

E-List #46: 12 Recent Arrivals, Photographic and Archival (January - 2024)

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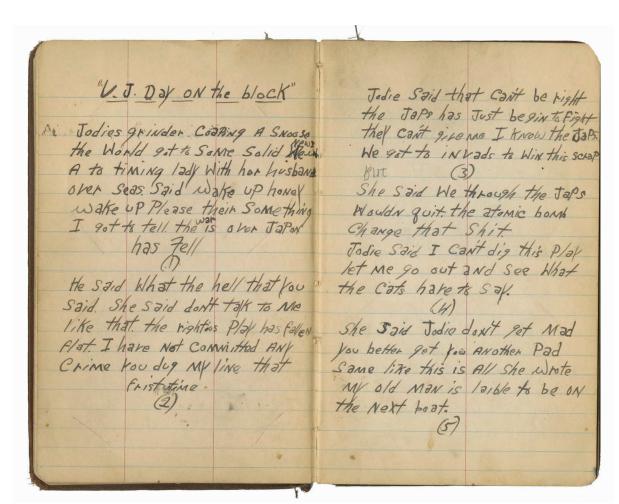
1. [Pocket Notebook with Manuscript Entries and Snapshots Kept by an African-American Army Soldier]

[World War II] : [African-American]

\$1,500

(ca. 1944-1946)

7" x 4 3/4" brown cloth commercial notebook. "TRANSIT BOOK" blind-stamped to front. 75 ruled leaves with scattered manuscript entries, several mounted currency notes, and 39 black and white snapshots either laid-in or loose in corner mounts cut into pages. Binding cloth at spine split, volume still holding together. Entries typically highly legible. Photos well preserved. Journal structure about good only, contents better.





A repurposed surveyor's notebook with more than three-dozen black and white snapshots and scattered manuscript entries kept by an African-American soldier serving in Europe and Japan in the Army during World War II.

Highlights include an evocative photograph of five Black soldiers holding a captured Nazi flag and several partial drafts and a seven-page seemingly finished version of a vernacular dialect story-poem titled "V.J. Day on the Block," which imagines a woman scrambling to evict her live-in lover (named Jodie Grinder) when news of the Japanese Surrender reaches the States, raising the prospect of a returning G.I. husband:

"Jodies Grinder coaping a snooze / the world got to some solid news / A to timing lady with her husband / over seas said wake up honey / wake up please their something / I got to tell the war is over / Japan has fell [...]

Jodie said that can't be right / the Japs has just begin to fight / they can't give me I know the Japs / We got to invade to win this scrap / but / She said we through the Japs / wouldn quit. the atomic bomb / change that shit / Jodie said I can't dig this play / let me go out and see what / the cats have to say." [sic all]

We acquired this locally here in St. Louis. There is no explicit identification for the compiler, though we know he served in Europe during 1944-1945 (likely in the Quartermaster Corps) and later in Okinawa, during about 1945-1946.

We suspect he may have been a John Henry Cleveland (1916-1966) of Camp Hill, South Carolina and here's why:

An address at 1606 W. Kentucky St., in Louisville's traditionally-Black, California neighborhood, is repeatedly included in entries (in what appears to be a different or later hand) and ancestral records affiliate that home with a [John] Henry Cleveland, Jr., longtime of that city and originally of Cross Hill, South Carolina (according to his 1997 obituary). We locate the 1940 draft card of his father*, a John Henry Cleveland (b.1916), of that same Laurens County town with handwriting that, to our untrained eye, seems nearly identical to the bulk of entries here. Additionally, the initials "H.C." identify a subject in at least one of the mounted snapshots.

Particulars surrounding identification aside, this is a compelling survivor and exceptional and unfiltered primary source record of the African-American experience of service in World War II.

A brief rundown on the contents: About 30 photographs of Japan appearing to be a blend of Army-issued, commercial, or vernacular views; 5 vernacular snapshots of the European theatre with fellow Black soldiers; 3 portrait photographs of Black women; 3 pages of fellow soldier mailing addresses in the States; 4 pages chronologically recording enlistment dates and places; 3 pages of drafts and notes for "V.J. Day on the Block" to complement the 7-page finished version; several mounted examples of European and Japanese currency notes; etc...

