1992

- Shell, Edith, 1909-1973

Subject(s)

- Birthdays
- Charity.
- Dall sheep
- Eskimos.
- Funeral service.
- Native Village of Diomedede
- Parties.
- Zoo animals--Breeding

Accession number

2015.23

Collection Inventory

FF1 *That Man Is Special: A Biography of Kenneth King* by Bernice A. Bettis Dec. 2005

Accession number

B Ki583ki

Scope and Contents note

That Man Is Special: A Biography of Kenneth King was written by Bernice A. Bettis (Feb. 1, 1915-?). Bettis began working for Kenneth King in 1947 after ending her career as a personal representative for Inland Air. Bettis worked for King as his secretary for the remainder of his life. After his death, Bettis continued her role as secretary and director of the Kenneth King Foundation.

FF2 *Rambling Around Uncle Sam's Attic* Scrapbook 1949-1953

Accession number

2015.23.2

Scope and Contents note

This scrapbook contains correspondence, programs, and newspaper clippings related to the viewing of King's movie *Rambling Around Uncle Sam's Attic* from his trip to Alaska in the late 1940s. Also included in the scrapbook are programs, bulletins, newspaper clippings, and photographs related to his company, Columbia Savings and Loan Associates; his philanthropic work with hospitals, Easter Seal Society, and Lion's Club; and the construction of the Petroleum Building in Denver, Colorado.

FF3 Alaska Travels Scrapbook 1956, 1963, 1990

Accession number

2015.23.3

Scope and Contents note

This scrapbook contains information related to Kenneth King's trips to Alaska, specifically his trip in Spring 1956 during which he lived with Diomedes Eskimos for six weeks. Included are correspondence, brochures, and photographs of his life on Little Diomedes Island. The photographs highlight the Diomedes Eskimos, their hunting methods, and the home life of their women and children.

FF4 More Travels: Switzerland, Italy, Germany, England, France, Austria, Greece
Scrapbook 1948-1987, 1990

Accession number

2015.23.4

Scope and Contents note

This scrapbook contains photographs, correspondence, and newspaper clippings. Topics in these subjects relate to King's travels throughout Europe, a trip in his yacht, a hunting trip he took with friends, and KINGSTONE Manor in Estes Park. Also included is a guest book from his trip titled Kingsway Voyage.

FF5 Columbia Savings; Petroleum Club Building Dedication; Christmas Cards; and Business
Correspondence and Memorandums Scrapbook Sept.-Dec. 1957, 1961, 1962

Accession number

2015.23.5

FF6 Columbia Savings & Loan Scrapbook 1943-1945, 1947, 1950, 1952, 1953, 1958-1961

Accession number

2015.23.6

Scope and Contents note

This scrapbook contains brochures and photographs related to Columbia Savings & Loan. Also included are several issues of the company's newsletter, "Columbia Light."

FF7 Sigma Chi Fraternity and Nederland Scrapbook 1967, 1969, 1973-1975, 1977, 1978, 1983-1985, 1988, 1990-1992

Accession number

2015.23.7

Scope and Contents note

This scrapbook contains programs from Sigma Chi reunions at KINGSTONE Manor and Sigma Chi Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois. Also included are correspondence related to Sigma Chi reunions and newspaper clippings for major events happening in the club, reunions, updates to headquarters, and events in members' lives.

FF8 Edith Weber's Album Scrapbook 1901, 1908, 1911-1913, 1916, 1917, 1925-1927, 1932, 1935, 1936, 1939, 1942, 1948, 1950-1952, 1966

Accession number

2015.23.8

Scope and Contents note

The front of the scrapbook has a loose picture of Edith Weber as a teenager dressed in a dance costume. The beginning of the scrapbook contains pictures of King with his family and brothers. The scrapbook also contains photos of Weber's family and childhood, which included traveling through Asia and the Philippines. The scrapbook contains several pages of biographical information about Weber's dogs and newspaper clippings for the dog shows they participated in. Other newspaper clippings for Weber

relate to her work with women's rights and her fame on the stage. The scrapbook contains programs, newspaper clippings, and photos of shows in which Weber starred.

FF9 Alan S. King Scrapbook 1940-1968

Accession number

2015.23.9

Scope and contents note

This scrapbook was originally made by Alan's mother, Edith. The scrapbook contains Alan's birth certificate, photographs, newspaper clippings, and correspondence. The photographs in the scrapbook are related to Alan's school work, career, and personal life, including his wedding and trips with his family.

FF10 KINGSTONE Manor Scrapbook 1959-1961, 1988, 1983, 1987, 2000

Accession number

2015.23.10

Scope and Contents note

From the front cover of the album:

"We're going to begin with a tour of his lovely home-KINGSTONE-a place he dearly loved to entertain his guests from all over the world. Mr. King traded a Model T Ford for this almost acre of ground back in 1929. For years he paid \$5.00 real estate taxes and began to build KINGSTONE in 1949 with the first addition being finished in 1950. Three other buildings have taken place since its beginning in 1959 he finished up the first addition by enlarging the bedrooms, putting in additional bathrooms, etc. in order to have everything ready for his first Sigma Chi reunion in 1959. About 20 of his Sigma Chi Brothers from the 1920's emerged on KINGSTONE along with their wives. These fellows had not seen other other for 40 years and yet it was just like "yesterday" when they met. Other reunions were held in 1963, 1974,

and 1989. The second addition was the lovely victorian room which will be shown. The third was the addition of a new kitchen, dining room and three more bedrooms and baths."

FF11 Ken's Funeral Scrapbook 1967, 1968, 1973, 1987, 1991, 1992

Accession number

2015.23.11

Scope and Contents note

At the beginning of the scrapbook are photographs, guest book, and correspondence from King's 90th birthday. The scrapbook also contains printed material from important events during King's life. Also included is material related to his funeral: sympathy cards, memorials, guest book, and newspaper clippings. Other funeral announcements contained in this scrapbook are for Aunt Bessie King; George A. Bauman, the treasurer for Columbia Savings & Loan Associates; and Harold Taft King.

FF12 Kenneth King Foundation Scrapbook 1992-1995, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001

Accession number

2015.23.12

Scope and Contents note

This scrapbook contains photographs, newspaper clippings, and printed material related to events and fundraisers held by the Kenneth King Foundation. One notable event the Foundation was involved with was the Jack Swigert memorial. Also included are Foundation-hosted events for members, including birthday parties and baby showers.

FF13 Portrait and Headshot Scrapbook 1942, 1958, Undated

Accession number

2015.23.14

Scope and Contents note

This scrapbook contains large photographic prints of Edith Weber and Kenneth King individually and together. Also included are large prints of Kenneth's trip to Alaska during which he captured Dall Sheep for the Denver Zoo and the Calgary Zoo. Included with the photographs are newspaper clippings and a speech related to the Dall Sheep arrival in Denver. At the back of the scrapbook there are loose photographs that are duplicates of photographs found in the scrapbook.