

Frank Somers Papers

MS – 86

Wright State University
Department of Special Collections and Archives

Processed by:
Judith McCune
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Frank Somers Papers

The papers of Frank Somers cover approximately the years 1958-1965. They were donated to the Wright State University Archives on 6 April 1979 by Mrs. Katherine Somers, the widow of Frank Somers.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 1
Number of Boxes: 2

Biographical Sketch

Frank R. Somers was born in Brookville, Ohio, in 1898. He attended Otterbein College, Miami University, and was graduated from Ohio State University. His wife, the former Katherine Graff Hankee, worked with him and also was active in Dayton civic affairs. Mr. Somers founded the Certified Public Accounting firm of Somers and Vallo. He served for two years as president of the Dayton Chapter, Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Mr. Somers was elected to the Dayton City Commission during the city elections on 5 November 1957. He was an early advocate of expanding the city commission powers. He served as mayor of Dayton from 1962 until 1965, after which he declined to run again.

While serving as mayor, Mr. Somers fostered the Sister City Program between Dayton and Augsburg, West Germany. He also visited Berlin, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Cairo, Beirut, Madrid, Warsaw, Belgrade, and Moscow. He felt that such visits were important to expand people-to-people contacts. In 1965 Mr. Somers received a plaque from the late President Eisenhower in honor of his fostering the Sister City Program.

Frank Somers died in Dayton, Ohio, in 1978.

Scope and Content

The papers of Frank Somers contain a selection of materials covering his activities as mayor and his interest in the Sister Cities Program. There is also information about his travels in other countries. There are no restrictions on the use of any of the material.

The researcher should be aware of the following before using the collection:

1. The papers have been divided into two broad categories. One concerns a biographical sketch of Frank Somers and information about his political career. The second is about his travels.
2. There is not much information about Frank Somers' political affairs.
3. Most of the available material is on Mayor and Mrs. Somers' trips to Europe and the Middle East
4. The newspaper clippings are very deteriorated. Because of this deterioration, they are to be xeroxed, and the Xeroxed copies will be placed in the collection.

Container Listing

| <u>Box</u> | <u>File</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|------------|-------------|---|-----------------|
| | | Series I: Biographical Sketch and Political Career | |
| 1 | 1 | Biographical Sketch | n.d. |
| | 2 | Campaign Materials – City Commissioners Race | n.d. |
| | 3 | Report to the People | Nov. 8, 1965 |
| | 4 | Photograph of Mayor and Mrs. Somers | n.d. |
| | 5 | Certificates | n.d. |
| | 6 | Newspaper Clippings – Public Life | n.d. |
| | 7 | Newspaper Clippings – Personal Information | n.d. |
| | 8 | Photograph Album – Dayton, OH | n.d. |
| | | Series II: Travels | |
| 1 | 9 | Speeches by Frank Somers – Augsburg, Cairo, and Jerusalem | n.d. |
| | 10 | Reports Sent to Dayton Newspapers | 1964 |
| | 11 | Photographs of European Trip | 1965 |
| | 12 | Photographs and Postcards – Trip to Jerusalem | 1964 |
| | 13 | Schedules for European Trip | n.d. |
| | 14 | Newspaper Clippings – European Trip | n.d. |
| 2 | 1 | Photograph Album – Berlin | 16-21 June 1964 |
| | 2 | Photograph Album – Augsburg | June 1964 |
| | 3 | Souvenir Book – Tel Aviv | 26 may 1964 |
| | 4 | Souvenir Book – Augsburg | 9-10 June 1965 |
| | 5 | Souvenir Book - Moscow | June 1965 |