A link to additional images available upon request.

*This is a screenshot from ancestry.com. We do not possess or own the physical card.

2. [Los Angeles Neo-Nazi Protest Snapshots]

[Extremism]: [Vernacular Photography] [Los Angeles, California]: [ca. 1970's]

8 black and white snapshots. Uniform prints on glossy Kodak-branded paper, each about 5" x 3 1/2." Fine condition.

An undated, though seemingly-1970's series of snapshots capturing armed men standing at guard before the entrance of the Jewish Community Building at 590 N. Vermont Ave, just west of Downtown Los Angeles, as neo-Nazi protestors stalk the sidewalk out front holding Nazi flags and picket signs illustrated with swastikas above the phrase "NO TROOPS FOR ISRAEL."

Prints are undated, though Kodak stamping to the versos, combined with multiple cars seen in frame, suggests early-to-mid-1970's, early in the existence of the Los Angeles chapter of the extremist Jewish Defense League, whose members are likely those standing armed guard before the doors of the Building. More images here.



ARE YOU FULLY PROTECTED

(item #3)

BUREAU OF BUSINESS SURVEYS

413 LAFAYETTE BUILDING

DETROIT 26, MICHIGAN

TELEPHONE WOODWARD 1-3501

[Archives]: [Crime]: [Retail Theft]
Various, including Oklahoma, Texas, and Detroit: (ca. 1932-1965)

An archive consisting of about a dozen pieces of marketing and administrative forms and ephemera along with more than 200 pieces of typed, hand-written, or photo-duplicated correspondence. Materials chronologically sorted and all neatly placed into an approximately 13" x 10" x 2"h archival cloth clamshell box. Original (empty) leather binder included if so desired.

A rich archive of paperwork and correspondence compiled by an Alfons. A. Jay (aka Alphonso A. Jurkiewicz, aka A.A. Jay) during his work as an agent and interrogator with a few different retail auditing firms active in Oklahoma and Texas, but primarily Detroit, from the 1930's into the 1960's.

Ancestral records tell us Jay was born to Polish parents in Detroit in 1918 and that he died in 1971 (also in Detroit) at the age of 53. In between he seems to have pursued a career with various firms, most lasting the Business Surveys System of Detroit, as an agent and interrogator. His work seems to have consisted of courting firms with the promise of an undercover loss prevention auditing of the sales staff of mostly automotive dealership parts counters and hardware stores. Jay seems to have had a preternatural aptitude for finding workers skimming from sales or outright stealing merchandise and would coerce written confessions from employees with promises of restitution (of which included paperwork suggests Jay or his firm would typically be entitled to half).

From a November 24, 1964 letter penned by an Alex Sourchi of Detroit:

"Mr. Tom Taylor,

In the term of my employment with your company, which has been the past 15 months, I as a parts man have taken, stolen money from cash sales across the counter to the amount I believe to be not more than 300.00 Three hundred. This money I take for my own personal use and without the knowledge of my employer and fellow employees, for this I am sorry and I, Alex Sourchi, promise to make restitution as soon as possible. I am making this statement of my own free will without duress. I promise that this will never happen again.

P.S. I am sorry for what I have done and I appreciate your kind understanding. I will never let you down again so help me god.."

Amid business forms and professional correspondence here are about 100 original letters, either manuscript or photostatic duplications, of such confessions providing a massively intriguing primary glimpse at a sweaty, Mamet-esque world of private investigation and loss prevention work from the 1930's into the 1960's. Many more images here.

[World War I] (ca. 1917)

155 black and white photographs adhesive mounted to rectos and versos of 14 loose card leaves (each about $10" \times 83/4"$). Prints range in size from about $3" \times 2"$ to $8" \times 51/2$." Leaves likely loose from a now perished album. A few prints moderately faded, one with a section of paper loss. Overall group very good. More images here.

A substantial archive of more than 150 original photographs of World War I combat with generouss content on the Rolls Royce Silver Ghosts heavily modified to serve in the British armored car squadrons of the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS).

A single notation to one print provides a location of "Roumania" and a date of "May 1917" with the balance of images seeming to capture European locations, seemingly along the Western Front given environs, architecture, and scenes of trench warfare visible across the archive. Additionally, a single photo postcard portrait of a Royal Navy soldier with printed text from a Belfast photo studio to the verso suggest a possible identity (or at least nationality) for the compiler.

Stirring and uncommon surviving images of World War I combat with relation to one of the earliest military uses of the automobile.





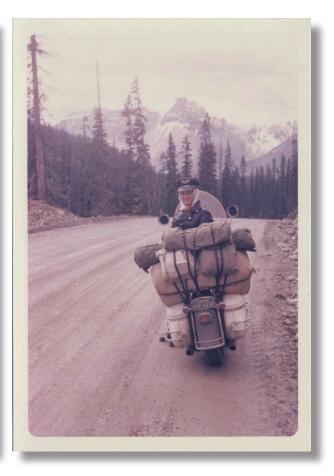
[Motorcycles]
[Missouri]: (1962)

32 Kodachrome color snapshot photographs, each $3 \frac{1}{2}$ " x = 5." One print with scuffing about corners, otherwise group in fine condition.

A singular group of snapshot photography documenting an unnamed Missouri couple on a motorcycle trip through western National Parks in The U.S. and Canada. The pair rode the same Harley-Davidson motorcycle, decked out in classic motorcycle leather and the images are finished in a lush period color with "Kodachrome" stamping in red ink to each verso (also noting a date of November 1962). More images.







[American Motorsports] : [Texana] Texas, U.S.A. : (ca. 1922-1936)

25 black and white photographs ranging in size from approximately $8" \times 6"$ to $41/2" \times 3"$ with 5 printed paper programs and one ticket. Mild to moderate handling wear, most pronounced to the programs and a few snapshots, a few instances of paper and adhesive residue to print versos from presumed previous album mounting, otherwise reasonably well preserved; good or better overall.

A small archive of materials providing a vivid glmpse at pre-World War II "big car" motor racing in Texas through 25 original photographs, a series of programs, and one ticket from tracks on the Gulf Coast (near Corprus Christi), in San Antonio, Kennedy, Belton, and Boerne.

Two of the programs name obscure sanctioning bodies: The San Antonio Automobile Racing Association and The Southwestern Auto Racing Association. Additionally, text visible on the side of cars in at least two photographs identifies a Willys Whippet (with the text, "This Whippet 4 Entered at Harlingen Races July 17. 27"); and a Louis Chevrolet-built Fronty-Ford with sponsorship text of a C.H. Mountjoy of San Antonio.

17 of the 25 photographs are ca-1930's uniform snapshots from a San Antonio film processor and feature signage identifying the towns of Arkansas Pass and Gregory, each small towns surrounding Corprus Christi.



Motor racing material from this era is uncommon with programs and original photography focusing on racing in South Texas even more so. A broad and rich regional assembly, thus, with interest to the heralded golden era of American open wheel motor racing. **More images.**

[Trucking]: [Photography]

[Seattle, Washington]: [ca. 1950's]

13 black and white photographs. Each adhesive mounted to loose printed pages from an unrelated catalog. Prints with three-hole punces at one margin. Some mild waviness from adhesive, otherwise all sound. About good. More images here.

A small batch of original ca-1950's photography documenting trucks, buildings, and personnel of the West Coast Fast Freight Co., a pioneering short-haul trucking firm formed by partners Donald H. Roberts and B.M. Stewart in 1944. American trucking industry historian Mike K. Trebecki included a chapter on West Coast Fast Freight in Volume VII of his epic series THE TRUCKING PIONEERS (Pioneer Press; Marietta, Georgia; 1997) and had this to say on the firm's humble beginnings:

"The company had seven run-down rigs and hole-in-thewall rented terminals in Los Angeles, Portland, and Seattle. The two men picked up the rights and equipment for approximately \$50 thousand. Neither man had been a stranger to trucking. Steward hauled apples from Yakima into Seattle and Portland. Roberts was a petroleum distributor who bought a tank truck to supply his own storage tanks [...] Rumor has it that they won their first truck in a crap game. [...] By 1955 the company had gross revenues of \$14 million and an annual payroll of \$6.5 million. The fleet had grown to more than 1,400 diversified units for hauling everything from dry freight and furniture to mail and petroleum products. West Coast also used a wide variety of road power including Autocars, Fords, Freightliners, KW's, Macks, Petes, and Sterlings. (pp. 163-164)

Stewart and Roberts' aggressive expansion caught the attention of then-industry titan Pacific Intermountain Express who targeted the company for an acquisition begun in 1953 and finalized in 1956. In our experience, photographs of early postwar trucking are coveted by private collectors and uncommon to encounter, with those here seeming to document about 1951 to 1956, providing a rich glimpse at the internal operations of an ambitious West Coast firm.



[Industrial Photography] : [Cyanotypes] : [Textiles]

Norristown, Pennsylvania: Wildman Manufacturing Co., (ca. 1940)

Approximately 11 1/2" x 9" brown card folder with typed label to front. Brass tack binding holding 82 paper leaves with cyanotype print and photographs to rectos only. Mild handling wear, occasional soiling from handling and use. Overall very good.

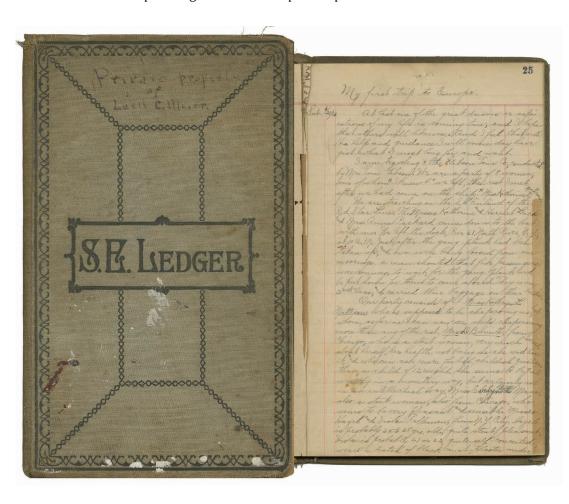
A technical manual published by the Wildman Manufacturing Co. of Norristown, Pennsylvania referencing its "TWD" hosiery knitting machine. Three table of contents leaves precede a full-page photographic view of a complete example of the machine followed by dozens of exploded diagram prints of individual components, a few printed data tables, etc...

An unusual example of cyanotype printing and photography used to sriking effect. **More images here.**



[Manuscripts]: [Women's Travel]
Various, Originating from Brunswick, Georgia: (1913-1915)

Commercial ledger approximately 12" x 7 1/2." Tan cloth over boards with ink decoration to front, rear. Ownership inscription hand-written in ink to front. Pages with stamped ink numbering to upper right hand corners from pp.25-182. Manuscript entries in an ink holograph cursive to pages 25-93 and 101-111 with the balance blank. Final blank endleaf with entries recording cities and hotels visited. Pages 1-24 of journal perished. Interior front cloth joint almost entirely separated from text block. Pages with ocasisonal, tiny closed tears, frequent toning from paper and pressed plants once laid-in; most original additions appear lost to time but with seven black and white photographs and a few bits of scrap paper remaining. Legibility very good throughout. Approximately 20,000 words total. Physically, about good. More images here and a document of additional transcribed passaages available upon request.











A dense manuscript diary of early 20th Century travel undertaken by a Luell C. Meier (b. about 1880) while supervisor of nurses at City Hosptial in Brunswick, Georgia. The manuscript is in two sections: the first an approximately 17,000 word narrative of her June-August trip to Europe; the second an approximately 3,000 word record of an August-September 1915 trip into the Western United States. The European trip occupies the first 69 pages of the journal.

"We left the dock, Pier 61, North River, NY at 10AM. Juts after the gang-plank had been taken up, and we were being loosed from our moorings, a man shouted that five passengers were coming, to wait, for the gang plank would be put down for them to come aboard. They were 2nd Class, and carried their baggage on their backs." (June 21, 1913; pp.25)

Meier is travelling in a party of eight other women and they depart New York on June 21, 1913 aboard the S.S. Finland of the Red Star Line. They arrive in Antwerp on July 1st, after a reasonably smooth Atlantic voyage and set out to tour Europe extensively, with Meier dutifully and frankly recording impressions of European cities including Antwerp, Brussels, Paris, Lucerne, Milan, Genoa, Pisa, Florentine, Rome, Florence, Venice, Munich, Berlin, Amsterdam, London, Oxford, and more... Her record is highly detailed and a general annoyance with her fellow travelers seems to help dedicate her to the solitary practice of writing:

"To my sorrow I've learned today that Miss Matteson is not the sort of woman to be conducting a party like this. This evening while dressing for dinner Miss Cross told me that she uses such language as g.d. – s. of a b. - & c. She seems to have a diabolical disposition and temper. She leans across the table to talk to those opposite and shouts for what she wants. And every meal she says "I haven't had any butter since I've been on this ship." She plays to the gallery all the time and is very tiresome. I'm very glad that I've not been staying out on deck with the rest for I've been spared having to hear her. I told Miss Cross so too this P.M." (June 26, 1913; pp. 29)

They wrapped up their trip in Scotland, boarding the S.S. Caledonia at port in Greenock on August 23, 1913, bound for New York. Meier's entries cease during the return voyage, on August 28th. The journal resumes with her departing Savannah, Georgia by train on August 15, 1915, bound first for Cincinnati, where she visits family and acquires two more travelers, her sisters Marie and Edie. They travel west via train, visiting Chicago, Denver, Colorado Springs, Salt Lake City, and finally Yellowstone. Entries for this "WESTERN TRIP" section cease while the party is still in Yellowstone on September 3rd. This domestic trip narrative is less pedantic than the European one and she records experiences as varied as touring the Cook County Hospital in Chicago to a cabin excursion outside of Denver:

"[...] we took 330pm car for Eldorado Springs – 27 miles from Denver. Roscoe Stockton met us at Denver station & went with us & took us to [...] the cabin, known a Spring Brook Cabin, situated in a most beautiful spot. [...] At the foot of this mt. called Storm King, is a babbling brook and a spring of the coldest, most delicious water. On the other side of the cabin, the mt. called Eagle Crest, is covered with pines, spruce, cedar, fir, mt. maple, and quaking aspen, and flowers such as blue bells, goldenrod, purple and white flowers. Looking from the front door of the cabin we could see for mild and miles over the plains." (pp. 103+)

Meier would go on to serve as a nurse with the American Red Cross in France during World War I and eventually settle in northwestern Ohio, marrying a John Schaller of rural Wood County in 1924. Her roughly 20,000 word record of travel in Europe and the Western United States, in parties composed chiefly of other women, survives here as a rich and untapped primary source, accompanied by seven portrait photographs dated between 1907-1908, providing a vital visual element to this engaging and original travel manuscript.

[Medicine] : [Polio]

Taitung, Taiwan: (1974-1977)

Handmade album, approximately 11 1/2" x 8 1/2." Floral patterned cloth over flexible card boards with a red ribbon binding at left margin. 14 card leaves illustrated by red and black paper silhoutte figures and with small portrait photographs originally tape mounted to rectos and versos near typed caption strips. Most photos now loose from tape mountings, majority of caption strips remain. Prints usually with penciled numbers to versos matching album numbers. 71 black and white photos total, each 3 1/2" x 2 1/2." About half a dozen pieces of correspondence also laid-in. Obvious issues with construction, contents remain well preserved. More images here.

A presentation photo album given to a Leona Fehrman of Milton, Wisconsin by children of the Onesiphorus Polio Home in Taitung, Taiwan in 1974. According to a website for the still extant Home, now affiliated with the American-based Christian Charity Kids Alive International, this Taitung branch of its missionary work was established in 1971 in response to an ongoing polio epidemic in Taiwan.

The album contains about 70 sporadically identified portraits of children from the Home, often pictured with heavy leg braces or crutches. The now mostly loose photos were originally mounted about the album's pages which are decorated by adhered paper stencils which a laid-in slip seems to identify as having been crafted by children from another American missionary outpost, the Presbyterian Bible School in Hsinchu, Taiwan:

"These patterns are cut, 8 sheets at a time, with tiny, razor-sharp knives, by the boys of the Presbyterian Bible School. The pasting, a very painstaking job, is done by the girls. [...] These students come from many racial backgrounds: Aboriginal Tribes, Hakka, Amoy, and refugees from the mainland. But all are preparing to help evangelize their own people."

Ancestral records suggest Fehrman was a nurse and correspondence laid into the album suggests she spent time at the Home in 1974 with this album (dated Christmas Day '74) likely gifted to her about the time she left. The included correspondence is dated 1976-1977.

A rich and intimate glimpse into the effects of polio in Taiwan in the 1970's and of American Christian missionary work to combat it.



[MITCHELL, George Dean]: [Newspapers] Washington, D.C.: (1934-1936)

52 newsprint issues bound as two volumes, each approximately 11 1/2" x 9." Plain brown cloth over boards. Ink stamped titles to spines. One volume with cloth dye coloring worn away at edges, the other almost entirely gone. Issues with ocassional nicks from margins and scattered small sections of paper loss from print, otherwise sound and clean. Good-plus.

A pair of bound issues of PATHFINDER, collecting the first half of 1934 and 1936 respectively (issues 2088-2133 and 2192-2217). Founded in 1894 by eccentric publisher George Dean Mitchell in Washington, D.C., the mail-order weekly news magazine condensed national events for a rural audience.

Contents here focus on Depression-era issues and events with the National Recovery Administration logo integral to the masthead for the 1934 volume. Issues are each 24pp. in self-wrappers and contain myriad illustrated comics and cartoons, ads for patent medicines, generic novelty goods, mail-in contests, etc....

Address labels of an Alfred J. Bonomo of New Orleans, longtime faculty of that city's Loyola University Law School, adhered to most title pages.

According to a September 1936 TIME magazine report on a change of ownership and publisher, the paper boasted a subscription hovering around one million (at an annual rate of \$1) though surviving individual issues appear scarce to encounter in commerce with bound collections like these even more so.



WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY 6, 1934

Pathfinder Analyzes Nine Depressions and Links Price Changes with Historic Events

until it has burnt itself out for lack

Two professors of the Agricultural Economics branch of Cornell univerity, Dr. George F. Warren and Dr. Frank A. Pearson, in checking commodity prices back to 1798, discovered that there are certain governing principles which they believe can fur-These terms have been sprung on an unsuspecting world with such sud-

gain was struck

not just a dream to Dr. Warren and Dr. Pearson, Their conclusions were

so convincing that President Roosevelt ture of his monetary policy. Dr. Warren is the President's right-hand man in fixing the price of gold each day. He believes that since the value

of gold and the average price of com-modities are shown by the records for 135 years to have a fixed relation to each other, it is possible to regulate the price of gold. In due time, when the system gets into full swing, the dollar would be adjusted frequently

(Continued on page 8)

KAELIN, Albert: [Aviation] [Dallas, Texas]: [ca. 1990's]

7 1/2" x 4 1/2" commercial notebook. Black vinyl wrappers around a six-ring metal snap binder assembly. About 105 ruled leaves with manuscript entries to most rectos and versos. A few loose printed documents laid-in loose. Mild handling wear, highly legible throughout. Very good.

A dense manuscript notebook composed by an Albert F. Kaelin, Jr., a longtime commercial pilot with Delta Airlines. Coupling information found in his detailed 2021 obituary in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram with miscellaneous laid-in ephemera, this likely served as an original reference book for his time spent flying the McDonnel Douglas MD-11 which he piloted in the 1990's on an Asian route.

More than 150 manuscript pages with detailed text, diagrams, and drawings on systems, maintenance, troubleshooting, etc... provide a dense and uncommon surviving primary record of 20th Century commercial aviation.

